

The Ragtop



April 2018

Letter from the President

By Don Couch

Another great month chock full of events. We started off the month with two great meetings. After the Saturday meeting we ran down to the PETROL LOUNGE for a tour of some of the most amazing exotic cars ever produced. From Jags, Porsche, Triumph, Ferrari and more. Thanks go out to Mike Schubert for getting us in again.

Next, March 23, we had Bob Skewis to thank for setting up a drive out to Bastrop to see the Night Pour at Deep in the Heart Art Foundry. What a treat and we really had a great turnout. See Bob's article for the whole story.

I am currently in East Texas on a photo shoot in Nacogdoches among other locations in the area. It's funny about small towns, you NEVER know who you'll run into. I ran into no other than... Mike McPhail who was in Nacogdoches for the Austin Healey Convention.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the monthly meetings.

Stay Tuned,

Don



In This Issue

Letter from the President, by Don Couch.....	1
Secretary's Report, by Mike McPhail.....	3
Spit Six Report April 2018, by Mike McPhail.....	5
Deep in the Heart Foundry Tour Drive, by Bob Skewis.....	6
The Patrick Valentine Drive, by Nick Roccaforte.....	9
Murphy Gave Me a Break, by Wiley Christal.....	13
Mike Shayesteh Garage Party and Hill Country Tour.....	14
Classifieds.....	19
Ad Rates.....	20
Alfa Romeo Owners Club Spring Tour.....	21
Upcoming Events.....	22
Next Meeting.....	22

HCTC Officers

President — Don Couch

president@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

512-656-1456

membership@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Vice-President — Roger Bolick**Treasurer — Mike Schubert**

512-740-9937

trebucs43@gmail.com

Ragtop Editor — Dan Julien

512-451-3102

editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Webmaster — Kyle Fagan

webmaster@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Secretary — Mike McPhail**Membership — Nel Mcphail**

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.

Secretary's Report March 2018

By Mike McPhail

Unlike last month, it was perfect top-down weather for our drive to the Frisco and there was plenty for Don Couch (our dutiful President) to talk about at our March 10th breakfast meeting.

He informed us that the calendar was filling up fast, with something going on every week right through April. It was announced that immediately after the meeting Mike Schubert would lead our TRs North to the Petrol Lounge, where Austin's motoring elite store their classic and performance automobiles. The following Tuesday we reconvened at The Tavern for our happy-hour meeting, still marveling over the

impressive collection of Porsche, Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini, Lotus, etc. sport cars we saw on Saturday.

Scheduled for just a few days later on March 17th was Nick Roccaforte's resurrected MG Club Valentine's Day Drive (now Saint Patrick's Day). Bob Skewis organized a trip to Bastrop for a night pouring at the Deep in the Heart Art Foundry, followed by dinner at the "Neighbor's Back Yard and Kitchen".

All these events were well attended but if you missed any of them don't fret, because there is much more to come! April begins with a four week visit from Ian and Elaine Phillips

(HCTC's English ex-pats living in Spain). They will be attending some of our events, and more importantly, the wedding of their son Glenn. We are liable to see them on the 14th for the Saturday breakfast meeting or the Texas MG Register's 2018 Wildflower Drive. Or how about the Spring Alfa Drive the next day...beats doing you taxes!

Of course, you wouldn't want to miss the VTR Regional Convention in Lake Conroe April 19 through 22, or Mike Shayesteh's Garage Party on the 28th!

There is more information on these events elsewhere in this edition of the Hill Country Triumph Club Ragtop.





Petrol Lounge photos by Torf.

Spit Six Report for April 2018

By Mike McPhail

You can see from last month's photo that the front suspension was the first thing to go back on the frame. This was a pretty straight forward operation in spite of having to take the Saws-All to one of the A-arm bolts. The rolling chassis is downright resplendent with shiny new hardware, springs, rotors, tie-rod ends, ball joints, bushings, etc. on top of a fresh coat of gloss black paint.

I now have a dandy wheel-barrow that is super easy to move around, especially since the other two wheels are sitting on the front for counter-balance!

Next in line for rehabilitation was the rear axles. After breaking my trusty old bearing puller, an order was placed with Canley Classics in the UK for a custom hub puller. Even this behemoth needed help from the impact



No, you can't borrow the puller!

to be the hard part. It was back to the press to install the new bearings, but now the assembly is good as new!



Axle ready to paint.



Pressing out the axle.

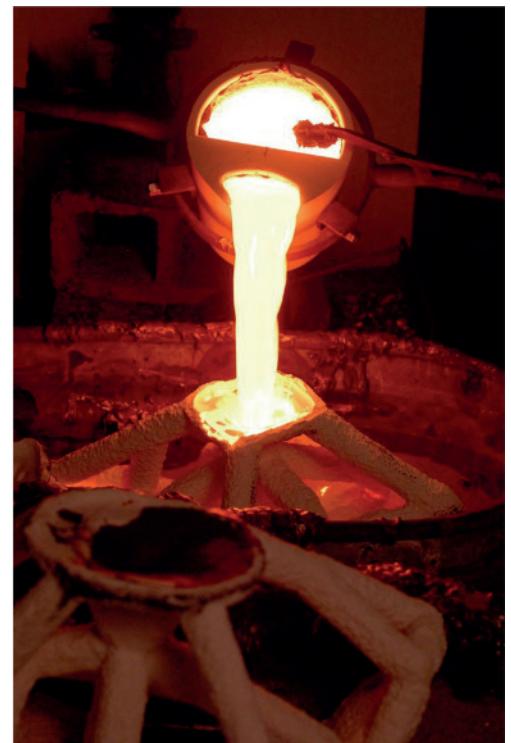
Deep in the Heart Foundry Tour Drive

By Bob Skewis

As the day drew near, there was a lot of interest in this once-a-year event and by Thursday we had five cars with 9 people meeting at the church at MLK and 183. The other 11 members were meeting us at the foundry. My buddy Bobby Mata met me at my house at 3:30 on Friday afternoon, giving us plenty of time to get to the church and pass out maps and contact information for everyone. That was the plan, but fate intervened. As we exited Ben White at 183, circled under and headed up the ramp Doris the Spitfire coughed and sput-

tered and barely got off the roadway. I knew it had fire, so I decided to check gas. I had filled up the day before. Better check the fuel line at the carb . . . dry and dusty. Some time back I had installed a new, trouble free electric fuel pump and saved the mechanical one in the boot. I called Don Couch and told him the situation and he jumped into his car with his crew and headed down 183 to me. Meanwhile, I cobbled together whatever tools, fuel line and clamps I needed to swap the pumps. Despite my best efforts, I was not going to make it in time so at 4:45 I

called Don and told him he was going to have to lead the cars to Bastrop. He turned around at the Montopolis Bridge and headed back up 183 toward the church. I completed the swap and she fired right up and idled easy. When I called Don to let him know we were running and heading back to Sunset Valley to change cars, he informed me that no one was at the church at 5:05 and that they were going on to Bastrop. ***It should be noted here that members Warren and Lisa Kodosky, Dan and Francis Julien and Torf Torfason had been there and when no***

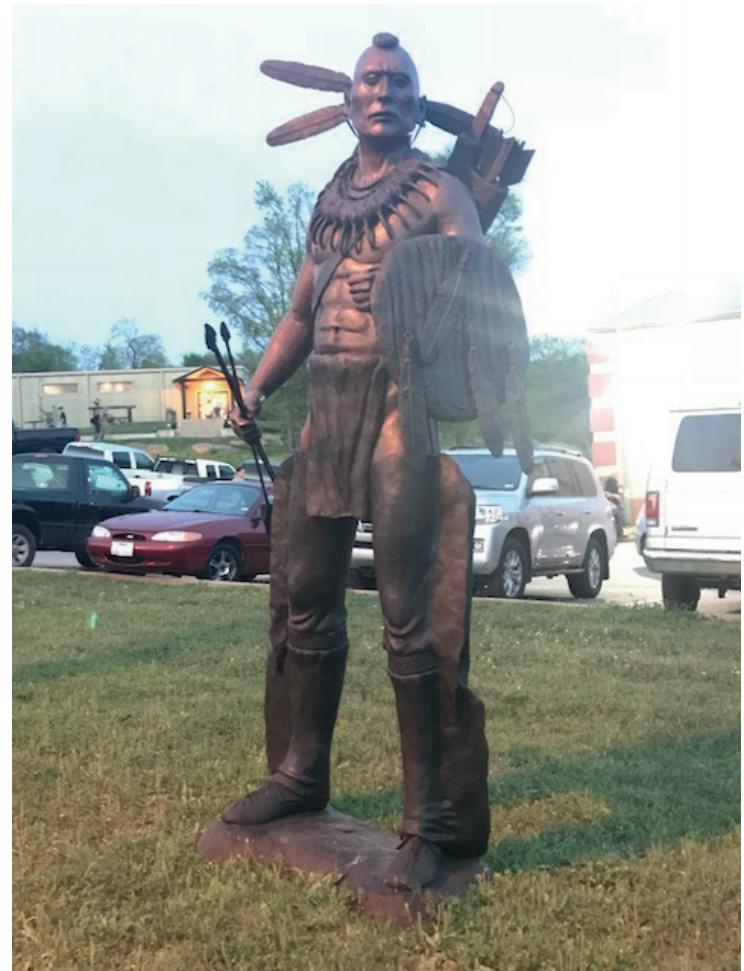


one showed up to lead them . . . Warren took control and called Duncan Charlton to find out where to go. They had left at the prescribed 5:00 time. So, here we were all willy-nilly due to a faulty fuel pump.

When Bobby and I arrived at Deep in the Heart we saw some familiar cars and located the building where they were signing up people for the tours. Several groups had already started and as we passed some of them we saw HCTC people here and there. The molding, casting, pouring, cleaning and finishing of the bronze is an age-old process that is very labor inten-

sive and amazing to learn about. The feature of the evening was the demonstration of pouring molten bronze into the molds and the anticipation did not disappoint. As the crowd gathered, we pulled our members together to let them know where we were going next and I realized that the beautiful maps I made were in the Spitfire back home. Verbal instructions were given and with some people following others, we made it to Neighbor's Backyard in beautiful downtown Bastrop for a bite and a beer. My thanks to **Duncan and Lee Charlton** for arranging this venue and introduc-

ing us to our new favorite place in Bastrop. We had 17 people around the table and broke up about 10:00 to head back to Austin. Other members in attendance were: **Don and Brenda Couch (and Sister Delna), Bill and Annette Waller, Mike and Emily Barrett (and Emily's Mom), Mike Schubert and Willis Thorstadt.** I apologize to anyone who was inconvenienced by this messy organization and thank all who persevered to make it an evening to remember. I guess the title of this could have been "We had fun despite the setbacks". I'll see you on the road . . .





Night Pour photos by Don Couch.

The Patrick Valentine Drive

By Nick Roccaforte

When I woke up on Saturday morning and looked out the window I saw a cloudy foggy day. Not to be deterred by the weather man's predictions now of a 40% chance of rain I had breakfast and prepared the MG for the drive. By the time Julie and I left the house it was starting to clear up. By the time we arrived at the starting point the clouds were breaking up and there was even some sunshine! To my delight there were already club members at the Chevron station to start the journey.

All told there were 15 cars. There were 5 MG's, 3 Triumphs, one Morgan, a Tesla, one Porsche, a Lexus, 2 Miatas and a Corvette. There

was only a brief moment at the start when Roger's TR6 flooded out and would not start. Luckily he had his wife with him and she came to the rescue. Tina pushed the Triumph downhill so Roger could pop the clutch and it started! Just remember that it is always a good idea to have a partner that is a navigator and mechanic along for a drive especially if it is woman powered! After a briefing we left the station around 10:25 am. By then the sun was out and it was a great weather day with temperatures in the 70's. I was leading the drive and did not see the 50 bikers behind us who were initially frustrated that we were going the speed limit! Luckily they

turned off at the first chance they had. Scott had brought 2 way radios for us to have on the drive but unfortunately one was caught between his seat on the way to the start and it was damaged and did not work. We will have a new pair for the next drive so the leader and tail driver will be able to communicate for any concerns--like bikers!

We arrived in Burnet about 11:30am and were met at the door of the Grille by a hostess that took us to a private dining room just set up for us. It was a good idea to have our menus already chosen by each individual and we just handed them to the waitress as we walked in which facilitated our order-



ing. There was a wide variety of food ordered and there were overall many complements regarding the service and food. After lunch and before we left Julie handed out belated Valentine boxes of candy to all of the ladies on the drive. The grand prize (a chocolate candy man wearing white shorts with hearts on them with the inscription "The perfect man, he is strong, quiet and sweet!" was won by the draw of the Queen of Hearts by Linda Vermillion. As we were leaving to go the Air Museum the train arrived from Cedar Park and the line to the Grille was extending outside. Thank goodness for great timing!

Next stop was the Highland Lakes Air Museum. They have a great assortment of WWII artifacts in the museum. There were posters, uniforms, medals, a collection of pistols and rifles,

model airplanes and even a turret from a B24 that you could sit in to get the feel of what it was really like to be a tail gunner! In the hanger there was a SNJ Trainer plane and Navion Trainer, other display engines, a Tow Tug, and a Rink instrument flight training module. Their Douglass C47 Skytrain "The Bluebonnet Belle" was out for repairs. Outside there were other aircraft (F100F Trainer, A7 Corsair T38 Trainer, etc.) and military hardware (Howitzers and an M60 -83 Patton tank). I was able to get a picture of the tank as it was approaching and just before it ran over Warren's 73 MGB! Although the major part of the drive ended here a number of club members did go on to the alternate and last stop on the drive.

The last stop was at the Sports Clips Car Museum in Georgetown. This was a

great conclusion for the drive. There was a very interesting collection of cars in the museum. Our own CC-MGC member Gordon Vermillion is the manager and caretaker for this museum and gave us a great guided tour. There was a 2005 Ford GT, a '57T Bird, and a '56 Corvette. To our delight there were 4 Jags including a beautiful red '48 XK150s and a green '69 XKE. He had a number of Aston Martins including my favorite, a 1966 silver DB6 coupe. The shows stopper however was the immaculately restored 1928 4-43 Packard Phaeton.

We were very fortunate in that the weather was great for the drive, the experience at the restaurant was positive and the attractions were worthwhile. There were no breakdowns and no animals were harmed in the making of this adventure!



At the Grille



At the Air Museum





At the Sports Clips Museum



Murphy Gave Me a Break

By Wiley Cristal

Everyone that owns a Triumph car understands Murphy's Law. You know, the common adage: "If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong." And that's especially true for Lucas electronic parts on many British cars!

I thought that I was lucky when I won a Sprint dual USB converter in March at the expo for the Cowtown Marathon in Ft. Worth. It would be perfect for powering my GPS and charging my phone at the same time. I had already installed (in 2010) a power outlet in the TR6.



The very first time I connected my phone to charge it, I saw sparks fly

and my power outlet glowing bright red inside and I sniffed a burning smell. After checking the USB converter, I found it to be shorted!

I wondered about that burning smell because I just knew I had installed an inline fuze when I installed the power outlet on the TR6. I had bought two inline fuze holders; however, they were both still in the garage. That's bad mechanic work! After inspecting the power outlet, I discovered that it saved me from serious damage. The metal tab for the +12 V inside the outlet had burned through. That is where Murphy gave me a break – this time. The tab in that power outlet became a fuze! I considered myself fortunate.

Still needing a power outlet in the Triumph, I found a good one at NAPA. It came with connectors already installed



on pigtail wires and a nice mounting bracket that was just perfect for mounting on a cross member under the dash near the glovebox. Its NAPA part number is 782-1635. I decided to buy (and actually installed this time) a mini blade type fuze holder for its compact size. The fuze holder came from Auto Zone but it is an Eaton Bussmann BP/HHM-RP. The fuze is a 10-amp ATM fuze.

Don't tempt Murphy's Law like I did – use fuses for electronics that are added on to your Triumphs.

Mike Shayesteh Garage Party and Hill Country Tour

Saturday April 28

By Mike McPhail

Jay Leno hasn't a thing on Hill Country Triumph Club's own Mike Shayesteh. The entire first floor of his Canyon Lake home is an air-conditioned working garage with a Fifty's Diner theme where he houses his antique car collection. Mike will be unveiling a stunning 1959

TR3 that he has restored there. He even has a paint booth! Burgers and beer will be provided.

Meet at Jim's Restaurant in Oak Hill for a scenic drive to 142 Holm Ranch Road near Fischer, departing at 9 AM. RSVP to mikeshayesteh@gmail.com or 281-773-2422.





The Texas Triumph Register invites you to join us by the lakeshore at the 2018 Vintage Triumph Register South Central Regionals

On April 19 – 22, 2018, this year's event will be held at the beautiful, lakeside La Torretta Report and Spa, offering such amenities as onsite restaurants, private beach, adult and children's pools, lazy river, tennis courts, golf course, fitness center and spa. Plan on traveling the backroads of the Lake Conroe area as we visit unique sights and venues, and run the Gimmick Rally. Get your car polished up and ready for the Concours, try the challenge of the Funkhana, and grab your

helmet as we run the Autocross. Catch up and enjoy some fun with your fellow Triumph lovers and friends at the Welcome Reception, breakfast run and dinner drives. Our event ends with the Awards Banquet, overlooking Lake Conroe.



Reserve your rooms before they're gone, by visiting the La Torretta website:

<https://aws.passkey.com/gt/213249224?gtid=886489001b036f55b1bbbcfb340861d>

Register for the Regionals at:
www.texastriumphregister.org

Minnesota Triumphs beckon you to the VTR NATIONAL 2018

July 17-21, 2018 at the
Radisson in La Crosse, WI



Reservations:
www.radisson.com/la-crosse/vtr



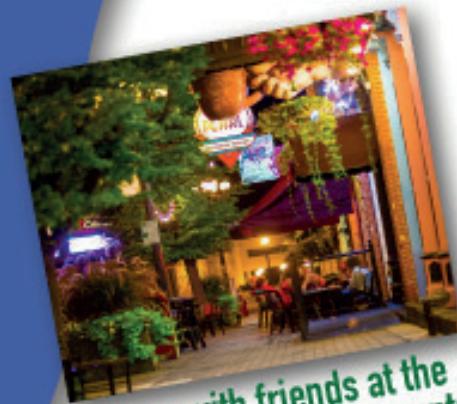
*Carve the roads on the countless
coulees in your Triumph*



Featuring 50 years
of the TR250

Facebook VTR 2018
www.mntriumphs.org

On the
banks
of the
historic
Mississippi
River



*Relax with friends at the
many local establishments*





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

03 APRIL 2018 VOL. 44 NO. 4
A COMMITTEE OF A CENTURY
CONTINUOUSLY CHAMPIONING TRIUMPH

01 APRIL 2018 VOL. 44 NO. 1
THE AMAZING LIFE OF AUSTIN DAVIS
SPORTS CAR SALESMAN & RACE CAR DRIVER
Written by Donald Thompson

INTERVIEW WITH TRA'S NEW
**CHIEF CONCOURS
JUDGE**

RACING A
TRIUMPH

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

HCTC Classifieds



TR6 AC Unit Plus Compressor
Bucket \$90.00

Joe Payne
(M)210.326.6673
robjoepayne@yahoo.com

* * *

I need a left front fender, battery box, 2 floor boards, 2 rocker panels, rear floor panel, tonneau saddle panel for a 1958 Triumph TR3A. Thanks.
dasoka@hotmail.com

TR-6 seats with rails and Interior from 1969 TR-6. Has all the original jute, most of the carpet and panels. \$200.00

(Photos above.)

Joe Payne
(M)210.326.6673
robjoepayne@yahoo.com

* * *

Visor assembly with mounts (both sides), ignition switch cover, trunk light, misc. items.

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141

* * *

Used seats from a 75' TR6 asking \$240.00 (Photos to right.)

Headrests are functional and stay up as desired.

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141





HILL COUNTRY TRIUMPH CLUB ADVERTISING RATES

Effective with the January Rag Top the following ad rates will prevail:

Member ads for Triumph cars or parts will continue to be free and will run for two issues.
These ads may be renewed as necessary two times (For a total of six issues).

Ads or flyers for other club's events will continue to be free and will run for two issues.

Ads for commercial items or services will be charged the following rates:

Business Card ad: \$5.00 per issue

Quarter page ad: \$10.00 per issue

Half page ad: \$15.00 per issue

Full-page ad: \$25.00 per issue

These ads must be prepaid and can be scheduled for as long as desired, minimum of six issues. Long term ad runs must be prepaid at the time of scheduling. All ads must include artwork.

Artwork should be submitted to Dan Julien at dan.julien@gmail.com

Fees should be sent to:

HILL COUNTRY TRIUMPH CLUB
Attn: Mike Schubert
18340 Masi Loop
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Alfa Romeo Owners Club Spring Tour

The Texas Hill Country chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club is holding their spring tour on Sunday, April 15th. As is the case with all of the THC-AROC events, this is open to all and Hill Country Triumph Club members are encouraged to participate.

The tour will begin in Bee Cave with breakfast and coffee sponsored by Peter van Kooij (Realty Austin), followed by a spirited drive through the Hill Country west of Johnson City and south of Lake Travis, ending at Dean & Elizabeth Mericas' house for a catered lunch. Details are being finalized, including the cost for lunch, and will be distributed to the people who have signed up.

To RSVP, contact Dean (dmericas@austin.rr.com) with the number of people in your party and a mobile number at which you can be reached.

Pay Your Dues!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jan-18 in the dues column your dues are past 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
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

April 10 — HCTC Tuesday evening meeting, 7 PM, The Tavern.

April 14 — HCTC Saturday breakfast meeting, 9 AM, The Frisco.

April 15 — Alfa Romeo Owners Club Spring Tour. See [p. 21](#).

April 19-22 — VTR Regionals, Lake Conroe. Info at www.texastriumphregister.org/969-2/.

April 28 — Mike Shayesteh Garage Party and Hill Country Tour. See [p. 14](#).

July 17-21 — VTR Nationals, La Crosse, WI. Info at www.mntriumphs.org/vtr2018.shtm.

September 27-30 — 6-Pack Trials, Fontana Dam, NC. Info at jimholewka.wixsite.com/trials2018.

Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, April 14, 2018, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

thefriscoaustin.com — Phone: 512-459-6279

Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 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