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

First Class Mail

TC Motoring Guild MIDGET CHASSIS

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October 2012

The lineup of 12 TCs at the 56th TCMG/ARR Conclave at the Narrow Gage Inn.
For more photos see page 8-9.

And our Kids in TCs series continues with more photos on page. 10-11 To the right we have grandson Dominick Pierri in TC 2844 and sent in by Paul Messina from Massachusetts.

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President's Message

The Unifying Power of Friendships- that was my overwhelming impression following our evening at the Simon Museum and enjoying Ron and Bobbie's DVD account of the 1992 Grand Rally Around Britian- friendships. What a legacy for the Motoring Guild!

I remember well that year with the Guild. Donna and I watched those fortunate travelers with a certain amount of pride and more then a wee bit of envy.

That was the year I was teaching at the University of Edinburgh and later Donna joined me and we toured the UK including the Highlands and Ireland in our powder blue 1978 Austin Mini. It was no small amount of planning for Donna and I- But almost nothing compared to the herculean task the Guild undertook.

I mean agreeing on a Summer that works for most, getting those pesky finances in place, the health of those roadsters and even more importantly the health of the participants. And managing all those minor disagreements - all for those special three weeks.

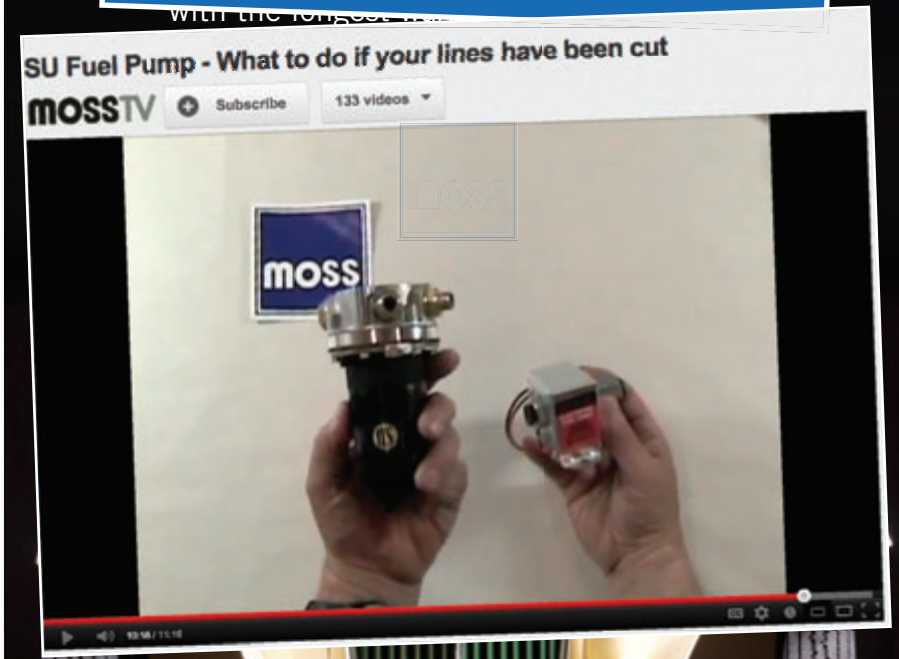
On our way back home from that wonderful evening of popcorn, grapes and movies, Micheal, my son and I discussed not only the profound achievement of GRAB 1992 but more importantly the profound bond those members enjoyed - a lifetime bond of friendships. Unquestionably the MGTC Motoring Guild at its best.

Thank you GRAB participants and the Simons for hosting - we enjoyed.

David Mathison

We interrupt this ad to bring you news about a SECOND MOSS website. There is the mossmotors.com that you listed at the bottom but do visit MOSSMOTORING.COM as well.

One thing to view is the pull down TECH menu. And if you are a visual learner, checkout the Moss TV. Choose your subject and learn about different tech subjects such as the SU Fuel Pump, electrical issues or engine rebuilding. Set aside some time as you may get hooked.



Be sure to visit WWW.MOSSMOTORING.COM too.

www.mossmotors.com 800-667-7872

Tuesday, Sept. 25th

Meet at 7PM

to look around the shop and meeting starts at 8 pm

Hema Vintage Auto

Note change of time and location

Hema Ratnayake has a shop where he works on vintage automobiles and has invited us to meet there since our Montrose meeting spot is unavailable this month. Come see what he is working on and maybe get few ideas on what to include in your shop.

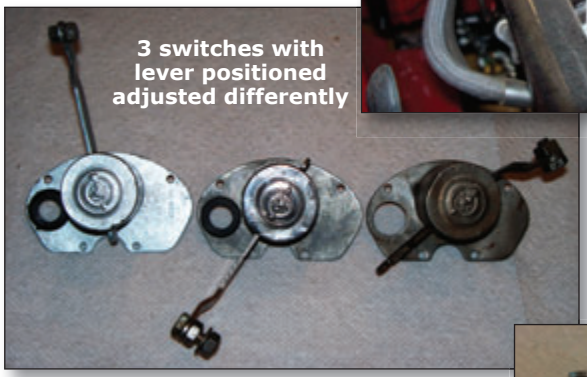
Refreshments at this meeting will be pot-luck style so please bring something tasty to share or drink.

One of his projects is a 1947 Rolls Royce Silver Wraith used by the first Prime Minister of Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

TC Starter Switch

Just Adjust

It is not uncommon to have difficulty installing a TC starter switch. It never seems like the pull lever is in the right position. Or, what about the pull cable requiring a real effort to get the switch to engage? The solution is often quite simple, but not obvious. Let's take a look.



The switch lever has 3 detents to adjust the length. The ratchet can be seen in the bottom of the barrel and base plate.

First, understand that the Lucas ST-10 switch was used on many different cars. Therefore, it had to be adjustable to suit the configuration of each engine bay. Lucas solved this problem by cleverly using a "ratchet" design to allow the switch barrel to rotate. Additionally, the length of the pull lever could be changed to provide an "easy pull" of the starter cable.

To optimize the adjustment of the switch for the TC, simply turn the barrel of the switch to align the pull lever and the starter cable. If the lever is short lengthen it. This will give an easier pull to start your car. Adjust the length by pushing the lever on both sides of the barrel and simultaneously sliding it in the barrel slots to the last notch. You should have about ¼" stub exposed on the barrel opposite the pull lever.

A quick inspection just might help to extend the life of your starter switch and cable. If it is not right, just adjust!

For a detailed look at original Lucas literature of the internals of the ST-10 switch, please visit my website: Tech Tips / EL270 Lucas ST-10 /

Please let me know if you discover any other items of interest on the TC.

Doug Pelton

doug@fromtheframeup.com

TCMG Annual Holiday Meeting/Party

Save the Date
Sunday, December 2, 2012

6:30 pm at
The Sportsman's Lodge
in Studio City

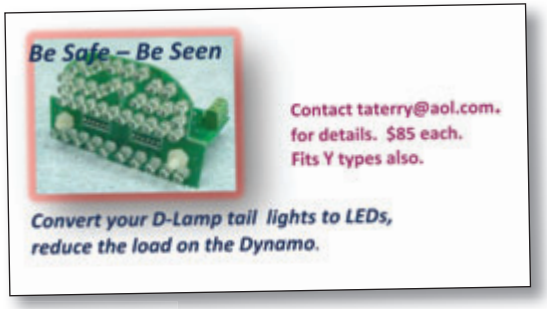
Thanks to Lucy McCanne for hosting the party and to Art & Sarah Ludwick for handling the toy drive.

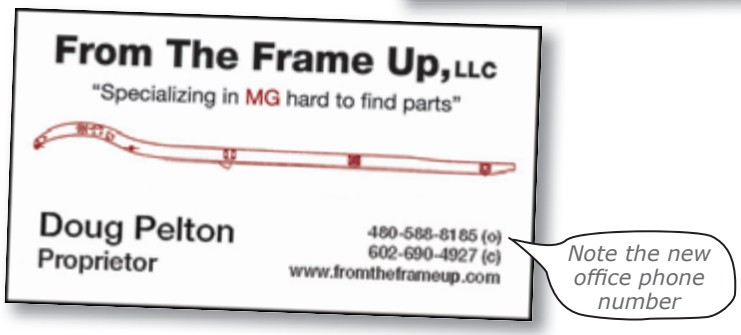
TCMG Holiday Toy Drive

This year, toys will go to the YWCA San Gabriel Valley WINGS Shelter for families seeking refuge from domestic violence and new directions toward sustainable living.

This year it would be nice to focus our giving on older children and teens. Some suggestions to guide your choosing are **board games** such as Monopoly, Scrabble; **jigsaw puzzles** of nature, picturesque or historical places (of interest to adults and older children); **DVD**s of family-type movies; etc. Please choose gifts that do not require batteries and are non-violent in nature. Please bring toy donations UNWRAPPED.

Don't forget to bring something for our club auction - anything MG or car related.





56th Annual TCMG/ARR Conclave

Linda just cannot see us going hungry so handed out treat bags for everyone at the start of the tour up to

September 7-9 at the Narrow Gauge Inn at Fish Camp, near the Mariposa Gate to Yosemite

Photos by
Steve Simmons and Gene Olson

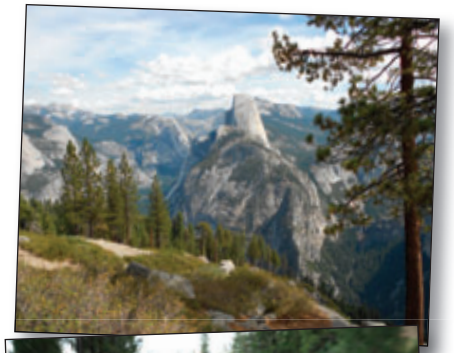
Gene & Karen experienced a core plug leak behind the manifold 5 miles up the Grapevine on Friday. A tow home and a expandable rubber plug fixed the leak and got him going again so he could play catch up. Gene also had the muffler drop on the way home but fixed it with some bailing wire found on the roadside. Is this a candidate for the "Harvey"?

Gathering around the TCs in the parking lot is always a major part of a Conclave and even gathering without the TCs is popular. The TCs bring us together but the friendships and catching up with each other's lives are just as important.

And you cannot have a Conclave without some story telling of past adventures. Here Allan brings up the story of when . . . .

Of course family meals (TC families) are always high points of our Conclaves.

Those twelve who brought TCs were Chalmers, Marcotte, Olson, Pedersen, Roth, Sander, Shempp, Simmons, Sonner, Storms, Traill and Tuck.



Saturday a group drove to Yosemite Valley for lunch at the Ahwahnee hotel, plus saw some of the sights.

In other iron were Bundy, Coleman, Crandall, Einhorn, Matlock, Simon, Dottie Smith, Stobbe and Thelander

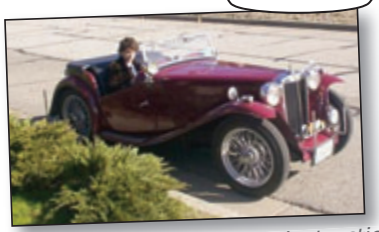
So you think we were the first ones in Yosemite to do a line-up?

These two photos supplied by Allan Chalmers, show his grandfather Jack Thews, one hundred years ago at Yosemite. These were touring cars, Whites and Pierces, That were driven from the Merced Railroad station by "Chauffeur/mechanics" with tourists. They stayed at the Wawona and were driven through the Mariposa tree. Allan has a number of pictures of these people, with grandpa behind the wheel, as they emerge from the tree.

Sparking Interest in the TC

Here are more photos of kids in TCs and to which hopefully shows our next generation of TC owners. Since my source of photos from TCMG members seem to have dried up I have expanded my search out to MG-TABC members, who graciously sent me these. But please do look through your old photos to see if you have any and I will be glad to run them next issue. It does not have to be your kids or grandkids, but neighbors are fine as well as any of yourself years ago. Please share them and send to David. What are **YOU** doing to keep the interest in TCs alive?

Here's one of Jack Jansen sitting in my TC at GOF Central this year. Jack's father, Mike Jansen, is the owner of TC 1357 (TABC member) and the photo was taken by Doug Jansen, Jack's uncle.
Best regards,
Gene Gillam
TC 9106



After just a couple hours instruction (never drove a manual trans), my then 17 year old grandson Jonathan Shade took his girlfriend for a spin.
Jim Shade, TC 7344
West Covina CA USA

John Patterson, TC7025, Frankfort, MI, sent this one in of him and his granddaughter during a Fourth of July Parade. He bought the TC in 1956 at age 24 and still has it 56 years later at age 82. The TC is in his will to his grand daughter.

Jay Lackrow sent these photo in. Photo to left shows him at about 7 or 8 years old standing next to his dads first TC of ten and a half. (Once bought a rolling TC chassis). Bottom left is of Jay with his TC 7440 that he still has 48 years later (about number seven of the ten). Bottom right photo shows Jay's legs out doing what most TC owners do, looking for escaping smoke in the Lucas electrics. The TC bug bit Jay Lockrow of Hamburg, NY, fairly early. See what exposure to a TC an do to a youngster.

In the interests of "Maintaining the Breed" and it's history, Ron Wagner, TC 3944, sent in this photo of three Wagners in a J2. So the J2 inspired the purchase of a TC. The J2 owner was Jim Reuther of Indian Head, MD, his mother's uncle. It would be great if there is someone out there that might know of him or his descendents.

4 year old Karen Edgar helping Dad fix the TC at the 1980 TCMG/ARR Conclave at Morro Bay.

Dominick Pierri (16 months) is on the front cover and is the grandson of Paul Messina, TC 2844, from Cape Cod, MA. Dominick loves the TC as you can see from the similes. He especially was intrigued by the horn and only needed to be shown once.

Kids are never too young to get the MG bug. Paul plans on making these pictures an annual event as Dominick grows.

Phil May has his neighbor Graydon in the passenger seat.

Bowen Rick, grandson of Steve Stierman, TC 2911 out of Ohio, will ride in the TC anytime according to Steve. He thinks it is a blast. Note the smile (on both their faces). Want to feel young again? Take a kid for a TC ride.

August TCMG Meeting Minutes

David Simon's TC peaking under a car on a rack.

It was a very nice evening out and traffic was not bad so it made for a pleasant trip to the Simon Auto Museum where we were to hold our August TCMG meeting. We all arrived fairly early so we could peruse around and see all the cars and memorabilia. Some of the cars on display had changed since last year as other people use the facility to store their cars. In fact our Joel Shapiro had three cars there already plus brought a Jaguar XK8 that night to leave as well.

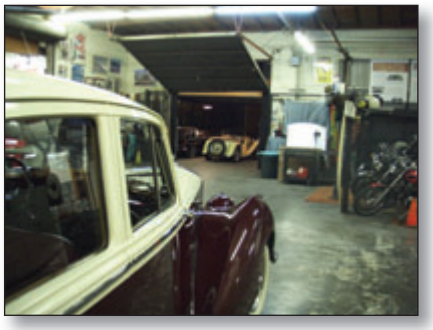
There were two TCs at the meeting. The Edgars drove theirs up plus David Simon had his on display.

After everyone had a chance to roam about, David Mathison brought the meeting to order at 7:50. July minutes were accepted, treasurer said we were solvent and had two new members just join: Bob & Judi Eicher from Maryland and Ron & Diane Spindler, from her in Van Nuys. Welcome to both.

Old business was a report on the viewing of the TV Jeopardy filming which was outstanding for those that went. There was interest in doing that again sometime. Thanks to Steve Simmons for arranging that.

New business brought up caravan plans to get to the Conclave. Not being inventive, the plan was to meet up at the usual McDonalds at Castaic and then choose one of the previous routes used up to the Yosemite area.

Next month's meeting will be at Hema's Auto Restoration since our usual meeting spot is not available at end of September due to festivities in Montrose. Chairs will be rented since the shop lacks seating for all of us plus a couple tables. Nobody was signed



The Edgar's TC outside the museum door. The RR in the foreground viewing it in awe.

up for refreshments for September so we opted to just everyone bring a little something potluck style but for dessert.

Larry Long wrote the TCMG a nice letter thanking the TCMG for their support at the recent GoF.

We held the meeting in the new part of the museum which was quite welcoming as we were surrounded by classic cars.

No set date for rescheduling the Ludwick train event yet but stay tuned.

Before adjourning for the evening program we all thanked David, Ron, Bobbie and June Simon for making the museum facility available to us and for setting everything up. Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm for a movie featuring the G.R.A.B. (Great Rallye Around Britain).

Submitted by

David Edgar

TCMG Secretary

Joel Shapiro with his Jaguar XK8

Thank you to David, June, Ron and Bobbie Simon for hosting us at the museum.

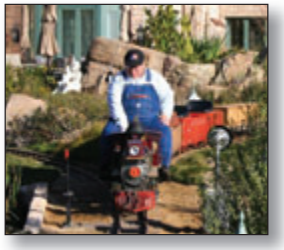
Plan Ahead for TCMG Meetings & Events

We have our September meeting which was announced on page 5 in this issue, but plan ahead and mark your calendars for these other meetings and events.

Oct 23 - Annual Halloween Pot Luck Dinner and contests.

Nov 24 - Pete Thelander on what it takes to race vintage cars.

Dec 2 - TCMG Annual End-of-the-Year meeting and party.



Easley Railroad (Ludwick's train) tour to be rescheduled when weather permits. Stay tuned.

Binford's TC For Sale

1948 TC 6973
XPAG 7797 Pewter / Red

A lovely old girl that still gives a run for our money when we do get her out for a short jaunt.

We would love to find a loving, driving home for her and hope you will share this news with interested parties.

She was completely restored in 1980 by Glen Binford and friends (:->) She has always been garaged and covered and comes complete with Whitworth tools, luggage rack, leather suitcase and antique picnic box (also leather) with implements.

For additional information or to strike up a conversation, call me at 360-652-0363 or email me at pamg4@wavecable.com

Thank you, Pamela Binford-Grudin

Fantastic TC For Sale

1948 TC 5494
XPAG 6156 Clipper Blue/Biscuit

Excellent award winning and reliable TC. Car is located in Southern Calif.

Contact Lloyd Hendrickson by phone 626-330-0016
or racer404@roadrunner.com
[Have patience with email, he does not check it often. And include a phone number as he probably would rather call than type.]

TC Wanted

Hema of Hema Vintage Auto is looking for a project TC to fix up. TC needs to be complete and will consider a basket case or non running TC. Hema just does not want to be hunting for lots of parts but is fully capable of rebuilding and restoring.

If you wish to sell yours, or know of one for sale, please contact:

Hema, at 626-286-9112
or
hemavintageauto@msn.com

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