

The Ragtop



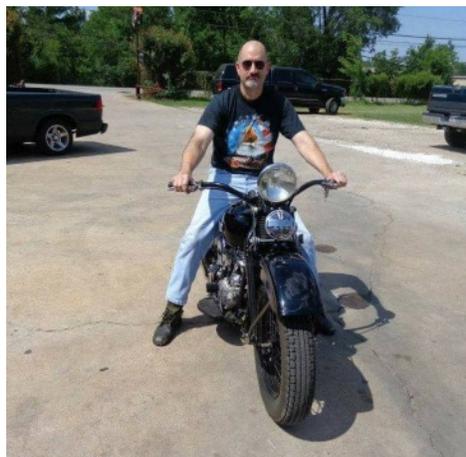
September 2017

Letter from the President

By Don Couch

Very sad to hear of the passing of one of our longtime members, and a really great friend - "Big" Al Johnson. Al was one of the first club members I met. In fact, he may be the one who told me about the Hill Country Triumph Club. Big Al always seemed to be smiling and ready for car talk.

Many years ago, Brenda and I lived in Travis Heights. We used to go walking and one day, we turn a corner and I see a Pantera and a Triumph TR8 in a carport. A few days later, on another walk, someone was outside that house and I started talking to him. It was Big Al. We talked Triumphs and cars in general. He told me he bought the TR8 new, I seem to recall he sold it a few years back. I know he sold the Pantera and bought



a Ferrari. At the time, I had my '76 Spitfire which I sold long before I joined HCTC. But I think Al must have been the one who first told me of the club. A few years later I joined HCTC thanks to Big Al.

Happy that our paths crossed and because of him, I've met you all.

RIP, Ride In Peace Big Al!
Don

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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.

Hooked on Tiny

By Emily Barrett

I was tasked with writing an article describing how I was bitten by the Triumph TR6 bug, I guess it started about 36 years ago. My best friend lived at the end of our winding caliche road and every time her father's 1972 russet brown TR6 drove past I could hear the perfectly tuned engine resonate from the twin cherry bomb mufflers. The sound reverberated throughout the canyon and rattled the windows of our house. It was a marvelous sound.

My first memory of looking under the hood was when I was about 8. Mr. Conner was wiping down the engine bay and making everything shine. You

could tell it was his pride and joy and something very special. He bought the car from Continental Cars in Austin. He wanted a white one, but the russet brown was all they had at the time. Eventually, as you can probably guess, the russet brown color and the caliche road didn't mix and Tiny was painted a beautiful creamy white color. He was a truly a sight to behold as he zipped past my house.

Looking back on it I never thought of where he was going as he passed by my house. Turns out he had two restaurants on the coast. Pelican's Wharf was in Port Aransas and Captain Boomers was in Corpus Christi. (They had

the best Alaskan King Crab!) He would drive the TR6 to mix up the long drive to the Texas coast.

My friend and I traveled along different paths after high school sometimes they crossed and throughout the years I often thought of the little car. Where it had traveled and how his family was doing. Tiny was in a barn. He was kept dry and safe for many years. Carefully moved and rarely operated.

When we brought him home he had years of the beautiful Central Texas Dust mixed in with Live Oak and Cedar leaves, and I felt like I was 10 again... and this is why I love my Triumph.

All My Triumphs Have Been White

By Wiley Christal

I have always like red sports cars. Red colored sports car just project the image that they are made for speed. I've owned exactly four Triumph sports cars but all of them have been white. When you are buying an old car in short supply, you take what you can get in exterior color.

Triumph number one for me was a white 1959 TR3A that I bought in 1972 from my work supervisor at Texas Instruments in Dallas for \$250. I thought I should pay more and he thought I should pay less so we agreed on \$250. It was our early married life first "second" car - we had a Buick sedan and I had a motorcycle. I had finished some mechanical work on the TR3A and was ready to put some money into body work when someone ran a red light and t-boned me. I liked that car. I discovered when my battery ran low that you could start it with the nifty hand crank that went straight through the radiator. The insurance company said it was totaled so I took the money.

Triumph number two, a white 1968 TR250, was purchased in 1973 with

the \$1250 insurance money from Triumph number one (plus a little out-of-pocket money). That TR250 was really a nice car with a radio and roll-up windows! I would prop my young daughter up in the area behind the seats to take her for a ride and she would be asleep in no time. I wish I still had that car! The silver stripe that when laterally across the front of the hood was cool. But in 1979 I was having to drive a longer distance to work and I wanted air conditioning so I sold the TR250 to buy a Toyota Celica.

Many years passed without a Triumph in my garage or driveway. In 2003 while visiting my Dad in Arkansas I saw a TR3 parked in someone's garage. I had seen that car before but on that day, I decided to inquire about it. The title said 1962 so I was thinking TR3B and the owner said it was. So, I borrowed \$5000 from my Dad to buy it and rented a trailer from U-Haul to tow it back to Round Rock. Triumph number three turned out to be a white 1960 TR3A that was first licensed in 1962. I got it running and drove it a little but it needed major work. The HOA started complaining

that I had a car covered in the driveway that never moved. So, I sold it for \$6000 to a man from Georgia that was looking for old cars to fix up - he didn't care about its condition. He sent a big truck to carry it away.

My current, and Triumph number four, is a white 1971 TR6 with red interior! It has been a good car. I bought it for \$9000 in 2004 from Vernon who lived in Alabama. Vernon had been a Triumph mechanic in earlier life so he knew all about Triumphs. He had developed some health issues and felt that he should sell the car - I must have passed his screening test. I was working regularly in Huntsville, AL at the time so on July 4th weekend I got the TR6 and drove it back to Round Rock. The TR6 came with 10 boxes of parts - mostly new ones from The Roadster Factory. And then I discovered the Hill Country Triumph Club - what a blessing to have such an active club with knowledgeable members that are eager to help with Triumph questions and/or car problems. I still have not had a red sports car but now I do have red interior - and lots of parts!



Wiley and neighbors pushing TR3A on big truck.



Vernon and Wiley in Alabama.

The Red Car

By Mike McPhail

Last month the Hill Country Triumph Club Road Warriors, a.k.a. Art Graves and Mike McPhail, drove all the way to Pennsylvania for the

Roadster Factory Summer Party. The theme this year was “The Red Car”, a book about a kid’s fascination with an old MG. It is somewhat appropriate, since

my latest acquisition is “The Red TR6”. The Party was the last hurrah for my French Blue Triumph which was driven, not towed after all, and did earn the





long-distance award.
New HCTC member
Tom Roughton is the

Blue car's new caretaker,
leaving me with only one TR...yikes!



What Do You Pack for a Road Trip in a Triumph?

By Mike Barrett

Members,

I pose this forum in the quest for knowledge and general entertainment. Let's get those questions considered and a somewhat answered the best we can. The Ragtop is a great source of info, I enjoy the monthly McPhail article. If you haven't done it yet, you will. What I would love to see is the sharing of information through personal stories "There I was"....

This month I would like to ask, "What do you pack for a road trip in a Triumph?"

- Fan belt
- Distributor
- Plugs
- Radiator
- Rear quarter panel
- Rental car
- 6 pack

I know several members braved Death Valley a few years back,

What did you pack and what did you need?

Always on the Quest to make a British classic "Bullet proof"

I know you read the *Ragtop*, please share your story.

Thank you,

Next month, "If you were to build a shop in the backyard, what would you do?"

Lets discuss.....

Thanks!

See you on the back roads!

Mike Barrett

HILL COUNTRY TRIUMPH CLUB NAME BADGE	
WHITE ON NAVY BLUE	LASER ENGRAVED
MAGNETIC BACKER	
SIZE: 1 1/4" X 3 1/2"	
\$9.50 per badge, inc. tax	
NAME ON BADGE #1: _____	
NAME ON BADGE #2: _____	
<small>Please Print Legibly</small>	
Name: _____	
Address: _____ Phone: _____	
City/State/Zip: _____	
Add \$2.00 per badge if you want them mailed	
<p>Send Checks to: Mike Schubert 18340 Masi Loop Pflugerville, TX 78660 trebucs43@gmail.com 512-252-3767</p>	

August Breakfast Meeting

Photos By Torf



8th Annual Lucas-Marelli Tour

By Dean Mericas

The Texas Hill Country Alfa Romeo Owners Club (THC-AROC) is extending a special invitation to British car owners to participate in its annual Lucas-Marelli Tour on October 15th. The tour begins with tire-kicking and an opportunity to get to know the other car owners over cof-

fee and breakfast at the Bee Cave Whole Foods, followed by about 150 miles of driving over some of the best roads in the Hill Country. The tour will end with a late lunch at Phil & Dorothee Auldridges' home in Dripping Springs. If you'd like to participate, email your RSVP to Dean Mericas

(dmericas@austin.rr.com) by October 10th with your contact information and the number of people in your party. A package with the details and driving instructions will be sent to the respondents a day or so after the deadline.



10th Annual Rolling Sculpture Car Show

By Dean Mericas

The 10th Annual Rolling Sculpture Car Show will be on October 29th at the Hill Country Galleria in Bee Cave. This year's show will take advantage of the major renovations to the layout of the central plaza area at the Gal-

leria, and roll out some new features, including spotlighting a select few cars and owners by a veteran car designer. There was a great showing of British cars at the last show, and we're hoping to build on that

trend. We invite you to bring out and share all forms of "rolling sculpture", including classics, race cars, and modern vehicles. Details and on-line registration are at: www.rollingsculpturecarshow.com



2017 TEXAS ALL BRITISH CAR DAYS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY – SEPTEMBER 22

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm Happy Hour at The Brass Tap (*Featuring - Steve the Brit*)
204 E Main Street, Round Rock, TX 78664
(*Wear something British/Car related*)

SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 23

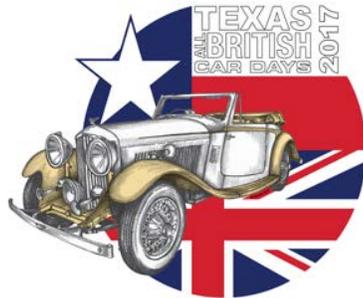
8:00 am - 2:00 pm Event Registration & Rallye Registration
in Homewood Suites Hospitality Suite

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Wine Tasting at *Perissos Vineyard*
Depart Homewood Suites Hotel at 9:00am

2:45 pm & 3:15 pm Rallye Driver/Navigator Meeting
at Homewood Suites

3:30 pm “*Ghost Rallye*”, Fun Driving Rallye
First driver out departing from Homewood Suites

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Dinner at Sheets’ Longhorn Ranch
Fajita Dinner - Catered by Poke-e-Jo’s (Prepaid – must have ticket)



SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 24

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Registration at Centennial Plaza

10:00 am - 2:00 pm Silent Auction benefitting **The Open Door Preschool**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm Door Prize “pick-up” at Registration area (car number is door prize number)

11:00 am - 1:00 pm Show and Shine - Participants Choice Voting

11:00 am - 1:00 pm People’s Choice Voting (Spectators)

11:00 am - 1:00 pm Daily Driver, Best Right Hand Drive & Best Club Display Award Judging
(by pre-selected judges)

2:00 pm - 2:15 pm Ragtop Raffle to benefit – **The Open Door Preschool**

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm Awards Presentation

3:15 pm Fond Farewells ‘til September 29th & 30th 2018



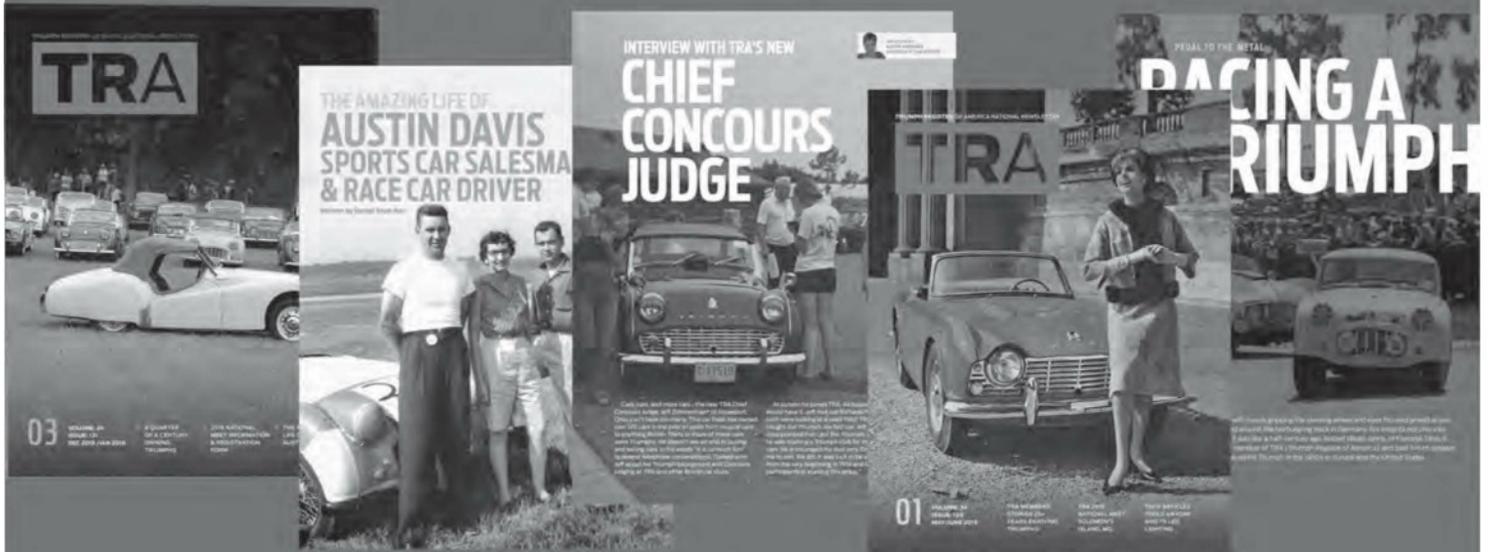
ESTABLISHED 1974

Join TRA TODAY!

WITH A TRA MEMBERSHIP WE OFFER:

- 4 National newsletters per year
- Annual National Meet
- Website (member password protected area)
- Concours judging standards

- Factory build records
- Technical articles
- Contact information
- Shutterfly National Meet website



SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING AT:
www.TriumphRegister.com

OR CONTACT:

TONDA.MACY@MACYSGARGE.COM

Welcome to TRA



TRIUMPH REGISTER OF AMERICA Membership Application Form

Please write legibly.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____
Please include area code

Car _____
Make & Model

Year _____ Commission Number _____

Car _____
Make & Model

Year _____ Commission Number _____

Car _____
Make & Model

Year _____ Commission Number _____

Car _____
Make & Model

Year _____ Commission Number _____

Mail check and/or application to:

Tonda Macy
TRA Treasurer/Membership
4200 Lisa Drive
Tipp City, OH 45371
tonda@macysgarage.com
937-266-1832

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.

HCTC Classifieds



TR6 AC Unit Plus Compressor Bucket \$90.00

Joe Payne
(M)210.326.6673
robjoepayne@yahoo.com

TR-6 seats with rails and Interior from 1969 TR-6. Has all the original jute, most of the carpet and panels. \$200.00

Joe Payne
(M)210.326.6673
robjoepayne@yahoo.com

I am selling my 1980 TR8 (listed on Craigslist)

Triple carb intake for TR6 may fit other 6 cyl. engines.

Carpet kit TR7-8

Factory air cleaner GT6.

My 72 GT6 (listed on Craigslist)

Call for prices or pictures all parts are in my shop in Marble Falls. 512-909-6849.

Mark Jenks



HILL COUNTRY TRIUMPH CLUB ADVERTISING RATES

Effective with the January Rag Top the following ad rates will prevail:

Member ads for Triumph cars or parts will continue to be free and will run for two issues.
These ads may be renewed as necessary two times (For a total of six issues).

Ads or flyers for other club's events will continue to be free and will run for two issues.

Ads for commercial items or services will be charged the following rates:

Business Card ad: \$5:00 per issue

Quarter page ad: \$10.00 per issue

Half page ad: \$15.00 per issue

Full-page ad: \$25.00 per issue

These ads must be prepaid and can be scheduled for as long as desired, minimum of six issues. Long term ad runs must be prepaid at the time of scheduling. All ads must include artwork.

Artwork should be submitted to Dan Julien at dan.julien@gmail.com

Fees should be sent to:

HILL COUNTRY TRIUMPH CLUB

Attn: Mike Schubert
18340 Masi Loop
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Pay Your Dues!!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jul-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
nmcpmail@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

September 9 — HCTC Saturday breakfast meeting, 9 AM, The Frisco.

September 12 — HCTC Tuesday evening meeting, 7 PM, The Tavern, 12th and Lamar.

September 21-24 — Triumphest, Flagstaff, AZ. Information at www.triumphest.com.

September 22-24 — Texas All British Car Days. Information at www.txabcd.org.

October 15 — Lucas-Marrelli Tour. See [p. 9](#) for information.

October 29 — Rolling Sculpture Car Show. Information at www.rollingsculpturecarshow.com.

Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, September 12, 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

Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, September 9, 2017, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

thefriscoaustin.com — Phone: 512-459-6279