

The Ragtop



April 2015

Hill Country Triumphs

By Steve Johnson

Is it April already? Time really flies when you're putting together a Regional, especially with just weeks left in the final month of April. In March good progress was made on our Regional. We finalized the classes of each event and determined how many awards we needed to order. The Bolicks and McPhails fi-

nalized the locations of all the events. We picked club shirts from Lands' End.

The core team picked our club shirts that we will wear at the Regional Awards Banquet and then club activities after that. Barbara Kramer will be sending out the ordering process soon. Come to the Club meeting on April 11th and you'll see examples.

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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The Autocross is also coming along well. I worked with the Texas Triumph Register (TTR) club in Houston to rent their timing equipment. It's state of the art and will give us quick results. Since the Autocross and the Awards Banquet are both on Saturday, we'll definitely need quick results. Mike Jankowski will be going to Houston to attend one of their TTR autocross events that is going on before the regional to learn the equipment and meet those from their club that will be helping us at our Regional.

During April before the Regional we'll be putting the finishing touches on the events and gathering material in the "Regional Book" that Bob Skewis will be putting together. If you

would like to see the book we did for the 2009 Regional we put on just send me a note at stevenjohnson7@sbcglobal.net. The 2009 book will be used as our model for this year's event.

We've had so many updates and met so many milestones I can't mention all of the great contributions by the Core team members. They are doing an outstanding job. We're all excited about hosting this regional for all of our Triumph friends.

If you haven't registered for the regional yet, please do. The registration form can be found on the website at <http://www.hillcountrytrumphclub.org/vtr/>. It's difficult for us to order trophies and make sure we're

set up for the events if we don't have the information and the sooner the better. Thanks for taking a bit of time to fill out and send in the form and your registration fee.

Here's a sad story..... This year is the 50th anniversary of the TR4A announcement. Candy and I put our TR4A in the shop for paint and floors so we would be ready for the Regional festivities. Unfortunately, it's still in the shop and will be for a while. We approved the Signal Red paint yesterday. I found out a couple of weeks ago that Signal Red is still available in modern paint if you look hard for it. Signal Red was also used on cars like the Jaguar and Mercedes. Yesterday Candy and I held up a fender sprayed with the new paint and matched it to the TR4A interior paint. It looked GREAT.

Since the TR4A won't be able to go to the Regional, I'm scrambling to get the TR3A ready for the Participants Choice class. It won't be ready for the Concours for a while. Oh well, it's running great and we are ready for some tops down

driving. Kerrville is definitely the place and I hear the April wildflowers will be exceptional this year.

Vintage Triumph Register 2015 National Convention

The VTR National Convention will be held August 11-14, 2015 at the Abbey Resort and Conference Center in Fontana, Wisconsin. The featured Triumph models for this convention will be the TR4A and the Spitfire Mark II both of which are celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2015. For the latest information check out their website at www.VTR2015.com.

VTR members may register online and pay via PayPal. If you prefer, you may print out a registration form and mail it along with a check. You will need to know your VTR membership number and car's commission number to complete the registration. Early registration ends on June 15th.

To receive the VTR room rate at the Abbey Resort and Conference Center call

the resort ((262) 275-9000) and ask for the Vintage Triumph Register rate. Roughly half of the block of 110 rooms are already booked.

Hill Country Triumph Badges

Many of you don't have one of our club badges. It's an easy way for us to get to know each other especially as the club grows. Mike Schubert has offered to order badges again for us this year. They are only \$8.00 plus \$1.50 if Mike mails them. You'll find an order form later in this Ragtop. Just print the form and mail it with your check to Mike at:

Mike Schubert
18340 Masi Loop
Pflugerville, TX
78660

If you have questions call mike at 512-252-3767 or send him a note at trebucs@sbcglobal.net.

Next Club Meeting — Saturday April 11th at Frisco's

Let's meet at Frisco's located at 6801 Burnet Road in

Austin. Be there at 9:00 AM for breakfast. The meeting will start at 9:30 and run to 10:30 AM if needed.

Their website is <http://thefriscoaustin.com>. Our

club meetings are on the second Saturday of each month.

By the way, those of you who are driving your TR6 to the club meeting, new member Keith Briscoe would like to drive your TR6 and get pointers on driving and maintaining them from you. He'd appreciate your help Keith.Briscoe@Dell.com.

Triumphantly yours,

Steve

Steve Johnson

President

Hill Country Triumph Club (Austin)

stevenjohnson7@sbcglobal.net

www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org/



April Tool of the Month

By Mike McPhail



This baby is *Loud!*

Full of hot air, you say? Well, that is exactly what it takes to keep these old British cars running! The serious shade tree mechanic cannot do without his trusty air compressor and all of its accessories.

Obviously, you have to have a compressor. Not those wimpy little portable jobs that kids use to air up their bicycles, but a real manly version that wakes up the neighbors when it kicks on in the middle of the night.

The great thing about air tools is that there are so

many of them. You can go to Harbor Freight every Saturday for a year and not buy them all! Here is a short list of what I use the most:

Blower nozzle...When they say "blow out with compressed air" this is what they are talking about.

Pressure gauge/tire filler...Real men ride bicycles too.

Leak down tester...Solve that low engine compression mystery.



Growing assortment.

Spray gun...Makes painting a breeze, or fill with solvent and spray that dirt away.

Angle

Grinder...Removes rust, lousy welds, or anything that gets in its way.

Air ratchet...If you have ever removed and reinstalled an oil pan, this is the thing to have.

Angle drill...This drill really gets the job done, kind of reminds me of seeing my dentist.

Cut-off tool...This is like a Dremel tool on steroids and will cut through metal with ease.

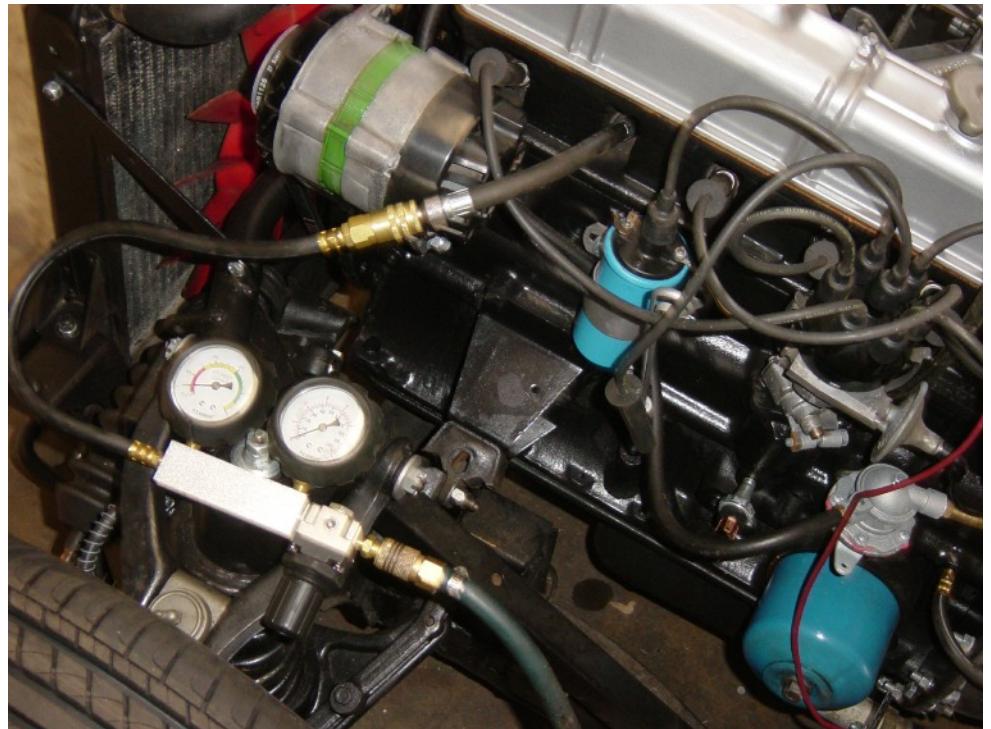
Nail gun...Nearly makes the hammer obsolete...shoots staples, too.

Nibbler...Chews right through sheet metal.

Air chisel...Really just a miniature jack hammer.

Impact wrench...Just like the guys used at your local tire shop to strip the threads on your lug nuts.

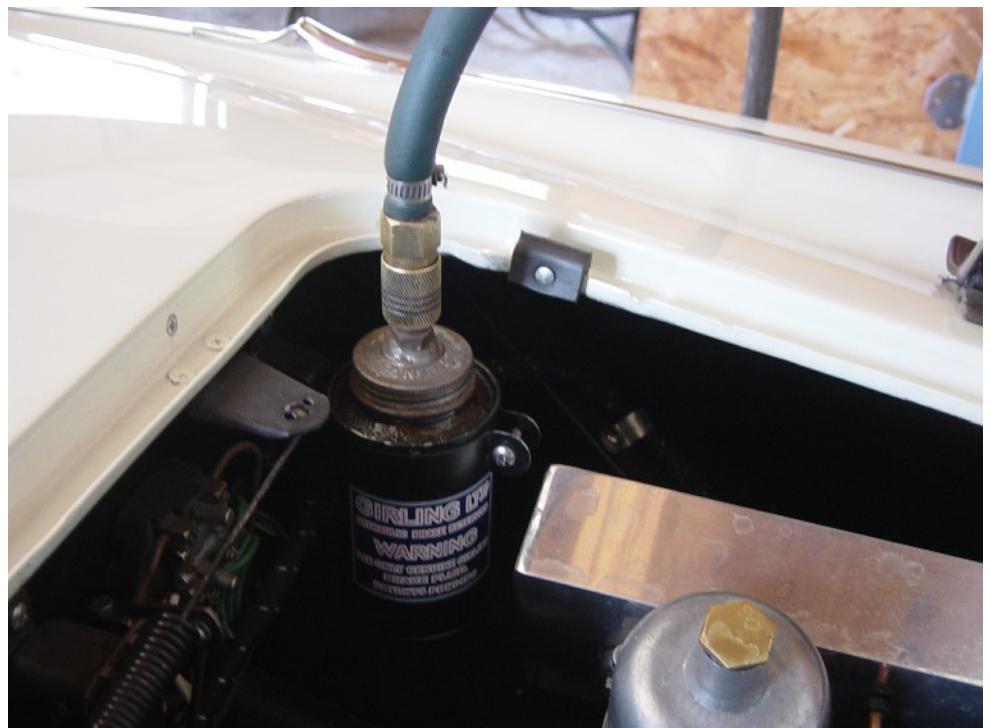
Compressed air can be used to pressurize your master cylinder to bleed your brakes when the wife is too busy to help. It is great for



Leakdown tester.

sending brake cylinder pistons into low Earth orbit when disassembling them for a rebuild, or even for blowing up balloons for that stag party. The list goes on and on!

Of course, the main reason to own this stuff is that the noise made while using air tools impresses your buddies, and frightens the hell out of women and small children!



Putting the pressure on.

Alfa Spring Tour

The THC-AROC spring tour will be held on April 11, 2015.

Tour participants will start at the Whole Foods at the Hill Country Galleria in Bee Cave for an informal breakfast and tire kicking, followed by about 150 miles of mixed twisties and fast paved roads through the heart of the hill country. Along the way, we'll enjoy bluebonnets in bloom, great driving, and a group lunch at the Pecan Street Brewery in Johnson City (<http://pecastreetbrewing.com/>) where "the ballroom" will be reserved for Alfisti and friends.

Please RSVP to Dean Mericas (dmericas@austin.rr.com) with the number in your party by Monday April 6 to make sure the restaurant is prepared for the crowd. Tour instructions and lunch details will be sent out in response to your RSVP.

HILL COUNTRY TRIUMPH CLUB NAME BADGE	
WHITE ON NAVY BLUE	LASER ENGRAVED
MAGNETIC BACKER	
SIZE: 1 1/4" X 3 1/2"	
\$8.00 per badge, inc. tax	
NAME ON BADGE #1: _____	
NAME ON BADGE #2: _____	
Name: _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Add \$1.50 per badge if you want them mailed	
Send Checks to: Mike Schubert 18340 Masi Loop Pflugerville, TX 78660 512-252-3767	



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



1972 Triumph TR6 Sports Car

(CC75356L)

113K Miles

Asking \$15,000

Complete Engine Rebuild at 86K.

With: &

- Surrey Roof
- Over Drive
- Webber Carbs
- ASA Mufflers
- Rear Tub Shock Conversion
- Front Spoiler
- Oil Cooler
- Premium Fuel Pump
- Leather Seats w/ Seat Belts
- AM/FM Radio w/ CD Player
- Auxiliary Power Source
- Leather Rimmed Steering Wheel w/Triumph Logo
- Wood Crested Shift Knob
- Alloy Valve Cover
- New Tires (5)
- New Battery
- New Gearbox Cover (Polyethylene)
- New Carpet w/Heat Shield
- New Window Washer
- Rebuilt Radiator
- Rebuilt Heater
- Pertronix Electronic Ignition w/Coil
- Wood Created Shift Knob
- Electric Fan Kit (Not Installed)
- Sun Visors (Not Installed)

Vince Maggio

512-514-0138 H

908-240-2514 C

vincemaggio@msn.com

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



FREE TO A GOOD HOME

I recently cleaned out my attic and need to dispose of several old racing items that are in pretty good shape and might be of use to some of our club racers. I have a 5 gallon plastic racing fuel can which is almost new. I also have a Flip-Chart Pit communication board that is quite serviceable. First come/first serve on these items. If you want them let me know and I will coordinate and bring to one of our meetings. Don Burkley, 512-203-7558 or DBurkley@austin.rr.com



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. If it says Jan 15 in the dues column your dues are overdue now. Any quite delinquent member who hasn'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
nmcphail@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

Mike Schubert
512-740-9937
trebucs@sbcglobal.net

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

April 11 — HCTC Monthly Meeting. Information below.

April 11 — Alfa Spring Tour. See [page 6](#) for information.

April 22-25 — VTR South-Central Regional Convention. Kerrville, TX. See [page 2](#) for information.

Aug. 11-14 — VTR 2015 National Convention. Fontana, WI. See www.vtr2015.com.

HCTC Classifieds

1972 Triumph GT6
it starts but needs work , have extra parts
Needs a good home

Call Ched # (210)-304-9021
asking \$950



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

Alan Palmer ampalmer4@gmail.com

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

Next meeting: Saturday, April 11, 2015, 9:00 AM

The Frisco
6801 Burnet Rd
Austin, TX 78757
thefriscoaustin.com — Phone: 512-459-6279