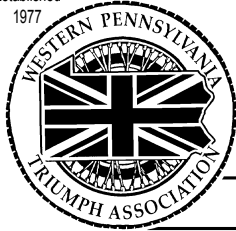


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1977



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Volume 23 Number 6

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March, 2000

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| <i>President</i> | <i>Mark Phillips 412-561-5972</i> | <i>Recording Secretary</i> | <i>Gary Fredo 412-825-3893</i> |
| <i>Vice President</i> | <i>Dave Jerman 724-349-6639</i> | <i>Membership Chairperson</i> | <i>Ed Woods 412-486-4294</i> |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | <i>Bruce Stutzman 412-831-8884</i> | <i>Newsletter Editor</i> | <i>Bill Kern 412-793-0411</i> |

Business and/or social meetings are held monthly close to the middle of the month. Please refer to newsletter for the time and location.

On The Mark

It has been a busy month. It was nice to see so many members turn out for our meeting at the Crow's Nest on February 11th. The best part was that everyone appeared to be warm and cozy. I think that we have solved the temperature issue and I hope we get more members out to the next meeting at the Crow's Nest on April 14th. Also, we are always looking for new places to have meetings and if anyone knows of a place that might be able to accommodate our group let me know.

Just a few highlights from the meeting. First item, everyone congratulate Gary Fredo as he is now officially Recording Secretary for the WPTA. I am sure that Gary has no idea what he has gotten himself into but I am glad to have him as an officer of the club. Also, over the last few months there was some concern within the club about the liability of serving alcohol at club sponsored events. We discussed it during the meeting and came to what I think is a reasonable approach. The Crow's Nest is charging the club \$75.00 for the use of the room for our club meeting and 50.00 for a 1/4 keg if we want it. WPTA will not purchase the alcohol; we will ask people drinking to cover the cost. So if ten people drink, that is \$5.00 a person. Also, the club will provide soft drinks and coffee during the meeting. I think that in a lawsuit situation this would provide minimal protection for the officers. The rest of the meeting dealt with the calendar of events this year, we will sponsor British Car Day again this year in the amount of \$4,000, and finally there was a general discussion on membership concerns. I appreciate everyone's thoughtful discussion.

Also, last month we had a garage tour scheduled to Bernie Clark's but the Mon River would not cooperate. I drove down for the event without knowing what the river conditions were. When I got to West Brownsville I quickly discovered there were more important things going on then working on old cars. The local Volunteer Fire Company was not letting any one into West Brownsville other then residents. I was not going to leave until I was sure Bernie could not use my help. I final was able to talk me way through the road block after promising to stay out of the way and I was only going down to see if I could help Bernie. Driving towards Bernie's was pretty grim. Many families were already flooded above their first floor. I could not imagine what that feels like.

I found Bernie's place and the water was 6 feet below their basement so they were not flooded. They had been up since before dawn moving everything out of their basement and were in a wait and see mode. That community really pulls together neighbor helping neighbor; we could use more of that these days. I spent a few minutes talking to Bernie and his lovely wife but thought it best to get out of way. I promised Bernie that we would reschedule the tour. Hope all is fine.

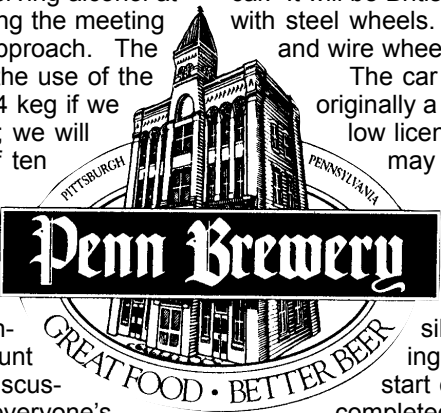
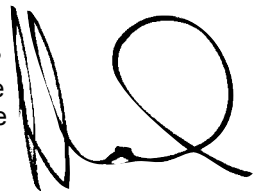
Coming up this month is our annual Penn Brewery event. I have to apologize for not getting this notice in last month's newsletter. We have scheduled the event for March 25th. Cash bar will open at 12:30 PM and lunch will be served at 1:30. The menu for this year is herbed grilled chicken breast, Schweinebraten, wild and long grain rice, green beans with red pepper, tossed green salad, potato pancakes with apple-sauce and sour cream and German sourdough rye bread. The cost is the same as last year, \$15.00 per person. This will be your only notice for this event so send you money in now while your thinking about it. I will need your check by March 22nd. Send check payable to: WPTA, c/o Mark D. Phillips, 674 Royce Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15243-1149. No time to procrastinate on this one.

Well, I finally decided that it was time to start a new car project. So a few weeks ago I got my 65 TR4 out of storage and brought it over to the garage. This is going to be Sherry's car. It will be British Racing Green, black interior, wood dash, with steel wheels. I personally would prefer the white dash and wire wheels but the boss gets what she wants.

The car is coming apart with no surprises. It was originally a California car; it still had the black and yellow license plates on it when I got it. Some of you may have seen the car at Team Triumph it was one of a pair of TR4's Scott Harper picked up. The sheet metal is incredible, the only metal repair was the front valance, front half of inner fenders, and hood, it had taken a light hit in the front. The fenders, sills, doors, and floors are perfect. I'm hoping to get the tub media blasted this week and start on the chassis. The plan is to get the car completed for TRA 2002.

From the rumor mill. I have heard that Doug Foyle has made some progress in his TR6 project. Also, Fred Williams brought back to life a TR250 that by all accounts should have never made it. Fred has also along with Don Harkus perfected a method of frame repair and may be considering opening a frame shop since they had such a great time fixing these. I think they are going to call themselves "We Be Frames and S—T". See inside for an article on their trials and tribulations. Dan Greene also has decided to redo the engine compartment of his 69. It was looking shabby after he completed the 2-week marathon restoration last year before TRA and also in from the south David Parks after several setbacks is turning the corner on his TR3 project. Lastly, Jim Shaw's TR4 is nearly complete. I heard that he found the final original interior panel he needed so it will be off to Larry Learn's for the final touches soon. From what I have seen it is going to be an exceptional car.

What is everyone else working on? Give me a call and let me know or maybe write a short two or three paragraph article for the newsletter. See ya soon.



OP-POR-TUNE-ITY

by Doug Foyle

April 29th, 8:00 is your opportunity to prepare your Triumph for the upcoming driving season. This year's tune up clinic will again be held at Roy Miller's Garage in Sharpsburg.

The Roadster Factory will be in attendance with various Triumph bits for sale.

We will start at 8:00 am and finish at 5:00 sharp. Bring your car, or just show up, bs and enjoy the cars of others. Please contact Doug Foyle, ph. (724) 452-5218 or E-mail rfoyle@bellatlantic.net, if you plan on performing any project.

So, mark your calendars -- Saturday, April 29th at 8:00 am. See ya there.

Bumper Bar

by Jerry Van Vlack

I have for sale an AMCO Bumper Bar for a TR4. This Bar does not fit a TR4A bumper as the overriders are spaced differently. It attaches to the bumper bolts and goes across and in front of the overriders. There are two little rubber bumpers installed where the bar touches the overriders. It is in excellent condition and has never been installed. I have the original box that is in poor condition. The price is \$100.00. I am offering it to the Pittsburgh Group first and if no takers then to the Triumph List and eventually to everyone via e-bay if there are no takers. I figure about a week before it goes to the list and another week before e-bay. Buyer pays packaging and shipping or it can be picked up in Hudson, OH. Some of you may not know me but I have been with the Pittsburgh Club since 1980 and moved to Ohio in 1984. If you are not interested pass this along to someone who may be interested if you think they would want the Bar. Just reply via e-mail and we can make arrangements.

Aluminum Wheel

R&R Revisited

by Bill Kern

As I had previously mentioned that I was slowly restoring a set of old wheels for my 6, and inquiring minds want to know.....

The new Seville wheels are the honey comb around the rim style and had some chipped clear coat on the inserts. As I started to polish them with an assortment of compounds and wheels, and getting nowhere fast. I decided to follow the same routine I previously mentioned last year. With extreme prejudice and caution I took 1 wheel at a time and loaded them into my blast cabinet which was a little tricky with the big 16 Michelin meat. I proceeded to blast away at a small area with the walnut shells and examined the results. Super! Just what I wanted to achieve. I was able to remove the abused clear coat and the wheels look like brand new. The walnut shells work excellent. CAUTION !!! Contrary to conventional wisdom and your past experience with final polishing and finishing the walnut shells work in reverse. That is to say the finer grit the more obvious the distortion to the original finish. The coarser the grit the less distortion. It took me less than 4 hours to do all 4 wheels including removal and replacement. So if you have some aluminum wheels that are shabby, and access to a blast cabinet what are you waiting for??

Events and Noteworthy Happenings

by Bill Kern

AHHHHHHH!!!!!!! After a few beautiful days of 70 and sunshine I'm sure you are chomping at the bit to drive your Brit. Well, I know I am, and here are a few things that you can get ready for.....

VTR 2000

The Portland Tr Owners Assoc is gearing up for VTR 2000. The scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge, not far from Portland will be the location for an outstanding gathering of classic British Iron. Scheduled for August 2nd to 6th 2000. The Event, if anything like their beautiful color glossy brochures is any indication, should be a fantastic time. Some on line sites to visit for info on activities and accommodations are: www.columbia-river-gorge.com , www.greenwood.com , www.pova.com , www.teleport.com/~pri/pir , online register at www.portlandtriumph.org.

There will be autocross and more at the Portland International Speedway and many more event throughout the VTR event. For more info, Email raymarty@teleport.com or www.portlandtriumph.org.

Driving Ambitions

Driving Ambitions will once again offer their version of the 13th annual performance driving school at Watkins Glen International. Three sessions are scheduled: May 15 to 16, July 31 to August 1st, and October 2nd to 3rd, 2000. This event is for driver training and instruction, not a competitive event, Open track sessions will be incorporated into this year's event and qualified track drivers will get extra open sessions. For more info lfix@aol.com or number3mustang@aol.com , (Eddie is that you?), for you not on the net, Lauren & Paul Fix 716-636-1128, or Paul Levine 516-921-0040 x 123.

So You're not on the NET?

Well all you folks who haven't gotten the clue yet, if you're not on line you will soon be shut out of a lot of important happenings. The continuing introduction of more and more sources of information is truly amazing. If you're not here why not? And if you are why don't we have your address? We promise no junk mail and no solicitations, that is except for Fog1's continual cry for your \$15.00 per annum, and the British Car Day call for attendance. Speaking of BCD, if you don't plan on attending how about an "in spirit" registration? After all, it is for charity and the more we get the more we can forward. So won't you please get involved this year and make the W.P.T.A. able to contribute it's biggest donation yet. Come on it is tax deductible, and it's for a good cause, and if you do go, buy a shirt or other memorabilia, all proceeds go to the charities. Come out and hang, B.S., or just enjoy Schenley Park and the festivities of the Vintage Gran Prix, the only event of it's kind in the country.

The English Channel Alert

Recently Kent D. Howard contacted me about his efforts to revive a dormant publication. The VTR is trying to resurrect this newsletter and needs enthusiasts help to accomplish this task. Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kent at 262-692-2559, fax, 262-392-3387, mobile 414-940-6674, or Khoward313@aol.com , or EnglishChannel@www.VTR.org .

ED. And you wondered why we need yet another new area code, yoi and double yoi.

A triumph driver never gets lost, he just changes where it is he wants to go

Bitch, Bitch, Bitch

by Bill Kern

Well after my moaning and groaning about car prices and what you get for your hard earned \$\$\$\$, I was finally able to procure a vehicle that was comfortable, pretty, fast, and did not break my wallet. Yes it's true the 98 will be retired, sold, or bartered to the obo crowd or worse. If you need a good but not pretty second reliable car gimme a call we can make a deal.

Ya it only took me 8 months and 6 or so hours of intense negotiations last week to get a deal, and car, I was comfortable with. After another fruitless week of searching I spotted an ad from Watson Chevy Olds and went to investigate. Same old crap too much \$\$\$\$\$, and no comfort. Then a 94 Cadillac Seville STS with 59k, in dark polo green, with tan leather caught my eye. Doug Bonano the sales rep who just started there 2 days before got the keys and as it had bucket seats with a floor shifter and console, it was actually comfortable, Hot Dam, and as we cruised the back roads of Export I quickly discovered 32V Northstar power. Back to the dealership and the FUN began.

Seems that it's still almost impossible to pin down that abstract finance rate and asking for total of payments was like pulling teeth. I gave them half an hour to work it out. They had the window price as \$18,995.00, sale \$16,995.00, Ya right a sale price. Being an educated consumer I began my bantering and negotiations, when informed that with the 36/36 warranty I wanted, tax, plates, etc. The bottom line was \$21,099.00, OUCH!!!

No, too much\$\$\$\$ As the ensuing negotiations were intense and some of the exchanges heated, (at one point the mgr said "you know you've been here for 6 hours!" I said " I like the car, I want the car, but I don't need the car!"), I won't bore you with the details, unless I see you in person, then I'll bore you, but I am now the owner of a very pretty, comfortable, and fast car that has a 36/36 GM warranty with a 0 deductible and all for \$18,902.34, all inclusive. The actual vehicle was \$14,000.00, not bad from 19 to 14, the warranty was \$1500.00, they wanted \$2500.00, a \$200.00 deductible, no make it \$0, and I even got them to do a front end alignment, a full tank of gas, and adjust a hood that was slightly out of alignment. The sales manager at the completion of the deal said " when you first told me you were a ball breaker, I just said to myself ya, right, but I have to admit you absolutely crushed my stones". I know he was glad to see me leave.

The last week I have done some minor detailing and have walnut shell lasted the aluminum wheels and did a little fog lamp R&R. The car has every option except a power moon roof and heated seats, oh, did I mention the Delco GM Bose 300watt stereo???????????

A Book Review by Ed Major

The Last Open Road

by Bert Levy



I know, some of you wonder if I can really read! Well not only can I read, but I enjoyed this book so much that I was moved to write about it. Those of you that remember the fifties and even the sixties will really enjoy it. As a mater of fact all guys and maybe even some women will relive those good old days when they were young. I can only imagine what is what like rubbing elbows with the likes of Cunningham, Phil Hill and other famous racers of that era! Although Burt doesn't talk TR's I still consider this a must read by Triumph and race enthusiasts. I give it 4 shields . . .

WPTA Calendar of Events

- Mar 25** Penn Brewery
Mark & Sherry Phillips 412-561-5972
- April 29** Tune Up Clinic
Doug Foyle 1-724-452-5218
rfoyle@bellatlantic.net
- May 19-21** Import Carlisle
Rooms - Ed Major 412-488-1600
Parts - Jim Shaw 412-262-3878
- July 15** British Car Day
Jim Underwood 1-724-929-8187
- Aug 16-20** The Roadster Factory Summer Party
Armagh PA
- Oct 14** Fall Leaf Tour
Mark & Meghan Twiest

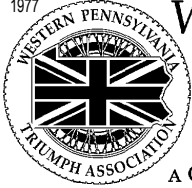
~ Of Other Interest ~

- June 15-18** TRA National Meet
Fernwood Resourt, Bushkill, PA
Bruce Hoppe 1-973-635-2570
- June 23-25** Vintage Gran Prix
Mid ohio Race Course
- July 12-15** VTR Mid Atlantic Regional Convention
Richmond VA.
Ken Nachman 1-804-659-2183
- Aug 2-6** VTR National Convention
Portland, OR
raymarty@teleport.com
- Sept 8-10** Watkins Glen Vintage Festival
- Oct 4-10** SCCA National Runoffs
Mid ohio Race Course

Nigel Shiftright: Automotive Anachronism "Shrink to Fit"



Established
1977



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRIUMPH ASSOCIATION

150 Holiday Park Drive, Plum Boro, PA 15239

A CHAPTER OF THE VINTAGE TRIUMPH REGISTER
A CENTER OF THE TRIUMPH REGISTER OF AMERICA

March 2000
Issue of the
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WPTA March Meeting

Saturday, March 25, 2000
at Penn Brewery on the
Northside

