



**First Class Mail**



# TC Motoring Guild MIDGET CHASSIS

Published by the TC Motoring Guild, Inc.

**November 2011**



Photos by Steve Simmons  
and David Edgar



*55th Annual Conclave was another memorable event. Great people, cars and venue made for an enjoyable time between the members of the TC Motoring Guild and the Abingdon Rough Riders.*

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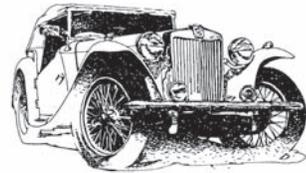
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MIDGET CHASSIS  
November 2011**

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**President's Message**



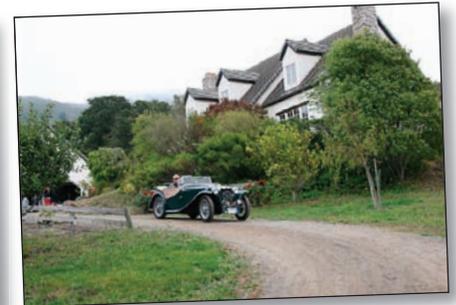
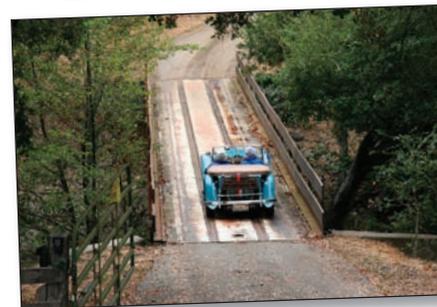
At the recent Conclave in San Luis Obispo, one of our esteemed council members decided to re-create an old practical joke by stealing the Abingdon Rough Riders banner. However this person who shall remain anonymous (but his name rhymes with Bean Molsen) didn't intend to be caught like the last jokesters all those years ago.

What this sneaky devil did was to wrap the ARR banner inside the TCMG banner and ask our president, oblivious to Bean Molsen's evil plans, to hold onto it for a while. The banner wasn't rolled up properly so the president began to unroll it, just as the mod squad from ARR came over and caught him in possession of said banner. Yes folks, I've been framed!

Despite the treachery within the ranks, the Conclave was a great success with over 50 members of the two clubs in attendance. For the first time since I've been a member, ARR had a larger number of TCs present than TCMG. Kudos to ARR! It was great to see our Northern friends again and we are all looking forward to next year's event.

Don't forget to make a Halloween hat and/or table centerpiece for the upcoming October meeting. As always there will be a pot luck dinner served with lasagna provided by the club. Don't miss out on all the delicious food and good fun! See you there...

*Steve Simmons*



A couple shots from the Conclave by Steve. A TC on the bridge arriving at the Hamlin home and another TC just leaving the Hamlin home.



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**Our October Meeting**



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**PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!**

**Tuesday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 PM**  Note early start time

**Lasagna Night**

**PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO LINDA SIMMONS AT FOR SIDE DISH ASSIGNMENTS LASAGNA WILL BE PROVIDED BY CLUB**

TCMG Meeting held at:  
Citibank Community Room  
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Meeting room entrance is at the rear of the bank - downstairs.

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## GoF West 2012

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Please visit our website at: [Gofwest.com](http://Gofwest.com) for registration info.



## My Best TC Adventure

by Phil May



When I think about adventures I've had in MG TCs perhaps the best was on a weekend back in the fall of 1962. My wife Betsy and I planned to drive up to Laguna Seca very early on a Saturday to meet three college friends and their wives/girlfriends for two days of sports car races. We had a '55 Hillman Husky as our daily driver. The TC --99.5% completed just weeks before from bare-chassis-up with just little bits left to do-- was for fun.

We lived on 18th Street in Santa Monica, just half a block off Wilshire. Our shoebox apartment was over top of two garages that held the Hillman and the TC. We'd been married about a month.

We set out at 3:00 a.m. Saturday morning in the Hillman. No San Diego Freeway then and we crawled up the mountain to get down into the valley. Thinking about it now, I don't know why we didn't just get on Highway 1? (Hope I've got my geography right, it's been a long time. But I'm sure about that mountain.) Just about at the top, the Hillman started to miss on a cylinder.

I knew what it was. The little flathead four had a habit of sticking a valve on #3 cylinder. I had easily fixed it twice before by pulling the plug, inserting a screwdriver and smacking down on the handle with the flat of my hand. Twice there had been

a resounding "pwang" when the valve seated itself. That didn't work this time. So I foolishly hit the screwdriver with a tap of a hammer. Then a harder tap. Still no "pwang".

We coasted back down the hill on three cylinders and limped back to our apartment. We threw everything into the unprepared TC and set off again. Now we were behind schedule and had to make some time. We had about 350 miles ahead of us. This would be the biggest test for the TC since being restovated.

The furthest it had gone before was the 50 miles from Torrance to Laguna Beach and back on our honeymoon. Would there be trouble? Who knew?

We had the top up but no side curtains installed. Up the 101 just north of Santa Barbara it got chilly and

very foggy. One of the bits not done on the car was installation of the windshield wiper motor and wipers. No Rain-X in those days. No spare tire either-- see picture.

The dense fog continued for nearly all the rest of the trip. I was going as fast as I dared with my Lucas two-candlepower headlights barely piercing the fog ahead. Betsy was wrapped up in three blankets with her blanket-covered head partially

hanging out so she could let me know if I was going over the lane line. Luckily there was not much traffic. It was a very long, hairy, damp, chilly drive. I was hunched forward trying to see through the wavy, water-streaked windshield. Nighttime. Fog. Dripping windshield. Lucas headlights. A few hours of very tense driving.

But, we made it! I had blisters on my hands from holding the wheel so tightly. My shoulders ached. I think the low fuel light on my adrenalin tank was glowing brightly.

Still, the friends were fun. The racing was terrific. We had a great weekend watching some of the period's best drivers. I slept like a baby in the motel. We saw more racing on Sunday and drove home in mostly daylight with no problem.

In the poor, out-of-focus picture, that is my wonderful 20 year-old wife on the left. My San Jose State College ex-roommate is sitting in the car and yours very truly-- 24 and with a full head of hair-- is on the right.

A few days later I took the head off the Hillman and realized the valve had been on the cam when I stopped it on the mountain. Hence, no "pwang". I bent the valve a bit bopping it with

screwdriver and hammer. By eye, using my absolutely, incredibly, marvelous sense of "level", I straightened the valve in the engine with a screwdriver, a sliver of wood and some gentle, prying leverage against the valve seat and buttoned it all back up. It worked perfectly until we traded the Hillman and \$75 for another TC-- but that's another story.



(We sold that first TC, which we called "Tissy", in 1963 for reasons I can't remember. I found it a few years ago back in England. I correspond with the owner a few times a year. Sadly, Betsy died in July of 1990 at age 47. We had nearly 28 terrific years and three super daughters together. I married Cindy in 1996. I got very lucky-- twice.)

To be continued...

**We threw everything into the unprepared TC and set off again.**

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**Be sure to save the date for our TCMG End of Year Party on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. See page 14 for more information.**

# 55th Annual TCMG/ARR Conclave



The Conclave is as much about the people as it is about the TCs. The cars may be the reason for gathering but the people are what makes the event memorable for us now. Here are just some of the faces at this year's Conclave.



Suzie found the shopping spot at the Madonna. Notice her big smile.



Frick and Frack (Bob and Clarence) continued the time honored tradition of stealing the AAR banner. They identified their target and then swished it away (drinks in hand) before Allan Chamers yelled out "HALT" from across the room. Of course they were moving fairly slow to begin with so stopping distance was not long.



Photos by Steve Simmons and David Edgar



Brian Hamlin (center) showing off his Jag.



The RR in Brian collection on the tour.

## Sept 23-25 San Luis Obispo 2011



Getting instructions for the tour



TC with GPS ready for the tour



Weather was nice and cool. Marine layer made for water beading up on TCs in the morning.



Australian and Israeli tourists swarmed the line-up of TCs when they exited the tour buses.



Steve our photographer found the camera angle he wanted for the line-up

## TC's Forever - Down Under

There were 10,000 MG TC's manufactured in England from 1945-49. According to Nuffield Exports, only 33% "stayed home" and the remaining 66% were exported. The 2nd largest number of exports went to Australia (total of 1774). In retrospect, this large Australian segment has had a profound and lasting impact on the very survival of our little cars today. Early on, there was a deep rooted sense of brotherhood amongst the Australian TC owners that helped cast the now infamous phrase: TC's Forever. How did it all begin?

On the 1st of June 1961, seven TC owners met in Perth on a Thursday night, whereby the attendees agreed to have a follow-on meeting two weeks later. As the 2nd meeting approached, a young TC owner recalled having difficulty with his XPAG and was feverishly working to get it back on the road. In his words, "enough was back together to drive so I flung the spanners aside, leapt to the wheel, and raced off to the meeting 20 miles away arriving around 11 PM." The young enthusiast that almost missed the 2nd meeting was Mike Sherrell.



Current photo of Mike



The meeting lasted well into the early morning hours as there was much to do. Elections, club rules and policies were all part of the evening activities for a club that would become known as the TC Owner's Club. From this point



forward the club has met every fortnight with growing attendance and solid participation. Total club membership today is about 80. The normal venue is quite simple, meet at a different member's home each time. Meetings start at 9PM and minutes are recorded for each and then read at the next meeting. As Graham (club member) said, "We really have not had to publish a club newsletter, because if you come to the meeting, you know what the news is". There is also a great competitiveness and camaraderie at each meeting as the attendees get a "point" for attending and an extra for driving their car. With other opportunities for earning points there is a yearend "Club Champion" award given to the member with the most points. No wonder, these members drive sometimes 100 miles just to attend a meeting.

Each meeting is also recorded with a meeting number. This past June the TCOC celebrated their 50 anniversary.



As part of that celebration they are having the minutes of the 1st 1000 meetings published in a book for each of the members. The most recent meeting was #1254 held the end of Sept, where the group welcomed Bob & Lynn Douglas back from their "Barnsley to Beijing & Beyond 2011" (across Asia trip from June through Sept). The Douglas's drove in excess of 15,000 miles in their TC. How fittings that Bob & Lynn would finish their trip to be part of the TC Owners Club celebration. For details go to: [www.tcthewanderer.com](http://www.tcthewanderer.com)



And what about the young founding member, Mike Sherrell? Mike went on to serve in a number of leadership positions within the club. In the 80's Mike took a brief sabbatical from club politics and wrote a book entitled: TC's Forever. This book has been, without dispute, the most sought after reference for the TC globally. In addition to the technical detail on TC originality, it also chronicles much of Mike's life experiences. As the patriarch to the TC community, it is no surprise that Mike is the current president of the TC Owners Club during this historic 50 year anniversary period.

The influence of the TC Owners Club has been equally important on the preservation of our cars. As depicted in TC's Forever, it was the Australian segment that has defined and documented much of the now recorded TC history. As you read through the book, please note the multitude of TCOC member names throughout and the level of expertise to their offerings. It was only fitting that Mike Sherrell dedicated the first section of his book to the lifeblood of the TC referred to as "Clubmanship".

As a finale to this year's historic festivities, the TCOC will be holding a club rally in Collie, Western Australia 14-17 Oct. Carol and I will be travelling to Perth to attend meeting #1255 on Thursday evening, 13 Oct. Then we are off south for the "Collie Rally" to tour Southwestern Australia. To follow this and other events, please visit our friends "down under" at: [www.mgtownersclub.com](http://www.mgtownersclub.com)

*Doug Pelton*

[doug@fromtheframeup.com](mailto:doug@fromtheframeup.com)

## September Meeting Minutes and Program

Long before the TCMG members started arriving for our meeting at the Simon Auto Museum, David and Ron Simon were there cleaning and setting up. Floors were swept, cars uncovered, cars wiped clean and things arranged. The new lounge area was VERY NICE and made for an excellent meeting area. A very nice addition to the already superb auto museum and we all marvelled at it.



We finally all gathered next to the new lounge area and began our meeting at 7:55. Guests included Chris, Jill and Chandler Groman as well as Amadora (a friend of Joel Shapiro).

Steve went through the mail (which included or SafetyFast magazine) before going onto the minutes of the last meeting (as printed in the Midget Chassis) and Treasurer's report (as posted on the wall). Joyce



also announced our new member Ian Ashdown (which brings us to 104 members). Minutes and Treasurer's report were accepted as presented.

Steve Simmons gave us a report on the Conclave which was just this last weekend. Seems the ARR beat 12 us out on TCs present (7 to 4) but

the TCMG had more members present. TCMG also had more Miatas too. A good time was had by all. The low key tour ending up at Brian Hamlin's home (who had a very secluded, most interesting home and a small car collection which we all enjoyed). Thank you to Gene for all the advanced planning.

A discussion on our TCMG awards was made. We need to collect them and have them updated with the most recent award recipients. Gordon Glass volunteered to collect them and have the engraving done. We need to come up with a plan for the Frank Mason award however since there is no more room for additional names.

Mention of Joe Douglass being in the hospital for a month was brought up. We had no definite diagnosis and they seem to be still running tests. We wish him well and if anyone wished to send a card, it could be addressed to his home and his son would pick the mail up and bring it to Joe.

Since Joe has been our man for collecting the meeting room key for umpteen years, Don McLish volunteered to be responsible for doing that should Joe be unable to do it for future meetings.

December 11 is our end-of-year party and annual meeting. To be held at the Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City. Art Ludwich has agreed to be the auctioneer so save the date. (see info on party and reservations on page 7)

Don McLish found some old artwork for our badge in the stuff recently



acquired from the boxes Dwane Carlson had. Don had the artwork on display for us to view.

We need to start thinking about our elections for next year's board. Ron Simon said he would take on running the nominations and elections

No other business was brought up and we adjourned our meeting at 8:15 and also thanked the Ron, David and Bobbie Simon team for setting everything up and making the museum available to us.

Our program for the evening was a video on music and dancing from the 1950's.

Very respectfully submitted by

*David Edgar*



### A note from Joe



I write a letter to include to the whole club as I probably won't be active for quite a spell.

Basically I was in Kaiser the better part of June, July, August, September and October. This last time it was for 31 days. BOY!

I will be taking a lot of time to even walk without a walker, so I'd like to thank you for your cards and phone calls. I finally have arrived home and finding it most enjoyable.

I apparently had a very nasty bacteria. Took them a whole week to create cultures that they could determine how to make the antibodies. Then there were other things they couldn't find – so it went on and on until the 31 days.

I am out and finally home! Hooray!. So many thanks for phone calls and cards.

Thank you, Joe

## TCMG Year End Party and Annual Meeting

**Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011  
at 6:30 pm is the date and  
time for our Year End Party  
and Annual Meeting**

Cocktail hour starts at 6:30 pm. Come enjoy libations and fellowship with your fellow TCMG'rs (and help us make our \$350 bar minimum). Please purchase drinks in the room, so we don't have to pay extra for the bartender.

Linda Simmons is our Event Coordinator

  
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**Don't forget TOYS, auction items, and your expansive good humor. The Auction helps subsidize next year's dinner, spend now and keep that cost low (\*smile\*)**

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No rooms have been set aside for us.

Dinners will be \$26 each (subsidized price) and includes salad, entrée, dessert, tax & gratuity

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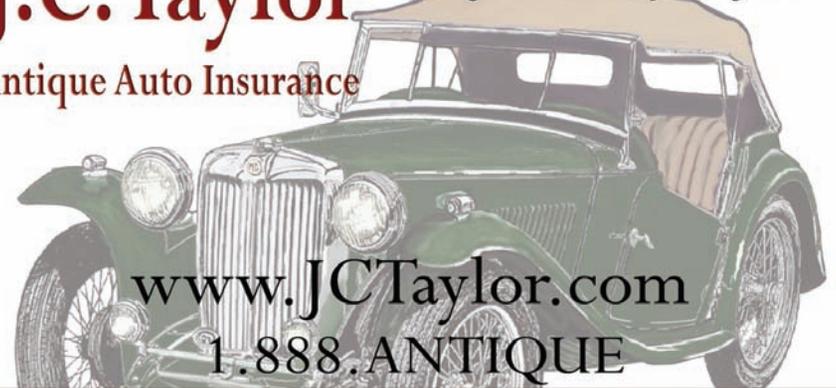
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