



OVERDRIVE

The Newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Triumph Club

May 2001



“Hey buddy – did you see an MGB at the side of the road somewhere along here?”

New Look for Summer

As you can see, the newsletter has a new look this issue. The Executive had been considering changing the overall look and design of the newsletter to make it easier to send electronically to members and to give a little “freshening up”. We decided to take the plunge this month. Hope you like the new look and slightly revised format.

Some disappointing news to report this month. Andrew Miller, our Newsletter Editor for the last year and a half, has had to resign his responsibilities because of work and family commitments. I want to take this opportunity to thank Andrew for his hard work in producing the newsletter for us and for also initiating electronic distribution of the newsletter and our own OVTC website. Both the website and electronic distribution are significant contributions to the club. Andrew will continue to attend meetings whenever possible and will continue to assist the club by being available as a website developer “at large” as we look to increase the use and visibility of our website. If you haven’t already had a look at our site, check it out at http://www.geocities.com/ovtc_2000/. If you have suggestions or ideas on what you would like to see on our site please let us know.

I am really looking forward to the next month or so, as we have some fun events planned. Our next regular meeting (Tuesday, May 22) will be held at the home of Pat and Brian Mills. Brian has just built a new sandblast cabinet and has collected a fair bit of information about their design and the different type of media that you can

use to get just the results you want. Louis Boucher has also recently built a cabinet and the next issue of the newsletter is scheduled to include a summary of Brian's presentation as well as an article by Louis.

Also this month is our scheduled run down to Alex Bustard's for a BBQ on 27 May. As was the case last year, we plan to combine the run down to Alex's with a stop for an hour or so at the Oxford Mills Car Show. Should be a great day. More information on departure time and location for getting together in Ottawa will be available at the regular meeting.

June will of course be our own Richmond Show. It is scheduled for the 24th. Bob Thomas will be calling over the next week or so to ask for your assistance for an hour or so for various tasks that need to be covered. Please make an effort to help out. This is our one big event of the year, and if the weather cooperates we hope to have a great turn out of cars.

On July 8, Al and Teresa Tierney have offered to organize and host a car rally again this year. Given the great day of fun we had last year, I would encourage everyone to plan to participate. Now, I just need to decide whether to take the TR6 or "forget it at home" and hope that Al is kind enough once again to lend me his beautiful Jag for the afternoon!

Cheers, Mike Graham

Meeting News

Our last regular meeting was held at Big J's on the corner of Greenbank and Hunt Club. In spite of a rather cold, drizzly weather we had about a dozen TRs on display. Although the area was rather small, it turned out to be a good opportunity for interactions and discussions. Hopefully, nobody got frostbite on the way home!

Next meeting is at home of Pat and Brian Mills. Brian will talk about blast cabinets, blasting media, and things to consider when building your own cabinet. The Mills are located in Barrhaven on 53 Ettrick Crescent, (Ettrick runs off Larkin Drive, which is one block South of the intersection of Greenbank and Fallowfield Roads. Take the second turn onto Ettrick Crescent and the house is second on left. If you have any problems call 825-1698. Please bring lawn chairs.

As you are all well aware, we are still without our regular meeting location. However, we have some good news via John Day. It appears that the clubhouse should re-open sometime in June. That means that come July we should be all set in our new digs. More information in the next newsletter, but keep your fingers crossed. It would be nice to leave the ranks of the homeless.

5th Annual British Car Drivers Week (May 19–27)

(Summary of message posted on Triumph Mailing list by Scott Helms, Curator/British car enthusiast)

British Car Drivers Week takes place during the last full week of May, just as it has every other year since it began in 1997. British Car Drivers Week is more than just an annual local field event for show and tell. It's an annual week that enables the British car-driving enthusiast to take the show to the streets of their town and allow their favourite car to be seen and appreciated on the road and in the public eye. The enthusiast who knows the importance of preserving and promoting something that is of historical value to the world of automobiles. These cars are an icon that represents an exciting motoring period that we can help keep alive by promoting while driving and enjoying our cars at the same time. It is an appreciation week just like any other date you might find listed on your favourite calendar found hanging on the wall. It's a reminder to all of the people who

are not typically exposed to these cars, that our hobby is alive and flourishing.

British automobile development can be traced back well into the 19th Century, and their early developments were a valuable asset which helped shape the modern automobiles of any origin being produced today. However true this statement is I don't know for sure, but I was once told that if public libraries were filled with books on subjects populated strictly by their importance to the world, more libraries would have to be built because automotive related books alone would fill the entire existing libraries, and then some! As I have witnessed recently, a lot of our British car related books are slowly becoming out of print. New enthusiasts become new readers thus the need for second and third printings.

Finally, feel free to take advantage of the British Car Week web site. It is a free service for anyone interested in publicizing a British car related event, business, club, or personal web page. It is not only used for publicizing the annual week, but all aspects of the hobby throughout the entire year. People browsing the Internet often visit the site (<http://members.aol.com/Trmgafun/britishcarweek.html>) and find it a useful tool for finding their way to other interesting sites relating to the British car hobby. It caters to all British marques, so it's a great place for newcomers to learn more about their British car interests. Our trained staff are sitting at their stations continually striving for new ways to improve the site and welcome new ideas.

As always, top off those dashpots, grab your goggles and driving gloves, its time to have some fun!!

Triumph News

TR6 Oil Filters

Wonder which spin-on oil filter to use in your TR6? Maybe you should check the list on this website (information compiled by Steve Wilkinson):

<http://users.visi.net/~kohout/SpinOnOilFilters.html>

High Tech Valve Cover Gaskets for TR3s and TR4s

A company called J.M. Wagner Sales has developed a high performance silicone gasket for the Triumph TR2, TR3, TR3A, TR4, TR4A. They claim that "this gasket installs in minutes, will not leak, and will stand up to many repeated uses." Their website also notes that they are currently developing a similar gasket for Triumph TR5, TR250, TR6, GT6, and Spitfire. You can check it out at:

<http://www.jmwagnersales.com/>

Links to British Car Websites

Allan Lewis has created a website that includes links to many British car sites (including our own OVTC site).

The URL is:

www.britishcarlinks.com

Steering Wheels by Stephane

Stephane St-Amant has proven himself to be a craftsman of fine wooden steering wheels. At our last meeting, he showed us his handiwork, and recently shared some of the pictures of his fine work on the Internet. Have a look at: <http://albums.photopoint.com/j/AlbumIndex?u=1579918&a=12815678&f=0>

As Stephane reported to the Spitfire mailing list: I recently completed a little project of mine that I thought I'd share with you. Maybe it will inspire some of you to do something that you were afraid to tackle yourself. I traded a some parts a few months ago and one of the parts I received in the exchange was and old wooden steering wheel. The wood was cracked an way beyond my abilities to fix. So, I decided to replace the wood.

I've never worked with wood before in my life, not counting cutting or nailing it! I just took my time and with a lot of patience, ended up with quite a nice steering wheel. Total time spend on this project was about 20 hours.

Since this steering wheel is 12.5 inches instead of 15 inches, the major bonuses are:

- (1) I have a nice looking steering wheel;
- (2) My left leg is no longer squeezed between the steering wheel and the door; and
- (3) My wife can now see over the steering wheel!



If anyone wants more details on what I did, don't hesitate to ask.

OK, Stephane ... since you asked, how about a technical article for the newsletter?

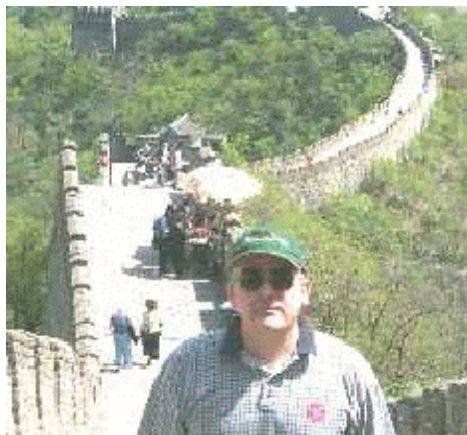
Joke of the Month

A father took his young son to a British car show. The son looked up at his dad and said "Dad, when I grow up I want to drive a Triumph." The father looked down at him lovingly and replied "You can't do both son."

Ain't it the truth!

World Traveller Returns

Still jet-lagged after 10 days in China, Louis Boucher nonetheless thought to send along a picture of himself, complete with his OVTC hat, making a visit to the Great Wall of China. Louis reports that in 10 days in Beijing he did not see a single British car. Probably just as well, as the cost of overweight baggage can be excessive when your bags are packed full of TR parts! Louis challenges everyone else who is travelling near or far to take a picture complete with some item of OVTC apparel for submission to the newsletter.



John Day responds: "I'll keep an eye out while I'm in the Poconos in a couple of weeks!"

Wanted and For Sale

Wanted: Headlight switch for my TR6. Please contact Ian Clough, Tel: 613-523-4508

For Sale: Garage doors. Two are sectional doors 9 feet wide by 7 feet high with all hardware (just removed this week so in good working order). One is solid door 8 feet wide by 7 feet high. Best offer takes them ... cash or trade for TR6 or GT6 parts. What have you got that I might need? Please contact Mike Graham, Tel: 613-258-2901

Sponsors

Our thanks to our sponsors who continue to support the club in many ways.

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Authorized distributor for TRF, Moss, Victoria British, and Panasport.

British Car, PO Box 1683, Los Altos, CA, 94023, USA. The American magazine for Triumph enthusiasts who love English cars. To subscribe call: 1-800-949-9680. Mention the advertisement in our newsletter and get one extra issue free. Rates: 1 year (6 issues) \$22.95 USD, 2 years \$39.95 USD.

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The Ottawa Valley Triumph Club is comprised of approximately 65 members. The Club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Manordale Community Centre, which is located at the corner of Knoxdale and Carola Roads in the City of Ottawa. Meetings include technical seminars, video presentations, restoration techniques, and much more. The Club also publishes a monthly newsletter, *Overdrive*, which is distributed to members and exchanged with other car clubs.

Membership is open to all individuals and companies interested in Triumph sports cars. Membership is \$30.00 per year (June/June) per household and \$60 per year, corporate. **Please send membership applications** to: OVTC c/o Vivien Kaye, 1710 River Road, Manotick, ON, K4M 1B4.

The OVTC is a member of the British Car Council and is affiliated with the TR Register (UK)

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