

The Ragtop



September 2015

Geared Up

By Emily Barrett

Dear Club,

The summer seems to have zipped by at rally speed! Have you noticed the evenings have started to become cooler? The mornings aren't bad either. It's time to pull those Triumph's out of the garage and get the tires dusty.

September is finally here and so is one of my favorite events, The Texas All British Car Days. I'm excited to see how many Hill Country Triumph members will attend. Last year was the first time I entered this car show. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but it was fun to see all of our Triumphs together and to be a participant rather than a spectator. Previously, our attendance to the car show, was the inspiration we needed to continue working on our LBC's. It's exciting to have be on the other side of the event as a participant, we had a great time last year. If you would like to find out more about the event please visit:
<http://www.specialtypartshop.com/txabcd/>.

I hope to see you all at the next club meeting Saturday, September 12th at the Frisco on Burnet road. Breakfast begins at 9:00 and the meeting starts at 9:30.

Triumphantly yours,

Emily

President
Hill Country Triumph Club



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MetroRail Tour #2

Heat of the Summer Tour

Destination: Rainey Street

by Roger Bolick

Saturday arrived and a wild crew of HCTCers, plus a few friends, awaited the sleek, modern, *air-conditioned* Metro Rail 5:35 PM Southbound train... at Howard Station. Outside was a pleasant 97°, but a cool train arrived on time. Ticket purchase had improved with the deletion of multiple zones. Round Trip Day Ticket for \$7, DONE! (no one left behind this time!!!)

Next stop in 14 minutes, Crestview Station. Black Star Pub is 20 steps from the MetroRail door, don't forget to *not* "tip" as it's a Co-Op and everyone gets part of the \$\$\$. Fantastic food and good drinks for all. We skipped the next train (unlike the last time), so the visit was fun and relaxing. Distributed & discussed the self-guided Rainey Street tour maps.

Downtown stop, 4th street near the convention center, just a short walk from Rainey Street with massive high rises & construction everywhere. In case someone is interested, you can re-visit OUR sequence... 96, 92, 605, 609, 86, MACC, 61, 79, 87.

All the places were fun, some bands, some food, all full of Austin's Weird and Famous and HCTC.

Craft Pride had Detroit Pizza... not certain what I expected, but it was GREAT. Order takes awhile as its freshly made to order in Detroit or a Detroit cast iron pan, crust, cheese, sauce on top... its a treat!

At 10 PM we headed Downtown for MetroRail 10:21 Northbound and an uneventful ride home.

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.

Lucas-Marelli Tour

October 17 - Lucas-Marelli Tour held by the Texas Hill Country chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club and open to gearheads and their interesting vehicles of all persuasions. The tour consists of a 3-4 hour drive through some of the best roads of the hill country, finishing up in Johnson City for a group lunch at the Pecan Street Brewery. Contact Dean Mericas (dmericas@austin.rr.com) for details and to RSVP.

8th Annual Rolling Sculpture Car Show

The Hill Country Rolling Sculpture Car Show will return for the eighth year on November 1, 2015. Collector cars, sports and exotics, modern classics, hot rods, art cars, and other motorized eye candy will be parked along the streets of the Hill Country Galleria in a celebration of automotive style in all of its forms. The show benefits the Bee Cave Public Library through paid sponsorships and show car registrations. All proceeds go to the Library, with more than \$33,000 raised over the past seven years. This money

allows the Library to purchase special items or offer special programs that enhance and expand their services to the community.

Begun in 2008 by HCTC members Dean and Elizabeth Mericas and Bill Waller, the Hill Country Rolling Sculpture Car Show has become an institution in Bee Cave, with upwards of 200 examples of rolling sculpture lining Hill Country Boulevard and its side streets. Live music, restaurants, shops, and a multi-screen theater make for a day-long family event.

This year's show will be on Sunday, November 1st from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Triumphs have had good representation in past years, and the hope is that even more club members will bring our their own rolling sculpture to share with the crowds.

If you'd like to become a sponsor, please contact Library Director Barbara Hathaway at 512.767.6624 or bhathaway@beecavetexas.gov. To register a vehicle to show, visit www.rollingsculpturecarshow.com.

September Tool of the Month

By Mike McPhail

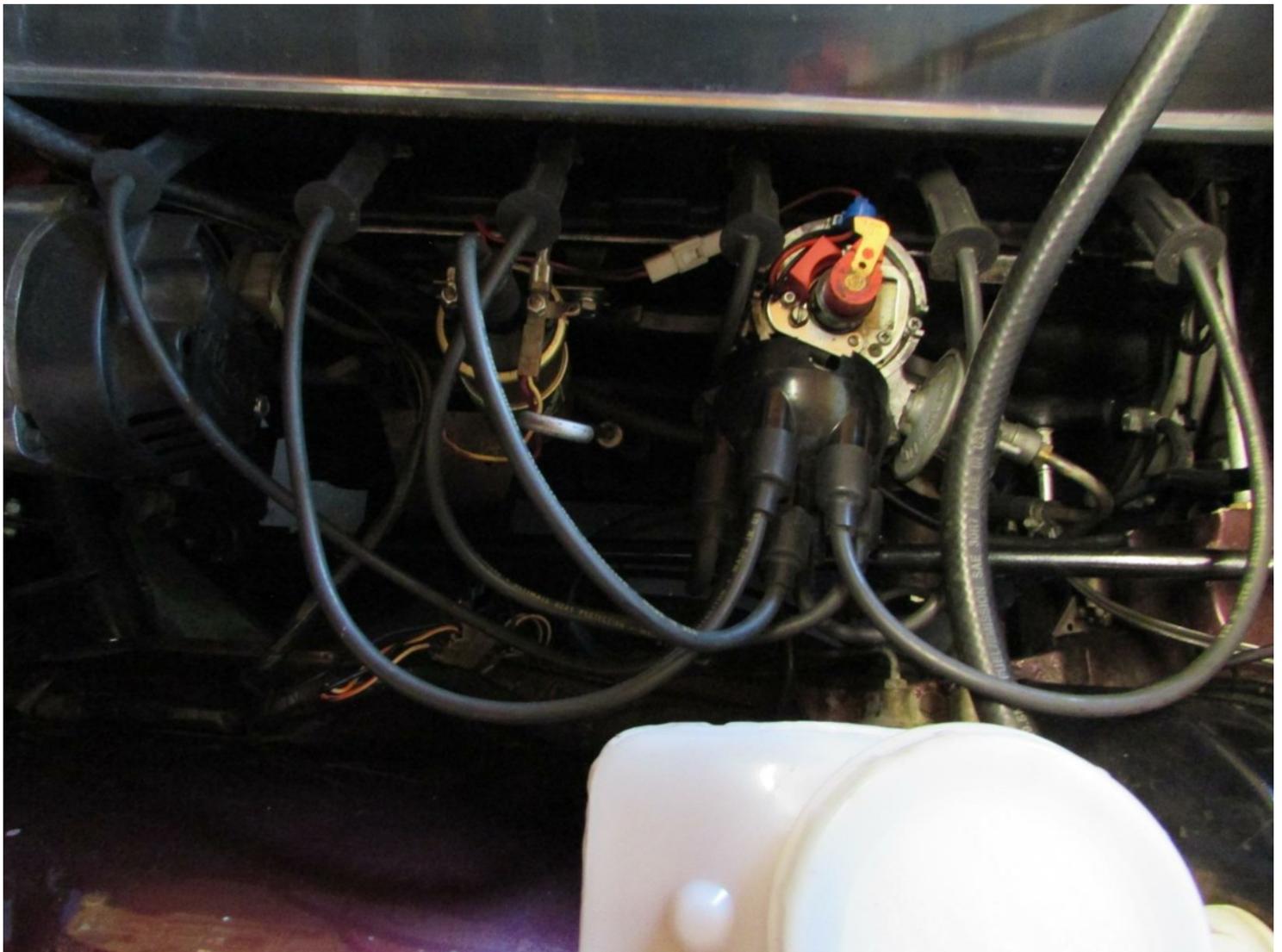
This month I would like to feature not a tool as such, but something that I think you will find very handy...brand new, low cost distributors.

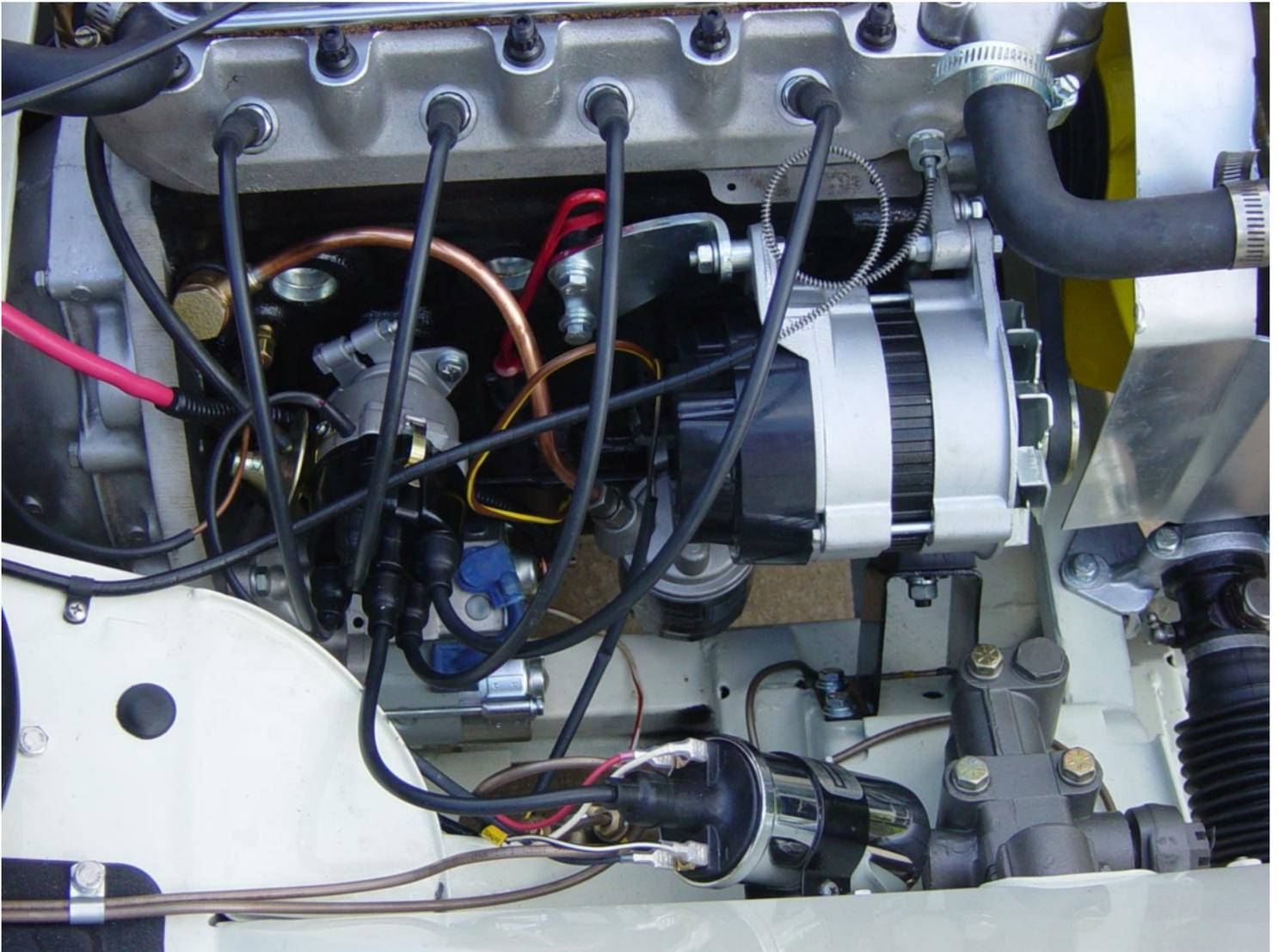
The Lucas D22, D25 and D45 models have been used on many Little British Cars, and most of us probably have one in our garage. The problem is that many are just about worn out. The vacuum unit is the first thing to go. A new one is about \$75 and the correct unit is not always

available for every application, and other things may need attention, too. The springs on the centrifugal advance mechanism are often stretched beyond use. The shaft is often bent and the top section rusted in place (remember how it says to put a drop of oil under the rotor...ah hah!) The quality of replacement points, rotors, and condensers is questionable. Many of us have had our engine die at the worst possible moment due to a cracked rotor. How about

those lousy aluminum post replacement caps or those old fashioned caps that require solid copper wires that are held in with little screws for which no screwdriver exists? The list goes on and on!

Let's take a look at your distributor! Is the cap clean and unmo-
lestated? Does each spark plug wire measure about the same resistance? Are the terminals burned? Does the carbon center terminal have plenty of spring?





Does the rotor fit tightly and move back into position when the shaft is twisted counter-clockwise? Does it twist at all?! Is the point gap the same on every lobe of the cam. Do the contacts line up nicely? Does the vacuum unit move the contact plate? Does it hold a vacuum? Is the shaft loose? Is the wiring for the points and condenser in good condition? Is this any of my business?

Fast forward to the 21st Century...Pertronix has been making compact, economical and reliable electronic ignition modules for some time now. Their latest offering is a range of

high quality replica distributors for the British car enthusiast. They feature a built-in Ignitor module (replaceable), and high quality rotor and cap that takes modern wires. I have installed several of these wonderful items on a range of LBCs.

The D176600 is a vacuum/mechanical advance model that will drop right in many four cylinder engines, such as Austin-Healey Sprite, MG Midget, MG-B, TR3, TR4, and Spitfire. D177600 is the six cylinder version and fits nicely in Jaguar XK, MG-C, and Austin-Healey 3000. The distributor

drive shaft must be re-drilled on the 100-4/6. It is not such good replacement for stock Triumph TR6, since you don't have anywhere to connect your tach cable. However, some TR6s with Weber DVG or SU carbs might welcome a distributor with a vacuum advance connection. Models are also available with no vacuum advance (all mechanical), Ignitor II module with dwell control, and Ignitor III with even more advanced features.

Hotspark.com sells a knock-off module for only \$50, which includes a rotor and ships free from right here in Austin, Texas!

VTR 2015 Photo Essay

By Mike McPhail







Texas British Car Days



2015 Round Rock, Texas

Silver Jubilee

www.txabcd.org

- September 25, 26, and 27, 2015.
- Hospitality Suite at the host Hotel.
- Trip to Perissos Vineyards in Burnet for a wine tasting and light lunch.
- “Hairy Hairy Quite Contrary” Rallye on Saturday afternoon.
- Catered Fajita Dinner to be held in the Baca Center on Centennial Plaza in Round Rock after the Rallye.
- All British Car Show on Sunday at Centennial Plaza in Round Rock.
- A portion of the proceeds from show will be donated to The Open Door Preschool.
- Live music by JoAnna Lee from noon until 2 PM.
- \$25 Per Car Early Registration/\$30 Per Car Regular Registration.
- Sunday Show is Free to public – Bring the Family!
- Door Prizes for Registrants.
- Club Basket Silent Auction – You don’t want to miss this!
- Food vendors

FOR SALE**'67 TRIUMPH SPITFIRE MK 3, RIGHT HAND DRIVE**

I am Dave Griffith and I am considering selling my Spitfire. Some history:

She has been in my hands, in various locations, since 1979, when she was acquired in Singapore (hence the right hand drive). She was a daily driver in Singapore, Oklahoma and Louisiana. She still is.

The engine was rebuilt in 1984 with a rebuilt short block installed.

In the fall of 1989, she was garaged in Salado, where she remained until the spring of 2013.

Work began late 2013 to get her road worthy and she was on the road again in the summer of 2014.

You in the club may have seen her at the 2014 All British Car Days and the 2015 Regional in Kerrville.

Work done during 2014 and 2015 include complete brake system, clutch hydraulics, many engine accessories, full restoration of the SU H2 carburetors and a new fuel tank. She is not restored; she is still a daily driver.

She has been valued by Steve Johnson, Ron Harrison and Art Petri, independently, at \$7,000. Since we are moving and it will be a long time before I can begin working with her again, I am asking \$4500.00 for her.

If interested, I can be contacted at (512) 618-9203. My email is davegrif@consolidated.net.



Triumph TR6 For Sale

I bought this TR6 online for my first restoration project. After getting it delivered, I decided it was too much of a project for me. The body seems to be in good shape. The floor pan is rusted through. It doesn't run, but was represented to me that the engine turns freely. It will be priced right for the serious restorer. I'm in Driftwood.

Tom Glass
Tglass@glasscpa.com
512-964-6650





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 Jul-15 in the dues column your dues are overdue 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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Bob Skewis

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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

September 12 — HCTC Monthly Meeting. Information below.

Sept. 25-27 — Texas All British Car Days. Round Rock, TX. See www.txabcd.org.

October 10 — HCTC Monthly Meeting.

October 17 — Lucas-Marelli Tour. See [page 3](#).

November 1 — 8th Annual Rolling Sculpture Car Show. Hill Country Galleria, Bee Cave, TX. See [page 3](#). Details are at RollingSculptureCarShow.com.

HCTC Classifieds

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

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



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

Alan Palmer ampalmer4@gmail.com

RH and LH Trunk Side Panel TR3, TR3A, TR3B. These are new steel panels, made in the U.K. They have never been fitted or installed. \$70.00 each. Car-ol 512-971-6778.



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

Next meeting:

Saturday, September 12, 2015, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

thefriscoaustin.com — Phone: 512-459-6279