

The Ragtop



February 2020

Letter from the President

By Don Couch

A big thanks to John and Gayle Akins for hosting our Holiday Party this year. We had a great turnout and great British themed beer and food. They had everything from bangers and mash to caviar and Guinness on the menu. Even the Queen made an appearance and took pictures with the commoners in attendance. John and Gayle even managed to have British weather brought in for the evening in the way of fog. Nothing but the Best of British indeed.

Nick and Julie Roccaforte are hosting another Valentine's Day drive. Look for more info in this issue. Last year's drive was a lot of fun and a great turnout as well. Nick and Julie are members of the MG Club (we don't hold that against them) and plan this as a joint club adventure. It's a great time to see other LBC's on the road with our Triumphs.

Both meetings had good turnout but were difficult as we got the boot from our usual meeting rooms at both venues. The breakfast meeting was just a scheduling error on management's

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Back issues of The Ragtop are available on our website:

http://www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org/newsletter_test

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.

part and shouldn't be an issue. The Tavern on the other hand will need a change of day if we want to continue to meet there. Our esteemed VP Roger is looking into alternative venues and/or dates. We hope we won't have to change venues and date but it may be one or the other in order to keep our upstairs meeting room space. We'll post any changes in the *Ragtop* and online if there are any.

I gotta thank our future Pres. Phil Taylor for stepping up and acting as Phill-In-President or President in trying at the last Tavern meeting. He made the mistake of standing next to me just as I was about to get the meeting started and asked if he should quiet everyone down to start the meeting. From there, I coached him through as he was being the Fill in president for the meeting. It was a fun Abbot and Costello meeting and I'm sure Phil will NEVER stand near me again at a meeting, Four More Years Phil!!!!

Pay your Dues — Do I need to explain that any further? If you don't pay them, like I didn't do, Kyle will happily pay them for you. See Kyle for more info.

Cars and Coffee at COTA has been mentioned a few times. We need to organize a club drive there. Duncan Charlton and I were discussing it a couple months back. If we show up as a group we should be able to park together. I'll check the schedule and see about getting a drive put together.

New members — I realized I haven't mentioned our new members in quite some time. It was quite a busy year but I don't want to slight these guys. We welcome you all to the club and look forward to many many fun-filled hours talking and driving our Triumphs. Cheers to Nick Tyler, Christopher Born, Lawrence Toneto, Vance Stansell, John Carson, David & Peggy Mahaney, Keith Denebeim, Peter Venardos, Terry Rawlins, James Vier, welcome to the club.

Drive your Triumph Day or as we like to call it, "The Day Jim Herter Bought His TR6 Forty Nine Years Ago Day", is coming up February 10th. That falls on a Monday. Why on earth Jim would buy his TR6 on a Monday is beyond me. Had he bought it on a weekend it would be easier to schedule a club drive. Perhaps Jim would explain this to the club at the next meeting...

Robert's Fix it Day — Robert is "fixing" up Marsha, his '76 Spitfire and auctioning her off. The proceeds going to prostrate cancer research. It's a great cause and we can all chip in some time and help out. He is trying to pick a day we can head up (down or over depending on where you are coming from) to his place. Maybe another bonfire and cookout is in order as well. Details will be forthcoming in the *Ragtop*.

STAY TUNED,

Don

Spring Fix-it-Day = with a cause

By Robert MacKenzie

I have a project that needs the support of the club for a good cause.

As many of you may know; I spent most of last year fighting cancer. (I'm much better now, thank you.)

Things like that change you outlook on life and lead you to making changes; letting go of things that you no longer need or want.

That leads me to a car that I have owned for many years. A car I have now decided to let go of.

The car is my 1978 Spitfire Autocross car, know as Marsha.

I bought Marsha at a low point on my life and getting her back on the road was a particularly effective form of therapy at the time. She got me back in to the world, dare I say "lifestyle," of vintage car ownership.

I had auto-crossed off and on, semi-seriously for years both in Canada and Texas but Marsha got me back into motorsport competition. She introduced me to new

friends, which led me to acquire a second Spitfire, which got me into vintage racing... but that is a story for another day.

Over the last sixteen years Marsha has morphed from a stock, older restoration street car to a serious autocross car that really was not suited to be a daily driver anymore.

The last time she was driven in anger was a Vintage Triumph Register autocross where in the hands of my co-driver she set FTD then blew her clutch going back onto the trailer.

Marsha ended up under a cover, behind my workshop forlorn and forgotten.

My plan was to repair and restore her last winter after the SVRA races at COTA. I had a very clear vision of how I wanted her to be. I was going to have her wrapped with fake rust and faux-patina; looking like an abandoned Ecurie Ecosse car.

My plans changed last October when I found out I have

cancer. Marsha remained untouched as I focused on myself. I spent January and February going radiation therapy with most of the remainder of the year spent being sick. (Theses cures try very hard to kill you; however I seem to have survived.)

The new plan is to get the car back to together and auction her off with the proceeds going to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Marsha has just come back from paint and needs to be re-assembled. You can help.

There are lots of small (and not so small) jobs to be done. I'd like anybody who wants to help donate an hour of time to the project.

I'm looking to match club members with specific tasks they enjoy doing, like installing carpets, for an example.

Stay tuned for more information on a late February all-day Fix-it-Day (date TBD) where we can put a car together in an afternoon.

Thanks,

Robert MacKenzie

Secretary's Report January 2020

By Mike McPhail

The second decade of the Twenty-First Century got off to a grand start at the Waterloo Ice House on January 11. Lots of sunshine and crisp fresh air had the HCTC faithful gathered around the outdoor picnic tables for a rousing speech by our longtime leader Don Couch. Soon to follow was some vigorous tire kicking in the parking lot. Warren and Lisa thrilled the crowd by driving a DeLorean to the meeting. Attending the Saturday get-togethers have become even more worthwhile in anticipation of what they will bring next!

On Monday I joined Joe and Glenn Payne for a road trip to Leander. We were on a mission to collect Joe's E-type coupe from a specialist who had done a marvelous job of restoring the Jaguar's monocoque body. With some trepidation, we loaded the treasure onto the flatbed trailer. The brothers were in the Tahoe and I followed behind in a TR6 that is destined to get some TLC in my workshop. To our surprise and great relief, the Jag sailed along rock steady, perched high above the trailer bed. Driving the TR6 to town in the rain was the real chal-

lenge, since the brakes were dodgy and the wipers inoperative!

Tuesday was another busy one since I had promised Sam and Ron that I would pick up their TR6 "on my way to the meeting". You may have seen this 1971 TR6 around...it is quite remarkable in that it is in very original condition and has been maintained to a high standard. Better yet, it would seem to be for sale! Anyway, I left my Red TR6, grabbed theirs, and made my way to the Tavern. About five o'clock, who walked in but Art Graves!



Meeting Jan 11.



Baby it's cold outside! Jan 11..



Meeting outside Jan 11.



Roger & Mike Jan 11.

Actually, I knew he was coming, and it is always a pleasure to see him, surprise or not! The snug little corner downstairs filled quickly with Triumph aficionados and we reveled quite late into the evening. Once again, our upstairs lair had been usurped by another group...no matter, we can have fun anywhere! As the last of us strolled out the

door, who appeared but Roger Bolick. He had been unavoidably detained and was in need of refreshment. The only reasonable course of action was to reclaim our seats!

On the 24th, Art was back at my place, as was Benson Tuttle and Joe Payne...gathering in anticipation of the annual San Antonio Jaguar Club Rally to Luckenbach. We were

off to Helotes at 8 AM sharp Saturday morning for the long drive to Northwest San Antonio. We arrived at the El Chaparral eatery in time for a sumptuous Mexican breakfast. The first rally car was out at 11:30, followed by one every minute. Attendance was high, perhaps due to the lovely weather of late, and some really fine sports cars were fielded.



TR lineup Jan 11.



XKE on trailer.



XKE on the move.



XKE at Joe's.

The starting point offered the organizers an opportunity to route the contestants along some exciting, yet unfamiliar roads on probably the longest Luckenbach rally in recent memory. Unfortunately, the HCTC two-year winning streak was broken this year, as was one of Joe's rocker pedestal

studs. Art and Joe beat Benson and me home...passengers in a flat-bed wrecker.

We were still on schedule, and with a little soap and water, presentable enough to attend the Hill Country Triumph Club belated holiday party hosted by John and Gayle Akins.

It is a pretty good hike over to Steiner Ranch from my place, but we arrived on-time regardless. Most of the gang had beat us to the party by just a few minutes, judging by the cornucopia of refreshments still available. Our hosts had gone to great lengths to make this a British themed gathering, even



The Tavern Jan 14.



The Tavern, Jan 14.



Phil, QEII, and Don.



QEII and Dan.

serving Cornish Pasties and Bangers & Mash as entrees. Why, they even ar-

ranged for a royal appearance by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II!



Mike, QEII, Francis, & Dan.

2020 Valentine Drive

By Nick Roccaforte

The MG club would like to invite the Hill Country Triumph Club to join us again this year for our annual Valentine Drive.

The Valentine Drive will be on **Saturday, February 15, 2020**. We will meet at the Chevron station on the corner of RR 1431 and Nameless Road at 10 AM and travel 72 miles to Burnet and have lunch at the Trailblazer Restaurant around noon. There will be time for shopping at the antique stores on the square after lunch. See the details of the drive below. Anyone interested please give me a call (832-493-2288) or email me at roccaforte1@sbcglobal.net no later than February 12th so I can make the appropriate reservations at the restaurant. I just need your name, navigator or spouse, type of vehicle you will be driving and your cell phone number to put you on the list.

CCMGC 2020 Valentine Drive on plotaroute.com:

<https://www.plotaroute.com/map/719687>

Drive Your Triumph Day

February 10, 2020

Dear Fellow Triumph Owner,

It's time to make plans for Drive Your Triumph Day, February 10, 2020.

My name is Rye Livingston and I'm with the Triumph Travelers Sports Car Club in Northern California. In 2015 I encouraged members of our club to drive their Triumphs on February 10th, to celebrate Sir John Black's Birthday, the man who organized Standard's purchase of Triumph after the war, and went on to make the cars we enjoy driving today. This celebratory drive has been building momentum every year. For 2019 I received close to 350 photos from all over the world: UK, Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Uruguay, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Finland, Canada, Holland, Czech Republic, and of course all over the USA. This year is going to be a bit more of a challenge as February 10th falls on Monday. As tempting as it may be to plan a drive for the weekend, we're going to keep true to the day, and please submit photos only taken on Monday, February 10th, 2020.

The concept is straightforward. On February 10th, go for a drive in your Triumph. Take a scenic drive on a country road or out to lunch, to the market, to work, where ever. Go for a drive alone or in a big group from your local Triumph Club. Take your spouse, buddy, child, grandchild or your dog; then take a photo. The photo is mainly of the car, and the owner if possible, ideally in front a cool spot, landmark, scenic view, in front of the hardware store or in your driveway. If it's the middle of the winter where you live and your car is in hibernation, or in the middle of a restoration, take a photo of it anyway in the garage. Some winter photos I've received have the garage door open with the car tucked under a cover, and snow outside. Have fun with it, and participate.

Next step is to email a high-resolution photo to driveyourtriumphday@gmail.com, along with some basic information: owner's name, year and model of car, and place photo was taken (city, state, country). The photos will then be published not only in our club newsletter, but also in USA's national magazine: Vintage Triumph Registry, and on the Drive Your Triumph Day website: <https://driveyourtriumphday.shutterfly.com>

Please feel free to send this on to other Triumph Clubs you may know of, and your club Activities Chairman and Newsletter editor. Last year a few Standard Clubs joined in too, which is all good.

Be sure to contact me with any questions you may have, and thank you in advance for getting the message out to your members and friends to Drive Their Triumphs on February 10th.

Regards,

Rye Livingston

Activities Chairman
Triumph Travelers Sports Car Club
Celebrating our 62th Anniversary
1960 Triumph TR3A
Mobile: 530-FIND-RYE



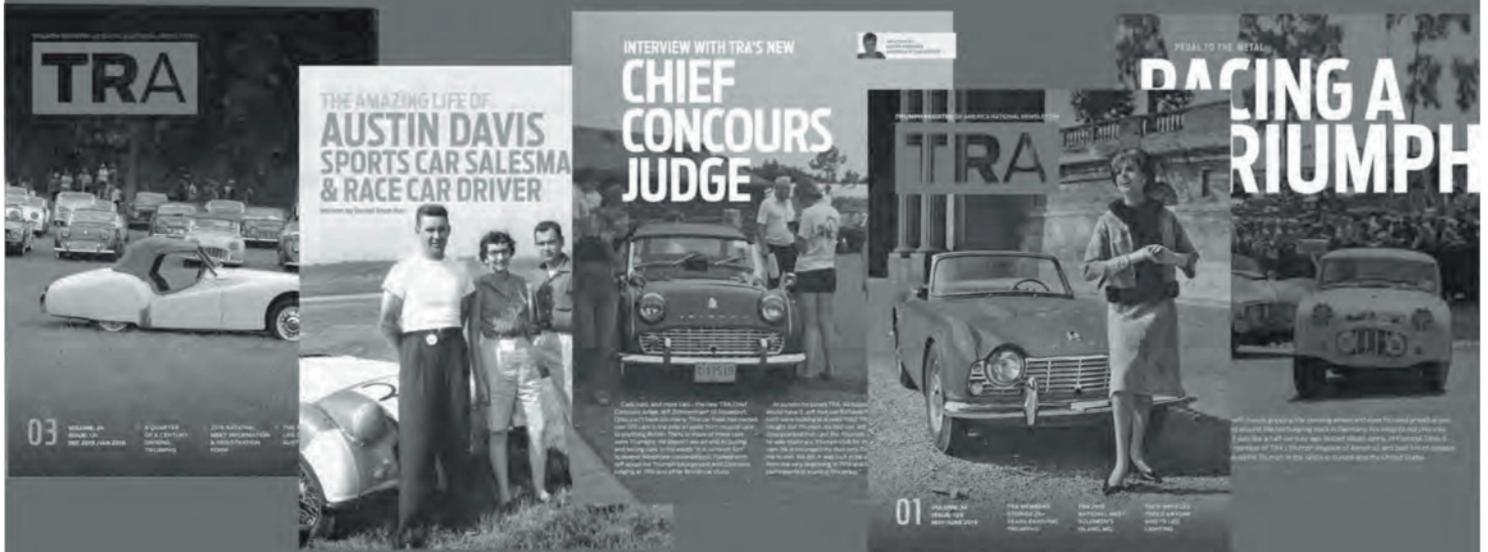
ESTABLISHED 1974

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

SU HS2 Carbs. For Sale a pair of SUHS2 carbs with chrome air filters. Condition excellent. New jets, needles, float needles and jets. PRICE \$175.00. Contact Olivio 316-200-3068 phone or text.

We have finished the restoration of the TR3A we have owned for about 44 years. After all those years of gathering parts and parts cars, we now have many parts and pieces left. I am wanting to give these to either an individual or a business that will be able to use them to keep some of these cars going. I don't mind if they are sold by a business or used by an individual - I just want them to be used and not stored in my garage.

I have 2 nose caps, a pair of doors, a boot lid, maybe a convertible top frame and some engine parts.

I live in Lockhart and can deliver the parts.

Bill Duran, 512-227-6067 (cell)



Original Triumph TR-6 steel wheel set (4). Set includes polished stainless steel trim rings and silver hub trim with TR-6 name plate. Asking \$175.00. Raymond Brown (Phone #240-472-7200)



Pipe, E.G.R. Valve to intake manifold. Used, but in excellent condition. \$40.00. Raymond Brown, 240-472-7200



Tonneau cover (vinyl) without headrest pockets. Good condition. Fit all TR-6. \$75.00 Cash. Raymond Brown, 240-472-7200

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

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141

Used seats from a '75 TR6. Headrests are functional and stay up as desired. Asking \$240.00 (Photos right.)

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141



1976 Tr-6 For Sale

Everything works. Always garaged. 71,000 Miles. No Rust. \$13,900. Tom Glass.
tglass@glasscpa.com. 512-964-6650.



For sale

1961 TR3-A

5,000 miles since frame-off restoration.

Black /Black with White piping.

First in class at ABCD.

\$22,500

Jim Vier

(512) 266-1769





HILL COUNTRY TRIUMPH CLUB ADVERTISING RATES

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

Become a VTR Member

The Vintage Triumph Register has its benefits. A national club of Triumph enthusiasts spanning the globe needs you as a member. Affiliate club membership is not an automatic membership to VTR. Some of the benefits:

The Vintage Triumph Magazine – Our award-winning bi-monthly color publication

2020 VTR National Convention in Galena, Illinois

Access to a large number of local clubs

Website with reference material and members-only sections

Record Trace Certificates TR2/TR3/TR3A/TR3B. Factory trace documents on other

Triumph models no longer available

Clothing, regalia, exclusive items

Specific vehicle consultants and experts

Sign up at <https://vintage triumph register.org>



Pay Your Dues!!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jan-20 in the dues column your dues are over-due now. Any 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 (payable to **Hill Country Triumph Club** or **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

- Feb 8, 2020 — HCTC morning meeting. Feb 11, 2020 — HCTC evening meeting.
- Feb 9, 2020 — Candlelight Ranch Car Show and Chili Cook-off. Info at <https://candlelightranch.orgbq/event/chili-cook-off-car-show/> Feb 15, 2020 — Valentine Drive. Details on p. 10.
- Feb 10, 2020 — Drive Your Triumph Day. Details on p. 11. Mar 10, 2020 — HCTC evening meeting.
- Mar 14, 2020 — HCTC morning meeting.

Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 9:00 AM

Waterloo Ice House

6203 N Capital of Texas Hwy

Austin, TX 78731

NE corner of Lp 360 & RM 2222

waterlooicehouse.com — Phone: 512-478-9700

Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 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