



TRIUMPHS & TRIBULATIONS



A toast to the new year • VTR planning • Team Red race report • Restoration updates!

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 a new addition to your garage, or just appreciate the marque.

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



Minnesota Triumphs is a chartered chapter of the Triumph Sports Owners Association (TSOA) and a chartered chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR).

For VTR Membership information visit www.vtr.org

Monthly Meetings

Membership meetings are the **second Thursday** of the month, January through October. We meet at the Lucky's 13 in Roseville. The address is 2480 Fairview Ave N Roseville, MN 55113, just north of Rosedale Mall.

Triumphs & 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 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 emailed to Newsletter@mntriumphs.org.

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President@mntriumphs.org

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Front cover: New Year toasters at Birkmose Park and winter, photo by Rich Riemersma. Winter project photos from Pat Kessler and Ken Ljung.

Back cover: a view from last year's Fall Color Tour of the Coulees, photo by George McCracken.



Which movie featured this scene with a Spitfire? Send your guesses to the club email list!

Prez Release

Hello! I know some of you and hope to meet many more! I'm Brandon, and I'm your president for at least this next year. I bought my Spitfire as a post COVID project based on a childhood dream.

When I was growing up our neighborhood mechanic had a Spitfire that sat in his front yard. I have no idea if it ever ran, but for some reason, of all the Corvettes and other repairables he kept for himself, that car stuck with me. It was white, the ragtop was in shreds, the seats were destroyed... I think you all know this story. But there was just something about it that told me I needed one.

Fast forward 30 years. COVID restrictions were mostly in the rear view mirror and Libby and I decided we were going to buy a condo up on the North Shore. It was going to require a total renovation to be updated from 1985. It was in a resort, so

financing options were limited. Obstacle after obstacle jumped in the way of closing until one day Libby said "this should not be this hard. We're not supposed to do this right now". The time had come for a new adventure.

After some searching around I found a little yellow Spitfire that felt like the right one. I had no idea how correct I'd be. It's because of that car that we have met so many wonderful people, including the membership of this club. I can't begin to describe how grateful I am for the experiences we've had together and how excited I am for those to come! Thank you for trusting me with the responsibility of guiding the ship; I'll do everything I can to keep it off the rocks.

Stay warm, and don't forget February 10 is international drive your Triumph day!!

Brandon



January Meeting Minutes

By Rich Riemersma, Secretary

Meeting run by Brandon Baker, his first meeting as our new president. 30 in attendance, a dusting of snow, no Triumphs in parking lot. Agenda & previous meeting minutes approved.

Club Business

Brandon Introduced Brad Booth, owner of Cedar Lake Raceway, to talk to us about an upcoming car British car show he would like to do at the track. Brad gave us the history of the track and the race events they have every Saturday evening starting in April through October. It's a high bank clay track and races start at 6pm. He is trying to combine the car show with the guys from the radio show Garage Logic.

The show will be in the afternoon, with free tickets to the evening race for those participating in the show. Date is July 12, the weekend before VTR this year, so discussion of how many would attend from our Triumph club and should he open it up to the InterMarque group. More information to come.

Brandon said we still need someone to be Vice President. Judy Sherwood was nominated for Events Coordinator and approved by vote.

Reports

Treasurer: Jeff Gilmer absent, Brandon reported on the club bank balance.

Membership: Mike Smith reported that almost 50% have already paid their dues for 2025. We have 7 new members since our last meeting.

Events: Judy Sherwood reported current events will be posted in the newsletter and calendar. She reported we had 24 warm bodied early morning members in Hudson for New Year's Sunrise Cheer! Dave Heglund drove his GT6 which made for a great photo op.

There will be a winter car rally on January 25th, and another rally the end of February. Don't forget its Drive Your Triumph day Feb 10th.

Tech Sessions: No sessions currently scheduled, contact Frank Weber to set one up.

VTR Liaison: Greg Thompson reported we are well on our way with registrations for the upcoming VTR we are hosting in La Crosse. Greg noted you must be a VTR member to attend the event. VTR membership is \$35 and includes a discount at O'Reilly auto part stores.

Greg is looking for additional volunteers:

- Autocross coordinator. Event will be at the truck training area in Winona. Also need people to help with the tech check on each car participating.
- Coordinator for the craft show & silent auction.
- Someone to help park car trailers.
- Coordinator for the Friday night banquet, to schedule the speakers and keep the program moving smoothly.

InterMarque Liaison: Glen Wilson not present, Pat Holt reported Spring Kickoff will be in Osseo on May 17th. Saab is the featured car this year. Rendezvous will be in Grand Rapids, June 5th-7th at Sugar Lake lodge.

Historian: Bill Nelson reported on this day in history January 9th. 1799 British Prime Minister William Pitt the younger introduced income tax. 2 shillings in the pound, to raise funds for the Napoleonic wars. 1902, New York State introduced a bill to outlaw flirting in public. 1907, The Laverne automobile company was incorporated in Laverne MN. 2007, Steve Jobs introduced the first iPhone.

New Club Business: Brandon provided the proposed 2025 budget on the back of the printed agenda. Please review for next month's meeting so we can vote on it. Some discussion about the clubs summer picnic.

General discussion and comments: Brandon has been talking to a veteran at the VA hospital who is planning to sell his TR4A. He needs some help to get the car ready to sell.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53

VTR Convention 2025 Update

Hello all,

Greg and I as chairs want to thank everyone who has helped get the ball rolling on the planning and design of this years VTR event.

Now comes the time for making sure that we host this wonderful event with the success and precedence that we showed in 2018.

As you recall a part of our clubs ability to thrive and flourish to host parties, picnics and keep dues very low are from the fund raising we make from events like rendezvous and VTR.



What we need now are three coordinators for the car show, auto-cross and craft show/silent auction. We have really good template/ job aids to help provide what needs to get done to make these activities a success.

If you're not sure but want to help in other capacities we need to hear from you on what/how you can help.

We'd love to hear from club members either way.

Cheers,

Greg Thompson and
David Anderson



*The Minnesota Triumph Club
is proud to invite you to the
North American Triumph Challenge 2025.*

After so much praise for its location in 2018, we are returning to the wonderful town of La Crosse, Wisconsin on the banks of the mighty Mississippi.

Event dates are July 15-18, 2025. Recommended check in on Monday the 14th and check out Saturday the 19th.

Although the location is the same we will have some new adventures for you as well as some of the best from 2018.

Our host hotel is once again the Radisson with Home2 Suites by Hilton as an overflow hotel only a block away.

Go to MNTriumphs.org for links and phone numbers for hotel reservations.

Also make sure to follow our Facebook page at 2025 VTR.



Membership - Mike Smith

Mike Smith, Membership Chairperson, membership@mnrtriumphs.org

FOMO /fō-()mō/ noun, definition: Abbreviation for “Fear of missing out.” Anxiety that an interesting event may currently be happening elsewhere, often aroused by posts seen on social media.

Don't get FOMO! You wouldn't want to miss out on the Triumph Club's award winning newsletters, emails, drives and events for 2025! It's that time of year again to renew your Triumph Club membership for 2025. If you are a new member and joined after September 1 of 2024, your renewal for 2025 is automatic.

We ended 2024 with 146 “household” memberships with over 200 members on our roster!

If you wish to join our club or renew your membership, please register and pay electronically through our website's “membership” page. This is the easiest method for all involved.

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

Or join in person by attending a club meeting or event anytime. Annual membership fee is \$30 for up to two members in your household. New membership includes one Triumph name badge, car window cling and access to our club events and email support group.

The MN Triumphs welcomes the following new members since our last meeting:

- Paul Schmidt – 72 TR6
- Matthew Patera – 72 GT6
- Scott McGarvey – 69 TR6
- Aaron Gjerde – 80 Spitfire
- Rich Walter – 79 Spitfire
- Reginal Lyman Smith – 60 TR3A
- Mark Hiel - 71 Spitfire



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.

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)

A Toast to the New Year

By Bill Connell

Two dozen hearty souls gathered atop the bluff at Birkmose Park for the traditional toast to the new year. The temperature was in the mid-teens with a breeze that made you wish for warmer gloves.



Despite the cold weather, Dave Heglund took advantage of the clear roads to bring his GT6 out for the day (see cover photo).

Nonetheless, friends were greeted, toasts made and home-made treats consumed, then everyone rolled into Hudson for a warm breakfast at Dick's Bar and Grill.

Many thanks to our new events coordinator Judy Sherwood for putting together a nice welcome to the new year.



Team Red Race Report - Hallett 2024

By Greg Thompson

The final race of the year was a reunion of sorts, but also a final goodbye.

I had not raced with my Texas Triumph friends and Corinthian Vintage Auto Racing since a cold rainy spring race at Eagles Canyon in April of 2023. The venue was Hallett Motor Racing Circuit just west of

memory of Bob Blake, the person I bought the car from. His son Greg strapped Bob's helmet onto the roll bar of his TR3 for one more lap.

Greg and Bob had a great relationship but their times together at the track were extra special. Greg said at times the tears were flowing so hard he had trouble seeing the track! All the corner workers stood at



Tulsa, which is a 1.8-mile 10 turn course that is not particularly fast but has many challenging turns with names like Deadhorse, Everybody's Favorite, and The Bitch. During the weekend, while navigating the Bitch, a Sprite got up on 2 wheels and managed to save it before rolling over.

On Saturday after the afternoon race, several of us did a lap of the track in

attention and saluted as we passed as Bob was also a veteran. A very emotional and fitting end to his racing career.

Red 146 was running the same as it did during the September weekend at Road America, so small changes suggested by Greg Blake, the original builder of the engine, were employed throughout the weekend. After changing to yet



Team Red Race Report, cont'd

another new set of needles, only a small improvement was made. He suggested checking the jets on the bottom of the H6 carbs.

On the race car, the choke linkage is discarded and a spring installed hold them in place. The 4-cylinder engine goes through a couple of harmonic vibrations in its rev range, one at about 4500 rpm's and one just past 6000. Going through those harmonic vibrations, the crank will flex and twist the block moving things you thought impossible to move.

Sure enough, the spring was not doing its job, making one carb run much richer than the other, leading to more unbalance. I also

decided to throw in the original needle that was in it before the engine was rebuilt and the car came alive. I was pumped. I had one more session to put down some good times.

Greg Blake is no slouch on the track. His TR3 is very quick and together they won the Kastner Cup in 2014. I have a way to go to match his driving skill, but I was able to keep up with him! After the final race he said it was the fastest Red 146 has ever gone. I took that as a compliment as to what I have done to improve the handling and performance of the car.

Looking forward to the 2025 race season and what it holds.

Tech Sessions - Frank Weber

Tech sessions are a great way to learn about your car or get help with your Triumph project. They can be anything from sharing specialized techniques to help learning how to tune up a Triumph to extra hands separating a car's body from the frame.



If you have a Triumph project you need help with, or have an idea for tech session, please contact me at: frankj.weber3@gmail.com or 952-934-0523.

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

TR4 Speedometer fix

By Terry Mackey

Coming back from VTR in Indiana last year, the speedometer went from bouncing needle to nothing. Took out speedo and hooked up to a drill... worked fine.

After replacing trans and overdrive in 2023, an access panel was cut in the tunnel for the solenoid and speedo



angle drive/cable. Paid off! I opened the panel to disconnect cable and used the drill again to test...all good.

Then removed angle drive and bench tested. Worked fine except when under load. Replacing it and the copper washer.

Without an access panel on a TR4A both seats and center console need to be removed with choke and heater controls. Disconnect the OD wiring, remove carpet and tunnel...then reassemble everything.

The point is...with an access panel only the passenger seat is removed. This entire project should only take a few hours.



Rebuild update: Opus the TR6

By Tom Kroeten

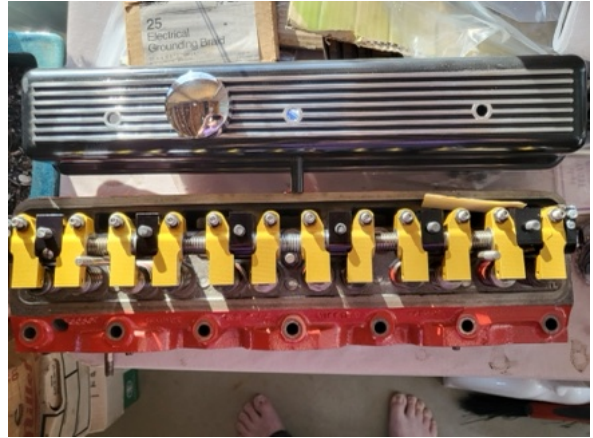
I changed direction on my build of Opus last year after pausing to look after senior family members.

I removed the entire front suspension for rebuild and upgrades, finished my gearbox and overdrive rebuilds (thanks Greg Thompson for shift cover machining and rebuild coaching), added roller rockers and fuel injection.

Upgraded axles and hubs all four corners and added a roll bar.

Next up: removing the windshield frame and replacing the hacked up metal dash and cover. Registered for the September 25 Waumandee hill climb, hoping to be on the road June or July.

Apologies to the purists in the club for the red engine 😊.



Rebuild update: Ester the Estate Wagon

By Pat Kessler

Since last time I updated, Ester has come out of her cocoon. From primer to real paint, was no small task. Bob does our painting in our shop, so small, had to do in many stages.

First engine compartment, then 2nd, interior, 3rd, underside, 4th, doors, 5th, then fenders and hood. All needing taped off from other parts of car each time, or on jack stands. Then where do you put all separate painted parts? Last, paint the outside body.

After all that, put parts back on car. Now in these cars the window surrounds are painted white, more taping and covering all that has been painted already. So with that complete now, pictures are showing car looking red but is actually a root beer color. The color is Burnt Copper Pearl! Not an original Triumph color.



On to the mechanics: rebuilt TR3 engine, tranny with rebuilt overdrive. These cars had their engines painted gold, weird right?



Next, suspension re-engineering etc. Winter will be busy and more head scratching til the next update.



Return to the Tail of the Dragon III October 2nd Through 5th, 2025

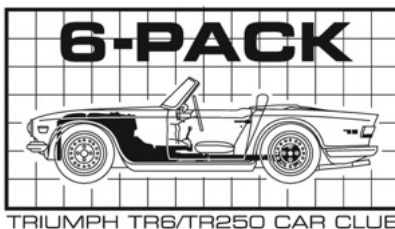
Book your reservation prior to July 1st, 2025...

And give the group name "6 Pack Trials" to ensure availability and group rates

<https://jimholewka.wixsite.com/trials2025>

Fontana Village Resort
300 Wood Road, Fontana Dam, NC 28733
1-800-849-2258

www.facebook.com and search Trials 2025



Triumph Trader

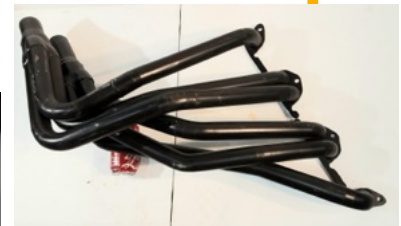
For Sale

Triumph TR2 or TR3 used chrome luggage racks: one very nice \$300 and one broken and welded \$30.

Triumph TR4, TR250 and TR6 Floor pans: The Roadster Factory new galvanized steel floor pans for left and right sides \$300 each.

TR6 parts:

- Rebuilt Zenith Stromberg CD175 SEVX carbs (uninstalled) \$500 for pair.
- 2 used, unrebuilt Zenith Stromberg CD175 carbs \$40 each.
- New AP clutch pressure plate \$100.
- Used Lucas 22D6 #41385A 02-73 distributor for 1971 to 1973 \$40.
- Used Weber MCHH-2 Carburetor pair with linkage bracket and adapters to TR6 manifold \$300. 1 additional used Weber MCHH-2 carburetor \$150.
- Used TR6 boot covers: 3-New tan color and 2-beige color \$40 each.
- New TR6 headers, 2-piece mild steel \$200.
- Used TR6 front bumper nice chrome, but some dents \$50.
- Used TR6 stock padded steering column lock with key and ignition switch \$60.
- 2 Used TR6 rear hubs \$80 each.
- 1 New front brake caliper \$40.
- 1 Used wiper motor \$40.



Numerous new and used parts leftover from restoration of my 1972 TR6 including:

New suspension bushings, new gaskets, new dash light bulbs, new knobs, new choke cable, used speedo cables, battery hold down, new convertible top seals, new gas tank sending unit, used fuel pump, new fuel pump rebuild kit, new color coded wiring diagram, new disk brake pads, new right side front caliper, used gas filler cap, new red Furflex door seals, used clutch slave cylinder and pushrods, rough dash support, new distributor points plate and cap, new chrome headlight trim ring, auxiliary engine oil line, used left window glass bottom channel, new black lap belts, new Lucas wiper wheel box, new sun visor retainers, used rear license plate light lenses, new accelerator shaft bushings, new door hinge, new engine thrust washers, new rear fender TR6 decals (white), 2 used dashboard controls plinths, used dash gauges.

Contact Bill Furey: 651-263-9542 or william_furey@yahoo.com. Local pick up only.

Triumph Trader

Wanted

We need some original steel TR3 wheels, 15", 3 of them for Ester. They need to be straight, not bent, rust is not an issue as long as they are not pitted too bad. We have 6, but 3 are bent, so need good ones.

Bob & Pat Kessler: 608-860-0613, bpbritish@aol.com

For Sale

Spitfire parts, for mk4 and 1500 models. Doors and door parts, suspension parts, trim parts, dash parts, gauges, wheels, steering column, etc.

Doug Burch: 763-568-6499, doug.a.burch@gmail.com

For Sale

1969 TR6, about 87000 miles, \$8000

I'd call the car pretty original and a solid daily driver. I have records going back many years.

I put on new tires and brakes, did engine work and have enjoyed driving it these past two summers. We are getting a new dog and my wife wants a car with a full back seat.

The car is in storage for the winter but have access to it for any interested parties.

If anyone is interested or knows someone who is just reply to this email or give me a call.

Tom Hanson: 651-248-1805



Triumph Trader

For Sale

Brand new, never installed TR6 4 hole Center Switch pad and Speaker Panel Kit. Both from The Roadster Factory (part #s 718787 and RFK518).

\$50 for Center Switch Pad and \$80 for the Speaker Panel kit. Since I'm in FL, buyer will need to pay shipping.

Steve Greenstein, 651-494-7214



For Sale

1980 TR7 DHC project. Straight rust-free body. Stripped ready for priming, block sanding and painting. Has a John's Cars kit in a 3800 Buick Fuel Injected engine and 4L60E over-drive transmission.

The project comes with headers, new aluminum radiator, new top, new windscreen, complete tan interior, completely new front suspension including struts, rack and TR8 brakes. Lots more new stuff. Most parts to finish. \$1500.

Bought another project, lost storage for this one and it's in my way.

Contact Roger: kraemer@q.com or 651-207-3920 phone or text.

For Sale

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

Wayne Morris: wmorris11134@yahoo.com or call 612-723-4602 or text.



Club Calendar

If you'd like to host an event email events@mntriumphs.org and let's make a club outing of it!

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

March

- 8** Minnesota Valley Winter Rally
- 15** Celebrate/toast the Ides of March at Judy Sherwood's house, Centerville. Bonfire, appetizers will be furnished. Followed by lunch at The Blue Heron Bar and Grill in Hugo, MN. Details to follow.

April

- 26** Spring Shakedown Cruise to Wabasha, MN. Meet at 10 am in Roseville, parking lot by Lucky 13. Drive to Wabasha, lunch at the newly-renovated Silver Star Saloon - good beer selection; crappy wine. Visit the National Eagle Center, Lark's Toy Store (best in the nation!) or shop 'til you drop. It's the home of Grumpy Old Men.

May

- 17** InterMarque Spring Kickoff Car Show, Osseo MN

June

- 5-8** Rendezvous! In Grand Rapids MN, hosted by the Healey and MG clubs
<https://www.rendezvous2025.com/>

July

- 12** Cedar Lake Speedway car show
- 15-18** MN Triumphs host the 2025 North American Triumph Challenge VTR Nationals, LaCrosse, WI
<http://vtr2025.org>

August

- TBA** MN TR picnic, details to follow

September

- 14** Grape Stomp at Carlos Creek Winery, Alexandria, MN

October

- TBA** Oktoberfest in New Ulm, details to follow

November

- TBA** High Tea, date, time, details to follow

October

- 2-5** 6-Pack TRials, Fontana Dam, NC, featuring drives through Tail of the Dragon



In the Rear View Mirror

Bill Nelson, club historian



5 years ago January 2020

- The cover of the newsletter has color photos credited to Steve S. of the Fall Color Tour.
- Greg Thompson had a write up for The Season of Youth. This story was about his adventures with spitfires in various states of being.
- The winter Party will be on January 26, 2020 at Joseph's Grill in St. Paul.

10 Years Ago January 2015

- The Minnesota Triumphs Winter Party will be held at Dangerfield's in Shakopee on Sunday January 25, 2015.
- The newsletter has a write up including photos of the upgrading of the motor for Rick Morris' 1976 TR6.
- From the Triumph Trader. Mark was looking for 1969-1972 reclining high back seats for TR6 or Spitfire.



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Triumphs & Tribulations

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