The Ragtop

Letter from the President

By Don Couch

Late as always, I'm rushing to get this letter over to Dan.

Quite a lot has happened since the last edition of the Ragtop. By now, I assume you all have heard the news that Charles Runyan, founder of The Roadster Factory, passed away in December. Charles was an anchor in the British car community. No doubt a driving force behind the parts we still have available to us today long after production of our beloved cars ceased. I first purchased parts from The Roadster Factory back in 1983. I recall a phone call to have a catalog sent to me and I still have that catalog to this day. The parts would arrive, some still covered in cosmoline in StanPart wrappers. You knew if you wanted an original part, you could get it from Charles at The Roadster Factory. Charles will be missed but his spirit lives in many of our cars and in all our hearts.

On a brighter note, HCTC had two great Holiday gatherings. The first, host by Nel and Mike McPhail. It was the 137th or 138th Annual Johnson City Tour-de-Lites drive. The club met at The Barber Shop in Dripping Springs and Mike led them on a quick drive to

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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.

Letter from the President

Johnson City for dinner at The Pecan Street Brewing. The McPhail's have been hosting this drive for as long as I can remember and it's **ALWAYS** a great time. **MANY MANY** crazy stories have come out of this drive. Emily's radiator, Roger and Tina and skid marks and of course my stolen/found/appropriated Santa statue I gave to Brenda and then later left in Big Bend. I know there are many more Tour-de-Lites stories out there. It also happens to be First Lady Brenda's favorite event of the year. We always have a great time. HCTC gave away another VTR membership. It was a bit of a crazy-style raffle but in the end John Akins won the membership.

The next holiday party was hosted by Joe Payne. Joe had recently completed his new garage and had been talking to me about having the club out for an event. When the call came for a venue for our holiday party, Joe answered in a heartbeat. He cooked up some AMAZING chili. Maybe we can get him to write a newsletter article on how to prepare it. It really was good. His house and garage were equally amazing. How many people have a E-Type Jag in their attic? OK, OK part of it was in the attic and part was downstairs but my version makes for better radio! Roger Bolick won the VTR membership we gave away at this outing. Mike Schubert put together a truly head-scratching Triumph trivia questionnaire and Roger came out the winner.

I can't thank Joe, Nel, and Mike enough for hosting and planning these events. I look forward to many more HCTC events in this new year.

Which leads me to...The Shape of Things to Come.

VTR 2019 NATIONALS

Things are really shaping up for the VTR Nationals. We are in talks with SVRA, who will be hosting the Vintage Nationals at Circuit of The Americas this coming October. We are working out the details for a Triumph only car show, Auto-X and parade laps around the circuit. More details to come as we hammer things out.

The host hotel for the Nationals is sold out. We are working to secure another block of rooms at another hotel and will have info on our website, www.vtr2019.com. Registration is open so please register before July 1st when Early Bird registration ends. Again, see the website for more details. We hope to have an events schedule up in a week or so.

Stay Tuned,

Don

RIP Charles Runyan

Here is a note from The Roadster Factory:

Dear TRF Customer,

I'm sorry to tell you this if you haven't already heard, but Charles passed away on Saturday.

Friends, family and customers will be received at The Coventry Inn in Indiana from 2:00-7:00 on Friday. TRF will be closed until January 2nd.

I've always been humbled by the love and respect Charles had from his customers and friends. The emails I've received the last few days only reinforce that.

I'll be back in touch with you soon.

best,

Albert

TRF

You can read Charles' obituary in the Indiana, Pennsylvania newspaper here.

Secretary's Report December 2018

By Mike McPhail

I was betting someone would show up at the Waterloo Ice House for breakfast on December 8, in spite of there being no meeting that day. Sure enough, Mitch joined us for hot coffee and a morning meal!

The official get-together was the following Saturday at Joe Payne's place near Lake Austin. He put on a splendid holiday party with home made chili and other tasty treats. As a bonus, we were given the grand tour of his newly built workshop!

The previous Tuesday, HCTC revelers met in Dripping Springs for the sometimes-annual Tour-de-Lites caravan to Johnson City. This wildly popular outing included pre-drive libations at the Barber Shop Bar, a sumptuous meal at the Pecan Street Brewing Company and a short walk to the Pedernales Electric Company building up the street. Each of the hundreds of live oak trees on the property was completely wrapped in led bulbs, producing a spectacular light show.

More news from our Spanish correspondents

Ian and Elaine Phillips

Hey Guys! ..it was great to the pictures of the Spanish TRs in the mag!

We really appreciate getting a monthly write up .

Funnily enough there was another “tour?” from the Valencian Triumph register this last Sunday. We hooked up at a place called Guadalest which is a very old mountain top fort. So here are a couple of picture’s of that line up (note the beautiful blue sky ..not like your stuff right now).

Thanks again for inculding us !

Cheers Ian and Elaine

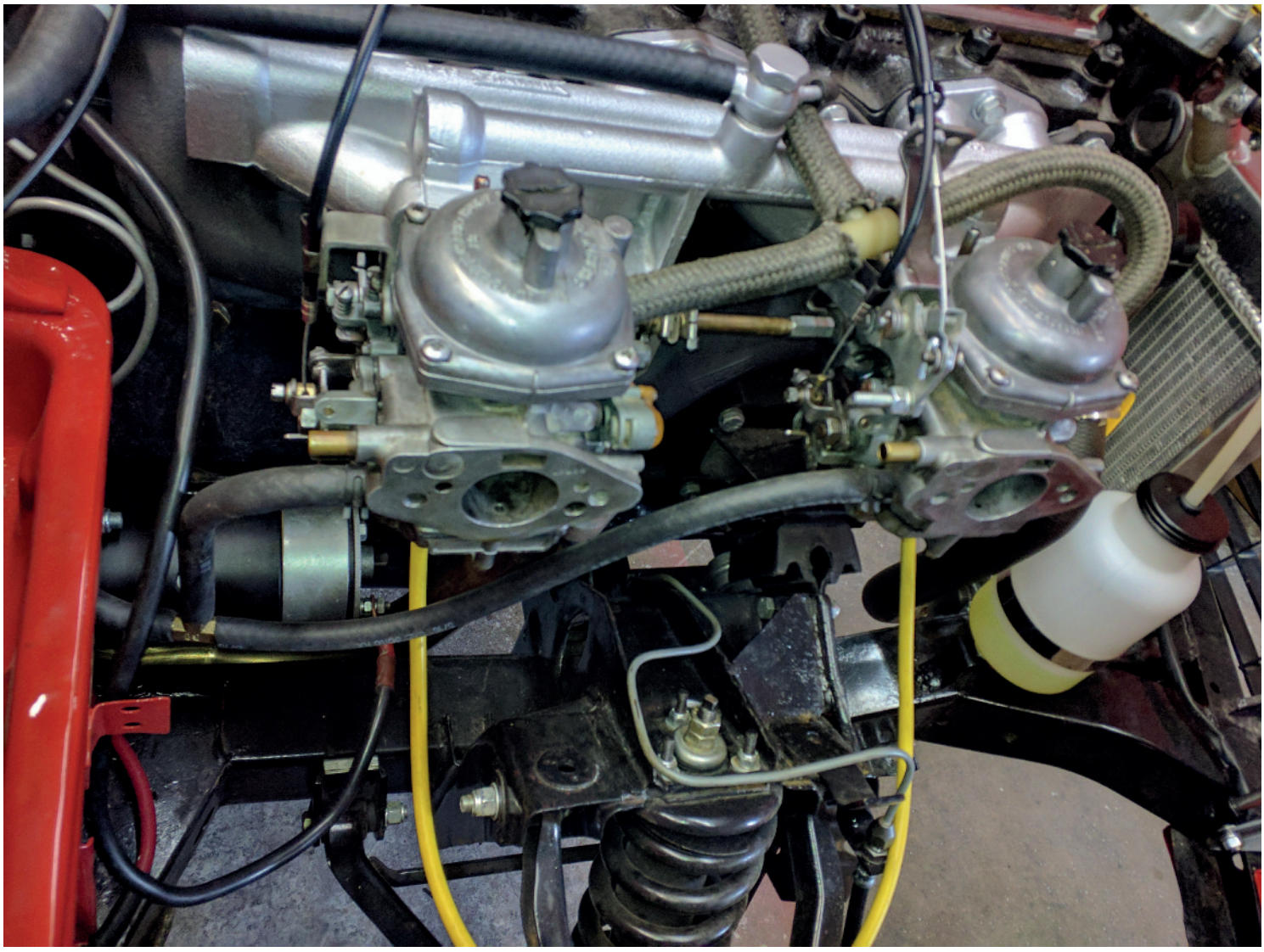
Spit Six Report January 2019

By Mike McPhail

I was able to cobble together two CD150 carbs from the three in my junk box. They were all of unknown origin and although they possibly came from Spitfire 1500s, they all had manual chokes and one looked as though it was from a dual carb setup of some kind. The Spit is running nicely on this arrangement, but I may be looking for something better at some point.

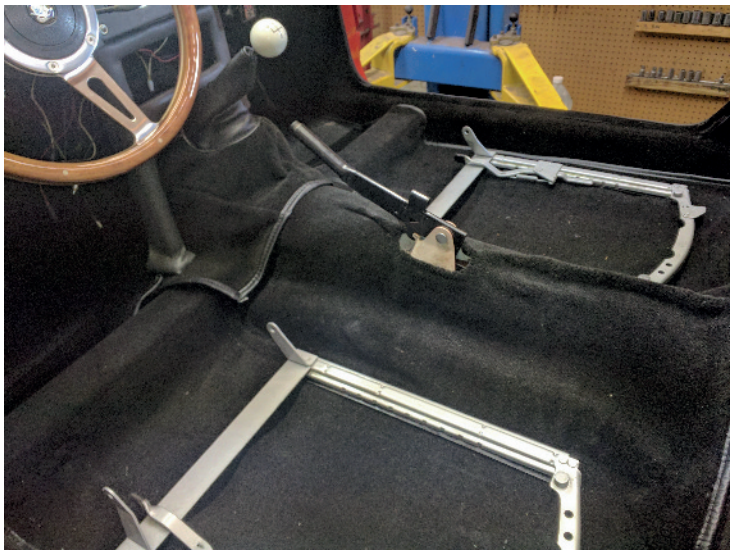
After tiring of driving around the block with no windshield while sitting on an apple crate, it was back to work on the interior. The new windshield, carpet and refurbished seats are now in place, leaving just the doors and top as the last major components to deal with.

A February debut is a distinct possibility!



CD 150 carbs.

Not much to work with.

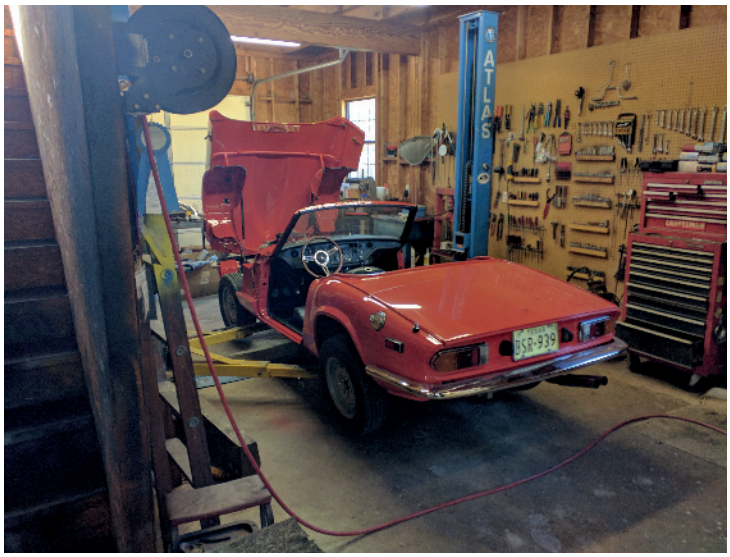


Seat frames in place.

DIY upholstery.

Extra gauges.

Interior nearly done.



Next month ... doors.

30th ANNUAL SAN ANTONIO JAGUAR CLUB LUCKENBACH RALLYE!!

SAN ANTONIO JAGUAR CLUB

Saturday,January 26, 2019 (rain date – February 2nd))

Meeting Place: RUDY'S COUNTRY STORE & BBQ
24152 West IH10 (Exit 551) Leon Springs
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78257
210-698-2141

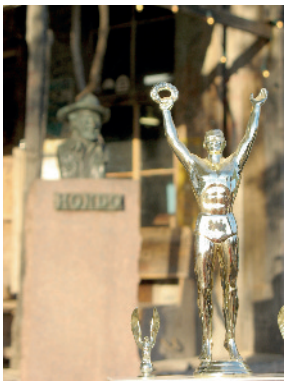
IMPORTANT INFO

Registration: 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
MANDATORY Drivers Meeting 12:15 PM
Registration Fee: $20.00 per vehicle
First Car Out: 12:31 PM
START POINT: Behind Rudy's Country Store

- This is a JCNA sanctioned time, speed, distance event…..NOT A RACE!!!!!!
- Rally will total approximately 100 miles and three (3) hours.
- Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded to drivers and navigators AND our Famous "Stray Cat" prize for the last driver to arrive in Luckenbach.
- The Rallye route is on paved roads, some very narrow with cattle guards and loose livestock. Please be careful and use caution in these areas.
- NO DRINKING AND DRIVING;
- There will be breaks during the rally, and fuel will be available at the first checkpoint.
- JCNA rules will be used for scoring and ties will be permitted for JCNA results.
- Bring a watch, digital watch or stop watch and pencil.
- Call SAJC rallymaster Brian Blackwell at below numbers if you suspect bad weather on the morning of the rallye and do not have internet access. Or check the event calendar on www.sajaguarclub.info

Questions? Call Brian Blackwell at (210) 255-0361 Cell
- or email blackwbg@gmail.com
-

SEE Y'ALL IN LEON SPRINGS, AND HOPEFULLY LUCKENBACH!!!!!



Visit Luckenbach, TX
With Willie & The Boys

Join the
Hill Country Triumph Club
of Austin
as we celebrate

Enjoy the roads at the
Gateway to the Hill Country

VTR National 2019

in Dripping Springs, Texas October 6-11, 2019

All photos courtesy Don Couch Photography

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

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

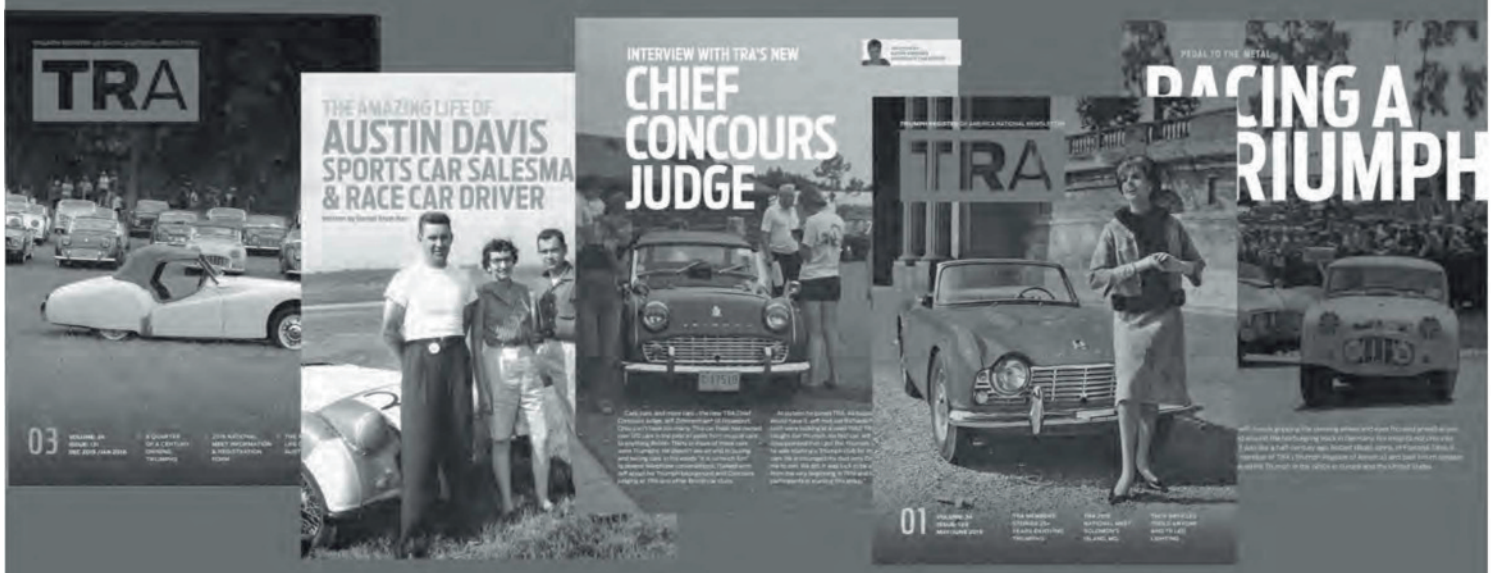
Registration is $90 until April 1st, 2019, then goes up to $115. No April Fools Joke.

TRIUMPH REGISTER OF AMERICA
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

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

HCTC Classifieds

TR6 AC Unit Plus Compressor Bracket $90.00

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

TR-6 seats (Photos above) with rails and interior from 1969 TR-6. Has all the original jute, most of the carpet and panels. $200.00

Joe Payne
(M)210.326.6673
robjoepayne@yahoo.com

* * *

Quick ratio steering rack for Spitfire. Used about 1 month. Excellent condition.

$75

512-296-0972

Used seats from a '75 TR6. Headrests are functional and stay up as desired. Asking $240.00 (Photos to above.)

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141

An old friend Kenneth Pierce who lives in Snyder TX has a Triumph GT6 for sale. The 1973 2 liter GT6 is in mint condition. It has a re-built original engine and transmission, new rubber hoses, running boards , interior and tires. He was asking $12,000.00 for it.

The reason he is selling is because his health has not been good the last few years and he has had surgery this year.

I spoke with him recently and he said that he is willing to negotiate down to close to half price!

Anyone interested please give him a call directly at 325-573-0979.

Thanks

Nick Roccaforte

Restored High Performance Specification 1964 TR4

This car is based on the one-off official factory colored dark metallic grey - with red interior - car as exhibited at the annual national Earls Court new Car Show, London to showcase talent of the Triumph factory apprentices (and with whose subsequent UK owner/restorer I had communicated).

Full frame off restoration of clean donor; LHD, with overdrive and both hard and surrey soft tops

Performance has been enhanced – from discussions with (and sourcing of appropriate parts from) former Triumph-tune and Triumph factory race team personnel / authors, owner of factory TR4 race cars, US / UK marque performance specialists – to produce bench rated 125-130 bhp (versus stock 104).

Special features include:

- Performance engine: 89mm pistons/liners, ported/polished head with increased compression and matched camshaft from BFE, roller-rockers, lightened racing flywheel, 4.1 rear end and overdrive

- Currently fitted with rebuilt SUs (idles at 800 rpm); package includes mated twin Weber DCOE set up with regulator, mounts, etc.
- Numerous uprated/strengthened/lightened internal components include: intake and exhaust valves, tappets, springs, rocker shaft etc., valve cover, oil pump and feed, water impeller / housing
- Matched to custom headers (per 1960s option) and exhaust system, custom built distributor with electronic ignition, sports coil, spin-on oil filter and specially mounted oil cooler radiator kit, electric fuel pump, new gas tank with protective interior lining, alternator and narrow V-belt conversion, electric fan conversion with harmonic damper, uprated anti-roll (sway) bars, suspension/shocks, and quicker steering rack, finned rear alloy alfin drums and performance upgraded front discs/rotors
- Original surrey top rear section with new plexiglass, UK-sourced last-known NOS aluminum hardtop (with custom matching headlining by US specialist), plus original surrey soft top and frame
- New red interior trimmed white with matching custom headliner, and grey carpet, fitted over special sound-deadening primer/paint, walnut dash option, fitted roll-over bar, seat belts
- Other options include trunk liner, custom raised floor/cover to accommodate wider spare, twin racing door mirrors, both battery cut-off and inside fuel pump cut-off (safety / anti-theft devices)
- Knock-off alloy wheels ($2,000 plus conversion package)

Serious offers invited; selling 1-2 cars to fund (two) kids' colleges following industry downturns / layoffs.

Clear Texas title. Contact David at 713-412-0661 or djf713@tamu.edu

Unique **1989 Morgan Plus Four** Four-Seater : 138 BHP for sale

Serious offers invited; selling 1-2 cars to fund (two) kids' colleges following industry downturns / layoffs.

- 21k miles (believed still on original tires?)
- 138 bhp Rover engine with 5 speed gearbox (0-60 in 7.7 seconds range)
- Lighter weight factory option aluminum body panels and wings
- Numerous factory options including reclining leather seats, walnut dash, Motolita steering wheel, door handles and wing mirrors, luggage rack, 15" wire wheels, full weather gear and (two) tonneaux
- Four-seater for family or exceptional extra luggage capacity on road trips
- Offered on bill of sale
- Recently serviced and fitted replacement ECU from UK, new fuel pump, battery, rear brakes

Many Morgans were powered by either a Triumph (104 bhp) in Plus Four or Rover (155 bhp) engines in Plus 8 models. This Plus Four model provides best of both world – the standard factory-fitted 2-litre Rover's 138 bhp fuel-injected four-cylinder engine endows Plus Four with 90% of bhp of the early Plus 8.

Inviting serious offers on $25,000 for quick sale. Contact David at 713-412-0661 or djf713@tamu.edu

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

Pay Your Dues!!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jan-19 in the dues column your dues are 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

January 8, 2019 — HCTC evening meeting.

January 12, 2019 — HCTC morning meeting.

February 9, 2019 — HCTC morning meeting.

February 12, 2019 — HCTC evening meeting.

April 24-27, 2019 — VTR Regionals, Pottsboro, TX. Info at redrivertriumphclub.org/2019-registration-home/.

October 6-11, 2019 — VTR Nationals, Dripping Springs, TX. Info at www.vtr2019.com.

Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, January 12, 2019, 9:00 AM

Waterloo Ice House

6203 N Capital of Texas Hwy

Austin, TX 78731

NE corner of Lp 360 & RM 2222

waterlooicehouse.com — Phone: 512-478-9700

Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 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