

# TRiumph TRumpeter

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

THE DESERT CENTRE - TRIUMPH REGISTER of AMERICA

"ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS - WE PRINT"

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## **NOVEMBER 2000**

Vol. 21, #11

MEETING: NOVEMBER 14 @ 7:00 PM EL ZARIBAH SHRINE TEMPLE 552 North 40th Street COME EARLY - BUY FOOD! SUPPORT OUR BENEFACTORS!

#### **CLUB OFFICERS**

V.P. & Events:	Paul Bridgnell	602-996-2880
Secretary:	Deta Hampsch	623-434-1999
Treasurer:	Ron Strong	602-944-6097
Newsletter:	Mike Bayne	602-938-1282
Tech Advisor:	Armand LaCasse	602-870-8585
Historians: Mike and Joyce Bayne 602-93		602-938-1282
Membership:	Tom Pennell	520-537-3355
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 520-537-3355

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## PROJECT CAR STATUS NEXTWORKDAY:

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19 @ 9 AM BRITISH SPORTSCAR SERVICE

3948 E. AIR LANE

## **COMING EVENTS**

NOVEMBER 19
ALL BRITISH BREAKFAST RUN
32nd & Shea
Meet at 7:30 AM

Details below

OTHER EVENTS
DECEMBER 2
ASRAENDURO
PHOENIXINTERNATIONAL RACEWAY
Details in "All over the West"

DECEMBER 9
TOYS FOR TOTS SHOW & SHINE
CHECKER AUTO PARTS
59th Ave. & Beardsley
Details in "All over the West"

#### WHATS GONNA HAPPEN THIS MONTH

Saturday November 18th

Although we have listed this event as our "Club Event" several times in past years, this month's "Club Event" will be the All-British Breakfast Run, since we are the host. We recommend that you make plans to attend the Canyon State Academy's (formerly Arizona Boys Ranch) 24th Annual Open House and Barbecue. Antique car display, music, crafts, bingo. 20061 E. Rittenhouse Road, Queen Creek. 11 AM to 3 PM.

Over the past few years there has always been a great turnout of all kinds of cars and clubs for this event. We will have more information at the November meeting.

Paul Bridgnell

#### **EDITORS DESK**

Once again I let silly, irresponsible things like work and other obligations get in the way of attending Triumphest. When will I ever learn? From all reports it was a smashing success and everyone had a great time. Check out the various reports in this newsletter to see what a great time everybody had.

Last month my computer died in a big way, and I have spent the last month rebuilding all of the newsletter files from scratch! Ive learned way more about computers than I ever wanted to know. Tom Pennell was a great help, and has saved me lots of time and plenty of dough! Thanks Tom!

Joyce and I did get a chance to get away about a month ago when we took our annual trip to Greer to fish and see the fall colors. I have enjoyed the isolation of that area since the early fifties, and am just now seeing the modern world catch up with it. It seems a shame to see it change, but I suppose it is impossible to keep it pristine forever. We stayed at the Red Setter Inn at the end of the road in Greer, and if you havent experienced this B&B you can be excused for thinking that life still owes you one more fabulous indulgence. Jim & Ken are the most attentive hosts, the food is indescribably tasty and the inn is perfectly integrated into the surroundings! a most natural addition to the serenity that is Greer. In the fall this is would be a great destination after a top-down drive from the valley. We recommend this place highly. Maybe a club run there next year?

Mike Bayne

## **CLASSIC-FIED ADS**

FOR SALE: 1979 Triumph Spitfire - Completely restored 2 1/2 years ago - rebuilt motor w/28K miles - black top, tan interior, CD, premium sound Polk spkrs - 4 spd w/OD, black bumpers, BRG, garage kept, excellent condition & runs great. \$4800 call Adam at 480-816-8850 or 602-295-8111 (9/2000)

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FREE SERVICE CALL FOR DCTRA MEMBERS

#### COMING EVENTS ALL OVER THE WEST

November 12 - 8th Annual Phoenix in the Fall Car Show, Performance Dodge, Glendale Az. Info - 602-978-4239.

November 18 - Canyon State Academy's (formely Arizona Boys Ranch) 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House and Barbecue. Antique car display, music, crafts, bingo. 20061 E. Rittenhouse Road, Queen Creek. 11 AM to 3 PM.

November 18-19 - Palm Springs Collector Car Auction, Convention Center, 277 N. Avenida Caballeros. Info -760-320-3290.

November 19 - All British Breakfast Run, 32nd Street & Shea - 7:30am, leave 8:00am. Hosted by DCTRA.

December 2 - ASRA 2000 Annual Enduro & Santa Dash @ PIR. Gates open at 6:00am with racing starting at 8:30am. Open to all race & street cars meeting safety & tech inspection. Even if you are not participating in the race, you can run your street car on the track at PIR really cheap This Is Fun!!! Info - Ron - 602-329-1222

December 9 ! Toys for Tots Show & Shine. Entry fee is one new, unwrapped toy. Sponsored Grand Canyon Region Chrysler Club. At the new Checker Auto, 59<sup>th</sup> Ave & Beardsley, 10:00am until 2:00pm.

December 17 - Christmas Lights Tour. Organized by the AZ Mini Owners, 6:30pm, meeting place TBA. Shirley promises to make it shorter and simpler than last year!

February 23-24, 2001 - Annual Highland Games at Mesa Community College. You can show your car on either or both days, but they must be in place by 8:00am and not leave until 5:00pm (insurance regs). Every car enterred receives two free passes (worth \$30.00 per day!) LOTS TO DO HERE!!! Philip Blahak is the Car Display Chairman and will be sending out the necessary forms later.

February 24, 2001 - All British Car Day. Sponsored by the AZ MG Club. Times and location TBA.

March 11, 2001 - Wheels of Britain at Heritage Square





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The meeting opened at 7:10pm with 27 in attendance, two of whom were guests: Steve Thompson (66 TR-4A) and Joe Capano (74 TR-6). Minutes were accepted as read. Treasurer Ron Strong reported we are staying even. The DCTRA files and checkbook in his briefcase have had two attempts at being stolen. In the most recent attempt the thieves saw no value in what they had taken and left it all! John reported a whopping \$2.40 collected on the aluminum can drive, so this will be the end of that effort.

Newsletter report! Mikes computer crashed, so he will have to rebuild all the files and start over fresh next month. On the Project Car a lot was done. The front apron is on and the dash is ready to be installed. The heater core and hoses are all in place, and the next work day will be on November 29<sup>th</sup> at Roy Stoneys. No report from the AAHC! all of our representatives forgot to attend the meeting.

The proper color chart was located for the grille badges, and the manufacturer will be contacted concerning the proper amount of fill material to be used for the badges.

For the tech report, Mike Bayne inquired about anyone who knew of any local shops who could straighten his bent wire wheels, but most reported that he would probably have to go out of Phoenix to have this done. John Hortons TR-7 is now running but the clutch is blown and it needs a new transmission. Dave Riddle had an interesting report on his recent racing exploits. He participated in an event at PIR a few weeks ago, and while sorting his car out did a 360 in turn four. It was an interesting experience, he understated.

Mike suggested that the club members come up with a list of automotive related books that they would be willing to loan out to other club members, like the video loan program recently set up. The list of books would be published in the newsletter, and added to as needed.

Tom reported that the membership has decreased from 136 to 108, mainly due to the deletion of non-dues-paying members. Next year this maintenance of the rolls will be done much sooner. The updated membership list will be available on the web next month.

A good sized group will be attending Triumphest, and John explained the convoy meeting procedure for anyone who wanted to travel in a group.

Events coming up include the November 5<sup>th</sup> Kiwanis show at the Brass Armadillo and the upcoming show and BBQ at the Canyon State Academy.

It was noted that it is not necessary to own or drive a Triumph to participate in the club and its events! it is a club of PEOPLE with a common interest in Triumphs, and all kinds of people and cars are welcome.

Next month we need to start taking nominatons for club officers for 2001. Put on your thinking caps. We need a place to hold this years Christmas Party, as Nancy Herman, our usual gracious hostess, is unavailable. Any volunteers????

Raffle winners were Chris and Marlene. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Deta Hampsch

#### THE PREZ SEZ

Time sure flies when we are having fun. We have had by now a show at the Brass Armadillo in west Phoenix. Tom Pennell has joined the ranks of the employed in Show Low. Good show. Tom - Is there really a program that puts the fraction of cents from all transaction interest in your personal bank account?

We are hosting the Breakfast Run on Sunday November 19th at 32nd Street & Shea. Meet at 07:30 and leave at 08:00.

Triumphest was a blast: Great show and a fine place to have the meet. There were some excellent cars in the show. I liked the Herald with the rotary engine. A Stag had a 280 Datsun six cylinder engine that was fitted very well. The list of people attending is elsewhere. Lots of trophies were presented. I am asking for an exemption at next years Triumphest for raffle prizes as we did not win any prizes this year. Rain was a small problem and coming back got tight with the clouds on the ground and visibility at 40'. If we missed your name on the attendee's list let us know. We visited a British pub for lunch and had Steak & Kidney pud - fine meal that! I need to make a large pudding soon, as I miss this style of cooking. The convoy over there was excellent, the one back had some minor problems. The TR/8 had an electric problem that showed as a false overheat.

The final cut was sent back to Calibre Int for the grille badges to be made. I should have them for the December meeting. Speaking of which, we need to nominate new officers. We have been very fortunate as a club - our strict bylaws have kept things in line. We also need to select a meeting place for the January Brunch and Election. Ideas please. This needs to be arranged immediately.

One sad note: Pam Brignell's father passed away last month. We extend our sympathies to her and family.

The Coles have graciously offered their home to host the Christmas party, as a larger spot has not been offered. Please respond at the next meeting with any suggestions for the party. I look forward to the gift exchange and lots of people attending. The food is also good. One might think I enjoy eating. RIGHT! Have heard that Eric Carney has accepted a position in Tampa, Florida. I imagine they will be on the road to Florida soon. Sorry to see you leave Eric!

Many things are now on the front burner. Some are: December 2nd will be a race at PIR. We will have track time in the morning, and at lunch there will be demonstration laps with some handicapped and other disadvantaged children from in the city. This will cost \$10.00. We need to also purchase a small race car toy to give to them at the finish. This should be fun. I have appointed David Riddle as our racing writer. He should be adding articles monthly. I understand he is designing a new F-500 car.

Charity time is upon us again. We have been giving to the Shriners for the circus tickets or the hospital. What do we do this time?

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7** 

#### **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

Remember that the Club will open nominations for officers at the November meeting. John Horton has made it known that after two years as our president he will not be seeking re-election. We all feel that he has done a fine job and should respect his wishes to step down. Be thinking about YOUR involvement in DCTRA for the year 2001. We have a project car to finish and we will be hosting Triumphest in 2002. Step up to the plate and take YOUR turn at bat this year!

#### **HEYWEB-HEADS**

I wanted to share an interesting web site that club members might find interesting. The site is located at "www.32fullthrottle.freeserve.co.uk" They offer a wide variety of vintage British aotomotive and motorsport videos, many of which are available in the American NTSC-VHS format. I have corresponded with the proprietor, lan Fleet, and his responsiveness is impressive.

## Sean Mee THANKS FROM SHIRLEY

Shirley Blahak would like to thank all who participated in the British Vintage Voyage. They raised \$800.00 that weekend and, together with the Pancake Breakfast and Car Show that many of you attended, they raised a total of \$2,595.00 for childrens charities this year. Thanks to everyone who helped!!

#### LETTER

Dave Riddle received this note recently:

Dear Sir.

My father and I have been Triumph enthusiasts and restorers even owning a shop for a number of years. With the recent death of my father I now have many original components, engine, trans, body, etc., that are for sale. Many unusual performance modifications such as big valve conversion heads/porting and flow work is also available. If you wish to get in touch with me I can be reached at (714)522-7363, 6347 Arnold Way Buena Park CA. 90620.



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

#### **TECH SECTION**

#### A Little Piece of Plastic

Thursday at 0 dark 30 or 05:00 we left to meet to drive to Triumphest. At the meeting point I tried to get out of the car. The furshlugginer drivers door would not open. After many tries I crawled out the passenger door. This practice is not the most convenient or pleasant way to exit a car. I tried to enter through the open window NASCAR style - No go.

Luckily the weather was clear and sunny driving to San Diego. We put the top down and I climbed in over the door. I did spend the next four days crawling out the passenger side much to the amusement of anyone in the area. Beth was even obliging enough to put gas in and get out at times to let me out. Many ideas were tried and proved wrong. The weather was lousy driving back to Phoenix, so the top stayed up.

Back in the garage I sprayed lots of WD-40 into the lock and with much jiggling got the door open. I removed the lock plate and found a small piece of the 1ock casting broke and dropped into the latch, jamming the mechanism in the closed position. A replacement was installed and all is back to opening and closing. It seems that Triumphs have the habit of thinking up things to go wrong at the most inconvenient moment.

Cheerio, John Horton











#### WHAT HAPPENED LAST MONTH

#### TRIUMPHEST 2000

At 5:30 in the morning on October 19, five DCTRA members launched a caravan from the Home Depot parking lot at 75th Ave & I-10. Present were John & Beth Horton (TR8), Virgil & Marlene Cole (TR250), Duane Schoen (TR6), Bob & Gail Lee (TR3, towed) and Tom & Gracie Pennell (TR3A, trailered). With stops for fuel and breakfast, all five arrived in San Diego in due time with no en-route difficulties. The Triumph Sports Car Club of San Diego was the host for this year's gathering and had selected a very nice hotel on Shelter Point, which juts out into San Diego Bay directly across from the North Island Naval Air Station. Thursday's activities included registration, a hotel walking rallye, the first opening of vendor displays by The Roadster Factory, Moss Motors, Rimmer Brothers and others. When we arrived, we met up with Roger & Roni Guzowski (TR250) - who had driven to San Diego earlier in the week, Julius Walters (Volvo), Tom & Pat Kendall from Tucson (TR4A), Cliff & Dorothy Philpott (Mercury Sable), Jim & Linda Bartels (TR6), Ron Bonelli (TR3B), Ken & Deborah Schmidt (Smedly the Spit) and John Reynolds (TR6). In all, a pretty good showing from DCTRA.

Friday dawned grey and threatening, a marine layer of clouds practically sitting on the ground. The only scheduled activities were an optional "Scenic Drive" and the welcome party that evening. Gracie and I took the scenic drive, which was interesting but a little hectic due to midday Friday traffic. Saturday was the day for the funcours, so we spent late Friday cleaning the car and preparing the display. The party gave us a chance to renew old friendships and make some new ones.



**FUNCOURSDISPLAY** 

Saturday morning was a little better - a quick wipe-down was required due the seaside humidity. I had seen the pre-registration list which showed 166 entries, and there were some day-of-show entries. TSCCSD claimed 175 cars on display. Among the notables were a very nice 1953 Swallow Doretti - looking in original unrestored condition - and a "Herald Estate Wagon". Judging from the photos on display, this guy actually MADE this car out of a regular Herald, fabricating the top, side panels and tailgate. Does anyone know if Triumph actually produced such a car?



1953 SWALLOW DORETTI



**HERALDESTATE** 

Following the Funcours, we ventured off on a (reportedly) 3 hour rallye, which took about 8 hours (once again, California traffic AND great difficulty in locating the clues to answer the 90 questions). Gracie and I placed 7th.

The Saturday night banquet was well attended and TSCCSD did a fine job in limiting the amount of time to present awards. The award list appears elswhere in the newsletter. Some of Roger's old friends from SCTOA did a "T.P." job on his car sometime Saturday night.



In all, TSCCSD did a good job in presenting Triumphest 2000, although we were a little disappointed that some of the fun things like Fan Belt Toss, Lug Nut ski-ball, Tire Rolling and Radiator Filling were missing from this year's event. Triumphest 2001 will be held in Ventura, CA. Still not too far - so make plans NOW!

**Tom Pennell** 

#### TREVOR AND THE VINTAGE VOYAGE

I vowed that never again would I stay up until way too late preparing my car for a road trip. It was not to be. Friday night I added fluids and took the car for a short drive and noticed that the generator light stayed on. Not a good sign. OK, change out the generator from Tillie the 66 Spit. No good. It was too late to call that night so at 7:00 am I called Ken Schmidt to for advice. He and Deborah showed up at 7:30 with a voltage regulator and a generator. We not only finished the electrical job but also had time to readjust the front wheel bearings.

This year the British Vintage Voyage, sponsored by the Arizona Mini Owners, began on Saturday October 7. The weather was cooler, the selection of cars even more interesting, the company just as good, and just as much fun

The day started bright and sunny in Apache Junction with the first cars off at 8:30 am. An MG A, MG Bs, an MG C, Midgets, Jags, a special TR6- my sons car, an AC Bristol a several Loti, two of the most handsome Spitfires, a GT6 and of course, Minis started off on a wonderful drive east to Globe where we met the group from Tucson. Apparently some Tucson Minis were not up the trip because we added not one but two Citroens: a 2CV and an ID 19 station wagon. Not British but really cool.

After lunch at the Golden Corral in Safford we drove to Willcox and the Stout Cider Mill. I asked the obvious question: Where are all the apple trees for the cider mill? The folks told me that there are at least one million apple trees in the area around Willcox. Who knew? The apple cider is really tasty.

On to a winery and microbrewery west of Benson. While the building looked really fine sadly the wine and beer seemed to lack something.

During the evening, there were games in the hotel lobby. Since this was a fund raiser for the Italian Job Charities, people were eager to demonstrate their skills at shool, nine pins (English pub games), rubber band target shooting, and guess the number of lug nuts in the jar.

Sunday morning we were on the way to Tucson to go to the Pima Air Museum or Mount Lemmon. It was on this part of the journey that the group suffered the only mishap: the MGC had a flat tire and had to be trailered into Tucson. A high point of the trip also occurred on that same stretch of Interstate-Barney Rael in the Citroen 2CV actually passed a line of cars. Finally, dinner at the Hometown Buffet where we relived the terrific trip, had the raffle prizes and distributed awards from the games the previous night. This time the top prize for the trivia quiz was awarded to me!

As for Trevor, if you were to look in a dictionary for the words flawless operation there would be a picture of Trevor. A great time for sure. Were ready for next year.

John Nuss

#### TREVOR'S NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

It finally happened! We went to bed at a reasonable hour before a road trip in Trevor. We were up early Friday (0 dark:30) to get a good start on the trip to San Diego. Ken Schmidt and Deborah Cooke met us at the usual place near the Superstition Freeway. It was cool enough, but as we drove through the ranch land south and west of the freeway it became quite cold. We found a neat road, SR 238, that intersects with Maricopa Road just north of Maricopa and heads west to Gila Bend. The trip was fortunately uneventful, although we had to stop for gas often because of the little engine, no overdrive and some REALLY big hills. We used third gear only on the mountain pass just east of Yuma and on two of the passes in California. Mostly we hummed along at about sixty miles an hour. The scariest part of the trip was driving on the Interstate in San Diego.

We arrived at the Triumphest site early afternoon in time to see some of the great cars, the passing helicopters and the ships entering and leaving port. Ken impressed us with his knowledge of naval craft. He informed us that the ship parading by was a BGS class. Then he told us BGS stands for Big Gray Ship.

Listening to Kas Kastner was a joy. To me, the questions and answers were good but the best part was hearing all the stories. That evening I stood next to him during the running of the Pinewood Derby and discovered he built the winning car. I wasnt surprised and I wanted to ask how closely the car matched the pinewood derby specs.

Saturday the day started cloudy and got worse. The rally was run in the rain. With the top up Trevor is quite the cozy car. Except for a mix up on one the early instructions, it was fairly easy to follow the route and we answered all but five of the questions. Sadly though this rally was where Trevor had his near death experience. Needing to refuel, I pulled off the route to get to a gas station we had seen from the road. Pulling up behind a Fordasuarus in the shopping center parking lot, I saw a truck with a cherry picker blocking the way. When the trucks driver needed to drive down the aisle, the cherry picker came perilously close to a Mercedes Benz SUV. The driver of the Fordasuarus wanted to save the MB, so she backed into Trevor. I was yelling, and waving, unfortunately the horn doesnt work. There is not a lot of damage to the car but it will take some time to repair. Turns out the Fordasaurus driver has a daughter named Shelby (after the Cobra). I suggested she tell her car freak husband about how she saved a \$30,000 MB by running into a priceless Triumph. It ended well enough when she gave me all the money in her wallet and almost shed a few tears. At least we could drive away from the mishap and it was after the funcours. (That was a good thing because we did get a Bronze plaque!)

We returned in time to hear Graham Robson talk about his time working for Standard Triumph. It is good to hear about the people and how individuals made such a dif-

**CONTINUED NEXT PAGE** 

#### TREVOR'S NEAR DEATH - CONTINUED

ference in the auto companies during that time. I think Graham was correct saying that places like GM are so tied to inside politics, egos and focus groups that cars like our Triumphs never would have been built.

Sunday morning as we were leaving, the local Lamborghini group was having an event. Huge engines in those puppies! Interesting to note that there were some kids there and they were much more eager to have their pictures taken with the Triumphs than the Lambos!

Once we were clear of the mountain passes the weather was fine all the way home. The car misbehaved just once when the top started to lift off and the generator lost a wire. Between Ken and Joe Curry we were on our way. Another great weekend with great cars and great company.

John Nuss

#### THE PREZ SEZ - CONTINUED

Regarding the cans for project car: NO MORE. Three months trying got us \$4.24 total. We have until 2002 to finish the project car. Then we will host Triumphest. I think the west side of Arizona should be a good place to hold the event. Lake Havasu is a good place as there are no casinos to steal away from the event. Triumphest will be a good time to dispose of the project car by raffle or sale.

#### We Got Us A Convoy

Because we have to go places during club events we need to all drive our little English cars. This constitutes a convoy. Most of us understand that in order to keep us together and to help in case of breakdowns it is necessary to look back once in a while and not speed away.

This process makes the run safer and we can all enjoy the run. On the interstate this is even more important. Having a group of cars makes us more visible and offers a factor of safety. Rest, lunch or petrol stops are inevitable and break the trip up.

On a recent trip one driver stated the start time and told everybody when and where. We all met and left. The arranger took off at the speed of sound left the remainder in his dust. We caught up later when they stopped to adjust equipment. We arranged to meet at a restaurant, however the place had a long line. Due to the fact they had blasted ahead again, they were lost because they could not find the rest of the convoy. We had gone to another place due to the long line.

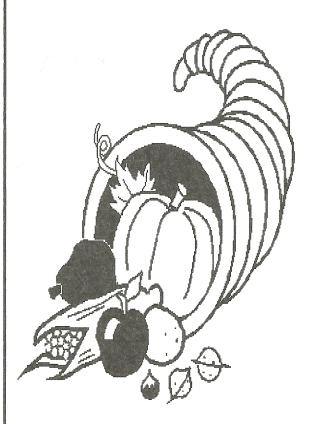
The problem can be frustrating. We are not bound to keep to the convoy, however I feel this is safer and more pleasant for all involved. Any thoughts?

Cheerio - John Horton

#### **ATTENDEES AT TRIUMPHEST 2000**

Note: Upper-case word after the car is the Funcours award

Jim & Linda Bartels (TR6) - GOLD
Ron Bonelli (TR3B) - GOLD
Virgil & Marlene Cole (TR250) - SILVER
Deborah & Ken Schmidt (Smedley the Spit) - SILVER
Roger & Roni Guzowski (TR250) - GOLD
John & Beth Horton (NASCAR TR8) - SILVER
Tom & Pat Kendall (TR4A) - GOLD
Gail & Bob Lee (TR3) - SILVER
Tom & Gracie Pennell (TR3A) - BRONZE
Cliff & Dorothy Philpott (Mercury Sable)
John & Kathy Nuss (Trevor the Spit) - BRONZE
John Reynolds (TR6) - BRONZE
Duane Schoen (didnt show his car - ??)
Julius Waters (No Car)



HAPPY TURKEY DAY!