

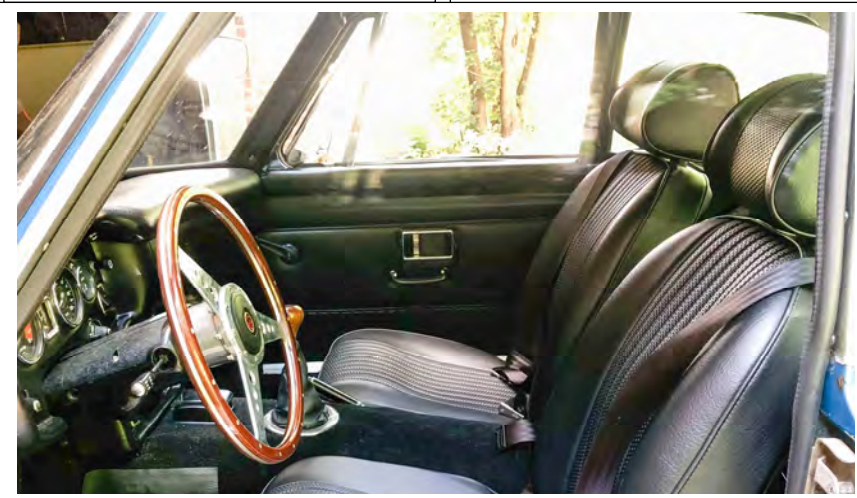
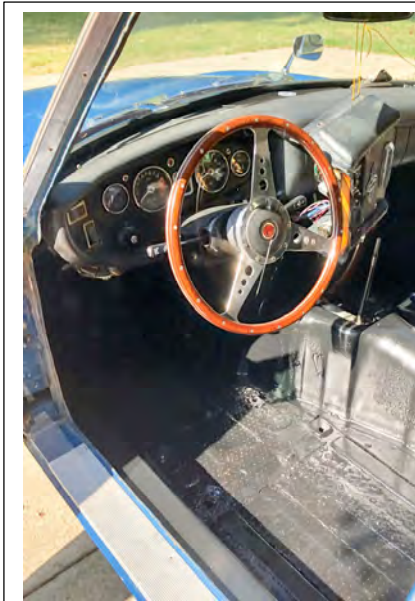
Member Featured Car of the Month

Chris Muia's 1971 MGBGT

By Chris Muia

A friendly warning...watch what you say about a new MG when you're around Carole and Terry Looft. As with Vito Corleone, you may end up with an offer you can't refuse. Terry took me on a visit to the British Transportation Museum in his right-hand drive V8 GT. During the ride I casually made a comment along the lines of "These GTs are cool, I wouldn't mind owning one someday." Terry's response was an equally casual "Carole can find you a good one." To which I replied, "I bet she can." and laughed, not considering the conversation any further.

I don't remember how much time passed, but not too many days later I received a text from Terry with a link to a very sharp 1971 teal blue GT. Since Carole found and approved of it, I had to take a closer look. A rust free "California car" it's whole life, the present (third) owner had the engine replaced in 2018 and at the same time updated to an overdrive transmission. Other than those updates, the car wasn't restored.



Of course, my wife, Jeanne, was way ahead of the game and had already figured out the direction this was taking and fully supported me in the adventure. The long distance transaction and shipping caused some anxiety but everything went smoothly and we received the GT in early June, 2025.

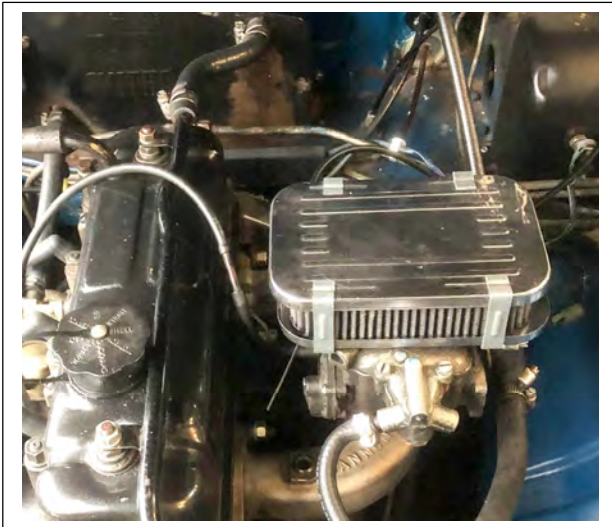
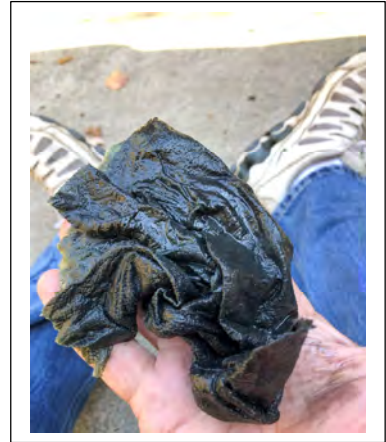
It has only been a year of ownership but I've gotten to know the car rather well. Although rust free, it did bring a lot of California with it (inside and underside) as it lived down a long gravel road and driveway...and was always driven with windows open and not much attention to regular cleaning. Our younger daughter Olivia's review of the interior was "GROSS!" My first attempts at cleanup led to

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an inevitable interior refresh (short of removing the dash). Headliner, vinyl trim, sun visors, etc. were removed, cleaned and refreshed with vinyl paint. Moss supplied carpet kit and seat kits were installed. Olivia approved. A few scrubbing/scraping/power washing sessions of the underside left a couple pounds of California on our driveway and the GT just a bit lighter.

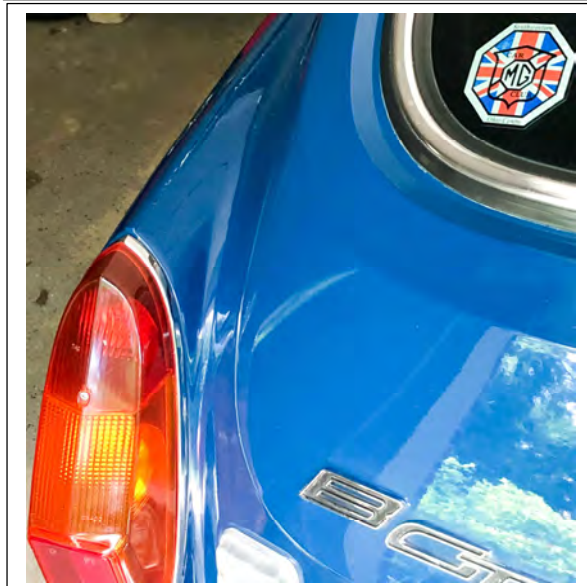
Some mechanical updates were required:

- Universal joints replaced
- A small oil leak led to overdrive solenoid and gasket replacements...which resulted in removing a forgotten shop rag from the housing (picture included). Yes, really...you can't make this stuff up!
- A nice surprise was finding the original SU's, linkages, intake manifold and air cleaners in a parts box shipped with the car. From my Midget experience, these were rebuilt and installed.



- Other updates have included:
- Side molding replacement
- New mirror glass
- Grill refresh
- Door, hatch seal replacements
- New tires
- Ongoing cleanup of engine compartment

I truly love the second MG as much as the first. I'm looking forward to spending more time with the GT, hopefully the majority of the time at the wheel.





I greatly appreciate Carole's time, diligence and expertise that led me to the GT and for the guidance on the interior work. Thanks to Terry for his invaluable mechanical knowledge and direction that have enabled me to undertake tasks I never thought I could accomplish. This article is about the GT but also tells another story...of our club and the help, fun and comradery available to us all.

Chris.

