The Midget Chassis
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First Class Mail



June 2010



The Annual Wildflower Tour led by Joe Douglass. Lots of flowers and perfect weather, not to mention the TCs and participants, made for a great day.

For more photos and report see page 10 inside.

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The MIDGET CHASSIS **June 2010**

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.

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adies Night, the flowers, and then yet another amazing tour out to see the poppies in April. The multiple rains had seasoned things just right. The weather-perfect, views- amazing! We picnicked at the Joshua Tree Reserve followed by a walk through the desert flora, spectacular! (see photos on cover and page 10)

There could be no better time than for springtime odes for the Ladies and for the TC. Tiny car, midget venue so TC Odes must be condensed affairs:

The real TC woman always places a doily under the coasters.

Springtime Ode to the TC-

Oh dear TC, I love you more today than yesterday.

Yesterday you really ticked me off.

When you are on a picnic with TC friends, and the poppies, having even a simplest PBJ sandwich you can't be sad. So many poppies, so many happy memories. It is the world's happiest thing. I wish all of you could have seen it. As Joe Douglass put it, "Those who participate get the most out of the club." No one came home disappointed. Take that as a heads up for a very nice May club meeting program: "Car Finish Preparation Tricks, Techniques and Accessorizing." As part of our back

to our roots focus, we are inviting the Long Beach MG club (originally all TCs) and the Vintage MG to the May meeting. The program is exotic and expensive to produce so we want a good crowd to support their effort. You will take home the best tricks and techniques the pros use. Now a brief introduction.

Our daughter and son-in-law were working in the movie industry in Burbank They always enjoyed keeping their own cars impeccably polished and immaculate, and folks were awed. They thought, let's leave this craziness and start a car wash. They got some remote property in a good location near Laguna that had not been developed, and put in a no holds barred car wash, and gas station. The Las Flores Car Wash is one of the finest car washes, if not the finest car wash in the country. It was the only thing out there. They knew that the area would build up with roads and high end housing development, so they put in the best, marble counter tops, top drawer all the way, high end coffee and torte service, posh leather couches for the waiting area, and the best Hi Def large screen TV available from their Audio Toyz department. They did such a good job installing the various components, it showed off the cable system better then the local high end video place. So

(continued on pg. 12)





Our presenters are from the exclusive Las Flores Hand Car Wash will discuss car wash and detailing techniques and audio electronic ideas for your TC. Learn some professional tips. But wait, there is more. They not only do top end cleaning and detailing, but are partnered with fancy electronics for your auto and your home. Can you dream it? They probably can do it. Some freebies are promised so do not miss this presentation. Be prepared to be WOWed.

Note that we have invited the Long Beach MG Club and the Vintage MG Club to the meeting so please come and welcome our guests.

Tuesday, May 25th 7:00 PM

Pampering Your TC (and you too)

TCMG Meeting held at: 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.



See McLish's TC Motorhouse Ramblings or the Las Flores website (lasfloresautodetail.com) for more details on or presenters.

Note: Meeting starts at 7:00 PM tonight because there is so much to cover. Try not to be late.

GoF WEST 2010 Big Bear Lake, CA July 12-16, 2010

Registration Fee:

\$65 US

\$25 In Spirit

Cancellations after April 1 will revert to In-Spirit Registration, with the balance refunded

To register, send: name, address, phone, email and car info to: Pete & Fran Thelander 5492 Yale Av Westminster, CA 92683 714 892-0703 gofwest2010@earthlink.net



Hotel Information:

Northwoods Resort

P.O. Box 2943 40650 Village Dr. Big Bear Lake, CA 92315 Phone: (800) 866-3121 Fax: (909) 866-1451 Single/Double: \$124

Triple: \$134 Jr Suite: \$174 Plus applicable taxes and fees Please refer to GoF WEST 2010

to get these rates

To download the full application form: www.gofwest.com and go to the Events link

Webmaster Wanted

After more than five years managing the TC Motoring Guild website, Jim Crandall has decided to exit the program, delete his byline and pass the keys to a new keeper. It's time, he says, for an upgrade. So, if there are any want-to-be webmasters out there, now is the time to log in. Jim will continue to care for the site until the end of 2010 unless someone steps up sooner.

If interested, please contact:

Jim Crandall phone 310-457-3967 crandallonline@yahoo.com

David Edgar djedgar@pacbell.net

Thanks Jim for such an excellent website over the years.



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2010 TCMG/ARR Conclave



October 1-3 at the Narrow Gauge Inn in Fish Camp Save the Date

Please reserve by June 1 (see below)

There are 26 rooms priced from \$133.20 to \$166.50 including 11% tax. These are the fall rates. The Saturday night dinner is \$60 per person. This is a served, not buffet dinner and the Inn is noted for their food. Please let us know what price level room you would like and also what entrée. We will ask for payment by August 1, but please let us know by June 1 if you are planning on coming and what

type room. Also indicate if you are interested in the Narrow Gauge train ride. We will take room requests on a first come basis and might have to adjust room assignments and rates based on availability, so act with some haste! Please don't reserve through the Inn – we are taking the monies and paying

For rooms and rates see: abingdonroughriders.org/CalendarOfEvents.html (scroll down to Ocotber)

SATURDAY DINNER at \$60/person

FIRST COURSE: (Choose in advance)

Fresh Garden Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette

or Soup Du Jour

the Inn

MAIN COURSE: (Choose in advance)

Prime Rib with Garlic Mashed Potatoes Chicken Marsala with Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Fresh Salmon with Rice Pilaf

Pasta Provencal (vegetarian)

Lamb Shank with Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Entrees include: Seasonal Vegetables Sourdough and Wheat Bread, Butter and Oliveri Sauce Choice of Coffee, Teas, Milk or Soft Drink

DESSERT: Cheesecake with Raspberry topping

Steam Train Ride \$18/person

website: ymsprr.com

ALL RESERVATIONS

(room, dinner and train) need to be made through Allan or Linda Chalmers

Allan allanchalmers@yahoo.com

Linda lichalmers@yahoo.com

> phone 415-566-9796

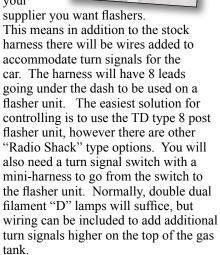
Replacing the TC Wire Harness

Things to Consider

Wire harnesses are confusing and there are choices from different vendors. Color codes, wire configurations, early, late. home, export, EXU, etc. Here are some quick points to help simplify.

- 1. Color code (early or late): Decide which category your car fits in. If you look at the TC Instruction Manual ("Brown Book") the early charts are wrong. This causes immediate confusion if you get an early harness and then try to wire it according to the Brown Book. To explain further and provide the correct wire diagram from the early cars go to: www.fromtheframeup.com look under: Product Tech Tips / Electrical. Also, there is the ongoing debate as to when the color codes changed but it is generally accepted as 1948, around TC6640. (Contact me if you know for sure.) I recommend you always wire your car with the proper color coded harness, early or late.
- 2. Home vs export model: Original wiring harness for the home model had 1 single and 1 double headlight filament. The export cars had both headlights double filament. Depending on the country of export the original harnesses may have had the horn and fog reversed as well as the D lamp reversed on the left. The point here is that know what you want for your car. Most harnesses made today will have both headlamps dual filament and most will also have dual tail lights. Just be aware of these options and ask the question to ensure you get the configuration you want. This is also where you can start getting into some of the custom features if you need something non-factory.
 - **3. Flashers:** This option is available for those who want to add

turn signals. (Probably a good idea for today's driving.) Just tell your



- **4. EXU:** The TC EXU harness is similar to the flasher harness discussed above. However, it is unique in itself due to special EXU configuration of having the horns under the bonnet, no horn or fog on the front, and turn signals on the top of the gas tank. All EXU's will be late color coded.
- 5. Dash Harness: Don't forget about the dash harness. This harness should match color codes to the main harness i.e. don't mix a late dash harness with an early main harness. There is a slight variance whether you have a 30 light or dual map light. Be aware and follow the wiring diagram.
- **6.** Type of Wire: Original wiring had a lacquer braided cover. Today, cheaper plastic covered wires are offered, in addition to the original type braided wire. Know what you are buying

7. Conduits: Not all suppliers offer all the conduits. It is very difficult to add a main harness conduit after the harness is built Also, if you buy a less expensive harness that does not have the front headlamp conduits and then have to purchase them afterwards and install, what have you saved? Ask about the conduits. There are 4 total on the TC

Summary: Decide what you need for your car. Then tell the supplier. If a stock harness works then OK. If you are asking for something non-stock, that's OK too because



Before photo of regulator area



EXU signal relays (before)

Wiring up the regulator (above) and the dash panel (below)



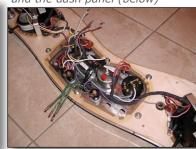
Doug Pelton 602-690-4927 3754 E. Nance Circle, Mesa, AZ 85215

the harness can be made to fit your needs. Overall, the most important thing is to not shortcut on the wiring of the car. Cheaper is not always better and could mean you now have a harness inferior to those installed by the factory. Then you are asking for trouble. For more specific thoughts to your car, I am always glad to help and talk through the many options.

Doug Petton 602-690-4927 or doug@fromtheframeup.com



After photo of regulator area



The 2010 Wildflowers tour attracted two TCs (Joe Douglass & Eleanor, plus Gene & Karen Olson). Ron & Bobbie Simon, Jon

& Betsy Lutz along with Don & Jeanette McLish came in modern cars. A gorgeous day, with more poppies and wildflowers than ever before seen. Vast fields of gold and purple, with distant, snow capped mountains; truly a beautiful drive. As usual our trusty scout, Joe Douglas, led the group over dirt roads through the poppies, then

to a delightful picnic spot under the Joshua trees. All cars managed to survive the slightly bumpy dirt roads (even the Porsche and the Mini). A perfect TC day.

Reported by Gene Olson. Photos by Ron Simon.





Inexpensive PVC Luggage Rack for the TC

I needed a TC luggage rack for a club tour last Fall. I did not want to spend the nearly \$500 for the Moss repro model. A ridiculous price for some chromed tubing, so I made one out of 3/4" PVC pipe, T joints, elbows and a connector from Lowes. It took half a day and cost under \$10. In about 5 seconds I could slide the rack over the vertical nerf bars my TC has. It is a bit more than 36 inches wide. Having it low means it doesn't block the rearview mirror. As you can see in the photos, the design is pretty straightforward. In my case the only little trick that I did was cut the cross

tube by the spare knock-off and put a coupler there. The larger diameter let the rack rest against the knock-off for added support.

Unfortunately, early on the 500 mile trip, the rack fell apart at two joints! They just slid out of the fittings. I had used PVC yellow cement, but didn't know I should have primed the joints with PVC purple primer first. Duh! Dave Edgar was kind enough to explain the error

of my ways.



Last month, in preparation for our club's 300 mile Spring tour, I purple-primed the offending joints then yellow-glued them. Then I went one step further. I took two long steel rods I had, cut them to size and drilled the corners of the PVC front to rear. I cut threads, inserted rods inside pipes and tightened nuts to pull things tightly together. A much stronger design. Rack was painted black to show better.

When it failed, I had been using bungee cords to hold the large 45 lb. rolling duffle to the rack. Aha! Not this time. Got two thin, ratcheted tie-downs. Hooked around the spokes of the spare and then racheted down snugly, this not only held the bag securely, but also put front to rear tension on the rack. The bright orange color helped the car be more visible from the rear as you can see in the photo below.

The result? Just got back from a small three day, two night tour with two other TCs and a TF. About 300



miles in total. Rain and thunderstorms expected the whole three days. Rained just slightly coming home. Top was up just in case as "violent" weather was expected, but didn't show. A pox on weather forecasters! (Second time top was up in 13 years.)

THE RACK WORKED SPLENDIDLY!

(No owner, rack, luggage or contents were injured in this production.)

Phil May TC 7437 EXU

McLish's Motorhouse Ramblings (cont'd)

Oh dear TC.

I love you more

today than yesterday.

Yesterday you really

ticked me off.

the cable company wanted in and sponsored the waiting room bringing in high speed internet computers to show their internet service off while they were at it. It had not occurred to them to sell Large Screen TV, I mean this was a car wash waiting area. However customers would come in and whoa, we never saw a TV so bright snappy and clear. We want it. They sold large screen TV right out of the waiting room faster then it could be put in. We might as well start

carrying these, kind of a nice little five figure incidental add on while waiting for the car. It made the car wash almost seem like a side line. The local high end video place considered an 8 customer week a good week. To give

you a sense of the scale of all this, the car wash waiting room saw, 400 to 1000 customers PER DAY. You sit there on posh leather couches, nice coffee and roll, great TV, and eventually notice a low pressure elegantly polished walnut desk with "We beat the chain store prices." The response, "Honey why look further. Look at that thing! Lets get it." CHA-CHING!

The Audio Toyz guys would go out to the homes and do the same no compromise quality installations as they did with the cars. In the homes, professional installation meant marble and custom wood cabinets. All this professional setup, quality and care to detail, at better prices made the high end video place look like a dump and it closed. Business snowballed. Folks looked forward to coming in and seeing all this, best coffee in town, getting the

car detailed better than anywhere else, seeing the latest technology,

kicking back on the posh leather couches with coffee and torte, watch the game on one hi def large screen, while you watched the news on another, without missing your soaps running on another, while watching your stocks on their fast secure internet computers.

They will be at the May meeting with give aways and samples and to do a nice presentation for us on the best car finish care techniques available, what to do

with paint in various conditions, and TC communication accessorizing and GPS in their outstanding non compromising way maintaining your car's integrity. They will be coming a long way doing a very nice presentation for us,

with give aways so please, if you come to one thing this year, this would be the one. We do not want to disappoint with a low turnout. To accommodate this very special program, we will be starting the meeting this month at 7:00 pm instead of the usual 8:00 PM. Be there early. What are the secret things to use to get the best out of your car finish? What can you use to safely bring back old paint? How can you get rid of the irritating swirl marks for a 100 point car? What are the very best car rally communications available? Come and find out 7:00 PM one hour earlier Tuesday May 25 in Montrose at the bank. BRING YOUR TC!!!! See you at the meeting. The TC story will continue next time.

Don McLish

April General Meeting





The theme of the program at this meeting was Ladies Night.

Some of the ladies showed off their crafts and talents and at the end of the meeting we made boutonnieres or flower displays for the ladies.

Speaking of flowers, one of Linda Simmons' hobbies is gardening and she brought photos of her beautiful gardens and landscaping plus a few plants to show.

Susie Coleman had several things to share. She creates jewelery and even sells some of them. She also composes music and played the latest piece she was working on (but had not completed yet). She amazed us all.

Jeanette McLish shared a few of her recipes as one of her talents is cooking. She says, "A way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

There is more to life than TCs and these ladies showed some amazing talents.





TC For Sale

Recent complete repaint (3 years ago with fenders, and doors off body), New top and side curtains, plus brakes redone. Seats were recovered five years ago. There are added louvers on the bonnet, Brooklands windscreens behind the windshield, EXU type rear turn indicator lamps, and a radio/CD player mounted in the dash. TC runs GREAT and starts up on the first pull. Exceptionally clean and ready to drive anywhere.

I have had this TC for 60 years (bought it in 1950 while in college). I love the car but it is time for me to let it go and to let someone else enjoy the fine driving experience of a TC. \$27,000 and you are on your way.



1949 TC 7418 XPAG 8125 Bob Smith 909-585-3398 oscars1933@gmail.com Big Bear City, California

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We provide agreed value coverage, and fast friendly claims service on all of our policies. So all you have to do is *drive* through time... with peace of mind.

TC Not For Sale



This racing photo was in a Nuffield Exports Limited brochure for the TC from the late 1940s. Note that this was before the days of rollbars, driving suits, helmets and other safety equipment. More than likely the driver never had to sign a release from liability form either.





GET A QUOTE ONLINE TODAY.

You can insure your TC for surprisingly less than you think.

http://www.jctaylor.com/Antique/antique.html

or write:

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