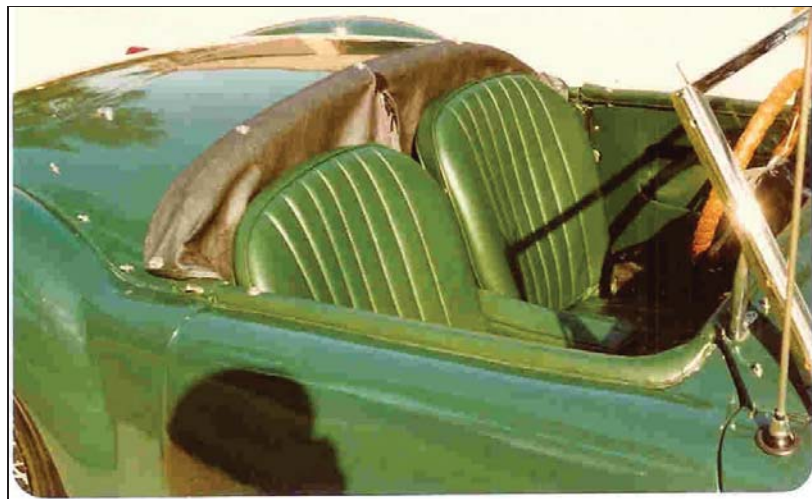


Member Car - Dar Planeaux's 1958 MGA

by Dar Planeaux

In November 1960, I was assigned to Wright Patterson AFB as a Lieutenant in the Air Force. I worked for the Air Force in the military and as a civilian for 42 years, retiring in 2003. In 1964 I purchased a 1958 MGA for \$595.00 as a second car and it became my everyday driver for about 8 years. It had 6 wire wheels that came with the car, so snow tires were mounted on 2 wheels for winter and with the help of a 100 pound bag of rock salt in the boot, the MG was a daily driver through every type of weather. My oldest son and my daughter both learned to drive in the MG because it had a standard transmission for them to



learn. When we built a new home and moved in during 1973, the MG was put in one of the garage bays, covered, and little driving was done after that. By 1978, the MG was in permanent storage in one of the garage bays and remained in storage for 23 years until October 2001, when the restoration project began. It

didn't start out as a complete restoration, but as it came apart and work continued on the parts, it became obvious that if it was going to be restored to at least original condition, then every nut and bolt was going to have to be disassembled. I guess my philosophy was to use the 3 R's in the restoration: Repaint, Replate, or Replace. The effort began in October 2001 and was completed almost 2 years later in July 2003, with the mechanical

work being accomplished by my Steve Miller of MG Automotive and the paint and body work accomplished by Tom Dworetsky of Superior Finishes. The MG had been repainted by the first owner from its original black to green prior to my purchasing the vehicle. Green also was the interior color from the factory. In the restoration the exterior color was returned to black but the interior was changed to biscuit tan leather. With so

much travel required while I worked for the Air Force and being away from the Dayton area so often, my one regret was not starting the restoration sooner, because it has been a delight to drive since the restoration was completed.



Dar Planeaux wins at Concours d' Elegance



