

Established
1977



www.wptriumph.org

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Zōos Nūz

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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

Well, we're back from the sunny, sandy shores of the Gulf side of Florida. We did everything we wanted, which was absolutely nothing. Sherry walked the beach collecting shells and I sat around drinking beer watching speed TV when I wasn't in the sun, and getting a tan when I was. Actually saw a Triumph, while we were on the island, parked at a gas station. Sherry saw it on one of our morning bike rides. I was riding ahead of her when she spotted it; she said something like "hey, look at the Triumph". I hurriedly looked back over my shoulder, not really watching where I was going. You know what's coming here, slam, right square into a fire hydrant. Luckily, I wasn't going very fast or I would have gone over the handlebars. No harm on foul. The worst part was it was only a Spitfire! Sorry Gary and Scott.

Sounds like I missed a busy month from what I've heard. We tried out a new place for our meetings, The Sharp Edge. I've heard it was a nice place, and it looks like we had a good turn out. A special thank you to Don Accamando for doing all the research and finding this place. Please drop me a note and let me know what you thought of the place. Should we go back? Was the food any good and most important, was the beer selection everything I heard it was? Hope to hear from a few of those that attended.

Since I was away, VP Gary Fredo presided over the meeting and it sounds like he did a great job of running the meeting. Gary sent me a note of the list of motions the membership voted on. Must have been a busy night, or maybe the beer was really flowing by then. First vote was the Presidents column is going to be moved to the back page and the new front page article will be Erin Permar's "Wife speaks Out". Sounds good to me. You know they really are in charge. They just let us think we are doing what we want. Second vote was to build a 50' x 100' clubhouse location to be determined. The clubhouse is to be fitted out with a multi-beer refrigerator, air compressor, 220 volt, big screen TV that carries only Speed Vision and furnished with multiple couches. Sounds like my kind of place. Anybody got 10 acres? The Treasurer's report was "looting has gone well in Iraq" and the final motion was, WPTA block party at 647 Royce Ave. You know this last one is no problem; just let me know when you're coming. Sounds like everyone had a good time at the meeting. Gary, thanks for filling in.

Also, I heard good things about our carburetor tech session at Bud Osborne's on the 12th of April. The turn out was good and I understand that the assembled experts were coherent and sober until mid afternoon. That could be a new record! I hope someone took some pictures.

Coming up this month you'll get the opportunity to test what you've learned this spring at our Tech Sessions. That's right, our Tune Up Clinic is May 3rd at the Roy Miller and Son Plumbing Shop in Sharpsburg. Thank you to Roy Miller for letting us use his garage again. Also, thanks to Doug Foyle

for sponsoring this event again and remember; if you have a large project that you need a hand with, be sure to give Doug a call so he can line up the help. John Swauger from the Roadster Factory will be in attendance with the tune up stuff you will need. If you need something special, other than the normal tune up items, make sure to call the Roadster Factory and tell them that this is for the Tune up Clinic and John will bring it with him. I can't wait! This is one of my favorite events of the year.

continued on page three

Butler County Tour 2003

By Don Harkus

The tour will kick off at the Kings Restaurant on Route 8 in Gibsons at 12:00 noon, May 24. Kings is located in the K-Mart Shopping center two miles north of the Turnpike. This tour will be like no others before it. We will tour the scenic back roads of Butler. There will be lots of s-turn for guys who need the feel for speed (Fred). We will stop at The Foxburg Inn for a late lunch around 3. For those that went on the fall leaf tour last year, the food and atmosphere is excellent. From there we will continue on through Butler County with a pit stop for some homemade hand dipped ice cream. For those who wish to continue on; we will end up at my place for a bon-fire, beer and socializing. For those who are brave enough, bring your swim suits for some hot-tubing as well. It should make a perfect end for a wonderful relaxing day to enjoy time with friends. Hope to see you there.

Triumphantune

By Doug

Saturday, May 3rd, 8:00AM at Roy Miller's garage in Sharpsburg is when and where the driving season begins with the WPTA Tune Up Clinic.

John Swauger, from The Roadster Factory, will be there with a wide assortment of tune up pieces. There will be discounts on all parts sold at the clinic. If you place an order in advance of the event, notify the sales person that it is for the Tune Up clinic and John will deliver it to the garage at no charge.

Scott Schober has very kindly donated a barrel of 20w-50 for oil changes.

Every one should plan to attend. All those planning to work on a car should notify Doug Foyle at (724)452-5218.

So stop by and prepare your car for the driving season, have lunch and meet new members.

Hope to see you there.

One Wives Tale

by Joni Shaw

Many thanks and congratulations to Erin for sharing her perspectives on being a Triumph owner's girlfriend and wife. Obviously your article has been enlightening and inspiring to others. Now for Mr. Underwood we might have to set the record straight on a few details. Jim, I'm sure you didn't mean to share "secrets" or presume some of us didn't share a certain level of interest or enthusiasm. We may not have the same twist in our wrench or quite the same manicure regime as you true Triumph guys but don't overlook the some of your best assests.

If we are sharing stories, I have to start well before meeting Jim (Shaw that is). I grew up in a heartland of racing with Indy 500, Sprint racing and of course Stockcar racing. My tiny hometown was put on the racing map with Leffler Racing who was a talented Indy car builder. The local tavern was a frequent hangout to driver's, mechanics and the committed fans. Friday night was family night at the Stockcar races sometimes to cheer for a local guy. So it was pretty natural for me to grow up with some level of car interest.

My senior year in high school I decided to take interest one step further and petitioned to take Auto Mechanics. The school administration had a fit, but my dad was sure proud! I rebuilt a mean lawnmower engine and tuned my mom's Lincoln like never before.

These skills carried into my college years with my first vehicle, a Suzuki Brute. It was a two cylinder, two-stroke motor that was fairly temperamental and needed a sparkplug swap every 60 miles or so. I always carried a spare set. Once we sorted out the right combination for plugs, oil and tuning the problem was solved, but even with a twin-stick transmission, top end was only 45mph.

After college my car interest was still intact, so it was probably no coincidence when I spied a Maroon (non-original color) TR-6 with a dashing driver (the female companion was a minor detail). I did know something about cars and even a little about Triumphs. He was promptly impressed that I knew the car model and introduced me to a new level of auto enthusiasm that I had never before witnessed. Fitting as would be our first date was for Indy Qualifications. As our relationship grew we shared many fond memories at G.W. Pierce Wrecking and Wrecks Incorporated roaming through the salvage yards with a wrench in hand hoping to find an unsuspecting treasure or trinket. Our first 4th of July was spent rebuilding a racing TR-6 motor from Jack Wheeler and it was only fitting that I bought him the overdrive transmission to go with it. Later came whole car additions (in a manner of speaking) to the ever-growing Shaw Triumph fleet. Sometimes they came in pairs too which had some interesting rationalization.

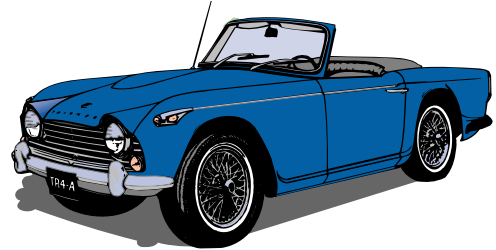
After marriage we quickly found that "Car Acquisition Mania" (CAM- seems fitting) does have it's downside when you live in a single-car garage duplex. We had to improvise as best we could, storing our most recent acquisitions (TR-3s) in a vacant hangar area at the airport. Many nights were spent working with substandard conditions, but we persevered.

Moving to Pennsylvania in mid 1986 again brought changes to our hobby. We found many dedicated Triumph enthusiasts and we were nearly 400 miles closer to the Roadster Factory! Garage space expanded and so did the intensity of the projects. Frame-off restorations became a reality.

The addition of children set an interesting turn on the Triumph hobby. With one son, we were certainly cramped into a two seat roadster with a car seat strapped to the rear shelf (directly over the gas tank!). A second son made the logistics

more than a challenge, but as fate would have it, a vacation trip to Colorado would present a solution, a 1970 TR-6. Of course in need of work after sitting many years, but the deal was made and the project ensued. No transport carrier for this car, Jim arranged some basic engine work before leaving for home, returned a few weeks later with the parts he had surveyed to need. I flew out a few days later with another assortment of parts and necessary components. Another day of work in my cousin's garage and our adventure began eastward back to Pennsylvania in what came to be known as "Joni's TR-6". Most of you know the rest from there.

So I guess maybe I don't have the grease under my nails and the scarred knuckles a "true" Triumph owner might have, but how many times do you get a car with it's own body man and mechanic to go with it! So tell me Mr. Underwood whose really got the deal here!



Mosport

by Jerry VanVlack

If you missed the Mid-Ohio Vintage Races last year and all of the fun to be enjoyed you have another chance this year. This year's event at the Canadian Mosport track may well be even better than Mid-Ohio with more participants and a greater contingent of Brit's as well. The dates are June 26,27,28, and 29th. Check out the Friends of Triumph website www.fot-racing.com for a list of those racers who have already signed up.

Mosport is just east of Toronto, Ontario and the site of many Canadian Grand-Prix races from the 60's and 70's as well as many other racing series such as the Can-Am Challenge. Mosport has a rich racing history and I've always wanted to see the racing there. Check out www.mosport.com for more information. Several of us are staying at the Holiday Inn (905-576-5101) in nearby Oshawa, Ontario.

WPTA will be well represented. Our Hospitality Tent was such a success at Mid-Ohio that we've agreed to do it all again this year. With the help of The Roadster Factory who will transport our tent and a few of the racing regulars we will again serve hot coffee and rolls each morning for the Triumph Racers and enthusiasts. We've been assigned some prime real estate overlooking a few turns and in the middle of the Triumph pits that I am told has a spectacular view of the whole complex. Come meet the likes of Kas Kastner, Mike Cook and Paul Richardson among others who will be hanging out with the WPTA Triumph celebrities.

The Toronto Triumph Club is planning events for the weekend that includes a car show. They are a large club and do some outstanding events each year.

Break up the weekend and visit Toronto. The US Dollar gets stretched in Canada and is currently about a 40% premium. If you have a passport bring it along for the border crossing, otherwise any recognized photo ID should suffice. A copy of a birth certificate is recommended if you don't have a passport. The Canadians are just as picky as the US when crossing. I do it frequently for business and it just takes a few minutes to answer their questions. Don't let it deter you.

Hope to see you there.

On The Mark *continued from page one*

Last up for May is Import Carlisle. This year, it's the 15th through the 18th. I'm not sure if there are any rooms still available, but if you need one, call 717-243-5411 immediately. This year it misses my wedding anniversary, but I think that means Ed Major is in trouble. But I'm sure Ed will be able to find that perfect Triumph accessory on the field grounds to melt Lori's heart so she'll let him back into the house on Sunday afternoon.

Coming up in June is something you'll want to mark on the calendar now. Jim Underwood is sponsoring and resurrecting our annual trek to Sharon PA's Quaker Steak & Lube. I have seen several emails circulating and this day is turning out to be a rendezvous for MG's and Triumph's from Western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. Lets make sure that the WPTA has the largest contingent. So, mark your calendar for June 7th.

Lastly, as a general interest item, in a recent article in the Pittsburgh Press I read an article about lawn mower racing in the Pittsburgh area and became intrigued with the notion. The article said that some modified lawn mowers could achieve speeds of over 50 mph. Amazing! There is a lawn mower racing track off route 422 in Butler. They race Sunday afternoons. Might make for an interesting afternoon. One evening, I began to wonder if there are any British made lawn mowers around. I actually found the British Lawn Mower Racing Association on the internet and the mower brands most used on the island where Westwood Lawnbug, Allen National, Westwood Gazelle, Murray, and Wheelhorse brands. None with triumph in their names, but I wonder if any have Lucas electrical systems. Also, after the month some of our membership has had at the racetrack, this could be a safer and less expensive venture for some. Well, that's about it for now.

See ya soon.



Carlisle Update

Plans are coming together for another big year at Import Carlisle. Dan Greene and I will be arriving on Thursday to set up the tent and our lawn chairs to be ready to search for parts. We have a lot of room available for parts, so bring out your extras and convert them to cash for additional purchases.

Ed says 10 rooms are still available, but will be released on May 1st. So if you need a room call the Best Western Inn at 1-717-243-5411 and tell them you're with the WPTA group.

Another new event at Carlisle this year is SCCA drivers school. This will take place on Saturday and Sunday with a fee of \$20 a day or \$30 for both days. There will be classroom sessions and practice runs. The registration booth will be located near the main show field. We'll be looking forward to seeing you at Carlisle

Jim

~WPTA~ Calendar of Events

- May 3** **Tune Up Clinic**
Douge Foyle 724-452-5218
- May 15-18** **WPTA at Import Carlisle**
Ed Major for rooms 412-488-1600 X207
Jim Shaw to sell parts 412-262-3878
- May 24** **Butler County Tour**
Don Harkus 724-284-9172
- May 27** **Newsletter Meeting,**
5pm-Typecraft/6pm-Michael's Pizza Bar
- June 7** **Quaker Steak & Lube**
Jim Underwood 412-929-8187
- July 12** **Washington County Tour**
Bud Osbourne 724-356-4464
- July 19** **British Car Day at Schenley Park**
Mark Phillips 412-561-5972
- July 19-20** **Pittsburgh Vintage Gran Prix**
Aug 8-10 **The Roadster Factory Summer Party**
Sept 13 **Anniversary Run**
Richard Dick 724-379-5172
- Sept 20** **Dogs with Fogs Mk III**
Ed Woods 412-486-4294
or Harvey Woods 412-486-2549
- Oct 18-19** **Fall Leaf Tour**
Don Harkus 724-284-9172

~ Events Of Other Interest ~

- May 3-4** **British Swap Meet & Car Show**
Independence Oh, Ken Hiller 216-701-5640
www.northeastohioaustinhealey.com
- May 25-31** **Drive Your British Car**
Unofficial National
Drive Your British Car week
- June 19-21** **TRA National Meet**
June 20-22 **Vintage Races, Mid Ohio**
June 27-29 **International Triumph Challenge**
Mosport Ontario, Triumph featured marque
- July 12** **Arthritis Cruise In & Classic Car Show**
Dublin OH, www.arthritisautosho.org
Special British area
- Aug 7-10** **VTR National Meet**
In conjunction with
The Roadster Factory Summer Party
- Sept 5-7** **US Vintage Gran Prix, Watkins Glen,**
Sept 6 **British Car Festival, Altoona**
Richard Dick 724-379-5172
or Will Schweitzer 724-356-7341
- Sept 20** **British Cars at Hartwood**
Jaguar Club of Pittsburgh



For Sale

1971 MGB Original equipment Very good shape and working order. New clutch two years ago. \$7500. Please call Chuck or Nancy Neff 724-225-7649



Steak & Lube 2003

By Jim Underwood

This year we will return to the land of hot wings in a bucket and hot cars suspended from the ceiling, that's right "The Lube" in Sharon PA. I just finished reading Ed's article from last month on how to run and promote an event so I'll try and follow his outline. Well I guess I failed the first step as the route is still being planned. I seem to have been sidetracked by a nasty battle with a "beaver from the north" that left a TR comrade a bit banged up. The prognosis for full recovery is good though and planning of the S&L route has resumed. I can tell you that as of now we are figuring on traveling partly up through Ohio and that one likely stop will include an Antique Mall that Nancy fell in love with in East Liverpool. (Joyce, there's a ton of Autumn Leaf!) There are also some smaller gift/craft shops as well as The Museum of Pottery. I spotted a couple of other establishments that may help us men folk pass the time.

OK, here goes.

Who? Hopefully you and your LBC. The Greater Pittsburgh MG Club will accompany us and the Cleveland area MG and TR clubs are planning to meet up with us in Sharon.

What? Well I'm not sure what you would call us but most of us are certified car nuts and enjoy driving our cars and eating tasty food, so that will be the emphasis.

Where? We will meet at the King's restaurant in Bridgeville on Rt. 50 just off the Bridgeville exit of I-79. I'm sure Ed will help me out with a map. There are also a McDonalds and Burger King nearby if that suits your taste.

When? Saturday June 7. We shall depart around 10:00AM so if you prefer breakfast, plan your time accordingly.

Why? So what else would you do on a nice Saturday; mow the lawn? Surely you don't want to miss what has historically been one of our most popular events. Besides, we need a strong WPTA show of numbers for all these other clubs. Would be pretty embarrassing if the guests outdo the host club. And as always, the real reason is good times, good friends and Triumphs, or whatever neat little car you presently own. Be forewarned though that some of us have picked up an aversion to Hondas as of late.



April Tech Session:

April 12, Hickory PA.

Sunshine, warm temps, cold beer and good food greeted the large number of WPTA and GPMGC faithful who turned out for the second tech session of the year at Bud Osbourne's garage & cat house (hey, you had to be there). Professors Stutzman and Woods held the crowd spellbound with their thorough, informative, humorous (those attending are probably still chuckling about the vision of a much younger Professor Woods jumping up and down on a TR-3 hood, along an Interstate, in January), and unscripted lecture on the theory, operation and secrets of the SU (and Stromberg CD) carburetors. Most important lesson learned! Leave them alone! As they say in Hickory: "Man! Them ol' boys was GOOD!" After the lecture by the above mentioned, esteemed professors, a short Q&A session and general discussion was followed by a walk over to the House of Oz (er, actually, Cindy) for kraut 'n kielbasa, hot dogs, potato salad, etc. washed down with cold beer. The remainder of the time was spent outside, in the beautiful spring weather, gathered around the lovely array of TR's and MG's that graced the Oz driveway that day, talking cars and eagerly anticipating the driving season.

Also, although this was to be a "classroom" lecture, at least one TR-3 was heard to be running MUCH better leaving than it had upon arrival (thank you,

Bruce and Ed).

Negotiations are currently underway with the distinguished professors for next year. We're hoping that we can get them to incorporate a little Bob Hope & Bing Crosby type routine into next years' lecture.



British Car Week

The Last Full Week of May - Every Year

Author Unknown

British Car Week...it's not just a week for hopping into your favorite old British car and driving it around for a good time, but rather an occasion to think about its very interesting history, its contribution to the world of cars, and how it's changed your life and the life of others for the better. It's a time to think of the friends you've made, the good times you've had, and what you can do to return the favor to these very special old cars that have been a treasured companion to so many people throughout the years. I've always felt that if these cars could talk and tell us of some of their adventures from the day they rolled out of the factory, we'd be greatly entertained. Most of these cars have had a very colorful past. Their owners tend to be more adventurous than the average person, and for that reason, these cars have seen some very exciting days. For many of them, the excitement is still going strong, but unfortunately, some are currently sitting in a dark storage place covered up with who knows what, or heaven forbid, collecting sap under an old tree or the like. Sadly enough, these are the cars that are not given the chance to prove they are still perfectly capable of providing a world of entertainment to their current owner. In many cases it's because the owner doesn't know how to work on the car, and they haven't the foggiest idea what to do to get the car ready for the road. Many people don't realize there are local clubs with good people who are more than willing to lend a helping hand. Whether it's physical help, or good advice, there are almost always plenty of people more than willing to help get the car safely on the road in one way or another. Whether it's parts, service, or technical help, there's almost always an abundance of choices. In many cases there are people who currently don't own a British car, but have always had a passion for them, but unless they have the chance to acquaint themselves with someone else with these interests, they may never have the courage take advantage of a life long ambition that could greatly enhance their lives. We all know these cars can be quirky, and for those who are not handy with a hammer or screwdriver, owning and driving one can be an intimidating experience. Knowing there are others nearby to lend a helping hand can make a world of difference. So for those of you who would like to spend some quality time with your good old trusted friend during the last full week of May every year, be sure to keep these things in mind. Pull your car out of the garage and spruce it up, but don't stop there, go ahead and take it for a nice long drive, everyday. Think about offering some technical help to a local club member. Take that curious little neighborhood kid for a ride in a car that he or she will never forget. Join the club you've been thinking about lately. Support your British car parts suppliers and buy some parts for your car. There's no doubt about it, there's a lot of things to do with your British car. Most of all having a good time!

See you on the road.....



Tippaconoe and Sweitzer Too!

Paid for by the committee to elect
Wil Schweitzer WPTA President in 2003

Painting

From the Internet

You actually will get the surfaces flatter faster and remove LESS material in total if you begin with 600 sanding in one direction only, repeat at 90 degrees with 1000, ditto 90 degrees with 1500 and again at 90 degrees with 2000. Think of the sand paper as a cross section of the thread of a bolt. If you continue to sand in the same direction, even if only every other stroke the high points of the threads will fall into their old grooves removing unnecessary material. If you stroke at 90 degrees each time you change grit the high spots only take the brunt of the sanding. Using this method you can sand very quickly and lightly and actually save a great deal of time and get an even better finish. It is also essential that the sand paper be fully soaked and wetted before cutting or folding as the adhesive at the cut or fold if dry will leave a scratch equal to 80 grit, real fun to remove on a black car.



Spitfire in Winter

Chris Martin's Spitfire

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WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRIUMPH ASSOCIATION

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**May, 2003
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May 3th - Tune Up Clinic at Roy Millers

May 16 - 18 - Import Carlisle

May 24th Butler County Tour

**May 16 - 18
Import Carlisle**

**May 24th
Butler County Tour**

See WPTA Web Page or article for exact Directions

May 3rd, Tune Up Clinic See WPTA Web Page for exact Directions

