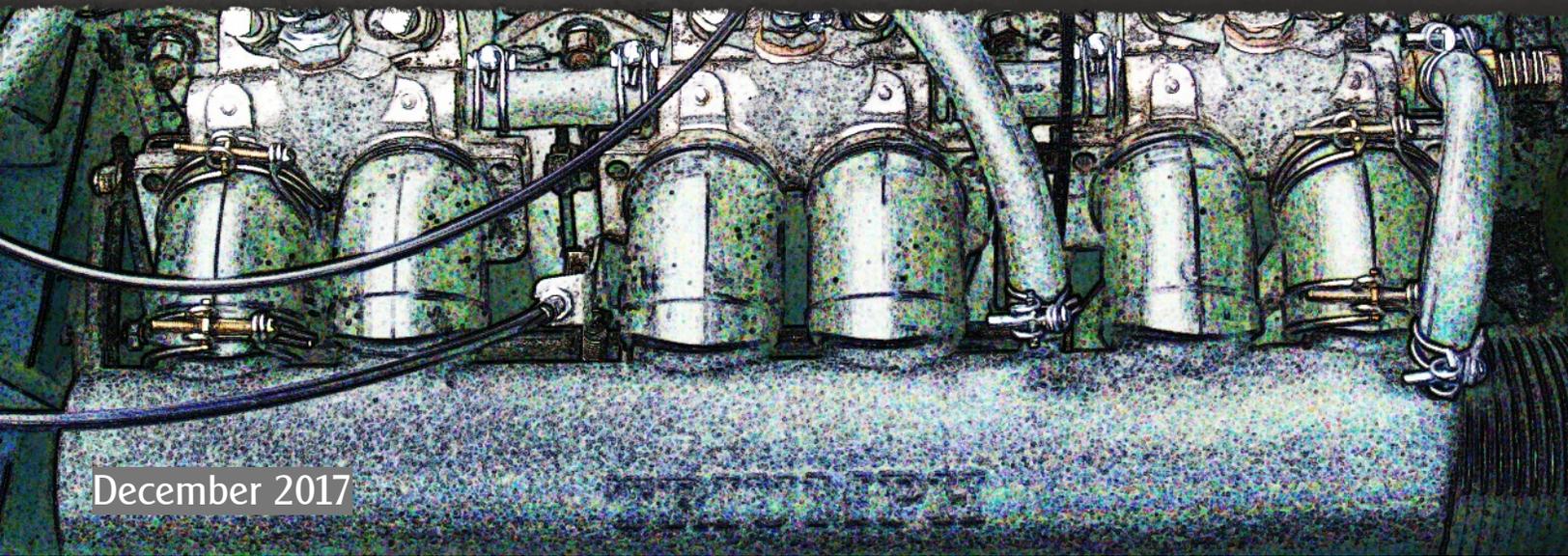


The Ragtop



December 2017

Letter from the President

By Don Couch

Our annual HCTC tour of lights in Johnson City is this Tuesday December 12th in lieu of the Tuesday meeting. I look forward to seeing you all for this fun event. It's always a fun drive and a great turnout. See our website for more info.

Pam and Robert MacKenzie have an-

swered the call for a Holiday Part venue. Tentatively, we will be meet at their place in Georgetown, January 13th 2018. I'll send out more info once we are certain of the date. I should have some info then also about the Nationals in 2019.

Stay tuned!

Don

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HCTC Officers

President — Don Couch
president@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Vice-President — Roger Bolick

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

Webmaster — Don Couch
webmaster@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Treasurer — Mike Schubert
 512-740-9937
trebucs43@gmail.com

Secretary — Emily Barrett

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

Ragtop Editor — Dan Julien
 512-451-3102
editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

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.

Days of Wine and Rosie's

By Mike McPhail

Art Graves found this decades old article recounting a HCTC driving event in his Ragtop archive. It is Mike McPhail's fanciful account of a winery tour that in reality, was poorly attended and somewhat of a flop. The story is full of inside jokes that only the people men-

tioned could appreciate. Very few of these folks are current members, but their mention will surely bring back fond memories of them all. Perhaps Art will contribute more of this sort of vintage writing in the future! Merry Christmas to all our members past and

Amazing things happen when Triumphs gather! The cold, damp morning of November fifteenth gave way to bright sunshine as TRs filled the lot at McDonalds in Cedar Park. As it turned out, the manager is a British car enthusiast and treated us to burgers and shakes in return for a quick spin in Richard Ceraldi's GT6. Thus fortified, our entourage headed down Lime Creek Road to pick up Bob and Barbara.

The convoy soon resembled a road race with various club members jockeying for the lead. Pat in the XK120 was leading the pack, with Tom and Dee-Ann Bishop in hot pursuit. Unfortunately, the vintage tires on the Jaguar were no match for the tight curves. Oversteer landed the Reeds in the ditch with white knuckled Merle mumbling something about women drivers.

Despite the best efforts of Richard, Tom, Brian, Frank and Dick, the Jag would not budge from its landing place. It took a Valiant tug by Herb and Cindy to extricate the cat. Now back on the pavement and with Merle at the wheel, the Jag was a mere speck in Tom's rearview mirror.

The brisk pace soon had us at Kramerville on Lake Travis where Bob and Barbara (with the help of Fil and Yolanda Valderrama) were putting the finishing touches on the HCTC race car. Yes, the TR3 now has a John Deere turbocharged tractor motor under the bonnet! Our editor was kind enough to let everyone take a hand at driving the beast around Bob's new figure eight track. This is located out front in the space previously occupied by the Kramer's nineteen yard-cars. As you probably know, Roger Bolick traded his business for

these cars and is now restoring them at Jeff's Resurrections where his currently employed.

With our 3:30 tour start time rapidly approaching, we hastened toward the Slaughter-Leftwych Winery on RR620. The broad smiles on the faces of Bruce Slaughter and Percy Leftwytch showed their delight at seeing the grand entry hall overflowing with Triumph automobiles. They explained that the winery is actually the old Mission de La DeGo, dating from 1769. Here wine is made in the same old-fashioned way used by early Spanish missionaries. They depend on the regularly scheduled tours to provide the manual labor needed in the wine making process. In no time at all we stripped the grapes from the vines, filling numerous baskets with the essential winemaking ingredient.

Inside we discovered Mark Campbell and his friends and neighbors, the employees of Joy's Men's Club, merrily stomping grapes in an enormous vat. After adding the many baskets of fruit that we had just gathered, some our crowd just couldn't resist joining in. So, with shoes and socks flying everywhere, we jumped into the fray! Richard Knowles and Charlie Stewart organized an impromptu "guess-the-dancer's-weight" contest. Art Graves won first place, Bruce Dietzen second, and Torf and Frank Woodul tied for third. Woodchuck was disqualified for un-sportsmanlike behavior. Only minor injuries were sustained after all the stomping, sliding and lifting. Richard complained of a sore back, Charlie a black eye, and Barbara had to have a grapeseed surgically removed from under her toenail!

Our giddy congregation was now ushered towards the climax of our visit...the tasting room. This was a rather elegant affair down in the cellar. We found ourselves surrounded by huge wooden casks filled with the fruit of the vine. Julie was offered the honor of tapping the first barrel. In the dim candle light, her first hammer blow missed the plug split the vessel! Calamity

ensued...already covered head to toe in grape juice, the crowd rushed, glasses in hand, to save the wine from going to waste. The gallant effort paid off with little wine reaching the floor. Especially brave were Nel and Adriane who positioned themselves beneath the cascade, mouths agape, with total disregard of drowning.

Fearing that by now we may have worn out our welcome, it was time to move on. Thankfully, Rosie's Tamale House was just down the road and the revelers were famished. It seems that by now the wine was having an effect on some of our drivers...which did not go unnoticed by the local constabulary.

Red lights and sirens brought our caravan to a screeching halt right in front of the restaurant. Quick thinking by Theresa Walden surely kept us out of the slammer. She explained to the officers that the red stains all over her husband's body were caused by a rare life threatening medical condition. Unfortunately, the policemen stood by until the ambulance came and took Phil away!

It was decided that a hearty Tex-Mex dinner would inspire and appropriate plan of action. Upon entering Rosie's,

we were surprised to see people sitting in the back room, as it had been reserved for our exclusive use. It turned out that Al Johnson is a close personal friend of Willie Nelson and had invited him to dine with us.

After a tasty repast (that Willie insisted on buying) Tim Pipe, Steve Richards and the Red-headed Stranger formed a singing trio for our entertainment. A few songs latter, our attention returned to Phil's predicament. Theresa had called from the Emergency Room, where doctors had declared him a very sick man indeed, and were holding him for observation.

Pete Kelly surmised that we could get in to see him under the guise of delivering ice cream. Willie graciously offered the use of his tour bus for the journey. So, with Judy Byrd at the wheel, we hastened towards the hospital. Pete was able to bribe the nurse with cookies, enabling Phil to make good his escape. He was quite a sight, running barefoot across the parking lot in his hospital nightgown!

Another typical Hill Country Triumph Club outing is now behind us...for those who were not in attendance, photos will be available at the Christmas Party!

Wilbur 'Jay' Cook

By Sean Cook

My dad, Wilbur "Jay" Cook passed away on November 14, 2017. He was 75 and had been suffering with congestive heart failure over the last year. He started really going down about a month before his passing. He had become basically bed ridden two weeks before pass-

ing. He also lost his ability to speak clearly. He was a fighter and kept trying to get out of his bed to walk. He would end up on the floor and need someone to get him back in. So in his last two weeks we had to hire full time helpers to stay with him since my mom is 74. Even this was proving to

me so much work so we put him in a home where he passed away three days later. His sister had come into town to help care for him the last week and she was with him when he left us.

I have inherited his 1980 TR8. I also still have my white 1981 TR8 and a very rare





silver 1982 TR8. He really loved the Triumphs and enjoyed spending time with you guys. I am currently redoing the exhaust on the '81 and '82 TR8s with the goal of entering them in the VTR concours competitions. Redoing for the TR8s is powder coating the manifolds, down pipes, heat shields and grass protector shields. The rear sections are a stain-

less steel version of the stock pipes, silencers and mufflers. So it is a pretty big task.

I have included some pics of him from the VTR meet in Kerrville.





VTR SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONALS
LAKE CONROE
TEXAS

The Texas Triumph Register invites you to join us by the lakeshore at the 2018 Vintage Triumph Register South Central Regionals

On April 19 – 22, 2018, this year's event will be held at the beautiful, lakeside La Torretta Report and Spa, offering such amenities as onsite restaurants, private beach, adult and children's pools, lazy river, tennis courts, golf course, fitness center and spa. Plan on traveling the backroads of the Lake Conroe area as we visit unique sights and venues, and run the Gimmick Rally. Get your car polished up and ready for the Concours, try the challenge of the Funkhana, and grab your

helmet as we run the Autocross. Catch up and enjoy some fun with your fellow Triumph lovers and friends at the Welcome Reception, breakfast run and dinner drives. Our event ends with the Awards Banquet, overlooking Lake Conroe.



Reserve your rooms before they're gone, by visiting the La Torretta website:

<https://aws.passkey.com/gt/213249224?gtid=886489001b036f55b1bbcbcfb340861d>

Register for the Regionals at:
www.texas triumphregister.org

ATTENTION MEMBERS!!!

Our visit to the *PETROL LOUNGE* has been rescheduled. I am going to see if we can visit after the January meeting, January 13, 2018.

- Mike Schubert -

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: _____

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Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Add \$2.00 per badge if you want them mailed

Send Checks to: **Mike Schubert**
18340 Masi Loop
Pflugerville, TX 78660
trebucs43@gmail.com
512-252-3767



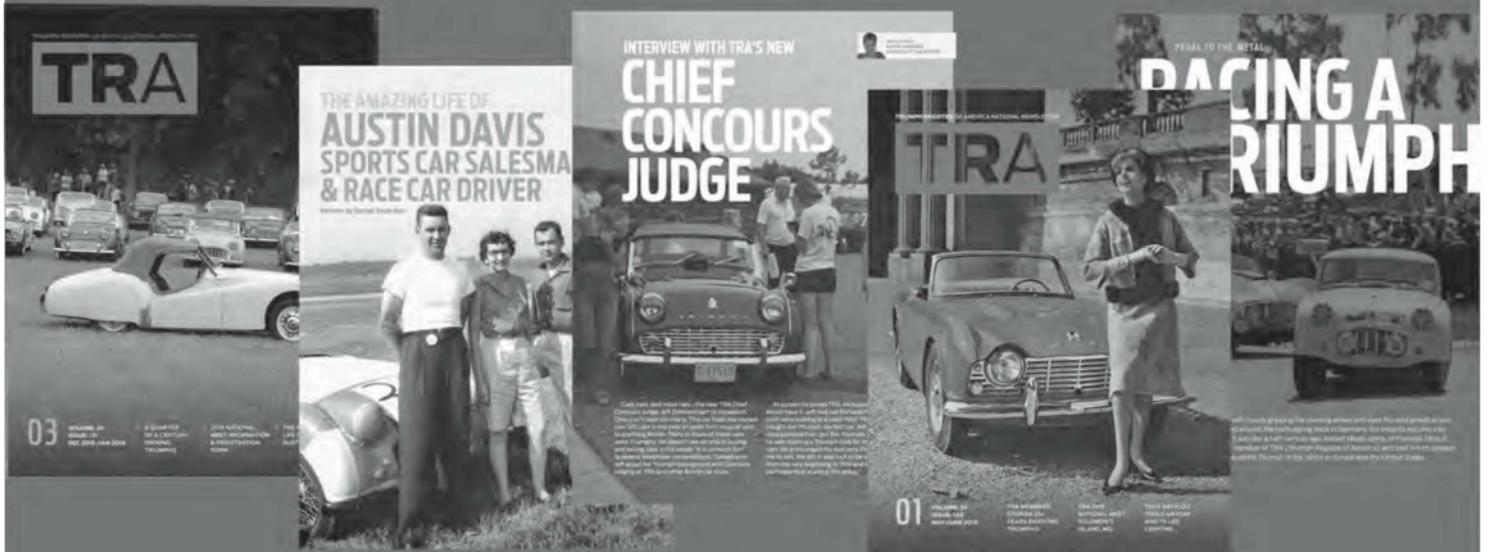
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SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING AT:
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Welcome to TRA



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
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Tipp City, OH 45371
tonda@macysgarage.com
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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 restoring a Austin Healy Sprite, but want to put a bug eye front bonnet on it. If have one or if you know of one, please call me @ 512-909-6849. or email me.

Thanks,
Mark Jenks
jen2ma@live.com

I need a left front fender, battery box, 2 floor boards, 2 rocker panels, rear floor panel, tonneau saddle panel for a 1958 Triumph TR3A. Thanks.
dasoka@hotmail.com



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 Jan-18 in the dues column your dues are 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

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

January 13 — HCTC Saturday breakfast meeting, 9 AM, The Frisco.

December 12 — No Meeting! HCTC Tour of Lights. Departing from the Barber Shop Brew Pub, 207 Mercer St. in Dripping Springs at 6:30 PM

January 13 (tentative) — HCTC Holiday Party.

April 19-22 — VTR Regionals, Lake Conroe.

January 9, 2018 — HCTC Tuesday evening meeting, 7 PM, The Tavern.

Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Tour of Lights, departing at 6:30 PM from
The Barber Shop Brew Pub

207 Mercer St

Dripping Springs, TX

Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, December 9, 2017, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

thefriscoaustin.com — Phone: 512-459-6279