

2018 BVV.

We wanted something special to celebrate the 20th running of the British Vintage Voyage and we found it !

The Tavern Hotel in Old Town Cottonwood advertised a “Sip & Stay” wine tasting package which sent Philip & I on an explorative voyage to find out more. The manager was most accommodating and explained it all to us and gave us a tour of the whole place. Very interesting building that started life as a grocery store in 1925. The renovations must have cost a pretty penny as it is a skillful blending of old and new. Real deluxe furnishing and amenities like free Wi-Fi and parking, walk-in showers, plush bedding , and even a free cocktail on check-in. At first glance the rate of \$199.00 per couple per night seems pretty steep but, as several people commented, by the time you allow for wine tasting at 3 different tasting rooms, the already mentioned free drink and a \$50.00 gift certificate for dinner at either the Tavern Grill attached to the hotel, or the Italian Restaurant across the street, and a voucher for a free continental breakfast at a little café close by the cost is down to what you might expect for a first class hotel. And the Tavern Hotel certainly qualifies as that. They do have a no pets rule but will welcome them at a small cottage behind the main building called appropriately “The Dog House”. There is also a larger two bedroom cottage behind the hotel which Philip & I used , designed for a long term stay with a full kitchen and appliances. It wasn't a cat on the tin roof that woke us up at about 3am but really heavy rain and thunder.

But back to the start. We gathered at a parking lot in East Mesa, no need for an early start as we were only headed for lunch in Payson, about 75 miles. Of course those with the furthest to drive arrived first, Dale & Sharon Smith from Casa Grande in their MINI. Others soon followed and when all were assembled there was a short drivers' meeting after route books and other goodies had been handed out. Many people decided that in view of the weather forecast, RAIN, they would rather drive Brand X. No matter, your company is more important than what you are driving. As a result of the more modern cars



having no troubles on the climb from the Valley to Payson several arrived before the Buffet Room at the Casino was ready for us. The staff were very good and soon had everything finished and we were able to display the raffle prizes and auction items. It was kind of the Casino to allow us to do the raffle etc. there. We had a chuckle about the security office saying it was OK so long as there was no alcohol or firearms. We solved that by taking a photo of wine bottles and just to be on the safe side, a paint ball game that fired pellets! Winners collected in the parking lot later. The auction provided more fun than usual, if that's possible, as David and Lance got into a bidding war for Deborah's offer of a stained panel of their choice. I think it was David who first suggested the solution that she make two ! Anyway that was the outcome ! The raffle and auction raised a total of almost \$1400.00 and a couple of donations were also added. As a result a check for \$4,000.00 will be given to the Arizona Humane Society, being the proceeds from our three fund-raising events, the Pancakes-in-the-Park breakfast and the Mesa Marketplace car show being the other two.

There was no planned Sunday activity this time. So much to see and do in Old Town Cottonwood that it was left to individual choice. Some people explored the shops, others went to nearby wineries and some even saved a complimentary taste from yesterday. Most people seemed to be glad to be able make an early start for home to miss the forecasted rain. The early birds made it for the most part but later departures did get caught in heavy rain on I 17. And then there were those lucky folks who didn't have work on Columbus Day and stayed an extra night up north. Including Todd & Tiffany who are regular attendees.



Since the Avalanche was now emptied of packets, goody bags, prizes etc. we left it the Casino to pick up on the way home. Good choice as it gave us the opportunity to find out what a difference 24 hours can make along 260. We returned the same route as the outward journey and were surprised to see motor homes and fifth wheels headed west with snow on them. A few miles down the road we found snow, fortunately confined to the shoulders beneath the trees, the road itself was clear. Must have been about three to four inches we estimated from the amount on fallen trees etc. What a difference on what was still a nice road to travel.

We must say Thank You to members of the other clubs who have supported our efforts and hope they will continue to do so as we work together to build a British car community. *Shirley.*

AMO members Don & Pearl drove their Cabrio.



Lance's latest addition to his fleet made it's debut on a British Car Event. Yes, it's a McLaren.



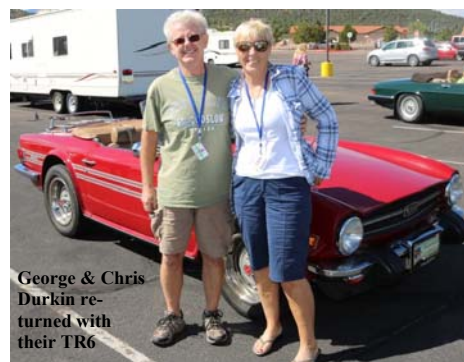
Sharon & Christian Roe brought this Jaguar to join MINIs, Triumphs and MGs together with Chevys a couple of Porsches, a BMW and an Aston Martin.



It's good to see the next generation on this kind of event and these young gentlemen saved Shirley from a nasty fall.



Dave & Denine with their TR6 are regulars



George & Chris Durkin returned with their TR6