

The

November 2025



Hill Country Triumph Club Newsletter



Celebrating and driving Triumphs since 1990



The Texas All British Car Days Field, October 11th, 2025 @ Dos Conchas Ranch, Marble Falls, Texas

Letter from the President

November, 2025

Jacques Welter



Whew !!

October is in the books ... and what a whirlwind it was. Every weekend of the month held an event, ranging from large to small, with HCTC'ers involved.

Of course the most important is our very own Texas All British Car Days (TX ABCD). TX ABCD is not just a car show — it's a weekend-long event featuring social hours, guided and self-guided drives, breakfasts and breakfast drives, awards banquet AND the show itself. In short, it's a destination event designed to allow people who share the same brand of insanity to gather together, tell stories, break bread, show off our vehicles, and otherwise engage in fun and escape.

This year's version was the 34th iteration of the TX ABCD show, and it followed the same format as last year — guide drive & social hour on Friday; show, self-guided drives; and awards



Jim Wells with Dick Simonson working on his TR6 in the parking lot of Hidden Falls Inn

banquet on Saturday; breakfast drive and breakfast on Sunday. It was my second TX ABCD as co-chairman; fourth as a member of Hill Country and my 8th as an attendee (I went to a lot of these shows, just didn't have a car worth showing at the time).

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Letter from the President

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Walking around looking at it from outside, it seems pretty straight-forward. You park the car in the lot by 10 am and pick it up at 1 pm and in between you talk to people and drool over other folks cars. Sometimes even win a trophy. Sounds and looks simple — I mean, how hard can this be?

Boy howdy ...

We (HCTC) start planning the show almost a year in advance of the actual event, all done by the co-chairs and steering team including all of HCTC's leadership. There's assessment of what went right and wrong with the current years' show; budget analysis; working group assignments covering marketing; IT; registration; reservation; collateral; facilities; vendor management; promotion; sales; procurement; and a thousand of other small elements. It's a ballet of hippo's ... done right, it looks like Fantasia. Done wrong and you have a muddy stampede.

I think I'm going to claim we had a big beautiful ballet this year.

So just who are the folks that actually made this event work? Let me start with my partner in crime, Mike McPhail. Mike's the sparkplug that makes ABCD work. Then there's the steering committee.

Marketing was run by Rip Torn and assisted by Malcom Grey. They did all banners; flyers; advertising; procurement; sponsor recruitment; and vendor recruitment.

Hospitality was Kim Welter's responsibility - if it involved food & drink, Kim ran it. That includes coordination, menu, and the thousands of details that cropped up during the process.

All of our IT was run by Henry Reynolds assisted by Jimmy White — including making our online registration and website actually work. Hard, hard work with excellent results.

Gary Payne wrote the checks — definitely an essential function — and kept us on track with the budget.

Dick Simonson, Joe Payne, and Jim Wells basically filled in the gaps in the plan - if it needed doing, Mike and I turned to them to get it done.



Part of the show field, TX ABCD



On the Sunday morning breakfast run on Park Road 4

Letter from the President

Continued

It was a great team, and without them TX ABCD simply does not happen. Cudo's and thanks to them for a great event and show. BTW, a special call out to Dan Julien for being the official photographer of TX ABCD.

Then there's the day-of volunteers. As a part of registration, we asked for volunteers to help with the show and did we get them !! People volunteered their time to help us make this a great event on the day before and day of the show — show field setup; venue setup; parking assistance; onsite registration; information tent; headquarters tent; silent auction; gate greeters; vendor management ... well, you get the idea. Other volunteers included:

- Rod Hamilton
- Alex Martin
- Dennis Walje
- Ian Tozier
- Julian Pham
- Martin Treglown
- Louise Brito
- Robert Sparks
- Vincent Barnell
- Victor Ramos
- Donald A Burkley
- Christian Trembley
- Edward Manning
- Craig Ligon
- Nick & Julie Roccaforte
- Vincent Handley
- Keith Vezina
- Albert Amato
- Larry & Melinda Hester
- Rodney Carr
- William Sweeney
- Juan Olivero
- Mike Gorman
- Mac McConnell
- Brett & Karen Green
- Dan Julien
- Samuel & Kim Vazquez
- Gerald Hutchinson
- Joe Davis
- Michael Kilgore
- Bruce Whiteside
- Wiley Christal
- Bob & Pam Skewis
- Rick Fulton
- Art Graves
- Dan Brockway
- Danny & Christie Zeier
- Benson Tuttle
- Eric & Bev Van Note
- Greg Grohoski
- Rick South
- Alisha Gosdin
- Eddie Valverde
- Michael Boudreaux
- Paul & Mary Carew
- Robert Simons
- Joe Kboudi
- Roger Bolick
- Winston DeFord
- Michael Salvaneli
- Charlie Hampton
- Juan Olivero (Sr)
- Charles Jeffery
- Willis Thorstad
- William Hart
- Chris Salisbury
- Brian Polk
- William Hanna
- Steve Lyle
- Patrick Yoas
- Greg Grohoski
- Andy Hempel
- Brent Crowley
- Javier Bazan
- Scott Vermillion
- Neil Hedden
- Jim Bowen
- Christian Fletcher
- Randy Whitten
- Matthew Welter

So, in short, thank you to a load of people for making TX ABCD happen. Here's to another year and making the 35th edition of the show a success.

I hope to see you out there !!

Jacques



Hill Country Triumph Club Officers

President ... **Jacques Welter**
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Vice-President ... **Jim Wells**
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Back issues of The Ragtop are available on our website:

<http://www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org>



Jacques Welter



Jim Wells



Gary Payne



Dick Simonson

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

HCTC Events-at-a-Glance

November, 2025

November 8th:

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

November 11th:

- **Hill Country Triumph Club Social Hour**
Waterloo Icehouse, 7:00 - 9:00

November 15th:

- **Georgetown Pistons on the Square**
Courthouse Square, Georgetown, TX 8:00 - 10:00

November 23rd

- **Brits and Barley**
Infamous Brewing Company,
4602 Weletka Dr, Austin, TX 78734

November 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						

December, 2025

December 9th:

- **Hill Country Triumph Club Social Hour**
Waterloo Icehouse 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

December 12th:

- **Hill Country Triumph Club Christmas Party**
Joe Payne's residence, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

December 13th:

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

December 20th:

- **Georgetown Pistons on the Square**
Courthouse Square, Georgetown, TX 8:00 - 10:00

December 25th:

- **Merry Christmas !!**

December 28th

- **Brits & Barley**
Slackers Brewing Company, 2:00 pm
12233 Ranch Rd 620, Austin, TX 78750

December 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

November 2025

Dick Simonson



Well, October was a little bit of car show mania, highlighted by our very own Texas All British Car Day. It seems that car clubs all over Texas chose October for their car shows, and why not, it's one of the nicer weather months of the year. But before the TxABCD took place, our own road warriors, Mike McPhail and Art Graves, drove their Triumphs to Fontana Dam, North Carolina for the annual Six Pack Trials. The Trials ran from October 2-5 and among other things involved drives on the famous Tail of the Dragon. I'm sure Mike or Art will regale us with more details.

TxABCD ran from Friday, the 10th through Sunday, the 12th. We did not hold our regular monthly breakfast meeting, which would have fallen on the same weekend. Once again, the show and awards banquet took place at Dos Conchas Ranch in Marble Falls. The Hidden Falls Inn was our host hotel and base of operations. Conveniently located across the street from the Inn, albeit a very busy street, was the Bear King Brewery, site of much socializing over the weekend.

The weather was super all weekend. On Saturday we had a great turnout. 95 cars registered covering a broad mix of all cars British. The banquet took place Saturday evening. Miss Vicky's Catering provided food and beverages all day as well as catering the banquet.

Our club members did quite well among the Triumph and non-Triumph classes. Judging was by people's choice except for Best Of Show. Mike McPhail and Art Graves handled the responsibility of making that selection. A complete list of awards can be found on the TxABCD Facebook page. The following is a list of the awards garnered by club members:

BEST OF SHOW: went to our very own Rod Hamilton for his beautiful 1964 TR4 restomod.

TR3: tie for 1st - Ralph Herter, 1957 TR3 and Vic Ramos, 1960 TR3

Triumph TR4: 1st - Rod Hamilton, 1964 TR4

TR250: 1st - Bill Sweeney, 1968 TR250; 2nd - Bob Skewis 1968 TR250

TR6 early: 1st - Neil Hedden, 1970 TR6; 2nd - Kim Welter, 1972 TR6; 3rd - Don Burkley 1972 TR6

TR6 Mid: 1st - Sam Vazquez, 1973 TR6; 2nd - Rodney Carr, 1973 TR6; 3rd - Edward Manning, 1974 TR6

TR6 Late: 1st - Art Graves, 1975 TR6; 2nd - Rip Torn, 1975 TR6; 3rd - Benson Tuttle, 1976 TR6

Triumph Touring: 1st - Dennis Walje, 1968 GT6; 2nd - Nick Roccaforte, 1970 GT6+



TX ABCD final planning meeting on Thursday before the show. Pictured, L to R and front to back: Dick Simonson; Jim Wells; Mike McPhail; Art Graves; Jacques Welter; Kim Welter; Patrick Yoas (North Dallas Austin Healey club); Vince Barnell (Houston Austin Healey club)

Secretary's Report

November 2025

Continued



Some of the class winners. On the left, Late TR6 winners Art Graves, Cheryl Torn, and Benson Tuttle. On the right, winners Neil Hedden, Malcolm Grey, and Winston DeFord



HCTC Social Hour: L to R, F to B: Kim Welter; Gary Payne; Francis Julien; Jacques Welter; Dan Julien; Dick Simonson; Mike McPhail; Malcolm Grey; Henry Reynolds; Neil Hedden; Jimmy & Penny White; Joe Payne; Jim Wells; Roger Bolick.



Part of the show field at the South Texas All British Car Days in Gruene

Early Spitfire: 1st - Neil Hedden ,1967 MK3; 2nd - Neil Hedden,1964 MK1; 3rd - Jimmy White 1966 MK2

Late Spitfire: 1st - Neil Hedden,1976 1500; 2nd - Malcolm Grey, 1976 1500, 3rd - Winston DeFord 1975 1500

TR7 & 8: 1st - Bill Hanna, 1980 TR8; 2nd - Julian Pham, 1981 TR8, 3rd - Mike Gorman, 1980 TR7

Late MGB: 2nd - Henry Reynolds, 1978 MGB

MGC-GT: 1st - Julie Roccaforte, 1973 MGB-GT

Spridget: 1st - Jacques Welter, 1961 Bugeye Sprite

Classic Lotus: 2nd - Paul Carew

Jaguar E-Type Coupe: 3rd - Mike McPhail, 1969 E-Type Coupe

Modern Jaguar: 1st - Neil Hedden, 2010 XK; 3rd - Dick Simonson, 2002 XKR

You may have noticed that Neil Hedden's name appears a few times. Luckily for the rest of us he only brought five cars. I think all who attended enjoyed the experience. Another great job by Jacques and Mike in carrying this off for the second year at this location. Also, many special thanks to all those who volunteered and without whose help this never would have happened.

The week following TxABCD, on the 14th, a nice sized group got together for the monthly club social hour. 15 folks gathered at Waterloo on a perfect Texas October outdoor patio evening. A few days later, on the 18th, six of our members attended the South Texas British car days in Gruene and did quite well for themselves. Mike McPhail took second in class for Jaguars, while in the TR6 category, Joe and Aaren Payne took second in class and Jacques and Kim Welter took third.

While there was the usual Pistons on The Square event in Georgetown on the 18th, the GABS folks

Secretary's Report

November 2025

Continued

decided not to schedule a post Pistons drive because of all the other events going on in October. To finish out the month, the Brits and Barley group met up at Fitzhugh Brewing Company in Dripping Springs on the 26th and I'm sure all had a good time.

That's it for October. I look forward to seeing many of you at our regular Club events in November.



Brits & Barley at Fitzhugh Brewing Company



Julian & Mike Gorman with the TR7 / TR8 winners



Ralph Herter & Vic Ramos tie with two great-looking TR3's



Bill Sweeney and Bob Skewis with the TR250 class



Sam Vazquez takes home 1st in Class with his beautiful 1974 TR6

From the Archives

Art Graves

Barbara Kramer wrote this report and description of the Funkhana event at the 1997 VTR South Central Regional Convention in Georgetown, Texas. This article appeared in the May 1997 issue of "The Ragtop". The Funkhana is a driving event, but more importantly it is a spectator event. Those of us not familiar with the Funkhana event can (hopefully) get an understanding of it from Barbara's article.

- Art



VTR Regionals FUNKHANA Report

Barb Kramer

After I volunteered to run the Funkhana for this year's VTR Regionals, I was questioning what I had gotten myself into until Tom Bishop graciously offered to help me out. Tom's creative mind is legendary, so I knew we would be okay. Bob has participated in almost every Autocross at VTR Regional and Nationals events, and we have been through many Funkhanas both at VTR Regionals and Nationals, and at All British Car Days. Tom and I put our experiences together with a lot of thought and came up with our Little British Car Funkhana. The most important criteria for it was that it had to be fun, and we took it from there. For those of you who ran it, this is what you subjected yourselves to, for those of you who didn't this is what you missed.

Kings Throne Koosh Swoosh: From within your LBC (little British Car), 3 Koosh balls are launched into (hopefully) a nearby ceramic "throne" (not American Standard). Points awarded for hitting the target. Our aim is to please, your aim, too, please.

Fan Belt Royal Toss: Again, from within your LBC, 3 fan belts are tossed onto nearby Trolls, OK traffic cones, the trolls are on strike. Points scored for each on "coned."

Lord of the Rings: Stop the car between the Fruit Loop Hula Hoops, get out and both driver and

navigator must complete four revolutions, or if it is totally impossible for a contestant, they must at least attempt it and pick it up off the ground and Hula three times. No points, just a required exercise to avoid a DNF.

Little Wimbledon: Traditional tennis with a twist. You must place a tennis ball on top of the traffic cones. It must stay there to win the match. Stop and go luv. Stop and go deuce. Stop and go Luv. It's to your advantage to serve up a good game. Points scored for following through.

Smashing Good Time: Driver and navigator jump out of car and each pummels a soda tin, and place it in the recycle container. We are very good at recycling old British tin. This is a "must do" or you receive a DNF.

Frisbee Toss through a Redline Tire: We knew these old relics were good for something. Points awarded for accuracy.

Extra Credit: Triumphant Duel: After crossing the finish line, the clock is stopped. You can earn extra credit by finishing off your partner. Line up back-to-back and take five paces. Turn and toss. Balloons must explode and you must get wet to accumulate points. You both can get points!

From the Archives

Continued

Once we got the Autocross people in line and took back our share of the parking lot from the racing fanatics, we were ready to put our thoughts into motion. My worst fear (Bob says I worry too much and he's probably right. (I said probably, dear!) was that there would be a torrential downpour, no one would show up, and those who did would not have any fun. Well, it only rained a little bit, enough to give me a really bad hair day. People and their Little British Cars showed up and from what I could tell people had fun.

I had reservations about how well the water balloon duel would work. I really hoped someone would be up to the challenge since I was up at 7:00 am in the registration room filling up about 40 water balloons. I tried to do it the night before in the hotel room sink. Let's just say I should have had a wetsuit on. We got lucky because Sheila and Duncan Wood, from the RRTC in Dallas, got us off to a good start. They set a good example for everyone else by trying for the water balloon points. When I left registration that morning I asked Linda Knowles, Adrienne Stewart, DeeAnn Bishop and Judy Byrd, who were still running registration, to fill up some more balloons when it was slow. I'm sure glad they did 'cause we needed them!

Let me take this opportunity to THANK Linda, Judy, Adrienne and DeeAnn for all their help with EVERYTHING, with a special thank you to them and everyone else who helped and who put up with Bob and I singing Karaoke on Friday night and putting up with me when I became a little "testy", should we say. If we all didn't care so much it wouldn't have turned out to be such a successful event.

It was great fun watching grown adults being silly and Hula-Hooping like there was no tomorrow, and trying to be brave when a water balloon was being hurled at them just to get the extra points. Most people went with their instincts and ducked. Some spouses showed no mercy. Luckily Bob was occupied with the Autocross or I would have been drenched. I was busy running around like a chicken with her head cut off picking up Frisbees, tennis balls

and fan belts and Tom was busy scoring. All of a sudden, I heard Tom roaring with laughter. I turned around to see Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble in a LBC (Little British Car) from Oklahoma. They completed the course and went on to win the hastily contrived "Tweety Twiumpth" award and deservedly so! I'm sure there will be pictures of this floating around so make it a point to see them. All in all, I think we met our goal and put the fun in FUNkhana. Thanks Tom!

Barbara

Funkhana Winners:

Here are the outstanding three competitors:

- 1st Place: Brian and Judy Byrd HCTC
- 2nd Place: Art and Brian Graves HCTC
- 3rd Place: Eric Diehr and Dylan Close RRTC

Congratulations to those who survived our Little British Car Funkhana.

HCTC & Texas All British Car Days

Jacques Welter

The 34th Texas all British Car Show Days event officially kicked off on Friday afternoon, October 10th with a guided drive led by Ralph Herter down Park Road 4 and points beyond. What followed was a weekend full of good food, great friends, and good cars.

Friday's drive was the opening act — a Social Hour from 3:30 to 7:30 was the bookend. In between was registration at the host hotel — the Hidden Falls Inn — and venue setup done by volunteers at Dos Conchas Ranch and the Cadillac Dancehall. Both the Social Hour and venue setup were well attended.

Saturday dawned bright and clear. Volunteer work crews showed up at Dos Conchas at 6:45 am just in time to let in Miss Vicky's catering and final setup began at 8:00 am. Cars began arriving just before 9:00 am, with Francis Julien & Joe Payne handling the check-in process and Henry Reynolds handling the on-site registration.

The show itself kicked off at 10:00 am, with cars coming from as far away as New Orleans, arranged in 30 classes. Vince Barnell and Rip Torn provided announcements and support from the Headquarters tent, while Kim Welter, Julie Roccaforte, Kim Vazquez, and Melinda Masters took turns working the Information booth.

Inside the Cadillac Dancehall itself we had vendors displaying their wares and services - Litz Up; Kip Motors; Bits of Triumph; and Jessicakes - plus the Silent Auction for attendees to browse.

Like last year, show attendees could purchase both breakfast and lunch from our caterer. Unlike last year Miss Vicky's also provided adult libations.

Back on the field, the People's Choice voting wrapped up at 12:30 pm, with the show officially ending at 1:00 pm. After the show end, the volunteers took down the



Early TR6's on the show field



The Modern Morgan contingent including two three-wheelers



A special thanks to our photographer Dan Julien and his TR6

HCTC & Texas All British Car Days

Continued

field signage, tents, and sound system and policed the grounds while the votes were.

The show reception started at 5:00 pm with Bear King Brewing providing the frosty adult beverages and Larry Read and his one-man band providing live music, with dinner starting promptly at 6:00 pm and the Awards ceremonies starting at 7:00.

Mike and Jacques MC'd the awards and were done by 7:45 with the presentation of Best in Show to Rod Hamilton and his beautifully-prepared resto-mod TR4. The evening was wrapped up by 9:30 pm, with the lights turned off and the venue closed down.

Sunday offered a breakfast drive leaving from Bear King Brewing at 8:00 am. Twelve cars plus drivers and passengers took off for a spirited run through the Hill Country, ending up at the origination point for brunch at Bear King Brewing. The TX ABCD wrapped up Sunday after breakfast — another year in the books.

We hope to see you again next year.

#



Pam & Bob Skewis and Bill Waller in front of Rod Hamilton's TR4



Jimmy White & Gary Payne in front of the show field, Dos Conchas Ranch



Sunday morning breakfast drive



Miss Vicky's just prior to opening up the buffet line

HCTC & Texas All British Car Days

Continued



Classic Jaguars on the show field



Austin Healey Sprites and MG Midgets show out, TX ABCD 2025



The Big Healey's all came out to play



One of the more unique setups - an MGB-based trailer with bench seats hauled by a V8 MGB owned by Keith Vezina from the New Orleans club



Miss Vicky's at Dos Conchas 7 am



That's a LOT of trophies



Rip Torn thanks our sponsors



Julian Pham on the Sunday drive

HCTC & Texas All British Car Days

Continued



Nick Roccaforte and his Triumph GT6



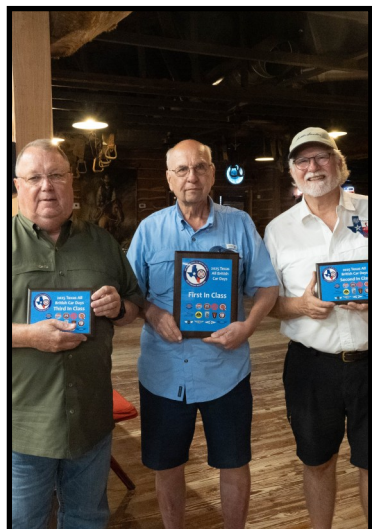
Best in Show winner Rod Hamilton and his restomod TR4



Bob Skewis in his TR250



The Awards banquet floor



Winner winner chicken (and BBQ) dinner !! Class winners from the show

HCTC & Texas All British Car Days

Continued



The entrance to Dos Conchas Ranch



Joe Payne and Craig Ligon discuss the show at the field entrance



Social Hour, Bear King Brewing



Sponsors banner



You'll always know where the Morgans are !!



The bridge over Lake Marble Falls at night

HCTC & Texas All British Car Days

Continued



Rip Torn in the Green Hornet on his way to the show field



Vince Barnell - one of our sponsors - in his fantastic Austin Healey 100/4



Brett and Karen Green in their TR6



Ralph Herter in his award-winning TR3



Taking down the Information Tent



Keith Vezina with furthest driven & best British spirit awards



Louise Britto with Best Survivor



Rod Hamilton with Best in Show

HCTC & Texas All British Car Days

Continued



About to depart on the breakfast run



On Park Road 4 for the Sunday breakfast run



Banquet. HCTC members, L-R: Malcolm Grey, Jimmy White



Banquet. HCTC members, L-R: Joe Payne; Ralph & Jeffie Herter; Bob & Pam Skewis; Willis Thorstad



Photographing the photographer.
Kim Welter taking pictures



Class awards being handed out



HCTC members, F-B: Neil Hedden;
Julian Pham; Cheryl & Rip Torn



HCTC: Mike McPhail; Benson
Tuttle; Dan & Francis Julien; Dick
Simonson

HCTC & Texas All British Car Days

Continued



Larry Read's One Man Band



Sitting at Keith Vezina's MGB trailer



In the parking lot of Hidden Falls Inn



Banquet. HCTC members Rod & Laurie Hamilton



More banquet pictures. HCTC members pictured: Nick & Julie Roccaforte; Paul & Mary Carew(#3); Brett & Karen Green; Sam & Kim Vazquez (#4)

HCTC @ South Texas ABCD

Jacques Welter

The week after our ABCD show, the San Antonio Triumph club (STTA) hosted the South Texas ABCD in Gruene, Texas. STTA moved the show to Gruene this year and did a nice job hosting. Attending from HCTC were Mike McPhail; Kim & Jacques Welter; Brett Green; and Joe & Aaren Payne. We were hoping for cooler weather but the weather, unfortunately, did not cooperate. Unseasonable hot, temperatures climbed into the middle 90's before the day was done, leaving the parking lot abandoned by late morning as folks sought shade, food, and drink — including our HCTC'ers. Mid-day we left the field to grab some food up the hill from the park at the historic Gristmill in Gruene. After some great grub and adult beverages, the group returned to the event for the awards ceremony. Joe & Aaren had to leave for another commitment, but the rest of the group was there for the awards ceremony. HCTC had a good show as Mike and Joe took home 2nd in Class awards and Kim took home third in class in a people's choice voting system. The day wrapped up with a visit to the Guadalupe Brewing company before heading home.

All in all, a good show and great company. Hope to see you there next year.



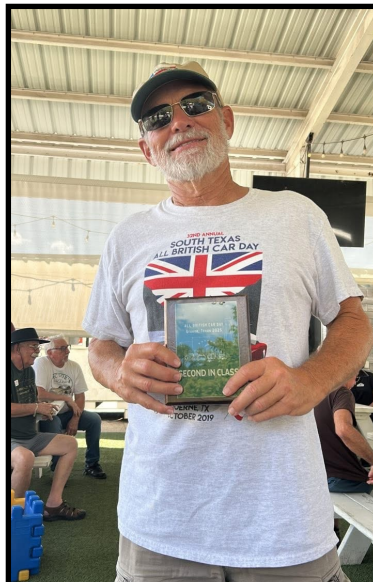
HCTC @ the Gristmill, Gruene, TX. L-R: Brett Green; Kim & Jacques Welter; Mike McPhail; Joe & Aaren Payne



Mike McPhail and some of the field at South TX ABCD



The Welter's, the Green's, and the Payne's TR6 on the show field



Mike McPhail & Kim Welter show off their trophies from the show



HCTC @ The 6-Pack Trials

Mike McPhail

October turned out to be another really busy month for Triumph enthusiasts. Art Graves and I met in Natchitoches LA on September 30 for the first leg of our road trip to Six Pack Trials in Fontana Dam Village NC. Rip had booked us into the same town on our trip to the British Motoring Festival last March. We had received tokens for a free beer at the Flying Heart Brew Pub and were anxious to cash them in...

We reached I20 after a lovely jaunt through the Louisiana backwoods Wednesday morning. The scenery was still eye catching all the way to Gadsden AL, where we stopped for the night. Things just got better as we headed East into Georgia and Tennessee. Everything was incredibly lush and green, especially when we exited I75 after Chattanooga.

We arrived in Fontana Dam Village at check-in time and were soon settling in at our two-bedroom cabin in the hills. There was already a crowd at Quill's Canteen when we arrived for the gala welcome party.

Friday was the much-anticipated mountain driving tour, which was very well attended. This is where, by the end of the day, your arms are about to fall off from working the steering wheel! Turn, turn, turn...

We ended up at the historic Tapoco Lodge for a late lunch, where we came across literally hundreds of drivers that had flocked to the area to enjoy the roads and scenery.

The car show was held Saturday morning across the street from the Fontana Village General Store, just down the street from our cabin. Lots of TR6s, yet Art managed to win a first prize, as he does so often!

We spent the afternoon seeking out some of the local sights that were not on the prior day's itinerary. Deal's Gap Motorcycle Resort is a must-see, but we were unable to stop there due to the



Mike and Art on the Six-Pack show field



Tree of shame



Welcome party, 6-Pack Trials 2025

HCTC @ The 6-Pack Trials

Mike McPhail

thousands of riders that had already gathered. Undeterred, the evening was spent at the awards banquet and later, the Quill.

Things were rather quiet Sunday morning, so a stop was made at the now nearly deserted Deal's Gap. The famous Tail of the Dragon lay before us and we traversed it with ease on our way through Tennessee and on to Arkansas. I40 was pleasant enough and we arrived North Little Rock in plenty of time for a fine meal at BJ's Brewhouse.

Our location had us parting ways first thing Monday morning, with Art continuing on I40 towards Tulsa and myself taking I30 into Texas.

Seven days of perfect weather and trouble-free driving! Was Art Tired of driving? No way... he was in Marble Falls Thursday for Texas All British Car Days. The next weekend I was off to Gruene for South Texas All British Car Day. Some folks just can't get enough!

#



Entrance to Tail of the Dragon



On the mountain tour



A view of the Smokey Mountains from the mountain tour



Art Graves, 1st in Class, 6-Pack Trials 2025

News from Mike's Motors

Mike McPhail

A well-prepared car is the secret to trouble free travel. Preventive maintenance is a huge factor in achieving this goal.

Watch for suggestions in this column for common problems to be aware of. This time lets discuss wheel bearings. With the wheels off the ground, grasp the top and bottom of the tire and rock the wheel towards yourself, then away. There should be no play at all.

Failing this test would most likely mean loose wheel bearings but be sure that the ball joint or trunnion is not the source. Tightening the stub axle nut will almost certainly eliminate any play, but often the situation returns after a few miles. There is a clever and probably permanent solution. A cue has been taken from other British manufacturers in installing a spacer between the inner races of the wheel bearings. This modification not only holds the races in place at close tolerances, but stiffens the whole assembly.

I've had success with the kit from Revington TR in the UK. Their kit does not require new stub axles or non-standard bearings. Shims are used to set the bearing clearance, allowing the axle nut to be tightened completely.



HCTC & SCVTR 2026

Jacques Welter

Hey Hill Country Triumph Club !! We are pleased to announce that HCTC will host next year's South Central Vintage Triumph Register event. Mike McPhail and Jacques Welter are co-chairs for this event, but can use all the help HCTC can provide.

Here's the details:

When:

April 20th through April 23rd, 2026. Mark your calendar and set your vacation time.

Host Organization:

Hill Country Triumph Club

Host City:

Marble Falls, Texas

Headquarters:

Dos Conchas Ranch

Accommodations:

Hidden Falls Inn



Stay tuned for more details in **THE RAGTOP**



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>

Brits in the Ozarks

Location: Agri Park, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Date: September 19-20, 2025

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

Britts on the Bluff

Location: Natchez, Mississippi

Date: September 19-20, 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: Gruene, Texas

Date: October 18h, 2025

2026

VTR South Central Regional Convention

Location: Marble Falls, Texas @ Dos Conchas Ranch

Date: April 20 – April 23, 2026

Web: www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Brits & Barley

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

Brits & 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 !!

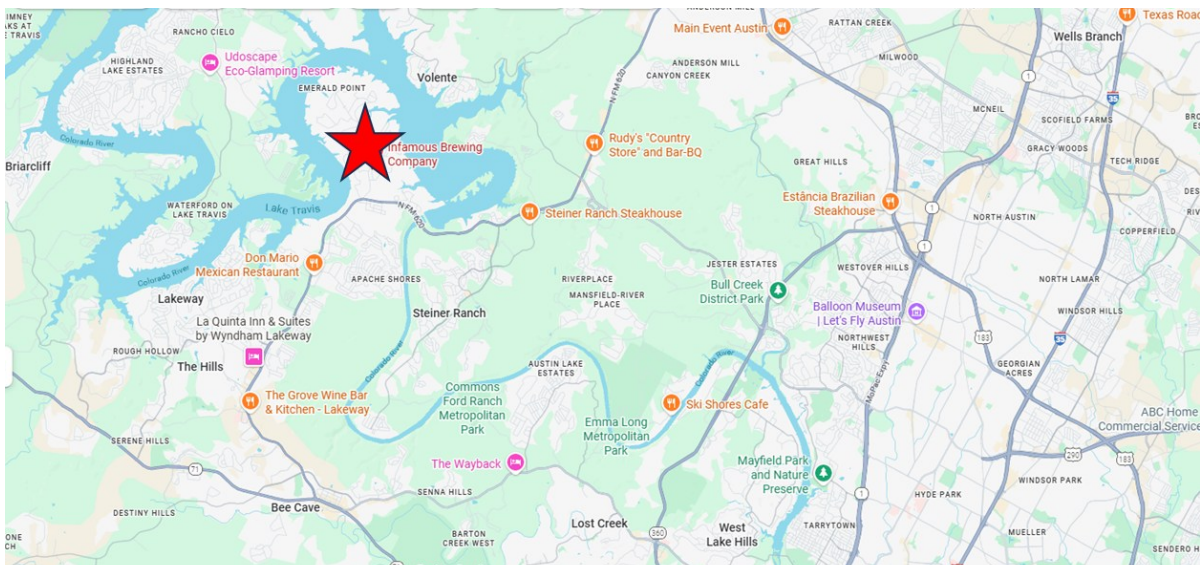
November

WHERE: Infamous Brewing Company

4602 Weletka Drive

Austin, TX 78734

WHEN: Sunday, November 23rd, starting at **2:00 pm**



HCTC Events

HCTC Breakfast Waterloo Icehouse Saturday, November 8th

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. Plan your arrival for 9:30—9:45 as the meeting (and breakfast) starts by 10:00 am.

Can't wait to see you there !!

HCTC Social Hour Waterloo Icehouse Tuesday, November 11th

The Social Hour has changed its start time !!

We will be starting the Social Hour at 7:00 pm !!

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.

While the event nominally runs from 7 pm to 9 pm, 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.





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

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.

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.

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.

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).**