



# OVERDRIVE

The Newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Triumph Club

**February, 2001**



## Is this our Future ?

SMART Car in Dusseldorf, Germany

- ***Adventures In Ireland, Italy, France***
- ***What is a Braai in South Africa?***
- ***Roly retires ?! – devotes fulltime to regalia***

Send Newsletter submissions to: OVTC, c/o 8 Pentland Crescent, Kanata, Ontario K2K 1V5  
[Ovtc@home.com](mailto:Ovtc@home.com)

Web Site: [www.geocities.com/ovtc\\_2000](http://www.geocities.com/ovtc_2000)

*Cover: description of cover*

**NOTICE! OVTC meetings have been moved from the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday to 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. See map on last page.**

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**Message from the Past President:()**

Sorry for the absence of this little rant for the last couple of months ... here I thought I was Past-President! However, I'm happy to carry on ...

As some of you know, I have been away for a few weeks. That meant that I missed both the last executive meeting and the last regular meeting, so we will have to depend on others for updates. However, that is not to say that I didn't do some Triumph business during that time (see article about South Africa).

This month the regular meeting is back for a "hat-trick" appearance at Lolita's Pizza. You guys and gals must have behaved yourselves last month because the owner is looking forward to seeing us again on the 27th. Next month we have the dart tournament on 31 March and John Day has been busy making contacts with vendors to make sure we have our usual impressive prize table. Mark that date on your calendar. Any bets as to whether it will be TR weather by that time of the year?

Looking a little further into the future, we are hoping (praying?) that the club house will be back in commission for the April meeting. That project seems to be taking longer than the rebuild of my TR6 engine and transmission last year ... guess I was a bit quicker because I had the Doc's help! It would be nice to get back to a semblance of order in terms of knowing where our meetings will be. It would make arranging guest speakers and activities much easier. If you have ideas for events or talks you might like to hear (or give), please let us know and we will try to accommodate your interests.

See you on the 27th at Lolita's.

Cheers, Mike

PS: Congratulations to Roly on his recent retirement ... you can now work full time on selling OVTC regalia and fine tuning the Spit!

**Report from Last Meeting**

**January Meeting:**

**Calendar of events**

February	27 – Lolita’s Pizza
Mar	31- no meeting - Annual Invitational Darts Tournament at Le Skratch
August	TRF Summer Party is confirmed to be Aug 10- 12!
September	
October	
November	
December	

**Only another club member would understand – Paul McDonald**

Got my gold car out of the garage for a quick run up and down the street yesterday. Just bled the brakes and got what could be called "slight resistance " -- not brakes. However, it did move and steer etc.-- even laid a bit of rubber on a dry spot of pavement!! -- couldn't resist.

My parents are here from Nova Scotia so I didn't have too much time to fix things, and I will be needing brake parts.

**Email**

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email (the photos are in colour !) please contact Andrew Miller.

Email address for the Executive and the club itself are listed on the last page

**Regalia**

We are always looking for suggestions for new regalia items ... so if you have any ideas please let us know. See Roly Mailloux (the guy with the blue suit case ) at the monthly meetings.

ITEM	PRICE
Club licence plate frames	\$4
OVTC crest lapel pins	\$4
OVTC crest patches 3”	\$4
T-shirts new Style	\$10

T-shirt – 25 years of TR Register	\$20
Baseball hats – new style	\$8
Baseball hats – OVTC crest	\$8

### **What to when it's winter and you can't work on the TR3 – Dan Beuttner (Triumph List)**

Since it's still too cold to venture outside here in the Midwest, and I haven't got a heated garage (someday!), I spent some time yesterday scanning a couple of TR3 documents I have.

You can download them via FTP by following the links from

<http://www.thelittlemacshop.com/trsite/download.html>

They are in PDF form; you'll need Acrobat 4 to view them. One is Road & Track's May 1957 review of the new disc-brake-equipped small-mouth TR3; the other is a neat 12-page full-color 1957 Triumph sales brochure, also for small-mouth TR3s. The sales brochure is a big file (~34 MB).

I've scanned Road & Track's May 1957 TR3 (small-mouth) road test; it's a 2-page black-and-white affair. The photo quality isn't great, but it makes interesting reading.. File size is 4.8 MB.

### **Honorary OVTC Member in Ifafi, South Africa**

by Michael Graham

How many times have you decided to do something on the spur of the moment and been very glad you did? Well, just as I was about to leave on my recent business trip to Africa I decided to send an email to Chris De Wet who is a regular contributor to the Triumph mailing list. Just a note to say I was going to be in Johannesburg and wondering if it might be possible to meet. I tried in advance to find out where Ifafi was, but my Atlas and the Internet were not to helpful (I didn't want to be suggesting that I was coming to Halifax and wondering if Chris in Vancouver could pop over for a visit!). As it turns out, Ifafi is about 90 minutes drive from Johannesburg and about 60 minutes from Pretoria

I called Chris from my hotel when I arrived in Johannesburg and immediately know we were going to hit it off just fine. I had planned to take a bus to Ifafi, but Chris would hear nothing of that and suggested that he pick me up the following Saturday, take me to his home for supper, and the following morning we could tour around a bit before return to Johannesburg Sunday evening. His only regret was that his TR 3 was having clutch problems and the drive would have to be a "support" vehicle. As you can imagine, the week dragged by slowly waiting for Saturday afternoon to arrive!

A quick phone call on Saturday to confirm final arrangements and just like that Chris and expert navigator Wendy (his daughter) showed up at my hotel. Hard to believe it was really a 90 minute drive as the time passed so quickly getting to know one another and talking about our mutual interest in Triumphs. I can also report that the road to Ifafi takes you through beautiful countryside and rolling hills (if you want to get a general sense of its location, Ifafi is about half way to Sun City from Johannesburg). But enough about geography!

Chris' wife, Marlene, was waiting at the door when we drove in. From the time I arrived, it was warmly welcomed and treated to a fantastic weekend. A quick change into shorts and off for a tour of the TR collection. There are not too many TRs in South Africa, but Chris has done a creditable job in collecting his fair share [he

has a 1956 TR 3 ( TS 10795 ) and a 1964 Spitfire 4 Mk 1 ( FC 25680 ) as well as what he calls "projects" a 1962 Herald 1200 Coupe, a 1965 Herald 12/50 ( convertible ), a 1963 Spitfire 4 Mk 1 , a 1964 Spitfire 4 Mk 1 , and a 1966 Spitfire 4 Mk 2]. Pictures of some them are included here.

Afterwards, Chris and Wendy prepared a BBQ South African style (called a braai) and we enjoyed a few cold beers in the South African evening (summer there and plus 28 C). I can attest that Chris is an expert at braai and Marlene and Wendy took care of all of the extras that go into making an unforgettable evening of food and friendship. Chris' parents live on the same farm and joined us for dinner as well. Dad is a retired machinist and has owned a wide range of cars in his day ... pretty easy to see where Chris gets his love of cars from!

After supper we spent time going through the pictures I had brought on my laptop from various OVTC events. (Chris especially liked seeing John Day playing darts since they have corresponded by email in the past). Before we knew it we were well into the wee hours of the morning. What a great day it had been. The following morning we headed off for some site-seeing, and a blue TR3 drove by going in the opposite direction ... nice of Chris to arrange that! After a fine lunch, it was a reluctant drive back to Johannesburg, with us all wishing there was more time left to the weekend.

It was a fabulous two days for me and an experience I will never forget. As I told Marlene, I felt like I was "home" for a couple of days, and after three weeks on the road what else could one want? I only hope that one day Marjorie and I will be able to repay to our new friends in South Africa a little of that wonder hospitality they extended to me.

As Chris might say ... BAIE DANKIE Chris, Marlene and Wendy (which in Afrikaans means a big thank you).



*Photo caption (clockwise from top left): 1956 TR 3 (TS 10795); a happy visitor posing in the "three" with Chris; Chris and Marlene with Wendy looking cool in the background; the braai in full swing with a Carling Black Label to stay cool!; the 1965 Herald coupe that is now a "convertible"; 1964 Spitfire 4 Mk 1 (FC 25680); and finally our new South African correspondent for Overdrive ... Chris De Wet all decked out in OVTC regalia.*

### **Tips from the Triumph Mailing List**

A couple of years ago I saw the suggestion to improve on the fiber washers used on the TR6 valve cover mounting studs. Go to your local Honda motorcycle dealer and get three valve cover seals used on one of the Honda Goldwing motorcycles. Part # 90541-371-000. It's a rubber grommet with a chrome washer that fits perfectly on the valve cover mounting stud and stops any oil from leaking. It also stops you from denting the valve cover by over tightening.

### **The Fifth Annual British Drivers Car Week May 19-27, 2001**

The past few years some of you may have heard about the first, second, and third Annual British Car Drivers Week. This idea came from an article titled "Seldom Seen Cars" written by Peter Egan for the March 1997 issue of Road & Track magazine. In this article, Mr Egan writes that he never see's old sports cars on the road anymore. As a result, we've decided to do what we can to help change this, for British cars anyway.

This Spring (2001), The Fourth Annual British Car Week will be celebrated during the week of May 19 - 27, 2001. The object of this week is for all British car owners to get their car(s) out of the garage, drive them, and help promote these treasured cars in whatever ways they can. Most of you drive your cars during the summer months and for some throughout the year, but rarely do we drive them on the roads in unison. This special week has been set aside for owners of "all British marques" to help promote these cherished cars, and possibly attract the attention of another potential enthusiast, young or old, who might decide to get involved and help preserve our hobbies, businesses, clubs, and most of all, our cars, and help us keep them on the roads well into the 21st century!!

The participation of this annual event has been very impressive. Many clubs got together and planned outings, ranging from picnics, club meetings, or drives to a special location. Others used their cars for errands or drove them to and from work and found that it was so enjoyable, they kept right on doing so all Summer long. As indicated by Gary Anderson, Publisher of British Car Magazine, this event didn't create any traffic jams that we know of, but it did attract some attention and got people talking about these cars which is exactly what was intended.

We have constructed this web site (<http://members.aol.com/Trmgafun/britishcarweek.html>) on the internet and devoted it to British Car Week. The past few years we have invited British car owners to share their driving experiences with us. The stories were posted for all to read and enjoy. We got some very interesting replies!! This year we will do the same, so be sure to come back to this page from time to time.

If any of you belong to other clubs or subscribe to magazines that cater to any British marques, please make a copy of this letter, send it to them, and help pass the word. Since we have a very low budget, the help of fellow enthusiasts is crucial. If you are not on the internet, send a letter to your club and let them know what you are planning during this week. Thanks to all who have participated and to those who are about to.

See you on the road!!

*Let's put OVTC on the map and plan something to get us in British Car Magazine, content for our web site etc. !!!*

### **All British Car Club - Autojumble**

The Boot'nBonnet British Car Club in Kingston is organizing a spring flea market for British Car Parts. Check our web site at [www.bootnbonnet.org](http://www.bootnbonnet.org) for more information. We are hoping to make this a yearly event if we get good support from Eastern Ontario

Saturday April 8 2001 Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, Kingston, Ontario 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Admission \$2.00 per person, under 12 free, Drive your LBC and get in free

General Information Wes Meyer 613-386-3797 or [olden@kos.net](mailto:olden@kos.net) or Owen Evans 613-354-1876

Date	Event	Contact	Smart Comment
May 12	Cruise Night at Merivale Road Canadian Tire starts (and every Sat. night after)	Matt Caplan 224-9330	
May 12	Hawkesbury Season Opening	Martin Villeneuve 632-6363	
June 2	National Capital Carting, Carter's Corners, Stittsville	Paul Swinwood 829-6968	
June 8 - 10	BusFusion International VW Westfalia Meet, Almonte	Frank Condelli 256-6763	
June 9	Italian Car Parade, Preston Street	Delio D'Angelo 234-5925	Does this include anything designed by Michelotti???
June 10	Kars and Planes at Kars Airport	Peter Whitworth 692-2270	
June 17	Rolling Thunder Car Show at Lombardy Fair Grounds	Mike Ogilvie 283-9497	
July 1	Easy Cruisers Car Show in Alexandria, ON	Derek Johnson 874-2104	
July 14	Auto Show at CTC, Merivale Road	Matt Caplan 224-9330	
Sept. 30	Ride for Carleton Place and District Memorial Hospital	John Neave 257-8702	

### Top Ten Firestone Slogans

10. "Safer than a Russian sub."
9. "The perfect gift for your mother-in-law."
8. "Because there's a lot riding on your lawsuit."
7. "Better than driving around on your axles, right?"
6. "Pop a set on your car today."
5. "C'mon, did you really expect good tires on a new Ford?"
4. "Reinforcing the importance of the 25 mph speed limit."
3. "Hey, it's not like we crashed our blimp or something."
2. "Best Blow Job In Town"
1. "You can't recall a better tire."

### Oil Drips – the OVTC Gossip Column:

Look for more chrome on the Mailloux Spitfire – Roly is officially retired !

## For Sale

TR8 stainless steel "H"-pipe to eliminate the center mufflers. Adds a significant bark to the exhaust sound, so not for the tame owner! Used condition. \$25. contact David Huddleson

### Andrews' Excellent European Adventure

In November 2000 I headed over to Dublin to train our European employees in our new Web products. My itinerary was to include Dublin (confirmed) Paris (Tentative), Dusseldorf (confirmed), Rome (tentative), London (tentative) and Stockholm (tentative)

First step was to surf the web for Triumph clubs in the cities confirmed on my itinerary. What a piece of Luck !, the Triumph Classic Owner's Club was meeting in Dublin half an hour after my arrival in Dublin. I traded emails with their president, Peter Gillis, and agreed to meet him at their meeting (in a pub, no less). Unfortunately, it was not to be - the taxis were on strike! The pub was too far to walk and was nowhere near the DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) or a bus route. Peter filled me in afterwards, Dolomites, Heralds, TR3, a TR2!!!! (damn!!!!) Spitfire, Mayflower, Stags.



Some old generic econobox, a LADA perhaps?  
☺



Rover P4

In Dublin, later that week I did see a Rover P4, a couple of Morris Minors, an MGA, [forgive me Father, for I have sinned -- a BRG MGF Ooooo! I want one !, Like a Miata but with soul]and a Honda CR-V badged as a Honda HRV (Heat Recovery Ventilator?) Guinness & Kilkeny were great!



MG-F Front 3/4



MG-F rear 3/4

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Web Site: [www.geocities.com/ovtc\\_2000](http://www.geocities.com/ovtc_2000)



The heritage shows in this shot, not rubber but fibreglass

In Paris the only notable unique item was the 2CV still on the road *sans Clouseau*. And a weird option for scooters I can describe only as a tonneau cover with sleeves (or was that a straight jacket with a bib?). It certainly kept the Parisians dry and warm, lane markings are actually drive lanes for motor cycles and scooters. Kronenbourg was tasty

In Dusseldorf I saw a BMW Z1, I realize now why they never made it over here. They wanted to keep them all in Europe and something to do with the way the doors tuck underneath offers no side impact protection. I also saw a host of SMART cars. Essentially a two seater cabin with a wheel in each corner, Tremendously easy to park but no luggage room. Schlusser Alt was hoppy but good tasting.



Smart cars in Rome & Dusseldorf

In Rome the SMART cars had it. The Romans somehow have no dents in their cars, red lights and lane markings are merely suggestions and you can park anywhere you can find room. Even in a Peugeot 206 we

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had trouble finding a big enough parking spot. Moretti was good as were the crab and saffron stuffed rice balls. The in-flight magazine had an article on Morgans. It takes 17 weeks to build a Morgan and only 17 hours to build a Peugeot 106. (I'll wait the 16+ extra weeks thanks)

Returning to Dublin I took a ride in a hackney (essentially a cab but you didn't hail them you had to reserve them 24hrs in advance) The car was smart, sporty, well built and looked good. The driver told me it was essentially a VW built on an Audi A4 chassis. Of course I choked when I saw the SKODA badging.

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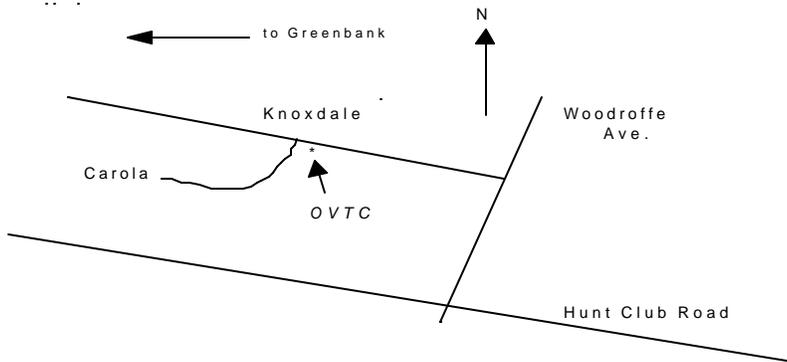
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The Ottawa Valley Triumph Club is comprised of approximately 65 members. The Club meets at 7:30p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Manordale Community Centre, Knoxdale and Carola (see map). Meetings include technical seminars, video presentations, 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.



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)*

**Contact**

**OTTAWA VALLEY TRIUMPH CLUB**  
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