



**TRIUMPH**

# TSOA

TRIUMPH SPORTS OWNERS ASSOCIATION



# NEWSLETTER

600 WILLOW TREE ROAD • LEONIA, NEW JERSEY 07605

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JUNE, 1969

## CHARLIE GATES TAKES CAL CLUB SCCA POST



Charlie Gates, Triumph's racing grandfather, now manages the business end of the Cal Club, SCCA Region. An alert, successful competitor in his racing years, Charlie brings plenty of talent to the management side.

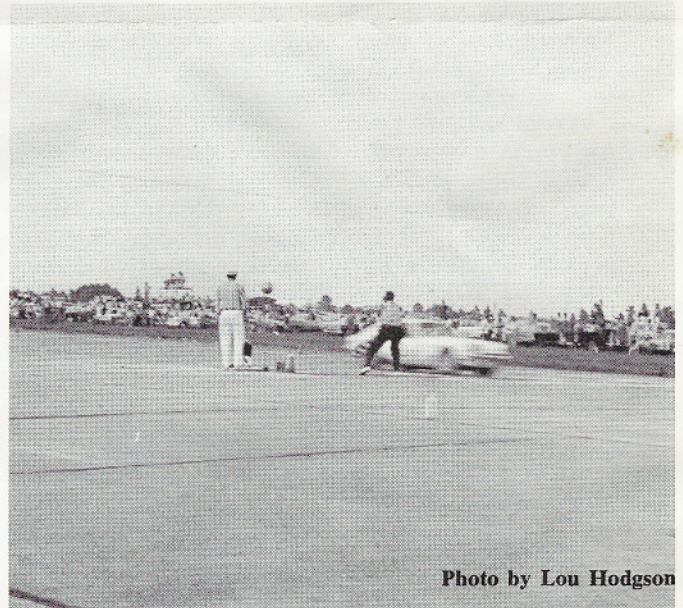


Photo by Lou Hodgson

With an energetic swoop, the starter flags Carl Swanson to a win at Lake Charles, La. With a qualifying time faster than any other production car except the TR-6, it was almost inevitable. Lee Mueller followed close behind for an FP win.

Charlie Gates started competing in sports cars when he was past forty years old. He won the Pacific Coast Championship in a TR-4 several times and was National D Modified champ in 1965 in a TR-4A. He has probably crammed more enthusiasm and energy into his comparatively few years in the sport than most men do in a lifetime.

Now, Charlie has retired . . . and gone right back to work! Effective in April, Charlie became Business Manager of the Cal Club Region, Sports Car Club of America. As business manager of the SCCA's most active and largest Region, he will direct the club's office staff and handle negotiations with track owners for the regional racing program. This involves some 16 events annually, all the way from club regionals to international pro races.

The 55-year-old newly-appointed manager was formerly Supervisor of Technical Publications for Autonetics, a division of North American Rockwell Corporation. He took early retirement after seventeen years' service. Charlie lives in Garden Grove, Calif., with his wife and one daughter.

Congratulations, Charlie, and best wishes in your active retirement!

### *Triumph Racers Romp at Savannah National Championship Sports Car Races*

What turned out to be an excellent day for racing sports cars also turned out to be a profitable day for the Group 44 Triumph Racing Team at Savannah International Raceway May 10-11. The Group arrived in Savannah fresh from Memphis where they had taken the C, D and F events with a second place in E Production.

Showing the way around the challenging 2-mile 9-turn road course in the competitive D Production contest was Brian Fuerstenau driving a Group 44 TR-4A. He battled with a Datsun 2000 driven by Jim Fitzgerald of Clemmons, N. C. for almost the whole race but was in front when it counted — at the checkered flag.

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# LOCAL CLUB NEWS

Report from the Tyee Triumph Club  
**TYEE Triumph Club, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 9054  
 Seattle, Washington 98109



The only Triumph marque club in the Pacific Northwest

## NEW OFFICERS FOR 1969

President ..... Bob Gaston  
 Vice President ..... Duffie Lowry  
 Secretary ..... Pat Woeck  
 Treasurer ..... Phil (exactly) Suckerman  
 Directors ..... Bob Brittingham, Ray Hamlyn,  
 Jack Lambert

Membership now stands at 80.

## COMPETITION:

1st team (out of 24 clubs) in the Auto-cross Olympics.  
 1st team (out of 24 clubs) in the Western Washington Sports Car Council Rally Championship Series.  
 Individual members collected a total of 220 trophies in rally and auto-cross competition this year.

## RECREATION:

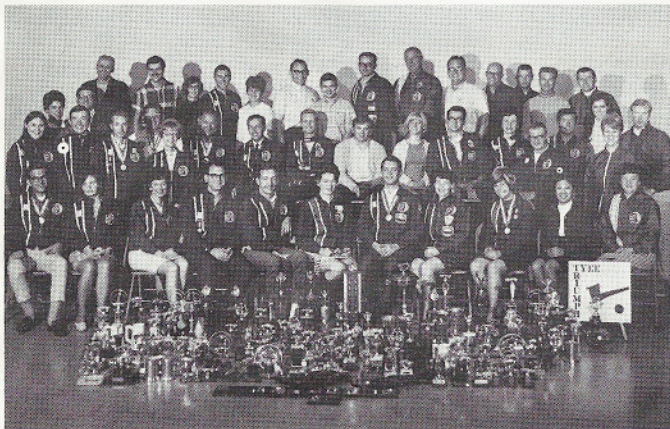
Several tours were held to various parts of the great state of Washington this year. Numerous parties, both planned and spontaneous, occurred in which copious quantities of the golden amber fluid were consumed. Highlight of the year was a five-day tour to Reno, Nevada which was attended by 42 members in 21 sports cars, followed by one sedan (carrying spare parts).

## TCVC

The Triumph Club of Ventura County is known as a rally group. It isn't unexpected that TCVC members J. (Mrs.) and D. (Mr.) Haugen should be leading their area Council Championship; expert class. What is unusual is that the points standings, as of April 11th, covered 33 rallies. Good grief . . . only April 11th and 33 events already run! Could be the season grand prize should be a new set of tires?

## WTSOA

TRUMP has returned! Last month's inquiry did the trick and the latest issue of the Wisconsin group paper is here. Bad news is that the long-time editor, Al Mattacotti, has resigned. Al's articles have appeared in the TSOA Newsletter on occasion and we hope he will continue to contribute to TRUMP.



The TYEE Triumph Club, Inc., pictured with the most recent year's accumulation of trophies, on their fifth anniversary. Satisfied expressions result from total consumption of an anniversary cake.

## TSCCNJ

The New Jersey newsletter, TRIUMPH TRIVIA, promises a flavorful summer, well spiced with capers. These are Monday night affairs and will occur, in July, on the 9th, 16th and 30th. For details, call or write Betsy Amlicke, corresponding secretary, 41-C Sycamore Rd., Clifton, N.J., (201) 471-3917.

## TTSCC

For interest's sake, the 1969 points system of the Triumph Travelers Sports Car Club is printed below. Other clubs have similar operations, all taking into account that points are often more deserved for workers than for competitors.

1. **Point Values**
  - A. 1/2 point for attendance at races and hill climbs. 1/2 point for participation in rallies, auto-crosses, gymkhanas and concours.
  - B. 1 point for attending a TTSCC business meeting.
  - C. 1 point for attending a NCSCC meeting, excepting the club representative. 1 point for attendance at a board meeting (non-board members only).
  - D. 2 points for attending a TTSCC social function.
  - E. 3 points for being a TTSCC rally master or auto-cross marshall.
  - F. 3 points for running a TTSCC rally pre-run. 1 point for attendance at a check point captains' meeting (only if held on a date other than the business meeting).
  - G. 5 points for working a TTSCC open event.
  - H. 3 points for host (hostess) of major party or social function (e.g., Murphy's Trek, Christmas Party).
  - I. 1 point for editor of each TTSCC news letter.
2. If a guest becomes a member, then the activities attended by him while he was a guest count towards the award.
3. A dash plaque will be awarded each six months to the most active member during that period and a trophy awarded annually.
4. **It is entirely up to the individual to see that his points are properly recorded.**



Here is Charlie Gates leading an EP race in 1963, first year he raced the TR-4. Right behind him, in the MGB is Ronnie Bucknum, now official driver for Roger Penske Racing. In the Morgan is Lew Spencer, General Manager for Carroll Shelby Racing. Photo was taken at Del Mar Raceway.



## COMPETITION NEWS

Continued from page 1

A Group 44 Triumph Spitfire Mk 3, driven by John Kelly of Washington, D.C. captured first in Class F Production and fourth overall in the combined D, E and F Production race. Mike Downs of Falls Church, Va., driving another Group 44 Triumph, a GT-6 Plus, finished third in E Production.

Further north in Lime Rock, Conn., a Triumph TR-3, driven by James Aronson of Glen Cove, N.Y. captured a first overall and first in E Production in the F and E Production regional battle which included more than 25 other cars, mostly MGBs and Porsches.

### THOMPSON NATIONAL

Mike Downs broke his streak at Thompson, Conn., June 8th, taking the E Production event. Following the delighted Group 44 driver was Ken Slagle, running hard and well on the national circuit in a TR-3.

Other Group 44 successes were scored by Bob Tullius in C Production and Robbie Krokus in G. Robbie was followed in by Erwin Lorincz who has finished a close second to Krokus in three National races to date.

In the combined C and DP race won overall by Tullius, Brian Fuerstenau was leading DP in the TR-4A until the engine boiled and he retired, leaving the field to Bob Sharp's Datsun. The F Production go was a genuine battle between the Spitfire Mk 3 of John Kelly and the MG Midget of Jerry Truitt. Truitt, out for his first race of '69 in a newly-prepared car, took it by a narrow margin, leaving Kelly in second with a wonky clutch.

### LAKE CHARLES NATIONAL

On the May 31/June 1 weekend, the Triumph Competition Department cars visited the Southeast Division and took a double win at the Lake Charles, La. course. In doing so, they put on a show of preparation and performance that left a lasting impression on the local competitors and inspired a number of TR drivers to improve their efforts.

Jim Dittmore, in the CP TR-6, recorded the fastest time for any production car in qualifying. During the race, a mixed bag event including sports-racing cars, he was leading all the ABC production cars and dicing with a Lotus 47 for most of the distance. However, success avoided Jim . . . the engine let go halfway through the final lap. His best lap time was 1:26:8 compared with the fastest sports-racer, a McClaren, at 1:25:9.

E and F Production were run together and Carl Swanson, GT-6+, finished first, followed by Lee Mueller in the Mk 3 Spitfire. Swanson had the second fastest production car time at 130 flat and Mueller turned a neat 1:32:2. Not to be left behind, the G Production Spitfires battled it out but somehow missed first place. Second went to Costa Dunias and third to Roy Jones. Roy operates a Memphis TR dealership and runs a full-scale racing effort in the Southeast Division.

Continued on page 4

The news letterhead at the top of the page is used to publicize all Triumph racing successes, news of the support program, etc., to newspapers and Triumph competitors all over the country. Put out by Dunn/Cheyne Enterprises, Tarzana, California, these news stories are our way of letting Triumph owners know how sharp their cars are on the race circuits.

Of considerable importance to those TSOA members who race is this: Dunn/Cheyne officially records Triumph wins under the support program. If you are running a TR-4, Spitfire, TR-4A, 250, TR-6 or GT-6 in SCCA National racing, record your name and address with Dunn/Cheyne. If you place in a National race, high enough to qualify for a support check, call them right away, **collect**.

The full address is: Dunn/Cheyne Enterprises, Inc.,  
19007 Ventura Blvd.,  
Tarzana, Calif. 91356  
(213) 345-8767

To refresh your memory, here is a run-down of the current Triumph Competition Support Program.

|               |           |             |       |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| TR-250,       | (Class C) | 1st . . . . | \$150 |
| TR-5 & 6      |           | 2nd . . . . | \$100 |
| GT-6 &        | (Class E) | 1st . . . . | \$100 |
| GT-6 Plus     |           | 2nd . . . . | \$ 75 |
| Spitfire Mk 3 |           | 1st . . . . | \$ 75 |
| (Class F)     |           | 2nd . . . . | \$ 50 |

Because of the greatly increased number of Triumphs in competition, support payments to drivers competing in models not currently being produced will be limited to 1st in Class only. The payment program for these models will be:

|                   |           |             |       |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| TR-4A             | (Class D) | 1st . . . . | \$ 75 |
| Spitfire Mk 1 & 2 |           | 1st . . . . | \$ 50 |
|                   | (Class G) |             |       |



Mike Downs, shown running at Marlboro, broke a streak of second and third-place finishes to take the checker at Thompson Speedway, June 8th.



Classic lines. Time out from polishing the 1969 Triumphs at Earls Court to study "Miss Britax" adorning the GT-6 Plus. This is one time the lads in the white coats would be eager to carry someone away.

## COMPETITION NEWS

Continued from page 3

### GROUP 44 SCORES AT CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

Three of five Group 44 Triumphs chalked up impressive victories in their respective C, F and E Production races May 17-18 at the National Championship Sports Car Races held on the 1.7-mile 6-turn Cumberland Airport road course.

Bob Tullius drove a Triumph TR-6 to his third straight victory of the year to remain undefeated. John Kelly finished first in F Production after fighting off the Datsun of former F Production National Champion Bob Sharp of Wilton, Conn. for almost the entire race. Kelly leads the Northeast Division. Bob Krokus swapped the lead several times with the Spitfire of Erwin Lorincz, but managed to pull off a victory in his G Production Group 44 Spitfire Mk II.

In the E Production fray Mike Downs, driving a Triumph GT-6 Plus, finished a close second to a Porsche Speedster driven by George Frey.

### SPITFIRES EVADE POTHOLES TO WIN AT CONROE, TEXAS

Having to run off into the dirt several times to evade large potholes, Costa Dunias of Lubbock, Texas and Terry Hall of Pomona, Calif. dashed to first place finishes in their G and F Production races, respectively. Dunias was hit in the nose by a rock thrown up by one of the cars he was passing, but was not seriously hurt and went on to the victory, his second of the year. Jim Rey of College Station, Texas, finished second in F Production.

### BOGUS TRIUMPH SHIVERS TO VICTORY AT MEADOWDALE, ILLINOIS

What started out to be a cold and rainy day at Meadowdale International Raceway last Sunday, proved to be successful for Gordon Smiley of Ballwin, Mo. Smiley drove his Mel Bogus sponsored G Production Spitfire Mk II to his third victory. He is undefeated this year.

### 'RACE PROVEN' TRIUMPH TR-3B FINISHES FIRST AT BRIDGEHAMPTON, NEW YORK

James Aronson of Glen Cove, N. Y., out-drove a horde of other E Production cars at the Bridgehampton Area I race to win his second race of the year.

## CLASSIFIED

### ITEMS FOR SALE:

1958 TR-3A. Silver grey with red interior. New top, tonneau, and window plastic. One owner car, maintained in fine condition, but is now too small for my family. Offers to Ken Lovejoy, 21048 Arminta St., Canoga Park, California 91304. Tel. (213) 341-7723.

TR-3 tonneau cover, white, good condition. \$10 plus postage. Henry H. Kuehn, 119 Brainerd Road, Apt. 15, Brighton, Massachusetts 02134.

'67 GT-6. Wrecked body. Engine, transmission, interior in A-1 condition. Only 7,200 miles. Wire wheels included. Best offer. Jim Gowdy, 61 Abbe Road, Hazardville, Connecticut 06036.

1966 TR-4A IRS. White with black top, new Continental Radials. Wire wheels, new Konis, heavy duty clutch, tonneau, boot. Excellent condition throughout. Offers over \$1,600. Will consider trade. Mark M. Freedman, Suite 216, Claridge House, Silver Spring, Md. 20910. Tel. (301) 587-2335.

1965 TR-4A IRS. Red, black interior. Equipped with roll bar, C cam, light flywheel. Approx. 80 thou off head. Radio, four nearly-new Dunlop RB-57 radials. 25,000 miles, generally excellent condition. Will throw in brand-new top, not installed. \$950. Mike Cook, c/o TSOA, 600 Willow Tree Rd., Leonia, N. J. 07605.

### ITEMS WANTED:

TR 250, or Classic Jag. Will consider deal including trade for car in ad in for sale section. Mark M. Freedman, Suite 216, Claridge House, Silver Spring, Md. 20910. Tel. (301) 587-2335.

Limited Slip Rear End for 1962 TR-4. Also SCCA approved roll bar for TR-4. Barry T. Whitelock, R. #1, Box 230B, Albion, Michigan 49224. Tel. (517) 629-6073.

TR-3A (1958 #31183) Side Curtains, Top and Tonneau Cover. Prefer Black. E. J. Albers, 620 Virginia Dr., Winter Park, Fla. 32789.

## TSOA SUPERMARKET

### TSOA T-SHIRTS

Attractive white knit shirt with collar and button front. No pocket. Triumph logo in blue on back, shield on left front. Specify s, m, l, xl. .... \$4.50  
 Local TSOA Club "Calling Cards"..... FREE  
 List of Triumph Dealers and Distributors..... FREE  
 Replacement TSOA Badge..... \$1.00  
 GT-6/2000 Competition Preparation Manual..... \$2.00  
 TR-4, TR-4A Competition Preparation Manual..... \$2.00  
 SPITFIRE Competition Preparation Manual..... \$2.00  
 TR-250/TR-6 Competition Preparation Manual..... \$2.00  
 JACKET EMBLEM..... \$1.00  
 Club Discount — 1 Doz.)..... \$10.00  
 Send Check or Money Order. No C.O.D.'s please.

The TSOA NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Triumph Sports Owners Association, 600 Willow Tree Road, Leonia, N. J. 07605. TSOA is a national organization of American sports car enthusiasts who own a Triumph or are interested in the purposes of the Association. Subscription is included with a \$5.00 lifetime membership in the club.

EDITOR, MICHAEL L. COOK