

December 2005



- **President's Corner**
- **Vice Presidents Report**

- **Meeting Minutes**
November 2005

Events

December 2005 Events:
10th - Membership Meeting and
souriee at the historic Patterson
House in Oakwood.

- **Event Reports:**
Loveland Castle Tour
Upcoming Soiree
Web sites of interest
TRA 2006
Final Lap

- **MVT Officers**

President: Stan Seto, 513-683-7974

Vice President: Randy Wakefield,
937-637-4993

Secretary: Lois Bigler, 937-253-1580

Treasurer: Carolyn Daye, 937-423-
8157

Membership: Sue Bell, 937-890-
1969

Events: Bruce Clough, 937-376-
9946

Please send
comments/suggestions to:
news@miamivalleytriumphs.org
or to the P. O. Box.

Cutoff date for next month's Marque
is the 20th.

Obligatory Disclaimer

"The Marque" is the official publication of the Miami Valley Triumphs Car Club, P. O. Box 144, Bellbrook, OH 45305. Views stated in the "Marque" are not necessarily those of the officers or members of the club. Technical data is provided for information only and no liability is assumed for suitability, applicability, or safety. Miami Valley Triumphs is a registered chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register and a local center of the Triumph Register of America. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at Fuddrucker's Restaurant on Kingsbridge Drive, behind the Dayton Mall, unless otherwise noted in the "Marque". General membership meetings are at 8:00 pm with informal dinner starting at 6:00 pm prior to the meeting. Anyone interested is most heartily invited to attend. Triumph car ownership is not required.

The President's Comments, November, '05

This is Thanksgiving week and December is just a couple of days away, as I write this.....And it has been three and a half weeks since we did the Loveland Tour. November is melting away like a birthday candle on some seventy-six years old's cake.

The Holiday Soiree will be on Saturday (night) the 10th of December at the Patterson Homestead, the club will be paying for the meal, so You'all come and bring your brown bags for the Auction. Also, bring dollar bills so you can feel comfortable bidding on the bags you didn't bring!!!

We will also have a short Business Meeting, mostly to start nominations for the 2006 elections. We elect a President, a Secretary and Treasurer. We will also be accepting nominations for the Club Awards, Marque of Distinction, Press on Regardless, Most Improved and Keep it On the Road. So, think about these as we come into the Holiday Season.

TRA '06 Practically in our Backyard!! Bruce is going to need help getting this one rolling, and the location is only about three hours away, on the other side of Hocking Hills, so **I'm asking all who can to volunteer to help**. Of course, Bruce does need to layout a plan we can volunteer for, but patience, he'll get it assembled..... then we'll just assign jobs....Just kidding!!

We are coming into the Doldrum Season, Post holiday, lousy weather and trying to get over the Kids being home all the time with Colds, sniffles and homework you can't do... It is just the time to start thinking about Spring, and summer, and Club Events that we can plan for the New Year. For Example, How about a weekend run down to Madison, Indiana, or a Saturday Tour of Indian Lake, Ohio. A run to Amish country for just looking and shopping? Or a Run to the Children's Museum in Indianapolis? A Cemetery Tour, put on by "You Know Who" (You do know who, don't you??) There are lots of activities we can get involved in, now's the time to think about organizing them. When's the last time we've had a Rally of some sort??

Thanks for listening, Stan Seto

The Vice-President's Comments

Happy Holidays everyone! I guess I am more aware of my position in life now than ever before. We just can not take anything for granted can we. Another year is passing quickly. Soon we will be looking to a new calendar for dates to fill with sunny rides and good food. This year close and my TR6 is inching closer to the goal I set over seven years ago. Has it been that long? I have never strained so hard to get a car restored. The engine awaits its first fire. Thanks Harry, the starter rebuild is done (This fellow you recommended is an old Triumph dealer man and knows his stuff). The body is all metal and begs for paint.

And then I found myself in the local dealer's showroom looking at a new car. I realize that one of the cars may have to go. If I advertise it, I hope no one takes me up on it. If I can just get that blasted thing done! Then I can sit back and raise my glass. And I can know that 2005 passed with milestones and victories. It had sorrows and challenges. I guess I can reflect favorably on the way I chose to live my time. We certainly do not get it back. What makes it sweet for me is good friends, classic cars and great drives. Rev-guards Randy W.

NOVEMBER 2005 MVT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

11-07-05

26 members present

Pres: Glad to be back

Wild stories: Stan lost brakes on TR3 as driving into the garage at end of Loveland tour. No Damage to car or garage, just heart in throat.

Mark Bag of tricks. 2 items produced by gentleman Mark dealing with on parts

1. Nut wrench \$12.00 very handy to carry in car
2. TR3 heat shield for carb and manifold \$39.00 Examples of both
3. Phil has TR6 for sale
4. Stan received email regarding TR3 for sale

Letters received

1. British Wire Wheel regarding having ad in Marque. MVT has not had ads in Marque. Discussion, put business card ad on website.
- 2 Boonshoft Museum thanking MVT for sponsoring trophy at Concours
- 3 Franklin Area Community Service Group for donation of bread products[from BCD].

Vice Pres: Happy to be here and Stan has returned.

Membership: 35 paid members.

Treasurer: Carolyn reported income and expenses

Sec'y: Minutes of October meeting approved as printed in Marque

Marque Editor/Website: Randy doing the Marque, Mike maintaining website.

Events: Fall tour was grand day

Loveland tour 6 cars with 13 folks Interesting tour of Seto neighbor brick collection. Weather was very good for drive in the country. Dinner was at Rookwood Resturant in Cincinnati.

December 10 Holiday soiree at Patterson Homestead

June 14-18,2006 TRA Burr Oak State Park[southeast Ohio]

Bruce will schedule special meeting to plan and discuss events for 2006.

Old Business: Wally Ellifritt is seriously ill. Fell recently, head injury, is in Hospice Unit at VA Center
BCD WRAPUP Each club received \$950.00 and \$1800 put back for seed money for 2006.
First planning meeting will be March 9, 2006, at Poelking Lanes. Phil Daye will be Chairman. North American Spitfire Squadron planning annual event with BCD, 50 to 90 Spitfires could attend. Stan will head registration.

New Business: Election time is near. Nominations for following offices will be started at December meeting, President, Secretary, Treasurer..

Discussion regarding MVT paying full cost of meal for holiday soiree. Concern expressed that Club should not pay full cost. Our income has not been as great in 2005 as 2004. We would be setting precedent which club may not be able to continue. Decision regarding MVT paying full or partial cost would be made at time of an event based on status of treasury. Motion moved and passed[2 negative votes] for MVT to pay cost for holiday soiree.

REVIEW MARQUE AND/OR WEBSITE FOR PARTICULARS ON EVENTS:

50/50 Raffle winner Jay Kolb

Next meeting DECEMBER 10 at Patterson Homestead
REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGE!!!!!!!

Next Regular Meeting January 4th at Fuddruckers. Have a Happy New TR story handy and please REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGE!!!!!!!

The Loveland Castle Tour – (Stan Seto)

Set for the end of October, it was almost a November event. The club stalwarts began gathering at the Seto household before 0830, as Forest Gwinn and Audrey showed up first in their Miata. Then Phil Daye and Carolyn (TR6) drove in following Ellis Ball, but no Lorna, in his TR7, and followed by Stan who had gone to the store to get milk and sundries and was just returning. And as Norma was putting the final touches on breakfast, the four Clough's arrived in an SUV, a concession to the sunny but brisk weather. Finally Scott Stout and Beverly and their son, Max, pulled up in their Mini-Cooper (late model).

Breakfast was two casseroles, one Egg and the other French Toast, and fix'ins like bacon and sausage, coffee, sweet rolls, etc. The crowd demolished it all.

Breakfast over, we marshaled the crowd on the front driveway for an introductory talk about the history and joys of brick collecting, given by our neighbor, Peggy French, retired Second grade school teacher and brick entrepreneur. Peggy is the journal editor of the International Brick Club Association, or IBCA for short, and she really knows her way around bricks, as the owner of about 2200 of them. These are not just any bricks, they have to be imprinted. Peggy then led the crowd across the street to her domicile and the paved walk made of bricks (what else??) She took us into her garage and gave a running commentary for the different stacks of bricks that adorn the walls. Bricks that shouldn't be out in the weather, bricks from certain geographic locales, bricks made in a certain location or between several specific dates. On we went to her back patio and the manhole cover, recovered at great personal risk and so heavy that where it

fell out of the truck there it has been for posterity.



Surrounding the manhole cover were yet more bricks, road pavers, glazed, curb corner bricks and the like.

Then we completed the tour along side her house, gazing at the racks she had built and which housed more bricks, like eggs in a carton. Too soon it was over and we thanked her for the tour and ambled back to the cars, as now it was time to drive.

A brief driver's meeting to explain to everyone the route to the castle and we saddled up and were gone.

Some ten minutes later, we were corkscrewing down Maple Avenue to the Little Miami River and Chateau LeRoche, the Loveland Castle. Started by Harry Andrews in the 1920's, the castle contains architectural elements of castles built in England, France, Spain and Germany. Harry was a school trained architect, served in WW I, toured Europe extensively and, after losing the one woman he loved, lived in near isolation the rest of his life, devoting his effort to building the castle.



Harry also taught Sunday school in a local church. Eventually, as they grew older, his students began helping him, and Harry founded "The Knights of the Golden Trail", (KGT), charging the young members with the requirements to live an up-right and virtuous life, look for Good Deeds to do for their neighbors and for any strangers they encountered in their young lives. It is this group of now older men who maintain Harry's dream Chateau. The Castle has a dungeon, ramparts, a secret room accessible from the gardens to the left of the castle (Harry grew a lot of what he ate.) and a wing, completed by his students in the past ten years.

Eventually the club members had seen as much as they needed to see.



We decamped to the Loveland Historical Museum, about a mile away and on the river, further to the south.

The museum did not open until 1:00 PM, and the plan was to walk over into Old Loveland and antique store browse until one. As fate would have it, as we pulled into the parking lot, Nancy Garfinkel, current President of the Historic Society, was just coming out of the building. Not only that, she was a former TR4 owner in her younger life. The cars wowed her. She said, "Come on in!" For the next hour or so, she acted as our tour guide for the museum, the log cabin and herb garden at the front of the property and the photography displays on the second floor. Photos taken by a prominent Loveland lady at the turn of the century, who did a ton of portrait work and was much in demand, Nancy Ford Cones

Finally it was time to head for the restaurant, in Mount Adams, Porkopolis, which used to be the Rookwood Pottery. We left by way of River Road, winding along the Little Miami for several miles, and coming on to more traveled roads near I-275, from whence to I-71 south at a modestly higher rate of speed, and so to downtown Cincinnati, but curving east into the hills of Mount Adams. The restaurant was just over the lunch crowd, so we had no trouble getting seated. The service was a tad slow, but the menu had lots of good stuff on it and it was well prepared. As it turns out there are no nearby shopping malls, contrary to what I thought I had been told, so after lunch the group dispersed on their separate ways, and I meandered back to home, and Norma and her Mom recently (that morning) out of the hospital from a stent operation that was successful.

This had been one of the smaller tours run this year, a product of Norma's- fertile mind and her initial foray into tour planning. The thread running through what we did was the bricks. Peggy's collection, construction of the Castle and finally the restaurant tied it all together. I think all who came were fairly entertained and we had such a great day weather-wise, it would have been tough to complain.

As I got near home, I realized the brake pedal was feeling a little spongy. As I pulled into the garage, the pedal went to the floor, accompanied by a hiss of steam from under the hood. Luckily I was not moving very fast and a yank on the parking brake brought things to a halt. Well, now I've got another little chore before the snows of winter fly....

Hot Web Sites of the Month !

A jaunt into Canada in search of Spitfires.

Canadianflight.org	Canadian Museum of Flight
Warplane.com	Canadian Warplane Museum
Warmuseum.ca	Canadian War Museum
Virtualmuseum.ca	
Oshawa.ca/tourism/can_mus.asp	Automotive Museum (no Triumphs)
Museums.ca	Canadian Museum Links

Anyone have a favorite web spot? If so, send the address to the newsletter editor!



Triumph Register of America 2006 National Meeting Update

Well, it's almost December and plans for TRA 2006 are running full bore. Hopefully you already know the 2006 TRA National Meeting is going to be held 14-18 June 2006 at Burr Oak State Park – just north of Athens – a short drive from anywhere in Ohio. As National Meeting Coordinator I've wanted to try a few things to make this meet a bit different, and working with others on the TRA National Committee I think we have:

- First – no on-site registration. Radical? Maybe, but we want to ensure that the folks who normally sweat getting registrations together and manning a room in the hotel actually can participate in the meet. We're going to do this by only accepting registrations mailed to us and mailing back the registration package. Stan Seto, the registration guru for the meet, told me that at most the registration room might be the trunk of his TR3!
- Second – we'll be driving. We've decided to concentrate the meet on driving the cars, not on stationary events at the hotel (lodge). At least a tour per day, along with driving to other events such as early morning runs, will ensure carbon build-ups are kept to a bare minimum. We added a tour to kick this off on Wednesday and a tour to close it out on Sunday. Remember – art hangs on wall, cars are for driving.
- Third, the registration cost includes everything except the banquet. Simplifies calculations on our end, and we're notoriously lazy...
- Fourth, no shirts. Who wants shirts? We're giving the Triumph gift that keeps giving – beer mugs, and you get them with your registration – one per adult registered. Yes, you can buy extra to stock your basement bar...
- Fifth, family registration. We want to encourage folks to bring the family, so registrations are by the family, not per person or per car. Bring the kids, Aunt Bertha, or Uncle Mort. All we ask is that they like driving...
- Sixth – car show is back on Friday. We feel that having the car show on Friday will allow folks to feel like they can drive their car more since they aren't "saving it". Yes, it will cut down on folks who want to stop out and look at cars on Saturday, but the meet is really for the folks attending over the meet days, not for the one day lookers anyway – oh boy, I'll probably get grief for that one!
- Seventh – secluded location. Okay, Burr Oak isn't that secluded, not like somewhere in the middle of Australia, but it's out of the way, and folks at the meeting can concentrate why they are there, a fondness for early Triumph TRs. We will not have to fight with hundreds or thousands of folks there for some other reason.
- Eighth – We've told TRF to bring their TRs, not their TR stuff. About time to give these guys a rest and have them with us on drives & events, not manning displays in the registration room (since there will be no registration room this was an easy call!)

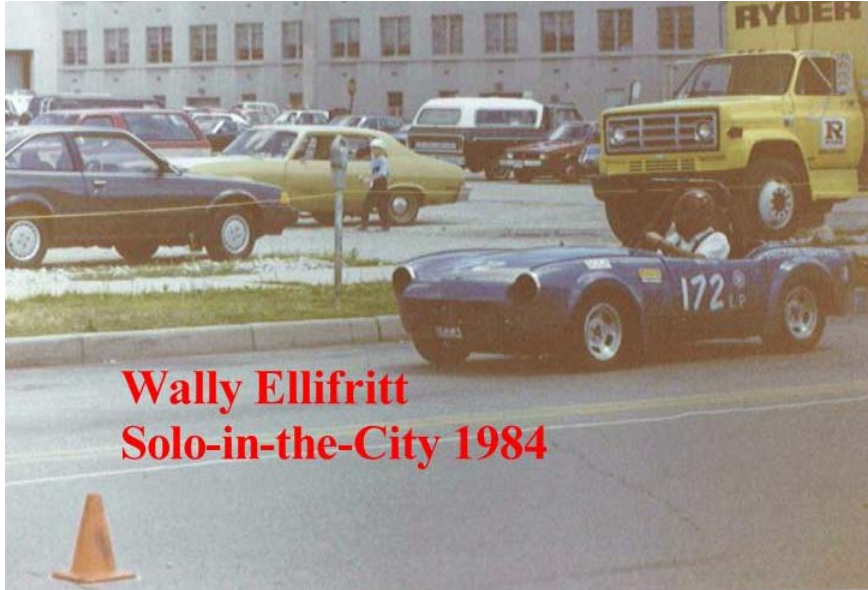
Oh, if you'd like to help me help others have a wonderful time give me a call at 937-376-9946, or email at clough@erinet.com. We could use a bit of help planning tours and making sure we have cups at the beer keg. Our goal is to have an uncomplicated meet where the staff enjoys it as much as the "normal" attendee! Oh well, that's about it. We should have registration brochures together in the next week, and we'll get those out to the clubs. Happy Holidays to you and yours - Bruce Clough

Holiday Soiree !!

The annual holiday soiree is to be held at the same grand location as last year. The date is December the 10th . The place is the Patterson Homestead at 1815 Brown St. Social activities will commence at 1800 hours with dinner being served at 1830. Those desiring to attend must rsvp the club secretary by the 5th of December. Rumors of crafted brown paper bags are entirely believable. An attempt to shift them will likely follow dinner. Come and put a holiday capstone on the year.



Final Lap



It is with sadness that we record the passing of a dear friend, fellow Spitfire owner, racer and all around great guy. I received E-mail on November 13th that Wally Ellifritt had passed from complications of his cancer following a recent fall. I called him uncle Wally and had known him since my SCCA autocross days in the early 80's. Wally and friends Mike & Debbie Sonderman were the Triumph contingent sharing race duties in the pretty blue Spitfire you see pictured above. Wally's skills at racing are well documented. In humbled lore I remember my favorite Wally story had to do with steamed up glasses, a full face helmet, gray matter in the view becoming green suddenly and a slippery feeling. If I had an off with a "sports 2", I would have dramatized it more seriously. This occurred at speed up at Elkhart Lake if memory serves me correctly. Wally grinned at the memory and casually accounted for it as smoke lazily curled up from his ever present pipe.

Wally was a club supporter as well. While fussing with a TR6 transmission fit, it was Wally who came to my aid as a good

club member should. The cross shaft of my clutch throw out shaft had rotated such that the slave cylinder rod was mysteriously too short!. Wally provided a spare adjustable rod and listened to my fuming patiently. Yes, still grinning and chewing that pipe end. His folded arms are etched into my memory as a portrait of a patient man willing to serve a fellow Triumph owner.

Wally's generosity was unique. I asked him if I could borrow his racer trailer to fetch my Cobra kit car from its storage place. When he saw the extra effort I was about to expend making my vehicle match the task, he said "hey why don't you just borrow my whole rig?" I made sure that I filled that tank all the way up. I don't think I could be that generous. He said the church crowd borrowed all the time.

When the club gathers this year, a certain teddy bear and its owner will be missed. I think Wally would tell us all to get out there and have some fun while its possible. We can stand around a tell stories later. I could tell as soon as we met. His card professed mechanical abilities but also included "parties arranged and orgies organized". He hands me the card and watches with delight as I read it, right? He always placed high value on adventure. So do I Wally. I am better for haven known you. So do I.

Wally has donated his body. There was no funeral. There is plan for a celebration of his life in the spring.



