



TSOA NEWSLETTER

TRIUMPH SPORTS OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 170

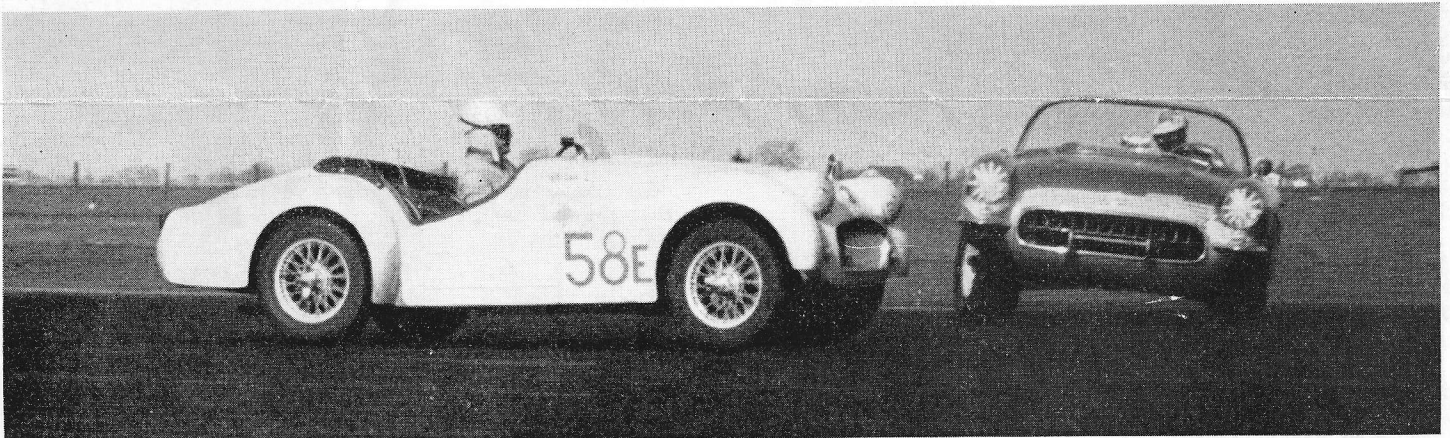
RADIO CITY STATION

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

VOL. V No. 9

SEPTEMBER 1959

FOUR TRIUMPHS ENTERED IN USAC AMERICAN INT'L RALLY



Mark Bauer of San Pedro, California caught this poised moment of a screaming, screeching close call at the Stockton Races. Seeming about to shear off the Corvette's front right, Bud Morris of San Jose (58E) passed by, untouched. Mark's quick eye and steady hand have won him the Fall Photo Contest award, a copy of Rallies, Trials, and Gymkhanas by Peck and Hebb.

ANNIE SOISBAULT FIRST IN LIEGE-ROME-LIEGE

Oh those women drivers! No complaint this . . . when you come right down to it, Annie Soisbault, long-time TR driver and French Women's Rally Champion, is a pretty terrific gal at the wheel. Together with navigator Mme. Renee Wagner, Mlle. Soisbault won the over 1600 cc Grand Touring Class and the Coupe des Dames, and came in 6th in the General Classification and 4th in the Grand Touring Classification. All this in a rally which is known as the "Marathon de la Route", a classic in the continental "press-on-regardless" type of event. Second in the over 1600 cc Grand Touring Class, 8th in the General Classification and 6th in the Grand Touring Classification was taken by a TR-3 driven by Keith Ballisat and Alain Bertaut.

The Liege-Rome-Liege Rally covers over 3000 miles of Europe's roughest roads, allowing no stops except for fuel and check points. Neither the car nor the driver has any chance for a rest. The exactly timed Alpine section is run at night and some of the highest average speeds must be maintained over loose stone roads in Yugoslavia. The course begins at Liege, Belgium, and loops through Rome, touching or penetrating 6 countries. The well-known Triumph rally stamina has led the TR teams to team prizes twice and a number of individual awards each year since 1955.

97 entries got away from Liege on September 2nd but a bare 14 cars limped home again on the 6th. This is an established pattern . . . last year 22 out of 98 finished. Total Triumph entry was six cars including four factory team cars and two private entries.

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL RALLY

The long distance high-speed type of rally in which car preparation and driving skill mean as much as navigation has long been the exclusive property of the Europeans. Now, however, an American rally is to be held which incorporates both the European verve and the American pin-point navigation. The American International Rally, sponsored by the American Rally Club and sanctioned by USAC (United States Automobile Club) and the F.I.A., begins on October 13th and, before they are through, entrants will have gone through 3200 miles of highway driving, the last leg of which will be dotted with hidden checkpoints. Starting procedure will be a la Monte Carlo Rallye. Entries will be leaving from Miami, Detroit, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Vancouver, New York and Mexico City. All cars will be timed on Pacific Standard Time, regardless of starting point and cars will leave one minute apart, even though #1 may go from Vancouver and #2 from New York.

The Triumph team, sponsored by the Standard-Triumph Motor Company, will be as follows: Walter Cronkite/Stu Blodgett, Doug Kennedy/Alex Thompson, Bob Halmi/Lou Batori. In addition, there is a ladies' entry with Denice McCluggage/Eleanor Halmi. All cars will be competing for the overall win and the press trophy. The TR-3's, numbered 2, 22, 42 and 62, will start from New York at about 2 A.M. All four are white hard tops equipped with short wave receivers for time signals and special new type Avion precision odometers.

The rally will be run in four legs. The first three are the "reliability" section where the idea will be to get to the checkpoint in the allotted time with no average speed, etc. Leg number four is the 896 mile Santa Fe—Las Vegas "regularity" run where the fine hand of the navigator is most important.

And, after it's all done, what better place than Las Vegas for a victory celebration or a consolation vacation?



TRaffic — Here's the pack howling into the first turn at the Vichy SCCA races. Believe it or not.

CLUB NEWS

The D.C. TSOA held a members-only event, the Historical Rallye, on August 2nd. "We started from Arlington, Virginia, and wound around West Virginia and into Maryland. We passed many battlefield sites of the Civil War . . . the most interesting of all was Harper's Ferry. The Rally, which was approximately 5 hours in length, ended in a lovely Civil War Monument Park near Hagerstown, Maryland. Each driver and navigator was given a souvenir at each checkpoint and we had to wear Civil War caps throughout the duration of the event." writes club secretary, Barbara Kinberg.

A drag race at the Dunkirk Airport in Fredonia, New York, on Sunday August 17, showed Triumph winning the C sports category. Walton Watts of Westfield drove his TR-3 up to 84 miles per hour in 16.88 seconds.

We've just learned that, along with the distinction of presiding over the New Jersey Triumph Sports Car Club, Jack Griffie is a journalist as well, having written a sports car column for the past 18 months for the Bergen, N. J. *Evening Record*. Congratulations are now in order for his recent "syndication." Jack's weekly column was just picked up by the Plainfield *Courier News* and we hope this is just the beginning of great things to come.

The Greenwich Village Motor Sports Club and the Triumph Motor and Petrol Society are sponsoring the "Columbus Caper" Gymkhana October 11th. It will meet at the Mid-Island Shopping Center on Long Island — noon registration. For further information contact Steve Stone, 34-15 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, New York. By the way, the T.M.P.S. Annual Championship Trophy was won by Stu Rothkopf out of 29 eligibles.

We hope you will take particular note of the article on page 3 in which there is a new listing of local TSOA's and interested parties — interested, that is, in getting something started in their area. We hope that you will respond to their appeal so that there can be more gathering together for the common fun. We get too many letters from people who would love to take part in a Triumph organization with events, meetings, socials, sportscar chit-chat, and the like who just don't happen to be near an active chapter. So read it please, and also note the new local TSOA affiliations.

Your editors are finding the reading of the Triumph Owner's Club of California's *TROC TALK* each month, an adventure. For instance, this month's headline is "GUTE GESELLSCHAFT, HASE UND HUND UND DER BIER STUBE" which turns out to be a lead-in to the club's September rally. Page two describes *TROC's* August event, "Up Sallye's Allye Rallye" a Hawaiian luau, complete with muu muus, tiki torches, pineapple juice, and leis. There was a costume contest, car

decorations, red bananas, and, oh yes, a hare and hound finish that showed Sam and Helen Jack to be the best kane and wahine of the day.

The next meeting of Long Island T.S.O.A. will be held on October 13th at The Bella Vista, Center Port, Long Island, at 8:30 P.M. President, Ray Staten, and his group have some events coming up that should interest newcomers in the club's fall membership drive.

TROPHY TIME

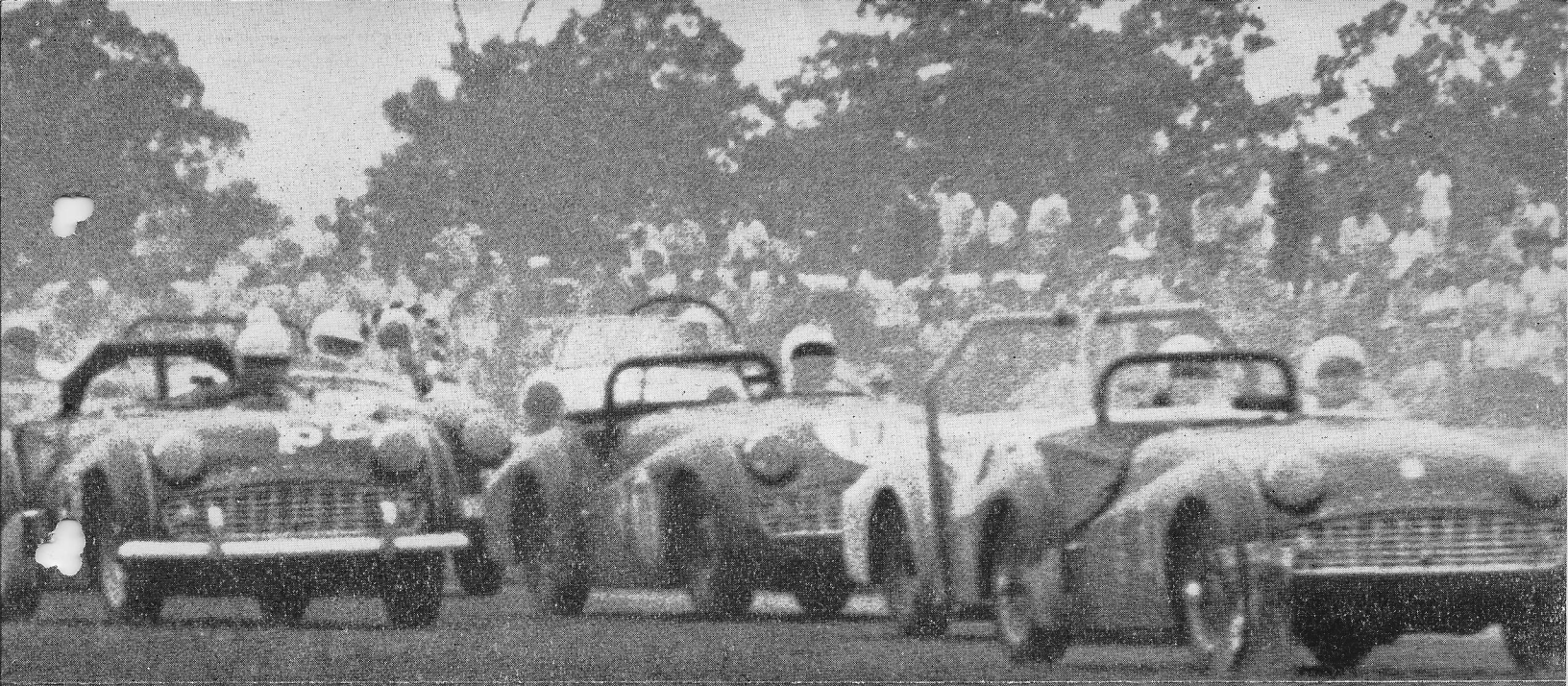
Vichy, Missouri, was the scene of the fabulous photo by George Harris at the top of the page. It shows the pack storming away at the start of Race #1. Somewhere in the crush is Car #31, belonging to John Goans who came through with second place. TR's also took 4th and 6th. We tip our cap to the St. Louis Region, SCCA, for having an excellent publication, *WHEELSPIN*, to which we are indebted for the Vichy information.

More racing success is reported by Tom R. Edwards, member from Hawaii. At the 50th State Sports Car Races, held on Labor Day, Walter Vail took Class E going away in his TR-3. Tom reports also that TR's are the top-selling sports cars in the islands where foreign cars almost outnumber American makes.

Five event firsts and an overall win were recorded by TR's during a six-night series of sports car events at the Morris County Fair in New Jersey. The events, sponsored by the Jersey SCC, consisted of three gymkhanas and three field trials. Gymkhana #1 was removed from the point standings due to severe mud conditions which prevented late-starting cars from getting a good run. However, the first night's winner was Walter Phillips of Silver Springs, Md., in a TR (1500-2000 cc class). On Wednesday night, in a gymkhana, William Gurnee of Pompton Lakes, N. J., was first in class and in a second event that night Bob Schuerle of Maplewood received the honors. Mrs. Walter Phillips charged to a ladies' win. In a field trial classed by horsepower, Mr. Phillips copped the 91-120 HP class. Perhaps the most noteworthy award went to Bill Stirrat who lent his TR-3 to three other competitors besides using it himself. He received the sportsmanship trophy.

At the Morris County Fair, in a much calmer atmosphere, Ralph Shomer's super-shiny red/black TR-3 placed first in the Concours d'Elegance.

The Greenwich Village Motor Sports Club's Mark Eight Rally drew over 150 entries for a run on Long Island in early August. Jack and Mary Conover of the Triumph Motor and Petrol Society came in third and took the best husband/wife trophy as well. Marriage = Cooperation . . . is that the way we heard it?



not, there were other cars in the race but TR's took 5 out of 10 places. (photo — George Harris)

WHAT IS THIS THING . . . TSOA?

Here's the explanation we promised you in the August issue.

The Triumph Sports Owner's Association represents over 5000 owners in 50 states and several territories. It's difficult to keep an up-to-the-minute count because the number grows by over 200 applications each month. And even this scale is curving up because the membership has more than doubled since March, 1958. California is far and away the leader in this respect with 1500 members . . . then New York, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. South Dakota is a Badland for Triumphs (4). There are TSOA-ers in Canada, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

It all began back in April of 1955, about the time Triumphs were first introduced in America. The NEWSLETTER began almost immediately, although at first it was mimeographed sheets of paper, taking on its new glossy design last October. At the same time, its contents and coverage were updated and made more complete.

The Association administrates its badges, owner's manuals, membership correspondence and the like, but undoubtedly its biggest job is the running of the European Rallies each year. In 1957, TSOA was the first owner's club to run a successful rally through Europe. Since that time, over 300 people have taken a European holiday and a European delivery all in one delightful swoop.

Another important task of the Association is the assistance of its local clubs around the country. There are at least fourteen of them now and a few more pending. Below you will find the latest list of active organizations. And, at the top of the back page, you will find the names of all the people who are now in the process of or are interested in the formation of a local organization. Why not contact them and get in on the fun?

If you don't see a name or organization near your home, maybe you'd like to get together with some other TR enthusiasts and form your own. If that's the case, here's what you will probably want to do.

Of course, the first thing is to contact other owners to sound them out, and there are several ways of doing that. Some clubs enlist members by leaving a note on the windshield of parked Triumphs or if possible, approach them in person. You can work through your local dealer's sales records or even place an ad in a newspaper personal column. Or if you like, you can write us for a card file of all the National TSOA members in your state. Sometimes it's possible to form a Triumph organization within the framework of a larger, many-marqued sports

car club that is already active. This plan has several advantages, one of which is that you have enough people at the start to run events. At any rate, when you are satisfied that there will be a good response in your area, write us and we will send you all the necessary material, (a sample constitution, membership applications, etc.) and publicize your plans in the NEWSLETTER. There are no fees, of course, other than individual membership, no paperwork, and no other requirements for affiliation.

TRIUMPH SPORTS CAR CLUB OF CINCINNATI

Bruce Thomas, c/o Modern Talking Picture Service, Inc., 9 Garfield Place, Cincinnati 2, Ohio.

TRIUMPH MOTOR AND PETROL SOCIETY

Mrs. Barbara Stone, 34-15 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, New York.

ROCHESTER TSOA

Mrs. Carolyn Richmond, 20 Manatu Pkwy., Rochester 23, New York.

LONG ISLAND TSOA

Raymond J. Staten, 45 Harbor Road, Port Washington, L. I., New York.

TRIUMPH SPORTS CAR CLUB OF NEW JERSEY

Jack Griffie, 94 Sanford Road, Emerson, New Jersey. Meets 8:30 P.M. first Wednesday of every month at 333 Club, 533 Shaler Blvd., Ridgefield, New Jersey.

ST. LOUIS TSOA

Charles Wolfe, 9165 Robin Court, Brentwood 17, Mo.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS TSOA

Barbara Fenske, 5541 W. Cullom Ave., Chicago 41, Ill. Meets third Thursday of every month at the Poodle Lounge, Glenview, Ill.

D.C. TSOA

Barbara Kinberg, 1015 S. Frederick St., Arlington 4, Va.

TRIUMPH SPORTSCAR CLUB

Sarge Harris, 8434 E. Longden Ave., San Gabriel, California.

TROC (Triumph Owner's Club)

3627 Berry Drive, Studio City, California. Meets 8:00 P.M., second Wednesday of every month at Blarney Castle Restaurant, 623 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles.

THESE ARE NEWLY AFFILIATED CLUBS:

TRIUMPH SPORTS OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Ronni Bennett, RR #3, Box 213F, Batavia, Ohio (near Cincinnati).

TRIUMPH OWNER'S CLUB OF JAMESTOWN

Contact Wes Lieblad, 551 W. 3rd Street, Jamestown, New York.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN TRIUMPH CLUB

Contact Jim Vormelker, 930 Narcissus Drive, East Lansing, Michigan.

TRIUMPH TRAVELER'S SPORTS CAR CLUB

Contact Mr. G. P. Earnshaw, 2123 Aitken Avenue, Mountain View, Calif.

(Please Turn Page)

WHAT IS THIS THING . . . TSOA? (Cont'd)

THESE PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN NEW CLUB FORMATION:

SIDNEY R. PINGER
616 E. 63rd Terrace
Kansas City, Missouri

RANDOLPH KLEIN
c/o Speed Film Associates
Box 336 Roslyn Heights, L. I., N. Y.

LOU SKALA
European Motors
3201 South Tacoma Way
Tacoma, Washington

STANFORD CRAMER
Harry Cramer, Inc.
154-178 South Front Street
Steelton, Pennsylvania

ROBERT LUFF
Wolf Pit Road
RD #2
Farmington, Conn.

PHILLIP STONE
Ferry Street Garage, Inc.
16 Ferry Street
Hudson, New Hampshire

RICHARD A. WIKLUND
36 High Street
Hingham, Mass.

SERVICE

A number of members have inquired about re-capping Michelin X tires. We asked Michelin to supply a list and received a partial one. In future NEWSLETTERS, we'll add to the list below. Meanwhile, here are some of the re-capping stations recommended by Michelin.

World Wide Tire Co.
98 N. Broadway
Hicksville, L. I., N. Y.

Gordy Tire Co.
151 - 14th St.
Atlanta, Ga.

Murphy's, Inc.
841 Fifth Ave.
Oakland 6, Calif.

U. S. Tire Supply Corp.
1162 Grinnell Pl.
Bronx 59, N. Y.


Hal Moody's Tire Service
4698 San Fernando Rd.
Glendale 4, Calif.

While on the subject of Michelin tires, here is news for members who are rally enthusiasts. Early TR-2's and TR-3's were *not* fitted with corrected speedometers when the smaller-diameter Michelins were ordered. This was rectified as follows: Starting with commission #TS 26656, cars with the 3.7:1 rear end were fitted with corrected units and starting with #TS26704, cars with the 4.1:1 were so fitted. As you possibly may not know, the 4.1:1 ratio is supplied with overdrive. Owners of cars older than the above can obtain corrected speedometers, part #119047 for the 3.7:1 gears and #119046 for the 4.1:1.

We must make a correction on the specifications for the overbore kit announced in the August issue. The correct bore for the new sleeves is 86 mm, not 87 mm. The figures we used were for some experimental sleeves and stock size was reduced to 86.

Mr. Chapman of TERMINALS, Inc., notes that an error was made in our favor in the article about JANO Battery Terminals. Correct list price is \$6.68. TSOA members receive a 25% discount on these corrosion-free terminals which makes the price an even \$5.00. Address is 22700 Martha St., Woodland Hills, Calif.

Next issue we'll reprint some of the winterizing tips we gave you last fall. Watch for it.



IT'S A TRIUMPH - JE3

MODEL: John Earl Sisson III
PERFORMANCE: First road test - May 3, 1959
SPECIFICATIONS: Chassis - Male
Length - 21 inches
Weight - 9 lbs. 12 1-2 oz. (dry)
Maximum power - 120 d.b.

PATRONS: Lee and John Sisson (Ecurie Soissons)
SHOWROOM: 371 Baptiste Way, La Cañada, Calif.

Last May, John Earl Sisson, Junior, was looking around for a novel way to announce the arrival of John Earl Sisson, the Third. Having an interest in TR-3's, and a father-in-law who is a professional photographer, he came up with this cute introduction of a "new model." To be perfectly candid, we might add that although JE-2's are noisy, heavy on fuel consumption, and at times troublesome in performance, in the end you can't beat them for results. Having absolutely no trade-in value, they come in all colors, shapes and sizes, this particular model designed for women. There is another attractive model designed for men at a slightly higher price. Since as far back as anyone can remember, JE-3's have been the all time best-seller. Why not order one from your friendly dealer — today!

TSOA SUPERMARKET

"Please Don't Dent Me" cards.....	\$1.00/100
TR-2 - TR-3 Service Manual.....	9.00
Girling brochure on care of disc brakes and hydraulic system	FREE
List of Triumph Dealers and Distributors.....	FREE
Replacement TSOA Badge.....	1.00 ea.
Owner's manual (as issued with new car)	1.25
Standard Car Review Subscription.....	2.00/year
Competition Preparation Bulletin.....	FREE
Send Check or Money Order. No C.O.D.'s please.	

CLASSIFIED

- FOR SALE: One new black tonneau cover for TR-3, \$20.00 plus postage. L. E. Massie, Box 779, Solana Beach, California.
- FOR SALE: 1 set of 1959 TR-3 side-curtains. Hardly used. \$40.00. Walter Stevens, 63-28 Alderton St., Rego Park 14, New York.
- WANTED: Hard-top and hardware for 1959 TR-3. Mr. Francis L. Angerer, 905 Cottage Avenue, Indianapolis 3, Indiana.
- WANTED: Fiberglass or steel hardtop, any color. David Ahl, 48 Nassau Blvd., Malverne, New York.