

The Ragtop



July 2017

Letter from the President

By Don Couch

Can't believe it's been a year since I took over the driver's seat. It's been a fun year and I really have to thank Vice President Mike Jankowski and Club Secretary Phil Mackenzie for volunteering their time to the club. They both did an outstanding job of making my job much easier. That being said, we now have Roger Bolick as VP and well... no one has stepped up as Club Secretary. We'll need to see about remedying this ASAP. In the meantime, I thought I would take that on as it will give me something to write about! This now expands my club positions to three: President, Web Master, and now Club Secretary. I hope to pass off the web-site soon and I just know in my heart some club member is going to step up and take the secretary spot away from me REAL SOON!

We need to have our final installment of the "Fix-it days" VTR membership raffle. I've asked Bill Waller to nail down a date for this. We hope to have it at his farm in San Marcos. SOON, Bill, SOON!

Another order of business that seems to have come up and now has been put to rest is the raising of club dues. It was a very open and spirited debate and I felt that as Club President it wasn't right for me to unilaterally make the decision but instead to put it out for discussion and vote. We took a club vote after much discussion and the majority of the members who were present voted to keep the price for dues the same.

I also want to welcome the new members:

- Kyle Fagan - 74 red Spitfire
- Jaime and Darla Martinez - 64 yellow TR4
- James Duke - 73 French blue TR6
- Charlie Stewart - 70 green TR6
- Garry Bayer - 80 orange TR7

I look forward to seeing you all and your TRIUMPHS in the drives to come!

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.

Meeting Photos

May and June 2017

By Torf







Life in Vacuum

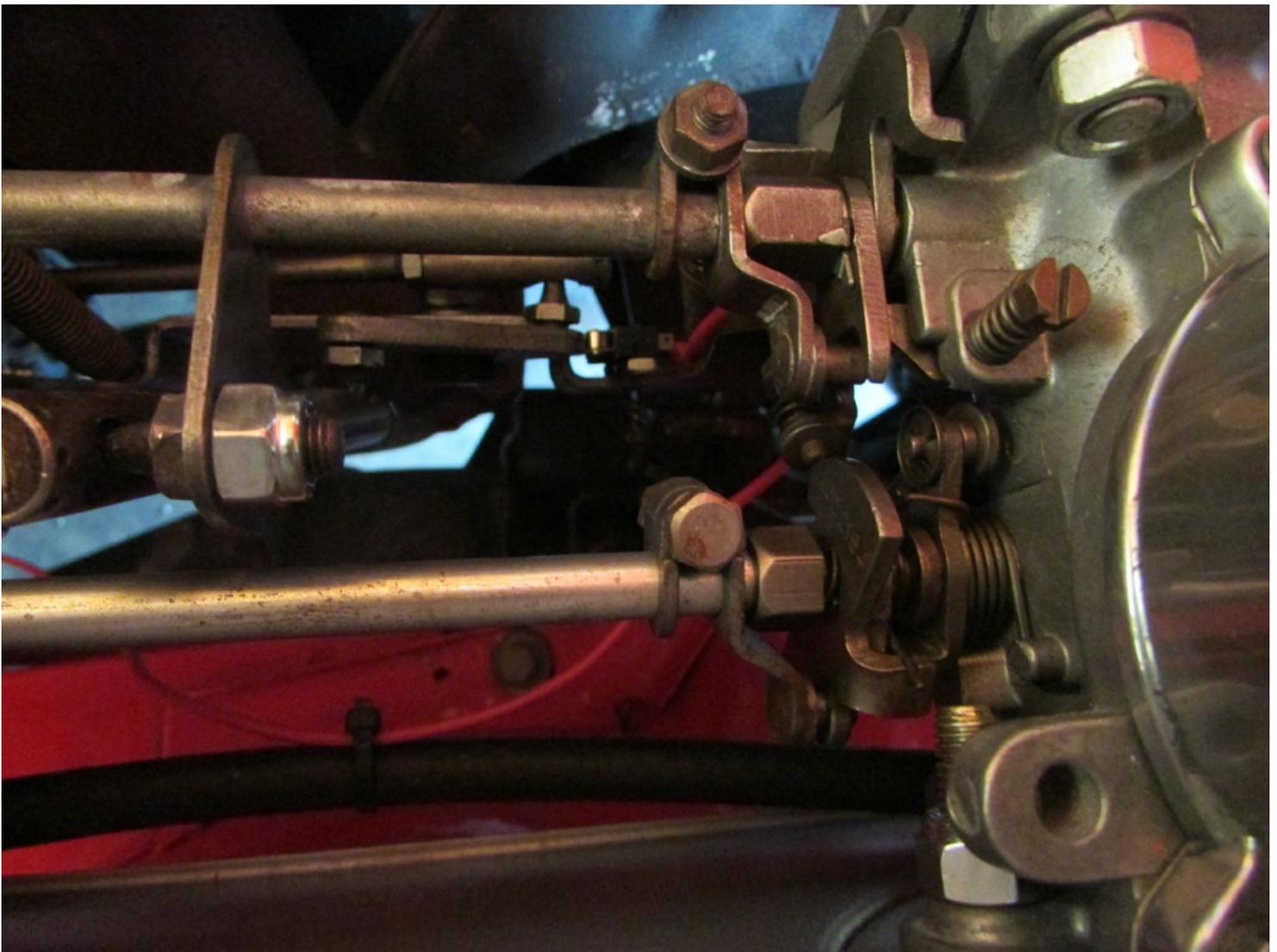
By Mike McPhail

A fully functional distributor is necessary in order to get the most from your TR6 engine. Quite often the springs on the mechanical advance are stretched causing advance as soon as the car is started. If in addition, the vacuum unit

is not working, you end up with very little advance at all. Check the springs by twisting the rotor counter clockwise. When released, it should return smartly to a fully clockwise position. The smaller spring is always the culprit, as the larger spring is a loose fit when the mechanism is at

rest. Remove the distributor vacuum line from the carb and apply 16 inches of vacuum to it. Okay, just suck real hard. The unit should be seen to move the plate in the distributor and should not leak down.

The TR250 and early TR6 has two vacuum units that deliv-



Micro switch in place.



Micro switch installed



Vacuum solenoid.

er an amazing amount of vacuum advance. The stock camshaft in these cars is very happy with this arrangement, and yet lots of folks have disconnected the retard unit because of a misconception about its function.

The vacuum retard unit is in fact providing vacuum advance as soon as the gas pedal is depressed. On later TR6s, the vacuum comes off the bottom of the Zenith-Stromberg 175CD. The TR250 uses a mechanical air valve mounted on the throttle linkage to operate the vacuum unit at idle. On all these cars, when the linkage moves, the vacuum is removed and the timing advanced.

Bob Baker's TR250 had a non-functional valve and was not running as well as should be because of it. The tiny valve is made of plastic

and resists any effort made to repair it. It occurred to me, that a micro-switch could be used to operate a solenoid to duplicate the function of the original valve. I had a spare solenoid from a Jaguar heater flap control and a micro-switch from an old hot tub, so...

This arrangement works great, and I have used it on TR6s with SU carbs. The SUs have nowhere to connect the vacuum retard unit, and although there is an aftermarket advance unit to solve the problem, this shade tree solution is a lot more satisfying!



Solenoid installed.



TR4A

Restoration Update

By Steve Johnson

The TR4A is coming along. That engine bay is filling up and the transmission is in its usual place resting on new mounts and hardware.

I'd have the rockers in but as always, I'm waiting for a shipment of pushrods from Moss. My originals were straight but rusted a bit from a previous life. I decided to replace them. The drive shaft is settled in and ready to do its job.

The new starter is in at this point and I'm installing a new generator. I had the exhaust manifold media blasted and coated with ceramic for the heat, so it and the carbs are ready.

The new interior is also ready to go in, but I want to get the TR4A running before I start finishing off the interior. The new wiring harness tested good. It should be fairly easy to work out any bugs there. I'm anxious to be back in it soon and show it to you. It just take a bit of time and energy I don't seem to find enough of.





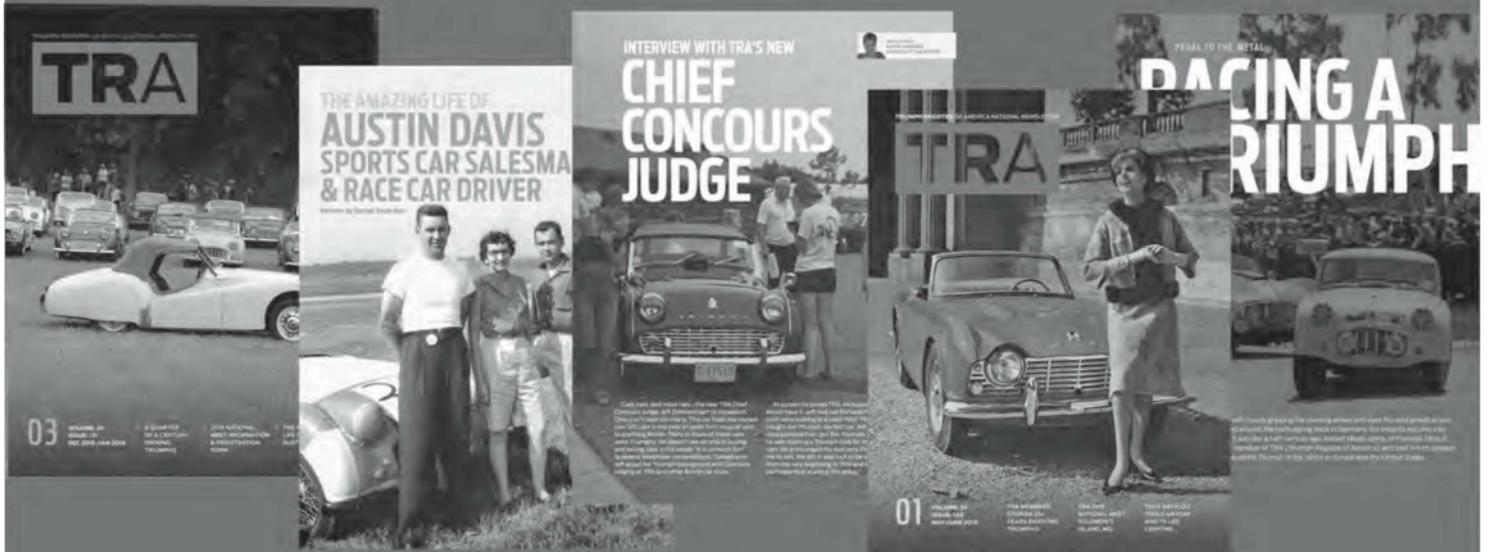
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WITH A TRA MEMBERSHIP WE OFFER:

- 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



SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING AT:
www.TriumphRegister.com

OR CONTACT:
TONDA.MACY@MACYSGARGE.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

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

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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

Need a drivers side door for my 1980 TR8

Also I'm going to sell my 72 GT6, pictures and listing on Craigslist, Austin.

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

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



Pay Your Dues!!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jul-17 in the dues column your dues are over-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
nmcpvail@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

July 8 — HCTC Saturday breakfast meeting, 9 AM, The Frisco.

July 11 — HCTC evening meeting, 7 PM, The Tavern, 12th and Lamar.

August 8 — HCTC evening meeting, 7 PM, The Tavern, 12th and Lamar.

August 12 — HCTC Saturday breakfast meeting, 9 AM, The Frisco.

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

September 21-24 — Triumphest, Flagstaff, AZ. Information at www.triumphest.com.

September 22-24 — Texas All British Car Days. Information at www.txabcd.org.

Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, July 8, 2017, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

thefriscoaustin.com — Phone: 512-459-6279

Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, July 11, 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