



# Dzus Dnuz T

Volume 30 Number 3

Zōos Nūz

December, 2006

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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.

## Where There's A Wil

There were two elections in November, 2006. One for our government and one for our club. Unlike in the government election, all of the Western Pennsylvania Triumph Association incumbents were re-elected, even without any campaigning. A quorum was present so it is official. I want to thank all of my fellow officers, committee chairmen and workers, event organizers, and all who helped make 2006 another successful year for WPTA. I have enjoyed my three years as president and appreciate all the help that I've received.

Only one event remains for 2006, that being the No Meeting, Meeting on Saturday, December 16th, at the Cranberry Quaker Steak and Lube. There is no formal meeting at this event. Just good food, good beer, and good friends. Perhaps the last chance to drive your Triumph in 2006.

Our first get together in 2007 will be the planning meeting on the 13th. If you are willing to organize an event, have an idea for an event, or have a suggestion to make, try to attend this meeting. If you aren't able to attend, but would like to contribute, contact Gary Fredo or me. This is your club and we would like to know what you would like.

The annual Holiday Party will be held this year on January 27th at Rico's. Last year, Rico's served us some wonderful food with excellent service. Jim and Diane Bastone, who organized last year's successful party, volunteered to do it again. Make your reservations soon for this special event.

Are you looking for Triumph related gift ideas? How about WPTA regalia? The club still has a few denim shirts, with the club logo embroidered, for \$25.00. I will have them, and grill badges for \$40.00, at the No Meeting, Meeting. Mario at Cutting Edge Embroidery has the program for our logo on his computer and will embroider the WPTA logo on items that he sells or on shirts, jackets, blankets, etc. that you provide. His prices are reasonable and the quality is good. See the ad in this newsletter.

## Wil

## No Meeting, Meeting

December 16, 2006 - 1:30PM

### Cranberry Quaker Steak & Lube

It's that time of year again when the WPTA gets to take over the bar area of the Cranberry Quaker Steak & Lube. Come one and all for some bench racing, wings and cold refreshments (not necessarily in that order). This is a great way to end a morning of holiday shopping or have your spouse drop you off while they do some holiday shopping. This non-meeting is timed to miss both the lunch and dinner crowd so we can (and do) literally take over the bar, rearranging furniture as needed. Questions? Call Gary at 724-378-9610.

## WPTA Holiday Party Saturday, January 27

at Rico's Restaurant  
in the North Hills

just 1.4 miles from I-279 N

See reservation form on page three of the *Dnuz*

## Planning Meeting (Steering Committee)

January 13, 2007 10:00AM (breakfast served until 11AM)

Excuses on South Side

by Gary Fredo

Well, it's getting close to the end of another year for WPTA. I was fortunate enough to be able to make quite a few events in 2006 and they were all well attended and everyone had a great time. I want to thank everyone who coordinated an event this year as well as give a thank you in advance to Jim and Diane for organizing the holiday party. I also want to thank the members that showed up to participate at the events. Remember the only reward that the event organizers receive is strong participation, smiles on the participant's faces and a thank you. If you attended an event this year and didn't get a chance to thank the event organizer then please do so at your earliest chance. Once again thanks to everyone that was willing to spend the time to put together an event this year.

On to new business! There is a planning / steering committee meeting on the calendar in January. This is the perfect opportunity to get an early jump for an event on the calendar for next year. This is also a great time to bring up any winter events that anyone is thinking about organizing. If you have been thinking about planning an event for next year please come to the meeting or contact Wil or I before the meeting so we can reserve a date on the calendar for your event. Also please remember that the events don't have to be long events that take up most of the day. If you only have the time available to plan a short event that is fine because there are plenty of members that only have time to attend a short event – a perfect match! Of course there are plenty of members, including myself, that really enjoy driving our Triumphs for hours on end so both types of events are needed. Also if you are new to event planning and need some tips give me a call and I can either offer guidance or refer you to one of the other members that have experience in the type of event that you want to plan. Hope to see a big turnout at the planning / steering committee meeting. There are no excuses for missing this one! See you there.

Currently the calendar is pretty slim for the beginning of next year. If anyone would like to organize an event for January, February or March, give me a call at 724-378-9610 or email at garyfredo@yahoo.com

# Understanding Your Ignition System - Part 7a

## Some Comments about the Pieces that Make Up the Ignition System

by Bruce Stutzman

### COILS

In addition to Lucas coils, several different aftermarket coils are now being sold by Triumph parts suppliers. They are all billed as uprated coils capable of delivering 40,000 or more volts thru the secondary circuit.

Should you switch to the Lucas Sports coil or one of these other aftermarket uprated coils or are you better off staying with your standard Lucas coil? Is replacing your points with an electronic module reason to switch?

Your decision to stay with your standard coil or switch to an uprated coil should depend on the state of tune of your engine and how you use the car, not whether or not you replaced the points with an electronic module.

If your engine is in standard tune, use the standard Lucas coil whether you replaced the points with an electronic module or not. If you made performance modifications to your engine and are using higher RPMs, switch to an uprated coil whether or not you replaced the points with an electronic module.

An uprated coil can be beneficial in a standard tune engine if it has been poorly maintained (worn distributor, corroded spark plug wires, etc.) or if it is worn out (burns a lot of oil, etc.)

Some of these other coils are Bosch Blue, Pertronix Flamethrower and Crane PS20/40. Remember our discussion about ballast resistance in Part 6 and the requirement of 3 ohms of resistance in the primary circuit. Like Lucas coils, the Bosch Blue has 3 ohms of resistance. The Pertronix Flamethrower is available with 1.5 ohms (for late TR6s) or 3 ohms. The Crane PS20 includes an external resistor that provides the 3 ohms. None of these coils has any advantage over the venerable Lucas Sports coil. The Sports coil is no longer available, however, for the late TR6 with its ballasted ignition system.

### PRIMARY CIRCUIT

#### POINTS (CONTACTS)

Points haven't been used as original equipment in vehicles for 30 years, which means even a lot of Triumphs (late Spitfire, TR7, TR8) didn't have them.

Points now come as a one piece assembly which makes installation a lot easier and assures proper point alignment. With these points you are far less likely to ground the moving point on installation. However, they have a red nylon rubbing block that initially wears down a lot faster than the fiber rubbing block on the old 2 piece points. Lucas calls this "an initial bedding down". You will have to re-gap them several hundred miles after you install them. Lubricating the cam reduces this wear. The Roadster Factory is again selling the old two-piece points, so get them while you can.

Use a perfectly clean feeler gauge when setting the points gap; absolutely no oil on it. It is good to have a .015 feeler gauge that you use only to gap points. Better yet, carry a Lucas points tool.

#### CONDENSER (CAPACITOR)

Condensers went out with points. If you don't have points you don't have a condenser.

Points and condensers are usually replaced together. If you replace a condenser that still works don't throw it away. About the only way to determine if your condenser is bad is to replace it with one that you know is good.

The body of the condenser must be firmly screwed to the distributor; that is its ground.

#### LOW TENSION LEAD

Make sure this short black and white wire between the coil and distributor low tension terminal is in good condition. It can break, with just the insulation holding it together, and drive you nuts as it intermittently conducts electricity. Same thing for the two short flexible cloth covered wires inside the distributor. One connects the low tension terminal to the points; be careful not to pinch this one between the distributor and the cap. The other one grounds the points plate.

*Next month I will continue this discussion with the components of the secondary circuit.*

#### Editorial

## WPTA and The Roadster Factory

The history of WPTA and TRF go hand in hand. Charles Runyan and John Swauger were WPTA members before TRF existed and both still own the TR3s they owned when we started WPTA in 1977. In fact they met at a WPTA meeting. Like the rest of us back then Charles was a TR3 owner who wanted to restore his car but parts were hard to come by.

When Charles told us, almost 30 years ago, that he was considering becoming a purveyor of TR3 parts we told him it would never work. Fortunately he didn't listen.

Charles printed his first TR3 spare parts catalogue in June 1978 and his first TR6 catalogue in October 1980. He hired John, his first employee, away from a local bank.

When WPTA organized the first British Car Day in 1981 Charles helped us contact all the Triumph owners in the area.

TRF's first Summer Party was in support of the WPTA sponsored 1986 VTR National Meet.

John has been bringing TRF parts to the WPTA annual tune up clinics since like forever.

And the list goes on and on.

Finally after all these years, we asked Charles to write an occasional DZUS DNUZ column. It is never too late for a good idea. You will find his first offering in an upcoming issue. Maybe every now and then he will even come up with some WPTA specials.

## Cutting Edge Embroidery

Official regalia for WPTA  
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the Airport on Rt 60 in Robinson.

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Web: [www.cuttingedgeembroidery.com](http://www.cuttingedgeembroidery.com)

# 2007 Membership Roster Update

by Richard Dick

Ed Major is planning to publish a membership roster of the whole club in February of 2007, so I need to have updated information on all the members. Please, Please, Please (I am on my knees) let me know all changes in address, zip code, phone numbers, email address and the classic/antique vehicles you currently own now since the last roster was printed in December 2004, so we can get an accurate count when the list is published. Use the form enclosed to help you do this.

If your label has "Expires Dec.'06", take a moment now while you are thinking about it to make out the \$20 check made payable to WPTA for next years dues (or multiples of \$20 for future years) and fill out the enclosed sheet and send it to me: Richard Dick; 106 Cypress Ave.; Monongahela, PA 15063.

I always love to have alternatives, so email me at britcar-nuts@comcast.net with the information instead, and I will check what I have in the records and email you back to verify the changes, corrections or what I have as being correct.



**Don't forget about the WPTA Web Site**

Set your home page to  
[www.wptriumph.org](http://www.wptriumph.org)  
 To keep up with the latest Triumph News & Events!

## Calendar of Events

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Dec 16 | No Meeting, Meeting, Cranberry Quaker Steak & Lube<br>Gary Fredo 724-378-9610      |
| Dec 26 | Newsletter Meeting (Tuesday),<br>5pm-Typecraft/6pm-Michael's Pizza Bar             |
| Jan 13 | Steering Committee Meeting<br>Excuses on the South Side<br>Gary Fredo 724-378-9610 |
| Jan 27 | Holiday Party,<br>Jim & Diane Bastone, 412-486-7335                                |

### ~ Event Of Other Interest ~

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Jan 19-21 | World of Wheels Custom Car Show<br>David Lawrence Convention Center |
|-----------|---|

# Jan 27, 2007 WPTA Annual Holiday Party



**Cocktails at 6:00 PM**

**Cash Bar**

**Dinner at 7:pm at**

**Rico's Restaurant,**

One Rico Lane 412-931-1989

In business 27 yrs,

Rico's is noted for their fine cuisine

Cost per person is \$39.50 (includes tax and gratuity)  
 This includes hors d'oeuvres, soup, salad, choice of entrée, (see choices below), dessert and coffee.  
 There will be door prizes.

To make your reservation please return the form by Jan 20th to Jim or Diane Bastone, 138 Sunset Dr, Pgh, PA 15237 -3741

Questions?? 412-486-7335; j.bastone@att.net

Make checks payable to W.P.T.A.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$39.50 per person

Choice of entrée, served with baked potato, select one:

Chicken & Shrimp Piccata \_\_\_\_\_

Veal Parmigiana \_\_\_\_\_

Broiled Seafood Rico \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Parmigiana \_\_\_\_\_

Rico Lane runs off Park Ave. Park Ave runs off Babcock Blvd about 100 yards from McKnight Road.

Established  
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  
[www.wptriumph.org](http://www.wptriumph.org)

**December, 2006  
Issue of the  
Dzus Dnuz**

**No Meeting Meeting, Dec 16  
at Quaker Steak & Lube Cranberry  
Holiday Patry, January 27, 2007**

### Sat., Dec 16 - The No Meeting Meeting

Starts at 1 pm



### ~ Classified ~



**FOR SALE:** 1972 TR6, fresh burgundy paint, new interior (not installed), runs good, but needs some minor mechanical fix up to be a great driver. A little TLC and this would be a great car, \$7900 OBO. Ed Major at 412-488-1600 x207 (weekdays) or Sheila Lowery at 724-744-7128

**FOR SALE:** 1959 Triumph TR-3 Roadster, Good condition, garage kept no rust, new Michelin radial tires. Excellent project car. Asking \$5,000.00, Robert W. Rhodes III, 717 328-9444 (evenings)

**FOR SALE:** 1971 TR6 with 280Z engine. Included in project is extra rolling frame, engine and trans \$3500 or trade for TR3 or 4 project or Healey or MGA or..... Harry 301-529-3340?email sqneal1@comcast.net