

# The Triumph Herald

## May 2021

### NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRIUMPH CLUB

#### All British Cars and Coffee at the Forney Museum April 11th

#### Coordinated by Ax and Allies

The good news...The RSVPs for this event were sold out, the other part is that there were about 12 no-shows who didn't cancel, which meant that some people had to be turned away. There was good representation across the LBC marques, enjoying the hospitality of the Forney coffee and restrooms and a sunny day.



Photos by Mike Jankowski, Andrew and Kitty Janiesch



**TECHNICAL ADVISORS**

**TR2 & TR3 - Wally Gamble**  
wallygamble@comcast.net

**TR4 & TR4A - Jim Elbe**  
(719) 338-2683  
jameselbe@aol.com

**TR250 - Bob Becwar**  
(303) 279-3745

**GT6 & TR6 - Andy DeVisscher**  
(303) 565-0031 / tr6dev@q.com

**TR7 - Terry Hughes**  
(303) 810-1369

**TR8 - Your name here**  
(303) 255-1254

**Spitfire - Bob Mott**  
(303) 690-8714 / (303) 748-5160

**Electrical - David Durstine**  
(303) 320-1506  
davidtr3tr4-RMTC@yahoo.com

**General - Bob Klie**  
(970) 630-9512

**Colorado Springs - Jim Elbe**  
(719) 338-2683  
jameselbe@aol.com



**Board Meetings** are held on the 1st Monday evening of each month at The New York Deli News, located at 7105 East Hampden Ave In Denver. Meeting and dinner at 6 PM, all members welcome to attend.

**Musings from the Gavel, by the PM**



Greetings RMTC members!

For me it is hard to believe that I am almost five months into my year as PM of the RMTC! It has been less difficult than I had imagined, only due to the superb help offered by my fellow board members. If it were not for their excellent efforts, you would still be awaiting the January Herald! A big hand if you please to the fellow board and club members that make it all work!

On Tuesday, 20 April, we conducted our first general RMTC Club meeting via Zoom and note, that was the first general meeting since the February meeting last year, pre-Covid. A hearty thanks to Jeff Heller and Gwen Jensen for allowing us to use their living room as RMTC HQ! The Zoom format worked far better than I could have imagined. Kitty was my computer savior, most appreciated! After our board report and a break, Andrew gave a most interesting presentation which I think was well received.

Next up is our first real-time, face-to-face board meeting at the New York Deli News on Monday 3 May. One of our topics for discussion will be the possibility to conduct in person general meetings simultaneously having a Zoom feed. I am hopeful this "Covid restriction" business will soon be over and we can participate as in the past!

Check your RMTC Herald for future events. Andrew has arranged quite a few offerings and ladies; check for Sharon Robinson's tea! Should be fun for you ladies to attend a function during which you can engage in conversation not regarding Lucas electrics, why old cars need zinc additive to the oil, whether a Laycock OD is better than a Toyota Supra transmission, ad nauseam.

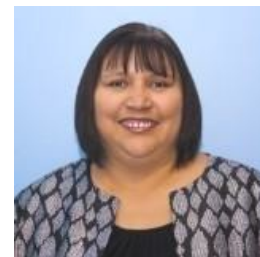
Happy May to one and all! We're getting closer to "normalcy" whatever that is!

Cheers, Richard Martin

Birthday list is provided by Kitty Janiesch, Minister of Membership. Our member count is 120.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

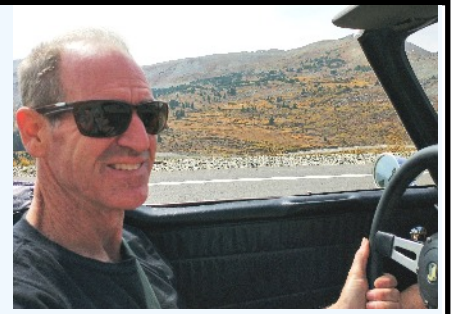
Wally Gamble 5/6	Jim Taylor	5/21
Val Burt 5/9	Jeff Hall	5/23
Lynne Deats 5/13	Lindsey Turner	5/26
Dave Farrell 5/20	Steven Adsit	5/29
Kathy Norris 5/21	Rick Layman	5/29



**The Rocky Mountain Triumph Club LLC is devoted to the use, preservation and enjoyment of Triumph automobiles and is a chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register. Most members are from the Denver area and adjoining states. We promote "family" memberships, welcoming spouses and children to all club activities.**

# **RMTC EVENTS CALENDAR**

**By Andrew Janiesch**



## **MAY**

**8<sup>th</sup> – St. Francis, KS Cruise-In** 12:00 pm to 4 pm Central Standard Time

This year's event will have a different format than in the past. If interested, contact Andrew Janiesch for details.

**22<sup>nd</sup> - Spring Car Show** 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lil' Ricci's Golden

Parking & Registration starts at 10:15. Bring your appetite, restaurant opens at 11. If there is inclement weather contact Andrew Janiesch for updates. Be sure to bring your chair and sunscreen. Awards be given at 1 p.m. Lil' Ricci's is located at 16950 W Colfax Ave, Golden, CO 80401, across from Home Depot.

## **JUNE**

**6<sup>th</sup> – RMTC Ladies' High Tea** – hosted by Sharon Robinson \$5/ person & bring your own teacup & saucer. This event is limited to the first 20 ladies who **RSVP to Sharon Robinson**. Details on page 8.

**19<sup>th</sup> - Father's Day Picnic** – 11:30 a.m.

hosted by Andrew & Kitty Janiesch – Main dish will be provided but please bring a side dish or dessert! Please **RSVP to Kitty**. Watch for email blast!

## **JULY**

**17<sup>th</sup> - Highway Clean Up** – Coordinated by Sharon Robinson & Richard Martin

**TBA - Movie Manor 2 Day Drive**

## **AUGUST**

**7<sup>th</sup> – CCCC's Rocky Mountain Car Show, Swap Meet @ Rocky Mtn. Metro Airport**

**27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> - 69th Annual Rallye Glenwood Springs Rallye** ([www.MGCC.org/rallye-glenwood-springs/](http://www.MGCC.org/rallye-glenwood-springs/))

## **SEPTEMBER**

**12<sup>th</sup> – ACC** (Tentative due to COVID19 Restrictions, details on page 7)

**14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> - VTR Edmond, OK**

**18<sup>th</sup> - Conclave Drive** (Tentative due to Covid Restrictions) & Hughes BBQ

**19<sup>th</sup> – Conclave Car Show** (Tentative due to COVID Restrictions)

## **OCTOBER**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - Oktoberfest** – hosted by Dave & Arlene Bosh

## **FALL/Winter 2021**

**TBA - Chili Cook-off**

## **DECEMBER**

**11<sup>th</sup> – RMTC Annual Holiday Party 2021** - Coordinators Dave & Arlene Bosh

Anyone can host an impromptu drive or garage open house, etc, do it! Just coordinate with Andrew to get an email notification sent out.

**PLEASE JOIN AND SHARE THE [ALL BRITISH CARS AND COFFEE FACEBOOK PAGE](#)**

**FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON MEETING PLACES AND TIMES AND WEATHER UPDATES.**

**SPEED READS is a transportation related book club devoted to armchair mechanics, auto enthusiasts, vintage planes, trains and fans of historic racing. Hosted by the Forney Museum of Transportation and Ax & Allies vintage car repair. FREE. Hope you saw the May notice at Forney museum 6pm, or just join and read at home [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) search [speed reading](#)**

## 4/5/21 RMTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

People in attendance: Richard, David, Bob, Andrew, Kitty, Bill, Jeff

Items of discussion were;

- Richard talked about a new general meeting location and also about a board meeting location. He wanted the board to be thinking about this.
- Jeff got more vendors to sign up or renew . He also brought up the financial report he had not received any comments about it. Also he talked about the club tax return the amount was -\$517.00 so there are not any taxes due.
- Richard also talked about Sharon and the storage of the club property in her basement. He recommended that the club continue to send her \$60.00 a quarter she indicated that storage in her basement is not a problem. The board agreed.
- The VTR insurance deadline has been extended to September 1st. Jeff will change the password at First Bank and that new password would also go to Richard and Eric. Also Jeff mentioned that the operating agreements need to be changed.
- There was some discussion about phone numbers posted on Facebook. The board did not have a problem with TDA people numbers being posted but no personal numbers. If people want to reach the club they can use the general RMTC contact in the website. The board did not make any decision on this item.
- There was also some discussion on new members and COVID-19. Jeff will call these new members, Kitty will provide a list of them. Richard liked that idea. Also there was discussion about vendors and the newsletter. If they don't pay the money then the newsletter will be dropped and they will be taken of the list. Most have renewed.
- Sharon will be sponsoring an event for June 6, 2021 she has requested a budget of \$125.00 and also needs volunteers to help. Kitty will work with Sharon on this event.
- Andrew went over all the events he has for this year. You can see the complete list in the newsletter.
- Jeff will host the general meeting in April or May at his home.



The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Reported by Bob Mott

Our thanks to Kitty Janiesch for being so helpful with Zoom technicalities during board meetings and the 4/20 general meeting RSVPs.

Please contact any board member for the Zoom login information to our board meetings. You may click the board member's name below, which will open a link to their email. Or use the contact link on the RMTC website. Please note that the **May 3 board meeting is live** at our usual place, see the bottom of page 2.

**There will be no General Meeting until further notice.**

**Piccolo's has downsized out of their meeting room space. We are looking for a different meeting place.**

***Please help us with ideas!***

### **RMTC Treasurer's Report**

This report is available for inspection at the Board Meeting and at the General Meeting, or by special request.



### **Rocky Mountain Triumph Club 2021 Board**

Prime Minister - Richard Martin

Vice-Prime Minister - Eric Malewska

Minister of Letters - Bob Mott

Treasurer - Jeff Heller

Events Coordinator - Andrew Janiesch

Minister of Membership - Kitty Janiesch

Newsletter Editor - David Durstine

Regalia Officer - Bill Gillespie

Newsletter Publisher - Tom Willson

Webmaster - Andrej Galins

# RIDGE REAMER

Complete  
Automotive  
Machine Shop

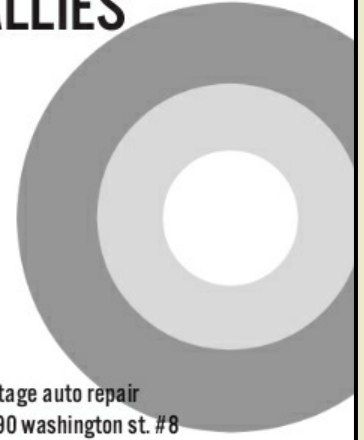


5590 Harlan Street  
Arvada, CO 80002

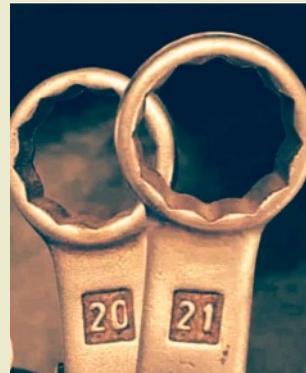
303-420-3543



# AX AND ALLIES



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# ZIP TIES



GOOD FOR HOLDING STUFF TOGETHER  
BETTER FOR PLAYING PRACTICAL JOKES

# FOR SALE / WANTED

Free for members; Non-member ads are \$10/month.

Submit ads at [ROCKYMOUNTAINTR.ORG](http://ROCKYMOUNTAINTR.ORG)

## FOR SALE; TRIUMPH TR6 PARTS: (updated)

- Front bumper, new re-chromed front bumper for a TR6, 1969 thru 1976; make offer
- Rear bumper for 1969 - 72 very nice condition; make offer
- Roll bar, new, mounts behind the seats on package tray, fits both TR6 and TR4, \$100.00
- Hard tops: 2 different tops (not OE), need restoring, fair condition, fit either TR4 or TR6, both for \$100.00

Call Tony Cooper 303.434.1425

11-20

## FOR SALE; 1979 Triumph TR7 \$7995.00/Best Offer

All original w/ 42,500 miles, it runs and drives great. Original Paint Exterior Green – Interior Beige - Black



Top. Exterior excellent condition - 5 speed- 4 Cylinder, No Rust- mechanically sound car. Premium sound system, Bucket Seats - New front suspension parts- New tires, many new parts and struts.



Interior is in excellent condition

– Some driver seat wear, all gauges and controls are working, original owner's, workshop manuals and dealer sticker. I have owned the car since 1990- Garage kept, pampered driver's car- only driven in the summer months. Runs well- fun to drive.



Looking for a good home for a Triumph enthusiast. Recent change of status need to make room for another car. Please Contact me if you're interested in more information.

Email [jim.demarc@comcast.net](mailto:jim.demarc@comcast.net) Cell 720.391.1294

11-20

## 69th Annual Rallye, Glenwood Springs,

August 27- 29, 2021



**RALLYE GLENWOOD SPRINGS  
69TH ANNUAL 2021**

After a difficult year with the COVID-19 pandemic, the MG Car Club Rocky Mountain Centre is pleased to continue the tradition of hosting a marvelous weekend where MG owners and sports car enthusiasts of every marque (British, American, German, Italian, Japanese, and electric) come together to enjoy sunny days, cool nights, and unique events in Glenwood Springs.

For the safety of our members and guests we ask that only those vaccinated against COVID-19, showing no symptomatic signs of infection participate, and that entrants wear masks and practice social distancing commensurate with guidelines in place at the time of the event.

The fun begins on Friday with the Tour which departs from Gunther Toody's Restaurant in Littleton, CO and finishes in Glenwood Springs. This year's tour can best be described as the intersection of *Top Gear* and *The Great British Baking Show*. Along the route, participants will demonstrate carefully honed skills required of vintage car owners and will complete a unique scored technical challenge at the host hotel afterwards.

Please visit our website at [www.MGCC.org/rallye-glenwood-springs/](http://www.MGCC.org/rallye-glenwood-springs/) for updated information on prices, registration, hotel reservations, and regalia.

## FOR SALE; 1970 Spitfire

I'm in a bind and need help. My 1970 Spitfire was in the process of being restored by my brother-in-law when he passed away unexpectedly. My main challenge has been that it's out of state. I hope to find someone that can gather and take all of the pieces, including extras, for a reasonable price. I've put a lot of money into it – way more than it's worth, I know. I need to get it off of my sister's property as soon as possible; otherwise, all will be completely lost.

Serious inquiries only, please, call or text 214-563-4227, or email [vcbenett1@gmail.com](mailto:vcbenett1@gmail.com).

Asking \$5000

02-21

38TH ANNUAL  
**COLORADO CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE  
& EXOTIC SPORTS CAR SHOW**

BENEFITING CREATIVE OPTIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
A PROGRAM OF ABILITY CONNECTION COLORADO  
AT ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN LITTLETON, COLORADO



## THE SHOW IS A GO! ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Please help support Colorado children with disabilities and other life challenges!

If you haven't signed up yet... please join us Sunday, September 12, 2021 at Arapahoe Community College for a great day filled with food, fun, and entertainment for the whole family!

Come laugh, have fun and mingle with "automotive related" friends and clients, while helping us raise funds for Ability Connection Colorado's Creative Options for Early Childhood Education Centers.

From classic to collector, vintage to the latest and greatest, incredible cars will compete at the 38th Annual Colorado Concours d'Elegance & Exotic Sports Car Show. If you have a personal or business interest in cars, or just want to have fun, you will want to be there.

Because of you, our caring automotive and automobile related friends, five metro area Creative Options for Early Childhood Education Centers are able to provide developmental screening and assessment services, individualized mental health services and other critical services to over 400 children, ages birth to five, each year.

### ENTER TODAY

for a chance to Win a

SOLD-OUT, ALL-ELECTRIC First Edition MUSTANG MACH-E or \$40,000 Cash!

Registration

[38th Annual Colorado Concours d'Elegance & Exotic Sports Car Show - A GO for Sep \(constantcontact.com\)](http://constantcontact.com)

Event Contact; Terri Armstrong, Development Director  
Ability Connection Colorado  
(303) 691-9339  
TArmstrong@AbilityConnectionColorado.org

Several RMTc members have displayed their Triumphs at this show in the past, there was a lot of interest in them, considering the number and quality of more exotic fare at this show.

### The Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)



Club members are encouraged to join the VTR: Benefits Include:

- Receive the bi-monthly Magazine, "The Vintage Triumph"
  - Free Classified ads
- Access to VTR's staff of Technical Consultants
  - Discounts on Vintage Car Insurance
  - VTR Regalia
- Participation in National Conventions

Join by sending \$35.00 to:

The Vintage Triumph Register, PO Box 655, Howell, MI 48844 or at [www.vtr.org](http://www.vtr.org)

SIGN UP FOR THE CLUB MEMBERSHIP AT: [ROCKYMOUNTAINTR.ORG](http://ROCKYMOUNTAINTR.ORG)  
MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE \$35 PER YEAR W/NEWSLETTER IN EMAIL ONLY FORMAT; \$50 PER YEAR  
WITH PAPER COPY MAILED TO YOUR ADDRESS

## And in other RMTC happenings...

### Rocky Mountain Triumph Club Ladies Afternoon Tea, Sunday June 6th at 1:30

The plan is for a beautiful English afternoon tea, with bubbly, scones and cream. This is just for the ladies, and we will have some rather handsome waiters serving the tea. Join us for a fun and relaxing ladies afternoon.

We ask that you WEAR A HAT and bring your own special teacup (we will have extra cups and saucers if needed)

Limited numbers, **please RSVP to Sharon Robinson** - [thepickledbrit@gmail.com](mailto:thepickledbrit@gmail.com)

\$5 per person cash or Venmo

LOCATION 415 Golden Eagle Drive, Broomfield ( 136th & main)



### 2021 British Car Club Conclave Planning Meeting, reported by Bill Gillespie

I attended a virtual meeting of the Conclave Committee on April 15th. The meeting started at 7:00 PM, and was conducted using a Google platform which operated similarly to the Zoom platform used for the virtual RMTC meetings. The committee membership list included 20 names which I can provide if you are interested.

The discussion was led by Bob Gloyd, and focused on the requirement for a permit by the city of Arvada and Jefferson County. Such a permit has been required in past years, and one was issued last year, but it was not used since the event was canceled due to the pandemic. The sense was that the permit issuance seemed routine, but that it might be scrutinized more closely due to the current situation. The permit application requires a list of plans such as site preparation, sanitation, street closures, anticipated number of vehicles and people to be in attendance, and several others, as well as a fee of \$100.

The meeting was shorter than anticipated since the issue of whether we could just use last year's permit, or whether we needed to get a new one seemed to be pivotal to this year's planning. Bob hoped to explore that possibility with the city and county prior to the next meeting, which is scheduled for May 20th, and I plan to attend that meeting, and we should have a clearer picture of where we are at that time.

If you have any questions or suggestions about Conclave, please let me know.

### 4/20/21 General Meeting

Your RMTC board gathered at Jeff Heller's for our first tryout of a Zoom meeting. About 14 people joined us, some on audio only. There were the usual board reports, and Andrew Janiesch gave us the presentation that he did for the recent DU British Cars class. Afterwards, there was a little general visiting amongst the zoomers. This meeting was successful enough that we will do it again until real gatherings are allowed, and we have a meeting place.



### 4/28/21 Speed Reading Bookclub Meeting

This meeting was themed! It was a Steampunk Tea and Book Discussion for the book, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, by Jules Verne. Some guests from the Denver Steampunk Society joined us at the Forney Museum and via Zoom. There were three live speakers who were excellent! There are now about 25 book club members, mostly from the various car clubs.

Below, Sharon Robinson and Shawn Bowman and others show the fun side of reading the classics.





## Collector Car Council of Colorado, Inc. (CCCC)

*Dedicated to the preservation of automotive history*

### Minutes of Meeting, 7 April 2021

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

President: Dick Thompson, Mile High Cobra Club	303-699-4819	Thompson660@cs.com
1st Vice Pres: Tom Mansfield, Looking Glass Corvette	303-901-3682	tommans@outlook.com
2nd Vice Pres: Samantha Baker, So.Colo.MOPAR	303-726-2826	Bakersams@msn.com
Secretary: Dick Fritz, MG Car Club	303-774-9710	RBfritz@comcast.net
Treasurer: Tom Mansfield, Looking Glass Corvette	303-901-3682	tommans@outlook.com
Legislative information: Leo J. Boyle	303-321-6611	Leojboyle@aol.com
Political Committee Liaison: Ted Rossi	303-618-3935	Tedrossi@q.com
Web site liaison: Chuck Smith, No.Colo.Model T	303-973-9915	herbnut@aol.com
SEMA Show coordinator: John Ehrlich, ColoRODans	303-526-6805	Altechprec@yahoo.com

Due to Corona-19 virus concerns, this was a “hybrid” meeting, partially in-house at the Hagerty Garage, 8101 Shaffer Parkway in Littleton CO, and partly via Zoom over the internet. The meeting got underway at 7:32 and was preceded by an Airport Show Committee meeting.

Our host for this meeting was William Roushey who described Hagerty’s interest in promoting the car collecting hobby in ways in addition to selling collector car insurance. He stated that the garage is available for use by car clubs for meetings or as a starting point for tours, etc.

**Legislative:** Leo Boyle reported that the Colorado Legislature is about 50% through its 2021 session and will conclude in mid-June. He described several current bills but none directly affect car collectors. Air quality concerns target industry, usually gas and oil refineries, well heads, and pipelines. Control of greenhouse gasses and air toxics are emphasized, but transportation sources are not mentioned. Notably missing are references to title 42 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Colorado Revised Statutes. One bill that was already killed (“delayed indefinitely”) is HB21-1205 which proposed an “Electric Vehicle Road Use Equalization Fee”. Dick Thompson expressed concern about HB21-1083 which modified on appeal property taxes set by counties. Aircraft owners have suggested that this may raise taxes on hangers that have been upgraded and likewise elaborate garages for collector cars.

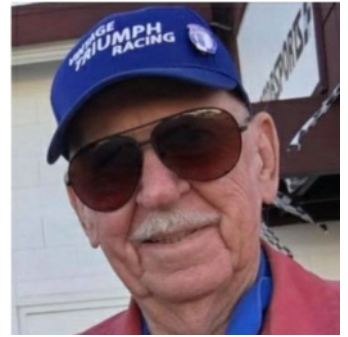
**Airport Show and Swap Meet:** John Mack noted that the 2021 Rod Run calendar lists our original date of August 14 rather than August 7, but this was because the Rod Run calendar was drawn up in October 2020 and the airport notified us in February that the August 14th date was not possible. Flyers for the event show the correct date of August 7. We have full support from Rocky Mountain Metro Airport (formerly Jeffco Airport) and coordination with Spartan College, the Rocky Mountain Renegades, the Civilian Air Patrol, the Commemorative Air Force, and local law enforcement agencies have all gone well. For our part, CCCC will need volunteers to promote the event at area car events, to handle swap meet registration, and various cleanup operations. Car Shows Inc. (CSI) will handle the Car Show. **Contact Dick Thompson** to say where you can help. Great Benefits for all volunteers.

**SEMA:** SEMA is still planning to hold the 2021 SEMA Show in Las Vegas November 2-5. We have not heard officially how many complimentary passes may be available for CCCC members. If you are interested contact John Ehrlich at [Altechprec@yahoo.com](mailto:Altechprec@yahoo.com). In 2019 we were limited to 12 passes. SEMA’s email news lists legislative issues in other states, and several states are currently discussing single license plates.

## “Kas” Kastner, Early and Enthusiastic Triumph Racer and Builder

Copied from a *Classic Motorsports* article, from a web link provided by Steve Hart

R.W. “Kas” Kastner wrote the book on Triumph competition prep. Literally. He became the first manager for Triumph’s American competition department in the early 1960s, and soon after he was writing the prep manuals for the marque. If you wanted to put a Triumph in victory lane, you read those books.



Kas, as he was known to friends and competitors, passed away April 11, 2021. He was 92 years old. The following personal profile comes from the May 2012 issue of *Classic Motorsports*:

R.W. “Kas” Kastner, Triumph racing god and grand marshal for the 2012 Classic Motorsports Mitty, describes his racing style as “over the door.” While other racers peered through their windshields and slowed for a turn, Kastner had his head cocked to the side as he manhandled his car around the bend. “I’d go into a corner as fast as I could, no brakes, throw the car sideways, and come out fast,” Kastner explains. “Exit speed is the name of the game. He who gets on the gas first is fastest down the straightaway.”

Despite this aggressive and risky racing style, a true sense of danger eluded Kastner throughout his career. “I’m a competitor,” he says. “I never thought about death; it never occurred to me. Once I looked in my mirror and saw a Porsche 45 degrees up in the air, spinning on its front bumper, and thought, ‘Well, he lost it,’ but it didn’t affect my race.” Kastner devoted his senses so completely to outgunning his competition that on one occasion, even finishing the race didn’t affect his race. “At Pomona Fairgrounds, the battle between me and Lew Spencer in his Morgan was so intense, passing and re-passing each other, that we went right past the finish line side by side, never seeing the checkered flag. We continued racing hard around the track, not realizing we were on the cool-off lap. Ronnie Bucknum had won the race and was sitting with the flag at the line, but that had nothing to do with our race.”



Kas Kastner, on left, doing some trash can engineering at Road Atlanta in 1972.

Kastner wasn’t always entranced by motorsports. He didn’t even get his driver’s license until age 19, when he was discharged from the military. After he won the first race he entered at age 21, however, racing grabbed him hard. “It becomes all you look forward to. I don’t know how to express how I feel about racing. It is so demanding; it’s just a great thing,” he says. That first race was in 1952 on the streets of Aspen, Colorado. His mount: an MG TD. Kastner quickly learned how to modify and rebuild engines, developing a reputation for his fast cars and fast driving. He competed for two years without losing a single race, and started tuning other racers’ cars from his shop in Salt Lake City.

Escalating success drove Kastner deeper into the world of cars. He and his family packed up and headed to Los Angeles when he accepted a job as a British car mechanic at a dealership; he was later promoted to service manager. In 1958, he took over as service manager at CAL Sales, the Triumph Importer for 11 Western states. In short order, he bought a TR3 and started racking up race wins. A year after that, he won the super-competitive Class E Production Championship. He was also appointed head driving school instructor at Riverside Raceway for the California Sports Car Club. Then came a crossroads. When Triumph bought CAL Sales, the company ruled that executives could not compete in racing. Kastner chose the career track over the track career: He quit racing to pursue a different calling in the auto industry.



— Article continued on page 11 —

## Kas Kastner, continued

Kastner started making performance parts to sell directly to Triumph, a venture that grew to form the manufacturer's competition department. Along with Fred Gamble and Mike Cook, he introduced a line of performance parts for Triumph race cars, accompanied by a series of Competition Preparation Manuals that enabled anyone with an interest and wrench-turning skills to pursue their own racing dreams. He even launched an innovative drivers' assistance program. In short, Kastner built a bridge between the sidelines and the track, and newly minted Triumph racers crossed it in droves.



This combination of resources was a resounding success for the brand. "In Class E Production in the '60s, if you didn't have a Triumph, you had no chance," Kastner says. He sponsored certain teams, joined the support effort at endurance races like Le Mans, and even performed some factory race car modifications, like cylinder head work, himself. "There was no question [the formula] would be right," he explains. The media churned out positive reviews, and that further enhanced Triumph's image. Kastner did not go unacknowledged for his hand in this success. Corporate executives recognized his strategic importance and asked him to lead the competition efforts for all marques under British Leyland in 1970. He turned them down and resigned. "They were surprised, but I could see where it was all headed," he explains, referring to the looming oil crisis. "The future was going to be grim."

Instead, Kastner continued on in the Triumph racing world with John Brophy, running teams in the SCCA, the three Indy Car 500-mile races, the Can-Am Series and the Formula 5000 Series. When the energy crisis finally put a stop to Kastner-Brophy Racing in the mid-1970s, he went on to develop aftermarket turbocharger systems before manufacturers offered them as a regular option. As the country's oil woes receded, Kastner joined Nissan Motor Corporation in 1986 to lead their motorsports effort. He rocketed the team to the IMSA GTP Championship in just three years. Nissan subsequently won the manufacturers' championship three years in a row, along with the drivers' championship four years in a row for Geoff Brabham. "I loved GTP racing," Kastner says. "I loved the whole atmosphere, from selecting the team and budgeting to running with the best in the world. The technical and mental aspects were an enjoyable challenge—and the team manager trickery was fun."



The din of turbocharged engines and cheering race fans eventually faded to silence for Kastner after he retired in 1995. He fell out of touch with the racing world for a number of years—that is, until his wife, Peggy, suggested they attend a vintage car race. "I thought no one would remember me or care," Kastner recalls, "but when I arrived, I saw three Triumphs painted in my standard colors, and one of the racers asked me to sign his car. They all started asking me questions. I didn't realize I had any notoriety." He soon caught on, however, and so far he's written four books about his Triumph days and racing experiences.

Ten years ago, Kastner began reaching out to the Triumph racing community in another way: He decided to organize the Kastner Cup, a Triumph-only race held in a different location each year. Kastner personally declares the Cup winner based on racing performance, the presentation of the car and, perhaps most importantly, the driver's enthusiasm. "The winner of the race doesn't necessarily win the Cup," he explains. "I'm looking for drivers who are beating cars in the next class up, who have a good attitude in the pits, who take pride in their cars, who help the sport of vintage racing." There could well be 40 cars competing in the Kastner Cup at this year's Mitty.

Kastner, now 83 (2012 article), has reconnected with the machines and the scene he helped create, but does he miss being behind the wheel? "Not really, not the actual racing," he says. "I miss thinking about racing—looking for a competitive edge, striving to be the best. I have an active mind, and I pay attention. I did whatever it took to win."



## TRIUMPHFEST 2021

Flagstaff Arizona

October 14-15-16-17 2021

Triumphfest provides the thrill of driving our TR's to a destination just like the "old days" At the Triumphfest we will enjoy 'Funcours', Autocross, Funkhana, Awards Banquet, Tech Session, and opportunity to meet with our Triumph friends, what a great time !



Hosted by  
Desert Centre Triumph Register of America  
[www.triumphfest.com](http://www.triumphfest.com)

### Did you know....

The RMTC owns an engine stand, available for your project, please contact a board member for further information. The RMTC also shares ownership of a computer projector with the Jaguar Club. This projector is available to you for your presentation at a club event.

The board was contacted by members of the Portland Triumph Club, who are looking for someone to join them in attending the Pikes Peak Hill Climb. Their contact information is available from any board member.

## CCCC Corner

### Collector Car Council of Colorado, Inc.

*Dedicated to the preservation of automotive history*

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

Please visit the CCCC website for contact information for the officers, the complete minutes from the monthly meeting and a listing of upcoming events and shows

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday in May, 7:30 PM, via Zoom, and a location TBA.

**The full CCCC minutes are on page 9.**

(RMTC members - Note that you are free to attend the CCCC meeting live or via Zoom. There is lots of chatter with other classic car people.)

Denver, CO 80203-0426

PO Box 300426

Rocky Mountain Triumph Club