



# the new england

# Triumph

*Serving the Triumph Enthusiast since 1977*

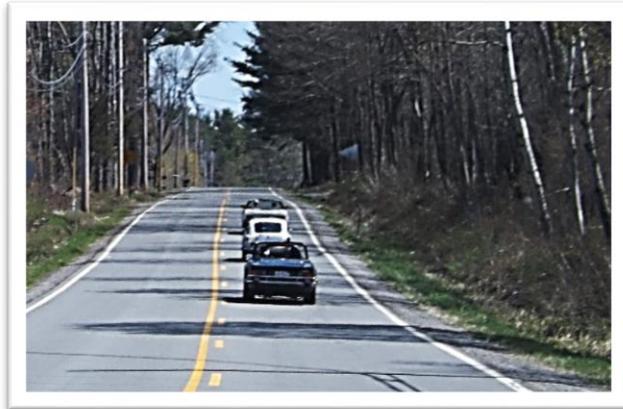
April 2014

<http://www.newenglandtriumphs.org/>

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## It's Go Time!

Our first driving event is the Southern NH tour organized by John Bowe. It is scheduled for Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We will meet at his shop, Underground Cycle, 17 Gigante Drive, Hampstead, New Hampshire. Details are still TBD but in past years John opened the shop at 9am to allow time for coffee and whatever breakfast goodies anyone brings along to share. The tour usually departs around 11am. Details will be posted on the NET website as soon as they are available.



**...And Show Time:** Bruce Penttinen shows off his Dolly Cylinder Head to John Bowe and Tony Rhodes at the start up meeting.

### **Inside This Issue:**

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*Membership Info:*

New England Triumphs membership dues are \$20.00 per calendar year. They cover expenses such as website hosting, production and mailing of newsletters and special notices, and supplementation of some event costs.

*New England Triumphs* is an official chapter of:

**The Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)**, dedicated to the history, preservation, and enjoyment of Triumph automobiles. VTR welcomes all Triumph owners. Check their website ([www.vtr.org](http://www.vtr.org)) for membership information.

**The Triumph Register of America (TRA)**, the only national U.S. organization devoted to the TR2-4A series. TRA was established to aid TR2-4A owners in the preservation, maintenance and enjoyment of their classic cars. Check their website ([www.triumphregister.com](http://www.triumphregister.com)) for membership information.

**6-Pack**, dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enjoyment of the TR6 and TR250 ( [www.6-pack.org](http://www.6-pack.org) )

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*Submissions:*

All submissions except classifieds should go to the Editor; classifieds should go to the classified department as shown above. We encourage every member to submit anything they feel might be of interest to club members. We will do our best to include all contributions within the limits of space, time, interest, and our abilities. If you have supporting photos, please submit them. Send electronic submissions via e-mail to stan.foster@hp.com. If you would like to reproduce anything in this newsletter for another publication, please contact the Editor. We ask only that you credit the author and this newsletter as the source.

## **Start Up Meeting Report – Debbie Christopher**

### **Sunday March 16, 2014 3pm-Yangtze River Restaurant, Littleton, MA**

We had a great turnout for our start up meeting! It is always a pleasure to see so many of our fellow club members again after the long winter and to talk about getting our cars back on the road. All club officers have volunteered to remain in their current positions for at least another year so we dispensed with elections. Club Director Stan Foster had sent word via the email list seeking a volunteer to be "director in training" this year. While it did not come up for discussion during the meeting, at the conclusion John Gibbs stepped forward to offer to take on this role. John and his wife Tricia (our newsletter editor) have been very active members since joining the club several years ago. John has already made many contributions to the club by taking over the printing and distribution of the newsletter, providing multi-media presentations during club events and creating and maintaining the club's new [Facebook page](#). Please give John your support in his new role!

As far as club events go, we are repeating some of our favorites and introducing some new ones as well. In time order we have scheduled a Southern New Hampshire tour, Cape Ann tour, a tour around part of the Quabbin Reservoir, the Day Of Triumph event at the Larz Anderson museum, the Lobster Tour, a Covered Bridge Tour and a Fall Rallye. All of the NET-sponsored events are on our [club calendar](#), color coded in British Racing Green. In most cases the information on the calendar at this point is preliminary. Details will be provided closer to the date. Weather can cause a change in plans so it's always advisable to check the calendar for updates.

We also include "other events of interest" on our calendar (color coded in TR6 topaz) for events that some of our club members plan to attend or have recommended. Links are provided in the online event descriptions so you can get more information about these events right from the source. This year's VTR National Convention will be held in September in North Carolina. Several club members are considering making the drive in their Triumphs. Stay tuned on the email list if you are interested in joining them on their trek!

There are also many great events hosted by other car clubs in our area such as British Cars of New Hampshire's "Show of Dreams" charity event and several members of BCNH came to our meeting to talk about this year's event. The event is moving south from Wolfeboro to Hudson, NH this year, making it easier for those who live in southern New Hampshire or in Massachusetts to attend. It will be held the day before our Day of Triumph event, convenient for those who want to spend the weekend taking in both shows. We discussed how we can jointly advertise the two events to increase attendance for both shows. They also encouraged NET members to check out the [BCNH events calendar](#) and consider coming along on one or more of the dinner and breakfast drives they have scheduled throughout the driving season.

In conclusion, there is a lot going on this spring, summer and fall so check out the calendar and save the dates! We hope to see you all at one or more of these events this year. Happy Driving!

## 2013 Kastner Cup Report – Bob Lang

The annual Kastner Cup was held in September 2013 at one of the most awesome race tracks in North America - Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. This year's event attracted over 40 Triumph race cars as well as a ton of Triumph street cars and Triumph fanatics from all over the WORLD. It was a really awesome time.

What is the Kastner Cup? R. W. (Kas) Kastner led the US Triumph Competition Department back in the day. He and his band of mechanics tweaked and honed Triumph into strong competitors in SCCA and endurance racing. Kas also penned most if not all of the various Triumph Competition manuals back in the 60's and 70's and recently has released a number of updated Competition books ([www.kaskastner.com](http://www.kaskastner.com)). In any case, about 10 years ago, a merry band of Triumph racers called Friends of Triumph, aka FOT, convinced Kas to join them at Mosport for a vintage event and in the process Kas decided it would be fun to present an award to the competitor that exuded high level competition as well as a high level of presentation. So, you had to have a fast Triumph and it had to look great. It is a true honor to be recognized with this award.

Each year the FOT selects a track and event where either Triumph is the feature marque or there's a challenge presented that includes Triumphs. 2013 was Road America. The 2014 Kastner Cup, as a point of information, will be at Eagle's Canyon Raceway in Texas.

When the 2013 Kastner Cup was announced, a few of your fellow NET members decided that it would be awesome to make the trek. Not only is Road America an awesome track, but the local community really opens up for this event which is called the Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival or ELVF for short.

There's lots of stuff to do including a re-enactment of the original road course which used public roads, a car show and various night time events like a sit down meal with speakers like Kastner and others. So, it's a really good time packed with stuff to do.

Eventually, Ned Sparrow and I made the trek partially to support NET member Henry Frye but also just to hang with all the racers, many of which are good friends.

As far as Triumph "dignitaries", there was Robert Johns who drove a TR3 with Mike Rothschild to a win at the 57 Sebring endurance race. Also present was Dan Fowler who (while stationed in Germany in the military) was the first American to win an event at the famous Nurburgring Nordschleif - in a TR2, no less. There were also a number of former SCCA national champions like Jerry Barker (Spitfire), Sam Halkias (TR6) and others. The place was crawling with famous Triumph folks.

Triumph cars were well represented too, both on and off the track. The FOT paddock saw pretty much one of everything that Triumph manufactured with few exceptions - I don't recall seeing a Mayflower. But there were lots and lots of kool Triumphs and Triumph powered sleds there.

As for NET participation, Henry Frye wound up running his TR4. This is not news in and of itself except to say that the car was for sale and there were no takers (a sale fell through literally at the last minute) so Henry felt compelled to participate. That fact kept Ned and I busy between sessions fixing minor problems like putting the "magic smoke" back into the wiring harness and randomly checking other stuff on the car. Sadly, Henry's weekend ended with a sour motor. Henry was

paddocked with another New Englander Mark Wheatley - Ned and I help Mark out with a few issues over the course of the event. Mark is a great driver and his car is nicely prepared.

Ned and I originally planned to drive a Triumph to the event. That plan was spoiled when I figured out that the cooling system on my red TR6 was leaking and there was no time to fix the problem. The timing was good, though as the next time I drove the car after Ned and I got back - the heater valve let go and dumped most of the coolant. That would have sucked big time if it happened in East Overshoe, PA or anywhere on the ride out. So, the Honda Element won the toss and off we went.

We wound up getting into the track as crew for one of the FOT, a fellow named Scott Janzen. Scott owns a few vintage Triumphs and was racing a very-nicely prepared GT6+. The weekend for Scott was not without incident, but Ned (mostly) and I managed to help with things in a timely fashion. One issue was a stuck brake caliper during the Sunday warmup race - but Scott took the green and checker for the Kastner Cup, so that was pretty kool.

Speaking of GT6's, there were a pile of them racing. I lost count, but there were at least 6 GT6's running most of the weekend. The fastest of the lot was a GT6 affectionately known as "Zippy" piloted by Jason Ostrowski. Zippy was in the 2:52 range pretty consistently which is fast at RA.

Unfortunately, Zippy had not one but TWO failed vertical links - one on each side - over the weekend. The second one was during the Kastner Cup race. There wasn't much damage other than the broken link and some road rash on the frame. Zippy will be back at it in 2014, for sure.

One of the really kool stories of the weekend went something like this. Peter Bulkowski from Canada has a TR8 reported to be one of the Group 44 prepped TR8's. The thing is FAST. In a few exchanges on the FOT list, Peter offered up his ride to a fellow named Christian Marx from Germany. Christian is an FOT of the highest order - he's very enthusiastic about driving his vintage TR4 on tracks like the Nurburgring and Zaanvoort and so forth AND he is a very, very talented driver. To wit: owner Peter B. turns a best time of 2:39 - Christian, having never even sat in the car prior to the weekend turned the same car to a lap of 2:35. That's pretty awesome and an AVERAGE speed of 96 MPH over the 4 miles. Not too shabby. But here's the kicker - on SAT, Peter took the TR8 out for a practice race and noticed the car was pulling to one side a bit under acceleration. In the pits they discovered that the center section of the differential had stripped out the drive splines... something about this being a Ford 9" with 28-spline axles. In any case, 28-spline axles are known to be less strong than the 31-spline alternative. Peter wound up posting about his woes to the internet and at about 11 PM SAT evening, a local shop called Peter to offer assistance. By chance the guy had a 28-spline locked differential spool on the shelf. Mind you that "spools" are generally used by drag racers and roundy-round racers and NOT road racers. The crew got the spool installed and Christian went out and turned the 2:35 with that setup. That's pretty awesome driving.

The Kastner Cup race was the Sunday feature and the race was won by Peter. Sam Halkias in the Paul Newman "tribute" TR6 and Tony Garmey in the Kastner TR250K started at the back of the pack to make the race interesting. They managed to pass the entire field and were actually catching up to Bulkowski at the end - so it was a pretty fun race to watch.

The winner of the Kastner Cup itself was Ken Knight in his immaculate TR4.

Away from the race track, most folks stayed at the Osthoff Inn. This is a historic property in downtown Elkhart Lake. It's a first-class resort and most of us stayed in suites that were fully equipped - they even had granite countertops in the fully equipped kitchens! WoW! The road course re-enactment was quite fun as there were some really cool vintage cars including a Cunningham roadster from the 50's. There was a car show on the lawn of the Osthoff one evening and there was some pretty kool hardware present.

While it would have better to have driven a Triumph to/from (or AT) the event, it was good to know that the Honda Element would make the trip without any fanfare, so we had an enjoyable and memorable trip.

Is anyone up for going to Texas next May? The 12th Annual Kastner Cup Event will be held at the Eagles Canyon Raceway, Slidell, TX on May 16 thru 18th, 2014.

### **Membership Renewal Reminder**

It is NET Membership renewal time so if you have not done so already, please fill out the membership form and send your check to our treasurer, Rick Trowel. The form is included in this newsletter and on the NET website ([www.newenglandtriumphs.org](http://www.newenglandtriumphs.org)). Rick asks that you please include an up-to-date email address so that we have a means to contact you for official club business. You can also have your email address added to the club email list for general discussions and questions. If you would like to opt out of receiving a paper copy of this newsletter (to help defer printing and mailing costs to the club), please indicate this in your renewal application. Please note that we do not share your personal information with anyone.

### **Welcome New NET Members:**

Fred Atwell Bozrah, CT - TR4

James Denman Southboro, MA - TR6

Robert Dilisio Swampscott, MA - TR6

Bob & Marcia Hunter North Kingston, RI - TR7

Jim Olson Windham, CT - TR4

## VTR 2014 TR-avan? -September 2014

It's been quite a while since we organized anything like this, but we're tossing around the idea of setting up a TRiumph caravan to the 2014 VTR convention in Dobson, NC this coming September. The general idea is this: we'd pick one or two meetings spots along a prescribed route and then try to drive as a group down to Dobson. The emphasis would be on using secondary roads to make the trip a bit more relaxing. But we'd meet up SAT, 6-SEP and then mozy on down. If there's interest in a more direct route to and from Dobson, please let me know. I'll try to coordinate that too.

Worcester to Dobson is about 750 miles taking the interstate, most likely I-84 to I-81 and then I-77 / I-74. In theory, it is doable in one day and 1.5 days if you do a layover in Eastern PA. Taking back roads it would be two longer days, maybe three. The general route would be US 202-ish to around Lancaster, PA and then hobble over to Skyline Drive and then onto the Blue Ridge Parkway.

When we did this in the past, we got enough interest such that we got a travel agent to get us group rates at a couple of spots on the way down that were pretty kool. We also worked in some side-trips to places like Gettysburg, PA, the Group 44 facility in Winchester, VA and even to White Post Restorations - not to mention the places we stayed at like the Peaks of Otters in VA. I won't promise that we can repeat the stops we had done in '94, but we can look into some interesting side trips along the way. For example, we could make some stops at Civil War related sites or other historical places. Not for the day, but to break up the trip. We're also open to discussion about interests of others.

In any case, in order to get some traction on this, we need folks to express an interest. If the level of interest is reasonable, we'll see if we can arrange for some group rates along the way. More than likely, we will plan out the route and then have folks make their own reservations.

Okay - that covers getting to / from VTR. What about VTR itself? If you haven't been to a VTR convention, you're really missing out. Just try to imagine hundreds of Triumphs all in the same place. There are the scheduled activities: car show, concours, rallye(s), autocross, vintage hill climb and then lots of adjunct activities too. And all this in the setting of Dobson and Mount Airy which is what you might call up-country North Carolina and even harkens to the days of Andy of Mayberry.

**The key here is that if you have any intention of going to VTR, get your reservations at the host hotel(s) NOW** as they are filling up and if you don't get into the host hotels, you'll have to travel a bit to get to/from any of the VTR activities. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED. And don't forget to register for the event itself. Not that one of us has ever skipped that step before. As far as getting back from NC, for the most part, folks will be on their own, but again, if there is sufficient interest we can plan a stop-over for the way back if folks want to travel in a group.

So, if you have any interest in driving down to Dobson with a bunch of New England Triumphs folks (maybe some CCBCC and maybe some BCNH folks too), drop me a line and we'll see what we can do. My e-mail is [blang@mit.edu](mailto:blang@mit.edu) and my home phone is 508-393-4892 – Bob Lang.

## **April to June 2014 Club events and other events of interest**

**NET events are marked with an asterisk. Event dates and details are subject to change, sometimes at the last minute due to weather forecasts. For club events, be sure to check the calendar on our club website [www.newenglandtriumphs.org](http://www.newenglandtriumphs.org) for the latest information.**

### **Sun Apr 27, 2014 \* Southern NH Tour (NET event)**

Driving tour of back roads in southern New Hampshire, including a stop for lunch. See Newsletter cover.

### **Sat May 31, 2014 \* Cape Ann Tour (NET event)**

A great tour of a very scenic part of Massachusetts. Tour details are TBD but we usually meet at the Friendly's on the rotary on route 128 in Gloucester at 12:30 and start the tour at 1:00. Friendly's address: 226 Washington Street Gloucester, MA 01930 (Grant Circle). This tour is organized by Alex and Pam Delis. Contact information is in the Members Only section of our website. Rain date: Sunday June 1, same time and meeting location.

### **Sun June 1, 2014 CT MG Club "British by the Sea": 10am to 4pm**

Harkness Memorial State Park, Great Neck Road, Waterford, CT. Annual show organized by the Connecticut MG Club.

### **Sat May 31 – Sun June 8, 2014 British Car Week**

An annual awareness week intended for owners of Classic British Cars to get their cars out of the garage and drive them. While doing so, all who are involved will help create awareness of the classic British car hobby in local communities wherever there is participation.

### **Fri Jun 6, 2014 – Sun Jun 8, 2014 'Round the World Rally – New Weekend Event for 2014!**

Western Maine- Save the date to attend the "Round the World Rally on the first weekend of June. Celebrating "Drive your British Car" week, the rally is set for Saturday June 7th, 2014 and will be based out of the Bethel, Maine area. Western Maine offers wonderful twisty back roads and many scenic views. This is a rain or shine event consisting of a fun rally that will take you from Paris to Peru and everywhere in between! There will be a welcome reception on Friday evening June 6th for those traveling from away. The rally will be held on Saturday June 7th with awards and dinner on Saturday night. Sunday, June 8th will feature a private showing of one of the world's best car collections for rally participants only. **This event is limited to pre-registration only. To register and more information, contact Tim Hutchisen, NET member, at [tim@pennridgemotors.com](mailto:tim@pennridgemotors.com) or call 207.890.8339.**

### **Wed Jun 11, 2014 – Sun Jun 15, 2014 TRA National Meet**

Deer Creek State Park Mount Sterling, OH Triumph Register of America, 2014 National Meet.

### **Sun Jun 22, 2014 British Car Day 10am to 2pm**

The Larz Anderson Auto Museum, 15 Newton Street, Brookline, MA 02445. British Car Day at the Larz Anderson Museum. There are usually a lot of cars at this event so get there early to get your car on the main show field.

**Saturday, Jun 28, 2014 \*Quabbin Reservoir Tour** New for 2014! This will be a tour around parts of the Quabbin Reservoir in central Massachusetts with a lunch stop (perhaps a picnic!). Tour organizer: Tony Rhodes. NOTE: The tour date is tentative at this point. Stay tuned for updates.

## New England Triumphs -- Membership Application

www.newenglandtriumphs.org

A club for those interested in the restoration, preservation and ultimate driving pleasure of the vintage Triumph motorcar. Ownership of a Triumph is not required. New England Triumphs is an affiliate of The Vintage Triumph Register, Triumph Register of America and the 6-Pack club.

Check One:  New member: fill out entire form  Renewal: fill in name and any new/changed info

Contact Information: Please note: We do not share NET member information with anyone

Name(s):

Address:

City:  State:  Zip:

Phone 1:  Phone 2:

Email:

Do you want to be added to the NET E-mail list?  Yes  No

This list is used for club announcements and is also our "Bulletin Board" where you can ask questions and share information with other club members. Please update your email address if it has changed.

**NEW!** Do you want to opt out of receiving a paper copy of the newsletter?  Yes  No  
(An email will be sent when an electronic copy is available online, saving us printing and mailing costs).

How did you hear about us?

Car Information: If your car information has changed, please update it below.

Year	Model	Color	Comm #	Tag No. & State
<input type="text"/>				
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### Other Club Memberships

Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)  Triumph Register of America (TRA)  6-Pack

Other:

### Mail to:

<p>New England Triumphs c/o Rick Trowel 22 Duane Drive North Reading, MA 01864</p>
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Annual dues are \$20. Mail your check payable to **New England Triumphs** along with your completed application to the address on the left. This form can be filled out online and then printed or printed first and completed by hand.

The New England Triumph  
c/o Rick Trowel  
22 Duane Drive  
North Reading, MA 01864  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**NEW ENGLAND TRIUMPHS**



**April 2014 Newsletter**