

TRIUMPHS & TRIBULATIONS

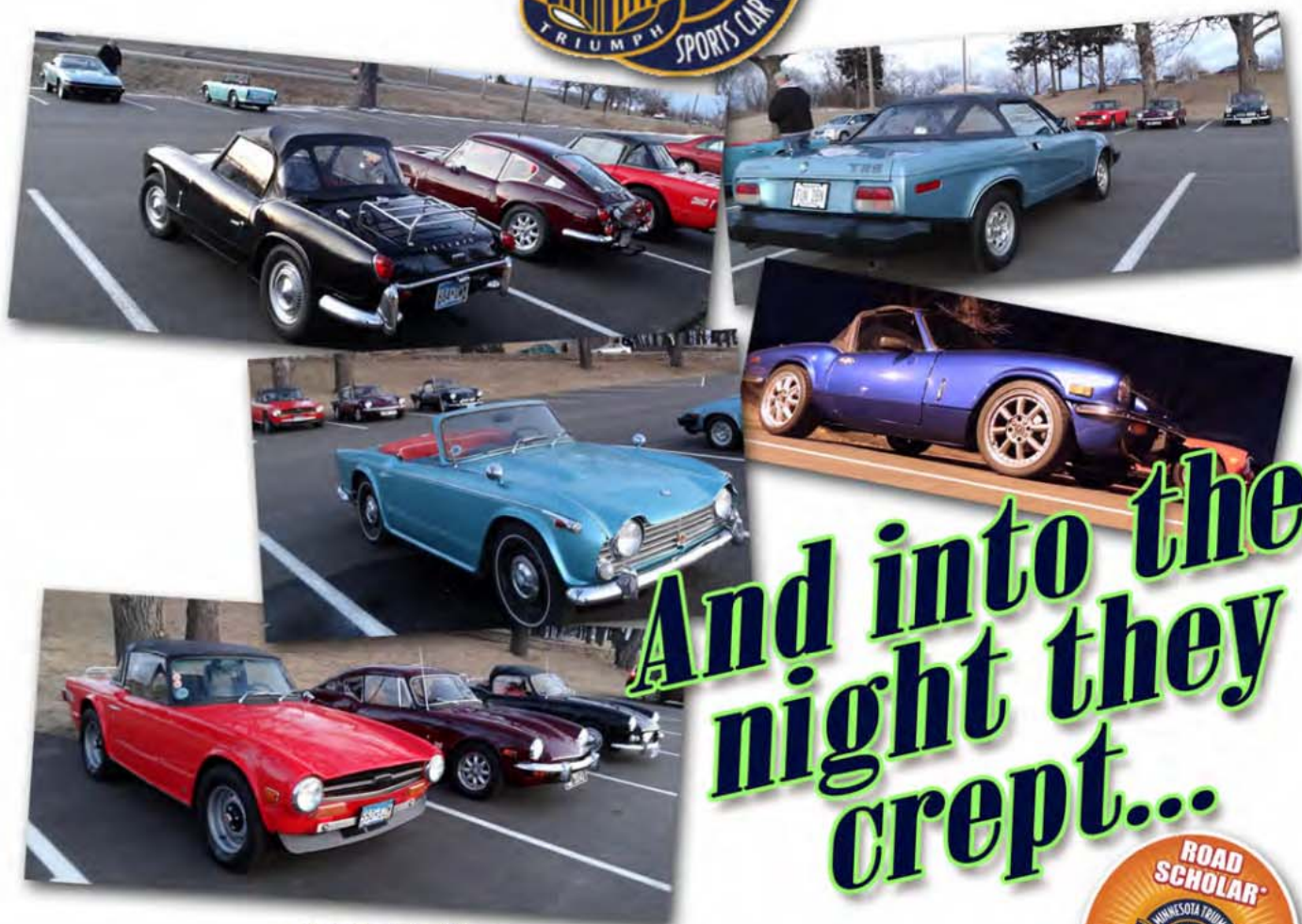
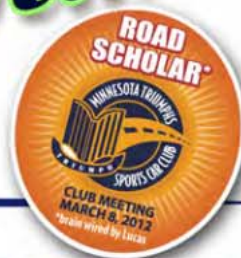


Photo Credit: Fred Olson

And into the
night they
crept...



ON THE COVER

*Six ventured out into the cold for the March 8 meeting.
"Nice evening for a drive" I heard. Still thawing...but hey, they're Road Scholars.*

Triumphs & Tribulations is the official newsletter of the Minnesota Triumphs Sports Car Club. It is published monthly except for November and December. Deadline for contributions is the 20th of the month prior to publication. All the opinions expressed in the articles, columns and other materials are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of MTSCC. MTSCC is not responsible for any technical advice which may appear in these pages. Classified ads in the Triumph Trader are free to MTSCC members and to members of other Triumph clubs. Submissions should be sent to the editor. Non-member and commercial notices are published for \$5.00 per month. VTR Newsletter Winner 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002 & 2004.

PREZ RELEASE

So I can remember not too long ago we were planning our calendar and it was made clear we shouldn't plan any driving events till late April because the weather is not adequate until then. Mother nature was listening and she wanted to prove us wrong. Yet she gave us a good walloping of rain to help wash away the salt so we can drive our cars with less paranoia that it will rust away. With that I have had my car out a few times now for some testing and even for some fun. It's great to have our driving season back!

On a similar note, we did have a good showing of cars at the March monthly meeting. Early season drivers included:

Fred Olson	1964	Spitfire
Doug and Lenny	1970	GT6
Terry Mackey	?	TR6
Alan Kantrud	1967	TR4A
Tom Meader	1980	TR8
Jeremy Fohrenkamm	1976	Spitfire

Those brave drivers received the coveted "Road Scholar" sticker. The next event that is coming up is a Tech Session on March 31st at Mark

Stephens house at 10 AM. Address 8415 Angus Ave, Inver Grove Heights. Topic will be general maintenance focusing on Marks car, however if you able to drive your Triumph and want others to take a look at some issue, please bring it. Contact Steve Shogren for further details.

After that is the Shakedown Tour on April 21st. See flyer in this newsletter for more details.

Lastly, we have a handful of "Golden Tickets" specifically for the MN Triumphs Club for our support to the Intermarque Council Spring Kick-Off May 12th. Each ticket is good for one parking space in a featured location at the Kick-Off. We would like to use 1 space for club promotion, banner, regalia, etc... The remaining spots will feature members cars. As we attempted last year, we would like one of each Triumph Model to represent the line-up. If you would like your car featured in the MN Triumphs golden ticket area, please submit your name and car info to me. If we have more than one entry for a particular model, it will be drawn from a hat. We will make the final roster one week prior to the May 10th monthly meeting. You

can pick up your ticket at the meeting or we will find a way for it to be waiting for you at the Kick-Off. Happy Spring!

5

Five Speed Conversions for your TR.

5

Drop your RPM by about 900 at 70 MPH

EagleGate Kit uses Toyota W58 transmission and retains the TR hydraulics and clutch release bearing

5

5

Complete conversion, installed about \$2,300
Contact Larry Berg (763) 228-0072 for details.

5

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MINUTES OF THE MINNESOTA TRIUMPHS

March 8, 2012 Meeting

President Jeremy Fohrenkamm called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with the heavy gavel.

Six people drove their cars and were awarded with the Road Scholar award.

Membership Chair Lenny Kukuruza said many people have paid up tonight. She's still counting the number.

We are working on the PayPal integration. Rick and Fred will work with Ron to get the site updated. That should happen relatively soon.

John Myers' TR4 has been selected as one of the Blue Ribbon cars for the Iola Car Show and Swap Meet, meaning his Triumph meets the event's high standards to be one of the show-case cars. The swap meet is July 12-15 (John says Sunday tends to be quiet as most people leave early).

Larry Berg talked about the Calendar Rally and handed out instructions on the rally. Basically, it works this way: Drive your Triumph to a city or town in Minnesota that has a reference to water in the name (we are the Land of 10,000 Lakes, after all). Take a picture of the car with town sign/bank/water tower and send the pictures to Larry. The car with the most photos wins, and the winning cars will be featured in the official Minnesota Triumphs calendar.

Steve talked about the Feb. 18 outing to Total Engine Services. And he mentioned that we'll

have another tech session on Sat. March 17 in Apple Valley. Yes, it's St. Patrick's Day. The Wine Tour is scheduled for June 30. There are plenty of open dates from April on for anyone who wants to host a tech session.

From InterMarque:

We have paid for our "Golden Tickets" for the Spring Kickoff in Osseo, Minn. With the golden ticket, we get seven parking spaces in the center of the show that we can use how we want (for club promotion or showing off our cars or whatever). One suggestion (which we tried last year, too) is to ask the kids at Roosevelt High School if they can drag/tow/push their Spitfire restoration project to the kickoff.

This is Queen Elizabeth's 60th anniversary of her coronation, so we'll have a drive in her honor. This will likely happen somewhere around the end of June.

We'll have a sausage run on May 20, which we will tie into a mystery tour.

Suzanne was unable to attend, but Terry brought options for slogans that we can vote on.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Total Attendees: 37

Total Triumph Cars: 6

1 GT6+

2 Spitfires

1 TR4

1 TR6

1 TR8



It's NEW. Now you can keep in touch, share photos, and let other Minnesota Triumph members know what you're up to. Check in at MN Triumphs on facebook. Go ahead, write on our wall.

VTR REPORT

I spoke of the ides of March and it did come in like a lion, but only days later you have been enjoying temperatures higher than here in South Florida. Wow what a twist with this early spring.

I spoke of a TV show called Parenthood in the last report. If you did not get to see the last show please check it out the Feb 28 edition on the net. The married couple sped off after the wedding in a Tr6. Nice tribute to our cars using the 6. Hope you all were able to catch all the good featured spots in the Vintage Triumph as published by VTR. If not, now is the time to start the spring right with a new membership or renewal to the VTR. The Vintage Triumph Register was founded

in 1974 and is dedicated to the maintenance, preservation and enjoyment of the Triumph marque. Benefits of membership include a bi-monthly magazine, The Vintage Triumph; technical consultants; annual convention which is held at various locations in the country and brings together hundreds of Triumph enthusiasts; support of our club and many others; Triumph regalia; and special rates on insurance for your vintage Triumph.

To join, go to www.vtr.org, and check the site for membership or I will help you with the details if you wish. The cost is \$35 for the year. Please join all of your friends at MN TR who already enjoy being a VTR member.

Please join many of your MN TR members and friends this coming OCT 28-NOV 2 at the beautiful San Luis Resort on Galveston Island, TX. Room reservations at the VTR convention rate will be available next month. Details will be found at www.kingswayrc.com/txt/. Our hosts will be The Texas Triumph Register.

Hope to see all of you at the May meeting when I finally make it back to Minnesota

Respectfully,

Larry Sanderson, your MN TR VTR Liaison, 507 269 1500
myfriendlar@yahoo.com

Galveston, TX Or Bust

Let's Go For It.

Lets see some beautiful country and have a great time on the Gulf Coast.

This should be the best VTR ever.

Look Who's Going!

Orrin & Pam McGill

Larry & Gayle Sanderson

Joe & Virginia Bisanz

Triumph Calendar

April

April 12
Monthly Meeting: Fort Snelling Officers Club. Tire kicking begins at 6 p.m. and meeting starts at 7 p.m.

April 21

Spring Shakedown Tour.
Jeremy and Kelly Fohrenkamm, hosts. Details to come.

April 28

Midwest Motor Sports Open House/ Tech Session Party – 728 8th Ave S, Sauk Rapids, MN.

May

May 10
Monthly Meeting: Fort Snelling Officers Club. Tire kicking begins at 6 p.m. and meeting starts at 7 p.m.

May 12

Inter-Marque Council Spring Kick-Off Downtown Osseo 9:00 a.m-2:00 p.m.

May 19

Commemorative Airforce Spring Hangar Dance – Dance to the Roseville Big Band, tour the museum, see restored WWII aircraft. Open to all Intermarque clubs. Preferred parking will be available for sports cars. \$10

admission (this is a fundraiser for the Commemorative Airforce). Fleming Field, South St. Paul. Dick Leighninger, host

May 20

Mystery Tour and Super Sausage Sunday Barbecue. Larry and Gail Berg, hosts.

May 26

Minnesota MG Group spring drive – open to all clubs. Tom and June Moerke, hosts. See Intermarque Monthly for more information.

June

June 2

Advance Distributors open house, Shakopee. Details to come.

June 9

Amery Airport Run I. For further information contact Tom Hazen myliberty@comcast.net

June 14

Monthly Meeting Fort Snelling Officers Club. Tire Kicking starts at 6p.m and meeting starts at 7p.m

June 14-17

Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous 2012. This year's location, Kenora, Ontario. www.britishcar.ca/rendezvous

June 22-24

Back to the 50's Minnesota State Fair Grounds St. Paul, Minnesota

June 24

Inter-Marque Picnic. Cherokee Park in St. Paul, Minnesota. 1 p.m. Bring a dish to pass. If it rains, it's cancelled.

June 30

Woodland Hill Winery tour. Open to all marques. Details to come. Steve Shogren, host.

June 30 – August 4

Automotive Art Exhibit. Hopkins Center for the Arts. Details to come.

July

July 12

Monthly meeting Fort Snelling Officers Club. Tire kicking starts at 6p.m and meeting starts at 7p.m.

July 13-15

The Kohler International Challenge (formerly known as the BRIC). This is the big annual vintage car race event held at Road America in Elkhart Lake Wisconsin

July 14

Iola Old Car Show, Iola, Wisconsin. <http://www.iolaoldcarshow.com/>

Triumph Calendar

July 21

Lexington Restaurant Triumph show. St. Paul. Sue and Phil Ethier, hosts. Details to come.

July 27

Intermarque Drive in Movie Night. Cottage View Drive In, Cottage Grove. Show starts at dusk. Andy Lindberg, host.

July 29

Inter-Marque Picnic at Cherokee Park in St. Paul. 1 p.m. Bring a dish to pass. If it rains, it's cancelled.

August

August 9

Monthly Meeting. Fort Snelling Officers Club. Tire kicking starts at 6p.m and meeting starts at 7:00p.m

August 11

Brit Fest. Details about time and location to come.

August 11-12

New London to New Brighton run – Old-time cars take to the back roads.

August 17-19

Reedsburg/Baraboo, Wisconsin weekend. Drive great back roads, enjoy spectacular scenery, tour fun museums. Russ and Sharon Mattson, hosts.

August 25

Amery Airport Event II. Watch for event flier. For information contact Tom Hazen myliberty@comcast.net

August 26

Inter-Marque Picnic - Cherokee Park in St. Paul, Minnesota. 1 p.m. Bring a dish to pass. If it rains, it's cancelled.

September

September 8

Wheels and Wings, Osceola. Triumph club picnic to follow at the home of Phil and Sue Ethier.

September 7-9

Fall Vintage Race Festival. See vintage racing up close. Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.

September 9

Wayzata Charity car show. Sponsored by Wayzata Rotary. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Mill Street (one block north of Lake Street in downtown Wayzata between Superior Blvd and Broadway Ave). \$20 per car. Spectators are FREE!

September 13

Monthly Meeting at Fort Snelling Officer's Club. Tire kicking starts at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

September 29

Minnesota MG Group fall color tour.

September 30

Inter-Marque Picnic - Cherokee Park in St. Paul, Minnesota. Bring a dish to pass. If it rains, it's cancelled. 1 p.m.

October

October 6

Minnesota Austin Healey Club color tour. Hosted by Tom Hazen. A great tour of Wisconsin backroads. Open to all clubs.

October 11

Monthly Meeting/Elections at Fort Snelling Officer's Club. Tire kicking starts at 6:00p.m and the meeting starts 7:00p.m Last meeting of the year.

October 13

Minnesota Triumphs fall color tour
Terry Mackey and Russ Mattson to find host.

October 27

Intermarque Halloween Party, Stillwater
Hosted by Bob and Lori Jensen. Watch for details in Intermarque Monthly.

October 31-November 3

VTR - Galveston TX

November

November 11

Triumph Calendar

High tea
Hosted by Russ and Sharon
Mattson (tentative)

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THE VINTAGE VOICE

January 1, 2013
Toast the New Year at sunrise. Birkmose Park, Hudson, Wisconsin. Then on to breakfast. Open to all clubs.
Doug Burch

2012 NORTHERN LIGHTS RENDEZVOUS, KENORA—JUNE 14-17, 2012

In case you hadn't heard, the **2012 Rendezvous** will be held in Kenora, Ontario – a magnificent resort community in the heart of the Lake of the Woods. The event has the usual three day program starting on Thursday, June 14th and is designed to let everyone make their way home on Sunday, June 17th, 2012.

Kenora is an ideal location for a Rendezvous and almost all our attending clubs can make their way there in a reasonable day's drive. Hosted by the four Winnipeg LBC clubs: The Triumph Driver's Club, the Austin-Healey Club, the Jaguar Club and the Mid-Canada Mini Group, the event itself will be held at the Best Western Lakeside Inn in downtown Kenora right on the water's edge. In fact, the Lakeside Inn and its parking lot look over the fabulous Kenora harbour and you'll be able to watch tour boats, float planes and many kinds of wild-life right from the edge of the LBC parking lot or from the roof-top restaurant and bar in the circular Lakeside hotel.

Our three day program will offer many of the traditional events that everyone has come to expect at a Rendezvous such as a paved road car rally, a funkhana, a Saturday afternoon car show under a spectacular tent and the opening Thursday afternoon golf tournament. To spice things up a bit, our program will also include a few treats such as a 'foot rallye', a guided driving tour to Rushing River provincial park, a number of tech challenge events, self-guided walking tours past the many murals in the town of Kenora and a Friday evening boat cruise through the islands of Lake of the Woods on the MS Kenora – all included in the cost of your basic registration! To top it all off, we've engaged Dennis Gage – the handlebar moustached star of TV's 'My Classic Car' – to spend Saturday afternoon with us at our car show and to be the guest speaker at our Saturday evening Awards Banquet.



We are trying a different approach to registration for 2012. We would like everyone to register, sign up for our events and pay for their registration on our Rendezvous web site. You can still register by mail, but there will be a \$5 registration up-charge for mail-in registrations to cover for the associated bank charges.

Our 2012 Rendezvous web site is located at <http://www.britishcar.ca>. We are in the process of finalizing our registration details and intend to have the on-line registration with credit card payment available before the end of November, 2011. We will contact each club when the web site registration is available for your use.

After our launch presentation last June at the Fargo Rendezvous, we had a very good initial response and as of several months ago, all the rooms at our primary hotel, the Lakeside Inn in Kenora have been booked. **We still have rooms available at our second Kenora hotel, the Super 8 Hotel.** To reserve your room at the Super 8, please call the hotel directly at (807) 468-8016 and ask for the 'Rendezvous 2012' room rate of \$95 Cdn plus tax. The Super 8 is located at 240 Lakeview Drive in Kenora; it has a very good view of the Lake of the Woods as well and is a short drive from our main event hotel!

If you haven't already made plans to do so, come to Kenora, Ontario in June, 2012 for a memorable Northern Lights Rendezvous experience – and a great Lake of the Woods holiday. Better yet, come early, or stay a few days longer and enjoy the many things that Kenora has to offer on the water's edge in the heart of some of the more breathtaking lake country around.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our 2012 Rendezvous co-chairs: Brian Lanoway (204) 261-0915, blanoway@shaw.ca, or Tom Struthers (204) 771-5214, tstruthers@gmail.com.

See you in Kenora in June, 2012!

Brian Lanoway

MN Triumphs 2012 Shakedown Tour



Event Organizer: Jeremy Fohrenkamm

Contact Jeremy.fohrenkamm@toro.com

Ph: 715-781-7808

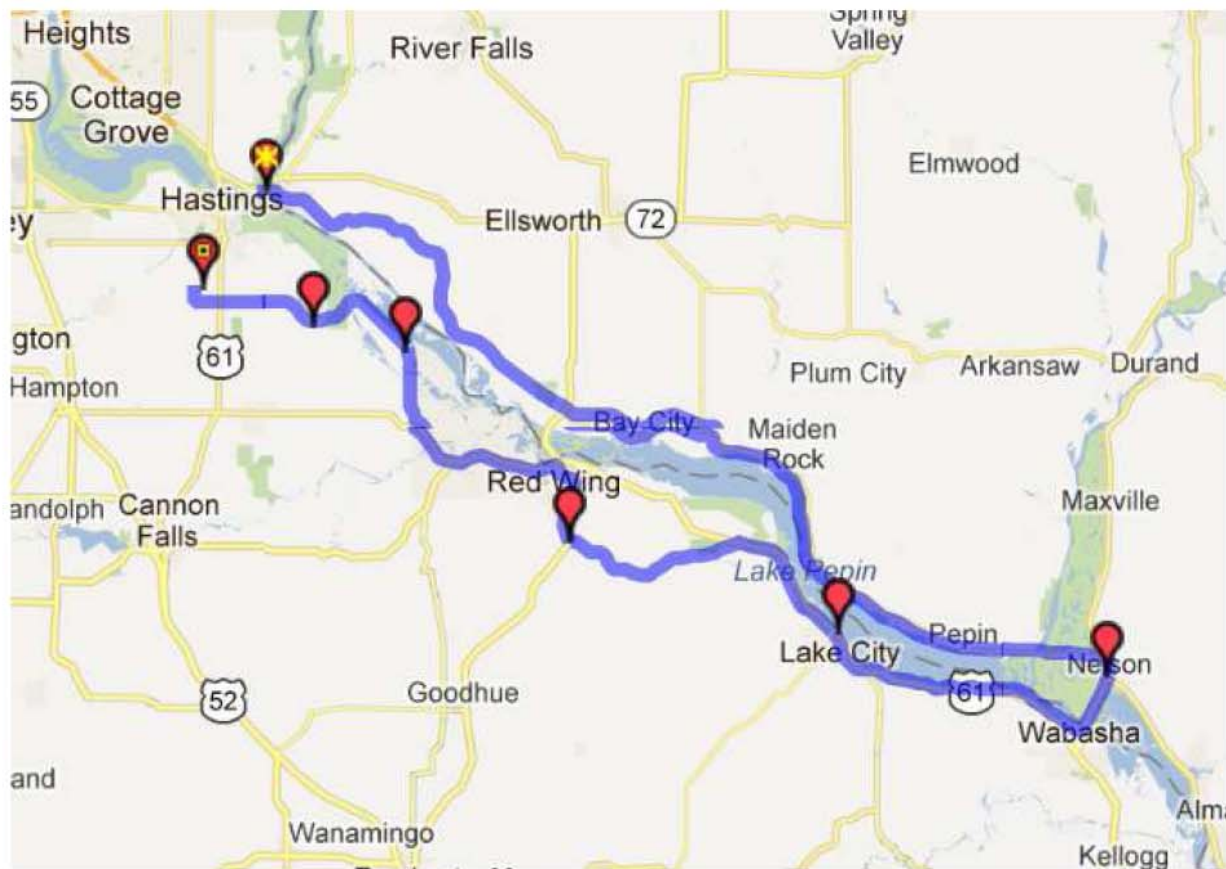
Who? - MN Triumph Club Members or those who want to become members.

What? - A 120 mile scenic drive. Stops will include Nelson Creamery, Alexis Bailly Vineyard, and Several "Water" stops for the 2012 inaugural theme calendar.

When? - April 21st Leaving starting point at 10:30 AM. Final stop around 3pm +/- an hour, or when the last car breaks! This event is RAIN or SHINE!!

Where? – Starting Location is Point Douglas Park near Prescott, WI

Why? - If you have to ask.....you won't understand.



Links: Alexis Bailly Vineyard <http://abvwines.com/>

ALL classified, calendar and event submissions are due by the 5th of the month PRIOR. (April issue due by April 5).
For a computer-savvy Twin Cities Car Club Event Calendar go to <http://calendar.mnhealey.com/>

O N G O I N G

Multi-Marque Breakfast EVERY* SATURDAY MORNING! 8:30 a.m., Square Peg Diner, 2021 East Hennepin in the Hennepin Square Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Everyone is invited! Special room for the auto-afflicted. Attendance on recent Saturdays has been twenty to thirty or more. Women are invited every Saturday but the second Saturday of every month is Lady's Day. All marques and nationalities invited. Info on and map to the Peg: <http://www.squarepegdiner.com/> (*The Peg is sometimes closed on holiday weekends.)

East Ender's Saturday Morning Breakfast A group of vintage foreign motoring enthusiasts have started a semi-monthly East Ender's Breakfast Group for those that want Breakfast a little later and not drive to Minneapolis. Join the East Ender's on the 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS each month, 9:00 a.m. at: Sail Away Café, 1321 St. Croix Trail, Afton, MN. North of County Road 18 and St. Croix Trail.

Cars and Café FIRST SATURDAY APRIL–OCTOBER. 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Auto MotorPlex, 8200 Audubon Road, Chanhassen, Minnesota. Largest monthly gathering of auto enthusiasts in Minnesota. Info: www.automotorplex.com See the NEW THIRD SATURDAY event details on page 13.

Duluth Multi-Marque Breakfast? This is a call to any British car enthusiast that lives within driving distance of Duluth. Randy Zimmerman would like to see if he could generate some interest in finding a Saturday am breakfast place to gather in Duluth like folks do in the Twin Cities at the Square Peg. Contact Randy at zimme008@yahoo.com

March 17 & 18: John Twist Tech Session. John Twist Coming To Quality Coaches. Twist is THE MG guru in the U.S. Two separate days of instruction. Please contact Dave Braun (dave@dbraun99.com) or Quality Coaches (<http://www.quality-coaches.com/>) for more information. Suggestions sought on topics to cover. Agenda similar to last year, \$100 per day per person.

April 14: Tech Session. 9:00 a.m. at Steve Rixen's garage, 729 Paul Burch Dr., Hudson, WI. (scrixen@gmail.com)

April 21: Vintage Sports Car Racing Annual Swap Meet. Quality Coaches, 20 West 38th St., Minneapolis, MN. In addition to perusing the goodies for sale, this is a great chance to learn about vintage racing or get tips on race car prep. There are also always cars in the shop to check out.

April 28: Tech Session/Open House. Midwest Motor Sports, 728 8th Ave. South, Sauk Rapids, MN. Hosted by Dan Iberg and the Minnesota MG Club.

May 6: Maplewood Imports Auto Fair. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. German car show. Info: GeorgeAndeweg@MaplewoodImports.com. Watch for flyer.

May 19: Commemorative Airforce Spring Hangar Dance. Dance to the Roseville Big Band, tour the museum, and see restored WWII aircraft. Open to all Intermarque clubs. Preferred parking will be available for sports and vintage cars. \$10 admission (this is a fundraiser for the Commemorative Airforce). Fleming Field, South St. Paul. Dick Leighninger, host

May 19: Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games (British Car Display) Dakota County Fair Grounds, 4008 220th Street West, Farmington, MN <http://www.mnscottishfair.org/>

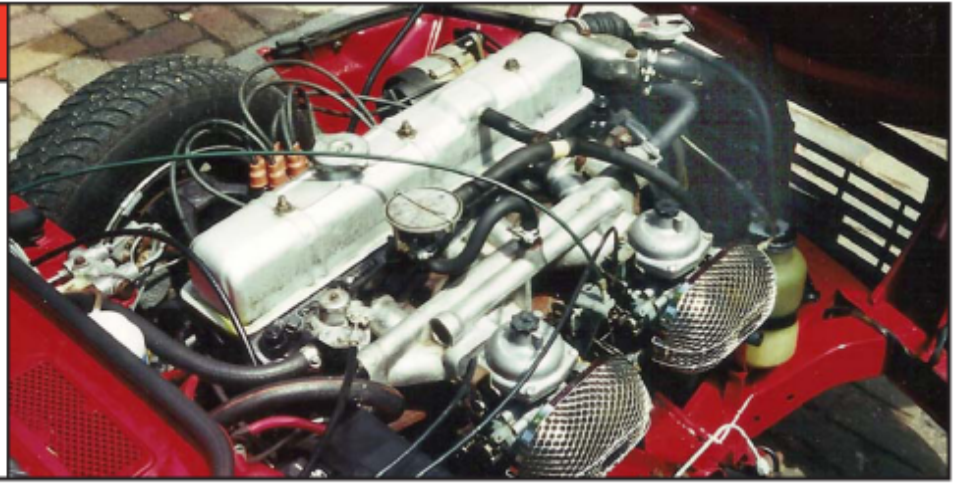
May 26: Spring Tour. Intermarque event hosted by the Minnesota MG Club and Tom & June Moerke. Tour will end at the Laurel Inn in Wisconsin.

May 26: VSCR Vintage Race with SCCA's Jack Pine Sprints Double Regional and Trans Am at Brainerd International Raceway: Labor Day weekend. Details to come. Visit VSCR.org. NOTE: We need local Sports Car Club support—especially as we try to have our own Vintage only weekend next year at BIR. Thank You –John Hagen, VSCR, jkhagen@charter.net

May 27: MN Streetcar Museum Car Show. 1-4pm Lake Harriet Depot. 4200 Queen Avenue S., MPLS. Free Admission. Cars from 1900-1970 Welcome. Free Street Car Rides. Cruise Lake Harriet and Lake of the Isles at 4pm. Contact Dave: 952-943-8357.

Triumph GT-6 1966–1973

Article and Photos provided by:
Andy Lindberg



FEATURED: The engine bay of a GT-6+. Note the accessibility. This car is too clean to be mine; it belongs to Bob Lee of Oak Park Heights.

This is Riviera Import Centre circa 1970. There's a Jag in the front window. I did my shopping in back.

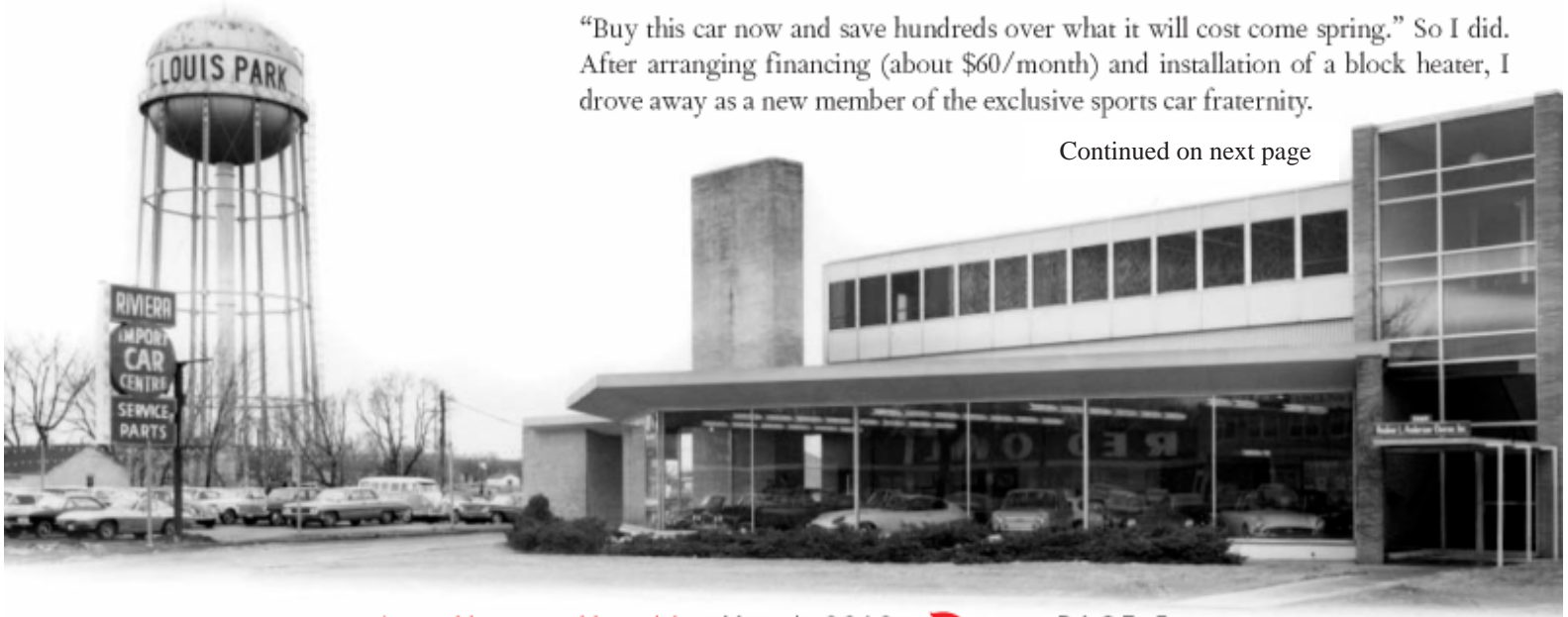
(photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society for personal and nonprofit use only.)

In February 1970, I was driving a '66 Chevelle Malibu. I had graduated from college the previous May and my parents had taken my '60 Ford in trade for their Malibu so I could make it to work and not move back to Illinois with them. The Malibu was a decent car, two-door hardtop with a 283 and two-speed Powerglide. My mind, however, had been poisoned by years of reading *Road & Track*. I needed a sports car. Bad.

One Saturday the Malibu and I appeared at Riviera Import Car Centre, 5100 Excelsior Boulevard in St. Louis Park. (Later Pentel Pontiac Fiat.) Riviera had its more expensive used cars in their front showroom, so I went in the back. There two cars caught my eye. Both were Triumphs. One was a black 1966 TR4A; the other was a navy blue 1967 GT6. Accompanied by the salesman, I took each for a drive. Neither got a spirited workout — even in 1970 Excelsior Blvd. was hardly conducive to sports car maneuvers — but I thought I heard a noise in the TR's tranny. That swung it. The GT6's sexy looks and quieter gearshift overcame the TR4A's entertaining extra instrument panel gauges and a convertible top that might be fun. Assuming summer ever arrived.

“Buy this car now and save hundreds over what it will cost come spring.” So I did. After arranging financing (about \$60/month) and installation of a block heater, I drove away as a new member of the exclusive sports car fraternity.

Continued on next page





This is not my GT-6 Mk 1, but it's pretty close.

Ever since the Spitfire appeared in October 1962, there had been mumblings that its official name, Spitfire 4, meant that a Spitfire 6 would soon arrive. The mumblers were wrong. Triumph didn't want a six-cylinder Spit that might compete with its larger TR range. They did, however, realize that the Spitfire was a good candidate for racing. Some GT4s (not their real name) appeared at LeMans in April 1964. They were based on Triumph's 1963 Spitfire GT design study and used a race-modified Spitfire four-cylinder engine cloaked in a lightweight aluminum and fiberglass fastback body. One finished third in class; in 1965 (Triumph's last appearance at la Sarthe) they were first.

The LeMans cars, however, were a long way from a production car. When steel was substituted for aluminum and fiberglass, and an acceptably posh GT interior was installed, the proposed grand tourer became a poky tourer. A more powerful engine was needed. Luckily, Triumph had just shoehorned a six cylinder into its Herald sedan, on whose chassis the Spitfire was based. (The six-cylinder Herald was called



One of Triumph's first advertisements for the GT-6. Note Triumph used a hyphen for the Mark 1 and Plus. The car's color in this picture has been altered by a PhotoShop klutz (me).

the Vitesse, originally 1600cc and later two liters.) The MGB/GT was announced in 1965 and Triumph decided it was time to get off the pot. The GT6 was announced in October 1966.

The two-liter mini GT opened to favorable reviews in the U.S., where its target demographic lived. The Brits, however, were not quite so kind, mainly faulting the car for its swing-axle rear suspension that could jack up and cause snap oversteer.

I thought it was fun to drive, its precise rack-and-pinion steering a nice change from the Malibu's and Ford's ponderously slow systems. It took me from here to Illinois and back several times, and I never experienced the dreaded snap oversteer. It did seem, however, that I was spending more time talking with mechanics than I had before. The gas tank had a case of creeping crud and the wire wheels vibrated and shook. Eventually summer arrived along with toaster-oven temps in the black interior. And then I headed off to grad school and sold my dream car.

By the time I had bought my GT6 Mk1, Triumph had already brought out the Mk2 (known as the GT6+ in the U.S.) in 1969. The Plus solved the oversteer problem with rubber doughnuts on the axle shafts and a new lower A-arm. In effect, the transverse leaf spring was turned into an upper A-arm. It worked and the '69-'70 GT6+s also came with a much improved cylinder head (from the TR6 that was using a stroked version of the GT6 engine). As far as I was concerned, however, these improvements were offset by the GT6's ugly bone-in-the-mouth front bumper and the replacement of the interior toggle switches with safety rocker devices.

Continued on page 14

Steve Rixen is...

Strictly British, LLC

Parts, Service & Consultation

Email: scrixen@gmail.com

Cell: 612-877-1938

5995 Highview Place, Shoreview, MN 55126

12-12



Photo Credits: Fred Olson





Oops.

That didn't stop me from buying a GT6+, even though it was the mid '90s before that happened. On September 12, 1994, I stopped in the Borders bookstore at 1801 K St., N.W., in our nation's capital. I left with a copy of *Triumph Spitfire and GT6* by Graham Robson. I had taken the bait and it didn't take long for the hook to be set. Soon a GT6+ joined the TR3A in my newly expanded garage.

This GT6 was just screaming for modification. First the front bumper came off. Next the extremely slow GT6 steering rack (four plus turns lock-to-lock) was replaced with a faster Spitfire rack. Then a Mota-Lita 13-inch leather steering wheel replaced the wood after-market wheel insecurely attached to the steering column with one small wood screw. After that I made a big mistake. I bought four alloy TR8 wheels and bolted them to the hubs using Spitfire lug nuts that kinda fit. But not kinda enough.

The steel lug nuts wore away at the alloy bolt holes. On the way to the 1998 Triumph summer picnic in Stillwater, the left front wheel decided it had had enough abuse. It took off on its own into the median of Hwy. 36. The GT6 and I sparked to a lopsided stop on the right shoulder. While the car was in the shop, I had lowered front springs installed.

I drove the Plus to Maine for the 1999 Vintage Triumph Register convention in late July. Can you spell hot? A U-joint started complaining in Vermont but we made it home before it collapsed. Then I bought a book on Austin-Healey Sprites. (I really should read less.) Soon I sold the GT6+ to pay for a Mark II Sprite's restoration.

I never did own a GT6 Mk3. They were called Mk3s both here and in the civilized world. Most of the differences between the Plus and the Mk3 were cosmetic and in line with what was done on the Spitfire. There was a cleaner front end and the rear end acquired the semi-Kamm-back look that all Triumphs now sported. The Mk3 lasted from '71 to '73. Their engines became choked with emissions equipment, Triumph allocated most of its dwindling resources to the TR6, and the Datsun 240Z was now the hot contender in the six-cylinder GT class. When British Leyland pulled the GT6's plug, not many people noticed.

Would I buy another GT6? Of course. That six cylinder makes for grand touring for those of us of limited means and size. Will I buy another? That's another question entirely. Maybe a nice Mk1 from somebody who realizes he's selling a steel-top Triumph and not a convertible E-type.



LEFT: The difference between Mark 3 tails and their predecessor's.

RIGHT: Me and my 1970 GT-6+ at the 1998 Vintage Triumph Register national convention in Hudson, Wisconsin. I did not win any awards.



2012 InterMarque SPRING KICK-OFF



ILLUSTRATION BY:
MICHAEL JEKOT

**SAT.
MAY 12**
10AM-3PM
**OSSEO
MN**

**RAIN OR
SHINE**

20TH ANNUAL VINTAGE FOREIGN CAR SHOW

SPONSORED BY

**TOP GEAR
AUTOWORKS**
TopGearMN.com

- This is a **FREE*** event. Open to **1991 OR OLDER, FOREIGN** motorcars, motorcycles, scooters, and vintage racers.
- **FIRST COME FIRST PARKED.** Placement starts at 9 a.m. Space is limited. Parking staff will be on hand to direct. Clubs wishing to park together need to arrive en-mass.
- Visit InterMarque.org for additional show information.

**All participants please bring a non-perishable food item to donate.*

CLUB SPONSORS

MN Austin-Healey Club • Minnes02 (BMW 2002) • Citroën Club of MN • Jaguar Club of MN
Lotus Owners Oftha North (LOON) • Mercedes-Benz Club of America: Twin Cities Section
MN United Minis (MUM) • MN MG Group • MN Triumphs • Wheels Of Italy (WOI) • Vintage Sports Car Racing (VSCR)

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
THE CITY OF OSSEO!**

Minnesota Triumphs Calendar Rally

Welcome to the first ever Minnesota Triumphs Calendar Rally. Hopefully this will become an annual event. The rules are simple, just drive your Triumph in search of theme destinations, photograph your find and email it back to the rally master.

This year, as we live in the land of 10,000 lakes, the theme is WATER that's H₂O. For the 2012 season, May 1st through October 31st Just drive to a City or Town in Minnesota that has a reference to water in its' name, take a photo of your Triumph with a sign that identifies it and send it on to the rally master. Be sure to date stamp the photo or somehow identify when it was taken. You are on the honor system here. The sign could be the official sign along the road or better yet, maybe a Bank or water tower that has the town name on it. We are not encouraging you to stop along a busy road and get run over by a semi. The car with the most photos will be declared the winner and, along with the bragging rights, will be the feature car on the cover of the calendar.

That leads us to the whole point of this rally. The photos from the highest scoring cars will be used to produce The Official Minnesota Triumphs Club Calendar. The first, second and third place winners will not only get their cars in the coveted calendar but will also receive a free calendar for their heroic efforts. The calendar will be offered to the public for a modest price following the awards ceremony at the November meeting. We also need to be thinking of a theme for next year maybe BBQ shacks or British Pubs?

Please sign the following Release to become an official entrant in the 2012 Calendar Rally and don't forget to have a little fun along the way.

Send all photos to: Larry Berg lsbergdtm@gmail.com
I will keep everyone up to date on the Triumph Face Book page.

This is a release.

I understand that this event is a rally. I understand that this is an inherently dangerous activity, which should only be undertaken by competent, experienced individuals. I agree to abide by all applicable traffic regulations in the state. I accept full and complete responsibility for my safety during this rally. I hereby waive any and all claims I may have against the event, its organizers, agents or sponsors as a result of my participation in the event.

Signature & Date

Driver _____

Co-

Driver _____

Minnesota Triumphs Tech Specialists

As a service to fellow members, club members with an expertise in a particular model of Triumph have volunteered to act as tech specialists for that model. They don't know everything but they do know a lot. So, if you have a question, give them a call.

TR2/3/3A/3B - John Kallaus (952-891-5266)

TR4 - John Myers (507-633-2017)

TR4A - Larry Sanderson (507-775-6940)

TR250/TR6 - Orrin McGill (763-755-7765)

TR7 - Charles Setala (651-490-0489)

TR8 - Greg Gelhar (763-424-6434)

Spitfire - Bill Gingerich (612-850-4072)

GT6 - Pat McFarland (763-427-5612)

Renown -

Citroën - A. Lindberg (651-292-8585)



Are you looking for something to dream about this Winter? Here is a list of some web sites to make you wish it was warm enough to be out in the garage.

<http://www.carguygarage.com/> Everything you need to set up your work space.

<http://www.roonuts.com/> Although there is little Triumph content yet, here is another auction site dealing with classic cars and parts.

<http://www.britcot.com/Index.html> Here's a link I just received, to an interesting site that lists numerous small suppliers of unique British car parts, accessories, and services. Lots of Triumph-specific guys in the list, as well as other good stuff. Some US, some British-based.

<http://www.thereifixedit.com/> Are your mechanical skills less than ideal? Here is a web site that will make your work look like it was done by a professional. Check it out every now and then.

Member Notes (Continued from Page 22)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Lori Sundstrom (April 13th), and any other members who may be celebrating their birthday in April.



If you're willing to share your birth date with the club, please contact me by phone, email to 70GT6plus@gmail.com or let me know when you see me at the club meeting. All I need is the month and day - the year is not required.





MINNESOTA TRIUMPHWEAR



T-Shirts/Sweatshirts:

Logo

- "Life's Too Short...."
- "We Service What We Drive"

Style

- Short T (\$13)
- Long T (\$21)*
- Crew Sweatshirt (\$26)*
- Hooded Sweatshirt (\$32)*

Size

- M
- L
- XL
- XXL

Color

- White
- Gray
- Sweatshirts only**
- Ash



*Long Sleeves includes "MN Triumph" on sleeve

Embroidered Shirts:

Logo

- 30th Anniversary Logo
- "Lifes Too Short.." Logo*

Style

- Polo (\$36)
- Crew Sweatshirt (\$32)
- Hooded Sweatshirt (\$37)

Gender

- Mens
- Ladies

Size

- S (ladies only)
- M
- L
- XL
- XXL

Color

- White
- Black
- Gold
- Navy
- Polo Only**
- Lt. Blue
- Forest Green

Sweatshirts Only

- Ash
- Athletic Gray



* Embroidered "Lifes Too Short.." logo includes Union Jack flag w/o Triumph

Leather Sleeve Wool Jacket with 30th Anniversary Logo on front \$120:

Logo

- "Lifes Too Short.." text only on back (Add\$20)
- Name on right side (Add \$8)

Size

- M
- L
- XL
- XXL
- XXXL

Color

- Black/Black
- Black/Tan
- Blue/Tan



Microfiber Pullover Windjacket \$45:

Logo

- 30 Anniversary Logo
- "Lifes Too Short.." Logo*

Size

- M
- L
- XL
- XXL
- XXXL(add \$5)
- XLT (add \$5)
- XXLT(add \$5)

Color

- Black/Black
- Black/Putty
- Cobalt/Black
- Cocoa
- Ivory
- Navy
- Red
- Steel Gray



* Embroidered "Lifes Too Short.." logo includes Union Jack flag w/o Triumph

Oxford Shirt \$35:

Logo

- 30 Anniversary Logo
- "Lifes Too Short.." Logo*

Size

- M
- L
- XL
- XXL
- XXXL(add \$5)
- XLT (add \$5)

Color

- Denim
- Black
- Blue
- White
- Yellow
- Red
- Forest
- Navy
- Gold



* Embroidered "Lifes Too Short.." logo includes Union Jack flag w/o Triumph

Embroidered Hats:

Logo

- 30th Anniversary Logo
- "Lifes Too Short..."

Style

- Champion (\$22)
- Flexfit Drivers (\$22)
- Fidel (\$20)

Colors

- White
- Black
- Red
- Gold
- Navy
- Khaki
- Kelly
- Black
- Khaki
- Loden
- Olive
- Black
- Camo
- Mocha
- Chocolate
- Olive
- Pink
- Gray



ORDER FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

Fill out form above with choices. If more than 1 of an individual style is needed, please write in qty. Send order form to Suzanne McWilliams (regalia chair) at address below. There are minimum order quantities on silkscreened items, which may cause a delay in order processing. There is no minimum on embroidered items. **Logo can be added to any special order item from catalog for \$16 each. Please specify "Life's Short" or "Mn Triumph 30th" logo.**

MAIL ORDER TO: WildThreads
2024 Shorewood Lane,
Mound, MN 55364
612-860-7358

Include Payment with Order
Make Check payable to MN Triumphs Regalia

Questions or Special Requests:
e-mail suzanne@wildthreadsonline.com
Phone: 612-860-7358
Website: www.wildthreadsonline.com

Subtotal \$ _____ Name _____
 Direct Shipping (Add \$5.00/piece) Address _____
 Pickup at Monthly Club Meeting -FREE
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name(s) to be Embroidered (Add \$8) _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Total \$ _____

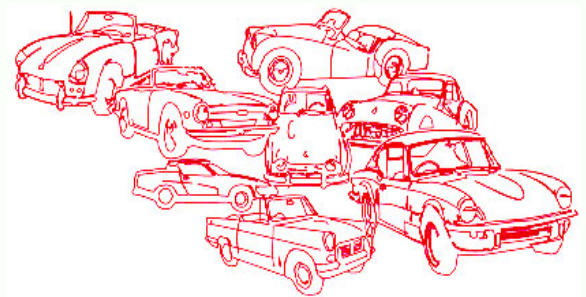
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License # 20318726



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Tom Holland Insurance Agcy Inc
Tom Holland, Agent
11933 Central Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55434-3911
Bus 763 755 8680 Fax 763 755 8769

The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.

PLEASE ALLOW US THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH YOU REGARDING OUR ANTIQUE/CLASSIC CAR POLICY. WE WOULD SINCERELY APPRECIATE THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING YOU! GIVE US A CALL.....

Triumph Trader

FOR SALE

Triumph TR 2/ 3/ 4 Parts for sale

Tell me what you need.

15" wire wheels with hubs & knock offs (TR2,3,4 or MGA)

4 cyl. (TR2/3/4) Transmission 4

speed, generator, starter

rear end, brakes, steering, body

parts, gauges gas tanks

Parts from 3 cars used in restoration of TR3A 02/12

Email me with your needs:

mnr3a@aol.com

Patrick Holt

Pair of rebuilt rear hubs off my '74 TR6 \$150.00

Replaced with Richard Good

hubs. Ask Larry Berg

about condition, etc.

Joe Bisanz [651-699-0529](tel:651-699-0529) 02/12

Triumph TR8 For sale

\$5,000, OBO.

V8 Convertible very fast and

smooth A/C could use recharge

Teal 5 Speed

e-mail for photos.

Patrick Holt

612.388.0505 1-1-12

WANTED

Switch Plinth for 1972 TR6

(the one with four holes)

Dick Leighninger

<imsplashcaf@yahoo.com>

Dashboard Support Bracket

for 1972 TR6

Dick Leighninger

<imsplashcaf@yahoo.com> 02/12

Trader information *Members' notices run three months — unless you tell the editor to drop them earlier or keep them running longer. Dates in parentheses indicate the first month in which they ran. Non-member notices are published at a rate of \$5 per month.*

Need a Name Tag?

Order yours today from Kirk's Enterprise.

- Order by phone: (763) 533-5332
- Order on line: www.kirksenterprise.com

Be sure to identify yourself as a member of Minnesota Triumphs and supply your name and car model, if desired. Kirks will make your badge and mail it to you with an invoice in a couple of days. A pin type tag costs \$7.15, magnetic type, add \$1.20. Shipping is \$2.32. It couldn't be easier.



It's NEW. Now you can keep in touch, share photos, and let other Minnesota Triumph members know what you're up to. Check in at MN Triumphs on facebook. Go ahead, write on our wall.

About Minnesota Triumphs Car Club

Minnesota Triumphs formed in 1981 when a group of Triumph enthusiasts met for an afternoon of fun and conversation at Fort Snelling Park.

Since then, the club has grown to more than 150 members from throughout the Midwest.

Our activities include:

- Monthly meetings
- Social gatherings
- Tech sessions
- Road rallies
- Regional and national events

We welcome all Triumph enthusiasts, whether you own a concourse-winning showpiece, are restoring a diamond in the rough, are searching for just the right addition to your garage or just appreciate the marque.

Together we can locate those hard-to-find parts and assist one another in keeping our vehicles on the road. But most of all, the club offers opportunities to explore some of the best roads in the region with others who enjoy the Triumph experience.

Membership

Our membership year runs January 1 through December 31.

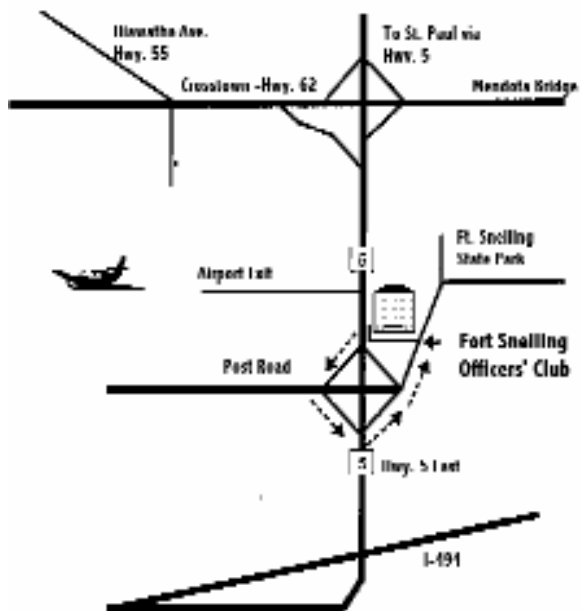
Annual membership is \$25 (an additional \$1 provides your partner with voting privileges at our annual election of officers). With this membership fee, your newsletter can be seen on-line or you can pick up a hard copy at the monthly meetings.

If you prefer to have your newsletter mailed to you, membership fee is \$35 (plus \$1 for partner's voting privileges).

Join after September 1st and enjoy full membership benefits through the remainder of the current year and the entire next year.

Monthly Meetings

Minnesota Triumphs meets the second Thursday of each month, January through October. Club members gather at the Fort Snelling Officers' Club at the intersection of Post Rd. and Hwy. 5 across from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.



Membership Notes

APRIL MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Without going into a long story of why I'm 1 1/2 weeks overdue in submitting my column to our club newsletter Editor, instead of just tweaking my late article, I decided to rewrite the whole thing.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As of March 30th, we have 95 members signed up for 2012. This is down from last year of 111 members this time of the year. Perhaps some of you are waiting to use the PayPal feature on our web site? Well, wait no more!!!

Go to <http://www.mntriumphs.org/join.htm> to pay your membership fee on line. While you're there, check out the rest of the newly refurbished web site, thanks to our club Web Master, Ron Ruettimann and our club Secretary Fred Olson working hard together between their crazily busy schedules to give the site a beautiful facelift. The web site address is <http://www.mntriumphs.org>. It's a great fresh start...keep it up guys!!!

DEADLINE

Since we got a lateish start on PayPal this year, I'm willing to extend the deadline of getting your membership dues in time for the club membership roster to April 15th. This doesn't mean that I won't be accepting dues after that date...it just means that if you renew after that date, you won't be listed on the roster. I'm hoping that Joe DeMuth is willing to once again help me out with the task of compiling the 2012 club roster.

NEXT MEETING

Next club meeting is April 12th. Depending on the weather, either extremity thawing or tire kicking begins at 6 PM; meeting starts at 7 PM. Hope to see you all there!

Lenny Kukuza
Membership Chair
70GT6plus@gmail.com
612-501-5908

Continued on Page 17

Membership Sign Up

Name: _____

Partner: _____

Address: _____

Phone (day): _____

Phone (evening): _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Newsletter Delivery Preference:

On-line Mailed Pick Up

Model of Triumph(s) Owned

Member of Vintage Triumph Register (www.vtr.org)?

Yes No

Referred by: _____

Am't paid (circle): \$25 \$26 \$35 \$36

Date of Birth (month & day only):

Send membership fee to:

Minnesota Triumphs
P.O. Box 6115
Minneapolis, MN 55406

www.mntriumphs.org



Steve Rixen is...



Strictly British, LLC



Parts, Service & Consultation

Email: scrixen@gmail.com

Cell: 612-877-1938

5995 Highview Place, Shoreview, MN 55126

The Minnesota Triumphs Club is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the Triumph Marque. It was formed in 1981 and is a charter member of the Vintage Triumph Register. Correspondence can be addressed to:

Minnesota Triumphs
P.O. Box 6115
Minneapolis, MN 55406



Check our web site at:

www.mntriumphs.org

Membership meetings are on the SECOND THURSDAY of the month (except no meetings in November and December). Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the Fort Snelling Officers' Club, just south of the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport. Everyone is invited to attend, whether you are a member or not.

2012 OFFICERS

President

Jeremy FohrenKamm
952-948-4329
President@mntriumphs.org

Vice Prez

Chal Setala
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VicePresident@mntriumphs.org

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Ron Ruettimann
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Fred Olson
952 412-5094
Secretary@mntriumphs.org

Event Coordinator

Terry Mackey & Russ Mattson
612-371-9049 612-869-3011
Events@mntriumphs.org

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Greg Gelhar
763-424-6434
Historian@mntriumphs.org

Tech Sessions

Steve Shogren
651-454-2037
Techsessions@mntriumphs.org

Intermarque Liaison

Dennis Cavallo
612-822-2221
Intermarqueliason@mntriumphs.org

Past President

Russ Mattson
612-869-3011



Are you connected to the group? Do you get in on the latest information?

We have an e-mail site you can easily join. It is Minnesota Triumphs Yahoo mail.

Simply send an e-mail to

mntriumphsgroup-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

You don't have to ask for anything, they will see your e-mail address and take it from there.



Photo Credit: Fred Olson



Triumphs & Tribulations

c/o Orrin McGill, editor
PO Box 6115
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406