

The

February 2026



Hill Country Triumph Club Newsletter



celebrating and driving Triumphs since 1990



HCTC in Kerrville on the way back to Foxfire from a run on the Twisted Sisters



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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

Letter from the President

February, 2026

Jacques Welter



As January gives way to February, I get reminded every day just how time flies when you're having fun — and pretty much every day with our Triumph TR6 and HCTC is fun.

The latest time sink (read 'happy time') for Kim & myself has been (and remains) the 2026 South Central VTR event coming up in April (!!). January consisted of lining up someone to run the Autocross; aligning on the Poker Run & TSD rally; finalizing the schedule; getting caterers for the banquet and reception; securing a boat cruise for the faithful; and, most of all, getting the online reception working. Somewhere in-between having all that fun I had even **MORE** fun hanging out with HCTC'ers at the

Breakfast, Social Hour, drive to the Twisted Sisters, and Brits & Barley. Time indeed flew and here it is, February already.

Speaking of SC VTR, online registration is **OPEN**. Henry Reynolds, our HCTC admin, did a fantastic job getting the page online and ready — especially during the holidays. Thanks also to Mike McPhail for tirelessly copy editing the output.

BTW, there is a private Facebook group we've created, the **2026 South Central VTR group**. Now Facebook may not be your



HCTC 'ers cutting up at the Social Hour @ Nosh & Bevvv

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Letter from the President

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thing, but the posts in this group literally has all the details for SC VTR including schedule, activities, and general information. It will also carry any updates and new information. Look it up and ask to join — I'm the Admin and I'll let you on.

January was also a new first for the Social Hour ... first time on the third Tuesday of the month AND the first time we had it at Nosh & Bevvv. Given attendance (19+) and the positive feedback we've decided to move it permanently to Nosh & Bevvv and leave it on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Every month, HCTC has at least one driving event and February is no exception. This month we're heading out on February 7th for Drive Your Triumph Day. The drive will be south of Austin, held in conjunction with the South Texas Triumph Association. Check the

Events section for more details.

I also took a stroll down memory lane in January and watched the first "Amazing Spiderman" movie with Tobey Mcguire, filmed in 2002. During one segment, Peter Parker is looking for a cool car to drive and, low and behold, up pops a Triumph TR3. You missed a deal there, Pete !!

We had a good turnout for Brits & Barley this month. Coming from HCTC were Kim & Sam Vazquez; Dick Simonson; Mike McPhail; Rip Torn; Louise & Tony Brito; and, of course, yours truly and my lovely bride Kim. My Triumph was down for the count (bad slave cylinder) so we drove the Bugeye but it pretty much identifies as a Triumph anyway.

Well, that pretty much wraps up January. I hope you join us this February but even if you don't — drive your Triumph.

Hope to see you out there.



"As Is, Needs Work" ... well, what Triumph doesn't need work?



A nice lineup at Brits & Barley. L to R: Jacques Welter's Austin-Healey Sprite; Eric Van Note's MGB; and Eric & TC's Lotus Elise

HCTC Events-at-a-Glance

February, 2026

February 1st:

- **Brits & Barley** (postponed from January)
Whitstone Brewery, 2:00 PM

February 7th:

- **Drive Your Triumph Day**
Jim's Restaurant, Oak Hill, 8:30 AM

February 14th:

- **Hill Country Triumph Club Monthly Breakfast Meeting**
Waterloo Icehouse, 10:00 AM

February 17th:

- **Hill Country Triumph Club Social Hour**
Nosh & Bevv, 7:00 PM

February 21st:

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

February 22nd:

- **Brits and Barley**
Celis Brewery, 10001 Metric Blvd 2:00 PM

February 2026

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

March, 2026

March 14th:

- **Hill Country Triumph Club Monthly Breakfast Meeting**
Waterloo Icehouse,

March 17th:

- **Hill Country Triumph Club Social Hour**
Nosh & Bevv, Burnet Rd., 7:00 PM

March 21st:

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

March 22nd:

- **Brits and Barley**
TBD

March 26 - 29th:

- **British Motoring Festival**
Covington, LA

March 2026

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

February 2026

Dick Simonson



As I write this most of us are thawing out from our little January cold snap. I hope everyone came through this with minimal discomfort. Snow and ice events are always interesting in Central Texas. We started the New Year with generally nice weather, even unseasonably warm at times. Our first get together was our monthly breakfast meeting on the 10th. Continuing a trend of good sized turnouts, nineteen of us gathered at Waterloo Icehouse and we showed up with a bunch of little British cars.

Jacques started us out. We welcomed new member Andrew Murphy. Andrew is the owner of two TR3's, a 57 and a 59. Jacques reminded us the monthly social hour would now be held on the third Tuesday evening of the month. This was partially in response to some members wanting to spread the regular club events out more evenly through out the month. The social hour is now at a new venue, Nosh and Bevy, on Burnet Avenue.

Jacques gave us a few updates on the upcoming South Central VTR being hosted by our club April 20-23. Plans are moving along rapidly. We learned Bob Kramer will run the autocross and that we have a venue for the autocross, the Mustang High School parking lot. Jacques also advised reservations were now open at our host hotel, Hidden Falls Inn.



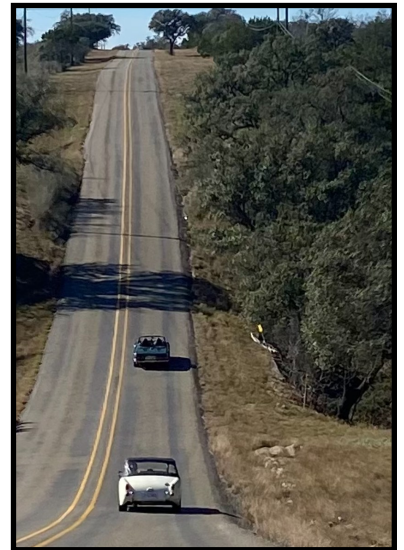
Streets were a solid sheet of ice

Registration for SC VTR is also open and can be found by typing in this link: <https://hillcountrytriumphclub.regfox.com/-2026-south-central-vtr-regionals>

Mike McPhail brought us up to date on upcoming activities, starting with a drive to Leakey and the Twisted Sisters the following week. The February drive was still under discussion and to be determined. In March, a group of club members will be off to Covington, Louisiana for the March 27 British Motoring Festival. Two members of the British Motoring Club of New Orleans attended last year's TxABCD and extended personal invitations for our club members to attend. Several of our members have attended in past years. Anyone who is interested in going along should contact Mike or one of the officers.

Kim Welter and Kim Vasquez reported on the HCTC Women's group. In December the group met at Tea at Tillies. They plan to organize outings on a quarterly basis. On March 24, the group's outing will be at Tea Time Cafe in Marble Falls followed by a visit to Sweet Berry Farms for strawberries.

On January 14, a small group of club members drove to the Leakey area for a few days. Mike McPhail likes to describe that area as the "real" Texas Hill Country. Art Graves drove down from Tulsa to join the Welter's, Mike McPhail and Jim



Out on a fun drive on Park Road 4

Secretary's Report

February 2026

Continued



Peter Rusy with his 1966 TR4a



The monthly HCTC Breakfast Meeting. We're going to need more tables !!



Andrew Murphy & his '59 TR3a



Mike Mcphail on the Twisted Sisters

Wells. The driving highlight was maneuvering a stretch of road known as the Twisted Sisters. Anyone who has driven it understands the name. Depending on how you choose to drive the road, it can be an exciting experience.

Also on January 14, the Georgetown Area British Squadron (GABS) held their monthly driving event. This month the event took place midweek and was not associated with the third Saturday Pistons on the Square. Eleven GABS members drove to Nyle Maxwell's Vehicles Unique collection in Georgetown. The group spent about an hour enjoying the collection of 49 cars which ran from Formula One cars, Corvettes, Mustangs to Ferraris and even a lone TR6. The folks finished up the event by heading off to Willies for lunch.

Due to the aforementioned unfriendly weather, the normal Brits and Barley event, scheduled for January 25 was postponed to February 1. Also, our board meeting, which normally would have occurred in January, will be held in February.

Please check out the upcoming events section of the Ragtop. We have lots of activities coming up this year. Hope to see you at some of them.

From the Archives

Art Graves



This article originally appeared in the December 1996 “Ragtop”. I remembered this story while in the Lost Maples area last month. There will likely be an article about that road trip in this issue of “The Ragtop”. My memory is failing me, but I think the original idea of a Lost Maples trip came from the South Texas Austin Healey Club and became a regular event for our club in the mid-nineties. Then it fell off the radar, but has been brought back in recent years. Of course the best time to visit Lost Maples is the fall to do some leaf peeping. Regardless, the cabins are more than comfortable and the roads are great for our little cars any time of year. You may pick up on Mike’s fascination with fire – that hasn’t changed.

A Walk in the Park

(Featuring “Woodchuck Woody” and “The Pyro”)

Adriane Stewart

Our trip to Lost Maples was a great success and a good time was had by all. You couldn’t have asked for more perfect weather. The McPhails and the Ceraldis arrived at the cabins Friday afternoon and the Kramers, Higginbothams and Stewarts arrived Saturday afternoon. Our trip getting there was very beautiful. It was like Colorado, Texas style. The Kramers and Stewarts met in Oak Hill and got the usual breakfast bite at “Mickey-D’s” and hit the road to meet the Higginbothams in Blanco at 11:00. First stop, Luckenbach! (Beer stop) We (Stewarts) missed it completely. If you blink, you pass it. Meantime, the Kramers and Higginbothams made the proper turn. After a quick refreshment, we were off again. It was at this time Charlie was dubbed “Woodchuck Woody.” Next stop, Comfort for lunch. We

ate at the oldest soda fountain in Texas. Very limited menu, but really good chili.

We arrived at the cabins at 3:30 and were cheerfully greeted by the McPhails and Ceraldis. They filled us in on the camp rules and their trip to Lost Maples that day. They went on a 4.2 mile hike and were rightly tuckered out. We settled into our cabins, took a quick walk down the hill to the Frio River (which was crystal clear and flowing very nicely) and brought back some fire wood as ordered by Mike, “The Pyro” (his new nickname). I found a man-grabbing/goosing stick to keep my Woodchuck Woody in check. Bob kept saying there were fish in the river, but we never saw any. Another “fish” story.

Once back at the cabins, it was the usual scenario for the guys. Gather around the cars and talk about what else—CARS! The gals had much more fun sitting on the porch, overlooking the river, sun shining in our lovely hair, drinking adult beverages and talking about the guys! We laughed a whole lot more than they did.

Soon it was decided that we should go eat before all the deer hunters scarfed everything up in town. We all got chicken fried steak, except the Woodchuck. He got pot roast (and part of my chicken fried steak.) Back to the cabins for the bonfire, courtesy of Mike “The Pyro.” He stoked the bar-b-que pit (no fires allowed on the ground) with dried cypress wood and proceeded to have a very warm, glowing fire. Richard came to the rescue a few times with his water bottle. After the last log was burned, we took it inside to the fireplace. Next thing you know, Mike is



From the Archives

Continued

stoking a roaring fire (made from fake logs-real wood not allowed inside) with three logs. The label says to use one at a time, but who reads labels. We almost had a meltdown of the fireplace, much less getting asphyxiated from the fake logs.

The next morning, I took a walk down by the river with my cup of hot chocolate. The sun was_ shining through the cypress trees and the birds were chirping and swooping down flying low with the river, which had steam rising from it.

Nature at its finest.

Eventually, everyone was up, packed and ready to go. Since the McPhails and Ceraldis went to Lost Maples the day before and said it was pretty crowded, it was decided that we would go to Garner State Park. With our walkie talkies in hand (courtesy of Richard) we headed out. Mike “The Pyro” was leading the way, right through a low water crossing. Next thing you know, Nel is screaming and you hear the word WATER! Everyone got wet in some fashion. The water was pretty deep. Bob was telling us to stop and take a picture, but that was before he got to the water and forgot to downshift in the middle of it all. Leave it to Mike to go barreling through—no fear.

So, we get to the park, get our hiking map and set out for our little hike to the scenic overlook. We start out and Nel (the Aerobic Woman) takes off. Who’s lagging behind huffing and puffing—me! And we just got started—on a paved path mind you. We get to the end of the pavement and the sign says “Trail Closed”. Does that stop this group? NO WAY! Off we go. Well, we ended up in the park’s dump. Full of rusted appliances, sinks, bar-b-que pits, tires, garbage cans, broken pieces of porcelain and lots of other stuff. Richard made his dream car while he was there. He played in the dump while the rest of us tried to find the trail and figure out where we went wrong. It was soon determined that we needed to be on the other side of the mountain. So back we go, the way we came getting back to the place we made a wrong turn (at the sign that said “Trail Closed”). This is where the Higginbothams bowed out. (They’re no dummies.) So, Mike, our fearless Pyro leader, says, “Come on, it’s just up this hill.” This “hill” was a mountain, straight up the rocks. So, we go huffing and puffing—mostly me. I’m really lagging behind at this point. (What happened to the leisurely walk we were going to take through Lost Maples?) Barbara was very gracious and hung back with me. (Thanks, I enjoyed talking.) It was soon determined that we were too far into the trail to turn around and that we might as well finish it. Ugh. (By the time I would catch up, they were done resting and ready to move on.) | have to admit, there were some incredible views up there. We finished off our hike with a picnic that the Ceraldis and McPhails hosted talking about steel dickies (that’s what she said).



Armed with our walkie talkies, we hit the road for home. Mike needs lessons on how to talkie on the walkie. Waw waaw waw waaw. (He sounded like the school teacher on Charlie Brown.) I have to say though, it was a great idea. You can drive and still give/get verbal abuse to someone other than your spouse. Richard laid some rubber along the way and I’m sure Julie’s heart is still laying in the road back there.

Charlie and | left the gang at Highway 12 in Dripping Springs. We went on to have dinner at Green Mesquite on Barton Springs Road. I had a craving for bar-b-que (must have been all that wood burning). By the time | got home, after getting the kids (dogs) from my in-laws, it was 8:00. After a warm shower (from all the sweating I did hiking and to soothe those aching muscles), it was nighty-nighty for this gal.

A trip we'll do again.

Foxfire & the Twisted Sisters

Jacques Welter

One of the highlights of the Hill Country is a trio of state roads that make up a drive called the Twisted Sisters — a 100-mile loop of turns, twists, and some of the best scenery the Hill Country has to offer.

This trip has become an annual event on the HCTC calendar and is well worth it. On this year's trip were Kim & Jacques Welter; Mike McPhail; Jim Wells; and Art Graves (all the way from Tulsa !!).



The Twisted Sisters — SR 335; SR 336, SR 337 — in the heart of the Hill Country

Mike, Art, and the Welter's all met for breakfast in Johnson City at the Hill Country Cupboard where prices were reasonable and helpings were large. After breakfast Mike led a spirited drive through the backroads on the way to Fredericksburg where we made our first stop at the National Museum of the Pacific War (Jim Wells was held up at work, and joined us for lunch). After a short tour of the museum, a quick bite to eat, and a pint at the Fredericksburg Brewing Company, we headed out toward Kerrville and points beyond. We figured to stop at the local HEB to pick up supplies for the weekend, then afterward took SR 16 out of Kerrville, joining SR 337 at Medina and heading to Vanderpool.

Wednesday night Jim Wells cooked hamburgers with all the fixin's and we spent most of the evening solving the world's problems while enjoying a nice fire in the fireplace to ward off the chill (Temperatures dropped into the 30's during the evening / early morning hours but the cabin was warm and welcoming).

Thursday dawned clear and cool, with a high blue sky, and we got underway around 9:00 am. First stop was to the Bent Rim Grill. Situated at the junction of SR 336 & SR 337, the Bent Rim Grill provides the perfect jumping off point for a Twisted Sisters run.

A little background of the Twisted Sisters. Consisting of TX 335; TX 336; & TX 337 this drive is among the best, most challenging roads in Texas (if not the whole country). The route follows canyons and climbs jagged, steep hills, offering many tight, twisty curves with shear drop offs alongside — and not much in the way of guardrails !! In one 15-mile section, there are approximately 65 curves ... a Triumph driver's dream.

The night before we had elected to just make an out-and-back run to Camp Wood. Leaving the Bent Rim Grill, we headed out on SR 337 toward Camp



At the Bent Rim Grill about to jump off onto SR 336. L to R: Mike McPhail; Kim & Jacques Welter; Jim Wells; and Art Graves

Foxfire & the Twisted Sisters

Continued

Wood. The drive was everything promised — hard turns, spectacular climbs, awesome scenery. Once in Camp Wood, we stopped at the Charles Lindbergh historical sign (see insert) and then turned around and made our way back to the Bent Rim Grill. The return drive was just as fun as the way out !! We stopped at the Bent Rim for some frosty adult refreshment, then headed north on US 83 and then onto SR 41 and into Kerrville for some lunch. The drive into Kerrville was a stark reminder of the July floods, as the road followed the Guadalupe River, with flood damage and scars still evident six months later.

Once in Kerrville, we stopped at the Acapulco Mexican restaurant and to watch the end of Mike's Bringatrailer auction for the red TR6. After a successful close to the auction, we all headed back to our cabin at Foxfire for some red rice and beans with shrimp dinner, courtesy of Art Graves, along with some more frosty adult beverages we closed out the day.

Friday, like the day before, also dawned with a clear blue sky and chilly temperatures. Jacques cooked breakfast each day — breakfast tacos with scrambled eggs, pico, jalapeno, onions, bacon, and salsa. As it was getaway day, we policed the cabin, packed



Charles Lindbergh and Camp Wood

Had it played out differently, what happened in Real County in 1924 could have changed aviation history. As it was, it becomes a historical quirk and a piece of Texas trivia.

In 1924, Charles "Slim" Lindbergh and a friend, Leon A. Klink, set out in Klink's airplane, a World War I-surplus JN-4C Canuck, to take a tour of the South. Leaving St. Louis, the two flew to Pensacola via Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Once there the pair decided to head out to California before heading home to St. Louis.

Passing through Texas, Klink confused the Nueces River for the Rio Grande and the two found themselves lost in the Hill Country and low on gas. Putting the Canuck down in a recently plowed field and stayed overnight with a local rancher.

Returning to the plane in the morning with fuel, they found it had sunk into the damp, plowed soil and the 90 horsepower Canuck simply didn't have the power to lift off with both riding. Lindbergh took off solo and flew on to Camp Wood and landed the plane on Uvalde Road. While taxiing, Lindbergh caught his wheel and crashed the aircraft into the side of a hardware store !! Several days later a new propeller arrived and the flyers were able to lift off, but decided to cut the trip short and head for San Antonio where Lindbergh reported for duty as an Army Air cadet.



Lindbergh historical marker, Camp Wood, Tx

HCTC Christmas Party

Continued

our gear and headed out, running a circuitous route through the back roads of Texas, passing through the towns of Hunt, Ingram, Centerpoint, Comfort, Grapetown, and Cain City before rejoining SR 290 above Luckenback. Turning on RR 1623 at Stonewall, we connected with FM 2721 and then FM 1320 and then 1323 before finally connecting with SR 281. At that point the group broke up — Kim and Jacques heading for Liberty Hill while Art, Mike, and Jim split off to head over to Mike's place at Dripping Springs. This is the second year in a row for this trip and I'm pretty sure there will be a third trip next year. I hope to see you out there.



Jim Wells at the Bent Rim Grill



Stopped at the Lindbergh marker, Camp Wood



Art Graves at the Hill Country Cupboard



Lunch at the Acapulco Restaurant. L to R, counter clockwise: Kim & Jacques Welter; Mike McPhail; Jim Wells; Art Graves



Kim Welter & Mike McPhail at the Hill Country Cupboard in Johnson City

HCTC Christmas Party

Continued



Shadow on the roadside, heading to Foxfire



Parked outside the Hill Country Cupboard, Johnson City



On the back patio of the Bent Rim Grill



Jim & Art taking down their tops and getting ready for the run



Mike leads the way to Camp Wood



Line astern on the way to Kerrville

HCTC Women's Group March Outing

Kim Welter

Save the Date

The HCTC Women's Group will have their next event on Tuesday, March 24th 2026. We will be meeting for our quarterly event in Marble Falls at the Tea Thyme Cafe at 10:30 AM. The Tea Thyme Cafe serves brunch from the breakfast menu or lunch menu, with an assortment of teas, coffees, and smoothies. The address is 2108 N U.S. Hwy 281 C, Marble Falls, TX 78654.

Check out the menu's at the website:

<https://teathymecafe.com/>

We're planning to be seated together and will be making a reservation once we have an idea of the numbers interested in coming.

After brunch, we plan to take a short drive over to visit the Sweet Berry Farm located at 1801 FM1980, Marble Falls, TX 78654, to indulge in their fresh strawberries. They have blanketed their fields in preparation for the winter weather and by the time we go there should be plenty of strawberries to enjoy. We suggest wearing comfortable shoes and outerwear as appropriate with seasonal weather. For more information, their website is here:

<https://sweetberryfarm.com/spring.html>

How can we get signed up for this event? There will be a sign up sheet at the monthly February and March breakfast at Waterloo Icehouse, you can call or text Kim Welter or Kim Vazquez, and an online Evite will be sent closer to the date.

Hoping to see you there!



Great menu



Sweet Berry Farm, Marble Falls

News from Mike's Motors

Mike McPhail

The 1976 Carmine Red TR6 featured in last month's News has gone to the auction block and has found a new home in Leander. The upgrades on that Triumph will bring plenty of trouble-free motoring to the new owner and put a huge dent in my list of things to do to your car.

Not previously mentioned but worthwhile and sometimes absolutely necessary are replacement steering rack mounts. Originally racks came mounted to the frame with rubber bushings that don't always secure things well. New rubber or polyurethane bushings are available, but for my money the solid aluminum mounts are the only way to go!

Test your mounts by rocking the steering wheel back and forth while watching the rack. It should not move at all, and the tires should respond the instant the steering wheel is touched. Occasionally the tie-rod ends will be worn out and if their rubber boots have disintegrated, go ahead and replace them. While you are at it, look for play in the joint where the steering shaft attaches to the rack. Try pulling the steering wheel towards you...if it moves that joint is loose. That lower bolt needs to be really tight for the joint to clamp properly!

Inspect the flexible joint near the top of the lower steering shaft. If it is cracked replace it ASAP! Note that the wire strap that is routed through the center of the joint provides the ground for the horn. There is a ground wire on the rack too, and it is often missing.

Check the orientation of the clamp holding the upper and lower shaft, as it must be level when the wheels are straight ahead for the turn signals to cancel properly.

The Steering column tube and/or shaft may be loose. The tube is clamped near the dashboard with a rather complicated arrangement and at the firewall with a somewhat flimsy bracket. Some ingenuity may be required to make things solid. If the steering wheel shaft feels loose in the tube, there are two bushings that can be replaced with a little... ok, a lot... of patience... and effort.

Worn bushings are common and replacement makes for quite a



Aluminum mount and joint



Coupler & Clamp

News from Mike's Motors

Continued

project on cars with locking steering columns. However, replacing just the upper bushing will banish the lateral play and can be accomplished after removing the steering wheel and the clip that cancels the turn signals.

With the turn signal and head light switches pulled away, the clip can be pried off the shaft and set aside in anticipation of sliding a new bushing onto the shaft. For ease of installation, remove the little locating nubs from the new bushing with your bench grinder and lube everything with petroleum jelly.

A 12-inch length of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch iron pipe makes a substantial tool for forcing the bushing down the tube. The new bushing is driven in until it hits the original, which is left in place.

The fiddly part of this job is getting the turn signal clip back on the shaft. It is made of spring steel and will break easily. Rather than push it on sideways, carefully slide it on from the end, noting the detents in the shaft that locate it.

Note that for proper cancelation, the raised part of the clip must be at exactly 9 o'clock when the car is pointed straight ahead. This will position it equally between the fingers on the canceling mechanism. The clamp that secures the column to the steering rack can be refitted to get the correct geometry. Another fiddly job!



Aluminum mounting kit



Original Rack Bushings



Steering column bushing

Newcomer's Corner

Jacques Welter

Hill Country Triumph Club is like a living organism - it grows and contracts as new members join and other members leave. It is my pleasure to announce we picked up three new members in January, 2026

New HCTC members:

- Andrew Murphy
- William Ardis
- Ben Skoldeberg

Welcome aboard folks !! We hope to see you at the next HCTC event.

And to the HCTC faithful, if you see any of these folks at an HCTC event be sure to say hello and make them feel welcome.



Andrew Murphy and his TR3



2026



GABS 3rd Sat- Georgetown

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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

JAN

1 New Years Day

10HCTC Morning mtg

20HCTC Social Hr

19M L King Day

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

FEB

10Sir J. Black/DYTD

14HCTC Morning mtg

17HCTC Social Hr

16 Presidents' Day

GTN Air & Car Show

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MAR

14HCTC Morning mtg

17HCTC Social Hr

27-28 New Orleans British Motoring Festival

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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26	27	28	29	30		

APR

5 Easter Sunday

11HCTC Morning mtg

No Social Hour - SC VTR

20-23 VTR S. Central Reg M-T

Canyon of Eagles

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						

MAY

Pioneer Flit Museum Drive

9HCTC Morning mtg

19HCTC Social Hr

25Memorial Day observed

All Brit & Euro Car DAL

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				

JUN

13HCTC Annual mtg/ Picnic

16HCTC Social Hr

TRA National Meet

Greater Ozarks

Euro-Expo Cr Sh OK

Brits & Barley 4th Sunday but varies

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	

JUL

4 Independence Day

11HCTC Morning mtg

21HCTC Social Hr

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					

AUG

8HCTC Morning mtg

18HCTC Social Hr

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			

SEP

7Labour Day observed

12HCTC Morning mtg

15HCTC Social Hr

19 Britts on the Bluff

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

OCT

04 Houston ABCD Dallas ABCD

9-11 Texas All British Car

14-18 VTR Nationals

20 HCTC Social Hr

24 South Texas ABCD

22-24 Brits in the Ozarks

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					

NOV

14HCTC Morning mtg

11 Veterans Day

17 HCTC Social Hr

26 Thanksgiving Day

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		

DEC

12 HCTC Morning mtg/Xmas Party TBC

15 HCTC Social Hr/Tour D'Lites

25 Christmas

HCTC February Driving Event

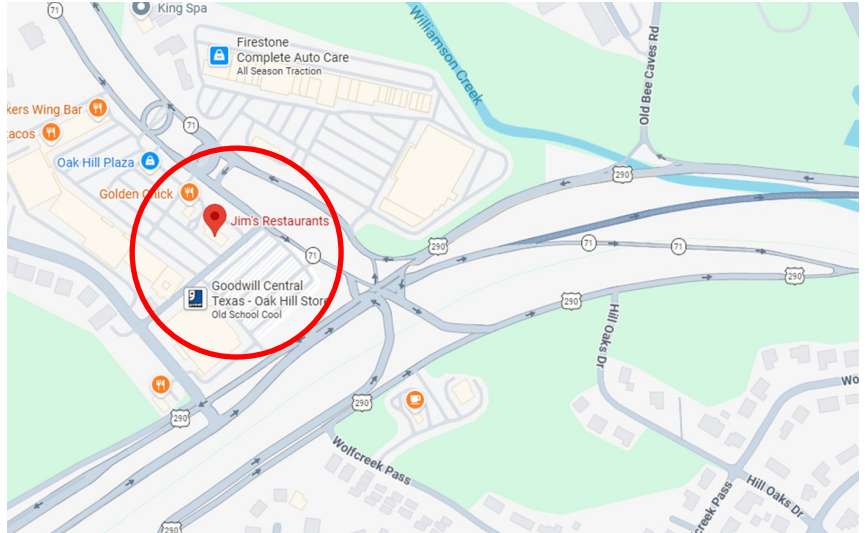
Mike McPhail

Sir John Black's Birthday Drive Saturday February 7

Depart Jim's Restaurant in Oak Hill at 9:30 AM for a pleasant back-road drive to the 7-11 convenience store in Sattler. The South Texas Triumph Association will meet us there at 11 AM and we will all convoy down the River Road to the Five Stones Brewery near New Braunfels.

Here is a link to the route:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/mLhHfrCuXHtV4EmUA>



Sir John Black

HCTC & SC VTR 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**



British Motoring Festival

British Motoring Festival

Save the
Date!



Save the
Date!

March 28, 2026 Covington Trailhead
Downtown Covington, Louisiana

See the Covington Trailhead and surrounding streets filled with British sports cars, trucks, bikes and other cool British vehicles!

Free and open to the public
Best public viewing 11 'til 4
Valve cover races 1 p.m.
Awards ceremony 3 p.m.



British Motoring Club New Orleans

VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION AT BMCNO.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; Lotus of Texas, 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.

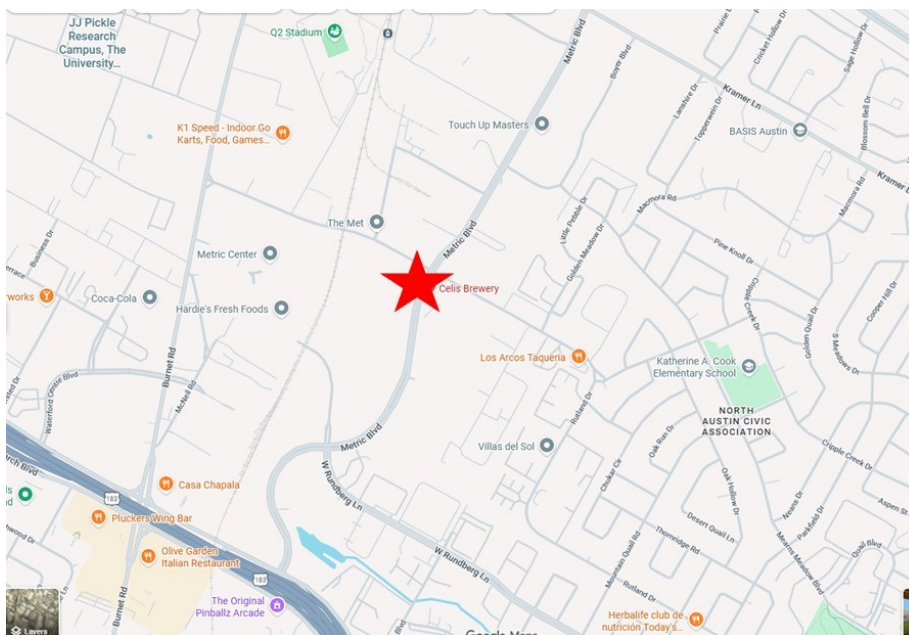
Check in your Ragtop each month for the location. We hope to see you there !!

February

WHERE: Celis Brewery

10001 Metric Blvd, Austin, Texas

WHEN: Sunday, February 22nd, starting at 2:00 pm



HCTC Events

HCTC Breakfast Waterloo Icehouse Saturday, February 14th

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.

We hope to see you there !!



HCTC Social Hour Nosh & Bevv Tuesday, February 17th

The Social Hour has changed its day & location !!
We will be at Nosh & Bevv on Burnet Road !!

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 **third** 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



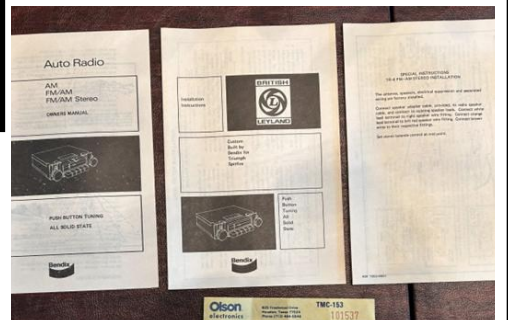
Triumph TR6 soft top. \$250

Came off my TR6 where it resided for four years. In good shape (I had some adhesive failure but had that stitched into place by Jim's Top Shop). No holes or tears, good fit, no shrinkage, plastic in good shape.

New Old Stock AM / FM radio from British Leyland. \$75

Came uninstalled in its box with my car when I purchased it and has been sitting on my shelf ever since — just time to move it on. I've never installed it and never heard it play, so I make no guarantees.

If interested in either the top or the radio, contact Jacques at 512-496-2943.



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).**