The Texas Triumph Register

The Texas Triumph Register (TTR), founded in 1981, 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

The Bluebonnet

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 information only. TTR assumes no responsibility for the correctness or safety of the procedures; the reader assumes liability for any risk - personal or 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.

TTR 2010-2011

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Cover: Fun at the 2011 Regionals . . .
Nick Roccaforte taking sportsmanship to a new level!
Our May progressive lunch and meeting was a treat! Some of us started out at Humble City Café for breakfast and then were lead by Randy Deruiter to Lake Livingston for lunch. The trip was interesting and we saw parts of Lake Livingston not visited in the past. Lunch started with edible delights offered by Julie and Nick Roccaforte, followed by lunch at Marti and Len Myers’, then dessert and the monthly meeting at the home of Sharon and Eric Schumann — all on Lake Livingston. I cannot say enough about the preparation and care that went into the table setting at each home, but the BBQ for lunch and the home-made ice cream were delicious. Did I mention the weather? What a beautiful day for a drive to Lake Livingston. We were comfortable eating outdoors and enjoying the lake views. If you have not had the opportunity to attend a monthly meeting, you missed the best day for a great drive, lunch, and meeting in recent memory.

We had quite a showing at the South Central Regionals at New Braunfels. It was truly a great time! With most in attendance, I always enjoy myself and come home with a punch list of improvements that need to be made to my car — this year was no exception. We’ve got to take our hats off to the South Texas Triumph Association (in yellow shirts) for the great job they did in selecting the location, planning, and conducting the events. Dinner at the Gristmill in Gruene was outstanding! It really hit home with me at the awards banquet when there was only one table of yellow shirts (where we had four tables of red shirts) just how small a pool of resources they had to count on to pull off the regional event . . . and they did an outstanding job! Each club member deserves credit for their hard work in making the event enjoyable.

May is the month that dues are due! Club dues are vital to the existence and continued success of the club. Without funds in our coffers, we won’t have the needed “seed” funds to pay deposits and guarantees for our upcoming VTR Nationals in 2012 and Regional events. In addition, thanks to the dues, the club has historically subsidized the annual holiday bash in early December. If you have not already paid your dues for 2011, please do so. By doing so, you will make the life of our membership guru a joy!

As always, I hope to see each of you at our monthly meetings, Saturday morning breakfasts, or other events. Be sure to see the Events section in The Bluebonnet or check the web site for a chance to meet other club members and an excuse to get out of the house.

And remember: Participate in and support your club — get out and drive a Triumph!

John Barrett
Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Texas Triumph Register,
June 9, 1981

TRIUMPH CLUB MEETING
"Minutes"
"TEXAS TRIUMPH REGISTER OF AMERICA"

Date: June 9, 1981
Time: 7:30 P.M.
Place: Century 21 Homefinders
So. Wilcrest & Southwest Freeway (US 59)

The meeting came to order at 7:45 P.M. We had several new members at the
meeting. We also have more than enough people signed up for the "TEXAS
TRIUMPH REGISTER OF AMERICA" club.

The meeting opened with each of the club members telling about their own
car (TR) and what he or she has done or is doing with it. Very interesting.
Also discussed was the different gas to use in your TR, which could prove
very helpful to some. Also was pointed out, different techniques on how
certain ones put in the interior in their cars.

Books are being made for the members who would like one, of the
Manual".

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Restaurant parking lot before
the 30th anniversary lunch.

A former TTR Events Chair once said,
"Getting these people anywhere at the same time
is impossible . . . it's like trying to herd cats!"
(But he said it in a nice way.)

Celebrating 30 TTR Years!
Friends, in support of Vern Burnett, invite you to join them for a

Platelets & Blood Drive

Saturday, June 11
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

@ Metropolitan Baptist Church
13000 Jones Rd. Cypress, 77070

To schedule your donation, contact
Alma@ 281-469-2919 / almab01@yahoo.com

Two of many great reasons to donate:
Vern & “Because you can!”
**Minutes of the May 14, 2011 Meeting of the Texas Triumph Register**

| Opening | President John Barrett opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.  
|         | John thanked Nick and Julie Roccaforte, Len and Marti Myers, and Eric and Sharon Schumann for hosting the progressive lunch at their lake homes. |
| Treasurers Report | Treasurer Dustin Nicholson reported a club balance of $5512, with more expected as membership renewals roll in. Previous month’s balance was $5504. |
| Editor’s Report | Submit your articles by the 20th of the month to Randy at deruiterville@hotmail.com.  
|                 | As always, we need articles, especially technical articles. |
| Membership Report | Mike Hado reported that the $30 annual dues are due in May.  
|                  | Attendance today: (about) 30 members, 0 Guests. |
| Regalia Report | Regalia Master John Wakefield asked for feedback on new shirts – favorable feedback received. |
|        | Texas All British Car Day, Round Rock, September 25, 2011.  
|        | Houston British Motor Expo Katy, October 15, 2011.  
| New Business | TTR hosts 2012 VTR National Convention in Galveston! October 21-25, 2012. Don Carter reported that committees will be formed shortly to make this event happen – get ready to volunteer!  
|             | Don Carter presented the slate of proposed 2011 TTR Officers for approval: John Barrett, President; Randy DeRuiter, VP Events; Jeff Harris, Secretary; Dustin Nicholson, Treasurer; Mike Hado, Membership/Historian; John Wakefield, Regalia; Diane Parker, Bluebonnet Editor. Bill Papp requested a sabbatical from his duties as Vice President because of other commitments. Motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve proposed slate of officers. |
| Next Meeting(s) | June 11, 2011: Richard Dicks  
|                | July 9, 2011: David and Nena Smith  
|                | August 13, 2011: Need host (Carters’ house under construction)  
|                | Sept. 10, 2011: Steve and Karen Kirsis  
|                | Oct. 8, 2011: Steve and Karen Parker  
|                | Nov. 12, 2011: David and Allison Fowler |
| Closing | Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. |

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy DeRuiter
The 2011 VTR Regionals, held at the T Bar M Ranch in New Braunfels, was a great time! We had a strong TTR presence there, too — a rough count put us at over a dozen cars and two dozen TTR members.

The South Texas Triumph Association selected a great venue and did a fantastic job at hosting our Regional. It started with a nice icebreaker reception Thursday night, followed on Friday morning with a Gimmick Rallye that was run over some great roads around New Braunfels. Friday lunch was spent cleaning up the cars for Concours, which was on Friday afternoon. Friday evening was a dinner run to the Gristmill in Gruene. For anyone who hasn’t been to the Gristmill, you owe it to yourself to try it out. Great food, nice scenery, and they can handle huge crowds without skipping a beat.

Saturday morning was the Autocross and Funkhana, both held in a large parking lot a couple of miles from the ranch. TTR member Gary Ramirez had a great run and took fastest time of the day, beating Don Carter by 0.05 seconds. Gary and Don were the only two to break 30 seconds for the run. Louise Carter was not far behind, and wound up with the fastest women’s time.

Saturday night was the awards banquet and the red shirts were out — it was quite an intimidating sight! TTR did quite well during the evening, garnering 11 plaques from the Concours and 10 plaques for autocross. Final tally of the results can be found on the STTA website: http://www.sotxtriumphassn.org/results.html.

A very sincere and loud THANK YOU to the South Texas Triumph Association for hosting such an outstanding event!

Credit for the following photos: the Hados, Jeffries, DeRuiters, and the STTA club.
Left: We got a little thirsty on the way — pit stop in Shiner
Below: 1st Day at T Bar M Ranch — getting ready for the Gimmick Rally

All below: Concours
Left: Mike Hado schmoozing with friends FAC (from another club).

Below: Well-behaved members of what could be the Preservation Class. From left: DeRuiter, Schumann, and Myers.

Left and below: Dinner at the Gristmill in Gruene.
Right: Richard Dicks gets ready to run the Autocross.
Below: Len Myers burnin' rubber.

Below: Sam Jeffries gears up for autocross, Mike Piggott from the COVTR club looks suitably intimidated!

Below: Don Carter in action, while (below right) his granddaughter, Ella, has all the action she can handle with her hamburger.
Above, left: Mike Hado burnin' rubber and breakin' spokes.
Above, right: Dave Smith gets ready to run.

Above, left: Doug Trapp in action.
Above, right: Jeffrey Jeffries demonstrates the handling capability of early Spitfires.

Above: John Reynolds on the track.
Right: And the winner is . . . Gary Ramirez — fastest time of the day!
Above: TTR gathers before the Awards Banquet.

Below, left: Ella Nicholson grabs a plaque for her burger eating — and her dad's (Dusty) Autocross win.

And with that, we say “Thank you, STTA!” for a great Regionals!
**TTR 30th Anniversary CD Picture Set**

A 2-CD Picture Set of the last 30 years of TTR was presented to every family present at the Anniversary/Bluebonnet Run on March 26th. If you would like a copy of the set, they will be available at TTR meetings or you can email a request and a set will be mailed to you. Contact Sharon (schumansharon@gmail.com) or Sharon (smwortsman@yahoo.com).

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**What Inspires Great Car Designs?**

Chrysler Group LLC says the next generation Dodge Viper sports car (red car, below) is going to be "drop-dead beautiful" and is meant to draw buyers from Porsche and Corvette. The new Viper's look was inspired by "a naked woman on the beach," said Ralph Gilles, the head of Chrysler design. Looks like Triumph had this figured out 50 years ago!
The Texas Triumph Register-sponsored 1971 TR6 race car made a strong showing on April 23-24 when it ran in the North Dallas Hooptie two-day endurance race at Eagle Canyon Raceway. As you may recall from the initial race in Houston last fall, the race is a spoof on the famed 24 Hours of LeMans in France. However these cars are limited to a budget of $500 and are Lemons, not LeMans, cars. The car survived nearly 14 hours of racing last fall and only required routine maintenance and minor repairs before taking to the track in its second race. The competition field was greatly reduced in Dallas because the event was on Easter weekend; there were 40 cars this time, rather than the 123 in the Houston race.

The TR6 was definitely not one of the fastest cars, but it managed to stay on the track for the entire two-day race, covering 210 laps for a total of 525 miles, approximately 200 more miles than in the Houston race. Our team, “The Sherlock Homeboyz,” finished in 19th place and took home the Grassroots Motorsports, “Most from the Least” award. Trust me, our piece of junk is deserving!

We have added a new sponsor to those who sponsored us in the first race (the TTR, the Hill Country Triumph Club, and the Sherlock Holmes Society of Austin): team driver Bobby Whitehead’s pawn shop in Dallas. So now, in addition to being known as the Sherlock Homeboyz, we now have an alias: “The ‘70s Pawn Stars.” The team’s next race will be at Motorsport Ranch Houston in Angleton in October followed by Texas Motor Speedway in Dallas in December. If you are interested in being a driver or pit crew member, let me know . . . we may have an opening or two.

Oh, after the race the team had the Lemons judges do a residual value evaluation of the car to determine what it is worth now that it has been beat up around the track for over 800 miles at racing speeds (well racing rpms at least). Our idea was that the car is now worth less than the $500 limit and we can spend the difference to hop it up for the next race. Drumroll, please: according to the judges, the car is now worth $38!
Brenham Monastery Miniature Horse Farm Closes

by Jeff Harris

A long-time hallmark of TTR is driving tours to interesting and unique destinations in our area. A number of years ago, TTR made a trip to an unusual destination near Brenham — the Monastery Miniature Horse Farm. The horse farm was operated by a cloistered community of Franciscan Poor Clare nuns. The Brenham Monastery was started in 1985 when the sisters moved from Corpus Christi to 98 acres on Highway 105 between Brenham and Navasota. The move was prompted after the U.S. Navy condemned the Corpus Christi monastery property because it was in the flight path/safety zone of Waldron Field, a runway used by novice pilots to practice touch and go landings. The more inland location near Brenham was chosen partly to minimize the risk of hurricanes.

The miniature horse-raising business was the idea of Sister Bernadette Muller (in photo above with foal), whose outgoing personality and love of horses resulted in her being dubbed the “Cowboy Nun.” The farm’s breeding program produced horses that sold for $500 to $5000 and provided income for the monastery. The group of 20 nuns cared for a herd of 60 to 70 little horses, after spring foaling.

An article in the May 24, 2011 Houston Chronicle noted that the horse farm closed at the end of May 2011. Time has taken its toll and most of the nuns have died. Only two, Sister Angela Chandler, 54, and Sister Joseph Palacios, 89, remain. Some of the herd will be sold; other horses will remain with Sister Angela’s brother and sister-in-law. Nuns from the Pax Christi Institute in Corpus Christi will take over the property June 1. The farm will be remodeled for use as a retreat center.

Not that we’re nosy, but...

We need interviewees, so if you’re interested, please let roving reporter Jerry Gruss know. Jerry can be reached at jerryg98@flash.net or 281-732-6188.
Our Next Meeting is Saturday, June 11th … 
at the home of Richard Dicks, 5467 Carew Street 
713-661-7611

Directions:
Take Beechnut to Renwick. 
Turn south on Renwick.  
Go left on Carew Street. 
Stop at the 3rd house on the right.

Let’s eat at 1:00 and meet at 2:00. 
(Rumor has it that Burton will be grilling 
hot dogs and hamburgers!)
**A Letter to the Editor**

Dear Madam Editor (in Chief):

You can remove the ad for tires, wheels, centers, and trim rings that David Chapman placed in the newsletter. I went by today and picked them up. It took a few phone calls, but David claims it’s because he has one of those new “smart aleck” phones.

I asked David if he would be interested in an official TTR interview, and he bashfully suggested he wasn’t. I didn’t have my list of questions, but we chatted in the garage a little.

In a few weeks David is moving to Salt Lake City. He relishes the time and friends he’s made here and his involvement with the TTR. Those of you who know David, know that he has a beautiful Java Green TR6, which is pictured in the Star Cars section on the web. It sports a new dash and looks better than new in most ways. (Not to mention the Panasport wheels.) I had been to his house before when he hosted a club meeting, so I’m sure he has been involved in the club for some time. He assured me he would continue to pay his dues, read the newsletter, and maintain contact with his Texas Triumph partners. Although his stature would prefer he drove a larger automobile, he plans to use his TR6 a little more in Utah. He may even find another, closer club.

David presented me with a deal I couldn’t pass up: a set of TR6 tires, mounted to wheels, with centers and trim rims for $40. My intention was to use his TR6 wheels on the project TR3, but I need to find a way to mount the TR3 style hub cap with the world globe to the center of the TR6 wheel. Another new quandary is my TR6 rear tires are bald and need to be replaced, but his tires are like new — well, except that they were manufactured in 33rd week of 2000. I can’t decide which tires are more dangerous.

Anyway, I’m sure the club will miss David and I just wanted to make sure everyone knows that he and Carolyn are moving . . . Jerry Gruss

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Dear Jerry,

Thank you for the update. We will miss the Chapmans, but are sure that Dave and Carolyn will do well in Utah among their friends and family. **The Editor**

Dear Dave and Carolyn,

We’re so glad you found each other, married, and are looking forward to many happy years together in Salt Lake City . . . but, Carolyn, please promise to keep Dave off those ATVs! **Diane**
Happy June Birthday!

John Wieser       June 2
Gary Fuqua        June 2
Norma Seto        June 4
Nancy Bradford    June 7
Alex Ortiz        June 7
Sandy Fultz       June 12
Bill Papp         June 12
Mike Vukelich     June 12
David Chapman     June 14
Thomas Heyden     June 17
Vern Burnett       June 19
Peggy Thornsburg  June 21
Jan Delery        June 22
Art Villavacchia  June 22
Dru Southworth    June 24
Robin Cook        June 25
Ronald Turtzo     June 25
Len Myers         June 26
Kimberly Tsanais  June 30

Welcome New Members!

Ken and Susan Wilson, Cypress — Green 1976 TR6
Daryl Vaughn and Judy Jones-Vaughn, League City — Silver 1982 TR7
### Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 4th</td>
<td>TTR Breakfast @ Harris County Smokehouse, 14239 FM 2920 Tomball (281-351-4060).</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11th</td>
<td>TTR Breakfast @ Eats Mesquite Grill, 13918 Old Hempstead Hwy (713-460-3287).</td>
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<td><strong>TTR Monthly Meeting</strong> at the home of Richard Dicks.</td>
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<td>June 18th</td>
<td>TTR Breakfast @ Mama's Cafe, 6019 Westheimer (near Fountainview) (713-266-8514).</td>
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<td>June 25th</td>
<td>TTR Breakfast @ Busy Bee Cafe, 4009 W. Broadway, Pearland (281-485-8690).</td>
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<td>July 2nd</td>
<td>TTR Breakfast @ West Gray Cafe, 415 West Gray (713-528-2887).</td>
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<td>July 9th</td>
<td>TTR Breakfast @ Clementine's Restaurant, 6448 FM 1960 West (281-440-5310).</td>
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<td><strong>TTR Monthly Meeting</strong> at the home of Dave and Nena Smith.</td>
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<td>August 13th</td>
<td>TTR Monthly Meeting (no host, yet . . .)</td>
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<td>September 10th</td>
<td><strong>TTR Monthly Meeting</strong> at the home of Steve and Karen Kirsis (Lake Conroe).</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13th</td>
<td>TTR Monthly Meeting at the home of Steve and Karen Parker (Friendswood).</td>
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<td>Nov. 24-27</td>
<td>Houston Autorama</td>
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The breakfast group gathers at 8:00 a.m. and orders breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Because locations may change (especially for breakfast), always check our website the day before the event: www.TexasTriumphRegister.org.

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[Image of TTR 30th Anniversary lunch at Carol's in Cat Springs]
CLASSIFIEDS

Noncommercial classified ads are free to members and inexpensive for everyone else! Just $30 per ad for six issues and six months on the web site. Photos run as space available. (Ads will run for the full term unless cancelled in writing.) Service ads run until cancelled, as space available.

FOR SALE:

1980 Triumph Spitfire 1500, blue. Lovingly owned for 18 years with an amazing 22,881 original miles. Runs and looks fantastic! Accessories included with this beauty are: original Triumph 1980 manuals, manual transmission w/overdrive, tonneau cover, convertible top, convertible top boot, luggage rack. $12,500 OBO. Contact Christine Brooks, 832-247-8561 or triumph.brooks@gmail.com.

Reduced to sell! 1972 Stag, red. Hard and soft tops, orig. V8 engine, power brakes/steering, auto transmission, power windows. Enjoyed many awards. Owned 15 years. $9,000. Contact: billparker1@consolidated.net, 936.597.6253.

WANTED: Someone to share a 12 x 28 ft storage space near Hwy 290 and Fairbanks N. Houston. $48.00 per month, your share, or cheaper if we pay a year in advance. It will fit two TRs end-to-end, or tons of parts. Mike (281-807-4780, mdhado@comcast.net.)

Ed. Note: I’m cleaning out files of unused TTR photos . . . this is from the trip to Aransas Pass last spring. Great shot of a whooping crane . . .
The TTR meets the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Saturday of each month. For more information, contact Mike Hado (281.807.4780). We look forward to meeting you!

Check one:  \(\square\) New Membership \(\square\) Renewal \(\square\) 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:

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<th>Year</th>
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*O = Original, R = Restored, B = Being Restored, P = Parts Car

Dues: **$30 per year per family**. Make check payable to the Texas Triumph Register (P.O. Box 40847, Houston, TX 77240-0847). Your cancelled check is your receipt.