The Midget Chassis
David Edgar, Editor
1454 Chase Terrace
El Cajon, CA 92020



# First Class Mail



# May 2009





TCs out on the Leonis Adobe Tour. See pages 8 & 9 for a report and more photos by Steve Simmons

Barry Wright's fabulous looking 1948 TC6869 Cream paint with green interior



Thank you Barry for sending us these two photos

### What's Inside

McLish's Garage TC Motorhouse Ramblings	3
April General Meeting	
TCMG 2009 Event Information	7
Leonis Adobe Tour	8 & 9
March Meeting Report	.12 & 13









# The **MIDGET CHASSIS May 2009**

Published in Southern California by the TC Motoring Guild PO Box Number 3452 Van Nuys, CA 91407

The Classic Chassis is published semi-annually and The Midget Chassis fills in on 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

My saga continues. As you remember from last month, in my second year of college, the MG was my one and only driver. So you drive it for everything, including going skiing. However, in Duluth Minnesota, in the sub zero temps and normal winter snow when I put the tire chains on, and my skis in the passenger side, they would stick out the rear side curtain top. The extra cold air would then sneak in. So the few warm puffs of warm air from the engine with the transmission cover pulled back, did not exactly make it toasty but college kids are tough, you know, what-chagonna-do?

My little classic MG roadster started a chain reaction. Now everyone had to get in on the fun. If you rode in my car, went around corners like cars are supposed to go around corners, then nothing else would do. It is simply a matter of experiencing efficiency, balancing forces correctly, verifying Newton's Laws that you were studying, that's all. After that, for college kids in physics American GT's (Great Toilets) simply would not do. There were only six students in the graduate level classes, and all of us were close friends. They wanted little cars that would go around corners like that and, you know, also test Newton's Laws. A good physics student must verify that they are correct. But as I said, classic MG roadsters capable of doing this can rarely be found in the Midwest. I was lucky. So one of my friends got a Simca, one got a Volvo P1800, one got an old Porsche, and another got a '65 Mustang. My best friend Bob liked my car so much, but couldn't find one, so finally settled on a cheap Austin Healey 3000 which he purchased and rebuilt the engine. I admired that car, with the world's most wonderful sounding 6 cyl engine. He admired mine. This was all my fault, source of corruption, or wait, really it was the fault of the MG car company who knew how to make a real car.

Simple things that work, that was my motto. However, my boss was not pleased with certain efforts, and certainly not the going around corners, or calculating carefully skid ratios, and rolling up to the hamburger stand at 30 mph in Fred's Simca, locking up all four wheels and coming to a swift clean stop inches from the window while people inside leaned back and gasped. "Everyone in the department is out going around corners now, McLish! The whole generation is being lost! You are getting too close to the edge" He didn't know. (continued page 10)

# TCMG Executive Council 2009

Don McLish . . . . 818-352-3741 President Vice President Ron Simon . . . . 818-708-2033 Sec/Ex Officio Dave Coleman . . 714-898-2008 davidmcoleman@yahoo.com Treasurer/Mbrs Joyce Edgar . . . . 619-593-8255 **Events** Steve Simmons. . (see Directory) **Programs** Gene Olson . . . . 805-522-8052 Gordon Glass . . . 949-644-1954 Director Classic Chassis David Edgar . . . 619-593-8255 Jim Crandall ... 310 457 3967 Webmaster Tony Henkels . . . 626-793-2813 Raffle Chair Bobbie Simon... 818-708-2033 Sunshine Chair Bob Wilmer . . . . 310-394-5232 Regalia Chair

dmclish1@hotmail.com simon90248@yahoo.com djedgar@pacbell.net websim@pacbell.net olson g@msn.com ghgmlg@yahoo.com djedgar@pacbell.net crandallonline@yahoo.com chkitty@sbcglobal.net simonbobbie@yahoo.com (none)



# TCMG April Meeting



# Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00 PM

Hobby & Craft Night

It is always amazing what kind of other hobbies people have beyond TCs. There have been amazing collections, crafts, unusual sports, and talents displayed on these nights.

Citibank Community Room, 2350 Honolulu Ave Montrose GPS coordinates: N 34.206 W 118.229 Meeting room entrance is at the rear of the bank – downstairs.











Just a couple shots from previous hobby nights. Epees, owls, banjos, model racers, and badge and pin collections. What will we see this year?



### **Future Programs**

May 26 - Gene Wescott TC in Alaska June 16 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) -Picnic at Henkels

July 28 ?

Aug 25 - Movie Night at Simon Museum

Sept 22 - Mel Appell Ocean Cruising Oct 27 - Halloween Pot Luck Dinner

Nov 24 - Ron Wong TC in Japan

and Costumes

# Welcome to Our Newest TCMG Member

### Hill, Bunker & Kathy

377 Flower

Costa Mesa, CA 92627

phone: 949-642-8489 (h) 949-646-3038 (w) 949-422-9563 (cell)

bunkerh@sbcglobal.net 1949 TC 7581EXU XPAG 8292 Red / Black Welcome to our newest TCMG member. Bunker bought the TC from Ernie Page recently and is excited about it. The TC sports a Shorrock supercharger which was installed back in the '60s when Bob Goldstein owned the car. Bob had bought it when it was a partial restoration. Mike Goodman finished it up and installed the Shorrock.

# Frank Borgardt 1934-2009



Frank passed away Saturday, April 4, 2009, in Livermore, CA, after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Frank retired from Lockheed Missiles & Space in Palo Alto, CA, where he worked as a Rocket Scientist (rocket fuels I think) and very recognized in his field. This scientific training undoubtably helped in figuring out many of the TC rallye questions he and Carol participated in. Frank also enjoyed gardening, hiking and fishing in the Sierras, and scuba diving. Frank and Carol enjoyed 32 years of happy marriage together.

If you wish, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www. alz.org, which will link you to the donation website for Frank. If you prefer to mail a check, information on this procedure is on the Alzheimer's Association website

For those of you who wish to send a card, Carol's address is:

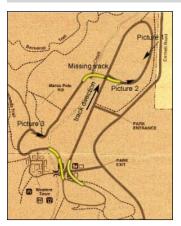
2858 Sienna Road Livermore, CA 94550







# **April 25 Paramount Ranch Raceway Tour**



There is a chance that those who drive their TC or other old cars will be allowed to drive through the western town and park on the old race track for a photo, so bring your MG!

# Saturday, April 25 World Class Motoring/ Paramount Ranch Raceway

What: This event will begin with breakfast at the Simmons home in Woodland Hills. We will then embark on a 15-mile driving tour of Mulholland Highway to Paramount Ranch Raceway in the Santa Monica Mountains, where a guided tour will be led by a park ranger. In addition to the historic race track, we will also see the famous "Western Town" where countless films have been made as far back as the 1920's.

A short 3-mile scenic drive will then take us to World Class Motoring where a catered BBQ lunch will be waiting. Afterward you can browse the many interesting automotive books and accessories on display, and test your driving skills on their amazing racing simulator, which includes many classic cars! Please note that lunch will cost \$11 per plate, and it's worth it!

# Please RSVP so we know how much parking and BBQ we will need!

### When:

Meet at 9:00 AM for breakfast. We will depart at 10:30 AM **SHARP!** Lunch is scheduled for 1:00 PM. Paramount Ranch is open until sunset for those who want to return to see more of the town and race track, or to hike the many trails in the area.

### Where:

The Simmons Home 23124 Friar Street Woodland Hills, CA 91367

### **Directions:**

Take 101 freeway North from 405 for 10.4 miles Exit Woodlake Avenue Continue straight off freeway onto Woodlake Travel 1.6 miles, then turn right on Friar to 23124

## Sat & Sun, May 2-3 (unofficial TCMG event) VARA / Moss Motors British Extravaganza

This yearly event in Buttonwillow is not to be missed! Come see dozens of vintage racers battling their way around the race track. Will Pete Thelander hold off his rival MG NE? Saturday night will host a BBQ dinner and Sunday includes a car show. See vararacing.com for more information

# TCMG/ARR Conclave

# Save the Date October 2-4 Cambria Pines Lodge

(See page 14)

# Leonis Adobe



Our March event started on a rainy morning, however by the time we reached Malibu for breakfast the sun was shining and the roads were drying out. A group of twelve people gathered



initially for the breakfast and driving tour, followed by an additional tour at our destination of Leonis Adobe. Two hardy souls (the Olsons and Dave Mathison) braved the threatening early morning weather to bring out their TCs.

The Simmons' showed up in their MGB GT with the "excuse" that their TC has no brakes, thanks to some unexpected issues during a brake system overhaul that delayed completion. Steve admitted that Gene Olson would have driven his anyway, with or without brakes. Others who showed up for





breakfast sans TC were Gene Wescott (Volvo), the Simons (Mini), Lutz's (Honda) and Colemans (Mini). Most reported heavy rain as they departed for the event. Joining us at our destination were the Romans and the McLishs.

We departed in beautiful but slightly cool weather, heading for the canyon roads of the Santa Monica Mountains. The first leg of the drive took the group up some of the steepest, twistiest roads in the area, lined with oak trees, heavy vegetation and interesting homes. Dave found the pace up this challenging road

as fast as he could muster in first gear, while Gene with his high ratio rear end noted he could barely keep moving without riding the clutch!

At the summit we were rewarded with beautiful views in all directions, from Catalina Island

to Ojai. The group paused, and Steve pondered how the road he planned to take from here had been completely torn up since his last trip through the area. A detour and short cut solved the problem.



We arrived at Leonis Adobe for our tour, where our guide Stan Levin escorted us through the two homes on the property and then the farm, barns and stables. The architecture and especially the history of the property were very interesting and the group enjoyed many stories about the lively personalities that settled the area in the 1800's.

Lunch followed the event, and while the food and company were good, our tour organizer met his second surprise of the event, a bad 80's rock band playing in the middle of the day at the restaurant. Fortunately they went on break shortly before we departed, so we did have a bit of peace and quiet! In all it was a beautiful day for driving and visiting with good friends. I hope to see everyone at our event in April!

Steve Simmons



Ron Simon beside a great ancestor to the TC and the Mini



Stan & Anita Roman made it out to the tour and listen in here





Wescott, Mathison and Lutz enjoy fine dining above while the goat looks for a free lunch from Gene below.

Photos by steve Simmons





Linda Simmons and Susie Coleman break from lunch to give a smile





Don McLish wonders how these buggies would do in sub 0 weather

McLish Garage Ramblings continued

While we are in this part of the story, let me take you on a little side trip so you will understand better how things were then. One day our prof came in while I was simply applying what we had learned. That is, making what is known as a direct coupled Darlington Transistor Amplifier. Sounds technical, but all you need to know is that it was simple and sounded

beyond great. On another table was, a step down clutch engagement pull lever assembly which I was machining up to try to solve the reverse clutch hoppinggrabbing thing. "What is that?" I explained. He made

"Everyone in the department is out going around corners now, McLish! The whole generation is being lost!

the comment, "McLish this generation is lost. All you guys want to do is go out and go around corners better and better, and use electronic physics design theory to make", as he put it, "Juke Boxes" (He meant ultra power Hi Fi Stereo's). After he left, I whispered under my breath; "That's Right!!!!" Anyway, we were just taking the theory we were learning, and applying it in simple practical ways. Simple brute force amplifiers, and simple brute force cars, both of which I loved, and continue to love to this day. Still it developed the perception of an attitude of well... recklessness. At 11 pm one night, we took the amplifiers up on the roof, just for testing purposes you understand, plugged it all in, turned all the knobs up to 10, put a long leader on a great rocker tape so we could be well back when the music blast hit. We played a rocker group of the time called "The Trash Men" and their hit song Bird Bath. Our parents felt it was a good name for them because 'all they played was trash. Well the Chancellor did not buy into our little testing session. For some reason, it seems there were complaints. It was only 11 PM on a

night, what could be the problem? The staff of an old folks home 4 miles away called and complained about 'some loud party', and a motorcycle cop riding along Skyline Drive had to stop his motorcycle to see where it was coming from. Loud? That is an understatement to say the least. What we had not figured was that the University sat near the top of a hill, and the roof of the 5 story science building

put the speakers just reaching over the hill and blanketing all down the other side with rich powerful undistorted rock filled with rich roaring clean bass. The kids in the dorm came out and started dancing around on

the lawn. The music went over the top of the hill, and from there had fanned out unknown to us over the entire city, something we had not anticipated. Oops. Well the next day, the dean called us into his office for a little chat about the incident. Our physics prof had already sort of spanked my fingers, said it was too simple to work, "McLish have you learned nothing, if there is no signal, there is no bias. Use your design skills". I said well if you have no signal, you don't need any bias, took him into the lab and blasted rich clean clear high fidelity bass roaring music with it. He just shook his head and left.. That is how I made things in electronics, and for the car. Simple things that worked. I was only following MG thinking, nothing unnecessary that doesn't make it go better, yes? More next time.

Don Melish

# Special TCMG Shirt Order



### LAST CHANCE TO ORDER

TC Motoring Guild shirts is **April 28th**Comes with the TCMG logo and a TC in color of your choice.

### Please indicate for each shirt ordered:

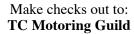
Shirt color – Blue or Tan

Color of embroidered TC

Shirt size (S, M, L, XL, 2XL) (add \$10 for 2XL)

Price was \$40 each on the last order and should be about that again but we will not know until Art places the order.

Note that in previous orders the tan shirts were of a heavier material than the blue. All shirts are long sleeved. Also note the hood color is silver and TC is outlined in black (so a black TC with black outline will not work well)



Send your orders to:
David & Joyce Edgar
1454 Chase Terrace
El Cajon, CA 92020

Order questions can be directed to David Edgar at: (619) 593-8255 or djedgar@pacbell.net

If you have questions on the items themselves or the embroidery, please contact Art Ludwick at: ludwicka@aol.com

### Order deadline is our April 28th general meeting.

Color pictures are available on our web site: tcmotoringguild.org

# March 24th Meeting

Minutes of the meeting will be read at the next meeting but here are a few photos.



Ron Wong finally gets presented with the HARVEY which he acquired from his trials with TC last year



And Harvey Schnaer in a photo dated from 1973 Conclave



A dapper Barney Jackson at '73 Sky Ranch Conclave



Doug Wimer kissing the bonnet in appreciation of getting him to event



The elegant Glen Binford with faithful pet





Harvey in his younger days



The famous Frank Mason squared TC



Famed Earl Sargent piloting his TC. Our Earl Sargent "Us It or Lose It" Memorial Trophy named after him.

All older photo shots came from Don McLish's collection, and just a part of what he shared in the slide show



A line up of TCs at one of our early events



Debby Spiegel challenged Linda Simmons in the refreshment spread display. Grapes, crackers, cookies, cakes, cheeses, meats, lemon bars, soda and ice cream. Pretty impressive. Thank you so much to David & Debby for very refreshing refreshments. Who wants to take up the challenge next?



# For Sale

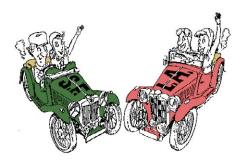
Original TC Air Filter and Air Manifold Also thrown in are the pair of carbs but they are worn and missing pieces. \$900 for the whole set.

I also have two bare heads (no valves). One is milled and the other stock. \$200 will get you both of them.

Philip Ellman 1-805-496-6550 phile4@yahoo.com



# TCMG/ARR Conclave



# Save the Date

October 2-4 Cambria Pines Lodge



# GoF West '09

# June 22-26, 2009 Squaw Valley gofwest.com

Registration fee: \$55 or \$25 In-Spirit



Send form to: Mike Campbell 3570 Willow Street Bonita, CA 91902

### **Hotel Information**

The Village at Squaw Valley 1750 Village East Road Olympic Valley, CA 96146 530-584-6229 Fax 530-584-6292

One Bedroom Suite: \$139 Two Bedroom Suite: \$199