



TC Motoring Guild MIDGET CHASSIS

Published by the TC Motoring Guild, Inc.

April 2008



TC bonnet ornament at the TCMG Snow Tour in March.

The TCMG faithful plus a couple of folks from the TCMG "Mini Chapter" showing the rest of us what we missed. See story on page 8.



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The MIDGET CHASSIS APRIL 2008

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The Classic Chassis is
published semi-annually and
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the remaining months.

All contributions: articles,
letters, advertisements, and
captioned photos for the next
issue should be sent to:

The Classic Chassis
c/o David Edgar,
1454 Chase Terrace
El Cajon, CA 92020
email: djedgar@pacbell.net

*Deadline for
submissions to the
May Midget Chassis
April 10th!*

TCMG March Meeting



Citibank Community Room
2350 Honolulu Ave. Montrose
(Meeting room entrance is at the
rear of the bank--downstairs.)

Tuesday March 25th at 8:00 PM

Guest speaker, Tony Henkels
Adventures in Restoring
a 1928 Lincoln Limousine

*Tony has many stories in both
the aquisition of this Lincoln and
in determining what should be
redone verses what should be
left as so as to not spoil this true
treasure of a car (even though it is
not an MG). I am sure Cindy will
have some input on this as well.*

Colonial American Experience TCMG Tour

Saturday, April 12, 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM
Reagan Library, Simi Valley

*The American Revolutionary era comes
alive with an 18th Century encampment
in one of the most authentic living
history events on the West Coast. The
Reagan Library invites you to join us
on Saturday, April 12th for our seventh
annual Revolutionary War Event.*

*Visitors can experience 18th Century
Life by strolling through a town square*

*where period vendors and craftsmen
will display their wares and demonstrate
their skills. Discover daily life in the
military while wandering through and
interacting with soldiers in an authentic
military encampment.*

*Meet at the Reagan Library at 10 AM or
in Westhills (TBA) at 9 AM*

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Introducing the TCMG Executive Council for 2008

President	Dave Coleman	714-898-2008	(In transition)
Vice President	Ron Simon	818-708-2033	simon90248@yahoo.com
Secretary	David Edgar	619-593-8255	djedgar@pacbell.net
Treasurer	Joyce Edgar	619-593-8255	djedgar@pacbell.net
and Membership	Steve Simmons	(See Roster)	websim@pacbell.net
Ex Officio	Gene Olson	805-522-8052	olson_g@msn.com
Events	Stan Belland	818-787-1152	stanuys@earthlinknet
Programs	Dave Edgar	619-593-8255	djedgar@pacbell.net
Classic Chassis	Jim Crandall	310 457 3967	crandallonline@yahoo.com
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Raffle Chair	Bob Wilmer	310-394-5232	(none)
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Notice

Al Moss has a new website and just finished writing his autobiography. To access his web site, go to www.racermoss.com.

Several people have reported the book to be VERY interesting reading.

52nd Annual TCMG/ARR Conclave

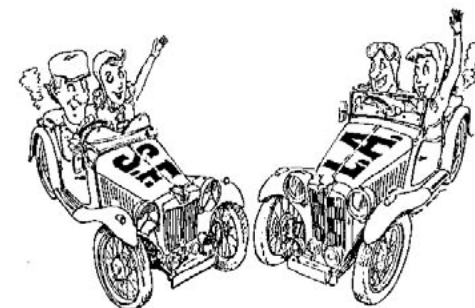
October 3-5

25 rooms reserved at the Yosemite Gateway Inn, in Oakhurst, for the first weekend in October. Friday, Oct 3 and Saturday the 4th.

The price is \$107 plus tax.

Call 1-888-256-8042.

The rooms are under "MG Group". We will have the Saturday dinner in the banquet room at their restaurant.



Other Events of Interest

April 6

Queen's English Car show

Woodly Park Van Nuys

[http://www.socalcarculture.com/](http://www.socalcarculture.com/Images/040608QueensEnglish.pdf)

Images/040608QueensEnglish.pdf

April 13

13th Annual Rolling British Car Day

Purpose is to get as many British cars on the road. No fees, applications, judging or trophies, but lots of fun.

www.sandiegobritishcarday.org/

and on our TCMG web page calendar www.tcmotoringguild.org

April 26

"Great Looks & Great Books"

Triumph Gathering

8:00AM-2:00PM

at Autobooks/ Aerobooks

(3524 W Magnolia, Burbank)

April 26

Healeys at the Driving Museum

El Segundo

<http://www.austin-healey.org/>

May 4

British Extravaganza Buttonwillow

May (TBA)

Wildflower Tour and/or

Hollywood Hills tour

June 4

Visit the Easley Pacific Rail Road

Art Ludwick has invited us to see his new, improved train.

TCMG Palm Springs Event

Due to the lack of enough confirmed commitments, this event has been postponed. If more interest is generated we can try later.

2008 TCMG Dues are Due

Thank you to those that have already renewed. For those that have not, you should find a renewal slip attached to this Midget Chassis. Hope to hear from you soon. Deadline to renew is March 25 (our March meeting).

The 2008 TCMG Directory will be assembled and published once the renewal deadline is reached.

If you have any questions please contact: Joyce Edgar
djedgar@pacbell.net
or 619-593-8255

THE REST OF THE STORY

by Doug Pelton

In 1922, a 21 year old named William Lyons, started a motorcycle side car company in England and named it Swallow Sidecars. Despite the economic stagnation of the 20's, the company prospered. In 1926 the growth led to expansion and name change to Swallow Sidecar and Coach Building Company. As a normal progression Lyons Coach Building outfitted an Austin Seven with his own body calling it an Austin Swallow 2-seater. Lyons was now in the car business. However, he needed a larger vehicle to compliment the 2-seater. So in 1929, he obtained a batch of obsolete FIAT chassis and the FIAT Swallow was born. The next years Swallow cars were produced on Standard and Swift chassis and in 1931 the sensational S.S.'s were launched which had an extraordinary low and dramatic body.

There were a number of S.S. car models that were produced throughout the 30's. The first was the 6 cylinder S.S.I which was produced '31-'35 and very popular. The smaller 4 cylinder S.S.II was produced '33-'35. However, by the mid 1930's Hitler's Germany was dominating the news and the name S.S. for a British

car was ringing with negative popularity due to the negative connotation of the German Secret Service. The S.S. name was falling out of favor with the Brits so a name change for the company was needed.

In searching for a new name, it is said that Lyons reflected on a moment when he was in Cecil Kimber's (Managing Director of MG) office admiring a statue called Tigress sitting on the desk. This statue was the same as mounted on the front of the MG MK III 18/100 Tigress (production 5). Lyons, who appreciated the statue so much is said to have appropriated the statue concept for his new car but changed the breed of the cat.

So in 1936 Lyons debuted a new model called the SS Jaguar, with the periods purposely dropped after the SS. The car also sported a new Jaguar mascot and the Jaguar car company as we know it today was born.

And now you know MG's influence on Jaguar and the rest of the story.



TC SPRING SETS

4 items included: brake pedal return spring, brake switch return spring with pedal hook, and clutch pedal return spring. These are new springs and replicate the original.

\$21 Instructions and diagrams are included. Items will be mailed priority mail in the US for \$6.00 shipping and handling.

Doug Pelton
dougpelton@cox.net or 602-690-4927



TC HARDWARE ITEMS

Over the past few years I have been procuring all the hardware bits for the TC. Because I have 2 TCs to do, I have often bought 1 part or set from Moss and another from Abingdon and then compared the items for fit, correctness, quality, etc. Generally Abingdon has the better stuff but I am sometimes surprised (but not often) about Moss. With respect to the interior hardware nuts, bolts, screws, neither passes muster. It is obvious the suppliers have not actually touched the car nor researched what is the correct type fastener, length, head etc. One of Moss's sets even had Phillips head screws in it. Similarly, all of the hardware clips for the chassis wiring, brakes, and fuel are very difficult to track down. Moss doesn't have much

and Abingdon has some but are difficult to figure out without having them in your hand to see if they are correct. There are more than 20 different types of correct clips on the TC.

To solve my problem, I have procured bulk quantities of the correct hardware items and clips and have them available in sets for anyone interested. Please contact me if you are in need of any of these items. Doug Pelton
3754 E Nance Circle
Mesa, AZ 85215
phone: 602-690-4927
DougPelton@cox.net

Ed Note: Spring set on previous page is one sample of what Doug gathers. He had these springs made to order.

MGTC WANTED!!

Looking for a TC on behalf of a friend:

- Should be in good condition but not concours perfect
- Should not require restoration - wants to be able to drive it now
- May be any year or any color

Contact: Gordon Glass ghgmlg@yahoo.com
ph: 949-644-1954

Prewar MMM 6 cylinder MG WANTED

Any condition, project or complete would be of interest. Please contact Doug Pelton, dougpelton@cox.net or 602-690-4927

Looking for early MG TC

Not looking to buy but to do research. Any condition, project or complete would be of interest. Please contact Doug Pelton, dougpelton@cox.net or 602-690-4927

photo by Bob McKamey



I received a couple more caption submissions to our photo. Guess I should look for another fun photo.

"This stubborn shrink says I'm NOT Amelia Earhart"
Gordon Glass

"Every time I see you I get a mental hernia"
Bob Smith

TCMG Snow Run



It was a somewhat misty day at the start. It was a pity only six members made it as it was to be one of the more memorable Sunday drives in recent TCMG history.

Out of the mist and into the fog we went, TCs driven by Gene Olson and Joe Douglas and Mini Coopers coddling the Crandalls and Simons in cozy comfort. Then, at approximately 4000' we emerged into bright sunshine which stayed with us to the end of the plowed road and back down to Newcomb Ranch where we had lunch.

At the Mount Waterman ski area we found plenty of snow. Our little band hiked up an ice covered trail for at least fifty feet, posed for a picture, then returned to the asphalt before someone broke a hip.

Back in the relative safety of the parking lot, Jim hurled a ceremonial snow ball while the others engineered a mini snow person with pine needles for hair, twigs for arms, nickels for eyes and a piece of frozen chewing gum (yuck) for a grinning mouth. Impersonating a Lalique hood ornament, the creature looked great on Gene's bonnet for a brief moment but bailed as soon as the ride began.

Everyone agreed that this cool, crisp, twisty, turny, pine-scented run through our local mountains had the makings of a near perfect TCMG outing. It might even become one of our traditional Spring events.



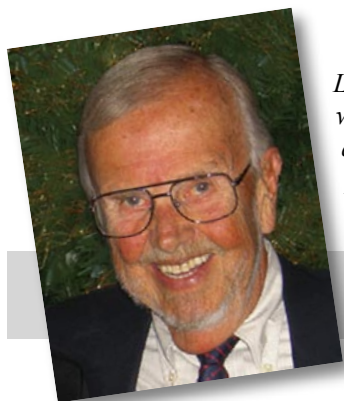
DeFinchy Tour



Thanks Gene for putting on a grand tour. The masterminds to deciphering the clues and winning the Duk Kup for a year was the Coleman/Wilmer team.

These are the photos that go with the report in the Chassis last month.

Photos by Ron Simon



Long love affairs accumulate memories. Mine with cars has lasted now for about 60 years and a million miles. Small wonder then, that when I peer back along that road of memory, some short sections shine in my mind's eye.

My Memorable Rides

Eighth in a series by Stan Belland

Summer, 1939 Chicago, Illinois

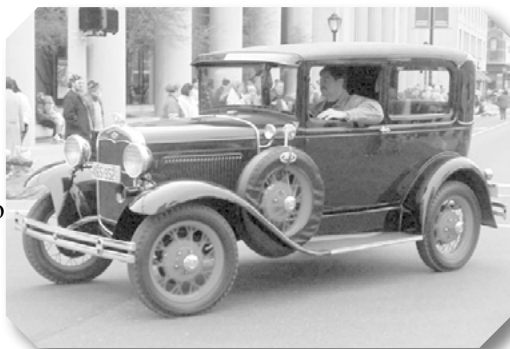
My grandpa was a Norwegian immigrant. George Gundar Bjelland had come from Norway with his bride, to a farm in Wisconsin in the late 1800s, where my dad was born. He was a tenant farmer and when the farmhouse burned down, the family found its way to Chicago where he, with no other skills, became a tender of horses for the Bordon Milk company.

He was an old man in my earliest memories and never got any older in my eyes till the day he dies. He was a fierce looking little Norwegian with a white beard and piercing blue eyes and a thick Scandinavian accent he never seemed to lose, nor to be conscious of. Certainly, I never would have dared to mention to him that my brother's name – Bruce – did not really have three syllables or that what I had on my bread was not "yelly". He was of an age and a culture where grandparents were to be respected, not cuddled with.

Grandpa Bjelland had a Model A Ford sedan from my earliest memory. He drove it only occasionally, preferring the street car or walking, but he cared for it as lovingly as he cared for the horses at the dairy where he worked.

Once in a while I would visit him during a Sunday afternoon while my folks were off somewhere. He would sit gravely with me at the kitchen table as we had our coffee, sometimes with my grandma's homemade coffee cake. My mother was horrified at my being given coffee at eight but my dad convinced her it was best not to challenge Grandpa Bjelland on the point.

After our coffee, the big event of the day was for the two of us to go for a ride. Grandpa would put on his hat and jacket and



ceremoniously get the Model A out of the garage and the two of us would head out Milwaukee Avenue. Grandpa wore a three piece suit and a tie and his hat was set firmly and squarely on his head. I never saw him wear anything else on Sunday. It was before the age of car seats and safety belts, but grandpa always insisted that I sit in the back seat, in order not to distract him from the serious business of driving.

He would sit, straight and erect, hat squarely on his head and his hands gripping the wheel and drive straight down the very middle of the street following the street car tracks. This was apparently somewhat disconcerting

to cars coming the other way and they would swerve around him blowing their horns but the old Viking would never swerve the car. Rather, he would lean his body to the right as the cars swept past on his left and mutter something in Norwegian that I could not understand. We would drive about five or six miles out Milwaukee Avenue and then turn around and drive back, scattering cars as we went.

We'd then carefully put the car away, wiping it down as one might wipe down a horse and then go into the kitchen for another cup of coffee before my folks returned. I remember hearing someone ask Grandpa Bjelland whether drinking over 20 cups of coffee a day kept him awake. He answered solemnly, "it helps".

Grandpa was not one to tell me stories or hide Easter eggs. I don't remember ever getting a Birthday card from him or going on a fishing trip with him. I don't even remember seeing him smile very much. But those Sunday afternoon drives were something I'll never forget.

GoF West 2008

Monterey Bay, California - July 6-10



Event Registration Fee:

\$45 before April; \$55 after April; In-Spirit: \$25

Send the following info plus check to:

Mike Campbell, 3570 Willow Street, Bonita, CA 91902

Hotel Information

(Make your own reservations)

Hyatt Regency Hotel Monterey

1 Old Golf Course Road

Monterey, CA 93940

Phone: 1-831-372-1234

Standard room: \$159.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ eMail _____

MG year, model, license and color _____

Club Affiliation _____

February Meeting Minutes & Program

Speaker - Joyce Edgar

Photos by David Edgar



Quite the crowd before the meeting ever started.

GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY !!!

Where did everyone come from. It was 8:00 and already the room had more TCMG members in it than any time in at least the last two decades. We had 34 people in attendance.

Our president, Dave Coleman brought us to order at 8:12 PM and went straight to approving the minutes of the last meeting that were posted in the Chassis. Treasurer's report showed us holding our own with a little to spare. A detailed accounting was posted on the wall for those who wished to inspect. Membership wise we have 82 renewed so far. Deadline for Roster printing is next meeting.

George made a motion that we spend about a hundred dollars for some item to donate to the GoF Auction. Tony or Cindy Henkels will decide what to get.

In our mail we received the usual magazines and newsletters. We also received a letter from someone asking if they could buy one of our club badges for their collection. Letter was taken by

David to handle.

Gene Olson, our tour chair was not present but was looking for ideas on tours. A ladies TC drivers clinic was brought up as an idea. Guys could come but should be the passengers. Idea will be passed onto Gene. The Lame Duk Kup run was a real winner as usual. The Wimer/Coleman team came up the winners that solved the puzzle and won the Duk Trophy for a year.

The Snow Run will be next weekend. Dress warm and be prepared for some fun. There is a lack of commitment to get a group rate for the Follies on the Palm Springs Weekend. Please contact Gene ASAP if you want to be included. Wildflowers should be bountiful this year with the rains. Look for a tour in early May. And be sure to save the date of June 28 to catch a ride on the Easy Pacific Railroad at the Ludwick residence.



Don McLish renews his membership



Maybe we need to look for a larger room to meet in.

February Minutes & Program (continued)



Ron Toth, Ron Simon, George Kershaw and Steve Simmons



David & June Simon, Ron Simon plus a Gordon Bundy thrown in



Joe Douglass talks with David & Debra Spiegel



Lloyd and Caroline impart wise words of wisdom to Linda

We adjourned the business part of the meeting at 8:51 PM and everyone mingled and ate until Tony started the raffle. The lucky winner of the paid up dues for a year were the Simmons. Ron Wong won some jewelry for his sweetheart, Gordon Glass took home a Scottish letter opener and Elizabeth Page got some automotive spray for her hubby.

Joyce then recounted some of her grand memories of thirty years of law enforcement which held the attention of everyone until 10:24 PM.

Your humble TCMG Secretary,

David Edgar



David McCanne tries to buy a lucky raffle ticket but guess Ron and Elizabeth had already gotten them.



Joyce shows her 30 year old academy mug shot and her original academy workout T-shirt.

Club Regalia

'TClincs'

Send for a free index of over 60 ways to keep your MG "TC" operating safely and reliably. Each "clinic" is 20 cents. Non-members pay 50 cents for the index. Index is also on our web page at:

www.tcmotoringguild.org/tclinicindex.html

"MG Through the Ages"

MG in pictures, 18" x 24" poster\$1.75 members, \$2.75 non-members

TCMG Club Badge \$25 if picked up, \$30 if mailed (members only)

TCMG Club Pin \$3 if picked up, \$5 if mailed (members only)

"MGTC Specifications"

What is and what isn't stock on the MG-TC? A "must" for restorers..... \$3.00 members, \$5.00 non-members

TCMG Cloth Emblem \$4.75

REGALIA CHAIR

Bob Wilmer, 421 17th Street, Santa Monica, California 90402 Ph. 310-394-5232

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