

The Ragtop

February 2017



Letter from the President

By Don Couch

January really turned out to be a great month for club activities. Our Tuesday night meeting at the Tavern had a turnout I haven't seen in months. We even had a guest visitor drop in, John Korsak with his '74 TR6. John is traveling around the county making his way to Arizona. He found out about our meeting from the website and dropped in on the meeting. We also had a new member, Mike Shayesteh with a 60 TR3 restoration project in the works.

Next, we had another great turnout at Pam and Robert MacKenzie's "Fix-It" day. I cannot thank them enough for hosting us. Great food and Robert was manning his tire station as members milled around. We also had a great turnout of Triumphs, Minis and even a Unipower (Google it).

Unfortunately, not quite the turnout for Mike McPhail's drive

to Leon Springs to join the San Antonio Jaguar Club for the annual Luckenbach Rallye. Brenda and I followed Mike down for a great drive down some very scenic hill country roads. After a quick BBQ lunch, we were on the Rallye to Luckenbach. Brenda was navigating and I was on the speed part. Only two missed turns and we were doing well, or so I thought. I really thought we may be the winners. We did, in fact, bring home a trophy. Turns out we didn't do quite as well as I had thought. We came in DEAD LAST, taking the "Stray Cat" award, coming in 19 minutes off the time. If I recall correctly, the winning car was 5 seconds off pace. Better luck next I say!

Looking forward to more drives this spring and seeing y'all soon!

Don

In This Issue

- Letter from the President, by Don Couch.....1
- McKenzie's Meeting Minutes, by Phil McKenzie.....3
- Sarah Ann Robertson Remembered, by Mike McPhail....5
- HCTC Classifieds. 11
- Upcoming Events 14
- Next Meeting.....14

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

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.

McKenzie's Meeting Minutes

HCTC January Meetings: 10 and 14 January, 2017

By Phil McKenzie

Meeting at the Tavern

The January 10th Tuesday night at "The Tavern" had quite a crowd! Not only members, but the best TR turnout we have had in months, including John Korsak/'74 TR6, Mike Jankowski/Spitfire, Bill Waller/'71 TR6, Don Couch/Spitfire and Bob Blake in his newest TR addition, a stunning '80 TR8. Betina Forman tried to drive her '75 TR6, but Bob blocked the TR with his race trailer – better luck next month. Don gave the club secretary some much needed "encouragement" to get at least one of his Spitfires to a meeting. We'll see. Rounding out the crowd was Torf Torfason, Dan and Francis Julien, Greg Blake, Bob Baker, Mike Shayseteh, Bob Skewis, Roger Bolick, and Emily and Mike Barrett.

Don opened the meeting as always with thanks to Dan for another great Ragtop newsletter, and a summary the events coming up at meeting time: the Rolling Sculpture car show organized by club members Dean and Elizabeth Mericas, Robert MacKenzie's

Fix-it day meeting at his mini-ranch/Spitfire Garage outside Georgetown, the Jaguar club's rally/drive.

After the announcements, Bob Blake shared his cross-continent trek to retrieve the TR8 he won on Ebay from Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It was quite an adventure, including some unexpectedly high "tolls" getting the car off the island on ferry. After the meeting, the group admiring the TR8 can attest it was well worth the effort.

Mike Jankowski announced the retirement of his Spitfire "Rocketdog" after 100,000 miles of service over the last ~7 years. After a stirring "sermon to the choir" of the Triumph's reliable performance over the last few years, there were grumblings from the "congregation" questioning the accuracy of said reliability. No doubt, future meetings will be filled with "witness" from both viewpoints.

Fix-it Day at Robert MacKenzie's

Robert MacKenzie hosted our second meeting Saturday the

14th at "The Spitfire Garage". Although it was a chilly day, Robert's "garage-mahal" was comfortable, and he and Pam set out a delicious spread of snacks and an endless supply of chili. While a roaring fire was going outside, members mounted and balanced their tires on Robert's hard-working Italian mounting and balancing rig. I know that hard-working and Italian sounds oxymoronic, but it is true.

WANTED: The Lost Charter of HCTC

Unrelated to either meeting, it has come to the club officer's attention that there is no known copy of the club's charter. In other words, we seem to have misplaced our (club's) owner's manual! None of the current or past officers, or even the VTR (our chartering organization) seem to be able to lay hands on a copy. In order to spur some more enthusiastic searching, I am offering a \$ cash award \$ to whoever can provide to me an (authentic) copy of our club's charter!



Photos from the meeting at "The Tavern".

Sarah Ann Robertson Remembered

By Mike McPhail

Some of us knew Phil Walden from the old days...he was the fine fellow that introduced me to the Hill Country Triumph Club. He is not the only Triumph enthusiast to pass away last year...Sarah

Ann Robertson died March 17. I knew her from my early days in the club and even worked on her BRG 1964 TR4 once or twice. Her passing came to light when I saw this email blast from then

HCTC president Emily Barrett:

*Dear Mrs. Barrett,
This'll be a little strange, but please bear with me. I got your name from the January 2016 edition of*



"The Vintage Triumph". A friend and subscriber to TVT, Sarah Ann Robertson, has died. Some years ago she took her TR-4 to the home of a gentleman in Dripping Springs to have some work done. He is somewhat of an English car specialist, IIRC. I have actually been there, but I can't remember his name or address. As far as I and her brothers know, the car is still there. I am fairly sure the guy doesn't have a business as such, and his home was fairly off-the-beaten-path...does this by some chance ring any bells?

Thanks, Dwight

Believe it or not the "gentleman" was not me, but a fellow named Chad, that lives a few blocks away. I had passed by his house many times, and had recognized the TR4 in the driveway. It had not moved for several years and I assumed that Sarah Ann had finally sold it to her sometimes mechanic. I had met him once upon a time, but that was per-

haps ten years ago, about the time the car visited my workshop.

After alerting her family as to the whereabouts of the missing Triumph, it was mentioned that I might be interested in buying it were it to come up for sale. Some time passed by before the brother called and offered me the TR4, which was still sitting in Chad's driveway.

I didn't really know what to do with it after dragging it home. It was in a sad state: paint peeling, moldy interior, and gaping holes in the floors...the usual. I did not recall it being too wonderful when it was Sarah Ann's daily driver...but she loved it so!

The poor thing sat next to my workshop for quite some time before I was able to get to it. To my surprise, the plucky roadster came to life quite easily and with some TLC, the engine was running better than ever. This made me determined to

get Sarah Ann's pride and joy completely road worthy.

Those rotten floors really put me off, but some new floor panels and a carpet set made things right. I had lots of slightly used TR4 bits left over from another project, so in no time the interior was clean and tidy. The old top from the "Purple Peril" found a new home, and a trip to Discount Tires had me rolling along nicely. After much tinkering, the TR4 was ready for its first major outing: the January 28th San Antonio Jaguar Club Luckenbach Rally.

Needless to say Sarah Ann's beloved TR4 performed flawlessly and I am sure she was smiling as she looked down upon us from Heaven.







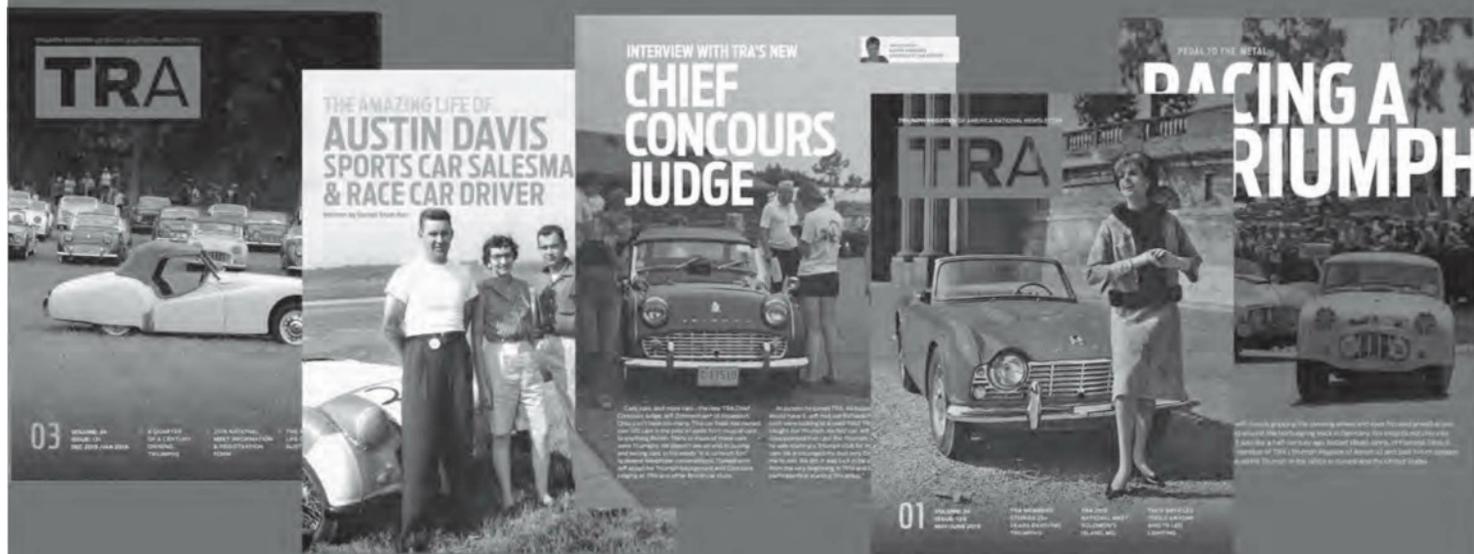
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SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING AT:
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TRIUMPH REGISTER OF AMERICA Membership Application Form

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Car _____
Make & Model

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Make & Model

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Make & Model

Year _____ Commission Number _____

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Make & Model

Year _____ Commission Number _____

Mail check and/or application to:

Tonda Macy
TRA Treasurer/Membership
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Tipp City, OH 45371
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HCTC Classifieds



I know I have been out of the loop for a while with the club members but still enjoy the Triumph hobby. In an effort to add a unique look to my shop, I sourced a maker of metal signs. This is the sign i have asked him to make.

I thought some other members might be interested as well. Here is the pricing and the different finishes he can offer.

4'x6' sign as per pic/3 colors printed on .040 aluminum sheet -does not include wood borders/aging or crating /shipping, \$325.00

printed on painted 24-26 ga steel sheet no aging wood borders crating or shipping \$425.00

on steel as per pic w/wood borders, aged and distressed \$565.00

If people have questions, they can reach me at 512 517-5325

Thank you,

Fil Valderrama

II have the following items at my shop in Marble Falls for sale.

1. Soft top rail TR7-8.
2. Intake and exhaust manifolds TR4 and TR6.
3. New Black carpet kit for TR7-8

I can send pictures and all prices open to offers.

Mark Jenks @ 512-909-6849 or email Jen2ma@live.com

PARTS FOR SALE: During the past few years, I have been upgrading many of my 1972 TR6 components. Recently, I have cleaned out my garage and have the following serviceable parts for sale.

Stock front anti-sway bar

Stock rear axle hubs

Stock starter

Stock front brake calipers

Stock front brake rotors

Stock radiator

After market cast aluminum valve cover, black "Triumph Tune".

Interior Dash Side Panels for center console w/o speaker holes

Hella halogen driving lights, 500 series, 6" diameter with covers.

Holly 600 cfm carburetor removed from my 65 Corvette.

Contact Don Burkley: DBurkley@austin.rr.com or 512-203-7558 for description, photos and asking prices.

I am cleaning out my garage and have found the radiator from the 71 TR6 which I purchased a few years ago and later sold. I changed the radiator out after it developed a leak on a club driving event. I never had it fixed, but was wondering if anyone could have a use for it. Obviously it would be free to a good home if someone wants it.

Thanks,

Terry Jones

830-693-1803

terryjane1967@yahoo.com

RH and LH Trunk Side Panel TR3, TR3A, TR3B. These are new steel panels, made in the U.K. They have never been fitted or installed. \$70.00 each. Carol 512 971-6778.





TR-6 Factory Hardtop for Sale \$1500.

Comes complete with new seals and hardware for rebuilding from the Roadster Factory

Contact Joe Payne email: robjoepayne@yahoo.com (m) 210.326.6673



Triumph Doors Complete with Glass and Trunk Lid \$500

Contact Joe Payne email: robjoepayne@yahoo.com (m) 210.326.6673

Pay Your Dues!!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jan-17 in the dues column your dues are over-due 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
nmcpvail@austin.rr.com

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

February 11 — HCTC Saturday morning meeting, 9 AM, The Frisco.

February 14 — HCTC evening meeting, 7 PM, The Tavern, 12th and Lamar.

April 27-30 — VTR Regionals, New Braunfels, TX. Information at www.sotxtriumphassn.org.

August 16-19 — VTR Nationals, Princeton, NJ. Information at vtr2017.org.

Next Saturday meeting:

Saturday, February 11, 2017, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

thefriscoaustin.com — Phone: 512-459-6279

Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 7:00 PM

The Tavern

922 West 12th St

Austin, TX 78703

At the corner of 12th and Lamar

tavernaustin.com — Phone: 512-320-8377