



TRiumpH TRumpeter

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE DESERT CENTRE - TRIUMPH REGISTER of AMERICA

"ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS - WE PRINT"

PRESIDENT: JOHN HORTON 602-843-1399
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JANUARY 2000

Vol. 21, #1

MEETING: JANUARY 11 @ 7:00 PM
EL ZARIBAH SHRINE TEMPLE
552 North 40th Street
COME EARLY - BUY FOOD!
SUPPORT OUR BENEFACTORS!

CLUB OFFICERS

V.P. & Events:	John Reynolds	480-968-6078
Secretary:	Nancy Herman	480-767-7184
Treasurer:	Ron Strong	602-944-6097
Newsletter:	Diane Carney	602-942-1113
Tech Advisor:	Armand LaCasse	602-870-8585
Historians:	Mike and Joyce Bayne	602-938-1282
Membership:	Tom Pennell	480-951-8472
AAHC Rep:	Roy Stoney	602-414-9953

Meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of each month. (Including January)

Dues are \$18.00 per year

For membership information, contact Tom Pennell at 480-951-8472

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PROJECT CAR STATUS

THE PAINT JOB IS COMPLETE!
MORE WORK DAYS TO COME
WATCH THIS SPACE!

COMING EVENTS

January 23

DCTRA CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Beefeater's Restaurant

Details Below

OTHER EVENTS

January 19 - 23

Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction

Info: 602-273-0791 or

<http://www.barrett-jackson.com>

WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN THIS MONTH

TWO meetings, for one thing. The first meeting will be held as usual on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (January 11) at El Zaribah. Nominations for Club officers will be accepted at this meeting, and anyone who is not planning to attend the Champagne Brunch will be permitted to cast their votes for officers. These votes will be secured and will not be counted until the Brunch.

We will also accept donations of canned goods for charity at BOTH events, so BRING SOME!

The second meeting will be the ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH, which will be held at 10:30 AM Sunday, January 23rd at the BEEFEATERS RESTAURANT, 300 E. Camelback Road. The cost will be \$12.95 per person, all inclusive. After brunch, we will accept nominations for officers one last time, then collect votes. All votes, including the ones from the meeting will be counted at that time. Year 2000 officers will then be installed.

AUTOMOTIVE WIRING TIPS!

Problem

I've had the opportunity to "surf" many Triumph horror stories on the web regarding Lucas (dim-flicker-off) electrics. I will bet lunch that most of those problems are associated with wiring terminations, rather than the Lucas components. I've found that most electrical shorts, drains, malfunctions, fires, etc., have been caused by bullet-type terminal ends, loose terminals, poor quality crimps, and lousy soldering. These types of connectors are pure junk and an accident or malfunction waiting to happen. Check out any aircraft or marine wiring application and I'll bet that you won't find a single bullet-type connector. Why? In an aircraft or boat, you can't simply pull over and look for the problem. This type of connector in those two applications could, and probably would, cause a catastrophic event (fatal accident). Why then do they use these types of connectors in automobiles and especially motorcycles? Easy answer; it makes for ease of installation at the factory and the almost idiot-proof replacement of electrical components. My first experiences with these types of connectors came with motorcycles. I always wondered how they stuffed all those connectors into a headlight shell!

Here are some of my three-month-old Triumph electrical experiences. First, the left headlight went out. Yep, it was a bullet-type connector slipping out of the receptacle. The fuel indicator went out. Yep, another corroded connector. A license plate light stopped working. Yep, a cheap butt splice gave way. Starter wouldn't work. Yep, very poor connections caused the starter relay to smoke. Alternator wouldn't charge. Yep, battery terminations were loose, no locking hardware. Etc. etc., etc.

In fact, since these problems have occurred, I've applied a bunch, about 20 hours, of TLC to the wiring harness. So far, I've removed at least 30 of cut-off and dead-ended wiring from the engine compartment alone! It seems that every time the car was worked on in the past, electrically speaking, they merely cut off wires and ran replacement wiring. I've got shop receipts from the prior owner that total over \$1,200 bucks for some bastardization of wiring that should be criminal! I'm about 95% complete under the hood and 50% behind the dash. My confidence factor is increasing daily.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



PARTS AND ACCESSORIES

MARK HOLDEN
MIKE HOLDEN

(602) 224-0111

3420 E. THOMAS ROAD, PHOENIX, AZ 85018

MG
JAGUAR
TRIUMPH
LOTUS
AUSTIN-
HEALEY

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2000

3rd: A.A.H.C. Monthly General Meeting, 3546 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix. Info: Charles Mullen 623-872-9693.

9th: Street Classics Monthly Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show Hosted by: Fabulous Fifties Ford Club at The Brass Armadillo, NW Corner I-17 & Cactus. Info: 623-214-5312.

15th & 16th: PAPAGO 2000 9TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE & CLASSIC MILITARY VEHICLE SHOW. Swap Meet, Auction, Contest & Banquet. Hosted by: the Arizona Military Vehicle Collectors Club & the Arizona Military Museum. 52nd St. & McDowell. Info: Vince 602-267-2676, or Paul 602-840-5019, or www.openlines.com/~amvcc/

15th & 16th: 2nd Annual Rock & Roll Classic Car Show with Gem & Mineral Show, Quartzite, AZ 800-969-5464, ext. 121.

16th: Swap Meet & Car Show at Fairplex in Pomona, CA. Info: 714-538-7091.

19th to 23rd: Barret-Jackson Classic Car Auction & Exposition. Info: 602-273-0791 or www.barrett-jackson.com.

20th: 2nd Annual United We Drive National Automotive Legislative Conference and Hobbyist Forum. January 20, 2000 at Monterra facility. Next to Barrett-Jackson Auction. Info: Bill 602-230-7111.

29th: 6th Annual Collector Car Show, Tubac, AZ--Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts

FEBRUARY 2000

3rd: A.A.H.C. Monthly General Meeting--same as January above.

18th to 20th: 27th Annual World of Wheels TCC in Tucson. Info: Bill Roblinger 520-459-1224.

26th & 27th: BME, Highland Games at 7146 E. Arcadia Cir. Mesa, AZ 85208, Mesa Community College. Info: 480-985-2531 or 480-924-2292.

MARCH 2000

5th: Wheels of Britain car show sponsored by British Motor Enthusiasts at Heritage Square, 6th and Monroe Streets, Phoenix, AZ. Info: 480-985-2531 or 602-840-3554.

5th: Antique Car Show & Swap Meet at Fairplex in Pomona, CA. Info: George Cross & Sons 714-538-7091.

6th: A.A.H.C. Monthly General Meeting, same as January above.

12th: Arizona MG GT 2000, All MG Car Day, 602-439-1142.

26th: A.A.H.C. Car show.

APRIL 2000

8th: Peoria sports complex 2nd annual for the kids Masonic car show. Info: 623-815-1901.

29th & 30th: British Car Days, British Motorcar Club of So. New Mexico, Las Cruces, NM 505-382-8098.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING

Our meeting at El Zaribah opened at 7 PM with 22 present. New member Al Menendez told about his pretty new TR3A, and had pictures. Virgil moved to accept November minutes as printed. Ron's Treasurer's Report was read and approved as well.

The Newsletter is now available on the web: each member has the option of receiving his issue by mail or by computer. This month, issues were addressed and stamped by the printer, but heavier paper required 55 cents postage. Tom explained the process. Those who had downloaded this month's issue were pleased with the quality.

PROJECT CAR: The body needs to be bolted down, and wiring harness installed. A date will be scheduled after the holidays. There are still shares available!

AAHC: John Horton is gathering information on the amount and types of special interest cars, to be given to the legislature. Co-sponsors are also needed for a bill to exempt these cars from emission testing. There was discussion on emission laws.

MEMBERSHIP: Check the expiration date on your Newsletter to see if dues are due this year.

EVENTS: March 5 is the "Wheels of Britain" car show. Entry forms in December and January newsletters. Workers will be needed on the day of the event, and special activities are planned. It was moved and accepted to allow \$100.00 as seed money.

The possibility was brought up of a run to Globe to check out the new BBQ/Brewery. A date of Sat., Feb. 12th was set. There was a reminder of the Christmas Lights drive on Dec. 19th, and the Highland Games on Feb. 26 and 27.

The annual Election of Officers and Champagne Brunch will be held January 23, 2000. Two venues were considered, the Arizona Club and The Beefeaters. Dave Riddle, who was to have details on the former, was at the hospital with his wife awaiting a new baby. Roger had information on Beefeaters, who will set aside the bar area for us, providing brunch and champagne for \$12.95 each. Bev Peterson moved that we choose Beefeaters; Steve Francois seconded, motion passed.

Roger informed us that the 3rd B.E.A.T. is scheduled for April 15. He gave a rundown of events, with improvements. The entire Inn Suites in Flagstaff has been commandeered for Sat. Night. Entertainment is planned at Mormon Lake Lodge. A \$40.00 entry includes plenty of goodies.

Paul Patrick was nominated as another choice for President. No other nominees at this time.

It was suggested that DCTRA send a check to the Shrine for the use of their children's charities. Virgil moved that we donate \$300.00; Duane seconded. All were in favor. There was also a box for canned food being collected for a food bank, which will continue next month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Beth Horton, Acting Secretary

THE PREZ SEZ

The December meeting accomplished many things. We have a time and place for the January Brunch. Place: The "Beefeaters". Time and date: 10:30 AM on January 23rd. Address: 300 West Camelback Road. See you there!

There is progress on the Emissions. I am gathering information for the legislature to show that the collector cars are not part of the pollution problem.

We have made a donation to the British Motor Enthusiasts of \$100.00 to assist in trophies, and \$300.00 to the Shrine charities. The B.M.E. "Wheels of Britain" show promises to be a "Whiz Bang" show. They will also include British motorcycles. Plan to attend on March 5th, 2000. There will be some games for participants.

At this festive time of the year, it is customary to make some slight provisions for the poor and destitute. Where have I heard that line before? After all, the work houses are indeed out of business. We will be taking up a collection of canned goods to donate to a local food bank. PLEASE bring a can of something to the next meeting. I will arrange to get it to an appropriate charity.

We will have elections at the brunch. And much good food. Isn't that what we drive out for? Just kidding folks! One more note, DCTRA will host the Triumphest 2001. I am convinced that Roger Guzowski has the skills to host Triumphest properly. Roger should run the event. He runs the B.E.A.T. trip each year, which so far has gotten better each and every time.

The monthly event in February was to have been a morning run to Globe, AZ to sample barbeque and microbrew in the new brewery there. However, the owner died and the place is closed. There is some possibility of reopening in the future.

NOTE! Name badges will be at the next meeting, so come to claim yours. There will be a speaker at the next meeting. We will also have a drawing for a door prize. Everyone will receive a ticket. The club has grown in the last years; we have avoided politics and infighting. The primary focus of DCTRA is to provide its members an extended family of interesting people with a love of Triumphs, good food, companionship, and a lack of rules. May this continue for many years. I sincerely wish all a prosperous 2000. Live long and prosper.

Cheerio, John Horton

Remember, give a Triumph a home--they are all orphans now.



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231-0706 3948 E. Air Lane Phoenix, AZ 85034

AuthorQualifications

Trained as an Aviation Electronics Tech in the Navy, specializing in photo reconnaissance systems, and spent a few years as a Marine Electronics Technician at Todd Pacific Shipyards, installing, wiring, and testing electronic warfare systems on Guided Missile Frigates and nuke subs. I then was an Aviation Electronics Technician at Hughes Helicopters, installing, wiring, and testing electronic combat systems on the first Apache helicopters, then spent the last ten years there training and certifying all electricians and mechanics on the Apache helicopter program. I still work on my own aircraft, which comprise of seven helicopters and a Cessna 152. I've written two textbooks on Advanced Manufacturing Technology

.ExistingWiring

The existing wiring in the Spitfire comprises of multi-colored and coded wiring (tracer stripes w/base colors) that is terminated by the use of bullet-type and slide-on connectors. As with most automotive wiring, the harness is bundled together with black electrical tape. Here's the problem with the tape. First, it does a wonderful job of trapping moisture, which infiltrates the harness through a wicking action when the strands of each wire are exposed to elements such as oil, gasoline, brake fluid (who is the genius that placed master cylinders over the pedals and feet!), water, soap, etc. Ever wonder how oil made it two feet into a "sealed" harness? Second, it makes for very difficult troubleshooting, especially if you've fried a component and damage to other wires may occur. Again, you'll never find this scenario in aviation or marine applications. Sooo, how do you bundle the harness? Most folks are tempted to use those wonderful solutions called TyRaps. They serve as a great TEMPORARY solution, but should never (at least minimally) be used in the engine compartment. That is, keep them away from high heat applications. They have a tendency to become brittle, lose strength, and the cut ends become nice little cutting edges for the neighbor wires in the bundle. The best solution is by using the 3/8" ID black, heavy plastic spiral wrap. It looks great, makes for ease of troubleshooting or replacement of wires, and provides a means of keeping the wires together without TyRaps. It also is an excellent anti-chafing wrap. This stuff can be found at the Super Wal-Mart at Baseline and Gilbert. Its cheap and very effective. Fry's Electronics carries this stuff, but couldn't be found in black. Additionally, I've installed aircraft-type rubber clamps to keep the harness looking professional and away from chafing items. These can be found for about 50 cents each at Mark's Bolts and Nuts store on 67th Ave, just south of Northern. What a candy store for guys! I highly encourage you to check this place out!

Terminal and Butt Connections

These represent the sources of most electrical problems. Let's start with the butt splices. Although the perfect scenario would preclude the use of these little problem-makers, common experiences indicate differently. The most used, and tempting, are those little plastic insulated splices that are normally purchased at Checker, etc. Stay

away from these at all costs! The plastic doesn't allow for soldering, or proper crimping. In fact, the normal crimping tool is just a step up from a set of side cutters!

Here's the proper way to ensure a termination that would be the envy of any aircraft or boat owner. First, use a stripper that cuts only the insulation away from the strands. Pocketknives are for showoffs. If you cut a strand off, you've just lost that percentage of the tensile strength and conductivity of the wire. Now you've created a nice looking resistor! Anyway, may I suggest a Radio Shack simple wire stripper for this operation? Next, insert the stripped wire into a non-insulated butt splice. If you don't have access to these, you can take one of those Checker specials and remove the insulation. This insulation removal is accomplished by using a punch and hammer. Crimp the splice. You can actually over-crimp a splice, thus weakening the connection. May I suggest finding a Stakon crimping tool that is used by most professional electricians? These can be found at Harbor Freight or the Washington Street swap meet! Upon final crimping, solder the complete splice. Be careful of a "cold" solder joint. This could cause the connection to become a heat sink and cause problems. After soldering, apply a 1" section of heat shrink tubing, using a heat gun. They have these items at Fry's Electronics. If you're applying a termination end, all of the above is applicable except that the heat shrink tubing is applied up to the very end of the terminal. Again, remove the plastic insulation from the terminal end first. A heat gun works well to ease the removal. When performing final installation of the terminal end, use fresh hardware and use lock washers! I have an abundance of aircraft safety locking hardware if any of you are interested. Of course, it's gratis! Again, we're trying to prevent the inclusions from entering the strands of the wire. The soldering operation seals the strands of wires to the connector, gives additional strength, and ensures best scenario electrical conductivity. The heat shrink provides the final sealing the connector and helps reduce some strain on the connector. Also helps reduce shorting scenarios! (those darned control cables, inadvertent tools, etc.) There it is, pretty simple. The goal here is to not worry about that last operation for years to come. When we're troubleshooting electrical problems, we call this "fault isolation", that is, we first know what the problem isn't. Don't let the terminations be a problem. If you ever need assistance with this, please don't hesitate to give me a call. I'm here to assist my fellow enthusiasts!

Conclusion

The goal of this article has been to provide an awareness of the importance of professional-quality electrical repairs. References have been made to aircraft and marine electrical applications in this article. These applications represent the best case scenario of your electrical repairs. With this standard, you should never have problems with the electrical system in your Triumph.

Doc Smith

hrdocsmith@worldnet.att.net

480-981-1158

ONE FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EACH VEHICLE REGISTERED
(Photocopies of this registration form is acceptable)

Postmarked by Feb. 19, 2000 to:
BME
3322 E. Nighthawk Way
Phoenix, AZ 85048

WHEELS OF BRITAIN

Continuing a Tradition
March 5, 2000

The Organizers Reserve the Right to Refuse and Limit Entry



Make Checks payable to:

British Motor Enthusiasts

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Street Address _____

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Marque _____ Series _____ Year _____

British Car Club Affiliation _____

I agree to hold the British Motor Enthusiasts, Inc. and the City of Phoenix harmless while traveling to, during and from the event

Signature _____ Date _____

Contacts:

Registration Information: Mike or Janice, (480) 759-9386

General Information: Shirley or Philip, (480) 985-2531

Ken, (602) 840-3554

CLASSIC-FIED ADS

FOR SALE: 1974 TR6, Maroon with saddle interior and black top. Many new parts. Fully serviced by British Sportscar Service with records available. Runs excellent! \$8,000.00. Call 602-266-3322. (11/99)

FOR SALE: '71 Triumph TR6. All factory car. Professionally rebuilt wheel bearings, brakes & carbs within last 6 months. New tires, battery, shocks and more. This is "my baby" and I want her to go to a good home. Asking \$7,900. Must sell. Call 480-948-7848 Sean Andersen. (12/99)

FOR SALE: NEAR NEW WHITE COVER FOR TR3-A OR TR3-B. 3-Plastic windows in excellent shape. (Top has Lift-the-Dot fasteners for rear, Tenax fasteners for front.) Asking \$100.00. New from Moss, Ltd. is \$279.95. Call Al Melendez at 602-953-3589. (1/2000)

DIANE'S TIDBITS

There were 10 DCTRA members among those in attendance at Cathy and Jason Horstman's wedding on New Year's Eve. Believe it or not, we "outlasted" the young folks there. It was a beautiful wedding and I must say, I've never seen a more exquisite wedding gown. Cathy and Jason make a fine couple and I know we all wish them much happiness in their marriage. Jason's boys were adorable and so well-behaved, too.

I am glad that the so-called "start of the New Millennium" was a bit anti-climactic--the predictions that computers would malfunction simply did not happen, at least, not yet. I did buy a couple of gallons of drinking water, and some batteries for our flashlights, but, fortunately, didn't need them. Everything continued as per usual. Do you suppose it's because the "true, New Millennium" doesn't begin until 2001?

With all the fuss of Christmas and all, I didn't have much time to peruse the Internet for jokes this time, but, if you wish, I will continue to try to find appropriate funnies for you reading pleasure. If you find one you'd like to share, please send it to me via E-mail or Fax or good, old fashioned postal service.

Reminders: Don't forget to bring your canned goods donation to the meeting and don't forget to pay your dues, if it's time. Happy New Year. See you at the meeting.

Ta,Ta, Diane

AUTOMOTIVE HAPPENINGS IN THE WEST

FRIDAY NIGHT CRUISES

35th Ave. & Northern

35th & Bethany Home Info: 602-246-3906

Hooter's 28th Ave. & Bell near Canyon Pavilions

Tatum & Cactus Info: 602-996-1140

SATURDAY NIGHT CRUISES

77th Ave. & Bell Frys Food Store

108th Ave. & Grand at the Dairy Queen

28th & Bell Info: 602-375-0000

EVERY OTHER SATURDAY NIGHT CRUISES - TUCSON


Class Reunion Classic Car Show @ Little Anthonys 7010 E. Broadway 7-10 PM Info: 520-296-0456

SWAP MEETS

Last Sunday of the month 32nd & Union Hills Paradise Valley Community College

2nd Sunday every month Phoenix Classic Car Swap @ Greyhound Park, west-end 3801 E. Washington St.

Editor's Note: The above is a sampling of the events listed by A.A.H.C. For a complete listing please contact Charles Mullen @ 623-872-9693.



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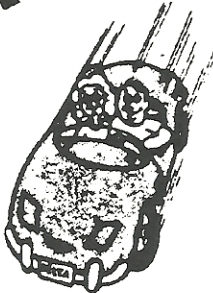
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