

## Stalled Restoration Project: Even More “Rest of the Story”

Perhaps this will be the final story on the progress on Rick Valera's MGA project. As you may recall, the project was stalled by the previous owner in about 2010. As a result, some of the “new” parts were deemed to be already past their “best us by date”. We have since installed new brake pads and Goodridge brake lines. Of course, this required bleeding the brakes again and it seems pretty good. Rick does want to see about making a custom brake pedal as he has big feet. We are thinking of modifying a spare clutch pedal to bend more to the left and then use an original clutch pedal in place of the brake pedal thus pushing everything to the left away from the throttle pedal. Since the car has a 4 synchro MGB transmission with a backup light switch we made a bracket and wired in a backup light. Along with the new custom carpet set from Scarborough Faire (thanks Cecelia!) we bought a badge bar and installed the driving/fog lights and badges. All the lighting is LED now, even the backup lights (oh, I forgot, still need to get LEDs for the driving/fog lights). We installed three-point retractable seat belts and installed the hood (StayFast) which turned out pretty well. Mike Stockwell had made some extra ash header rails and we used one of those on this car and it fit perfectly. I also took the new Moss provided Weather Shields style side curtains and bent the mounting brackets to fit. This is common on these aftermarket side curtains to need modification. We have tidied up the engine compartment a bit more and it is looking very sharp.

We were able to take it out on the road for a test drive before that last snowstorms, so, we are pretty happy with how it was performing. Now that we have license plates on it we will take it out for another test run. We also need to roll the car in the driveway and measure how many turns of the speedometer cable for 52 feet of rolling distance and then send the Speedo out to Mo-Ma Manufacturing in Albuquerque, NM to be calibrated.

We are almost there for a ready to drive MGA! By the time you read this we will be in Spring 2025 and ready for the driving season. I hope that all of you are getting our cars ready for the season as well. We will be having several tech sessions this year, so, plenty of opportunity to address any small issues. See you on the road!

Rick's MGA nearing completion

