

THE BLUEBONNET



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The Texas Triumph Register

The Gulf Coast Triumph Association, Inc. d/b/a the Texas Triumph Register (TTR) is an organization of Triumph owners and enthusiasts dedicated to the preservation and continuing enjoyment of the Marque. Membership is open to all who appreciate automobiles bearing the Triumph name. In addition to monthly meetings, the club sponsors rallies, shows, road tours, technical seminars, and social events.

Visit our website at: www.TexasTriumphRegister.org

National Affiliations

The Texas Triumph Register is a local chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)/ Triumph Sports Owners Association, which is open to all drivers of Triumph motorcars; an area center for the Triumph Register of America, exclusively for TR-2 through TR-4A automobiles; and a chapter of the 6-PACK, dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation, and restoration of the Triumph TR250 and TR6 automobiles.

Membership in these national organizations is encouraged. Visit their websites at:

www.vtr.org
www.triumphregister.com
www.6-pack.org

Newsletter

The Bluebonnet is published monthly for TTR members. Members are encouraged to submit articles, photographs, or other items of interest. TTR neither endorses nor warrants any product or service advertised herein.

The information contained in this newsletter is for educational and informative purposes only. TTR assumes no responsibility for the correctness or safety of the procedures; the reader assumes liability for any risk, both personal and financial, in connection with the repairs or modifications outlined in the articles.

Working on cars can be hazardous if done incorrectly or without the proper safety precautions. The consequences of some mistakes can be dangerous. TTR suggests that you consult an automotive professional before attempting any repair or modification with which you are unfamiliar or inexperienced.



Texas Triumph Register
<http://www.facebook>

On the Cover: 2021 Triumph FOG Group at Niagara Falls, NY
Picture: Dave Smith

THE BLUEBONNET

TTR 2021-2022 Officers and Volunteers

President

Hal Sharp

832-423-7138 (C)

info@texastriumphregister.org

Vice President—Special Events

Mike Rouse

281-554-4878 (H)

info@texastriumphregister.org

Vice President—Events Coordinator

Rick Cassani

281-794-3036 (C)

info@texastriumphregister.org

Secretary

John Hanten

281-460-0350 (C)

info@texastriumphregister.org

Treasurer

Patsy Papp

281-350-1743

info@texastriumphregister.org

Membership / Historian

Mike Hado

281-807-4780 (H)

info@texastriumphregister.org

Regalia

David Fowler

713-412-0661 (C)

info@texastriumphregister.org

Newsletter Editor

John Hanten

281-460-0350 (C)

info@texastriumphregister.org

TTR Webmaster

Bob & Orit Pennington

713-726-9636

info@texastriumphregister.org

VTR SCR Coordinator

TD Hathcock

editor@redrivertriumphclub.org



THE BLUEBONNET



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Greetings everyone. I'm sitting on the patio of my daughters Seattle home to pen this month's column and must say I think I am jinxed in the weather department. Last week we were in Columbus Ohio and the temperatures were 10 degrees above their normal and now in Seattle it was 106 yesterday. Do you think the typical Htown heat is following us around the country? I also am aware that Htown has been experiencing a cooling rain this week and it is in the upper 70s.

It has been a real treat to be back in the typical rhythm of Saturday morning breakfasts plus the energy that Rick Cassani has brought to the increased number of local fun events. Thanks to Rick & John Barrett for their efforts. And speaking of event planning, if you missed the June TTR meeting you missed the announcement from Prudence Gruss and Sharon Schumann about plans for the 2021 TTR Christmas party. Development of details are in the works and more information about what will truly be a "breakout" party will be forthcoming in July. Until then, keep December 5 open on your calendars for a terrific afternoon brunch party. As has been our tradition, a toy drive will be a part of the celebration.

VTR Nationals are rapidly approaching on September 13 -17 so start getting your Triumphs polished, tuned and ready to compete in Edmond, Oklahoma. Contact Mike Rouse is you are going and wish to join the TTR convoy that will be traveling to the event.



Dusty Nicholson reports that he has finally received word from the HPD Driving School that they are opening up for Autocross events. He has booked the course for all day on October 30 so there is plenty of time for us all to perform the overdue maintenance and autocross preparation on our Triumphs so they will be in top form for this first competitive driving event since 2019.

During the last couple of years we have been using the MeetUp platform for announcing some of our TTR events and before the annual subscription fee is due in July our members who attended the June meeting discussed whether or not this platform is best for our needs. If you have an opinion and/or wish to join the discussion be sure to attend this month's meeting and be heard.

Before I conclude I'll advise you that we will be in Seattle until mid-July so will miss the July TTR meeting. Mike Rouse will lead the meeting and John Baguley will be the Zoom host for those of us who can't make it to Jeff and Angela Harris' home to attend in person. Until I see you all later in July or August, stay safe and keep driving those Triumphs.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hal'.

Beating the heat.

The Texas Triumph Register members are no strangers to heat. We have the same number of seasons as our northern brethren, but our season lengths are different. We have winter for a few days. Spring and fall last a few days. We have a few nice summer days, and a very long 'too hot' season. The 'too hot' season starts early and seems to last from June to October. You can tell the season is 'too hot' by the temperature gauge on our dash board.

It is not uncommon for a Triumph to get warm during 'too hot' season. Stop signs, red lights or being stuck in the occasional, but always unavoidable, traffic jam will have our eyes fixated on the dash in an attempt at telepathic control. "Is it



Wondering Mechanic

just my imagination, or is that temperature gauge rising?"

Some of us have gone to extremes to avert extreme heat. Some have installed larger, better flowing aluminum radiators. Some have installed electric fans. Some of us just stay home when it's 'too hot'.

Regardless of the year, make or model of a Triumph, regular maintenance of the cooling system is necessary in our climate. A radiator that hasn't been cleaned since the car was last in a flood might cause over heating problems. An electric fan with a failed controller probably will not help. My picture of the month is Jeff Harris' TR6 radiator. It looked ok from the limited view inside, under, and from the grill of the car. However, once removed, the clogged fins and limited air flow were obvious. It's easy to see the water line of the last flood.

Inside the air-conditioned garage, his new aluminum radiator looks better. Time will tell if it works better. Time will tell if the limiting factor is the TR6, or the owner.

In either case, it's 'too hot'.



Radiator with clogged fins and limited airflow

This was the second in-person meeting following thirteen virtual monthly meetings due to the Covid situation. This meeting also included a Zoom session for several members to virtually attend.

TTR President Hal Sharp brought the meeting to order at 3:02. There were 45 people in-person (including 3 on the Zoom call) constituting a quorum for club business.

Opening Comments - Hal thanked meeting host Rick Cassani for hosting the meeting in his Katy home, thanked Fred Wagner for hosting the Zoom meeting, and proceeded with the planned meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes - M/S/A to approve the minutes from the last meeting as published in the last *Bluebonnet*.

Membership - Hal Sharp for Mike Hado - reported 200 member families. Beginning June, seven people have opted out of renewing primarily because they sold their vehicles. There are currently thirty-two unpaid memberships. Total paid memberships as of today is 165 including four new member families.

Treasurer's Report - Hal Sharp for Patsy Papp - reported the inflows, outflows, and current balance.

Regalia - John Wakefield - handed off to new Regalia Master David Fowler. The members thanked John for his 18 years as Regalia Master. David Fowler provided an overview of the regalia items that are available. John Han-ten described the new TTR storefront for Land's End merchandise along with the communication plan.

IT - no report.

Special Events

- **Falling Leaves Tour** - Mike Rouse - described the planned Falling Leaves Tour on October 15 - 17, to Rockport, TX, staying Friday and Saturday nights at the Lighthouse Inn. He provided a sign-up sheet at the meeting and trip information will be sent to the TTR members.
- **VTR Nationals** - Mike Rouse - is planning a potential caravan up to the VTR Nationals in Edmond, OK. There has been an announcement already sent out to the TTR Members. The total drive up there is ~ 485 miles. The questions are: back roads vs interstate, and one day vs two days. Mike provided a sign-up sheet and members will be contacted via e-mail as well to register for the drive.
- **Local Events** - Rick Cassani - provided more information about the slot-car event on the June 26 following the Saturday Breakfast. He is also going to start a third-Thursday dinner each month. The first one will be this month at Rudy's BBQ in Katy. He will welcome suggestions for informal dinner venues. Rick will be sending out information about possible July events soon. Rick also mentioned upcoming events in August with the MG Club.
- **Non-TTR future events of interest:**
 - **July 23-25** - Kastner Cup Race - Portland (OR) International Raceway

TTR Meeting Minutes for June

July 2021

- **September 14-18** - VTR Nationals - Edmond, Oklahoma
- **October 14-17** - Triumphest 2021 - Flagstaff, AZ

Breakfast Meetings - John Barrett - reported that the planning is going well and future schedules will be published in advance in the *Bluebonnet*.

New Business

- **Upcoming Meetings** - Hal Sharp - recapped the meeting schedule for the rest of the year.
- **MeetUp License Renewal** - the TTR MeetUp license will be expiring in July. There was some discussion regarding the security of MeetUp because people other than the club members can see the information. There was additional discussion regarding the effectiveness of MeetUp given the other communication methods used by the club. After discussion there was general agreement that the direct email communication from Mike Hado was the best method to get replies for event planning. This will be discussed again at the July meeting.
- **Lone Star College** - Fred Wagner - reported that he had received an announcement from Lone Star College that our first recipient of the Russ Seto scholarship has graduated with his associate degree in automotive technology. Fred has letters from the new recipients that will be published in the *Bluebonnet*.
- **TR6 Parts** - Fred Wagner - reported that he has some parts from a late TR6 parts car that he will be selling for a member moving to Galveston.
- **Christmas Party** - Pru Gruss and Sharon Schumer - outlined the plans for the Christmas Party on December 5, which will also be the TTR 40th Anniversary celebration. The venue will be Brennan's Restaurant in mid-town Houston. The restaurant opens at 11:00, our event starts at noon. Pru and Sharon will be meeting next week to review the possible entrees. M/S/A to approve the party plans as presented. Additional details will be made available as planning progresses.

Adjourn - M/S/A to adjourn at 4:23. Minutes recorded and edited by John Hanten.



TTR June Meeting Photos

July 2021



TTR June Meeting Photos

July 2021



TTR June Meeting Photos

July 2021



TTR Birthdays for July

Debra Dees	1
Pat Gough	1
Cheryl Dykes	2
Linda O'Leary Riesch	2
Rick Cassani	4
Duane Goggins	4
Steven Voss	4
Kenny Daves	5
Marie Hado	6
Clement Haddad	9
Cathy Thompson	11
Irene Zagorski	11
Mark Baich	12
Pete Postma	12
David Smith	13
Bob Dowling	14
Mike Hado	14
Suzanne Rippetto	15
Carolyn Chapman	16
Ron Harrison	17
George Killinger	17
Joyce Killinger	18
Debbie Harrison	19
Tom Lewis	20
Bee Dickson	21
Susan Grantham	21
Maggie Rosa	21
Richard Barroso	24
Vince Bortoni	24
Louise Carter	25
Debi Stephens	25
Linda Sparks	25
Phil Conway	29
Brian Roy	29
Cindy Blum	31

New Members:

Lee and Christina Daniels, The Woodlands, TX
1974 Pimento TR6, 1974 Maple TR6



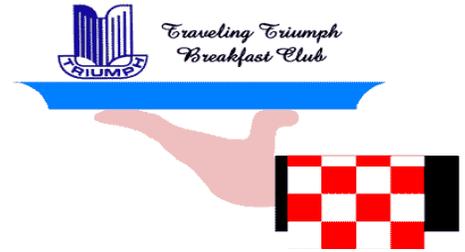
James Schumann getting ready to cruise!



1975 TR7 Ad



Breakfast Meetings



Saturday Travelling Breakfasts are back in full swing! See the schedule below and watch for Mike Hado's reminder email for confirmation.

NOTE; See the **TTR Meetup website** for specific information for all events:

<https://www.meetup.com/TexasTriumphRegister/>

Breakfast meetings begin between 7:30 am & 8 am for coffee & we usually eat Breakfast at around 8:00 am. **Car viewing after Breakfast.**

Date	Location	Address
• July 03, 2021	Harris County Smokehouse Katy	222 W. Grand Parkway South, Katy TX 77494
• July 10, 2021	Midtown Bar and Grill	415 West Gray St., Houston TX 77019
• July 17, 2021	Red Oak Café	6011 W Main Street, League City TX 77573
• July 24, 2021	White Elm Café Bakery	14079 Memorial Drive, Houston TX 77079
• July 31, 2021	Humble City Café	200 Main Street, Humble TX 77338
• August 07, 2021	Kelley's	11555 W. Airport Blvd., Meadow Place TX 77477

Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting - June monthly in-person meeting (also Zoom meeting)

Saturday, July 10, 2021

Host: Jeff & Angela Harris

2:00 - 3:00 Greet and safe socializing

3:02 - ??? Monthly Meeting

Location details in meeting reminder e-mail

- July 10, 2021 - Jeff & Angela Harris
- August 14, 2021 - Louise Carter
- September 11, 2021 - Eric & Sharon Schumann
- October 9, 2021 - John & Shu-lien Baguley
- November 13, 2021 - James Moore
- December 5, 2021 - Christmas Party - Brennan's

Non-Club Events of Interest

July 2021



Kastner Cup Races
July 23 - 25, Portland, OR
[HOME | Kastner Cup 2021](https://www.kastnercup2021.com/)



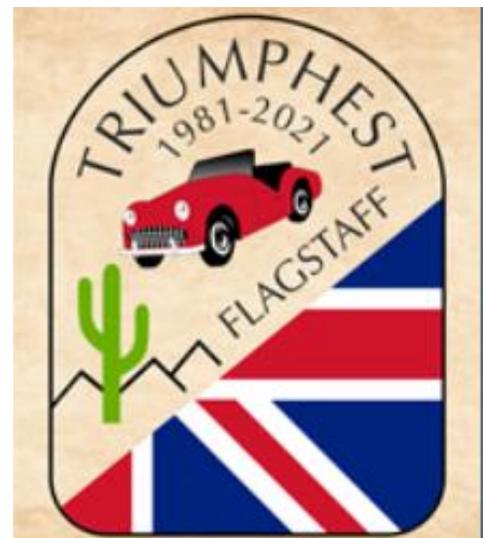
VTR 2021 National Convention
Sept. 14-18, Edmond, OK
<https://www.triumphsokc.org/>



Centennial Plaza, Round Rock, Texas
September 24, 25 & 26, 2021



Houston All British Car Day
Wild Stallion Vineyards,
5969 W. Rayford Rd., Spring, TX 77389
October 9, 2021



Triumphfest 2021
Oct. 14-17, Flagstaff, AZ
Venue - Little America Hotel, reservations available now.
[Triumphfest 2021](https://www.triumphfest.com/)

Russ Seto Memorial Scholarship History

- June 2018 – TTR officers develop scholarship criteria, and set initial goal of \$15,000 to fund one perpetual memorial scholarship.
- September 2018 – over \$20,000 raised
- October 2018 – funding at \$22,500
- April 2019 – funding at \$25,000.
- December 2019 – funding at \$27,100 through additional \$1,500 contribution of the remaining TTR Harvey Funds. This will provide funding for two scholarships per year, one each semester.
- In both 2018 and 2019, the Houston MG Car Club donated their net proceeds of their annual “All British Car Show” to the Russ Seto Memorial Scholarship, in honor of their friend.
- January 2020 – Lone Star College selects Cristobal Aguilar as the first recipient for the scholarship.
- June 2020 – Lone Star College notifies TTR that Cristobal has completed the Automotive Service Technician Certificate Level I, a key milestone to the AAS degree expected in 2021
- June 2021 - Lone Star College notifies TTR that the first recipient of the Russ Seto Memorial Scholarship award, Cristobal Aguilar, has earned his Associate of Applied Science degree in Automotive Service Technology, as part of the LSC - North Harris County Class of 2021.
- June 2021 - Lone Star College notifies TTR of the next two scholarship recipients: Corey Booker and Austin Comeaux. Their thank you letters are on the following pages.



Scholarship Criteria and Administration

- Full time student in the LSC Automotive Studies degree program
- Minimum 2.75 / 4.0 GPA
- Financial Need
- Funding for education expenses (tuition, fees and books)
- Lone Star College selects the candidate and administers the scholarship.



Cristobal Aguilar
2019 - 2021 Recipient
Russ Seto Memorial Scholarship
Now a Graduate!

To make further donations to this scholarship, in honor of Russ, please see our website www.texastriumphregister.org, and click on the page for the Russ Seto Memorial Scholarship. You will find multiple ways in which you can donate to this worthwhile cause.

Lone Star College Foundation

NH – Russ Seto Memorial Scholarship

LSC – North Harris

Dear Donor,

I am writing you this letter because I am deeply moved that you have considered the time to award me with the NH – Russ Seto Memorial Scholarship. Your assistance will further help me with completing my education goal at Lone Star College. It has been a rough ride considering the current conditions we are facing in today's society with the pandemic, having a job, food, home, transportation, bills, and education. Just basically surviving.

I was born in Galveston, Texas and raised in La Marque, Texas, mainly by my grandparents. They were the anchors that kept me aligned. Although, my parents were alive and not together, they were rarely in and out of my life. After I left high school, I moved my way up north to Houston with the interest of continuing my educational growth and working.

I worked at the City of Houston for a successful number years of service. Then beyond that, I desired a change of thought or pace in something that I enjoyed doing. I considered the influences that were in front of me. Association among friends and family members sparked my interest in Automotive tinkering that I had to do it. So, I decided to enroll in the Automotive program.

So far, while in college attending the program, more inspired avenues began to open up to me in the Automotive Industry. This year I am six more courses towards completing my degree goal at LSC - North Harris. This pandemic has put a strain on my finances, but I have been managing a semester at a time. I have not hit rock bottom yet. I have recently got onto a dealership to gain the needed work experience along with the Automotive program.

The scholarship has made it possible for me to get through that extra mile that I am struggling on meeting my degree goal. I believe that every help counts.

Once again, I thank you for your consideration for the scholarship that will fuel my drive to excel in my educational skill set and maybe open up more building blocks that will be essential in our society's advancement along the way. This was very generous of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Sincerely,



Corey Booker

Russ Seto Memorial Scholarship Update

July 2021

Lonestar College North Harris

LSC Foundation-Russ Seto Scholarship

Dear Donor,

Hello, my name is Austin Comeaux and I wanted to thank you for the Russ Seto Scholarship. I am honored to have been awarded the Russ Seto Scholarship for 2020 Academic year at Lonestar College. Thank You for your generosity in providing this academic reward. I am a fulltime student and I will be entering my second semester this fall.

I am working on obtaining my associates of Art in Automotive. I have been working hard and I will not give up until I graduate. I enjoy learning and attending Lonestar College. I work 15 hours a week at Service First to get as much automotive mechanical experience as I possibly can. My goal is to someday inspire people the way your award has inspired me.

Thanks again for generous support, I am one step closer to achieving my goal. This award is meaningful not only financially, but emotionally as well, as it has strengthened my belief in myself. Thank you so much for helping a Lonestar College student like me for achieving my dreams. I am elated that I was among the chosen recipients for this award.

I plan to become an Automotive instructor and I am studying hard so I can be successful. I plan to teach at High School and College level. I will pursue a degree in Education after I graduate from Lonestar College. I am looking forward to sharing the knowledge and skills that I have learned in this program.

Again, thank you for believing in me and when I become a success, I will donate a scholarship to Lonestar College students as well. I will never forget the generous scholarship that was awarded to me.

Sincerely Yours,

Austin Comeaux

National Affiliations

The Texas Triumph Register is a local chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)/ Triumph Sports Owners Association, which is open to all drivers of Triumph motorcars; an area center for the Triumph Register of America, exclusively for TR-2 through TR-4A automobiles; and a chapter of the 6-PACK, dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation, and restoration of the Triumph TR250 and TR6 automobiles.

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www.6-pack.org

Become a VTR Member

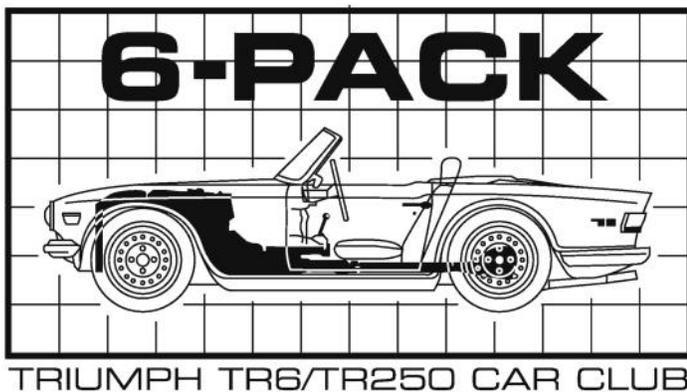
The Vintage Triumph Register has its benefits. A national club of Triumph enthusiasts spanning the globe needs you as a member. Affiliate club membership is not an automatic membership to VTR.



Some of the benefits:

- The Vintage Triumph Magazine - Our award-winning bi-monthly color publication.
- 2021 VTR National Meet in Edmond, Oklahoma
- Access to a large number of local clubs.
- Website with reference material and members-only sections covering all Triumph models.
- 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://vintagetriumphregister.org>



6-Pack is a car club for the Americas that covers the Triumph TR6 and TR250 models. We offer a club with an annual subscription membership that provides access to extra parts of the forums, the club magazine and the ability to attend the TRials – the annual club gathering.

Enjoy your TR more!

ENJOY A TRA MEMBERSHIP:

- 4 National newsletters per year
- Annual National Meet
- Website (password protected areas for members)
- Concours judging standards
- Factory build records
- Technical support
- Contact information
- Shutterfly National Meet website

Join TRA Today!
www.TriumphRegister.com

TRA is a non-profit organization established to aid TR2, 3, 3A, 3B, 4, and 4A owners in the preservation, maintenance and enjoyment of their classic sports cars.

The club offers quarterly newsletters, an Annual National Meet, a website, Concours judging standards, factory build records, technical support, and contact information.

Traveling TR Breakfast Club

July 2021

June 5, 2021



Photos - John Hanten

Traveling TR Breakfast Club

July 2021



Photos - Fred Wagner

Traveling TR Breakfast Club

July 2021



Photos - Fred Wagner

Traveling TR Breakfast Club

July 2021

June 26, 2021



Photos - Fred Wagner & John Hanten

Special Event - TTR Slot Car Racing Challenge

July 2021

On Saturday, June 26, immediately following the TTR Breakfast, a group of TTR wannabe racers headed over to Scaled Auto Racing LLC for a friendly slot-car racing event arranged by TTR VP-Local Events Rick Cassani.

The event was hosted by Scale Auto Racing on their 1/32 scale road course. This track is four lanes, and has about 115' running length, squeezed into a 28' x 8' footprint. It has infra-red beam lap timing, accurate to 1/1000th of a second, and integrated race management software.

Following orientation and a short practice session, the six contestants each raced eight heats, two heats each on the track's four lanes. This format assured that all of the drivers raced the same cars on exactly the same lanes, thereby eliminating any equipment or lane bias. Points were scored for the position in each heat and tabulated to produce an overall winner.

At the end of the event the podium was occupied by: First Place - David Fowler; Second Place - Steve Zagorski; Third Place - Rick Cassani. (See the actual times on the photo on the second page)

Overall, everyone had a good time and a chance to experience the racing and crashing on this scaled race course. Thanks to Rick for arranging this interesting event!



Scale Auto Racing in northwest Houston



Pre-race briefing and orientation



Four lane 115 foot 1/32 scale slot car track



Practice racing to develop skills and strategy

Special Event - TTR Slot Car Racing Challenge

July 2021



On the starting line



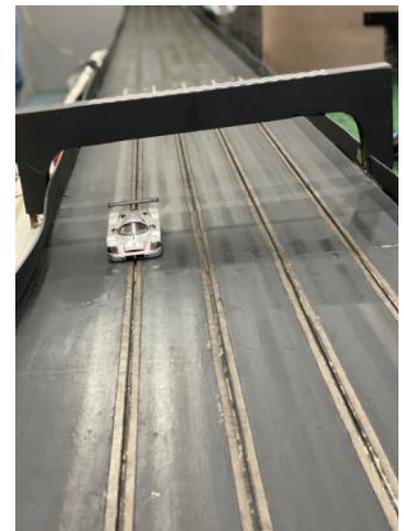
The white heat of racing competition



Automated timing equipment records results



Track steward



Finish line

Pos	Driver	Score	Laps	Avg Lap	Best Lap	Gap 1st	Gap
1	David F	39.00	40.00	13.788	12.719		
2	Steve Z	33.00	40.00	14.184	12.791	+15.856	
3	Rick C	32.00	40.00	14.237	12.720	+17.995	+2.140
4	John H	27.00	40.00	14.778	13.096	+39.620	+21.625
5	John B	25.00	40.00	15.266	12.983	+59.121	+19.500

Final Results



On the Podium!



Partial List of TTR Regalia

<u>Item</u>	<u>\$</u>
Ladies Hats	12
Gray TTR T-shirts	15
Grille Badge	35
Men's Hats	15
License Plate Frames	20
Hat Pins	7.5
Iron on Logo Patches	5
TR-3 Coffee Cups	3



40th Anniversary Logo now available through Regalia section on the club website

For more information and availability of shirt sizes, or If you have ideas or requests for new items, contact David Fowler, Regalia Master.

See website Regalia section for additional information and access to TTR Land's End Storefront for logo embroidered items.

TTR Resin Regalia – John Hanten

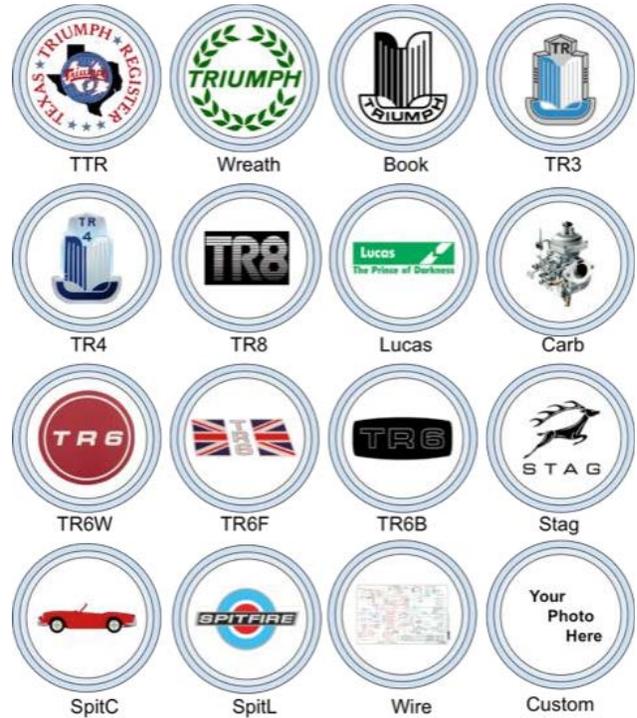
July 2021

Currently I have molds for round refrigerator magnets, rectangular pendants (ornaments or magnets), coasters, and shelf plates. The round designs are available as 2.25" magnets, 4" rimmed cork-backed coasters, or 7" shelf plates.

Late-TR6 available Triumph colors



Other Triumph-related designs



TTR Drive Souvenir Magnets

2021 Polar Bear Run



2021 Bluebonnet Run



40th Anniversary - magnet or coaster



Pricing:

- Round Magnets - \$5
- Pendants - \$5 (drilled with jump ring included, or as magnets)
- Coasters - \$7 ea., any 4 for \$25
- Shelf Plate \$20 (Stand is \$2 additional)

Please contact me for any requests. I will be bringing finished pieces to the TTR monthly meetings, and can cast to order. jbh

Recent Triumph Auction Activity

July 2021

This month features recent Triumph TR6 sales from [Bring a Trailer website](#). The site has additional sales information and detailed descriptions going back six years.



1971 Triumph TR6
Sold for \$35,500 on 6/26/21



25-Years-Owned 1975 Triumph TR6
Sold for \$22,000 on 6/21/21



45-Years-Family-Owned 1972 Triumph TR6
Sold for \$17,250 on 5/29/21



1975 Triumph TR6
Sold for \$14,750 on 6/14/21



1969 Triumph TR6
Bid to \$14,000 on 6/11/21



1974 Triumph TR6
Bid to \$14,100 on 5/22/21



1976 Triumph TR6
Sold for \$18,000 on 6/7/21



1974 Triumph TR6
Sold for \$27,500 on 6/7/21



1976 Triumph TR6
Sold for \$17,500 on 5/17/21



Modified 1974 Triumph TR6 5-Speed
Bid to \$19,000 on 6/4/21



1969 Triumph TR6 Race Car
Bid to \$7,600 on 6/1/21



1976 Triumph TR6
Sold for \$26,250 on 5/10/21

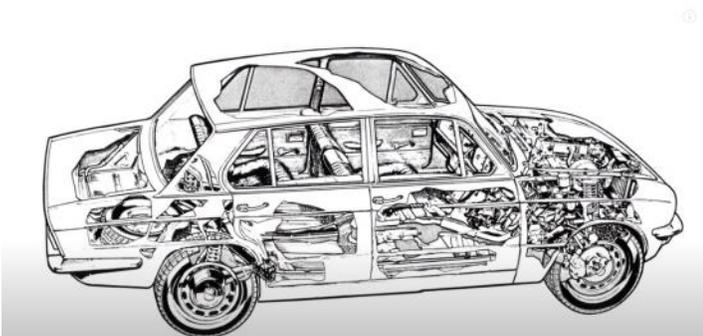
This month the Triumph link is to a 15 minute video recounting the history of the Triumph Dolomite from the initial concept through the final series. The narrated YouTube video, produced by Big Car, discusses the evolution of the Dolomite and its positioning as a luxury compact auto targeting the BMW 2002 and Ford Cortina GXL. There are a few ads along the way in the video, but they can be skipped after a few seconds. Overall this video is very well done with great photos, graphics, and embedded videos from back in the 1960's and 70's.

The opening narrative of the video:

Triumph was known for its sports cars, and luxury saloons, and the Dolomite, and specifically the Dolomite Sprint carried that sports pedigree into the compact class. It was the first multi-valve production saloon, producing more power than a compact luxury saloon had a right to in 1973. It's a winning formula that's been replicated many times since, but 7 years and half a million cars later production ended.

The Triumph Dolomite Story

[Triumph's Luxury Car that took on BMW - YouTube](#)



After contacting my roofing guy, Paul Martin, the owner of Shamrock Roofing in Spring, to come look at my roof after the recent Hail storm in my section of town, he surprised me with a request to see if I could help him find a decent TR6. I guess I shouldn't have been surprised as Paul's been a car guy for some time now and - most recently - has been collecting and racing Austin Healey Sprites. He was looking for something that was pretty original, but he didn't care if it ran or not as he has some buddies who have been helping him with his racing efforts, so a little engine building was not all that big of a deal.

I told him no guarantee's, but I'd see what I could turn up. A couple days later, while at breakfast with Mike Hado, Dave Smith and Len Myers, I mentioned to the table Paul's request. Dave had recently sold his GT6 to Steve Wirtes and he said that Steve had mentioned to him that he was interested in selling a '69 TR6 that he had picked up at an estate sale a few years earlier, but had not made any traction on getting running. Right after breakfast I called Steve up, discussed the car and made some plans to come down to Kemah to look the car over. Karl Rettenmaier said he'd be interested in coming along, too, so we headed down for a look-see Wednesday night.

Steve has a really interesting house close to the water with the entire lower level of the house containing a garage. I lost track of the 4-post lifts in his garage, but they were filled with a Ferrari, a Cobra replica, a Spitfire, a couple of '60s VWs, GT6s, a running TR6 and the project one. I'm forgetting a few cars, but it's safe to say Steve's garage was as full as mine, with a heck of a lot better view than mine. He mentioned he was walking distance from his sailboat along with a bunch of cool little bars and restaurants. Nice place!

The next day I gave Paul a call and told him about the TR6, the price Steve wanted and my opinion of



the car. I felt like the middle-man in one of those barn Ferrari deals, but Steve and Paul quickly settled on a price they both thought was fair and now I'm trying to get Paul to join the Triumph club.

Steve was trying to figure out how to get the GT6 from Dave's garage to his in Kemah, plus Paul had an upcoming family trip planned, so I volunteered to pick the GT6 up from Dave's house, take it to Steve's and then load up the TR6 and bring it back to my house until Paul got back from his family trip. Not surprisingly, Paul cut his trip a couple of days short so he could get his new project into his work space.

It was fun to see both Steve and Paul's enthusiasm about their new projects. I guess the old saying about joining a local car club if you are interested in buying vintage cars is true as there's always good insider information about cars for sale and their condition.

I mentioned in last month's column that I was removing the heater core from Patina to see why I was blowing fuses when I tried to use the fan. After I started tearing the interior apart, but before I had actually removed the heater core, I had a discussion with our club's electrical guru, Jerry Gruss. Jerry casually mentioned that I might want to check out the switch before going to all that work. I just knew that I was going to find a mice nest in the fan, so I continued on with

my destructive ways. Anyway, when I got the heater core out of the car and tested the motor it worked fine in both speeds. Dagnabit! Not a vermin's nest in sight either! I wish I could say that I found some issues when I got behind the dash, but I did a really good job with all the wiring originally, so all I got was practice tearing apart the interior.

I found out that I had not wired the switch correctly, even though I originally bought a new switch and hooked it up the same way the original switch was hooked up. Once I looked at the terminal numbers on the switch, I realized that the new Lucas switch was not identical to the old one, even though they looked identical. Plus, the terminals for the low and high speed were marked incorrectly on the new switch, too. Anyway, I tested the switch before installing it into the plinth and everything was now working correctly. However, once it was installed in the dashboard the fuse blowing started once again. A quick call to Jerry and he mentioned that John Hanten was having the same issue on Nancy's car. Before I got off the phone with Jerry, he left me with some sage wisdom like: "he has noticed that sometimes I like to take the long road in doing things". I had to chuckle cause this sounded exactly like something Russ Seto would have said versus telling you that you were being a dumb a\$\$.

John mentioned that he had noticed a lot of chatter on the forums about the new fan switches not being all that good and that the prongs not used on the switch were shorting out against the metal in the dash. I removed the switch and used shrink wrap on the unused connectors, installed the switch again and everything now works correctly.

I did add a new radio and amplifier to Patina while I had the dash torn apart, so all was not lost. I found some unused holes in the upper passenger footwell that allowed me to bolt my fabricated

bracket and amp to the firewall. There was even a hole with a grommet that allowed me to run the power line from my amp to the positive terminal of the battery, so that it all looks sort of stockish.

With support from Dne' Weir I tore into the passenger Miata seat to reupholster it. I'm good (apparently) at tearing things apart, so that part went pretty quickly. Putting the seat back together was taking me a long time when it finally dawned on me that I hate doing upholstery on seats. A quick trip to Arturo and the seat reupholstery job was now in his capable hands. I'm hoping to get the seats back from him this week. Once I get them back I'll put the new speakers into the headrests and install them in Patina. That ought to take care of all the improvement items on Patina for the near future.

Karl's getting ready to finish up packing up his house in Houston and moving to Tucson in July. He's enlisted me, the F150 and trailer to help him get his white TR6 over to Tucson. Clem Haddad is closing out his home in Houston, too, and has enlisted me in helping him get his RX7 over to Memphis. It looks like I'm going to be on the road quite a bit in July moving old sports cars east and west. Let's keep our fingers crossed for two uneventful trips getting some cool cars over to their new garages.

That's it for now. Keep playing with those cars! Plus, stay safe!





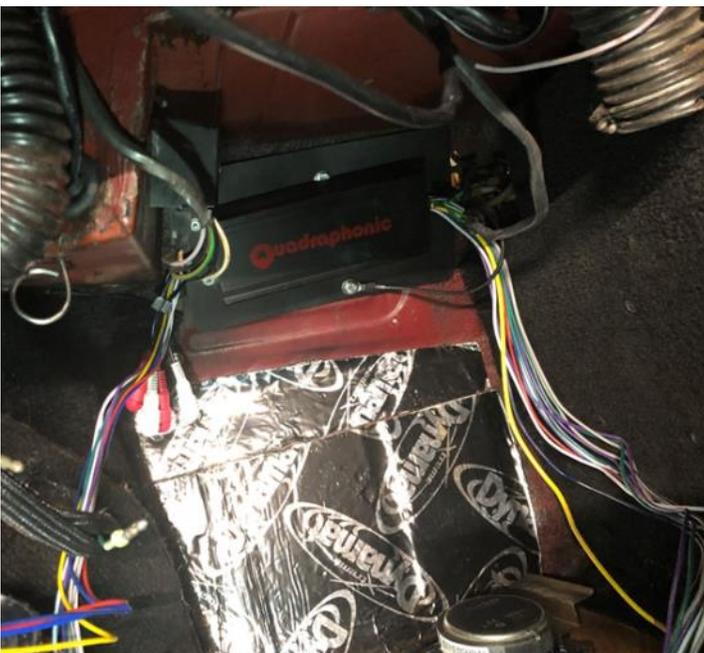
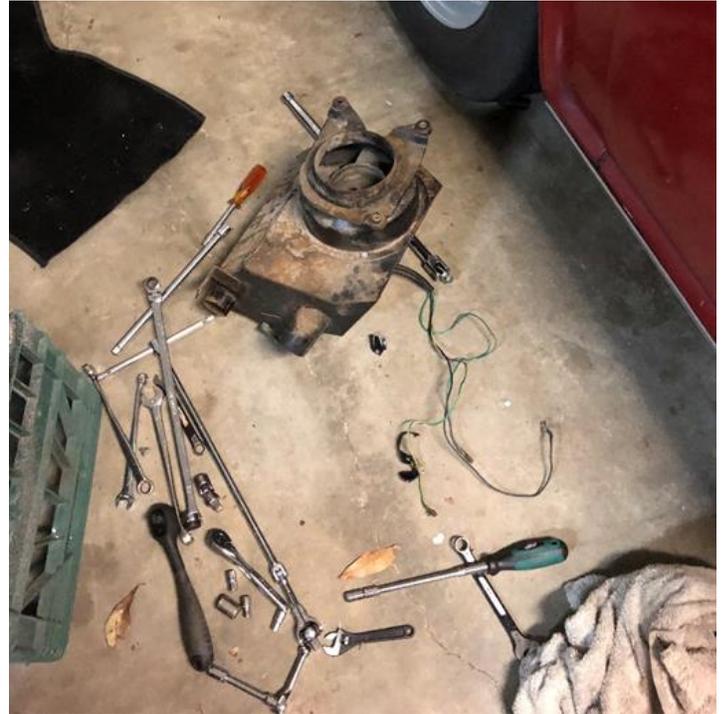
Upper Left - Paul's new TR6 sitting in Steve's garage.

Upper Right - GT6 relocated to Steve's Kemah home & Paul's TR6 ready to head up to Spring.

Middle Left - Steve saying goodbye to his project TR6.

Lower Left - Steve's GT6 enjoying the scenery from its new garage.





Upper Left - New radio installed.

Upper Right - Mice nest free fan motor that worked fine once removed.

Lower Left - New amplifier installed in the passenger footwell without having to drill any new holes!

Lower Right - the new Lucas fan switch that, while looking like the original switch, it wasn't.

Another month, and a continuing return to relative normalcy. June events included an in-person monthly meeting as well as four TTR Traveling Breakfast meetings. There was also a Special Event - the TTR Slot Car Racing Challenge. All of the events are covered in this issue.

This month we are publishing two Bluebonnet issues.....the regular issue that you are reading now, with the usual content and layout. In addition, we are publishing a special Triumph Tour 2021 - Finger Lakes, NY issue, chronicling the recent sixteen day, 4,300 + mile FOG trip to northern New York. This standalone document provides a day-by-day account of the trip, illustrated with lots of photos in a two-page layout format designed for printing or two page viewing.

The editing job this month turned out to be a challenge, as I was travelling for two weeks to Colorado and later Idaho without access to my trusty desktop computer. Fortunately, a recently purchased high-performance laptop computer with identical publishing software served the need. Large file transfers were done using cloud storage technologies at times



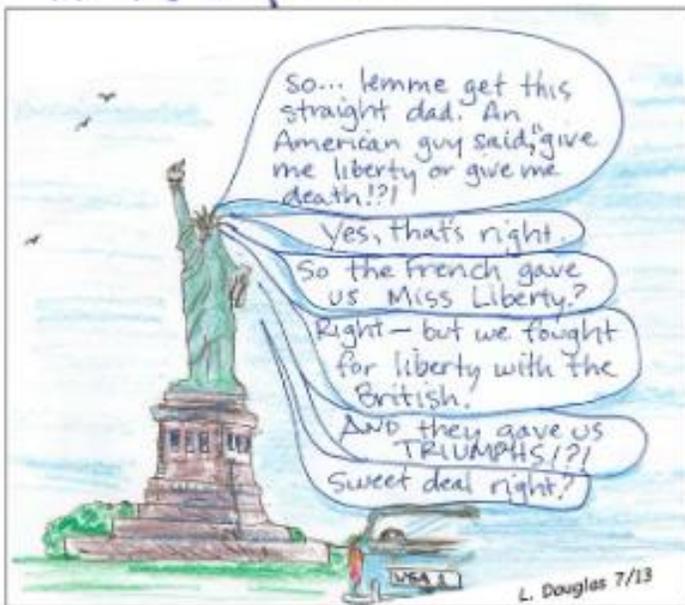
via a Wi-Fi hotspot on my cell phone. I think that is really remarkable, given that I can recall the days, not all that long ago, when I was delighted to turn on my 4,800 kB dial-up modem and log on to AOL to send and receive email. Technology marches on!

We will move through the hot summer months of July and August, and resume a busy show schedule in September and October, all of which will hopefully be covered with future Bluebonnet articles.

The first event in the fall is the VTR National Meet hosted by the Central Oklahoma Vintage Triumph Register in mid-September. As I mentioned last month, the relative proximity of the VTR National Meet in Oklahoma provides an opportunity to participate without a lot of travel. So, now is a good time to start working on our cars for both reliable driving and concours presentation.

As always, I welcome any contributed articles from any TTR members regarding your car, wrenching, Triumph history or trivia, or almost anything else you feel might be of interest to the club members.

the TR stops here



Good things come to those who wait.

From the Archives - July 2013

“Across The Pond”

Match the US car part name with the corresponding British name



US Term

British Term



removable side windows

throwout bearing

idle

lock washer

flashlight

car that only comes in a convertible style

lug nut

type of steel wheel (as opposed to wire)

high gear

wrench

rocker panel

fender

cotter pin

station wagon

2 or 4 door sedan

rotary, traffic circle

tire

windshield

oil pan

cowl

part of seat

muffler

British thread measuring standard

sliding or rotating joint (suspension)

vacuum advance

sill

scuttle

wheel nut

roadster

torch

whitworth

Tyre

split pin

spanner

wing

tickover

spring washer

top gear

roundabout

thrust bearing

silencer

Shooting Brake

saloon

RoStyle

side curtains

squab

suction advance

windscreen

sump

trunnion

For Sale - 1969 Triumph Spitfire MKIII w. overdrive

July 2021

For Sale - 1969 Triumph Spitfire MKIII, overdrive with hardtop

Texas Title. Exact mileage is unknown. Runs well, looks good, will make someone a very good driving club / project car. Partially refurbished with the focus on drivability and reliability. Original steel hardtop and lots of extras included. No reasonable offer refused!. Contact TTR member William Beckenbaugh for details.

wmbeckenbaugh@gmail.com



For Sale - 1980 Triumph Spitfire 1500 w. overdrive.

July 2021

For Sale - 1980 Triumph Spitfire 1500 w. overdrive.

Texas Title. Exact mileage is unknown. Only driven 200 miles in past 4 years. Runs well with comprehensive refurbishment by current owner. New interior, wire wheels, brakes, suspension, exhaust, and electric fan. Contact TTR member William Beckenbaugh for details.

wmbeckenbaugh@gmail.com



TTR Membership Form

July 2021

TTR publishes a monthly newsletter, *The Bluebonnet*, and holds monthly membership meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month except December (when we have our annual Christmas Party). For more information, contact Mike Hado (281.807.4780).

We look forward to meeting you!

Check one: New Membership Renewal Update

Member's Name: _____

Birthday (month/day) _____ / _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Birthday (month/day): _____ / _____

Street (or Mailing) Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Triumph ownership is not a prerequisite for membership; however, if you do own any Triumphs, please tell us about them:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Model</i>	<i>Commission No.</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Condition*</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

*O = Original, R = Restored, B = Being Restored, P = Parts Car

Dues: **\$30 per year per family.**

Make check payable to Texas Triumph Register and mail to Texas Triumph Register, P.O. Box 40847, Houston, Texas 77240-0847). Your cancelled check is your receipt. –or–

On-line payment option using Pay Pal available on our website!

