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Triumph News

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September, 2003

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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

September, wow, where has the summer gone? Has anyone else noticed the plethora of "Back to School" sale catalogs in the Sunday papers? I guess it's that time of season already. From the advertising in these catalogs, for a kid to be cool these days, he has to have the fastest lap top computer, a cell phone that takes pictures, and a backpack large enough to carry the latest edition of the encyclopedia Britannica with a water bottle holder. What ever happened to the spiral bound notebook, no. 2 pencils, and the pack of Marlboro's in the shirt pocket? Every year at this time, I'm reminded of the fact that I'm getting older. Most of you know that I'm employed at the University of Pittsburgh and each year I get to experience a new crop of fuzzy chinned freshmen that will be calling me mister and sir, the worst part is I don't feel old, well not most days anyway. But it's funny, the older you get the harder you try to recapture your youth by surrounding yourself with things that remind you of an earlier time when you maybe had less responsibility, or you seemed to have more free time. I think that's why I first got interested in Triumphs; these cars remind me of my youth. One of our neighbors, while I was growing up, had a Spitfire and I always thought it was "pretty cool". Also, as a freshman at Allegheny Community College my drawing instructor had a red TR6 with a beige interior, and that was the car I lusted over the next 25 years until I finally bought our TR6. The only problem is surrounding oneself with items from your youth doesn't change the fact, as I remind Sherry of it many times, I'm getting older, fatter, and uglier everyday. Well, all this nostalgia works well with the events on our calendar for September. But before I remind every one of the upcoming events lets recap August's events.

First up, The Summer Party/VTR was held August 8th through the 10th. We only made it to the car show Saturday night, but what a show. Even though it rained most of the night, it was still a great evening. The people I talked to said that it was a great week. However, I guess the field at TRF got a little muddy which created issues for the VTR concourse show which was to be held Friday. It had to be rescheduled for Saturday night. I felt sorry for the VTR judges who where doing their best to judge a concourse show in the rain, on the streets of Indiana, with the sun going down. I hope that someone that had the opportunity to spend the week at the event will give us a recap in an upcoming newsletter.

That was the only event on the WPTA calendar, but fortunately someone remembered the old standby event, the EMR, (early morning run). Fred Williams called the evening of the 15th with a simple invite, "come join us for breakfast and a short blast through the wilds of North Pittsburgh". What a great idea, and it could not have happened at a better time. Fred said that he tried to reach as many people as he had phone numbers for. I'm not sure how many he reached but I think we had 8 cars show up for breakfast.

We met at the Perkins Restaurant on Rt 19 N at 8:00am, had a nice breakfast and great conversation and after everyone finished their coffee, Doug Foyle lead the way through the back roads to McConnell's Mill where we arrived around noon. What a

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Anniversary Run

by Richard Dick

ATTENTION!!! September 20th is a date change again this year for the Anniversary Run. Your calendar may also have the wrong date marked as is mine, and also the web sight in places is incorrect. We have had great turnouts in the past and hope we have one this year. The weather since its been so bad this summer should cooperate and give us a beautiful day.

The run will start at the Amoco Service Station (same place as last year) located at Route 519 and I.S. 79. This is exit 43 also known as the Houston Exit. Meeting time is 12:00 noon and cars off by 12:30 or so in groups of 3 or 4.

We will travel mostly back roads on our way to Scottdale. Arrangements have been made for a train ride through the local countryside - 3 p.m. departure from the Station - and a stop over for pie and ice cream. Please feel free to join us for the train ride even if you don't go on the run. The more the merrier!!! Cost for the train ride is \$10.00 per person and \$7.00 for children.

Following the train ride Judy and I plan to have Dinner at one of the local restaurants. THE CROOKED PORCH is our leaning right now, and we understand Carson's is good also. Please join us if you can and we understand if you must leave.

Judy and I wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all who sponsored runs this year. Also, to all who showed up for the runs. Hopefully more will become involved in the future.

Doug's EMR to McConnell's Mill State Park



The Summer Party / VTR National

by Bruce Stutzman

As they say in central PA, "ther were big doins and lots of goins on" at The Roadster Factory a couple weeks ago. TRF and VTR hooked up and did a combined event. That's right- the summer party and the Vintage Triumph Register's national meet were at the same time and in the same place and in our own back yard.

Oh, and yes, the TR8 Club held their national meet there also. There had to be at least 100 of them there.

All in all it was Triumph overdose time. And if you weren't there-shame on you!

Joe Richards brought TS1LO. What a delight to see it finally finished. I remember, I think it was at the 1980 VTR national in Dearborn, MI, when Joe announced he had just bought it in Canada.

Vern Brannon, VTR president, brought (would you believe) a factory TR7-V8 rally car. What a machine. There is nothing on this car that isn't there to make it go faster. Vern has quite the impressive stable of Triumph competition cars. Last year he brought a factory Spitfire LeMans racecar.

Graham Robson, British automobile historian of considerable note, came over from England and talked.

We put up our WPTA pop up tent in an ideal spot (provided by Dave Hagenbuch) on TRF's "polo grounds". It was a great place for WPTA members to find each other and to congregate. On Thursday night, would you believe, we had 2 geranium colored TR2s parked under our tent.

Ed Major and I inherited the chairmanship of the car show from Jim Antis who served in that post with distinction for more years that I can count. As you can see from the photos, however, Jim's participation didn't stop. This year there were a couple hundred more cars than usual expected at the show and the VTR concourse was included at the last minute but, because of the WPTA volunteer workers, everything went like clockwork - almost. Rain is good for growing vegetables - not good at car shows though.

Speaking of rain! It was an unwelcome participant all weekend. It rained late in the hill climb; it rained late in the autocross; it turned the "polo grounds" into a quagmire, etc. But (as in England) it didn't rain all the time so everyone kept on motoring (stiff upper lip you know).

Did I say hill climb? Yes I did! Charles Runyan has been wanting to do a hill climb at the summer party for years. This year, with the considerable help of Rich Rok and others, he finally did it. And what fun it was too. Ed Major had everyone buzzing when he got rubber in 3rd accelerating up the hill. Unfortunately, not everyone got to participate. Two of our most performance-oriented members, Jim Underwood and Dexter Stoltz, were turned away. Being a volunteer worker in one event and not being able to participate in another just shouldn't happen.

With everything that was going on you couldn't do it all. There were drag races, a hill climb, an autocross, a gymkhana, 2 rally's, tech sessions, a car show and whatever else. I had to go home to rest.

No Fault Electrics

While recently reading the TRF Winter Parts Sale catalogue I noticed a book on sale by the title, Fault Diagnostics, by Lucas. It seems to me that the ideas on what could be in this book are endless. Has Lucas ever admitted any knowledge of "fault" in the first place? I'm sure they would tell you it's the way you're operating that switch that made it stop working.

Night Owl Rally

Friday, September 26th, 7:00PM; Mt. Nebo Park n'Ride off of I79 we will be leaving on our first Night Owl in several years. What is a Night Owl? It is better experienced than explained. Be prepared to drive and eat. We will aim to be at the restaurant by 9:00.

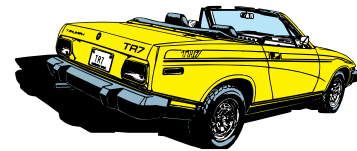
There will be fun; good food and libation(optional, of course). Questions? Call Doug Foyle at (724)452-5218.

Hope to see you there!

Congratulations

to the following WPTA members who won awards at British Car Day 2003:

Jim and Joni Shaw (2 awards)
Dave and Joyce Parks
Fred Williams
Dan and Linda Green
Jim and Mary Ann Stoffel
Frank Navratil
Ed Major
Bob Wyner
Ray Suchta
Mark and Sherry Phillips
Dan McGowan
Lemoyne Nesbitt
Carolyn Nesbitt
Richard Altenbaugh
Dennis Poland



Thank You

by Ed Major

I would like to send my sincere thanks to the volunteer helpers for the Roadster Factory Car Show, Autocross, Drag races and Hillclimb. Despite the rain, everyone did a wonderful job and made it one of the smoothest run car shows that I have been involved with. Thank you very much for all your efforts.

Calendar of Events

- Sept 14** **Dogs with Fogs Mk III**
Ed Woods 412-486-4294
or Harvey Woods 412-486-2549
- Sept 20** **Anniversary Run**
Richard Dick 724-379-5172
- Sept 26** **Night Owl Rallye**
Doug Foyle 724 452-5218
- Sept 29** **Newsletter Meeting,**
5pm-Typecraft/6pm-Michael's Pizza Bar
- Oct 18-19** **Fall Leaf Tour**
Don Harkus 724-284-9172

~ Events Of Other Interest ~

- 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 14** **British Cars at Hartwood**
Jaguar Club of Pittsburgh



The Osbournes taking time to talk MGs with Len Picton

On The Mark *continued from page one*

nice day, thank you to Fred, Donald, and Doug for hosting a very nice unplanned event. You know these unplanned events are my favorite. Nothing to plan or coordinate, nothing to worry about, just get in the car and drive.

This month we have a nice mix of events with something almost every weekend. So there is no excuse why you shouldn't show up to at least one event. One of this month's events, "Dogs with the Fogs", doesn't even require a running and driving Triumph, so you won't be able to use that excuse this month for not attending.

So, guess what's first up, September 14th, "Dogs with the Fogs", if you don't know what FOG stands for you'll have to come out and ask Ed or Harvey Woods. This event has turned into one of our most popular outings. It's planned to coincide with the Jaguar Club's Hartwood Car Show. So come on out to support another great sports car club by either bringing your car out to the show or just stopping out and viewing the cars. After the show, come on out to North Park and enjoy the hospitality of Ed and Harvey Woods. This event does not require a running Triumph, just show up in your regular work car and enjoy an evening with friends. This is a great event for you new comers to the WPTA to meet the membership.

Our second event of the month is the Anniversary Run on September 20th. This year our host is again Richard Dick. Last year Richard did such a great job that I'm looking forward to another great event.

Last up is a Night Owl Rally scheduled for September 26th. This just got scheduled a few weeks ago and all I know is that Doug Foyle is working on a plan. That could be dangerous.

Also, coming up in October, and I'm sorry to say, is our last WPTA sponsored driving event of the 2003 season, the Fall Leaf Tour, scheduled for October 18th and 19th. Mark your calendars.

Our host will be Donald Harkus again this year. Last year was such a good time, we had a great drive, and for the few that spent the evening, a better evening. You won't want to miss the overnight this year. So mark your calendars.

See ya Soon.

A Good Club

by Len Picton, MG's of Baltimore

I first joined a club for car enthusiasts in 1964 and I think that I've been a member of one sort of car club or other since. MGOB is the best one. However, it is not the only good club around.

Being tired of dampness and cold, I decided to pack up my flea market operation at Carlisle a day early instead of waiting for the drawing of a Fiat 850 Spider on Sunday. After hooking up my trailer, I headed down row C to have a farewell beer with Bruce Stutzman and my other friends from the Western Pa Triumph Association. An hour earlier one of them borrowed a piece of wood that I use to level the tailgate of my trailer.

On row C outside of the Triumph Club parts enterprise, much activity was centered around a nice green TR-3 that looked like a recent restoration. It was jacked up and various club members with greasy hands were inside and under it. Major mechanical surgery was underway. Naturally, Mr. Bungle decided to help out.

"You guys have to stop all this now. I'm leaving and I need my piece of wood back!" I told them.

The wrench that sailed past my ear told me that I had done little to relieve them of their burden. It seemed that the owner of the TR-3 did not realize that his transmission was leaking. It had run dry on the trip from Pittsburgh to Carlisle. The gears became annealed and critical internal parts had worn to the nub. The transmission was junk.

Once the problem was diagnosed, members went on a scavenger hunt. A sound transmission was purchased at the flea market, as was a floor jack to get the car high enough to drop the transmission. They changed the transmission quickly. However, someone pointed out that the now junk gearbox was a late TR-3 transmission whilst the replacement unit was of an earlier type. He kicked the blister on the side of the transmission that covered the bendix gear of the starter. "You're gonna hafta cut this off or the gear from the starter will hit it. The later ones are bigger and have more clearance."

The fear that the whole thing wouldn't work after all this effort was growing and hanging in the air like a sleeping bat. The starter was bolted in place and the Tr-3's owner turned the ignition key to test it.

"SKREEEEEEEEEEEEK!" Most people turned away in pain from the noise and the fear that all their work had been for naught. No starter!

Discussion turned to the upcoming trip home and traveling in convoy in case it was necessary to push start the TR-3 if it was necessary to stop. During the discussion, the owner of the Tr-3 rummaged in the trunk. Soon he emerged with a crank.

Yes friends, Triumphs were sold right up to the early 1960s with a crank in the tool kit! As I left, the owner of the Tr-3 was driving his car up and down the rows testing his new/old gears. How many clubs would pitch in and help a member in trouble to the extent of scrounging for tools and parts and helping him change a transmission on the spot so he could get home?

Only the great ones!

Ed Note: Len is an old friend. He has for years served as the rally master at TRF Summer Party.

Schweitzer For WPTA President

Paid for by the Committee to elect Schweitzer president
Mark Phillips chairman



TRF Summer Party Candid





Thursday



Sunday



The last piece of TS1...Honest!



It takes a REAL man to drive a pink car



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1977



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRIUMPH ASSOCIATION

2348 Weston Dr., Pittsburgh PA 15241

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

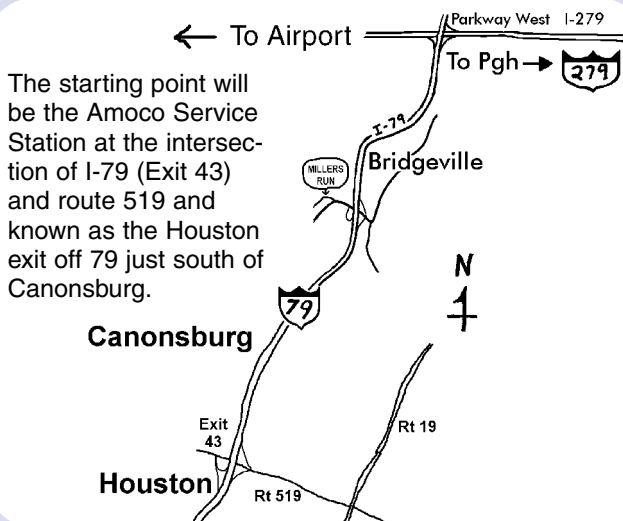
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Issue of the
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Dogs with FOG's - Sunday, Sept. 14th
Anniversary Run - Saturday, Sept. 20th
Night Owl Rallye - Friday, Sept. 26th

Sat., Sept. 20, 2003

**WPTA Anniversary Run
Celebrating
26 Triumphant Years**



Sun., Sept. 14, 2003

Dogs With the FOG's

Superior Grove in North Park (see map) for any WPTA member, including family, who RSVPs Harv or Ed by Friday, September 13th and sez: "Yes, I'd like to have Dogs with the Fogs".

