

The Ragtop

April 2020



Letter from the President

By Don Couch

The Day the Earth Stood Still. That seems to sum up what we all are going through with the Covid 19 virus. We all are having to adjust to social distancing and accepting that we are “safe” at home and not “stuck” at home. I was going to tell Dan to take a month off with the newsletter but then thought actu-

ally we need the *Ragtop* more than ever. First Lady Brenda reminded me we all need a sense of normalcy now more than ever. That and we all are home bored and anything out of this dull routine is welcomed. Cabin fever has set in with all of us by now I’d imagine. The evening meeting at The Tavern had a

In This Issue

Letter from the President, by Don Couch	1
Secretary’s Report, by Mike McPhail.....	4
Wildflower Drive, photos by Jim Wells	7
Classifieds.....	11
Upcoming Events..	19
Next Meeting.....	19

HCTC Officers

President — Don Couch

president@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Vice-President — Roger Bolick

Webmaster — Kyle Fagan

webmaster@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Treasurer — Mike Schu-
bert

512-252-3767

trebucs43@gmail.com

Secretary — Mike
McPhail

Membership — Nel
Mcphail

512-656-1456

membership@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Ragtop Editor — Dan
Julien

512-451-3102

editor@hillcountrytriumphclub.org

Back issues of The Ragtop are available on our website:

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, 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.

good turnout and we even had our upstairs room back. That is until Austin High School's soccer moms invaded and took over our room while we were still distracted drinking at the bar. We held the meeting outside on one of the balcony rooms instead. In all it was a great meeting as daylight saving time kept the lights on for us a bit longer and the weather was beautiful.

The Saturday breakfast meeting at Waterloo was... well... not quite the turnout I'd expected. Along with myself, VP Roger Bolick, Club Secretary Mike McPhail and esteemed member John

Akins packed the room. Y'all know I'm not the best of morning people, so had I known it was to be such a bumper crowd I'd have stayed in bed and phoned it in! We all understood the beginnings of this virus scare was upon us thus the lack of participation.

The "Fix-it-day" and Wild Flower drive both got knocked out due to Corona. The wildflower drive will be rescheduled as soon as we are allowed to congregate again. Bob Torn and Jim Wells have worked out a route. So with or without flowers, we've got a drive in the works. I cannot thank Bob and

Jim enough for taking the time to plan this drive. I really hope we get a huge turnout for it when we are all turned loose. Everyone certainly has had enough time to get their LBCs ready.

As I write this, I'm fairly certain we will NOT be having monthly meetings this month. I hope everyone gets through this and we are able to look back on this and know we all are the lucky ones! Now go wash your hands and don't touch your face!

Stay Tuned and Healthy,

Don

Secretary's Report March 2020

By Mike McPhail

March madness didn't keep this sceptic at home! March 5th found me at the gala Bonham's Amelia Island classic car auction. This was just the beginning of a whirl-wind week of auctions, car shows and Concours de Elegance at the Florida seaside resort. Five of my close personal Austin-Healey buddies and I had rented a beach house for five nights of car nirvana, and the trip couldn't have been better.

Vince Barnell had consigned his immaculate Series 1 Jaguar E-type, and my 1954 Healey 100M was going on the block as well. There was a fancy auction preview on Wednesday night with complementary food and drink for buyers, sellers and guests. The next day my car sold just as the bottom fell out of the sky with the temperature dropping

thirty degrees in that many minutes. So much for going to the beach! The new owner has already listed the old girl on eBay...looking to flip it for \$89,000!

Friday, we previewed the cars at the Gooding auction...mostly stuff from the 70's...you know, Porsches, Mercedes, BMW, etc. The skies had cleared, but temperatures remained unseasonably low with highs not much above sixty...perfect for walking around the island. Fernandina Beach has a quaint old section with bars and restaurants and such, reminiscent of the French Quarter, but much cleaner!

The crowds really came out on Saturday (so much for social distancing) and there were probably 1000 cars at the Porsche show. People brought their little German sports cars from all over the country for

this extravaganza, and the enthusiasm for the marque is truly incredible. There was still plenty of time to sneak over to the Ritz for the Sotheby preview. They had by far the best venue of all, with the auction tents overlooking the ocean. The lobby bar was standing room only, but we were able to be served down the corridor from the vendors. Mike Johnson is thought by some to bear a strong resemblance to classic car impresario Wayne Carini, so we had been addressing him as such all week. This was partly to distinguish him from myself, but several strangers were fooled by the resemblance, most notably the bartender!

Tickets starting at \$100 did not keep the crowds away on Sunday, either! The Grand Finale was the Concours de Elegance on the lush Ritz-Carlton golf



Sotheby at the Ritz.



Gooding goodies.



Can you tell the difference?



The real Carini.

course fairway. The exquisite cars displayed come by invitation only and are shipped in from all over. Every one is an absolute jewel: antique, exotic, custom, historic...you name it! We, by now, had become jaded after viewing multi-million-dollar automobiles all week, and yet were still overwhelmed by the hundreds of rare and wonderful machines before us. Sorry to say, but there were no Triumphs (or Healeys for that matter) on display.

"Wayne" and I stayed in Florida for a few more days, visiting

mutual friends near Cape Canaveral, not getting home until Friday evening...just in time for the HCTC breakfast meeting on Saturday. Business wasn't too good at Waterloo and only four of us gathered for what was probably our last meeting for a while.

An empty spot in my workshop was not to last, because as we know, nature abhors a vacuum. Sunday, Nel drove me to Sam's place to pick up my newest acquisition, a Saffron Yellow 1971 TR6. I first became acquainted with this TR in 2005, when Sam

commissioned me to resurrect his Triumph that had been dormant for 20 years. I was impressed by the very original condition of this low mileage, rust free Texas car. When he finally decided to part with this rather tidy little convertible last month, I jumped at the chance to own it. Although Sam had never hesitated to do whatever was necessary to keep his TR6 in working order, it now needed a few things fixed.

On top of the list was the noisy gearbox...it had developed a noticeable whine that required im-



Got Porsches?



I'd like to get my hands on that (car).



Best of Show.



Boot Hill.

mediate attention. There just happened to be an extra rebuilt A-type overdrive box lurking in my storage shed, so with help from ace mechanic Benson Tuttle, it found a home. With all the bowling alleys closed, I have had plenty of time on my hands, so the front suspension got a rebuild and the engine a good detailing. This was all done in time for the HCTC Bluebonnet Drive on Saturday the 28th.

Of course, the drive was officially canceled, but Jim Wells and I

decided that it wouldn't be hard to stay six feet apart if we were in different cars! The flowers are excellent this year and the Saffron TR6 ran great! It is amazingly rattle free and has an especially supple ride, while accelerating briskly as it handles the curves with confidence. Yes, "I'm just wild about Saffron" but a pair of really nice Pimento Red Triumphs are already in the stable. Three being a crowd, I will reluctantly be offering Sam's old ride for sale once more. \$12,900 anyone?

Me and boys attending carshows in 2020



HCTC Meeting March 2020.



Scenic Overlook.



Willow City Loop.

Wildflower Drive

Photos by Jim Wells



FROM THE LAND OF BRITISH RACING GREEN



In international automobile races, green is the official color of the cars of Great Britain. Britain. Homeland of the drivers who won eight of the last thirteen Grand Prix Championships. Homeland of three of the top five racing drivers of all time. And the land that introduced sports cars to America.

Our Triumph TR2 was one of these immortal automobiles. And today we make two true open sports cars that carry on the heritage of the land of British Racing Green.

THE CLASSICALLY BRITISH TRIUMPH TR6.

The successor to the TR2, TR3, and TR4, the TR6 is one of the last wind-in-the-hair open sports cars.

It offers a high-torque, high-revving 2500cc six-cylinder engine. As well as a fully-synchronized 4-speed transmission, 4-wheel independent suspension, front disc brakes, and rack-and-pinion steering.

As Motor Trend magazine observed, "It was a lot of car in the beginning, and it's a lot more car today."

THE RACE-BRED TRIUMPH SPITFIRE 1500.

The Spitfire is truly a piece of history, named after the fighter-plane that won the Battle of Britain.

It shares many features with the TR6, such as a fully-synchronized 4-speed transmission, 4-wheel independent suspension, rack-and-pinion steering, and front disc brakes.

A 1500cc four-cylinder engine gives the car sparkling acceleration. And its

cornering power is in the same league as the \$5,400 Datsun Z series, the \$6,900 Alfa Romeo GTV and the \$12,000 Porsche 911.*

All of which helped Spitfires win the F Production National Championship in Sports Car Club of America competition for the past two years.

The classically British TR6 and the race-bred Spitfire 1500. In the British tradition of open sports cars.

TRIUMPH



* To be precise, .87g's, according to the 1973 Car & Driver road test.

For the name of your nearest Triumph dealer call: 800-447-4700. In Illinois call 800-322-4400. British Leyland Motors Inc., Leonia, New Jersey 07605.



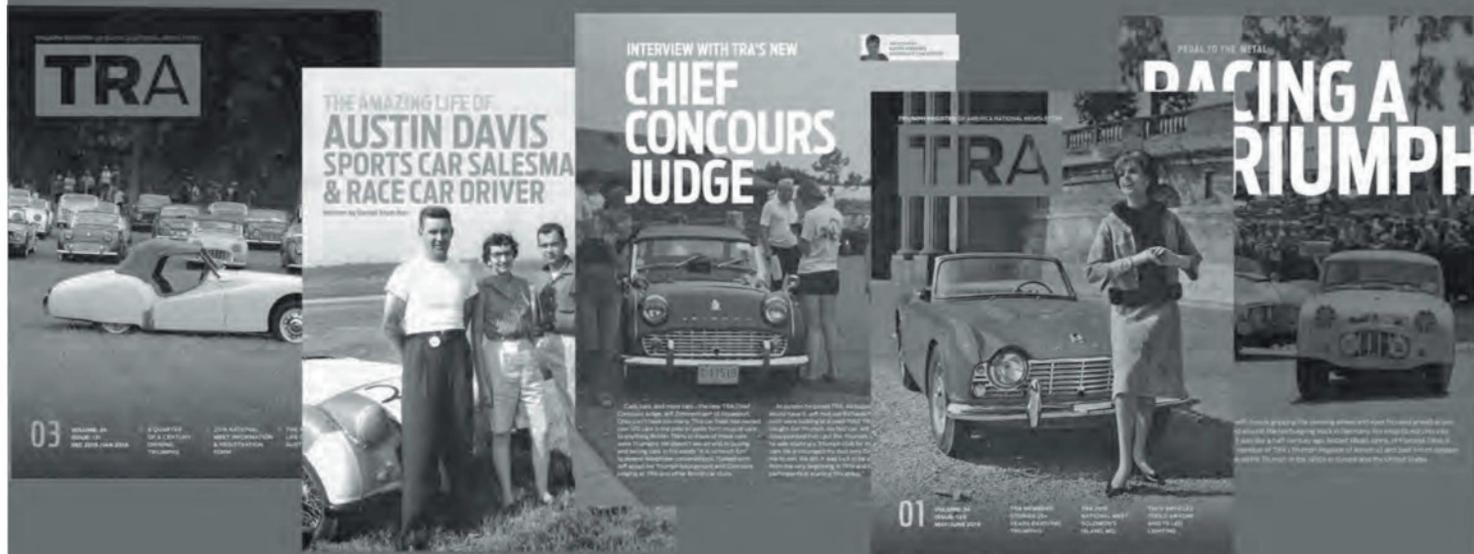
ESTABLISHED 1974

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

SU HS2 Carbs. For Sale a pair of SUHS2 carbs with chrome air filters. Condition excellent. New jets, needles, float needles and jets. PRICE \$175.00. Contact Olivio 316-200-3068 phone or text.

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)



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)



Pipe, E.G.R. Valve to intake manifold. Used, but in excellent condition. \$40.00. Raymond Brown, 240-472-7200



Tonneau cover (vinyl) without headrest pockets. Good condition. Fit all TR-6. \$75.00 Cash. Raymond Brown, 240-472-7200

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



HCTC Classifieds



Used and new TR6 parts for sale.

Full listing, contact info, and pictures at <https://tinyurl.com/ryhyq5h>

* * *



MOMO Super Indy Mahogany Steering Wheel 350mm (13.7")

Excellent Condition
Manufactured 10/97
(you would need to buy the install kit specific to your car)
Asking \$200

Charles Wagner
cell 512.296.0972
cwagner@sam.biz

* * *



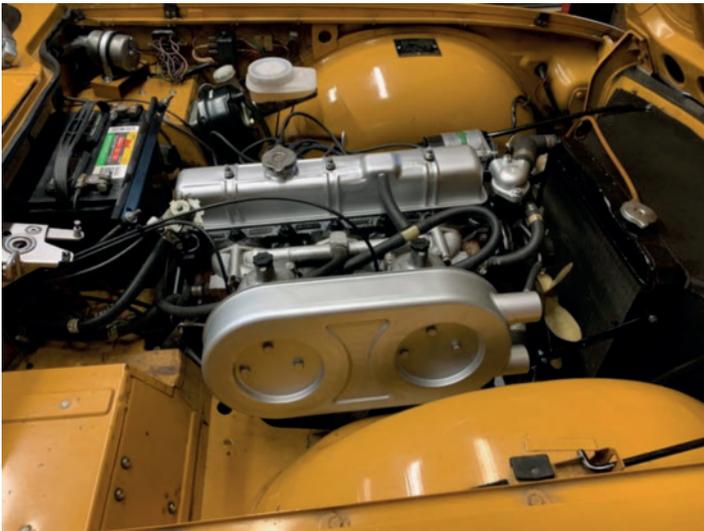
FOR SALE: 1971 TRIUMPH TR6

- LESS THAN 69000 MILES; OUTSTANDING RIDE AND HANDLING
- NO RUST, WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE ORIGINAL SAFFRON PAINT
- VERY STRAIGHT BODY PANELS
- NICE INTERIOR: TEAK DASH, CARPET AND CRASH PADS HAVE BEEN REPLACED
- STRONG ENGINE WITH VERY GOOD OIL PRESSURE; NICELY DETAILED...RUNS GREAT
- OVERDRIVE GEARBOX: NEWLY REBUILT
- EXCELLENT TOP, TONNEAU AND BOOT COVER
- TIDY TRUNK, WITH OLDER SPARE AND ORIGINAL TOOLS
- LOTS OF NEW PARTS; EVERYTHING WORKS WELL

A genuine Mike's Motors Certified Pre-Owned Vehicle ONLY \$12,900

512-695-8637 mmcphail@austin.rr.com





1976 Tr-6 For Sale

Everything works. Always garaged. 71,000 Miles. No Rust. \$13,900. Tom Glass.
tglass@glasscpa.com. 512-964-6650.



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

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

Become a VTR Member

The Vintage Triumph Register has its benefits. A national club of Triumph enthusiasts spanning the globe needs you as a member. Affiliate club membership is not an automatic membership to VTR. Some of the benefits:

The Vintage Triumph Magazine – Our award-winning bi-monthly color publication

2020 VTR National Convention in Galena, Illinois

Access to a large number of local clubs

Website with reference material and members-only sections

Record Trace Certificates TR2/TR3/TR3A/TR3B. Factory trace documents on other

Triumph models no longer available

Clothing, regalia, exclusive items

Specific vehicle consultants and experts

Sign up at <https://vintage triumph register.org>



Pay Your Dues!!!!!!!

Please check the latest spreadsheet sent out by Nel. If it says Jan-20 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

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

Apr 11, 2020 — **HCTC** morning meeting. **CANCELLED.**

Apr 14, 2020 — **HCTC** evening meeting. **CANCELLED.**

Apr 30-May 2, 2020 — **VTR Regionals**, Edmond, OK. **CANCELLED.**

May 9, 2020 — **HCTC** morning meeting.

May 12, 2020 — **HCTC** evening meeting.

Jun 15-19, 2020 — **TRA**, Lexington, KY. **POSTPONED until 2021**, dates TBD.

Aug 31-Sep 4, 2020 — **VTR Nationals**, Galena, Ill. As of April 5, this event is still on. Info at <https://www.vtr2020.org/>.

Next breakfast meeting:

Saturday, May 9, 2020, 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, May 12, 2020, 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