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May 2009

THE BLUEBONNET

News from the Texas Triumph Register



TTR Triumphs at 2009 Regionals!

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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

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

www.triumphregister.com

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 2008/2009

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The Bluebonnet's Muse

Jeff Harris

Copy deadline for the *Bluebonnet*: the 20th of each month. [Ed.: And this time I mean it!]

Reminder: Your dues are due June 1st!

From the President

The April meeting was held at the home of Valerie and Randy DeRuiter in West Houston. Thanks to Valerie and Randy for hosting the meeting and putting on a great spread for the members. We also got a chance to check out their recently acquired TR3 restoration project. Time to get to work Randy. The 2010 Regionals are a year away in Oklahoma.

Speaking of Regionals (how's that for a lead-in), approximately 40 **TTR** members with 22 LBCs were in attendance for the event held April 22 through 25 in Marble Falls. This year's event was hosted by The Hill Country Triumph Club and they did a great job. Once again TTR members took home many of the awards, including Best of Show to Mike Hado and Fastest Time of the Day to Dusty Nicholson. A complete listing of **TTR** award winners appears later in this issue. If you were unable to make it to Marble Falls, check out The Hill Country Triumph Club web site as they will be posting pictures in the next few days: www.hillcountrytriumphclub.org.

Work on my project car continues and, as previously reported, I have completed the rebuild of the brake and clutch master cylinders and the clutch slave cylinder. The next step was to install the fuel lines to the gas tank as I have been running the car from a fuel line stuck in a gallon gas can. A few words of advice: After connecting the line to the tank of a car that has not been driven for over 20 years, do not pour in 5 gallons of gas. Why, you may ask? There may be a hole in the tank! I believe I may hold the world's record for removal of a gas tank as the fuel ran onto the garage floor. Oh, well, you live and you learn.

I hope to see all of you at this month's meeting which will be held at our house on Lake Livingston. I guess it's time to give Marti and Len Myers a break after hosting is for all these years. See you there.



As always, I hope to see each and every one of you at monthly meetings, our Saturday morning breakfasts, or other of our 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



On to Regionals!



We dine at only the best places ...

*Minutes of the April 11, 2009
Meeting of the Texas Triumph Register*

Oops ... there aren't any ...
but there was an April meeting at the DeRuiters'
(see below).





So Long, Slalom, Shalom.

by Marie Hado

Growing up in the hills of Western Pennsylvania, both Mike and I cut our eye teeth driving on some pretty awesome hills. You had to know how to play both gas and brake at the stop signs and lights or you could be in big trouble. Learning to drive a stick shift, I had to sit through three stoplights sometimes with cars driving around me and honking — or worse — trying to get off the inclines. But after living in the Houston area for more than 30 years, it is seldom that we get to drive on anything resembling the hills of Marble Falls, Texas. For amusement, we sometimes take the grandkids riding on Beltway 8 to I-10 or 290, just so we can say, “Wheee!” and “Isn’t this a roller coaster ride?”

So on Friday afternoon at Regionals, my husband and his car were excited about this new event called “Stone Mountain Slalom” and the possibilities it held for a fun ride. The Slalom was in a subdivision with only three homes and a ¾-mile drive main street up a steep and winding road to the top. Wow, it looked like great fun!

The cars were permitted to drive the course once following a lead car just for practice and also to drop off passengers who wanted to watch the event from about half way up the course. Luckily Mike and I followed Liz Reynolds to the tippy top or we might have run over the cones in the middle of the street instead of winding our way around them — like you’re supposed to do. This could have been taken as an omen that was ignored. Sharon Schumann, Marti Myers with Louie (the Reynolds’ new puppy), Louise Carter, and I were deposited and the cars went back down the drive.

I thought I was a little too far from the action so I walked down the hill past the professional photographers and sat on a large rock to watch because by that time I was being told to “Stay off the course!!!!”

About 7 to 9 cars had made it through the Slalom nicely when Mike “Speed Demon” Hado came roaring by. I made the comment to the photographer that that was my husband and he seemed to be driving faster than the other cars. Just as I said that we heard “SCREECH!!!” Chills ran up my arms as I waited to hear the sound that surely must follow. I felt comforted by the photographer saying she did not hear a crash so all must be well. Now I was just a little upset over Mick driving so recklessly in his baby that he had worked on night and day for 10 months to get restored for the Regional Concourse which hadn’t even been held yet.

As I sat there fuming, the first 7 to 9 drivers started to come slowly down the hill to get ready for another climb and also to let the next group of cars take their turn. But where was my husband? I waited and waited. Now I was worried. I had to walk up to the top and see for myself if he was okay. What if he had wrenched his shoulder or something and I should be feeling sorry for him instead of angry? Guilt was getting the better of me. What kind of wife was I? How supportive was I being? Should I be nice when I finally saw him or read him the Riot Act?

As I neared the bend where Emeraldalda had gone off the road, I could see the tire marks in the mud about 18 inches from a tree. I was kind of stunned. Everyone rushed over to say that Mike was well and had managed to come out of the skid like a pro. Someone was carrying sand down in the car to sop up the oil and/or water that had leaked out of our car. A very nice guy offered to take me to the top of the hill where Mike was in the driveway putting water in the radiator which had overflowed. There were calls on the two-way radios for a broom to clear the road. It was becoming a little too much like a scene from “CSI” up there.

After the radiator was full again, we “slowly” started our descent. We weren’t speaking (I felt it was better to remain quiet at this point), but the crowd at the top of the hill cheered us on. At the bottom of the hill there was quite another scene. It looked like a riot. I felt like a criminal must feel being led into court through an angry crowd. One person catcalled, “So you’re the one responsible for the delay!” “Very nice, Mike,” etc. Could we just drive a little faster now please???

Well, one would think a reasonable person who has just discovered that he installed the wrong radiator cap (it will take a long time to live this one down) on his car and lost all the water and messed up the side of his newly rebuilt car, which, by the way, is running hot, would just admit defeat and be done with it. But, no, not Mike. He ran around and badgered everyone and picked everyone’s brains and borrowed a proper cap for the radiator and got back in line to try again!

So it was off to the sidelines again for me to sit at the bottom of the hill this time with Sharon Wortsman, Linda Jablonski, Sue Gruy, and Linda Rieche under the umbrellas until he got his second chance at that hill. I was literally “burning up” out there, too, but not quite as bad as Sue and Linda.

After the second run and before there was a chance for a third, I mentioned that maybe the auto parts stores would be closing early and we should go look for the radiator cap while we still could. YES!!! That was a good idea. I was SO sorry to have to depart, but we managed to hold our heads up high as we drove off. We were victors who had conquered that hill (Mike and Emeraldalda, not me).

Now, the Autocross Event — that’s a whole ‘nother story. Sadly, we had to depart quietly out the back door after three tries! Those DNFs hurt.



Mike Hado: The Beginning



Mike Hado: The Middle



Mike Hado: The End

***Our Next Meeting is Saturday, May 9th . . .
at the Lake Livingston home of Sharon and Eric Schumann
496 Lakeview Harbor, Lake Livingston
Cell nos.: 713.412.3907 or 832.444.7943***

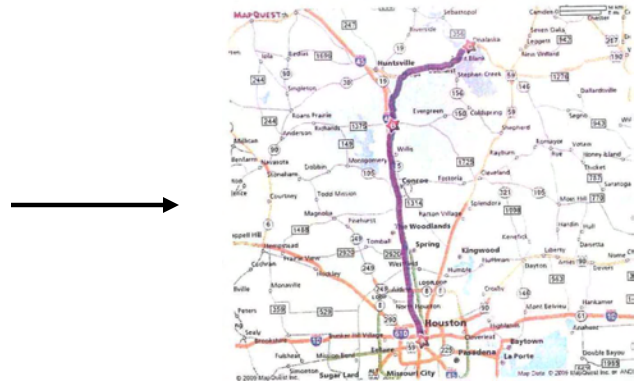
Let's gather at noon and
meet at 1:00.

Bring a dessert if you feel so
inclined ... and a lawn chair!



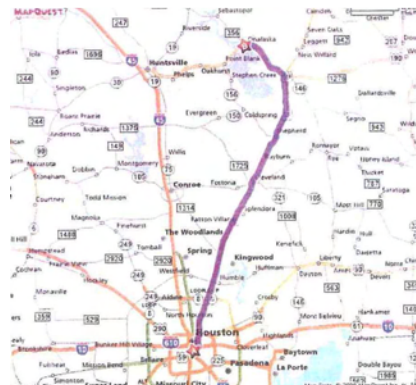
Via I-45

I-45 north to New Waverly. In New Waverly, turn left onto TX-75. Turn right to FM 2296 (sign says to Phelps). Turn right on US 190 to Onalaska. In Onalaska, turn right just past Brookshire Brothers; take a left onto FM 356. ***Go approx. 1 mile, turn left into Pine Harbor subdivision on Pine Harbor Drive. Turn left at stop sign onto Lakeview Drive. Turn left onto Lakeview Harbor to 496 Lakeview Harbor.***



Via I-59:

I-59 to Livingston. In Livingston, turn left onto US 190. In Onalaska, turn right onto FM 356. ***Follow on from bold italic type above.***



**2009 VTR South Central Regionals
Marble Falls, Texas
April 22-26**

TTR Award Winners

Funkhana

2nd place

Mike and Marie Hado

Time/Speed/Distance Rallye

3rd place

Bob and Jan Delery

Stone Mountain Slalom

4 cylinder (TR 2-4 & spitfire)

1st place

Jim Wortsman

2nd place

Mike Hado

6 cylinder (TR 250, TR 6, GT 6)

3rd place

Dave Smith

TR 8 & Modified

1st place (Fastest Time of Day)

Don Carter

Autocross

Ladies Stock TR 2-4

1st place

Melissa Farrell

Ladies Modified

1st place

Louise Carter

Men's Stock Spitfire

3rd place

John Barrett

Men's Stock TR 2 & TR 3

2nd place

Jim Wortsman

Men's Stock TR 4

2nd place

Miles Woodward

Men's Stock TR 6

1st place

Jay Jablonski

2nd place

Doug Trapp

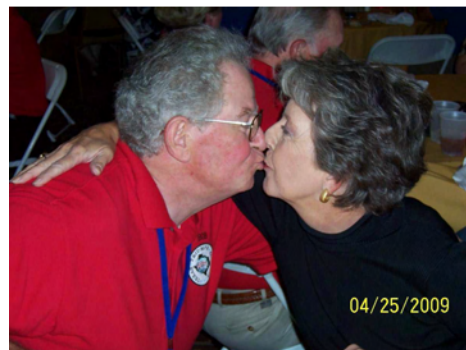
Modified

1st place

Dusty Nicholson

Fastest Time of Day

Dusty Nicholson



The Delerys



Ladies' Hill Climb



Len Myers Autocrossing

Concourse

TR 3A
1ST place

John & Liz Reynolds

TR 3B
1st place
2nd place

Mike & Marie Hado
Jim & Melissa Farrell

TR 4 & 4A
2nd place

Miles Woodward

TR 250
1st place
2nd place

John & Cissy Wakefield
Vern Burnett



The Wakefields

TR 6 Early
2nd place

Dave Smith

TR 6 Mid
2nd place

Jay & Linda Jablonski

TR 6 Late
3rd place

Nick & Julie Roccaforte



The Jablonskis

TR 7
2nd place

Clay Thompson

TR 8
3rd place

Mike & Sue Gruy

Spitfire Early
2nd place

John Barrett

Senior
Late Spitfire
Modified

John & Liz Reynolds
Don & Louise Carter



Best of Show

Best of Show

Mike & Marie Hado

Gary Johnston Memorial Award

Bob & Marilyn Skewis
(Hill Country Triumph Club)



Events

- May 2nd** Breakfast @ Cliff's Hamburgers, 12389 Kingsride Lane (713.647.7466)
- May 9th** Breakfast @ Harris County Smokehouse, 14239 FM 2920, **Tomball** (281.351.4060)
- TTR Annual Meeting** (election of officers), Schumann home on Lake Livingston (bring lawn chairs; lunch provided, but desserts and appetizers appreciated)
- May 16th** Breakfast @ Classic Cafe in Seabrook, 2511A NASA Road One (281.326.1512)
- May 23rd** Breakfast @ Mama's Cafe, 6019 Westheimer near Fountainview (713.266.8514)
- May 30th** Breakfast @ Luby's Cafeteria, 19668 Highway 290 (281.897.0032)
- June 6th** Breakfast @ Skeeter's Mesquite Grill, 1553 South Mason Road (281.398.9260)
- Sep. 30th - Oct. 4th** **2009 VTR Convention**, San Luis Obispo, California (start planning now)

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.

Reminder: Your dues are due June 1st!

Brit Wit

Based on the word clues, make rhyming words that fill the boxes below.
(Answers on p. 8.)

1. **Dog Transporter**

2. **Mischievous Car Flashlight**

3. **Wrist Pin Hammer**



Another rest stop ... another tasteful restaurant.



A real rest stop ...



May Birthdays

- 3 Diane Parker
- 4 Lindsay Trenholme
- 5 Gretchen Pindell
- 7 Terri Bigsby
- 9 Sam Jeffries
- 18 Jackie Bohman
- 19 John Cook
- 22 Steve Drake
- 24 Jim Wortsman
- 25 Pat Daniels
- 30 Jeff Harris



Only Jim Wortsman would ask Sheila Wood to wash his car (left) ... said Jim later, "Well, she looked like she needed something to do!"

Welcome New Members!

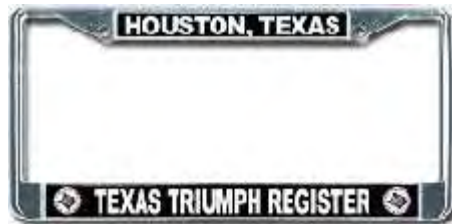
- Steve and Jackie Bohman, Gunter, TX — 1971 green TR6
- Doug Marchand, Houston — 1974 brown Spitfire
- Janice Wilkinson, Cypress — 1971 Damson TR6

Texas Triumph Register

STUFF

*Items below available directly from Regalia Master John Wakefield.
Ordering information below.*

NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!



Club License Plate Frame!

We introduced this new product at the Christmas Party and it's been hot ever since! We're close to being sold out, but if demand exists, we can get more! Get yours now for \$20.00.

Custom Shirts!

Available in either "pique red cotton" (our club color dinner dress polo style shirt) or in long-sleeved denim, these shirts can be custom designed with embroidery of your choice. The pique cotton polo shirts will come with the TTR logo emblazoned on the left side — add your first name above if you wish. Actually, after you have your red shirt, other colors are also available. Also, a stitched model of your own TR in just about any color can be added to the denim shirt. All sizes available at this writing. As shipping costs and taxes vary slightly, cost is usually about \$26.00 per shirt.



TTR Compact Flashlights

This neat flashlight is about 5 inches long, compact, and uses a regular flashlight-sized bulb and reflector, but with a difference: The special reflector surface throws a bright, even light, not circular with a dot in the middle like a regular flashlight. These handy, durable lights have a loop on the end and TEXAS TRIUMPH REGISTER printed on the side. **Now reduced to only \$5.00** (batteries not included).



TTR Grill Badges and Lapel Pins

Dress up your car and yourself with TTR porcelain logo grill badges and lapel pins. These geared badges feature the TTR logo in full color. Limited quantity, buy yours now. Grill badges are \$25 each, lapel pins are \$7 each.

TTR T-Shirts

100% preshrunk cotton Loftees, double stitched in sizes M to XL, light gray with a small TTR logo on the front and a large logo on the back. \$15 each.

TTR Ball Caps and Visors

High-quality tan ball caps with blue bill and full-color TTR logo, only \$15 each! Tan visors have Texas Triumph Register stitched across the top, only \$12 each. Order two at these prices and you won't mind as much when one **blows away**.

TTR Static Cling Decal

TTR logo on clear background for your wind-screens. Identify your club affiliation for only \$1!

Bargain Basement



Insulated Coffee Cups: These large (16 oz, I believe) cups are now on sale for only \$2.00. They're perfectly good ... except for the TR3 emblazoned on the side. Get yours now in Powder Blue, Red, or Emerald Show Stopper Green.

Mail order charges: Add \$5 postage/handling for mail orders. Two or more grill badges, add \$5 each badge for postage/handling. If ordering by mail, be sure to include your shipping address, telephone number, and shipping charges. TTR Regalia is available at monthly meetings and other events, or direct from Regalia Master John Wakefield. For more information, email: jwwakefield@gmail.com.

More photos from Regionals ...



The venue



JB was thinking of showing his daily driver ...



Judging. Hado figured if he photographed them, they'd judge his car better. It worked.



And finally, this may be the real reason we show our cars ... a chance to sit and do absolutely nothing!



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:

Reduced! 1971 TR6. Good condition, Jasmine yellow, Webers, too much new to list. 101,586 miles, 3rd owner (26 years). **\$8000 OBO**. Contact Paula (936.291.7661). TTR member.

And finally ...

Ask and ye shall receive ... I have more photos from Regionals than I can use in a lifetime. Don't be surprised if I just keep on using 'em.

I have been told that it would be a nice touch to give credit to each photograph — and sometimes I try. However, the photos for this issue got away from me ... so, thank you, **Don Carter, Mike Hado, Mike Jankowski, Rick Trenholme, and Doug Tripp**.



Odds 'n Ends:

- The joke around our house is that “the adult with the most toys wins.” So far Bill is way ahead. I thought I had some pretty good stuff until our last club meeting at **the DeRuiters'** ... while the men toured Randy's garage kingdom, I toured Valerie's quilt room. She has managed to fit a long-arm quilting machine and workspace into her downstairs den. From this room, she has complete control of her household and manages to turn out fine quilts. If you need machine quilting or basting, call Valerie. Her rates are really reasonable.

- From **Len Myers**, who has no vested interest in this info other than the welfare of others, and who just cares a lot about us old geezers: “An easy tip for reducing your property taxes: Make sure you have all of the homestead exemptions for which you qualify. Go to:

<http://www.hcad.org/forms/default.asp?form=7>

and review the various exemptions. If you are 65, you can qualify for this exemption in the year you become 65. This exemption can substantially reduce your property taxes. These are Harris County forms, but they will work with any of the county appraisal districts. Mail the completed, signed, and dated form with required attachments to your county appraisal district.”

- About the May meeting ... **bring a lawn chair!**
- I am retiring on May 14th. I cannot believe I am old enough to retire (note photo of me in better days, giving Bill instructions). Poor Bill fears way too much supervision is headed his way. This is my new e-mail address: **dianeparker1@consolidated.net** ... if I can figure out how to use it.

Diane



Texas Triumph Register All-Purpose Membership Form

The TTR meets the 2nd 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.