

# THE BLUEBONNET



**1981 - 2021**

# Club Information



March 2021

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## The Texas Triumph Register

The Gulf Coast Triumph Association, Inc. d/b/a the Texas Triumph Register (TTR) is an organization of Triumph owners and enthusiasts dedicated to the preservation and continuing enjoyment of the Marque. Membership is open to all who appreciate automobiles bearing the Triumph name. In addition to monthly meetings, the club sponsors rallies, shows, road tours, technical seminars, and social events.

Visit our website at: [www.TexasTriumphRegister.org](http://www.TexasTriumphRegister.org)

## National Affiliations

The Texas Triumph Register is a local chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)/ Triumph Sports Owners Association, which is open to all drivers of Triumph motorcars; an area center for the Triumph Register of America, exclusively for TR-2 through TR-4A automobiles; and a chapter of the 6-PACK, dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation, and restoration of the Triumph TR250 and TR6 automobiles.

Membership in these national organizations is encouraged. Visit their websites at:

- [www.vtr.org](http://www.vtr.org)
- [www.triumphregister.com](http://www.triumphregister.com)
- [www.6-pack.org](http://www.6-pack.org)

## Newsletter

*The Bluebonnet* is published monthly for TTR members. Members are encouraged to submit articles, photographs, or other items of interest. TTR neither endorses nor warrants any product or service advertised herein.

The information contained in this newsletter is for educational and informative purposes only. TTR assumes no responsibility for the correctness or safety of the procedures; the reader assumes liability for any risk, both personal and financial, in connection with the repairs or modifications outlined in the articles.

Working on cars can be hazardous if done incorrectly or without the proper safety precautions. The consequences of some mistakes can be dangerous. TTR suggests that you consult an automotive professional before attempting any repair or modification with which you are unfamiliar or inexperienced.



**Texas Triumph Register**  
<http://www.facebook>.

**On the Cover:** TTR 40th Anniversary Logo custom designed by Ella Nicholson. Additional details on Page 14.

# THE BLUEBONNET

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# THE BLUEBONNET



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## From the President ...



March 2021

Wow, was the mid-February weather one for the records or what!? Let's hope that the recent Big Texas Freeze was the last gasp of winter in these parts and that everyone came through it without damage to your homes or cars. It will soon be time to break out those Triumphs more frequently, get the tops down and enjoy some sunshine on the road.

March 2021 is a very significant month in the life of the Texas Triumph Register. It marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the origin of what is now known as one of the largest and most active Vintage Triumph Register member Clubs. Yes, there is much to celebrate. Our Club has been blessed through these many years by having a long line of dedicated members who not only share a love of these Little British Cars, but share equal enthusiasm for the friendships that have resulted.

A special shout out goes to member #2 Steve Foster from Sugar Land, who is the only remaining member of the original six who convened the very first meeting of the Texas Triumph Register in March of 1981. Among the first 15 members who joined soon thereafter are current TTR stalwarts:

- #7 Bob & Eileen Grover,
- #10 Mike & Marie Hado,,
- #11 Gretchen Pindell & her late husband Robert,
- #15 Louise Carter & her late husband Don.



Regarding special features you will enjoy in this *Bluebonnet* there is a collection of remembrances from numerous former TTR Presidents and other features that will enhance this celebration of the Texas Triumph Register heritage. I hope each of you will thoroughly enjoy and save a copy of this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the *Bluebonnet* for your personal libraries.

Also, please take a minute to send a special thanks to our Editor, John Hanten, for his creative ideas and hard work that resulted in this memorable 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary *Bluebonnet*.

Be well and get out and drive those Triumphs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hal'.

## TTR Meeting Minutes for February

This was the eleventh virtual monthly meeting via Zoom due to Covid until the conditions improve.

TTR President Hal Sharp brought the meeting to order at 3:17 after some fun interaction by the virtual attendees. There were 39 attendees present in-person and by proxy constituting a quorum for club business.

**Opening Comments** - Hal thanked the members for their participation, thanked Fred Wagner for hosting the Zoom meeting, and proceeded with the planned meeting agenda.

**Approval of Minutes** - M/S/A to approve the minutes from the last meeting as published in the last *Bluebonnet*.

**Membership** - Mike Hado - two new members, Louis and Laurie Schlaudt, with three TR6s in the family. The current family membership is 196.

**Treasurer's Report** - Hal Sharp for Patsy Papp - reported the inflows, outflows, and current balance. The major expense for the month was insurance.

**Regalia** - Hal Sharp for John Wakefield - reported there was no regalia traffic this past month.

**IT** - no report.

### Special Events

- **Polar Bear Run** - Mike Rouse - reported on the positive feedback from the Polar Bear Run.
- **New Orleans Trip** - Mike Rouse - reported that there was very limited interest in the trip, and due to the planning difficulty and uncertain Covid situation he decided cancel the possible trip for this year.
- **Bluebonnet Run** - Mike Rouse - is tentatively scheduled for April 17, but Mike will be contacting the Brenham Chamber of Commerce to get the projected dates for optimum Bluebonnet viewing. The plan is to use the route from last year with slight modifications and the drive will end up at Washington on the Brazos State Park.
- **Corinthian Vintage Auto Racing** - Dusty Nicholson - reported there will be a Corinthian Vintage Race Event in at the MST Track in Angleton, TX on February 27 - 28. It is outdoors, BYOC (chair). There will be about 100 vintage race cars participating. There was some discussion regarding having a coordinated drive to the event vs. just attending on our own and having a picnic at the event. Mike Hado will send out a note to TTR members asking for their interest and preference.
- **Autocross** - Dusty Nicholson - Dusty reported that the Police Academy training facility is shut down until July. We are at the top of their list for using the facility when it reopens.
- **FOG Trip** - Hal Sharp - reported that the FOG Drive will be from May 4 - 19. The route will be to Upstate New York, including a visit to Watkins Glen International race facility.

# TTR Meeting Minutes for February



March 2021

**Breakfast Meetings** - John Barrett - showed a graph of the rolling average of Covid incidents in the Houston Area as reported by the Texas Medical Center. The graph shows that things have been improving, but still not great. Outdoor casual get-togethers might be OK, but indoor dining is still not a viable option.

## Old Business

- **TTR AutoRama Display** - Dusty Nicholson - reported that he will pick it up from the current storage facility in sometime in March. He will store the display at his place for six months, and then take it to Pittsburgh, PA, where it is being donated to the British all Marque Hall of Fame Museum. Mike Hado will send a note to TTR members requesting assistance to help Dusty load the trailer.
- **Monthly Meeting Hosts** - Hal Sharp - commented that he is still looking for volunteers to host monthly meetings when they can occur again. The Schumann family volunteered for October.

## New Business

- **VTR Membership** - Hal Sharp - reminded and encouraged TTR members to join VTR, the national Triumph organization for all Triumph models.
- **TTR 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - Mike Hado - reminded the attendees that March will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the club. There was a brief discussion about possibilities for parties or picnics to properly celebrate this milestone event when it is safe to gather in person.

**Adjourn** - M/S/A to adjourn at 3:58. Minutes recorded and edited by John Hanten

(M/S/A = motion made / seconded / approved )



# TTR February Meeting Photos and Schedule

**4** years 1981 - 2021  
March 2021

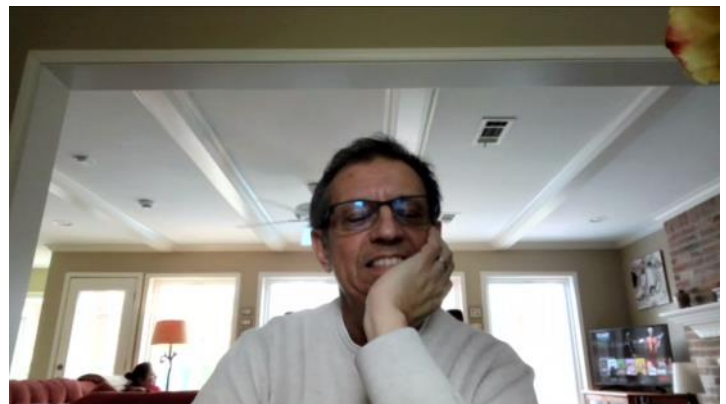


## TTR February Meeting Photos and Schedule



### Monthly Meetings Scheduled:

- March 13 - ZOOM Monthly Meeting
- TBD - TTR Anniversary Party Event
- April -
- May - Len Myers
- June - Rick Cassani & LeAnn Hill
- July - Jeff & Angela Harris
- August - Louise Carter
- September -
- October - Sharon & Eric Schumann
- November - James Moore



Screenshot Photos - John Hanten

# Member News - Mike Hado



March 2021



## New Members:

Matt Strommer, Spring, TX - 1971 Brown TR6

## TTR Birthdays for March

Todd Brown	2
Gene Biasucci	4
Julie Roccaforte	5
Janetta Rodriguez	6
Brian Zuchowski	6
Gareth Price	8
Chris Tsanais	8
Moose Stovall	12
Andrea Krulewitz	13
Penny Rettenmaier	14
Doug Trapp	14
Fred Wagner	15
Jack Crutchfield	16
Walter Gull	16
Dan Murray	16
Jim McAndrew	17
Sterling Johnson	17
Tom Przulucki	20
Peter Mandelik	21
John Henderson	24
Mark Riesch	24
Jim Farrell	25
LeAnn Hill	26
Christina Shamaly	27



## When the fun is in the driving...

Wherever you go, you'll find that *getting there* is the most fun of all – when you drive the Triumph T.R.2. Out on the highway, this British-built sports car is a magnificent performer with remarkable roadability and breath-taking acceleration. And around town, the Triumph's superb handling makes it fun just to drive to the store or the station. Plenty of luggage space behind the seats and in the trunk – and up to 35 thrifty miles in every gallon.

Take a test drive in the Triumph T.R.2 this weekend, and see how it can put fun back in *your* motoring.

It's a **TRIUMPH**   
 only \$2499 plus tax and license of U.S. ports of entry. Wire wheels optional extra.  
 Parts and service are readily available coast to coast.

**STANDARD-TRIUMPH MOTOR COMPANY, Inc.**  
 Importers of Triumph Sports Cars, 99 Park Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

For more information mail coupon to distributor below nearest you –  
 West of Mississippi  
 CAL SALES, INC.  
 1937 West 144th St., Gardena, Calif.  
 East of Mississippi  
 SOUTH EASTERN MOTORS, INC.  
 1937 Harrison St., Hollywood, Florida

Canadian readers write to:  
 THE STANDARD MOTOR CO. (Canada), LIMITED  
 496 Evans Avenue, Toronto 14

Please send me address of my nearest Triumph Dealer and more information about the T.R.2.

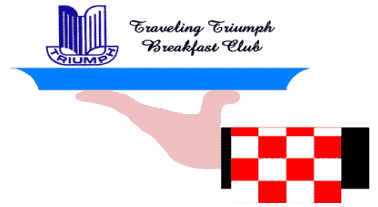
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Check here for information on our Overseas Delivery Plan.

## Club Events



**Breakfast Meetings** - Saturday Travelling Breakfasts are on-hold until we can conduct them safely. If things start to open up John & Sam will be communicating to you via emails from Mike Hado. Stay safe out there until we can get together once again. When breakfast meetings resume we meet between 7:30 am & 8 am for coffee & usually eat Breakfast at around 8:00 am. **Car viewing after Breakfast**

**Monthly Meetings** - virtual via ZOOM until further notice

**Bluebonnet Run** - Tentatively April 17. More details next month

**2021 FOG Trip** - May 4 - 19. Contact Dave Smith for more information.

**TTR 40th Anniversary Event** - TBD.

NOTE: See the TTR Meetup website for specific information for all events:

<https://www.meetup.com/TexasTriumphRegister/>

## Non-club Triumph Events

**VTR 2021 National Convention - Sept. 14-18, Edmond, OK**

<https://www.triumphsokc.org/>



**Triumphest 2021 - Oct. 14-17, Flagstaff, AZ**

Venue - Little America Hotel, reservations available now.

[Triumphest 2021](#)

**Triumphest 2021**

# Route 66 - The Mother Road



September 14 - 18, 2021

Hosted by: Oklahoma Vintage Triumph Register (COVTR)

Host Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn  
2833 Conference Drive • Edmond, Oklahoma • 405-285-0900

[www.VTR2021.com](http://www.VTR2021.com)



- 1. Round Barn - Arcadia 2. Rock Cafe - Stroud 3. Fort El Reno 4. Rt.66 Museum, etc. etc.

# TTR Regalia



## Partial List of TTR Regalia

<u>Item</u>	<u>\$</u>
Ladies Hats	12
Gray TTR T-shirts	15
Grille Badge	35
Men's Hats	15
License Plate Frames	20
Hat Pins	7.5
Iron on Logo Patches	5
TR-3 Coffee Cups	3

*For more information and availability of shirt sizes, or If you have ideas or requests for new items, contact John Wakefield, Regalia Master.*

*See website for additional info. Customized TTR-logo shirts are available through Lands End on-line purchase.*

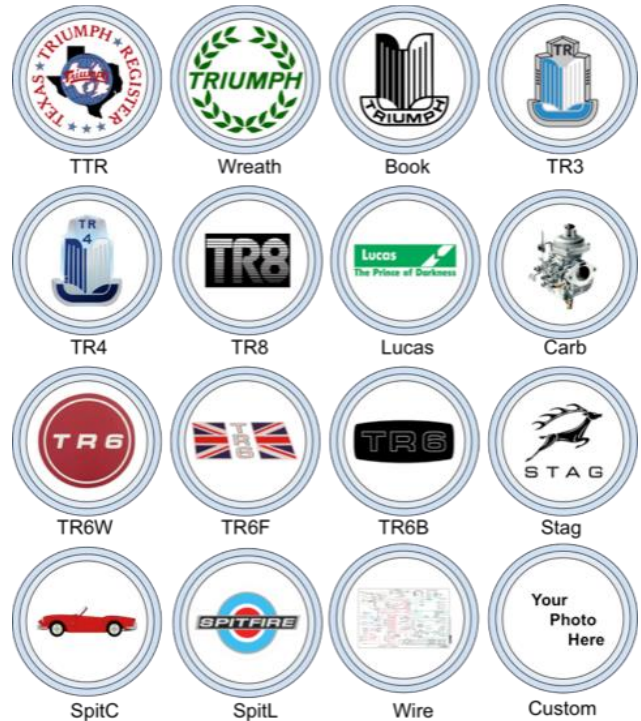
# TTR Resin Regalia – John Hanten

Currently I have molds for round refrigerator magnets, rectangular pendants (ornaments or magnets), coasters, and shelf plates. The round designs are available as 2.25" magnets, 4" rimmed cork-backed coasters, or 7" shelf plates.

## Late-TR6 available Triumph colors



## Other Triumph-related designs



## TTR Drive Souvenir Magnets

2019 Falling Leaves



2020 Polar Bear Run



2020 Bluebonnet Run



2020 Round Top Lunch Run



## Pricing:

- Round Magnets - \$5
- Pendants - \$5 (drilled with jump ring included, or as magnets)
- Coasters - \$7 ea., any 4 for \$25
- Shelf Plate \$20 (Stand is \$2 additional)

Please contact me for any requests. I will be bringing finished pieces to the TTR monthly meetings, and can cast to order. jbh



## Happy Birthday TTR!

To help celebrate this significant event, we searched for content to describe the journey over the past forty years, and bring it forward to share with the current *Bluebonnet* readership. Some of the content has not been published in any *Bluebonnet*, and some of the content was collected by mining the digital *Bluebonnet* archives.

Read on for the next three sections which include:

- **TTR Club Timeline** - a timeline history of the club with significant events over the past forty years. This was compiled by Don Carter, and since 2013 has been maintained by TTR member Randy DeRuiter. It is available on the club website in the Club Handbook.
- **TTR Logo History** - throughout the forty years, the club has had six logos - each one an evolution of the previous. All six are presented, along with the timing and the artist responsible for each one.
- **TTR Trophy Room** - over the years, primarily during the 1990's, the club participated in the AutoRama event garnering many awards, including Best Club Display on three occasions. There were many wall plaques awarded, but without a physical TTR Clubhouse, the plaques were stored by the club historian Mike Hado. This anniversary event provided an opportunity to physically and digitally restore the plaques, and make them available in a high-resolution virtual trophy display. This content will be migrated to the club website.

## About the Logo....

"Ella was challenged to create a 40th anniversary logo for the club and she decided to free draw it on her iPad. The letters and numbers are not computer fonts, she drew them with an Apple Pencil. She's also probably the youngest Triumph owner in the club at 14 years old, and if not the youngest owner then she's surely the youngest to pull an engine... now she just has to rebuild it and put it back!"

(Dusty Nicholson)



Ella with her 1963 Triumph Herald

## Texas Triumph Register Timeline

19 March 1981: First meeting with six potential members and two Triumphs.



Dwain King initiated the formation of a Houston-area club for people who enjoyed the Triumph marque. That happened in 1981, just as the final TR8s were produced.

21 April 1981: Elected first slate of officers: Dwain King (President), Robert Grover (VP), Steve Foster (Treasurer), Diane Murphy (Secretary), Mark Stevenson (Functions Chairman).

December 1981: First newsletter mailed.

June 1982: 1<sup>st</sup> Club logo approved (designed by Dwain King).

September 1982: Regalia debuts, caps, T-shirts, etc.

17 October 1982: First Event: Picnic at Stephen F. Austin State Park.

November 1982: Dick Greenly proposed a name for the monthly newsletter: "The Texas Blue Bonnet".

20 March 1983: 1<sup>st</sup> Club rally (in conjunction with Austin-Healey Club). Hado's got 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.

20 November 1983: 1<sup>st</sup> Wild Turkey Rally.

August 1984: Club World Globe logo approved (designed by Mike Hado). November 1984: 1<sup>st</sup> club participation in AutoRama.

August 1987: VTR National Convention in Atlanta, GA. Mike Hado wins the 1<sup>st</sup> Ken Richardson Challenge Trophy.

August 1988: VTR National Convention in Dallas, TX. TTR was the co-host of this convention with the Red River Triumph Club.

August 1989: VTR National Convention in Albany, NY.

# Texas Triumph Register Timeline



March 2021

- August 1990: VTR National Convention in Boulder, CO. (TTR represented).
- August 1991: VTR National Convention in Ft. Mitchell, KY. (TTR represented).
- March 1991: TTR celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at The Ale House, 2425 Alabama. (Demolished in 2001).
- September 1991: TTR VP Gary Johnston lost in airplane crash. In early 1992 the Gary Johnston Award was created and has been awarded every year since.
- November 1991: AutoRama display wins Best Club Display Award and prize money.
- August 1992: VTR National Convention in Savannah, GA. (TTR represented).
- August 1993: VTR National Convention in Seattle, WA. Carter's win 1st in Concours and Best in Show.
- August 1994: VTR National Convention in Asheville, NC. (TTR represented).
- 1995: Current Club Logo is designed by Don Carter.
- Spring 1995: VTR South Central Regionals (SCR) hosted by TTR in Clear Lake, TX. Largest attendance in the VTR South Central Region's history.
- June 1995: TTR has 159 cars on the roster.
- August 1995: VTR National Convention in Rockford, IL. (TTR represented)
- 25-27 April 96: VTR SCR hosted by Red River Triumph Club, Dallas.
- 10-13 July 1996: VTR National Convention in Albany, NY. (TTR represented).
- 18-19 April 1997: VTR SCR hosted by Hill Country Triumph Club, Georgetown, TX.

# Texas Triumph Register Timeline



March 2021

- 9-12 July 1997: VTR National Convention in Fort Worth, TX. (TTR well represented). Jackie and Wayne Switzer win Ken Richardson Challenge Trophy.
- July 1998: Club votes to change the name of the annual Polar Bear rally to The Wayne & Jackie Switzer Polar Bear Rally in recognition of the significant contributions of these TTR members.
- August 1998: VTR National Convention in Hudson, Wisconsin. Switzer's win Ken Richardson Challenge Trophy (again!).
- 1998: TTR goes on line with our web site, Created by Tom Marsh.
- March 1999: VTR SCR at Fiesta, Texas, San Antonio.
- August 1999: VTR National Convention in Portland, Maine (TTR represented).
- November 1999: TTR wins \$500 club prize at Houston AutoRama and Featured Club of the Year.
- March 2000: VTR SCR, Western Hills Resort, Wagoner, OK, hosted by Green Country Triumph Club. (TTR represented).
- August 2000: VTR National Convention in Portland, Oregon.
- March 2001: TTR celebrates 20th anniversary at Del Pueblo Mexican Restaurant, Jones Road near Grant Road. (now relocated)
- May 2001: TTR hosts VTR SCR in College Station.
- June 2001: TTR membership roster shows 150 families and 195 cars. TTR becomes a chapter of 6 -PACK.
- August 2001: VTR National Convention in Breckenridge, CO hosted by Rocky Mountain Triumph Club. (TTR represented).

## Texas Triumph Register Timeline



March 2021

- April 2002: Red River Triumph Club hosts VTR SCR in Granbury, TX. (TTR represented).
- July 2002: VTR National Convention in Red Wing, MN hosted by Minnesota Triumphs. (TTR represented). The Bluebonnet (editor: Jeff Myers) wins a VTR Newsletter Award. Jim McAndrew wins the Ken Richardson Trophy. The TTR Resource Guide, developed by Jeff Harris, goes on line on the web page.
- November 2002: TTR President's Trophy is refurbished with new black/gold cup to replace the tarnished and scratched original brass bowl.
- November 2002: TTR Display wins second place and \$150 prize for Best Club Display at AutoRama 2002. This was the first year that AutoRama was held in the new Reliant Center (former home was the now demolished Astro Arena). New TTR sign makes its debut. Due to the changing focus of the show (hot rods, low riders, etc.), TTR members voted to skip AutoRama 2003 after a consecutive 19-year participation.
- December 2002: TTR membership roster includes 102 families.
- April 2003: Hill Country Triumph Club hosts VTR SCR in Fredericksburg, TX. (TTR represented). Farrell's TR-3B wins Best of Show.
- August 2003: VTR National Convention combined with The Roadster Factory Summer Party in Ar-magh, PA. (TTR represented).
- April 2004: Central Oklahoma Vintage Triumph Club hosts VTR SCR in Norman, OK. (TTR represented). TTR member Gary Fuqua wins Best of Show with his TR-4A.
- July 2004: VTR National Convention in Richmond, VA. (TTR represented).
- April 2005: San Antonio Triumph Club hosts VTR SCR in San Marcos, TX. (TTR represented).

## Texas Triumph Register Timeline

June 2005: TTR hosts 31st annual Triumph Register of America National Meet in Branson, MO. First ever TRA convention held west of the Mississippi River.

July 2005: VTR National Convention in Rockford, IL. (TTR represented). John & Liz Reynold's blue Spitfire won Best of Show.



**John & Liz's award-winning Spitfire is inspected at the 2006 VTR National Convention in Las Colinas, TX**

December 2005: TTR members participate in the Sealy Christmas Parade and provide transportation for the Sweet Potato Queens.



**Santa Bill Parker Totes Two "Taters" via Red Stag Sleigh Sealy Christmas Parade, December 3, 2005**

March 2006: TTR celebrates its 25th anniversary.

# Texas Triumph Register Timeline

April 2006: VTR South Central Regional Convention in Jenks, OK. (TTR represented).

July 2006: VTR National Convention in Las Colinas, TX, hosted by Red River Triumph Club. (TTR represented). Tommie & Susan Cook's yellow GT-6 wins Best of Show-see photo. Rare 1934 Dolomite straight 8 (valued at \$2M) is shown at the Concours. One of only two such cars in existence.



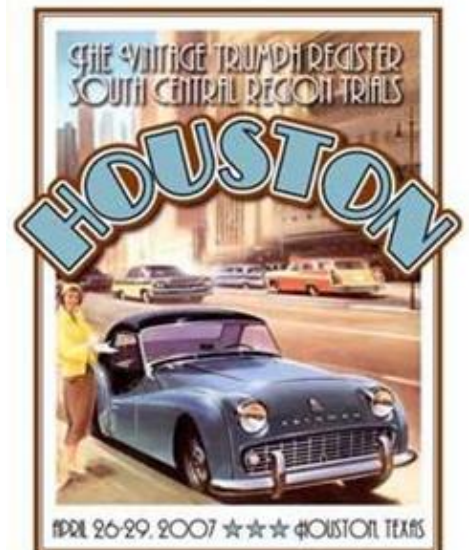
**Tommie & Susan Cook's Best of Show GT6**



**Rare 1934 Dolomite Straight 8 at the 2006 VTR National Convention**

Early 2006: The Bluebonnet is offered to members by e-mail delivery. It arrives on-line in glorious living color and in pdf format. Mike Hado wraps up the popular "Way Back When" series in March. This monthly article featured highlights from Bluebonnets 5, 10, 15 and 20 years ago. This feature ran for five years.

April 2007: VTR South Central Region Trials at Hilton Garden Inn, northwest Houston, TX hosted by Texas Triumph Register. TTR hosted 80 registrations, 160 people. (Originally planned for Del Lago Resort on Lake Conroe, but the resort declared bankruptcy several months prior to the convention)



# Texas Triumph Register Timeline



March 2021

- July 2007: VTR National Convention at Valley Forge, PA, hosted by Delaware Valley Triumphs. (TTR represented). The Bluebonnet (Editor: Diane Parker) wins a national VTR newsletter award.
- April 2008: VTR South Central Regional convention in Tyler, TX hosted by the Red River Triumph Club. TTR represented. A track day at the Houston Police Academy one week before the convention made sure that TTR autocrossers were prepared for victory.
- June 2008: Diane Parker resumes the Bluebonnet editor position after Jim Wortsman steps down. The Bluebonnet changes from a digest format to an 8.5" x 11" format and goes to electronic-only delivery. The delivery change was precipitated by the demise of our long-term printer, Brainstream Publishing (who published The Bluebonnet essentially free for many years—thanks, Bob Vogt!) and the increasing cost of postage.
- August 2008: North American Triumph Challenge (formerly known as VTR National Convention) at Ypsilanti, MI. B.S. Levy as keynote speaker. Members of VTR and North American Spitfire Squadron rebuild a 1963 Spitfire over a 48-hour period. (Aug 4-8)
- April 2009: VTR South Central Regional convention in Marble Falls, TX hosted by the Hill Country Triumph Club. TTR has a 40+ presence. Highlight for many is the "Stone Mountain Slalom".
- Sept 30-Oct 4, 2009: VTR combined with Triumphest in San Luis Obispo for the first ever West Coast national convention. Also, the conclusion of John McCartney's coast to coast drive in a restored Stag to raise money for PTSD charities. TTR represented.
- Apr 28-May 1, 2010: COVTR hosts the VTR South Central Regional Convention in Oklahoma City with the Route 66 theme "Triumphs on the Mother "Road". TTR represented.
- June 2010: Clay Thompson becomes editor of The Bluebonnet but resigns shortly thereafter due to health issues. Diane Parker resumes as editor. Clay selected to be the VTR Liaison for the VTR South Central Region, replacing Sam Clark who held this role for many years.

## Texas Triumph Register Timeline



March 2021

- Oct 17-22, 2010: VTR National Convention in Jekyll Island, GA. TR-6 is featured model. TTR represented. Melissa Farrell wins the Ken Richardson Trophy for the second time.
- March 26, 2011: TTR celebrates 30th anniversary with a drive to Cat Spring and lunch at a B&B.
- Apr 28-May 1, 2011: STTA hosts the VTR South Central Regional Convention in New Braunfels, TX at the T Bar M ranch. 80 cars registered. TTR represented.
- August 2011: Jeff Harris becomes The Bluebonnet Editor.
- Aug 17-20,2011: RMTTC hosts the VTR National Convention in Breckenridge, Colorado, site of the 2001 national. Billed as "Triumph in the Rockies III" and hosted at Beaver Run Resort & Conference Center. TTR represented.



- November 2011: TTR returns to AutoRama after a several year absence. Event is held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. A simplified version of the club display (sign, table, wire wheel stanchions) is used for the display.
- April 26-28, 2012: Green Country Triumphs hosts VTR South Central Regional in Broken Arrow, OK. TTR represented. The VTR SE Regional, hosted by the Georgia Triumph Association and the Mitty classic car race held at Road Atlanta took place on the same weekend. TTR represented.

# Texas Triumph Register Timeline



March 2021

Oct 28-Nov 2, 2012: TTR hosts VTR National Convention in Galveston, Texas. 134 registrants, 130 Triumphs, 225 at awards banquet at the San Luis Spa and Resort (Host hotel). Included a memorable Halloween costume party. Mike Hado wins the Ken Richardson Trophy for the second time.



Gate crashers or VTR attendees at the Halloween Party? We were too intimidated to ask.

(later revealed to be Louise and Don Carter)

April 24-28, 2013: RRTC hosts VTR South Central Regional in Waco. TTR Represented.

July 8, 2013: Tom Marsh, originator and long-term maintainer of the TTR web site, retires. Bob and Orit Pennington step in to the Webmaster role.

October 2-6, 2013: VTR / Triumphfest held in San Francisco Bay Areas. TTR represented.

March 8, 2014: Steve Foster presented Certificate of Appreciation as a Lifetime Member. Steve is the only one of the six original founding members still involved with TTR.

April 27-30, 2014: Kansas City Triumph Club hosts the VTR South Central Regional in Excelsior Springs, MO. TTR Represented.

Summer 2014: Pay dues on-line feature added to upgraded web page.

Sept 9-14, 2014: VTR National Convention in Dobson, NC. TTR Represented. The Bluebonnet, Editor Jeff Harris, won a VTR Newsletter Award.

# Texas Triumph Register Timeline



March 2021

April 2015: New TTR Club Banner Created. Gary Johnston Trophy upgraded to allow more names to be engraved.



April 23-26, 2015: VTR South Central Regional Convention in Kerrville, TX hosted by the Hill Country Triumph Club. Len and Marti Myers win the Gary Johnston Trophy. TTR represented.

August 11-14, 2015: VTR National Convention in Fontana, WI. TTR Represented. The Bluebonnet, Editor Jeff Harris, won a VTR Newsletter Award.

April 20-24, 2016: VTR South Central Regional Convention in Norman, OK hosted by the Central Oklahoma VTR. TTR represented.

May, 2016: Jeff Harris retires from editing duties and James Moore becomes Bluebonnet Editor.

October 3-7, 2016: VTR National Convention hosted by Red River Triumph Club in Pottsboro, TX. TTR Represented.

April 27-30, 2017: VTR South Central Regional Convention in New Braunfels, TX hosted by the South Texas Triumph Association. TTR represented. Sam and Tere Jeffries win the Gary Johnston Trophy.

August 16-19, 2017: VTR National Convention in Princeton, NJ.

# Texas Triumph Register Timeline

August, 2017:

Hurricane Harvey gut punches the Texas coast. Many TTR families are impacted but many also jump in to help get people back on their feet in the following months.



What 13 days of flood water does to a restored license plate – from Len and Marti Myers’ totally submerged TR6 now in restoration



Dusty Nicholson and TTR cleanup crew including Mike Rouse assess the toll on Don Carter’s VTR Best of Show TR6 – happily this car is back on the road

April 19-22, 2018:

VTR South Central Regional at Lake Conroe, TX hosted by Texas Triumph Register at the La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa. TTR hosted 82 registrations and had 144 people attend the welcome reception. This was the same location as the former Del Lago Resort which could not be used in 2007. Louise Nicholson Carter took home the Millie Phillips Spirit of Texas Award presented by the Red River Triumph Club.



Triumphs herded up for Concours and Participants Choice Judging on Lake Conroe

# Texas Triumph Register Timeline

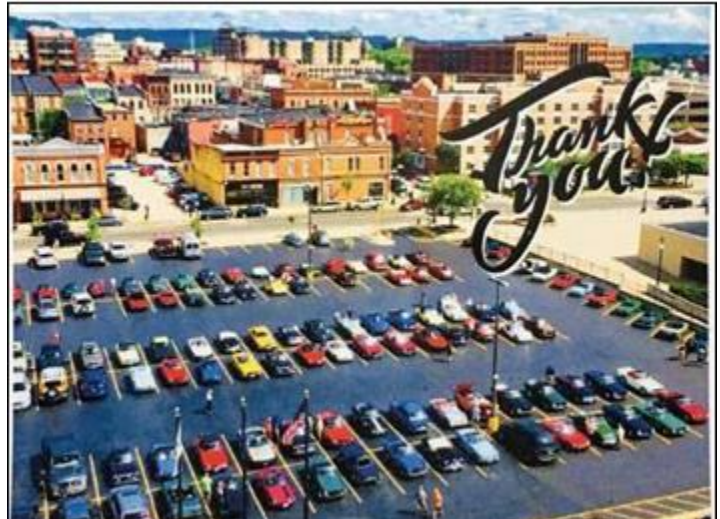


March 2021

July 17-21, 2018: VTR National Convention held in La Crosse, WI. TTR Represented. The Bluebonnet, Editor James Moore, won a VTR Newsletter Award. Nancy Money and John Hanten took home seven awards, including two prestigious Special Awards: The George Rabey Preservation Award and the Carolinas' Cup.



Only part of the TTR awards given out to TTR attendees

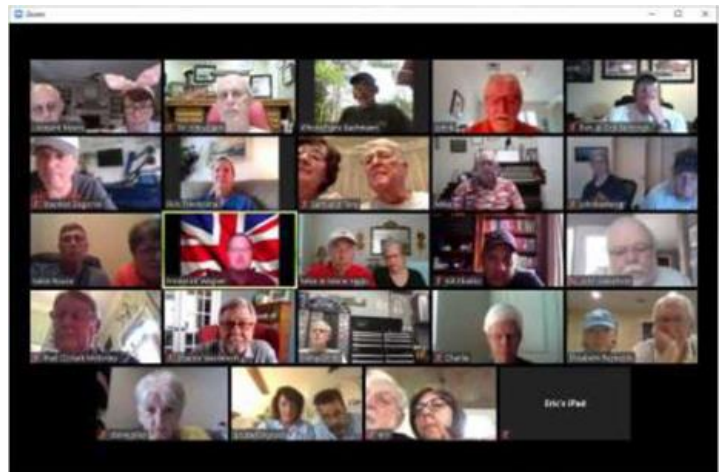


View from the Host Hotel

April 24-27, 2019: VTR South Central Regional at Pottsboro, TX hosted by Red River Triumph Club. TTR represented. John Hanten and Nancy Money win the Gary Johnston Trophy.

October 6-11, 2019: VTR National Convention hosted by Hill Country Triumph Club in Dripping Springs, TX. TTR represented. Ken and Sherri Wasilewski win Concours Best of Show with their 1957 TR3.

April 11, 2020: In response to stay at home orders due to the Coronavirus pandemic, TTR President Fred Wagner successfully conducts the first ever TTR virtual monthly meeting using Zoom. Despite social distancing and limited travel, the TTR club adapts and continues as strong as ever.



# Texas Triumph Register - Logo History



March 2021

An annotated history of the evolution of the TTR Logo



**June 1982** - Original by Dwain King with a TR3A within the state of Texas. There does not appear to be a logo before this time. The club name was Texas Triumph Register of America.



**March 1984** - Chuck Morris added the Texas Triumph Register text ring around the original logo and removed the words Texas and TRA.



**August 1984** - Mike Hado added the Triumph world globe in the center to replace the TR3A. Three stars were also added between the words.

# Texas Triumph Register - Logo History



**March 1995** - Don Carter modified the center globe by changing the continents to only two "continents" of Texas and Great Britain. Also, two additional stars were added at the bottom.



**April 1995** - Don Carter added color to previous version



**January 1999** - Don Carter added the outside ring.

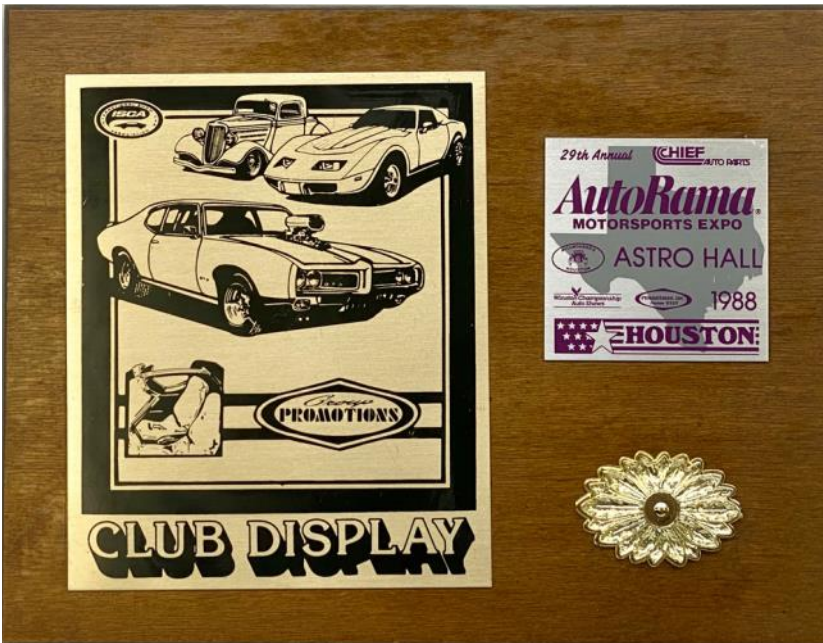
Story - Mike Hado - TTR Historian

Graphics - Bluebonnet digital archives

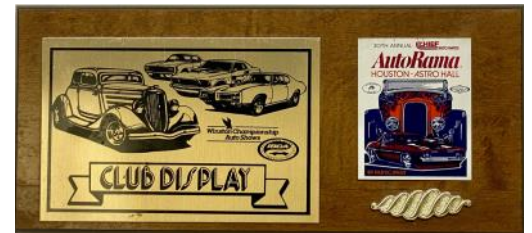
# Texas Triumph Register - Trophy Room

March 2021

From 1984 through 2002, the club participated in the AutoRama motor sports expo car show held at the Astro Hall. The club accumulated many Club Display Awards, and the surviving awards are shown below. The club won the Best Club Display Award in 1991 and 1998, shown on the following pages.



1988 Club Display Award (enlarged to show detail)



1989



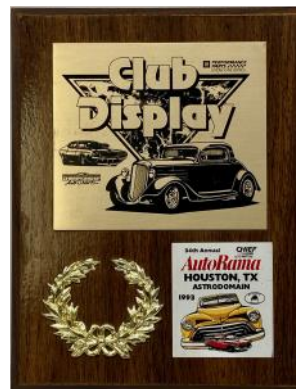
1990



1991



1992



1993



1995



1996



1997



1998



1999

# Texas Triumph Register - 1991 AutoRama



March 2021

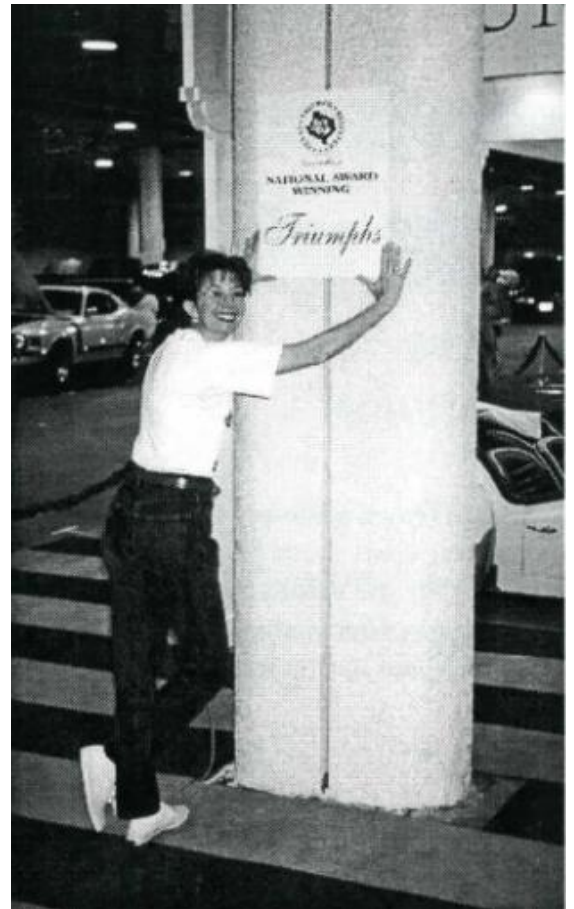


1991 TTR AutoRama Display and Best Club Display Award

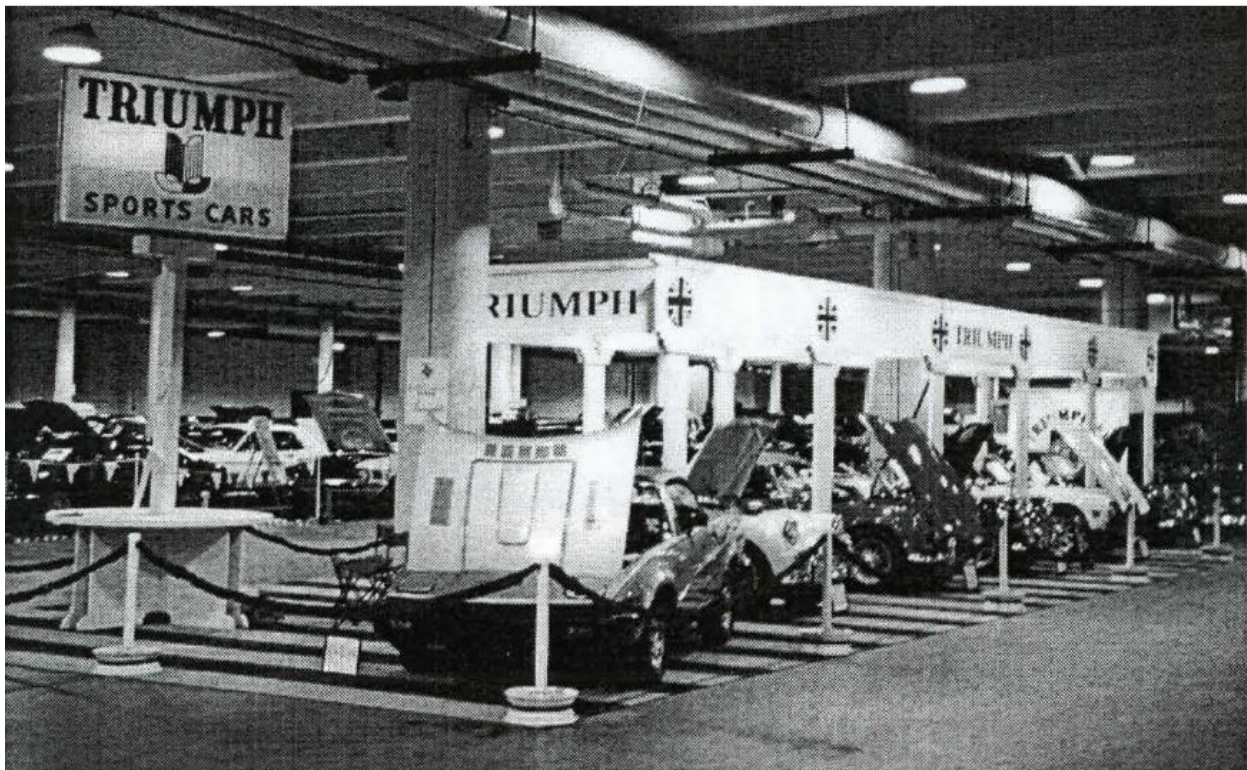




1998 TTR Best Club Display Award



TTR President Louise Carter working on setup



1998 TTR AutoRama Display



## Presidential Reflections

Ed Comments - In addition to the information already covered, I thought it would be interesting to add a personal touch by offering the opportunity for past TTR Presidents to craft another President's Column. After all, some of them had penned as many as sixty columns during their term, so they would have the skills embedded in their mental muscle memory. Kind of like riding a bicycle, or driving a Triumph. I requested that they provide content that reflected on their time as TTR President, and also offer their current perspective on the club.

Hal and I reached out to all of the previous living club presidents where we had a good email address requesting a President's Column. There was a great response, and following are the personal reflections of the past presidents who gave so much of their time and energy to maintain and grow the club over the years.

For several of the deceased members, I fired up the TTR Wayback Machine and ventured into the *Bluebonnet* Archives to look for relevant material to recreate a President's Column. For three of the past presidents this turned out to be relatively straightforward, as they had written their reflection thoughts at the end of their term. I simply brought those words forward in time, along with a list of key milestones of the club during their tenure.

For two of the former Presidents, Daton Dodson and John Parr, there simply was not enough material to reconstruct a column. Even though their personal information is fairly sparse, there is a solid digital trail of *Bluebonnet* newsletters, documenting an active club with monthly meetings, driving events, and tech tips. So, they kept the club running with a successful handoff to the next President.

Enjoy the personal review of the past 40 years!

## TTR Former Presidents

Dwain King \* - 1981-1983

Daton Dodson ? - 1983-1984

Mike Hado - 1984-1989

John Parr ? - 1989-1991

Don Carter \* - 1991-1995

Len Myers - 1995-1998

Louise Carter - 1998-2000

Jeff Harris - 2000-2004

Jim Wortsman \*- 2004-2007

Eric Schumann - 2007-2010

John Barrett - 2010-2013

John Reynolds - 2013-2015

Fred Wagner - 2015-2020

? - current status unknown

\* - deceased

Ed Note - Back in 1986, TTR Founder Dwain King authored an article for the *Bluebonnet*, chronicling the beginnings of the Texas Triumph Register car club. Below is his article from the March, 1986 *Bluebonnet* copied via screenshot to preserve the font and formatting. Although Dwain has since passed away, his words carry on to describe the beginnings of the Texas Triumph Register.

## BEGINNINGS

By: Dwain King

Back in 1977, when I returned from England, I bought a 1970 Ford Falcon for a work car - no pollution equipment, straight six, add on A/C, automatic transmission. I put all those things straight that usually go wrong at seven years and 60,000 miles - starter, valve job, shocks, carb rebuild, ball joints, tie rod ends, etc.. It seemed like fun, so I thought, "Invest my time in a classic, instead of this crate." I began to look at XK 120's and XK 150's and ran into an ex-British Leyland mechanic who advised I should start on a four-banger, perhaps an MGA or TR3. By then, I had partnership in a 1954 Corvette, found I was doing all the work and sold out my share. The same week I bought a TR3A (now owned by Dick Greely and For Sale). I decided to join a local club to meet other TR3 owners and found out - no club in Houston or Texas, so I joined the local MG club and soon found out the MG other than the MGC hadn't the fortitude of the TR's nor did the club members fit my idea of a sports car club - no rallies - just shows.



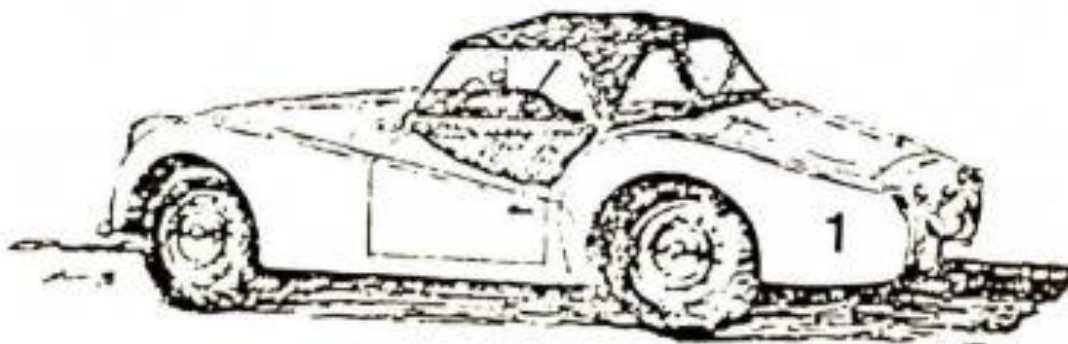
While strolling through a neighborhood in Calgary, Canada, I spotted a ground-up restored TR3A, knocked on the owner's home door and came away with greater enthusiasm for the 3A, a desire to form a local Houston club and a copy of the Triumph Register of America magazine.

By then, it was 1960 and I had two TR's, a 3A and a 3B. Also, I worked with two other TR owners, Diane Murphy and Mark Stevenson. After collecting the necessary instructions from both national clubs,

we gathered ten owners together at my castle and formed the club early in 1981. The rest can be read in copies of the old meeting minutes and monthly bulletins. Through successive improvements of club officers, we now have a first class club of dedicated workers.

I am proud to have initiated this venture and to have had a hand in putting Texas on the roll of Triumph Car Clubs. Following is a list of the six original members; most are still in the Club.

- Diane Murphy
- Steve Foster
- Mark Stevenson
- Mike Murphy
- Tami Murphy
- R. D. King



I still remember the first monthly meeting I attended in the fall of 1981. Our founder Dwain King had an on-going ad in both the Houston Chronicle and the Houston Post. He was inviting any Triumph owner to attend a meeting to discuss forming a Triumph club in Houston and to expand its association with other local car clubs. The loose knit group had already been meeting since March of 1981 and was struggling to grow.

There were a half dozen or so members when I joined, all of whom had a TR3 or TR4 and were looking for help to get their car together. It took another year or so for the membership to double to 12 families in 1982. Dues were \$10.00 per year at the outset but jumped to \$25.00 soon after. The meeting discussions were mostly technical in nature and, except for Diane Murphy, one of the founding members along with husband Mike, no spouses attended. It was a guy thing and nuts and bolts stuff was the order of the day.

The first meetings were either at Dwain King's home in West Houston or at a realtor's office on the SW free-way, a location arranged by Steve Foster who was also one of our founding members. I loved the gatherings at Dwain's home. He had one bedroom in which he stored his TR3 parts and you needed sunglasses to enter. Almost everything was chrome! When completed, it was probably the flashiest TR3 I've ever seen.

As far as my cars, my first TR was a 66 TR4A I bought in Miami in 1976 for \$350.00. I sold it when we moved to Houston in 1978 but got it back recently after over 40 years. You'll see it back on the road again soon. My green TR3B "Emeralda" came into the picture about that same time and was in pieces. In my first President's page I noted that the first time I drove it to a meeting it was a "loosely assembled rattletrap and sported no less than 7 colors: black, green, red primer, gray primer, white primer, brown primer, and bare metal." Nobody laughed and I think that was because the cars of the other members weren't much better. I've since owned a few more TR3's and TR4A's over the years and just love the early models for their simplicity.

I was the third president of the TTR from 1984 to 1989, following Dwain King and Daton Dodson. I am



**1st ever Ken Richardson Challenge Trophy - 1987**

convinced that the membership grew rapidly at the time mainly because of the increased involvement of the spouses. We have Marie, not me, to thank for that. Our gatherings became more interesting and more social and the ladies of the TTR were responsible for this and the trend continues to this day. I have always stressed the family nature of the TTR. When someone asks me how many members we have, I always refer to the count not as members, but as member families. That is truly one of the strengths of the club.

Perhaps even greater than the social nature of the TTR is the unwavering willingness of members to help each other with technical assistance, parts, and general support. More importantly, this extends to non-car related help such as we witnessed during natural disasters, family emergencies and other personal needs of the membership. For this, and especially for this, I am so immensely proud to be a part of the Texas Triumph Register.



**TTR Christmas Party - 1989**

Ed Note - Don Carter made very many contributions to the club over a long time period. In addition, he restored his white TR6 to a high level of perfection and won an astounding number of awards in Concours and Autocross events, including Best of Show at the 1993 VTR Nationals in Everett, WA. He served as President of TTR from 1991 - 1995. The digital *Bluebonnet* archives provided a rich source of information about the club, and I have extracted text from Don's final President's Column, milestone achievements from those years, and a few photos. The January 2014 *Bluebonnet* Special Edition has a comprehensive review of his life and achievements.

# TEXAS TRIUMPH REGISTER

## PRESIDENT'S LAST GASP

June 1995

**Hello Triumph Lovers!** Seems like I've written that greeting a few times. It's been four dozen times as a matter of fact. What has happened in four years to all of you?.....As I started reflecting, I realized there were so many changes with me, that it was scary. All I can express to all of you T.T.R. members is the love I'll always owe you for being a thread of consistency during a personally tumultuous four years. Who would have thought that the fun and escape enjoyed by restoring and maintaining English sports cars could ever be topped by working for a whole club of people who share the same hobby? This why all of you, whether you like it or not, are more than friends, you're family. Thank you for the honor of being an officer and especially for helping me through the meetings, the events, the newsletters, and all the other activities of the T.T.R.

### Milestone Events during Don's Presidency

- 1991 - AutoRama First Place Club Award
- 1992 - Established Gary Johnston Award
- 1992 - Established TTR President's Award
- 1992 - AutoRama First Place Club Award
- 1995 - TTR Club Logo revised by Don Carter to show Texas at the same scale as Great Britain
- 1995 - TTR Hosts VTR Regional Event



TTR Christmas Party ~ 1991



Award-Winning AutoRama Club Display designed by Don Carter



Autocrossing the Award-Winning TR6

## Reflections from my time as President...

Our Editor, John Hanten's assignment to review and reminisce about my time as president of TTR became an interesting exercise. I went to the club's digital *Bluebonnet* archive website, and read through all of my President's Columns. The President's Column can be used for many purposes and topics. I used it to review club events, suggest new ideas and sometimes as a soapbox for my pet peeves regarding bad driving, but those columns also showed a lot of transitions for the club and for technology in general. During my time, area codes were added to telephone numbers. There is mention of using faxes. We also ask members to give the club their cell phone numbers - if they had a cell phone. We also ask for email addresses - if available. One column asks how many were driving at the new speed limit of 70mph as the speed limit had been increased from 55mph. As respects the club, Club Shirts were introduced, the Star Car feature began, name badges became available (I would still like to see more use of them). But I think the biggest change (and I have little to no responsibility for) is when Wayne Switzer became my VP. He raised the bar for club driving events, he started the trend that continues today to get us on the road and to enjoy driving our TR's. Every VP after Wayne has continued what he started.

More than the above, here are a couple of quotes from my past columns that are still appropriate today and continue to reflect on our club.

### From my August 1997 Column:

"A moment of personal reflection. My family has been a member of TTR since about 1989. I have thoroughly enjoyed this membership, and I think the reasons for the satisfaction is the caliber of our membership. Our members genuinely want to help each other be successful with our Triumphs and help each other to the extent of our individual resources and skills. I have made many close friendships from within our membership that started out with the basis of our common Triumph interest, but have expanded to include many other interests and activities. I have gotten far more out of TTR than I have put in. I think it is this atmosphere of fairness and cooperation that makes Texas Triumph Register a very successful and enjoyable club."



**Many of you are aware of Marti's passing, so I leave you with one more quote from my May 1997 column:**

"Finally, one more credit to be given. Marti drove the TR-6 to and from the regional. She had one lesson a few days before the Friday caravan. She has not driven a standard transmission car solo since our 1976 MGB that we sold in 1982. The TR-6 does not drive like most TR-6s due to all the modifications that we have made and it can be temperamental, but she did a great job, toward the end she was even referring to it as 'her' car. On the trip home she even laid rubber a couple of times to keep up with Don."

My time as president was a good time and comes with some great memories all made possible by our past and current membership.

Len Myers



## Boys and their Toys

Although the purpose of this article is to highlight the events of my term as TTR's President, I want to share the story of how TTR entered my life...unexpectedly and profoundly.

The story begins in 1985 when Houston's oil industry tanked, and as a single Mom with an interior design business that came to an abrupt halt, I had to seek employment. I interviewed with the architecture firm of Watkins Carter Hamilton and was hired by Don Carter. True to the architecture world, lots of overtime hours were required to meet project deadlines, so my 5 year old son Dusty spent a lot of time after school playing with his Matchbox cars under my drafting table at the office. As you can guess, Dusty's Matchbox cars were like a magnet to Don so while I worked, they played, talked and developed a friendship. Don invited Dusty to come over to his home to help him work on the TR6, play baseball, eat HoHo's and drink cokes... totally "guy time." Fast forward...Don and I started dating. In August 1991 Don took me to my first TTR meeting at Russ & Marianne Seto's home. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming. BONUS: I got to drive a Triumph for the first time (Don's TR6 was still being restored). Gary Johnston insisted that I take his TR3 out for a spin with Don as my co-pilot. I was terrified, but immediately "got it" as to why vintage sports cars are so fun...and the people were great too! It was only a few weeks later that Gary tragically died while flying the Conoco company jet to Malaysia. I attended his funeral, where I saw the incredible love and support of our TTR family for the first time.

Dusty and my first VTR Regional event was at Lago Vista in Austin (remember the colorful fishing lures!) The TR6 was not yet ready, but we attended carless. Dusty and I met so many wonderful people from all over Texas and Oklahoma and had so much fun!

Don's TR6 frame-off restoration was finally finished in 1993, so the three of us trailered Don's amazing TR6 to the VTR Nationals event in Everett, Washington where he won Best of Show... I am sure the countless hours that Dusty and I spent to "meticulously" detail



Louise, Don, and VTR National's Best of Show TR6

the car helped secure this prestigious honor! The three of us had a blast... now, with this accomplishment, the next phase of the TR6 began - **autocross racing**. Don's goal for Fastest Time of Day was a perfect match for Dusty. The search was on for the latest and greatest performance parts.

Don served as TTR President a few years before I did. He loved being President and he loved planning events. The most memorable ones for me were the 1995 VTR Regionals in Kemah, and of course the 2012 VTR Nationals in Galveston.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as TTR President. I must admit that it was more work than I thought it would be. Don's guidance and support, as well as "behind the scenes" efforts made my term full of fun events, parties, etc. It's hard to believe that in August I will have been involved in TTR for 30 years... Dusty: thank you for loving Matchbox cars and bringing Don and TTR into our lives!

Lastly, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their incredible support when Hurricane Harvey flooded my home. The immediate response from our TTR members was truly one of the greatest blessings I've ever received! I am hoping to host the August TTR club meeting in my restored garage and home - please come celebrate our amazing club!

## Reflections from my time as President...

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> birthday to TTR! In 1981 Ronald Reagan was President, the first space shuttle launched, Walter Cronkite said "And that's the way it is" for the last time, the IBM PC and MTV debuted. Also in 1981, six folks who owned classic Triumphs met in west Houston to consider the fate of their cars in the post-Triumph/British Leyland era. They laid the foundation for like-minded folks that would become the TTR. I doubt those six founders had any idea that the club would survive and prosper and be bigger and better than ever in the then far-distant year of 2021.

Don Carter encouraged me to consider serving as a TTR officer while we visited at one of the HABMVE shows at Traders Village. I took his advice and later became VP Events and found that I was enjoying the club even more as I became more involved. That transitioned into the President role in 2000 and later roles as Secretary and BB Editor-each job enjoyable for different reasons.

A few memories from my tenure as President: TTR hosted the VTR SC Regional event in College Station in 2001, also in 2001 a Wayne Switzer-led road trip to the VTR National Convention in Breckenridge, the T-male Bashes at Dave & Bertie Edwards Chappell Hill ranch, the 2003 TTR Summer Photo Contest (won by Mike Gruy), the November Wild Turkey Rallyes (most



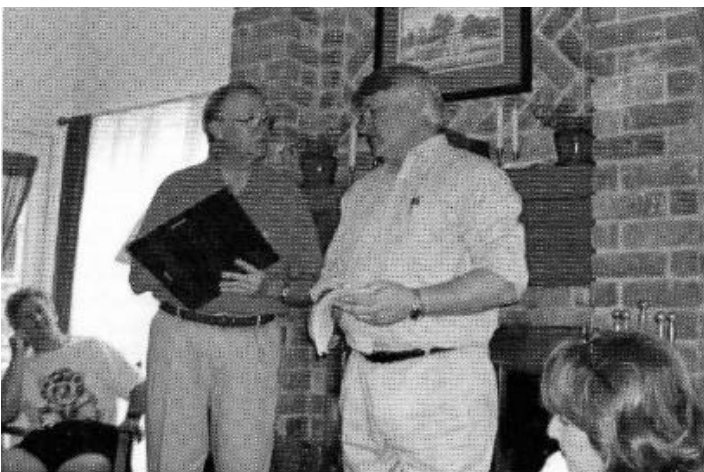
often won by Linda and Jay Jablonski), the annual Keels and Wheels show, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of TTR at the Del Pueblo Mexican Restaurant in Cypress, a tour of the Houston Air Traffic Control Center (courtesy of Bruce Cooper) the spring picnics at Marti & Len Myers Lake Livingston home, the fall shrimp boils at Melissa and Jim Farrell's Galveston Beach home, touring the Painted Churches of Fayette County...these and so many other great memories come flooding back!

## Thoughts on current TTR

That TTR has experienced record membership levels in recent years speaks volumes about the quality of the club, the value of its technical support, interesting events and the beloved *Bluebonnet* newsletter and TTR website that foster communication even for distant members. Mainly, it speaks volumes about the talented and dedicated folks who make this happen, year after year, decade after decade.

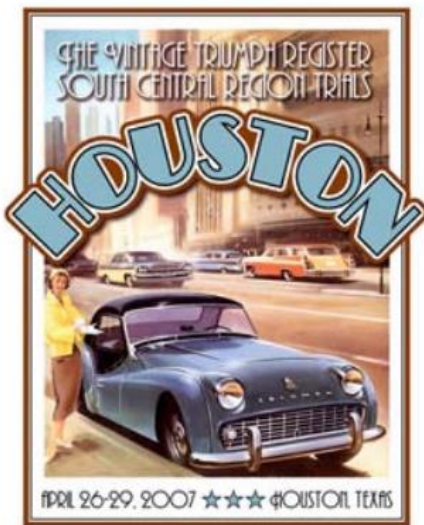
I think one reason that many of us appreciate TTR so deeply is that our fellow club members become, in many ways, our extended family. I first joined TTR to be connected with a car club that could help me with the restoration of my TR6. I'm still a member because TTR is so much more than a "car" club. It is indeed a group of wonderful friends that I am proud to travel life's journey alongside, to enjoy and share the bright sunny mountain tops and to endure the deep and dark valleys.

So, Happy 40<sup>th</sup> birthday to TTR, may you have many more!



Don Carter, left, presents outgoing club president, Jeff Harris, with a plaque commemorating his 5 years of service to the TTR (4 as president, 1 as vice president).

Ed Note - Jim Wortsman was a longtime TTR member who served as President from 2004 - 2007, and later as *Bluebonnet* Editor. He drove a 1954 TR2 that was well known for not having a front bumper, and that became his signature sign-off in his President's Columns. Jim left a lot of digital footprints in the *Bluebonnet* archives and I was able to extract a few high-level items to build this page including: text from Jim's final President's Column; milestone achievements from those years,; and several photos and graphics items.



2007 Regionals Artwork

*From the President ..*

This marks my last column as president of the TTR. I will be continuing as editor of the *Bluebonnet*, so I will be hounding everyone for articles and columns that can be published each month in our newsletter. I would like to thank Diane Parker for her dedication to this job over the last several years — I know I have some big shoes to fill as she turns this over to me. I will try to continue the *Bluebonnet* in her national award winning format.



I also want to thank the officers of the club with whom I have served over the last three years: Vern Burnett and Russ Seto, Co-Vice Presidents; Mike McElmurray, Treasurer; and Patsy Papp, Secretary. They have been critical in building this club to its current level and maintaining the interest and excitement that I feel has continued over the last few years. This has been a fun and challenging experience, but the best part has been the opportunity to get to know members who I had never had the chance to know as well before. It is the members who make this club so much fun, and each and every one of you has been very supportive of me.

Bumperless in Houston,  
Jim Wortsman

**Milestone Events during Jim's Presidency**

- 2005 - TTR Hosts the TRA Nationals Meet in Branson, MO
- 2007 - TTR Hosts the VTR South Central Region Trials in northwest Houston. There were ~75 cars and 160 people.



Jim's Bumperless TR2

## Reflections from my time as President...

My term as president was from June 2007 to May 2010. I can still remember getting a call from Don Carter asking me if I would be interested in being president of the club. I told him no way at least 10 times. Sharon informed me that everyone should help out and take their turn. I called Don back and said I would do it, so the story begins.

Being president was not all that hard. When any task came up I just had to point to one of the club officers or ask for volunteers. They always came through and the task was completed. My only real job was the monthly president's letter which was a bit of a pain some months. I can still remember Diane Parker, the newsletter editor at the time, hounding me to finish the letter so she could get the Bluebonnet out.

My first president's letter covered the TTR hosting regionals at the Hilton Garden Inn where we had some 160 people and 75 cars. During my terms we had several autocross events that were always well attended. There were many drives and events. We had a chance to see the John O'Quinn collection of over 900 cars. This entire collection has been sold off after Mr. O'Quinn's death. My last letter covered the annual bluebonnet drive.



Photo from 2009 Bluebonnet

The picture of my red 1973 TR6 which I owned for over 23 years was sold to another club member.

In some interesting non club events the 2008 presidential race saw Barack Obama and Joe Biden defeat John McCain and Sara Palin.

All in all, being president was a great experience.



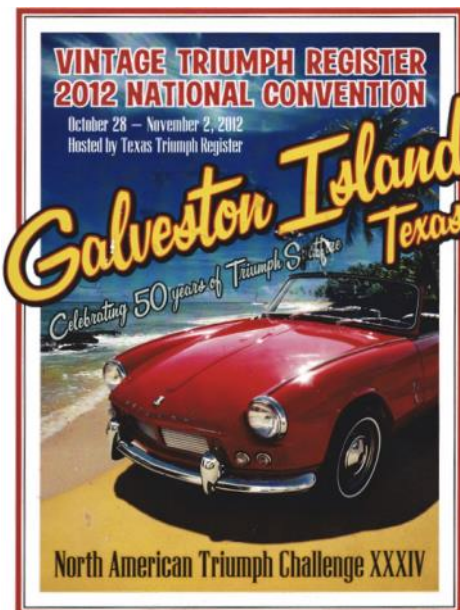
## Reflections from my time as President...

I have always been in awe of the members of TTR. The depth of Triumph knowledge, volunteering and participating in events, and all-around generosity and willingness to share and help others have made this club survive and thrive. It matters not that we are talking about breakfast, monthly meeting, dinner runs, or special events, volunteers and participation has created fond memories and the club a pleasure for all members. Many friendships and bonds have been formed over the years!

Several key events come to mind;

During March of 2011, TTR celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with lunch at Blisswood Ranch B & B at Cat Springs, TX. Following lunch there was a group picture, nearby, of club members with their cars. Mike Hado prepared a CD of photos capturing club members and activities over the prior 30 years. It was amusing to see how members had changed over the years. In general, a bit more weight overall and less hair on the guys.

During August of 2012, The VTR Nationals were held at Galveston Island. That effort was led by the late Don Carter. On a personal note, I am forever grateful to Don for his leadership and organization skills to roll out the national event. Thanks to a bevy of volunteers,



for over a year, who completed detailed planning, organization, and successfully carried out this event. While the list of volunteers is too long for this summary, volunteerism is always at the heart of TTR.

On a sad note, there was the



passing of long-time club member and events guy Vern Burnett. Like myself, I am sure you will recall the swift and spirited drives led by Vern. We departed on time and Vern set the pace. Hope your Triumph can keep up! Perhaps he and the late Russ Seto still catch up for wine hour!

## Thoughts on current TTR

The club has changed over the years. In mid-2010 TTR had about 100 family memberships. Today there are close to 200 family memberships.

What has changed?

Well, there are several contributing factors. Our LBCs are more reliable and parts more available. In addition, there has been an explosion in the use and functionality of the world wide web (www), that allows potential members to connect with TTR. The Meetup platform has also driven traffic and new members to TTR. We generally see them at Traveling Triumph Breakfast Club outings. Also, regular Bluebonnet contributions from the likes of James Moore and Jerry Gruss help inform and inspire club members.

The one item that has not changed (pre pandemic that is), we just get out and do things!

## Reflections from my time as President...

My tenure as TTR President was all too short. The purchase of our house in northern Michigan caused Liz and I to be absent during the summers and made the performance of the duties of President difficult for me and a burden on the officers that served during my tenure. The fine efforts of all the officers kept the club hitting on all cylinders despite my absence. I specifically want to thank Dave Smith for filling in as meeting leader so many times. I also want to give special thanks to Jeff Harris for his stellar work as editor of the Bluebonnet and his gentle efforts to keep the President on the rails.

I have always maintained that the Texas Triumph Register is a club, head, and shoulders, above most of the others. My tenure as President and its interaction with other clubs confirmed this belief. As a club we enjoy a long list of weekly, monthly and annual events.. I also remember with pride the successes our club has had in both Regional and National events. We excel as Concours participants, autocross drivers and Funkhana teams. We also have a lock on the craft awards with the Hanten-Money combine. Our core membership is knowledgeable, highly skilled and is willing to help others when problems develop, or when guidance is needed.



John Reynolds and his Spitfire 1500

1<sup>st</sup> in his class and  
BEST OF SHOW  
2005 VTR National Convention,  
Rockford, Illinois

Another big positive is the fact that we hold our meetings in the homes of our members. This is different from other clubs who hold their meeting in restaurants and during the evening hours. I really think this structure enhances our sense of community and makes our relationships stronger. In addition, it gives us the opportunity to roam around the meeting holder's garage looking at the work in progress, asking questions and having discussions.



I would be remiss if I did not mention a TTR advantage that is often taken for granted. I am referring to the high degree of involvement of the ladies of TTR in our meetings and events. I do not see many other clubs where the ladies are such an integral part of club activities or where they lead in the development of so many events. Like troopers, they suffer through our drives in stifling heat and sometimes bone chilling cold. They somehow survive our endless discussions on engines, carburetors, transmissions, and British car correctness. Our girls nurture our club traditions and successfully manage our social agendas. Left to our own devices our meetings and events would be vastly different and not nearly as enjoyable. Thank you TTR ladies.

## Thoughts on current TTR

As I review the old photographs, I am struck by the number of important TTR members that we have lost over the last few years. Most of these individuals were huge contributors to the health and direction of the club. One would think that the club's momentum would be lost with the passing of these great contributors. Fortunately, this has not been the case. New and long-time members have stepped in and picked up the load. I think we can all agree that TTR is as healthy and vibrant as ever. Let's keep it that way.

## Reflections from my time as President...

I entered this position in 2015 with some trepidation; however, I received plenty of advice and guidance from my predecessors John Reynolds, John Barrett and Jeff Harris. Having been Vice-President years earlier, I knew some of what was expected of me; the rest I knew from watching all of the great folks who have led our club. I knew that the most important thing was to create an environment in TTR where people felt like they were a part of something bigger than themselves, and in which they were active participants in steering the direction which the club would take over each year.

When John Hanten asked us former presidents to give him an article on our time as President of TTR, I had to think long and hard about the things I would be most proud of during my five years as your president. There have been so many great moments of fellowship and fun being a part of this club, but I chose three events/activities which I think best exemplify the spirit of this club.

**Harvey Recovery** - After seeing the devastation that Houston and the surrounding community suffered in August of 2017, I was particularly proud to see how we came together as a family, to help our various club members recover from the storm. Through garage clean-outs, helping folks with cleaning up their homes and moving out belongings, and the generosity of club members and other car clubs, we were able to not only help our members in need, but subsequently help organizations that aided people in need with the remaining donated funds.

**2018 VTR Regionals** - To this day, I continue to be amazed by, and thank the volunteers for, the amount of work which so many of you put into the planning and operations of what can only be described as an incredibly successful and fun Regionals. The compliments poured in from participants and clubs in attendance - a testament to all of the hard work and dedication I see from our members for every event.

**Russ Seto Memorial Scholarship** - We all remember where we were when the news reached us that we had lost our beloved friend in 2018. When I was ap-

proached with the idea that a scholarship be started in his name, it was the greatest honor I could have to help spread the word about this scholarship and to work with the administrators at Lone Star College. The love and generosity of the club was once again on display as we got the scholarship set up, and then proceeded to fund it with your donations and additional club funds, so that today, we have a scholarship fund that helps two automotive students per year, for the foreseeable future.



While I am grateful to have played a small part in each of these three items mentioned, it is the family which we call TTR that is most responsible. I was so proud to lead this club through five years of "triumph" and tribulation; to watch us continue the fellowship and support of our fellow members in all things Triumph.

## Thoughts on current TTR

As I left office in May of 2020, the COVID19 pandemic was spreading and fundamentally changed how we interacted with each other through this club. Despite that, we have continued to support each other, often virtually, and enjoyed our LBCs when we could. I see nothing but a bright future for our club, that no pandemic can stop. The family that is TTR will continue for many years, and miles, to come.



## Idle Chatter - Words From the Editor

So.....there you have it. A somewhat different version of the *Bluebonnet* focusing on the 40th Anniversary of the club, presented from several different perspectives.

I suspected this might be challenging, and was initially concerned about "too many cooks in the kitchen", or alternatively, lack of willingness to participate due to interest, time constraints, or other reasons. As it turned out, I shouldn't have worried. The "Cooks" were all cooking in their own kitchens on their own timeframe with their own ideas, and more than willing to contribute. I simply provided the overall theme of the meal, and every requested contributor came through with their own recipe, seasonings, and secret sauce in the form of their story that added to the overall 40-year story of the club. A fun pot-luck meal indeed! So - thanks to all of the contributors to this issue, particularly all of the TTR Past Presidents, and to Ella for her creative 40th Anniversary logo design.

Much of the content for this issue was "mined" from the TTR digital *Bluebonnet* archives. As I was putting this together I thought multiple times how difficult (or impossible) it would have been if those resources were not available. The club is fortunate, and was perhaps prescient, to have individuals who maintained the club history and photographs over the years, and kept them preserved and organized. They are now digitally preserved and are easily accessible. Specific individuals responsible for this preservation chain include Don Carter, who maintained the TTR Timeline through 2013, Randy DeRuiter who has maintained the TTR Timeline since that time, and of course Mike Hado who stored a physical printed copy of every *Bluebonnet* issue from inception through December 2020, and kicked off the *Bluebonnet* digitization project. I also need to thank Bob Pennington for making the IT resources available for storing and accessing this historical trove of material.

Next month will be a return to the regular format and content types, including feature contributions from the regular cadre of contributors, along with another featured car from the 2019 Nationals. I still have several additional featured cars in the series that will likely carry that column forward until we start to get



new material from the 2021 Nationals later this year.

As always, I welcome any contributed articles from any TTR members regarding your car, wrenching, Triumph history or trivia, or almost anything else you feel might be of interest to the club members.



## Word Search - "Body Exterior"

By Mike Hado

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      D V L T Z S L T           B R U Q X F Y M
      W O U J N E B R C Z       M T R V F S O P Z I
      V X L H L W U R N G B     D T V X A L W U L Z J
      T V   X H T E N X I K G X   J U X P K C Q P O K   J F
      S T E U   T P K E K P P T G   I W V R E C K S P   B M R H
      R U Y X U N L I S L S O Z F   N F O F E C S E R U K G G W
      B E M C D I A R D O B I U M   N R Q K X L D H T E U L D G
      P L S T D D O N I Y G O W L   E P I X F D I B B S D V J D
      X G A C H O J U L U S U A M   R O M A F H E O S H T N E X
      J G I K D X V Q T F P D F R   S K P E I P E E P G L E E X
      N I E O D G U D N W I C T N D   I N H P H A T Q R S T W I F
      U P F M D R P Y E C R E B Z B L P L C S T A Y R O D T A N
      L N I T O R W V C E P V O A L Y R H B U L K H E A D X
      Y L N O R P A X N C H H W K A G D A Q R J S R O S
      U D Y K T L V N L
      V T X B T A L L T K W U E P W Z J K F O Y H T B C
      R O O K B N V Y M G J E D R O C K E R P A N E L H T
      M U K K I W O F F U M Z H B Z   J B F T G Z M G P I F Q D V
      H R I W B A E D C F J W O Q E   D Q V D D M V Y Q F D Z C M
      K I N Q O H L G K K U L K U   M I J S V J E A J M K W B P
      N C B P V Q F X P B X F T C   N U W I R T J H L X S Y U F
      H C R A L E E H W P X I N U   Z M J B K Y O S Q E X T Q E
      C K Y N H T B C T Y E U J U   V Y S N D M X L L U N T O W
      N I K E H I E N Q W P M A Q   D F S E D Y Y G L K P C P I
      L V Q E   W L A U U C R N K   U L U F L D B J X   Q U E C
      J T   W A U V S O N G Z C   H I M O D Q X D H X   M G
      M T E N N O B U D W K   O E S P E L F F A B J
      F X A U G X K J W F   X T Z F I U Q S E O
      K A Y L K I G Z           R F Y O V C I E
    
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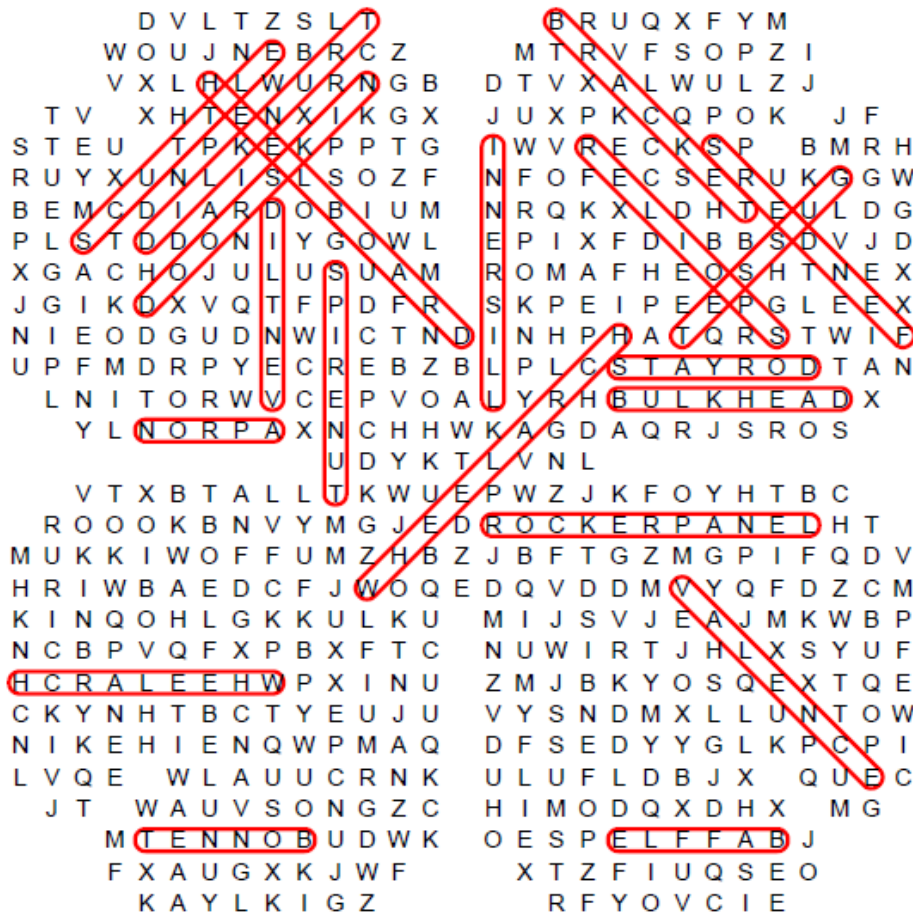
### WORD LIST:

APRON	DOORSKIN	ROCKER PANEL	TRUNKLID
BAFFLE	FENDERS	SCUTTLE	VALENCE
BONNET	GUSSET	SPIRE NUT	VENT LID
BRACKET	HEELBOARD	SPOILER	WHEEL ARCH
BULKHEAD	INNER SILL	STAYROD	WHEEL ARCH

**Spoiler Alert - Solution on next page**

## Word Search - "Body Exterior"

By Mike Hado



### WORD LIST:

- |          |            |              |            |
|----------|------------|--------------|------------|
| APRON    | DOORSKIN   | ROCKER PANEL | TRUNK LID  |
| BAFFLE   | FENDERS    | SCUTTLE      | VALENCE    |
| BONNET   | GUSSET     | SPIRE NUT    | VENT LID   |
| BRACKET  | HEELBOARD  | SPOILER      | WHEEL ARCH |
| BULKHEAD | INNER SILL | STAY ROD     | WHEEL ARCH |

# TTR Membership Form

TTR publishes a monthly newsletter, *The Bluebonnet*, and holds monthly membership meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month except December (when we have our annual Christmas Party). For more information, contact Mike Hado (281.807.4780).

We look forward to meeting you!

Check one:     New Membership     Renewal     Update

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (month/day) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (month/day): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Street (or Mailing) Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Triumph ownership is not a prerequisite for membership; however, if you do own any Triumphs, please tell us about them:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Model</i>	<i>Commission No.</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Condition*</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

\*O = Original, R = Restored, B = Being Restored, P = Parts Car

**Dues: \$30 per year per family.**

Make check payable to Texas Triumph Register and mail to Texas Triumph Register, P.O. Box 40847, Houston, Texas 77240-0847). Your cancelled check is your receipt. –or--

*On-line payment option using Pay Pal available on our website!*

