

# The Ragtop

July 2018



## Letter from the President

By Don Couch

**H**ot! It IS HOT! Still, we had a Grrrrrrrrrr8 drive out to Taylor, TX, to visit Jeff's Resurrections and on over to Louie Mueller's BBQ. A big THANKS to the South Texas Triumph Association for organizing the drive! Funny thing though is it was SO HOT that not one single STTA member drove a Triumph on the Taylor drive. Only two TRIUMPH'S made the trek, HCTC member Jim Wells in his TR6 and myself driving Ruby, my Spitfire 1500. HCTC member Craig Barton was there as well in his "modern" ragtop. It was a fast fun drive down 130 to Jeff's and all in all really not that hot. I think we need to do more drives with the San Antonio club. If you've never had the pleasure of touring Jeff's place, you are really missing out. So many amazing cars in all stages of restoration. We were lucky to see among the finished cars there was a 100 point Jaguar E-type, truly a world class restoration. There was a Ford GT40 stripped down to the metal getting ready to relive it's glory days.

As I write this, the VTR Nationals in Wisconsin are two weeks away. Mike

McPhail along with Roger Bolick are packing their Triumphs and suitcases ready for the adventure ahead. I wish I could tag along with them as it sounds like a helluva drive and a helluva great time. Also, as I write this, we are planning our own VTR Nationals. I want to thank Julie and Nick Roccaforte for stepping up and taking the reins on the Banquet chair position. Bill Waller is also jumping in headfirst to help out with the banquet as well as printing needs. We have much work to do but are making headway little by little.

As I write this, Roger doesn't know it yet but I'm not going to make the Tuesday night meeting. I hope he can so he can fill in for me. I should make the breakfast meeting and hope Mike Schubert makes it to the meeting so I can repay my debt to the club. Hope to see all y'all for breakfast! Pay your dues, drive your car, swing by one of the meetings and...

STAY TUNED,

Don

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## HCTC Officers

<p><b>President</b> — Don Couch  <a href="mailto:president@hillcountrytriumphclub.org">president@hillcountrytriumphclub.org</a></p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b> — Mike Schu-          bert          512-740-9937  <a href="mailto:trebucs43@gmail.com">trebucs43@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>512-656-1456  <a href="mailto:membership@hillcountrytriumphclub.org">membership@hillcountrytriumphclub.org</a></p>
<p><b>Vice-President</b> — Roger Bolick</p>	<p><b>Secretary</b> — Mike McPhail</p>	<p><b>Ragtop Editor</b> — Dan Julien          512-451-3102  <a href="mailto:editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org">editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org</a></p>
<p><b>Webmaster</b> — Kyle Fagan  <a href="mailto:webmaster@hillcountrytriumphclub.org">webmaster@hillcountrytriumphclub.org</a></p>	<p><b>Membership</b> — Nel Mcphail</p>	

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](http://www.vtr.org), [www.triumphregister.com](http://www.triumphregister.com), and [www.6-pack.org](http://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](mailto: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 for June 2018

By Mike McPhail

June 9<sup>th</sup> was another beautiful day for a morning drive to the Frisco! Folks are beating the door down to join the Hill Country Triumph Club as was demonstrated by all the new members there for breakfast. Steve England (is that really his name?) has a spiffy TR3 and Steve Rafferty a 1972 TR6. Steve and Candy Johnson brought

their darling grandkids and brought us up to date on the TR3 they bequeathed to their son. Dave Griffin has a Spitfire 1500 header he wants to give away to a good home...see what you missed?

The 12<sup>th</sup> brought us back to our favorite watering hole, The Tavern at 12<sup>th</sup> and Lamar. The usual suspects started

to arrive about 5 PM and wandered in all evening, eventually filling the upstairs spot we have come to occupy. As usual, the cuisine and libations were out of this world, so if the camaraderie were not enough, come for the grub!

We nearly recruited some new members in the likes of Matt and Rebecca, a couple of



Big turnout at the Frisco.

love birds that just happened to light on our nest. Perhaps a Spitfire Honeymoon? New TR6 guy Chuck Erskine joined the fold, while vintage racing impresario Greg Blake made a surprise appearance, probably just to brag on his Old Man, Bob...he won first place in CVAR D-Production this go-around in his hot TR4 race Car!

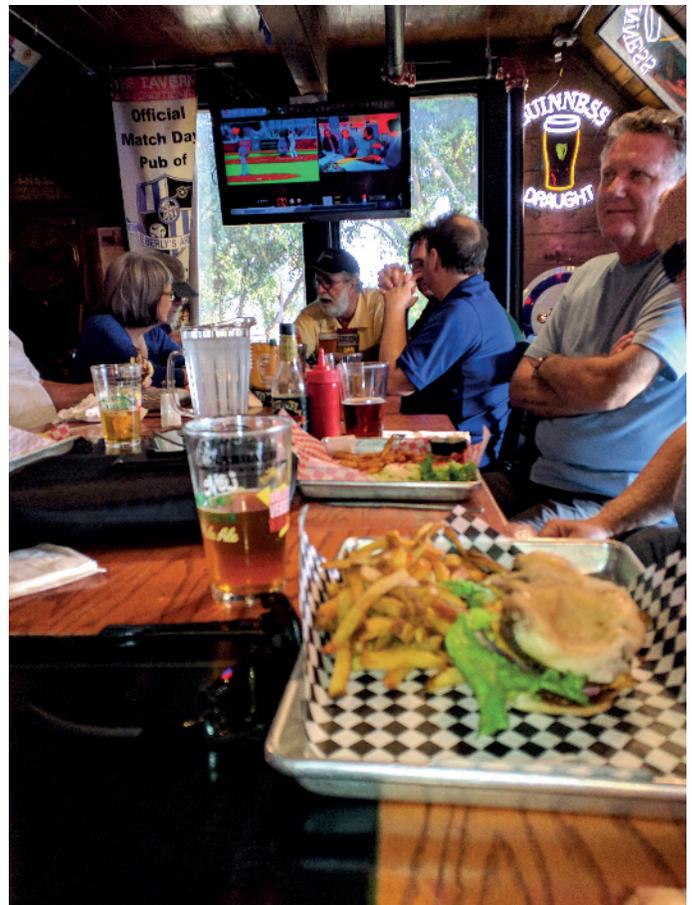
As usual, our Prez (Don Couch) was promoting VTR 2019 which is to be held just down the road in my home town of Dripping Springs. He is working on a video to be shown in July at the convention in La Crosse. Volunteers are needed, so mark your calendar!



Breakfast and friends.



Tavern talk.



The usual suspects.

# Spit Six Report for June 2018

By Mike McPhail

**A**side from the brakes, the rolling chassis has been together for a while. Thanks to Mike Shayesteh,

this guy Jerry is working on the body that was generously donated by Bob Skewis. The seemingly rust-free body has in fact,

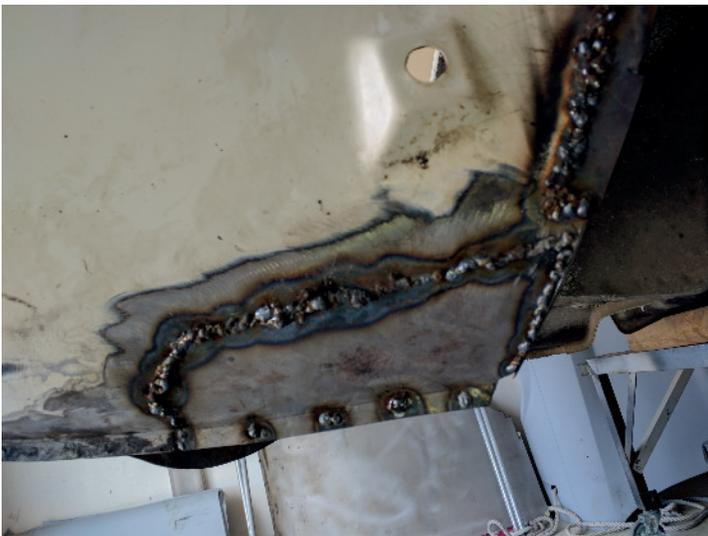
quite a bit of tin worm. Perhaps we should change her name from Doris to Patches. No matter, Jerry is all over it!



Doris in the nude.



New floor.



Lousy welding...get a grinder.



More crappy welding.



We are getting a GT6 tank.



Pound to fit, paint to match.

# Watch That \$12 Oil Pressure Sender!

By Mike McPhail

**A** while back, Dave Pilcher sent out an email “Wanted TR6 engine”. He sends out lots of emails, but this one caught my eye, in that I have several motors socked away around the premises. I called Albert and found that while cruising down San Pedro one night, his oil pressure gauge took a dive to zero, and before he could pull over, the engine seized. He had the TR6 towed over to Victor’s, where he has his Jaguar fixed.

Victor had recommended that Albert send his en-

gine off to Ohio in exchange for a rebuilt unit. After checking the cost of such a plan, he decided to source something locally. Benson Tuttle and I spent the better part of a weekend (and a case of beer) resurrecting an old engine. Alas the old girl suffered from low oil pressure and smoked like a chimney.

By now, Al’s TR6 was on my lift, so it was decided that a post-mortem was in order! The source of the massive oil leak was still a mystery, but not the most pressing issue at this time. As it turned

out three rod bearings were seized, but removing the caps got things turning. No other damage was perceived, so I told Al we could get by with a crankshaft replacement. I fabricated an attachment to the oil pump that would allow me to put compressed air into the oil system. To my great surprise, oil came pouring out of the oil pressure sending unit!

Sure enough, a pristine used crank from my stockpile, a sending unit, and some new bearings had Al back on the road!



Front of engine.



Empty crankcase.

# Minnesota Triumphs beckon you to the VTR NATIONAL 2018

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

On the banks of the historic Mississippi River



Reservations:  
[www.radisson.com/la-crosse/vtr](http://www.radisson.com/la-crosse/vtr)



Relax with friends at the many local establishments



Carve the roads on the countless coulees in your Triumph



Featuring 50 years of the TR250



Facebook VTR 2018  
[www.mntriumphs.org](http://www.mntriumphs.org)



# 17th ANNUAL **BRITIS** *in the* **OZARKS**

**ALL BRITISH CAR & CYCLE SHOW**  
*Benefiting the ALS ASSOCIATION*  
*"Fighting Lou Gehrig's disease"*



SPONSORED BY  
**BRITISH IRON TOURING CLUB  
OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS**



University of Arkansas Agripark  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

**September 6 - 8**

Thursday, Sept 6  
Tour to Arkansas Wine Country

Friday, Sept 7  
Tour to Crystal Bridges Museum  
Parking Lot Party

Saturday, Sept 8  
Car Show  
Banquet

SPECIAL GUEST  
**Bill Warner**

*Amelia Island Concours Founder*

**Car Display • People's Choice Judging • Concessions Available**

**Host Hotel**  
**Holiday Inn Convention Center of Northwest Arkansas**  
**I-49 and Highway 412, Springdale, AR**

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION CONTACT

**BILL WATKINS**  
479-636-2168  
[www.BritishIronMWA.org](http://www.BritishIronMWA.org)

OR  
**DOUG SCHRANTZ**  
479-531-2783  
[dougschranzt@gmail.com](mailto:dougschranzt@gmail.com)





This year's DY-NO-MYTE Regional is highlighting the introduction of the Wedge 45 years ago.... back in 1974! The Funkana this year is gonna be hotter than the Towering Inferno! Badges? You won't need no stinkin' badges to drive the Gimmick rally through the North Texas backroads. Hopefully you will be "Gone in 60 Seconds" or less, in the thrilling Autocross. Don't have a "Death Wish" with your lack of Triumph knowledge as you're gonna need it to make your way through the Triumph Historical walking rally, can you dig It? Go through your attic and pull out those 1970 inspired groovy duds....you know, the ones that made you the cool cat, because we're having a costume contest during Thursday evening's Welcome Party. There's going to be a cash prize for the best-dressed person, so boogie on down.

You'll be sayin' "De Plane! De plane! when you walk through the Perrin Air Force base Museum which is very close by. It was used in World War II as a pilot testing station and sort of a "guinea pig" for many new ideas that were adopted by the US Air Force. The Hagerman National Wildlife refuge is located just south of the hotel and offers great views of migratory shorebirds and white pelicans as well as the Monarch Butterflies as they migrate their way north. There are plenty of restaurants and great shopping in near-by cities of Sherman and Dennison, like a brick house.

Escape to the tranquil Texas setting of Tanglewood Resort situated on Lake Texoma. Tanglewood Resort offers the finest accommodations, a wide variety of exciting activities, excellent meeting facilities and an experienced, qualified staff sure to make your stay memorable. From fine dining to a casual pool-side experience at Barnacles Sports bar & Pizzeria, they might even serve a Diablo sandwich and a Dr. Pepper if you're in a hurry. Tanglewood Resort offers a wide range of resort amenities: relax at one of 3 pools or the hot tub. Enjoy volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, or a tennis match at one of the lighted tennis courts, or sit back and relax.

To register at the hotel, call (800) 833-6569, the Regional daily room rate is \$109.00, so Book 'em Danno. You can also see the facility at [www.tanglewoodresort.com](http://www.tanglewoodresort.com)

Ready to Register? [Click here](#) for the Online Registration page

Registration is \$90 until April 1st, 2019, then goes up to \$115. No April Fools Joke.



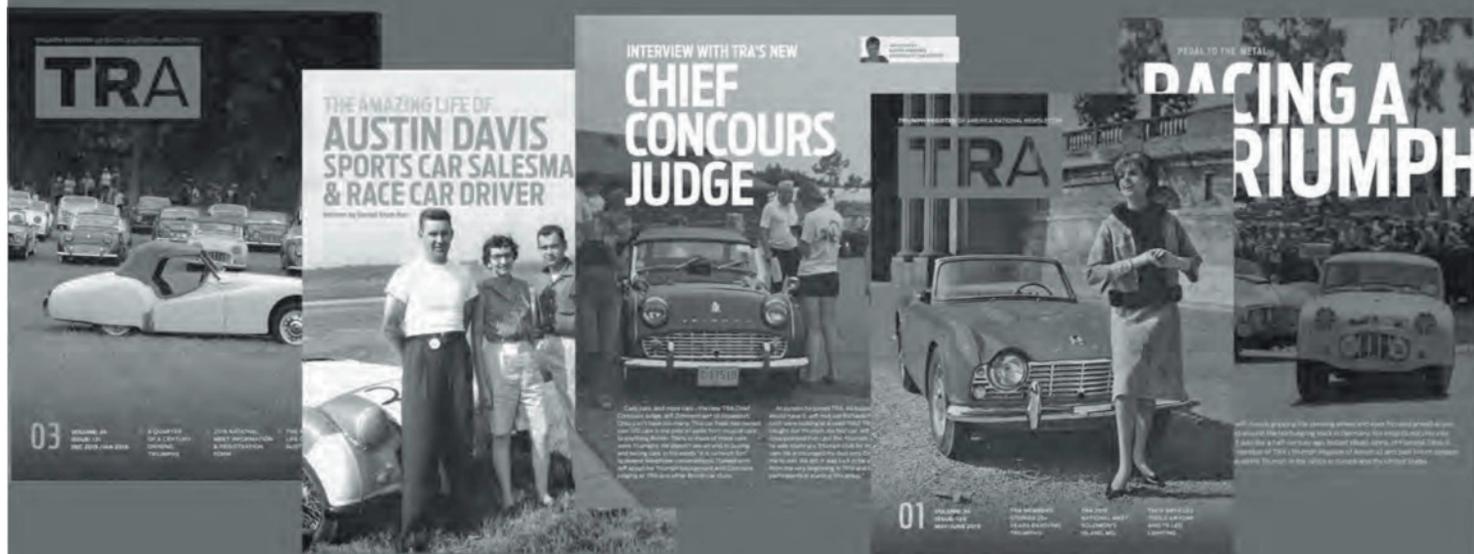
ESTABLISHED 1974

# 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



SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING AT:  
[www.TriumphRegister.com](http://www.TriumphRegister.com)

OR CONTACT:  
[TONDA.MACY@MACYSGARGE.COM](mailto: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](mailto: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

\*\*\*

Wanted left and right front fender  
liners/wheel wells for 1962  
TR3B. Contact Evan Barton (254)  
702-6634 /  
[evanbarton3@gmail.com](mailto:evanbarton3@gmail.com).



TR-6 seats with rails and Interior  
from 1969 TR-6. Has all the origi-  
nal 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 cov-  
er, 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



## For Sale: 1963 Jaguar Mk2 3.8L

This car was comprehensively restored in the mid-2000s, including a rebuilt drivetrain. It's been upgraded from stock as follows: RetroAir A/C, HD Alternator (recent), aluminum radiator with electric fan, Wilwood front brakes, XJ6 Rack & Pinion steering, Nardi steering wheel (recent), SPAX shocks, stainless steel exhaust (recent), RetroSound AM/FM/USB stereo (recent), Dayton chrome wires.

For the past 4 years it's been driven regularly, including several weddings and club tours. Nice enough to have taken 1<sup>st</sup> in Class twice at the Texas All British Car Day show. Asking \$37,000 based on overall condition between a #2 and #3 on the Hagerty Insurance scale. Open to reasonable offers.

Contact: Dean Mericas

[dmericas@austin.rr.com](mailto:dmericas@austin.rr.com) or 512-750-2271



I have a 76 XJ6 XL.

It was a hand me down project that ran out of steam.

It belonged to a UT professor, Long story short, it sits and needs someone to show it more Love.

Interior is in great not perfect condition. I got it running in time for the last Linklater filming, *Dazed and Confused II*.

Open to offers.

Mike & Emily Barrett

Manor TX

(512) 921-2135





## 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](mailto:dan.julien@gmail.com)

Fees should be sent to:

### **HILL COUNTRY TRIUMPH CLUB**

Attn: Mike Schubert  
18340 Masi Loop  
Pflugerville, TX 78660

# Pay Your Dues!!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jul-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](mailto: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

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

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

July 17-21 — VTR Nationals, La Crosse, WI. Info at [www.mntriumphs.org/vtr2018.shtm](http://www.mntriumphs.org/vtr2018.shtm).

September 6-8 — Brits in the Ozarks. Fayetteville, Arkansas. See [p. 8](#).

September 27-30 — 6-Pack Trials, Fontana Dam, NC. Info at

[jimholewka.wixsite.com/trials2018](http://jimholewka.wixsite.com/trials2018).

September 28-30 — Texas All-British Car Days, Round Rock, TX. Info at [www.txabcd.org](http://www.txabcd.org).

April 24-27, 2019 — VTR Regionals, Pottsboro, TX. Info at [redrivertriumphclub.org/2019-registration-home/](http://redrivertriumphclub.org/2019-registration-home/).

## Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, July 14, 2018, 9:00 AM

The Frisco

6801 Burnet Rd

Austin, TX 78757

[thefriscoaustin.com](http://thefriscoaustin.com) — Phone: 512-459-6279

## Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, July 10, 2018, 7:00 PM

The Tavern

922 West 12<sup>th</sup> St

Austin, TX 78703

At the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Lamar

[tavernaustin.com](http://tavernaustin.com) — Phone: 512-320-8377