

Established  
1977



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Volume 24 Number 1

Zōos Nūz

October, 2000

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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

Its official, summer is over. Don't put those cars away just yet. This time of year has great potential for excellent Triumph driving. Blasting down that favorite road on a brisk morning with the leaves flying around the car and the distant hillside a collage of autumn colors is my wife's dream drive. Me, I think it stinks. All I can think about is winter is coming, cold rains, overnight 6" snow storms, cold drafty garage; I hate this time of year. We're stuck with it so might as well make the most of it; the Triumph is less likely to overheat. Yea that's it, that's why I like this time of year. I'll keep trying.

Well, last month Ed Woods pointed out that we have not been as supportive to other car clubs as perhaps we should. Ed thankfully reminded us of the Jaguar Club of Pittsburgh Hartwood Car Show. It had been several years since I participated. I forgot what a nice event it is. The weather was picture perfect and we took the scenic route to Hartwood. It was nice to see 8 or 9 WPTA people there. It is much easier to be a participant. Drive up, hand over a few dollars, park the car, get cooler and food out, look at cars, talk about cars, drink beer, and eat.

What a great day, there where some interesting cars too. It is also interesting to see how other people relate to their cars. I overheard a conversation between a late model Jaguar owner and a late model Rolls Royce owner where the Rolls Royce owner was describing how well his Rolls handled and how fun it was to drive. Somehow I don't see the Rolls as a performance "fun to drive" vehicle. I see it more as a work of art and the height of automotive hand built quality. Obviously this guy was driving this car and having a blast. That's what it is all about.

This past weekend was the Anniversary Run. We had a good turn out even with the threat of rain. Ed Major and Bruce Stutzman did a fine job as usual. We only had one casualty. Richard Dick's TR7 decided to be a problem. The accelerator cable broke right at the firewall. Of course it wouldn't be our typical WPTA event unless we had a Triumph on the side of the road with five or six guys bent over the fender. We all learned lots about TR7 accelerator cables. We fussed with trying to join the two pieced together with a salvaged heater cable end from Donald Harkus's TR4. I was not having much luck and was getting pretty frustrated when Donald gave it a try. Dr. Harkus within 5 minutes had the patient up and running. Cable end and a little duct tape was all it took. Everybody needs to buy the big economy size of Duct tape and keep it in their trunk.

Of course this little off-road repair backed up the entire group since we were the second group out. Several locals even came out with coat hangers in hand with ideas of how they would fix it. "Well all you need is a bra strap and a coat hanger. Anybody got a bra strap." Need less to say no one offered their bra straps. There where several ideas on how we might try to use a bicycle brake cable. The problem was getting it off the bike of the person that stopped to see what we where doing without them noticing. We quickly abandoned

that idea also. Someone did find a local tavern and bought a six-pack for the assembled crowd to enjoy. We had quite a little picnic. We made it to the end of the rally with no other problems. Thanks to Ed and Bruce for a fun day.

Autumn Leaf tour is coming October 14th. Hope everyone has RSVP'd to the Twiest's by now. If not, please do so soon. It sounds as if the Twiest and Jerman duo have planned a fantastic day. Also, I am planning to have a very short club business meeting. According to the bylaws I am required to take nominations for the club officers in October. Currently we don't have a vacancy, and all current officers are planning to remain. But if you are interested in running for a club office please plan on attending and having your name nominated. We will be voting on the nominated people at the November meeting.

With the driving season coming to an end I would like to invite all club members to join us for a monthly get together. We won't call them meetings unless we have club business that needs to be discussed or voted on and I will call for a general business meeting when that occurs, but I dread this time of the year. I feel like we lose touch with one another. The night I would like to do this would be the last Monday of the each month. This happens to be the same night we put the newsletter together. After we finish the newsletter however we just sit around eating pizza and drinking beer at a local Southside pub. So if your interested in sitting around drinking beer and talking cars stop by Michael's Pizza Bar and Restaurant at 2612 Sarah Street in the South Side around 6:30 PM on the last Monday of each month.

Speaking of meetings, I am planning to have a General Business Meeting on Wednesday, November 15th. Mark you calendar. I know historical we have had Friday night meetings but it is impossible to find a room that will put up with us without a commitment in numbers and food or a considerable fee. So I am playing dictator and have changed our meeting night to a Wednesday. Lets talk the meeting place, I have found a new place, the Fireside Inn. It is located in Robinson Township on Route 60 just before you cross the Thornburg Bridge into Crafton. It is easily reached from Route 79 or the Parkway. There will be a map in next month's newsletter. They have a large parking lot. If you're interested in diner you can order off the menu and while we won't have a private room but I have been told they will have several tables set aside in the corner and having a meeting will be no problem. The best part is it is free. The other problem is we will not have a keg. The owner will not let us have a keg without him turning it into a private party, which then has a \$200.00 charge. So it will be a cash bar. I hope this will work for most members; of course we are always interested in experimenting with other places so if you have an idea for a place to go please let me know. See ya soon.

## You know you've owned a Triumph too long when...

You always park downhill.

The guy at the parts house is listed as a dependent on your income tax form.

You get in a car and are surprised when all of the instruments work.

You tell your wife that you were out until 3AM because the car broke down and she believes you.

The family is no longer upset in having to share the dinner table with a bunch of SU parts.

You don't trust anyone named Lucas.

When your generator dies, you just pull another out of your Lucas pile of bits.

You wash your hands before working in the engine compartment.

You'd rather give the family pit bull a bath than tune your SU carburetors again.

You allow four hours for a trip, 3 for repairs and 1 for driving.

You can unstick a jammed starter in the dark, in the rain, in minutes and don't think it's a big deal.

There's no oil on the garage floor so you know the car's completely empty.

Your car makes a funny sound and you immediately know what's wrong, how much it will cost, and what tools you will need to repair it.

## Smoke, Revisited

*One of our members reminded me of this article from July 89's newsletter. I thought it worth another run.*

*It was titled SMOKE.*

The nature of what we refer to as electricity has been discussed and disputed for at least 200 years. An elaborate theory based on electrons has been built up over the years, but all this scientific mumbo-jumbo has been rendered obsolete by a recent discovery. ELECTRICITY IS SMOKE! A sheet of paper crossed my desk the other day, and as I read it, a realization of a basic truth came over me. So simple. So obvious that we missed it! Electricity is smoke!

John Knivien, chairman of Palomar Repeater Club (amateur radio group), has discovered how electrical circuits work. He says that smoke is the thing that makes electrical circuits work, and he knows this to be true because every time he lets the smoke out of an electrical circuit, it stops working. He claims that he has verified this theory with thorough testing.

I was flabbergasted!

Of course! Smoke makes all things electrical work! Remember the last time smoke escaped from your Lucas voltage regulator? Didn't it quit working? I sat down and smiled like an idiot as more of the truth dawned. It's the wiring harness that carries the smoke from one electrical device to another in your TR, MG, Jaguar, Alvis or Bentley and when the harness springs a leak it lets smoke out of everything at once, and then nothing works.

The starter motor requires large quantities of smoke to operate properly, and that's why the wire going in is so large.

Feeling very smug, I continued to expand my hypothesis. Why are Lucas electricals more likely to break down than Bosch? Hmmmmm? Aha! Lucas is British, and all things British leak. British brake unites leak fluid, and I might add, British tires leak air, and the British defense leaks secretes, - naturally, British electric's leak smoke.

I thought this was worth sharing as it explains the mysteries of electrical components.

## Covered Bridges, Pumpkins, a Pig Roast, a Bon Fire, and a Barnhouse

*Tour by the Twiests & Jermans*

It's all in store for you at this year's Autumn Leaf Tour, So... Come One, Come all to the last ride of the season!! Saturday, October 14th will be a blast! We will meet at 2 PM at the King's Restaurant on Route 66 in Delmont. David Jerman has mapped out some fun roads with beautiful scenery, and you will have the chance to see the fall leaves in all their glory. The tour will stop at Reeger's Farm Market for their annual Pumpkin Festival with special WPTA parking. We will also travel through/past Indiana County's four covered bridges and end at Mark and Meghan Twiest's beautiful barnhouse for a pig roast, bon fire, and homemade pies. Jim and Chris Antis will have their antique cider press on hand for fresh apple cider. Please send a check for \$15 per person made out to "Mark Twiest" and mail to: 1603 Kimmel Road, Home PA 15747, by October 10th to make your reservations.

If you want to make a weekend of it - camping is available on the farm or call Mark and Meghan at (724)463-1612 for a complete listing of Indiana's hotel and bed and breakfast accommodations. And as a special treat for those who stay, Mark will be preparing his famous pancakes for Sunday Breakfast. Come and join us for our last tour of the season and a fun filled day!!

## Only In Merry Olde England

A young woman who was several months pregnant boarded a bus. When she noticed a young man smiling at her she began feeling humiliated on account of her condition. She changed her seat and he seemed more amused. She moved again and then on her fourth move he burst out laughing. She had him arrested. When the case came before the court, the young man was asked why he acted in such a manner. His reply was when the lady boarded the bus I couldn't help noticing she was pregnant. She sat under an advertisement which read "Coming Soon the Gold Dust Twins", then she moved under one that read "Sloans Liniments remove Swelling". I was even more amused when she sat under a shaving advertisement, which read "William Stick Did the Trick". Then I could not control myself any longer when on the fourth move she sat under an advertisement, which read "Dunlop Rubber would have prevented this accident." He won the case.

## John Macartney wrote:

"Shall I compare thee to an MGB?

Thou art more lovely and more temperate.

Rough bearings do darling journals shake,  
for lo - lathe's lease hath had too short a date.

Sometime too blue the eye of Lucas shines,  
And often is his white complexion dimmed,  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance - or Ackerman's changing course untrimmed;  
But thy eternal Conifer Green shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of thine shine,

Nor shall rust brag thou wander'st in his shade  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st.

— So long as men can swear and curse, while counting  
groats within a dwindling purse,

— So long lives this, and this gives life to me."

William Shaykespear

Was he working on a Spittfyre at the time?

# CAR NAMES EXPLAINED

**AUDI:** Always Unsafe Designs Implemented  
Another Uninformed Driver Insulted  
All Unnecessary Devices Installed \*1.

**BMW:**Big Money Works  
Bought My Wife  
Brutal Money Waster  
Bimbette Motor Weapon  
Break My Window  
Big Man Wannabe  
Big Money Wasted  
Broken Money Waster

**BUICK:**  
Big Ugly Indestructible Car Killer  
Big Ugly Import Car Killer

**CADILLAC:**  
Crazy And Demented Idiots Like Large American Cars

**CHEVROLET:**  
Can Hear Every Valve Rap On Long Extended Trips  
Cheap, Hardly Efficient, Virtually Runs On Luck Every Time  
Car Has Extensive Valve Rattle On Long Extended Trips

**CHRYSLER:**  
Can't Have Refund, You're Stuck Leasing Edsel's  
Replacement \*2.

**DODGE:** Drips Oil, Drops Grease Everywhere

**FIAT:** Failure in Italian Automotive Technology  
Fix It All the Time  
Fix it again, Tony!  
Fix it again tomorrow  
Feeble Italian Attempt at Transportation

**FORD:**  
Frigin Old Rebuilt Dodge  
First On Recall Day  
First On Rust and Deterioration  
Fix Or Repair Daily  
Found On Road, Dead  
Fault Of Research and Development  
Fast Only Rolling Downhill  
Features O.J. and Ron's DNA  
Found On Russian Dump  
Fraternal Order of Restored DeSoto's  
Ford backwards: Drivers returning on foot.

**GEO:** Good Engineering Overlooked

**GM:** General Maintenance  
Great Mistake  
Garage Me

**GMC:** Garage Man's Companion  
Got A Mechanic Coming?  
Generally Mediocre Cars  
Got More Crap

**HONDA:** Had One Never Did Again

**HYUNDAI:**  
Hope You Understand Nothing's Driveable And Inexpensive...

**JEEP:** Junk Engineered, Executed Poorly

**KIA:** Kick It Again

**LINCOLN:**  
Lousy Implementation, Not Cars Of Luxurious Nature

**MAZDA:**  
Most Always Zipping Dangerously Along  
Made After Zero Design Analysis \*3.

**MERCEDES:**  
Many Expensive Repairs Can Eventually Discourage  
Extra Sales \*4.

**MOPAR:**  
Most Often Passed At Races  
Mostly Old Parts And Rust  
Mostly Old Paint And Rust

**OLDSMOBILE:**  
Old Ladies Driving Slowly Make Others Behind Infuriatingly  
Late Everywhere  
Overpriced, Leisurely Driven Sedan Made Of Buick's Irregular  
Leftover Equipment  
Old Ladies Drive Slow-Mostly Over Bridges Into Lake Erie

**PLYMOUTH:**  
Police Laugh, Young Men Ogle, All Underestimating This Heap

**PONTIAC:**  
Poor Old Nick Thinks It's A Cadillac

**PORSCHE:**  
Proof Only Rich Suckers Can Have Everything

**SAAB:**  
Send Another Automobile Back  
Swedish Automobiles Always Breakdown.  
Sad Attempt At Beauty

**SATURN:**  
Sad Attempt To Unload Recycled Nissans

**STEALTH:**  
Speed Trap Equipment Aims Low, Targets Hood \*5.

**SUBARU:**  
Screwed Up Beyond All Repair Usually

**TOYOTA:**  
Too Often Yankees Overprice This Auto

**TRIUMPH:**  
The Risk In Useless Machinery Pays Heavily

**VOLVO:**  
Very Odd Looking Vehicular Object

**VW:**  
Virtually Worthless

**YUGO:**  
Yearly undergoes garage operations  
You'll utter "greatly overpriced"

## My philosophy on selling % Off when selling parts

If I know you .....50%

If I know you and like you ..... 50% & a free beer

If I know of you .....50%

If you know of me ..... 50% 2 beers

If you pretend you know of me . . . . 75% "sorry, our  
toilets broken"

If I know and don't really like you ..... 50% "as is"

If I know you and really don't like you ..... 50% "perfect  
shape, it worked when I pulled it"

If I know you and I know you don't like me..... 100% "I  
should keep that as a spare"

If I know you and I think just came to see if my wife is  
wearing her bikini..... 50% "let's go to the shop"

If I don't know you but you bring your dog .....35% & a  
free beer

If I don't know you and you bring you hot spouse ..... 25%  
hug like Old friends,6 pack on the deck

I don't know you and you bring your dog, err spouse .....  
50% "please leave, I have to floss my teeth"

If you tell me you are going to ship the TR I'm selling to  
Belgium..... 2 x \$XXXX

If you tell me you are going to restore it to drive "in a French  
accent".....2 x to 3 x \$XXXX....

If you are going to fix it up so you can sell that piece of  
@%&\* ..... 4 x \$XXXX

If you state "these TR's break more than my old MG did"  
..... 6 x \$XXXX

Bob Kramer  
TR4, TR4A, TR6, 2.5 Saloon

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

**October 2000  
Issue of the  
Dzus Dnuz**

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## Fall Leaf Tour, October 14th, RSVP today!

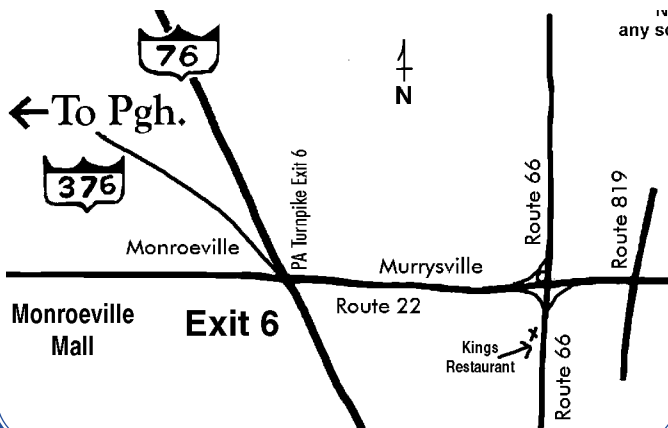
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### WPTA Annual Fall Leaf Tour

Sat., October 14, 2000

**Meet at 2 PM at  
Kings Restaurant in  
Delmont, Route 66**

Hurry and get your RSVP in before  
Oct. 7th, see inside Dnuz



## WPTA Calendar of Events

- Oct 14 **Fall Leaf Tour**  
Mark & Meghan Twiest
- Nov 15 **General bussiness meeting**  
Fireside Inn
- Dec 9 **Hang out at the Cranburry Steak & Lube**  
Mark Phillips 412-561-5972

**~ Of Other Interest ~**

- Oct 4-10 **SCCA National Runoffs**  
Mid ohio Race Course