

# The Ragtop



September 2019

## Letter from the President

By Don Couch

**N**ATIONALS  
NATIONALS  
NATIONALS

I've been up to my eyeballs in dealing with the Nationals. As I write this, we are a month away. I hope you all will join us even if just for a day. Come on out for the concours show on Mercer Street or cheer us on at the Auto-x at Barton Creek Mall. Looks like we are on track to hit our goal of 150 cars so it should be quite a show. This is HCTC's first ever Nationals and we have quite a lot planned to make it a memorable one. I haven't yet gotten to the point of "I'll be glad when this is over" mainly because of all the help from the other members. So

many have stepped up to help out it's really nice to see us come together as a club. That being said we could always use a hand if you're willing.

If you've volunteered and I haven't gotten back to you **please** remind me again!

Also, Dan needs **newsletter** articles, Nel needs your **dues** and I need you to come out to the meeting!

Now that it's finally cooled off and is in the high 90's we should... on second thought never mind.

Stay Tuned,

Don

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## HCTC Officers

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Back issues of The Ragtop are available on our website:  
[http://www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org/newsletter\\_test](http://www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org/newsletter_test)

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).

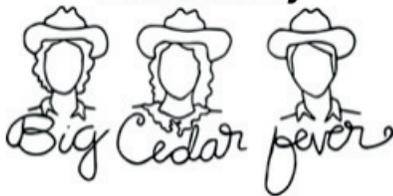
*The Ragtop* is published monthly by the Hill Country Triumph Club. Material within may be freely reproduced providing Ragtop and the authors are credited. Any and all newsletter contributions are welcome. Deadline for submissions is the end of each month. Submissions may be emailed to [editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org](mailto:editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org). Car related classified ads are free to members and will run for three months unless otherwise instructed. Contact editor for other ads.

# VTR2019 NATIONALS - DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS

OCT  
7



Live Music by



Bartenders sponsored by



Live Music sponsored by



# WELCOME PARTY DEEP EDDY VODKA

## Monday Oct 7th 6-9pm

Join us at DEEP EDDY VODKA's tasting room for an evening of drinks, food and live music by BIG CEDAR FEVER. By now, most everyone settled in and now it's time to raise a little ruckus! (maybe not too big a ruckus)

[WWW.VTR2019.COM](http://WWW.VTR2019.COM)





**I WANT YOU  
TO VOLUNTEER  
FOR THE AUTO-X**

# VTR2019 NATIONALS - DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS

OCT  
7



## OLIVE OIL TOUR

Sponsored by



**BRITISH PARTS NORTHWEST**

**Monday Oct 7th  
10am-2pm**

Join us as we take a drive out to tour Texas Hill Country Olive Company's olive orchard located in Dripping Springs, Texas. We will tour the facility, where they produce award winning Extra Virgin Olive Oil and balsamic vinegar. The tour is an educational walk through the start of the flourishing Texas Olive Industry.

[WWW.VTR2019.COM](http://WWW.VTR2019.COM)



# Secretary's Report August 2019

By Mike McPhail

## Breaking news: *Heat Wave Strikes Central Texas*

Yeah, tell us something we don't know! I actually drove the Spitfire to Waterloo Ice House for the Saturday Breakfast meeting and it was rather pleasant. But, I lingered too long, kicking tires in the parking lot with the boys and by the time I got home, was sweating like an MG driver at a Triumph convention.

People were shocked to see me in a real car at the Tavern the following Tuesday. The thermometer hit 104 that afternoon, yet the traffic was rather light and it was clear sailing all the way to town. No matter...the new rule is "No Little British Cars if the temperature is over 95".

The VTR 2019 planning meeting was the next night at Easy Tiger Bar and Grill and all the HCTC faithful were there. Things are

really moving along with just weeks before the big event. I don't think anyone drove a Triumph...good thing, since just as we headed home the sky opened up for a much needed deluge.

At any rate, you won't see me or my Triumphs at the September meetings...Nel and I are headed North to South Dakota for a two-week vacation and cooler temperatures!



Matching T-shirts all the rage!



Make it quick, Don. It's hot out here!



Parking lot party.

# GT6 Rear Wheel Bearing Replacement

By Mike McPhail

A fellow contacted me back in June saying his rear wheel was loose on his GT6. I foolishly took on the job, not having ever seen a Roto-Flex rear suspension, or even read about it. My Spit-six has a Spitfire swing-spring rear suspension, which is what the 1973 donor GT6 came with from the factory.

Sure enough, the right wheel bearings were dangerously loose and the left were in somewhat of a bind. The right hub was coming off the axle, leaving the inner bearing behind. Apparently,

whoever had this apart last time, was unable to get it completely back together. The new owner got the car cheap! The bearings are a very tight press fit on the axle, so much so that the rather large axle nut might strip (they had) before taking up the play. Even more distressing, shims and a spacer are required to set the adjustment. My 12-ton press got quite a workout on this job.

I won't go into all the gory details, but the hub had to be pressed into place before installing the nut. The large bolts hold-

ing the uprights to the wishbones had to be cut off for removal due to corrosion. Of course, all the bushings needed replacement. Then there is the matter of getting the assembly back on the car. The Roto-flex is a big rubber donut that is compressed once in position, making re-fitting difficult. Every step of the way resulted in more busted knuckles. Well the brake job was pretty easy...

Needless to say, this was not a job for the faint of heart, and I have now done it twice...my first and last time!



The dreaded roto-flex.



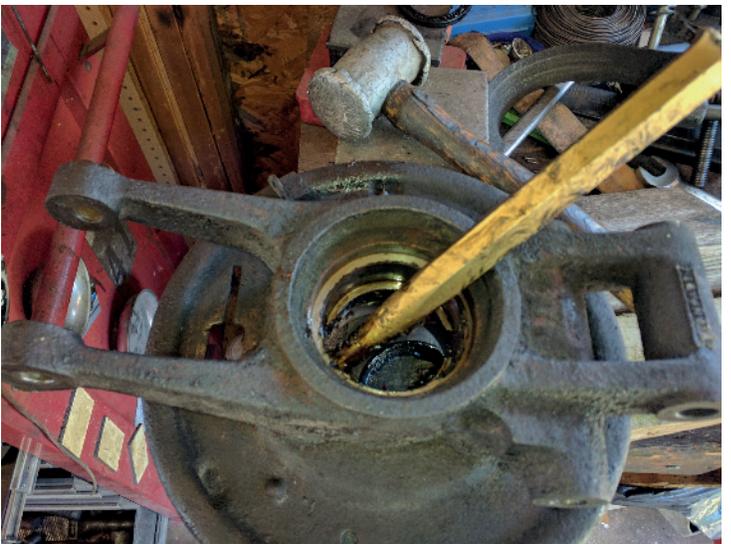
1 No hub.



2. Cut seal with chisel.



3. Pull bearing.



4. Drive out race.



5. Pound it to fit.



6. Paint to match.



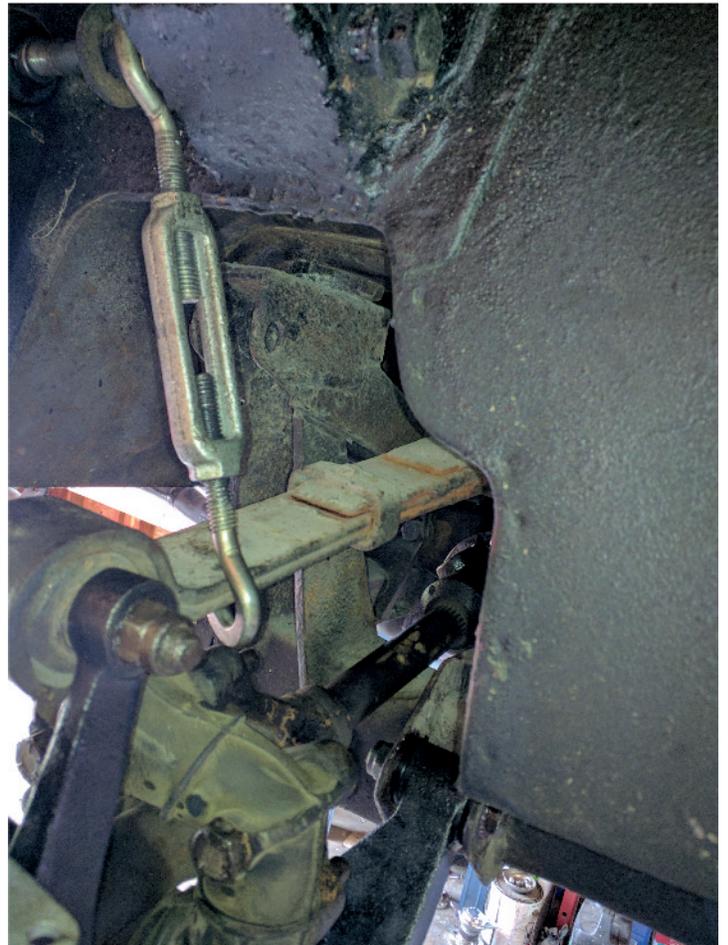
7. Press the other race.



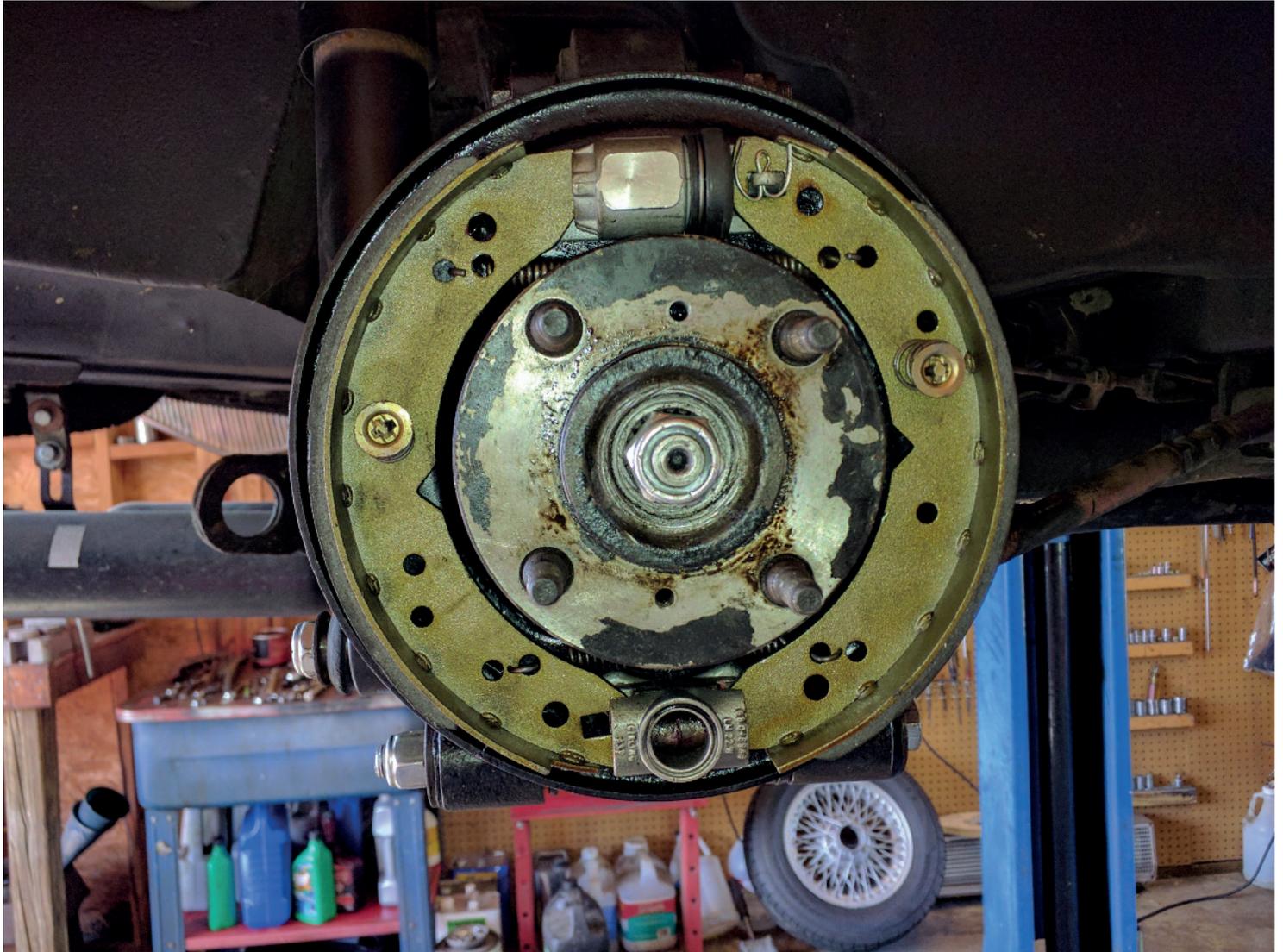
8. Two new races.



9. Hard to get back on.



10. Get the weight off.



11. Together again!

# Just get it over with . . .

By Don Couch

**T**oo often we get wrapped up on authenticity with our LBC's. I'm certainly guilty of that. A lot of the after-market parts I have on my car are actually vintage items even though you can buy the same parts as new today. My dual Weber 40 DCOE's come to mind. But sometimes "ya just gotta go for reliability".

My sister still tells the stories of seeing me pushing my Spitfire on the streets of Tampa as I'd run out of gas... *again*. The culprit was the plastic float on the sending unit had a hole in it and was sunk always showing empty. Fill up and try to keep track of my miles but as an eighteen year old, my mind was all over the place. I'd swear I'd put in two gallons yesterday... or was that the day before?

About a year ago, after putting up with my gas gauge and temp gauge reading a quarter off all the time I bit the bullet and purchase one of those

"new and improved" solid state voltage regulators. Over the years, I'd replaced it far too many times to remember. On the Spitfire it's located on the back of the tach so it's pretty invasive surgery to get to it. I thought fix it and forget it! Well, it fixed the temp gauge issue but the fuel gauge was still off.

Fast forward to present day and I get around to pulling the sending unit out of the tank. Sure enough, the plastic sending unit has fuel in it. Not much but enough to make

it read a quarter tank off. So I go to my stash of parts and find another float on a sending unit. As I try to remove it from the wire it crumbles in my hand. I have another used one but then I think... enough.

I log onto my computer and on Amazon find a brass float for nine bucks. Free shipping with Prime and it's here tomorrow. If you want to take points off at the nationals for non-authentic parts, be my guest. I'm just happy to get it over with!



# The Morgan and the Bear

By Duncan Charlton

I've felt exposed in a Morgan before, but not *this* exposed. My friend Peter had come to visit our Virginia retreat and we went out for a leisurely tour of the Appalachian back roads in my 1971 Plus 8. As we crested a rise on a single track gravel road we had only an instant to react to a large fast-moving silent black hairy mass on a collision course with the passenger side door. Glimpsing out of the corner of his eye what he took to be a large black dog that was about to jump into the passenger compart-

ment and tear us to shreds, Peter lurched left against me against me and a deep wordless shout erupted from his lungs as a 160 pound bear veered off parallel with the car and sprinted ahead into the distance. Peter could have reached out and touched the bear with his hand and we were both surprised we didn't feel the thump of a collision.

The bank at the edge of the narrow road on which the bear approached was about a foot higher than the gravel surface, magnifying our perception of the threat.

Thankfully we weren't in Peter's Morgan 1933 Sports three-wheeler (right hand drive) since he probably would have reflexively yanked the steering wheel wheel and put us down the slope into the woods.

We realized afterward that the bear had been about to trot across the road and that we couldn't see it until we crested the rise and it was *right there*. The bear was probably just as surprised as we were!



Peter and Duncan encounter the bear [re-enactment!].

# Monodale Tech Session

8/17/2019

By Nick Roccaforte

**O**n a bright Saturday morning a number of both the MG and Triumph club members met together at the Hippo Café in Hutto for breakfast. After breakfast we traveled to the Monodale Garage where one of the MG club members, Chris Salisbury, gave us a very informative tech session on welding. A total of 18 people were present and before the start of the session Chris gave us the history of Monodale.

Monodale started out as a small community with a cot-

ton gin built in 1899 in the field that Chris now owns. The house and barns on his property were built in 1902. Up until 1979 the property was owned by the Almquist family who sold it to the Long family. Ironically enough John Long, the owner of AutoSpec in Georgetown, grew up in this house with his parents. He got his experience working on cars in the shop now owned by Chris. The town of Monodale was only about two square miles and the only viable buildings left of the original town are Chris's house and shop. His

shop was originally a hog barn. Long ago it was lifted on cinder blocks and had a hand poured concrete floor. Chris purchased the property in 2012 and opened it as the "Monodale Garage". Chris performs mechanical work and body modifications on all types of classic cars and trucks, especially British cars. He does overall restorations and can even help us with wiring harness replacement and or repairs.

Chris started the tech session with cutting the back panel of I believe a 1965 Mustang.



After he showed us how to balance the cut he ground and cleaned it up and prepared it for re-welding. He again measured and clamped the two pieces together and spot welded three places along the cut one at a time with his MIG welding equipment. Chris was very instructive. He explained the different types of welding and said that MIG welding was the best for the purposes of body work. MIG (metal inert gas-argon) welding is a process in which an electric

arc forms between a consumable MIG wire electrode and the workpiece metal, which heats the workpieces causing them to melt and join. He also demonstrated the effects of using too high a voltage setting on the welding machine which would cause one to burn a hole through the metal and a too low a setting which causes droppings or spattering on the metal surface. After welding the back panel together he showed us the techniques of grinding to a smooth finish and prepping

for painting. To the delight of the group he answered many questions including technique, and where to buy welding supplies and gas. This was a great workshop and all really enjoyed the session in spite of the temperature starting to climb outside.

We all left around 11:15 and a number of us returned to the Hippo cafe for lunch. Thank you Chris for hosting such a wonderful and well organized session!







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



VTR National Convention 2019  
 Dripping Springs, TX  
 Event Registration Form  
 October 6-11 2019



**Personal Information (for Badges)**

Name of Driver A (First & Last Name)			Name of Driver B (First & Last Name)		
Address			Cell Phone A	Cell Phone B	
City	State	ZIP	E-mail address A		E-mail address B

Club Affiliation:

List Additional Attendees below for badges: First & Last Name

1.
2.
3.
4.

Check if you are willing to be a Concours Judge

Check if you Require Parking for Trailer

**Car 1 Vehicle Information**

**Car 2 Vehicle Information**

Year	Model	Color	VIN	Year	Model	Color	VIN
------	-------	-------	-----	------	-------	-------	-----

Car show select only one

Car show select only one

Concours Showroom Stock	Concours Senior	Concours Showroom Stock	Concours Senior
Concours Modified Prepared	Concours Preservation	Concours Modified Prepared	Concours Preservation
Concours Modified Touring	Participants Choice	Concours Modified Touring	Participants Choice

Driving Events (check the event(s) Car 1 will participate in

Driving Events (check the event(s) Car 2 will participate in

Autocross	TSD Rallye	Gimmick Rallye	Funkhana	Autocross	TSD Rallye	Gimmick Rallye	Funkhana
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Other Events

Terms & Conditions

If you plan to attend one of the events below, please indicate by selecting below and enter the number of attendees for planning purposes.

Proof of car insurance is required to participate in moving events. Under VTR rules all Triumphs entering concours and participants choice car shows are required to participate in at least one moving event. Tech and safety inspections are required in order to participate in the autocross. Any vehicle can be disqualified at the technical inspector's discretion for safety reasons.

# of Attendees

<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Party	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast Run(s)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Brewery Tour	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive Orchard Tour * Fees Apply	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Winery Tour * Fees Apply	_____

**WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

I understand my passenger(s) and I are participating in the 2019 Vintage Triumph Register (VTR) National Convention at our own risk, and agree not to hold the event Organizers, it's members and/or the property owners including but not limited to the Hill CountryTriumph Club, Vintage Triumph Register, Holiday Inn Express, the City of Dripping Springs any associated entities or persons, collectively and separately liable for any and all damages or injuries that may occur while participating in, traveling to/from, or in any way related to this event. I understand that the Organizers cannot be responsible for the action of others and insist on care and caution through the event. Neither the organizers nor anyone else except me has insurance protecting me or my guests during the activities in this event.

**Registration Fees and Regalia**

Must be a VTR Member to Register.

I am a VTR member already. My membership number is \_\_\_\_\_

Item and Quantity	QTY	Sub Total
<input type="checkbox"/> I am not a VTR member but would like to Join VTR (\$35)		\$
Registration Fee 1 Car/ 2 People \$145 (after July 31 \$165)		\$
Additional Attendants (No car, \$75 per person)		\$
Additional Car \$25		\$
Banquet \$45 per person _____ Vegetarian		\$
Pint Glasses with 2019 VTR Logo \$6 each		\$
Caps \$18 Each		\$
S/M/LG/XL T-shirts \$20 each Size _____ Size _____		\$
2XL/3XL T-shirts \$25 each Size _____ Size _____		\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	

Car Insurance Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and agree to the VTR 2019 Waiver of Liability

Signature Driver A \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Driver B \_\_\_\_\_

See [VTR2019.com](http://VTR2019.com) for more information

Send signed form postmarked by 9/13 and check payable to:  
**Hill Country Triumph Club c/o Barbara Kramer**  
**4018 Malaga Drive**  
**Georgetown, TX 78628**



September 27-29, 2019

Round Rock, Texas

[www.txabcd.org](http://www.txabcd.org)



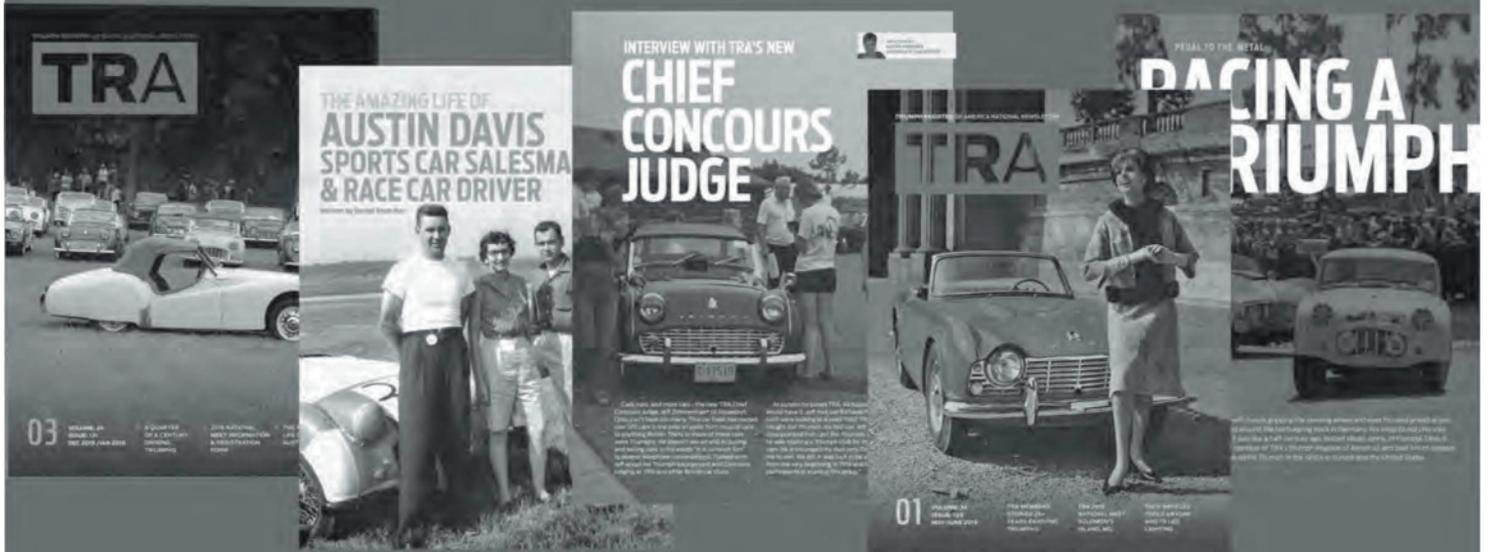
ESTABLISHED 1974

# 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](mailto:tonda@macysgarage.com)  
937-266-1832

# HCTC Classifieds



**Original Triumph TR-6 steel wheel set (4).** Set includes polished stainless steel trim rings and silver hub trim with TR-6 name plate. Asking \$175.00. Raymond Brown (Phone #240-472-7200)

We have finished the restoration of the TR3A we have owned for about 44 years. After all those years of gathering parts and parts cars, we now have many parts and pieces left. I am wanting to give these to either an individual or a business that will be able to use them to keep some of these cars going. I don't mind if they are sold by a business or used by an individual - I just want them to be used and not stored in my garage.

I have 2 nose caps, a pair of doors, a boot lid, maybe a convertible top frame and some engine parts.

I live in Lockhart and can deliver the parts.

Bill Duran

512-227-6067 (cell)

\* \* \*

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

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141

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

Text Jim @ 254-563-9141



# For sale

## 1961 TR3-A

5,000 miles since frame-off restoration.

Black /Black with White piping.

First in class at ABCD.

### \$22,500

Jim Vier

(512) 266-1769





## 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-19 in the dues column your dues are over-due now. Any 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 (payable to **Hill Country Triumph Club** or **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

Sept 10, 2019 — HCTC evening meeting.

Sept 14, 2019 — HCTC morning meeting.

September 27-29, 2019 — Texas All British Car Days, Round Rock, TX. Info at [www.txabcd.org](http://www.txabcd.org).

October 3-6, 2019 — 6-Pack Trials, St. Louis, MO. Info at

[www.britishironnwa.org/show.html](http://www.britishironnwa.org/show.html)

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

[www.vtr2019.com](http://www.vtr2019.com).

Nov 9, 2019 — HCTC morning meeting.

Nov 12, 2019 — HCTC evening meeting.

## Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, September 14, 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](http://waterlooicehouse.com) — Phone: 512-478-9700

## Next evening meeting:

Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 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