

Member Featured Car of the Month

Jeff Opt's '72' MG Midget

by Jeff Opt

Most things surrounding my MG Midget are a little blurry, just because I didn't feel like going back to check my records. It is a 1972 MG Midget, which I bought sometime in 1997 from a person in Beavercreek. I bought it to replace a motorcycle that was totaled in a wreck about a year and a half earlier. I was getting ready to go back to grad school at Indiana University in Bloomington and wanted something fun to drive while I was there and a Midget fit the bill - plus my mom thought it would be safer since it had 4 wheels - personally, I hope I am never in a wreck in it! I tend not to take long trips in it, but still manage to put about 1500 miles on it in the summer - it just turned over 100,000 less than a year ago.



So far it is the only MG I have owned and had I known more about them, I might not have bought this one - but when I was looking my only criteria was that it be chrome bumpered and in my price range. If I remember right I paid about \$1400 for it at the time. Soon after getting it I had the front suspension rebuilt and the head worked on to run better on unleaded gas. It still needed some work when I got to Indiana and luckily I soon met a great MG mechanic there - Tucker J. Madwick of Autosport Inc. Every time I had some extra money, I'd drop it off at his shop and get a little more done, making the car progressively more reliable. Knock on wood, it has been very reliable and not ever left me stranded.

It is a pretty rough car, been outside much of the time I've owned it. But it drives good. It has a long list of things it needs - new top, new top frame, new upholstery, new paint (BRG is not its original color - it was a much different blue/teal shade), rust fixed, new tires - well you get the idea - but none of those things make it run better or go faster so the reality is that unless it is a safety or reliability issue, I probably won't fix it. That's not to say that I wouldn't like a nice Midget or MG, just that if I am going to spend the money, I'll start with a car that is in better condition. For now though, this one suits my needs - primarily that the top goes down and it is fun to drive.

Probably the best modification I have made to it is to remove the radio and just install a power amp in the trunk with a plug in for my iPod. I find that 50 watts is more than enough power for most driving conditions and I don't have to worry about someone trying to take my radio when I leave it parked with the top down. The thing I would most like for my MG right now is a hardtop for a reasonable price, if I pay what Moss is asking, the top will be worth as much as the car! So if you know of any good used ones around let me know.