

MGB Hits 161 Miles per Hour!

Article & Images By John Batterton, Snake River Classics

The fifth annual Sun Valley Tour de Force was held on July 21-23 this year. The event included many activities including scenic drives, a car show and their famous NO SPEED LIMIT high-speed run along Idaho 75 north of Ketchum. Snake River Classics was a sponsor of the event along with other notable enthusiast marques such as Singer Porsche, McLaren, and Pagani.

The car show featured over 100 cars, including the 48 (or so) cars that participated in the high-speed run. Snake River Classics had a booth at the show along with their red MGB Roadster and silver MGB GT. Both cars received considerable interest and surprised many with the performance and reliability upgrades.

Many show goers had owned MGBs in the past and were interested in seeing and understanding the changes made to the cars. With the last MGB produced over 40 years



Dyno testing the MGB before the event.

ago, having our cars on display was important in keeping the MG name alive! This is especially true today when Porsches and Corvettes seem to dominate the sports car scene with a few Ferraris, McLarens, and Audi R8/10s thrown in for good measure.

The High-Speed event started with a technical inspection. All cars were checked by the Sun Valley Auto Club at their extensive facility. A driver meeting followed where various

issues were addressed such as when and how cars would line up, the road closure process, and the potential for animals to wander on to the course during the run. Given the speeds achieved by various cars (200 +mph is not uncommon), drivers were directed to focus on staying on the course rather than trying to avoid any animals as that would be considerably more dangerous!

The high-speed runs began early on Saturday morning. Temperatures



Front valance from Moss Motors.

were initially quite cool at 47F (8C) but heated up substantially during the day to over 90F (32C). The road condition was not exactly smooth but at least dry. There were eight heats of approximately eight cars each, with some cars doing more than one 3.2-mile run. The road was closed in both directions while the speed runs took place. Traffic was allowed to flow for 20 minutes between heats.

The Snake River Classics MGB was the only open car in the event. Our dyno runs indicated that we would be able to hit 150 MPH. We knew that turbulence and lift would be a factor at speed. We addressed the lift issue with a front valance modification and tightened up the shocks. Other than that, we were ready to go! We were in heat six, so we had plenty of time to get nervous about the run.

We were the fifth car in our heat with each car completing its run before the next car started. The cars in front of us successfully did their runs until a Corvette overheated on the course and had to limp back to the finish line at 35 mph. The course was closed after that while the pavement was checked for fluids. This took some time, so the road was opened again for regular traffic flow. Imagine having a helmet, safety gear, and driving suit on in the heat waiting for the re-start! Thankfully there was some shade and water



Going through tech inspection.



Getting ready to launch.



Snake River Classic tent with their MGB and GT.

available.

Eventually the road was closed again, and everyone got back into their cars to get ready to go. The car in front of ours (a Dodge Viper), took off and our red MGB pulled up to the



Some of the cars waiting to make the run.

starting line. We finally were going to experience running the Snake River Classics MGB flat out with no speed limit restrictions!

The result – 162.1 MPH from the MGB! Stability and Performance were excellent at speed. (Videos of the run are on Instagram and YouTube www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sNAKE+rIVER+cLASSICS+mGB). Shane Rolph was the driver for the run. Shane was issued an “official” speeding ticket to document the event. Thankfully no fines were assessed!

I think the best part is knowing that the MGB is still a relevant sports car. Maximum fun with a car that lets you drive the way it used to be. Person to machine, not Person to computer to machine! The MGB is still good looking after 50 years. It's fun to drive and easy to maintain. The Snake River Classics car simply has more performance and reliability than the original. Plus, it was great fun surprising all those drivers of modern exotic cars!



HAKKAR	163.04	SCOTT MOSIER	204.94
PORSCHE GT3 RA		2020 AUDI R8	
HAGENBUCK	76.53	NATHAN JOHNSTON	182.48
PORSCHE CAYMAN GT4		1994 DODGE VIPER	
SIMYAR	197.19	SHANE ROLPH	162.10
MERCEDES SLR		1980 BMG MGB	
STONE	206.99	IAN CONCANNON	165.07
AUDI R8		2009 PORSCHE 911 CARRERA	
BRONSON	197.59	LANCE FUNK	182.33
PORSCHE 911 TURBO		2022 CHEVY CORVETTE	
HIRSCHMANN	160.82		
FERRARI F8 TRIBUTO			

The results board.