

27th international Montreal meeting in Hamburg

Report by Alexander Radicke

The 27th meeting took place from 12 - 15.09.2013 in Hamburg. It was organized by Hans-Georg Tornow and Horst Günter Lange, supported by countless volunteers. The organizers tried to fulfill as many special wishes as possible. Children, dogs and special quality claims caused hardly any effort. Much more difficulties were caused by a few Monti drivers who have never heard about deadlines, or without written registrations, or missing transfer of the fare. No insurance company works without money, restaurants and hotels also like to plan with capacity utilization. At last the meeting was attended by 94 enthusiasts (including 3 children) from 12 nations with 36 of Montreal, a Fastback Spider 2.6 (with Montreal motor), a further Fastback Spider, a round tail spider, a Giulia Super, a GTV 2.0 turbo, two Breras and other cars.

Thursday, 12.09.2013

Arrival of the participants at the vintage gas station Brandshof (www.tankstelle-brandshof.de) in Hamburg-Rothenburgsort.

The gas station on Brandshof was designed and built in 1953. 1983 tank operation was stopped, because of the bridge-construction of the S-Bahn to Harburg. Fearing a tank rupture due to the necessary lowering of groundwater for foundation construction, the tanks were quickly removed and the station was closed. The restoration of the building lasted from August 2010 to September 2011 with great help of many companies and individuals, and using many old craft techniques. An attempt was made to restore as gently as possible.

Accreditation with handing over the road book and the "Montreal-wine" from the Chateau Schembs (www.chateau-schembs.de). Great reunion. "Klönschnack" (conversation) with spanish stew, Aperol Spritz and Fritz Cola. It was followed by the first knowledge - food and drink are "all inclusive". This was including the complete extermination of Aperol.

First breakdowns were fixed at Peter Arnst (www.alfa-romeo-arnst.de) and Josef "Sepp" Bürgi, a crack in a Swedish windshield was also a treat.

Later (<http://www.hi-hamburg.de/holiday-inn-hotel>) discussions were deepened at the Holiday Inn with a german buffet and an exclusive wine from the VDP-winery Drautzburg-Able till night.

Friday, 13.09.2013

Montreal-target drive through the still very foggy Wilhelmsburg. After much industry and harbor, the green side of the river island was shown. Fruits and vegetables, greenhouses, farms and sheeps characterize the landscape of seawalls. The first lap ended after crossing the drawbridge Rethe of 1934 on "port shed 50" (<http://www.hafenmuseum-hamburg.de>). First drivers arrived here, 10 minutes after departure from the hotel – that could happen if you use a

GPS instead of the road book. On “port shed 50” many photos were shot, car talk surged again in all languages to the ears.

Particularly difficult it was to converse in French, because “a few” French Montreal-driver indicated that they would not understand English. The view to the Elbe Philharmonic building let participants guess what Hamburg has to offer. After that short stop – we continued the target drive to “prototype car museum” in HafenCity (www.prototyp-hamburg.de). Some of the Montreals drove the route twice, which was a nice scene for opposite drivers. A parking lot was exclusively available for Montreals. City tour with a double-decker bus. The seats were so rare that the organizer and a friendly couple expose. The tour led us past the Landungsbrücken, the Reeperbahn, Planten und Blomen, along the banks of the Alster with its villas of wealthy merchants and captains, along the Alster Lake and finally the Jungfernstieg back in the HafenCity. In the prototype museum, a guide was offered. Hungry members could be fed lush through the Oberhafenkantine (<http://www.oberhafenkantine-hamburg.de>). Return trip to the hotel and restart again with a double-decker bus. The trip went to the International Garden Show (igs 2013 - Around the World in 80 Gardens). Guided tour of the igs, walk along the innovative new building of the International Building Exhibition 2013 (IBA) to the boat dock at the city hall Wilhelmsburg. Subsequently canal cruise and harbor tour with two longboats from the “Bergedorf shipping line”. Meals with tapas buffet. While lay off in Wilhelmsburg was made during daylight, the arrival at the port of Hamburg was received by moonlight. The port, however, was brightly lit - the port never sleeps. The longboats moored nearby the hotel at the end. An evening walk ended in the hotelbar for many of us.

Saturday, 14.09.2013

The tour took us out from Hamburg to Lower Saxony, passing the southern Elbe, always along the dike and later along the Ilmenau up to Bardowick. Visit of the Bardowick brick cathedral. The Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul leads back in his origins to Karl the Great. The oldest romanesque parts are from the beginning of the 12th Century, the Gothic church was completed in 1485. The departure was delayed because there was only one toilet for 94 travelers ... Continue via Lauenburg, passing the forest of Saxony to Luetjensee. It was revealed that Montreals with additional equipment (for example “trip master”) arrived at the target point much more easier. Speedometer in kilometers (instead of miles) were also trump. The road book had no weaknesses. Evil tongues asserted, however, that there were two versions. Unlike the detours could not be explained. In addition, single riders had problems with juggling the road book, the reset button from the odometer (press and rotate) and the remaining controls in the Monti. Luckily no one was lost - at least not for a long time. Lunch in the Fischerklause. It emerged historical photos by Frank Hanel. Then, continue through the forests of Saxony and the valley of the northern Elbe. Stops at “Zollenspieker” and “Andronaco”, an italian wholesale market and bistro. Back at the hotel, everyone dressed up as well as they could. Hamburg invited to the Mediterranean gala buffet. And again, as the previous days we were pleased with free drinks. The "Organizer" trophy, donated by the Alfa Romeo Club of Rovigo in 2012 went to Philippe Cauche as the organizer of the next meeting. The Bernard Schalbetter trophy for the longest distance traveled on its own wheels to the meeting, went to Sestilio Marcheselli for his journey from Rovigo to Hamburg. The next Montreal meeting and its changes were presented. 2014 Beaune is planned in Burgundy (France) and is organized by Philippe Cauche. Philippe Cauche presented a detailed program in an exquisite English. All persons who broke their tongue while speaking french with Philippe since Thursday, now were amazed and surprised. Jules Becker supported the talk of

the program with german translations. For 2015 there is a change. That meeting will be held from Sestilio Marcheselli and his friends in the Dolomites / Italy. Following 2016 with the meeting in Belgium, organized by Xavier Lemaire.

Sunday, 15.09.2013

Short drive to waterworks Kaltehofe (www.wasserkunst-hamburg.de). Brunch buffet in the café and visit of the museum and the industrial monuments. Farewell and goodbye in France. After the meeting is before the meeting!