

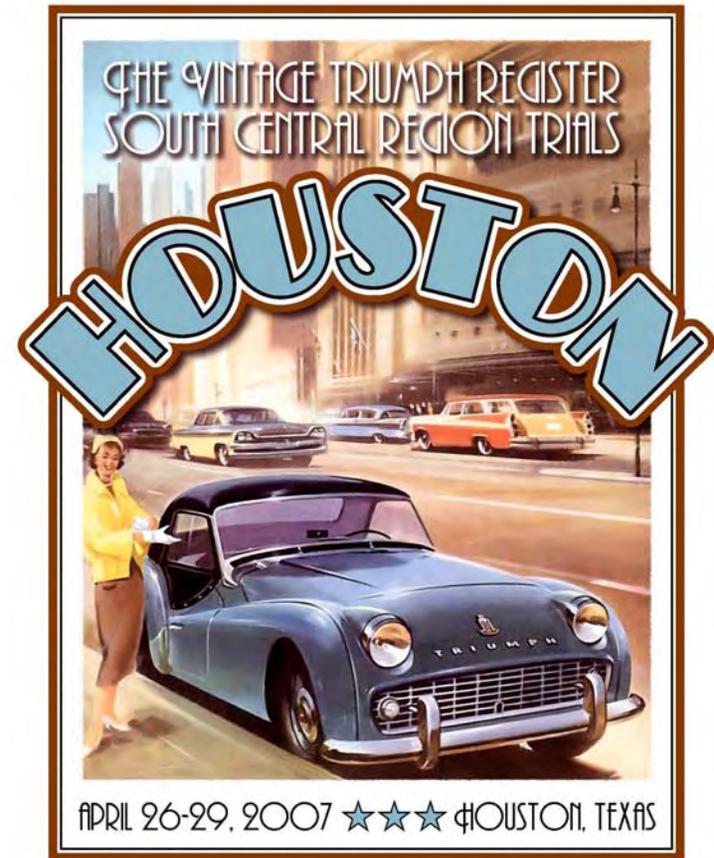
Annual Club dues are due.

Vol. 26, No. 6
June 2007

THE BLUEBONNET

News from the Texas Triumph Register

P.O. Box 40847
Houston, TX 77240-0847





Texas Triumph Register All-Purpose Membership Form

The Texas Triumph Register

The Texas Triumph Register (TTR), founded in 1981, is an organization of Triumph owners and enthusiasts dedicated to the preservation and continuing enjoyment of the Marque. Membership is open to all who appreciate automobiles bearing the Triumph name. In addition to monthly meetings, the club sponsors rallies, shows, road tours, technical seminars, and social events.

Visit our website at:
www.TexasTriumphRegister.org

National Affiliations

The Texas Triumph Register is a local chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)/Triumph Sports Owners Association, which is open to all drivers of Triumph motorcars; an area center for the Triumph Register of America, exclusively for TR-2 through TR-4A automobiles; and a chapter of the 6-PACK, dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation, and restoration of the Triumph TR250 and TR6 automobiles.

Membership in these national organizations is encouraged. Visit their websites at:
www.vtr.org
www.triumphregister.com
www.6-pack.org

The Bluebonnet

The Bluebonnet is published monthly for TTR members. Members are encouraged to submit articles, photographs, or other items of interest. TTR neither endorses nor warrants any product or service advertised herein.

The information contained in this newsletter is for information only. TTR assumes no responsibility for the correctness or safety of the procedures; the reader assumes liability for any risk — personal or financial — in connection with the repairs or modifications outlined in the articles.

Working on cars can be hazardous if done incorrectly or without the proper safety precautions. The consequences of some mistakes can be dangerous. TTR suggests that you consult an automotive professional before attempting any repair or modification with which you are unfamiliar or inexperienced.

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The TTR meets the 2nd Saturday of each month. For more information, contact Mike Hado (281.807.4780). We look forward to meeting you!

Check one: New Membership Renewal Update

Member's Name: _____ Birthday (month/day) _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Birthday (month/day) _____

Street (or Mailing) Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work phone _____ Cell _____

e-mail Address _____

Triumph ownership is not a prerequisite for membership; however, if you do own any Triumphs, please tell us about them:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Model/Color/Condition*</u>	<u>Commission (serial) No.</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

* O = original, R = restored, B = being restored (or will be), P = parts car.

Dues: **\$30 per year per family**. Make check payable to the Texas Triumph Register (P.O. Box 40847, Houston, TX 77240-0847). Your cancelled check is your receipt.

CLASSIFIEDS

Noncommercial classified ads are free to members and inexpensive for everyone else! Just \$30 per ad for six issues and six months on the web site. Photos run as space available. (Ads will run for the full term unless cancelled in writing.) Service ads run until cancelled, as space available.

For Sale:

1971 TR-6. Good condition, Jasmine yellow, webers, too much new to list. 101,586 miles, 3rd owner (26 years). \$10,500. Contact Ron (936.291.7661). TTR member.

1972 Stag. Carmine red with brown interior and removable hardtop. 115,000 miles. Restored about 8 years ago by previous owner. Nice paint job with one rust spot around wheel well. Currently in running condition, but will need a new clutch, brake job soon. All invoices, pictures, and paperwork on car included. \$4500 firm. Contact: John Boyette (home: 936.271.4382, cell: 817.401.9475, jboyette@premieramusements.com). TTR member.

1956 TR3 (small mouth). 99% complete, 80% disassembled, will roll onto a trailer. Body and most parts are in good shape. Several new engine parts. Restored gas tank, radiator, valve heads. \$4000 OBO. Contact: Carlos Millan (713.254.3113, cmillan@atlantia.com).

1962 Herald Sedan. White chassis with red interior, convertible (needs new top), 1200-cc engine runs great; minor electrical and body repairs needed; many rebuilt or new parts in past 4 years. Rebuilt parts include dual carburetor, starter, master brake and clutch cylinders, and reupholstered front seats. New parts include brake cylinders, hydraulic brake lines, fuel pump, engine mounts, exhaust system, and tires. Contact Geoff Davis (832.567.1019, gdavis@richardsonbarr.com). TTR member.

1972 Stag. Carmine red, beige interior, 18.5K miles, excellent condition, removable hard top. \$9,000. Both cars stored in A/C garage for 24 months. Contact: Julie (281.232.9797 or 281.239.5787).

1972 TR6. Strong motor. Tranny and rear end ok. Blue. Decent, but not great, paint, but right color for numbers; good carpet, but seats need upholstery. Needs suspension bushings. Good top. Spoke wheels. \$5000 negotiable. Serious only. Contact: Mike Campbell (home: 281.296.2680, cell: 281.734.3771).

Wheels and Tires. Five original equipment spoke wheels off a 1969 TR 6; Michelin red lines; probably date back to 1982. Package includes tires, wheels, splined hubs, hexagonal wheel nuts, wheel nut wrench, and studs to mount the hubs. Make me an offer. Jeffrey Davis (713.974.8848, office; 713.825.1114, cell; jdavis@daviscommercialdevelopment.com). TTR member.



From the President ...

Since the last newsletter a lot has happened ... now that is the understatement of all time!

If you missed the May meeting at the Myers' lake house, you missed a great time. Thanks Len and Marti for all your hospitality. You missed the opportunity to cast your ballot for the new slate of club officers. So the new guy's on the block. In addition to me as President, Bill Papp is Vice President of Events, Dusty Nicholson is Treasurer, and Bob Delery is Secretary. See what happens if you miss a meeting! It is my understanding that Vern Burnett, Road Trip King, will assist in the route planning.

The success of our club over the past few years has a lot to do with our club officers who have just retired (or maybe I should say they are just tired). We should all thank Jim Wortsman, our past president; Vern Burnett and Russ Seto, vice presidents of events; Mike McElmurray, treasurer; and Patsy Papp, secretary. All of them are to be congratulated for a job well done.

In addition to our new officers, this is the last edition of the *Bluebonnet* to be produced and edited by Diane Parker. Thanks, Diane, for all of your hard work. Jim Wortsman, who has not had enough, will become our newsletter editor.

VTR Regionals were held April 26 through 29 and were a big success. We had approximately 160 Triumph people in attendance and some 75 cars. I'm not sure, but I think it was the biggest Regionals ever hosted by the TTR. One of the things that impressed the other clubs was our hospitality and eagerness to help out with whatever was needed. Everyone who attended had a great time and the club has received many compliments from the other clubs. All of our members who volunteered their time and effort deserve big **THANKS!** Details of the Regionals are covered in this issue by Marie Hado and Jeff Harris.

During the May meeting, a discussion was held regarding the club becoming more involved in autocrossing. We are thinking about renting the Houston Police Academy track for a day. This would give us a chance to see if our funny little British cars can go fast and make sharp turns. There most likely will be a fee charged to those who want to participate. The amount will depend on the number of us who participate. I would like to hear from those of you who are interested in a day of autocrossing so we can plan accordingly. Drop me an email at ericschumann@hotmail.com.

This month's meeting will be held on June 9th at our house in beautiful northwest Houston. We will gather at 4:00 p.m. and meet at 5:00. I plan to grill some burgers after the meeting. Bring a snack or desert to share.

If you're interested, a local car show is usually in progress at the neighborhood Kroger every Saturday night. If you like, you should plan to drop by after the meeting.

I encourage all of our members to attend as many of our events as possible. Bill Papp is working on an events calendar for the remainder of the year. If you have any thoughts on a great new drive or other activity, bring them to the meeting. Our club is, in my opinion, one of the best car clubs in the Houston area. I have several friends who are members of other clubs and every time I discuss our events and the participation by our members, they are amazed.

See you at our house on June 9th ... and yes, the 11-year 8-month restoration of my TR3 is still ongoing!

Eric

[(Lame Duck) Ed. Note]:

Had to make an editorial decision for this issue about text vs photos ... and so I decided that since our website so magnificently tells the story of the 2007 South Central Region Trials, this issue of the *Bluebonnet* will tell the story in words and photos that may not have made it to the website. I encourage all of you to check out the website (<http://www.kingswayrc.com/txttr/VTRSCR-2007/index.html>) for the photos as well as for the complete list of event winners.

About the Boot/Book Sale: David Switzer carefully catalogued his Dad's (Wayne's) collection of British car magazines and brought them to the sale at Regionals. I decided they should be offered as an entire collection rather than piecemeal. The collection includes: *British Car/Classic Motorsports* (1993-2007), *British Car & Driver* (1989-1992), *Triumph World* (1995-2005), VTR newsletters (nos. 63-78), and a bunch of British car part catalogues. Make me an offer! Your check will go to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in memory of Wayne.

Houston's 2007 Art Car Parade, May 12th: We are proud to announce that two of our members won awards at the Parade ... okay, not in Triumphs ... but a winner is still a winner: 2nd place, Youth Group, *Aluminescent Forest Friends Fantasy*, School of the Woods, under the guidance of **Brandi Nicholson**; and 2nd place, Daily Driver, *Surf's Up and Teeny Weeny Polka Dot Bikini*, **Ron Stein**. You've made us proud!

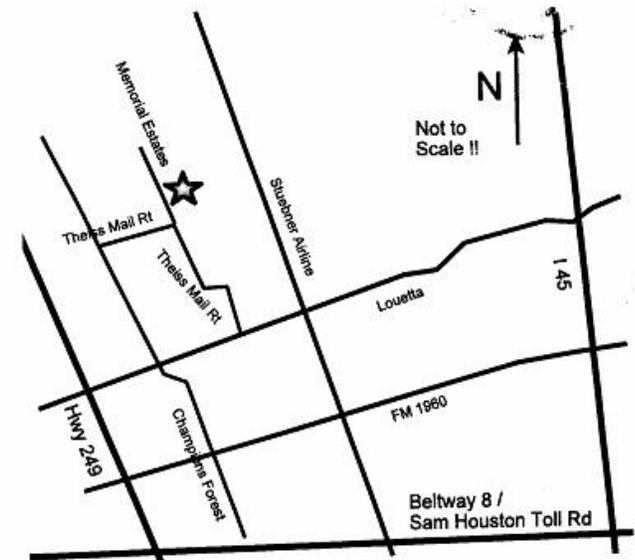
Diane Parker, Editor Emeritus



Our Next Meeting is Saturday, June 9th ...

**at the home of Eric & Sharon Schumann
18214 Memorial Estates, Spring, Texas
281.370.5582**

**Let's snack at 4:00 p.m.
and meet at 5:00 p.m.**



Our hosts ...

Events

- June 2nd** Breakfast @ Mama's Café, 6019 Westheimer near Fountainview (713.266.8514)
- June 9th** Breakfast @ Horn's Country Breakfast, 903 Spring Cypress Rd. (281.353.9840)
- Monthly meeting** at the Schumanns
- June 16th** Breakfast @ Seabrook Classic Cafe, 2511A NASA Road One. 281-326-1512
- June 23rd** Breakfast @ Mama's Cafe, 6019 Westheimer near Fountainview. 713-266-8514
- June 30th** Breakfast @ Horn's Country Breakfast, 903 Spring Cypress Rd. 281-353-9840
- July 7th** Breakfast @ Triple A Restaurant, 2526 Airline Drive. 713-861-3422
- July 14th** Breakfast @ Live Oak Grill, 10444 Hempstead Highway. 713-686-9625
- Monthly meeting** at the Wortsmans
- July 17-21** VTR Nationals, Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel, Valley Forge, PA
- August 11th** **Monthly meeting** at the Papps
- September 8th** **Monthly meeting** at the Kirsis'

* Folks start to gather around 8:00 a.m., but don't order until 8:30 a.m.

Because locations may change (especially for breakfast), always check our website the day before the event: www.TexasTriumphRegister.org.



TTR Club Dues are Due ...

Mike Hado reminds us that our annual club dues of \$30/family are due by June 1st. If you aren't sure when your dues are due, e-mail Mike. He will know.

John Wakefield, Marie and Mike Hado at a Planning Meeting at the host hotel. Marie has the prototype awards banquet centerpiece in front of her.



Thank you!

I wanted to express my thanks to those who made my Presidency much easier over the last few years: Vern Burnett and Russ Seto as co-Vice Presidents, Mike McElmurray as Treasurer, and Patsy Papp as Secretary. All of you made a huge difference in the operation of the club. A very special thank you to each and every one of you for being the difference in a great club.

(Still Bumperless in Houston ...)

Jim Wortsman



Oh, Volunteers

by Marie Hado

There were times lately that the 1000 to 2000 e-mails we received from Regional Planning Committee members on agenda items for the 2007 Meet worried me a little. The stack of bills piling up on our credenza was the most cause for concern. Thankfully, the electricity and water were not turned off, and I was able watch my favorite TV shows like "Dancing with the Stars" while Mike worked on MY volunteer spreadsheet. Life is hard.

Speaking of volunteers — we had wonderful ones this year who stayed the course. I only had to make a couple of promises to some of the volunteers and that was good. I promised Mike Vukelich that he would not have car wash detail and Jack Brooke that he would not have to cook the banquet meal. Aside from those two promises, it was pretty smooth driving. (I would have said sailing, but since this is a car club, you get the drift.)

We had the Gruys, the Birds, the Grovers, Carol Burnett, and the wonderful Autocross and Funkhana volunteers — too numerous to count, but can be recognized by their flaking skin from the sunburns they acquired on the courses. We had our President and his wife, Sharon helping out at the book sale — or not. Diane Parker managed to collect over 500 books, audio tapes, and hand-made rugs, all for charity.



Left: Jim Wortsman helping out at the Car Boot (Book) Sale.



Right: Marti Meyers answers a question, while son Jeff checks registration records.

Bill Parker made the stand for our banner and had other projects to keep him out of trouble during the winter months. Because she's willing to help out anywhere, Sharon Schumann was a great help in many areas, including the car wash. And who knew she was so good at making aprons! John Reynolds got his back all better just in time to be able to assist with car problems and breakdowns. Luckily, I only heard about two. (Sorry Jim Wortsman and David Fowler.) Sherman Bird even drove David Fowler home so David could leave the newly repaired car at the hotel and not risk being able to enter the Concourse the following morning. Mike Hado, as usual, saved the day and figured out that the wires (or something like that) were crossed and managed to make Dave's car drivable, at least for a little while. Tommie and Susan Cook were an immense help at Registration, as was Adam Myer. I saw Adam sitting behind the table looking like he was playing a computer game, but we all know he's the real brain in the family!

Concourse, which was organized by Concourse Master Mike Hado, ran so smoothly that I felt like I had entered the Twilight Zone when I got there near the end of it. There was absolutely no one running around like crazy or shouting like a mad person or even sweating! The ballots were all totaled and turned in to the awards committee before noon! Congratulations to all our winners and we had many!

Autocross, which was designed by top-flight architect Don Carter, was so popular that next year we must devote an entire day to the event. We just have too many members who are intent on doing something harmful to their cars. The Police Academy Racetrack was a wonderful venue for it, too.

At Funkhana, Jeff and Angela Harris, Jay and Linda Jablonski, Fred Wagner, and all the other sunburned workers did a great job of getting the cars out and through the course with or without blindfolds. My husband had three extra pairs of hands and eyes; we were hoping they'd win first place, but Max and his Dad, Steve Kirsis, were not to be beat.

The Breakfast Run and Gimmick Rallye were super drives and not stressful for beginners. Ask Susan Cook. Jay Jablonski, our club first-place-all-the-timer, took novice Susan on the Gimmick Rallye and they won!!!



June 2007

- 2 *John Wieser, Gary Fuqua*
- 5 *Tommie Cook, Norma Seto*
- 6 *Lynn Davis*
- 7 *Nancy Bradford, Bill Sysman*
- 8 *Buck Bibb, Geoff Davis*
- 12 *Bill Papp, Mike Vukelich*
- 14 *David Chapman*
- 19 *Vern Burnett*
- 21 *Cyndee Roberts*
- 22 *Jan Delery*
- 25 *Robin Cook, Ronald Turtzo*
- 26 *Len Myers*
- 30 *Kimberly Tsanais*

Welcome, New Members!

Michael Howe, Spring — 1969 Blue TR6 **AND** 1969 Yellow TR6

Phil and Marilyn Yunker, Missouri City — 1968 Red Spitfire

Don't forget to look at the Contributor's List on page 60 of the event program and thank them by sending your business their way whenever you can.

Little and Not So Little Things: Because the hotel didn't allow anything to be hung on the ballroom walls, Bill Parker constructed a wooden stand to support the TTR banner. Liz Reynolds secured goodie bags from downtown Tomball merchants. TTR provided the names of emergency contacts in the program to help with break downs, thanks to Russ Seto and Sherman Bird. Several folks, including Bill Parker, Janie Bird, Clear Lake Jim, and I, packed goodie bags on Thursday afternoon. Marie Hado coordinated the volunteers to various places where help was needed. Eric Schumann secured bottled water with our convention logo — very classy — as a generous contribution from Regions Bank. Clay Thompson took professional-quality photos throughout the convention. Tom Marsh assembled a wonderful PowerPoint presentation that projected scenes of the weekend as we enjoyed the banquet meal. Tech inspections were done by volunteers throughout Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Event insurance became a potentially severe sticking point early in the year. Thanks to Bill Papp, Don Carter, and VTR President Vernon Brannon, who solved that issue. The hotel's rear parking lot (a popular gathering point) was graced with our rotating TTR sign and table. Don Carter, Mike Gruy, Bob Grover, and Mike Hado made that happen. Mike Hado even gave the table a badly need fresh coat of white paint. Since we haven't done Autorama for a while, Mike reports that it took quite a bit of digging around a dusty storeroom to find the sign parts. (And by the way, thank you, Jim Farrell, for providing free storage for the Autorama display all these years!) I only suggest this because our event is over, but wouldn't it have been neat to have our Autorama display complete with lights, set up in the hotel parking lot?

It's mind boggling to think of the amount of work that went into making this thing happen. After all these words, I've only scratched the surface of the effort that went into making this event a reality.

Diane Parker asked me to prepare this review; how could I refuse our editor? I only have one concern about the article: Have I inadvertently failed to thank someone who put their heart and soul into making this thing work? If so, please accept my apology and know that I — and everyone else on the Organizing Committee — know that these Region Trials could not have happened without the great spirit and dedication of Team TTR! Thank you!!

And remember: VTR SCR 2008 will be hosted by our friends from the Red River Triumph Club in Tyler, Texas.



Liz Reynolds chilling out after Regionals. Thanks, Liz, for keeping us on our toes!

John Wakefield had a very stressful job coordinating all the awards. They had to be done at the last minute. He did a great job with some help from Cissy. By the way, all you Winners, please do not leave your awards in a hot location. We had a little bit of a meltdown with the Grovers' award the next day. (But the awards do look kind of cute when they're all curly, too.)

At the banquet, there were plenty of raffle tickets and deals to be made. I still owe Jim McGinnis a drink for buying a ticket from me. Sorry, Jim, that you did not win first prize. Maybe next year! Janie Bird, Sharon Schumann, Eileen Grover, and I had to go back into "The Room" for more tickets several times. Those first prize Continental airline tickets were very, very enticing. However, I have to admit that I felt like I was taking my life in my hands whenever I entered "The Room." Counting money is very unfunny as I discovered after making some silly remarks.

The Saturday banquet was all sparkly because of the pretty centerpieces inspired by the Parkers and assembled by Julie Roccaforte and me. Liz fed us all a great dinner. I really don't know how she found the time to do all that cooking with everything else she was in charge of. But I have a feeling she is very organized, don't you? Even the snacks at the Social were plentiful enough that I did not need dinner. We held on tight to our cute little drink tickets ... they were small, but not one was lost. Figure that. Although the judges had to leave dinner early Friday night, they got out of their meeting on time. That was a real surprise. Or are they getting to be pros at judging?

You might have seen our photographers, Vern Burnett, Bill Papp, and Clay Thompson, snapping pictures all weekend. Thanks to them, we had pictures for a delightful slide show, which was masterfully presented by Tom Marsh during dinner and during the awards. Once they start learning how to touch up the pictures and remove wrinkles and crow's feet, there will be no stopping them. I won't even mind a close up — maybe.

The Grover's traveled over 1100 miles to help out at this Meet, then headed to New Orleans to visit their little granddaughter. Meanwhile, we went back to our jobs and finally started to unwind. It was a long time planning, but worth every e-mail! And it could not have been the success it was without our wonderful VOLUNTEERS! Thank you each and every one for all you did to help our club host a wonderful MEET in 2007.



Above: All lined up for the Breakfast Run.



Right: Susan Cook autocrosses in her GT6.

Event Report: VTR South Central Region Trials

by Jeff Harris



After more than a year of planning, coordinating, meeting, and hard work, the 2007 VTR South Central Region Trials held in Houston on April 26-28, 2007 are now another pleasant memory in the collective history of TTR. The Texas Triumph Register (TTR) hosted the convention, as we have four previous times in our history (1985-New Braunfels, 1989-Brenham, 1995-Clear Lake, 2001-College Station). The weather was picture perfect with pleasantly cool mornings and nights and warm afternoons. For those who missed the event, or for those who would like to reflect on it now that the pressure is off, a review follows.

Organizing Committee: Bill Dick was our Organizing Committee Chairman, but chose to step down when job requirements caused conflicts. TTR President Jim Wortsman stepped up and led a group that included Don and Louise Carter, Mike and Marie Hado, Jeff Harris, Tom Marsh, Jeff and Risa Myers, Bill Papp, Bill and Diane Parker, Liz Reynolds, Eric and Sharon Schumann, and John Wakefield. Planning meetings were held at the Carter's office, various restaurants, at the homes of meeting hosts, and at the hotel.

Observations: One big change this time around, even compared to 2001, is that we didn't stuff envelopes and mail out event flyers early in the year. Computers and email accounts are now so ubiquitous that we can communicate faster and cheaper thanks to technology. Despite our efforts at improved communication, I heard a couple of comments from folks who were confused during the registration process about the change of venue from Del Lago to NW Houston. (It took us by surprise too!) I suppose there can never be too much communication. I also heard one guest complain about the distance/traffic between the hotel and the Autocross site, but he agreed that it was worth the hassle. And by the way, these were the **only** "complaints" I heard over the weekend. The comments were overwhelmingly positive from our guests about how much fun they had, how well planned the events were, how nice the hotel was, and how well things were working out.

Event Venue/Theme: Plans were well under way to hold the event at Del Lago on Lake Conroe when the resort unexpectedly declared bankruptcy in January 2007 and locked its doors. Our next option was the Sam Houston (horse) Race Track in NW Houston, but that venue didn't work out. With time getting short, Liz Reynolds secured the Hilton Garden Inn in NW Houston, which allowed us to finish planning. The hotel is relatively new; I heard nothing but good reviews about the accommodations.

The Planning Committee often met at Don Carter's office. (There were rumors about pizza.)

From left: Don Carter, Jim Wortsman, Tom Marsh, and Eric Schumann.



Autocross: The Autocross was held on the Houston Police Academy track. The course was rather long (nearly a mile) and fast compared to most Autocross courses. Don Carter and a host of volunteers placed cones to set up the course. Thanks to Russ Seto for providing the timing equipment. There was one slight glitch when Best Time of the Day winner Bob Kramer braked hard across the finish line and broke the cable of the timing equipment, but repairs were quickly made and the event proceeded.

Banquet: The 2007 VTR SCR Trials culminated in the traditional Saturday evening awards banquet, held in the hotel ballroom. A cocktail hour with cash bar preceded the banquet. There were 128 folks in attendance. The banquet started a few minutes after the scheduled 7:00 p.m. time and ended before 10:00 p.m. Service was a little disappointing, but fortunately most of the late dinners were served to TTR members, not our guests. The centerpieces were dark blue steins with brass plaques with the TTR logo and event name. The steins were filled with Texas wildflowers and silhouettes of Triumph cars. Thanks to Bill and Diane Parker for creating the centerpieces. Centerpieces were given to the person at each table who had a colored sticker on their chair. Thanks to Max Kirsis for (discretely) placing the dots.

Awards: The awards were unique and in tune with the event theme. A 45-rpm record was mounted on a wall tile (provided free by Carter contact Daltile). A custom-printed gold label with the event name and winner's name was attached over the record label. The Best of Show and Best Time of Day awards were framed for a shadow box effect. The awards were assembled on Saturday afternoon. Our web site lists all award winners (<http://www.kingswayrc.com/txtr/VTRSCR-2007/index.html>).

Gary Johnston Memorial Award: This award, so special to TTR members, was awarded to our very own Eric and Sharon Schumann. Great job Eric and Sharon, and congratulations on a well-deserved notice!

Regalia: The event shirt was one of the nicest I have seen. It's a Henley-style shirt with the event logo on the front and the event poster graphic on the back. Thanks to John Wakefield for getting them for us. We also offered visors, posters mounted on foam board, reproductions of Melissa's artwork, and other items for sale to our guests.

Raffle Items: Thanks to the hard work and persistence of John Wakefield and Bill Papp, TTR had a great assortment of raffle items. The committee's goal was to concentrate on quality rather than quantity. Raffle items included Melissa's artwork, a shop vacuum (Home Depot), a carpet set (The Roadster Factory), two \$100 gift certificates (Victoria British), Triumph Parts (Good Parts, Harold's Triumph & MG Parts, Moss Motors, Steve's British Connection), free room (Hilton Garden Inn), and others. The Grand Prize was donated by Continental Airlines — a pair of first class airline tickets. I think our raffle strategy worked: I heard several guests mention that they bought \$50 to \$75 of tickets because the prize was something they really wanted to win!

A big thank you to Janie Bird, Marie Hado, Sharon Wortsman, Eileen Grover, and Sharon Schumann for so aggressively selling raffle and Grand Prize tickets throughout the weekend. Janie was hawking tickets with the enthusiasm of Mattress Mac pushing Sealy Posture-pedics — right down to the last minute before the raffle drawings. At last count, the raffle ticket sales raised about \$2700. Fantastic job, ladies!



**Left: Janie Bird and Bob & Eileen Grover at the Breakfast Run.
Right: Concours.**

Welcome Reception: The Welcome Reception was held Friday evening at the Taco Milagro restaurant, which was adjacent to the hotel. TTR provided a complimentary drink and snacks. Liz Reynolds created neat little drink coupons with photos of TTR cars ... a small touch, but unique and a nice addition to the overall impression of the event. I am convinced that attention to these seemingly minor details makes the difference between a good and a great convention.

Concours: For many guests, Concours is the highlight of the Regionals weekend. Not only do you get to see great looking Triumphs, but you also get to visit with friends from across the Region. The organizing committee considered several locations for Concours, including Splash Town in Spring, but in the end, it was held at the hotel. I think this was the correct choice. The hotel management allowed us to rope off the back section of the lot for the duration of the event. Mike Hado had the superb idea of assigning parking spots at registration, so the cars were appropriately staged by judging class on Saturday morning; this avoided the usual mad rush to find owners, keys, move cars, etc. Mike reports that he had 35 judges — a crucial, yet thankless, task. Thanks to all TTR members and guests who judged!

Car Boot Sale: Diane Parker's real job has taken her to England on several occasions where she noted "boot sales." Folks drive their cars to a convenient corner, pop open their boots (trunks), and hold impromptu flea markets. The ladies of the club sold books donated by members for \$1/in., hand-made rugs, and some tires. The event was held in the hotel parking lot at the entrance to the Concours; it provided an interesting alternative to the car show. The event raised \$500, which will be donated to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in memory of our good friend and former TTR VP/Events guru, Wayne Switzer. Several times during the weekend I found myself thinking about how much Wayne would have enjoyed planning and participating in this event. (Wayne was Event Chairman for the 2001 Regionals in College Station.) We were happy to see Wayne's son, David, at the event. [Ed. Note: Diane was really happy to see David ... he unloaded all of the books!]

Funkhana: The Funkhana was held in a parking lot adjacent to the Autocross site at the Houston Police Academy training track. The event consisted of a roomy course with the theme "Aircraft Carrier Flight Operations." It was a short course that included a segment with the driver blindfolded, then several stations where the navigator tossed items onto a designated target. Thank you to Bill Parker, who helped me plan this event, and to Bruce Cooper, Angela Harris, Jay and Linda Jablonski, and Fred Wagner, who were course judges.

The theme of the convention was *American Graffiti* — this "Remember When" theme carried over to various aspects of the convention such as the poster, artwork, and awards.

Hotel: The Hilton Garden Inn is located near the intersection of FM 1960 and TX 249. The Hilton gave us a negotiated room rate of \$69/night which, as I recall, is about the same rate as we got in College Station in 2001 (and that property was not nearly as nice). The hotel provided a car wash area in the rear parking lot that was available all weekend.

Event Program and Event Poster: It may seem strange to devote a section of this review to the "paperwork," but these were integral parts of the event. The event program was designed to have everything our guests would need in one convenient publication. It had event schedules, maps, options for on-your-own activities, and many other useful tidbits. A big thanks to Don Carter, Kiril Sirakov (CDA Staff), and others who contributed to the program. As always, we offer a hearty thanks to Bob Vogt and BrainStream for publishing the program. This is the finest event program I have seen at any regional or national VTR convention.

Don Carter and Kiril Sirakov also created an event poster. They started with a classic Triumph ad from the days of the TR3 and added event information.

Original Artwork: TTR's own artist-in-residence, Melissa Farrell, was kind enough to create a special piece of art for the event (below left). The painting depicted a typical '50s-style drive-in (Mel's) with four classic Triumphs out in front. The original, signed painting was one of our raffle prizes; Eric and Sharon Schumann won it! Prints of the painting were available for sale so that others could enjoy the work.

Registration: Convention registrations were at 80 (160 people), which is an excellent turnout for a regional. Goodie bags were prepared for pre-registered guests. The goodie bag was a reusable tote provided by Hagerty Insurance — much nicer than the traditional plastic bag. Thanks to Hagerty and Bill Papp. Goodie bag prep was done by Bill Parker, Mike Vukelich, Janie Bird, and me. The registration room was on the first floor of the hotel, next to the banquet room, and was open throughout the weekend. My personal experience was that the registration process was quick and painless — exactly what you'd expect from talented folks who worked hard to get everything ready beforehand. Thanks to Jeff and Risa Myers, who did a great job with the pre- and walk-in registration process (below right).



Drive-in Movie: Activities got started Thursday night with an event straight out of American Graffiti — an old-fashioned drive-in movie! Jim Wortsman made arrangements for us to meet at the Showboat Drive In on FM 2920, about nine miles west of Tomball. Dinner was on-your-own, although Goodson's and the Harris County BBQ were recommended. The night was cool and as the moon and stars lit up the night sky, the big screen came alive with Will Ferrell's *Blades of Glory*. The event was well attended (at least by TTR members!).

Breakfast Run: The Early Bird Breakfast Run kicked off a busy and exciting Friday. Our destination was Kings Café in Montgomery. There were 45 people and 27 cars and, incredibly, all but one car was a Triumph. The lead car blazed out of the hotel parking lot at 7:06 a.m. — not bad for a scheduled 7:00 a.m. start! We had unbelievably good luck on the drive out TX 249 toward Pinehurst and were able to get through the lights while keeping the convoy together. Early morning temperatures were in the mid-50s and, with the chill factor from top-down motoring at 60+ mph, I'm guessing it felt like about 32°F! At least it felt that way to me in the back seat of Bill Parker's Stag. After breakfast, most headed back to the hotel, while others stayed to shop Montgomery's antique stores.

Gimmick Rally: Eric and Sharon Schumann and John and Liz Reynolds created our Gimmick Rally; the Schumann's test drove the course *six* times. Mike and Marie Hado also test drove the route before the convention. The rally routed folks on some of the nice back roads northwest of Houston. There were 22 participants in the gimmick rally. No one opened the Panic Envelope. The number of miles driven ranged from 35 to 60 (36.0 was the correct mileage). I heard no reports of fistfights or quickie divorces, so I believe the event was a success.

Exploring On-Your-Own: Our guests were given a wide range of options for Friday afternoon and Saturday. These included a scenic drive to Montgomery, Richards, and Anderson, as well as self-guided tours to Tomball, Willowbrook Mall, The Woodlands Mall and Waterway, Old Town Spring, and even the Painted Churches of Fayette County for those who were really ambitious! Thanks to Vern Burnett for providing the Painted Churches tour package. All maps and tour directions (except for the Painted Churches tour) were in the program. It would be interesting to find out whether our guests were overwhelmed by all the options or if they appreciated the variety choices.

