

Established  
1977



# Dzus Druz T

Volume 24 Number 11

Zōos Nūz

August, 2001

|                |                             |                        |                         |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| President      | Mark Phillips 412-561-5972  | Recording Secretary    | Gary Fredo 724-378-9610 |
| Vice President | Dave Jerman 724-349-6639    | Membership Chairperson | Ed Woods 412-486-4294   |
| Treasurer      | Bruce Stutzman 412-831-8884 | Newsletter Editor      |                         |

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

I guess this time of year is what you call the "dog days" of summer. I love this weather, the hotter the better. Sherry on the other hand withers. There is nothing better than a nice run on a high temperature high humidity day. A good sweat is good for the body and soul; I wish my Triumph felt the same.

First up from last month was our meeting at the 911th Air Group Club. We had a very nice meeting, several new people showed up along with many regulars. This meeting was our prelude to British Car Day. We mapped out the process for getting the cars on the field, pre-registered, gate registered, and others. There was no new business to discuss since it had been a while since our last meeting. So we got down to some eating and drinking. We also had a mini car show. Sherry and I where in the TR6, Fred Williams had his TR4, Mark Johnson came in his TR250, and I think Richard Dick came out in his TR7. We had such a good time at the 911th Club that we are going to stay for a while, or until they throw us out. Thanks to Dexter Stoltz for finding this place. The food is very good and the beer cheap. My kind of place.

Second up from last month was the Western Pennsylvania Triumph Association's biggest event of the year, British Car Day. First I want to take this opportunity to thank our Registrar Ed Woods for all his hard work. Ed, we could not have done it without you. Also, many thanks to all that showed up Friday to set the field. Many of you have heard the story about the sponsor's tent in our tent's location so I won't bore you here but if it wasn't for cooler heads I'm not sure what would have happened. We had several trucks on the field Friday night and all we would have needed was a length of rope and that tent could have been on Schenly Drive.

Cooler heads finally prevailed and Jim Shaw came up with a new show field layout, I think it worked out much better than our previous scheme, so we drove the stakes, ate pizza, and drank beer. The end of the day Friday turned out much better than I thought it would when I drove up at 5:00pm.

Saturday, want a day! Again I have to thank everyone that came out to park cars. We have not had as good a group, ever, in my twelve years of being involved with the WPTA and British Car Day. Our gate registration was almost flawless, thanks to Ed Woods and the group that helped at gate registration and also thanks to Tina and Pam Woods who worked under the club tent. The big problem we had that day was the number of gate registrations. We had over 100 cars pull up that day to register. This resulted in many of our car classes getting short of parking spaces on the field. However, there where no real problems and everyone I dealt with was very corporative. We parked about 375 cars on the field, which is as big a show as we have ever had and had a total registration of 408 cars for our event. I am very proud what the WPTA did this year and I hope everyone had a great Saturday. This is no doubt the second largest British car show in Pennsylvania, and thanks to all that helped.

Now that British Car Day is behind us let's see what is com-

ing up. First up this month is our monthly meeting. We will be at the 911th Air Group Club August 8th; meeting begins around 8:00pm. Need directions give me a call? It is very easy to find. If you have a chance come on out, there are several issues we need to discuss and if we have a quorum there are items we will be voting on.

Also, this month is the largest British car show/party in the state. Charles Runyan and his staff will again be hosting the Summer Party. This year I understand that there is a safari theme. The WPTA will have a presence; Fred Williams has made arrangements for our club tent to be on the field. This will provide a place for members to sell a few Triumph items and a place to meet others or if you need to hide you liquid refreshments there will be plenty of people willing to watch it for you. Also, Jim Antis will be working the car show. If you are able to help park cars please give Jim a call. Hurry and register, time is running out.

Also, coming up in September is the celebration of the WPTA's beginnings, our Anniversary Run. The run is on the calendar for September 15th, this year's host is Richard Dick; see the article inside for the details.

Well I think that is about it for now. See you at the meeting or at Summer Party.

## Summer Party Reminder

by Fred Williams

A reminder that WPTA will have a hospitality tent set up at the TRF Summer Party. All members are welcome and encouraged to visit and use the facility. Bring your cooler (filled preferably!!) and your chair and enjoy the company of fellow WPTA members. There will be lively conversation and probably more than a few beers, and no doubt car talk. Bring your auto related flea market items (smaller than a normal sized bread box) to sell. Plan on solving a few tech problems with some of our more experienced and respected (?) associates. Or just hang out and absorb the British car weekend! There hasn't been anything like it since the 8th grade picnic!

We will be located in the vender area in the corner near the polo field. Be there or be square!

*Due to increasing products liability litigation, American Beer Brewers suggest the following warning label on beer:*

**WARNING: The consumption of Alcohol may make you think you are wispering when you are not.**

# Washington County Tour Wrap-Up

by Bud Osbourne (*dumb-ass tour master*)

Sunshine, comfortable temperatures, and great driving roads with virtually NO local traffic greeted the 16 cars (the vast majority of which were MGs) participating in this year's event. The Pittsburgh area Porsche 356 group, with 2 cars participating, narrowly missed edging out WPTA for the number of cars participating. However, Bruce "Madman" Stutzman upheld the honor of WPTA with some really splendid driving, while leading a group comprised of an MGB (also very well driven), and both Porsche 356s (neither of whom had any complaints about the pace). From where I was sitting, Bruce did a great job of "reading the road", and appeared to be very smooth. Unfortunately, the dumb-ass tour master didn't fully check the corrections he'd made to the route instructions, after a computer problem (assume it really a four-letter word). This put all but three of the participants 180 degrees off-course for a while. Fortunately, the road in the wrong direction was good, too, so everyone still had fun for the few miles it took to get back on course. The bad part was that it bunched all but a few of the cars together and nobody remembered to separate into groups again, to facilitate better service at The Ole' Hickory Inn (Next year, Bill McCracken, owner of The Ole' Hickory Inn, will be starting the groups out, while threatening them about arriving at the restaurant in one, large group). Also, next year; the quicker groups will start first. That way, there will be even more time between group arrivals at the restaurant (meaning: you won't have to wait long for a table), and, if the rule about pulling over to let faster traffic through is ignored again, the only traffic that will be held-up will be in pick-up trucks instead of MGs, Triumphs and Porsches.

For those who elected to wait for a table (and we did have to wait for a while) at The Ole' Hickory Inn, the beer was cold, the food was good and the camaraderie was great. We'll do it again, next year and WPTA is invited.

## The Anniversary Run

The Anniversary Run on Saturday, September 15th this year will be a leisurely run thru parts of the Laurel highlands. Planned are several stops along the way including one as a pit stop/ snack stop. We will be touring the Laurel Caverns at about 3:30 followed by dinner at the Summit Inn about 5:00. I will need to know how many will be taking the tour of the Caverns so they can have adequate guides for us. The Summit Inn would like to know how many will be there for dinner. When you are sure you will be on the run or joining us at either the caverns or dinner I would appreciate hearing from you. More details of this run will be in the September newsletter.

## Regalia News

At long last, new club shirts are in stock! They are the same style as the khaki shirts that were previously available, now in a pre-washed denim. Really nice, sizes m-xl, 27 bucks. We also have golf shirts in all sizes, a few remaining khakis in xl, and the fleece pullovers in charcoal. I also have one fleece pullover in an experimental BRG. Of course, blankets, jackets, stickers and patches are also in stock.

If you're interested in any of these items, feel free to contact me, or use one of the handy order forms found occasionally in the newsletter.

It's not too early to start your x-mas shopping, you know...

Thanks. Chris martin, new parent (again) and deadbeat clubmember, 724 443 1428, rossman@stargate.net

# Electronic Mail Run

By Jim Underwood

On Sunday July 8th, we had a different kind of EMR, an (Electronic Mail Run) if you will. This came about after a conversation with some other members at Mid Ohio in June who were bemoaning the lack of many driving events on our calendar. I decided to take the bull by the horns and do an impromptu run. Since I had already missed the deadline for the newsletter, I thought I would try organizing it via the email list and a few phone calls. This is actually not a new concept since Ed Major tried it last year with a series of dinner meets that were announced through email. Ed says it rained every time though and he finally gave up.

We had 7 cars and 12 people show up at New Stanton for what turned out to be a very enjoyable day. Nancy & I were quite surprised with the turnout given the impromptu nature of the run and the ominous weather. The weather was really strange that day as we headed into the mountains. The over-cast skies didn't stop everyone from dropping the tops even though it looked like it would pour down rain any minute. As it turned out, we didn't get rained on although the mist was so thick that the wipers were required several times.

Our first stop was Ligonier where the ladies did a little shopping while a few of us guys, in fine WPTA tradition, opened up the bar at the corner tavern. After about an hour or so, we headed cross-country to Rte. 40 and our final destination of the Old Stone House Restaurant for a late lunch. Our arrival at 2:00 worked out great since they let us have a separate room, all to our selves, that wouldn't be used until 5:30 for another party. On second thought, maybe they just wanted to keep us segregated from the rest of the clientele. Haha! The food was good, the company better and we all shared some laughs. As luck would have it, the sun was shining brightly as we all headed for home.

So, keep tabs on that email cause you never know when someone may decide to post a run that you surely wouldn't want to miss.

## Farm Aroma Run

Donald Harkus

Yes, there is night life north of Cranberry, Pa. Come and see for yourself when we escort you through some of the best farm country roads north of Washington County. You may want to bring your camera to capture some of the beautiful scenery and windy roads. If farm animals are your thing, you will be delighted, (and if you are delighted, please don't tell us). Catch the aroma of the country farm as you speed past, (or maybe you won't want to). Tour beautiful Moraine State Park and its marina, and swimwear. End up at the haunted harmony Inn and throw darts with the locals in their natural habitat. Heck, they even let Ken Mikos in the door, (actually I heard they made him drink outside and only his date was allowed in).

Anyway we will meet at 4:00 at the Park and Ride at I79 and 528, Evans City exit, and begin the run shortly there after, after the usual banter and compensating for Tommy Averal time.

**Osbourne Pulls A  
Dankmyer at Washington  
County Run...  
Details next issue**

# Automotive Greenness or Driving a Green Car in a Metallic Gray World

by Tom Draper

## Definitions

A true sports car is a small open car equipped with the minimum amount of equipment not necessary for motion. It should be able to be used in competition without significant modification. It should be able to give pleasure in all states of being: in motion, at rest, or in need of a carburetor rebuild. It must be jaunty. It does not have to be fast or expensive. It does need to emit pleasing sounds and smells and have a pleasant personality. A car that enhances its surroundings just by moving through or existing in them. Regardless of Madison Avenue hype or performance capability, cars equipped with more than two doors or with steel over the driver's head are not true sports cars. TRs are. They were built from about 1952 until they were improved to the point that no one wanted them any more. My TR-3 is the second model built and lacks virtually everything that a modern car has today, except all those things that make even a short trip to the store an enjoyable event.

## Childhood

All during elementary and high school, my best friend and I used to build models. I built planes (still do). He used to build Merit model car kits of various famous British cars. While doing so we listened to old Riverside LP recordings of sports car races. That is, when his folks weren't taking us to Lime Rock and Thompson race tracks in Connecticut. We would sit on the hill and watch all the great 50's sports cars roar around, spinning out, and drifting through the turns, devoid of such things as sponsor decals and radial tires. We both read Road & Track every month and discussed those strange foreign designs, rather than the latest automatic-transmissioned Detroit iron.

After college, when we were flush enough to have the money to drive our own cars, my friend bought a used Triumph TR-4. We roared around in this for years, until I bought a '68 Fiat 124 Spider. After that we chased each other around. I had always wanted a Morgan, but when the Fiat came out, it was love at first sight. My father tried to stop me from getting the car, saying among other things, "Christ, you can buy a Pontiac Catalina sedan for less money than that!" In the event, I drove that Fiat for 120,000 miles until it had so much rust on it, it was like driving a red Alka Seltzer tablet - at 60 miles per hour you could listen to it fizz.

That Fiat led me to my TR. When I finally reluctantly sold the Fiat, I went through some highly reliable, but boring machinery until I got the urge to get a sports car again. But I was on the rebound. I wanted something that was completely different than my beloved Italian Spider. And I wanted another roadster, something that has a minimum of stuff between the top of the windscreen and the sky, so when you look forward you see blue, or in the case of British cars, gray, above the windscreen.

By that time, Morgans were priced out of the question. I looked at MGs. One time I drove a red TR-3B, the last of the TR-3s. It was in such bad shape that it barely was able to get itself around the block. I thought "this is out — forget Triumphs", and put the whole subject on hold. Then came that fateful day.

## Boy Meets Car

Another friend who knew I was suffering from chronic roadster separation led me to a barn in Lynchburg, VA. There it was. Parked nose in, covered with bat guano, was a 1956 "small mouth" Triumph TR-3 equipped with a split tonneau and

## ~WPTA~ Calendar of Events

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Aug 8     | General Business Meeting,<br>8:00pm - 911th Air Group Club            |
| Aug 10-12 | Roadster Factory Summer Party   |
| Aug 18    | Farm Aroma Run<br>Don Harkus  |
| Aug 27    | Newsletter Meeting,<br>6:00pm Michael's Pizza Bar                     |
| Sept 15   | Anniversary Run<br>Richard Dick                                       |
| Sept 12   | General Business Meeting,<br>8:00pm 911th Air Group Club              |
| Sept 24   | Newsletter Meeting,<br>6:00pm Michael's Pizza Bar                     |
| Oct ??    | Fall Leaf Tour  |
| Oct 10    | Business Meeting (Officer Nominations)<br>8:00pm 911th Air Group Club |
| Oct 19    | Quaker Sreak & Lube Run<br>Bud Osbourne 724-356-4464                  |

## ~ Of Other Interest ~

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Aug 22-26 | VTRNational, Breckenridge Colorado      |
| Sept 7-9  | Vintage Races, Watkins Glen             |
| Sept 16   | British Cars at Hartwood<br>Jaguar Club |

painted the color of metallic green Coca-Cola. Not only did it start; it drove. Well. And for the first time in my marriage, I did not correctly predict my wife's reaction to an untoward event. She loved the car too. Amazing. Up until that moment, she had never related to objects not fuzzy or made principally of fabric or wood. We bought the car and had it completely taken down, mechanically worked over, and repainted for 1900 1984 dollars. Although I restored it, I kept it the way I found it - no front bumper and driving lights where its grill should have been—the way it had evolved in its youth. Today over forty years after it was built, it still can go over a hundred, and provide more fun than a hundred Volvos. I painted it 1984 AMC

*Ed. Note: Tom sent us this article but it's a little too long for one issue of the dnuz, we will print the final installment of the life and times of Tom next issue.*

## Quaker Steak n' Lube Tour

The Pittsburgh area 356 Group, a.k.a. 356burgh, is having a Quaker Steak n' Lube Tour on Sunday, August 19th. We'd like to extend an invitation to the WPTA to join us. We'll meet at 1130a.m. at the Mt. Nebo exit Park n' Ride off I-79. First group will leave by noon. The traditional stops at McConnells Mills and Volant are planned. The MG club is also invited and we'll be meeting the NE Ohio 356 Group at the 'Lube. Hope you can be there!

Bud Osbourne

## Classified

**For Sale:** 1973 TR-6 excellent condition Rust free 724-789-7466 seriously this is a good clean driver car.

**For sale:** pair of rectangular lucas driving lights, good condition, on swivel mounts. Hail from an early '70's tr6, I think. Very similar to those found on the shelby mustangs. \$60? I can email photos if interested. Chris martin, 724 443 1428

Established  
1977



# WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRIUMPH ASSOCIATION

647 Royce Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15243

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

**August, 2001  
Issue of the  
Dzus Dnuz**

## The Roadster Factory Summer Party August 10, 11 & 12th

### WPTA Monthly Meeting, Wed., August 8th

### WPTA Monthly Meeting Wednesday, Aug 8, 2001 8pm at the 911th Air Wing Club

The Club is located in Building 110 on the 911th air base. The base is adjacent to the airport off the Parkway West. Meeting starts at 8 PM. Arrive earlier for dinner.



### The Roadster Factory Summer Party August 10-12th

This Year the WPTA will host a Hospitality Tent on the grounds of TRF. You are invited to join us at this gathering point throughout the weekend. You will be able to sell your Triumph treasures, share a brew, and talk cars. Hope to see you under the blue tent.

