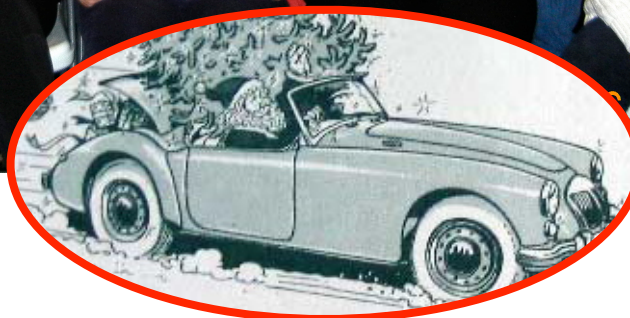




A-Antics



2014

Tech Tips

Christmas Party Report *Rowdies Color Tour Part 2* *MG Abroad*



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A-Antics: Published every other month.
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History: The Chapter was established August 14, 1976. It was NAMGAR's first chapter. We are a low-key club, dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our MGA's/ Anyone is welcome to join our chapter and they are asked to join NAMGAR as well.

Chapter Dues: \$20 annually (\$35 for printed newsletter)

Nickname: Rowdies

Motto: People First!

Rowdies Site:
<http://www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies/>

MG Car Council Site: <http://www.mgcars.org.uk/mgscouncil/>

NAMGAR Web Site: www.namgar.com

Past Chapter Chairpersons:

1976-1980	Bruce Nichols
1981-1982	Tom Latta
1983-1984	Dick Feight
1985-1988	Dave Smith
1989-1990	Dave Quinn
1991-1994	Mark Barnhart
1995-1995	Herb Maier
1996-1996	Tom Knoy
1997-1998	Neil Griffin
1999-2002	Bruce Nichols
2003-2004	Bob Sutton
2005-2008	Gordie Bird

MEMBERS PAGE

Rowdies Website: Larry Pittman, Webmaster

<http://www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies/>

Larry Pitman's Database Report:

67 Active and Paid-Up Members

Classified Ads: Personal for sale or wanted classified ads are free to all paid-up members. Commercial ad rates: Full page \$40 issue/\$200 year; 1/2 page \$25 issue/\$135 year; 1/4 page \$20 issue/\$110 year; Business Card \$10 issue/\$55 year.

Total ads may not exceed 12-1/2% (2 pages of 16); ads accepted on first come, first served basis.

Send Email & Address Changes to Editor.

Deadline for submitting material for the next issue is: February 20, 2015

For Sale: 1958 MGA 1500 Coupe, silver with red interior and new carpet. Runs great, but needs paint & some body work. Well cared for by 30 year owner, always garaged, with many improvements since earlier partial restoration circa 1970. Includes some non-original components. Wire wheels (painted) including spare, front disc brakes, new tires (less than 1,000 miles), new front dampers, new master cylinder, electronic ignition, rebuilt generator. Asking \$8,000 firm. **Contact Mike 586.232.1292. Shelby Township.**



Set of 4-48 spoke MGA wheels with Kelly Springfield "Kelly Metric" 165 SR 15 tires mounted. Photos available, Asking \$500.00. **Mark Barnhart** 989-366-8980 Cell 810-444-2054

Letters:

MGs in the Salt...

1956 MG Speed Trials at Bonneville

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83AQiSCZvIg>

Thanks to Greg Prehodka for this link showing MG setting speed records at Bonneville in 1956.

Drivers took only three Pit stops, so that makes each stint at the wheel at 3 hours without Air conditioning and hydrating with Gatorade. Also they only mentioned two drivers, so likely six hours total per driver.

Impressive.,

Dave Smith

MG Lives...

Hi Dave,

I'm not sure if this would be of interest to the other Rowdies, but I was just in Valparaiso Chile and came across this MG dealer!

Do you know of any in the US?

And are they owned by SsangYong?

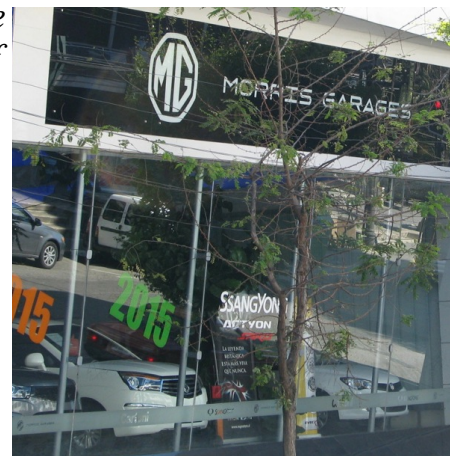
Best, Andy Hoffman

Andrew,

These are neat pictures - seems so odd to see a modern MG dealership. Here's the story as best I can tell from various Wikipedia sources:

MG Rover in the UK went defunct in 2005 and Nanjing Auto purchased the right to MG and restarted sports car and saloon production in 2007. Nanjing in turn merged with SAIC, a state-owned Chinese auto headquartered in Shanghai, and one of China's big four automakers. Thus SAIC came to own the historic British brand MG with Nanjing as a subsidiary.

SsangYong Motor (which means double dragons) is the 4th largest Korean auto manufacturer. In 2004 SAIC took a 51% stake



of SsangYong and assumed control but continued operations under their name. That's how they came to be sold at that dealership.



MG, under Chinese ownership (Nanjing/SAIC), was launched in 2008 with the MG TF roadster. In 2011 mass production of MGs returned to the UK in Longbridge, under SAIC control, with the MG 6 model in GT (hatchback) and Magnette (saloon)



versions, which became the first new generation MG available in the UK since the MG TF. I believe the models you see at the dealership in Chile are the MG 6.

The MG range is now sold in China,

Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and the UK, availability of models depending on market.

Closer to home, in 2012 SAIC opened an operations center in Birmingham, MI primarily for sourcing components.

I am sending your photos to our editor along with the above for use in a future AAntics, likely a winter issue, when it is tough to find new stuff.

Thanks for sharing, maybe someday with the MI connection MG may return to these shores.

Dave Quinn



More in China

Terry Frisch writes in:

A friend of mine picked this bag up for me at the Auto Show in Guangzhou China. He did see a few "new" MG's driving around.

Terry Frisch



Yes Terry, MG lives... see the above pictures of an MG dealership in Chile sent in by Andrew Hoffman.

Dave Quinn

MG expansion continues with new dealership in

Coventry- reprinted from <http://mg.co.uk/news/2014/12/01/>

MG's latest dealer opens today in Coventry, one of the few cities that can rival the famous MG brand in terms of motor industry heritage.

Coventry MG becomes the 22nd new dealer appointed this year as the brand continues its major expansion. While new car sales in the UK are currently growing at around 10 per cent so far this year, MG has outpaced the market with a 556 per cent increase to become Britain's fastest growing brand.

Managing Director, Jason Wainwright, said: "The return of the MG brand has been remarkable and, having driven both the MG6 and MG3 models, I can see why. They are fantastic cars offering great value for money". Coventry MG's appointment comes just as news broke that Autocar, one of the most respected automotive magazines in the world, included the new MG3 supermini in its list of

'The 50 Best Cars on Sale Today' putting it ahead of cars such as the Audi TT.

Autocar's verdict on the MG3 said: "The 3 is cheap, attractive, effective and fun. Just like an MG should be, in other words." MG3 prices range from £8,399 to £9,999.

So far in 2014 new MG dealerships have opened in Barnes, West London; Newcastle, Leicester, Harrogate, Doncaster, Northampton, Norwich, Swindon, Falmouth, Brecon, Maidstone, Wareham, Exeter, Oxford, Havant, Torbay, Oldham, Glasgow, Christchurch, Newtownabbey and Nelson.



ROWDIES 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

FEBRUARY

- 21 BUSINESS MEET-Bruce & Willie Mann's, 960 Denbar Ct., White Lake, MI- 248-698-3372

APRIL

- 11 KIMBER BIRTHDAY PARTY-Delhi Cafe, Holt, MI

Register Your MGA With NAMGAR!



Join over 2,000 enthusiastic owners in the restoration, preservation, and sheer enjoyment of driving an MGA, Magnette, or variant of this noble breed. You'll receive six bi-monthly issues of MGA!, our full-color, award winning magazine, invitations to National and Regional Get-Togethers throughout the U.S. and Canada, plus a knowledge base and support group second to none. All this for just \$37.50 per year (North America), or \$52.50 (International). Get more information at <http://www.namgar.com>, or contact registrar@namgar.com.



ROWDIES BUSINESS MEETING 2015!

SATURDAY FEB. 21

BRUCE & WILLY MANN'S

960 DENBAR CT.

WHITE LAKE, MI

STORY TELLING, GREETING - 11AM

LUNCH - NOON

MEETING BEGINS - 1PM

QUESTIONS?

**BRUCE & WILLY - (248)698-3372 or
(248)866-0041 bwmann@att.net**

GT-40 IS REALLY COMING

GT-40 is getting closer and closer. It hit home for me at the end of GT-39 when I realized "We're Next". I hope this reminder isn't needed, but our fourth national GT will be in Frankenmuth, MI, from June 15 - 19, 2015. Our host hotel will be the Bavarian Inn Lodge. And here's the link for our web site for GT-40: <http://gt40.namgar.com/>

If you have an email address registered with the club, you should have received a message letting you know that online registration is now open for club members. The message contained the link for sign-up, but here it is again: <http://www.gt40.namgar.com/2014!12.01-gt-registration.shtml> -- Note that this link takes you to the registration page on the GT-40 web site. The page will remain hidden until mid-January when registration will be opened up nationally.

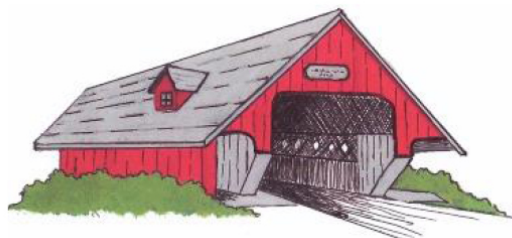
There's been a lot of behind the scenes work going on and the schedule is essentially complete although needed changes still pop up. We're now up to six tech sessions with many other things in the schedule. These include taking a class in pretzel or streusel making, taking a ride on the "Bavarian Belle", enjoying dinner at the Frankenmuth Brewery, and so on. We'll also be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the MGA 1500. As part of that celebration, Forrest Johnson will be doing a 1955 MGA Walk Around Tour to point out differences unique to those early cars. The car show is planned for Wednesday morning with valve cover racing set to happen late that same morning. And, of course, the banquet will be on Thursday evening. You can keep up to date by keeping an eye on the GT-40 web site where the schedule is posted.

Going on throughout the week will be what we're calling the Mighty Good Auction. We hope to have all sorts of items available – from car items to arts & crafts items. You'll be able to bid on anything you have an interest in by purchasing tickets for the item. The more tickets you buy, the better your chances. To make items available for this, we need donations – lots of them. Some of the GT-40 vendors will supply us with auction items, but we need individual donations, too. There's still time to put something together to make it available. The event is being headed up by Bill & Mary Ellen Weakley. Contact them at 734-996-2524 to let them know you have something available or to ask questions about the event.

Lastly, we're going to need volunteers at the GT. There are lots of areas where extra help will be needed, so keep these areas in mind if you have some place you'd like to help: Registration, Car Show, Awards Banquet setup, MG Auction, Hospitality, Car Wash Station, Arts / Photos / Crafts Display, Help Set up for various events, and so on. I have a list of volunteers, but let me know if you want to be added / aren't sure if I have you on my list / have some place you'd like to specifically help with, etc.

I'll be providing a more complete update at our Feb. 21 Business meeting.

Larry Pittman
gt40info@namgar.com
Home: 810-750-0047
Cell: 810-348-9318



NAMGAR GT-40

June 15-19, 2015 • Frankenmuth, MI

<http://gt40.namgar.com>





Binding Brakes-reprinted from Chicagoland MG Club tech tips

Many MGA owners seem to be experiencing problems with the brakes 'binding', especially right after a brake system rebuild. The common complaint is that the brakes begin to drag as the car is driven, which creates tremendous heat and eventually stops the car, possibly damaging your new linings, pads, and discs.

The Factory Workshop Manual gives explicit instructions on setting the master cylinder pushrod, which sometimes cures the problem. However, even with the proper 'free play' in the pedal, the brakes can still bind up. The problem is that the master cylinder piston is not coming far enough forward to uncover the bleeder orifice that allows the expanded fluid to bleed into the reservoir.

Solution: Add a shim between the master cylinder block and the cover plate! This shim allows the piston to come a little further forward, thus uncovering the bleeder orifice.

I cut my shim from .020" brass shim stock using the gasket as a template, but allowing a 1.00" diameter clearance hole for the brake piston. I used two #180-020 gaskets, modifying one to include the 1.00" diameter hole, but leaving the other one standard.

Ed. note: A simpler solution that I found to this problem is simply to enlarge the hole in the cork gasket (see picture above) to allow the piston to go through the gasket and all the way forward.



Dave Quinn sends in this advice for a car hoist:

I got a note from a car buddy with a Honda S2000 who bought a Bendpak BL-5000 "Quick Jack". To me it is a 2 foot (well almost) car lift, rather than a jack. To quote him " My model is rated at 5,000 lbs but they also have a 3,500 unit named the BL-3500 for a couple of hundred dollars less. Mine was \$1,300 delivered to my garage. I got the 12V option so a marine group 29 battery and a tender added \$180. I am so in love with it. The danger is that it makes working on the car so easy that I spend all of my time in the garage."

He mentioned having information on a source for larger rubber blocks that he bought to replace the small ones that come with it. It looks good those who don't have high ceilings. It appears the Quick Jack sells under several Quick Jack labels. Here are links to videos:

<http://www.bendpak.com/Shop-Equipment/QuickJack/>

<http://youtu.be/bltjLwRzcxs>

<http://youtu.be/EzFk30ifCnA>



My local O'Reilly auto parts store listed the 3,500 at \$1,200. My friend got his online for 20% less and no tax. For anyone interested in doing both their MGA and daily driver I think the 5000 might be best.

Here are links:

The 5000: Ranger 5000 (http://bigboysgaragetoy.com/index.php?p=catalog&mode=search&search_in=all&search_str=BL-5000)

The 3500: Ranger 3500 (http://bigboysgaragetoy.com/index.php?p=catalog&mode=search&search_in=all&search_str=BL-3500)

Dave



Colour Tour-Take 2; 10-25-14

Since no one wanted to put their MGA away for the winter, Bruce and Willy Mann offered to host a “Colour Tour-Take 2” the weekend following the first planned tour at Goeddecke’s. The weather was improved over the weekend before and we had a good turnout with Pittmans, Manns, Nelsons, Griffins, Quinns, Birds, Steve Holiday, Bachelders, Jeff and

Deb Smith, and Rob Cote along with a fleet of seven MGA cars. Bruce organized a nice drive to a pumpkin and apple cider vendor followed by lunch at the White Lake Inn. Then back to Mann’s house for a tour of the Mann “Man-Cave” and his MGTD restoration. We had a good time and held “old Man Winter” at bay for at least one more weekend. **Ken Nelson**



The Long and Winding Road







The White Lake Inn



*Photos by, Bruce Mann, Dave Quinn,
Ken Nelson*

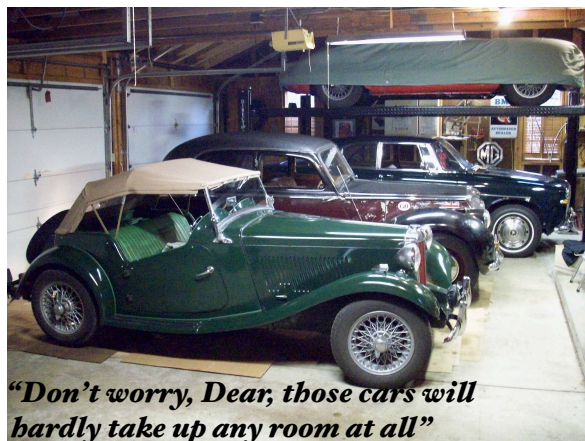
Technical Tips

(or How To Keep Your Spouse Happy Over The Holidays)

1. Use the living room to store old car parts through the winter.



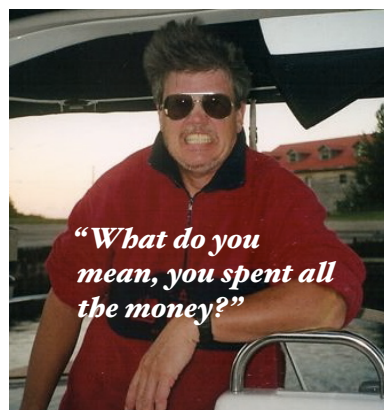
2. Tell your spouse there's no room for her/his car in the garage this winter.



3. Get hold of your spouse's wallet/purse just before Christmas.



4. Never let your anger show.



5. Ask your spouse to help out with a little project for "just a few seconds dear".



6. Tell your spouse you're bringing some friends home for a few days over the Holidays.



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

by Dave Quinn

We enjoyed coordinating the Christmas Party for the past five years. Being a numbers guy in my past life I thought I would share some. I heard comments that attendance was down this year but it was normal. I don't have attendance for 2010 but

from 2011 onward attendance was 32, 42, 29, and 30.

My guess is the table arrangement added to the perception since they were closer together for the entertainment and there may have been a couple extra tables from past years. I can easily account for the drop off over the past couple years from the high water mark in 2012. Eight people who normally attended are now snowbirds in Florida. For your information expenses covered by your club over the past four years total \$2,206 or about one-half of the total cost each year. We have been able to do this in large part due to your generosity at our summer auction. It goes without saying we ended our time as hosts with a very enjoyable event. The effort Bill and Mary Ellen Weakly put into the show to write a special song for the Rowdies was outstanding and appreciated by all. Everyone agreed having Etcetera perform at GT-40 would be awesome if we can work out the details and their 2015 schedule permits.

The next event is our Annual Business Meeting. The Rowdies condense their entire year's planning into one meeting. This year Bruce and Willie Mann will be hosting the annual meeting on Saturday, February 21, starting at 12 noon, at their lovely home in White Lake. This is always one of the best-attended events of the year. We try to conduct business quickly and then catch up on how everyone's doing.

Also, at the business meet as a way for saying "Thank You" if you hosted a Rowdies meet in 2014 your name will be placed in a \$100 gift certificate drawing for use at Jeff Zorn's Little British Car Company. This year's entries are Dave & Chari

Smith, Lloyd & Janice Herring, Ken & Kathy Nelson, Dave & Phyllis Goeddeke, Bruce & Willie Mann, and Dave & Donna Quinn. When Rowdies host a meet it is always special, so please consider hosting one in 2015. If you decide to be a host and have any questions prior to the business meet you can give our meets chairman, Dave Smith, a call.

The due date for your 2015 membership dues will once again be March 1. You should be receiving a renewal notice around the first of February. Please be prompt in renewing so the club can finalize the roster for the coming year. At the time of this writing dues remain unchanged for 2015 with two options: \$20 to receive the A-Antics newsletter on-line, \$35 to receive the printed version, with color covers, plus access to the on-line version as well. There has been interest expressed in having the printed A-Antics be all color year-round. If so, dues would be subject to change. We plan an online anonymous survey in January to get your feedback to this idea prior to the annual business meeting.

In the dark days of winter we always want the best garage lighting we can get. I have 12 double-overhead fluorescent lights in my garage and four corner ceiling lights as well. Still I want more when I'm doing mechanical work that's shaded or in the dark. In the past I used the old fashion caged light bulb on a cord. I tried halogen work lights on a stand but found them too bright and too hot. Until recently I used the fluorescent light on a cord. This Fall I was impressed with a work light a British Motor Club member was using at a tech session in his garage. I immediately bought one. It's a SMART brand 50 LED work light (180 lumens). Aside from the great lighting and small overall dimensions it has a 15-foot cord and a 2-1/4" adjustable magnet on the backside. I bought mine from Menards. Since then I use it all the time. It easily attaches to vehicle frames, under the dash, metal shelves, cabinets, etc. Being able to easily secure it and set the light direction is really handy. The magnet is so strong I covered it with duct tape to help slide it off the resting places. Here's a link if you are interested: <http://www.menards.com/>

main/outdoor-lights/work-lights/50-led-plug-in-work-light-with-outlet/p-2192796-c-7914.htm

When it comes to travel lights, LED flash lights just keep getting better and better. Back in 2011 I paid \$48 for a tiny 2" one that puts out three modes with the highest being 210 lumens. This Christmas Santa's helpers (grandkids) got me one from Tractor Supply that is approximate 3x2x1" square that is unreal. Since it is square you can rest it anywhere, plus it has a hook, a magnet and three lighting modes that is equal or better my \$48 light at one-sixth the cost.



Lucas' answer to the LED trouble light.



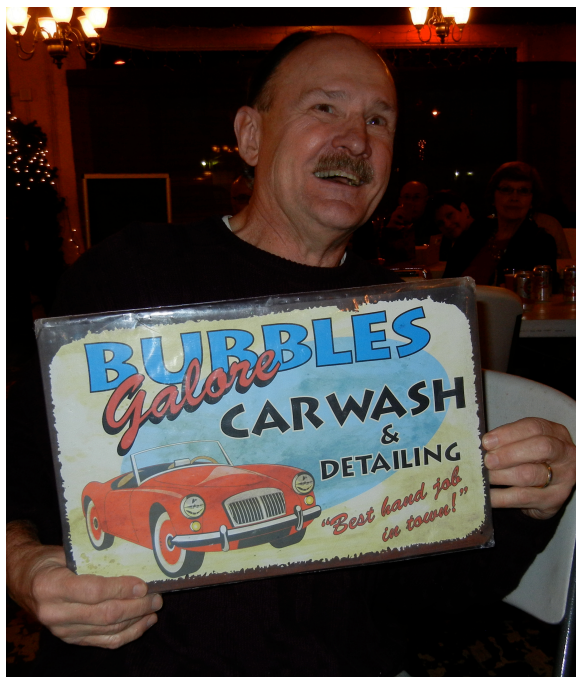
Rowdie Christmas Party-by Old Saint Nick

December 6, 2014

Christmas comes just once a year, and this year I'd say that Santa and his Elves missed a doggone good party by not showing up with a bag of presents for all his good little Rowdie boys and girls. The lack of a soot filled chimney may have dissuaded Santa from showing his face, but good food, enjoyable company, and presents galore still made their way to the Bone Island Grille in Jackson, Michigan last December 6th. Dave and his lovely wife Donna arranged the venue and the food caterer for our annual Holiday GT (get together), and we had our usual good turnout minus the handful of snowbirds who travel south each winter to avoid the ice and snow (see Chairman's Chatter this issue).

Dave and Donna also arranged a special treat for all of us this year, in the form of a swinging, singing, musical ensemble who performed many of our favorite oldies and more to entertain us. The group took us down Route 66 all the way from Chicago to LA. The fact that our very own Bill and Mary Ellen Weakley were performing made it all the more special for the rest of us. When the group kicked off Bill's very own version of "Little GTO" (think "MGA") I thought the place had gone wild with all the laughter and applause at the end. Of course, "wild" is a relative term for those of us who are now going to bed early and getting up late instead of the opposite in our younger days.

As if that wasn't enough, the food was delicious and plentiful, and the gift exchange at the end provided its own share of entertainment. It was almost worth the price of admission alone just to see Dave Goedekke's expression of joy when he won the "Bubbles Galore" car wash display. The sign says it all and I think Dave spent the rest of the evening looking around for his very own "Bubbles".



Of course, as at all Rowdie events, those who come together at the beginning of the party don't always go home with each other at the end of the party. Quite a bit of swapping around occurs in the middle, and you never know who or what will be gracing your house when you arrive back home. So many prize gifts changed hands more than once.

One hardy member of the Rowdies drove his MGA to the event, and that was Tom Fant with his light blue 1600. True to form, our President drove his Ford F150 pickup. Between missing last year's GT-39 and driving the very same Ford pickup to "Drive Your MGA Day", I have a sneaking suspicion that he is in the running as a prime candidate for the Jack Spiral Shaft Award at an upcoming meeting.

So it was that our party ended on a bright note, with all looking forward to Santa next year. Perhaps he may even be driving a "Little MGA" (wha, wha....comon wind it up MGA!)

See pictures on following pages





Recent Projects by Members

Bruce Mann took the time to show off his efforts to date on his MGTD restoration after the October 25th colour tour event he hosted. As usual, his garage ("Mann Cave") was immaculate and his TD was coming along nicely with a lustrous coat of flawless new black paint. Here are some pictures of the car and Rob Cote admiring it from the driver's seat:





Meanwhile, back at the editing offices of senior editor Ken Nelson, someone's MGA was getting a nice shiny new coat of red paint:

Along with a new red Tonneau cover (being tested for softness by Martha the cat)



And also, a rebuilt gearbox for the XPAG engine in the editor's MGTD:



And Larry Pittman has been putting in the hours this winter working on his MGTD. Looking at his and Bruce Mann's pictures I suspect it will be a neck and neck race to the finish at the concours judges' reviewing booth with Ken's TD coming in a distant third (he'll settle for anything as long as the car gets there under its own power).

All in all, it looks as if retirement has been good to these 3 lucky Rowdies. How about the rest of you out there in Michigan Winterland? *Send me some pictures of what you've all been up to lately-it's easy to do with phone cameras now!*

