

One of the signature activities of our club is the weekly Saturday breakfast get-together, dubbed the Traveling Triumphs Breakfast Club. The event is held at various venues around the Greater Houston area, and provides a rotating venue for members to attend, eat, socialize, look at Triumph cars, and typically get back home before 10:00 to take on the rest of Saturday.

Last week as I was driving 45 miles one-way from Sugar Land to the breakfast venue, I had time to ponder as I wandered.....and wondered how this club tradition began, and what the cumulative statistics look like over time. After returning home, processing the photos, building the breakfast Facebook page, and creating the Bluebonnet breakfast event page, I jumped into the TTR *Bluebonnet Archives* (aka TTR Time Capsule) to see what I might be able to find.

Going back to December 2003, I found the first calendar listing that included the breakfast schedule for the upcoming month. The venues included some that are still in the current rotation including Harris County Smokehouse at Hwy 6 at 290, and Clementine's on FM 1960.

**“Our popular Traveling Triumph Breakfast Club met nearly every Saturday morning in 2003 and took us to a number of new restaurants.”**

**TTR President Jeff Harris - December 2003 *Bluebonnet***

So, even though the breakfast events weren't published in the *Bluebonnet* until that date, the events likely began earlier than 2003, with notification on the TTR website or perhaps other means.

Suspecting that there may have been information on the TTR website at that time, I turned to another resource - the Internet Archive Wayback Machine, a resource containing snapshots of almost all the Internet websites through time. A quick search showed that the TTR Website, hosted by KingswayRC hobby shop, had been crawled and archived over 7,700 times, dating back to 1999 and up until 2016. Digging into the Breakfast Club area and going back in time, I found the first captured Breakfast Club reference in May, 2001, with a single day calendar entry. I presume that back then the restaurant was selected and the breakfast location was posted weekly on the TTR website. The welcoming explanatory text by Russ Seto provides the information about the club that endures to this day:

“We are the TTBC or Traveling Triumph Breakfast Club, and our charter, such as it is, is to drive our Triumphs, have a good breakfast, and enjoy the comradeship of other Triumph owners. As with TTR's regular monthly meetings, we try to choose restaurants that are in different parts of the Houston area, so that the length of the drive will vary from week to week, and not require someone to always drive long distances. We have eaten at restaurants in Humble, West Houston, West Gray St. within the city and out in the Northwest area, to name a few. We try to find restaurants that are a little off the beaten trail if possible, and are unique, unlike Denny's, IHOP and the like. We will take an occasional extended drive to out-of-town locations.

We feel other club members might like to join us on these outings, depending on where we meet any particular Saturday. We will attempt to post the restaurant information on this page each week no later than Thursday evening.

If you have a suggestion for a breakfast location, please offer it up! Email Russ Seto with your ideas. Heretofore, the group has numbered from four to twelve people, and getting a table(s) has not been too difficult, but as we grow we may have to break up some due to space limitations. Come early and choose your partner!! We generally try to meet at 8:30 a.m. “

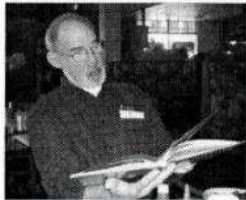
**Drive your Triumph!**

Longtime TTR member Mike Hado provides additional color from his personal memory bank....

## Mike Hado Comments

"Russ Seto and Vern Burnett lived across the street from each other and would have an evening "wine time" just about every day after Russ returned from his daily service jobs working on member Triumphs. That grew into regular breakfast outings, usually on a Wednesday, and alternated between the local Denny's and IHOP in the Cypress area. Jim Wortsman and I began going to these with Russ and Vern and it soon became a regular weekly gathering for the four of us. Other members soon heard of our breakfasts and asked if they could join us. Russ suggested Saturday as the official day for the breakfast gatherings since many members were still working during the week and could not make it on a Wednesday. The Saturday schedule worked fine and the "Traveling Triumphs Breakfast Club" was born. The rest, as they say, is history."

The Bluebonnet was used as a resource to communicate the Breakfast Event schedule but lagged behind the website. The first issue in 2004 provided some insight and institutionalized the breakfast schedule in the Bluebonnet.



**Another Good Reason to Drive Your Triumph in 2004!**

Every Saturday morning, Russ Seto (above) and a constantly changing group of TTR members meet for breakfast. It used to be that Russ would start calling folks on Thursday night with Saturday's location ... but the group got bigger, and bigger, and finally we convinced him to spend less time on the phone and more time in his car.

Folks gather around 8:00 a.m. and eat at around 8:30 a.m. Interesting people, good conversation, someone else's cooking ... it's a good thing!

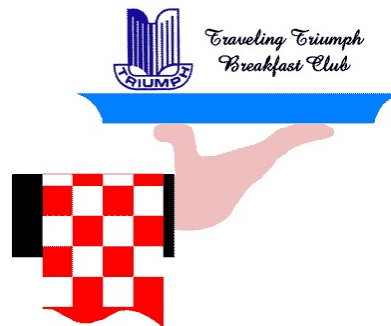
<i>January 17<sup>th</sup></i>	Mama's Café on Westheimer
<i>January 24<sup>th</sup></i>	Humble City Café, Humble, TX
<i>January 31<sup>st</sup></i>	Luby's Cafeteria, Hwy. 290
<i>February 7<sup>th</sup></i>	Cliff's Grill, Kingsride Lane
<i>February 14<sup>th</sup></i>	Strack Restaurant on Louetta
<i>February 21<sup>st</sup></i>	Triple A Restaurant on Airline

\* Because locations may change (and for a map), always check our website the day before the event: [www.kingswayrc.com/ttr](http://www.kingswayrc.com/ttr).

## Breakfast Club Article - January 2004 Bluebonnet



## Breakfast Club Access Link - May 2001



Join TTBC for breakfast!

Saturday, June 2  
8:00 a.m.

Harris County Smokehouse  
13280 West FM 1960  
Houston  
Tel: 281.890.5735

This week's breakfast will be held at the Harris County Smokehouse, 13280 West FM 1960 (intersection of US 290 and SH 6, in front of the La Quinta Inn). In order to accommodate anyone planning to enter their car in the Houston All-British Motor Vehicle Expo at Traders Village, we will meet for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. instead of the usual 8:30 a.m., so that those wanting to get involved can do so in a timely manner!

Hope to see y'all at breakfast!!!

## Breakfast Club Web Page - May 2001

So, it's clear that this tradition has been going for over twenty years, with a two year hiatus during peak Covid times when restaurants were often closed, and social distancing was mandated. Still, working on the numbers for 18 years of breakfasts as an estimate we get:

- 18 Years with 52 breakfasts per year = 1,040 breakfast events
- 1,040 breakfast events attended by average of 20 members per event = 20,800 member events

- 20,800 member events at average breakfast cost of \$15 / member = \$312,800 economic impact (not including gasoline and Triumph spare parts required to support this activity)
- 18,720 member event at estimated average time of 1.5 hours / event = 31,200 interaction hours by members.

So, even though each breakfast might be a seemingly small event, the impact adds up over time, and the member outreach of these events is a driving force sustaining our club.

At the VTR Nationals in 2022 in Galena, IL, I was talking with some attendees from other clubs up north who receive the *Bluebonnet* from their distribution, and they were amazed that we had the organization and club interest to be able to hold a weekly social event. Their get-togethers are generally monthly meetings held in the back room of the same restaurant. During the Covid hiatus, Mike Hado commented that in his discussions with club members, that it was the Breakfast Meetings that many members missed the most.

Now that Covid is behind us, the breakfast meetings are back in full force under the guidance of Coordinator John Barrett, with support from Sam and Tere Jeffries (the Red Spitfire Trio for those who know their cars).

**Here's John's thoughts, answers, and comments regarding the current state of the Breakfast Club**

- **How are the restaurants selected, what are the key criteria?**

"In general, most breakfast locations come from the club membership based on their personal breakfast experience with a restaurant. The key factors are; adequate parking, food quality, service quality (can be tough to judge, given the current number of attendees), and the consideration that the ability to accommodate club members does not adversely affect the restaurants normal operation with regular customers experience."

- **Are restaurants ever dropped from the rotation? If yes, why?**

"On occasion, indeed restaurants are dropped. Based on feedback from membership, usually related to food or service quality, restaurants are dropped. As a result of the pandemic, there are some restaurants that we just have not returned to with the same frequency as pre pandemic. Restaurants lost their kitchen and service staff, and frankly have not returned to their normal pre pandemic food and service quality. Unless there is a complete food and service disaster, restaurants do get a second chance. The second chance includes a meeting with restaurant management to explain the issues brought forth by club membership and an ensuing return visit. Should issues persist on the return visit, then the restaurant is dropped from the rotation."

- **How are the breakfasts coordinated with other club events?**

"So, there is a general rotation in the greater (and I mean greater) Houston area. The general rotation is adjusted to support other club events scheduled by VP of Special Events or Events Coordinator. For instance, in support of an autocross event, a breakfast is scheduled up North to accommodate both breakfast and autocross so to have a more enhanced club member experience."

- **Any other comments?**

"One thought and follow on comment; So, what does breakfast have to do with the success of Traveling Triumph Breakfast Club. This club breakfast tradition was initiated years ago by Russ Seto, so of course breakfast is a key factor. It always occurs on Saturday at a specified time, which allows the membership to plan their weekend activities in advance."

"But, in my humble opinion, while it is about food and coffee at one level, that is not all that is going on. Breakfast serves as the opportunity for Triumph



enthusiasts to meet and greet fellow club members on a regular basis. There are endless car related discussions, requests for advice and information, parts discussions, parts needed, ordered parts distributed, parts exchanged, and a plethora of other Triumph related activities. And there is the car viewing in the parking lot after breakfast to see the latest acquisition, repair, modification, or restoration. As important, for someone trying to engage with our club, the breakfast setting is a very informal opportunity to meet club members and hopefully get involved with TTR. Breakfast, among many other club activities, truly represents the heart and soul of our club.

I do not know what Russ had in mind when Traveling Triumphs Breakfast Club started, but I sure hope he is looking down on his creation and just has the widest grin on his face! We all sure do!"

A location map of the 2023 Breakfast Venues was created by John Hanten using the Google Maps feature. The pushpins show the restaurant locations, and important to note, some of the restaurants have been used multiple times during the year.

The vast geography of the Greater Houston area shows why it sometimes requires a long drive to get to breakfast, and why the breakfast events tend to have a different mix of club members as we move through the venues. Still, it does provide the opportunity for most club members to attend a nearby event sometime during the year, with the opportunity to eat, greet, and look at cars on a Saturday morning.

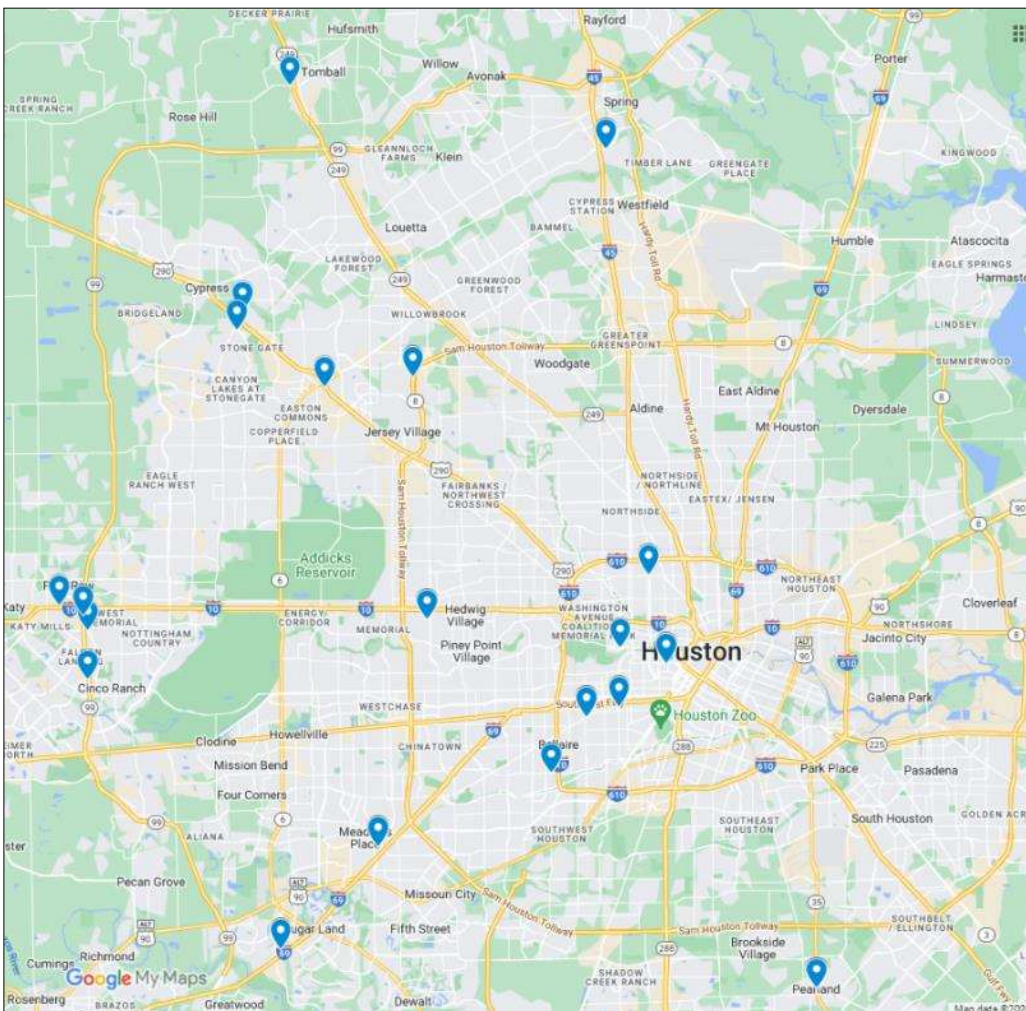
So, if you are one of the club members who has never attended a club event and might feel shy about showing up for the first time at a monthly meeting, the

Traveling Triumphs Breakfast Club provides an opportunity to attend a local, very informal event to meet some members, look at some cars, and ask questions that might assist with your own project.

Look for a Breakfast Club event at a location near you!

At Left - Pushpin map showing locations of 2023 Breakfast meetings. Some of the venues have been used multiple times.

An interactive map can be accessed via this [LINK](#).



Story: John Hanten, Mike Hado, John Barrett

Graphics: TTR Bluebonnet Archives, Internet Archives, Google Maps