



VERDRIVE

The Newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Triumph Club

April, 1999



Triumphs 'Plunge' Into Summer 1999!

- *Guest Speaker for April OVTC Meeting (@Knoxdale)*
- *OVTC Spring Fling / BBQ '99 – May 22nd in Iriquois*
- *Plus much more!!*

Cover: I hope the rocker panels are up to snuff!

NOTICE! Next Meeting - April 26 '99 at our usual location on Knoxdale Road.

Guest Speaker for April OVTC Meeting:

Our guest speaker for the April meeting will be Christine Gray from the Central Canada Exhibition Association, and will be talking to us about the upcoming Antique Car Show and Auction, coming up this August 19th to 22nd, 1999. This sounds like it should be quite the show this summer, and the first chance for many of us to observe, or even take part in, a classic car auction! Christine will explain the details to us all.

Of course, for the first meeting of 1999 at which Triumphs will be present, we expect and encourage a lot of tire-kicking and general enjoyment of our cars in the parking lot that night.

Message from the President:

Finally! No more snow! I've seen a few topless cars on the road, the first a BMW Z3, the second a Spitfire (and lots of motorcycles). The car season is finally here. By now I hope most of us have had the opportunity to take our cars out for that first spin of the season. Ed has the TR4 up and running. Unfortunately the GT6 will be held up by some engine maintenance. I hope not too long!

In case you have noticed my absence the last few meetings, I apologize. I have been teaching at Algonquin on Monday and Wednesday evenings. I will be there at the April meeting, and look forward to seeing all of you there, too, with your Triumphs. Our guest speaker will be Christine from the Ottawa Exhibition who will talk about the car show and auction that will take place this year.

The season we have been waiting for is finally here. I hope you will take the opportunity to attend as many events as

possible this year. We are hoping to kick off the season with a day at MiniMan in mid-May, followed by our Fun Run to Alex Bustard's and subsequent BBQ there on May 22nd (all details elsewhere in the newsletter).

See ya on the road! Viv

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New Members:

Please welcome Ross Leeder and Stuart Campbell to the OVTC. Ross has a 1974 TR6 that at one time belonged to a former OVTC member. By buying it back from an intermediate owner, Ross shows what goes around, comes around. Stuart is rejoining after noticing his newsletter was a few months late! Welcome, Ross & Stuart!

We also have at present a number of potential members, both with cars and looking for cars. John Neal, the person who has the TR3A (not a B, as he'd hoped) passed around amongst family for 30 years, has now brought the car back from his cousin's and is examining it to get it on the road. There should be plenty of other new faces at the April meeting, so wear your name tags. Members who haven't picked up their name tags will be able to then, which will be helpful.

Darts Tournament - March 13th

As mentioned briefly in the last newsletter, the OVTC hosted the 7th Annual Inter-Club Dart Tournament last month at *Le Skratch* in the Merivale Mall. We had a good cross-section of clubs turning out, with 6 teams each from Triumph and VW, 4 MG, 1 Lotus and 1 Jag. With 6 boards available, the

afternoon was a flurry of flying darts, flying jokes and good fun. Corporate sponsorship was at a peak as well, with over \$1,200 in prizes contributed.

After seven years of there being a Dart Tournament, the Triumph marque has yet to be defeated! This year's winners were the father-son team of Pat & Chris Onions, who had come all the way from North Bay! They defeated the Jaguar team of Guy & Louise Larabie to retain the championship for the OVTC.

This year's tournament was also the best yet in terms of corporate sponsorship. We received roughly \$1,200 in donated prizes, as follows:

Jaguar of Ottawa: two Jaguar windbreakers;
Westboro Land Rover – Land Rover hats;
British Auto Sport – battery mat & vizibleed;
Moss Motors – 3 Gift Certificates of \$25 US;
Victoria British – 3 Certificates of \$10US;
Roadster Factory – several assorted T-shirts;
'British Car' magazine – 1-year subscription;
Brown's Lane Jaguar – 2 \$20 certificates;
KDC Everywear – TR, MG collegiate tops;
Miniman – 2 \$10 gift certificates, TR6 and MG oil filters;
Obsolete Automotive – 5 4-packs of Lockheed brake fluid; 4-pack and 6-pack of spark plugs; 2 \$25 gift certificates; headlamp stone guards;

Overdrive – Electronic mailing:

We had pretty good all-round success with the first-ever electronic distribution of the newsletter last month. Steve Redway, editor of the TR Register magazine *TR action*, tells me that it is to his knowledge the first TR club newsletter to move to such a format. Imagine – we're on the cutting edge!

OVTC Spring Fling at Alex Bustard's:

Another reminder that the OVTC Spring Fling BBQ and Fun Run will be at the home of Alex Bustard along the St. Lawrence near

Iriquois. Anyone interested will be able to join in a convoy from the clubhouse at 9 a.m. that morning, and we aim to be at Alex's for noon. We'll also pick up the Kaye's and other who wish to meet st the Swan in Manotick for 9:30 on the way down. The club is supplying the burgers, munchies & fixings, as well as some soft drinks. People wanting something a little stronger will supply their own. Alex has a tremendous collection of classic cars himself, plus there will be all the other cars from other clubs to be seen. Plan now to attend.

One point to mention – As the 4th Monday in May is the holiday (imagine – May 24th is actually the holiday this year!), the Spring Fling will also serve double-duty as our May meeting. This will be mentioned again in the May newsletter, but I thought it's worth mentioning in case you were going to cancel holiday plans to be at Knoxdale that night. If you weren't going there anyway, we don't want to know – it hurts our feelings!

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Ned Loughrey

*We'll keep your
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...And a Word from Our Host – Alex:

"As always, we hope that we will get a good turnout for our Spring Fling. We will be inviting the Hudson P.Q. British Car Club to attend and hope to see some members from the St. Lawrence Valley Rolls Royce chapter of the RROC. We expect to have Jason Edge who will give tips on upholstery and Brad 'the Mad Mechanic' Pilla who can fix just about everything. We will provide burgers and hotdogs as last year as well as drinks. Hope to see you there on the 22nd – rain day 23rd.

To get to our place, take 31 or 16 to Old Hwy 2 and head west from 31 or east from 16. We are halfway between Cardinal and Iriquois. The civic number is 10295, and look for a sports car out front."

Gossip from the St. Lawrence Valley (also by Alex Bustard):

Here we are at mid-April and I still have bits of Bob Thomas' engine all over my shop. I guess we will have some late night bee's getting it ready to drop back in his TR6. I told Bob to do something about the state of affairs under the hood, so he's spending many hours cleaning. Brad Pilla & I still have to finish a friend's Spitfire and are working on a pre-production MGA (car #48) which I hope to have in paint by spring but our painter is a bit of a flake (bad pun alert – Ed.), so it may be late. My wife put her Spitfire in the shop last fall with the hopes that we would do the floors, but Brad has decided that it looks like we have another year before it becomes really serious, so a bit of seam welder will suffice for this season. Brad's TR7 went on the road March 27. I am not so nuts – the E-type waited until April 10!

'The Doctor' is on the mend:

I'm glad to report that Brian Mills is recovering nicely from back surgery. As Brian describes it, he had his spine 'reamed out', and now is feeling much better. Although Brian won't be crawling around under dashes in the near future, he is doing very well and will be at the April meeting for sure.

British Car Week Celebration – May 30:

British Car week takes place the week of May 24th – 30th, 1999. After the success of our event in May of 1998, we are pleased to announce a bigger and better version for 1999! The date will be Sunday, May 30th, 1999 and the location will be the same as last

year: Centennial Park, 288 Beaconsfield Blvd., in Beaconsfield.

With the wisdom of one year's experience behind us, this year's event should be even more fun. The activities directors of all the major Montreal car clubs are being circulated to help gather up an impressive list of entrants. Mark the date on your calendar now!

This will be the largest gathering of British cars in the Montreal area in 1999. You cannot afford to miss it!

March meeting – Gary's Custom Cycle:

The March meeting at Knoxdale was another informative meeting. Our guest speaker was Gary, of *Gary's Custom Cycle*, who spoke on the subjects of wheel care and chroming. After talks on electrics, paint, bodywork, and the like, those of us with wire wheels now had THEM to worry about!

Gary also brought along some samples of chromed items he is able to do in-house, which is anything up to 4 feet in length. For those who want a little extra recognition, Gary also had a sample of gold plating that he has done!

Hey!! Wake up!!:

There's a bit more to getting your Triumph ready for summer driving than just shouting at it. Here is a montage of helpful little suggestions from various sources to help keep your car in tip-top shape. I imagine many cars are already out now, but there are a number of 'little things' that also require periodic attention, and best in spring.

- Remove the spark plugs and squirt in a small amount of penetrating oil, to lubricate the cylinder walls on start-up. Check the spark plugs and gap settings while you're at it;
- Change the engine oil & filter. Also consider draining & replacing the transmission fluid if you cannot or do not know when/if last done;

- Check the differential fluid – you don't want the diff running dry!
- Check all fluid levels: radiator, brake, clutch fluids, and carb dashpots. If it has been more than 2-3 years, give some thoughts as to purging the brake & clutch systems with fresh fluids;
- Drain and flush the cooling system (including the heater), and replace with a 50-50 solution of water and coolant;
- Check the belts for wear and for tension. Usual tension is for a 1" deflection;
- Check all hoses, both fluid and air, for cracking & leaks, and replace as required. Pay critical attention to brake hose lines at all 4 corners;
- Check / charge the battery, paying attention to water levels (use eye protection!), and top up with distilled water;
- Check the tire pressures. Also check your spare – done that lately?
- Replace any gas in the tank as soon as possible;
- Replace the gas filter every couple of years. This is often overlooked, and with older gas tanks, there may be rust in the gas system;
- Once the battery is in place, check all lights & signals. Any 'off-flicker-dim' Lucas-type lights may be signs of loose or corroded connections, which will require specific attention.

Remember – this list is not a replacement for a proper service manual, but is used to illustrate that Springtime is often a convenient starting point to attend to key service areas and keep our cars running like new!

OVTC Club Spring Tune-up and Tech Session at Miniman – May 15:

If you feel that there is still something required to get your car running and behaving better, then you will want to be at Miniman (Walgreen Road, Carp) on Saturday, May 15, from 9 to noon. You can ask the experts about ignition, carburation or anything else, plus you can buy the tune-up

supplies you need while you're there. Be sure not to miss it!

A Strange Pair of Coincidences:

While in Belleville for Easter, Lori and I visited her sister's family at their newly-restored farmhouse outside of town. Lori's brother-in-law recently bought a used International tractor for various work around the property, and as I had a quick look at it, I noticed a familiar-looking piece of equipment – a Lucas starter motor! I began looking the rest of the engine bay over, and I'm sure that the tractor takes the same oil filter as the TR3 as well. While I was surprised at first, the more I thought about it the more it made sense, given the agricultural branch of the Triumph family.

I had mentioned a pair of coincidences. Well, the second one came when I went to a new hardware store in Belleville that has a farm emphasis. Popping in to have a look around, I noticed that in the oil filter section was a shelf full of the same Fram filter as used in the TR6! Talk about your farm influence! I picked a couple up to be safe. If anyone needs one, give me a call.

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Spitfire Raffle in Guelph - \$5 a ticket:

I learned from an acquaintance in Guelph that there is going to be a raffle for a Spitfire that has been the restoration project of a high school auto mechanics class. It is estimated that there is \$10,000 into the car, and that certainly doesn't count the labour, because it was free. I've contacted the teacher of the

class to obtain tickets, so hopefully they will arrive in time to be on sale at the next couple of meetings, or perhaps for May alone (will advise in the next issue). The draw itself is on June 5, and I understand you do not have to be present to win. Clive Law won a TR6 (now owned by Al Tierney) in a draw held by Southbank Dodge a few years ago, so it can happen again!



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RICHMOND - June 27th, 1999 - 10th anniversary year – the best yet!!!

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the Sporting & Classic Car Show, otherwise known as the 'Richmond' Show. How many of the newer members are aware of this show's beginnings? The following is a brief history:

The name of the show originated a decade ago with then-OVTC members John & Evelyn Carr, publishers of '*Sporting Classics*' magazine. Sporting Classics was in existence for around two years at the beginning of the 1990's. The 'Sporting & Classic' car show began and was held at the Manotick arena, then had to switch to the Richmond fairgrounds after a scheduling mix-up.

Unfortunately, the magazine was not to survive, and the show was about to vanish as well. Some of us in the OVTC felt that this show was too good an event not to continue, and so the club took up the gauntlet.

This year's event should hopefully be one of the biggest and best of all. I have had strong interest from several vendors, many of whom are glad to have the access to shelter inside the show barn. Of course, the biggest single element for a successful show is the weather, and while Richmond has had its share of grey skies, and a bit of water, in its ten years, the odds are in our favour. Car clubs in the Kingston and Montreal areas have been informed of the June 27 date, and we should have a huge turnout.

One thing Richmond has been good for has been the opportunity for the club to come together as a group. For the newer members in the club, the usual custom has been that we ask you to volunteer for an hour during the course of the day to work the admission gates. You can meet and chat with your fellow OVTC members, meet other classic car owners as they arrive, and generally enjoy the spirit of the day. It's a great time!

Many elements of the show are still in the planning stages, but June will be here before we know it, so there will be more detail in next month's issue. Stay tuned!

Regalia developments (by Gord)

The club now has OVTC plate frames to go with its other regalia. You'll want to put one on your every day car, too! We should have the new license plate frames for the April meeting. They are black with "Ottawa Valley Triumph Club" in gold across the bottom, the price will be \$4 each.

There has been very little response to the grille badges.... If you would like one please let me know soon. We require minimum orders in order to offer the following prices:

- 20 aluminium will cost \$41.40 each
- 30 aluminium will cost \$33.35 each
- 20 bronze will cost \$43.70 each
- 30 bronze will cost \$35.65 each

The badge is of the O.V.T.C. logo and is approx. 3" dia., the raised portion is polished. If you would like to grace the front of your car with one of these limited edition works of art please call Gord Robertson @ 226-5033.

Oil Drips – the OVTC Gossip Column:

- Mike Graham had an altercation with some hay bales (fortunately not in his new TR6) that had apparently fallen off a trailer on Hwy 16. No-one was hurt, but Mike figures there was about \$2k in damage to his Crown Victoria. The 6 would've cost more!
- Julio was, in all likelihood, the first one out this season, appearing around Barrhaven area. It turns out a new neighbour of the Brown's and Threader's on Roberta Crescent has a TR3A project car in the garage. These cars are everywhere lately.
- Dave Huddleson is putting a new, hotter cam in his TR8 this spring, and has been repairing the rad in the TR7. Dave says that Rover V8's tend to wear out camshafts at 75,000 miles, and Dave has over 100,000 miles on his, so he figures he's due. To replace the camshaft, the radiator has to come out, and Dave says that job in an air-conditioned car is much tougher than on a non-a/c car.
- Paul MacDonald knows of a Ron Day in the Ogdensburg area who is interested in joining, as he has a TR3 and a TR6. I at first had thought my dad (also named Ron) might've blown my inheritance by buying the same 2 cars I already have, but this is another Ron Day. Whew!
- Andrew Miller and Mike Graham are now enjoying the thrills of their new (this season) TR6's. Mike has had a couple of minor teething problems, but is getting

them sorted quickly. There's always a few of those, aren't there?

- This comes from an October issue of Autocar: *"Two Michigan men are in hospital after a late-night refuel went wrong. Seems one of the men was pouring petrol into their car from a can and was having problems seeing. His friend decided to help – by flicking on his cigarette lighter."* D-oh!!

Classified:

- Andrew Miller is selling his Spitfire, now that he has his new TR6. The Spitfire is a 1978 model, and is in Euro spec, with the carburetors changed to SU's, with headers and Stebro exhaust also. New items include carpets, seats, interior trim, AM/FM cassette, new sills and rocker panels, SPAX adjustable shocks and a leaf spring. Call Andrew at 591-3409 for more details.
- 1975 TR6. 76k miles. Off road since 1989 with electrical problem. Includes factory hard top, overdrive, shop manuals and custom dustcover. Partially disassembled last year. Requires some body work. Asking \$1,800. Call John Nash @ 820-9409.

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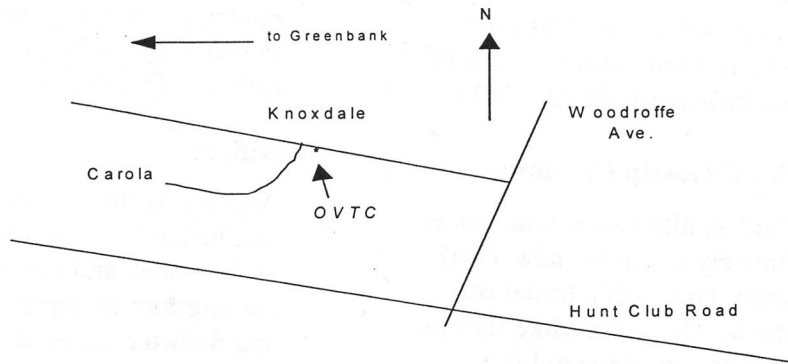


Next Month:

- Spring Fling in Iriquois.
- Richmond 10th Anniversary pre-show details.
- More 'Oil Drips'.

The Ottawa Valley Triumph Club is comprised of approximately 65 members. The Club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the Manordale Community Centre, Knoxdale and Carola (see map). Meetings include technical seminars, video presentations, restoration techniques and much more. The Club also publishes a monthly newsletter, *Overdrive*, which is distributed to members. *Overdrive* is also exchanged with newsletters from other clubs. The OVTC Executive at present is comprised of:

Vivien Kaye	Bob Thomas	David Huddleson	Gord Robertson	John Day 723-9876	Steve Bourne	253-0739
President /	Vice-President	Membership	Regalia	Editors	Events	
Treasurer	267-4561	822-1315	226-5033	Andrew Miller 591-3409	Jeff Patterson	839-2891
692-1880						



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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 application to:** OVTC c/o 5053 Limebank Road, Gloucester, Ontario K1X 1E8

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



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