

# What's New in Birdland

Volume 3, Number 5

MAY 1960

## COMING UP \_\_\_\_\_ by SKIP RIGGS

*NOTE: It was announced at the May General Meeting that a Tour to Big Basin would be staged on June 5th. Due to the necessity of planning two intricate events for June 19th and July 17th, it was decided to postpone this Tour until some time in August. Watch this space for future developments on this event.*

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JUNE 19, 1960

**GIMMICK RALLY, PICNIC, FUN-KHANA** being staged at Turtle Rock Ranch on the western slope of Mt. Diablo. The Gimmick Rally departs Jack London Square at 10:00 a.m. with the Fun-Khana being staged upon arrival at Turtle Rock. The Picnic will follow the Fun-Khana. *Correction on Entry Fee:* \$4.00 will be assessed each car which covers everything except your chow and fire-water (you gotta bring those yourself). Dash plaques will be awarded all participants. Trophies go to First Place in both the rally and the fun-khana. Dash plaques presented Second and Third Place in each event.

JULY 17, 1960

2nd Annual Concours d' Elegance being staged in conjunction with the Concord Kiwanis Club. This is an open event planned to increase the balance in the Club treasury.

It will be held in the Concord City Ball Park, 2900 block of Salvio Street, Concord, Calif. Of special interest to BATOC members . . . we are planning a special class for American Production automobiles whose owners have never before shown their cars in a Concours. Cars entered in this class will be judged the same as other classes. For those interested in participating, here is a rundown on how it goes.

1. EXTERNAL APPEARANCE:	Points
Paint and Finish .....	12
Coachwork and Top .....	12
Chrome and Glass .....	6
Functional Extras .....	5
	<u>Total 35</u>

2. INTERNAL APPEARANCE:	Points
Dash Panel .....	5
Seats and Upholstery .....	12
Floor Covering .....	4
Boot or Luggage Compartment .....	8
Functional Extras .....	6
	<u>Total 35</u>

3. ENGINE AND CHASSIS:	Points
Engine and Engine Compartment .....	17
Chassis and Underbody .....	8
Functional Extras .....	5
	<u>Total 30</u>

Total Possible Points 100

### 3. OVERHEATED?

Check the radiator (caution: Hold the cap with a handkerchief and unscrew it slowly). Be sure the engine has enough oil. See if the fan belt is loose or broken.

#### HOW TO LOCALIZE THE TROUBLE:

No SPARK? No GAS? Too much GAS? Here's how to find out . . .

Is there a spark?

Pull off the wire from one spark plug. If the metal clip within is not exposed, insert a key in the runner or ceramic cover on the wire's end. Hold the key about 3/16" from the engine and have a passenger operate the starter with the ignition ON. If you are alone, locate the starter solenoid switch under the hood, bridge the main terminals with a pair of pliers to bypass the contacts. When the pliers make contact they will produce a fat spark. But don't let it frighten you; it's caused by the starter's heavy draw. Remember, when checking the ignition by this method, the key should be ON.) A fat spark should jump from wire to engine.

(To be continued next month)

## MISSING THE BOAT?

A three-party "bull session" involving those greybeards of BATOC, Dwight, Dr. Frank, and your Editor, may have brought to light a very good reason why we have failed to add a single new member so far this year. Ever since the Club started, it has been our policy to have prospective members drop around to a General Business Meeting. Why? If the purpose was to entice these people into joining as a result of exposure to our sheer and overwhelming charm, this method would seem to be the worst possible way to achieve it. Wouldn't you say that our regular business meeting is the least enjoyable event on our agenda? Man and boy, this reporter has missed only one meeting over the years, and we can recall none which would qualify as out-and-out fun. If we weren't having a downright hassle over the BIG Birds . . . an increase in dues . . . our own Club House . . . long vs. short hair . . . then the meetings were "boring" or "too long". Important matters may have been settled at these meetings, but we cannot conceive of a new prospect's being charmed into joining as a result.

Look at the record so far in 1960. We can all recall beaming new visages at every meeting. Where are they today? They didn't fall all over one another rushing to the nearest Club Treasurer to sign up. They came to one G.M. Meeting and that was the last we saw of them. There had to be a reason for their showing up in the first place, but somewhere along the line we failed to "sell" them on the advantages of becoming members of our Club.

A much more logical approach to the recruitment problem would be to invite other Bird owners to attend one of our fun-type car events - a Sunday Tour or a Rally. Especially will this be so if we vote to raise the annual dues. Seldom will we be able to convince a prospect to join our ranks on the basis of a membership meeting when the cost for this nebulous pleasure is \$24 per year or more.

This is not meant to be an indictment of the General Business Meetings. While they could be made more interesting, still routine business matters must be settled at some sort of a general get-together, and the monthly meeting as currently set up achieves the purpose quite adequately. Perhaps eventually the "business" aspect of our meetings can be minimized and fun features developed which could change the picture, but until such millennium arrives, we intend to invite our future prospects to come to a pleasurable event, not a drab business meeting.

## TECH TIPS



by FRANK FICKER

### WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR BIRD CONKS OUT!

First, check the OBVIOUS.

#### 1. IGNITION ON?

Car vibration, a swinging keycase, perhaps an impish youngster on the front seat (the newer Birds have a rear seat, too - a good place for impish youngsters) may have turned the switch.

#### 2. OUT OF GAS?

Don't trust the gauge if it shows a little fuel; gauges are often inaccurate.

# PRESIDENT'S PERCH

All members, past and present, are cordially invited to attend our Second Anniversary Meeting June 14th at the Driftwood. Let's have a real reunion. (Maybe my new teeth will let me eat by then.)

I guess we asked for it, but if so, we got more than we bargained for. Publicity was what started this parade kick in the first place and now we are asked to provide cars for every parade that comes along. Bill Bosak has found out that it is a real effort to ferret out enough Birds to supply the demand. Consensus at our May meeting seemed to be that we should save ourselves for the bigger parades (Armistice Day, Miss Oakland, Parade of Lights, etc.)

Jim Woolen, a co-salesman with Owen Lewis, was our guest speaker and he addressed us on behalf of the DeMolay State Convention in June. He asked for 12 Thunderbirds to escort their sectional princesses and high officials on June 18th, promising in return much publicity, as well as active participation in their dinner and Coronation Ball. So deeply moved by Mr. Woolen's request was Maxine H. that she volunteered to help Bill Bosak round up drivers. It's a fine opportunity to strut your Birds, so what's the problem?

I feel rather proud on having received a few compliments from members on the May meeting which they thought one of our better get-togethers. This relieves me considerably. It's tough up in that chair, particularly following that man, Brooks, and votes of confidence are more than welcome.

Skip outlined several exciting activities for the summer months. Perhaps we were just a little "starved" for good events, but everything sounded super and we can hardly wait for summer to arrive.

No all-out hassles developed and if the evening wore on too long, it was rather that a lot of matters were acted upon. We were glad to see Joe Gonzales again after a very long absence. Rosemary Hallum and Dail Moffett had promised to attend, too, but failed to show. Maybe next time.

We do have a welcome left over for Donna Sell, our new Treasurer. Donna has proven herself on past performances and I can assure the Club its money is in safe hands, even if her name is "Sell". Welcome to the Board, girl.



Sure would like to see more interest in the Membership meetings held on third Wednesdays of each month. We should all be interested in the growth of the Club. Here is a chance to show it by helping us plan and campaign.

We will be voting at our June meeting on whether or not to raise the annual dues. We're not rich, nor are we quite broke, either. Will we scare off all possible new

— Continued on page four



## CLEARLAKE WEEKEND

A very sincere 'thank you' to the Marin Sports Car Association for the most thoroughly enjoyable weekend possible. The accommodations were perfect, the food delectable, the pool invigorating, the weather made to order, and the company unsurpassed.

We went up in caravan, led by Skip and Mid Riggs who managed to get lost only once (getting lost is not only par for the course but always adds to the fun), and arrived in time for lunch. A Concours was held after lunch, judged by Josh Hogue and Mike Teilmann (Skip was a true sport and only put his little jewel in for exhibition — not competition). There were only four entries and the judges decided to award a case of oil to each entry. Joe White and Roger Neiss were among the lucky four. Our Editor's Pride-and-Joy was "stolen", wiped off, and entered at the instigation of his attractive young daughter Margie with the full cooperation of a couple of unprincipled adult BATOC members (including the writer—Ed). Poor Roger almost flipped when he spotted his beautiful Bird at the bottom of a steep hill after hieing himself and the only key 50 miles away to the other side of the Lake.

By the way, we stayed at the Clear Lake Country Club nestled in the hills above the northern tip of Clear Lake. The town is named Lucerne after the famous spot in Switzerland and just to carry the atmosphere even further, the hotel was styled after a Swiss mountain resort (sans St. Bernards).

Joe White and Bob Growden played host at a cocktail hour (what a long hour!). We were only trying to prove, as Skip had said, that Thunderbird owners can drink with the best, and any pleasure derived from this contest was purely accidental and only in the line of duty. We then donned our 'couth clothes' and entered the formal contest going on in the cocktail lounge before our delicious steak dinner. After dinner, for some strange reason, the alcohol consumption was resumed along with the music and dancing. This, the second contest of the day, was won hands down by BATOC and Joe White was publicly acclaimed, along with the other formal presentations on Sunday for having the best overall score. That's our boy!

Mike Teilmann, Tom Nibley, Ken Kahn and Dick Patterson deserve a great deal of credit for the time and effort put into the Auto Cross held on Sunday afternoon; it was really tough and tricky. Despite the usual razzing endured by devoted Bird owners when among owners of "sports cars", nine BATOC members braved the storm and entered. Much to the amazement of the "sports car" owners, they are now forced to admit that our "Big Iron" does a pretty impressive job in competition. Skip, Bob Growden, Dick Speckelmeyer (a prospective member), Bill Houston, Andy Larsen, Maxine Nunes and Carol Speckelmeyer all entered the competition and each one put on a darn

fine show, easily keeping their times on a level with those of the smaller cars.

Art Horsfall, not wanting to be a party-pooper, entered his Big Bird and put on a show that will never be forgotten. Over 4,000 pounds of White Bird was rocking, rolling, spinning, careening, cartwheeling, and somersaulting from one end of the course to the other. Half of his membership almost died of heart failure (not to mention what Maxine was going through). He finished the course in 1:27, bettering the scores of some of the small cars. When it comes to intestinal fortitude, our President is well endowed. Wow! He made such a hit with the residents, that they gave him a big hand when he drove by on the way home late in afternoon.

First place in the Sedan Class went to Roy Hughes driving a Rover; Second place to Ernest Sarneski in a Volkswagen; and Third to Ben Lally in a Volvo.

Ladies Division: First, Carol Speckelmeyer in a T-Bird — 1:25; Second, Henrietta Lopez in a Triumph — 1:30.6; Third, Maxine Nunes in a T-Bird — 1:30.8. Henrietta Lally in a Volvo was First in the Sedan Class.

1300 — 2000 Cm.: First place, George Treadmore in a Morgan, and Second, Tom Lopez in a Triumph. Henrietta and Tom Lopez were Skip's guests, so we can feel a small measure of pride in their successes.

2000 and Up: First place, Dick Speckelmeyer, who, without a doubt, put on the best show of the day (next to Art, that is), turning his Bird inside out to do the course in 1:12. Second place, Andy Larsen in a Bird — time 1:15.5; and Third place, Skip Riggs — time 1:22 with his Bird.

Overall winner was Wayne Schmad in a Fiat, who ran the course in 1:10, just two seconds under Speck's time with his Bird.

BATOC was presented with a beautiful trophy and was very highly commended by Mike Teilmann for the best Club participation.

I generally try to avoid personal comments, but want to make an exception this once. All during the weekend I was filled with a deep sense of pride in our Club, our cars and our members. It's a real pleasure to be part of such a group.

## BIRTHDAYS

Last month we slipped up on reporting the birthdays, a pathetic oversight, as your Editor's was among 'em. Yep, I'm a Tarsus (who said, "that figures!"). Thanks to sweet Maxine Horsfall, it wasn't completely overlooked. She produced a birthday cake on the spur of the moment at May's Activities meeting — a fine complement to the gift of Army Surplus V. D. films (from Edna) and the switchblade with matching leather jacket to hone it on (from the kiddies).

Other May babies overlooked were Gene Andrade, Blanche Semler, Jane (Midway) Riggs, Dick Nagle, and Art Horsfall. Awful sorry, folks. Maybe some of the members will send you 'On Account of Our Stupid Editor I Forgot' cards — which we just happen to be able to supply at 25¢ ea. in lots of 100.

Members who'll be honoring June birthdays include Larry Doan (2nd), Lew Edwards (22nd) and Danny Diaz (22nd).



1. Bob Growden pulls up after running the Auto-Cross. 2. Art receives the Club Participation Trophy from Mike Teilmann, host of the weekend. 3. Skip and Mid scan the comparative time sheet with Mike during the Auto-Cross. 4. Vivacious Daris Carroll gets a surprise buss from madcap Joe White — the lucky stiff! 5. Our Associate Editor appeared to mean business but this time she failed to win any hardware for the Larsen mantel. 6. A mixed leg contest during the cocktail hour in the Growden-White "dorm" failed to produce a winner —

Your Editor refused to play! 7. There were other lovelies there besides our own, as witness blonde Sharon, a contestant in the Miss Clear Lake competition. 8. A momentous meeting—Josh Hogue meets Fran and Andy, the couple who met through his column, "Sports Car Rally", fell in love and were married. 9. A worms-eye view of the Lucerne Hotel & Country Club where we stayed (less than half this mammoth structure appears in the picture). That's our lovable President there on the veranda. 10. An elated Maxine Nunes receives her 2nd Place Award

following the Auto-Cross. 11. Sleeping Beauty Daris Carroll absorbs some tan while awaiting her Prince Charming's kiss to waken her. 12. Carol Speckelmeyer cuts a caper after winning 1st Place in the Women's Division of the Auto-Cross. 13. Art laughs it up after scaring the living bejbers out of all with his lead-footed running of the Auto-Cross. 14. Andy Larsen (who finished second) and Dick Speckelmeyer (First in T-Bird Class and Second over all) holding the Club Participation Trophy won by the Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club.

## ONE ELECTION COMING UP

Don't forget that there'll be voting at the upcoming June General meeting to decide if membership dues should be raised. Proponents claim that nothing short of doubling the present rate would be worthwhile. They believe the assessment of \$2.00 a month would soon put our bank balance on substantial footing once and for all.

We had hoped to print short articles by pro and con factions, but said articles had not appeared by the time we began wrapping this issue up. In their stead, may we summarize the issue for you.

The advantages of owning a healthy bank account should be obvious. We could provide trophies and dash plaques for every BATOC event without feeling pinched. The goal of eventually owning our own Club House should be realized sooner. Besides, say the protagonists, it's worth more than a measly buck a month to belong to such a fine organization.

On the other side of the fence, it is debatable whether raising the dues would actually bring in more revenue. Some of the borderline members would doubtless drop out in the belief that they are not getting enough out of their membership now to pay twice as much for the privilege of staying away from most of the Club's events. And it would surely discourage the new prospect - he'd want to be sure of getting value in return for his \$34.00 (\$24 plus \$10 Initiation Fee). Convincing a prospective member that he'll get more than \$34 in value out of BATOC membership will be no easy feat.

When faced by these objections, the sponsors of the new measure claim that losing a few poor members would really rejuvenate the remainder . . . that we can afford to weed out our membership and get down to a solid nucleus of active members. By the same token, they are not alarmed over the picture of few if any new members coming in. "We'd still have a good club if we only had a dozen hard-headed members," they aver.

We dunno. Personally, we'd hate to see the roster decimated much more. There are many fine people on the fringe whose occasional appearances are much appreciated by us all. We'd hate to have them drop out entirely. As for getting the bank balance up, couldn't we cut down on some of our expenses instead? Or promote a big event that will gross a nice profit in one fell swoop?

As Editor, we try not to go overboard in any attempt to sway popular opinion. We'll go along with the Club whichever way it votes, of course. But we do hope we have presented both sides of the issue fairly for you to consider. The next move is up to you!

### MEETING NOTICES

6/8 - Activities - Horsfall house, 3917 Atlas Ave., Oakland - 7:30 p.m.

6/14 - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP - The Driftwood, 1413 Park St., Alameda - 8 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m.

6/22 - Membership - Edwards Mansion - 3451 - 35th Ave., Oakland - 7:30.

## MEMO FROM MEMBERSHIP

By Rosemarie Volpatti

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We have had 19 prospects' names turned in since our contest started, one of which has been officially voted in at the May Membership Meeting. Following is the contest standings: (prospects only)

Bob Growden	3
Skip Riggs	2
Rich Volpatti	2
Bill Houston	1
Bob White	1
Maxine Horsfall	1
Faye Edwards	1
Paul Tanzillo	1
Don Brooks	1

We have six more names which we don't know whom to credit. If you have submitted a prospect's name, yet do not see your name on the above list, please phone KE 2-5007 and get the recognition you deserve.

To build the Club we will need more and more names. Please get on the ball and come up with some prospects. Remember, the winner will be determined on the basis of prospects who become members, so get busy. Make sure your guests enjoy themselves.

The Membership Committee consists of the following members:

Rosemarie Volpatti, Chairman	
Edna Neiss, Secretary	
Donna Sell, Dues Retention	
Maxine Horsfall	} Greet prospective members and issue guest cards
Joe White	
Frank Ficker, Technical Com. Chairman	

Dear Editor:

Could I come live with you in your office? You see, I'm in a family way - I mean, I'm in *my* family's way.

- Beverly Aadland

Dear Goofball:

Like all morons, I think your magazine is wonderful.

- Lotta Wind

Dear Editor:

I didn't send in my questionnaire last month because I felt sure you had too many to read already. So I'm sending it in now. If too late, please return it so I can send it to some other editor as I don't have time to fill out questionnaires every day.

- Al E. Mony

Dear Mr. Neiss:

I am contacting you as a last resort. You see, I have always wanted to be a writer, but I have received so many rejection slips that I think I had better start at the bottom and work up. I don't mind what position I start in.

- Vera Cose Veins

Dear Ed:

I enjoyed filling out your questionnaire. Sorry I haven't been able to do more for you in the past, but having a child every year keeps me busy. Will do it oftener in the future.

- Iva Kidd

## PRESIDENT'S PERCH

- Continued from page two

members with \$24 in dues plus \$10 Initiation Fee? Will the less active members feel they aren't getting enough out of the Club to warrant doubling their cost of membership? Can our younger members afford any increase? Is the raise really an answer to all our financial problems? Consider these questions carefully before casting your vote at the next meeting. As you know, we are a corporation, and should it ever be necessary to meet a deficit, the Board could assess each member a given sum. So why worry?

However, I stand neutral. Dwight and Skip are pointing out the necessity for an increase in dues and all I want to do is provide food for thought so you will get the full picture. It's up to you to determine the matter, not me.

Nineteen were present at the May Activities meeting and it was a beaut! Ray DeCosta of the M-G Club was in attendance and suggested a wonderful weekend in Yosemite and a stop-over at The Hacienda Motel in Fresno. My house again in June. (Bob G. - note that it's on the first Wednesday.)

My thanks and compliments to the members who really dug in and got us back in high gear during past weeks. Don't relax now that we're beginning to roll in high gear!

It's not true that Lew Edwards is thinking of putting his top up nights just because he lives in a neighborhood having a lot of tall dogs.



Dear Editor:

As the inclosed questionnaire reveals, I am simply crazy over Sunday tours. (Or simply crazy - have it your way.) But why do they always put my car last in line? By the time I get where we're going, lunch is over and the others are turning around to go back. Nobody wants to bring up the rear, so why don't they leave the last car home?

- Otto Mobile

Dear Sir:

In answer to your question, "What feature would you like to see eliminated from 'Birdland'?" I say, the Crossword Puzzles. They are too hard to solve when you have to work them vertically only. I want you to know I'm not the sort of a girl who comes across.

- Adelaide N. Egg