

# The

April 2026

# RAGTOP

*Hill Country Triumph Club Newsletter*



*Celebrating and driving Triumphs since 1990*



*Triumph Row at the British Motoring Festival, Covington, Louisiana*

# Letter from the President

April, 2026

Jacques Welter



**W**ell, we're in the home stretch running up to the South Central VTR Concours and, since we're the host club, things have been ... busy ... so busy in fact that getting the Ragtop out has taken second seat. Sorry about that, but it will eventually escape my clutches and get released.

This month, everything is focused on SCVTR. We aren't having a Social Hour; the HCTC Breakfast will be missing three of the HCTC officers (me included); and the week of April 20th promises to be one non-stop blur of activity.

To date, 26 HCTC'ers are signed up for SCVTR — that's twice as many as any other club but I expected nothing less. The true test of any club is how they represent, and our club shows out !!

There's not much else to say at this point — just time to execute and have a good time.

I hope to see you out there

Jacques

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# 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://vintage triumph register.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



# Hill Country Triumph Club Officers

President ... Jacques Welter

Vice-President ... Jim Wells

Treasurer ... Gary Payne

Secretary ... Dick Simonson

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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



# HCTC Events-at-a-Glance

## April, 2026

### April 2nd:

- **HCTC Women's Outing**  
Tea Thyme Café, Marble Falls,

### April 11th:

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

### April 18th:

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

### April 20th - April 23rd:

- **South Central VTR**  
Marble Falls, TX

### April 26th:

- **Brits and Barley**  
Old Gregg Brewery, Pflugerville, TX, starting at 2:00 pm

## April 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                                                                                     |     |                                                                                        |

**April Social Hour is Cancelled due to SCVTR**

## May, 2026

### May 9th:

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

### May 16th:

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

### May 19th:

- **Hill Country Triumph Club Social Hour**  
Nosh & Bevv, Burnet Ave. Austin

### May 24th:

- **Brits and Barley**  
5th Element Brewing Company, Leander

### May 25th:

- **Memorial Day (observed)**

## May 2026

| Sun                                                                                    | Mon                                                                                     | Tue                                                                                      | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| 10                                                                                     | 11                                                                                      | 12                                                                                       | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17                                                                                     | 18                                                                                      | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23                                                                                       |
| 24  | 25  | 26                                                                                       | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30                                                                                       |
| 31                                                                                     |                                                                                         |                                                                                          |     |     |     |                                                                                          |



### KEY

= HCTC-sponsored event

= Affiliated event

= Car Show

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

# Secretary's Report

## April 2026

**Dick Simonson**



**A**s is becoming the norm, March was a month full of activities for club members to avail themselves of. We had the usual monthly events like the breakfast meeting, our social hour, Brits and Barley and GABS, but we also had the first of a number of out of Central Texas excursions that club members will be attending this year. A group of us travelled to Covington, LA for a roughly 1,300 mile five day round trip drive.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, continuing a non-weekend trend, GABS held their monthly drive. The group first drove to GABS member Malcolm Duncan's stainless steel and aluminum manufacturing factory, Excalibur Research Development in Cedar Park. Malcolm gave the group a brief tour and demonstration of his laser equipment. Afterwards he led the drive to his hilltop ranch on Cow Creek Road for a picnic. Malcolm treated the group to his renowned South African seasoned grits cooked on an open fire. GABS Squadron leader, Nick Roccaforte, provided hot dogs, Italian sausage, buns and fixins. Others chipped in desserts and drinks. Based on the photos it looked like all had a good time.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> we had our breakfast meeting at Waterloo. I'm happy to report our breakfasts have been very well attended lately and we're having to scramble to get enough tables in our meeting room. Eighteen of us gathered. The weather was nice and lots of folks drove their Triumphs. Jacques filled us in on the February "Drive your Triumph Day" outing in conjunction with the South Texas Triumph Assn. Four of our cars including the Welter's, Mike McPhail, Henry Reynolds, Sam and Kim Vasquez drove from Oak Hill and met up with thirteen cars from STTA. The combined group then trekked to Five Stones Brewery in New Braunfels for a little cross club camaraderie and celebration of the marque. Mike McPhail briefed us on the month's

upcoming events

which are chronicled in this article. I reported that the Club will be donating \$100 at the request of Bob Kramer to Bike MS relating to the upcoming Bike MS: ACC Texas MS150 bike riding/fund raising event. Bike MS is a national organization that raises funds for multiple sclerosis research and support for people with MS. We all decamped to the parking lot where we spent about another hour talking cars.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, the monthly social hour took place at Nosh & Bevvy.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Brits and Barley convened at Schitz Creek Distillery and Brewery in Liberty Hill. This was the group's second outing to the Liberty Hill venue which has become a favorite among the locations thus far visited. Turnout was good. There was plenty of



*At the Tabasco Factory on Avery Island*



# Secretary's Report

## April 2026

### *Continued*

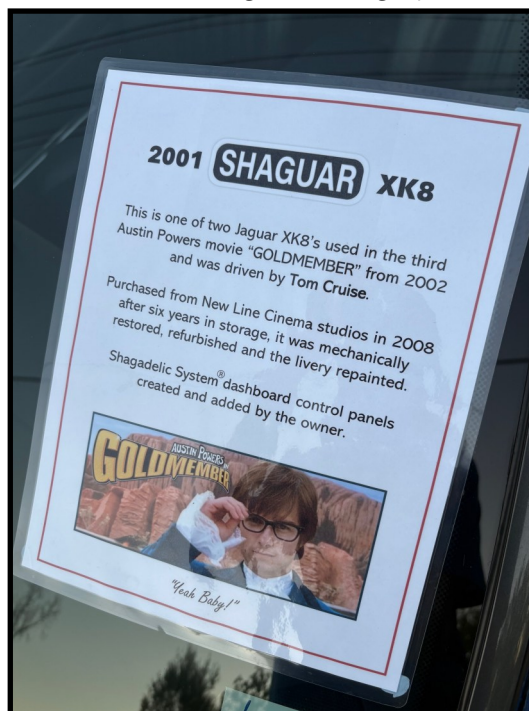
outdoor shaded seating. They have a good beer selection as well as wine and distilled spirits for those so inclined and the food is consistently good.

At the end of the month, 6 club members traveled to Louisiana for the annual British Motoring Festival in Covington. The event is put on by the British Motoring Club of New Orleans. Jacques and Kim Welter, Mike McPhail, Rip Torn, Art Graves and myself made the trip. Those of us who drove our Triumphs logged about 1,300 miles round trip in our little British cars.

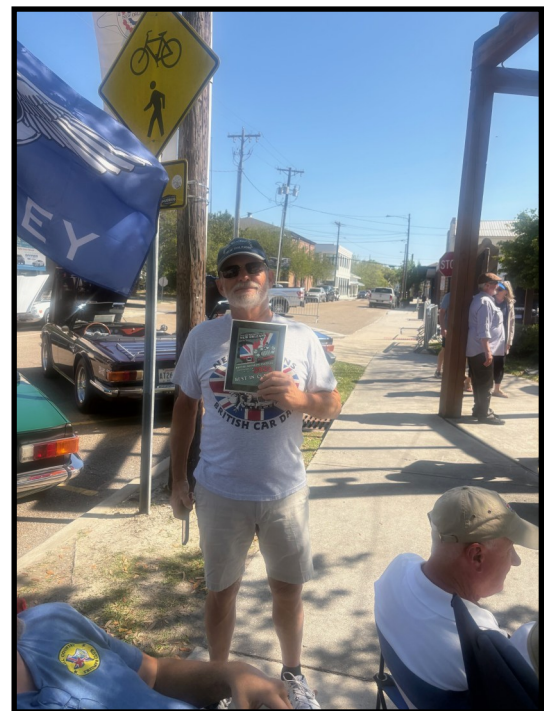
The show attracted between 170 and 200 cars with lots of TR6s. Mike drove his Spit Six and took best in his class. As a little fun aside, competing in modern Jaguars was the 2001 XK8 "Shaguar." For those who remember the Mike Meyers, Austin Powers movies, this was one of two XK8s used in those movies. We enjoyed downtown Covington which is an attractive area with lots of local restaurants and eclectic shops. I think we all got our fill of Cajun cuisine and local libations. On the trip home we drove the 24 mile causeway across Lake Pochatrain into New Orleans. Rip, Mike and Art toured the World War II Museum in New Orleans. The Welters and I, since we had visited the WWII Museum before, drove onto the Tabasco factory on Avery Island. Later that day Rip stayed over in New Orleans while the rest of us met up in Lafayette for the night. Finally, Monday morning, Art headed to Tulsa while Mike, the Welters and I headed back to Central Texas.



*The Austin Powers Shaguar in all its glory*



*The story behind the Shaguar*



*Mike McPhail takes 1st in Class at the BMF*



# Secretary's Report

## April 2026

### *Continued*

That wraps March up. This month we are looking forward to the South Central VTR Regionals being hosted by our club in Marble Falls from April 20<sup>th</sup> to April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Come on out and join the fun.



**HCTC March Breakfast Meeting**



**Social Hour at Nosh & Bevv ... Tony Britto & Mike McPhail talk the fine points of Italian engineering vs. British. Rip Torn & Louise Britto offer cheers to another St. Patrick's Day.**



**Brits & Barley at Schitz Creek Distillery and Brewery**



# From the Archives

## Art Graves



*Hill Country Triumph Club has visited Lake Buchanan and the Vanishing River Cruise several times over the past twenty years. This account by Bob Skewis is one such visit, and is taken from his president's column in the March 2004 edition of "The Ragtop". The Vanishing River Cruise is one of the events/side trips at the upcoming South Central VTR Convention, later this month. I have never been to Lake Buchanan or taken the river cruise and am looking forward to it.*

- Art

## A Triumph Family in the Water

Bob Skewis

Another month has come and gone with two events having taken place this time. The Bartlett Auction trip and the Eagle Cruise just completed on the 29th - a real leap year event! Due to a last-minute change to the later cruise, we lost a couple of participants but still had a good group. David and Anne Schlosser's TR3 was in the shop for minor repairs (getting it ready for the Spring driving season) but they brought a spare car and met the Skewis' and Tom and Nancy Harrison at the McDonald's in Cedar Park. The Harrisons brought their beautiful biscuit over red 1959 TR3A down from Waco for the afternoon. We had a pleasant drive to Burnet, but the really fun driving started after we turned off Hwy 29 and caught a wonderful 2-laner through some rolling Texas Hill Country. I'll bet that scenery will soon be full of wildflowers! At the end of the road, we came to Canyon of the Eagles LCRA park and found our way to the boat dock.

The shore of the lake was a bit breezy and cool, but we had come prepared and pressed on. After we checked in and boarded the boat, we were surprised to see Warren Cole and Yolanda arrive in the nick of time to join us. We took a position at the first table at the bow of the enclosed area and settled in for what proved to be a pleasant afternoon boat ride. Our captain and guide showed us points of interest along the way with various bird, wildlife, geology and history lessons to be had. Billy Crystal he wasn't, but they tried very hard to find us a view of a bald eagle. Although they had seen four eagles on the 4-hour cruise that morning, the birds were further up the river from where we had to turn around and head for home.

A good drive, good conversation with friends and the boat ride was all our crew needed anyway! Some mention was made as to how happy we all were that we were not boat owners, considering that they were such money pits - before David aptly pointed out that our LBCs left us no place to talk! Some of our members that were best prepared (or were raised in a more northerly climate) spent time in the open-air deck topside during the ride back.



**Bald Eagle on Lake Buchanan**

# From the Archives

## Continued

After arriving at the dock, we gathered to say our good-byes as we all took different routes back home. Marilyn and I turned south in Burnet and took 281 through Marble Falls to Hwy 71 and home. On that last stretch, we did manage to roll a skunk under the Triumph and I guess we were lucky - although we encountered a little smell while driving, it was almost non-existent by the time we got home. Guess the breeze flying by the car at 70 mph helped "clear the air". On Sunday morning, I discovered that the front right tire was flat too. Oh well, just part of driving our cars and experiencing the things that the concours guys never will! Anne and I took some pictures of the event for your enjoyment. David and Anne are planning the April driving event that is detailed in this newsletter.

While we do not have an official event for March, I would encourage you to consider attending the British Car Day that is sponsored by the British Motoring Club of New Orleans. A few of our members make the trip every year and always come back with a report of good people and good food! You can find out more about the event on their web site [www.bmcno.org](http://www.bmcno.org). While we are talking about shows, it is never too early to make reservations for the South Central Vintage Triumph Regional in Norman, OK in April. Don Couch, are you listening? This can't be the first you've heard of it! We will talk more about it at the meeting on the 9th. I'll see you there!

#



*Sunset over Lake Buchanan*



# HCTC Roadtrip: British Motoring Festival

Jacques Welter

There's nothing like a roadtrip to make a month !! In March HCTC headed out to the British Motoring Festival held in Covington, LA, just across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans. Going from HCTC were Mike McPhail, Art Graves, Dick Simonson, Rip Torn, and Kim & Jacques Welter. Everyone but Kim & Jacques drove their cars (we trailered our car — the spirit was willing, but the differential was weak).

One solid rule to follow if you're going to drive across country in a TR6 — if you have time, take the time to run the back roads and keep the drives limited to 8 hours maximum. Also in play was avoiding Baton Rouge like the plague. Anyone who has driven I-10 through Baton Rouge will understand me when I say we didn't want that experience this trip and actually crafted a route that would take us well north of that blighted Mississippi River crossing. Needless to say, our route followed these rules, as we started on SR79 leaving the greater Austin area, connecting to SR7 at Marquez and then Texas 103 outside of Lufkin. Texas 103 junctioned with SR21 outside of the Louisiana border (where the route name changed to LA-6) and on into Natchitoches (Nak-i-tish) for the night. Total trip distance for the first leg was 303 miles and took ~7 hours with stops. We were joined in Natchitoches by Art Graves who made his way cross-country solo from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Since we were on a sight-seeing route, we naturally took in the sights. Day 2 started with a tour of Fort St. Jean Baptiste, a pleasant little state park and reconstructed frontier fort. Leaving the fort in the late morning, we headed across the top of Louisiana to Natchez, MS, for lunch and a couple of frosty adult



Mike & Dick at our jumping off place, the Hippo Café in Hutto



Dick Simonson in his TR6 about to start the journey



Dinner stop, the Flying Heart Brewing & Pub in Natchitoches. L to R: Mike McPhail, Art Graves, Jacques & Kim Welter, and Dick Simonson



# HCTC Roadtrip: British Motoring Festival

## Continued

beverages. Natchez, home of Brits on the Bluff, was a charming city but we had places to go and people to see so we left there about 1 pm and headed on down the road.

One huge difference between Texas and Louisiana is the condition of the roads. All though Louisiana we had stoppages for construction where they closed one half of the road and utilized flag trucks. The stops weren't long, but they added time to the trip.

Leaving Natchez, we turned southeast and made our way cross-country to Covington, LA, arriving around 4:30 — just in time for the street party associated with the British Motoring Festival. We were joined in Covington by Rip Torn and his high school friend Charles.

The party — and car show — was held in four-square blocks in downtown Covington around the central city park. For the party, it was park where you could; for the show each marque & model had its own parking area.

The party featured good food, good beer, and good company as we mixed and mingled with 170 British car owners celebrating the weekend amongst friends.

The weather on Saturday, March 28th dawned bright, clear ... and cold with temps starting in the low 50's. The British Motoring Festival final registration count was 170, with cars coming from as far away as Albuquerque, NM. All makes and marques of British car were there, from a one-of-a-kind Railton Tourer to the sublime Mini Mini's. For Triumph as a marque it was feast or famine ... we had 15 TR6s and three Spitfires but only one other Triumph (a TR3) on the show field. Home field advantage went to the Louisiana cars as they took home the majority of the awards but Mike McPhail's Spit6 came out on top in his division and took home a first in class.

Moving away from the show field for lunch, HCTC enjoyed some good Cajun cooking at the New Orleans Food & Spirits restaurant on Lee Lane — we highly recommend it.



*On the road to Natchez*



*Kim Welter in Natchez*



*Time for some frosty adult beverages in Covington, Louisiana*



*Show day. L to R: Art, Dick, Rip, Kim, Mike*



# HCTC Roadtrip: British Motoring Festival

## Continued

The show broke up around 2 pm, and we wetted it down and celebrated with a few beers on the outdoor patio of the Covington Beer Garden, allowing the crowd to thin out, before heading back to the hotel around 4 pm. We reconvened that night for dinner at Copeland's of New Orleans for some more excellent Cajun cooking and good company.

Sunday, the group broke into two parties. Rip, Charley, Art, and Mike all headed to the National World War II museum in New Orleans; Dick, Jacques & Kim headed out for Avery Island and the Tabasco Factory. After a short tour of the museum, Mike & Art hit the road again for Lafayette, LA. Kim, Jacques, and Dick spent most of the afternoon touring the land of hot sauce before pulling stakes for Lafayette. In either case, both locations were fascinating and, if you're down in the New Orleans area, we urge you to check them out.

After three days of Canjun food, the group was ready for a burger (and a beer, 'natch) and we ate at Burger Smith before calling it an evening.

Monday was a travel day again. Art departed for Tulsa; Mike, Dick, Kim & Jacques all turned and headed for home. Following the Traveling Triumph rules, we only spent some 60 minutes on I-10, forking off at Lake Charles in Louisiana and heading across country on a route that took us through Dequincy, Singer, & Merryville — all in Louisiana; then Newton, Jasper, Woodville, Livingston (BTW, we HIGHLY recommend the Pit Row Pit Stop restaurant in Livingston), Huntsville, College Station and Bryan in Texas. Mike broke away from the group in Bryan; and Kim & Jacques parted company with Dick in Rockdale. All told, a round trip of some 1,300 miles for the Austin crew and even further for our road warrior, Art Graves.

We hope to see you next year as this is one fun trip.



*Custom-built Mini Mini's*



*Big cats on the loose*



*One of the show streets in Covington*



# HCTC Roadtrip: British Motoring Festival

Continued



Mike receives 1st in Class



Entering a funky old General Store



A very well turned out Morris Minor



A real iron casket, circa 1880



Jacques & Rip take a break



Original Shaguar from the movies



Rip wins a door prize



Mike with a car he sold 10 years ago



Lotus' in the grass around the center square



# HCTC Roadtrip: British Motoring Festival

Continued



Mini Mini row



A nicely presented AH 100-6



Art Graves on Triumph Row



Rip Torn on Triumph Row



Mike McPhail with the Spitfires



"Ta Da !!" Kim Welter styles and profiles with her TR6



Dick Simonson on Triumph row with his TR6



# HCTC Roadtrip: British Motoring Festival

Continued



Mike, Bob, & Bill's Triumphs at Luckenbach



Mike, Bob, & Bill's Triumphs at Luckenbach



Mike, Bob, & Bill's Triumphs at



Jim Wells; Neil Hedden; and Roger Allen enjoy the Chupacabra



Live entertainment at Luckenbach



Live entertainment at Luckenbach



# HCTC Roadtrip Extras

## Rip Torn

In the waning days of March, after the Covington car show some of the intrepid road warriors made a side trip to New Orleans. It was a short one-hour drive across Lake Pontchartrain (or around it) to the site of the national World War II Museum. Sunday morning arrived much cloudier than the previous couple of days and spread its cloudiness and rain showers. Art Graves and Mike McPhail arrived individually to the museum for a short visit and they proceeded on to Lafayette to join Jacques, Kim, and Dick on the return leg. Meanwhile, my high school friend Charles and I decided on a longer visit to the museum since we traveled that far.

The National World War II museum was originally the D-Day museum influenced heavily by Stephen Ambrose, a local historian and author to include the band of Brothers as well as many other World War II history publications. Over the years it has evolved and expanded their scope to now be declared the national Museum for World War II history from the American perspective. Currently it is the number one attraction in New Orleans and rightfully so. They are open daily and do have discount categories that are worth looking at. See more details at. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org>

To summarize the experience, it can be overwhelming. The focus of the curators are to make it as personal as possible. World War II was such a world changing event that affected almost everyone, they figured that the visitors should make it a personal experience if possible. Many of the visitors do have a personal connection through a relative or friend and the museum does try to build on that. The exhibits are divided into regions as well as special interest, focused areas. One part is focused on the war in North Africa and Europe, and the other is primarily in the Pacific. They portrayed the history, using a combination of exhibits, audio, and visual depictions, full scale dioramas, and personal stories. Special exhibits that we saw included Art collections and recovering them, specific aircraft displays, and a myriad of other topics. Ironically, the original subject of the museum, the D-Day landings in Normandy were recently closed for renovation until 2028. The rest of the war, was on display.

As some of you know, I am looking into leading some World War II historical tours to Europe and needed to get some additional information about the actions of US troops during and after the war. The museum does have an extensive collection of research materials and library, and to my delight was invited to Continue with some studies there and give me additional material. If you are interested in discussing World War II history and my experiences at the museum please contact me through the club directory.

If you are interested in history and in the New Orleans area, then I would highly recommend taking a couple of days at least to see what they offer. Closer to home we do have another great location in Fredericksburg, the museum of the war in the Pacific. Formerly the Nimitz Museum.

Meanwhile keep those cars driving!



*Rip & Charles in the Green Hornet at the British Motoring Festival*



# HCTC Women's Group Spring Outing

Kim Welter

On April 2nd the HCTC Women's Group gathered in Marble Falls at the Tea Thyme Café for brunch. Someone once said that in Texas if you don't like the weather just wait 20 minutes and the weather will change and we needed a change as there was a much-needed but brief rain shower that morning. We enjoyed our meals while having lots of laughs and fun conversations while we waited the rain out. After getting our fill of delicious food at the café, we saw the last of the rain clouds passing by. We drove over to the still wet strawberry fields, but the sun was peeking through the clouds when we arrived at Sweet Berry Farms and a nice temperature in the 70's.

As it turns out, the Farm is closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, so after the fields had a 2-day rest and a bit of rain it worked out that Thursday (the day we went) was a perfect day to go as evident by the boxes of gorgeous berries we went home with.

BTW: Everyone received a recipe booklet that we made with strawberry theme recipes like this one:



The HCTC Women's Group in Tea Thyme

## Pimm's Cup Cocktail Pitcher

### Ingredients:

- 8 cups Sprite or ginger ale
- 1 cup Pimm's No. 1 (gin-based liqueur)
- 1 red apple, cored and thinly sliced
- 1 orange, sliced
- 1 (4 inch) cucumber wedge
- ½ lemon, sliced
- ½ lime, sliced
- 1 cup fresh strawberries, sliced
- 3 sprigs fresh mint

### Directions:

Stir Sprite and Pimm's together in a serving pitcher until well mixed; add apple, orange, cucumber wedge, lemon, lime, strawberries, and mint. Serve in ice-filled tall glasses. Start with chilled ingredients for the best results. For a stronger cocktail, prepare 4-6 hours before event, keep refrigerated, and add up to an additional 1 cup Pimm's to taste. For a less sweet version, use half Sprite or ginger ale and half sparkling water.

The HCTC Women's Group meets once every three months. The next outing will most likely be an air-conditioned venue during the summer, more on that later.

Hope to see you then!



Picking berries at Sweetberry Farms



# News from Mike's Motors

Mike McPhail

It is getting harder all the time to find tires for vintage sports cars! The Spit-6 has really cool 185/60-13 Federal brand tires with a distinctive wet-weather tread pattern. They are getting a bit worn and replacements are hard to find. 175/70-13 seems to be the favored Spitfire tire size these days, so a set of Kumho Solis items may be the in the offing.

That Kumho rubber in 205/70-15 served well on my TR6s until they were no longer available. They appear to be back, but I'm not sure if they are the same product. I try to buy tires with a "H" speed rating (130mph), which should make them better than the widely available "S" (112mph) or "T" (118mph) offerings. I was disappointed with the cheap-at-the-time Hankook brand and am running Yokohama presently. If price was no object, Michelin makes a 168 mph tire in that size for an eye-watering \$420 each!

Tires have four-digit date codes embossed into the tread right after the letters "DOT". The first two digits are the week and the last two the year. Prior to this century, three digits were used with the year shown as the third digit. There are plenty of spare tires stored in our trunks that were made in the 1990s or even 1980s! Conventional wisdom states that regardless of wear, tires begin to degrade at about six years of age. For our purposes, tires with high wear ratings will be out of date long before tread depth becomes a problem. Wear rating numbers range from a couple of hundred (low) to as much as 800. It has been suggested that lower ratings have superior grip!

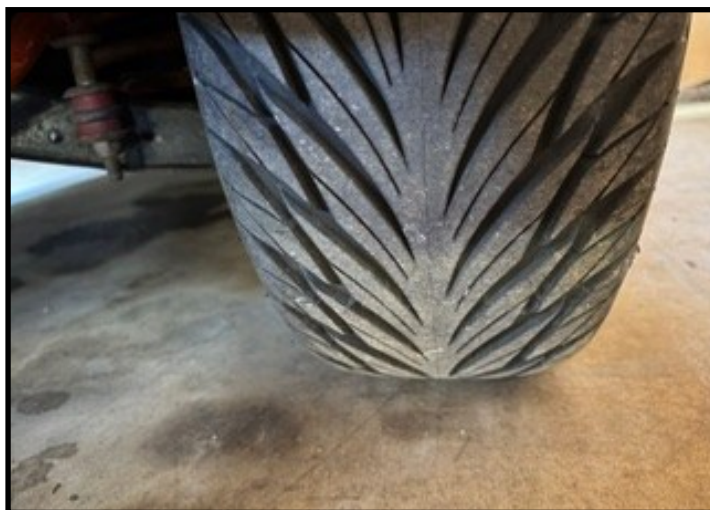
Just about every old car that gets rehabilitated here at Mike's Motors has ten-year old tires that look great but have permanent flat spots from sitting. With the car up on the lift, spinning the wheel graphically shows the sad situation. Bent wheels are not uncommon either...or then there is the ubiquitous loose wheel bearing syndrome. At any rate, keep all these things in mind when evaluating your rolling stock!



Early 1992?



Just 5 years old



Rain Tire



# On the Road with HCTC

**Mike McPhail**

After the Saturday morning HCTC meeting, six Triumphs meandered toward Gillespie County to make the 2 PM battle re-enactment at the NMOPW. We traveled all backroads to our destination and thoroughly enjoyed the Spring weather and abundant greenery. There was time after the show to visit part of the Museum, the Auslander, and the Altstadt. Attending were Jacques & Kim Welter; Dennis & Lorna Duke; Joe & Arynn Payne; Rip & Cheryl Torn; Jim Wells; Neil Hedden; and Mike McPhail.

Medal of Honor recipient Private First Class George Benjamin was honored March 14 at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg. Part of the museum complex is designated the Pacific Combat Zone consisting of an outdoor amphitheater where re-enactors stage mock battles demonstrating the horrors of island warfare. His heroic deeds on December 21, 1944 at Leyte in the Philippines were described in the following official citation:

He was a radio operator, advancing in the rear of his company as it engaged a well-defended Japanese strong point holding up the progress of the entire battalion. When a rifle platoon supporting a light tank hesitated in its advance, he voluntarily and with utter disregard for personal safety left his comparatively secure position and ran across bullet-whipped terrain to the tank, waving and shouting to the men of the platoon to follow. Carrying his bulky radio and armed only with a pistol, he fearlessly penetrated intense machinegun and rifle fire to the enemy position, where he killed 1 of the enemy in a foxhole and moved on to annihilate the crew of a light machinegun. Heedless of the terrific fire now concentrated on him, he continued to spearhead the assault, killing 2 more of the enemy and exhorting the other men to advance, until he fell mortally wounded. After being evacuated to an aid station, his first thought was still of the American advance. Overcoming great pain he called for the battalion operations officer to report the location of enemy weapons and valuable tactical information he had secured in his heroic charge. The unwavering courage, the unswerving devotion to



*Right before leaving for Fredericksburg*

**April 2026**



*Waiting for the re-enactment*



# On the Road with HCTC

## Continued

the task at hand, the aggressive leadership of Pfc. Benjamin were a source of great and lasting inspiration to his comrades and were to a great extent responsible for the success of the battalion's mission

The re-enactment was quite realistic with the use of a working tank, flame thrower, explosives, rifles, machine guns and other weapons. The blank ammunition was louder than any Hollywood battle scene, requiring earplugs for everyone. Many of the spectators raised their hands when asked if their fathers were WW2 veterans. It was all very moving.



*The re-enactment underway. Very realistic, very well done — and very loud*



# In Memorium

**Jacques Welter**

**H**ill Country Triumph Club lost one of its own recently. I'm saddened to announce the passing of Paul Rathouz who died in December, 2025, at the age of 62.

When I met Paul he was new in HCTC, and his activities had mainly been confined to the Breakfast meetings and Social Hours. We talked frequently at these outings. He spoke of his love of cars — specifically the Triumph TR6 — and was well on the way to restoring his 1976 Russet Brown TR6. He said he'd always wanted a TR6 since he was in his teens and while his was in running condition, he was full of questions about specifications, capabilities, and performance improvements. He also had a great sense of humor and a sharp wit.

Godspeed and RIP, Paul. You will be missed.





# 2026



GABS 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat- Georgetown

| S  | N  | T  | V  | 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 |

## JAN

1 New Years Day

10HCTC Morning mtg

20HCTC Social Hr

19M L King Day

| S  | N  | T  | V  | 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  | N  | T  | V  | 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 |    |    |    |    |

## MAR

14HCTC Morning mtg

17HCTC Social Hr

27-28 New Orleans British Motoring Festival

| S  | N  | T  | V  | 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 |    |    |

## APR

5 Easter Sunday

11HCTC Morning mtg

No Social Hour - SC VTR

20-23 VTR S. Central Reg M-T

Canyon of Eagles

| S  | N  | T  | V  | 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  | N  | T  | V  | 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday but varies

| S  | N  | T  | V  | 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  | N  | T  | V  | 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  | N  | T  | V  | 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  | N  | T  | V  | 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  | N  | T  | V  | 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  | N  | T  | V  | 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 Driving Event

## **37<sup>th</sup>** ANNUAL SAN ANTONIO JAGUAR CLUB RALLYE TO LUCKENBACH



**DATE:** *Saturday, April 25, 2026 (Rain Date: May 2, 2026)*

**Meeting Place/Start Point:**

Old Blanco County Courthouse  
300 Main St  
Blanco, TX 78606

DRAFT

### IMPORTANT INFO

|                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Registration:             | 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM              |
| MANDATORY Drivers Meeting | 12:15 PM                         |
| Registration Fee:         | \$20.00 per vehicle, cash or chk |
| First Car Out:            | 12:31 AM                         |
| START POINT:              | Adjacent to Blanco Square        |

- ✓ This is a JCNA sanctioned time, speed, distance Rally event.....**NOT A RACE!!!!!!**
- ✓ Rallye will total approximately 100 miles and three (3) hours, ending in Luckenbach.
- ✓ Trophies for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will be awarded to drivers and navigators AND our Famous "Stray Cat" prize for the last driver to arrive in Luckenbach.
- ✓ The Rallye route is on paved roads, some very narrow with cattle guards and loose livestock. Please be careful and use caution in these areas.
- ✓ NO DRINKING ALCOHOL AND DRIVING!!
- ✓ There will be short breaks during the rally. Restrooms will only be available at Checkpoints 1 and 2. There is no fuel for sale at the checkpoints.
- ✓ JCNA rules will be used for scoring and ties will be permitted for JCNA results.
- ✓ Bring a watch, digital watch or stop watch and pencil.
- ✓ Please check the event calendar on [www.sajaquarclub.info](http://www.sajaquarclub.info) for updates.
- ✓ Call or text SAJC rallymaster Brian Blackwell at below number if you suspect bad weather on the morning of the rallye and do not have internet access.
- ✓ **Questions?** Call Brian Blackwell at (210) 255-0361 Cell  
o or email [blackwbg@gmail.com](mailto:blackwbg@gmail.com)

**SEE Y'ALL AT THE START, AND HOPEFULLY AGAIN IN LUCKENBACH!!!!!!**



# Brits & Barley

**L**ooking 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.

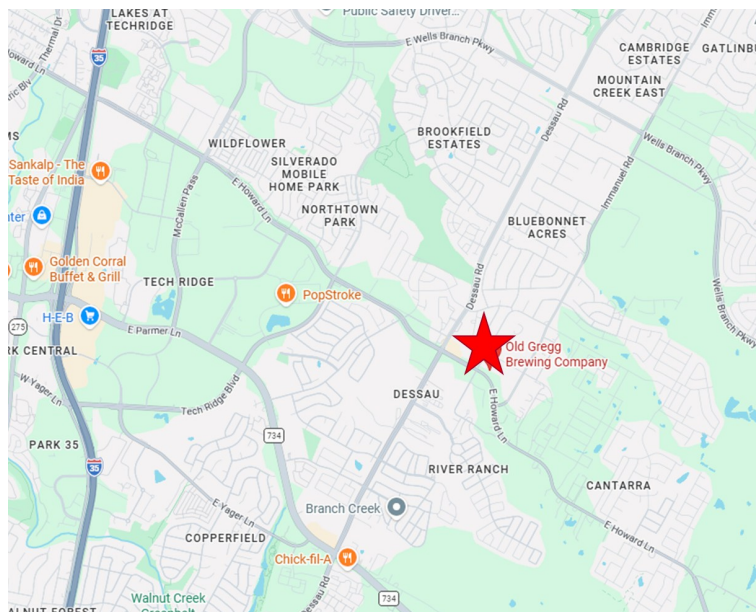
We will (generally) meet the last Sunday of the month, but this can vary given holiday schedules. At the end of every meeting we will decide where the next meeting will be using a master list of brewing companies that we've compiled and we'll try to spread it out. For example, if we head south one month,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

## April

**WHERE: Old Gregg Brewery**

**1900 E Howard Ln Building H, Pflugerville, TX 78660**

**WHEN: Sunday, April 26th, starting at 2:00 pm**





# HCTC Events

## HCTC Breakfast Waterloo Icehouse Saturday, April 11th

**T**he 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, March 17th

**T**he 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



**Cancelled**



# 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](#)

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### **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](mailto: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.**

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## **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](http://www.TriumphRegister.com)

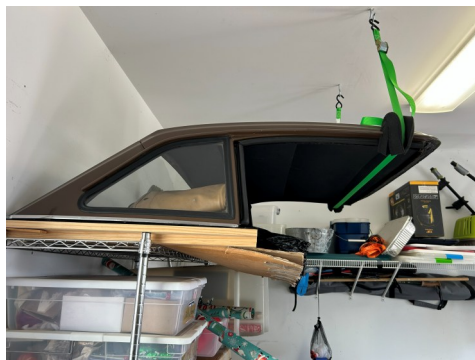


# Classifieds

**F**or Sale by the estate of Paul Rathouz a 1976 Triumph TR6. Car is running; a non-overdrive model with dual Weber carburetors. Body is in excellent condition with no visible rust or cracking and good gaps. The car comes with both soft top and hard top. Hardtop appears freshly painted and relined. The car has new chrome bumpers, tires, and beauty rings. The car is a solid driver quality vehicle.

If you have specific questions, an evaluation of the car was performed by Jacques Welter and Mike McPhail.

Asking price is \$7,500. Inquiries should be directed to Mark Rathouz +1-402-321-0501 (markrathouz@gmail.com)





# Classifieds

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

**T**riumph 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

**N**ew 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.



**N**eed 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

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

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141



**T**R4A 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.





**T**he 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](mailto: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](http://www.vtr.org), [www.triumphregister.com](http://www.triumphregister.com), and [www.6-pack.org](http://www.6-pack.org).

The Ragtop is published monthly by the Hill Country Triumph Club. Material within may be freely reproduced providing Ragtop and the authors are credited. Any and all newsletter contributions are welcome. Deadline for submissions is the end of each month. Submissions may be emailed to [editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org](mailto:editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org). Car related classified ads are free to members and will run for three months unless otherwise instructed. Contact editor for other ads.

## 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](http://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).**