# TC Motoring Guild CLASSIC CHASSIS October 2022



#### "8 September 2022 -- Tribute to a Royal Classic In Memoriam"

Cliff Lemieux found a Union Jack with a small bunch of flowers left by someone in Thousand Oaks.



Connection to TCs? The then Prince Phillip had always loved fast cars and, from the original red sports car he had when he romanced the Princess in the 1940s, he upgraded to his MG TC.



Five TCs on the Dudley House tour in August.

More photos and story on page 8



#### CLASSIC CHASSIS October 2022

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> The Classic Chassis c/o David Edgar, 1454 Chase Terrace El Cajon, CA 92020

djedgar1970@gmail.com



## **GoF West**



GoF West website is undergoing some changes but it is partially back on line at: gofwest.org

#### TCMG Officers and Chairs for 2022

President/Website	Steve Simmons (see directory)	mail@mgnuts.com
Vice Pres.	Curt Sorensen 805-341-7710	curtwlv@aol.com
Secretary	Rob Zucca 805-285-8956	cavaddict@hotmail.com
Treas/Memb	Joyce Edgar 619-593-8255	djedgar1970@gmail.com
Director	Allan Chalmers 415-823-9796	allanchalmers@yahoo.com
Director	Mike Simmons 818-486-7633	mike@mikesimmons.net
Ex Officio	Cliff Lemieux 805-984-5678	lemieux237@aol.com
Events	Steve Simmons (see directory)	mail@mgnuts.com
Programs	Curt Sorensen 805-341-7710	curtwlv@aol.com
Editor	David Edgar 619-593-8255	djedgar1970@gmail.com
Historian	(vacant)	
Regalia	Linda Simmons (see directory)	linda@mgnuts.com
Sunshine <	Bobbie Simon 818-421-0838	simonbobbie@yahoo.com
	Jan Sorensen 805-807-9932	janwlv@aol.com

## Steve's Thoughts



was visiting with the daughter of Don and Jan Mclish recently. She has a monumental task ahead of her to clean out Don's

garage, a collection of "stuff" spanning many decades. She said he was a bit of a hoarder. which is a term that for some may bring up frightening images, but not me. I consider him a hero

His hoard consists of so many treasures for a guy like me. Relics that most others would have thrown away ages ago, but in Don's garage they remain as living history. Test equipment lines an entire wall like some

sort of mad scientists' lab from a 1950's B movie. Old radio parts sit on a shelf below a cracked TC steering wheel. Vacuum tubes are stored in stacks of crumbling cardboard boxes. This is not junk. No, this is a dusty pile of things that odd ducks like myself live for. Although they often have little to no monetary value, they are rare

and precious resources we can use to keep our own hoards of historical items alive. And they would no longer exist if someone hadn't taken the time to save them.

Then, just as you think you've seen it all, you spot the stacks of boxes that say TC Motoring Guild on them. As the club historian, like Harvey Schnaer and others before him, Don stashed away anything he could find pertaining to our club's first 68 years. I can't begin to

> describe everything there, as it completely filled both the trunk and back seat of our car. One item of note? The minutes from the very first meeting on June 19. 1954 at the Road & Track offices in Glendale, California. The birth of our club, documented in detail as it happened. It hadn't even been named yet. And our historians had the documents

foresight to save these

So my hat is off to you, Mr. McLish! Thank you, and your predecessors, for all you've done for our club and the hobby in general.

Keep 'em on the road!

#### Steve Simmons

Steve Simmons TCMG President 2022 480-588-8185 WWW.FROMTHEFRAMEUP.COM

## FROM THE FRAME UP

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## Sunday, Sept 25th

5:00pm - Gather 6:00pm Mtg & Zoom\* Combined In-Person & Zoom Meeting



Program will be centered on the 73 year history of Barney Jackson's TC and now new ownership by Mike & Sherri Simmons

Doors open for in-person attendees to socially gather at 5pm.

In-Person meeting will be at Steve & Linda Simmons home and flyer sent out requested a RSVP.

Should be loads of fun and a great gathering of TC nuts.

Drive your TC at least 10 miles on Sept 25th and earn a Sargent point for a simulated drive to the meeting. Report your travel at the Zoom meeting to get credit.



Also included is an ice-cream social.

Zoom link will be sent out via group email about a day ahead of the meeting. Watch for it.



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### BRITISH SLANG LESSONS by Curt

British		English
Toodle Pip	=	Good Bye
Starkers	=	Naked

#### The Flawed MG-TC

In last month's Classic Chassis, Mel Appell wrote about the paradox of the TC; it lacks the performance of most sports cars but it's more fun to drive. Clearly, the TC would not be the choice of drag racers. Drivers of modern sedans and SUVs routinely leave our TCs behind at stoplights. The suspension has hardly changed from the days of stagecoaches, and high-speed cornering can feel like a leap of faith.

But after a lifetime of driving roadsters, my newly acquired 1948 TC is my new love. My father implanted the roadster gene in the family line with the purchase of a year-old

MGB in 1965. The next year, I learned to drive in that car, and in my mother's Ford Mustang (with automatic transmission). Ten years later, the MGB became mine when my father went Italian with an Alfa-Romeo Spyder, a nice car that never seemed to me to have the character of the MGB (more on "character" below).

I similarly abandoned the Union Jack in 1989 when I bought the newly released Mazda Miata to replace the MGB. The B then went to its third owner in the Simmons clan, my son Steve, where it remains today. Not only did the B finally find an owner who wouldn't abandon it, but the roadster gene my father implanted in our lineage also intensified, leading to an entire collection of classic British cars. The MGB has finally found a proper home.

The Miata rebooted the US sports car craze that the TC had started decades earlier (referred to at the time as Miata Mania). This time, though, it was designed in Southern California with us locals as the target audience. I learned from one of the Miata's designers how it was modeled to some extent on another Britcar, the Lotus Elan of my teenage years, but with modern technology (mine bore the license

plate, NO LUCAS). And it was enormous fun to drive, especially with performance enhancements for the track. It was like wearing a glove; we moved as one. But it still had its own character.

So, what is character? It was Bob Hall, one of the Miata's primary designers, who mentioned it in a Miata club forum post. He said that the Acura NSX, a supercar of the time, had a reputation as

being "soulless", without character. That, he said, was because it had no flaws. It was a perfect car that did just what it was supposed to do. Those who complained about its lack of character were simply the wrong drivers for that car.

Perhaps they needed something with the imperfections that define "character."

The TC, on the other hand, has plenty of flaws and shortcomings, as Mel points out. It just oozes character. I smile as I bounce down a bumpy road. I smile as I turn into a tight corner, tugging on the huge steering wheel with the original steering box. I smile as I work the wheel to keep it from wandering on bumpy roads. I smile when I look at it in the garage. And as others watch me drive by with a big smile on their faces, admiring the lines and features banished from auto design many decades ago, I smile back.

Character is what makes a car unique. And that uniqueness often comes from its flaws. Those are what get your attention. The TC doesn't take you where you want to go; it must be driven there. You need to pay attention to each idiosyncrasy. It isn't the fastest or the best handling, and I don't have a Ferrari in my stable like Mel does (though I'd love to). But if I did, I think most of the time I'd still drive the TC, the little car that can't.

Mike Simmons

#### August 20th Dudley House Tour

Five TCs gathered in Malibu before heading north to Ventura on August 20th. The drive up Pacific Coast Highway was cool and sunny, and the good weather continued as we headed inland through farmland to our destination, the Dudley House. Upon arrival we were greeted by more of our members including Bob Wilmer in his mother's vintage Mercedes.





Attending in TCs were Steve & Linda Simmons, Kregg Hunsberger, David Mathison, Cliff Lemieux, Rob Zucca plus Curt & Jan Sorensen, Bob Wilmer in other makes.

Completed in 1892, the house is maintained in its early configuration complete with many of the Dudley's original furnishings, family photos and other items. Our tour guides were dressed for the part, and in full 1800's character complete with Southern accent.

After breaking into small groups, we were taken through the house on a full tour where touching things was actually encouraged. After the tour, we sat in a shady area by the house gardens for a picnic lunch. When lunch wasn't enough, the group headed down the street for ice cream before heading home. Another great day in the saddle!



Photos by Kregg Hunsberger and Steve & Linda Simmons

#### September Driving Museum Tour

Friday, September 16th

Four TCs made the drive to El Segundo for our tour of the Driving Museum. The weather was perfect for top down driving and we had the museum mostly to ourselves. After viewing the collection and chatting with their head mechanic for a while, the group walked around the

corner for lunch before heading home. A traffic jam getting out of town challenged the caravan, which splintered a bit, but once back on the coast route it was a very nice drive. Participating in the four TCs were Steve & Linda Simmons, Kregg Hunsberger, Rob Zucca and Cliff Lemieux. Was a TC only group as no one else attended.

Quite the assortment of cars. A little of everything. 130 plus cars, antique, vintage, muscle, and on Sundays, rides in various cars are available (but we toured it on a Friday to ayoid crowds).

Photos by Steve Simmons

This last photo is of a guy who got off his motorcycle in the middle of the road to take a photo of Kregg's TC.

#### TCMG Bonus Tour - Historic Buildings

#### August theme was Historic **Buildings**







Deb Acosta, Grants Pass, OR at the Josephine Hotel, built in 1893 and destroyed by fire in 1975. This building is the hotel

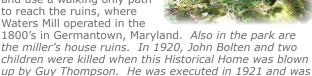
annex (built in 1905). Murals of the original hotel are on two sides of the annex. Note vintage car in the mural.





Bob EICHER & grandson Patrick had to park the TC and use a walking only path to reach the ruins, where Waters Mill operated in the

the last man hanged in the county.





Rob Zucca - The circa 1900 "Scholle Farmhouse" until recently sat in the foreground. This site is to be developed into 160 family homes. The house will be rehabbed with the exterior retained and sold.



David & Joyce Edgar - visited the Knox House near them. Served as a stopping point between San Diego and nearby mountains **10** where gold was discovered in late 1800s.



Kregg Hunsberger - Santa Susana Depot and Museum. Truck with driver and dog parked outside.





Steve & Linda Simmons Crowley House built in 1910 in Thousand Oaks

Scott & Cristina St. Clair - Wind Chimes on the south façade of the old Robinson's Dept store, one of the original buildings when Fashion Island was developed based on the concept of architect William Pereira



Joel & Silvia Taylor - Took a 72 mile drive and visited Nevada's OLDEST Thirst Parlor which has been in continuous operation since 1863.





Doug Schrripa
- No TC but
his New York
home is a
Sears kit that
was sold in
the late 50's
to early 60's



Mike Simmons - The Rock Store on Mulholland Hwy is made of Volcanic rock and was a stagecoach station in the 1910's

#### GoF Central - 2023

It's a long drive from the west coast, but everyone is invited to next year's GOF Central June 20-23, 2023 in South Bend, Indiana. The NAMMMR (North American Triple-M Register) is also coming to this event, so there is sure to be quite a gathering of the faithful. Indiana has a reputation for hosting exceptional GOFs, and this one is shaping up to continue the tradition. Tom Wilson, one of our TCMG members, is deep in the engine room in planning, then running the event.

Visit www.GOF2023.com for information.

Be sure to watch the video!



Ed. Note - I'll have to second the part about watching the video. That was fantastic.

#### TC Air Conditioning

The British Motor Club of Utah held their annual State Street Cruise on Labor Day from the UT State Capitol to a good sized hamburger joint about twenty miles of city driving south that had reserved us parking for our 35 cars. It was only 105 degrees as we sat waiting for the odd stop light, two abreast on a three lane each way city street wide enough to "turn a covered wagon drawn by twelve yoke of oxen".





Our TC fortunately had some air conditioning for our feet in addition to a top with no side curtains. We incorporated the device shown in the attached pictures. The late Gary Linstrom and I both fabricated and frequently used these things to stir up the sand, dog fur, and cheatgrass from the carpet on our T-Series floorboards most every summer. Doug Wimer was really horrified by the whole concept...big reason for doing it at the time.

## Jon Hermance TCMG member from Salt Lake City, UT

#### **Progress on TC 6319**

To any of those wondering, I have the TC engine block back from the machinist (looks good) and the front suspension parts have been inspected and are ready to be painted and reassembled. Picking up some momentum.

#### Daniel Harrison

YouTube link to when Daniel aquired the TC: youtube.com/watch?v=Z4JF0CNbu4g



#### TCMG / ARR Annual Conclave

### Cambria & Hearst Castle October 8-10

And we're back! The conclave this year is returning to Cambria with a visit to Hearst Castle. We will have our welcome back libations of choice and treats on the patio the evening of the 8th. Sunday we will drive 10 miles along the coast to Hearst Castle for a group tour and return to Cambria. There may be time for a side trip to Nitt Witt Ridge (look it up, it's a caution.) There is also a nice drive up Santa Rosa Creek road out of Cambria to Linn's Farm Store. It's 6 miles of winding (slow going) road through the hills and have lots of goodies to look at. Sunday night there will be a banquet, details to follow. Monday return home. Line up will



be Sunday at the Castle so people are free to return home early Monday morning. The rooms reservations include: 6 queen rooms (\$291.70 for both nights including taxes); 8 king rooms (\$347.80 for both nights including taxes); and 2 king deluxe (\$448.78 for both nights including taxes). Call the Bluebird Inn (805-927-4634) for details and to make reservations. Mention the MG Car Club for these rates. See you there.

Howard Shempp hshempp@gmail.com

#### Menu for a gathering

Fig and olive tapenade with brie on crostini topped with pine nuts

Pear, gorgonzola, mixed greens, candied walnuts, Meyer lemon vinaigrette

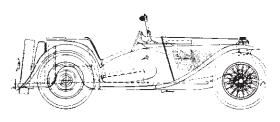
#### Entrée Choices

Wild salmon, with a Basil butter, brown and wild rice and seasonal vegetables

> Flat Iron Steak, dry rubbed with a chimichurri sauce, roasted fingerlings

Wild Mushroom and Butternut Squash Risotto, with Manchego Cheese and sprouts

Corriander Crusted Chicken, Poblano sauce. Yukon mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables



For those who have not chosen a menu choice for the banquet dinner Sunday night please choose NOW and notify Allan Chalmers. As for payment, please bring to Allan Chalmers at the conclave. Allen will pay the restaurant in one lump sum. The total price with tax and tip each is \$55 estimated. If more ARR will pay. There was a charge for the room which we hope to beat out of the restaurant ( many years ago, under different management ARR got stung for a \$100 deposit when the previous (?) owners went bankrupt!).

#### 1948 MGTC For Sale

1948 TC 6439 XPAG 4395 Cream / Red

Selling due to Ron's health (would love to keep it, but just being realistic).

818-523-3788 (Diane's cell) Call or text

Unconfirmed but this may have a 1500cc conversion.

Ron says he would like to see it stay in the club, so special pricing only for TCMG members at \$28,000



Clutch chatters (been that way for years). Side mirrors are from a TD. Some missalignment of windscreen to top bow.

#### 1948 MGTC For Sale by ARR Member

1948 MGTC Roadster, right-hand drive. Rare Almond Green color, biscuit grill & interior. TC named Froggy. New leather interior, new canvas top, tonneau cover. New Excelsior tires. Purchased 1986 and always garaged to the best of my knowledge. All work is regularly done by professionals at their shops. My mechanic for 30+ years has info. on all work. Over shoulder seat belts. Comes with side curtains, passenger side mirror. Included jack & tools with original knock-off hammer. Additional plug-in battery charger. Custom made Phil Marino luggage rack. Slightly altered for short woman,



Must run pretty good as Allan Chalmers said 14 she was clocked driving it 80 MPH once

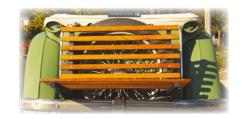


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#### TC Birthdays (Build Dates)

August 19, 1947 TC 3353 Gene Olson

August 19, 1948 TC 6265 David & Lucy McCanne

August 22, 1947 TC 3387 Brían Wescott

John & Linda Wright TC 3399 August 25, 1947

August 25, 1948 TC 6319 Daniel Harrison

August 31, 1948 TC 6373 Clifford Lemieux

September 3, 1948 TC 6422 Joe McCammon & Joani Walsh

September 3, 1948 TC 6424 Howard & Carolyn Shempp

September 7, 1948 TC 6439 Ron & Diane Spinder

September 15, 1948 TC 6519 Richard & Nancy Gehweiler



#### Happy 74th & 75th Birthdays

Build dates listed are when the TCs were assigned a number and started down the assembly line.





Geoffrey Locquenutte & Melson: On the Road

#### August 23rd, TCMG Meeting Minutes

President Steve Simmons gaveled the meeting to order at 6:15 PM. There were no new members or guests present. There were 16 memberships represented and 24 attendees. A count was then taken of members who "drove" to the meeting for the extra point. There were 6.

The Loe's had checked the PO box for the last time and there were three magazines only. The membership was informed that the PO box would be cancelled and the new mailing address is now David and Joyce Edgar's home. (Note for club archives: The executive board had an e mail discussion and vote on 8/6/22 regarding keeping the current PO box, at a cost of \$202/ year, changing its location so it can be checked more frequently, or using a members home address. 4 of 7 voted in favor of cancelling the box and the Edgars volunteered their home address.)

**Secretary's report.** There was no new information to report and the secretary moved to accept the prior meeting notes as published. This was seconded.

**Treasurer Joyce Edgar** put up the clubs financial spread sheet for all to view. It had been sent to the Board members earlier. There are 105 members on the books currently and money in the bank.

**Programs.** Curt Sorensen reminded us of member Allan Chalmers program after the meeting and that the next meeting and program on 9/25 will be at the Simmons home and present the story of Barney Jackson's TC

now owned by Mike Simmons. Also including an "ice cream social". Sounds great! Steve mentioned the fliers will be going out soon. A Zoom component is also planned for this meet/event once the tech issues can be organized. No programs are yet confirmed for October, November, and December. The annual Christmas party is still being discussed, and feelers are out for a more reasonable venue. If you have any ideas for programs, send them on to Curt! Joyce suggested something coinciding with Conclave and perhaps another quiz. The last one was a blast!

Events. Joyce ran the slide show of the bonus historical site DIY tour. Afterward Steve said the next event will be in the El Segundo area and info will be coming soon. Then the annual Conclave in October. A tentative drive to the Santa Monica Mountains and train depot in November. Joyce reminded the members that will be attending the Conclave to book your Hearst Castle tours soon.

The **old business** was a discussion on keeping the old meeting site, and if not to retrieve supplies stored there.

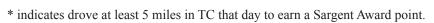
There was **no new business** and Steve adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm followed by a great program by Allan Chalmers.

Respectfully summitted,

Rob Zucca

**Rob Zucca** 2022 Secretary





Top row: Allan & Linda Chalmers, David Edgar\*, Steve & Linda Simmons\*

2nd row: Kregg Hunsberger\*, Pete & Fran Thelander, Joyce Edgar

3rd row: Richard & Sandra Loe\*, Curt & Jan Sorensen, Scott & Cristina St. Clair

4th row: Cliff Lemieux\*, Walt Prowell, Dottie Smith (NH),

5th Row: Dave & Bobbi Spiegel, Rob Zucca, Mike Simmons\*

6th row: Karen Olson, Joel Taylor (NV)



#### Club Regalia

TCMG Car Badge	\$25 (\$30 if mailed) members only
TCMG Cloth Patch	\$8 (\$9.50 if mailed) members only
TCMG Lapel Pin	\$3 (\$5 if mailed)
TCMG Lapel Vintage Pin	\$3 (\$5 if mailed)
MG TC Pin & MG Car Club Pin	(inquire)
MG TC Color Specs	\$2 members, \$3 non-members, Postage \$2
_	olus postage (contact Linda for postage cost, design and availability)
Vintage TCMG T-shirts	\$15 for short sleeve, \$18 for long + postage
Modern TCMG T-shirts	\$15 for short sleeve, \$18 for long + postage
TCMG Hoodies	\$30 + postage
TCMG Spark Plug Holder	\$40 + nostage

TCMG embroidered ball caps are available in two styles – Flex Fit with modern style TCMG logo, and Traditional with Vintage TCMG logo.

#### **Modern Cap Features:**

Flex Fit cap with spandex rim band Modern style TCMG logo on front with our web address on rear Charcoal Grey with white logo, sizes SM/M or L/XL

#### Vintage Cap Features:

Vintage 1950's TCMG logo on front and "Est. 1954" on rear Available in tan with green brim or solid black. (gold color on logos varies slightly

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between hat colors for best visibility)

#### **Ball Caps**

\$15.00 each, plus postage





TCMG Spark Plug Holders

#### TCMG REGALIA

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#### **REGALIA CHAIR**

Linda Simmons linda@mgnuts.com

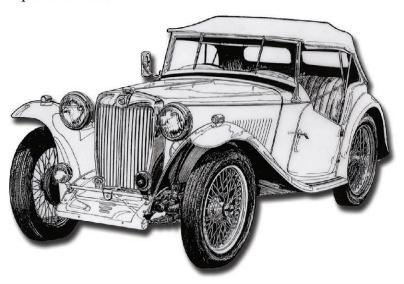
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