



Chicagoland MG Club Swap Meet

By John Gunnell, Iola, Wisconsin

Jesse and I attended the 17th Annual All British Swap Meet and Auto Jumble in February. Held every year since 1997, this event – also called the Chicagoland M0G Club Swap Meet – always takes place on the last Sunday in February at the Du-Page County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, Illinois.

According to the Chicagoland MG Club, both the amount of content and the number of gate admissions have been increasing yearly (with the exception of 2007, when a bad snow storm kept British car enthusiasts away). The swap meet generally attracts over 100 vendors and more than 1,000 attendees. The vendor

spaces are arranged in two separate buildings, so each shopper gets a hand stamp that allows moving back and forth between the two halls.

The site is an indoor heated facility that is centrally located in the Chicago area and the event has strong support from all of the British car and motorcycle clubs in the Chicago area. One wall of the main building is set aside exclusively for clubs to promote their services and sign up new members.

The meet is intended strictly for those who collect and restore British-built cars and bikes. It is not a “car show,” although it seems like at least one British sports car shows up each year whether it’s frosty, snowy or sunny. This year it was a black rubber bumper MGB roadster for sale on a trailer. The seller said that he usually dealt in vintage cars like Camaros and

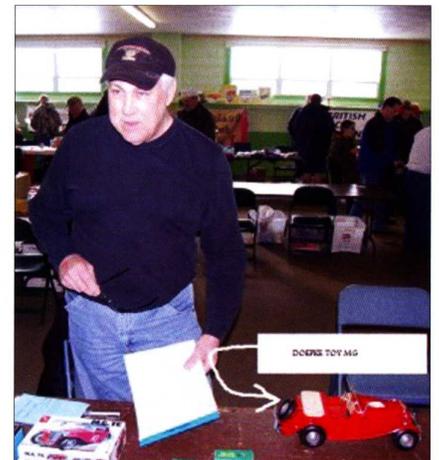
wasn’t an MG fan himself.

The goal of the All British Swap Meet and Auto Jumble is to provide a meeting place for buyers and sellers of used parts, new parts, accessory items, tools, memorabilia, and just about anything else of interest to the British car enthusiast. This year that goal was met thanks to a very large number of parts vendors and some very select automobila offerings.

Jeff Powell, of Chicago, was selling a number of toys and collectibles that belonged to a fellow enthusiast who recently passed away. Most of his items were priced well below market. “I’m trying to help his wife sell the stuff as quickly as possible with prices on the low side of the scale,” he said. “In the fall, we are planning an auction to sell the bigger stuff.”



One vendor was selling a set of SU carbs that would fit our little Spitfire display engine, but we spent our money on MG T Series items instead.



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