

Traction Owners Club Ltd

Traction Owners Club Limited
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Monthly Newsletter

Issue 11 August 2009

My apologies for the late arrival of this edition of e-FP but life seems to be very hectic at the moment with (just this week) celebrations for British Columbia's birthday, parades for 75th anniversary of a local (village) community hall, free musical festivals on the shores of the lake and drywalling the inside of my garage to better protect my car through the coming winter.

The hot summer continues in the Shuswap - the daytime temperatures having reached well into the high 30s virtually every day for the last five weeks and being predicted to continue to the end of August - and not a spot of rain now since the end of June.

Whilst waking up to glorious sunshine every morning is wonderful - especially when you are used to UK Summers - the reality however is that there are now more than 1000 forest fires raging in British Columbia, firefighters are being brought in from the USA and Australia (as well as from all over Canada), all unnecessary use of water is banned to conserve water for fire fighting and many, many people are extremely concerned about the ongoing safety of their homes and property.

On a different tack a chance conversation last week identified the fact that there is actually a fully restored CITROËN tucked away in a garage not 25 kms from our house. I have an invitation to visit the owner later this week to see the car but unfortunately it isn't a Traction - its a 2CV. But seeing a Citroën again (even if it is a 2CV) will be quite a novelty given that I have now become used to being surrounded by monster vehicles.

The Swine Flew



Closer to home I understand that everyone who attended the 75-4-75 event in Arras last month thought it was a well-organised and worthwhile celebration of the Traction Avant and that all TOC members are now safely back in the UK despite the fact that three Members needed a little assistance to get home (Tony Malyon - gearbox problem, Barry Joyce - gearbox problem and John Oates - head gasket problem).

And finally - my apologies in advance to anyone suffering from Swine Flu - but I just couldn't resist sharing this picture which was sent to me by a TOC Member.

TOC News

September/October edition of *Floating Power*

The September/October edition of *Floating Power* is due to go to the printers in about 12 days time and to date there has been little response from TOC Members to my plea for material. To date I have received a few photographs and just one write up on the Annual Rally and a few photographs and two small write ups on the 75-4-75 in Arras.

Surely there must be other Members who want to share their experiences with the rest of us not able to attend either event for whatever reason?

A big thank you to all the Members who have taken the trouble to send me input for the magazine but I fear that unless some more of you put pen to paper in the next week or so the September/October edition may have to revert to the 24 page format that was the norm until a couple of years ago.

NEC - Classic Motor Show 2009

Mick Holmes tells me that he now has all the cars for the stand at the Classic Motor Show at the NEC in November but that he is still looking for volunteers to man the stand during the show.

If you would like to see the show and are prepared to help man the Club stand on Friday 13th, Saturday 14th or Sunday 15th November please contact either Mick and Moira on helpline@traction-owners.co.uk or John Reynolds on john.reynolds53@btinternet.com.

"André Lefebvre, and the cars he created at Voisin and Citroën" by Gijbert-Paul Berk

Our TOC Club Shop manager, Barry Curtis, has the opportunity to purchase copies of this new book by Gijbert-Paul Berk for sale in the Club Shop and would like to hear from you if you would be interested in being able to buy a copy of this book. At this point it isn't possible to tell Members exactly how much the book will cost but unless the TOC can sell the book to Members at a price less than that generally available from Veloce Publishers there would probably be no reason for the Shop to stock it.

This biography of André Lefebvre (which is written in English) provides a revealing insight into the work of a practically unknown aeronautic engineer who, after building and racing competition cars for Gabriel Voisin in 1933, created for André Citroën the revolutionary front wheel drive Traction Avant (light fifteen in the UK) the TUB (1939) – Citroën's first front wheel drive utility van that was succeeded by the H and HY vans (1947) – the Deux Chevaux (1948), and, last but not least, the DS (1955).

Other News

It's hot in British Columbia

This may not seem a particularly newsworthy title but it was certainly true for the unfortunate driver of a \$1.3m Ferrari Enzo in Southern BC a couple of weeks ago as can be seen from the photographs overleaf of a wrecking truck clearing the remains of his car from the carriageway.



Photographs taken near Okanagan Falls on Highway 97 just South of Penticton, BC.



And for any Members who are not quite sure what a \$1.3m Ferrari Enzo looks like this is a picture of a very red and shiny one!!



1950 Chevrolet Club Coupe

Two people recently sent me the following (non-Traction) story, again from this side of the Atlantic.

Shortly after purchasing this car new in 1950 Mr. Trueblood, of Modesto California, took a day off to go fishing. While waiting for the “big one” to bite Mr Trueblood witnessed a woman fall out of her boat and jumped in to help - only to fall victim of a fatal heart attack. Mrs. Trueblood returned the car home and placed it in the garage where it remained untouched for the next 12 years (the speedo reading at that time was 413 miles).

Mrs. Trueblood lived next door to a used car lot owned by Mr. William E. Wilson (now 81 years old). who spoke with her frequently and often told her he would like to buy the car for himself to keep.

In 1962 Mrs. Trueblood told Mr. Wilson she needed a car for her bookkeeper (who didn't really care for the ol' Chevy and would prefer a Rambler) so Mr. Wilson went down to the local Rambler dealer and bought a brand new one for \$1,650.00 (\$100.00 over cost) and made the swap.

He then took the car home and parked it (now with 433 miles on the clock) and there it sat for the next 45 years, occasionally being started and moved in and out of the garage.

In 2007 Mr. Wilson decided to sell the car and started spreading the word around Modesto that the Chevy with 433 miles on it was for sale. Many had heard about the car, but hardly anyone had ever laid eyes on it. In fact, according to Mr. Wilson he believes he only showed the car to about 5 people in 45 years.

Word spread quickly about the car and soon a buyer arrived ready and willing to pay the \$60,000 asking price for this 100% factory original car (it even has the original air in the tyres) which now has 437 original miles and is most likely the world's lowest mileage 1950 Chevy.





You write

Colour vs Black & White

Cliff Richards says "I would like to express an opinion on the matter of colour and FP. I have to agree with the TOC committee that the black and white does reflect the era of the Traction and it would be a shame to change it but it would be nice to see at least one or two coloured photos in the calendar. The idea of creating a calendar was a wonderful one and my copy takes pride of place on my wall.."

Spark Plugs

David De Saxe writes:

(1) Sparking Plugs

I can't use H10s now because the top of the electrode is not threaded and therefore not removable. I have NGK caps fitted to my HT leads, and these are suitable only for plugs whose end caps are removable. [David now uses NGK B- 6L plugs.]

(2) French number plates

I had mine made hand-painted, as they would have been originally, by:-

M. J-P Magnat,
Atelier J.P.M.
38150 Roussillon
FRANCE
Fax: 0033 4 74 29 69 58

This was some time ago, so I don't know if M. Magnat is still making the plates; mine are superb, as anyone who has seen them will confirm.

The Citroënian

TOC Members who also belong to the Citroën Car Club will know that for more than 20 years Malcolm Bobbitt has been compiling a regular Traction column called the Light Fifteen Corner. Malcolm has decided that it is time for some new blood to be injected into the column and has given notice to the Editor of his intentions.

Malcolm and Chris Burmajster (the Editor) are therefore looking for a Traction fan who is a member of the CCC to hand over the reins too - so if you are interested in compiling this monthly column please contact Chris at editor@citroencarclub.org.uk for further information or to express your interest.

What's in your garage?

A number of Members have responded to my question last month about the cars that share their garage with their Tractions.

Geoff Alton sent the following photographs of his Citroëns:



Mike Bigland writes: “There used to be a 1928 Willys Knight (which we owned and ran for over 20 years up to 2002) followed by the Traction and supported by a 1979 TVR Taimar which I completed a restoration of in 2008, after 1200 man-hours. The best of all worlds me thinks.”
[See photographs on page 9]

James Simkins replied from the USA saying: “Garage mate to Lady Grey, my '48 Citroen small boot Light 15 in South Africa is a RHD '93 Infiniti Q45, which I bought new when living in Japan, took to Australia for a couple of years in the late 90's, before taking her to SA.

Garage cousins here in Seattle are a '57 Chevy pick-up (lightly restored, still a workhorse), a '66 Series 1 4.2 E-Type (convertible), a '89 V12 XJS (convertible), a '97 XJR (my daily driver) and a '05 Victory edition XKR (convertible).

Would love to add a pre-war SS100 3.5l and a '54 XK140 MC to complete the “set” of 5 great Jaguar roadsters, but this bleeding economy has put paid to that for the foreseeable future, if not forever ...”



Mike Bigland's collection: Willys Knight, TVR Tamar and 11B Normale



Dr Thomas Loebenstein emailed from Austria to say : “In addition to my 15/6 1951 you find a DS 21 Cabriolet Usine 1967 and a Steyr Puch Haflinger 1960”. Thomas went on to say that ” I have already fixed flights and hotel in Birmingham to man the TOC stand (at the NEC) on Saturday equipped with some very good Austrian white wine”. [So if any other members are still hesitating about offering their services on the TOC stand on Saturday 14th November this might be just the incentive you need!!! Ed] See photographs on page 10.

Martin Herman emailed to say: “I would like to send my note of appreciation for your general

newsletter. it certainly makes one feel part of a Traction community even if one cannot physically participate in many of the international and national events. You have asked for a note of other vehicles kept by members and I am sure that this will eventually show how broad the spectrum exists and the enthusiasm for classic vehicles is extensive.

I own a white lhd 1955 lwb familiare/commerciale which I use for weddings and family picnics, also; Triumph TR8 convertible (v8) which is awesome, two A35 vans with windows undergoing restoration (thanks to Wallace and Grommit), 1957 Sunbeam Alpine undergoing restoration, and for daily use; 1989 Mercedes 240 sport AMG Estate (with towbar !)
It's amazing how collections grow in proportion to the wife's complaints but my Traction is still her favourite as she can sit in distant splendour and the ride is the most comfortable of the bunch !



Dr Loebenstein's 15/6 and DS Cabriolet (above) and his Styr Puch Hafflinger (below).



August Events

EuroCitro 2009 - Le Mans, France. **14th to 16th August.**

Danish TA Club Summer meeting - 14th to 16th August. Helsingør, Denmark

Surrey, Hampshire & Sussex Borders Section - Weald and Downland Museum Visit - **16th August.** Meet at the Fairmile at 10.30am to convoy to the Museum or meet there. Please ring John or Helen Shelley in advance if you intend to join the convoy so that they don't leave without you.

London Section - 8pm on **25th August** at The Rose of York, Petersham Road, Richmond, London TW10. Please ring Pete or Sue Simper before you go to check that the meeting is going ahead.

Eastern Section meeting - 8.00pm onwards on 26th August. The Royal Forest, Rangers Road, Chingford, London, E4 7HQ. Please ring Steve Shinebroom before you go to check that the meeting is going ahead.

Norwegian TA Club Summer meeting - 28th to 30th August. Sola, Norway

151st Egham Royal Show - 29th to 30th August. Egham, Surrey.

Annual Silvertrees BBQ - 30th August. BBQ at Bernie & Pearl's house for TOC Members (a particular invitation is extended to Mid-Shires Members). Normal rules apply - bring your own meat (or veggie alternative) and Bernie & Pearl will provide the facilities to burn same plus an offering of salad stuff and cheese & biscuits. Please confirm to Bernie asap if you will be attending in order for him to obtain enough charcoal for you to burn your burgers etc.

TOC Classifieds

Wanted: Roger Arnold would like to hear from other TOC Members regarding the following 2 questions:

1) engine mounts on Light 15 - does anyone make a fluid block type of engine mount, like the ones on modern day cars, or even a better one than is fitted?

2) I need some wing mirrors as a couple of times I have come unstuck with only the windscreen interior mirror. What are your suggestions please where to fit and what type as to not detract from the year which is 1947?

Please contact Roger at : rogerarnold1@btconnect.com

TOC Quick Links

TOC website:	www.traction-owners.co.uk
TOC spares hotline email:	spares@traction-owners.co.uk
TOC helpline email:	helpline@traction-owners.co.uk
TOCtech email:	toctech@traction-owners.co.uk
TOC membership email:	membership@traction-owners.co.uk
TOC magazine email:	editor@traction-owners.co.uk
Nicholas Greene's TA Forum:	http://tractionavant.forumcircle.com/portal.php
Oliver de Serres'	

videos of the Traction: <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=nxrl-vvDMWE>
<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=sNK-nfL0skE>
<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=svVchPE6Zi0>

Classic French numberplates: <http://www.classic-number-plate.com/french-classic-plates.html>

Cliff Sykes' video of the 2009 TOC Annual Rally : <http://www.traction-owners.co.uk/social/2009/Float-In-Power/2009AnnualRallyvideo.htm>

Tailpiece

And to close - a chillingly accurate anecdote about the mad world we live in today received recently from Steve Shinebroom:

It is the month of August on the shores of the Black Sea.

It is raining, and the little town looks totally deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody lives on credit.

Suddenly, a rich tourist comes to town.

He enters the only hotel, lays a 100 Euro note on the reception counter, and goes off to inspect the bedrooms upstairs in order to choose one.

The hotel proprietor takes the 100 Euro note and runs out of the hotel to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the 100 Euro note and runs to pay his debt to the pig grower.

The pig grower takes the 100 Euro note and runs to pay his debt to the supplier of his feed and fuel.

The supplier of feed and fuel takes the 100 Euro note and runs to pay his debt to the town's prostitute (who, in these hard times, also supplies her "services" on credit).

The prostitute runs to the hotel and, with the 100 Euro note, pays off her debt to the hotel proprietor for the rooms that she rented when she brought her clients there.

The hotel proprietor then returns the 100 Euro note to the counter so that the rich tourist will not suspect anything.

A few moments later the tourist comes downstairs - having inspected all the rooms - and, taking his 100 Euro note, says that he did not like any of the rooms and leaves town.

No one earned anything but the whole town is now without debt and looks to the future with a lot of optimism.

And this is how the WORLD is doing business today.