

Vol. 28, No. 12  
December 2009

# THE BLUEBONNET

---

## *News from the Texas Triumph Register*



**Sam and Tere Jeffries' 1964 Spitfire 4 after extensive renovation, once again road-worthy.**

Copyright 2009, Texas Triumph Register.

## **The Texas Triumph Register**

The Texas Triumph Register (TTR), founded in 1981, is an organization of Triumph owners and enthusiasts dedicated to the preservation and continuing enjoyment of the Marque. Membership is open to all who appreciate automobiles bearing the Triumph name. In addition to monthly meetings, the club sponsors rallies, shows, road tours, technical seminars, and social events.

Visit our website at:

[www.TexasTriumphRegister.org](http://www.TexasTriumphRegister.org)

## **National Affiliations**

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

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

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

## ***The Bluebonnet***

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

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

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

## **TTR 2009/2010 Officers and Volunteers**

### ***President***

Eric Schumann  
281.370.5582 (home)  
[eric.schumnn@gmail.com](mailto:eric.schumnn@gmail.com)

### ***Vice President***

Bill Papp  
281.350.1743  
[billpapp@comcast.net](mailto:billpapp@comcast.net)

### ***Vice President — Events***

Vern Burnett  
281-373-1060  
[vern\\_burnett@yahoo.com](mailto:vern_burnett@yahoo.com)

### ***Secretary***

Bob Delery  
936.447.3614 (home)  
[jbrdelery@cebridge.net](mailto:jbrdelery@cebridge.net)

### ***Treasurer***

Dustin Nicholson  
281.647.9877 (home)  
[nicholsondustin@yahoo.com](mailto:nicholsondustin@yahoo.com)

### ***Membership/Historian***

Mike Hado  
281.807.4780 (home)  
713.797.8911 (work)  
[mdhado@comcast.net](mailto:mdhado@comcast.net)

### ***Regalia***

John Wakefield  
713.690.5010 (home)  
[jwwakefield@gmail.com](mailto:jwwakefield@gmail.com)

### ***Bluebonnet Editors***

Diane and Bill Parker  
936.597.6253 (home)  
[dianeparker1@consolidated.net](mailto:dianeparker1@consolidated.net)  
[billparker1@consolidated.net](mailto:billparker1@consolidated.net)

### ***The Bluebonnet's Muse***

Jeff Harris  
[jharrispe@yahoo.com](mailto:jharrispe@yahoo.com)

Copy deadline for the ***Bluebonnet*** is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. [Ed.: And I really mean it!]

***From the President . . .***

The November meeting was held at the home of Rick and Lindsey Trenholme in The Woodlands [all photos this page]. We wrapped up final plans for this year's Christmas Party and discussed other upcoming **TTR** events. Thanks to Lindsey and Rick for hosting.

Sharon and I have just returned from a week-long cruise to the Bahamas. The first day on the ship, while sitting around enjoying an adult beverage, Sharon spotted a man in the distance wearing a T-shirt that appeared to have British and Texas flags on the back. Later that day we saw him again and sure enough he was a member of the Austin Jaguar club. Seems no matter where you go you run across fellow British car people. He was on the cruise with several other club members. Seems like an idea for a **TTR** road trip . . . well, maybe a sea-trip!

It's the Holiday Season! Time to hide the scales and enjoy the parties and family gatherings. I hope each of you has recovered from your Thanksgiving feast and had a great Thanksgiving.

As always, I hope to see each of you at our monthly meetings, Saturday morning breakfasts, or our other events. Be sure to see the Events Section of ***The Bluebonnet*** or check the web site for a chance to meet other club members and an excuse to get out of the house.

***And remember: Get out and drive a Triumph!***

***Eric***



## Armchair Gimmick Rallye

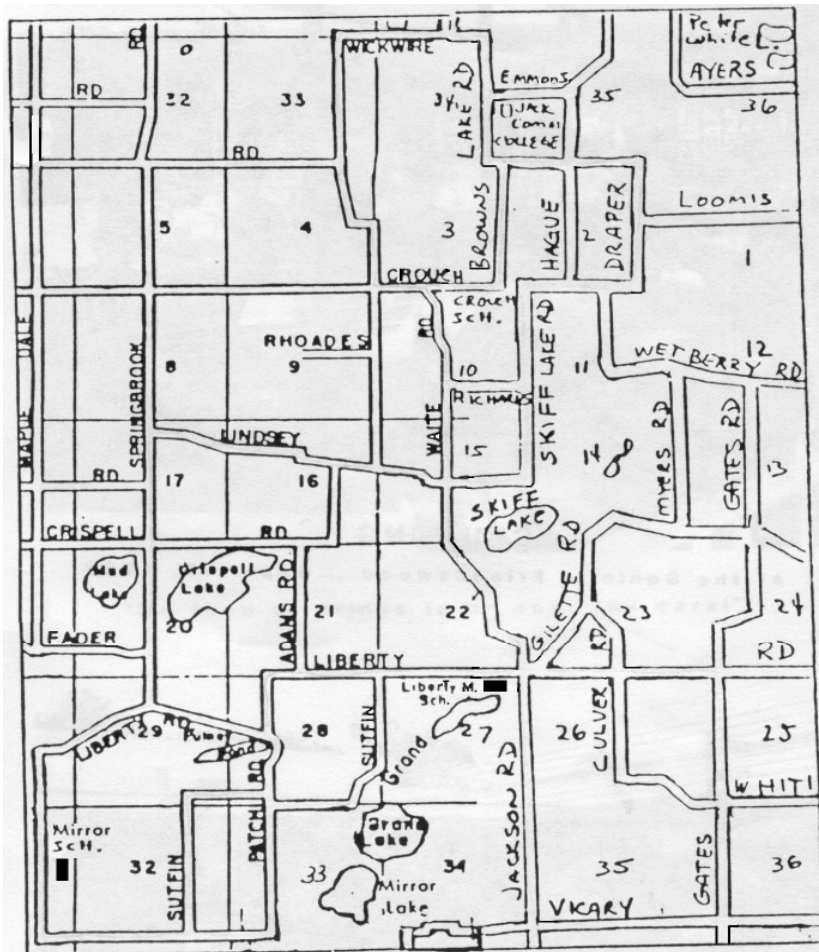
This paper rallye was created by Chuck Morris and appeared in the November 1988 issue of the *Bluebonnet*. Since we haven't had an official Wild Turkey Gimmick Rallye in quite a while, I thought it would be nice to remember Chuck by reprinting one of his classics. (Mike Hado)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

If you are placed on a road by name, stay on it until a route instruction takes you off it. At other times go as straight as possible.

1. Begin by traveling on Gates Rd. away from the bottom edge of the map. Do you pass Viceroy? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Left on Liberty. What's the name of the second road you pass that begins with the letter "S"? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Right on Sutfin.
4. Right first opportunity. What school do you pass? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Left first opportunity.
6. Right on Lindsey. Do you pass a street that begins with the letter "C"? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Left on Crouch.
8. Right at first opportunity. What road are you on? \_\_\_\_\_  
On what road do you leave the map? \_\_\_\_\_

Easy, right? [Answers on page 12.]





## *A First (Car) Love Story with a Happy Ending*

You may have seen commercials for Papa John's Pizza with the chain's founder, John Schnatter, driving a classic 1971 Camaro Z-28. There is quite a story associated with the car. There's no Triumph content here, but most of us can identify with a former car that we wish we would have (or *could* have) kept.

The gold and black Camaro was the pride and joy of a teenaged John Schnatter. John's dad owned a tavern in Jeffersonville, Indiana. The business was struggling to stay afloat, and so, in 1983, John sold the car for \$2800. The proceeds helped save his Dad's business and, with the remainder, he started what would become a worldwide pizza business.

As John became more successful, his thoughts returned to his old Camaro and he embarked on a mission to find the car. He offered \$250,000 to anyone who found the car. Papa John's Pizza (NASDAQ-PZZA) is based in Louisville, Kentucky. As it turned out, John's Camaro only had two owners since he sold it in 1983. Jeffery Robinson of Flatwoods, Kentucky, was the owner of the car in the summer of 2009. Robinson had owned the Camaro for about five years. He paid \$4000 for the car. That's a 6150% gain over a 5-year period!

Schnatter says the car looks much as he remembered, although it has been equipped with a larger engine and larger tires. He plans on displaying the car at the company headquarters in Louisville.

You can purchase a model (pictured above) of Papa John's Camaro from Johnny Lightning. The models cost \$4.99 each. The back of the package includes a coupon for a free medium-sized cheese pizza. For each model car purchased, Papa John's will donate \$1 to the Marine Toys for Tots foundation. (Jeff Harris)

(Sources: [www.egmcartech.com](http://www.egmcartech.com), [www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com))



**(Left) Teenaged John Schnatter with his 1971 Camaro Z-28.**

**(Bottom) Jeffery Robinson, left, with Schnatter's Camaro.**



## *How the Spitfire Got Its Name*

It is now history that the Spitfire and Hurricane fighting craft used by the Royal Air Force virtually won the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940. The name of Spitfire, especially, has become world-famous.

After the war, in the early sixties, so the story goes, Air Marshall Tedder of the Royal Air Force retired from the service and became chairman of Standard/Triumph cars. One day he was approached by the head of Vickers/Supermarine, makers of the Spitfire aircraft and which company at that time was producing the Viscount passenger aircraft, the first with turbine engines. He asked Tedder if Standard/Triumph would allow the name of Vanguard (at that time a popular sedan model produced by Standard/Triumph in Britain) to be used on Vicker's next passenger aircraft. Tedder agreed on condition that Standard/Triumph could use the Spitfire name on their new low-cost sports car, first introduced in 1962.

The Spitfire aircraft has a very long and distinguished history and there are whole books devoted to this subject. It originally was developed from the Supermarine float planes, which won the Schneider Trophy races and established a new world air speed record in the 1920's. Their designer, R.J. Mitchell, developed a land-based fighter version which first flew in 1936. Tragically, Mitchell died at age 42 in 1937 and never saw his masterpiece go into action.

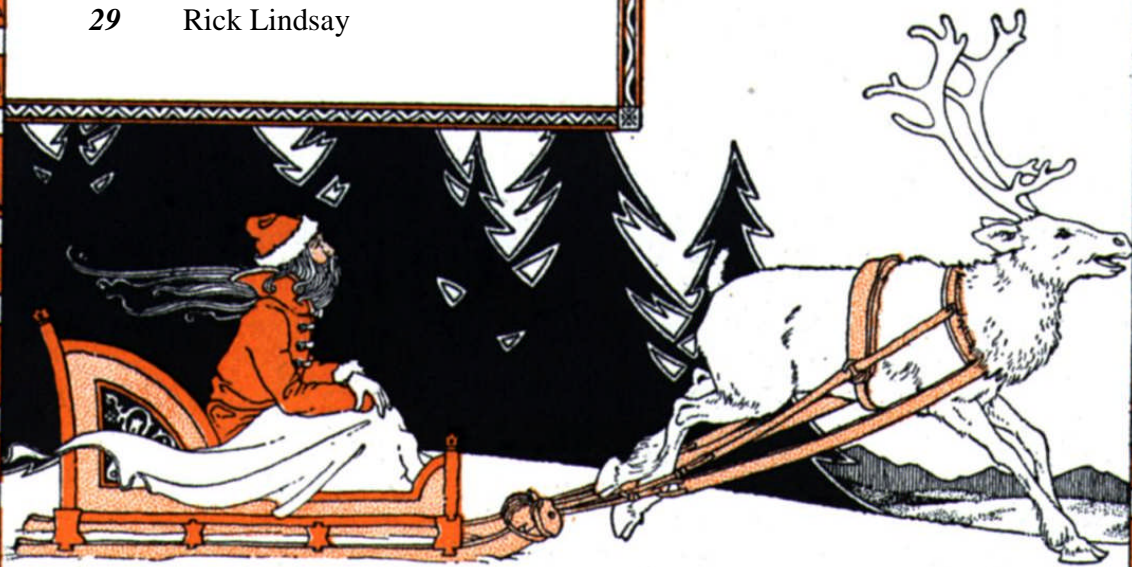
The photograph here was taken by New Yorker Phil Mazzurco. The aircraft shown had Ginger Lacey as its first pilot and is now owned by Commodore Alan H, Wheeler, who keeps it at Booker Aerodrome near Marlow about 30 miles west of London. Incidentally, there were at least three executives on the staff of British Leyland in the USA at that time that flew the Spitfire aircraft.

*Courtesy of Triumph Sports Owners Association*



### *December Birthdays*

- 4 Linda Timmons
- 6 Dennis Lubojacky
- 8 Jackie Switzer  
Rod Rebant
- 9 Angie Woodward  
John Blum
- 17 Diane Ziman  
Rob Bigsby
- 19 Randy DeRuiter
- 20 Michael Lacey
- 22 Lisa Switzer  
Jim Biggerstaff
- 24 Tom Marsh
- 28 Marilyn Rebant  
Howard Schultze
- 29 Rick Lindsay



## Triumph TR2 through TR4A Cylinder Heads

Model	Engine Numbers	Piston Dia.	Comp. Ratio	Intake Port Dia.	Bevel*	Exh. Valve	Notes
TR2	To 9349E	83mm	8.5:1	1-1/2" ?	No	3 Springs?	"Low Port" head. Most restricted airflow in intake.
TR2, 3	To 13051E	83mm	8.5:1	1-1/2" ?	No	3 Springs?	"Le Mans" head. Low port but with different passage angles for better air flow.
TR3, 3A, 3B	From 13052E	83mm	8.5:1	1-5/8"	Yes	3 Springs	First high-port heads. All later heads have basically the same configuration. Better air flow than previous heads.
TR3B, 4	To 21470E	86mm	9:1	1-5/8"	Yes	3 Springs	Bevel started for better mixing and to keep compression down to 9:1 with larger pistons.
TR4, 4A	From 21471E	86mm	9:1	1-1/2"	Yes	2 Springs, Different Stem Dia.	Has best low and mid RPM intake airflow. High range suffers slightly. Aluminum pushrod tubes in head.

\* Bevel is located on bottom of head at edge of each cylinder opposite spark plug hole.

Additional notes: Both TR4 & 4A had an optional 83mm head for competition in under 2 liter classes. These may be TR3 heads. All heads fit on all engines. The only known problem is clearance between water inlet and water pump housing of early heads if milled deeply. Metal could be removed from the housing to provide clearance. Heads without bevels (8.5:1 spec) when used with 86mm pistons provide approximately 9.24:1 compression ratio.

Submitted by Mike Hado. Technical information courtesy of TeriAnn Wakeman, Moss Motors, and Ken Gilanders.



## Events

<i>Dec. 5<sup>th</sup></i>	Breakfast @ La Madeleine French Bakery and Cafe, Meyerland Plaza (713-218-8075)
<i>Dec. 12<sup>th</sup></i>	Breakfast @ Clementine's Restaurant, 6448 FM 1960 West (281-440-5310) <b>Annual TTR Holiday Party</b> , Carmelo's Ristorante on Memorial Dr.
<i>Dec. 19<sup>th</sup></i>	Breakfast @ Humble City Cafe, 200 Main Street (281-319-0200)
<i>Dec. 26<sup>th</sup></i>	Breakfast @ Triple A Restaurant, 2526 Airline Drive (713-861-3422)
<i>Jan. 9<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>TTR Monthly Meeting</b> at the Fowlers' home
<i>Feb. 13<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>TTR Monthly Meeting</b> at the Papps' home
<i>Mar. 13<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>TTR Monthly Meeting</b> at the Delereys' home
<i>Apr. 10<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>TTR Monthly Meeting</b> at the Reynolds' home
<i>May 1-2</i>	2010 Wheels and Keels Show, Seabrook
<i>May 8<sup>th</sup></i>	<b>TTR Monthly Meeting</b> at more than one home on Lake Livingston

---

The breakfast group gathers at 8:00 a.m. and orders breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Because locations may change (especially for breakfast), always check our website the day before the event: [www.TexasTriumphRegister.org](http://www.TexasTriumphRegister.org).

---



### **Triumph Trivia:**

***What Triumphs were unkindly referred to in England as a “hairdresser’s car”?***

A *hairdresser’s car* in the UK is any small, inexpensive roadster that is showy but not considered a true sports car by the automotive media and sports car “purists.” It was applied to both the Spitfire and TR7 when they were first introduced. However, the term has more recently been applied to the BMW Z3 and Mercedes-Benz SLK — neither one inexpensive, but both more luxury two-seat convertibles than true sports cars.

[From *The Triumph Herald*, newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Triumph Club, Dec. 2009.]

***Our Next Meeting is Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> . . .***

***at Carmelo's Ristorante***

***14795 Memorial Drive, Houston***

***6:30 p.m.***

This year, invitations and responses for the party were handled electronically. If you are a club member and would like to attend the party, please go to:

**[http://www.evite.com/pages/invite/viewInvite.jsp?inviteId=\]QPAPBGPRMGJQNZEPQC&li=iq&src=email&trk=aei6](http://www.evite.com/pages/invite/viewInvite.jsp?inviteId=]QPAPBGPRMGJQNZEPQC&li=iq&src=email&trk=aei6)**

All of the information you need to make your reservation ; locate Carmelo's is in the e-invitation.



**Breakfast at Otto's.**



**Meeting at the Trenholmes'.**

## ***What's the Sign?***

Submitted by Mike Hado

[This quiz originally appeared in the May 1961 *New York Times Magazine*.]

Most Triumph owners have learned British terminology associated with car parts, but what about driving terms?

Listed below are 15 British highway sign markings with the translation into American. Can you match them up?

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Road liable to subsidence | A. Delivery entrance            |
| 2. No locomotives            | B. Exit                         |
| 3. End of prohibition        | C. Parking for buses            |
| 4. Diversion                 | D. Dips ahead                   |
| 5. Lay by                    | E. Detour                       |
| 6. Loose chippings           | F. To the races                 |
| 7. Tram pinch                | G. Traffic laws                 |
| 8. To the chaseways          | H. No parking on shoulder       |
| 9. Ring road                 | I. End speed zone               |
| 10. Left coming              | J. Fallen rock zone             |
| 11. Way out                  | K. Squeeze ahead – trolley line |
| 12. No stopping on verge     | L. Emergency roadside parking   |
| 13. Safety town ahead        | M. Belt parkway                 |
| 14. Coach park               | N. Merging traffic – left       |
| 15. Goods entrance           | O. No steam rollers             |

Answers on page 12.



**Meeting at the Trenholmes'.**



**The Reynolds' new old car.**

## CLASSIFIEDS

Noncommercial classified ads are free to members and inexpensive for everyone else! Just \$30 per ad for six issues and six months on the web site. Photos run as space available. (Ads will run for the full term unless cancelled in writing.) Service ads run until cancelled, as space available.

### For Sale:

**1974 TR6 (CF13666U).** 4-speed, in-line 6 cylinder. New: paint, carpet, seats, top, tires, shocks, battery, ignition coil, am/fm radio w/CD player w/rear-mounted speakers. Undercoated, rust free, clear title. \$15,500 firm. Contact Gary Myers (cell: 979-877-9420, home: 979-865-5863). TTR member.

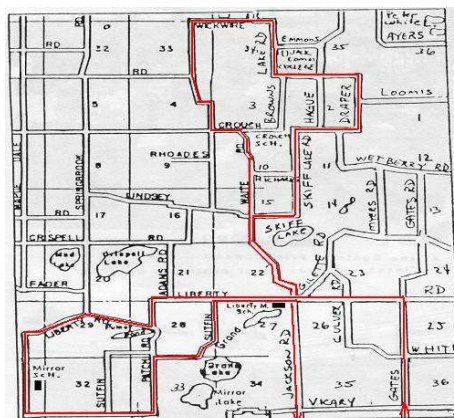
**1958 Morgan, +4 4-seater.** Restoration 1998; always garaged since. Car dismantled, new wood as needed, floors, inner fenders, all other wood joints reglued, body panels painted off car, then assembled. Factory leather seats, rebuilt side curtains, complete weather gear (not new, but serviceable), custom safari top for summer driving. Rebuilt gauges (dash switches from younger car), under dash plugs for Garmin or cell phone charger, oversized radiator, electric fan, geared starter. Original engine; all numbers match, engine rebuilt in 2007 by Mike Hado, transmission renewed in 2007 by Russ Seto, electronic ignition, grease zerks on sliding pillars, 72 spoke chrome wire wheels, 3 time concours winner! Inquire: Andy Martin, [andy@opinions-unlimited.com](mailto:andy@opinions-unlimited.com), home: 713-975-0098, cell: 832-372-9804. TTR Member.

### Free to a Good Home:

Two stainless-steel Falcon brand mufflers, made in England, model FSTH73-5302. Like new, used only about 500 miles on a TR6, then removed. Contact Mike at 281-807-4780 or [mdhado@comcast.net](mailto:mdhado@comcast.net).

### Answers, **Armchair Gimmick Rallye:**

1. No
2. Springbrook
4. Liberty M. Sch.
6. No
- 8a. Waite Rd.
- 8b. Jackson Rd.



Answers, **What's the Sign?:** 1-D, 2-O, 3-E, 4-I, 5-L, 6-J, 7-K, 8-F, 9-M, 10-N, 11-B, 12-H, 13-G, 14-C, 15-A.



## Texas Triumph Register All-Purpose Membership Form

The TTR meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. For more information, contact Mike Hado (281.807.4780). We look forward to meeting you!

Check one:     New Membership                       Renewal                       Update

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
    Birthday (month/day) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
    Birthday (month/day) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Model/Color/Condition*</u>	<u>Commission (serial) No.</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

O = original, R = restored, B = being restored (or will be), P = parts car.

Dues: **\$30 per year per family**. Make check payable to the Texas Triumph Register (P.O. Box 40847, Houston, TX 77240-0847). Your cancelled check is your receipt.