

## Featured Car of the Month: Bob & Rosalie Orr's "MGB"

By Bob Orr as interviewed by Ron Parks

I bought our 1967 MGB on September 1, 2011. It was in primer and hadn't run since 1984 and it had set in a shed all that time. I paid \$500 for the car. The title was a Maryland title with no signature. The car had been owned by at least three people before me; the Maryland owner, a Texas owner, and the person I bought it from here in Indiana. So, I am at least the fourth owner. The license bureau advised that I check to see if it had been stolen and it had not. I told the Indiana License branch I had no way of knowing how to get the Maryland title signed, the manager just shrugged his shoulders and told the clerk to give him a new title. So, I was able to get a clear title.



The car was in very bad shape. There was raccoon poop everywhere inside from setting in that shed all those years. The boot had some rust, and the rest of the body was solid enough to drive without problems. I did not do a total body restoration. My goal was to get it running and drive the

heck out of it. With guidance from my Haynes MGB manual, I overhauled the engine, utilizing a Muncie Indiana machine shop. It has a 1969 engine for some unknown reason. I rebuilt the non-overdrive three syncro crash transmission, doing the rebuilds myself to save money. The painting was done by Keen's body shop in Union city Ohio. They did a great job and painted it Galatic Gray, a Lexus color. I get lots of very favorable comments about the color. The Moss interior is red leather with black piping and black carpets. A neighbor recovered the seats for me. Some of chrome is new, some re-chromed and some parts sourced at a salvage yard. All the instruments are original. The speedo and tach were reconditioned in Albuquerque NM.

I think it turned out well. When I bought the car I was disappointed it did not have wire wheels, but now I don't mind. Steel wheels and chrome hub caps are rather unique and look great on the early model MGBs. This car still has the aluminum bonnet. One of the odd things with this MGB is the steering wheel. It is a black wrapped banjo wheel from an MG Midget. I like it, so it will stay!



It took me three years to complete the restoration and I got it on the road in 2014. We joined the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre and enjoyed attending meetings when we could make it over to Dayton for an evening. It is a two hour drive for us from our home in Indiana. We also joined the North American MGB Register (NAMGBR). We enjoy the camaraderie with other members attending British car shows. We attended MG 2016, the national MGB meet, in Louisville and received a 5th place award. This show was well attended by the club and we had a good time, despite of the hot weather.

We have attended several other British car shows too. We've been to British Car Day in Dayton several years and won our class in 2022. We enjoyed attending the University Motors summer parties in Grand Rapids, Michigan a few times. Throughout these travels our MGB has never let us down. We've put over 10,000 miles on it since the restoration and plan to put more on it still. Rosalie and I like to take rides locally and we enjoy that a lot. The MGB gets a lot of attention when we are driving around and it's fun to talk to people about it and hear their stories of experiences with MGs.



**First  
in  
Class**

**Bob and Rosalie Orr  
MGB**