

TRIUMPH CLUB OF NORTH FLORIDA

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Don Marshall leading an Elva Courier and an MGA going into the uphill esses at Virginia International Raceway during Vintage Race Weekend.

– Photo by James Marshall

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TRIUMPH CLUB OF NORTH FLORIDA

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	<p>July – 2008 Camp Blanding Picnic Charles Fenwick</p>
	<p>September 20, 2008 2-1-1 Charity Oktoberfest World Golf Village All Cars and Motorcycles</p>
	<p>October 11, 2008 British Car Show King’s Head Pub TCNF Hosting</p>
	<p>November 1, 2008 Brit Bash at Wickham Replaces Fox Lake Show at Titusville</p>
	<p>Monthly Reminders Pub club meeting June 1, at King’s Head Pub</p>

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A Recommendation From Graham

I recently needed a front end alignment plus toe and camber for my TR3A. The place I have used on a prior occasion no longer offered that service, but eventually I found a guy who had the equipment and the ability to do it at Tires Plus, 5880 W. University Blvd, Jacksonville. Location is just east of the I95 interchange and opposite Winn-Dixie. Make sure you have Gary Adams do the work. GT

A Recommendation From Lance

As you all well know I have been refurbishing my Spitfire and hope to have it back on the road in a few more weeks. I had some painting done under the bonnet and the job is beautiful.

If you need painting, see ABC TRANSMISSION / AUTO BODY on Mayport Road just past the Sonic drive in about a half mile from the base entrance. Ray does great work. 241-8830

– Lance

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VIR vintage racing report with Kamikaze Sprite

In April, Jolene, James and I loaded the TR4A and headed for Virginia International Raceway (VIR) for a vintage race weekend. This event is usually the highlight of our racing year and this time was no exception, especially since we were one of the few Triumphs to make it through the weekend unscathed.

A couple Triumph racing buddies and I have taken it upon ourselves to encourage other TR racers to come to this event so several years ago we started hosting a Triumph only cookout at the track and we present a special award to the Triumph driver who best exemplifies the spirit of Triumph throughout the weekend. This year, out of the 60 cars in our race group, we had 14 big Triumphs plus a couple Spitfires.

As usual, there was quite a bit of mechanical attrition on Friday and Saturday, so that only seven Triumphs were still running on Sunday for the afternoon feature race. Fortunately, mine was one of those still in good shape, although it hadn't been trouble free. On Saturday the engine started to miss badly and then quit completely at Oak Tree turn. I had to sit in the car and wait for the end of the session and then be towed back to the paddock. The problem turned out to be a bad distributor but, since that's one of the spares I carry in the trailer, I was able to get it running again and get out for the next session.

During that session, I noted that my oil pressure looked "funny," in that the gauge that reads pressure coming out of the oil pump was reading higher than usual while the gauge that reads pressure after it's been all through the engine was reading low. Oil pressure problems are usually good predictors of approaching catastrophic engine failure, but in this case was only a clogged oil filter. A new filter cleared that up and we were OK for the Sunday feature race.

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In road racing, we follow the pace car all the way around the track side by side in pairs for the pace lap. Then, when the lead cars come onto the straight the starter will decide if the pack is tight enough and, if so, he'll wave the green flag for the start. Often that happens before drivers toward the back of the pack can even see the starter stand so the effect is that everyone speeds up in anticipation of the start. Then, entering turn 1, the leaders have to brake hard and everyone else stacks up behind them. This time, a Sprite driver several cars ahead of me apparently forgot that this was going to happen and turned hard right onto the grass to avoid running into the TR-250 that was slowing ahead of him.

Once he was on the grass with no traction, I watched as he slid straight across the inside of turn 1 and hit the one of the two fastest TR3s racing today. The impact forced that TR3 into the other fastest TR3 that was beside him and took them both out of the race. It's bad enough that he hit one Triumph, but to take out two of them was unbelievable.

While I worked my way past the mess I mentally tagged him as the "Kamikaze Sprite." As the race progressed and cars spread out everything became normal until the next to the last lap, when I saw a TR4 out on the grass. I had not noticed it during the melee at turn 1 but the Kamikaze Sprite had minimal damage and had continued on. Later in the race he struck again, this time spinning out onto the grass then coming back on track to hit the TR4. He managed to take out 3 Triumphs in one race. Fortunately none of the drivers was hurt but there is a lot of work to be done over the summer. I understand that the Sprite driver has been banned for life from this particular racing group and possibly from vintage racing entirely.

I was able to finish the race in good shape and placed second out of all 14 Triumphs for the weekend, mostly due to their mechanical failures and the Kamikaze Sprite. The best part was being to load my car back in the trailer with no damage.

Don Marshall
'65 TR4A #11

TRIUMPH CLUB OF NORTH FLORIDA

Flagler Volusia Run – Day Trip

Meet at 10:00 a.m. U.S. 1 and I95, Exit 273 – Dairy Queen.
Depart by 10:30 a.m. We will be stopping for lunch at a Flagler county restaurant that has a wide range of menu items.

Updates from Tony Cascio

We are currently traveling the country in our RV pulling a 20' enclosed trailer with the 3A in it. We received some info on the South Central VTR meet in Tyler, TX, so I called and we entered. Very nice group, about 80 cars entered, made some new friends and was pleased to be there.

Our car won 1st in Modified Concours, and was being looked at long and hard by the judges for best in show, but.....I was still very happy.

Our next event is in Dallas, it's an all British car show for charity. No official judging just people's choice in various categories, that is this weekend while you're all at the PUB. Just wanted to keep you all up to date and to let you all now I am wearing my North Florida shirt proudly.

Just as a note we have already registered for Yipsilanti, Mi in August. So again I will fly our colors there as well.



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