

New Hampshire Marlin

By Joe Howard, Derry NH



It is a 1966 Marlin. Number 612 of only 4,547 built that year by AMC in Kenosha, Wisconsin. I have owned and driven several AMC cars and have always liked the smooth lines of the Marlin "Sport Fastback" design. Marlins were only made for 3 years: 1965, 66, and 67 in limited numbers. After seeing several top quality Marlins at different AMC shows and meets, I set my sights on finding a 65 or 66 Marlin.

I found my Marlin in Ontario Canada. I am the 4th owner. It still has the original black vinyl roof/trunk lid. All of the upholstery and carpets are original except the headliner. The exterior has been refinished in the original factory paint color, Marquessa Mauve Metallic, Code P21A, a very unusual color.

Options include the 327 4v (270 HP) V-8 engine, with a "Flash-O-Matic" transmission, Power Steering, Power Brakes, and PosiTrac rear-end. The interior has Reclining Bucket Seats, Center Console & Floor Shift, Town & Country AM/FM Radio with dual rear speakers, Tissue Dispenser, Visor Vanity Mirror, Clock, and a Passenger Headrest. Safety features include Electric Wipers & Washers, Day/Night Rear-View Mirror, Courtesy Lights, Remote Control Driver Side Outside Mirror, Companion Right Side Outside Mirror. Trim options include the Vinyl covered roof and trunk lid, Front and Rear Bumper Guards, and Turbocast Wheel Covers.



This Marlin has an interesting history. It was built in November 1965 and first driven by an AMC factory representative. It was then sold to Bois Claire Auto Limited in Montreal, Quebec. Then it was dealer traded to Uptown Motors in Cornwall, Ontario and purchased by Keith Jones



of Cornwall. Keith drove the car approximately 100,000 miles until 1975 or 1976 but taking very good care of it. He then put it in the car museum located between Morrisburg and Upper Canada Village Ontario where it was on display for approximately 2 years. In 1977 or 1978, Lloyd Cowan from Manotick, Ontario, near Ottawa, saw the Marlin in the museum and bought it from Keith. Lloyd drove the Marlin and stored it in a heated garage for roughly 20 years - never getting around to the restoration he originally planned. After

that long time, Lloyd took the Marlin to C. W. M. Car Sales in Winchester, Ontario where it was then purchased by D. Bruce Emmons of Brockport, Ontario in July 1998. At that time it had been driven 139,000 miles.

Bruce, a retired master auto mechanic, spent 1998 to 2000 repairing, rebuilding, and restoring the Marlin. He overhauled the brake system, sandblasted and painted the brake drums. He removed the rear axle and the enclosed drive shaft, replaced the drive shaft U-joints and pinion seal, then sandblasted and painted the complete assembly. He sandblasted and painted the rear springs and replaced the rear shocks. The Marlin then got a new coat of Marquessa Mauve Metallic paint. In the next phase he removed the engine and transmission. He had the engine completely rebuilt and balanced. He replaced the front and rear transmission seals and the transmission mounts. He removed everything in the engine compartment (including the wiring harness) and had the engine compartment and underside of hood painted to match the exterior color. With the steering components and the front suspension apart, he cleaned or sandblasted and painted all front suspension components and replaced the front shocks and strut rod bushings. Next, he replaced all brake, gas, and transmission lines plus installed a new dual exhaust system. As the final touch, he reconditioned all the stainless steel trim (removing dents and scratches and polishing), cleaned and undercoated the floor pan and wheel wells, and completely carpeted the trunk. Bruce and his wife drove the Marlin over 21,000 miles taking it to numerous mixed make car shows and AMC events in Canada. In 2000 it won trophies for "Best In Class" & "Concours Original" at the Rambler-Rama in Brampton, Ontario.

With 162,000 miles now on the odometer, this reconditioned Marlin runs, drives, and rides great. Wherever I take the Marlin, it draws a lot of attention. Many stop to ask what it is or to say they have never seen a Marlin before. Those who recognize a Marlin tell us they have not seen one in many years. This year (2003), my wife and I have enjoyed showing the Marlin at many events. We drove it in the 4th of July Parade held in Nashua, NH and we entered the Marlin in several mixed make car shows around New England where it was a consistent trophy winner. In addition, we also brought the Marlin to the AMO, AMCRC, and Marlin Club National Meets - receiving trophies at each. Most of all, we enjoy showing car enthusiasts the sleek "Sport Fastback" Marlin design introduced by AMC in 1965 - a design making a come back with the new Chrysler Crossfire.

