



Central Oklahoma VTR Newsletter

December 2022

*An official chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register Established in 1982*

*“Enjoy the Ride”*



### Upcoming Central Oklahoma VTR Events:

- **December 10—Christmas Party Bricktown.**  
Hosted by Greg and Susan Tiffany.
- **January 10th—Triumph Club Meeting**  
Pelicans Restaurant MWC  
5:30 Dine and visit 7:00 Meeting

# Triumph Christmas Celebration

**Sat, Dec 10, 5 pm**

**@Bourbon St Café in Bricktown**

100 E California Ave, OKC

(everyone ordering off the menu/ 20% gratuity added)

Please RSVP by Sat, Dec 3

By calling Mike Piggott (918)766-4488

**\*\*Bricktown Riverboat Tour following\*\***

Hosted by Greg and Susan Tiffany



## November Events

### Ponca City Veteran's Parade

Four COVTR members attended the parade. They were Lonny Wall, Mike Piggott, John Colson, and Kip Miles. The members drove their Triumphs so they could give veterans rides to the parade and to the barbeque picnic in the city park. Lonny Wall's grandson, Connor, and several of his fellow soldiers, who were on National Guard duty in Ponca City, joined the group for lunch.



### Along the Triumph Trail (Ed).....



### Who is Grant Wood?

On the return trip home to Oklahoma from VTR Nationals in Galena, Illinois, the fun had been had, the award won, and exhaustion had set in. North of the wheat fields of Oklahoma and Kansas are rolling hills of corn and soybean crops. We admire the farmers who so carefully tend their crops. Large homes and barns with silos are picturesque... for miles...and miles. Pulling Elvis, our TR4a, on a trailer with a comfortable Dodge Ram truck past all those farms led our minds into a state of oblivion. Then, in Iowa, we saw a sign that read "Grant Wood Trail". Who is that guy? It sounded vaguely familiar. Why would they name a trail after him? A few Googles later we were enlightened. Oh, yes, now we remember that he painted "American Gothic". Grant Wood, an Iowa farm boy, became world famous for painting the people and places around him. A classic case of bloom where you are planted.





# Birthday Year! We're 40!

By Mike Billotte

Hi everybody. My name is Mike Billotte. The year 2022 is the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the COVTR club's existence and Kay Wall, our newsletter editor has asked me to write an article about the beginning of the club, as much as I can remember. With the help of Kathy Danford I would like to pass along to our current members how the club was formed. The year was 1982 and Glenn Danford, who owned a Triumph, decided to advertise and try to establish an OKC Triumph club. The first meeting was held at a picnic table on the shores of Lake Overholser. There were only 6 people in attendance and 10 were required so another meeting was called at the same location and 10 people joined the club. Glenn and Kathy took the application to the Nationals being held in Illinois and VTR accepted the information and COVTR was given the go ahead as a charter club. That was the beginning of the club and 9 years later (1991) I joined the club. I had bought my TR-6 in 1979 and used it as a daily driver to work and back until I joined. I realized, with the help of the members, that I had a classic on my hands. I remember the help I got from the Danfords, Meltons, Embertons, Lorances, McCarty's, and Lains. There were many others also but I have forgotten names as I've aged. I served as President twice in the 90's and enjoyed my time on the board. Our club hosted the Nationals last year and that is the first time that was done in the club's history. From what I have heard at the event and since, our club, and our president at the time, Drew Holiday, did an excellent job. We have progressed as a club with monthly attendance around the 25 active members at every meeting out of the 70 paid members. We also have 6 lifetime members. I have written this article to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the COVTR, to give our newest members an idea how the club was started and hope this will inspire them to keep our club going in the right direction. We, as a club, have acknowledged, the 10 year anniversary with a tee shirt that I still have. I don't have anything for our 20<sup>th</sup> year but have an embroidered regular shirt for our 30<sup>th</sup> year. Let us commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> year at the Christmas party with outstanding attendance. Keeping in mind the comradery and friendship that is evident at every club event, I hope this article was helpful to everyone and let's keep the club going for another 40 years.



# Dues Reminder

Membership money is due as of January 1, 2023 \$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**

## 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.



## COVTR Web Page

Check out our webpage created by our webmaster Drew Holliday.

[centraloktriumphs@gmail.com](mailto:centraloktriumphs@gmail.com)

## **Minutes of COVTR Membership Meeting**

**November 8, 2022**

**Officers Present:** President – Andrew Holliday, Vice President – Greg Tiffany, Treasurer – Mike Piggott, Secretary – Dave Hogan

**Location:** Pelican's Restaurant, Midwest City, OK

**Members present:** 25

**Guests:** None

### **Meeting Opening:**

President Drew Holliday opened the meeting at 7:07 PM. Mary Jo Hogan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary Meeting Minutes:** Judy Piggott motioned that we should accept the minutes of the October 2022 club meeting as printed in the Triumph Trails newsletter, seconded by Bud Reedy. Motion passed.

### **Membership Report – Dave Hogan**

No new members this month.

### **Treasurer's Report – Mike Piggott**

Mike Piggott read the October Treasurer's Report.

No expenses reported this month. COVTR owes Chris Holliday for the COVTR shirts that have been ordered by club members.

Dave Hogan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read with Mary Jo Hogan seconding the motion. Motion passed.

### **Activities Report – Mike Piggott**

Mike Piggott reported on the club events that occurred during the months of October and early November:

Very successful Chili Cookoff held at Jan & John Colson's – this is a growing event and we look forward to next year's iteration.

Lonny Wall and Kip Miles led the trip to the Hajek Motorsports Museum in Ames, OK. Hajek has some very special cars and engines that are Bonneville Salt Flats cars, Race cars and NASCAR engines and there are at least 60-70 vehicles in all maintained in pristine condition. The group returned to Enid for lunch and camaraderie following the tour.

The next event was the Fall Foliage Tour to the Sequoyah Lodge (formerly Western Hills), in Hulbert, OK led by Mike and Judy Piggott. Mike said there were 5 or 6 cars participating. The scenic drive per Google Maps was to be about 1.5 hours but due to an error in Google Maps, it turned into a 3-hour drive instead. The weather was overcast and rainy; however, the timing of the trip showed beautiful fall colors throughout the scenic drive. The highlight of the trip was when Mike's convertible top blew off while driving in the rain on the scenic drive.

The final event for this Fall was the annual Ponca City Veterans Day Parade held on November 5. Our club has participated in this event over many years. COVTR members pick up Special Veterans and drive them at the front of the parade to a reviewing stand area so that they can fully enjoy the parade. Hosts were once again Kip Miles and Lonny Wall. This event includes wonderful hospitality from the local community and the turnout from the Ponca City area is excellent. The recognized Special Veterans really enjoy all of the attention that is showered upon them as the parade is in their honor.

### **Upcoming Activities/Events**

The annual **Christmas Party** is planned for the Bourbon Street Café, on California Street in Bricktown, OKC on **December 10** at 5 PM. Greg and Susan Tiffany outlined the plans for the Christmas Dinner. Invitations were handed out to the COVTR membership during the meeting. Greg said that Bourbon Street has been very cordial and welcoming. We have reservations for 30 at present, but the restaurant is capable of handling a larger group. We are going to be ordering from the restaurant's menu and the club is committed to expenditures of \$1,000. Greg encourages all club members to participate in this annual event. The past free water taxis are no longer available, so Greg checked and our club can reserve a Water Taxi for \$282 for our group. The dinner/party is from 5-7 PM and if requested, the Water Taxi will be available right outside of the restaurant at 7 PM. Greg made a motion for the club to sponsor the first 30 people to ride the Water Taxi. Margaret White questioned if we would have a financial obligation if the weather is not

conducive to a Water Taxi excursion – our club is not obligated if the weather is uncooperative. Mike Piggott made a motion, seconded by Drew Holliday for the club to fund the Water Taxi excursion. Motion passed.

Mike mentioned that club dues for 2023 can be made now at \$15 individual, \$30 per couple.

Steve England is hosting a Hallett Racing Veterans Day Celebration drive on November 12. The Celebration is scheduled from 9 AM > 4 PM at the Hallett Motor Racing Circuit in Jennings, OK. Steve plans to lead a group from the On Cue at N Portland leaving at 7 AM. Additional information has been provided in the November COVTR newsletter. Steve can be reached at 405-229-6459.

**Old Business** None discussed.

### **New Business**

Dave Hogan brought up an unfamiliar topic for discussion. As Club Historian, Dave is responsible for the archives of COVTR Historical records. These historical records contain all club-related information from the founding of the club in 1982 through to current event and activities (40 years). The club records are preserved and stored in 3" binders. Mike Billotte, past Secretary/Historian, has several boxes of binders currently stored in his garage. I have several boxes of binders stored in my attic. At present, I am unable to access those binders due to my fractured left foot and Mary Jo's mandate that I stay off of ladders of any type. I asked Mike Billotte if anyone has ever asked to review or examine those records – Mike's answer was "No". I am questioning the value of continuing to retain these records and annually continue to add to the collection.

Dave went on to question the value of retaining and storing these records. A lively discussion ensued regarding the historical value of the records and Dave opened the discussion up for comments and suggestions. Several members commented about their historical value. Someone asked if the records could be stored electronically/digitally by scanning and if that is a viable option. This would be an arduous task to scan all the paper documents, but it is indeed doable.

Doug White has a self-interest in historical records. Since I am no longer able to access my attic to store future records or retrieve past ones, Doug offered to retrieve the existing records from my attic and those in Mike Billotte's garage and to store them in the mezzanine area in his garage. I thanked Doug for his offer of assistance, and we will arrange for the retrieval and removal from my attic and Mike's garage. I will add to the collection as we fill new binders with current and future records.

President Drew Holliday announced that the Nominating Committee for COVTR Officer Nominations/Elections for the coming calendar year has completed their deliberations. Committee members serving are Lonny Wall, Mike Piggott and John Colson.

The Slate of 2023 COVTR Officers was announced:

Doug White – President

Hunter Rench – Vice President

Mike Piggott – Treasurer

Dave Hogan – Secretary/Historian

Lonny Wall explained the process of handling our annual Officer Elections. The Slate of Officers will be offered for consideration at our January Club Meeting. Club membership can offer additional member names for nomination. Club members will vote on the nominees at the January club meeting per the COVTR Constitution and By-Laws.

### **Bitch & Brag**

Mike Billotte bragged on Bonne Billotte following her 18 years of service working at the Pinto Horse Association and was recently nominated for the Pinto Horse Association Hall of Fame. Membership applause recognized this honor and accomplishment.

Mike Piggott bragged on his recent driving of his 3 British cars to COVTR events during the past month. Membership awe and applause was provided.

**Door Prizes** Door Prizes were not awarded at this meeting

### **Meeting Closure**

Lonny Wall made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Linda Speegle. Motion passed.

Drew Holliday closed the meeting at 7:42 PM.

# 2022 COVTR OFFICERS

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### NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

**Newsletter Editor:** *Triumph Trails* is the official monthly publication of COVTR. © Copyright 1993-2022 COVTR. All rights reserved. Articles for publication are due to the Editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*



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