



## Volume 37—Number 6 December 2015

### Directors Drippings

By Ed Blend

The weather this fall has been outrageously beautiful, warmish, and in some cases really hot with blue skies and no rain. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, another beautiful weekend at Lake Garnett. I could not go because of family commitments and I am not sure how many of us went. It was a three day event and from what I heard from other clubs very successful.

We had our annual Chili Supper at Paul McBride's house. It was well attended and we have photos in this edition. Below is Paul along with Gary, our founding Fathers.



The Vintage Triumph Register, our national umbrella organization has selected the "TR Times" as one of the five best newsletters in the country. They awarded our editor, Bob Aguilar, with a plaque in recognition of this honor. We must not forget Chip Kigar who started us on this path with his stellar renditions of the newsletter that Bob inherited. Both of them have put their personal touches to the editions and both were and are exem-

plary editors. The award really belongs to both of them. At least the club recognized Chip when he turned over the newsletter to Bob. Here is a photo of both of them with the award. Congrats guys on some really wonderful work and we all appreciate your contributions to the club, without a newsletter we would not be a whole organization. Thank you both.



Our annual Christmas/Holiday Banquet is coming up on the first Thursday in December, which is our regular meeting night. The date is December 3rd with cocktails from 6 to 7 PM and dinner from 7 to 9 PM, at Barley's Brewhaus, 11924 West 119<sup>th</sup> Street in Overland Park. I hope everyone has their reservations in. We plan on a great dinner with prizes and gifts. We will have nametags available for our new members and our hats and visors will be handed out to those of you who were not at our last meeting.

Our next planned event will be our Planning Meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be at my subdivision's club house in Leawood, it will not be hard to find so stay tuned for times and location directions.

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Vacant

I almost forgot to mention, a number of us were at the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) car show in Lawrence on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Below are photos from the show.

That's about it for this year, I am about ready to mothball the Spitfire for the year and am looking forward to next year even though I will be a year older. By the way, my Spitfire is up for sale to a worthy individual. Check her out in this edition.

See ya all soon and have a great year end.

## AACA Car Show Photos

Photos clockwise from upper left corner: Photo 1. Pat Fischer & Roger Elliott; Photo 2. Irene Blend, Sandy Boyse & Pat Fischer; Photo 3. Eric & Steve Boyse; 4. Spitfire; Photo 5. Unknown person with Roger Elliott; and Photo 6. Another Spitfire.





## WEDGE WORDS

By Steve Olson

My Triumph has once again presented me with the opportunity to spend some quality time with it in the garage. Leaking seals in the front of the transmission or possibly the rear main seal on the crankshaft or possibly both have thoroughly lubricated the clutch disk. This does not make the clutch slip, it makes it grabby. Starting from rest without lurching, shuddering, or tire squeaking is difficult. Although the clutch disk is only a few years old and likely showing little wear, it is grease soaked and must be replaced. I went through this process perhaps 15 or 20 thousand miles back so I know it can be done and that I can do it.

Unlike most Triumphs this transmission is removed from below. Of course in addition to the normal things to remove like the clutch hydraulic line and the shift lever and the drive shaft and the cross member with the rear transmission mount and the speedometer cable, the exhaust system is one of the first things to remove. On a V8 of course there is twice as much exhaust system as there is on a 4 or 6 cylinder. And unlike other Triumphs this transmission is a factory 5 speed which is big and heavy. I vaguely remember last time lying on my back under the car trying not to knock the jack out from under the engine while at the same time trying to balance the transmission atop another jack that I was trying to raise with my foot to get the gearbox back up into the tunnel and lined up with the flywheel. As I recall that trick took several attempts to master, more than one blood sacrifice, and the use of most of the adult language that I know. I don't really look forward to repeating this performance.

In preparation I sat down to order the parts I would need. Our local supplier had the seals and gaskets and at a reasonable price. But for my car they don't stock the clutch disk separately. It only comes as part of a 3 piece set containing the pressure plate, throw out bearing and the disk. The kit costs \$300 and I am sure I only need the disk. So I went searching online and found that almost nobody handles just the disk for this uncommon car. Eventually I did locate it and for less than \$100 but in the UK. I wasn't in a big rush so no worries about shipping time delay. But the shipping cost turned out to be nearly \$50. I whined about that some before deciding that the total around \$140 still was better than \$300 locally with extra parts I would never need so I keyed in my credit card info and placed the order.

So now I have all the parts and all the knowledge and am just waiting on the ambition. I may try to borrow a friend's lift which will make some aspects of the job easier but whatever I drop will fall from a height of 5 feet to the concrete floor instead of less than 2 feet so the potential for disaster is increased. If I feel the transmission or the engine slipping I will try to get my toes under it to protect it from the concrete.



Dues Renewal began October 1st, 2015 which is the beginning of the 2016 membership year. 2016 dues are \$20 or \$25 if you want your newsletter mailed via USPS. Please send your renewal to KC Triumphs Treasurer, c/o Mark Gillissen at 9131 Darnell St., Lenexa, KS 66215. Make checks out to "Kansas City Triumphs". See enclosed Membership application later in this newsletter.

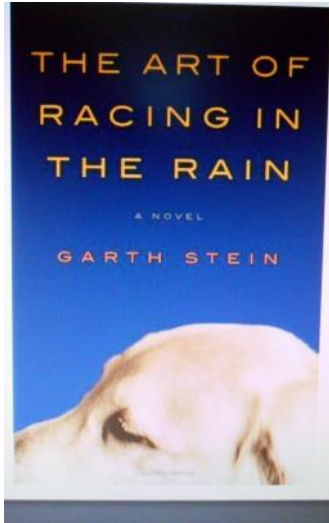


Do you like the hat and visor above? Get yours free with your membership renewal. Pick them up at the next Club Night Out or a future club event.

## My Six Favorite Car Theme Books

By Paul McBride

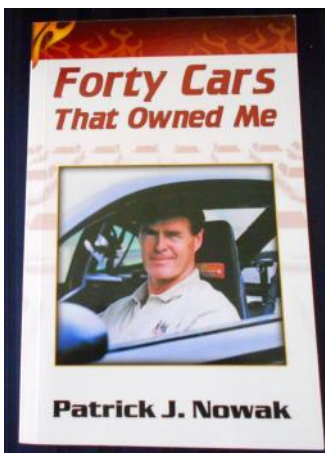
This will not be a list of the numerous volumes of Triumph history, specifications and workshop manuals that I have accumulated or even books about British sports cars and “coffee table” illustrated motor car volumes. Instead these are books that I have enjoyed as good reading no matter what the subject.



### 1. *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. (2008)

This gem of a novel appeals to almost everyone. Suspense, anger, happiness and sadness are emotions that kept me turning pages. It's narrated by the race driver's very perceptive and talented dog. Many of you have already enjoyed this book that appeared in 2008, but if not, you're in for a treat. Animal, and especially dog lovers, keep the Kleenex handy.

It's available from Amazon.



### 2. *Forty Cars That Owned Me* by Patrick J. Nowak. (2013)

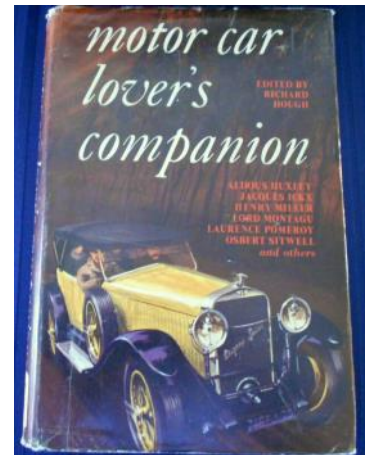
The author of this recently published paperback owned more than 70 cars but these are the ones that had a special impact. It doesn't hurt our interest in that his all-time favorite was a 1962 Triumph TR3B. Other English Cars: Aston Martin DB5, three

Jaguars, and 2 Austin Healey Sprites. Domestic cars, Toyotas, Hondas, Audi & VW round out an impressive diversity of ownership.

Jay Leno was so impressed by the author's “war stories” of buying, selling, racing these cars that he petitioned the local library to offer the book. You'll find out which car covered a mile in 24 seconds on its original tires and the coping techniques of the author's long suffering wife.

Told with wit, humor, and not a small amount of expertise.

An autographed copy is available for \$20 from LBCar, one of our newsletter advertisers.



### 3. *Motor Car Lover's Companion* edited by Richard Hough (1965)

This book is a delightful compilation of articles about the world of motor cars that spanned the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Contributors are well known writers: W.O. Bentley, Ian Fleming, Aldous Huxley, Henry Miller, Lord Montagu, S. F. Edge, C. S. Rolls, Laurence Pomeroy, and others.

The first article from an 1898 *The Autocar* editorial relates in the arcane language of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that Mr. Rolls, “an enthusiastic follower of the latest form of recreative locomotion”, drove friends to and from a wedding in an elegant motor Victoria.

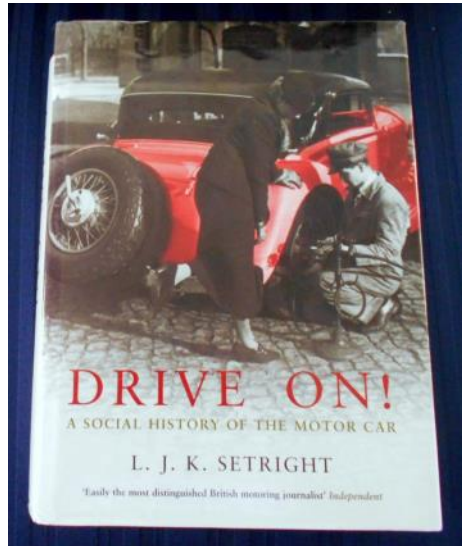
Another article by Lady Jeune discusses the proper motor dress for ladies and includes illustrations.

And in yet another, Ian Fleming's “Pursuit on the Dover Road”, has James Bond driving not an Aston Martin, but a Bentley and trying to catch the evil Drax in his Mercedes.

Aldous Huxley from “Those Barren Leaves” writes about Lord Hovenden in his pursuit of the love of Irene, in a 1925 Vauxhall Velox.

Many more examples offer good reading material on a winter's night or in the Loo.

Still available used from Amazon.



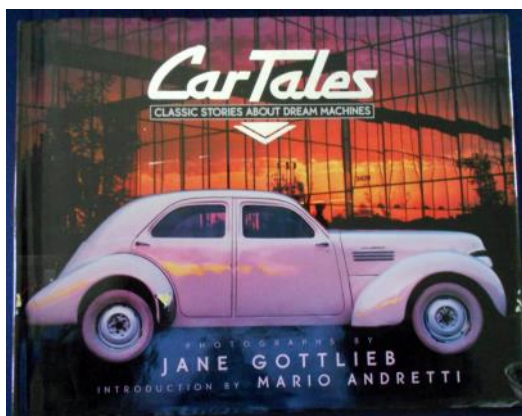
**4. *Drive On! A Social History of the Motor Car* by L. J. K. Setright. (2003)**

This is a car book like no other. One reviewer describes it as “the most stimulating, informative, provocative and witty book on the motor car ever written. It begins with an historical overview of mechanical transportation from the invention of the wheeled chariot by the Sumerians, (2000 B.C.) to the first internal combustion gasoline engine cars (1890’s) and on to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Among many social history theories, Setright develops the thesis that the motor car, more than anything else, delivered mankind from the Dark Age constraints to unprecedented individual freedom. From 2000 B.C. to the advent of the motor car the furthest an individual could freely travel was about 20 miles per day. When that limit changed he believes everything changed.

There are so many diverse opinions it’s unlikely that anyone will agree with them all. However the author’s range of knowledge is remarkable. This is a truly fascinating book of 400+ pages.

Available from Amazon priced from \$24 to \$673!

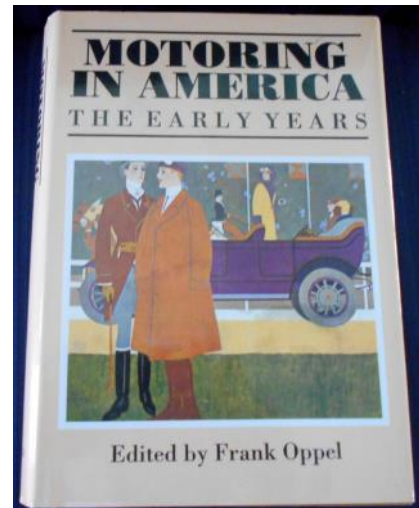


**5. *Car Tales* by Jane Gottlieb (1991)**

Another collection of car centered writings by authors: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Jack Finney, MacKinlay Kantor, William Saroyan and Arthur Conan Doyle. The book begins with an introduction by Mario Andretti and includes photographs by Jane Gottlieb.

Great tales from Fitzgerald’s “The Family Bus”, Finney’s time travel yarn “Second Chance”, to Doyle’s “How It Happened”.

Available new or used from Amazon.



**6. *Motoring In America The Early Years* Edited by Frank Oppel (1989)**

This book details the trials & tribulations of early (1900-1910) car ownership in America. There are hundreds of original illustrations. Races, hill climbs, shows, touring in California, What a Woman Can Do with an Auto, are some of the subjects.

Additional articles include: The care of the automobile, Alcohol for Automobiles?, Faster than the Locomotive, Good roads for the people, A Talk on Gasoline, and How I Won The Vanderbilt Cup.

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## 2015 Chili Supper Hosted by Margaret & Paul McBride



Guest of honor. Plenty of Chili.



L to R: Debra Davis, Margaret McBride & Linda Taylor.



L to R: Tom Leiker, Dave McIntosh, Steve Carver & Steve Boyse. In the background is Paul McBride's TR-3.



L to R: Linda Taylor & Sandy Boyse.



L to R: Steve Grieb & Cynthia Yin

## 2015/2016 KC Triumphs Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Lead Person</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Notes</u>
12/3	Holiday Banquet	6 to 9 PM	Steve Vehlewald	Barley's Brewhaus 11924 W. 119th St OP, KS	
TBA	Board Meeting	TBA		Birdies	All Members Welcome. Moved because of New Years Eve.
1/7/2016	Club Night Out	6:30 PM		Birdies	
1/23/16	Planning Meeting/ Dinner	TBA	Ed Blend	Ed Blend's HOA Club House, 135th & State Line, Leawood, KS	Meat supplied by club from Jack Stack BBQ. Members bring covered dish or dessert



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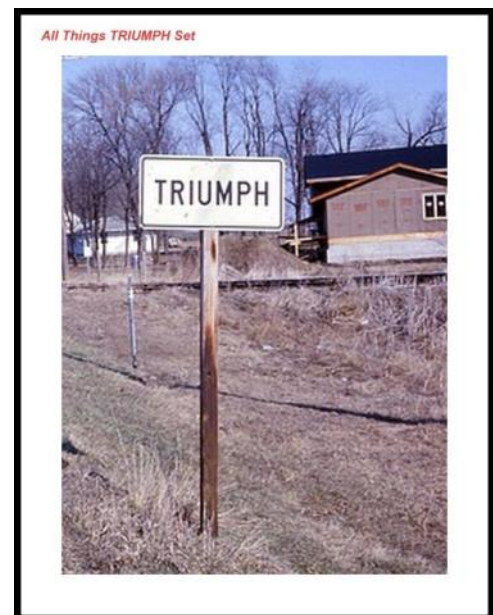
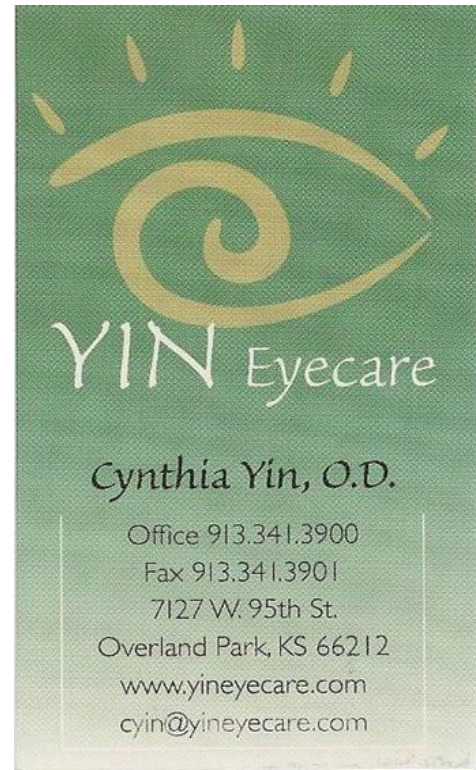
Matt & Margaret Schnug, 1976 TR-6

### Sadly For Sale



My 1978 Spitfire, I have had her for almost 10 years. She has a new top, new interior, very recent complete professionally overhauled engine, new clutch, overhauled transmission, Weber carburetor, exhaust header, alloy min-lite wheels and many more refinements. If you want a really good look at her check out the Victoria British 2015 Fall catalog, she is on the cover with some wonderful photos on the back page. I have kept all of the old stock parts in case you would ever want to go back and she comes with a complete spare rear bumper and the stock wheels and covers. She shows 88,000 miles on the odometer and I have averaged about 1800 miles a year.

Two tonneau covers are also part of the sale, one full cover and one that only covers the retracted top. I have complete documentation in a log book and receipts of work that has been done since I have owned it and some documents from before. I believe that I am the third owner. I have put a lot of love into her not counting the money. This car is worth top dollar for its condition, you won't find a better car for my asking price. If interested call me, Ed Blend at 913 - 669 -1207



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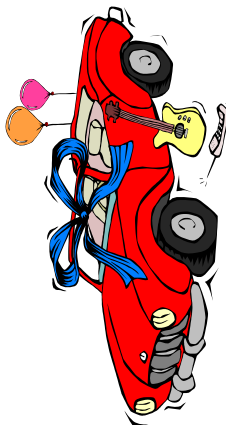
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The Kansas City Triumphs sports Car Club is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Triumph sports cars. We are also a social club made up of approximately 100 fellow TR enthusiasts from all over the Midwest. The club hosts monthly gatherings, driving events, and technical sessions giving you many opportunities to enjoy your Triumph and others. We publish a bimonthly newsletter, which you will receive upon joining the club. Also look for club events listed in the "Fun on Wheels" column in the automotive section of the Kansas City Star. In addition, all club members receive a 10% discount on parts from Victoria British. Don't have a Triumph or your car or cycle is not a showstopper? Don't worry – we welcome all Triumph enthusiasts!



To join or renew, complete the application and mail with \$20.00 check (\$25.00 for newsletter delivered by snail mail) payable to "Kansas City Triumphs" to:

Mark Gillisen, Treasurer  
9131 Darnell St.  
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