

TRIUMPH CLUB OF NORTH FLORIDA

Volume 18, Issue 9

September 2006



All opinions expressed in the articles, columns and other material included in the newsletter are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Triumph Club of North Florida, its officers or members. The Triumph Club of North Florida is not responsible for any technical advice which may appear in these pages. ...

TRIUMPH CLUB OF NORTH FLORIDA

CLUB OFFICERS	COMING EVENTS
<p>PRESIDENT Graham Thomas (904) 321-0261 email: gandj9@bellsouth.net</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Angelo Guzman (904) 781-0084 email: ukroadster@aol.com</p> <p>SECRETARY / TREASURER Norm Reimer 904-246-6044 email: suennorm@comcast.net</p> <p>EVENTS COORDINATOR Jerry Popp (904) 287-1891 Email: geraldjpoppp@bellsouth.net</p> <p>NEWSLETTER Lance Brazil (904) 247-1030 email: lbrazil@bellsouth.net</p> <p>Any contributions to the news-letter are greatly appreciated. If you have articles, graphics or funny anecdotes, please call Lance Brazil at (904) 247-1030 or email to lbrazil@bellsouth.net by the 22nd of the month prior to publication.</p> <p>Visit the NEW TCNF Web site at: www.tcnf.org</p>	<p align="center">September 9, 2006 Tech Session at Bob Laver- der's house. See page 3 for directions and time.</p>
	<p align="center">October 14 Annual British Car Show, St. Augustine. We need volun- teers</p>
	<p align="center">October 15, 2006 Cutoff Date for Roebing Road Pit Crew Reservations See bottom of page 5</p>
	<p align="center">October 21, 2006 10th Annual 8 Flags Car Show Amelia Island www.ameliacruizers.org</p>
	<p align="center">December 9—10, 2006 Race meeting Roebing Road. See details in President's corner</p>
	<p align="center">December 16 Christmas Party Graham Tho- mas home</p>
	<p align="center">Monthly Reminders</p> <p>Pub club meeting Sep- tember 3, at King's Head Pub, St. Augustine on US 1 about 5 miles north of the city. Time: 1:00—4:00 p.m.</p>

TRIUMPH CLUB OF NORTH FLORIDA

**Directions to the Lavender house
3775 Forest Drive, Middleburg**

(On Blanding Boulevard between CR218 and CR220)
Find Palmetto Avenue (Signal, BP gas, Wachovia Bank)
Go east (only way you can) -at end of Palmetto
Left on Main—go to First right
Right on Hill—at end of Hill
Left on Forest—go as far as you can.
10:00 a.m.



Don Marshall, Racing—See Page 4

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Racing Triumphs

There are certainly some activities that are more fun than road racing, but suffice it to say that racing is very high on the list and possibly even number two. Unfortunately, too many sports car enthusiasts never get to experience it.

I was one of those, having owned at least one Triumph continuously for the past 39 years. I drove TRs to work, to the beach, on long trips, etc., but it wasn't until I attended the VTR regional in Asheville around 1993 that I



even considered using a Triumph the way it was meant to be used. At that event, the city of Asheville closed a main thoroughfare for use as an autocross course. Although I didn't take part in that event, it was enough to give me the "bug". I found a fairly decent TR4

and converted it into a dedicated autocross car which I and several TCNF members, including Norm Reimer, Walt Lanz and Dave Finkelstein have thrashed around and through the cones. However much fun autocrossing is, it's short lived, with each "run" lasting anywhere from 45 seconds to a minute and a half depending on the length of the course.

After a couple years of autocrossing I began to think that real wheel to wheel racing would be something I might enjoy. About that time a fully race prepared TR4A was advertised in the SCCA magazine and after a few weeks of research and negotiating, I became the owner of a Triumph race car. That was the easy part.

Then came all the safety equipment, drivers school and novice races which are required to become a licensed racer, not to mention tow vehicle, trailer and enough spare parts to keep things going. Although I took my training through SCCA and have an SCCA license, I decided to stick to vintage racing since it seems to be more "gentlemanly" and for the most part is a non-contact sport. There is also no prize money nor trophies so the incentive to

TRIUMPH CLUB OF NORTH FLORIDA

win at all costs is lessened considerably.

Just about any sports car built prior to 1973 is eligible for vintage racing as long as it has the necessary safety equipment, and Spitfires, TR3s and TR4s are fairly common at the racetracks these days. The idea is to recreate the racing of the 50s and 60s in a safe and sane environment. We are encouraged to drive within our limits and to avoid the "red mist" at all times. Usually a racing "incident" will get at least one driver put on the trailer and repeated offenses can result in being banned from the sport.

There are several vintage racing groups in the Southeast, including VDCA, SVRA, HSR and even the Florida SCCA with its vintage class. Events usually run from Friday through Sunday. Equipment, entry fees, tires, race gas and the inevitable repairs can make racing a bit pricey but, as long as you remember that your children should really be making their own way in life and leaving them an inheritance could actually hurt their characters, you might be OK with it.

We manage to race five or six times a year, primarily at Roebling Road (Savannah), Sebring, and Virginia International Raceway (near Danville, VA), although we have been as far as Mid-Ohio and on one occasion got to race at the Daytona Speedway. I'm fortunate to have a wife who thoroughly enjoys our time at the track so we have invested in an enclosed car hauler trailer with living quarters so we can stay right at the track the whole weekend. There are few sounds that are better to wake up to than the roar of a race engine.

The events usually consist of two or three 20 to 30 minute practice sessions for each group on Friday, with similar practice sessions and qualifying races on Saturday. Depending on the event, there may be a one hour Enduro, which is a long time to stay focused on running at top speed. Sunday usually includes warm-up sessions and the feature races. Cars are divided into classes based on displacement, open or closed wheel design and other factors. However, depending on the turnout at a particular event you can find yourself racing in a group with distinctly different and sometimes verry fast cars. Getting passed by a Lister Jag doing 160mph is pretty exciting when you're only going 110 or so.

For TCNF members who might be interested in seeing a vintage race, I have made arrangements for access to the December 8-10 VDCA event at Roebling Road in Savannah (<http://www.vintagedrive.com>). This is a non-spectator event so you will probably be registered as "crew" and will have access to the entire facility, including the pits and paddock. We will probably have to limit attendance to 10-12 members so please let Graham know well in advance if you want to come.

Don Marshall

TR4A #11

President's Corner

It is less than two months from our Car Show, the British Car Classic Mark XVIII, at the Kings Head Pub on US 1, a few miles north of St. Augustine. It has been the policy and philosophy for some time that all members should register a car, be it on the show field or not. Every other year we have one event to keep us on the map financially and this is it! Above all, however, it is just downright fun after all the work comes to fruition and we have all the classes lined up. So we need all members to fill out the application you will have received by now and send it to Norm Reimer, then show up on the day and help where you are needed. This year we will be donating a portion of funds realized to a couple of local charities.

The Southeastern VTR Show scheduled for Jekyll Island will now possibly be end of May / early June '07, but more likely first weekend of October '07. We could not get our ducks (aka Triumph Clubs) in a row soon enough and so lost the dates in March / April at the host hotel.

I am delighted, as we all should be, that Gerry Popp has agreed to be Club V.P. immediately and therefore accedes to the President's position on January 1st 2007. We are fortunate to have Gerry and Louise in our midst.

Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will read about Don Marshall's experience in getting into Vintage Racing. I have been with him a couple of times and it is a blast. So we are arranging a trip to Roebing Road at Pooler, Ga. just west of Savannah for the races weekend of Dec 8th / 10th.

We have choices, so here's the way I see it. Perhaps the races are not our ladies first choice in weekend entertainment, so Savannah is very close and we will have enough vehicles for them, if they wish, to spend the day there and for all of us to meet up for the evening.

Pooler is probably two and a half hours from Jax so one could drive up and back for a long day and no overnight. On the other hand one could drive up Saturday afternoon and stay over for the Sunday racing, which should be the best day on the track. What I need to know by October 15th is who is wanting to go to the races (Don needs to work on crew passes for us) and who wants the Sat. overnight. More on this later of course, but members are advised to commit because both crew passes and rooms go quickly. Call or E mail please.

Graham Thomas

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Join the Triumph Club of North Florida

If you're interested in Triumph cars, You should be a member of TCNF. The benefits are outstanding, a monthly newsletter that is entertaining as well as informative with free ads to members, monthly events, rallies, shows, picnics, tours and camaraderie with fellow enthusiasts...

Membership Application/ Renewal

_____ (Please Print) _____

New _____	Renewal _____	Car Information
Name _____	_____	Year Model Comm #
Spouse _____	_____	1. _____
Address _____	_____	2. _____
_____	_____	3. _____
_____	_____	4. _____
_____	_____	5. _____
Home Phone () _____	_____	Please circle interest in:
Work Phone () _____	_____	Tech Sessions Autocross
Email Address _____	_____	Social Events Tours
VTR Member? Yes _____ No _____	_____	Fun Rallyes Car Show
		T-S-D Rallyes Races

TRA Member? Yes _____ No _____ Make your \$25.00 check payable to:

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