

Put In Bay Race Reunion 2015

Photos and story by Dale Brown

From the Sunday till Wednesday before the Labor Day Weekend, I met up with several other members of the Club and drove our MG's over to South Bass Island for the Annual Put In Bay Race Reunion. While there, to our surprise we also met other members of the club as well.

Our small group had all our camping gear packed in our small cars and enjoyed wonderful weather and cliff side camping at the South Bass Island State Park. Others stayed at many of the quaint B & B's on the Island. We had rain free warm and hot weather the whole time we were there so of course it was top down driving everyday around the countryside.

The event began with a meet and greet wine and cheese party at the Put In Bay Winery on Sunday night. The next morning saw the group having a breakfast at the private airplane hangar of one of the residents. After a lunch at "Frosty's", we returned to the airport where the Vintage Racing was taking place.

The afternoon consisted of practice and qualifying for the three racing classes as well as track time for the Exhibition class of race cars. At the end of the afternoon, a highlight of the week was a full half hour of track time for all registered non racing cars on the airport race track.

What a thrill driving with near 100 sports cars of all makes and countries of origin. We got going pretty fast as well.

Following the track laps, the entire field got out to the roads and streets of the island for a paced two laps of the original street course from the late 50's and early 60's until street racing was banned throughout all of the United States. It was a blast watching the crowds of people out at the side of the roads and downtown to watch the large group speed by.

On Tuesday we spent the day watching the races and taking breaks to site see around the island and including taking the elevator to the top of the Perry Monument. That evening Joe's Bar, an outdoor bar and restaurant hosted the whole group for an awards dinner. Being that it was right around the corner from our campground, we walked there and back and ended the evening with a campfire.

Wednesday started with an outdoor breakfast downtown followed by the car show in a field across the street from the lake and then a farewell banquet lunch. We scooted directly from there over to the ferry and all arrived home safely (even with the heavy construction on I-75). It was a really enjoyable four days away and hope more of you can attend next year. Aug 28-31, 2016.





Above: View of the Marina area from the top of the Perry Monument



Left: My MG all numbered up for the laps around the track and the Re-enactment around the town. (Notice the WDMGC magnet on the door.)

Below: Dave Hornby welcoming the arrival of Ozzie and Terri Pillon in their MGB-GT

Far left, top: Waiting to board the car ferry for the ride over to South Bass Island. The white MGA #49 in the picture belongs to Rowdie Racing's Dave Smith.

Far left, bottom: An MGB race car on the Airport track.

Far left, right: A view of the Perry Monument from a Marina side patio.

Author's note: *To the best of my recollection, those attending were myself, Dave Hornby, Matt and Vicki Bade, Dave Doolin and his wife on bikes and Ozzie and Terri Pillon. There may have been more.*

