

The

April 2025

RAGTOP

Hill Country Triumph Club News Magazine



Celebrating and driving Triumphs since 1990



Art Graves and Mike McPhail show out at the British Motoring Festival in Covington, Louisiana

Letter From The President

April, 2024

Joe Payne



Dear fellow HCTC Members, it's hard to believe but it is already April. The year is racing by, and I have asked for a little help from artificial intelligence (AI) to understand why the month of April is important compared to the other months.

According to my AI search, in the Northern Hemisphere, April symbolizes renewal, new beginnings, and the blossoming of nature. It's a time of warming weather, blooming flowers and a fresh start after the cold of winter. April is the first full month of spring, making it a time associated with growth and new opportunities.

The name "April" is thought to come from the Latin word "aperire" meaning "to open" referencing the opening or blossoming of flowers and trees.

Culturally, April is significant for various celebrations, including Easter, Passover and Earth Day, all of which reinforce themes of renewal and hope.



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Letter from the President

Continued

Other holidays to mark in April are, April Fools' Day, Earth Day and National Arbor Day. Wow, April is packed with special days and events, it is important.

However, my search left me a little skeptical of relying solely on AI for research. What my friend you ask, could AI have possibly missed?

Answer, The 2025 South Central VTR Regionals are occurring April 23-26th in Bellmead (Waco), Texas and you don't want to miss it. Check the events out and come up if even for a day. Full details are in the Ragtop along with links and registration websites. Talk with any of the usual suspects for details and suggestions to make your trip more eventful and enjoyable, please!

Hoping this April bring all the promises of new beginnings and growth opportunities in so many ways to you and your loved ones. The HCTC stands ready to make your April special indeed. Come join in all the fun, put your ragtop down, and open yourself to a great of new beginning that can only come from within your Triumph. See you in Waco!

Giddy Up,

Joe



Triumph TR2



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Back issues of The Ragtop are available on our website:

<http://www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org>



Joe Payne



Jim Wells



Gary Payne



Dick Simonson

HCTC Events-at-a-Glance

April, 2025

April 8th:

- Hill Country Triumph Club Social Hour**
The County Line on the Lake, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

April 12th:

- HCTC Breakfast Meeting**
Waterloo Icehouse, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

April 19th:

- Georgetown Pistons on the Square**
Courthouse Square, Georgetown, TX

April 23rd to April 26th

- VTR Regionals**
Waco, Texas

April 27th:

- Brits and Barley**
Austin Beerworks, 3001 Industrial Terrace, Austin, TX

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 	9	10	11	12 
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 
20	21	22	23 	24	25	26 
27 	28	29	30			

May, 2025

May 10th:

- HCTC Breakfast Meeting**
Waterloo Icehouse, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

May 11th:

- All British & European Car Day**
10:00 am to 3:00 pm, White Rock Lake Park, Dallas, Texas

May 13th:

- Hill Country Triumph Club Social Hour**
The County Line on the Lake, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

May 17th:

- Georgetown Pistons on the Square**
Courthouse Square, Georgetown, TX

May 25th

- Brits and Barley**
Twisted X Brewing Company, Dripping Springs, TX

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 
11 	12	13 	14	15	16	17 
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31

For more detailed descriptions and information, please see the Events Section later in the newsletter

KEY



= HCTC-sponsored event

= Affiliated event

= Car Show

= Holiday

Secretary's Report

April 2025

Dick Simonson



April in Central Texas brings, at least in my opinion, some of the year's nicest driving weather. Let's hope that is the case, as the VTR Regionals take place in Waco later this month. More on that to follow, but let's see what happened in March. We started March with a Board Meeting on the 4th. A detailed report of the minutes can be found on the HCTC website, but here are some highlights.

We led the meeting off with some financial matters. Gary Payne will be drafting the Club's annual report to the state comptroller by the May 15 deadline. Additionally, Gary is drafting an internal report showing the Club's actual 2024 expenditures compared to the 2024 budget predictions. Gary also provided us with a Treasurer's Report showing a consolidated cash in bank for the Club and TXABCD of \$14,714.47. Of that, \$10,627.53 is attributable to the Club and \$4,086.94 belongs to TXABCD. A complete copy of the report can be viewed on the Club's website as an attachment to the Board Meeting Minutes. Lastly, Joe Payne advised all officers to submit their projected 2025

expenditures within 30 days.

Mike McPhail then covered some upcoming events including the trip to Covington, LA for the March 29th British Motoring Festival. More on this below. Also discussed was the VTR Regional in Waco beginning on the 23rd of April as well as the VTR National in La Crosse, WI in July. There was a suggestion for more "couple" events. Stay tuned.

Closer to home, we discussed the Club's annual picnic to be held in June. We would like to hold the picnic at Live Oak Brewery again. We also discussed possible back-up venues should Live Oak not work out. Locations in Georgetown, Salado and Pflugerville were mentioned.

We learned our Club will be handling the VTR Regional meeting in 2026. Mike and Jacques will be doing the preliminary workup. Of prime importance will be tying down a venue location and hotels in time for announcement at the VTR National meeting in July of this year.



March Breakfast meeting



On the way to Louisiana

Secretary's Report

April 2025

Continued

For our final topic, Joe turned the discussion to his desire to see the Club grow and how to accomplish this and also how to reengage existing members. We discussed the need to keep Club marketing separate from TXABCD marketing. Rip and Kim Welter presented us with a number of ideas they put together in advance of the meeting. After a good discussion, the board approved the following:

- The Club will recognize membership longevity by awarding 1, 5, 10, 20 and 30 year pins. We hope to have these ready for distribution by the June picnic/ elections. Members must be present to receive their pins.
- To encourage meeting and event participation there will be a monthly award for attendees. We budgeted up to \$100 per meeting/event for up to 3 items.
- As a reward for membership for all and as a welcome gift to new members the Club will provide a HCTC branded travel bag for each membership. These will initially be presented at the annual picnic/ election but members must be present to receive.
- Newcomers welcome package. To reinforce the welcome for new members they will receive the aforementioned travel bag with other items like a printed Ragtop, website info to access members only, printed ragtop index, stickers, and whatever else we can pass on.
- For VTR events the president or his/her designated representative will have their registration fee and dinner fee reimbursed.



Social Hour at County Line on the Lake — great weather for sitting outside

On March 8, we got together for the monthly breakfast meeting at Waterloo Icehouse. We had another great turnout with 22 of us attending. After the business portion of the morning was opened, I recapped the March 4th Board Meeting as set forth above. Mike gave us a look into upcoming events with the most imminent being the drive to Covington, LA and the VTR Regional in Waco this month. Please review the HCTC Events Calendar and the detailed events pages in the Ragtop for complete information. Rip briefed us on his marketing efforts including the Club branded bags and the years of membership pins.

Our Ragtop editor, Jacques Welter asked for someone to write an article for the Ragtop to cover new members, hopefully on a quarterly basis. Jacques also made a plea for volunteers to assist at the TXABCD. Finally, Joe asked for anyone interested in becoming a Club officer to let him know since we will be holding elections at this year's June picnic.

Secretary's Report

April 2025

Continued

Following the meeting folks drifted to the parking lot to admire the cars and discuss all things Triumph. From there, a group of members participated in a drive to Granite Shoals for treats at Nelly's Homemade Ice Cream Shop.

On the 11th members gathered at the County Line at the Lake for the monthly social hour. Turn out was good and the weather was very pleasant with many sitting outside on the patio/deck area.

On the 15th, the monthly Pistons on the Square event took place. Weather was really nice. However, the drive that usually follows the show took place the following Tuesday. The destination for the drive was the Bluebonnet Cafe in Marble Falls. The hope was that by doing the drive on a Tuesday rather than a Sunday, the group might be more easily accommodated at the very popular cafe. Nick Roccaforte, who participated, reported that was unfortunately not the case and the 15 or so cars that participated convened at the nearby Bear King Brewery for lunch.

On the 23rd, the Brits and Barley crowd convened at Bluebonnet Beer Company in Round Rock. It was a warm, sunny afternoon and cold brews were most welcome at the mostly outside seating. Bluebonnet is in an unassuming location off the beaten path, behind one of Round Rock's post offices. They have a good selection of their own microbrews and have limited food offerings from their kitchen.

To close out the month, on the 27th, Mike McPhail and Rip Torn headed out to Covington, LA after a breakfast with Jacques and Kim Welter and myself at the Hippo Cafe in Hutto. Their stop along the way was Natchitoches, LA where they joined up with Art Graves who drove from Tulsa. I'm sure we will be regaled with further details of this outing.

Well that's it for March. Hope to see you all in April.



Sending Mike and Rip off in style



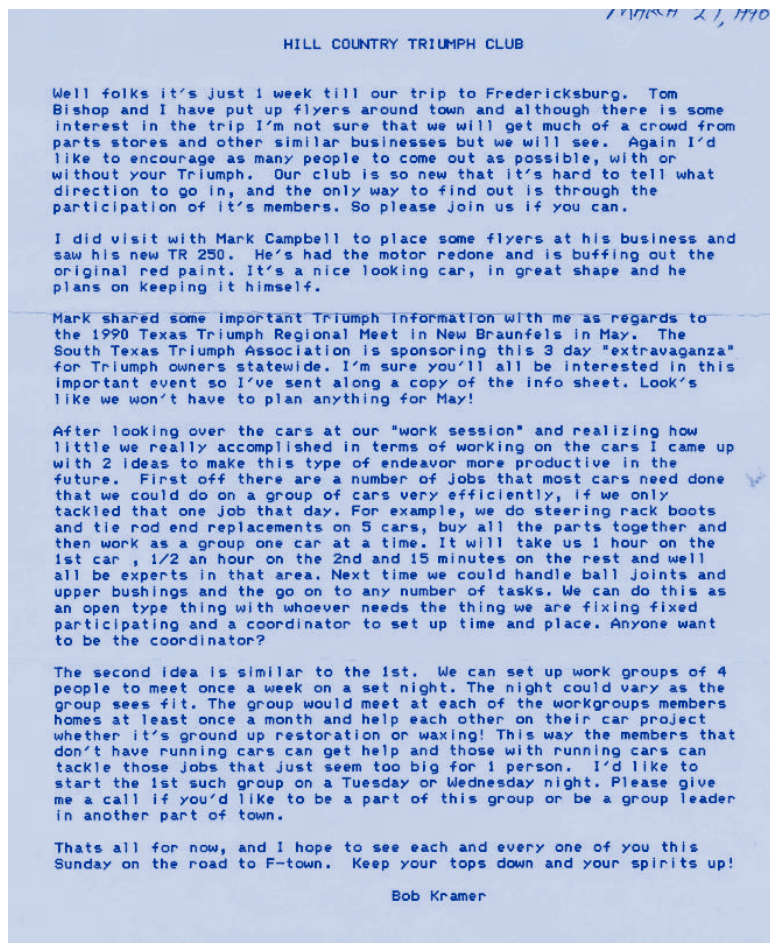
From the Archives

Art Graves

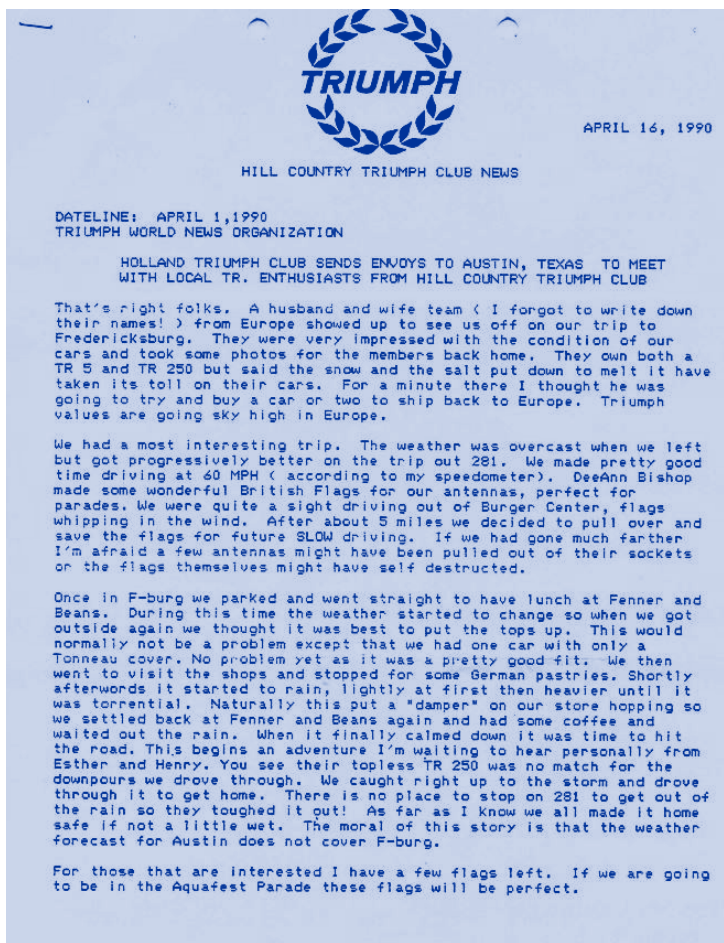


I received numerous requests for more Ragtop "issues" from the early, early days of The Hill Country Triumph Club. As mentioned last month, Bob Kramer either wrote or found all the material for the Ragtop. Thankfully (and I mean no disrespect for Bob's efforts), newsletter editors now receive many contributions. There are two reasons for this: the club is well established with more members and the club sponsors many activities that can be related to all members via the newsletter.

Included here are issues 4 & 5 of "The Ragtop". Interesting (at least to me) are the adverts for the VTR regional Convention in New Braunfels, TX and the VTR National Convention in Boulder, CO.



Ragtop #4: March 27th, 1990, Newsletter



Ragtop #5: April 16th, 1990, Newsletter

From the Archives

Continued

AREEQUE AND CAR STRIPPING PARTY AT HENRY & ESTHER'S AUTOMOBILE RANCH !

SATURDAY---APRIL 28TH---STARTS AT 10 AM---BBQ ABOUT 1 OR 2

Henry and Esther are planning BBQ, beans, potatoe salad & dessert. Bring your own drinks, chips, dips etc. If youve never seen a car being taken apart you can help strip Henry's wrecked TR 6 for parts. If anyone would like to have some help doing any repairs etc. on their car there is plenty of space to work & and lots of expert(?) advice. Just bring parts and tools. Of course there is also Henry's Cobra and his MGB's (& goats). The map is enclosed and self explanatory.

"1990" TRIUMPH

FRED AND KATHERINE HOSCH HAD A BABY BOY ON MARCH 31, 1990. THEY NAMED HIM AUGUSTINE ANTHONY HOSCH AND WILL BE CALLING HIM "AUSTIN". CONGRATULATIONS FRED AND KATHERINE ON YOUR LATEST TRIUMPH!

CLASSIFIEDS: FREE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR MEMBERS. Just call me at 834-8654 evenings and tell me what you have to sell, it's price etc. and I'll include it in the next newsletter.

TR 250 wanted. Contact Fil Valderrama at 441-9451 (weekends).

Air Compressor wanted: 3 to 5 H.P. used and cheap only. Contact Bob at 834-8654.



I.R.S.

Now that tax day has past it's time for us to check out our own IRS. I have tentatively scheduled a U-Joint replacement day for 13th. We can use my driveway unless someone else wants to offer a more central location. Anyone that wants to participate should order their U-Joints ASAP. Also check your rubber axle shaft boot and yoke cover as they might also need replacement. These items keep dirt out and help U-Joints last longer. I know my car needs U-Joints faster than it should because it does NOT have proper covers on it! As I understand it we should be able to tackle one car an hour with everyone working at once. By the by, IRS TR's take 6 U-Joints.

WORKGROUPS:

I have not had the hoped for response for work groups and as yet no group has started. I'm still planning a Tuesday or Wednesday night group and need one more participant. To recap the idea it goes like this. One night a week a group of 4 TR fans meet at each others homes and help each other with our projects on a rotating basis. This is an opportunity to get more work done, do bigger jobs, do them faster and develop friendships and camaraderie. I hope this is a way for Triumph owners without running cars can participate in our club. It would be best to set up these workgroups geographically so I'm hoping for a South Austin, West Austin and North Austin group to start with. To be a group leader isn't complicated. All it requires is somebody to set times and dates etc. So we need 3 group leaders, let's get busy!

The HILL COUNTRY TRIUMPH CLUB is officially a "ZONE" of the Vintage Triumph Register. Our club was listed in the most recent "English Channel". Thom Pooley, VTR's Chapter Coordinator sent along a packet of information to help us get a better grip on things. We need to set up a meeting to go over this stuff, we'll pick a date at Henry's.

For those VTR members who are receiving this Newsletter for the first time I have enclosed some informal info sheets for you to fill out if you want to be a part of our group. The VTR gave us your names and addresses in the hopes that we could include you in our activities. As we are a very new club we are looking for "charter" type members who will help run the club as well as other interested parties. As yet we have not picked any officers, set any dues or set any on-going meeting dates. We hope to grow quickly and in order to do so we need some more active members. I would like to point out that we have 8 member families that would be considered active in any club and 14 non active (as yet) members. We are trying to find ways to include all our fellow Triumph owners in ways that would interest them.

One event that is coming up fast that should excite all Triumph owners is the 1990 TEXAS TRIUMPH REGIONAL MEET to be held in New Braunfels on May 19, 20 and 21st. This meet is being run by the South Texas Triumph Association and all Triumph lovers are invited. The number to call for info is 1-650-4660 evenings. Ask for Kathie Hulka. We can't be much help yet at a statewide event like this but we can sure have a good time. So far it looks like 5 or 6 cars are heading down from Austin. We should coordinate the times we leave so we can have some company on the road.

I also have some Triumph National Convention flyers for anyone that wants one. I'll bring them on the 28th.



Info, Call:
512-493-1398
512-684-2216

TRIUMPH NATIONAL CONVENTION



AUGUST 1-5

IN 1990 COME VISIT AND TOUR
THE HEART OF THE ROCKIES

Hosted by the

Ragtop #5 (continued)

VTR Advertisements, April, 1990



2025 British Motoring Festival

Rip Torn

After many days of fine weather in Central Texas, three intrepid club members met to start their Journey to Covington Louisiana for the 2025 British motoring Festival. Mike McPhail and Rip Torn rendezvoused in Hutto at the Hippo Cafe where they met Jacques and Kim Welter and Dick Simonson. (Unfortunately Dick was not able to go with us because of recent injuries and Kim & Jacques had a previous commitment keeping them in town). What a send-off for the group.

The day was cool and with scattered rain in the forecast. The drive was uneventful and we stopped in Lufkin, Texas, taking the old San Antonio Road (OSR), which formed part of the original Camino Real from the Spanish colonial times. The OSR is a network of trails originating in Mexico City continuing up through Texas via San Antonio and into East Texas. Connecting at the Spanish border connecting with the French colony at Natchitoches - which, BTW, was our destination for the night.

The drive thru East Texas was spectacularly colorful with the wildflower fields and rhododendrons and azaleas. I was later told that the cold snap that we had in January that turned into a giant snow storm Eastward to Atlanta was actually causing the abundance of flowers this past spring.

Once in Natchitoches, we checked into our hotel and met up with Art Graves coming in from Tulsa. The evening activities consisted of exploration of some of the local establishments, adult refreshments, and dinner.

The next morning we expanded our cultural horizons and toured the local museum in



Mike and Rip talking over the route prior to leaving



First stop Natchitoches, Louisiana



Friday's Meet-and-Greet, Covington, LA

2025 British Motoring Festival

Continued

Natchitoches focused on the French settlement in the area.

On the road again, we did a side tour into Natchez, Mississippi where we arrived around lunch. Natchez is another beautiful town on the Mississippi River that was picturesque and quaint. It is also the home of the Brits on the Bluff car show in the fall.

After lunch, we then headed to Covington, on the north side of Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana. Again, a very picturesque town and a primary destination for the residents of New Orleans seeking relief from the heat and insects found in town during the summer. That evening in town was organized into a giant block party with all makes of classical cars, Restaurants, shops and locals are out in abundance.

The next morning we picked up our registration packets and were guided to the show parking spots. Art and I were in the late TR6 with total 16 participants and Mike in the Spit6 was one of four.

The forecast had called for rain (90% chance) and that kept some of the 165 registered cars home but the reality was a beautiful day with zero rain. All of us came home winners. Mike received a first in class, Art was third in class for late TR6s, and even I won a nice door prize, a Griot's car detailing kit.

As always, the New Orleans Munch did a great job and is that definitely worth considering attending for a springtime drive. So after a few more libations and dinner nearby, we called it a night. I had to return straight back to Cedar Park but Mike and Art did another detour for the day in Lafayette and a planned visit to the Tabasco factory at Avery Island.

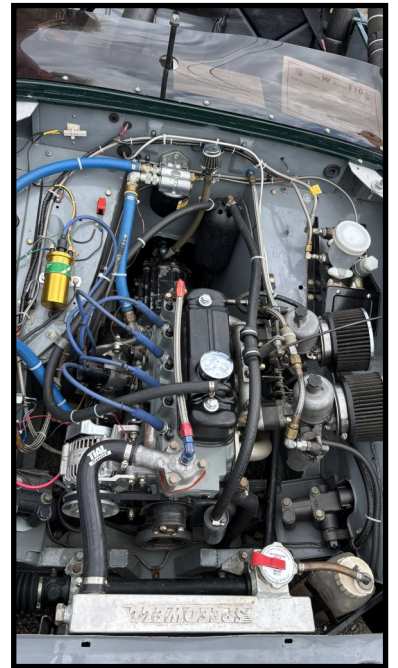
Thanks!



Covington, LA, was rockin' Friday night before the show !!



"Groovy Baby !!"



A racing Austin-Healey Sprite

Art Graves crosses another Milestone

Art purchased his TR6 new in January of 1976 and has owned it ever since. A true road warrior, Art's not shy about traveling all over the country to attend shows - and wins awards frequently with his immaculately maintained car. While returning from the British Motoring Festival in March, Art crossed the 450,000 mile mark on his TR6 — quite the accomplishment. Happy trails, Art



2025 British Motoring Festival

Continued



A nice turnout for the TR6



Unicorn sighting ... A very rare Jensen JPH



Rip's Green Hornet shows out



Left to right, Rip's TR6; Art's TR6; and Mike's Spit6



One very nice TR6



A long row of step kids

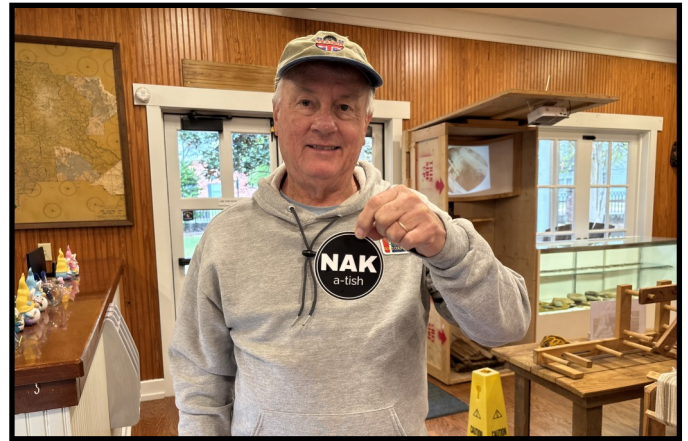
2025 BMF - The Rest of the Story

Mike McPhail

NAK-A-TISH

Several locals were interrogated, with various pronunciations offered, but Art discovered the definitive answer to the much-pondered question “how do you say Natchitoches?”

Avoiding Baton Rouge during rush hour on Friday was the reason for visiting several East Texas and Louisiana towns on our way to the British Motoring Festival in Covington. There was much added-value in traveling along what came to be “the Azealia Trail”. Fantastic flora and historic sites were around every forested bend on our tour of the Deep South.



How do you say that name again? Ask Art ... he's an expert

Rip has chronicled our travels up to when we parted ways on Sunday morning, so here is the rest of the story:

Art and I checked out of our luxury accommodations in downtown Covington and walked over to our now favorite breakfast stop and finalized our travel plans. Always on the lookout for new & exciting routes, LA 90 beckoned us towards Avery Island, which is located just South of Lafayette.

To our delight, our starting point was right up the street from the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, the longest bridge in the world. Crossing twenty-four miles of water brought us into New Orleans, which was very quiet, being Sunday morning. One hundred and sixty-six miles later, we arrived at the Tabasco Visitor Center, where we were educated about all the wonders of Avery Island. Pepper farm, salt mine, nature park, food manufacturing, and oil production all happen here in this unique microcosm.

After a hearty bowl of crawfish etouffee at the “1868 Restaurant” and a shopping stop at the Tabasco General Store, we were off to our overnight stop. Like so many other places these days, Lafayette is a busy little town with quite a bit of light industry... mostly oil related. By the time we had settled in & located a satisfactory dinner destination, it was time to turn in.



On the ferry

Monday afternoon would find us in Houston for a celebration-of-life gathering for the wife of a dear friend... an all too common occurrence for people our age. With plenty of time to get there, our Waffle House planning meeting produced another driving adventure. We hot-footed it down IH10 to Winnie, Texas, where we cruised down the Bolivar Peninsula to catch the Galveston Ferry. Great fun and “it don’t cost nuthin’”.

Eventually we slogged our way out of the Metroplex, and the temperature and humidity dropped as we neared the Hill Country. It was pleasing to see all the Bluebonnets around La Grange as we breezed effortlessly home. My home that is... yikes, Art has to drive another five hundred miles to Tulsa!

HCTC Elections

Rip Torn

You are invited to the Annual Meeting of the Membership and Elections of Hill Country Triumph Club, LLC, June 14, 2025

The June meeting is important for all of the members of the HCTC. It is **the** Annual meeting that allows the members to ratify changes to the Bylaws, elect their representatives, and celebrate the achievements of the members of this club. We — the members — entrust our representatives to carry out those visions and goals. (BTW - I think we have been very fortunate to have many true leaders and visionaries in our midst over the years who have worked together for the club).

One major function during the Picnic is the election of club leaders- President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. From the bylaws our descriptions for those positions state:

ARTICLE V. Duties of Officers

Section 1. Duties of the President

The President shall:

- The President shall be the principal executive officer of the HCTC and as such maintain continuity of the HCTC by executing the provisions of these Bylaws.
- Preside at HCTC Meetings.
- Ensure the necessary arrangements for each HCTC meeting following the date and location selected by the membership at the preceding meeting.
- Provide an agenda for each HCTC meeting.
- Appoint committees and their chairs, unless otherwise specified herein, per ARTICLE VII. Committees and with the assistance and approval of the elected officers.
- Serve as the official spokesperson for the club.
- The President shall notify the membership as to the contents of any statements made on their behalf, in the Newsletter or at the next meeting, whichever comes first;
- Convey all records, correspondence, and property of the HCTC to their successor.
- With the approval of the officers, present an annual budget for the coming year at the first regular meeting after the Annual Meeting of the HCTC. The budget will be approved by the membership by a majority vote.
- Serve as liaison and representative of the HCTC to other auto club-related organizations and may designate a representative as needed.
- Lead club activities and events and ensure club activities are carried out.
- Report monthly to the membership through club communications.
- VTR Mandatory Participation -The Hill Country Triumph Club President or another designated member by the Executive Board should plan to attend the annual Vintage Triumph Register Conference.
- Serve on the Budget Committee if established.

After the club year on June 30th, the incumbent Club President should submit to the new HCTC elected officers:

- The names, offices, addresses, and telephone numbers of the incoming/ returning Board;
- The totals of paid membership and total membership for the preceding year;
- A financial statement for the preceding year;
- A one-page summary of the highlights of the year in the club; and
- A list of names, addresses, and full payment for membership fees for club members in the upcoming year.

HCTC Elections

Rip Torn

Section 2. Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President shall:

- Maintain continuity of the HCTC by working closely with the President and other elected officers.
- Call a meeting in absence of the President.
- Represent HCTC as necessary in the absence of the President.
- Convey all records, correspondence, and property of the HCTC to his/her successor.
- Assist the President by helping to coordinate the efforts of sitting Committee Chairs of the HCTC, and in other matters as requested by the President.

Section 3. Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- Carry on necessary correspondence with membership through website, listserv, and email, and as directed by the President.
- Report at every regular meeting to the membership.
- Record the proceedings of all HCTC meetings and maintain a complete set of records and Newsletters,
- Send a copy of the minutes to the President within a week after each such meeting;
- Keep copies of the Bylaws and standing rules and record amendments.
- Call the meeting to order in the absence of the President and Vice President and preside over the election of a temporary presiding officer.
- Send notices of all meetings to members.
- Convey all records, correspondence, and property of the HCTC to his/her successor.
- Maintain the club calendar with the Events Chair

Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- Receive dues, listing fees, and other revenues and deposit them in an account in the name of the HCTC and shall disburse funds from this account for necessary HCTC expenses.
- Coordinate an up-to-date list of the members with the Membership Chair.
- Report at every regular meeting to the membership the receipts, expenses, and financial condition of the HCTC. No funds from dues are to be used for salaries or otherwise to reimburse persons for time spent on HCTC business (see clarification in Section 1. Services.)
- Call the meeting to order in the absence of the President, Vice President, and Secretary and preside over the election of a temporary presiding officer.
- Perform an annual accounting within 15 days of the end of the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30 and submit them to the Executive Committee.
- File necessary federal and state tax forms.
- Maintain accounts and transfer funds received regularly.
- Coordinate VTR (Vintage Triumph Registry) Regional event finances and other outreach events (co-responsibility with Secretary and President) when obligated by the HCTC.
- Convey all records, correspondence, and property of the HCTC to his/her successor.
- Establish and maintain an annual budget with inputs of all board members

Other positions are appointed by the president and duties are spelled out in the bylaws. In the next couple of editions I will publish some interviews with prospective elected officers as a guideline for your vote.

HCTC Elections

Rip Torn

ARTICLE IV. Officers, Election and Terms, Qualifications, Nominations

Section 2. Election and Terms

Officers shall be elected by ballot at the General Annual Meeting. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve terms of **two years** or until their successors are elected.

So, mark your calendars for June. We are confirming the location and time. In addition we have approved the meal budget and the members will receive some nice items for all and special prizes.



Racing News

Bob Kramer

I towed my TR4 up to Hallett Oklahoma for the 19th Annual Mike Stephens Classic. It was an unbelievable weekend. On Friday we had 50 mph winds, massive dust storms and soon we smelled smoke from wildfires that were springing up nearby. The closest town, Hallett, which was once an important railroad junction, but now home to just one gas station and freight trains barrelling through, suffered fires across many nearby acres. It was worse in nearby Cleveland, the County seat of Pawnee County, where evacuations and power outages were the order of the day. The fires consumed many homes and businesses. At the track we were holed up inside our trailers when not on track. We only found out how bad the situation was nearby when we were told of the cancellation of our dinner pizza party and we decided to head to Cleveland for dinner and heard that our destination steakhouse was in the evacuation zone. We later heard it burnt down. Not your average racing weekend.

My weekend was also pretty rough. The engine in the TR4 started showing signs of overheating on Friday so I parked it for the worst of the dust storms. I wasn't about to tackle pulling off the head in the



William Trimbur's BMW 320i and Marty Baker's MGB GT



Diego Iturbe Huffaker Healey



David Lee's Bugeye #10



Mike Coleman in his MG Midget at the starting line

Racing News

Continued

wind and dusty conditions so I waited until the morning to replace the head gasket. I couldn't find any evidence of a head gasket failure when I tore it down but proceeded to put on a new one. It's always more confidence inspiring when you find the "smoking gun". It didn't take long for that evidence to appear as the engine suffered an obvious head gasket blow up in the second race on Saturday. Pulling it apart again showed that the number 4 cylinder liner had split. It doesn't work too well that way! My weekend was over but I got to watch fellow Triumph racer John Frymark have his best weekend in some time. The GT6 was humming along, but older tires and dust on the track surface made it interesting for him. I got to watch some racing and observe the fire plumes beginning to recede as the windy conditions ended. This will not be a weekend I will forget.



David Tieh's Alpha Spider



Ricardo Price's Corvette



John Frymark's GT6



Roger Grantham's 240Z



Steve Coleman and his Shelby Mustang

HCTC Events Calendar

2025 Year-at-a-glance

AFFILIATED GROUPS

- Georgetown All-British Squadron meets at Pistons on the Square (POTS) every 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am
- Brits and Barley meets every fourth Saturday (or Sunday) of the month starting at 2:00 pm.

Jan						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

01 New Year's Day
 11 HCTC Morning mtg
 14 HCTC Social Hr
 20 M L King Day

04 Independence Day
 08 HCTC Social Hr
 12 HCTC Morning mtg
 15-18 VTR National Wisc Conv

Jul						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Feb						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

8 HCTC Social Hr
 10 Sir J. Black/DYTD
 11 HCTC Morning mtg
 17 Presidents' Day
 ?? GTN Air & Car Show

9 HCTC Morning mtg
 12 HCTC Social Hr

Aug						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Mar						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

8 HCTC Morning mtg
 11 HCTC Social Hr
 29 New Orleans British Motoring Festival

01 Labor Day
 09 HCTC Social Hr
 13 HCTC Morning mtg
 ?? Brits on the Bluff
 ?? Brits in the Ozarks

Sep						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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28	29	30				

Apr						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

8 HCTC Social Hr
 12 HCTC Morning mtg
 20 Easter Sunday
 23-6 VTR S. Central Reg Waco

04 Houston ABCD
 04 Dallas ABCD
 13 Columbus Day
 14 HCTC Social Hr
 10-25 Texas All British Car South Texas ABCD

Oct						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

26 Memorial Day
 10 HCTC Morning mtg
 11 All Brit & Euro Car Dallas
 13 HCTC Social Hr

08 HCTC Morning mtg
 11 Veterans Day
 11 HCTC Social Hr
 27 Thanksgiving Day

Nov						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Jun						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

7 Euro-Expo Cr Sh OK
 10 HCTC Social Hr
 14 HCTC Morning mtg
 16-27-8 TRA National Meet Greater Ozarks

09 HCTC Social Hr / / Tour D'Lites
 13 HCTC Morning mtg Xmas Party
 25 Christmas

Dec						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Hill Country Driving Event

April 2025

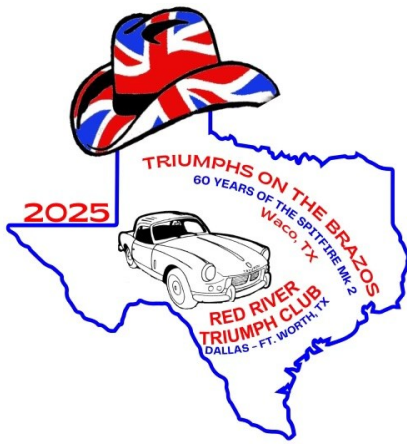
Canyon of the Eagles Resort

On behalf of the Georgetown All-British Squadron, HCTC is cordially invited to join them on a drive and lunch out to Canyon of the Eagles Resort 16942 Ranch Rd 2341, Burnet, TX 78611. The drive is a weekday drive on **Wednesday April 16th 2025.**

We will depart at 10:00 a.m. from 2821 W Whitestone Blvd, Cedar Park, TX 78613 at the Quick Trip. ETA at the restaurant is 11:30.

Because space is limited and we have a large group, an Evite will be sent out and you will have to RSVP. Meals will be each individuals' responsibility





VTR South Central Regionals



April 23rd - April 27th

Red River Triumph invites you to 2025 Regionals

The Red River Triumph Club is pleased to invite you to the 2025 South Central VTR Regionals to be held April 23 - 26, 2025 in Bellmead, Texas. The theme will be the 60th Anniversary of the Spitfire MK2. Our host hotel, The Holiday Inn & Suites, is located just 10 miles north of Waco, Texas on I-35. The hotel is central to all of the driving activities and other planned events and provides spacious meeting and dining room spaces for all of our onsite activities.

Our Featured Marque

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Spitfire MK2, the second in the series of Spitfires. It was styled for Standard-Triumph in 1957 by Italian designer Giovanni Michelotti and the Spitfire was introduced at the London Motor Show in 1962. It was manufactured at the Standard-Triumph Canley works, with approximately 37,409 MK2 being produced between December of 1964 to January 1967.

Where to stay

The Holiday Inn Express & Suites has a limited number of rooms reserved for us.

You can use this LINK or the below QR code to book a room in our reserved block and pricing.

Or call them directly at Front desk: 1-254-799-9997

Holiday Inn & Suites Waco Northwest



Follow this link for more information: <https://redrivertriumphclub.org/2025-scvtr-regionals/>

For online registration, follow this link: <https://redrivertriumphclub.org/2025-scvtr-registration-page/>

All British & European Car Day

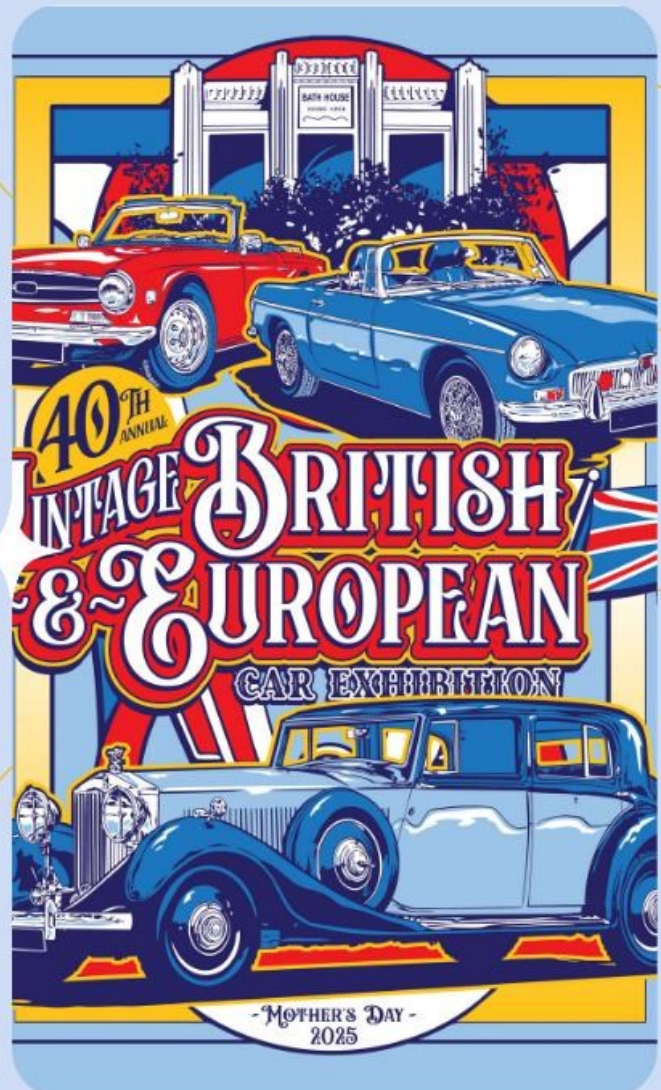
Saturday, May 11th

All British & European Car Day

**Sunday, May 11
10 am - 3 pm**

**Bath House
Cultural Center
White Rock Lake Park**

**For more information & Registration
go to www.AllBritishCarDay.com**





VTR Nationals La Crosse, WI



July 15th - July 18th

2025 Vintage Triumph Register National Convention

The Minnesota Triumphs Sports Car Club is excited to be your host for the 2025 North American Triumph Challenge! We had a terrific event hosting VTR in 2018, so we're heading back to the same great location and host, with even more fun to fill your week.

Follow this link for more information: <https://www.mntriumphs.org/vtr2025/>

For online registration, follow this link: <https://www.mntriumphs.org/vtr-2025-online-registration/>

Event Dates: July 15-18, 2025

Location: Radisson Hotel, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Event registration will be available before January 1, 2025.

La Crosse is near the center of the Driftless Area of Wisconsin right on the Mississippi River. This region is well known for its rolling hills, beautiful views along the river bluffs, and excellent back roads. You can pick about any direction and find scenic, winding roads with friendly small towns to visit.

VTR 2025 Accommodations

Both hotels below have opened the room blocks with our special event rate, so you can reserve your hotel room now.

Host hotel: **Radisson Hotel La Crosse**

- Book your room online: [VTR Booking Link for Radisson Hotel La Crosse](#)
- Or by phone: (608) 784-6680, let them know it's for Vintage Triumph Register 2025
- Rates: \$135 king city view, & \$145 double queen river view

Backup hotel: **Home 2 Suites**

Book your room online: [VTR Booking Link for Home 2 Suites](#)

- Phone: 608.881.6666
- Rates: \$144 for the King Studio suite

Preliminary Event Schedule

Tuesday, July 15

- Registration and check-in open
- Funkhana
- Craft, Model, Photo, Silent Auction opens
- Autocross tech inspection
- VTR board and member meetings
- Welcome reception

Wednesday July 16

- Autocross
- Tech session #1
- Trolley tour
- Self-guided tours
- Wedge owners meeting
- Sunset cocktail cruise

Thursday, July 17

- Breakfast run
- Run rally
- Tech session #2
- Self-guided tours
- Dinner run

Friday, July 18

- Car show
- Self-guided tours
- Cocktail hour
- Awards banquet Friday night

Saturday, July 19

- Check-out and parking lot goodbyes

Texas All British Car Days 2025

Come to the 34th Annual
Texas All British Car Days



October 10th to the 12th, 2025

At the beautiful Dos Conchas Ranch, Marble Falls, TX
Supporting the Eddie Shell & Cloyce McLean Community Foundation



Register and information Online



Self-Guided Fun Drives

Car Show Awards Dinner

Happy Hour Friday

Food Trucks! Vendors

Sponsored By:

YOUR LOGO HERE



Continfo@hillcountrytriumphclub.com



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115499245141733>

HCTC Car Show Calendar

Stephanie Nichols' 14th Annual Car & Plane Show

Location: Georgetown, Texas

Date: February 22nd

Web: <https://www.stephaniesgtownairportcarshow.eventbrite.com>

New Orleans British Motoring Festival

Location: Covington, Louisiana

Date: March 29, 2025

Web: <https://www.bmcno.org/2025-british-motoring-festival/>

VTR South Central Regional Convention

Location: Bellmead, Texas

Date: April 23 – April 26, 2025

Web: ??

Dallas All British & European Car Day

Location: White Rock Lake Park, Dallas, Texas

Date: Sunday, May 11th, 2025

Web: <https://allbritishcarday.com/shop/>

Euro-Expo Car Show

Location: Sand Springs, Oklahoma

Date: June 7, 2025

Web: <http://www.jaguarcluboftulsa.com/>

TRA National Meet

Location: Kalamazoo, Michigan

Date: June 16 – June 20, 2025

Web: <https://www.triumphregister.com/tra-national-meet/>

Greater Ozarks British Motoring Club Car Show

Location: Springfield, Missouri

Date: June 27 – June 28, 2025

Web: <https://gobmccarshow.com/>

VTR National Convention

Location: La Crosse, Wisconsin

Date: July 15 – July 18, 2025

Web: <https://www.mntriumphs.org/vtr2025/>

Kansas City All British Car Day

Location: Merriam, Kansas

Date: September 7 – September 8, 2025

Web: <http://www.heartlandallbritish.com/index.html>

6-Pack Trials

Location: Fontana Dam, North Carolina

Date: October 2 – October 5, 2025

Web: <https://forums.6-pack.org/>

Triumphest

Location: Buellton, California

Date: October 5 – October 8, 2025

Web: <http://www.triumphest.org>

British Iron All British Car Day

Location: Agri Park, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Date: ??, 2025

Web: <http://www.britishironnwa.org/>

Britts on the Bluff

Location: Natchez, Mississippi

Date: ??, 2025

Web: <https://www.msemc.org/events/>

Houston All British Car Day

Location: Houston, Texas

Date: October 4th, 2025

Web: NA

Texas All British Car Day

Location: Austin, Texas

Date: October 10th - 12th, 2025

Web: <https://www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org/txabcd/>

South Texas All British Car Day

Location: Boerne, Texas

Date: October 26th, 2025

Web: [https:](https://)

Brits and Barley

Jacques Welter

Looking to have even more fun in your Triumph? Join the crew of Brits and Barley.

Brits and Barley is a driving / destination group (not a club) dedicated to the premise of driving our British automobiles and drinking some good beer - two concepts that have a great deal of attraction to all who join us. As a group we will drive to one local brewpub per month; consume a couple of frosty adult beverages; talk cars, friends, activities, and other things; and then head our separate ways.

Members for Brits and Barley are drawn from local car clubs - to date we have Hill Country Triumph Club; Capital City MG; and Georgetown All-British Squadron and we will be adding more over time.

We will (generally) meet the last Sunday of the month, but this can vary given holiday schedules. At the end of every meeting we will decide where the next meeting will be using a master list of brewing companies that we've compiled and we'll try to spread it out. For example, if we head south one month, we'll try to head North, Central, East, or West the next meeting.

Check in your Ragtop each month for the location. We hope to see you there !!



April

WHERE: Austin Beerworks

3001 Industrial Terrace, Austin, Texas

WHEN: Sunday, April 27th, starting at 2pm

HCTC Events

HCTC Social Hour The County Line on the Lake Tuesday, April 8th

Take a break from your busy calendar and hoist a few frosty adult beverages with your favorite people at the Hill Country Triumph Club social hour, held every second Tuesday of the month.

The Social Hour has moved its venue to **The County Line on the Lake**, just up the road from The Waterloo Icehouse. The County Line on the Lake is located at 5204 FM 2222.

While the event nominally runs from 6pm to 8pm, folks have been known to show up early and stay on late, so if you can't make it on time, don't worry — there'll still be folks there when you get there.



HCTC Breakfast Meeting Waterloo Icehouse Saturday, April 12th

The HCTC Breakfast Meeting starts your Saturday off right at the Waterloo Icehouse at the corner of Capital of Texas Highway and FM2222 !!

Come join the Club for breakfast, club updates, and some good company and conversation. While the meeting starts at 10:00 am, showing up early is encouraged !!

Can't wait to see you there !!



Why should I join the VTR?



VTR works to maximize the enjoyment all of us have when driving a Triumph and emphasizes camaraderie and social interaction among Triumph owners. As the only North American organization which recognizes each and every Triumph model, we hope you'll want to join us as we strive to achieve these goals.

We also hope you'll attend either the National or regional gatherings of VTR members. These conventions are always fun for attendees, and joining a VTR chapter will introduce you to others in your area who share your passion for Triumphs. Car shows, rallies, autocrosses, tours, vintage racing, and social gatherings are a regular part of the VTR scene. The HCTC is a VTR Chapter, but we urge you to also join the VTR as an individual.

Won't you join us? <https://vintagetriumphregister.org/>

Your dues provide the following:

- Our award winning, bi-monthly, color-cover magazine, The Vintage Triumph
- Free classified advertising in the magazine
- Technical assistance from our vehicle consultants
- VTR membership card and windshield decal



TRIUMPH REGISTER OF AMERICA

Formed to preserve the Triumph marque

ESTABLISH 1974

Triumph Register of America (TRA)

is a non-profit organization established to aid TR2, 3, 3A, 3B, 4 and 4A owners in the preservation, maintenance and enjoyment of their classic sports cars. TRA is a grassroots organization, which offers many advantages and services for individual members, groups and local centers.

TRA Membership dues:

\$40.00 Annually (US Resident)

\$50.00 Annually (Non-US Resident)

Checks or money orders for membership should be made payable to: Triumph Register of America.

Mail the check with the **Membership Application Form** to the address shown at the bottom of the form.

OPTION 1: You can also fill out form electronically through Acrobat Reader (not through your browser).

To fill out form: Download PDF. > Open in Acrobat Reader. > Fill out form. > Save document to your computer. > Email to membership chair.

OPTION 2: You can also scan your completed Membership Application Form and email.

Link to the PDF version of the membership form: [TRA-Membership-Form-2022](#)

Pay Dues via PayPal:

If you have a PayPal account and wish to pay dues using this service. Simply log onto your account and follow the prompts to send the appropriate annual fee using the following email: triumph.register.of.america@comcast.net.

NOTE: The application form must still be mailed or emailed to the address shown at the bottom of the Membership Application Form.

Benefits of a Triumph Register of America Membership:

- Four newsletters per subscription written by and for Triumph owners
- Annual National Meet (Concours judging is limited to TR2 thru 4A, Participants choice is open to all Triumphs.)
- Local Center development information and event announcements
- Free classified ads related to Triumph sports cars
- Technical advice via the Newsletter
- Factory build records
- Comments on originality via the Newsletter
- Judging Standards and Restoration Guideline Manuals for TR 2/3 and TR4 (online)
- The TRA Forum (online) where you can communicate with fellow Triumph owners

Classifieds

Hill Country Triumph Club Advertising Rates

Member ads for Triumph cars or parts are 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 are 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.



Enjoy your TR more!

ENJOY A TRA MEMBERSHIP:

4 National newsletters per year

Annual National Meet

Website (password protected areas for members)

Concours judging standards

Factory build records

Technical support

Contact information

Shutterfly National Meet website



Join TRA Today!

www.TriumphRegister.com

Classifieds

Set of 5 - 72 Spoke Wire Wheels (Black) w/ Tires for Sale- \$850

Motor Wheel Service (MWS) 15 x 5½ Wire Wheels 42mm center (fits Triumph TR4, TR6, maybe TR3). MWS part number: XW457S. The MWS Wheels were purchased in 2021 from Rimmer Brothers and have approx. 2000 miles on them. These are the newer design wire wheels from MWS that do not require tubes. Wheels were bought and painted in black epoxy semi-gloss finish. These wheels are straight and true.

The 5th wheel does not have a tire mounted on it and is the older style MWS 15 x 5½ which does require a tube. It is not perfectly straight and true but, it will balance. This would make a good spare. Tires are Sumitomo HTR A/S P03 195/65-R15 Front and 205/65-R15 Rear, H speed rating (130mph). Tires have less than 2000 Miles and the Manufactured date is late 2021.

Contact: **Rod Hamilton** rbhamilton1130@gmail.com



Visor assembly with mounts (both sides), ignition switch cover, trunk light, misc. items. Text Jim @ 254-563-9141

Triumph TR6 '69-72 Intake Manifold Stanpart V3108, used, as is. Great condition. Price plus shipping or pick up in central Texas \$110

Many more parts for sale and prices negotiable. See the [catalog PDF](#) or look at <https://www.triumphexp.com/forum/buy-sell-and-trade-forum.5/>

Contact Rip at 512 845 2944 or rtorn09@gmail.com



Classifieds

New Spitfire Seat Covers Set for sale.

This is a set of brand new seat covers made in England. Color beige Price \$350.00. If you buy a new set it would cost over \$500.00.

Please call or text 316 200 3068.



Need a lift? I have several heavy tools that I am prepared to lend out to HCTC members who may be considering some DIY Engine or Transmission work. I have a hydraulic Engine Hoist, an Engine Stand and a Hydraulic Press.

They are available to any club member so long as you will take care of them until you return them. And so long as you operate them safely (I offer no liability for injury or damage) Just let me know, I can even get them over to you in my pickup truck.

Malcolm Grey

TEXT at 512 775 6443



Classifieds

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

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141



TR4A Parts. Various parts left from my rebuild several years ago. Grill is \$50. It does need a repair as pictured. As to the other parts just call and give me a offer. 214-587-5390.





The Hill Country Triumph Club, is a not-for-profit car club affiliated with several national groups. We are 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.

As of 1 July 2022, Annual dues are only \$20.00 per new membership for a family group or address per year and go toward supporting club events. We encourage new members to order their club nametag for an additional \$11 each. Renewals are \$20 annually.

We have social get-togethers on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, Breakfast Business meetings on the second Saturday of the 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 support our members interested in Showing Cars, Traveling, Racing, Restoring, Maintaining and otherwise socializing. One goal of the club is to help its members keep their cars on the road. Please contact one of the club officers listed in the newsletter for more information at info@hctc.us 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.

Membership

Payment is due on joining and payable by check to HCTC and may be:

1. Mailed with this application to: HCTC Membership Chair, 1105 N. Canyonwood Dr., Dripping Springs, TX 78620 or
2. Online (when active) on the www.hctc.us or
3. Bring this application (filled out) to the next meeting.

Dues may be paid in more than 1-year increments. Renewals will be due on the closest Jan 1 or Jul 1. Multi-year rates: 5 years- \$90, 10 years- \$170.

Club bylaws are available online. By joining the membership, their family and/or guests agree to hold the HCTC, officers, or other members harmless in the event of any accidents or incidents related to club activities.



Please fill this out and send in with Membership request

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Email: _____

TR Car 1: Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Color: _____

Car 2: Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Color: _____

How did you hear about HCTC? _____

Special interests, skills, etc? _____

What do you want your nametag to read? _____

Additional Nametag reads _____ (Add \$11 per badge) If you want the badges mailed to you, add \$2.00 per badge. **Contact Gary Payne to order name badges (garypayne75@hotmail.com).**