

COVTR Newsletter - Central Oklahoma Vintage Triumph Register

July 2021

An official chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register Established in 1982

"Enjoy the Ride"

Route 66 - The Mother Road

VTR NATIONAL CONVENTION EDMOND, OKLA

2021

ROUTE 66

LA Albuquerque Amarillo Oklahoma City Tulsa Springfield St. Louis Chicago

September 14 - 18, 2021

Hosted by: Oklahoma Vintage Triumph Register (COVTR)

Host Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn
2833 Conference Drive • Edmond, Oklahoma • 405-285-0900

www.VTR2021.com

1. Round Barn - Arcadia 2. Rock Cafe - Stroud 3. Fort El Reno 4. Rt.66 Museum, etc. etc.

We are now down to less than 80 days until the big event. It's time to put the VTR National Convention on the front burner! We have more than 80 registrants from throughout the country but less than 10 from Oklahoma. It's time to put in our own registrations. Don't put it off!

Upcoming COVTR Events

- July 10, COVTR Picnic, Hafer Park, Edmond, OK (details Page 3)
- July 13, 5:30 Eat and Greet, 7:00 Meeting; 291 N. Air Depot, Midwest City, OK 73110
- VTR National Convention, September 14-18



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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Newsletter Editor: covttreas@gmail.com. *Triumph Trails* is the official monthly publication of COVTR. © Copyright 1993-2021 COVTR. All rights reserved. Articles for publication are due to the Editor by the 15th of each month. We welcome all types of articles including technical, personal interest, and stories about your Triumph experience. Opinions expressed are those of the Editor or Contributors. Classified ads from members are welcome. Business card ads are \$10.00 for twelve issues, payable to the Treasurer in advance. COVTR, 4600 Gracelann, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804

MISSION STATEMENT

The Central Oklahoma Vintage Triumph Register (C.O.V.T.R.) was established in 1982 by Triumph owners and enthusiasts for the purpose of preserving the future of the Triumph Marque. Triumph ownership is encouraged but not a prerequisite for membership. The C.O.V.T.R. sponsors a monthly meeting, monthly SOB's, car shows, road tours, technical inspections and lots of fun.

Triumph Trails is the proud recipient of the National Newsletter Award from Vintage Triumph Register of America awarded at the 2012 and 2017 National Convention.

President's Page. . .

Greetings to all:

A couple of weeks ago John Barron called and asked if I wanted to go with him up to Sapulpa to see the cars in the Hemmings Great (American) Race as they came through. For those of us raised on the lore of the **Cannonball Sea To Shining Sea Memorial Trophy Dash** - the Cannonball - and all its variants, today's format may seem a little anemic or even boring, but it still involves engines, tires, gasoline and oil. (I can remember back in the '70's a friend of my brother ran the Cannonball and asked my brother to go as his mechanic and being the brother that he is, he asked if I wanted to go if he decided to. Silly question! Turns out my brother couldn't miss the work, but I "just missed it by that much.")



Back to this century. There really was an amazing assortment of cars - everything from a 1916 Hudson Hill Climb to a 1963 Ford Falcon; a 1937 Lagonda LG6 to a 1950 Lincoln 4-door sedan; a 1934 Packard 1101 Roadster to a 1957 Porsche Speedster "Tribute" outfitted in classic pale blue and orange Gulf racing colors. No Triumphs! Besides the Lagonda there was Aston Martin, Jaguar, Austin Healey and a couple of nifty T-series MG's in a field of over 100 cars, but just not enough LBC's. Almost every vehicle from the bizarre to the sedate and almost everything in between had its own intriguing charm and appeal. In the end I suppose that is what makes a gearhead. Almost every car HELD a memory BYTE that makes up the mosaic of my love of cars across almost seven decades. It was a good day! Still, I'll take the mellow exhaust note, the wood dash and all the peculiarities of TR's - won't you?!



P.S. Anyone interested in running the Great Race next year, I know where there is a 4-door Falcon...

Quote of the Month: The further society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak IT. - George Orwell

Jan and John Colson

Dues Reminder!

Membership money is due as of January 1, 2021. \$15.00 per individual/\$30 for a couple . We do not send invoices but receipts are available. Please remit to:

Mike Piggott

4600 Gracelann

Shawnee, OK 74804

Almost all of the members we would expect to have responded have done so. I will delete this page in future newsletters. We have 64 “dues paying” members/23 active members for insurance purposes. Many of our members are only “inactive” because of geographical locations. Thanks to all our faithful supporters /members!

COVTR Membership Meeting - June 8, 2021

Officers Present: President – John Colson, Treasurer – Mike Piggott,
Secretary – Dave Hogan

Location: Pelican's Restaurant, Midwest City, OK

Members present: 21 (Brian & Katie Plotkin joined us from Colorado)

Guest: Dana Fitzsimmons (cousin of Mike Piggott)

Membership – Dave Hogan

No new members.

President John Colson opened the meeting at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Dave Hogan.

Meeting Minutes: Drew Holliday motioned that we accept the minutes as printed in the May newsletter, seconded by Mary Jo Hogan. Motion carried.

VTR Nationals Update – Drew Holliday

Drew Holliday asked if he could give his update on the VTR Nationals early in the meeting as he needed to return to work.

COVTR has received 71 entries to date for our event in September.

Mike admitted that an oops occurred on our VTR National logo with the misspelling of Albuquerque as part of the Route 66 route.

AutoCross is moving ahead as planned with SCCA.

Drew and Dave Hogan met today to discuss the signs required for the event and have a revised plan to use most of the signs we received from the Red River Triumph Club used in their 2019 South Central VTR Regional held at Lake Texoma. The logos were applied with adhesive vinyl and can be removed to create blank areas for our logo and pertinent information. Dave Hogan will work to ensure the signs are usable for our purposes. Drew and I discussed using the Oklahoma Route 66 road sign as our sign logo. Dave still needs sign requirements from our club event coordinators:

Trailer Parking – Drew Holliday

Car Wash & Funkana – Art Graves

TSD Rally – Steve England

Registration/Information – Drew Holliday

AutoCross – Mike Piggott

LeMans Start - ?

Crafts, Photo, Model Contest – Dave Hogan

Silent Auction – Jerry Stewart

Gimmick Rally – Lonny & Kay Wall

(Note: If no signs are required, just let me know)

John Gauldin described the Breakfast Runs that are planned for the event: Rock Café, Stroud, OK; Eggington's, Danforth, Rd-Edmond. Dinner Runs are still in the planning stage.

Katie Plotkin has offered to create the special awards for the following events to be made of Rosin: Best of Show, Fastest Time (Women), Fastest Time (Men).

Treasurer's Report – Mike Piggott

Mike Piggott read the current Treasurer's Report to the membership. Mike announced that this report covers the club funds and activities through May 2021. Due to the impact of our hosting the VTR National event in September of this year, Mike suggests that we no longer include the Treasurer's Report in our widely circulated newsletter as our club funds have ballooned due to National registrations and sponsor donation pledges.

Mike announced that we are currently at 71 Registrations for the National event with more than 90 days remaining to accept additional Registrations. The budget plan is based upon 120 registrations so expectations are that we will meet or exceed this number.

Current expenses to date to support the National event are well within our expectations and budget. Additional expenses will be incurred over time as we draw closer to the event. We have already paid a portion of the Convention Center expenses and for the use of the Edmond Fire Department Driver Training Facility.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as read by Mike Piggott. Lonny Wall motioned to accept and Kay Wall seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Activities Report – Mike Piggott

Mike briefly described the past month's events. The first was the outing to the Chicken Shack located in Luther, OK on May 15 hosted by Dave & Mary Jo Hogan. The group left the Life Church in Edmond at 1:30 PM for the short drive to Luther. Lunch participants included John Barron, Mike Billotte, Hunter Rench, Drew Holliday, Jerry & Sue Stewart, Mike & Judy Piggott, Frank & Joyce Steindl, Linda Speegle, Adam & Chelsea Delpf and Dave & Mary Jo Hogan. Mike Piggott mentioned to John Gauldin that the Chicken Shack could be considered for a Dinner Run during the VTR National Event. Dave Hogan mentioned that the Chicken Shack is planning to relocate to a property nearer to the Red Barn on Route 66 – time frame unknown. Jerry Stewart mentioned that there are plans to open another Chicken Shack in Harrah, OK in the future. John Gauldin said that there is another Chicken Shack in central OK and that "Chicken Shack" is a franchised operation, not a Mom and Pop owned and operated restaurant.

Mike also our briefly describer our club member's participation in the dedication the Veterans Memorial Bridge in Enid on. COVTR member Kip Miles is sponsoring our participation and hosted the participants for a luncheon at his Enid Garage/ Shop following the Dedication ceremonies. Club members who drove their Triumphs were Lonny Wall, Mike Piggott, John Barron, Stephen England, John Colson and Dave Hogan with Mike Billotte riding shotgun. The dedication event was planned over a 3.5 year period by COVTR member Kip Miles and hosted by the AMBUCS organization. Following the luncheon several members opted to visit the home of Richard Crump who club member Stephen England had personally contacted to arrange for our visit/tour to his garage/shop. We each experienced some beautiful and unique automobiles that often participate in National Concours Auto Shows. Richard was an excellent host.

Mike also mentioned the invitation from Dennis Eckhout to visit a long time past COVTR member who lives in Shattuck, OK. John Gauldin drove with Dennis to visit the Rabe family at their home. Dennis had a special relationship with the Rabe's from many years ago. John mentioned that we missed a beautiful drive to/from Shattuck and that their visit found 86 year old Fred Rabe in very poor health. His 82 year old wife, Arlene had polio and still must use braces to walk. Fred had owned a beautiful French Blue TR3 that he used to drive quite often to many COVTR club outings. They were both very glad to see Dennis and John.

Mike Piggott also pointed out that the June planned Auto Collection Tour in Enid will not be happening due to Kip Mikes extremely busy schedule during the month of June. Also, the planned annual Knight's Car Show in Shawnee, OK has also been canceled.

Our next scheduled COVTR event is a Hafer Park Outing to be hosted by Kay & Lonny Wall. This event is planned for July 10. Kay plans to secure a pavilion with the possibility of either Pot Luck or grilling hamburger and hot dogs. Kay wanted to verify that club members are interested in such an event and the response was quite positive.

Mike Piggott pointed out that the OKC Dodgers ballgame evening at OKC's Bricktown Ball Park is still planned with Mike and Judy checking on group rates and recognition. The Bricktown Ball Park is a beautiful facility and attending a ball game should be an enjoyable way to spend an evening for our club members.

Old Business

None discussed.

New Business

Lonny Wall outlined the COVTR meeting location issues that we have experienced recently. Everyone enjoyed our May meeting at the Santa Fe Cattle Co location, but as in the past, management had agreed to provide our club with their meeting room for our monthly club meetings. However, Dave Hogan, who is a member of the Air Force Association, noted that the AFA was scheduled to hold their meeting at Santa Fe on the same night as our meeting. Their meeting was planned to begin at 5 PM and is to be a welcome back following the return to in-person meetings with a wine, beer and refreshments gathering provided by the chapter. Their group is approximately 75 members strong. Dave alerted our location seekers to this conflict resulting in a continuing search for a new location. John Barron, John Colson and Lonny began to research alternate locations. The group reviewed several locations and Lonny preferred Pelicans due to its location, large private dining room, extensive menu, reasonable prices and adequate parking.

Lonny said that the group contacted the restaurant to reserve both the first and second Tuesday of each month for potential meeting dates. The intent was to offer both dates to the

membership so Lonny called for a show of hands and the vote was for the second Tuesday of each month. Future COVTR club meetings will be held at Pelicans on the second Tuesday of each month.

Bitch & Brag

Judy Piggott bragged on Mike Piggott for finally resolving his issues with his Bug-eyed Sprite and getting it on the road. This freed up Judy's garage to park her car in – thanks Mike!

President John Colson awarded Door Prizes: Rausch Mug to Lois Holdsclaw and also a Rausch Mug to Katie Plotkin.

A motion to end the meeting was made by Judy Piggott and seconded by Mary Jo Hogan. Motion passed. Meeting ended at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dave Hogan, Secretary COVTR



Following is an article submitted by our distance separated club member Chris Holliday. Recently, Lonny Wall and I were having lunch with Drew Holliday as he was interrupted with a phone call. His dad was experiencing a problem with broken rocker recently machined head on a project TR6. Coincidentally, I had just had the very same experience on the 1500 just built for the Bugeye. We were able to give Chris accurate diagnosis and remedy for the problem. That often happen!! I asked Chris to put together an article newsletter as this is a valuable lesson for those of us who do this kind of stuff...and also for those of us who don't. Enjoy and thank you Chris for sharing this experience!



arms on the dentally, I motor I had an immediate for the who do this



Most, if not all Triumph owners want more power out of their engines. I am sure if Triumph had survived longer, they would have developed more power out of their 6-cylinder engines. It was not to be. There are many theories of the best way to increase the horsepower or maybe not the best but just increase power. Carburetors come to mind as one way. Different type from the original Stromberg's like Weber or SU; increase the number of them from 2 to 3; fuel injection; roller rockers; electric fan etc. I could go on but one of the most common is to increased compression ratio. There is a story as to why Triumph decreased the compression ratio in the first place but I'll save that for another day.

This story starts with my trying to increase the compression ratio of my 1975 TR 6 motor to around 9.5 to one. This involved milling the head to reduce the thickness. Stock thickness is about 3.550 inches for a compression ratio of 7.62 to one. If you reduce the head thickness to 3.416 and no bore change, you'll have a 9.50 to 1 compression ratio. That means you mill the head by 0.139 inches. You still with me? That is what I did. This is the root cause of what happened next.

So here is a picture of the end result.

Next Page



See any problem here? Look closer. No, it is not the Richard Good lightened rocker shaft. See it? There are three lightened rocker arms. Some would say broken rocker arms. If you shave the head 0.139 inches and reinstall the rocker assembly without loosening the rocker arms you will compress valve springs to the point they are fully compressed. When this happens and you install the rocker assembly, basically the rocker arms are trying to compress a fully compressed spring, so it is solid steel. It is called coil bind or spring lock, if you force the engine to rotate against a fully compressed valve spring something must give. The weak link is the rocker arm. It will break as shown here. Counting down from the right end rocker # 12 you see it? No. # 6 & #8.

The answer is whenever you mill the head to reduce the thickness of the head you need to compensate by loosening the rocker arms a equal amount. Then go back and set the rocker arm lash as usual. Do not try and measure how much to loosen, just loosen it then go back and set the lash.

Hope this little lesson helps. And this is the easy way to learn. I did it the hard way. I wish someone had told me before I broke 3 rocker arms.

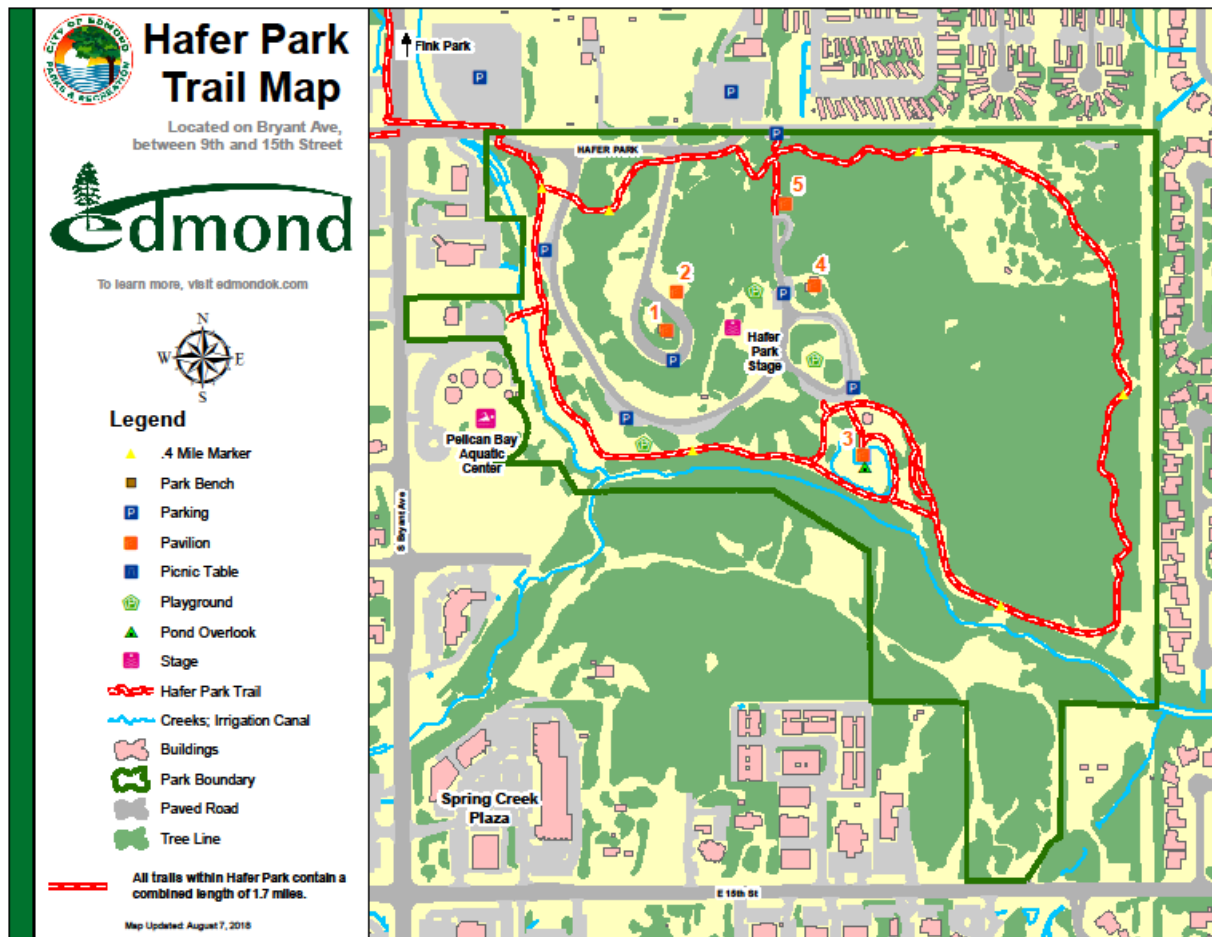
For Sale



Sam Clark is selling his truck and trailer. He no longer uses them and says they are in great shape. The truck is an early 99 model with all the bells and whistles and a diesel engine. The truck and trailer can be purchased for \$15,000. Call him at (918) 625-6798 Location: Broken Arrow, OK.

COVTR Picnic in the park! July 10th

Lonny and Kay wall are hosting this upcoming event! See the details below and RSVP to the Walls or to this address. It appears we are going to have an excellent turn out.



Hi Mike,

Lonny and I have reserved Pavilion # 1 at Hafer Park in Edmond from 5-9 PM on Saturday, July 10. It is marked with a red x on the PDF map which is attached.

Lonny and I will provide brats, condiments, plates and napkins for the group. Please have everyone bring a picnic item to share and their drinks. Beer and wine are allowed, but no glass bottles.

It'll be fun ya'all.

Lonny and Kay

Please let the club members know.

Knight's Car Show Event Cancelled!

I regret to inform you that the Knight's Car show in Shawnee has been cancelled. The

Knights are experiencing difficulty in returning to the new "normal" and hope to resume the show in 2022. I have recently been informed of a car show in Tulsa hosted by one of my favorite organizations, the Knights of Columbus and benefiting one of my favorite groups, veterans. The event is two-fold, a poker run and a car show, both located very close together on E 41st St. Perhaps we can join our brothers/sisters of GCT and make this an annual co-event. I suggest this event

**1st Annual
Coffee Bunker
Knights on Bikes
Rally for Veterans**

Saturday, August 7, 2021
Poker Run Registration day of - 10 am to 11 am at the
Coffee Bunker - 6365 E. 41st St., Tulsa - Cost is \$25.00

Car Show Registration day of - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Knights of
Columbus - 5226 E. 41st N. Tulsa - Cost is \$25.00 - **Open to public at 11:30 am**

You may pre-register for both events at coffeebunker.org. The cost to
pre-register is \$20.00. The first 25 to pre-register will receive a free t shirt.

In case of RAIN, check our
website: coffeebunker.org

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for more information: Mike Atwell - 918-637-3878 & Matt Buckendorf - 918-527-5093

as a substitute for the Shawnee Knights car show. I have added this event and date to our activities schedule and listed myself as the host. Save the date and we'll see what develops!



2021 COVTR Activities Calendar

May TBD	Old Chicken Farm Antique Sale; Jones, OK	Jerry Stewart
May 15	Chicken Shack Outing; Luther, OK	Dave and Mary Jo Hogan
May 28	Dedication of Veteran's Bridge; Enid, OK	Kip Miles/Lonny Wall
June TBD	Auto Collection Tour/Rooster's Lunch	Kip Miles
June TBD (Cancelled)	Knights Car Show, Shawnee, OK	Mike and Judy Piggott
July 10	Hafer Park Outing; OKC, OK	Kay and Lonny Wall
July TBD	Bricktown Baseball Outing; OKC, OK	Mike and Judy Piggott
August 7	Knights on Bikes Car Show, Tulsa, OK	Mike Piggott
August 14	Drive-In Movie; Guthrie, OK	John Gauldin
September 14-18	VTR National Convention; Edmond, OK	COVTR/GCT
Oct 29-Nov 1	Fall Foliage Tour; Eureka Springs, AR	John Gauldin
November 6	Ponca City Veteran's Day Parade	Lonny Wall
November 13	Chili Cook-off	Jerry and Sue Stewart
December 11/12	Christmas Party	Sue Stewart

We will have future in person meetings at Pelican's, 291 N. Air Depot, Midwest City , OK 73110 5:30 Eat and Greet, 7:00 Meeting. Also please note the change of date for the Drive-in movie event.



Mike Piggott, Activities Chairman

COVTR now on Facebook

How do I join the COVTR Group?

To join a group, go to COVTR Group and click Join Group in the top right corner. This will send a request to join to Drew Holliday. Drew will accept the request to join the group.



Keep in mind when you join the COVTR Group:

- People may see when you join a public or closed group or that you're a member of that group, like in News Feed or search.
- When someone adds you to a public or closed group, other may see that you have been invited (ex: News Feed or search). Once you visit a group you are invited to, you will become a member and other people may see you joined.

COVTR Rules:

- This is a group for COVTR activities and fun things that our members do with our cars, pictures of cars, fun Triumph postings, technical articles, events, etc.
- Please post other items on your personal pages and invite folks to be friend on Facebook.

Drew Holliday

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Route 66 - The Mother Road

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EDMOND, OKLA**



LA

Albuquerque

Amarillo

Oklahoma City

Tulsa

St. Louis

Springfield

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