

The Ragtop



February 2014

Hill Country Triumphs

By Steve Johnson



If you weren't at our first annual Happy Hour Party that we kicked off the New Year, you really missed a great event. Dean and Elizabeth Mericas really put together a wonderful party for us and they will have an

article this month to tell you all about it. Unfortunately Candy and I didn't make it and it's a sad story.

We were dressed in our vintage outfits. Me in my Buddy Holly glasses and penny loafers. Her in her tie dyed skirt and peace symbol jewelry. We loaded the TR4A with our favorite appetizer, a bottle of wine and canned food for the Capital Food Bank. We were off for a wonderful evening with some of our favorite people.

Unfortunately, as we were sitting at the Anderson Mill stop light getting ready to make a left, the TR4A decided it didn't

The Hill Country Triumph Club, the 50th Chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR), was founded in 1990 to bring together the owners of Triumph automobiles in the Central Texas area surrounding Austin. In 1991, the membership decided to include other British car fans as associates due to lack of other clubs in our area that represent some of the other marques. As owners and lovers of our unique types of cars, we have a special kinship, which draws us together. Membership is open to anyone who is a British car enthusiast, with or without a car.

Annual dues are just \$15.00 per family group or address per year. We have dinner meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and at least one other event each month. We encourage you to join and support us, even if you don't drive your car regularly. We also offer technical assistance if needed. One goal of the club is to help its members keep their cars on the road. Please call one of the club officers listed in the newsletter for more information about club benefits and spread the word about our club to others.

The Hill Country Club is a local chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)/Triumph Sports Owners Association, which is open to all drivers of Triumph motorcars; a chapter of the Triumph Register of America, exclusively for TR2 through TR4A sports cars; and a chapter of the 6-PACK, dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation, and restoration of the Triumph TR250 and TR6 sports cars. Membership in these national organizations is encouraged. Visit their websites at www.vtr.org, www.triumphregister.com, and www.6-pack.org.

The Ragtop is published monthly by the Hill Country Triumph Club. Material within may be freely reproduced providing Ragtop and the authors are credited. Any and all newsletter contributions are welcome. Deadline for submissions is the end of each month. Submissions may be emailed to editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org. Car related classified ads are free to members and will run for three months unless otherwise instructed. Contact editor for other ads.

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want to go to the party and stopped dead blocking traffic. Now just visualize this..... Here are two rather strangely dressed individuals in a vintage Triumph getting out in the middle of traffic and lifting the hood. It was a nightmare.

The situation did prove to be very interesting. As opposed to getting upset, the people in cars behind and next to us offered to help. We ended up with four guys who parked their cars and came out to help us. We pushed the TR4A to safety in a parking lot and got to meet some fine neighbors. All of them had seen the TR from time to time in the neighborhood and were glad to help.

One of the guys who helped was Rus Melton. When I thanked the guys, Rus said he had a TR4. It turns out, Rus had gone to school with our son Jeff who drove a 1966 TR4A that we built together through High School. Although I had talked to Rus in the past, I had never met him. I was sure glad to finally meet him and have his help.

After bumming a ride from one of the couples that stopped to help, Candy took me back with tools and a light to the TR4A to figure out the problem. It turns out the hot wire to the coil had burned in two. After I figured that out I had it running in no time. Unfortunately it was too late by then to make it to the party.

Needless to say, we had appetizers for dinner and thought about the wonderful time you all had. We were REAL glad to be safe and sound at home by that time.

2014 VTR Regional in Kansas City — April 27-30, 2014

The Kansas City Triumphs Club is making steady progress on the Regional in April. For example they have add-

ed a participant's choice class to the show for "Other British." Take a look at their website for more details

www.kansascitytriumphs.com.



Kastner Cup 2014 — May 16-18

The Kastner Cup this year is called "The Battle of Eagles Canyon" and will be held May 16th through the 18th in Eagles Canyon just outside Fort Worth close to Decatur, Texas where you'll find hotels. Bob Kramer is our contact for the event and has added more information to this copy of the Ragtop. Better add this one to your calendar now so you can get properly prepared for the event.



British National Meet — Arkansas May 29th-31st

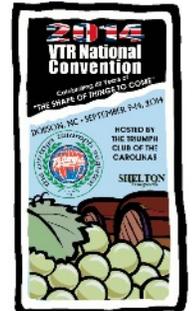
This is the third year that the All British National Meet will be held in Hot Springs National Park. A

number of our club members have attended this event over the years. Mike McPhail already has three going. Let him know if your interested. His email address is mmcphail@austin.rr.com. Mike will let you know what plans are being made as the time nears.

They understand there are already many opportunities, each year, to attend some GREAT car shows like our VTR Regional in April this year and our VTR National in September. This show is like a national All British Car Day and you know how much Texas enjoys that one. From what I hear, this is a great show that all enjoy. [PRESS HERE FOR INFORMATION](#)

2014 VTR National Convention — September 9-14

The Vintage Triumph Register and Triumph Club of the Carolinas will be hosting the 2014 VTR National Convention in Dobson, NC and surrounding areas — September 9-14, 2014. It has been 20 years since the TCOC hosted this convention. Their theme is "Back to the Blue Ridge." Enjoy the following video for a taste of what will be available



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6KbptrNRt0>. Check www.vtr2014.com periodically for additional detail.

Next Club Meeting - Tuesday February 11th

Our February Club meeting will be at 7:00 PM at Rudy's on RR

620. It's just North of RM 2222 on RR 620. Come early if you would like to eat with us. Here's Rudy's website with the menu and directions [PRESS HERE](#).

Remember, you don't have to drive your Triumph to the club meeting to enjoy the excitement!

Just be there....

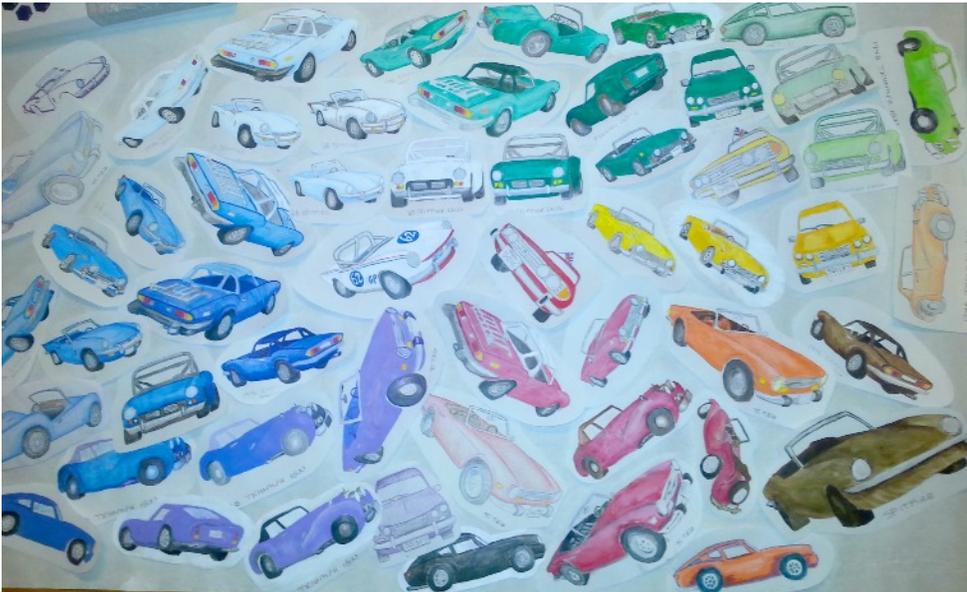
Steve

Steve Johnson
President
Hill Country Triumph Club
stevenjohnson7@sbcglobal.net
Our Website -
www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org



Betina's Bits and Bobs

By Betina Foreman - HCTC Secretary



Since it was a party instead of a standard meeting, I did not get many signatures of attendees. Most people were too busy socializing, drinking wine, eating and talking to sign the book. The Mericas were gracious to host yet another HCTC party at their gorgeous home in Hudson Bend. Elizabeth had Dean set up "photo booth" in the office. Many people took time to capture the special moment in the photo booth. Several of the great costumes can be

seen in the link Elizabeth sent out a few days after the party.

Everyone brought delicious appetizers and deserts to share. I would guess there were about 45 people in attendance. There were many fantastic costumes and it was very difficult for the judges to select the winners. The winner of the "Dress in the Decade of Your Car" costume contest was won by Carol Christal. She was wearing her mother's vintage 1950's dress and pillbox hat that her Mom wore to

her sisters wedding. Her prize was a Fifty Dollar Gift Certificate! So it is absolutely worth dressing up for HCTC costume contests! Second place went to Barbara Maggio for a lovely black 1950's cocktail dress with spectacular silver accents. She won a complete Wine Tools set cleverly concealed in a wine bottle. Third place went to Mike Jankowski for his white platform shoes with goldfish in the heels. He won a set of four large Union Jack coffee mugs.

The other contest was for each guest to choose a hand painted classic Triumph. (I painted 57 classic Triumphs for this game.) The winning cars were the only black Triumph and the only Triumph with a spare tyre. The first winner was Adrian Gould and she won a Mikasa crystal 8x10 photo frame. She claimed this was the perfect prize as she just got married a few months ago and needed a frame for their wedding photo. The second prize was a Sharper Image "Rabbit Style" tabletop wine opener.

We also wanted to share some good cheer with the less fortunate so we collected non perishable food to donate to the Capitol Area Food Bank. Betina Foreman delivered three bags of groceries and a case of Beanitos to the food bank on January 20th from HCTC.



Friends of Triumph presents
The Kastner Cup – 2014

“The Battle of Eagles Canyon”

May 16-18, 2014

Contact: **Bob Kramer: 512-431-8563 rkramer3@austin.rr.com**

History will record this battle. There is a canyon, in the far north of that place called Texas, a piece of land so desirable that over the century's tribes of natives fought battles for its control. Then they fought settlers and finally the soldiers. Later men came and tried to tame it with their powerful machines, but it remains just out of reach. It is here that a man named Kastner has hidden his treasure, and the word is spreading. Many will come to try to take his chalice, the fabled Kastner Cup, and a spirited battle will ensue. But can it be won? The challenges are many. The road into the canyon has many a turn, many a hill and much risk. It is what they call "difficult terrain". The eagles soaring above can see the road twisting ever downhill. They can see it rise up toward the sky and their outstretched talons. At ground level it just disappears like eyes closed against the wind. Know this, skill and determination will be rewarded.

It will take much preparation and planning for this journey. The machines must be in top form and the wagons that will carry them up to the task. Fortunately this canyon is not far from the well known cattle town of Fort Worth. Closer still, lodging and supplies can be procured in nearby Decatur. The Innkeeper called Hampton will be the choice of many, those that enjoy telling their war stories after the battle along with loads of amenities. Another Innkeeper with the name of Baymont also provides a bed and a blanket and a hot breakfast. They'll hold you a bed upon your request. Mention that you are a Friend of Triumph and you will get a special price. The battlefield itself is a special place. It has plenty of cover that can be reserved.

Hampton Inn and Suites Decatur

110 South US Hwy 81/287

Decatur, Texas 76234

(940) 627-4900

FOT Rate \$79.00

Baymont Inn and Suites Decatur

600 W Hale Avenue

Decatur, TX 76234

(940) 627-3338

FOT Rate \$65.00 Pet's OK with \$17.50 fee

For more information on travelling to this place called Eagles Canyon have a look at:

<http://www.eaglescanyon.com>

All Triumph Covered Paddock Spaces, 3 Days for \$75.00. To reserve please email Bob at rkramer3@austin.rr.com

Race Registration will be \$400.00 for Friday Test and Tune, Saturday and Sunday races, and feature events.

Registration fee includes the Saturday British Small Bore Race and Sunday Kastner Cup race.

Can you handle that kind of track time? More info at CVAR website at:

<http://www.corinthianvintagerace.com>

K-Cup Spectators will be interested in the Texas All British Car Days Spring Rallye leaving from ECR-stay tuned for more information



Hampton Inn and Suites Decatur
 About 15-20 minutes from ECR
 ** Mention ECR at check-in and receive a discount **
 110 South US Hwy 81/287
 Decatur, Texas 76234
 (940) 627-4900
 For Reservations: (800) 426-7866



LaQuinta Inn and Suites Decatur
 About 15-20 minutes from ECR
 ** Mention ECR at check-in and receive a discount **
 1405 S Highway 287
 Decatur, TX 76234
 (940) 627-9603
 For Reservations: (800) 753-



Baymont Inn and Suites Decatur
 About 15-20 minutes from ECR
 ** Mention ECR at check-in and receive a discount **
 600 W Hale Avenue
 Decatur, TX 76234
 (940) 627-3338
 For Reservations: (877) 229-6668



Days Inn Decatur
 About 15-20 minutes from ECR
 1900 S Trinity St
 Decatur, TX 76234
 (940) 627-2463
 For Reservations: (800) 329-7466



Holiday Inn Express Decatur
 About 15-20 minutes from ECR
 1051 N Hwy 287/81
 Decatur, Texas 76234
 (940) 627-0776
 For Reservations: (800) 315-2621



Comfort Inn Decatur
 About 15-20 minutes from ECR
 1709 S US 287
 Decatur, Texas 76234
 (940) 627-6919
 For Reservations: (877) 424-6423

Hotel Information for Eagles Canyon Raceway



Ramada Limited Decatur
 About 15-20 minutes from ECR
 1507 S Highway 287
 Decatur, TX 76234
 (940) 627-6262
 For Reservations: (800) 272-6232



Super 8 Decatur
 About 15-20 minutes from ECR
 1600 S Highway 287
 Decatur, TX 76234
 (940) 627-0250
 For Reservations: (800) 800-8000

From the Editor

By Dan Julien

The February *Ragtop* is like the month itself: short. I has been a busy holiday season, and things are just getting back to normal. Hopefully, we'll have more driving event news next month. Our annual

holiday party was later than usual this year. I missed it because of another commitment, but HCTC Secretary Betina Foreman wrote us a report on it.

Club member T.J. Molina sent a link to an interesting video

called "The Golden Age of the British Sports Car." It's about an hour long, so reserve enough time:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVG8NTXuszc>.



Morgan Plus 4 race car for sale

Car has racing history but precise details of 1950s era are not confirmed. Triumph TR engine with modest 125-130 flywheel hp. 4-wheel drum brakes, A.R.E. wheels. Competition stub axles, drum brakes with race compound shoes, panhard rod, adjustable lever shocks in rear, new driver harness. Gearbox was rebuilt within the last year. Everything on the car is ready to race today. Very reliable, good for many more races before it's time for freshening up the engine. Comes with spare stock TR engine. Car is near Austin, Texas and has been racing in CVAR Group 4 (preservation class, pre-1962) during 2011-2013 but could compete in Group 2. Best time at Texas World Speedway road course: 2:10; best time at Circuit of the Americas: 3:00. Torquey engine allows a full lap in top gear at TWS with a lap time increase of only 3 seconds. \$30,000, not interested trades, thanks. Call 512-965-7583 or email me at duncan.charlton54@gmail.com for more details and pictures. Flickr photo set at <http://tinyurl.com/l5zs7qr>



Michael Connally
mcfoto@swbell.net
 210-262-0275

1973 Triumph TR6 with Overdrive

Commissioned April, 1973. Full frame off restoration 11/2001-11/2003. Totally disassembled, sandblasted and cleared of any rust. Paint job includes two coats etching primer, two coats of standard primer, 4 coats of color coat (Duco Jet Black) and four coats of Clear Coat. The under carriage is coated with POR 15 which is used to protect oil derricks in the Gulf. The car was voted Participant's Choice at the 2006 VTR National Competition in Dallas. It has won 1st and 2nd Place in subsequent competitions. It cruises comfortably at 70 mph and has been as far as 1,200 miles round trip on more than one occasion. The car is appraised and insured for \$22,000. I am offering it for \$19,500.

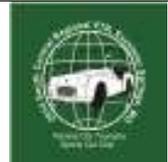
All suspension bushings replaced.
 Wheels sandblasted and powder coated.
 5 Yokohama 203 x 5.5 Tubeless Tires
 All new rugs and door panels
 New Dash Crown
 New Convertible Top

Engine:
 New Rings and Valves Ground
 New Rod Bearings and Crankshaft Bearings and seals
 New Clutch and Bearing
 New Slave Cylinder
 Carburetors Rebuilt
 Distributor Rebuilt (Advanced Distributors)
 Modified Cam
 Headers
 Monza Exhaust
 Radiator Rebuilt

Richard Good Triple Manifold with three Stromberg Carburetors
 MSD Multiple Spark Distributor and Heavy Coil
 New Master Cylinder and Vacuum Booster
 Richard Good HD U-Joints on Drive Shaft and Short Shafts
 All New Discs, Shoes
 Drums and Rotors Turned
 All Brake and Fuel Lines replaced with Stainless Steel Tubing
 Spin off Oil Filter
 Rear Lever Shocks Replaced with Tube Shocks
 Set of Four Koenig 15x7 Rims and Goodyear Eagle Tires
 New Windshield
 Tourist Trophy Laminated Walnut Steering Wheel
 Convertible Top Cover
 Tonneau Cover

For Sale: TR6 fiberglass hardtop "Snug Top" by Custom Hardtops of Longbeach, CA. Outstanding condition. Located in Dripping Springs. \$500 Contact Benson 361-947-7704 gbtuttle@yahoo.com





*Chairman's Message:
Welcome to Excelsior Springs.*

2014 South Central Regional Vintage Triumph Register
APRIL 27 TO 30, 2014



Excelsior Springs, located just 29 miles from Kansas City, MO, was a worldwide attraction for their healing mineral waters in the late 1800's to early 1900's. Our host hotel, The Elms Hotel & Spa was built in the 1880's to serve affluent mineral spa devotees.



Excelsior Springs is just 29 miles from Kansas City, MO

The Elms today

The Elms completed a multi-million complete update and remodel in 2012. They have one of the largest spas west of the Mississippi for your enjoyment. Head to their web site for information about this beautiful resort hotel <http://www.elmshotelandspa.com/>



Spa at the Elms

Area Attractions

You will also want to see the **Hall of Waters** and try their soda fountain of mineral waters. The Hall of Waters was placed on the Clay County Historical Landmark Register in 1981 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 9, 1983.



Jesse James This museum features the largest collection of James family artifacts, and is accompanied by outlaw Jesse James' family home and farm in Kearney, Missouri. Tour the museum and restored home, and view an informative video that relates the story of Frank and Jesse James and their bank- and train-robbing escapades. There's also a gift shop where you can procure Jesse James tee shirts, coffee mugs and other souvenirs. Jesse James' home and grave is about 10 miles away

Events

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday Welcome Reception | Concours |
| Gimmick Rallye | Funkhana |
| Autocross | Dinner Runs |
| Photo/Model/Craft | Concours 'Participants Choice' |
| Awards Banquet | |

The committee has worked for the last eighteen months planning this event. They have planned rallies, tours, and secured the accommodations and a host of other things that go into making a successful and enjoyable event.

It is the planning committee's hope that you will have a great time at the 2014 South Central Regional Convention. During your stay, you will be able to identify the committee members by their fluorescent green vests. They will glad to answer any questions or give directions to local sights for you to visit.

The Excelsior Springs Police Department has worked closely with us, and they will be glad to assist you in any way they can. Be sure to thank them for the security services they are providing us when they assist you. Please join me in thanking the planning committee and the rest of the KC Triumphs for all of their efforts. We hope you find this program useful as it will give details of the events, history and places of interest in Excelsior Springs. I encourage you to contact any of the 2014 planning committee members with any questions or concerns.

Welcome to Excelsior Springs! I look forward to visiting with each of you. If you see any way we can improve the event please let me know your thoughts.

Jack Edwards
Chairman 2014 SC Regional
Kansas City Triumphs Host

Registration will be available beginning August 15, 2013 at <http://www.kansascitytriumphs.com/> .
Those registering between August 15 and December 31, 2013 will be entered in a drawing to be held Jan 6, 2014, for one (1) night's stay at the host hotel (The Elms Hotel & Spa). There will be six (6) winners; the night's stay has a value of \$104.00 + taxes.
Good Luck!!

FOR SALE



1960 TRIUMPH TR3

JUST SERVICED NO RUST

NEW TOP NEW BATTERY

TONNEAU COVER & STICK COVER

TIRES ARE FAIRLY NEW

SOME SPARE PARTS

DOES NOT HAVE OVERDRIVE

Needs Side Curtains

\$17,900 or best offer

MIKE 512/252-3767 or trebucs@sbcglobal.net

Jim Icenhower's



Wood, Leather and Vinyl Steering Wheels for Classic Cars At Exceptional Prices

Wood Wheels with Hub	\$219.95
Leather Wheels with Hub	\$119.95
Vinyl Wheels with Hub	\$109.95



I have steering wheels and hubs for almost all British classics as well as accessories like shift knobs, mirrors, light/badge bars and more. Check out my current listings on eBay at <http://stores.ebay.com/specialtypartshop> or email me at jicenhower@yahoo.com for more information.

Listing change as I get shipments from the UK so check back often or contact me for any special requests.

Back issues of The Ragtop are available on our website:
<http://www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org/newsletters.php>

Pay Your Dues!!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. It says the month and year your dues are due. If the year listed next to your name isn't 2013, you owe right now. Any quite delinquent members who haven't paid will be dropped from the roster.

Cost is \$15 per year per family. If you don't wish to renew, please notify Nel.

Mail your check made out to **HCTC** to:

Nel McPhail
1105 N Canyonwood Dr
Dripping Springs, Tx 78620
(512) 656-1456
nmcpmail@austin.rr.com

HCTC Officers

President

Steve Johnson
president@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Consigliere

Elizabeth Mericas
512-291-6775
emericas@austin.rr.com

Webmaster

Jim Icenhower
webmaster@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Treasurer

Earl McGlothlin
512-292-3387
connieandearl@gmail.com

Secretary

Betina Foreman
512-771-6318
betinaforemanrealtor@yahoo.com

Membership

Nel Mcphail
512-656-1456
membership@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Ragtop Editor

Dan Julien
512-451-3102
editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Membership Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
Email address: _____
Car Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Color: _____
Car Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Color: _____



How on earth did you hear about the Hill Country Triumph Club?

Please mail your application and \$15 check payable to HCTC to:
Nel McPhail, 1105 North Canyonwood Dr, Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Upcoming Events

Dates	Event	Location	Where to Find Information
Feb. 11	HCTC Monthly Meeting	Rudy's on 620	Below.
April 27-29	VTR South Central Regional Convention	Kansas City, MO	www.kansascitytriumphs.com
May 16-18	Kastner Cup 2014	Eagle's Canyon Raceway	This newsletter, pp. 5-6.
May 29-31	All British National Meet	Hot Springs, Arkansas	Website
Sept. 9-14	VTR National Convention	Dobson, NC	Website

HCTC Classifieds



FOR SALE (in New Mexico)—1961 Triumph Herald Convertible. This car spent most of its life in southern New Mexico. I bought it as a project from an estate and it had been garaged for the past 25

years. It has a 948 cc engine, new tires, new interior, the convertible top is good. It needs door latches. \$3,500. Call Ron (575) 531-2193.

I am looking for a TR250 or TR4a Bonnet for a vehicle I am restoring. If you have one for sale please call me at 512-517-5325 or email me at filv@fnbbastrop.com. Thank you, Fil Valderrama

I am parting out another Spitfire 1500. Some good bits left. Everything is free.

Robert MacKenzie

For Sale

1958 TR3A

Frame off restoration completed 2002. Runs great. Mostly original with few upgrades. Less than 5000 miles on rebuilt engine. White with black interior. Lots of extra parts. Detailed history of car repairs.

\$20,000

Carol Pennington

361-772-2451

I recently bought a project 1965 TR4a.... Any advice, help, parts,would be greatly appreciated

Alan Palmer ampalmer4@gmail.com

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 7:00 PM

Rudy's BBQ

7709 Ranch Road 620

Austin, TX 78726

www.rudysbbq.com — Phone: 512-250-8002