

T R I U M P H



T R A I L S



COVTR Newsletter - Central Oklahoma Vintage Triumph Register

An official chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register Established in 1982

May 2017

*“Enjoy the Ride”*



**Upcoming COVTR Events**

**May 4—Monthly Membership Meeting at Embassy Suites hotel, 741 N. Phillips, OKC 73104**

**May 13—Breakfast Run hosted by Dave and Mary Jo Hogan**

**May 20—Stafford Air and Space Museum Run, Weatherford, OK, hosted by Jerry and Stewart**



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### NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

**Newsletter Editor:** [mspeegle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mspeegle@sbcglobal.net). *Triumph Trails* is the official monthly publication of COVTR. Copyright 1993-2017 COVTR. All rights reserved. Articles for publication are due to the Editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. We welcome all types of articles including technical, personal interest, and stories about your Triumph experience. Opinions expressed are those of the Editor or Contributors. Classified ads from members are welcome. Business card ads are \$10.00 for twelve issues, payable to the Treasurer in advance. COVTR, P.O. Box 12272, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73157-2272

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Central Oklahoma Vintage Triumph Register (C.O.V.T.R.) was established in 1982 by Triumph owners and enthusiasts for the purpose of preserving the future of the Triumph Marque. Triumph ownership is encouraged but not a prerequisite for membership. The C.O.V.T.R. sponsors a monthly meeting, monthly SOB's, car shows, road tours, technical inspections and lots of fun.*

*Triumph Trails is the proud recipient of the National Newsletter Award from Vintage Triumph Register of America awarded at the 2012 National Convention.*

## COVTR Membership Meeting Minutes April 4, 2017

Officer's Present: Katie Plotkin - President, Drew Holliday - Vice President. Location: Madison's Country Kitchen, Del City, OK. Members Present: 17. President Katie Plotkin opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Dave Hogan.

**Presentation of Guests**—No guests were present. **Membership Report**—No new members have joined the club since last month.

### Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting as published in the Newsletter were suggested for acceptance by Katie Plotkin. Motion for acceptance by John Gauldin, seconded by Drew Holliday. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Since Michael Hathaway was not in attendance due to Isabelle sign-up for Kindergarten start-up, Katie Plotkin provided the following financial report.

**Previous Balance:** \$ 9,296.09

### Income

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Leake Auction   | \$ 2,532.50 |
| Membership Dues | 60.00       |
| Bitch & Brag    | 9.00        |
| Total Income:   | \$ 2,601.50 |

### Expenses

|                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Website Hosting Fee                  | \$ 173.85                    |
| 2017 VTR Insurance                   | 200.00                       |
| Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation | 200.00 (charitable donation) |
| Total Expenses:                      | \$ 573.85                    |

**Ending Balance:** \$ 11,323.74

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read was made by Frank Steind and seconded by Drew Holliday. Motion passed.

**Activities Report**—Brian Plotkin provided an update on recent and upcoming activities:

Recent events update:

**Eischen's Chicken Run** March 4 was well attended and the food and companionship were outstanding.

**Woolaroc Museum** drive March 18, lunch and museum were all well received by our membership providing an lengthy exercise for our old Triumphs to Pawhuska and then on to the Bartlesville area before returning home.

### Upcoming Events:

April 8 – **First Annual Band Car Show in Bethel Acres, OK** (Mike Piggott will reserve a COVTR parking area – event supports a small school district) on April 8 at the Bethel High School, 3600 Clear Pond Road. Registration 8 – 10 AM, Awards 2 PM.

April 22 – **Garage and Crafts Day at the Wall's home**. The event begins at 2:00 PM and will be followed by a Shrimp Boil hosted by the Wall's. A sign-up sheet was circulated at the club meeting for planned participation.

April 27 – Travel to **South Central Regionals in New Braunfels, TX**. Katie Plotkin plans to lead the drive from the Newcastle Casino departing at 6:00 AM with a potential stopover in Stevensville, TX for BBQ for lunch. Katie outlined the plans for the drive to Regionals and provided a Google Map of the planned drive down on Thursday. COVTR also plans to provide a Gift Basket for the Regional event.

### Old Business

Katie appealed once again to our club members as we are still in need of a new volunteer to serve as Webmaster to replace Michael Hathaway who is now serving at Treasurer. Katie indicated that it requires about 1.5 hours of work each month, 3 hours at the end of the year. Interested parties should contact Katie. Training will be provided for this position. A new Facebook Administrator is also needed.

Update report on club member Mike Billotte, who has been undergoing chemotherapy treatments for the past several months. Dave provided an update on Mike's status and current health condition at this time as several members have been asking about how his condition is

progressing.

**Red River Shootout** (October 21)— Dave Hogan provided an update on the potential location of Lake Murray State Park Lodge. Dave made a reservation for the remaining 17 hotel rooms and 11 cabins that were not yet reserved. Regrettably, no meeting rooms and the banquet facilities will not be available on our planned dates. Dave tried to move the dates forward and backward a week, but no lodging was available at the park for either set of dates.

Discussions ensued regarding the possibility of identifying another Shootout location (Duncan, OK) but a motion was made to continue pursuing the existing location and dates. Dave suggested polling the Red River Triumph Club membership in an attempt to determine the potential number of RRTC attendees. Dave Hogan will contact Dave Pilcher to try to gather this information. Mike Piggott made a motion that we continue to pursue the shootout at Lake Murray – motion passed.

**Meeting Location** – Katie suggested that our next club meeting (May 2) might be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 731 North Phillips in downtown OKC in the OU Health Science Center area located in east downtown OKC. John Gauldin recommended the meeting room location and quality of the food and service at the restaurant. Jerry Stewart made a motion that we move our next meeting to the Embassy Suites, seconded by Drew Holliday. Motion passed.

**Technical Presentation**—Drew Holliday provided an excellent presentation on Zenith Stromberg carburetors with a description of Stromberg basic carburetor parts and a hand held example of a Stromberg CD 175 carburetor. He identified the parts of the carburetor and several of the potential parts failures within these carburetors. Frequently failing parts include the diaphragm, needle and seat valve assembly, float assembly, throttle shaft and bushings, cold start valve, temperature compensator and bypass valve. Drew went on to describe the importance of making proper adjustments to the carburetor to eliminate the possibility of too lean or too rich mixtures. Several procedures were described by Drew to ensure optimum carburetor adjustment. He also described the results of worn parts in the carburetor and its affect on smooth running. Rebuild kits are available to repair worn carburetors. John Gauldin also provided some input on roadside float settings without the normal measuring/adjusting tools. Applause by the members in attendance indicated the value of Drew's presentation to all those owning Triumphs with Stromberg carburetors. Great job Drew!

**New Business**—Mike Piggott made a short presentation on our outing planned for early October to Western Hills Guest Ranch with lodging reservations at the **Sequoiah State Park Lodge**. The dates, which are currently listed in our COVTR calendar are October 6, 7 and 8. Each individual will be responsible for making their own reservations as we do not qualify for a group rate or discounted rate at the lodge. Attendees have been invited to a cookout on Saturday evening by some friends of the Piggott's who live near the park property. Mike also plans to make arrangements for shopping for the ladies and some driving activities for the men. Thanks Mike for making these arrangements.

### **Bitch & Brag**

**Judy Piggott** bragged about **Mike** creating a planter for some strawberry plants that Judy had received through Project Gabriel. The planter is made from a piece of gutter with holes drilled in the bottom and the gutter is then attached to a fence to keep it above the ground.

**Frank Steindl** described a recent enjoyable party in his honor as well as a celebration of Joyce's birthday.

**Max Speegle** thanked **Katie and Brian** for bringing dessert cupcakes in honor of his 1957 TR3 Harriet's 60th birthday.

### **Door Prize Drawing**

Howard Holdsclaw – Mini flashlight

Mike Piggott – Dust masks

Brian Plotkin – Safety goggles

Joyce Steindl – Mini flashlight

Linda Speegle—mini flashlight

Katie Plotkiin—hose clamps

Max Speegle—tape measure

Dave Hogan—multi LED flashlight

Frank Steindl made a comment that was **not** a JOKE – a very rare occurrence.

## Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Drew Holliday, seconded by Brian Plotkin. Motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:05 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Mike Billotte, Secretary*

(With able assistance from David Hogan )



Happy 60th Birthday to "Harriet" —Max and Linda's 1957 Triumph TR3 TS16798 born March 21, 1957, Coventry, England.



# President's Page . . .

The monthly progress report on my car "Princess": I have the carpet about 70% done. The new dash looks beautiful. Brian is installing and wiring as I write this column. I am looking forward to getting her back on the road. I am already complaining a list of what to do next winter. I won't be taking it to Regionals tomorrow as she doesn't have seats installed yet.

The Garage and Craft Day was fun as ever with good food and friends. Any of you that were not able to make it, we missed your company. The craft was a tile painting and I managed to make one that was not as precise as everyone else's. The gentlemen got several cars up on the lift and looked at. I don't know if anyone's car actually got fixed. Mostly I saw cars on lifts with people under them with flashlights. We capped off the day with a good low country shrimp boil.

Tomorrow a small group of us leave for New Braunfels, Texas, for the South Central Regional. I look forward to a fun time. I am sorry for all the folks who can't make it. It is usually a good time. We will give a full report at the May meeting.

We are meeting in a new place for the May meeting. Please check Facebook, the website, or Triumph Trails for details. The Red River Shootout is the weekend of October 21. We are still evaluating places. Dave Hogan is the chief scout for this endeavor. He is getting ready to head up an expedition to check out a few ideas when we get back. The Christmas Party is set for December 14 to happen the same place as last year with the dinner cost raising to \$26 per plate. We still need a Webmaster and Facebook administrator. Please call if you are interested.

*Happy Trails.*

*Katie Plotkin*





## **From the Activities Chairman**

*Brian Plotkin*

## **Events for May**

**The trees are green and the flowers are in bloom. It is time for top down driving. Please join us on the two**

**outings planned for May:**

**What: Hogan's Breakfast Run**

**Where: Surprise Location TBA**

**When: Saturday May 13.**

**Hosts: Dave and Mary Jo Hogan (405) 509-2271 or (405) 203-1096**

**Look for an email describing the details of the event.**

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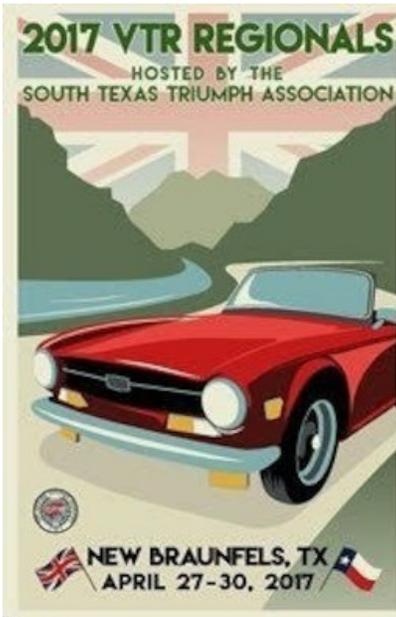
**What: Stafford Air and Space Museum**

**When: May 20, 2017 depart at 9 a.m. from Southern Nazarene University on 39th Street in downtown in Bethany, OK**

**Where: Weatherford, OK**

**Hosts: Jerry and Sue Stewart (405) 641-2886 or (405) 391-6392**

One of the finest collections of aerospace artifacts in the central U.S. Drive time to Weatherford is approximately 2 hours via Route 66. Lunch at Lucille's Roadhouse. Museum cost \$7. Please RSVP to Jerry or Sue.



# BEST IN SHOW!

## VTR South Central Regional Convention

Hosted by South Texas Triumph Association

April 27-30, 2017

New Braunfels, Texas

Maggie J, 1975 Triumph TR6. Built January 1975. All 100% original, including body, engine, transmission and chassis (modern and performance modifications made to improve performance and reliability).

## Owned by Tim Lloyd

Central Oklahoma Vintage Triumph Register





# Maggie J

By Tim Lloyd

This TR6 is the first car I ever purchased, on April 1, 1979 at the age of 18. I was looking for a TR6 because it was my Mother's (Margaret Joan) favorite car. She had passed away from breast cancer about a year and a half earlier. This car became part of my life and has followed me everywhere since that day. I remember a discussion early in my marriage about selling the car, and I mentioned that the car was here first.

When I first got the car, I became interested in SCCA autocross racing and raced it regularly in Canada. During those time in Canada, performance parts and upgrades were hard to come by. I upgraded the suspension with custom springs, Koni shocks, Andro sway bars, racing buckets, and better tires, etc. Although technologically not as sophisticated as other cars of its era, she held her own, regularly placing in its class (against Porsches and Lotus at the time). It placed 3rd overall. The car was known as "the Little Green Bastard" (LGB Triumph?) by my friend's parents and was my partner in numerous adventures, whether chasing Elk through the Banff Springs Golf Course or driving across Western Canada in 40 below degree weather with clothing plugging freezing drafts or in the heat of summer, and having strangers like the car and offer us a cold beer during a Canadian beer strike. She was unique, so the British Leyland dealer would regularly ask to put the car on display in the showroom.

Eventually, with family responsibilities and tight budgets, Maggie J was put on the back burner—rarely used for better than 15 years. She was neglected, but always had a spot in the garage. I eventually spotted a small rusted area and was heart-broken.

I was transferred to Oklahoma and there discovered a wealth of Triumph experts and enthusiasts so I made the decision that Maggie J deserved to be brought back to her former glory—or better. I had a vision of what I wanted the car to be, so the wonderful (and frustrating) journey began. I talked to John Gauldin of Triumph World Services in Edmond, Oklahoma into helping me, and my vision would not have happened without John's expert advise and workmanship. He evaluated the car, and determined that although nothing technically was broken, the car was completely worn out. I knew Maggie J owed me nothing. The car was stripped. The chassis, drive train and final assembly was thanks to John Gauldin. The body was sent to John Murdoch in Shawnee, Oklahoma, for wheel alignment, body and paint work. The car was stripped, rust spot and dings repaired and repainted.

## VTR South Central Regionals

New Braunfels, Texas

April 27-30, 2017



The car show was held in beautiful Cypress Bend Park along the Guadalupe River in New Braunfels. Friday morning dawned clear and bright and the rush to the car wash area of the hotel started early. The cars were assembled on the grassy show field by 2 p.m. and by then the temperature had reached 91 degrees (very hot for us folks just coming out of winter). With plenty of water on hand we enjoyed the fine showing of about 80 Triumphs, most of which were restored to be better than when leaving the dealer showroom.

*At left photo, Dave and Mary Jo Hogan's TR7 Spider had a twin at the show. Of course, the Hogan's car was much better.*



*At right photo, Howard Holdsclaw was the chief Judge of the Stags, and he lent his considerable expertise in the model to the event. COVTR members in attendance generously volunteered their time to judge the various models, including Dave Hogan, Mike Piggott, Howard Holdsclaw, Max Speegle, Brian Plotkin, Jim Thompson, and Mike Sablehaus. Thanks to all for their time and effort on a hot day in Texas.*





The trip to New Braunfels was a fun event for COVTR members.

At left photo, Brian and Katie Plotkin towed their TR250 along the Texas roads, which were good but the considerable traffic on I-35 near Austin was too exciting.

Below photo, Dave and Mary Jo Hogan towed their TR7.



Mike and Judy Piggott were pleased with the award Mike won for his usual excellent autocross performance.



Katie Plotkin shows off her "Ladies Top Time" award for autocross. She drove Mike Piggott's Reverend in the autocross event, as her car is not quite ready.



Brian Plotkin was awarded first place in Concours for his TR250. The winner was announced at the banquet as “Brian Pilcher”, so Brian and Dave Pilcher got to share the spotlight.

Winners were recognized at the Saturday night awards banquet, held in the Gruene Events Center in Gruene, Texas.



TR7 first place in Concours went to Dave and Mary Jo Hogan for *Spidy*. The car was beautifully prepared and made a spectacular showing at the car show on Friday.

Jim and Barbara Thompson won the usual excellent award for their familiar blue TR7 in Preservation Class, *below photo*. Mike and Vicki Sablehaus picked up their first place award for the fabulous black TR3, *below right photo*.





The autocross was held on Saturday at a fantastic venue in the parking lot of The Tree of Life Church, New Braunfels, Texas. The surface was perfect and the VTR members put on a great show. Mike Piggott had his usual winning day at the autocross by winning Best Time in his Spitfire (shown in above photo approaching the finish line). Mike and Judy Piggott's son Brooks Piggott, a resident of Pflugerville, Texas, is shown at right photo with his drone at the autocross. Brooks entertained us all at the VTR Awards Banquet with the video tape he shot from his drone anchored high above the autocross course. The drone and the video were great and a big thank you goes out to Brooks for showing us what technology can do for our old cars!



The welcome reception was held at the hotel pool on Thursday evening. At left photo we see Howard and Lois Holdsclaw and Brian Plotkin enjoying the Texas sunshine by the pool.



# Garage and Crafts Day April 22, 2017

Hosted by Lonny and Kay Wall

We had a great time with the annual event graciously hosted by Lonny and Kay. The usual inspections and advice was had in the garage while the crafts in the art studio was being thoroughly enjoyed. Above photo Dave Hogan inspects Brian Plotkins TR250 while Lonny Wall searches for just the right tool. Above right from left we see Rick Drapeau, Mike Billotte, Drew Holliday, Jerry Stewart, Lonny Wall, Brian Plotkin and Dave Hogan. At right photo Mike Billotte was on hand to give us his sage advice on the cars. *Below left* photo the crafts were displayed by Katie Plotkin, Mary Jo Hogan, Bonnie Billotte, Linda Speegle, Kay Wall and Sue Stewart. *Below right photo*, Kay Wall sets the fantastic spread Low Country Shrimp Boil out on the table for all to enjoy.





## TRIUMPH REGISTER OF AMERICA

*Formed to preserve the Triumph marque*

ESTABLISH 1974



**Hilton Garden Inn**  
**12210 N. Executive Drive**  
**Edinburgh, IN 46124**  
**812-526-8600**

Triumph Register of America  
2017 National Meet

June 21-24, 2017

Tonda Macy    [tonda@macysgarage.com](mailto:tonda@macysgarage.com)

4200 Lisa Drive

Tipp City, OH 45371



August 15-20, 2017

Celebrating 50 Years of the Triumph GT6

[VTR2017.org](http://VTR2017.org)

**Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village**

**201 Village Boulevard**

**Princeton, NJ 08540**

**800-937-8461**

Co-hosted by the Delaware Valley Triumph Club and the New Jersey Triumph Association

# **TRIUMPHEST-2017**

**Flagstaff Arizona September 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>**

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Hosted by Desert Center Triumph  
Register of America

2325 S Gold Ct.

Apache Junction, AZ 85119-7813

[www.triumphfest.com](http://www.triumphfest.com)



## **Little America Hotel**

**2515 E. Butler Ave**

**Flagstaff, AZ 86004**

**800-352-4386**

# COVTR now on Facebook

## How do I join the COVTR Group?

To join a group, go to COVTR Group and click Join Group in the top right corner. This will send a request to join to Katie Plotkin and Brian Plotkin. Katie or Brian will accept the request to join the group.



Keep in mind when you join the COVTR Group:

- People may see when you join a public or closed group or that you're a member of that group, like in News Feed or search.
- When someone adds you to a public or closed group, other may see that you have been invited (ex: News Feed or search). Once you visit a group you are invited to, you will become a member and other people may see you joined.

## COVTR Rules:

- This is a group for COVTR activities and fun things that our members do with our cars, pictures of cars, fun Triumph postings, technical articles, events, etc.
- Please post other items on your personal pages and invite folks to be friend on Facebook.

*Katie Plotkin*





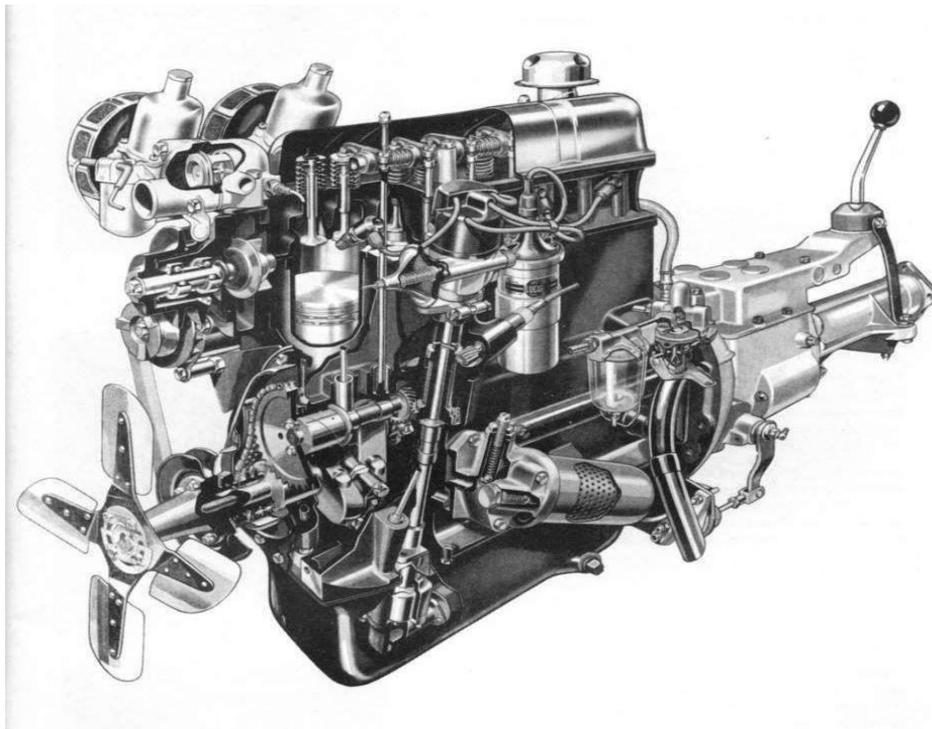
## TRIUMPHWORLD SERVICES, Inc.

Specializing in restoration, repair and  
parts for the English sportscar

# TRIUMPH

John R. Gauldin  
Edmond, Oklahoma

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## 2017 COVTR Planned Activities



| <u>Date</u>      | <u>Activity</u>                                      | <u>Persons in Charge</u>       |
|------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Feb. 11          | Frostbite/Drive your Triumph Day                     | Lonny and Kay Wall             |
| Feb. 23-26       | Leake Auction OKC                                    | Dave Hogan                     |
| March 4          | Eischen's Chicken Run                                | Jerry and Sue Stewart          |
| March 18         | Woolaroc/Pawhuska Run                                | Katie Plotkin                  |
| March 31-April 2 | British Car Breakfast Club Spring Tour—Medicine Park | Michael Hathaway               |
| March 31-April 2 | Corinthian Vintage Racing—Hallet                     |                                |
| April 22         | Garage and Craft Day                                 | Lonny and Kay Wall             |
| April 26-30      | VTR South Central Regionals, New Braunfels, TX       | Katie Plotkin                  |
| May 7            | All British and European Car Day—White Rock Lake, TX |                                |
| May 13           | Breakfast Run #1                                     | Dave and Mary Jo Hogan         |
| May 20           | Stafford Air & Space Museum—Weatherford, OK          | Jerry and Sue Stewart          |
| June 10          | Breakfast Run #2                                     | Brian Plotkin                  |
| June 21-24       | TRA Nationals, Columbus, Indiana                     | Mike Piggott                   |
| June 24          | Shawnee Knights Car Show                             | Mike and Judy Piggott          |
| July 8           | Summer Pool Party                                    | Max and Linda Speegle          |
| July 22          | Prince of Darkness Evening Dinner Run                | Katie Plotkin                  |
| August 12        | Breakfast Run #3                                     | Mike Piggott                   |
| August 15-10     | VTR Nationals—New Jersey                             | Drew Holliday                  |
| August 19        | Drive In Movie Night                                 | John and Jean Scott Gauldin    |
| September 15-17  | Brits in the Ozarks, Fayetteville, AR                | Katie Plotkin                  |
| September 19     | Triumphfest, Flagstaff, AZ                           | Mike Piggott                   |
| Oct 6-8          | Western Hills Tour, Wagoner, OK                      | Mike Piggott                   |
| Oct 14           | Warwick Vintage Car and Motorcycle Show              | Brian Plotkin                  |
| October 21-23    | Red River Shootout hosted by COVTR                   | Katie, Michael, Mary Jo, Linda |
| Nov 5            | Guy Fawkes Bonfire Night                             | John and Jean Gauldin          |
| Nov 12           | Brunch Run   | Katie Plotkin                  |
| Dec 9            | Christmas Light Tour                                 | Jerry and Sue Stewart          |
| Dec 15?          | Christmas Party                                      | Katie and Volunteers           |





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