

## Marc and Barb's MGB story

By Marc Masquelier



**O**ur car is a 1964 MGB pull-handle roadster. Originally painted in Olde English White, it was manufactured in Abingdon for the domestic market, and was initially a right hand drive car. It also has a suspension that is an inch lower than the US-market cars.

The first owner (Reggie) lived in England, but moved to Los Angeles in 1966, where he had it converted to left-hand drive. Reggie then sold it to Dan Schuch, a high school friend of my brother-

in-law's sister-in-law (Betsy) in 1968. Dan decided to paint it burnt orange at a local taxi company, and the floorboards are still that color (not my favorite!). Apparently Dan liked to race it on the streets of Los Angeles, wound up with too many speeding tickets, and subsequently sold it to Betsy's dad in 1971. Dan then used the proceeds from the sale as a down payment on a 1971 VW microbus - a lot less fun but a lot more practical!

Betsy's dad loved the car, and he drove it until he passed away in 1992. The car had some wear and tear after 28 years, so Betsy's husband Lee and his brother (John, my brother-in-law) did a full restoration in 1994 at Lee and Betsy's house in San Diego, including its current paint color of Guards Red (a Porsche color). Betsy drove the car for a few years, but life took over and it wound up parked in their garage.

In 2012 I broke my leg waterskiing, and wound up pretty well immobilized for several weeks. My first outing was to BCD, where Barb (pushing me in a wheelchair) and I saw a very nice red chrome-bumper B. I mentioned that Betsy was trying to reduce her footprint, and was planning on selling her MGB which was very similar to the one at BCD. Barb thought that would cheer me up, and it arrived at our house in early September.

We bought it with 76,900 miles, and have not done significant work on it. It is largely the original configuration, other than electronic ignition and an alternator. My brother Bill (Billm on MG Experience) is my go-to for repairs. It is a very pleasant cruiser, we drive it all year long when there is no salt on the road. It has been in five homecoming parades, has twice won its class at BCD, was in the 2023 Dayton Concours, and (most importantly) was the getaway car for our middle daughter's wedding. It now has 85,000 miles and we plan on enjoying it for many more!

