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From there we drove to Window Rock, Arizona. We were a couple of days after heavy rains that flooded some roads, but we lucked out here with the best hotel on our travels. Visiting the Navajo Nation Museum there and the "Code Talkers" Memorial at the Window Rock was where I turned around to see the GT smoking. The heater valve had failed! Drove back down the road a few miles to the NAPA store to get some hose and bolts and plug off the heater until I could get home and fix it right. We still had about 1300 miles to get home and the morning temperatures were in the mid-30's F. One stop in we wanted to make was at the Hubbell Trading Post, a national historic site. We haven't been there since 1983 and wanted to see that it was still as we remembered it. From there we drove through Petrified Forest National Park to Winslow, AZ., for the night. Dinner in a Brewpub across the street from the "Standing on a Corner in Winslow" tourist attraction was fun.



The next morning took us through Flagstaff, turning southwest through Oak Creek Canyon and Sedona then climbing up through Jerome and down into the Prescott Valley to see old friends that just relocated there. Back onto fun two-lane roads and different scenery. Great hosts considering they also just got home from a trip to the east coast!

The next morning had us heading to see more old friends in Henderson, Nevada for another great overnight visit. Two lanes again once we left the Las Vegas area and headed to Fallon, NV. We called ahead and checked in with more friends and former neighbors the next morning, catching them just getting home from a night shift. Good to see them and their twin girls. Continuing on at a gas stop in Susanville, CA, a Toyota pickup pulled in real close to the GT, but it was another MG owner wanting to say HI! We pushed on because we could see our window of good weather was going to close soon. We had to get over the Cascades Mountains to get home and rain and snow was coming. We covered about 490 miles and got over the Willamette Pass mid-afternoon in dry weather, but there was already snow on the shoulder of the highway. It drizzled a bit the last half hour of the drive home but stayed dry while we unpacked the car and parked it inside. While out for dinner and a stop at the grocery store the sky opened up and just poured! The first rain here since we left 22 days before. Fall has finally arrived.

Total distance travelled 6467 miles. Just driving to Chattanooga with the meandering route was 3243 miles. Our route home totaled 3224 miles. Tracking fuel used it came out to 22.44 mpg, better than I expected.

Lots of good times on the road, thumbs-up and waves. Several people talked about owning MGs in the past. A couple of times people turned around and stopped to talk.

Almost 40% of the driving on two-lane roads, many twisty mountain passes, lots of open country.

Only problem was heater valve failing in Window Rock.

And with the cooler weather it seemed the engine didn't really get up to full temperature. I am now thinking of switching to a TR7 thermostat at 90°C instead of the 82°C one I've always used.



Susan Conklin-Miller and Mark Miller earn the Iron Bum Award for the 2nd year in a row from Springfield, Oregon