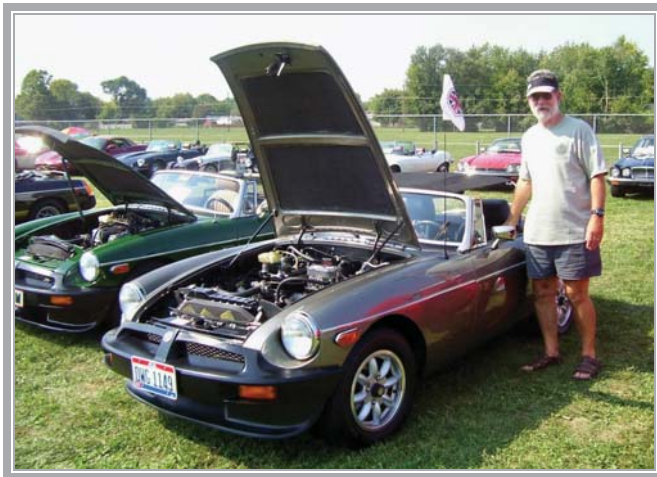


# Larry & Gloria Youngblood's Rubber Bumper MGB

By Larry Youngblood



About six years ago, a former welding student of mine, called me on the phone and asked if I still had my Midget and if I was interested in another MG. Of course, I had to go look. Drove down to Carlisle and there it was outside on the driveway, covered in a very ratty blue tarp. Pulled it back and what I saw was rough. Interior basically gone, no top, engine froze up, sills and fenders rusted but other than the top, it was all there. He wanted \$700, I offered \$500. At the time I had no way of having the car delivered to me so I offered him \$20 to trailer it to the school where I work.

Once at the school (end of school year) I had my few remaining students, (all the rest were out co-oping) start tearing it down. Pulled the engine and used a 2X4 and hammer to free up the #3 piston which was "welded" to the cylinder. Engine then given to the engine rebuild class for renewing. Continued to strip the car down.

Moved the car to my garage at home and got it up on jack stands. I then removed the rusty sills, inner panel and castle rail. Welded in all new metal and of course, new dog leg panels.

Front fenders were gone, so had to find new ones. Found a good, used fender in Arizona and the other was a perfect NOS item from Matthews Parts in Birmingham, AL.

Had some minor rust issues at various places on the floor and footwells. A few patches and good to go.

In the meantime, I was busy ordering new parts, interior components, etc. Got to know the UPS guy very well!

I wanted to do the bodywork and paint the car myself but after 5 years of slowly working on the car, I decided to let the Autobody students at the CTC work on the car. Took them the entire school year to finish it but they finally got the car done and I trailered it home for final assembly. The original color of the car was Tahiti Blue. I had my wife pick the new color which is '02 Ford Mustang Mineral Gray.

As I was assembling the car, I have found various flaws in the paint but I wanted a "driver" so I am not too concerned. Over all, I was very happy with the work they did.

The engine rebuild came out nice and has been running for the last couple of years with no problems.

In 2007, I took the car to its first two car shows and a lot of folks really liked the color and various other little details that I have made such as the Fiero seats, wood cup holder, Bimimi top.

This year (2008) I went to Columbus and received first place...quite a surprise! On its second outing at the Cincinnati show, I also took first place which shocked the heck out of me considering the quality of the other cars there. My wife was talking to many people looking at the car and she told me



later that one fella and his wife wanted to buy the car on the spot. I had to decline...I am not done playing with the car yet.

I have some ideas that I am toying with for additions to the car. I am not looking to keep it bone stock but not wanting to overdue the "custom" work and ruin the good looks of the MGB.

The car was built as a "fair weather" driver. It is driven almost daily in the summer and on some not too cold nice days in the winter months.

