

# The Ragtop

March 2020



## Letter from the President

By Don Couch

**G**reetings from sunny Florida! I helped out SVRA with Tech inspection at Sebring Raceway last week and stuck around to visit my Mom who lives on the West coast of Florida. The weather has been great with a bit of a chill in the air but still, it's been a nice week and always great to see Mom.

SVRA Sebring was a fun time and three Triumphs were entered to race. A TR3, a TR4 and a Spitfire. The TR3 was HCTC member Bob Kramer's very first race car. He has long since sold it but it was great to see it still on track with the new owner. The Triumphs had a tough weekend as the TR4 had slave cylinder issues, the Spitfire

blew its clutch followed by the TR3, which came in due to overheating issues. Still it was great to see Triumph being represented at such a historic venue.

A couple weeks ago, CVAR held their first race event of the year at MSR Houston and HCTC members Bob Kramer, Greg Blake and myself were in our Triumphs racing. A TR3, TR4 and a Spitfire. Bob's TR4 had a coolant containment issue and retired during Friday's test session. Greg's TR3 was plagued with brake issues and he put it on the trailer after Saturday's races. My Spitfire was the lone Triumph standing at the end of the weekend even after a shunt in Saturday mornings race. A

## In This Issue

Letter from the President, by Don Couch.....	1
Spring Fix-It Day, by Robert MacKenzie.....	6
Secretary's Report, by Mike McPhail.....	7
TR6 Steering Column Bush Replacement, by Mike McPhail.....	10
CCMGC Valentine Drive, by Nick Roccaforte.....	12
Drive Your Triumph Day, by Bob Skewis.....	15
Classifieds.....	19
Upcoming Events.....	24
Next Meeting.....	24

## 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/newsletter\\_test](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](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.

Spridget turned into me on lap one and ended my race. Rubbing's racing but NOT in vintage racing. The safety stewards were not amused and gave the guy a three race probation. HCTC member Duncan Charlton was also in the mix with his very well prepared Unipower GT. He had some oil containment issues but overcame them with some very clever fixes in the paddock.

We had a **GREAT** Valentine's Day drive hosted by Nick and Julie Roccaforte. It was held in conjunction with the MG Club and it was a beautiful drive

through the hill country and stopping in Burnet for lunch. The turnout was great and the drive was spectacular with Triumphs, MGs and Minis. We need to drive those roads more! Thank you Nick and Julie for hosting such a wonderful event.

HCTC member Robert MacKenzie has given us a date for the "Fix-It" day to help with Marsha, his '76 Spitfire he is auctioning with the proceeds going for prostate cancer research. Look for details, due and directions in this issue.

We had great turnout for our meetings and I think we are OK to continue to meet at The Tavern. It seems as the mystery dinner theatre that was taking our slot is no longer or at least for the foreseeable future.

Please pay your dues and as I am as I said, at Mom's house, I may be forgetting an announcement but I'm sure it will be covered elsewhere in this issue if I did. *Please pay your dues!*

Stay Tuned,

*Don*







# Cancer Car Fix-it-Day Party

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

By Robert MacKenzie

Things are progressing well on Marsha the Cancer Car. The engine is running and most of the critical work is now done.

I will be hosting a Fix-It-Day on March 28<sup>th</sup> where we can reassemble the car and get it ready for auction.

There are quite a few things to be done but we should be able to knock them out in an afternoon. I want to assign specific tasks to people who either like to do that particular job or want to learn that skill.

Jobs include:

- Carpet kit & seat install
- Various lights need re-install
- Bumper & trim installation

- Windshield install
- There are some electrical issues that need trouble shooting & repair.

Let me know if you want to perform any of these things in advance.

Beer and chili will be provided.

We should be able to get your car on the lift if you need service. The wheel and tyre mounting & balancing machine will be available too.

Address: 550 Miller Hill Road, Georgetown TX 78626

(210) 415-5107 or

[Robert@mackkenzie.aero](mailto:Robert@mackkenzie.aero) for info

See you then!

# Secretary's Report February 2020

By Mike McPhail

The “Dead of Winter”? Hardly! Something was going on every week in February...check it out: We had our HCTC Breakfast Meeting at the Waterloo Ice House on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup>, this time in the back room where we belong. The spinach and mushroom omelet is gaining popularity and may soon eclipse the taco plate as most popular fare. The coffee is still awful...

It was a really pretty day, and we lingered for quite some time in the parking lot. Was that a Prowler that Warren was driving?

Afterwards, Don had a few of us follow him out to COTA to watch Robert MacKenzie race a borrowed Miata. Lots of fun, free admission, and we spectators were allowed to roam the pit area. Of course, we had to stop at the Live Oak Brewery on the way home...

Monday was “Drive your Triumph Day,” but like Sunday, the weather really sucked, so we had to wait until Tuesday’s meeting at the Tavern to get the cars out. There was a vicious rumor that we had lost our upstairs meeting place, but not to

worry, the venue has been reinstated!

The MG club Valentine’s Day Drive (Massacre?) departed from a point near Lago Vista at 10:30 AM sharp (Nick insisted) which necessitated my leaving the house at 8. The more hearty rallyists drove the route sans tops, while those bringing wives, probably all ran the heaters. We hit all the scenic roads: FM1431, Park Road 4, TX29, etc. on our way to the Trailblazer Grille in beautiful downtown Burnet. The scrumptious lunch was served in a private room and we



Feb 8, Waterloo.



Feb 8, Waterloo.



Feb 8, Waterloo.



Feb 8, COTA.

lingered for some time, savoring the delightful companionship. All this activity can work up a powerful thirst, so the next stop was the newest attraction in Marble Falls, the incomparable “Bear King Brewing Company”. This upscale establishment comes highly recommended by this writer, and should be at the top

of everyone’s destination list. Road trip, anyone? Our talented HCTC Racing Team was out in force the following weekend at the Corinthian Vintage Auto Racing competition at MSR Houston race track. I drove the Spit-Six down Friday morning, and although they wouldn’t let me race, it was a blast watching the boys have it out. Not surprisingly, our

club president (lame duck) Don Couch, took his place on the podium. There was an impromptu Triumph owner’s meeting on the last Friday of the month when Roger Bolick called looking for a lunch date. I abandoned my shopping trip. We were soon unexpectedly joined at the South Lamar Pint House Pizza by Bill Waller and Bob Skewis, at which



Feb 8, Cota.



Feb 8, COTA.



HCTC Racing Team.



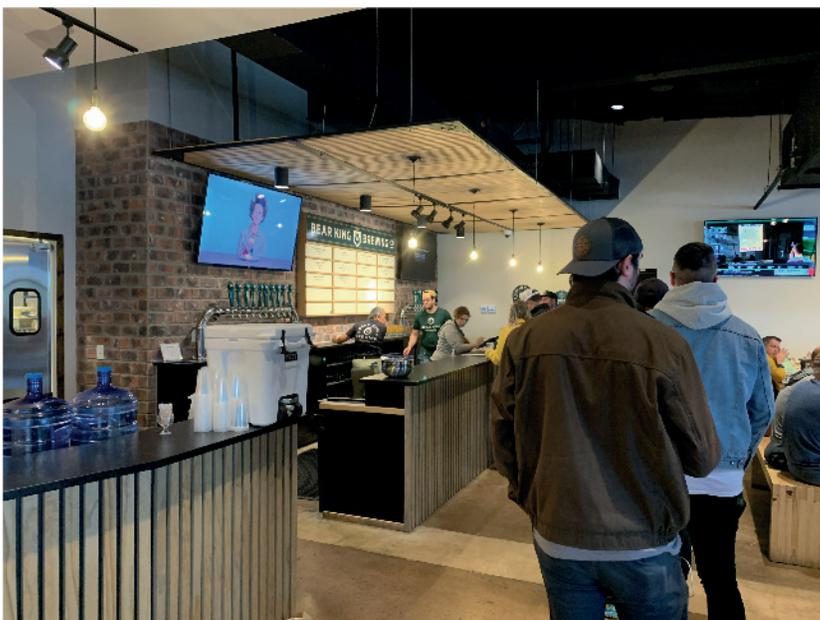
Duncan at work.

time a call was made to Jim Wells and Jim Herter, entreating them to divert their route to our location. The “Jims” were on their way to my house to pick up a TR6 and a chance to dine with their Triumph buddies was a welcome diversion. We three eventually made it to Mike’s Motors in Drippin’ Springs and now with

each of us behind the wheel of a TR6, took a test drive to the “Barbershop”. Not bad for a completely random outing!



Valentine Drive lunch.



Bear King.



Bear King.

# TR6 Steering Column Bushing Replacement

By Mike McPhail

Jim Wells left his TR6 with me with a short punch-out list. I swapped out the non-original alternator for a Lucas model, replaced some u-joints, brake hoses, heater hoses, etc. I got to try out Richard Good's new throttle shaft bushings...pretty exciting, in that you don't have to take the shaft out to install them.

Another bullet dodged was the wobbly steering column. Worn bushings are common on TR4s, 6s, and Spitfires and replacement makes for quite a project on cars with locking steering columns. This time I tried a new approach which did not require pulling the entire assembly from the car.

A new upper bushing will banish the lateral play and can be installed after removing the steering wheel and the clip on the column shaft that cancels the turn signals. With the

turn signal and head light switches pulled away, the clip can be pried off the shaft and set aside in anticipation of sliding a new bushing onto the shaft. For ease of installa-

tion I removed the little locating nubs from the new bushing with my bench grinder and lubed everything with petroleum jelly. The new bushing and length of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch



Some things to ponder...

iron pipe just barely fit through the hub, but fit they do.

The length of pipe made a substantial tool for forcing the bushing down the tube (next time I will cut the pipe to about 12 inches). Jim's car did not have an upper bushing (yikes!) so I pounded the new part all the way into the proper position as indicated by the two opposing  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch holes on the steering column tube. Had a worn-out bushing been in place, the new bushing would be driven in until it hit the original, which is left in place.

The fiddly part of this job was getting the turn signal clip back on the shaft. It has two indentations that locate it on the steering column shaft as you can see in one of the photos. Rather than push it on sideways, I carefully slid it on from the end like I did the bushing.

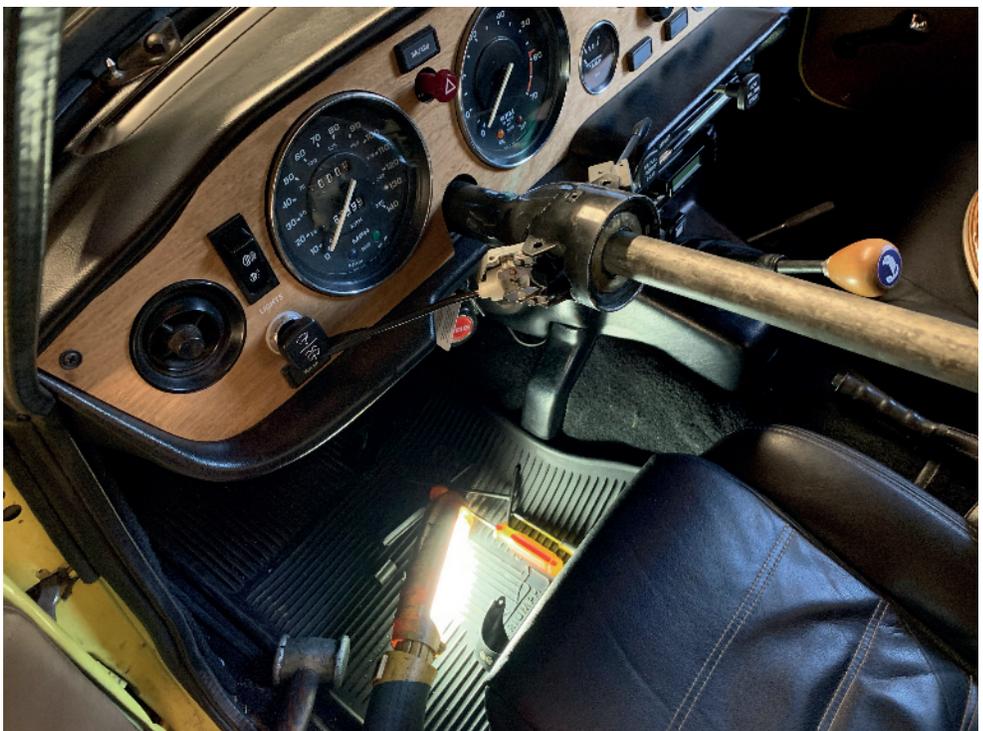
Note that for proper cancellation, the raised part of the clip must be perfectly horizontal when

the car is pointed straight ahead. This will position it equally between the fingers on the canceling mechanism.

The clamp that secures the column to the steering rack can be refitted to get the correct geometry. Another fiddly job!



New bushing.



Pound it to fit.

# CCMGC Valentine Drive

February 15, 2020

By Nick Roccaforte

**T**his year's Valentine Drive included quite a collection of clubs and cars. There were 10 members from the Hill Country Triumph Club, 8 members from the Houston MG Club and 17 members of the Capital City MG Club, one from Lockhart and one from Burnet for a total of 37 participants. This was the biggest group we have had to date. There were a total of 22 cars. There were MGTs, MGBs, TR6s, Mini's and even a Fiat.

The morning was a little chilly and cloudy but no rain. The drive started out on 1431 all the way to Marble Falls where we had a pit stop. Then we traveled to Park Road 4 which is always

a highlight of the trip with the roller coaster hills and then around Ink's Lake. After that we traveled 690 around to Hwy 29 and back to Burnet. In Burnet we had a great lunch at The Trailblazer Grille. There was much to do in Burnet around the square. We found a neat little tea and coffee shop (Unshakable Grounds Coffee Shop) that also served scones. Of course we visited the antique shops and then topped off the afternoon at the "Happy Scoops Ice-Cream Shop". Thank goodness there were no breakdowns or stalled cars on the trip. Aside from the fact that my car and one other car would not start before we left home did not deter us from taking

another car. As ironic as it may sound I drove the TR6 on this MG club drive! Yes, I heard a lot about that on the trip. It's always good to have a spare car if possible. A new starter and battery and my GT is now back on the road.

Everyone had a great time and there were many positive comments about the drive, route we took and restaurant. This seems to be a fun way to combine the clubs at least once a year. I really appreciate the participation and support from the Hill Country Triumph Club and the Houston MG Club for making this annual drive very enjoyable and one we will want to continue to do.







# Drive Your Triumph Day

## February 10, 2020

The weather was a little rainy, but the afternoon cleared enough to allow Bob Skewis and Pam Owens to take off the afternoon and drive from Dripping Springs, Texas (site of the 2019 National VTR) to Luckenbach, Texas to hang out at the bar and listen to some local talent hold forth by the wood burning stove. Waylon is gone, and Willie did not show up, but we had a fine time with the boys. "Sam" the 1968 TR250, owned by Bob Skewis, member of the Hill Country Triumph Club of Austin, location of photo: Luckenbach, Texas, USA!

[See all the Drive Your Triumph Day photos worldwide at [https://driveyourtriumphday.shutterfly.com/.](https://driveyourtriumphday.shutterfly.com/)]





## Triumph Register of America National Meeting 2020

Tree and fence lined roads, Glencairns filled with fine aged bourbon, manicured farms with grazing horses, and historic sites around every corner - this June the Triumph Register of America is holding its 46<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in the home of horses, bourbon, and all things bluegrass, Lexington KY, hosted by Miami Valley Triumphs.

TRA is dedicated to the Triumph TR2-4A range of sports cars; however, TRA 2020 is open to all Triumph enthusiasts, with or without a Triumph. Yes, we will have the Concours and Participant's Choice car shows\*, the infamous live auction, and the BBQ cook-out, but in addition you can expect many tours, early morning runs, and ice cream. Expect tech sessions, parking lot discussions, and parts vendors, as well as late night tall tales in the Hospitality Suite between old and new friends sharing a love of Triumphs. Games of skill and chance? You bet, and bring your best Triumph arts and craft project to compete head to head with other innovative folks. Expect fun, and expect to make many lasting friendships.

For more information including hotel, registration, and schedule please head to our website <https://www.miamivalleytriumphs.org/tra-2020>, our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/181566129267504/>, or fire me off an email at [portabezi@hotmail.com](mailto:portabezi@hotmail.com). See you there!

Bruce Clough  
TRA 2020 Chair - Miami Valley Triumphs

\* - The TRA Concourse (judged show) is only open to TR2-4A models, but the Participant's Choice car show is open to the full range of Triumph and Standard automobiles.



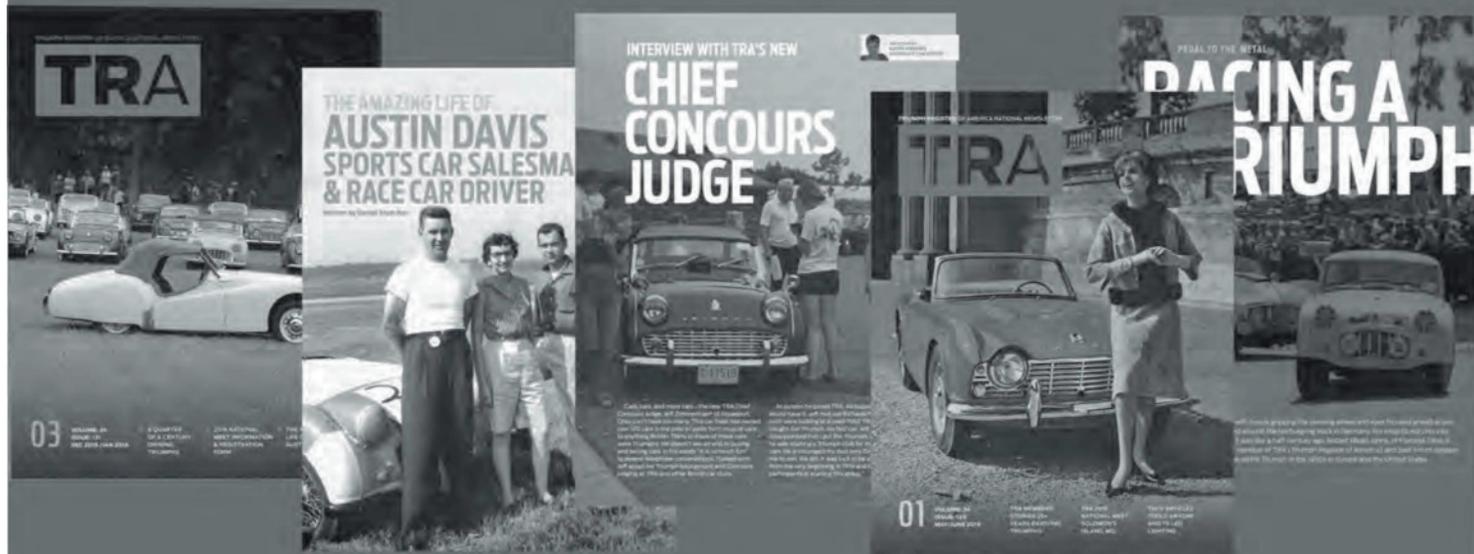
ESTABLISHED 1974

# 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](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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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

- Mar 10, 2020 — HCTC evening meeting. Apr 30-May 2, 2020 — VTR Regionals, Edmond, OK. Details at <https://www.triumphsokc.org/regional2020>.
- Mar 14, 2020 — HCTC morning meeting.
- Mar 28, 2020 — Cancer Car Fix-It Day. Details on p. 6.
- Apr 5, 2020 — Alfa Spring Drive.
- Apr 11, 2020 — HCTC morning meeting.
- Apr 14, 2020 — HCTC evening meeting.
- Jun 15-19, 2020 — TRA , Lexington, KY. See p. 16.
- Aug 31-Sep 4, 2020 — VTR Nationals , Galena, Ill. Info at <https://www.vtr2020.org/>

## Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, March 14, 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](http://waterlooicehouse.com) — Phone: 512-478-9700

## Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 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