

## ***Tech Article: March 2015***

We still have a lot of cars in the shop, so I am sure there is a story in there somewhere. We have 5 cars that have been sitting for years each. How do you park your LBC and forget about it? It is much better if you can continue to drive it. An estimate to get one running and driving safely is \$2,500. This includes correct preparation of the engine before starting it. You should pull the plugs and squirt some oil into the cylinders before the first turn of the engine. We use engine oil and mineral spirits mixed. This soaks into any rust built up on the cylinder walls and lubricates it some. We then turn the engine over by hand to make sure it is not frozen.

Once it turns over, then we check the oil. No, we do not change it at this time. If the engine is free, then we check the carbs, fuel pump, and fuel tank. You can get the carbs cleaned up enough and add a little gas to the float bowls and see if it will run. Of course you should check the ignition and either charge or replace the battery. If replacing it, clean the terminals while they are off. All you want to do is hear the engine run. There is no need to continue if the engine has a major problem.

We do this because we hardly ever hear the real story of why the car was parked. Our thought is to see if any expensive engine work is needed before the car can be driven. After we have heard the engine run, then we can look at the clutch hydraulics, braking system, charging system, electrical system, suspension, etc.

Our next objective is to write an accurate estimate of everything the car needs to be put back on the road. We send out an email to our customer and print out a copy for our records and use. We spend the time to go through the parts books to get current prices on all the parts we anticipate needing and we list each step of the labor we think is needed. From this list, we can prioritize the repairs for the customer.

This is the correct procedure your shop should use if you have forgotten to drive your LBC for years. Please do not just add some gas and a battery jump and fire it up. This could cause more damage. Also, do not go driving down the road if it does fire up. You do not know how well the brakes will work or if the hydraulics will last long enough to get you home. Then you could add an extra tow bill to the repairs.

It is best if you keep using the car. It is also more fun. All LBC car clubs have events throughout the year for you to participate in, so go out and find some place to use it.

Here are my recommendations for what you should use in your LBC. For oil, use Shell Rotella 15w40 with ZDDP in it. They say it is better to use an oil made with it in it from the manufacturer than add it from a small bottle. Use any GL4 gear oil in your trans. and differential; yes, you can use 90 weight in a MGB trans.; read the book. Use Castrol LMA brake fluid in the hydraulics. Several manufacturers say do not use silicone fluid, including Wilwood Brakes and TRW. Buy a gallon of real anti-freeze and not the premixed stuff, half of that is just water. You can add your own water. And use as little anti-freeze as necessary to keep your car from freezing. Water cools best. A water wetter works well in the cooling system.

I like to add some sealant to the cooling system on engine rebuilds and my favorite is Aluma-seal. I have seen it stop leaks in minutes. Of course, you can use what you want but these products work great for me. We have very few comebacks. So, I hope to see y'all somewhere soon. Barry Rosenberg