



Masters finished restoration of this 1955 Chevy Bel Air Nomad in 2015. It is a rare car with a completely stock look, but it has an updated engine and transmission.

By George Masters

Vintage

Restored from rust to beauty.

Throughout my two careers—20 years in the Air Force as a Hound Dog and Minuteman III missileer and another 19 as a civilian—I have loved and gathered up classic cars.

I would buy one, sell it at a profit, then buy an even nicer one. I would restore some to what is called a frame-off restoration, where a vehicle is dismantled to the bare bones and then rebuilt with all-new nuts, bolts, paint, wheels—just about everything.

At any one time, I have three to four cars in my garage workshop.

You might ask why I would want more than one collector car. I seem to enjoy “the hunt” as much as the car: finding it, settling on the price, transporting it home, and looking it over to see what needs to be done for restoration.

Each car is special in one way or another.

Retired MSgt. George Masters belongs to the Gen. David C. Jones Chapter in North Dakota and is a former North Central Region president.



Growing up in Bethlehem, Pa., Masters' two older brothers had MG TDs, and he eventually bought two of them. This one is a 1952 MG TD. It came with its main body intact, original engine and transmission—and about 65 boxes of parts.



Starting from scratch: This 1956 Chevy is about to be sand blasted down to bare metal.



This 1957 Bel Air has been fully restored with an original engine and transmission. The color combination is Tropical Turquoise and India Ivory.