



# The RAGTOP

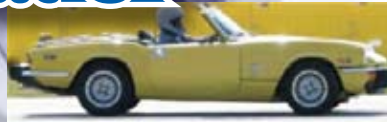
[www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org](http://www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org)



Volume 21, Issue 6, June 2008

## “The Leader”

by Bill Waller



Hello my English Auto Egoists,  
This will be my last column as “The Leader”. I have enjoyed my year as you’re Leader and I think the club will survive in spite of it. I could not have done it without the help and counsel from Nel McPhail and Bob Skewis. We have a lot of work ahead of us hosting the 2009 regionals and I intend to work tirelessly in the trenches to see that it is a great event. I ask you to support Steve Johnson as you have supported me. Steve will guide us through this next eventful year and will need all of us to play a role. Thank you all again. That is all.

Bill “The Leader”



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The Hill Country Triumph Club, the 50th Chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR), was founded in 1990 to bring together the owners of Triumph automobiles in the Central Texas area surrounding Austin. In 1991, the membership decided to include other British car fans as associates due to lack of other clubs in our area that represent some of the other marques. As owners and lovers of our unique types of cars, we have a special kinship, which draws us together. Membership is open to anyone who is a British car enthusiast, with or without a car.

Annual dues are just \$15.00 per family group or address per year. We have dinner meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and at least one other event each month. We encourage you to join and support us, even if you don't drive your car regularly. We also offer technical assistance if needed. One goal of the club is to help its members keep their cars on the road. Please call one of the club officers listed in the newsletter for more information about club benefits and spread the word about our club to others.

The Hill Country Club is a local chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)/Triumph Sports Owners Association, which is open to all drivers of Triumph motorcars; a chapter of the Triumph Register of America, exclusively for TR2 through TR4A sports cars; and a chapter of the 6-PACK, dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation, and restoration of the Triumph TR250 and TR6 sports cars. Membership in these national organizations is encouraged. Visit their websites at [www.vtr.org](http://www.vtr.org), [www.triumphregister.com](http://www.triumphregister.com), and [www.6-pack.org](http://www.6-pack.org).

The RAGTOP is published monthly by the Hill Country Triumph Club. Material within may be freely reproduced providing Ragtop and the authors are credited. Any and all newsletter contributions are welcome. Deadline for submissions is the end of each month. Submissions may be sent to: Warren Cole; 8290 FM 1322; Lockhart, TX 78644 or E-mailed to [frankwarrencole@gmail.com](mailto:frankwarrencole@gmail.com). Photos in jpeg format are always welcome. Car related classified ads are free to members and will run for three months unless otherwise instructed. Contact editor for other ads.

## Membership Application

☞ Name : .....

☞ Address : .....

☞ City / State : ..... ☞ Zip : .....

☞ Home Phone : .....

☞ Work Phone : .....

☞ E-mail address : .....

☞ Car Make : ..... ☞ Model : ..... ☞ Year : ..... ☞ Color : .....

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☐ Please circle which method you would like the newsletter delivered : E-mail    Snail Mail

☐ How did you hear about the Hill Country Triumph Club? .....

☐ Please mail application and check payable HCTC to :

Nel McPhail, 1105 N. Canyonwood Dr., Dripping Springs, TX, 78260





## May Meeting

We tried The Hub once again last month. Although the food is good and the staff is very supportive, the facility is not conducive to a good meeting. I'm afraid that the popularity of this venue precludes us from using it again. That being said, we had a good get-together with eight members bringing Triumphs to the lot. There were a lot of youngsters about with a lot of interest in our cool cars. I invited a brother and sister team to sit in Doris the Spit and you should have seen their eyes light up. We should all take every opportunity to spark an interest in the younger set you never know which ones will be inspired to carry on the Triumph Torch! After discussing our triumphs at the recent Tyler regional, The Leader announced his abdication of the throne.

Luckily, Steve Johnson has volunteered to guide us in the coming year. This will become official at the next meeting. Bill (we can go back to calling him Bill now that his reign has ended) will retire to a support role and volunteer on the committee to organize next year's regional in Marble Falls and the ABCD in September. Thanks, Bill - job well done. Our door prize drawing produced some buzz as Candy Johnson donated a prize she won at Tyler - all you can eat wings at Hooters for 11 close friends. The buzz turned to grumbling as Lucky Lucy McPhail had the lucky number. Lucy had an instant crowd of friends as we started calculating the closest Hooters to Drippin' Springs! Lucy's baby boy won a cooler that plugs in the your 12-volt outlet in the car. Willis Thorstadt and Richard Ceraldi won gimme caps from Castrol. Very stylish. The Spitfire / GT6 racing team reported that they took two first place finishes at the last autocross at the Harris Hill Road Course. There are videos on You Tube - if you can't find them, contact Don Couch for a link. Robert McKenzie took some great stills with some cars getting air topping the hill on the course.

The group is still looking for more participation, so ask to join in! TIME magazine has for years run a column called Milestones, and I have decided to add some milestones to this column when I hear about them. So, here goes . . . Steve Johnson finally reached a milestone by bringing his TR4A to the party. After working on it for years and, maybe, being the only man to store a complete car in his attic instead of his garage . . . he has a beautiful daily driver to run the streets with. Congratulations to Candy, too. I suspect there are two Triumphs in the garage and the American / Japanese iron is on the driveway. Humm . . . sounds like my house! Also being mentioned in this milestone segment is Harry Taggart and his recent valve job. No, not on the car . . . on his heart. Harry is 88 years old and in good physical health due to his regular tennis workouts. Six weeks prior to the meeting he underwent heart valve repair and was feeling and looking great. Harry gave kudos to an excellent surgeon and the staff at Scott and White in Temple. As a celebration of his continued health, he bought a Pontiac Solstice, which he brought to the meeting. He may not have a Triumph anymore, but he'll always be one of us. Harry, Steve and I will see you on the road.

by Warren Cole



I had my first really fast car ride in 1966 in Bruce McCoy's new 289 Cobra. It was British Racing Green and had a roll bar, racing seat belts, and a cross-ram intake manifold with four Webers. It looked great and sounded awesome. An Engineering student at Oklahoma University, he drove the car to school, and road raced it on weekends. People kept leaning on, and putting books on his car, denting the aluminum body, so he bought a little 289 Fairlane GT to drive to school.

The Cobra and the Fairlane were parked in the garage, his parent's Mercury sedans in the driveway. We pulled out of the garage and headed west on Main Street towards the cloverleaf intersection with I-35. Bruce said "I'm going to show you what a real sports car will do." In those days the little yellow signs said 15 MPH in the cloverleaf turns. Bruce four wheel drifted around all four at an indicated 80, demonstrating how vary-

ing the power changed the angle of the car in the corner. He then blasted up the service road up to 100 then quick on the brakes down to 30. I was thrilled, amazed, and absolutely terrified. Somehow no cops came after us and we drove back to the house and pulled in the garage. Far ahead of his time, he had an electric garage door opener. I really wanted one of those Cobras.

There are two reasons for sharing this tale. First, to stir your memories and get the members to share their stories of great rides in the Ragtop, second, to provoke discussion on how to get young people, who for the most part have grown up in Asian and American shitboxes, rides in British sports cars. There has to be a way to organize opportunities for this exposure. Let's talk about it.



Over the years I've watched many people (including myself) purchase solid running Triumphs in good condition. Fun cars at a reasonable price... but quickly the desire to "upgrade" the car into concours condition occurs... rebuilding engines that were running good, ripping out and replacing interiors that were slightly worn, repainting to fix a few flaws. There is an alternate approach!

Start with a TR6 that needs everything. Warning, these are very unattractive, but what a photo album it will make when you win 1st place at the concours. My Green 1972 concours winner is a perfect example. It was purchased new in NJ, driven in snow, ice, and obviously salt... (or driven from the UK via the Atlantic?), it was rusted out and off the road by 1979. The remains were later disassembled and stored. Owner said he would sell me the Overdrive Transmission, IF I'd take the rest of the car

and try to restore it. (This owner managed to remove EVERY bolt, wow this guy was good!). My 72 won 1st place and Best of Show at the VTR in its first outing 25 years after it was last on the road.

I have access to 5 early TR6's that are available to Club Members Only who are willing to "try" and restore them. They are complete cars, condition varies from bad to worse. Sounds like a basis for one of those TV shows... So keep your nice average car for events and pour the new parts into one of these. Its really a delightful experience seeing one come back to life. Could also be a great basis for a Vintage Race Car, your choice... operators are standing by!

Contact [Roger at 512-796-5999](mailto:Roger@512-796-5999) or ask at the next meeting! Advice and encouragement provided at no extra charge.

Thanks,  
Roger

# RUBY REPORT



## HARIS HILL ROAD

### TRIUMPH VICTORIES!

The SPOKES Auto-X in May was held at Harris Hill Road, a newly built race track near San Marcos. It was a beautiful day to race. The weather was cool and slightly overcast. The track was hot and fast! The course started off as a right hand turn into an uphill slalom then a right hand hairpin and back down the hill. The hill was so steep you could not see the track below. You just knew there was a sharp left turn at the bottom. This led to two Chicago boxes, then on to another slalom run. Next, was a gate and a hard right hand turn and yet

another slalom. It is a 1.8 mile track! Exiting the slalom, I was in third gear with my foot to the floor. No more cones just WOT and open track, I hit the OD switch and hung on! It was a tight left hander to the finish, I could feel the tires on the edge of adhesion. I crossed the finish line at 70 mph and a time of 103.361 good enough for first place in H - Stock with Richard Ceraldi and his fine 1971 GT6 mkIII taking second place in H-Stock.

Robert Mackenzine took a first in class victory in GP class in his 1962 Spitfire.

## SASCA

The San Antonio Auto-X was held at the AT&T Center last week. Ruby was up to the task and another first in class victory was mine!

The course was very technical as opposed to a speed course.

As of right now, Ruby and I are in first place in the points standing for H-Stock.

Robert Mackenzine, who runs in GP class is in first place in the points standings.

<http://www.sasca.org/forum/uploaded/Results/2008-class-points.pdf>

*Don Couch*



SEE RUBY IN ACTION ON YOU-TUBE

In car video's are posted at

[:http://www.youtube.com/user/anezana](http://www.youtube.com/user/anezana)





Hi  
The club members might be interested in  
viewing the following TR6 video from the BBC program 'Top Gear'  
that's available on 'YouTube'

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih9FRfHL\\_TU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih9FRfHL_TU)

Regards,  
Terry Caudell

## **HCTC New Members**



### **Welcomes new member:**

Mike and Stephanie Jankowski  
Austin TX  
1978 Spitfire

J. Scott Laswell  
Cedar Park, TX  
1977 Red Spitfire

### **Driving Event I**

All Triumph Drive-In  
Richland, Washington  
August 15-17  
Registration;  
[magdah@comcast.net](mailto:magdah@comcast.net)

### **Driving Event II**

**The Bastrop County Rotary Club** is sponsoring  
its first annual road rally on **Saturday, June 21,**  
2008, starting in Smithville, Texas.  
Please find attached a brochure and poster giving  
you details of the event. Please join us in what  
should be a great, fun event.  
Additional information and sign up forms are  
available on the website:  
[www.bastroprotaryrally.com](http://www.bastroprotaryrally.com)

# VTR South Central Regional Tyler





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## Hill Country Triumph Club Events

### June 2008

10 Club meeting, Poke-jo's BBQ

21 **The Bastrop County Rotary Club** is sponsoring its first annual road rally on Saturday, June 21, 2008, starting in Smithville, Texas.  
Please find attached a brochure and poster giving you details of the event.  
Please join us in what should be a great, fun event.  
Additional information and sign up forms are available on the website:  
[bastroprotaryrally.com](http://bastroprotaryrally.com)

### July 2008

8 Club meeting, TBA



1105 N. Canyonwood Dr.  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
*address change requested*



*The June meeting will be held Tuesday, June 10, 7 PM, **Pok-e-jo's BBQ** in the Brodie Oaks shopping center,  
Northwest corner of South Lamar and Ben White/Capitol of Texas Highway/Loop 360,  
Phone 512 440-0447.*