

The Ragtop



May 2017

Letter from the President

By Don Couch

TRIUMPH

The Regional's Itinerary Utilized Mostly
Pretty Hillcountry
This Regional Included Upscale Motor-
cars Parading Haphazardly

Greetings all,

It's been one busy month for The Hill Country Triumph Club. We really packed a lot of events in this month. Something to do for everyone.

As I write this, I'm just back from the 2017 Vintage Triumph Regionals in New Braunfels. What an amazing weekend it was. Always great to see old friends and meet new ones. All coming together for the common love of Triumph Sports cars. My hats off to the South Texas Triumph Association for putting on an amazing regional event. We had great weather, a great drive, fun autocross and gimmick rally. It was an amazing turnout with some really fine examples of Triumph motor cars.

Hats off to HCTC members Bill Waller and Mike McPhail for putting on the gimmick rally on our behalf. I also want to congratulate Nelva McPhail for being awarded the 2017 Spirit of Texas Tri-

umph Award. The results are not posted yet as I write this but many of our members took awards in the Concours de Elegance, Autocross, Gimmick Rally and Funkhana.

Earlier in the month, Lee and Duncan Charlton graciously hosted us at their home in Elgin. We teamed up with the Morgan club and had a wonderful drive from Austin to the Charlton farm. Upon arrival, Duncan fired up the BBQ and grilled farm fresh hamburgers with all the fixings! Duncan had his garage open and his Morgan, NSU and Unipower cars out as well. Also, we hiked out around the forty plus acre farm to the ponds, creeks and meadows. If you missed this one, you really missed out. I cannot thank Lee and Duncan enough. A really great day and another great turnout!

During the VTR Regional, it came to my attention that we are the only club that has two meetings a month. Not only that, but we had two BIG events in April. Hmm, I wonder why I am not seeing more faces at these events?!? The weather is perfect right now so please see if you can set aside a day this month and come join us for a beer or breakfast or both!

Cheers,
Don

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Back issues of The Ragtop are available on our website:

<http://www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org/newsletters.php>

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.

McKenzie's Meeting Minutes

April 2017

By Phil McKenzie

Meeting at the Frisco, Saturday April 8th

The HCTC once again filled-up our tables in the back room of the Frisco Saturday morning. Mike Jankowski held the fastest-ever HCTC meeting, covering the upcoming VTR Regional being hosted by the San Antonio Triumph Club, and the fix-it day at Duncan Charlton's farm near Elgin April 22nd.

Meeting at the Tavern, Tuesday April 11th

Dan and Francis Julien, Phil Taylor, Bill Waller, Torfason, Roger Bolick, Mike Jankowski, Bob Skewis, Mike McPhail, Jim Herter, prospective member Kyle Fagan and I were in attendance this month at the Tavern. Don opened the meeting by announcing the upcoming VTR Regional and the fix-it day at Duncan's farm. Newcomer Kyle Fagan has a '74 Spitfire in need of some work, and offers were made to assist with advice, cost guidance and parts suppliers. Welcome Kyle! Jim Herter drove his TR6 to the meeting with a freshly rebuilt engine, after having only driven the new motor around the block! Kudos to Jim for his confidence (and luck?).

The meeting then turned to a lively discussion of the proposed dues increase. As mentioned in the last newsletter, several members have suggested that club dues be increased to help accumulate funds to support the next HCTC sponsored VTR regional meet. Due to the rising costs of lodging and venues in the greater Austin area over the last few years, there is concern that our treasury will not have a balance sufficient to cover the necessary reservation fees and other up-front expenses. Members offered pros and cons to the increase. Some members balked at the \$0.83 monthly increase and said "we just need a place to meet with a beer tap", while others acknowledged the fact that

costs have risen in and around Austin since the early 80s when these dues were established. Our current annual income is approximately \$1500 from dues, which is our only dependable income. After minimal annual expenses, for example our club's VTR membership dues, we have approximately \$100 to budget for monthly events like the recent fix-it days, which typically cost around \$200 or more. Don agreed to check with the San Antonio club to see how large their club treasury balance was before putting on this year's regional, and if they could offer some

guidance on how much in cash reserves HCTC should have in order to be able to put on the next regional we will be responsible for. Depending on Don's feedback from the San Antonio club, we may send out a survey to see if an addition \$10 of annual dues would cause any members to end their membership in the HCTC.

Still WANTED: The lost charter of HCTC

The reward is still available. *The search has been going on 3 months now.* Keep looking! I'll make it worth your while.



Photos from "The Tavern."

2017 Spirit of Texas Triumph Award

By Don Couch

As some of you are aware, during the Regionals, the club presidents gather to nominate a couple of awards to honor club members who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Last year, the Red River Triumph Club and now the Southwest Region of the Vintage Triumph Register created the annual spirit of Texas award. The criteria for this award is as follows:

- Female club member in good standing, attending meetings and events and conventions.
- Past or present officer or member of organized club activity.
- Promote the Triumph badge and enthusiastic about owning, maintaining and driving triumphs

- Supportive of Triumph car clubs, working and supporting to help the clubs grow and succeed

- Supportive of club members and willing to help others in their club membership Triumph car ownership

I must say when I read this list of criteria, the first person that popped into my mind was Nelva McPhail. It was with great honor that I nominated Nel for this award.

And I am proud to announce that she did in fact win. Congratulations Nel, you truly deserve this award and we are lucky to have you in our club. Your spirit is what makes HCTC great!

Thank you for all of your support over the years.

Don



Lousy Tail Lights on the TR6

By Mike McPhail

Dim tail lights on the TR6 are a common problem! It is mighty tempting to order those pricey LED lamps to affect a cure. Generally speaking, the stock bulbs will get the job done nicely if everything is in order. The bulbs in the TR6 tail light assembly are held in sockets that are plugged into the assembly and may or may not depend on their grounding from the assembly.

The grounding of the sockets to the assembly can be problematic, but the real nuisance is the bulb socket itself. The bulb gets its ground from a copper tab that is sandwiched into the steel prongs that clip into the assembly. Eventually,



the copper and steel do the dissimilar metals thing and the connection is lost.

The cure is very simple and requires only soldering the copper to the adjacent steel. A solder bridge between the two works well, but for the best connection, loop a bit of fine brass or cop-

per wire across the gap before soldering. This isn't a plumbing job, so use thin, rosin core solder.

If you are really ambitious, take the tail light assemblies apart and clean the lenses after painting the reflectors silver...the old finish has likely worn off. Replace

the backup light lenses, since these do not clean up well. Put a little Vaseline on the screws that hold the lenses, as the latter cracks easily.

Put a little grease on the bulb bases before replacement and they will shine as good as new!



Ian Hope's British Car Museum

By Dean Mericas



Ian Hope was 17 years old when he bought his first car, a well-used 1938 Ford 8, for 100 Pounds. The first new car he

ever owned was a 1963 Austin Mini.

As Elizabeth was researching the natural wonders, cultural gems, notable restaurants, and available

accommodations for our recent trip to New Zealand, I compiled a list of car museums in a nation that has a reputation for automotive enthusiasm. That's how we





The interior of this Triumph 2000 Saloon looks like a great place to spend a lot of quality driving time.



The bonnet badge on this one-owner Standard Model 10 looks very familiar. That's a Triumph Stag in the background.

found ourselves driving through vineyards and pasturelands to arrive at an unassuming parking lot outside of The British Car Museum (<http://www.britishcarmuseum.co.nz/>) where both of Ian's milestone cars are on display in a sprawling collection of British automotive history on shores of Hawks Bay on the North Island.

Billed as the World's Largest Collection of British Motor Vehicles, more than 450 vehicles of every type imaginable reside inside this complex of connected metal buildings, stacked two high in many places, each with a sign identifying the year, make and model, and many adorned with flags and other period memorabilia and plaques with a history of the model and/or that particular car. The vehicles are generally organized by manufacturer and year, so you can stroll through the Vauxhall section and see what the Napier police were driving in the mid-1960s, or work your way over to the next building and discover the palate of subdued colors that Humber owners could choose from.

Ian's collection of Triumphs is dominated by sedans and estates, with just one Spitfire that we could find. His website suggests there's another in there somewhere.

A high point of the visit was talking with Ian, learning about the history of the collection and having him



Scattered around the buildings are clusters of preserved or restored treasures of the British motor industry, most of which look like they can be driven right now, or at least after the brochures, owner's manuals, flags, and other automobilia are collected off the bonnets and roofs.



If, like me, you've been wondering why you rarely see a Morris Minor on the road, you might conclude it's because they're all in this place. Ian claims he has only 38 – more than 70 if you count the parts cars.



This example of early British attempts at aerodynamics is in the commercial vehicles section.



An eclectic collection of books, models, photographs, and miscellany compliment the cars.



The luxurious 1933 Sunbeam Dawn that Ian considers the gem of the collection.

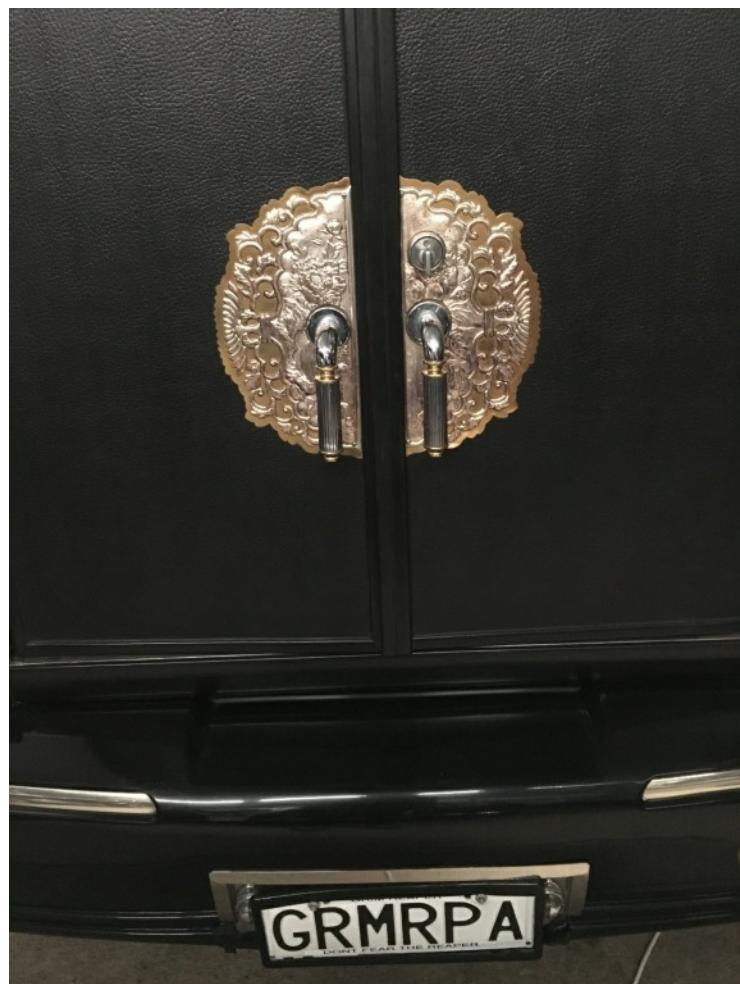
point out vehicles that he considers special in some way. For example, his Dennis Fire Engine was used to battle the fires after the 1931 earthquake that destroyed most of Hastings and nearby Napier. He insisted that Elizabeth and I sit in it wearing period firefighter helmets and turn the hand-cranked siren for the full experience.

When we asked about the one car in his collection that he considers the most unusual or rare, he easily picked out the 1933 Sunbeam Dawn that had already caught our attention.

It's all pretty overwhelming, but terrifically interesting and a testament to Ian's lifelong passion for British cars. Being a thorough and practical kind of guy in his early eighties, he's arranged that his last drive in this world will in a 1998 Ford Mercury hearse fitted with a sound system loaded with his favorite tunes, a tailored pressboard cof-

fin (he intends to be cremated), and a bright interior light (so he can see where he's going!). The license plate is GRMRPR.





Photos from the Spring Drive

April 22, HCTC and the Morgan Club

Hosted by Duncan and Lee Charlton

Photos by Don Couch

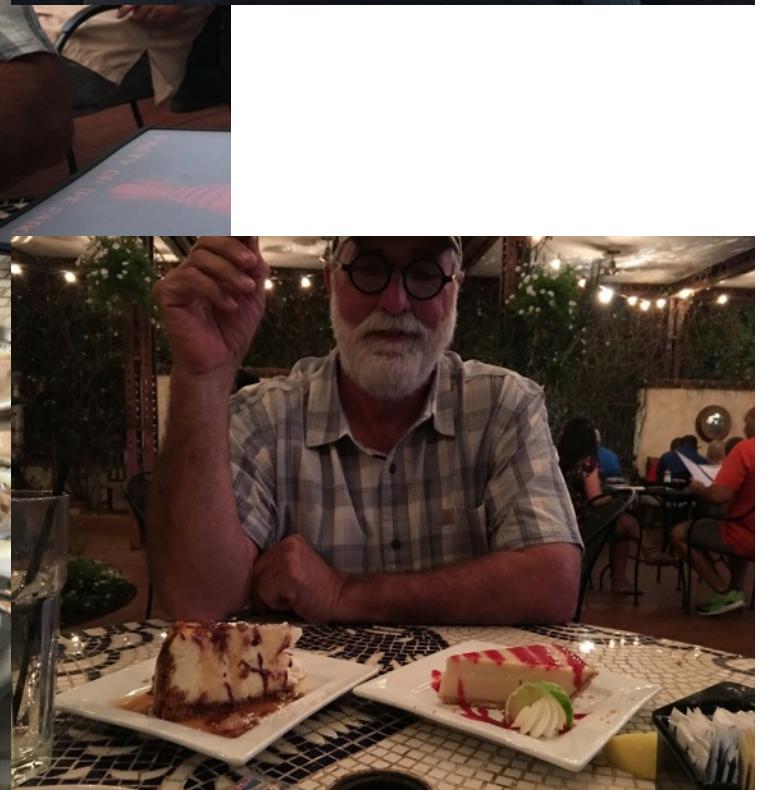
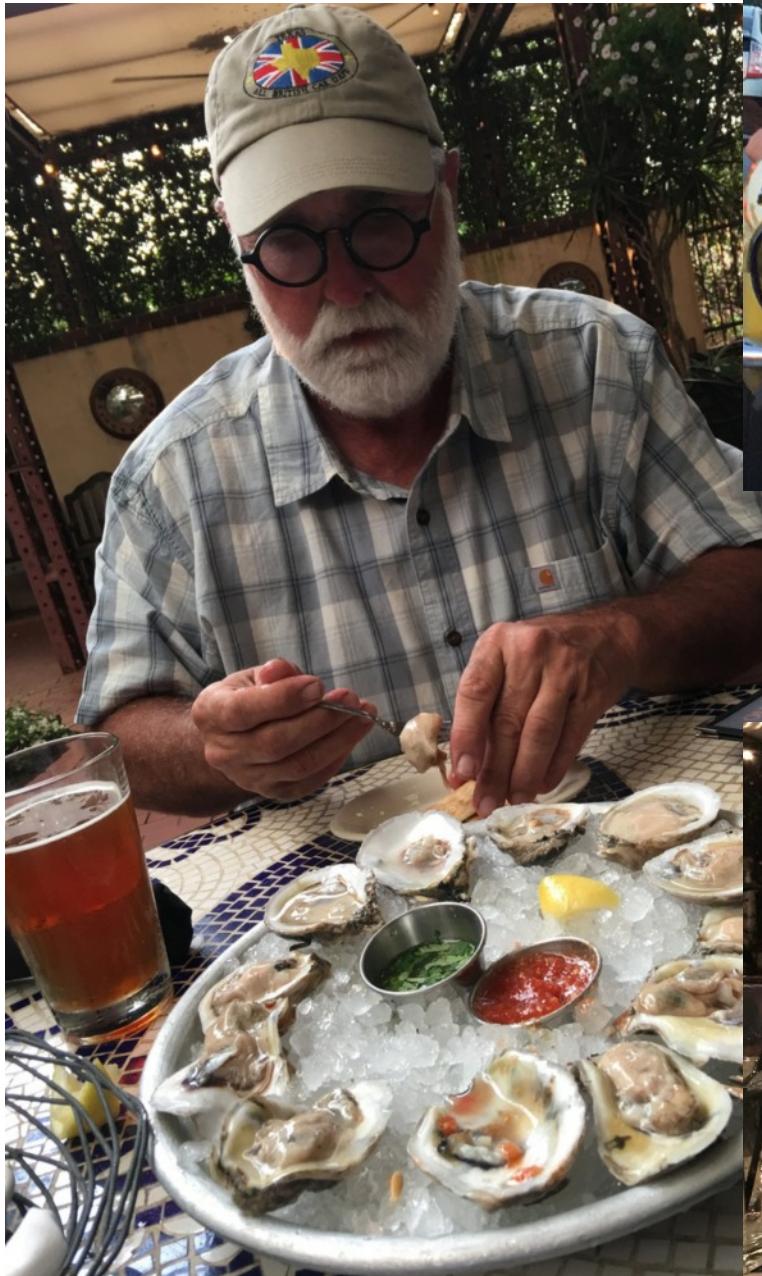


Photos from the 2017 South Central VTR Regionals

Photos by Don Couch and Nick Roccaforte











ESTABLISHED 1974

Join TRA TODAY!

WITH A TRA MEMBERSHIP WE OFFER:

4 National newsletters per year
Annual National Meet
Website (member password protected area)
Concours judging standards

Factory build records
Technical articles
Contact information
Shutterfly National Meet website

The collage includes four magazine covers:

- Top Left:** Headline "THE AMAZING LIFE OF AUSTIN DAVIS SPORTS CAR SALESMAN & RACE CAR DRIVER" by Dennis Depew. It shows a man standing next to a classic sports car.
- Top Right:** Headline "INTERVIEW WITH TRA'S NEW CHIEF CONCOURS JUDGE". It features a woman standing next to a classic car.
- Bottom Left:** Headline "RACING A TRIUMPH". It shows a woman standing next to a classic car.
- Bottom Right:** Headline "PEDAL TO THE METAL". It shows a woman standing next to a classic car.

Other visible text on the covers includes "03", "01", and various column titles like "INTRODUCTION", "MEMBER BENEFITS", "MEMBER SERVICES", "MEMBER NEWS", "CONCOURS", "TECHNICAL", "HISTORICAL", and "MEMBER SPOTLIGHT".

SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING AT:
www.TriumphRegister.com
OR CONTACT:
TONDA.MACY@MACYSARGE.COM

Welcome to TRA



TRIUMPH REGISTER OF AMERICA Membership Application Form

Please write legibly.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please include area code

Car _____
Make & Model

Year _____ Commission Number _____

Car _____
Make & Model

Year _____ Commission Number _____

Car _____
Make & Model

Year _____ Commission Number _____

Car _____
Make & Model

Year _____ Commission Number _____

Mail check and/or application to:

Tonda Macy
TRA Treasurer/Membership
4200 Lisa Drive
Tipp City, OH 45371
tonda@macysgarage.com
937-266-1832

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.

HCTC Classifieds



I know I have been out of the loop for a while with the club members but still enjoy the Triumph hobby. In an effort to add a unique look to my shop, I sourced a maker of metal signs. This is the sign i have asked him to make.

I thought some other members might be interested as well. Here is the pricing and the different finishes he can offer.

4'x6' sign as per pic/3 colors printed on .040 aluminum sheet -does not include wood borders/aging or crating /shipping, \$325.00

printed on painted 24-26 ga steel sheet no aging wood borders crating or shipping \$425.00

on steel as per pic w/wood borders, aged and distressed \$565.00

If people have questions, they can reach me at 512-517-5325

Thank you,

Fil Valderrama

I have the following items for sale:

1. Triple carb intake off a TR6, may fit other models. Like new.
2. (3) 14" mini lite rims off a TR8. Also one 13" stock rim off TR7-8
3. Soft top rail off TR7-8
4. Intake and exhaust manifold off TR3-4
5. Twin carb intake off GT6-TR6

Call for prices or pictures all parts are in my shop in Marble Falls. 512-909-6849.

Willing to clear TR6 parts out of the garage for a reasonable price. Here's the short list:

- Two TR6 hoods
- one spare engine
- Four TR6 doors
- One spare convertible top frame
- Two wind screen frames — one with tinted glass
- One transmission (non-OD)
- One differential
- TR6 Aftermarket headers (used)
- Intake manifold (early variety)

And in the general use category:

- Eastwood Soda Blaster — never used — home use type
- Engine stand
- Complete set of Car dollies (placed under wheels to roll car around the garage)

Contact Marc at mdpic@aol.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. Carol 512-971-6778.



My old friend Mike Hado from the Houston Club sent me the emails below about 2 GT6's for sale. I spoke to the man selling them a couple of times. He has had some health problems and is selling his two Triumphs. He is a very nice guy and I think he has a couple of really nice cars. I was interested but can't afford to buy any more cars right now! He asked me if I would please send out a message to our club to see if anyone would be interested. I told him I would be happy to send along . Is this something you could put in the next newsletter?

His name is Kenneth Pierce. His home number is 325-573-0979. Anyone interested can call him direct.

Thanks

Nick Roccaforte

TTR Members,

Please note the information below regarding two GT6's for sale in the Snyder, TX, area. Note that the seller claims that one of these cars may be a prototype. This sounded interesting so I checked the Illustrated Triumph Buyer's Guide by Richard Newton and it appears that the given commission number of KC7400L is a non-overdrive Mark 1 GT6 about halfway through the production run which was KC1 to

KC13752. Based on this information, it is doubtful that the car for sale is a prototype as claimed.

Please contact the seller directly if you are interested in either of these cars.

Best regards,

Mike Hado

1968 triumph gt6 in running condition (not show) 6 cylinder 2 liter \$15,900

Vin plate shows this one was made august 1965. vin number kc7400 L

This is one of 3 prototypes made. The only one in the USA (other two are in the UK)

Has all new rubber, hoses, interior, dash, running boards and floor boards. Parts are ordered from UK triumph supplier.

Original Engine and Transmission still running great. New tires. additional history posted at the bottom in a p.s.

1973 gt6 in mint condition 6 cylinders 2 liters \$12,000

rebuilt original engine and transmission

replaced rubber, hoses, running board, interior, and tires



McPherson College Automotive Restoration Summer Institute

By Phil McKenzie

For the past 2 years I have attended McPherson College's week-long classes — the first was automotive painting — the second was automotive sheet metal-working. Club members have asked me about the classes. I reprinted a letter I received from McPherson College this year with all the details. I won't be able to attend this year, but I encourage anyone interested to use the contact information below and consider attending. If you do, be sure to write an article for the Ragtop!

The McPherson College Automotive Restoration Summer Institute registration is now available. Please go online to <http://www.mcpherson.edu/autorestorage/institute/> and register for your 2017 classes.

Dates this year run from June 5th-23rd.

Just as a reminder, the class tuition now includes lunches but if you would like to add breakfast and dinner meals, you will need to add that for an additional \$100.

We will also trying to add a limited shuttle service to the Wichita airport. The shuttle would plan to make three or four runs Sunday afternoon and evening for arriving students and make a few runs Friday afternoon and Saturday morning for students to fly out. More details will be available when we get closer to the class dates.

As always, please email martinb@mcpherson.edu or call me 620-480-9278 if you have any questions about the classes.

I look forward to seeing you all again this summer,

Brian Martin

Pay Your Dues!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jan-17 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
nmcphail@austin.rr.com

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

May 9 — HCTC evening meeting, 7 PM, The Tavern, 12th and Lamar.

May 13 — HCTC Saturday morning meeting, 9 AM, The Frisco.

August 16-19 — VTR Nationals, Princeton, NJ. Information at vtr2017.org.

Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 7:00 PM

The Tavern

922 West 12th St

Austin, TX 78703

At the corner of 12th and Lamar

tavernaustin.com — Phone: 512-320-8377

Next Saturday meeting:

Saturday, May 13, 2017, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

thefriscoaustin.com — Phone: 512-459-6279