

Established
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February, 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

It is Sunday, January 29th, as I write this article. The giant pine trees behind my house are brightened by the sun, the sky is blue, and the temperature is in the fifties. It's hard to believe that it is wintertime. One of our members took advantage of this mild weather last night, and drove his TR4 to the holiday party. That would be Don Harkus, winner of the 2005 Driver's Award. This award, given to the member who drives a British sports car to the most WPTA events in a calendar year, is a large decorated wooden plaque, with a metal name plate for each year's winner (Ed Note: Don would have driven a TR, rain or shine!). Last year, Don drove his Triumph to events from February to December. The winner gets custody of the plaque for the year following his or her winning. With the early start, I thought that Don was going to make certain that he would win again in 2006, but I found out that he is moving south in a few months. We will miss Don and Sandy, and the great tours that they put together for us.

Thirty-three WPTA members and friends attended our holiday party. The food, service, and accommodations were great. Thank you, Jim and Diane Bastone for arranging a wonderful evening, and thanks to Charles Runyan for door prizes, and the "Car Nuts" given to everyone. At the holiday party, a Meritorious Service Award was presented to Ed Woods. The inscription reads as follows. "In appreciation for your almost three decades of meritorious service to the membership of WPTA. You have given of your time, talent, and wisdom to the benefit of us all. Over the years you have served admirably as treasurer, president, and membership chairman as well as registrar of British Car Day. May it never end." Thank you, Ed.

The Steering Committee meeting at Excuses was very well attended and a lot was accomplished. As you can see in the Events Calendar, many events are scheduled and have volunteer organizers. A few more events can be scheduled during the year, so if you have a desire to plan an event or know of an event that would interest our members, contact Gary Fredo or me. Our next meeting will be on February 18th, at King's in Wexford. I hope to see YOU there.

Wil

From the Membership Chair

by Richard Dick

I apologize for any inconvenience I may have caused by not having the membership expiration date on the last month's labels. If you feel there is an error, please contact me. I think I am now up to speed.

Thanks to all who have sent in their dues. If you happen to be one of the 60 to still owe, please take a moment and write out the \$20 check made payable to WPTA and send it to me @ 106 Cypress Ave., Monongahela, PA 15063. Let me know of

any changes and/or updates in your information and vehicles. We have a new member that joined us at the end of December. Welcome Adam and Carolyn Green of Seven Fields, PA. They have a beautiful looking '74 TR6. We have two new members that joined us in January. Welcome Brad and Deborah Hurlburt, of Sutersville, PA. They have a '72 Spitfire and are really looking forward to the activities of the club this year. Also we would like to welcome Robert and April Jones, from Wheeling, WV. They have a '61 TR3. We also have a returning member, who is rejoining us after a brief absence. Welcome back Russell and Nancy Fuhrer, from Sewickley, PA. We are looking forward to seeing all of you this year.

Ed Woods Honored by WPTA

Ed Woods was presented with a meritorious service award by President Wil Schweitzer at the holiday party on January 28. Read Wil's article for details.

Ed, who co-founded WPTA and who has served in an executive capacity ever since, recently stepped down from his leadership roles and is now enjoying being a club member like the rest of us. Ed's leadership over the years has been one of the pillars of WPTA's success.

Ed is also the founder and titular leader of the Fraternal Order of FOGS, that bawdy organization that boosts of having a virile if somewhat aging national membership.



Ed and Wil on the left and Don on the right

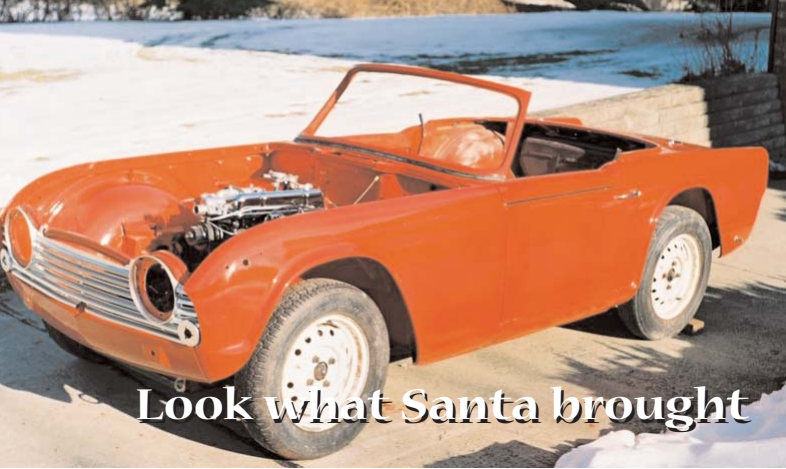


Don Harkus Wins 2005 Drivers Award

You saw it in the snow at the No Meeting Meeting, parked on Carson Street on the South Side at the January Steering Committee as well as at about every other place where WPTA members got together this year. If you don't already know, I'm talking about Donnie Harkus' TR or, more accurately, one of his TRs.

Don has a TR4 and a TR6; he is always driving one of them. The TR4 is a little rough looking but like the TR6 is also a great runner (in perfect harmony with the spirit of WPTA).

Don was presented with the 2005 WPTA Drivers Award at the holiday party by President Wil Schweitzer. And a deserving winner he is!



Look what Santa brought Lynne this Christmas. Won't be long now. Looks even better close up. Should be all together by Spring. Gary and Lynne Fitzgerald

Understanding Your Ignition System

by Bruce Stutzman

This is part 2 of what will be a continuing series of articles about our TR ignition systems. In the Dec 2004 issue I talked about problems we encounter with our old Lucas distributors and gave some modern alternatives.

Does your ignition system confuse you? Are you really not sure how and why it does what it does? Well, you're not The Lone Ranger. But why is it so difficult to understand?

When we open our TR's bonnet we see 2 objects that are part of the ignition system - the distributor and the coil. Then we try to figure out what each actually does and end up even more confused. For example - which way does the electricity flow?

Part of the problem is that the TR distributor actually performs 5 separate functions, some of which aren't even part of the ignition system, so we shouldn't look at it as just a single object performing a single function. Our distributor :

1. Turns the tachometer
2. Turns the oil pump
3. Times the spark (mechanical and vacuum advance mechanisms)
4. Triggers induction in the coil when the points open (the points are basically an on /off switch)
5. Distributes the spark to each spark plug through the rotor, cap and wires

Another part of the problem is that the coil performs its magical function of "induction" with no moving parts. You can't see it work. No wonder we're confused.

The key to understanding our ignition system is to recognize that it is actually made up of 2 separate electrical circuits that meet in the coil. When we understand these circuits everything will clear up. It would be a lot easier if we could see electricity but we can't. The 2 circuits are:

Primary (low tension) circuit

Secondary (high tension) circuit

Memorize these 2 names. In the next installment we will learn how these circuits work. And which way the electricity flows.

MG Club Invite

The MG Club has again graciously invited WPTA to participate in their driving events this year. Check out their schedule in the "Events of Other Interest" each month. Plus we will publish more detailed information about the event as the dates get closer. As always we welcome all British Cars on our runs.



Spare Parts Suggestions

from Ken Mikos and Dana

One of the questions that have plagued automotive enthusiasts for a number of years is what to do with all the additional spare parts in your garage from prior projects . This Christmas, Dana decided to save some money and go downstairs shopping for tree decorations. Please note in the following pictures how well TR3 tail lamps add color, spark plugs sparkle, hub caps shine and how checkered flags make great tree skirts. Hope your holidays were as Triumphant as mine.

Club Trailer

by Jim Shaw

After almost two decades as guardian of the Club Trailer, the time has come to pass the hitch off to another dedicated trailer user. The Shaw home for wayward TR's will be closing its doors in Mooncrest, for ever. After a lot of soul searching, I have come to the realization if it will not fit in my garage, I probably do not need it. Thus, storage of the trailer has fallen on Mike Sciuolo and he would like to move the trailer off to a new home.

First choice would be for one of the many club trailer owners to step forward and take the hitch and become the new guardian of the trailer. The second option would be for another club member, who is not currently one of the owners, to take charge. Or last option is that the trailer will be sold and the proceeds turned over to the WPTA Treasurer to deposit in his personal account. These funds could be used for a future trailer. If you any questions, feel free to call Jim Shaw at 412 262 3878.

Classified

Wanted: solid, running 2000 or 2500 sedan OR estate. LHD preferred. All years considered. Serious buyer with tow vehicle and trailer waiting, will pay reasonable price. Jamie Palmer, tr6driver@yahoo.com or 919-779-1224.

For Sale: 1960 TR3A left over parts from our restoration: motor, transmission, rear axle, windshields steering box etc. I must clean up the basement - make offer on the lot. Ken Greenleaf w:412 367 4330 H: 412 364 4675 email:Wdcrfr@aol.com



Bob Tullius in the group 44 TR250



Calendar of Events

Feb 18	Brunch Meeting, at Wexford Kings, 10am Route 910
Feb 27	Newsletter Meeting, 5pm-Typecraft/6pm-Michael's Pizza Bar
Mar 11	Church Brew Works, Dexter Stoltz 412-865-1201
Mar/April	Lunch at Coventry Inn, Date to be determined
April	Tune-up Clinic Date to be determined
May 13	WPTA Flea Market, Ed Major 412-488-1600 X207
May 18-21	WPTA at Import Carlisle Ed Major for rooms 412-488-1600 X207 Jim Shaw to sell parts 412-262-3878
June 10	Clue Run, with MG club Richard Dick 724-379-5172
June 24	Quaker Steak & Lube, with stop at Scott Harper's PJ Wright, Fred Segal, Dick Gaier
July 15	British Car Day at Schenley Park Roy Miller – Chairman 412-967-6483
July 15-16	Pittsburgh Vintage Gran Prix http://www.pvgp.org/
July 29	Johnstown Run, with MG club Richard Dick 724-379-5172
Aug 26	Garage Tour, Fred Segal
Sept 17	Dogs with Fogs Ed Woods 412-486-4294 or Harvey Woods 412-486-2549
Sept 30	Anniversary Run, Richard Dick 724-379-5172
Oct 14	Fall Leaf Tour, with MG club
Nov	General Meeting, Date and location to be determined
Dec	No Meeting, Meeting, Date and location to be determined
Jan	Holiday Party, Date and location to be determined

~ Event Of Other Interest ~

May 27	The Brit's at Hope Lodge Fort Washinton PA Info: 610-825-2617
June 14-18	TRA National Meet http://www.triumphregister.com/
June 14	MG Club Solstice Run
July 8-9	Vintage Races, Beaverun http://www.beaverun.com/
July 19-23	VTR National Meet Las Colinas Texas http://vtr2006.com/
Aug 5	MG Club Foxburg Run
Aug 11-13	Summer Party, Roadster Factory
Aug 18-20	Vintage Races, Mid Ohio
Sept 8-10	Vintage Races, Watkins Glen
Sept 9	Degrosso Car Show, Altoona
Sept 17	British Cars at Hartwood

Driving in Pittsburgh

by Anonymous

1. Turn signals will give away your next move. A real Pennsylvania driver never uses them.

2. Under no circumstances should you leave a safe distance between you and the car in front of you or somebody else will fill in the space, putting you in an even more dangerous situation.

3. The faster you drive through a red light, the smaller the chance you have of getting hit.

4. Never ever come to a complete stop at a stop sign. No one expects it and it will result in you being rear-ended.

5. Never get in the way of an older car that needs extensive bodywork. Pennsylvania is a no-fault insurance state and the other guy doesn't have anything to lose.

6. Braking is to be done as hard and late as possible to ensure that your ABS kicks in, giving a nice, relaxing foot massage as the brake pedal pulsates. For those of you without ABS, it's a nice chance to stretch your legs.

7. Never pass on the left when you can pass on the right. It's a good way to scare people entering the highway.

8. Speed limits are arbitrary figures, given only as suggestions and are apparently not enforceable in Pittsburgh during rush hour.

9. Just because you're in the left lane and have no room to speed up or move over doesn't mean that a Pittsburgh driver flashing his high beams behind you doesn't think he can go faster in your spot.

10. Always slow down and rubberneck when you see an accident or even someone changing a tire.

11. Learn to swerve abruptly. Pittsburgh is the home of high-speed slalom driving thanks to the State Highway Department, which puts potholes in key locations to test drivers' reflexes and keep them on their toes.

12. It is traditional in Pittsburgh to honk your horn at cars that don't move the instant the light changes.

13. Remember that the goal of every Pittsburgh driver is to get there first, by whatever means necessary.

14. In the Pittsburgh area, flipping someone the bird is considered a polite Pittsburgh salute. This gesture should always be returned.



Overhead shot of a TR2 taken by Ed Woods at LeMans 2005

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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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**Feb. 18 th., Meeting at King's On Route 910 at I-79
Special 2006 "Calendar of Events Listing Inside**

February Meeting Saturday Brunch Meeting at Kings Restaurant at the intersection of I79 and Route 910, Wexford

The meeting starts at 10 am,
on Saturday February 18,2005.

