

## British Cars to City of Brandon

Well Karen and I have been members of the club for a number of years but our attendance at events has been low because of winters spent in FL and summers being taken up with flying, family and work activities. We try to give back to the club by hosting our annual Cream Tea at our acreage and invite the flying community to join in.

Doug Tomlinson who is a partner on a couple airplanes with us suggested that the club do a x-country to visit the Brandon WW2 Air Training Plan Museum .He and I volunteer flying and maintenance for the museum. The plan was set in place and organized perfectly and with a lot of work by Terry & Susan. Thanks.

Karen and I had recently sold our MGTD and the new owner was coincidentally John Robinson who is a funding board member of the Brandon Museum . He also has a beautiful XKE that he purchase new in 67! I arranged to deliver the TD and drive it down along with the club cars. Best laid plans. The car needed a carb kit and with Bob's super help I got them reinstalled but no time to test drive. So we loaded the TD into our 26' cargo trailer hooked to the Ram 3500 truck. We arrived Fri A.M. at Stone Bridge Wal-Mart to find about 12 cars made up mostly of club cars and a few other types. We offered to tag along behind and provide a rescue in case any one broke down.

Off we all went in a parade of mostly red cars and convertibles, in some very nice weather. Travelled via the Yellowhead to Dafoe where we stopped of a break. Felt like we were in the middle of the Quill Lake with all the flooding in the area. We had the great surprise of meeting up with Tony and Ruth who were driving their MGB (no mini!) and joined us for the trip.

Off again like a heard of turtles we hit a few sun showers but none stopped to raise their tops☺ . Stopped at Yorkton for a lunch at a church and were joined by the Yorkton area enthusiasts with their cars. Nice to meet some new people and see some new /old cars.

Off again and the club drove to lodgings in Brandon. We departed the club at Shoal Lake as we travelled due south to spend the night at John and Jan McNarry at Alexander, just 15 k west of Brandon. John and Jan are key volunteers the museum, and very good friends. We unloaded the MG and drove it with John in his spectacular MGTC to meet everyone at the museum the next morning. My last highways cruise in the little TD ☺.

We were joined by a Regina contingent and spent the morning helping the museum flying committee pilots get the aircraft out and ready for a day of giving rides to the club members. The powerful Harvard was a big draw and certainly was some big smiles upon deplaning. This aircraft is just one step away from

flying a Spitfire. Well worth the experience if you missed the chance, they offer flights all summer. The little Tiger Moth biplane was also popular and in keeping with our British club theme. I am sure some life long memories were created while floating over the lush Assiniboine River valley just like all the young airmen who trained to fly there many years ago. There were tours of the museum starting with the emotion generating memorial wall, listing every name of the airmen who were lost in training. Inside was the collection of displays, history, aircraft, artifacts, and the ever-popular gift shop. This is a very unique museum because it is located in an original preserved WW2 Air Training Plane hangar that display and fly WW2 aircraft. The museum includes other restored WW2 buildings, including the canteen where we all meet for a picnic lunch and a delicious bbq dinner that evening.

You can really get a sense of what life was like for all the people involved in the war effort, here in the middle of Canada. We know what it takes to keep our club going with volunteers work. You can imagine the commitment and effort needed to operate this incredible museum and make sure it is preserved for future generations. Please tell you friends to stop in whenever they are passing thru Brandon. A great way to take a break and experience something very different.

Large prairie thunderclouds started to threaten us after dinner. We all elected to get the cars back to the accommodation and under cover. It was a great day and we were full of good food, good company and all tired. I said goodbye to the new TD owner and left for Alexander with Karen, Jan and John.

I got a text early the next morning from Terry that one of the MG A's had a mechanical problem and asked if we were available to help. The MG was able to drive with group 15K west to Alexander. John and the crew were able to repair a water leak on the MGA. Everyone had the opportunity to tour John's fabulous workshop situated in the town's original gas station, next door to his and Jan's super cool vintage home that had been renovated by them. A really neat home to see. My empty trailer wasn't needed to haul the MG so we all departed for a stop in Elkhorn museum, which has a very large collection of cars you, won't see anywhere else (also a 2 headed cow stuffed wich was ....weird.) The plan was to depart and stop for lunch together and then some people elected to drive home via #1 and some taking the scenic route thru the Qu'Appelle Valley. We left with the big truck and trailer and hauled it for home direct. Hit a bit of rain at Regina and a monster thunderstorm and very high wind gusts at Dundurn. Almost pushed the empty trailed over! and had to slow to a crawl just to see thru the window that looked like we were in a car wash. We worried about the club cars. We broke out on the other side of the weather to a beautiful sunset and home. Was a great weekend meeting new people and seeing some interesting countryside and of course the airplanes and cars. I believe everyone arrived home safe and sound.

Thanks for everyone's participation and hope we can do something similar again. I'll have the Mini going. Hope to see you all at the Bess and the Cream Tea in September, if not before.

Dave & Karen Gillespie