

News from the Texas Triumph Register July 2022

Special Supplementary Edition

# THE BLUEBONNET

Triumph Tour 2022 - Arizona

May 7 - 20, 2022

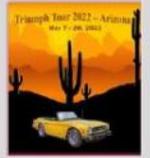


Tour Chronicle



# Triumph Tour 2022 – Arizona

## Tour Roster



Dave Smith (FOG #33) & Tyler Smith



Stan Seto (FOG #18)



Mike Hado (FOG #36)



John Reynolds (FOG #39)



Karl Rettenmaier (FOG #50)



John Barrett (FOG #52)



Franz Bachmann (FOG #55)



Hal Sharp (Rookie)



James Jones (Rookie)

### Background

Each year since 2011 TTR Member Dave Smith has organized an extended driving tour open to driving enthusiasts eager to explore the open road with their Triumphs. The tour participants are known as the "Texas FOGS", an unofficial subgroup of a broader nationally known organization called the FOGS (Funny Old Guys), with over fifty members from eight states. The Texas FOG Tours are normally two weeks in duration and cover between 3,000 and 5,000 miles, visiting automobile-related shops/museums, air museums, national parks, and scenic driving sports car roads. The trip is a test of endurance for the old cars and the drivers.

This year the Tour headed west to Arizona, and is chronicled in this special edition of the Bluebonnet.

Story - Dave Smith

Review - Mike Hado, Dave Smith

Photos - Dave Smith, Mike Hado

Editing / Layout - John Hanten

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Arizona

## Triumph Tour 2022 - Arizona

May 7 - 20, 2022

by

Dave Smith

### Tour Overview

The 2022 edition of the annual Texas FOGs Triumph tour ran from May 7 - 20<sup>th</sup> and headed west through portions of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. Our turn-around point was *Zion National Park* in southwestern Utah. The initial estimated total mileage for the planned route was 3,765 miles. The final mileage based on a Garmin GPS unit was closer to 3,900 miles. The line-up of participants and cars for this year was composed of ten participants in eight Triumphs and a Ford TRuck chase vehicle (see listing below). A couple changes to the grid of participants occurred early in the trip. Unfortunately, Karl Rettenmaier and his TR6 were unable to join us due to a family medical emergency. Franz Bachmann, who resides in Crestview, FL was originally planning to drive to Houston for the start of the tour, but due to a conflict with his son's graduation ceremony ended up joining us late on the evening of Day #3 at our hotel in Alamogordo, NM. This year roster included two FOG tour rookies. TTR member and club president, Hal Sharp, finally made it on one of our drives. This is the third tour Hal has signed-up for but due to unforeseen events, had to cancel out on the previous two tours. Our other newcomer is James Jones, who is a new TTR member, and since completing the tour is currently in considering purchasing a Triumph! James drove our chase vehicle this year and proved to be an invaluable member of our group. He assisted in keeping our covey of Triumphs together and on a few occasions chased after a stray Triumph who lost his way along the route. Having a chase vehicle along this year was a tremendous relief to me since I was able to move my son's and mine luggage plus spare parts into the back of the truck. This significantly reduced the weight on my TR6 rear end and by not having two large duffel bags strapped to my luggage rack allowed use of my rearview mirror.

### Triumph Tour 2022 - Arizona

#### Tour Participants

Tour Member	Car	Tour 2022 Status	Previous Tours
Dave Smith (FOG #33)	1971 TR6	Completed Tour	13
Tyler Smith		Completed Tour	8
Stan Seto (FOG #18)	1962 TR3B	Completed Tour	9
Mike Hado (FOG #36)	1966 TR4A	Completed Tour	9
John Reynolds (FOG #39)	1967 TR4A	Completed Tour	9
Karl Rettenmaier (FOG #50)	1974 TR6	Cancelled	4
John Barrett (FOG #52)	1963 Sport 6	Completed Tour	3
Franz Bachmann (FOG #55)	1959 TR3A	Completed Tour	5
Hal Sharp	1976 TR6	Completed Tour	Rookie
James Jones	2019 F150	Completed Tour	Rookie

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Kick Off Party

As of late, we have started our tours with a kick-off party. This year the party was held Friday evening, May 6th at the Smith house.



Trip leader, Dave Smith reviews the tour route

I which incorporates several overview documents including a hotel listing, attractions listing, fuel mileage log and daily road log diary. A complete set of the detailed daily route maps for the fourteen-day drive are included in Road Log Volume II and were provided in a digital format via an ftp site in April. Most participants prefer not to carry a thick binder full of the maps for the entire tour. The digital format allows for the driver to print only the pages he feels he needs during the drive (approximately 175 pages). Over the past several years a tour logo is designed for the tour t-shirts and road log covers (Figure 1). In addition, tour mascots are selected each year and included in the goody bags distributed during the kick-off party. For the 2022 drive our tour mascots were green rubber alien figures, which were appropriate since our itinerary included a visit to the *International UFO Museum* in Roswell, NM on Day #12.



Fred Wagner presents Dave Smith with a bottle of wine for the traditional tour turn-around point.



Figure 1 - Triumph Tour 2022 Logos



TR Tour 2022 mascots - little green rubber aliens from Roswell, NM.

The party is primarily a social function to have a fun kick-off to the tour. There is also a business side to the gathering which is to provide a brief overview of the planned tour route and distribute the road log materials and tour goody bags. The tour road log consists of two volumes: a hard-copy version of Volume

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Route and Itinerary

Route planning and tour itinerary relies on input and requests from the tour participants. The first decision in the planning is to decide which way to head out of Texas. We have headed east on several tours and have discovered there are certainly more automotive attractions to include in the itinerary in this direction. However, drives heading west encounter more open spaces with roads not as crowded and with several very scenic national parks to visit, the west presents a strong case. Our decision to head west this year was primarily based on the fact two members of the tour reside in Tucson, AZ and consequently, the tour itinerary centered on spending at least two or three nights in Tucson. Selection of actual routes always emphasize taking lesser roads that still allow us to visit the various attractions planned along the way. We also aim at arriving to our hotel stop before dark and in time for evening wine hour after hotel check-in to. This year we managed to arrive to our hotels well before dark every night and on a couple, occasions arrived as early as 3:00 PM. Our latest arrival was on Day #7, the drive from Tucson to Prescott, AZ (estimated 280 miles) which was due to needing to complete the repairs on the two TR4As back in Tucson at Karl's garage and resulting in an afternoon departure. Some planned routes in previous FOG tours included days with over four hundred miles, which can be certainly tiring. This year's tour itinerary included only two days having daily estimated miles over 350 miles (see Tour Itinerary table below).

## Triumph Tour 2022 - Arizona Tour Itinerary

Day	Date	From/To	Est. Miles
Day #1	Saturday, 5/7/22	Cypress, TX to Kerrville, TX	245
Day #2	Sunday, 5/8/22	Kerrville, TX to Pecos, TX	303
Day #3	Monday, 5/9/22	Pecos, TX to Alamogordo, NM	283
Day #4	Tuesday, 5/10/22	Alamogordo, NM to Eagar, AZ	<b>363</b>
Day #5	Wednesday, 5/11/22	Eagar, AZ to Tucson, AZ	228
Day #6	Thursday, 5/12/22	Tucson, AZ	150
Day #7	Friday, 5/13/22	Tucson, AZ to Prescott, AZ	280
Day #8	Saturday, 5/14/22	Prescott, AZ to Grand Canyon, AZ	128
Day #9	Sunday, 5/15/22	Grand Canyon, AZ to Springdale, UT	248
Day #10	Monday, 5/16/22	Springdale, UT to Kayenta, AZ	218
Day #11	Tuesday, 5/17/22	Kayenta, AZ to White Rock, NM	<b>373</b>
Day #12	Wednesday, 5/18/22	White Rock, NM to Roswell, NM	287
Day #13	Thursday, 5/19/22	Roswell, NM to San Angelo, TX	309
Day #14	Friday, 5/20/22	San Angelo, TX to Cypress, TX	350

Daily mileage over 350 miles highlighted in red

The general overall tour route is shown in the map on the following page (Figure 2). Scheduled evening hotel stops, and projected daily mileage are highlighted on the map.

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Route and Itinerary



Figure 2 - Tour Overview Map

The 2022 tour route and itinerary, although not as aggressive as some previous tours, still did not allow for very long visits at most of the planned venue stops (i.e., somewhat like the Chevy Chase Grand Canyon scene in the movie "Vacation"). We always try to incorporate visits to several interesting places like automotive related sites (museums, car collections and British repair/restoration shops), military museums and scenic places like national parks/monuments. The itinerary this year did not include the opportunity to visit many automotive related stops, but it did include visits to several scenic national parks and monuments. We also travelled on some very scenic roads which always makes these tours special. A summary of the places visited during the drive is given below in two sections: the first covering the drive from Cypress, TX to Tucson, AZ over Days 1 thru 6 and a second covering the drive from Tucson back to Cypress (Days 7 thru 14). As has always been the case on our drives, the numerous people we meet along the way makes the tours very memorable and special. This includes both the planned meetups with other Triumph/British Car club members, the staff at the many automotive related sites we visit, and the unplanned encounters with folks we meet during gas stops, lunch stops, and at

our hotel. We had several such encounters on the drive this year as will be mentioned in the next section.

Before discussing the highlights of the tour, it should be emphasized how important the preparation of our aging Triumphs before each tour is to the overall success and tour experience. Of course, even with thorough preparation, car issues always occur. We did have a few mechanical issues this year, but we encountered fewer breakdowns than any of the other recent tours. A short summary of the mechanical failures encountered this year is provided in *Tour Breakdowns* section that follows. In recognition of these unfortunate breakdowns, we traditionally present the driver with the "Rubber Chicken Award" during the evening wine hour. The driver will then carry the rubber chicken in his car until the next reportable chicken event (RCE) occurs. The first breakdown of the tour requiring a delay of the tour for greater than 15 minutes receives special recognition by being awarded the "First-to-Breakdown Award", also referred to as "The Wagner", after the first recipient of the award, Fred Wagner, during the 2012 Triumph Tour.



Rubber Chicken Award

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

## Tour Highlights - Day 1 thru Day 6

Following an early Saturday morning meetup and breakfast at the Harris County BBQ in Tomball, TX, we were on the road heading west by 8:00 AM. Our first planned venue stop was a visit to the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX. Arriving at the museum shortly after 2:00 PM, allowed only a couple of hours for our visit. Consequently, we prioritized the exhibits we most wanted to see.



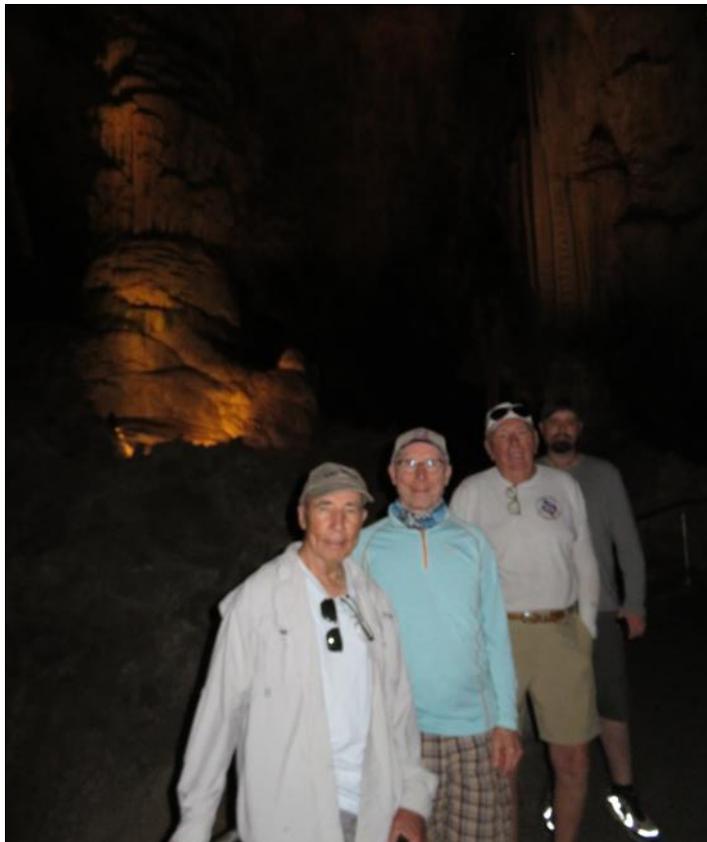
**South Pacific battlefield mock-up at *National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, TX.***

Despite our limited visit, we still very much enjoyed the museum and if you are a military history buff, you should add this museum to your bucket list of places to visit. Our next noteworthy stop was on the morning of Day #3 when we visited Carlsbad Caverns National Park in southern New Mexico. Visiting the park on a Monday morning and before the start of the summer vacation season turned out to be a great time to visit. We had the option of either hiking down a lengthy and steep path to the main cavern passageway or cover the 750+ feet of vertical relief in a climate-controlled elevator. It was not a difficult decision! Even having visited the caverns a few times previously, it is still amazing what Mother Nature can do with water and lots of time on hand. Photographing the natural beauty of the impressive stalactites and stalagmites along the main

1.3-mile walkway is a real challenge. After returning to the surface, grabbing a quick group photo in front of the visitor center and then lunch in nearby Carlsbad, NM.

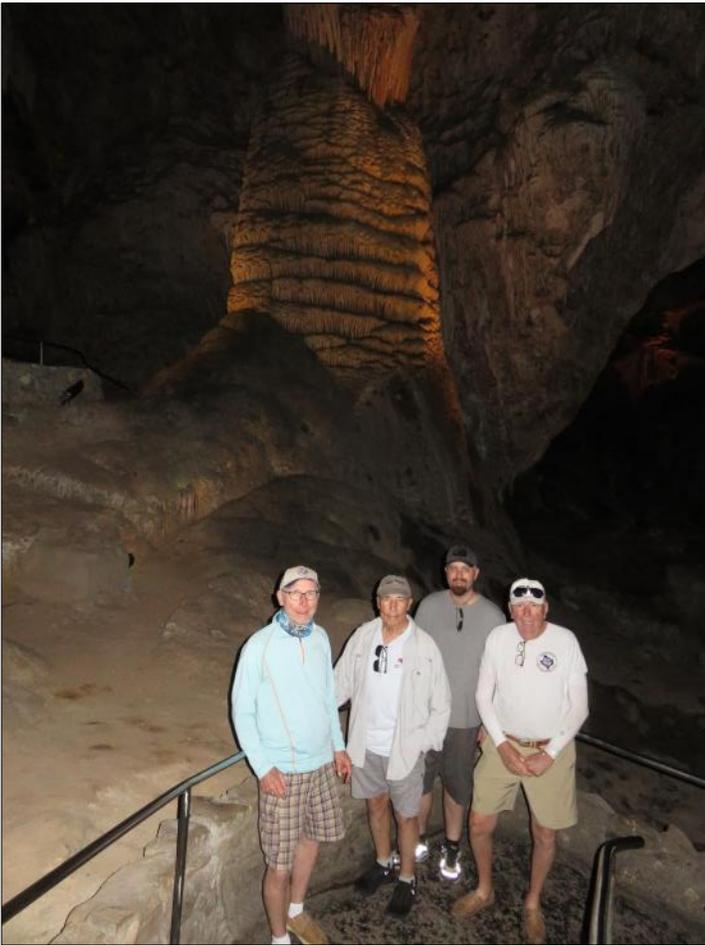


**Stalactites and stalagmites in *Carlsbad Caverns National Park.***



**Saw no bats but several FOGs in the caverns!**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal



More FOGs.



Tour group at entrance to *Carlsbad Caverns National Park Visitor Center*.

Sacramento Mountains and the scenic small town of Cloudcroft, NM.



Scenic overlook along US-82 just east of Alamogordo, NM.



Triumphs at *Carlsbad Caverns National Park Visitor Center*.

The remainder of Day #3 involved the 150-mile drive to our hotel in Alamogordo, NM. Much of the route was along scenic US-82 through a portion of the

The main highlight for Day #4 was an early morning visit to White Sands National Monument, which was only a few miles from our hotel in Alamogordo. The visit was brief consisting of a short drive along on the main paved road through the large dune fields and a photo stop at a pull-out area approximately four miles along the drive. Our colorful Triumphs contrasted nicely with the bright white gypsum sands.

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

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**Triumphs at *White Sands National Monument.***



**Dave & Tyler Smith in 1971 TR6 at *White Sands National Monument.***



**Triumphs at *White Sands National Monument.***



**John Reynolds in 1967 TR4A at *White Sands National Monument.***



**Along the Interdune Boardwalk in *White Sands National Monument.***



**John Barrett in 1963 Sports 6 at *White Sands National Monument.***

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

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**Hal Sharp in 1976 TR6 at  
White Sands National Monument.**



**Mike Hado in 1966 TR4A at  
White Sands National Monument.**



**Franz Bachmann in 1959 TR3A at  
White Sands National Monument.**



**James Jones in 2019 Ford F150 Truck at  
White Sands National Monument.**



**Stan Seto in 1962 TR3B at  
White Sands National Monument.**

The rest of Day #4 involved a 300+ mile drive to Eagar, AZ, which included driving along a scenic section of NM-152 and US-180 through the Gila National Forest.

Day #5 was a planned drive-day from Eagar, AZ to Tucson, AZ, which included driving along US-60/AZ-77. This route took us across a portion of the Apache Mountains in central Arizona and passed along the very scenic Salt River Canyon). As we approached Tucson, our group split-up and headed in several different directions. John Reynolds headed for his home in Tucson, John Barrett chose to visit his college alma matter, the University of Arizona campus,

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal



**Texas FOGs at scenic overlook to Salt River Canyon in central Arizona.**



**Mike Hado & Tyler Smith pose near a B-24 Liberator at Pima Air Museum in Tucson, AZ.**



**Salt River Canyon in central Arizona along US-60/AZ-77.**



**Vintage World War II aircraft at Pima Air Museum, Tucson, AZ.**



**Outside display of US Navy jet fighter aircraft at Pima Air Museum, Tucson, AZ.**

and Franz Bachmann scheduled a visit to a Tucson tire shop to repair the flat tire he had during his drive to Alamogordo, NM. The remaining members of the group (Dave Smith, Tyler Smith, Mike Hado, Hal Sharp and James Jones) decided to visit the Pima Air Museum.

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

Around 6:00 PM, after everyone had checked-in to our hotel, the group travelled the very short distance to Karl & Penny Rettenmaier's desert retreat for evening wine hour and a cookout with some of their neighbors.

A medical emergency with one of the Rettenmaier sons who lives in New Hampshire unfortunately resulted in Penny flying to Boston before our Tucson arrival. Liz Reynolds kindly jumped in and help pull-off a very pleasant cookout and evening! Karl's back patio faces the high desert and mountainous regions of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness area. The view is quite spectacular and provides a fantastic backdrop, especially at dusk.



**Tour group at Rettenmaier house with scenic mountain backdrop.**

The schedule for the following day (Day #6) was to be a busy one with plans to visit a friend of Karl's (Ben Cohen) who owns a fantastic collection of British sports cars, followed by a meetup with some Phoenix area Triumph enthusiasts who were passing through Tucson on a Bisbee, AZ trip, then a drive along the scenic road up Mt. Lemmon, and finally ending with a relaxing wine hour and dinner gathering at the Reynold's Tucson home.

After overcoming a couple car issues prior to leaving the hotel, the drive over to Ben Cohen's home was short. When we arrived, there were already several other Triumphs and drivers from the local British car club present. Ben is very personable and extremely

knowledgeable about British cars. His collection includes a beautiful and rare Triumph Italia, several Lotus Model Sevens, an AC Bristol, an original Mini Cooper, an Austin Healey 3000, and at least one race car.



**A gathering of Triumphs at Ben Cohen's Tucson home.**



**Ben Cohen's collection of British sports cars including this silver Triumph Italia and several Lotus Seven.**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal



**Original AC Bristol.**



**Presentation of our tour t-shirt to Ben.**



**Vintage British race car in foreground and Mini Cooper in the background.**

We were able to also assemble the whole group for a photo prior to bidding farewell and thanking Ben for making this event possible.



**Group photo at Ben's home.**

The collection was truly impressive, and we understand he has a few more British classics stored at a nearby storage facility. The one thing Ben did not have in his collection; however, was a Triumph Tour 2022 t-shirt!

This was quickly resolved with presentation of one of our tour shirts prior to our departure.

We next headed to a nearby coffee & bagel house to meetup with some Phoenix Triumph club members. Prior to this year's drive, I had reached-out to the Tucson and Phoenix area Triumph/British Car Clubs to inquire about a possible meetup. Following this initial solicitation, I began corresponding with a couple of members from the Phoenix area, including John Carroll. John informed me a group of Triumph and British car

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

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owners from Phoenix would be passing through Tucson on a club drive to Bisbee, AZ. The nearby coffee & bagel shop was convenient for both groups to meetup.

Their group included several very nice TR6s, a GT6, Jaguar XKE and a Morgan. Before leaving for our drive to Mt. Lemmon a group photo was taken and one of our tour t-shirts was presented to John.

The main Mt. Lemmon highway has some noteworthy Triumph history. An early 1960's vintage Triumph television commercial advertising the TR4 was filmed driving up the mountain. Fortunately, the film crew was not present to film our group's two TR4As attempt up the mountain! This is further explained later in the article but for now understand that Mike Hado's and my TR4A (driven by John Reynolds) did not plant a flag at the Mt. Lemmon summit. Those of us who did make the drive up enjoyed the winding roads and the views from the several scenic overlooks.



**Group photo of the TR Tour 2022 group and several Phoenix area Triumph enthusiasts.**



**A scenic view from one of the first overlooks along Mt. Lemmon highway.**



**Phoenix area Triumph gathering leader receives TR Tour 2022 Tour T-shirt!**



**Another not so scenic view from overlook on Mt. Lemmon highway!**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

Near the Mt. Lemmon summit, we stopped in a small resort area, Sumerhaven, for lunch and then backtracked down the mountain to Karl's house to begin addressing the issues with our two TR4As.



**Triumphs at Summerhaven, AZ lunch stop.**



**Looking to the south toward Tucson from overlook on Mt. Lemmon highway.**

We arrived at Karl's just in time to witness Mike's TR4A being backed-off the flatbed that carried his car back to Karl's. Once the car was pushed into the garage and positioned onto Karl's lift, a closer examination could be conducted to determine the cause for the left front wheel to collapse. The remainder of the afternoon focused on developing a plan to get Mike's car back on the road. Our evening highlight was a very pleasant wine hour and dinner at John & Liz Reynold's home which also has great views from their patio.

## Tour Highlights - Day 7 thru Day 14

Our original plan for Day #7 was a drive day along a few scenic roads to Prescott, AZ. We had also organized a meetup with another group of Phoenix area Triumph folks from the Desert Center TRA chapter. I had been corresponding with a couple of members but primarily with John Nuss, about a location for our potential rendezvous along our planned route toward Paysan, AZ. Unfortunately, the necessary repairs to both TR4As carried over into Day #7 and delayed our departure until the mid-afternoon. Our delayed departure resulted in the necessity to cancel out on meeting up with John and his group. We also decided to take a more direct and hopefully quicker route to Prescott. This would involve taking mostly Interstate highways including a very hot, slow drive along I-10 to Phoenix and then north on I-17 toward Flagstaff, AZ. The drive was not particularly scenic and even with the group getting separated due to the heavy afternoon traffic in the Phoenix area and a few missed turns, we all still arrived at our hotel in Prescott in good shape. After hotel check-in, we headed down to Prescott's city square for a great dinner at the *Prescott Brewhouse*.



**After a morning of repairing TR4s in Tucson and a hot afternoon drive along Interstate highways to Prescott, beers and dinner at the Prescott Brewhouse was a great ending to a long day!**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

The itinerary for Day #8 was a short drive north to Grand Canyon National Park. Arriving to the park around 11:00 AM, too early for room check-in, we headed to the main Grand Canyon South Rim visitor center. After a quick lunch at the visitor center market village, we hiked out to the Mather Point scenic overlook.



**The group at Mather Point overlook.**



**View from Mather Point scenic overlook.**

With still time to spare before hotel check-in, we climbed back into our Triumphs (and TRuck) for a scenic drive along AZ-64 through the park toward the eastern entrance to the park at Desert View. We pulled-off at several of the South Rim overlooks for photos.



**FOGs at Mather Point scenic overlook.**



**Triumphs along scenic AZ-64 in Grand Canyon National Park.**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

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**Another scenic overlook along AZ-64.**



**Looking east from near Lipon Point overlook.**



**View looking north at Lipon Point, South Rim of the Grand Canyon.**

Once the Desert View Watchtower was sighted, we turned around and returned to Yavapi Lodge for check-in. Unfortunately, our rooms were still not ready for check-in, but fortunately we were able to check-in to a nearby tavern for a couple cold beers. For dinner that evening, we drove a few miles south of the south park entrance to a steakhouse in nearby Tusayan, AZ. After dinner and the drive back to Yavapi Lodge, a few of us decided to enjoy a few glasses of Port sitting outside our cabins in the cool evening air.

Since we had already visited several scenic overlooks along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, our Day #9 drive to Zion National Park in southwestern Utah would be mostly a scenic drive along US-89A. Our route would include passing by the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument in northern Arizona. Breakfast options at the Yavapi Lodge were limited so we decided to leave early in the morning and plan for Sunday brunch at a restaurant in Cameron, AZ approximately 50 miles east. Unfortunately, the targeted café in Cameron was no longer open; however, we stumbled into a great café located inside a large tourist souvenir shop. The dining room was quite spacious, and the food was excellent. As we drove past the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument along US-89A, we crossed the Colorado River and pulled into a nearby rest stop adjacent to the bridge.



**Walking across Colorado River bridge with portion of Vermilion Cliffs in background.**

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**View of the Colorado River canyon near Vermillion Cliffs National Monument in northern Arizona.**



**Evening wine hour in hotel breakfast area in Springdale, UT.**



**Dinner at Stagecoach Steakhouse in Springdale, UT.**

The remaining drive to Springdale, UT and Zion National Park was hot but enjoyable with some fantastic desert and mountain views! We arrived at our hotel with ample time for hotel check-in and then meet for wine hour in the hotel breakfast area. Since the remainder of the tour would be heading east back toward Houston, our traditional special turn-around wine hour was conducted including consuming a special bottle of wine provided by Fred Wagner. After soliciting recommendations from the hotel staff for a good dinner venue, we headed to the Stagecoach Steakhouse, which had excellent views of some of the scenic rock cliffs of Zion National Park. Upon returning to our hotel, we discovered gathering in the hotel lobby or breakfast area for our evening Port was not allowed due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions. Not deterred, we walked outside to a grassy park area in front of the hotel lobby and enjoyed our Port with stunning sunset views of Zion!



**Group photo outside Stagecoach Steakhouse.**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

The intended plan for Day #10 was to spend the morning sightseeing in Zion National Park. Discussing this plan with the hotel front desk staff, we discovered driving personal vehicles on the main park road is not allowed. The only option is to board park tour buses from the main Visitor Center. Even with an early start, we found no parking available at the visitor center and quickly realized our chances of boarding one of the morning tour buses were not good. Consequently, we chose to drive east back through the park along UT-9 and plan to make a few photo stops.

Once Zion National Park was behind us, our easterly route took us once again across the Colorado River. This time our view of the river was near the Glen Canyon Dam where we stopped for a quick view from the bridge.



**View of scenery along UT-9 in Zion National Park.**



**Carl Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam.**



**Scenic overlook along UT-9 in Zion National Park.**



**View of Glen Canyon Dam with the lower reaches of Lake Powell in the background.**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal



**View of Colorado River below  
Glen Canyon Dam.**

Day #11 was planned as a long drive day to the Los Alamos area of New Mexico but with some travel along scenic roads such as US-163 which passes through the west side of Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park. When working on the details for the final tour route, a drive along the 17-mile scenic road to view the picturesque sandstone buttes of Monument Valley Park was planned. After contacting the park, I discovered that only SUV-type vehicles are allowed on the main scenic drive through the park. Fortunately, the views of the scenic landscape from along US-163 were still quite spectacular.

After crossing over the Colorado River, we entered Paige, AZ and stopped at a great icehouse for lunch, Grand Canyon Brewery & Distillery.



**Lunch stop at Grand Canyon  
Brewing & Distillery in Paige, AZ.**

It was a very good stop with excellent food and service. With only 100 miles to travel to our evening stop in Kayenta, AZ, our arrival to the hotel was well before 5:00 PM allowing plenty of time to have a proper wine hour in the hotel breakfast area. You may wonder why we chose Kayenta, AZ to overnight? I shared this feeling, but Kayenta lies just south of Monument Valley and is pretty much the only town of size in this part of northern Arizona.



**A view of one of the very scenic natural landmarks in Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park.**



**Another prominent landmark in  
Monument Valley along US-163.**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

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**Tour group at pull-out along US-163 viewing to the east at Monument Valley.**



**A chance meeting of Brits on Hogs and FOGs in Triumphs!**

Continuing our push southeast through Utah and toward New Mexico, we decided to have a quick stop at the Four Corners Monument, where Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona share a common state boundary. The plan was to try take a picture of the cars and drivers in front of the monument, but unfortunately every living soul in the region had the same idea! We got as far as the entrance gate and decided it was highly unlikely, we would be able to get a chance for a group photo, especially after seeing at least one large tour bus already unloading.



**One last view looking south toward Monument Valley from US-163.**

One noteworthy event did occur while turning around and continuing the drive toward Shiprock, NM, Franz Bachmann had to make a quick repair to his TR3. The planned route into White Rock, NM (Los Alamos area) was to be along the very scenic NM-4 which passes through the impressive Valles Caldera National Preserve. After travelling only a few miles along NM-4, a local forest ranger informed us the road was impassable further up the road. Consequently, we took an alternate route via NM-96 and US-84 into White Rock. During the drive along US-84 we could see smoke from the wildfires burning off to the east. Fortunately, our route was not close to any of these fires.

Our first pitstop for the day was in Mexican Hat, UT where we caught up with a large motorcycle group that had passed us earlier in the morning. This was an interesting encounter. The motorcycle group consisted primarily of British tourists riding on American made Harley Davidson motorcycles and our group consisted of Americans driving British cars who crossed paths in Mexican Hat, UT!

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

We planned for an early departure for our Day #12 drive south to Roswell, NM. Our goal was to arrive in Roswell in time for a visit to the International UFO Museum and have our evening wine hour at a local wine bar, Pecos Flavors Winery & Bistro.

We departed the hotel around 7:30 AM and arrived in Roswell at 2:30 PM. The drive was uneventful although during our lunch stop in Carrizozo, NM, Hal stated his TR6 alternator was acting up. He chose to not replace it and would just charge up his battery each evening for the remaining two days drive back to Houston. Our visit to the UFO museum was brief and we decided to proceed to the hotel for check-in and would return to downtown later for wine hour and dinner.



Very nice venue for our next to last wine hour and dinner - Pecos Flavors Winery & Bistro, Roswell, NM.



FOGs and aliens at International UFO Museum in Roswell, NM.

The wine hour and dinner at Pecos Flavors Winery & Bistro was quite enjoyable. We were successful in requesting seating off to the side in a private dining room.



Tour mascots felt at home in Roswell and appear to enjoy just hanging-out during our evening wine hour at the wine bar.

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

The final two days of the tour were planned as primarily drive days. A couple noteworthy events did however occur during the drive from Roswell to San Angelo, TX. The first involved John Barrett, aka Dr. Diesel, and a potentially significant faux pas while gassing-up in Brownfield, TX. More on this event will be presented shortly. The second noteworthy event involved a meetup with a Triumph owner in San Angelo. TTR member and fellow Texas FOG Randy DeRuiter contacted me during the tour and stated there is a TR6 owner, Doug Robinson, who would enjoy meeting up with us in San Angelo. We arranged to meet Doug at our San Angelo hotel for evening wine hour. We arrived at the hotel close to 4:30 PM and scheduled wine hour for 5:30 PM.

Doug and a close friend arrived right on time, and we all enjoyed telling stories about our drive and hearing Doug relate the story about buying his TR6.



**Photo stop at Doug Robinson's convenience store in San Angelo, TX.**



**Final wine hour at hotel in San Angelo, TX with Doug Robinson (TR6 owner) and his friend Craig joining us.**

After wine hour, Doug led us to a pub and grill in downtown San Angelo for dinner. Another friend of Doug's joined us for dinner, who is also a Triumph enthusiast. This was certainly a very nice final dinner for the tour. Doug requested we stop by one of his drive-up convenience shops for a photo-op on our way out of town in the morning.



**Doug Robinson captures photos of our Triumphs at his convenience store.**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Journal

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The final leg of the tour, the drive from San Angelo to Houston went smooth with no car issues. We did arrange to meetup with a longtime TTR member Nick Roccaforte, who now resides in Georgetown, TX, for lunch at the Monument Café.



**Lunch stop at Monument Café in Georgetown, TX with TTR member Nick Roccaforte.**

The final push into the Houston area went smoothly with no issues arriving home around 4:00 PM and concluding another great Triumph adventure!

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Breakdowns

## Tour Breakdowns

It was mentioned earlier how preparation of the cars before these long drives is critical and this year, it was apparent the participants recognized this. We encountered the fewest issues on this tour than on any of the other drives I have been on. A very "well done" to this year's drivers! However, when driving these vintage cars for fourteen days, travelling 4,000 miles and in 90 degrees plus temperatures every day, car issues are going to happen.

Commonly after these drives, participants are asked, how was the trip, did you encounter any breakdowns and who won the *First-to-Breakdown Award*? This award was first presented back during the 2012 tour (The Mitty). The idea of the award came out pre-trip conversations by several TTR members betting on who would breakdown first on the drive, hence the birth of the *First-to-Breakdown Award*. Previously noted, Fred Wagner was the first recipient of the award with his still standing record performance of a breakdown in less than two hours on Day #1, resulting in the award being commonly referred to as "The Wagner Award"!

Two other Day #1 breakdown performances have occurred on subsequent tours, Russ Seto in 2013 and John Reynolds in 2015. John's award-winning performance presented a strong challenge to Fred's Day #1 record time but fell short by a couple of hours! There is always a certain degree of tension during the early stages of these drives due to wondering if you are going to have a car issue and be awarded this not-so-coveted award. In recent years whenever a car issue surfaces a daily "Rubber Chicken" is presented to the driver. The driver will maintain possession of the chicken until someone else experiences an RCE (Reportable Chicken Event). At the end of the tour, the driver earning the most RCEs for the tour is awarded the overall *Tour Most Breakdowns Award*.

The winner this year for the 2022 *First-to-Breakdown Award* (aka The Wagner Award) was John Barrett in his 1963 Triumph Sports 6. John's award-winning event occurred during the late morning drive along I-10 on Day #2 and was not a serious challenge to Fred's Day

#1 winning effort! John's issue was diagnosed as a faulty starter solenoid.



**Troubleshooting John Barrett's starting issue on Day #2.**

We had just pulled off of I-10 for a pitstop and when preparing to head back out from the rest area, John's car would not start. A few electrical tests confirmed his starter solenoid failed. After installing a temporary jump-start setup, we continued our drive west on I-10 to Ft. Stockton., where John stopped at an auto parts store to purchase a replacement solenoid. His replacement solenoid was determined to not be a good replacement, so Mike Hado located another parts store and found an adequate replacement part. The solenoid was replaced at our hotel parking lot in Pecos, TX and the presentation of our first daily "Rubber Chicken Award" was conducted during the evening wine hour.



**Mike Hado and John Barrett installing new starter solenoid.**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Breakdowns



**Dave Smith presents the "rubber chicken" to John Barrett as the winner of the *First-to-Breakdown (The Wagner) Award*.**

On Day #4 during our drive from Alamogordo, NM to Eagar, AZ we were driving along US-180 and Franz Bachmann indicated he was experiencing leg cramps and requested a quick pitstop to stretch his legs. When the next historical marker pull-out came up, we pulled off. Mike Hado, who was following Stan Seto, narrowly missed hitting the rear end of Stan's car and had to swerve off the shoulder of the pull-out area. Although this was not an RCE, we now believe this may have been the cause to a front suspension issue that occurred to Mike on Day #6.

With the "Rubber Chicken" still riding with John Barrett since Day #2, by Day #6 a sense of change was in the air! The morning of Day #6 did not start well. The plans were for Karl to drive his TR6 over to the hotel and lead the group over to Ben Cohen's house to view his car collection. After starting his TR6, Karl noticed a significant puddle of coolant and had to drive to the hotel in his truck. Since Karl had not yet officially started on the tour, we categorized his TR6 issue as a non-reportable RCE or NRCE.

We next discovered John Reynold's experienced starter issues with my TR4A when preparing to meet us at the hotel (Rubber Chicken Award #2). We decided to leave the TR4A at the hotel parking lot and address the starter issue later that day after getting the car

to Karl's fully equipped garage. Following our visit to Ben's car collection and the planned meetup with several Phoenix area British car club folks, we started our drive up Mt. Lemmon. Early on the drive we pulled off at one of the scenic overlooks. When we started to exit the overlook, Mike Hado sensed something was not right with his TR4A. When he jumped out of the car, it was obvious what the problem was, his left-front wheel had collapsed! Closer examination determined that the lower control arm of the left front wheel had pulled away from the frame (Rubber Chicken Award #3). Mike decided his best option was to call AAA and flatbed the car back to Karl's garage and determine how best to get the car back on the road.



**Mike Hado's TR4A being off-loaded from flatbed at Karl's garage on Day #6.**



**Diagnosis is lower control arm pulled-away from frame.**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Breakdowns

It was now mid-day, and the "Rubber Chicken" was still restless and found yet another opportunity to change drivers! After leaving Mike, Karl and John to organize and oversee the transport of Mike's injured TR4A, the remaining group members proceeded the ascent up Mt. Lemmon, enjoyed a pleasant lunch near the summit and headed back down. It was on our return trip down Mt. Lemmon that Stan informed Hal Sharp that his TR6 taillights and turn signals were not functioning properly. Although only a minor issue compared to those already experienced on Day #6, this was still declared a recordable RCE and worthy of "Rubber Chicken Award #4". Fortunately for Hal a replacement flasher unit quickly resolved his issue once we were back at Karl's.



**Work begins on John's (Dave's) TR4A starter issue.**

Repairs of the two TR4As, however, were still underway into the evening of Day #6 and would not be completed until the following day. The repair of Mike's car required locating a mobile welder to weld steel reinforcement plates for the lower control arm bracket to be re-installed.



**Plenty of hands available to complete the installation of a new starter in John's (Dave's) TR4A.**



**Welding steel plates before remounting lower control arm bracket on Mike's TR4A.**

The replacement of the starter motor on the other TR4A was straight forward but a "p- - n in the a-accessing the bolts holding the starter. All the necessary repairs to the TR4As were completed around 2:00 PM on Day #7. Prior to heading out on the drive toward Prescott, the presentation of "Rubber Chicken Awards #2 thru #4" to John, Mike and Hal was performed.



**John Reynold's "Rubber Chicken Award #2" presentation at wine hour for faulty starter on TR4A, Day #6**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Breakdowns

During our Day #9 drive from Grand Canyon National Park to Springdale, UT and Zion National Park we did not encounter any issues with our cars but at a pitstop in Kanab, UT we came across a young lady driving a U-Haul truck and towing a Jeep. She asked if we could help her as one of the safety rings on the tow hitch malfunctioned and was not securing the main hitch-pin. Securing the safety ring with several zip-ties resolved the problem. We then proceeded to surprise her with the presentation of the "Rubber Chicken Award"! She took this well but had no real idea what the presentation was all about!



**Mike Hado receives "Rubber Chicken Award #3" for left front lower control failure on Day #6.**



**Franz works on securing tow-hitch in Kanab, UT.**



**Hal Sharp receives "Rubber Chicken Award #4" for faulty flasher switch on his TR6 on Day #6.**



**Special presentation of "Rubber Chicken Award".**



# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Breakdowns

The "Rubber Chicken" picked-up a new ride during the drive from Kayenta, AZ to White Rock, NM on Day #11. As we approached the Four Corners Monument area, Franz was informed his spare tire cover was not latched on one side. To resolve this issue involved some repair by Mike Hado justifying this being a RCE and awarding of "Rubber Chicken Award #5".



**The transfer of the "chicken" from Hal to Franz on Day #11.**

Although there were no recordable car issues during our Day #12 drive from White Rock, NM to Roswell, NM, the "chicken" appeared keen to return to Hal's passenger seat. During our lunch stop in Carrizozo, NM, Hal's TR6 alternator started acting up. He decided to tough it out and not change-out the alternator. He planned to charge-up his battery each night using a portable charger. This issue was declared a NRCE (Non-Recordable Chicken Event) and the "rubber chicken" would have to wait one more night before finding a new ride. As will be seen, the "chicken" would be reunited with John Barrett on Day #13.

The planned Day #13 drive from Roswell, NM to San Angelo, TX should be just a monotonous drive through the flat, arid lands of eastern New Mexico and western Texas. However, during a pitstop in Brownfield, TX a little drama was provided when John Barrett unintentionally filled his Triumph Sport 6 with diesel fuel! Fortunately, John realized his mistake before starting the engine and we were able to transfer out most of the diesel with the help of service station staff and a portable electric transfer pump.



**Transferring diesel from John Barrett's Sport 6 on Day #13.**

Presentation of "Rubber Chicken Award #6" to John (aka Doctor Diesel) occurred at our lunch venue in Brownfield, TX.



**Another transfer of the "chicken", this time from Franz to John Barrett on Day #13**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Breakdowns

This was the final car issue for the tour. Overall, our cars performed well with only a few repairs being required. The fact there were three incidents on Day #6 is concerning and may result in not having a Day #6 on future tours! A couple of the incidents could have been much more serious. For instance, if Mike's front suspension issue had happened while driving at speed a much more serious result could have occurred and, if this happened out along one of our more desolate roads on the tour, the repair would have been much more difficult. Also, if John Barrett did not discover his fill-up faux pas until after starting the engine and driving for a while, this would have been much more difficult to resolve. We were also fortunate to have the starter failure on my TR4A occur while in Tucson with access to Karl's lift and garage. If any of these issues would have happened away from any sizeable town, this story could have ended much differently. So, after travelling nearly 4,000 miles in 14 days, we experienced a total of six reportable car issues as summarized in the accompanying table.

## Summary of Breakdowns

RCE *	Day	Recipient	Issue
#1	2	John Barrett	Faulty starter solenoid on the 1963 Sports 6 **
#2	6	John Reynolds (Dave Smith's car)	Faulty starter on the 1967 TR4A
#3	6	Mike Hado	Lower control arm on left front wheel pulled-away from frame on his 1966 TR4A
#4	6	Hal Sharp	Failed flasher unit on his 1976 TR6
#5	7	Franz Bachmann	Repair to spare tire cover latch on his 1959 TR3A
#6	13	John Barrett	Filling his 1963 Sports 6 with diesel fuel

RCE = Reportable Chicken Event

\*\* Winner of The First-to-Breakdown Award (The Wagner)



# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Awards

## Tour Awards

At the conclusion of each tour an End-of-Tour party is usually held at local area restaurant. This year the event was on Saturday evening (May 21<sup>st</sup>) at *Sam's Steak and Seafood* restaurant in Cypress, TX. A brief awards ceremony preceded dinner and the following tour awards were presented:

There were two recipients to our first award the *Photojournalist Award*. The recipients were Tyler Smith and Hal Sharp for their commendable efforts in proving photos and narrative on Facebook including the *Texas Triumph Register* Facebook pages.

This year's *Boy Scout Award* winner was tour rookie James Jones. Serving as the tour chase vehicle driver, James met all the challenges of chasing down misdirected drivers and keeping the tour leader informed of missed turns or drivers struggling to keep up. He also discovered his duties included hauling four other drivers to dinner whenever driving to a restaurant was required. I suspect if James signs on for any future tours, he will no longer volunteer to be the chase vehicle driver and perhaps will drive a Triumph! (ed note: Since this article was authored, James has acquired a white 1973 TR6!)



**Photojournalist Awards recipients  
Tyler Smith and Hal Sharp.**



**The tour Boy Scout Award was presented to  
tour rookie James Jones.**



**James's newly acquired TR6**

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Tour Awards

The *Russ Seto Memorial Appreciation Award* was a repeat winner, Mike Hado. Even with fewer car issues to address this year, Mike was always on the scene whenever something did pop-up. It would be very difficult to run these extended long drives without having someone like Mike along who is very knowledgeable about the workings of these cars and capable to resolve issues that do occur.



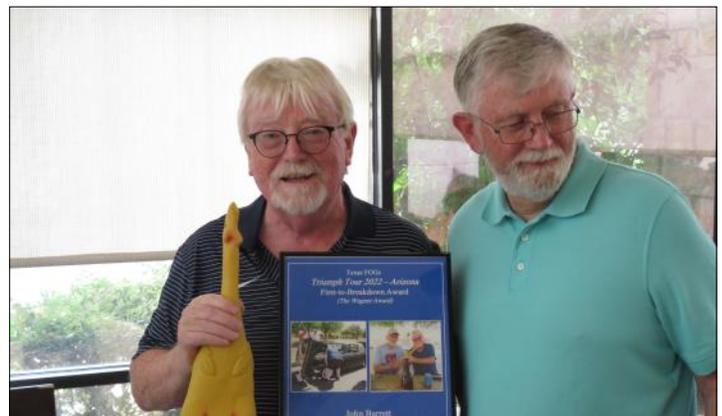
**This year's Russ Seto Memorial Appreciation Award was given to Mike Hado.**

This year a special *Tour Appreciation Award* was given to Karl Rettenmaier, who was not at the party, but will be forwarded to him in Tucson. It was very unfortunate that Karl was forced to cancel-out on the drive this year but his assistance in coordinating the itinerary for our two day stay in Tucson was greatly appreciated. Karl's efforts over Days #5 thru #7 included hosting the evening cookout on our first night in Tucson, organizing a very memorable visit to see Ben Cohen's British car collection, making his well-equipped garage available to address the repairs on a pair of TR4As and his resourcefulness in locating a mobile welder on very short notice for repair of Mike's TR4A front suspension.

The final two awards, the *Most Breakdowns Award (Rubber Chicken Award)* and the *First-to-Breakdown Award (The Wagner Award)* were both won this year by the same person, John Barrett and his 1963 Sports 6. John's winning performance was not overwhelming with the *First-to-Breakdown Award* being won on a minor issue, a faulty starter solenoid, compared to the more significant car issues that occurred later during the tour on Day #6. But of course, the award is based on timing and his failed starter solenoid came early in the tour on Day #2.



**The Most Breakdowns Award (Rubber Chicken Award) was presented to John Barrett.**



**The First-to-Breakdown Award (The Wagner) was also won by John Barrett.**

The *Most Breakdowns Award (Rubber Screaming Chicken Award)* winning effort was also unimpressive with only two RCEs scored by John and one of the two being the result of driver error! Last year's recipient of this award, Stan Seto, put in a much more commanding performance with a total of seven RCEs recorded!

The 2022 Triumph Tour overall was very enjoyable due to the fine people who participated in the drive. Though the lack of automobile related attractions on this tour was disappointing, the several scenic roads we travelled along and visits to some spectacular National Parks easily made up for the paucity of car stuff! The end of the tour always brings on mixed emotions with being happy to get home but also sad to see the adventure over! However, after a good night's rest it will be time to start thinking about where to go on Triumph Tour -2023!

# Triumph Tour 2022 - Group Photo

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**Triumph Tour 2022 Group Photo at Rettenmaier house in Tucson, AZ.**

**Left to Right - James Jones, Tyler Smith, Dave Smith, Stan Seto, Mike Hado,  
Karl Rettenmaier, John Reynolds, Hal Sharp, John Barrett, Franz Bachmann**

