

Member Featured Car of the Month April 2010

Jeff Fields' 60 MGA 1600

Commission Number: 69404

By Jeff Fields as interviewed by Ron Parks

In 1968 right out of college I bought an Iris Blue 64 MGB and a year later traded it for a pale primrose 69 B. Then family came along and we got out of the MG business. When an unexpected inheritance came along and paid the important bills, with a little money left over I began my five month search for and MGA to buy. A law student in Cleveland had three (3) MGAs, two of which he would have sold for sure and the price on the third one would have been astronomical. Anyway, when he lifted the garage door and I saw the tail of that light blue MGA, I went, "Uh Oh, I think I just bought a car!" So, I bought the car knowing it would need some body work and definitely some engine work, because I drove it home in about 45 – 55 minutes and I think I used two (2) quarts of oil in that amount of time. That was on October 12, 1981. The second trip I took in the car was to the machine shop where the engine work was to be done.



I drove the car my first summer (1982) with what was probably the original interior in it and a hole in the right front fender. The car had a very poor top. In fact it was so bad that I took the top out of the car completely; it wouldn't have done any good. In the winter of 1982-83 the body work was done and it was painted the wrong shade of Iris Blue. And, I'll jump ahead for a moment because on my first trip to John Twist's Summer Party, I pulled up to shake John's hand, as he always met everybody and it was right when light beer came out. He said, "This is Iris Blue Light," because it was a number of shades too light. I have kept the





car this lighter shade of Iris Blue and as people have noticed, they know my car because it is a unique color. People who don't know my car and who stand away from it on a bright sunny day, for example at the top of the hill at Mid-Ohio looking at the cars down below, might ask whose white A is that? It is that light.

Since 1982 I have driven it almost 60,000 miles and it's had its engine redone again about five (5) years ago and I believe it was the year before

that it was repainted again for the 25th anniversary of NAMGAR. I've driven the car to all the surrounding states, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. I've been to New York in the car as well as Maryland, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and Ontario Canada. As she is not a fan of the open car, my wife accompanies me only on short local drives in the MGA. My main trip each year was to John Twist's Summer Party in Grand Rapids MI. We always knew where that was and it served as my last weekend away before school started, as I was a 30 year school teacher. I taught 6th grade for 30 years.

Of course it does have a new interior and newer top that certainly could be replaced again now probably, even though it's never up. To summarize: I've put two paint jobs on it; I've rebuilt the engine twice; I've redone the interior and it has a second set of Michelin radial tires and wire wheels. My MGA has not been much of a trophy winner; I think 25 years ago it took first place in a local show, but I'm usually competing against trailer queens and as I said, "I have driven my A 60,000 miles.

