

The Ragtop



March 2018

Letter from the President

By Don Couch

March looks to be a busy Hill Country Triumph Club month.

First we have Saturday, March 10, we visit the PETROL LOUNGE after the Saturday morning meeting. If you've never been to the Petrol Lounge, it really is a treat. You just never know what exotic cars you'll see there. Thanks to Mike Schubert for setting this up.

Next, we have our Tuesday night meeting at the Tavern. I've heard the Tavern will be closing down soon and will open up as a hoity toity restaurant. BOOOOooooooo. So it is in modern day Austin. We'll have to be on the lookout for a new Tuesday meet up venue.

Next, March 23, we have Bob Skewis to thank for setting up a drive out to Bastrop to see the

Night Pour at Deep in the Heart Art Foundry. After we'll head over to Neighbor's Back Yard and Kitchen that overlooks the Colorado River where we will grab a bite to eat and a brew or two.

March 27, we have a drive down to San Antonio to hear Ted Schumacher of TSI fame who is speaking to the South Texas Triumph Club. Ted is the real deal, dyed in the wool Triumph aficionado. From a legend that raced Triumphs, sold Triumphs when new, and now has a great business selling Triumphs parts, Ted is a treasure trove of Triumph info.

So a busy Hill Country Triumph Club month for sure!

Stay Tuned,

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.

Secretary's Report February 2018

By Mike McPhail

The closest thing to a Triumph in the Frisco parking lot on February 10th was a couple of TR-uicks! While Spring is just around the corner, Old Man Winter had a firm grip on Austin that Saturday morning. Therefore, a hot meal was even more appreciated than ever, with Migas being the most favored tummy-warmer. Hot coffee was consumed in large quantities, too.

Chilly temps certainly did not deter the ladies as illustrated by the presence of Julie Roccaforte, Francis Julian, Caroline Langley, and Jo Hansberger. In addition to the regular attendees, Jim Wells (TR6) and Keven Breissette (GT6) braved the low temperatures to join the fun. Steve Johnson noted that the crowd collectively owned every model of Triumph Sports Car made.

President Don Couch called the meeting to order by thanking everyone for leaving their warm beds to attend. The congregation was urged to join the MG club for their Polar Bear Drive on the Seven-

teenth. Too bad this event was subsequently canceled due to inclement weather!

Dan Julien was congratulated on his upcoming retirement from the Texas Historical Commission. Mike McPhail and Benson Tuttle were lauded for taking the hotly contested first-place trophy at the San Antonio Jaguar Club Annual Gruene to Luckenbach Rally in the only Triumph entered. Also, on the January 27th rally were the HCTC backup team of Roger Bolick and Art Graves, driving a Mini Cooper S.

A show of hands indicated that our club will be well represented at the VTR Regionals in April at Lake Conroe. It is not too late to sign up!

The weather wasn't much better on February 13 for the Happy Hour meeting at the Tavern on 12th and Lamar. One of the few persons tough enough to brave the elements in a Triumph was Tavern regular Jim Herter who travels all the way from Copperas Cove in his award winning 1970 TR6. Another

was Winston DeFord, driving his red-hot Spitfire, accompanied by lovely navigator, Melissa.

Thirsty Planet Brewing of Austin narrowly beat out Blanco's Real Ale Brewery for HCTC Beer of the month. This was due largely to Bill Waller choosing Thirsty Goat Amber over Axis IPA when he bought a round for the house.

Chicken Fried Steak was the obvious choice for dinner and once everyone's appetites were satiated, Don called a short meeting where Bob Skewis urged us all to join him on a drive to Bastrop for a once in a lifetime opportunity to witness a night time pouring at Deep in the Heart Art Foundry.

Another topic for discussion was the new ownership of the Tavern. It is rumored that the delicious bar food on the current menu will be replaced by fine-dining selections...yuck!

Plan on driving your TR to next month's meetings with the top down...Spring has sprung!



Feb. 13 meeting.



Winners circle!

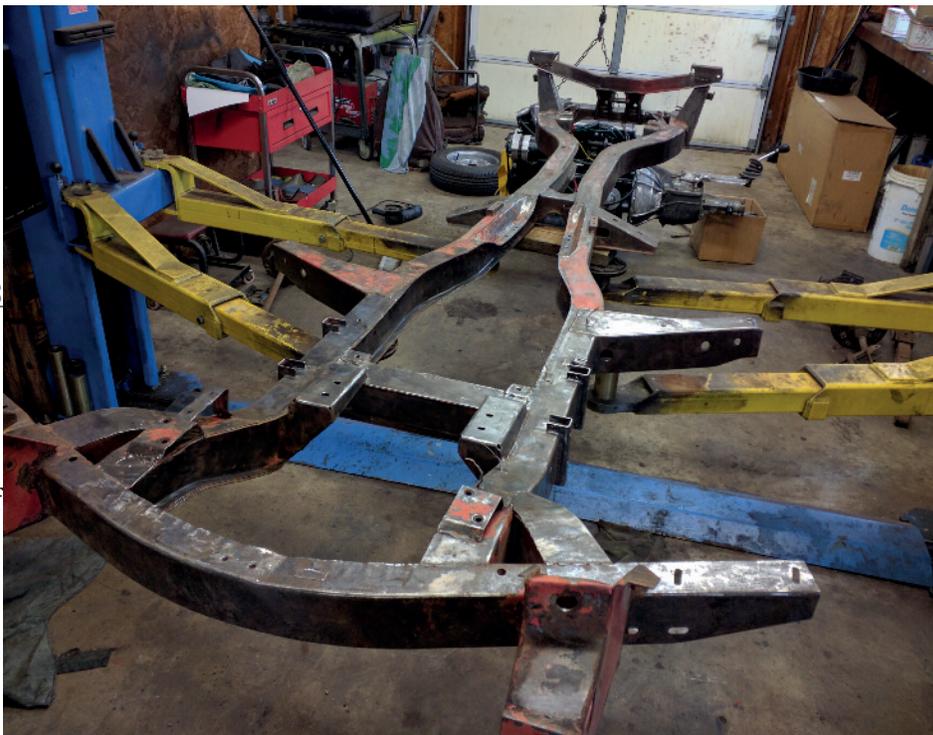
Spit Six Report Feb. 2018

By Mike McPhail

Last month I left you hanging as to whether or not that big black lump would actually start and run. Well of course, it did, but not without a little coaxing from my able assistants, Benson Tuttle and Art Graves. See the video on YouTube:

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

After the successful start-up the motor came off again, so as to refurbish the frame. There was no significant rust or any collision damage, so a few hours of detailing with the wire brush mounted on an angle grinder had it ready for paint. About a pint of Rustoleum got the job done, then it was on to detailing the front suspension and reassembling with new ball joints and tie-rod ends. I have to work this project in between other jobs...Austin-Healey re-commissioning is popular this time of year!

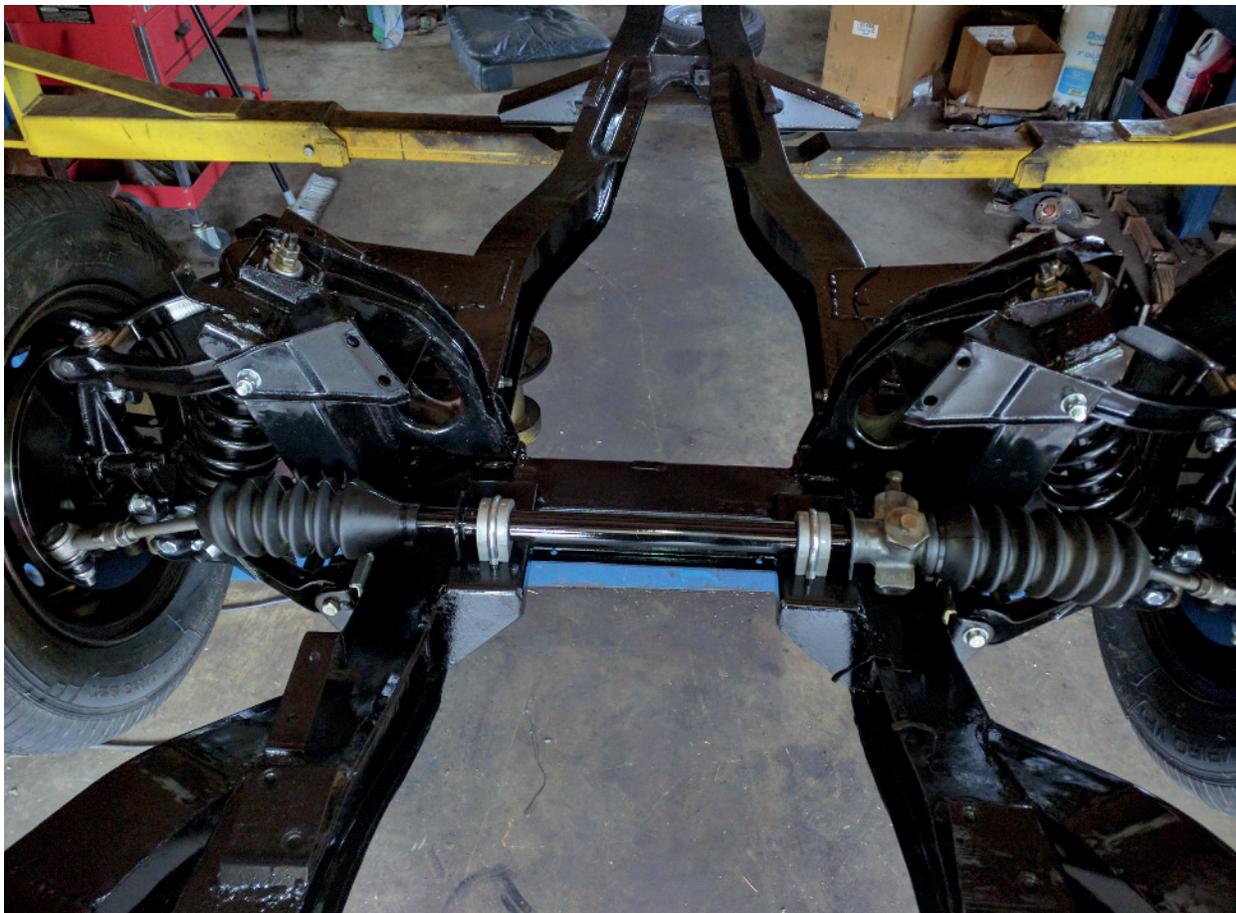


GT6 bare frame.





GT6 frame in black.



GT6 frame done in front.

Valentine Drive

By Nick Roccaforte

The Valentine Drive has been rescheduled for March 17th. Yes it is on St Patrick's Day that is why we will call it the Spring Patrick Valentine Drive or the Patrick Spring Valentine Drive or just a fun drive in March! Below is the schedule for the drive, which will take place rain or shine.

DATE: Saturday, March 17th 2018

LOCATION/TIME: Meet at the Chevron station on the corner of RR1431 and Nameless Road at 10:15 am for about a 35 mile drive to Burnet.

LUNCH: We will arrive in Burnet to have lunch from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Trail Blazer Grill on the square in Burnet. The Grill has a wide variety of items on the menu as well as a small gift shop inside the restaurant.

SHOPPING ON THE SQUARE: There will be time for shopping at antique stores on the square from 12:30- 1:30pm.

AIR MUSEUM: We will leave around 1:30-2:00 pm to travel 1.3 miles to the Highland Lakes Air Museum. There is a small admission charge. This will be the end of the first leg of the drive after viewing the airplanes.

Those wishing to continue on for the second leg of the drive will travel about 35 miles to Georgetown to see the Sports Clips Car Collection. We will leave the Air Museum around 2:30 – 3:00pm to travel to see the car collection. The drive will end at the car collection around 4:00pm.

Please remember you need not have an MG or Triumph to go on the drive. So if your car is in the shop or not ready for the drive, don't let that stop you. We would just love to have your company for a fun day with friends. Any ladies who did not receive a Valentine gift at last week's MG meeting will receive a belated Valentine if they can join us on the drive! Julie has even come up with a special award for the lady who draws the high card!

Anyone interested and can go on the drive to Burnet please either email, text or call Nick by March 14th so he can get a count for the restaurant. Nick's contact email is roccaforte1@sbcglobal.net and his cell is 832-493-2288.

Thanks and hope to see you on the drive!

ATTENTION MEMBERS. . .

***WE WILL VISIT THE
“PETROL LOUNGE”
AFTER THE SATURDAY MEETING, ON
MARCH 10th***



This is a facility with over 100 interesting and collectable cars in a climate controlled atmosphere!

It is located about fifteen minutes away from the “Frisco”.

***THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY YOU
DO NOT WANT TO MISS!!!!***

(Cameras will be allowed, but please do not take pictures of license plates

or post your pictures to any social media sites)

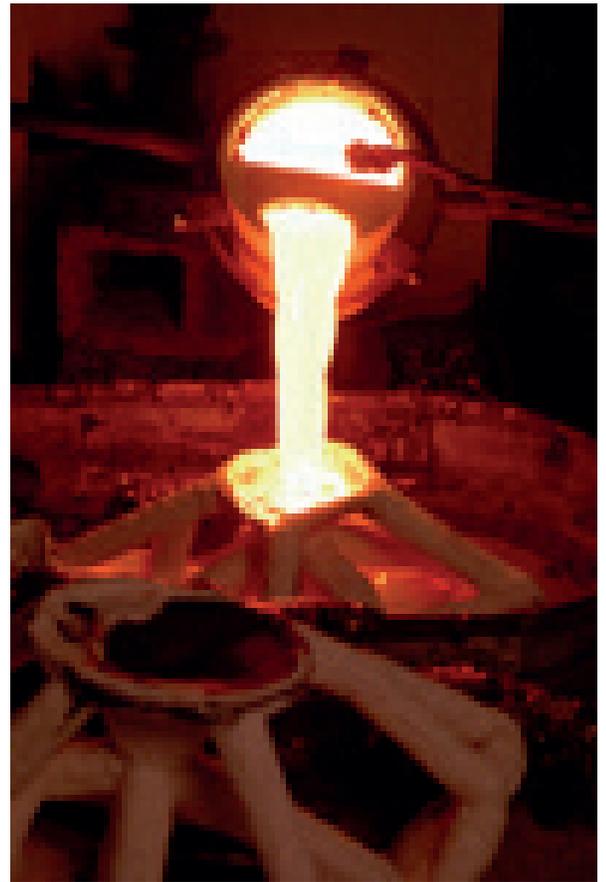
DIRECTIONS FROM THE FRISCO:

Go North on Burnet (Right) to the 183 South Frontage Road, Right on the Frontage Road to the third driveway,

Right through the gate and park.

PETROL LOUNGE 8990 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78758

Night Pour at Deep in the Heart Art Foundry



I have been looking forward to an event for about a year. That event is a night pour at the Deep in the Heart Art Foundry in Bastrop. The foundry pours and finishes massive bronze art for artists around the USA. It will be on **March 23 between 6 and 9pm** . . . this is a Friday. I have talked this up at the last Tuesday night meeting and believe that there are several members that would like to see this and I have volunteered to organize it as an HCTC event. Driving Hwy 71 to Bastrop is challenging with commuting traffic at that time and we will have to meet about 4:30 and leave by 5:00 to be there on time. I assume that we could arrive at the starting time and leave about 8pm so that we are not running too late to get a bite and a beer afterward, while still allowing people to get home at a reasonable time.

Right now, I would like you to put this on your calendar and let me know if you are interested by email, bob.skewis@gmail.com As time gets closer, I will ask for a confirmed head count. I'm sorry that this event will be limited to members that are retired or can take off early from work, as I think it will be a fun time for everyone.

If you are on Facebook, here is a link to Deep's notice of the event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/495456894173927/>

Here is a link to Neighbor's Back Yard and Kitchen that overlooks the Colorado River where we will grab a bite to eat afterward: <http://www.neighborstx.com/>

I look forward to seeing you on the road,

Bob Skewis



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

Minnesota Triumphs beckon you to the VTR NATIONAL 2018

July 17-21, 2018 at the Radisson in La Crosse, WI

On the banks of the historic Mississippi River



Reservations:
www.radisson.com/la-crosse/vtr



Relax with friends at the many local establishments



Carve the roads on the countless coulees in your Triumph



Featuring 50 years of the TR250



Facebook VTR 2018
www.mntriumphs.org



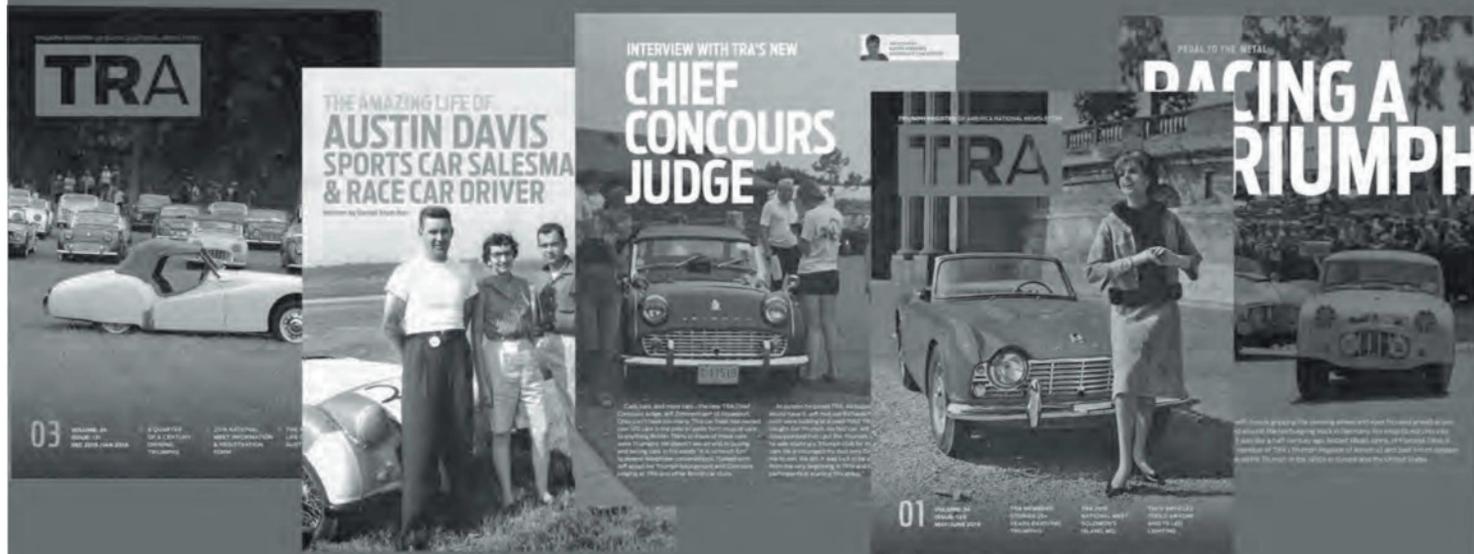
ESTABLISHED 1974

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

HCTC Classifieds



TR6 AC Unit Plus Compressor
Bucket \$90.00

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

I need a left front fender, battery
box, 2 floor boards, 2 rocker pan-
els, rear floor panel, tonneau sad-
dle panel for a 1958 Triumph
TR3A. Thanks.

dasoka@hotmail.com

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

(Photos above.)

Joe Payne
(M)210.326.6673
robjoepayne@yahoo.com

Visor assembly with mounts
(both sides), ignition switch cov-
er, trunk light, misc. items.

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141

Used seats from a 75' TR6 asking
\$240.00 (Photos to right.)

Headrests are functional and stay
up as desired.

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141





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

Alfa Romeo Owners Club Spring Tour

The Texas Hill Country chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club is holding their spring tour on Sunday, April 15th. As is the case with all of the THC-AROC events, this is open to all and Hill Country Triumph Club members are encouraged to participate.

The tour will begin in Bee Cave with breakfast and coffee sponsored by Peter van Kooij (Realty Austin), followed by a spirited drive through the Hill Country west of Johnson City and south of Lake Travis, ending at Dean & Elizabeth Mericas' house for a catered lunch. Details are being finalized, including the cost for lunch, and will be distributed to the people who have signed up.

To RSVP, contact Dean (dmericas@austin.rr.com) with the number of people in your party and a mobile number at which you can be reached.

Pay Your Dues!!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jan-18 in the dues column your dues are past 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
nmcphail@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

March 10 — HCTC Saturday breakfast meeting, 9 AM, The Frisco.

March 10 — Petrol Lounge Tour. After the meeting. See [p. 7](#).

March 13 — HCTC Tuesday evening meeting, 7 PM, The Tavern.

March 17 — Spring Patrick Valentine Drive. See [p. 6](#).

March 23 — Night Pour at Deep in the Heart Art Foundry. See [p. 8](#).

March 23 — Ted Schumacher in San Antonio. See [p. 1](#).

April 15 — Alfa Romeo Owners Club Spring Tour. See [p. 14](#).

April 19-22 — VTR Regionals, Lake Conroe. Info at www.texastriumregister.org/969-2/.

July 17-21 — VTR Nationals, La Crosse, WI. Info at www.mntriumphs.org/vtr2018.shtm.

September 27-30 — 6-Pack Trials, Fontana Dam, NC. Info at jimholewka.wixsite.com/trials2018.

Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

thefriscoaustin.com — Phone: 512-459-6279

Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 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