

# Member Featured Car of the Month

Aug 2008

## Bob & Cheryl Nuessgen's '78' MG Midget

by Bob Nuessgen as interviewed by Ron Parks

It took two tries to buy our MG. The first time, we took an Italian detour on the way to buying the MG. When en route to Hamilton OH to look at the MG we made a stop in Miamisburg to look at a '72' Fiat 850 Spider for which we had seen an ad and bought it instead. Then about six months later, we saw that the ad for the MG Midget was still in the Trading Post and that they had lowered the price by \$500. We ended up picking it up for \$2,300. And, basically they still had it setting it in their driveway; so, we went down there and ended up buying it. This was about ten years ago and so for a few years we had two sports cars. We sold the Fiat to a neighbor three years ago, who has pretty much let it rust to pieces in his driveway. He wants to sell it back to us, but it's no longer worth buying. It's a shame.



The former owner of the Midget had glued indoor/outdoor carpet in it. So, one of my first projects was to remove the seats and replace the carpet. After much scraping, I was able to get the old carpet removed. The car sat in the garage for about a year while we were dealing with some family health issues. Besides, I didn't know anything about MGs, nor did I have any books or repair manuals. I went online and ordered Moss and Victoria British catalogs at some point and began ordering parts a few at a time to get it fixed up. One of my first purchases was new seat covers, followed shortly by new hoses.

It needs a lot of work that I don't know how to do, which is one reason I joined the MG Car Club, so I can pick some brains. The front end, the rear end too, for that matter; need to be rebuilt, with all new bushings, etc. I also have two new U Joints that are still setting in the box. I have a new water pump that is still setting in the box, because I don't have a puller to pull the old one off. If any of you have any experience with any of this on a Midget--please, I'm all ears for advice!

I have been changing the interior to the biscuit color to match the top I had purchased about two years ago. Steve Miller of MG Automotive put the new top on for me and did an excellent job.

As far as I know the car is the original orange color from the factory. At least it is the same color inside the trunk, which is a good indicator. I put some tan stripes on the side to hide a bondo repair of dents from the door accidentally getting away from me when I

was backing the car into the garage. I also took the mirrors off and covered the holes with Union Jack refrigerator magnets.

The longest trip we've taken in the MG was to Cedarville. We're a little leery of getting too far away from home with it. We took the car to the British Car Meet at the Market last May, which was our first outing to a British car show. We're looking forward to future club events and having fun with our MG Midget.