



GREATER ROCHESTER TRIUMPH TOURING CLUB

TRIMPHANTLY YOURS

MARCH 2012

Wow, that month sure flew by fast, I've been a bit incapacitated since mid-February due to foot surgery but now I'm really starting to looking forward to spring and prettying up the yard and of course getting the triumphs out of storage. I always love this time of year as nature seems to wake up, we can get out of the house a bit more, and start tinkering on the numerous projects set aside since last fall.

Welcome back to our snowbird friends who are now returning to share the final days of Winter here in Upstate, NY. It'll be nice to see you all again. (Winter? What winter.)

EVENTS

I understand the Tech Session a few weeks ago was quite successful with a good turn-out for breakfast at Golden Boys in Webster, and an even better turn-out at George's with quite an array of projects to ready cars for spring.

As always a big thank you to George Haynes for opening up his workshop to the membership for a day of camaraderie and repair.

Upcoming Events:

Please take note of these upcoming events happening soon;

April 11, 2012 – Spring Membership Meeting at Mulrony's Irish Pub, in Fairport , NY

Time 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

We will discuss the upcoming events for 2012. Come around 6:00 “for a pint”

With dinner orders taken around 6:45.

Please let George Haynes know if you are coming so we can give Mulrony's and estimated head-count beforehand.

April 29, 2012 – Sunday Bruch Drive

Chris and Eileen Williams will take us to brunch at Steamboat Landing in Canandaigua. Incredible selection, including snow crab legs, omelet and carving stations, etc. Price is a reasonable \$15.99 per person, plus tip and tax. Meet at Burger King, 1166 Route 31 in Macedon for a 10:30AM departure. Contact Chris and Eileen at: cawilliams@rochester.rr.com or call 315-926-5079 and send checks for \$20.00 per person (made out to GRTTC) to: 4112 Ridge Chapel Road, Marion, NY 14505.

May 5, 2012 – Saturday – Spring Tune-up Clinic

Time 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

The GRTTC Tune-Up Clinic is in a new location this year: Piehler Jaguar-Range Rover at 765 Ridge Road in Webster, NY, 14580. This is a joint event with the Jaguar Association of Central New York.

Tune your engine or change your oil or exhaust system or brake pads, etc. Bring parts for your project as well as your own hand tools. Special seminar on tuning TR6 Zenith-Stromberg carburetors, by Piehler technician Tom Atkinson. \$5.00 fee for this event while will go towards the cost of the seminar.

May 17, 2012 – Carlisle Import Weekend – Save the Date.

MORE FROM GEORGE ON THIS LATER

August 26, 2012 – UK Car Day 2012

Planning has already started, if you'd like to be involved, just say the word.

THINGS OF INTEREST

“Good Gas”

Last year an article was passed around about the effects of using gas with an ethanol blend, primarily due to the fact that ethanol has a high content of water in it and as it sits in the car it can cause corrosion as well as other engine related problems.

For those who are concerned, I noticed “Pittsford Auto” located on Monroe Avenue just as you leave the Village of Pittsford by the Canal Bridge is advertising the they sell gas with NO ethanol. I haven't checked out yet myself, but when I get my TR6 out of storage that'll probably be the first place I go.

The Classic Spitfire – (shared by Ned Paulsen)

Classic Cars

TRIUMPH SPITFIRE IS THE PERSONIFICATION OF SPORTS CAR SIMPLICITY

BY TOM STRONGMAN
UCLICK

The Triumph Spitfire is an interesting little car, not widely known outside of enthusiast ranks. The one owned by Edward Blend, a 1978 1500, is a window into the world of classic British sports cars.

The Spitfire, launched in 1962, was Triumph's answer to the Austin-Healey Sprite, and it was built on the chassis of a Triumph Herald sedan.

The body was designed by Italian designer Giovanni Michelotti. Codenamed “The Bomb,” the prototype Spitfire was ordered into production in 1961 and the 1962 model had a 1,147 cc engine that delivered 63 horsepower. In order to challenge the Sprite, the Spitfire was given roll-up windows, a wider cockpit and



Triumph created the Spitfire to compete with the Austin-Healey Sprite.

more storage space.

The Spitfire's independent rear suspension was known for giving the car some unusual handling characteristics when pushed hard. Still, Spitfires

came in first and second in their class in the 1965 24 Hours of Le Mans, and the later GT6 model, a fastback coupe, was successful on the track.

Blend's Spitfire is but one of several enthusiast cars he has had over the years, and several have been English. The list includes a 1959 Triumph TR3, a 1972 Fiat Spider, a

1967 Jaguar XKE coupe, a 1965 Ford Mustang and a 1962 Studebaker Lark Daytona that he bought after he married his wife, Irene.

When Blend acquired his

Spitfire about five years ago, the interior was pretty rough and it needed a new top. He installed new upholstery, overhauled the transmission and put in a new clutch.

He gave the engine a valve job and installed a Weber carburetor. He added wheels that are reproductions of the Mini-lite wheels that were so popular in the 1960s and 1970s.

As the associate director of the Kansas City Triumphs sports car club, Blend likes to take his car to a couple of club shows each year, but he gets more of a kick out of driving it. He said his annual mileage in the Spitfire is often less than 2,000.

While the Spitfire spends most of the time in the garage, Blend has a 2007 Mustang that reminds him a great deal of the 1965 he once owned.

MYSTERY CAR

Once again congratulations to Doug Jack for knowing that last month's mystery car was a 1955 Bandini.



Looks like I'm going to have to try to make the Mystery Car a bit tougher.

So, what is it?



GRAPE - VINE

I'm told a friend of Ken Heusler's has located a Black Textured Hardtop that was originally fitted to a 1969 TR6.

The "asking" price is around \$250.00.

If you are interested TEXT Sue Wylie at 310-487-5758



GRTTC Name Tags

GRTTC Name Tags for those who have ordered them have arrived.

Ned will have the name tags available at the April 11th Membership meeting.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST – DUES

We still have a few outstanding Dues payments.

If you haven't paid your annual \$20 Dues yet, please send your checks to my attention at:

4 Wenlock Road
Fairport, NY 14450

See you all soon at the membership meeting or future event.

Cheers,

Craig