

# TRIUMPH CLUB OF NORTH FLORIDA

Volume 24 Issue 6

June 2012

*Triumph Club*



*Of North Florida*

1409 Forest Ave.

Neptune Beach, Fla 32266

**Cruise-In for British Cars—Finally!**  
**Whiskey River Restaurant, Town Center**  
**Jacksonville**  
**Saturday, June 2, 2012 11:00 a.m.**  
**Lunch Specials for Cruise-In Participants**  
**Special Reserved Parking**  
**Other British Clubs are Invited**

Notify Norm Reimer of address changes at (904) 246-6044 or email to “[suennorm@comcast.net](mailto:suennorm@comcast.net)”

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.

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**Newsletter:**

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## Coming Events

**September 7-8** – Brits on the Shoals, Rogersville, Alabama

<http://www.shoalsbritishcars.org/index.html>

**October 13** – **British Car Classic MK XXIV** King’s Head Pub, St. Augustine, Florida <http://www.tcnf.org/>

**November 1—3** Southeast British Car Club, “Chattanooga Choo Choo” Chattanooga, Tennessee. Norm (772) 567-2231

**October 28—November 2, 2012** VTR National Convention, Galveston Island, Texas. <http://www.kingswayrc.com/txtr/VTR2012/index.html>

 June 2012 Events						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

**June 2, 2012** Cruise-in for British cars at the Whiskey River Restaurant in Town Center Shopping Center. See Page 5 for directions.

**June 3, 2012** Monthly Pub Club Meeting, at the King’s Head Pub, St. Augustine on US 1 about 5 miles north of city limits.

## President's Corner

### Hello sports car fans

The week of May 26 thru June 3 is drive your British car week. The start of the week was a little wet, difficult for top-down driving. There is still time. Hope to many members at our get-together on June 2, at Whiskey River. Check the newsletter for details. The Jaguar car club and the MG club are also invited, so come on out to say hello to your LBC friends, and check out their cars. Sunday June 3 is our monthly meeting at the PUB, so like I said, there is plenty of time to drive your British car and let the neighbors see it somewhere besides in the garage!

We still have a couple of openings for a monthly event, bring your ideas and let us know what you would like to do.

Hope to see all of you Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. I will have your name tags if you have not received yours, so check with me, and if you already have yours, wear it!

### **Walt**

		June – Cruise In – Whiskey River
July–Pool Party	August–Open	September–Open
October–BCD Mark XXIV	November–Open	December–Christmas Party

## The Ten Slowest Sports Cars

<http://autos.yahoo.com/news/the-ten-slowest-sports-cars-of-all-time.html?page=all>

## The Death List—Cars that won't be back in 2013

<http://autos.yahoo.com/news/the-death-list--cars-that-aren-t-coming-back-for-2013.html?page=all>

# Tech Article—David Boger The Oil Spot, May 2012

## Use of a Vacuum Gauge in Engine Diagnosis

Excerpted from CDX Automotive

### Summary

A vacuum gauge is used to measure the manifold pressure. In naturally aspirated engines, this pressure is always below atmospheric pressure. This article shows you how to connect and use a vacuum gauge to check engine manifold vacuum

### Points to note

Vacuum gauges are possibly the most useful diagnostic tool in engine diagnosis. They are often forgotten by technicians who may prefer to use modern electronic diagnostic equipment.

The vacuum gauge reads in either millimeters of mercury (mm Hg) or inches of mercury (in Hg). Those measurements mean the vacuum is strong enough to support a column of mercury in a tube to a height of so many millimeters or inches. 0 in Hg is equal to atmospheric pressure. A fully loaded engine at wide-open throttle will reach close to this reading.

30 in Hg is referred to as a perfect vacuum. It is a point where there is no pressure at all. It is a theoretical number because it is impossible to achieve. An engine decelerating on closed throttle will reach close to this reading.

Healthy engines will create more vacuum in their inlet manifolds than worn engines. So a pressure comparison between a known healthy reading and the engine you are testing can assist in determining the state of wear of the engine.

Refer to the chart below for various vacuum gauge readings:

Engine Speed	Gauge Reading	Engine Condition
Idle	16" – 22" Steady	Healthy
Idle	14" – 20" Steady	Fair but worn
Snap throttle	Jumps to 2" on decal moves to	Healthy
Snap throttle	Jumps to 1" on decal moves to 22"	Fair but worn
Idle	8" or less	Vacuum leak
Idle	Fluctuated between 14" and 19"	Worn valve guides or head gasket blown between 2
Idle	Reading drops from normal	Burnt valves, valve stuck open, misfiring spark plug
Idle	8" - 14"	Valve timing incorrect or large camshaft overlap
Idle	14" – 16"	Ignition timing wrong
Idle	Moves between 12" and 16"	Idle mixture incorrect
Slow engine speed rise	Needle falls then rises suddenly	Blocked exhaust, weak valve springs
3000 rpm	Needle fluctuates, worsens with higher rpm	Weak valve springs

## **Step-by-step instructions:**

### **Examine the gauge**

The vacuum gauge has many uses in vehicle maintenance but its importance in detecting leaks or diagnosing problems is often overlooked. Examine the vacuum gauge that you own. Determine the units of measurement. And be sure to read the printed instructions that accompany the gauge.

### **Fit the gauge to the manifold**

Fit the vacuum gauge onto the engine intake manifold. You may need to fit a “Tee” piece to an existing vacuum connection.

### **Start the engine**

With the vehicle in neutral or park, and the emergency brake on, start the vehicle’s engine and let it settle into a uniform idle.

### **Check the reading**

Check the reading on your vacuum gauge. If the engine has no problems, the reading should be within the range fourteen to twenty-two inches of mercury and the needle steady.

### **Change the load on the engine**

Snap the throttle open and let it close. You will see the vacuum gauge needle quickly move to near zero then move all the way to almost thirty inches then back to the idle position. Open the throttle slowly. Notice the reaction of the needle.

### **Record your observations**

Make sure you keep a record of the readings and needle movements you experience when working with different engine components.

## **Cruise-In at Whiskey River**

**Directions from I 295:** Exit at Town Center Parkway. The sixth traffic signal is Big Island Drive, Turn left on Big Island Drive and take the first right to Whiskey River.

**Directions from JTB (FL 202):** Exit at Gate Parkway, turn right onto Town Center Parkway. The second traffic signal is Big Island Drive, take the first right on Big Island Drive to Whiskey River,

**This month I am going to give you some information that will**

**SAVE YOUR LIFE !**



– From the Hendrix Wire Wheel monthly newsletter

A few weeks ago we went to the biggest and best car show in North Carolina While at “THE GATHERING” there was one TR-3 from out of state that had 3 out of 4 of his tires fly apart on the highway while heading to the show.

After the 3 day show an MGA had one of his front tires fly apart on the highway going home. He called on Monday to buy new tires and remembered thinking that he was glad that he was not the guy with the TR-3. His tires looked fine to him and were only 11 years old. COULD NOT happen to me he thought.. These people are VERY LUCKY to be alive.

The reason this happened was that due to the economy and the fact that the tires had no cracks showing they chose to ignore the fact that their tires were over 10 years old .

This month I have had the largest amount of calls from around the country I have ever had with stories like these and a lot worse. One man had his granddaughter with him and her collar bone was broken in the accident that issued. His exact words were. ITS ALL MY FAULT ! I could not go on living if I had killed her.

We may forget to look at the age of our tires on our cars or we might not know that there is a date code on every tire made that will tell us its age. I’m here to remind you to look AND to tell you how to read these date codes. This is NOT just for your classic car. Take a look at ALL of your family’s car tires.

This is the one thing that you can do that WILL save a loved ones life ! On every tire sold in America there is a DOT ( Dept. of Transportation ) number molded into the tires sidewall. On one side of the tire there will be a date of manufacture stamped into it after the DOT letters . It is the law so it WILL be there.

If the tire has only **3 numbers** it was made in the last century. If it has **4 numbers** it was made in this century. As set of numbers that read 2305 will mean made 23rd week of 2005. That tells you it is 7 year old tire. If it has a number that reads 238.. that means 23rd week of 1998. Your tire is 14 years old and you are playing Russian roulette with you and your loved ones life.

Tire manufacturers say 5 to 7 years old “REPLACE TIRES” Our government recommends 10 years tops. Some of you are riding on tires MUCH older than 10 years. Just because it has a lot of tread left and the cracks in the side wall is not all that noticeable or the wallet says NOT TODAY ! WE IGNORE THE AGE.

I’m here to teach you how to be the hero of your household and not the dumb ass who got killed. Here is a copy of our diagram of what the tires symbols mean on tires from our web site.

– Continued on page 7



Above is an example of a DOT Safety Standard Code. The following information will tell you how to read serial numbers on all new tires:

**DOT** means the tire meets or exceeds Department of Transportation's safety standards.

**"MA"** is the code number assigned by DOT to the manufacturing plant.

**"L9"** is the tire size; in this case a P195/75R14.

**"ABCD"** is a group of up to four symbols, optional with the manufacturer, to identify the brand or other significant characteristics of the tire.

**"036"** means the tire was made during the 3rd week of 1996. The first two numbers designates the week, the last number the year.

## Cars that won't be coming back for 2013

**Tesla Roadster:** Although they sold every one of the \$100K plus that they built, it was nothing more than a sunny day toy.

**Chevy Avalanche/ Cadillac Escalade EXT:** Declining sales in recent years.

**Ford Escape Hybrid:** Still manufactured, but not as a hybrid.

**Lexus 250 HS:** Lagging sales. Basically it was a rebadged Prius with luxury interior.

**Mercedes Benz R Class:** Not a minivan, not really an SUV. Still produced for Canada and China.

**Saab (All):** Saab, purchased by GM became more like a Buick than a Saab.

**Volvo C70:** Underpowered and ill-handling, neither a good convertible nor a good coupe. Retractable hardtop took up all of the trunk.

**Kia Sedona:** Victim of lagging sales

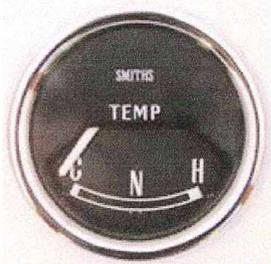
**Hyundai Veracruz:** Uninspired styling, numb handling and surprising lack of cargo room proved to be its downfall.

**Mitsubishi Eclipse:** No longer a turbocharged, all wheel drive exciting car to drive.

– Yahoo Cars by Kurt Ernst

**Technical Toolbox**  
**TR250 & TR6 Cooling System**

- **Type: Pressurized, engine driven pump and fan, overflow bottle.**
  - **Normal Temperature: Should not exceed 185°F.**
    - **Pressure Cap Release: 3.25-4.25 psi.**
    - **Engine Driven Fan: 8 blade, 12.5" diameter.**
  - **Water Pump: Centrifugal, driven by belt via crankshaft pulley.**
  - **Thermostat: Starts opening at 158°F, fully open at 197°F.**
- **System Coolant Capacity (including heater and overflow bottle): 13.2 pints (1.65 US gallons).**



- **Torque Wrench Settings:**
    - Water Pump Pulley: 14-16 lb-ft**
    - Water Pump Securing Bolts: 18-20 lb-ft**
    - Water Pump Stud Nut: 12-14 lb-ft**
- (Source: Haynes Owners Workshop Manual)**

– From The March 2012 *Bluebonnet*, News of the Texas Triumph Registry

## **Cars by the Numbers**

From *Science Illustrated*

- 1885**—First gas powered vehicle introduced by Germany’s Karl Benz. Top Speed: 11 mph.
- 1889**—Belgian electric car sets a new speed record: 65 mph.
- 1903**—Henry Ford founds the Ford Motor Company in Detroit.
- 1907**—Brooklands, the world’s first true racecourse opens in Surrey, England.
- 1939**—The first cars with GMs Hydra-Matic automatic gearbox go into production.
- 2003**—The last old-style VW Beetle rolls off the assembly line in Mexico.
- 21,529,464**—Number Of VW Beetles manufactured over 60 years, the longest production life of any vehicle.
- 30,000**—Average number of parts that make up a car, counting even the tiniest screws.
- 16,500,000**—Units of the Model T Ford produced.

## On the Lighter Side

If my Body was a car—Scary how true this is!



If my body was a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my pain job is getting a little dull.

But that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best weather

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins.



It takes hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it,

Almost every time I sneeze, cough, or sputter, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!

## 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

Year    Model    Comm #

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle interest in:

Work Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Tech Sessions

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Social Events

Autocross

Tours

Fun Rallyes

Car Show

VTR Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

T-S-D Rallyes    Races

TRA Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Make your \$25.00 check payable to:

Triumph Club of North Florida,  
c/o Norm Reimer,  
1409 Forest Ave.  
Neptune Beach, Fla 32266

### The English Garage

British Car Repairs

**DAVID GERRARD**  
(904)724-1353

1948 Parental Home Rd.  
Suite 2  
Jacksonville, FL 32216

**Charles Vincent**

### VINCO TRANSMISSION

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6150 Heckscher Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32226-3118

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