



# TRiumpH TRumpeter

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE DESERT CENTER—TRIUMPH REGISTER of AMERICA  
PROMOTING TRIUMPHS AROUND THE WORLD  
WITH OUR SISTER CLUB,  
THE ISLE OF WIGHT TRIUMPH CLUB, U.K.

**August 2008**

**VOL. 29 Issue 4**

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**NEXT CLUB MEETING:**

**Aug 12, 2008  
7:00 PM**

**JB's  
32nd Street & Indian School**

**Come Early  
Socialize and Network  
with other members**

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## THE PREZ SEZ

We will have a speaker this month: Bob Golfen of the AZ Republic will be with us to hold forth on our little cars. We will give him a dispensation for driving an MG for one night. We need to drive Triumphs to dilute the effect of Bob driving an MG.

Unless I am mistaken, we have found a home. We met at the JB's restaurant 3200 E. Indian School road for the July meeting. Surprise! The food was good and reasonable. The room was quiet with plenty of space for the club. We had two (2) waitresses and got very quick service. Unless something changes, we will be meeting there. There is a large window in the room so we can see our cars parked outside. Also there is security doing rounds every few minutes.

They do not serve alcohol; I guess we will be dry. Sorry Gene! I attempted to work the room out with the Shrine. They wanted \$75.00 per night (with no choice of room), and 4% added to the food. So they do not want us there.

There are a number of events coming up, i.e. pool party at LaCasse's on August 16th, a breakfast run, and a trip arranged by Stu Lasswell. The Vintage Voyage in September, and Triumphest in October. I am curious how much effect the petrol prices will have on attendance? I can remember petrol at .29 per gallon many years ago.

We have lost some good members. Aubert's moved back to Chicago, and Julius Walters lost his wife, Marie. Our condolences to Julius. Mike Long popped up with a "Cool Cars" article in the Republic about his Spitfire. Way to go Mike; nice article.

When the weather cools off a little, I intend to correct the release bearing in the TR6. A little known part of Herman's kit is

*Continued on page 16*



## 2008 Officers

### President

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## Membership

Contact Marty Clark at  
480-962-7848 for  
membership information.

Dues are \$18.00 per year

## New/Renewing Members

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# Minutes of the July Meeting

Nineteen were present for our July meeting at JB's Restaurant on 32<sup>nd</sup> St. & Indian School.

Treasurer: We have enough in checking and savings to be prepared for our next Triumphest. An expense report from our last Triumphest will be printed. Dues for the Hobbyist Council will be paid.

Newsletter: Dave said he will have Kathy Nuss e-mail a calendar of events to him.

Bob McIlravy volunteered to contact all our current advertisers to ask if they plan to renew for next year. Advertisers will be offered lower prices, since Triumphest ads are not included. The newsletter will have a change in format.

Membership: There are few updates, Marty said. He is still collecting from overdue members. Check your due date.

Events: Our vice president was absent. Hosts are needed for future events. The July British Breakfast Run is sponsored by the Jaguar club, and the Horton's will plan a short run for August for DCTRA.

Armand & Ann LaCasse offered to hold a DCTRA pool party on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The club will provide meat, with attendees bringing side dishes. Details will be forthcoming by e-mail. Armand added that his GT6 is running great again.

The British Vintage Voyage is coming up – Oct 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. A registration form will be in the

next newsletter. Also, Stu thought Sept. would be a good time for a run to the Tonto Natural Bridge, and will help plan it.

Old business: The revised bylaws were printed in the newsletter. A vote was taken, and they were approved by the majority of members present.

The next vote was an approval of continued use of this meeting place for the time being. Most agreed that while not fancy, the separate room was quiet, food decent, fast, and inexpensive. The parking lot is in view of our room, and has security.

Tech session: Spitfire owners who need nylon bushings for the shift lever and bushings for transmission linkage, talk to Armand, who is making them.

Virgil told a story of a fuel pump repro that didn't work, but the NAPA one (made in Canada) worked just fine on his TR250. Bill Close said that he can get Porsche 944 screw jacks that fold flat and are a good size to use on Triumphs. Gene Glenn had a few notes on alternators, and John Horton on the progress of his Mazda rotary project.

Jim Bauder said he'd put a nice new wiring harness on his TR250, but that British Wire no longer makes them.

Kroil is available from John Reynolds, at the meetings.

Flowers were sent by the club to Ann Montone, who is recovering, and we learned that Julius Walters' wife Marie is in hospice care.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45, and all spilled into the parking lot to admire Jim B's shiny restored car.

Temporarily filling Deta's secretarial shoes.....Beth Horton



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# Technical Article

## Evey Corner Has an Apex

Even within the boundaries of your own lane, give each and every corner its due respect. Between those white divots and yellow lines form the proper line with a turn in, apex and track out. This drill will help you every time you drive an unfamiliar track

## Dissect the Clover Leaf

Freeway on-ramps are often designed with the tightest radius of the corner located at the very end. This means that your slowest speeds will often come only 50 yards (or less) before you need to merge with traffic (like the transition from the west-bound US 60 to the south-bound 101 in Mesa). It's frustrating road design, but these on-ramps can help you develop line-making experience, as they can be solved with a single, double or even a triple apex approach. Experiment, improvise, learn. And because this on-ramp will inevitably be on your daily commute, you'll get plenty of opportunity to practice!

The important thing is to find the final apex, and adjust your line early in the corner in order to be on the power - and squeezing to more power - as



you pass the apex. A little hint: If the on-ramp

consists of a downhill elevation change, oftentimes the apex will be at the lowest part of the corner. The freeway designers have conveniently placed a great reference point there for you in the form of a gutter or drainage grate.

## It's Never Too Late

Granted, many corners require an early turn in, but one of the most common technical errors the non-professional makes in turning in too early. At road speeds, it's very easy to turn in too early and not recognize it: You're traveling will below the car's limit and can subconsciously add steering at corner exit. But this isn't the case on track, as you approach the limits of adhesion. On the street, you can break your early-turning habit by spending some time intentionally tuning late, squaring off the corners, and focusing on your exit speed. Combining this with forward vision, smooth wheel loading and gentle brake release makes for a great combo drill

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## Post Your TR Story

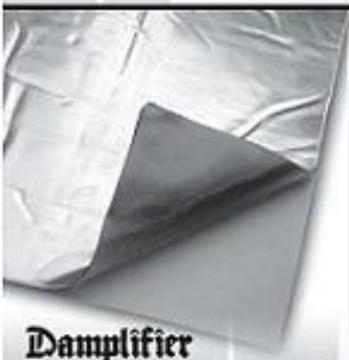
All members that Register with the website (<http://www.dctra.org>) can post a profile and history of themselves and their car(s) along with a photo. Visit the site and on th emembership page you can find a detailed step-by-step process (including pictures!) of how to do it.

## Update Your Triumph Membership

Marty has posted the updated membership list on our DCTRA.org website (see files section). It 's updated through the January Brunch meeting. He is still accepting digital pictures of your car (s) to include on this list. Club members voted to remove unpaid listings, so these will no longer receive club emails. If you would like your membership to be renewed, bring your payment to an event, meetingmail a check (made out to DCTRA) to our Treasurer, **John Reynolds**, 806 E. Campus, Tempe, AZ 85282.

# Sound Deadening and Thermal Insulation

• Eliminate Road Noise • Reduce Engine rumble • Kill Exhaust Drone • Insulate from Extreme Temperatures



## Damplifier

Damplifier is a self adhesive thermal-acoustic vibration mat that gets applied to the cars metal panels to dampen unwanted road noise, engine rumble and exhaust drone. Damplifier has no odor, protects against rust and has the highest thermal rating in the industry. Over 500 degrees! **40 sq feet \$96**

**Save 60% off the popular  
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## SECONDSKIN SOUND DAMPENING



## Motor Mat

Motor Mat is a self adhesive thermal acoustic hood liner, designed to reduce engine noise inside the vehicle, and to protect the paint on the cars hood. It can also be installed on the firewall for greater heat and sound isolation results. **13.5 sq feet \$50**



## Luxury liner

Luxury Liner is a sound barrier and absorber composite that gets applied on top of a vibration damper to reflect and dissipate unwanted sound waves. Luxury Liner is most commonly used to quiet highway noise and make hot rods quiet like luxury cars. No reason to hang up that cell phone while doing 80 mph now! **9 sq feet \$61**



## Spectrum

Spectrum is our family of water based, heat & noise coatings that can be sprayed or painted on with a brush roller or trowel. We have ceramic coatings for dissipating heat and ultra thick vibration paste for quick and easy applications. When compared to traditional asphalt and tar coats these products provide over 300% better results.  
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## Classified

## Happenings with the Isle of Wight

### TRIUMPH/TOYOTA TRANSMISSION ADAPTORS

Put a Toyota 5 Speed into your TR-3 or TR-4, Transmission adaptor uses stock Triumph hydraulic clutch set up. Adaptor Kit, with instruction, pictures \$400.00, Bill Close, Mesa, Az, (602-524-5351)



### Lease Return Notebook Computers

Dave Riddle has some more notebook computers that are available off lease return. Contact him at 480-610-8234



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## Calendar of Events

**Sunday, July 20:** Breakfast Run sponsored by the Jaguar Club

**August 2 & 3:** Prescott Antique Auto Club is holding a car exhibit, parts exchange and old engine fire-up at Watson Lake Park in Prescott, AZ.

**Saturday, August 16:** Armand and Ann invite you to attend the Pool Party on Saturday, August 16, 2008. The pool temperature is in the low 90 degrees so bring your suit and plan on swimming when the sun goes down!!! Arrive anytime after 5 pm. We will be grilling bangers, brats and ??? after 6 pm. Please bring your own libations and a dish to share. We live in north central Phoenix and our home address is classified!!! Please call for directions and to coordinate dishes to share. The number is 602 870 8585 or call my cell at 602 904 1037.

**Saturday, September 13:** Charity Car Show at Mesa Marketplace, sponsored by Arizona Mini Owners. Proceeds to AZ Humane Society.

**September ( No date set yet):** Breakfast Run: sponsored by the DeLoren Club.

**Thursday - Sunday, October 2 – 5:** Triumphfest in Tahoe, CA.

**October ( No date set yet):** Breakfast Run: sponsored by the Lotus Club.

**Saturday & Sunday, October 25 & 26:** British Vintage Voyage sponsored by AMO.

**Saturday, November 22:** Drive to Arcosanti with a possible run up to the Santa Domingo Winery on I-17.

**December:** Christmas party, date and place to be determined.



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



*RAISING MONEY FOR CHARITY IN A FUN WAY*

The Tenth Anniversary  
**BRITISH VINTAGE VOYAGE**  
**October 25th & 26th 2008**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AS THINGS  
 CHANGE EVERY YEAR**

The British Vintage Voyage is a weekend trip for ALL British Car Owners, AND a limited number of other makes. All proceeds, including \$10.00 of the entry fee, will be donated to the AZ Humane Society this year.

A route book, a goodie bag, lunch on Saturday and a souvenir of the event are included in your entry fee. In addition to the usual engraved glasses each car will receive special recognition, even if this is the first time it has participated. Every year we try and plan a different itinerary and this year we head down south to re-visit our favorite Village of Elgin Winery with an over-night stay in Benson and on Sunday morning before our wrap-up lunch in Tucson you could visit the Old Tucson Studios or the Arizona Sonora Desert museum. Check their websites and order your own tickets. [www.oldtucson.com](http://www.oldtucson.com) or [www.desertmuseum.org](http://www.desertmuseum.org) On Saturday morning we will stop in Tucson to join up with those living there, no need to come to the Phoenix area for the start.

**Registration is \$55.00 per vehicle, which includes driver & navigator, additional adult passengers are \$20.00 each, \$10.00 for under 12's**

**Closing date for registration is October 1st, or as soon as the maximum number of 50 teams has been reached. Sorry, no "day of" registrations can be accepted.**

Arrangements have been made for accommodations at the Best Western Quail Inn in Benson (520-586-3646 ) and be sure and mention the Arizona Mini Owners Group to get the special rate of \$89.00 + tax per room.

**Our block of rooms will only be held till Oct.1st, so make your reservations early.**

**A post card, or e-mail message, will be sent with the start location.**

.....cut here and mail.....

**The British Vintage Voyage 2008 registration**  
 ( PLEASE PRINT)

Name of Owner/driver.....Navigator.....

Street address.....Passengers if any.....

City.....State.....Zip.....Home phone.....

Car Marque.....Year.....

License Plate #.....Club Affiliation.....

E-mail address.....

I agree to hold the organizers, the Arizona Mini Owners Inc., harmless and not liable while traveling to, during & from this event. My car is legally taxed, licensed and insured and I agree to obey all Arizona driving laws.

Signature..... Date.....

See page two.

## Cruise Night Locations

**Albertsons Shopping Center - Warner and Lindsey** Friday Nights

**Scottsdale Pavillions near McDonalds**  
Saturday evenings from 4:30

**Mesa** - 2nd Friday of each month in Downtown Mesa

**Mesa** - Power & Hampton on Saturday Evenings

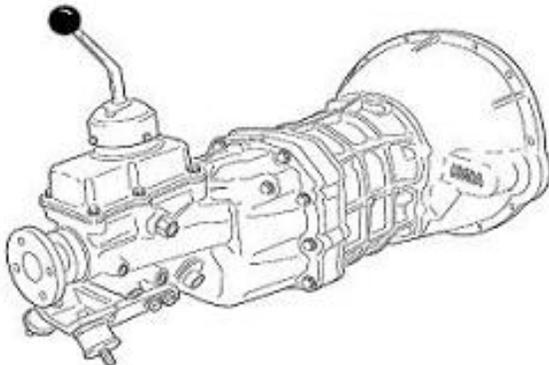


Last Sunday of every month  
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winter hours - October-April  
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# Prescott Antique Auto Club

## 34th Annual

### Car Exhibit, Parts Exchange, and Old Engine Fire-up

#### August 2nd-3rd, 2008

#### At Watson Lake Park, Prescott, AZ



**GENERAL PARKING:** \$5.00 Donation per car

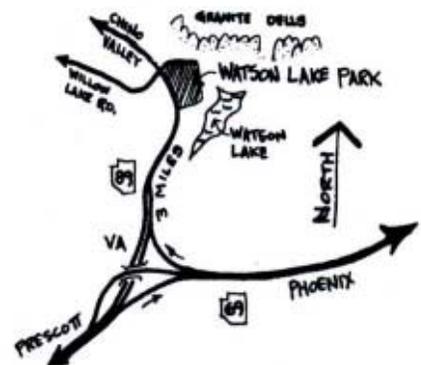
**SHOW CARS:** **1983 and OLDER ONLY.** NO PRE-REGISTRATION. \$25 Sat., \$20 Sun, per vehicle. Gates open at 5:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. T-shirt, dash plaque, and Goodie Bag for the first 200 vehicles. Trophies presented on Saturday and Sunday. Participant's Choice & People's Choice. 36 Trophies in all. Vintage motorcycles, motor scooters, Whizzers, and tractors welcome. (for display only, no charge.)

**CARS FOR SALE:** \$15 per vehicle for the weekend or any part of the weekend. Cars for sale area opens at 5:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Set up from noon to 7:00p.m. on Friday is \$5 extra. All vehicles must be removed from Watson Lake Park by 4:30p.m. Sunday.

**VENDOR SPACES:** **LIMITED TO 120 SPACES.** NO PRE-REGISTRATION. \$50 for the weekend. (\$25 goes to PAAC and \$25 goes to the City of Prescott for a *privilege tax license*, unless you already have one. The State of Arizona Revenue Dept. may be on site to charge an additional \$12 for a license.) \$25 for additional spaces. **NO REFUNDS.** Spaces available on a first come, first served basis. Spaces are 30'x20'. Set up on Friday between 10:00a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and after 5:30a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Vendor overnight camping on your swap space is permissible. Toy and automotive memorabilia vendors welcome.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Over-all chairperson: Ed Willmann 928-445-9570  
 Car Show: Jim Chatham 928-771-0184  
 Parts Exchange Spaces: Tom Holden 928-445-4060  
 E-mail: [paacnews@yahoo.com](mailto:paacnews@yahoo.com)



ACCESS INTO OR OUT OF WATSON LAKE PARK WILL CLOSE AT 10:30P.M. ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY. ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THEIR VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT, AND PROPERTY. NO LOUD STEREOs. PET LEASH LAWS STRICTLY ENFORCED.

## DCTRA Member, Robert Smith, New Owner of TS1



When Robert P. Smith was growing up in his native Chattanooga, Tennessee, he had two primary interests – nature and automobiles. One led to a career with two U.S. Government Agencies, while the other, to a life-long love affair with cars. He purchased his first car, a VW Karman Ghia convertible at sixteen years of age then moved on to MGs while attending college.

Over the course of his life, Smith estimates he has owned somewhere in the neighborhood of one hundred cars, most of which were sports cars.

Now retired and living on Hawaii's Big Island, Smith built a 2800 sq. ft. building on his property to house his wonderful and varied collection of British sports cars. Triumphs, MGs, Turners, Morgans, Austin Healey and Sunbeams represent the majority

of the collection and while they are all in excellent condition, these are by no means "garage queens" as Smith is a firm believer in driving his cars on a regular basis.

Smith has recently added another 2000 sq. ft. of garage space to house his growing collection and a reserved spot for a very significant, small-mouth Triumph TR2. Smith has been able to acquire the first TR2 built, commission number TS1 L0, from Joe Richards in Ohio. Later this year, the fully restored TS1 will be transported to Hawaii and take a special place among Smith's other three and four wheeled treasures.

Planning a trip to Hawaii in the near future? If so, make sure you visit Smith's museum to see TS 1 and the rest of his collection. You can contact

him at [smith1127@aol.com](mailto:smith1127@aol.com) to arrange an appointment. The museum is located near Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island.

Words by: Gary Horstkorta – July 2008





At Arizona Image CARSTAR Paint & Autobody we like to think of our customers as friends, and hope you will feel the same. Situated in a very strategic location in Mesa, Arizona Image CARSTAR is a 13000 square ft facility of quality automobile service and repair.

We offer Domestic and Import collision repair, Pick-up and Delivery service, Hassle free handling of insurance claims, I-Car Gold Class certified technicians, Repair Warranties, On-site rental cars, 24 Hour Towing, and Detail Service.

Dan Needham, owner of Arizona Image CARSTAR Paint & Body, has been in the collision business for over 23 years. He has been around the business all his life. He started out helping his dad at a very young age when his dad owned his own shop for 47 years, the last 22 years in Mesa. Dan manages the business end of the collision repair facility and Arizona Image CARSTAR Paint and Autobody.

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# CHARITY CAR SHOW

In aid of the Arizona Humane Society  
**SATURDAY, SEPT. 13<sup>th</sup> 2008**  
**MESA MARKETPLACE**  
On Baseline, west of Signal Butte Road.

**Arizona  
Humane  
Society**



**10:00am till 2:00pm**

All types of cars, trucks, motorcycles etc. are welcome.

**Entry Fee \$5.00 per vehicle.**

Five awards will be given & all entrants will receive a dash plaque.

The winners will be decided by who collects the most 'votes' (cash donations) in their 'ballot box' (collection jar). This is an election where it is encouraged to 'stuff the ballot boxes'. **It is acceptable, and encouraged, that you solicit 'votes' ahead of the show from friends, relations and neighbors etc.**

REMEMBER 100% of the proceeds will be given to charity.

Drive up registrations OK but please help us by registering early with the form below or calling 480-985-2531

-----cut here-----

## ARIZONA MINI OWNERS CHARITY CAR SHOW

Owners name..... Make & Model of vehicle.....  
Address.....Club Affiliation if any.....  
City..... State.....Zip.....  
Phone #..... e mail address.....

I agree to hold the Arizona Mini Owners & Mesa Marketplace harmless while traveling to, during and from the show.

Signature.....Date.....

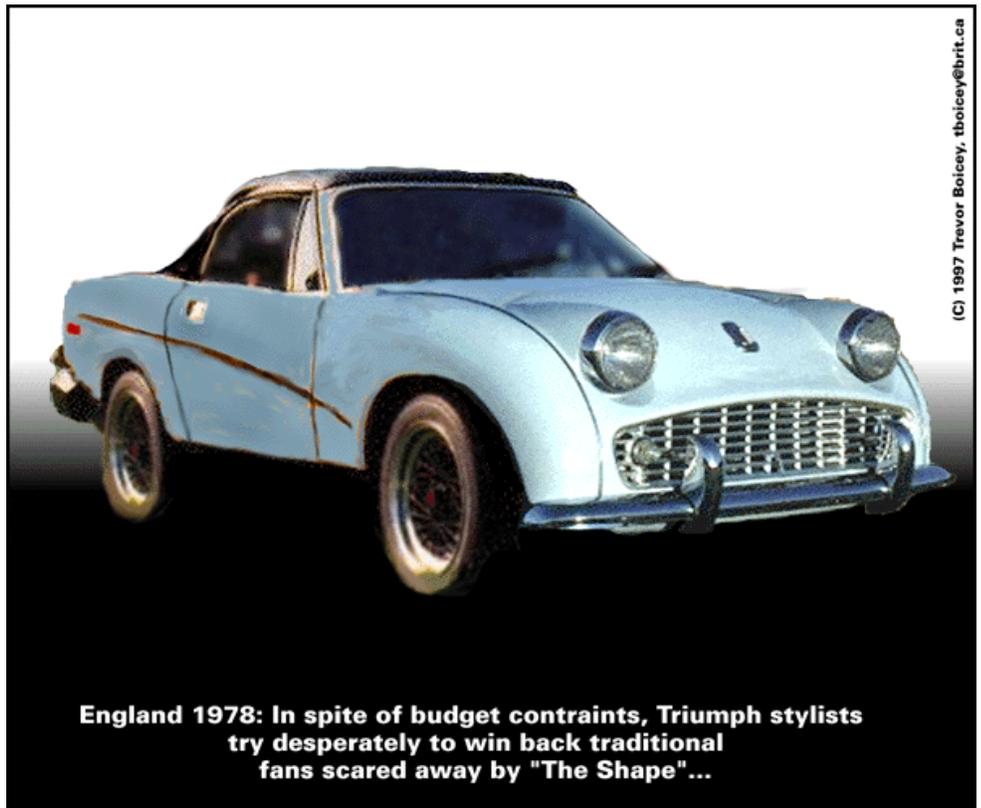
Make checks payable to Arizona Mini Owners and mail to  
7146 E.Arcadia Circle  
Mesa, AZ 85208

*Continued from Page 1*

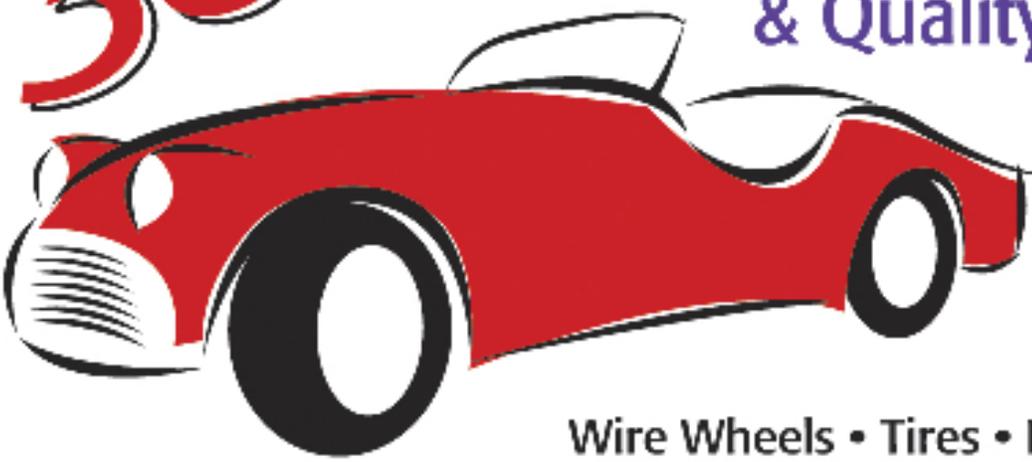
matching the release bearing to the fingers on the pressure plate. Something about a flat or a convex surface on the bearing that matches the fingers on the plate. I will report on that. I will also work on a replacement engine. I hope to swap engines with someone, so I do not have the car down for months whilst I rebuild the engine. I want to rebuild an engine and do a one shot swap and correct the other problems. At this writing I have not found a loaner engine.

As my shop is not air conditioned, work is on hold till drier weather. Keep them on the road!

John



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**DCTRA 2007 Membership Application & Renewal Form**

Please print and return completed form to:  
John Reynolds, Treasurer  
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Tempe, AZ 85282

**Member Info:**

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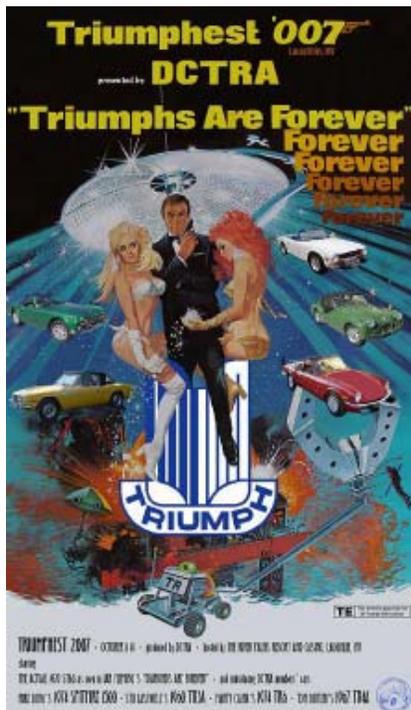


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# How Old Are Your Tires?

Very interesting article from ABC News making it's way across the internet.



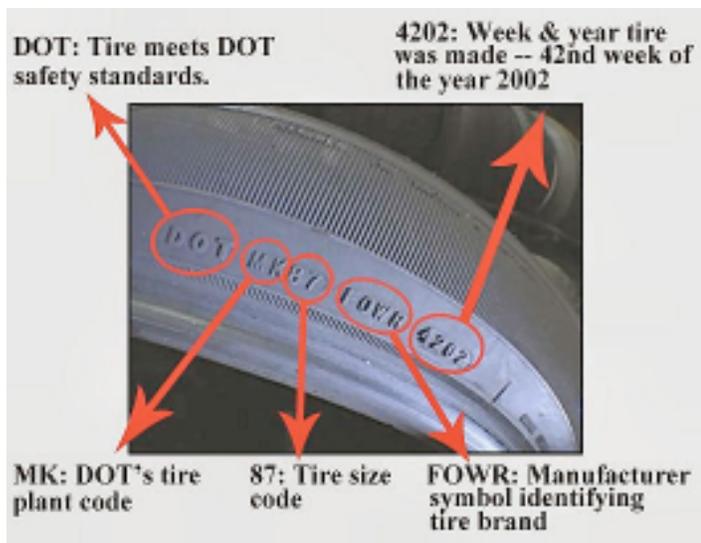
Contrary to popular belief, you can't judge a tire by its cover. Researchers and most experts agree that along with tread depth and proper tire maintenance, tire age is also crucial to your safety on the road.

This tire was bought as new — it has never been on the road — but was nearly 14 years old when purchased. Despite its deep treads, this tire's inside layers have been slowly decomposing and drying out, what experts say make it like "a ticking time bomb."

This graphic breaks down the various codes in the Department of Transportation's serial number for tires. A cryptic code of four numbers at the end of the 12-digit DOT serial number can tell the consumer which week and year a tire was manufactured. Can you tell when your tires were made?



This tire's DOT code indicates that it was made in the 41st week of 1994. Tires made in the 1990s have three numbers at the end of the DOT code, while tires made after 2000 have four numbers.



This tire is more than seven years old. It was made in the 13th week of 2001. According to

experts like Sean Kane, who runs a private auto safety research firm, tires older than six years get increasingly more dangerous regardless of how long they've actually been on the road.

ABC News' "20/20" sent producers undercover, rigged with hidden cameras, to tire retailers all over the county to see if any old tires are being sold as new. The undercover producers found half a dozen tires older than six years at this Sears in Jersey City, N.J. — some were even older than a decade.

tire distributors. This tire was made in the 31st week of 2001.

In San Francisco, KGO's reporters found a nine-year-old tire, made in the 45th week of 1999, sold as new at a tire dealer.

And in the New York area, our undercover "20/20" shoppers found several Sears stores selling tires older than six years. Sears says it is unusual to have old tires in their inventory and told ABC News, "Consistent maintenance, proper inflation and regular inspection for tread wear patterns and damage are the keys to good tire performance. For consumers who are concerned about the age or condition of their tires, it is recommended they let us evaluate their tires regularly, which we'll do free of charge."



ABC News affiliates all over the country did their own investigations collaborating with "20/20" and the Brian Ross Investigative Unit for this report. In Indianapolis, WRTV-TV found old tires at three

At another Sears store, we were told that a tire made 12 years ago, in the 46th week of 1996, was perfectly safe. Sears said, "We follow an inventory process of first in, first out, and we turn our tire inventory an average of more than three times a year. We note that there is a difference of opinion in the tire industry...about the service-life limits of tires. The safety of our customers is a top priority for Sears, and we'll continue to work with all interested parties to push for a consensus on tire service limits."



The Arizona Mini Owners invite you to join them at the



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On Saturday, August 23rd 2008.

They have graciously agreed to open at 9am that morning and we will have exclusive use of their track and equipment till 11am.

For approx. \$60.00 per person, when taxes are included, you will get a Continental Breakfast, 2 races on the track with all safety equipment provided.

Just before 11am there will be a Parade Lap for the Minis.

Sorry, it will be limited to the Classic Minis.

If you would rather just watch and not race that can be arranged too. Both of your races don't have to be run at that time, you can arrange for a credit and return at later date.

We will need to know if you plan on attending as the Race Factory requires numbers no later than August 15th.

You can reserve a spot, and/or breakfast by calling Shirley or Philip at 480-985-2531 or e-mailing [arizonaminis@earthlink.net](mailto:arizonaminis@earthlink.net).

Hope to see you there for some driving fun in the cool !

## Uniform Tire Quality Grading

**All passenger tires must conform to federal safety requirements in addition to these grades.**

### TREADWEAR

The treadwear grade is a comparative rating based on the wear rate of the tire when tested under controlled conditions on a specified government test course. For example, a tire graded 150 would wear one and a half (1 1/2) times as well on the government course as a tire graded 100. The relative performance of tires depends upon the actual conditions of their use, however, and may depart significantly from the norm due to variations in driving habits, service practices and differences in road characteristics and climate.

### TRACTION A B C

The traction grades from the highest to the lowest, A,B, and C, and they represent the tire's ability to stop on wet pavement as measured under controlled conditions on specified government test surfaces of asphalt and concrete. A tire marked C may have poor traction performance. The traction grade is based on braking (straight ahead) traction and does not include cornering (turning) traction.

### TEMPERATURE A B C

The temperature grades are A (the highest) B, and C, representing the tire's resistance to the generation of heat and its ability to dissipate heat when tested under controlled conditions on a specified indoor laboratory test wheel. Sustained high temperature can cause the material of the tire to degenerate and reduce tire life, and excessive temperature can lead to sudden tire failure. The grade C corresponds to a level of performance which all passenger car tires must meet under the Federal Motor Vehicles Safety Standard No. 109. Grades B and A represent higher levels of performance on the laboratory test wheel than the minimum required by law.

The temperature grade is established for a tire that is properly inflated and not overloaded. Excessive speed, under inflation, or excessive loading, either separately or in combination, can cause heat buildup and possible tire failure.

### SPEED RATINGS

Speed rating passenger tires originated in Europe, where highway speeds can exceed 100 mph. The speed rating indicates the maximum speed a properly inflated tire will withstand for a determined time. Testing for a speed certification is conducted in a laboratory setting.

The speed rating of a tire is an indicator of the tire's performance capability. Improving the tire's performance capability will normally benefit the automobile's performance. Conversely, decreasing the tire's speed rating generally lowers the tire's ability to contribute to the automobile's performance.

### SPEED RATINGS CHART

SPEED SYMBOL	SPEED MPH	SPEED KPH
M	81	130
N	87	140
P	93	150
Q	99	160
R	106	170
S	112	180
T	118	190
U	124	200
H	130	210
V	149	240
W	168	270
Y	186	300
Z	OVER 149	OVER 240

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# My First Triumph Adventure

By John Heisser

A little history first, a long time ago and far, far away.

Late on a fall night I'm on Main Street at a traffic light in my rumbling 1964 Dodge with a Chrysler Hemi with 2 x 4 bbl carburetors. While the light is still red, a black Triumph TR4 A pulls up beside me revs his engine. The light changes, he chirps his tires and is gone, I'm left smoking my tires, after the cloud clears, and getting some traction, I starting to catch up. The next light turns red and we both have to stop. We each give thumbs up as he is turning right; needless to say I was impressed.

Fast forward approximately 10 years.

I'm now living in Phoenix, the girl I'm dating, soon to be wife, has a black on black 1966 MGB. What a pain in the @%#! The starter is always giving us trouble, we carry a spare, the shocks leak, the steering wheel is broken, it won't pass emissions and it's hot to the touch! I convince her we should sell it, a decision I've regretted for years and been reminded of on several occasions.

Cheri has always liked sporty cars, her present car is a 350 Z, I have owned several Mopars, and I love cars of all sorts, antiques, car from the fifties, muscles cars, even low riders. I appreciate and enjoy the mechanical-ness of older cars, over coming problems or improving them with your mind and hands and not just plugging in a computer or adding a 'chip'.

Fast forward to the recent present time. We enjoy getting out of town a few times during the summer to the cooler parts of the state and car shows are a good reason. Over the past few years Cheri has said 'I think owning a special car and showing it would be fun, going to shows, and the camaraderie with people who have the same interests. My reply was 'I like to do that to, but it would have to be a car in good condition, I just don't have the time to rebuild something.' So for the past year or so I would occasionally look on the internet at all kinds of cars. After attending a car show in Williams Arizona we really started



looking serious. After looking at several different categories, I remember that Triumph, that night, several years ago. I've always liked TR 6s; Cheri agreed after going on line and found the DCTRA web site and all the information about Triumphs. So we started looking for a TR6 and joined DCTRA. I had look at several sites and contacted several car owners, some had all ready been sold, where to far away, I really wanted to see the car first, or after receiving several photos the cars were not what they were represented to be.

Found The One. I found a car on line @ auto trader, located in northern California. I called the owner and spent about an hour discussing the car, he said to end our conversation that the car

was about 85% perfect. He sent several photos. After a few more phone calls, we agreed on a price contingent to a final inspection.

Finally My First Triumph Adventure. After a busy day, 9/13/07 that did not want to end I finally got to bed around 10:45. I did not sleep well, wondering if this car was going to be all I was expecting; the alarm woke us at 4:15 AM. Cheri got up with me and the shuttle arrived @ 4:40 AM. We kissed good-bye and she said "Remember if you are not completely happy with the car, don't buy it". I wasn't quite awake when I got in that van, however, after the fast somewhat scary ride, I arrived at the airport 'wide eyed & white knuckled' ready to go! Did the whole security thing, I may be giving my age away, but I remember when it was fun to fly. Arrived at Oakland about 9:15, called Mike said he would be there shortly; he rolled up around 10:15. However, I could not be upset, this beautiful little red car made me smile. We drove away from the airport to a parking lot. I spent about a half hour looking over / under / inside the car. I finished with looking at pictures of the restoration, and pages of receipts. We negotiated a price, and I'm thinking I'll get out of here around 12/12:30. Cheri calls around 12:00, I think she is more excited than me, 'yes the car is really nice and yes I am buying it'. After returning to his home, the search for ALL the spare parts, title, typing a 'Bill of Sale', I had e-mailed him one, finding a bank, getting a title notarized, etc. Finally at 3:30 I am heading down I-5, top up for shade, windows down and unzipped, drinking juice, much needed water and snacking on trail mix. I'm cruising at 65 MPH; engine is turning 3500 RPMs, 1<sup>st</sup> improvement project, overdrive! The exhaust note is really loud, but 'kool', I check gauges everything is working and looks fine. I'm thinking I may just drive through. 4:00 PM Call from Cheri, I had left her a message earlier, 'I'll call you in awhile, I can not hear very well. 4:15 rest stop, call Cheri back, I'm fine, car is running good, but, somewhat loud. 9:30 PM arrive in Bakersfield, dog tired, headache, pickup some ear plugs (1st improvement quieter exhaust) checked in to hotel. When to restaurant, ordered fish & chips, I'm really getting into this LBC thing;

however, they looked at me funny when I asked for some warm beer! On my way to the room I meet some firefighters working a near by fire, thanked them for their hard work. Up the next morning at 4:30, jump in car, pulled out choke, turn key, nothing! I forgot to tighten battery disconnect. Drove for a about 1 hour, stopped for breakfast, heading east again as sun is coming up, it was clear but the sky looked like there was a lot of pollution drifting north from, LA. Then, as I got closer I could smell the smoke, must have been the fire those firefighters were working. Got to 395 and decided to head towards Barstow then take I-40 to 95, then north to cross river at Bullhead City. As I was coming down the hill towards the Colorado River it was getting warm, I thought will here the first test, how will this car handle the heat. Crossing the river you start to climb immediately, I was passing trucks at 70 MPH without a problem! The car was running cool; the needle on the temperature gauge had not move from center, was this actually true or the result of the infamous English electronics / wiring! Rolled into Kingman and stopped for gas, filled up got some drinks, jumped in turn key nothing! Looked, could not find anything wrong so got a push start and headed to Phoenix, as I approached Wickenburg around 1:00 PM, I could see storm clouds to the south, I wanted to get home before it hit. Later when I got home I heard that I-10 was closed due to a bad dust storm which had caused an accident, I was glad I decided to go through Kingman. Cheri call when I was on the 303 & Bell Road, I said I be home in a half hour, When I pulled up to the house she was out side, said she could here me coming! I said 'it's not that loud', as I pulled out my ear plugs and heard my neighbors' car alarm sounding off. Other than that she really loved the car. My car alarm neighbor gave me a push start, I parked the car in the garage, closed the door. A few minutes later the dust storm hit, then rain, but my LBC was safely tucked away at its new home.

Epilog. The exhaust system was changed within the next few weeks, and we have really enjoyed the car and new friends we have made in the 9 + months we have owned the car.

# TRIUMPH 2008

**You are invited to the Triumph Travelers Sports Car Club celebration of 50 years with a Birthday Party as a highlight of Triumphest 2008, October 2-5 at the Horizon Casino & Resort, South Lake Tahoe, Nevada**

*Triumphest will begin with a dinner cruise Thursday evening on the M.S. Dixie paddlewheel boat, cruising Lake Tahoe and Emerald Bay. Events such as the Autocross, FUNkhana, Tech Session and FUNcours will be held on site. The Friday Driving Tour will take in some of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding area's beautiful Autumn colors.*

*Friday night will be the Gala 50th Birthday Party with all the trimmings. Participants and families are encouraged to join us for Cake, Games and Music. And of course, your favorite vendors will be present to support Triumphest with Catalogs and Items for sale.*

*The event will conclude with a group photo Sunday morning.*

*Triumphest welcomes all Triumph owners and enthusiasts to participate in all the events at Triumphest no matter if your car is pristine or a daily driver.*

*The word is "FUN!"*



**Get complete details and info at [www.triumphtravelers.org](http://www.triumphtravelers.org) and/or Rich and Karyn Gibbon at: [krigibbon@volcano.net](mailto:krigibbon@volcano.net)**



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