

The Ragtop



January 2015

Hill Country Triumphs

By Steve Johnson

Happy New Year! The picture to the right is the Johnson family this year including the grand children Josh (driving - 13 yrs.) and Jared (passenger 9 yrs.). What fun we had Christmas week with everyone here for the holidays. I hope that you and your family had as much fun as we did.



OK, I've had enough cold weather and am definitely ready for that tops-down Austin climate to move back and take its place. I'm already getting "cabin fever" since

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, 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.

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it's too cold to spend time in my unheated garage with the Triumphs. It is a great time for planning though. Let me know if you have a drive you'd like to put together for the spring and I'll get it out to the club.

Speaking of planning, we're in the midst of planning for our VTR Regional, April 22nd through the 25th in Kerrville, Texas. I'll kick off the first planning session in January and we'll be on our way to having a great time with people from the eight states in our Region. We will need your help so if you would like volunteer, here are a few areas you might help with:

Registration and Hospitality — Open daily as needed. You will meet and greet our guests, register participants, keep records, give out information, and prepare the "goodie bags." We have a special centrally located room for hospitality with a kitchen, meeting area and restrooms.

Concourse — We will need concourse volunteers to judge their assigned category according to VTR rules. In addition to judges, we'll need help with the layout, parking and inputting results into our database.

Autocross — Volunteers will help with selecting the proper location for the event, developing the circuit driven, staging participants, timing runs, flagging the corners, and inputting results into our database at the event.

Breakfast Runs and Dinner Runs — Those helping will understand each of the routes and will then lead participants in an orderly fashion to the proper locations. Each run will need a Captain lead the cars and a sweeper to follow behind and help those that fall out of the convoy. Communications between lead and sweep cars is done with cell phones operated by volunteers in the passenger seats.

Car Wash — Inn of the Hills has a permanent car wash area. Volunteers will setup the area each day marking it with cones. They will purchase washing supplies and have them available for participants, checking on supplies periodically each day.

Funkhana — This is always a fun event for the families. Volunteers will help define the event, gather/produce the materials, judge the event, and input data into our database.

Gimmick Rallye — Helpers will assist in picking the strategy for the Rallye, developing instructions for participants, Judge the event and input data into the database on site so that results are easily determined whenever possible.

Self-Guided Tours — Regional participants will be able to take self-guided tours of the area as they like. Fortunately Kerrville has a great Visitor-Convention Bureau that has plenty of information on their website for this kind of event. Volunteers will prepare the materials and work with the bureau as needed.

Silent Auction — Some very interesting items come up for sale at these auctions. They include Triumph Parts, memorabilia and hard to find items. Volunteers will help initially setup and help participants add to the auction. After the auction, the volunteers collect money for the items, give the owners their share of the proceeds and keep our club's share for running the auction.

PLEASE — Send me a note at stevenjohnson7@sbcglobal.net if you would like to volunteer.

2015 Hill Country Triumph Club Hollywood Happy Hour — January 17th

Dean and Elizabeth Mericas have cordially invited us to a



Hollywood Happy Hour, Saturday, January 17th at Casa Mericas. So, mark your calendar for this costume party complete with libations, food and folly. You'll see and article later in this Ragtop with particulars.

I personally plan on coming as my favorite actor... Gary Busey. You'll remember I'm sure that Gary played "Buddy" in that 1978 movie classic "The Buddy Holly Story." The only difference will be my gray hair. As you can see from the photo his hair was a lot darker than mine and he appears to be younger (but it's hard to tell with Gary Busey isn't it).

Remember... *What happens at Casa Mericas, stays at Casa Mericas.*

Vintage Triumph Register 2015 National Convention

The VTR National Convention will be held August 11-14, 2015 at the Abbey Resort and Conference Center in Fontana, Wisconsin. The featured Triumph models for this convention will be the TR4A and the Spitfire Mark II both of which are celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2015. For the latest information check out their website at www.VTR2015.com.

VTR members may register online and pay via PayPal. If you prefer, you may print out a registration form and mail it along with a check. You will need to know your VTR membership number and car's commission number to complete the registration. Early registration ends on June 15th.

To receive the VTR room rate at the Abbey Resort and Conference Center call the resort (262/275-9000) and ask for the Vintage Triumph Register rate. Roughly half of the block of 110 rooms are already booked.

Next Club Meeting - Saturday January

10th at Frisco's

It's time to switch our club meetings from Tuesdays to Saturday's at Frisco's in Austin. Let's meet at Frisco's at 9:00 AM for breakfast. The meeting will start at 9:30 and run to 10:30 AM. Our club meetings will be on the second Saturday of each month.



Attention Hill Country Triumph Club: Bring a TR with a full tank of gas to the meeting Saturday morning so we can all go for a little drive afterwards!

Remember, you don't have to drive your Triumph to the club meeting to enjoy the excitement! Just be there....

Triumphantly yours,

Steve



Steve Johnson
President
Hill Country Triumph Club
(Austin)
stevenjohnson7@sbcglobal.net
www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org/

January Tool of the Month

By Mike McPhail

Here is an essential addition to your tool box....digital multi-meter!

When these little gadgets came out not too many years ago, they were quite expensive. Now you can buy one at Harbor Freight for under five bucks. Now that is what I call a stocking stuffer! What is it good for you ask? Okay, wondering if that old Lucas generator (not alternator) is doing anything?

If, after measuring the car's battery voltage with the engine off (about 12.5 volts) and with the engine running at fast idle (should be at least 13.5 volts) and finding no difference in the readings, try this simple test:

Disconnect the two wires on the generator

Connect a "jumper" wire from one generator terminal to the other

Set the meter to read DC volts

Connect one lead from the meter to either of the terminals

Connect the other lead to ground (don't concern yourself with which is positive or negative, as the meter will show the voltage regardless)

Start the engine and let idle

The meter will read upwards of 20 volts if the generator is good, nothing if the generator is bad.

Try this easy test on your car while it is still working to get the hang of it! Feeling clever/lucky? Try checking to see if the generator's internal components are okay.

Set the meter to read ohms

Place leads of the meter between the generator case and the small terminal. A reading of about



six ohms indicates that the field coil is okay. A reading of one ohm or less indicates that the coil is shorted to the case (very common). This condition often causes the voltage regulator contacts to be badly burned and therefore will need attention too.

If the field coil tests okay, place the leads of the meter between the two terminals of the generator to test the brushes. Once again, about six ohms is to be expected. No reading means that you need to replace the brushes (not too difficult). Sometimes a generator will pass this test, but has a shorted armature and still won't work.

The rear of the generator has a tiny little hole for oiling. This is a little joke from Joseph Lucas. Take the thing apart and oil it once a year. A careful fellow can remove the two long screws that hold the generator together and then remove just the rear bracket for access to the bushing with everything else still bolted in place. The front of the generator has a ball bearing which is often of the sealed type and usually out-lasts the bushing, even with little or no attention.

2014 Tour Delight

Johnson City, Texas





LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION

It's **Hollywood Night** at the home of Dean and Elizabeth Mericas. In celebration of no longer having a party in December and the elimination of the white elephant gift exchange, we are rolling out the red carpet and letting the cameras roll. Again, we'll be doing Happy Hour with Snazzy Finger Foods. Members will be asked to bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre. Please no chips and dips. BYOB.

HCTC members come dressed as:

Your favorite actor/actress or a character in a movie or TV show.

You can come as Marilyn Monroe, that crazy woman in Fatal Attraction.

Tom Hanks, Indiana Jones, You can be one of those bad guys in Breaking Bad (and that's a show that had some characters, a zombie, Elizabeth Taylor's Cleopatra or her Julius Caesar, any number of Downton Abbey characters, or one of Clint Eastwood's characters. Yeah, go ahead - make my day.

Are the creative juices flowing yet? The names and characters are endless.

So, get cracking. Know some lines from your movie or show, that is, if you want to win a prize. In fact, if you wish, just leave yourself at the door and BE your character for as long as you (and we) can stand it. We'll have our "photo booth" set up like last year. Hope to see y'all soon.

Saturday, January 17, 2015

6:30 p.m. until whenever

Home of Dean and Elizabeth Mericas
16904 Upper Woods Cove - Austin, TX 78734
Home Phone: 512-291-6775

BYOC (bring your own costume).

Directions are attached

**** Please RSVP no later than January 12: emericas@austin.rr.com****

Getting to Casa Mericas

No matter what direction you are coming from, you will need to get to RR 620. We live near Lakeway in Hudson Bend, a peninsula that juts out into Lake Travis. Hudson Bend is south of the Marshall Ford dam. We live near the tip of it, off the road that takes you to Carlos N' Charlies.

Going south on 620: Shortly after you pass the Marshall Ford dam on your right (you can't miss it), get into the right-hand lane. At the first traffic light after the dam, you will take a right onto Hudson Bend Road.

Going north on 620: Take a left onto Hudson Bend Road (red light). A huge FIREWORKS store will be on your

right at the traffic light. Hudson Bend Road is the first street after the restaurant *Hudson's on the Bend* (red picnic benches in front of restaurant).

Continue up Hudson Bend Road, pass the marina supply stores, junky storage stuff and Hacienda RV Park. You will pass a pool company on your right and immediately come to a "Y" of sorts in the road. There's a tendency to go straight. Don't. There will be a sign directing you left to Hiline Road/Rocky Ridge. Go left. You will pass two houses on your right, then take a quick right onto Hiline Road. Huge electrical towers run along Hiline Road.

Continue on Hiline Road. Take a left at Trail of the Woods. (The Entrance is called Woods on Lake Travis.) Take your second left onto Upper Woods Cove, a small cul-de-sac. We are the first house on the left, a terra-cotta stone/stucco house with a metal roof. On street parking and driveway.

For Sale

1972 TR6



The car was bought new from Continental cars in Austin and owned by the first guy for 27 years, I bought it from a person that owned it for 7 years and I have owned it since.

It is in very nice condition with overhauled engine, carburetors and non overdrive gearbox (the two latter by Mike Mc Phail) It was repainted a few years ago (color change with inside and out painted) and the interior is very nice. I am asking \$13750.00 OBO. I might be interested in a trade up or down for a 911 or something else interesting.

Ben

(512) 750-4230





Michael Connally
mcfoto@swbell.net
 210-262-0275

1973 Triumph TR6 with Overdrive

Commissioned April, 1973. Full frame off restoration 11/2001-11/2003. Totally disassembled, sandblasted and cleared of any rust. Paint job includes two coats etching primer, two coats of standard primer, 4 coats of color coat (Duco Jet Black) and four coats of Clear Coat. The under carriage is coated with POR 15 which is used to protect oil derricks in the Gulf. The car was voted Participant's Choice at the 2006 VTR National Competition in Dallas. It has won 1st and 2nd Place in subsequent competitions. It cruises comfortably at 70 mph and has been as far as 1,200 miles round trip on more than one occasion. The car is appraised and insured for \$22,000. I am offering it for \$19,500.

All suspension bushings replaced.
 Wheels sandblasted and powder coated.
 5 Yokohama 203 x 5.5 Tubeless Tires
 All new rugs and door panels
 New Dash Crown
 New Convertible Top

Engine:
 New Rings and Valves Ground
 New Rod Bearings and Crankshaft Bearings and seals
 New Clutch and Bearing
 New Slave Cylinder
 Carburetors Rebuilt
 Distributor Rebuilt (Advanced Distributors)
 Modified Cam
 Headers
 Monza Exhaust
 Radiator Rebuilt

Richard Good Triple Manifold with three Stromberg Carburetors
 MSD Multiple Spark Distributor and Heavy Coil
 New Master Cylinder and Vacuum Booster
 Richard Good HD U-Joints on Drive Shaft and Short Shafts
 All New Discs, Shoes
 Drums and Rotors Turned
 All Brake and Fuel Lines replaced with Stainless Steel Tubing
 Spin off Oil Filter
 Rear Lever Shocks Replaced with Tube Shocks
 Set of Four Koenig 15x7 Rims and Goodyear Eagle Tires
 New Windshield
 Tourist Trophy Laminated Walnut Steering Wheel
 Convertible Top Cover
 Tonneau Cover



1972 Triumph TR6 Sports Car

(CC75356L)

113K Miles

Asking \$15,000

Complete Engine Rebuild at 86K.

With:

&

- Surrey Roof
- Over Drive
- Webber Carbs
- ASA Mufflers
- Rear Tub Shock Conversion
- Front Spoiler
- Oil Cooler
- Premium Fuel Pump
- Leather Seats w/ Seat Belts
- AM/FM Radio w/ CD Player
- Auxiliary Power Source
- Leather Rimmed Steering Wheel w/Triumph Logo
- Wood Crested Shift Knob
- Alloy Valve Cover
- New Tires (5)
- New Battery
- New Gearbox Cover (Polyethylene)
- New Carpet w/Heat Shield
- New Window Washer
- Rebuilt Radiator
- Rebuilt Heater
- Pertronix Electronic Ignition w/Coil
- Wood Created Shift Knob
- Electric Fan Kit (Not Installed)
- Sun Visors (Not Installed)

Vince Maggio

512-514-0138 H

908-240-2514 C

vincemaggio@msn.com

For Sale: TR6 fiberglass hardtop "Snug Top" by Custom Hardtops of Longbeach, CA. Outstanding condition. Located in Dripping Springs. \$500 Contact Benson 361-947-7704 gbtuttle@yahoo.com



Jim Icenhower's



Wood, Leather and Vinyl Steering Wheels for Classic Cars At Exceptional Prices

Wood Wheels with Hub	\$219.95
Leather Wheels with Hub	\$119.95
Vinyl Wheels with Hub	\$109.95



I have steering wheels and hubs for almost all British classics as well as accessories like shift knobs, mirrors, light/badge bars and more. Check out my current listings on eBay at <http://stores.ebay.com/specialtypartshop> or email me at jicenhower@yahoo.com for more information.

Listing change as I get shipments from the UK so check back often or contact me for any special requests.

Back issues of The Ragtop are available on our website:
<http://www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org/newsletters.php>

Pay Your Dues!!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jan 15 in the dues column your dues are due now. Any quite delinquent member who hasn't paid will be dropped from the roster.

Cost is \$15 per year per family. If you don't wish to renew, please notify Nel.

Mail your check made out to **HCTC** to:

Nel McPhail
1105 N Canyonwood Dr
Dripping Springs, Tx 78620
(512) 656-1456
nmcpmail@austin.rr.com

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Membership Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
Email address: _____
Car Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Color: _____
Car Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Color: _____



How on earth did you hear about the Hill Country Triumph Club?

Please mail your application and \$15 check payable to HCTC to:
Nel McPhail, 1105 North Canyonwood Dr, Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Upcoming Events

Jan. 10 — HCTC Monthly Meeting. Information below.

Jan. 17 — Holiday Happy Hour at the Mericas' house.
See [pages 7-8](#) for information.

April 22-25 — VTR South-Central Regional Convention.
Kerrville, TX. See [page 2](#) for information.

Aug. 11-14 — VTR 2015 National Convention. Fontana,
WI. See www.vtr2015.com.

HCTC Classifieds



FOR SALE (in New Mexico)—1961 Triumph Herald Convertible. This car spent most of its life in southern New Mexico. I bought it as a project from an estate and it had been garaged for the past

25 years. It has a 948 cc engine, new tires, new interior, the convertible top is good. It needs door latches. \$3,500. Call Ron (575) 531-2193.

I am looking for a TR250 or TR4a Bonnet for a vehicle I am restoring. If you have one for sale please call me at 512-517-5325 or email me at filv@fnbbastrop.com. Thank you, Fil Valderrama

I recently bought a project 1965 TR4a.... Any advice, help, parts, would be greatly appreciated

Alan Palmer ampalmer4@gmail.com

Triumph TR3/TR4 engine parts for sale. Two used engines for rebuilding, unknown mileage and condition. One bare early high-port TR3 head which appears to be uncut and in good condition. Three used stock Triumph crankshafts, one uncut. Three used TR camshafts. One set of used 83mm pistons and liners.

Contact Duncan Charlton at 512-965-7583 or duncan.charlton54@gmail.com

1972 Triumph GT6
it starts but needs work , have extra parts
Needs a good home

Call Ched # (210)-304-9021
asking \$950



Next meeting: Saturday, January 10, 2015, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

thefriscoaustin.com — Phone: 512-459-6279

Be ready for a drive afterwards!