

# The Ragtop

June 2018



## Letter from the President

By Don Couch

**A**nother month gone! Another month chock full of events! I only hope June has as much in store for us as May did. I know for the VTR 2019 planning committee, we are gonna be busy! I sent out a call for volunteers a few months back. I haven't forgotten y'all! We JUST inked the deal with the host hotel. Four contracts, countless emails and phone calls later, not to mention a whole new hotel staff, we have a deal in place.

Bob Skewis has created a remarkable design for the logo and T-shirts. I think we will be unveiling it in next month's Ragtop. The VTR has asked we be a bit hush hush on the 2019 event in consideration of the current 2018 VTR. Apparently, I have the OK to be blabby about it in July so lookout July! There is still quite a lot of work to be done but I have faith in the HCTC members and I know we

can pull this off. Our webmaster, Kyle Fagen is designing a website for the VTR 2019. It will have all the details updated as we get things in place. I'll send out an email when that goes live. I have been working on some promo videos to showcase our event. I'll be releasing those starting next month as well.

Mike McPhail has volunteered to host Hill Country drives during the Convention. A few weeks back he took some of us down some amazing roads even he had never been down. We plan to drive, drive, drive these Triumphs during the VTR 2019 so you all are on notice. Get them cars tuned up, gassed up and gussied up!!!

Look forward to seeing all y'all at the meetings this month.

Stay Tuned!

Don

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## HCTC Officers

**President** — Don Couch

[president@hillcountrytriumphclub.org](mailto:president@hillcountrytriumphclub.org)

**Vice-President** — Roger Bolick

**Webmaster** — Kyle Fagan

[webmaster@hillcountrytriumphclub.org](mailto:webmaster@hillcountrytriumphclub.org)

**Treasurer** — Mike Schu-  
bert

512-740-9937

[trebucs43@gmail.com](mailto:trebucs43@gmail.com)

**Secretary** — Mike  
McPhail

**Membership** — Nel  
Mcphail

512-656-1456

[membership@hillcountrytriumphclub.org](mailto:membership@hillcountrytriumphclub.org)

**Ragtop Editor** — Dan  
Julien

512-451-3102

[editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org](mailto: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](http://www.vtr.org), [www.triumphregister.com](http://www.triumphregister.com), and [www.6-pack.org](http://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](mailto: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 for May 2018

By Mike McPhail

May was undoubtedly the best month yet this year for driving our little British cars now that the long awaited top-down weather has finally arrived! Once again, HCTC members were not disappointed with the plethora of events this month had to offer. Nel and I were in Dallas for the "All British and European Car Day" on Cinco de Mayo weekend. The show was on Sunday at White Rock Lake, so we went up Saturday in the TR6. We had never been to "Deep Ellum" before, so we set the Garmin for the Deep Ellum Brewery, which turned out to be the only thing worthwhile in the district.

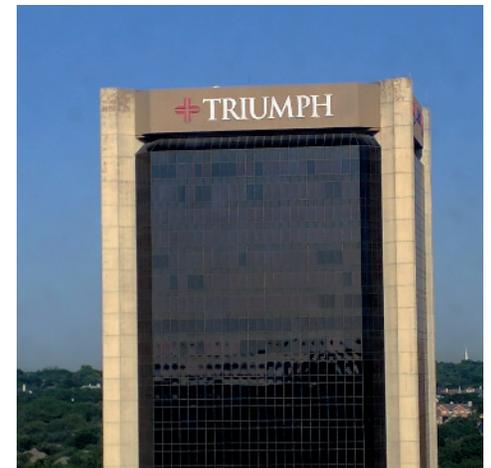
The people watching was excellent, as was the beer! Easy-Peasy IPA was really fabulous and I will be saying that lost adjective more often, now that it has been re-introduced into my vocabulary. The rest of the district was very disappointing, kind of like

Sixth Street on an off day, with numerous miscreants competing to offend the senses.

However, we scored really nice digs at the Westin Hotel on Coit Road and 635 with an ominous view of a building sporting a huge "Triumph" moniker. While Benihana's was just next door, we opted to visit the Mexican restaurant a block away. Wow, this saved us a trip to Tijuana...hello, it was May fifth! What a party, all in Spanish and with karaoke, too...magnifico!

Of course, the car show was the purpose of our trip and it was far from disappointing. The entire Red River Triumph Club was there (35 TRs) as was just about every other imported automobile in the world...there must have been about 300 cars! The weather was just perfect too, so this may be an annual thing for us!

Next weekend was the HCTC breakfast meeting at the Frisco, where we plotted our next adventure. Roger Bolick reminded us that the "Blanco Classic Car Show" was just one week away. The vote was unanimous...Blanco or bust! The Tavern meeting was just a few days later, and was not to be missed, as Torf was giving away Snap-On ball caps! The evening was "capped off" with Winston DeFord showcasing his perfectly



Hotel view.



Deep Ellum Brewery.



Inside DEB.

tuned Spitfire, and Ted and Tina Glover introducing us to their coal black TR6.

Six LBCs gathered on the 19<sup>th</sup> at the usual the usual spot...Jim's in Oak Hill. Some waited in the parking lot, while others enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast within: Mike, Roger, Bill, and the two Dons (Burkley & Couch).

In the parking lot were Bob (and grandson Will) Blake, Ted and Tina Glover, anxiously awaiting the promised "scenic tour to Blanco." "Wrong Way "Mike McPhail led the entourage on some previously undiscovered

roads through North Hays County, nearly losing a substantial portion of our membership along the way. No matter, a shady place on the river was secured for the HCTC display, and we were soon joined by Mike and Steven Shayesteh with Dad's award winning TR3A.

The show was lovely, as was the weather, and lunch was superb at the Redbud Cafe. This restaurant not only features the best sandwiches in Texas but has a complete selection of Real Ale products. As a surprise bonus, Annette Waller and Tina Bolick

took time from their busy schedules to join us (and make sure Bill and Roger behaved themselves) for lunch. Of course, after the show we were obliged to visit the brewery which is just up the road!



M & N at White Rock.



May at the Tavern.



Glover TR6.



May at the Frisco.



Don and Tina.

# Spit Six Report for June 2018

By Mike McPhail

**W**hoopee! The rolling chassis is, well, rolling. The donor GT6 came with a four-speed gearbox, but you know me...had to have overdrive. I found a Spitfire three-rail overdrive gearbox on eBay which is remarkably similar to what I already had. Every

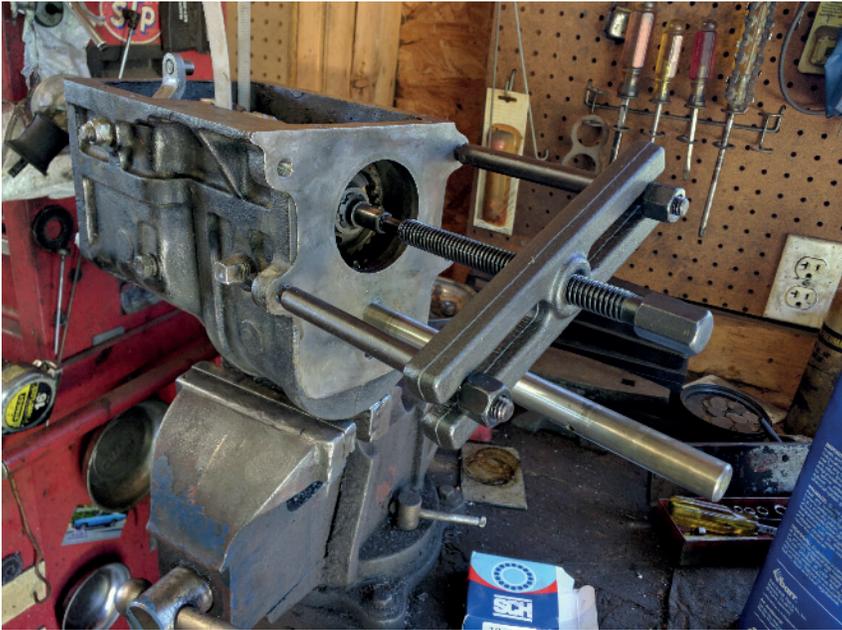
other three-rail OD box seemed to be equipped with a "D-Type" overdrive unit, but this one had the more familiar "J-Type".

After completely disassembling both transmissions, I now have put together a GT6 overdrive (for the Spit6) gearbox

and Spitfire non-overdrive (for sale) gearbox. The driveshaft had to be shortened by nearly four inches, and Inland Truck Service on 290 E did a bang-up job of that. Oh yeah, the Chevy cue-ball shift knob really pops!



GT6 with Q ball.



Pressing mainshaft into bearing.

Rebuild stuff.



Rebuilt 3-rail.

# 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](http://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](http://www.mntriumphs.org)



# 17th ANNUAL **BRITIS** *in the* **OZARKS**

**ALL BRITISH CAR & CYCLE SHOW**  
*Benefiting the ALS ASSOCIATION*  
*"Fighting Lou Gehrig's disease"*



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**BRITISH IRON TOURING CLUB  
OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS**



University of Arkansas Agripark  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

**September 6 - 8**

Thursday, Sept 6  
Tour to Arkansas Wine Country

Friday, Sept 7  
Tour to Crystal Bridges Museum  
Parking Lot Party

Saturday, Sept 8  
Car Show  
Banquet

SPECIAL GUEST  
**Bill Warner**

*Amelia Island Concours Founder*

**Car Display • People's Choice Judging • Concessions Available**

**Host Hotel**  
**Holiday Inn Convention Center of Northwest Arkansas**  
**I-49 and Highway 412, Springdale, AR**

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION CONTACT  
**BILL WATKINS**  
479-636-2168  
[www.BritishIronMWA.org](http://www.BritishIronMWA.org)

OR  
**DOUG SCHRANTZ**  
479-531-2783  
[dougschranzt@gmail.com](mailto:dougschranzt@gmail.com)





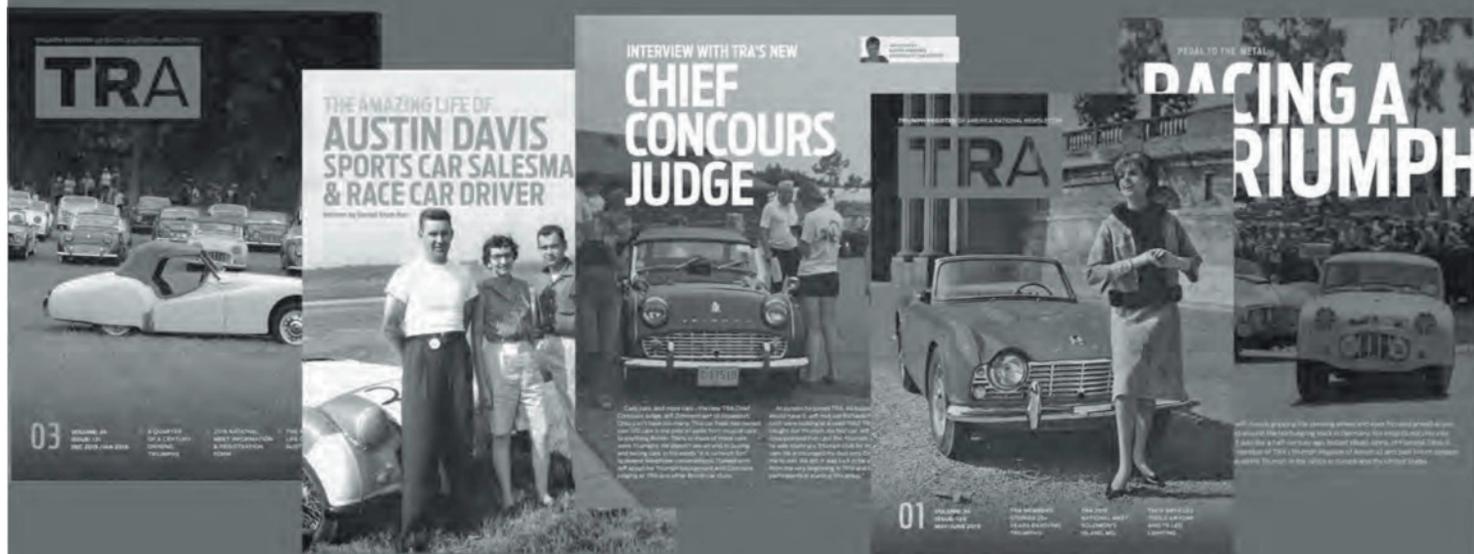
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# Join TRA TODAY!

## 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](http://www.TriumphRegister.com)

OR CONTACT:  
[TONDA.MACY@MACYSGARGE.COM](mailto: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](mailto: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 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](mailto:dasoka@hotmail.com)

\*\*\*

Wanted left and right front fender  
liners/wheel wells for 1962  
TR3B. Contact Evan Barton (254)  
702-6634 /  
[evanbarton3@gmail.com](mailto:evanbarton3@gmail.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



## For Sale: 1963 Jaguar Mk2 3.8L

This car was comprehensively restored in the mid-2000s, including a rebuilt drivetrain. It's been upgraded from stock as follows: RetroAir A/C, HD Alternator (recent), aluminum radiator with electric fan, Wilwood front brakes, XJ6 Rack & Pinion steering, Nardi steering wheel (recent), SPAX shocks, stainless steel exhaust (recent), RetroSound AM/FM/USB stereo (recent), Dayton chrome wires.

For the past 4 years it's been driven regularly, including several weddings and club tours. Nice enough to have taken 1<sup>st</sup> in Class twice at the Texas All British Car Day show. Asking \$37,000 based on overall condition between a #2 and #3 on the Hagerty Insurance scale.

Contact: Dean Mericas

[dmericas@austin.rr.com](mailto:dmericas@austin.rr.com) or 512-750-2271



I have a 76 XJ6 XL.

It was a hand me down project that ran out of steam.

It belonged to a UT professor, Long story short, it sits and needs someone to show it more Love.

Interior is in great not perfect condition. I got it running in time for the last Linklater filming, *Dazed and Confused II*.

Open to offers.

Mike & Emily Barrett

Manor TX

(512) 921-2135





## 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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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

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

[www.mntriumphs.org/vtr2018.sh](http://www.mntriumphs.org/vtr2018.sh)  
[tm](http://tm).

June 12 — HCTC Tuesday evening meeting, 7 PM, The Tavern.

September 6-8 — Brits in the Ozarks. Fayetteville, Arkansas. See [p. 8](#).

July 17-21 — VTR Nationals, La Crosse, WI. Info at

September 27-30 — 6-Pack Trials, Fontana Dam, NC. Info at [jimholewka.wixsite.com/trials2018](http://jimholewka.wixsite.com/trials2018).

## Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, June 9, 2018, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

[thefriscoaustin.com](http://thefriscoaustin.com) — Phone: 512-459-6279

## Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 7:00 PM

The Tavern

922 West 12<sup>th</sup> St

Austin, TX 78703

At the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Lamar

[tavernaustin.com](http://tavernaustin.com) — Phone: 512-320-8377