VOL. XLIV NUMBER 1 • MINNESOTA TRIUMPHS SPORTS CAR CLUB NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2024









Lots Going on Early 2024

New Year celebration, couple of luncheons and a project. Also...where's our hidden logo on the cover?

About Minnesota Triumphs Car Club

Minnesota Triumphs Sports Car Club formed in 1975 when our club was first given a Charter with the Triumph Sports Owners Association.

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

Our activities include:

- Monthly meetings
- Social gatherings
- Tech sessions
- Group drives
- · Regional and national events

We welcome all Triumph enthusiasts, whether you own a concours 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.

Monthly Meetings

Membership meetings are the second Thursday of the month, January through October.

Our next meeting will be February 8th, 2024 at the Lucky's 13 in Roseville. The address is 2480 Fairview Ave N Roseville MN 55113. It's north of Rosedale Mall.

For membership information visit our website at www.mntriumphs.org

Minnesota Triumphs is a charter member of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR).

For VTR Membership information visit www.vtr.org







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.

TR2-3B -

TR4 - John Myers (507-633-2017)

TR4A - Larry Sanderson (507-775-6940) TR250/TR6 - Orrin McGill (763-755-7765)

TR7/8 - Roger Kraemer (651-207-3920)

Spitfire - Bill Gingerich (612-850-4072)

GT6 - Pat McFarland (763-427-5612)

Stag - David Anderson (612-810-9740)

Trials & Tribulations is the official newsletter of the Minnesota Triumphs Sports Car Club (MTSCC). It is published monthly except for December and January. Deadline for contributions is the 20th of the month prior to publication. All of the opinions expressed in the articles, columns, and other materials are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the 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. Non-member and commercial notices are published for \$5 per month. All submissions should be sent to the editor: Newsletter@mntriumphs.org

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Back cover: Brock Thorson's 1958 TR3 in the snow, joining a December lunch meetup.

Prez Release

Warmest greetings to all our of Triumph car club members.

I hope your New Year is off to a great start.

If you're like most folks, you're reflecting on 2023 to help make goals for 2024. Lose more weight, move my body more, eat less of everything, give more compliments to strangers.....the list goes on.

While your at it, make a list of things to do with the club as one of them.

Last year, one of my goals was to expand on my drives and events. I am happy to say I attended the SKO, Rendezvous, summer picnic, Hastings Car show, Stone Arch Car show and The Lift event. It was such a fun season. I hope that you can make it out to more events this year. For this year I'm adding the VTR event on top of Rendezvous. In



addition, I want to continue to scout new locations for our monthly meetings. We have a new event coordinator, reach out and sponsor a drive or host a tech session. Check out the web site or email us on Groups.io.

We are still in need of a secretary for the monthly club meeting. Shorthand is NOT a requirement so please let me know if this is something you could help us with.

Finally, it is renewal season. Thank you all for renewing and continuing to support the club. I love the loyalty and commitment that I continue to see year over year. I am also amazed at how many new members we get every year.

Thank you for your support and participation in making what I think is the best car club ever.

Cheers, David

January 2024 Meeting Notes

Minnesota Triumphs Club January 11, 2024 meeting minutes, first meeting of the year. Lucky's 13, Roseville, MN

Call to order 6:57

31 in attendance, 8°F and windy, no Triumphs in the parking lot.

Ongoing Club Business

The previous minutes were approved.

Dave Heglund volunteered to fill the vacant Member at Large position, voted and unanimously approved.

The club's Secretary position is still open, looking for someone to fill the job.

Reports

Membership - Mike Smith It's time to renew your dues for 2024! About half of the members have already renewed. About 1/3 of our current members have joined in the last 2 years.

Five new members joined the club since the last meeting: Paul Smith, 74TR6; Brian Pichelman '79 Spitfire; Clarence Westeberg, other; David Hennesey, 73GT6 and 75 Spitfire; Mark Peterson, 63 TR4.

VTR Liaison - Greg Thompson VTR 2024 will be Sept 8-12 in Nashville, Indiana. We expect to have multiple groups of cars making the trip.

Treasurer - Jeff Gilmer not present, Dave reported. David Anderson said they would have a budget to present at the next meeting. Income is up this winter with membership renewals.

Newsletter

Call for winter project stories for the March issue. Orrin noted that we have expanded our available archive of newsletter back issues, will be available on the website and groups.io.

Events - Pat Holt Larry Berg will organize the spring shakedown tour, planned for sometime in April, probably a route around the west side. Details to come.

Call for new events and event hosts. Looking to add 2-3 events to the Calendar this summer/fall. There has been some interest in more overnight events, bring your ideas!

Rendezvous 2024 is in Thunder Bay, expecting 15+ cars in the Triumph group. The host hotel is full, but other hotels are in town. Event registration is now open.

Tech Sessions - Frank Weber February may be an engine evaluation for Dave A's TR3, to be confirmed.

For March, Chip will host a session on doing powder coating in the home shop

Other dates are open for the year, contact Frank to get a session scheduled.

Intermarque Liaison - Glenn Wilson Not present. SKO is planning underway

Webmaster - Bill Connell, no report

Historian - Bill Nelson

On this day in history: 1569: The first recorded lottery in England begins and runs for about 5 months. 10 Shillings per share. 1908: President Teddy Roosevelt makes the Grand Canyon a National Monument. 1923: In Leesburg Texas Carroll Hall Shelby was born. 1964: The U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry announced his findings which concluded that cigarette smoking was the main cause of lung cancer.

Vice President - Brandon Baker, no report

Regalia - Dan Booth, no report

New Business: none

Door prizes: Frank Weber and Carol Thompson won gift cards

Meeting adjourned at 7:26

Membership Update

By Mike Smith, Membership

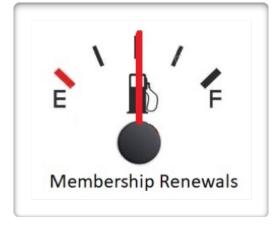
We're halfway there! If you haven't already, renew your club membership to make it in the 2024 Triumph Club Directory and to remain on the club's distribution email list through Groups.io.

The \$30 household membership, includes up to two registrations and an emailed newsletter. Best deal in town

at \$2.50/month! Printed newsletters are available for an additional cost.

Your membership fees **keep the club alive**, covering meeting room costs, web hosting, insurance, participation in local and national events, name badges for new members, and more! The deadline for registration is March 31st, but please register sooner if possible.

Please **renew and pay electronically** through PayPal on our website's "membership" page. This is the easiest method for all involved. Yes, PayPal charges a small \$1.50 fee, but checks and stamps aren't free either. A printable paper form is also available on the website.



Follow this link to register: www.mntriumphs.org/about/membership/

Remember, you're not registered until you've finished payment through the **PayPal / Credit Card** portion of the registration process!

MN Triumphs welcomes these new members joining since our last newsletter:

- Rick Meyer, Chaska, MN: 71 Spitfire & 73 TR6
- Ken Richter, St. Croix Falls, WI: 75 TR6
- Erik Little, Bloomington, MN: Spitfire
- Mark Peterson, Montgomery, MN: 63 TR4
- David Hennesey, Charles City, IA: 73 GT6 & 75 Spitfire
- Clarence Westberg, Bloomington, MN: other
- · Brian Pichelman, Burnsville, MN: 79 Spitfire
- Paul Smith, Minneapolis, MN 74 TR6

Email <u>membership@mntriumphs.org</u> with your membership questions.



I was member of club back in 1988 or so after I restored my 1971 Triumph Spitfire Mk 4 which has dual SU carbs. Still have it. I bought Greg Gelhar's TR6 car from his kind wife last fall. She is kindly storing it for me until spring.

My very first daily driver car was a 67 MG Midget with the 1275 (hot) engine. I bought it used in 1971. It had been run hard and put away wet and I continued the tradition albeit with better maintenance. Had that car for my first three years in college. Lots of adventures. Parts are often more available now then they were back then when there were still dealers. I rebuilt the head and the transmission and most everything else on that little car.

I often drove home that little car from my home in Sedalia Missouri to Columbia Missouri where I went to the University of Missouri Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering school. This was a seventy mile trip right down I-70. Was drafting a semi one time on I70 one time and the truck driver slammed on the brakes momentarily. That got me to back off! And fast.

Letter from the editor

by Bill Connell

As I start my term as editor of our club newsletter, a selected history of my experience with publishing and related cars.

It starts when my mom took a part-time job at the Le Sueur town newspaper. I was in 6th grade and it was the first time I got to see a news room, with typewriters and long waxed strips of copy ready to be laid out into pages. My bike was a Schwinn Stingray with 5-speed shifter on the top bar. I still have that shifter in a box somewhere.

A friend recruited me to join our high school

newspaper, where I became a reporter and editor. We used same system as the small town paper, with typewriters and long waxed galleys manually arranged into the layout.

That was also when I bought my first car, a '73 VW Superbeetle. I learned a lot working on that car, blowing and replacing the engine, driving it year-round in Illinois and at college in Minnesota.

At the U of MN I ended up in the journalism program, where I learned how to lay out magazine pages using a computer, no waxing machines in sight. A couple of cars after the Beetle I found a fun Chevy Monza with a pretty decent V-6 and 5-speed.

After graduation I briefly worked as a sports photographer for a small-town paper while driving a hand-me-down





Volvo 240 sedan. That car got several repairs including new axle bearings while parked along the curb in front of my apartment.

Later I worked typesetting financial documents and then laying out Case tractor manuals translated into various languages. After a few fairly boring cars I found a VW Fox wagon that was fun to drive. My brother and I took it on a trip to Oregon and back, that's him somewhere in the mountains.

These days my daily job is with websites instead of printed things, but this is a

little like how I enjoy driving my TR6 in contrast to my daily driver Honda, back to basics.

For next month, send in your project stories; what have you been working on this winter?



Fire at the Roadster Factory

In the middle of the night on Christmas Eve, fire alarms went off in the Roadster Factory building in Armagh, Pennsylvania. Over 100 firefighters fought the blaze, but in the end the building and all contents were declared a total loss. Thankfully no one was killed in the fire.

The Roadster Factory has supplied Triumph parts since 1978, and has been a valued resource of both parts and information for most US-imported Triumphs.





Owner Albert Runyon shared these photos of the aftermath under the title "TRF December 27 2023 Onward and Upward".

In two email updates to customers, Albert wrote that TRF will be closed for the month of January but they are working toward restarting at least some parts of the business in the near future. The tooling for their own reproduction parts is safe, they have parts shipments arriving, and they're already looking to restart the in-house carpet production.

Hopefully this means their website will be back with more updates soon.

VTR National Convention 2024







September 8 - 12, 2024 Nashville, Indiana

Hosted by Indiana Triumph Cars

Celebrating 50 Years of "The Shape"



Join us in Nashville, Indiana for the 2024 VTR National Convention. The event will be based at the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park, just outside Nashville. Brown County, the "Little Smokies" of Indiana, has amazing topography and great driving roads for you to explore. Between Columbus and Bloomington, Nashville's downtown is home to many artists, tasting rooms, distilleries, and restaurants.



Registration is OPEN now! Seats for Banquet are limited. Register Early!

indianatriumphcars.regfox.com/2024-vintage-triumph-register-national-convention



A Toast to the New Year



Sixteen hearty souls gathered at Birkmose Park to toast the first sunrise of the new year at 7:51 a.m. The toast was followed by a quick retreat to Dick's Bar & Grill in Hudson for a warm breakfast and discussion on the merits of flannel-lined pants. Not a vintage car in sight despite the relatively balmy 20° F temperature and light winds.



The Story Of Ester

By Pat Kessler

The story started over 20 years ago when we visited our good Triumph Club friend Ralph Zerbe at his farm in Minnesota. We had met a few years earlier when we were introduced to the Standard 10 Ralph owned. We would visit periodically and this day Ralph showed us what he had picked up at a Triumph Dealership in Mankato Minnesota. Had been closed may years ago but Ralph spotted this Estate Wagon sitting on the side of the building. Of course he investigated, made a deal and eventually dragged it back to the farm.

His intention, restore it like his Standard 10 when he retired. Well. we were instantly smitten with it and asked if he would sell it to us, big flat NO. Okay, fast forward, life got in the way, Estate Wagon got rolled to a corner of his brother-in-laws wood shop barn. Ralph's life rolled on, he had gotten married, bought a Bed and Breakfast, sold his house and farmland around his home, etc.!



Ester the estate wagon arriving at the Kessler's shop.



Ralph disappeared from Triumph World, until last March. He contacted us from France, of all places! Wanted our help in cleaning out his shop of equipment and fleet of cars.

He came back in June to help on the farm and to clean out rest of parts, cars and equipment stored at the farm. Bob went over to help with the clean out, including getting all his cars started and ready to sell. Two weeks later, mission accomplished and Ralph gave Bob the Estate Wagon for his help and labors.



Some stats on the car:

When Ralph bought it there was 18,000 miles on odometer. The car was used by the dealership as a shop vehicle until they blew up the motor and then parked it. So it was never sold until Ralph bought it from whoever owned the building.

It was registered by Ralph Aug.11, 1998, has sat in corner of the barn since that time. The engine was in the cargo space with misc. parts. According to Ralph, they only imported 950 to North America, and only produced this model for 2 years.



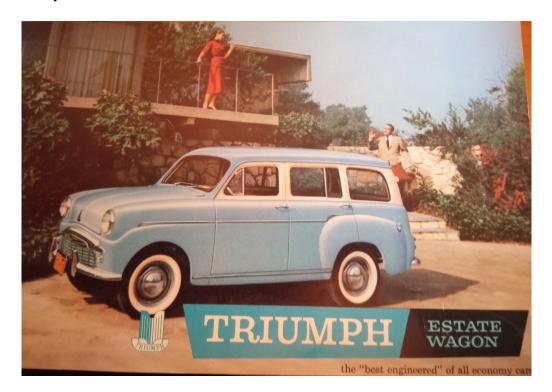
It's hard to find books on the Standard 10, I did read they were a part of the Triumphs Works cars racing teams and did quite well in Europe.





Our plan is to get it back on the road, starting with operating on the cancer thru-out. Engine and drivetrain, TR3 engine, tranny, and overdrive going in. Lots of modification going on right now to make this possible with this new system.

Ester is a uni-body so has to get strengthened and braced to hold the new changes being done. Bill talked me into this article and we'll be sending updates and progress pictures periodically.



From an original sales brochure, the end goal for Ester, post-restoration

No-Agenda Lunches

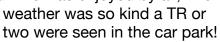
by Jeff Kussard

As then new club members, we were enthused by an invitation to join a small group for lunches during the Winter of 2022-23. They were kind of impromptu and loosely organized.

The following fall Mike Smith suggested Rita and I take up to organize lunch gatherings to create opportunities for club folk to stay connected during the Winter months. Last year the lunches grew to regularly enjoy the shared good company of around 25 members each month through the Winter.



The '23/'24 season launched December 5 at Famous Dave's on West 7th, St Paul. An informal head count came to 26 women and men. A splendid time was enjoyed by all, The





The January gathering was at Merlin's Rest in Minneapolis, with 16 dedicated lunch fans braving the single-digit temps and wind chill.

The February lunch will be on the 15th at the Park Tavern in St. Louis Park.

Keep an eye out for future lunches, they are organized through the club email list, and please RSVP so we can provide a head count.

Email tech tip: accessing the groups.io archives

By Wade Peterson

Have you accessed our Groups.IO website? If you receive the on-going club emails, you're good. But there's lots of other valuable information on the Groups.IO website itself. To access that, you'll need a password.

To get your password:

- Go to https://mntriumphs.groups.io/login
- Use the "Email me a link to log in" button

 Check your email and follow the link to set up your password

 Introduction

With your password, you can use the link above to log in and access the full site content.

The Groups.IO searchable archive includes:

- Over 2,000 email messages (since 10/2020)
- Photos from every email, plus compiled albums for many tours and tech sessions
- Files (separate folders for club newsletters 2008-today, event flyers, Blue Bonnets newsletters, British Iron newsletters, etc.)
- Club directory (this is the Groups.IO directory, not the official club roster)

Feel free to email me with questions, topics for future updates, or if you have other content or historical material to include in our Groups.IO website: email@wade-o.com.

Next month: setting delivery preferences and managing topics.







Triumph Trader

For Sale

For Spitfire Mk1 & 2:

- Valve guides (qty 8) \$24. Intake valves (qty 4) \$20.
- Exhaust valves (qty 4) \$20. Valve stem seals (qty 8) \$4.

Bill N. nelson1 2@msn.com

For Sale

1973 spitfire 1500; the engine does turn over; lots of extra parts; the undercarriage rusty; not sure about frame. I live in Minnetonka by Ridgedale.

Contact Corey @ 612-708-4284

For Sale

I have many parts for all Triumphs. I have motors, frames, wheels and most other parts.

Email me at wmorris11134@yahoo.com or call me at 612-723-4602 or text. - Wayne Morris



Need a part? Need to get rid of a part?

List your part (or car) here! Triumph Trader ads (with photo) are free for MN Triumphs club members and to members of other Triumph clubs. Non-member and commercial notices are published for \$5 per month. Send your ad to newsletter@mntriumphs.org!

Club Calendar

If you'd like to host an event think about a favorite antiques stop or day trip you like to take and let's make a club outing of it! Email events@mntriumphs.org to get it added to the calendar.

See the club website for more information about upcoming events and a Google calendar you can add to your personal calendar: https://www.mntriumphs.org/events/

February

- 10 Drive your Triumph Day
- **10** Tech Session for Mike Smith, fluids flush and maintenance
- 15 No-agenda lunch, Park Tavern, 11:30am

March

- 9 Tech Session at Chip Lederer's shop, learning about powder coating parts
- 14 Club Meeting

April

- 11 Club Meeting
- **13** Tech Session for David Anderson, making progress on reassembling his Stag

May

- 9 Club Meeting
- **11** Spring Shakedown Tour, Larry Berg will host, details to come.
- 18 Intermarque Spring Kickoff, Osseo MN

June

- **6-8** 32nd Annual Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 13 Club Meeting

July

11 Club Meeting

August

8 Club Meeting

September

- **8-12** Vintage Triumph Register National Convention, Nashville, Indiana.
- 12 Club Meeting
- 28 Waumandee Time Trials

October

10 Club Meeting

Every Saturday at 9am: Intermarque breakfast at Elsie's - 729 Marshall St. NE, Mpls. Email lntermarque@gmail.com to join the breakfast Cars & Breakfast RSVP list! See more Intermarque events at http://intermarque.org/index.php/event-calendar/





New members get a free name badge when they join. Continuing members can get updated or replacement name badges for \$10 each.

Email membership@mntriumphs.org to order a window cling or new badge. You can also pick up a free window cling at the next club meeting or event.

Tech Sessions - Frank Weber

I hope everyone is having a great start to their New Year. One resolution you can keep is getting that project running or getting some long overdue maintenance done. Using Tech Session resources can help get that project off of top dead center. These are the Tech Sessions scheduled so far this year:

February 10th: Mike Smith has offered to host the next tech session on Saturday, February 10 starting at 10 o'clock in Plymouth, MN. Look for specifics in groups.io. Mike is looking for help doing a possible brake fluid flush, radiator flush, and a simple oil change. Heated garage and lunch provided. Email Mike if you plan to attend at mnhawks@gmail.com.



March 9th: Chip Lederer has offered to host a Tech Session on Saturday, March 9 starting at 10 a.m. in Somerset WI. Chip has a small powder coating set up and he will be demonstrating the power coating process. Participants will have the opportunity to power coat small items if they wish. Color options will be gray or black. Items will have a be properly prepped. If participants wish to observe the entire process they will need to bring their own N95 mask, or wait outside during certain steps.

April 13: David Anderson has offered to host a Tech Session on Saturday, April 13 starting at 10 a.m. in Minneapolis. David is looking for help doing some needed work on his Stag.

More details will be sent out through the <u>groups.io</u> as each event gets closer. If you have any questions about hosting a Tech Session or are interested in scheduling one please contact me at: <u>frankj.weber3@gmail.com</u> or 952 934-0523. Also at: <u>Techsessions@mntriumphs.org</u>

Website - Bill Connell

The MN Triumphs club website is at:

https://www.mntriumphs.org

If you want to have your car featured on the site, send a photo or two, and I'll add it. Or, just send a photo and it can be in the rotating photos on the home page.

Scan the QR code for a quick shortcut to see the club website on your phone.



Please email your car photos and error reports to webmaster@mntriumphs.org.

Regalia/apparel - Dan Booth

Minnesota Triumphs Club logo apparel is available on demand in many different styles, for men and women, with options for various logos and colors.

Contact our apparel coordinator Dan Booth to start an order, he can get you the item and logo you're looking for.

Text or call 651-208-9355 or email dbooth41@gmail.com.

See samples of Dan's work:

<u>Magnolia Screen Printing Ink on Facebook</u>

<u>Magnolia Screen Printing Ink on Instagram</u>

In the Rear View Mirror

Bill Nelson, club historian

5 years ago, February 2019

- From the minutes of the January 2019 meeting. The first meeting of 2019 greeted 38 members with a 22 degree evening at the start of the New Year. Not a TR in sight, but on the minds of all.
- Free winter Party at Joseph's in St. Paul on February 24. Free buffet.
- Color photos credited to Bernadette M. and staff of the High Tea 2018.
- From the Triumph Trader: Triumph TR6 parts. TR-6 Lucas alternator (early), oil pump and gear, 5 headlights & 1 headlight ring. Orrin M.

10 years ago, February 2014

- From the minutes of the January 2014 meeting. New members were welcomed: Mike Smith with a '64 Spitfire. Frank Weber with a '71 TR6 and '75 Spitfire. Mark and Nic Schweitshal with a '74 TR6. And finally Greg with two basket cases (Tr4 and TR4A).
- Mike Smith hosted the January Tech Session at his home. More than 12 members helped to recover 2 seats and install new carpet.
- The newsletter had color photos of the 2013 High Tea that was hosted by Carole Clark Isakson. "It was worth cleaning my house just to watch Pat Holt drink tea".
- From the Triumph Trader. New sway bar for Spitfire. \$150. Contact Roger.

2024 OFFICERS

President: David Anderson President@mntriumphs.org

Vice President: Brandon Baker VicePresident@mntriumphs.org

Treasurer: Jeff Gilmer
Treasurer@mntriumphs.org

Secretary: <vacant>

Secretary@mntriumphs.org

Membership: Mike Smith Membership@mntriumphs.org

Newsletter: Bill Connell Newsletter@mntriumphs.org

Newsletter Cover Submissions:

Terry Mackey

Mackey421@gmail.com

Tech Session: Frank Weber Techsessions@mntriumphs.org

Intermarque Liaison: Glenn Wilson Intermarqueliaison@mntriumphs.org

From the Archives

VTR Liaison: Greg Thompson VTRLiasion@mntriumphs.org

Event Coordinator: Pat Holt Events@mntriumphs.org

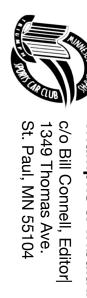
Webmaster: Bill Connell Webmaster@mntriumphs.org

Regalia: Dan Booth Regalia@mntriumphs.org

Historian: Bill Nelson <u>Historian@mntriumphs.org</u>

Past President: Chip Lederer





Triumphs & Tribulations