



The Marque

"All the news that's fit to soak up oil"

December 2022



Just a public service announcement as we head into the holiday season

Dec MVT Events:

- 3 - Soiree
- 18 - Ugly Sweater Gathering

In This Marque

- WTH is a Brown Bag, and why should I care?
- MVT gets Mossed

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. We also don't vouch for spelling or grammar – the editor is an engineer...

Technical advice given within is the opinion of the writer and should not be construed as professional advice nor relied upon. They are not official advice of Miami Valley Triumphs, MVT officers, or MVT members. As with all maintenance and repairs the reader should do their homework and get multiple opinions.

MVT Club Info



Miami Valley Triumphs is a non-profit club founded to preserve and enjoy Triumph and Standard automobiles. You do not have to own a Triumph or Standard to be in the club, just be interested in the preservation of the marque. For more info on joining the club and dues please contact the MVT Membership Chair (contact info below).

President: John Coutant,
john.coutant@gmail.com

Vice President: Chuck White,
triumph.driver@gmail.com

Secretary: Clyde Collins,
cyaclyde@outlook.com

Treasurer: Harry Mague, 937- 426-3802

Membership: Valerie Relue,
veleigh607p@gmail.com

Webmaster: John Coutant,
john.coutant@gmail.com

Events & Newsletter Editor: Bruce Clough,
937-376-9946, portabezi@hotmail.com

Club Address – MVT, P.O. Box 144, Bellbrook, OH 45305.

Club Website:
<https://www.miamivalleytriumphs.org/>

We are also on **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1654893204751113/> - this is a closed group so you will need to request joining.

Please send comments/suggestions to: miamivalleytriumphs@gmail.com or to the PO Box.

Cutoff date for next month's Marque is the 25th of the month or when the editor screams...

National Affiliations:

Vintage Triumph Register



MVT is proudly a Chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register, the link to their comprehensive website is: <http://vintagetriumphregister.org/>.

The Vintage Triumph Register (VTR) is a North American Triumph car club of nearly 3000 Triumph owners and enthusiasts supporting and showcasing all models of Triumphs. Their award-winning VTR web site has been assembled through the co-operative efforts of many VTR members and make the VTR site a current and accurate resource for Triumph enthusiasts worldwide. VTR publishes a bi-monthly magazine, The Vintage Triumph, which is filled with valuable historical and technical articles and industry news. In addition to the magazine, membership in VTR also includes:

- Access to VTR's staff of volunteer vehicle consultants
- Various VTR Triumph car club regalia
- Low-cost collector car liability insurance to members at costs far below regular insurance rates
- An annual convention, hosted each year by one of VTR's many local chapters.

If you are interested in becoming a member (you don't have to own a Triumph to join), please head to this website for complete information:

<https://vintage-triumph-register.org/whatisvtr/>

Triumph Register of America



MVT is a Center of the Triumph Register of America, website: <http://triumphregister.com/>.

TRA was established to aid TR2, 3, 3A, 3B, 4, and 4A owners in the preservation, maintenance and enjoyment of their classic sports cars and is focused on growing local groups of TR2, 3, 3A, 3B, 4, and 4A owners. We believe that local used parts supply networks and local activities such as technical workshops or rallies provide the binding glue for our National organization. TRA is firmly a grassroots organization, which offers many advantages and services for individual members, groups, and local centers.

In addition to VTR and TRA, MVT members are also part of other model-specific clubs such as:

6-Pack (TR6/TR-250) <http://www.6-pack.org/j15/>

Triumph Wedge Owners Association for TR7 and TR8 owners: <https://triumphwedgeowners.org/>.

We actively participate in activities of these clubs and their endeavors to preserve the marque.

MVT Monthly Meeting



MVT Monthly Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at **Archers Tavern Kettering**, 2030 E Dorothy Ln, Kettering, OH 45420, (937) 291-1015. We are in the meeting room off the bar at the front of the tavern. We have dinner and socializing at 6:30PM and the president usually ruins our fun by starting a meeting at 7:30PM.

<http://archerstavern.com/archerstavern/>

Officer's Reports

President's Report



Holidays and Time to Reflect

John Coutant

Next month is January and time to look forward but before then is December and time to relax, look back at the past year, and enjoy friends and family. I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and weekend, ate too much, and had a chance to recharge their internal batteries.

Our next event of the year is the Holiday Soirée on Saturday evening, December 3rd. I hope everyone has put on their elf hat and finished their brown bag for the Holiday Brown Bag Exchange. This period is also when we are accepting nominations for officers and for MVT yearly club awards. Nominations are open starting with the December meeting at the Soiree and remain open until the end of the February meeting. Voting concludes at the March meeting. Officer positions for the 2-year period of 2023-2025 include Vice-President, Membership, and Events. Elections for the remaining three offices are in the odd years to provide an overlap. The four club awards are: Keep it on the Road, Most Improved, Press on Regardless, and Marque of Distinction. You can check the descriptions for these awards later here in the Marque and on the Members page of the web.

In regards to the short business meeting, we do have one item on the agenda in regards to incorporation of the club. This has been an item of discussion on and off for many years, first brought up by Mark Macy several years ago. So why has the topic reappeared at this time. Unfortunately, the time we live in has become more and more litigious raising the odds that MVT and/or its members could be impacted. Remember that besides club activities involving just MVT members, we also put on large events like TRA 2023 and Dayton British Car Day which has 250+ participants and probably twice that number of spectators.

What about insurance? Yes, we have insurance through VTR which covers the club. However recently the people who have put together the insurance program in VTR have really pushing incorporation to protect the club and members. Without incorporation, someone suing MVT could also sue members and officers looking for any deep pockets they could find. By incorporating the club as a legal non-profit entity, it protects the officers and members.

The MVT board has discussed this via email and Harry Mague has started the process for incorporation. There will be a short discussion

and vote to allocate the funds (\$100) necessary for application.

Not to harp on it much but TRA 2023 registration is open...

<https://www.miamivalleytriumphs.org/tra-2023>

...and as we keep saying, a large number of rooms have already been booked for TRA 2023. A word of advice, if you are planning to stay overnight at the Hueston Woods Lodge, make your reservations soon because rooms can get scarce in the area in June with Miami University activities. Check out the lodging information at:

<https://www.miamivalleytriumphs.org/tra2023-lodging>

Back to decorating the brown bag for the Holiday Soirée and stuffing one more goody in to it. See you all there!

Vice President's Report

Merry Christmas to all!

If you'll be indulging in libations over the holidays, please drink responsibly. We want to see you again in January (and Valerie doesn't want you to impact her statistics)!

Chuck White

Marque Editor's Report



Not much to type or hype about - thanks to all who submitted articles, but there is always room for many more - I'm sure you can do it!

BTW - if I don't see you at the Soiree or the Ugly Sweater Gathering - hope you have a festive holiday season filled with lots of plusses, and very little minuses!

Thank you for the articles you have sent my way over 2022, thanks for another great MVT year!

Bruce

Treasurer's Report



As of 1 November 2022, the club account had a balance of \$2991.42. For the month of November, the club's income was from 50/50 for \$14.00, memberships for \$30.00, and for memorabilia \$28.00. We also received the final payout for BCD 2022 for \$1000.00. Total income for November was \$1072.00. For the month of November, the club had the following expenses: \$150.00 for a deposit for Franco's Restaurant, \$5.00 for a membership refund, \$31.98 for 6 months of web hosting, and \$10.00 for name tags. Total expenses for November is: \$196.98. As of 1 December 2022, the club's account balance is \$3866.44. Respectfully submitted,

Harry Mague

Membership Chair Report

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Valerie Relue

Events Chair Report



November was weird. Summer followed by winter with Fall coming in about Thanksgiving time. Guy Fawkes was rainy, so we did it indoors, last FlashWineMob was pushed out a week, and we had a couple of decent tech sessions. Not sure how much we accomplished at those - I think we more pointed out things to be done further, rather than really fixed anything. Oh well, I suppose that is success in a way...

Just a reminder - the Holiday Soiree is coming up this month - the evening of the 3rd. That is a chance for us to get together, eat, drink, and inflict pain on others via the **Brown Bag Auction (BBA)**. I put this in last month's Marque, but I feel the need to repeat...

BBA

The BBA started years ago as a way of having fun - we put old Triumph parts and other things we didn't want into a brown bag, stapled it shut, and actioned it off to the highest bidder as a way of both having some fun, and helping the club's treasury.

Years later we are still at it, although things have changed a little. The bag are fancier and have a lot of decorations, the stuff inside is less dirty old parts and more "junk lying around the house that we don't want, but don't want to throw out". Ask Harry what he got last year. It made him blush. A favorite is taking the stuff we got in the BBA last year and rebagging it (aka - playing it forward), Harry plans on making others blush.

So, what should you put in a bag? Essentially anything you want to get rid of that will cause others to laugh when someone gets it. Triumph parts? Sure, as long as they are not all greasy and grimy, but better would be a Tom Jones 8-Track tape, some Ex-Lax (or maybe Metamucil), or better yet - a one-size-fits-all adult onesie, or a snow-globe of a place you have been to, but now want to forget. Use your imagination - there you go! You have to have stuff around your place you got, but don't know why, and feel guilty throwing it out - these are the perfect brown-bag contents. Keep the weight down please so the bags won't break and nothing falls on the auctioneer's feet. It should be interesting to see what we get in the bags!

We encourage bag decoration. Nothing like putting all those 1987 S10 fuel filters in a Victoria Secret bag adorned with ribbons and bows! Let your creative juices flow.

You will notice some "fish" (not to be confused with "Phish") stuff showing up. This is a tradition started by late MVT member Jim Quillen who used to make a wood whale each year with plastic fibers stuck into its head to spot water just to put in a brown bag for the auction. That fish-thing continues to this day, so do not be surprised.

As far as the number of bags, **please only bring one bag per the number in your party** - so if two of you are coming, two bags. We also have a

tradition of ensuring new club members get a bag, so if something gets sold quick, well, there you go.

Oh, the rules?

One - Bids are on dollar increments

Two - What the auctioneer says, goes.

Three - The auctioneer is always right

Four - See rule Three.

We actually found a few Triumph parts to put in the BBA this year, so beware!

I added another December Event - the MVT Ugly Sweater Meeting @ Caesar's Creek Winery on the 18th. Why not, they are going to be open until that day, so what a great send-off to 2022! Wear that ugly that you will not be seen in public with, but keep because a relative gave it to you.

We are also going to have a MVT 2023 Calendar planning meeting in early January - usually we have it the day before the Jan Meeting, but that might be a bit tough given my schedule, so we are probably going to gather ideas at the January meeting with a Zoom meeting on the 11th. As usual, I'd like to inspire MVT members to host events - not that hard and we can give you help - just ask.

In other Event's News - TRA is coming along fine, and we have also secured hotel rooms for VTR in September. If you are interested in either give me a scream - see you on the 3rd -

Bruce Clough

MVT Events Calendar

Past

November 2022

2 - MVT Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 7:28 by VP J Coutant. 19 members in attendance.

Opening Remarks

John Coutant: Reported that wife Betsy is improving nicely and he is glad to be back in person. A toast to this progress was had.

Request for Changes / Additions to Agenda

None

Introduction of Guests/New Members

None

Officer Reports:

President: House painting interferes with Triumph time

Vice President: Congratulates improvements at Coutant's and glad he is back

Treasurer: \$2991.42 in account, we don't have totals from BCD yet but can cover for TRA 2023 for now. John Coutant added that the Cincinnati Triumph Club has recent \$\$ issues and we should stay vigilant for expenses that drain the treasury.

Secretary: present for a change and requested past minutes by Patti Clifford (and 2nded by Patti) for October and September be approved. Vote was yes. Much thanks to Patti for filling in.

Membership: We now have 58 members. Charles Bunnell dropped.

Events:

October:

- 9 - Flash mob at Caesars Creek Winery
- 16 - TRA 23 meeting in Waynesville Village Restaurant
- 22 - Fall Foliage Tour to Ripley - lots of Buzzards at the ending point - Spillway Restaurant at Cowen Lake

November:

- 5 - Guy Fawkes at Clough's. Might be windy, if so will be indoor event.

- 12 Tech session at Rutledge's for electric.
- 13 Last FlashWineMod at Caesars Creek Winery
- 21 TRA meeting via Zoom
- TBA Tech session at Jeff John's TR 3
- TBA Tech session at Coutant's in Spring

December

- 3 - Holiday Soiree at Bergamo. See Patti or Alice about food/Valerie Relue for attendance. Start filling brown bags for auction. Alice and Patti will take care of cooking the turkey and ham. They will also get the soda and ice tea, club members continue to supply the side dishes. We have no regular monthly meeting in December; however we have a short member's meeting after dinner.

Standing Committee Reports

Technical: Bruce Clough: No fuel pump in USA fits his TR7.

Marque: Bruce Clough seeking articles.

Spare Parts: Roy Owens has parts for sale.

Website: John Coutant request old pictures for future issues.

Memorabilia: Harry Mague: Call him for lots of good items.

Event Committee Reports:

BCD: Stan Seto waiting on BCD \$

TRA 2023: Bruce Clough reported to see TRA minutes for complete details.

Old Business

None

New Business

Chris White checking on Francos for March 4 dinner.

Mark Shaner spoke of old paper filter dangers

50-50 Raffle

\$14 to John Clifford

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Clyde Collins



5 - Guy Fawkes Burning

Bruce Clough

Rain and wind do not a great bonfire make, so we moved the grilling of Guy indoors. Thanks to all who showed up to make fun of Guy, eat food, sip Malört, and talk shop. A few pics:



Prior to the party we stopped by Caesar's Creek Winery for some wine, crackers, and chatting - weather was warm with rain near, but a great time on the patio



Alice prepares something that had a "toad" name. It is traditional, and it was delicious! Chris is impressed, and Bruce is reaching for the chips...



Burn, baby, burn!

12 - Not-the-Last Tech Session

Bruce Clough

Twas the day that winter arrived. From snow flurries to driving snow squalls, glad we were in Roger and Carol's garage!



One of the victims Roger had arranged for us

Roger had a list of things to do this day, from figuring out why his horn wouldn't work, to fixing brakes, to fixing trunk latches - we got at them all, and fix a few of them, or at least let him know what needed to be done. Thanks for all who turned out to eat donuts, offer advice, and wrench on the cars (we looked at the TR3B for a quick minute).

19 - The Last Tech Session

Bruce Clough

Okay, this was the last tech session. Jeff Johns needed help getting his TR3A running, so on a crisp, clear 19th of November we headed to a barn between Bellbrook and Waynesville. Donuts and coffee awaited us, along with a recalcitrant TR. We tried everything to get a spark, but failed. The points were good, the coil was good, wires good rotor good, the timing was correct, voltages correct, and every wire connected - but no steady spark - just a couple of random sparkings, that's it. We all were stumped, but then on a hunch, I tested the continuity through the distributor cap and discovered that the cap Moss sold Jeff had a solid plastic center connector to the rotor, rather than a conducting graphite rod. Those \$#@@!*(%)@!+ - sold him a piece of

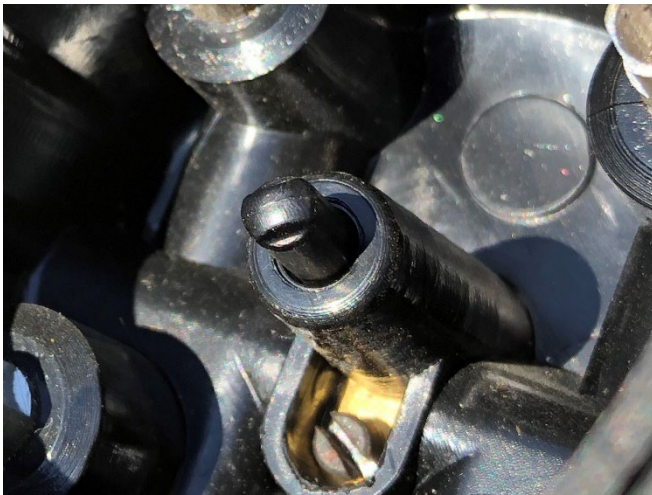
#*%)(@\$@). Okay - found the issue, but now we hit a stop since we didn't have another cap to use. Some pictures:



Bruce consults the Book of Electrics, Chapter Ignition, Verses "why the heck doesn't this work?". Jeff wonders about animal sacrifices, and Chuck wonders if anyone will see him grab another donut.



Roger and Chris wonder if quantum tunneling might be to blame for the lack of spark



The issue was this guy in the middle - a plastic piece where a graphite rod should be. Fraud, nothing buy fraud - someone made a conscience decision to put that there....

20 - Last Wine Flashmob

Bruce Clough

Okay - maybe. More on that later. The day was sunny, but cold, a high of maybe 30F. Alice and I jumped in Old Paint to test out the new wheels and headed to Caesars Creek Winery by the back roads.

Once at CCW we joined more MVT'ers in a crowded tasting room (they really need to store those bottles somewhere else) with lots of food, wine, and conversation. Several hours later we departed as the sun was going down. What a great time! Hey, we have a few pics:



Some of the sumptuous spread that we feasted on



Yummy Reds...



Dead soldiers



Clear blue sky as we departed - great day for a drive, and for sunglasses!

This was going to be the last visit to CCW this year, but with a chat with the vintner we found out that they are not closing for winter until the Christmas weekend, so there will be time for one more visit!

21 - TRA 2023 Team Meeting

Bruce Clough



We had a great Zoom meeting, or about as an exciting Zoom meeting as you can have on Zoom. We went through a lot of things, and actually generated more action items than we closed, and that is a good thing. When the minutes are finalized they will be sent out to MVT.

Future

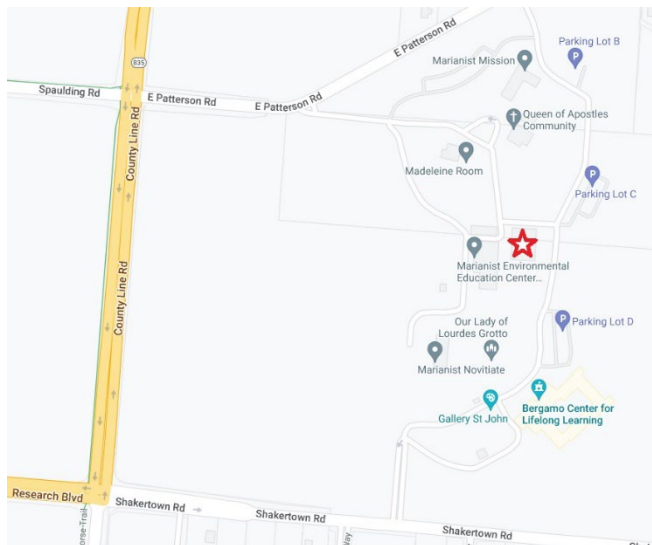
December 2022

3 - Holiday Soiree and December MVT Business Meeting

Will be held in the Queen of Apostles meeting hall at Bergamo. Normally we have appetizers at 6:30PM, dinner at 7PM, and the Brown Bag Auction right afterwards.

To get there, or at least how we get there, is to get on Shakertown Road (we are coming from the east, if you are coming from the west you would be on Research Blvd). Just east of the intersection of Research and Country Line Road - the point where Research becomes Shakertown, there is an entrance to Bergamo on the north side

of the road. Turn in there, drive past the Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning and take the next left downhill, then take a left at the "T". Queen of Apostles will be in the building on your left, and you should see the cars parked in front the building. Here is a map you probably can't read - we will be at the red star:



Lois and Don are stepping down from organizing the soiree this year, but thanks to the others are stepping up to help. We have the Bergamo Center has been reserved. Alice and Patti are getting the meat, soda, and ice tea. Valerie has been getting the head count. MVT Meeting it was decided to have the club pay for the turkey and ham and club members continue to supply the side dishes.

The highlight of the night is the Brown Bag Auction (BBA). I wrote about this a bit in the Events Chair Remarks section above if anyone needs to know what to bring in their Brown Bag.

Cut-off for registering was November 26th, so if you are reading this and want to go, well, um, maybe next year. There is always the Ugly Sweater Gathering on the 18th!

Before the BBA and after dinner we will have a short business meeting. Here is the agenda:

Opening Remarks and Welcome – **John**

Introduction of Guests/New Members – **John/Guests**

Officers Reports

- President – **John**
- Vice-President – **Chuck**
- Treasurer – **Harry**
- Secretary – **Clyde**
 - Approval of November's Minutes as published in the Marque
- Membership Chair – **Valerie**
- Events Chair – **Bruce**

Old Business

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New Business

- Discussion on incorporation and approval of funds for application
- Nominations - offices of Vice-President, Membership, and Events
- Nominations - MVT Awards - Keep it on the Road, Most Improved, Press on Regardless, and Marque of Distinction.

Adjourn to Brown Bag Auction



18 - MVT Ugly Sweater Gathering

This is the last day Caesars Creek Winery is going to be open in 2022 - not opening again to the public until March 2023 - so, what better way to ring-out 2023 than by meeting for wine, food, and ugly holiday sweaters?

Wear your best ugly sweater and show up @ 2PM. Bring some food to share - they'll provide

the wine (albeit at a reasonable cost). We will toast to the season, toast to bad taste, and toast to good wine! If the weather is decent (no snow) I think there might even be a few Triumphs show up...

January 2023



4 - MVT Monthly Meeting

The meeting will be held at Archers Tavern Kettering, 2030 E Dorothy Ln, Kettering, OH 45420, (937) 291-1015. We are in the meeting room off the bar at the front of the tavern. We have dinner and socializing at 6:30PM and the president usually ruins our fun by starting a meeting at 7:30PM.

<http://archerstavern.com/archerstavern/>

11 - 2023 MVT Draft Calendar Drafting Meeting

This will be a Zoom meeting to draft a draft event's calendar for 2023 that we can present at the February. Bring your ideas, but also bring yourself - what I mean by that is volunteer to put events together, to host them. It will be at 8PM, so

get your Hot Toddies ready, and put on a pair of warm slippers! I will send the link out to members via a separate email.

March 2023

4 - MVT Awards Dinner

6:30pm gather, 7pm dinner, Franco's Restaurant Italian - 824 E Fifth Street, Dayton

TRA 2023

Bruce Clough - TRA 2023 Chair



First of all, there will not be a December meeting, Zoom or in person. We will pick the meetings back up in January with an in-person meeting on the northern side of Dayton.

Second of all, we had a great Zoom meeting on November 21st - the minutes have been distributed to MVT.

Third - Lodge is just a few rooms shy of full (some nights they have 9 total). We have blocked all the rooms we can, so if you have not got your room, please do.

On-Line registration is up and running, registrations are coming in. If you have not registered yet, why not? The on-line registration at <https://www.miamivalleytriumphs.org/tra-2023> is really easy to do.

We are always looking for volunteers to help.

Events schedule has been scrubbed and updated.

Recapping:

- I repeat - if you have not got your rooms at the Hueston Woods Lodge for this, and you want to, then just do it. We are literally down to a handful of rooms each night.
- On-line registration is open and easy to do. Heck, Harry and I have done it, so you can also!

You can get information on how to do both of the above at the TRA 2023 Website that is curated by our crack webmaster John at:

<https://www.miamivalleytriumphs.org/tra-2023>

Bruce

Technical Talk

Edited by Bruce Clough



Tool size does matter

This month you get a few tech articles from me - Rim redo's and dash redo's - redo's all around. Oh, more fun with Moss parts too! In fact, the mess we ran into helping Jeff John with his TR3A

ignition system has me going back and putting an original system on The Grey Ghost just to fart around with it a bit. Got a bunch of old DM4 distributors from Roy Owens as well as ordered a new DM4 (deep discount - we will see how bad this is) from British Parts Northwest.

Speaking of The Grey Ghost - I have sent off a pair of CD-175s to Classic Restorations in Warren, OH to have them reshafted. The CD-175s on the car now were reshafted from a shop that ended up giving me the shaft - never been happy with them. I am going to put the carbs Classic Restorations will rebuild (have had several glowing recommendations for them from folks I trust) on The Grey Ghost, then send off the carbs on it back to Classic Restorations to reshaft. I also plan on putting the HS6's from then engine that Mike McKitirck restored a while back on Old Paint - Musical Carbs, a great game!

Alloys for Old Paint

Bruce Clough

I am a fan of alloy wheels versus steel wheels, especially for Wedges. Wedges have a knack for front end vibration at 55-60mph if things are exactly right. Old Paint has that vibration, not bad, but you can still notice it. Inca had it real bad until I put on TR8 alloys and ran the tires at recommended tire pressure (24 psi - I don't like it, but it works). Nice, straight alloys are the next thing I'm going to put on Old Paint to replace those steel wheels to see if that will get rid of all the vibration. .

Ted Schumacher had a set of decent, straight alloys and lug nuts. I gave those to a shop in Kettering to clean and then shot them with gold wheel paint to match the gold lettering and striping on Old Paint. Turned out real well:



Cleaned and painted wheels ready to put on.

I then ordered some new center caps from Rimmer Bros, cleaned and painted the lug nuts, and had Jamie's Tire in Xenia do the tire swap.

So far the result is great - the wheels match the rest of the car, and the vibration is gone! Now to get back on the exhaust later this winter.



Wedge's new shoes

Time to play with the dash again on The Grey Ghost

Bruce Clough

It's been a few years since I've messed with the dash on The Grey Ghost - time to mess with it again!

Actually, it's been long overdue. In my minimalist, engineer way, the last dash appealed to my psyche - keep it simple, keep it modular, keep it easy to work on. That it was, but the aesthetics didn't fit the rest of the car, and you did have to look at the wiring - very functional, but maybe looking like the inside of a submarine isn't the best look?



The Grey Ghost dash as it was

I decided to put a TR3 dash back in it, but without the large speedo and tach holes and get rid of the glove box. Everything will reside in the center dash cluster. I would use the gauges I have, add the LED indicator lights I need, and use original switches again in the original switch holes. While I was at it I was going to put on the better steering I got at Joe Richard's Estate auction and replace the control head stator tube with one originally made for non-adjustable steering wheels.

Since the switches, lights, and gauges are on separate harnesses that connect to the main harness the process is conceptually simple.

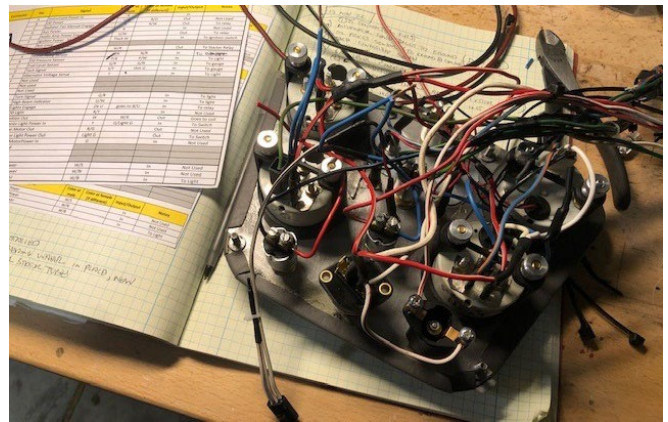
1. Take out the switches, lights, and gauges.
2. Modify and recover a stock dash.
3. Modify a stock center dash cluster to accept the controls and gauges
4. Put all that in.
5. Restore and put on the new steering wheel and stator tube

Of course, we know that nothing is simple. The switches, lights, and gauges came out simple enough. Modifying the dash was a bit harder - flush-riveting in panels to cover holes, putting padding over the recessed panels, covering with vinyl, then being depressed by wrinkles that showed up later. Oh well...

I covered the main part of the dash with the same vinyl that was used for the cockpit surrounds and seats - thought I had the wrinkles out, even used a bit of heat, but after it sat a while a few came back. The center part was covered with the darker grey vinyl used on the seat trim - wanted to get

the look of the darker dash the later TR3's had, but still use vinyl like the earlier ones did. I did have to modify the panel to hold the LED indicators - five of those versus the original two.

Wiring the new center dash took a while. Desoldering, cutting new wire, splicing into the existing connectors, mounting gauges and switches, checking circuits, mounting lights, protecting splices with heat-shrink tubing, and then documenting it all - all these are detail work that took a day to complete. Once complete though, it worked. Okay - after one issue that I will discuss separately below.



Some of the detail work - putting the gauge cluster together

The steering wheel clean-up was not as easy as I thought. I got into a little bidding war with a restoration shop at the auction since both of us understood how straight this wheel was without any major cracks, so I thought it would clean-up uber easy.

The wheel center was stripped and repainted - no issue there. The spokes are stainless and were polished - no issue there, but shining up the plastic rim, that was a chore - used a lot of cutting, rubbing, and polishing compound on it, but it still wasn't perfectly black after several rounds - some haze is still there, but it's polished smooth & shiny.

Stator tube replacement was straight forward. The control head had to come out anyway to replace the wheel. I had to cut off and re-shrink-wrap the wires, but in general, not hard. The stator tube that was on it had several questionable welds

done to make that originally adjustable wheel tube fit a non-adjustable wheel. The biggest issue I had was getting wires out of the old tube and into the new one - some re-soldering and heat-shrinking required.

Getting it all back together I was pretty happy. TR3 looking-ish, but still had a rod flair. I might have to put a short shifter back on the trannie, or I will cut down that TR6 shifter a bit, so I don't schwack my hand into the dash. No more staring at the electrical system, and I can still get to the USB and 12V power ports hidden behind it.



New dash

So back on that issue with the center gauge cluster. It's actually a switch issue, and it's actually Moss Motors parts quality control. As I stated I bought new switches for the dash. The switches all came with new nuts and lock washers, but the lock were Grade 8 split locks, not the star washers one would expect. To tighten this down will break the aluminum and brass switch. What the what the? Somebody had to have seen this, and either didn't care, or didn't know (probably the later).



Moss switch, lock washer supplied on the right, the one I used on the left

And that wasn't the only issue with Moss switches - when I first tried to start the car after the new dash was in, the starter continued engagement after the engine started. After frantically turning it off, an inspection of the starter push switch (which, BTW, was supplied with a brass securing ring rather than chromed like original, ugh) showed a metal shaving inside was shorting. Had to be left over from manufacturing process since I wasn't doing anything like that. Cleaned out the switch and it worked as it should, still with brass rather than chrome showing, but working.

Coupling this with what I saw at Jeff John's tech session, I wonder about Moss, heck, I wonder about all suppliers, their trust of vendors, and the lack of inspection of the parts they are selling. If your customers are doing your QA, you have an issue...

More fun with wrenches...



Fixed it!

MVT Memorabilia

The Club has the following fantastic, wonderful memorabilia for sale. Show your colors in public, on your car or on you! Look at all we have:



MVT Enamel Car Badge - \$30.00



MVT Cloth Patch - \$12.00



MVT Pin - \$5.00



MVT Car Flag - \$5.00



MVT Window Sticker - \$1.00



MVT Magnetic Signs – these can be easily cut so they are round. They are 12"x12", 11" in diameter if cut round. - \$12



They look very spiffy on a TR7...

All the memorabilia is available at each Club meeting upon request. Please contact our MVT Memorabilia Manger, Harry Mague harrymague@aol.com

Classifieds

Classified ads are free to MVT members and run month to month. We do not endorse anything in here, nor do we get any compensation in fees or royalties. As with the rest of life "buyer beware".



Hardtop for Sale -Triumph TR6 Snugtop Custom Hardtop:

- Black -Built in Long Beach, California

- Factory Mint Condition inside and out, weather stripping, glass ,headliner etc.
- Ready to bolt on and go
- Hardware included -Price Negotiable

Also have the following: TR2-3B Hardtop ,Black original steel , no dents ,needs paint and headliner-\$300, TR3-3A rear seat and bracket ,black , good condition , 2 available -\$100 each, TR3-3B bare side curtain frames, Dzus mount-\$50 pr., Original Smiths Heater assembly complete TR2-3B ,2 available \$200 each o.b.o. Additional parts available - pls inquire.

ROBERT BENTLEY Triumph TR7 1975-81 Repair Operation Manual, Haynes TR7 1975-81 Repair Manual , Rare and detailed British Leyland Repair Operation Manual printed January 1977) Sold as a set of 3 -\$75

Inquire at tryanity@gmail.com .

Wanted - We are looking for a treadmill and thought we would ask here first. If anyone has one they were thinking parting with, let us know. Thank you - Jeff Barth