

TRIUMPH NEWS

The Newsletter of the Central Pennsylvania Triumph Club

Volume 29 Number 2

February 2017



2017 - The 50th Anniversary of the Triumph GT 6

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www.cptc.org

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The Central Pennsylvania Triumph Club is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and enjoyment of all automobiles built by the Triumph Motor Company and its successors from 1923 through 1981. Annual membership is \$20.00 (\$15.00 if you opt for the electronic version). **Triumph News** is the official newsletter of **CPTC**: its objective is to encourage research related to Triumph automobile history and to disseminate technical and current/historic information to its members. **Triumph News** is published monthly.

CPTC will consider running commercial advertisement that is representative of maintaining interest in the preservation of the Triumph automobile as a service to its members. Interested businesses may contact Joe Laurito at 717-652-8636 or web@cptc.org to discuss placing an ad and available rates. All ads are subject to board review and approval.

Information found within this newsletter is believed to be of interest to the Triumph owner. Opinions expressed may or may not reflect the ideas of all officers and members. Technical material is provided for reference and should be used advisedly.

All material intended for **Triumph News** should be submitted to John Miele, Editor. Contact information: Phone ~ 717-566-7228 or email newsletter@cptc.org.

Ads for The Brokerage are free to **CPTC** members; they usually will be run for two issues, and must then be resubmitted. Ads should be received no later than the beginning of the third week of the month. Late arrivals will be printed when possible.

Visit www.cptc.org to view the club website, with an expanded calendar of events and photos.

Central Pennsylvania Triumph Club Officers

Tom Billett	President	717-469-2379	president@cptc.org
John Krause	Vice President	717-697-9762	vp@cptc.org
Helen Weaver	Secretary	717-761-7105	secretary@cptc.org
Marty Shoop	Treasurer	717-258-6140	treasurer@cptc.org
John Miele	Newsletter Editor	717-566-7228	newsletter@cptc.org
Joe Laurito	Webmaster	717-652-8636	web@cptc.org

User Name: CPTCMember

Password: Coventry

A Few Words From Our President ~ Tom Billett

Well, January is nearly behind us now. A little bit of snow, ice, rain, wind and cold and warm temperatures ... Everything you would expect in a Central Pennsylvania winter! I hope everyone is doing fine - if you have any car projects in the works, I wish you good luck and no busted knuckles! I seem to put off any work until the last minute; so for the Spring Run, I'll be scrambling to make sure everything is ready.

I could not make our last Board meeting; but do know we are considering a pre-spring party at the West Shore Elks in early April. More information will be available ASAP via our website, newsletter and email. I hope this party can be put together and attended by as many members as our previous parties. It sure is nice to get together and catch up on everyone's busy schedules.

The Board will be working on summer driving events in the upcoming weeks. Let's hope for cooperation from the weather and our own personal calendars.

If you need any regalia for the upcoming driving season, Holly's Embroidery is your CPTC supplier. Her contact information is on our website and in the newsletter. Our CPTC inventory still has a limited number of items such as hats, key rings, coffee mugs, license plates and license plate frames available. If you are interested, please contact our Vice President, John Krause.

Until next time, remember to ...

Keep Calm and Motor On!

Tom



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2017 Calendar of Events

The caption **CPTC Event** means the event is sponsored by our Club.
The caption **CPTC Event*** means the Club has a presence within the main event, such as our tent at the Carlisle Import Nationals.
Visit www.cptc.org for updated event information.

- Feb. 2nd** CPTC Board Meeting at Helen Weaver's home - 7:00 PM. Please call Tom at 717-469-2379, if you plan to attend.
- March 2nd** CPTC Board Meeting at the Laurito's home - 7:00 PM. Please call Tom at 717-469-2379, if you plan to attend.
- April 1st** Triumph Rescue Tech Session, Bally, PA - 9:00 AM - coffee and donuts. Session begins at 10:00 AM - Lunch provided.
- April 2nd** CPTC 'Welcome Spring' party - West Shore Elks, Camp Hill, PA, 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Cost - \$22/person. More information on P. 10 of this newsletter. Join us for some good food and a fun time!
- April 9th** CPTC General Meeting - Hoss's Steak & Sea House, Mechanicsburg, 3:00 PM. All are urged to attend. Please call Tom at 717-469-2379, if you plan to attend.
- April 30th** Spring Run - Tour the back roads of Cumberland & Adams counties with organizers Marty & Jane Shoop. Early dinner to follow at the Mayapple Restaurant. More information to come. CPTC Event
- May 4th** CPTC Board Meeting at the Miele's home - 7:00 PM. Please call Tom at 717-469-2379, if you plan to attend.

(Continued on P. 5)



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2017 Calendar of Events (continued)

- May 19-21** **Carlisle Import Show - Carlisle Fairgrounds, Carlisle, PA. Be sure to visit the CPTC tent near the grandstand during the show. Registration information at www.carlisleevents.com CPTC Event***
- June 1st** **CPTC Board Meeting at the Krause's home - 7:00 PM. Please call Tom at 717-469-2379, if you plan to attend.**
- June 16-17** **Bellefonte Cruise, Bellefonte, PA. More information to follow.**
- July 6th** **CPTC Board Meeting at the Shoop's - 7:00 PM. Please call Tom at 717-469-2379, if you plan to attend.**
- July 9th** **British Invade Gettysburg (BIG) - Gettysburg Outlet Shoppes. More information to follow.**
- Sept.7-10** **Watkins Glen Vintage GP - Watkins Glen, NY. Information to follow.**
- Sept. 21st** **Six Pack Trials - Hershey Lodge, 325 University Drive, Hershey, PA. TR6 gathering - More information to follow.**
-

New Member Welcome!

The most recent addition to the CPTC ranks is:

**Charles Swartzbaugh
York, PA**

Owner of a '77 Triumph Spitfire

We're pleased to have you with us!

**In the Market for Socks
Sporting a British Theme?**

**Clarks (shoe stores) at the
Tanger Outlets in Hershey
or
Shoppes at Susquehanna Marketplace
in Harrisburg
or
Park City Center in Lancaster**

**May have exactly what you've been
searching for - just sayin' ... [Ed.]**

Triumph Davdon - A Dream Find ~ By Mike Monk

Being offered a one-off car with innovative features and had only ever been driven by its creator is a dream scenario. Neglected for many years, this 68-year-old South African-built coupe-convertible is back on the road.



When Mercedes-Benz launched its SLK roadster in 1996, its retractable metal hardtop caused quite a stir and led to a number of other manufacturers following suit and the coupe-convertible market niche was born. However, like so many trends in the automobile industry, there is little new under the sun and the folding steel roof was one of them. Peugeot was the pioneer of the concept some 80 years ago when it introduced the 402 Éclipse Décapotable, incorporating a mechanism designed and patented by Georges Paulin in 1931. However, the layout was bulky, necessitating a long rear end to the car. But 16 years later, David Wallace Loudon, born in the UK but living in Sandton, South Africa – he of dual citizenship – began devising his own coupe-convertible (CC) that was far less cumbersome.



In those early post-WWII years Loudon was a young man of modest means, a skilled artisan with an inventive brain who dreamed of owning a sports car. He wanted something different with special features and began sketching a few of his ideas. Taking inspiration from the flowing lines of the Jaguar XK120 and the frontal appearance of the Ferrari 125S Barchetta, he then made a full-scale drawing of his final design on his garage wall. The concept featured a unique element, namely a solid steel roof mounted on radius arms that could fold into the boot. Electric windows with removable frames were another innovation incorporated into the design.

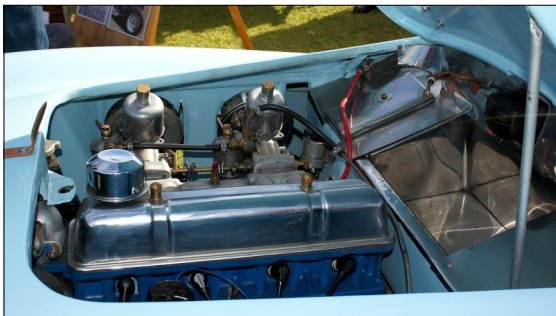
Little is known of what took place during those construction years except that Loudon originally planned on making the body fit a lengthened and lowered 1937 Austin 7 chassis; but the suspension set-up was useless for a sports car, so he found a Triumph TR3A and switched to this chassis, shortening the wheelbase/overall length by taking 5½ inches out of the middle of the framework.

(Continued on P. 7)

A Dream Find (Continued)

The multi-talented Loudon then painstakingly set about forming the shape out of sheet steel, using lead to fill the seams and create a remarkably stiff body. He did all the panel beating and fabrication work himself, presumably using a wooden buck to create the shape. Not surprisingly it was painstaking work, taking a number of years to complete.

The chassis was fitted with Triumph's 2.2-litre inline-four that boasted a three-bearing crankshaft, pushrod overhead valves, a 'high port' cylinder head with twin SU HS6 carburetors and a larger manifold. The power train featured the optional four-speed gearbox with electric overdrive on the top three ratios. Another attractive TR3A item was the Girling brake system with discs up front, the first British series production car to have this feature.



Eventually it all came together and in naming the finished product, Triumph Davdon was chosen, derived from DAV-id Lou-DON. It was road tested in 1963 – 16 years after the idea was first put on paper. For a number of years he used the car extensively in his daily life, his dream now very much a reality.

In 1993 David retired to Gordon's Bay and shortly afterwards suffered a stroke. By this time the Davdon had not been used for a number of years and was bought in 1997 by friend and neighbor Alfie Carpenter, who recognized the car's provenance and began to restore it, although a shortage of funds saw the Davdon tucked away in a corner of a barn. That is until 21 December 2012, when someone got an unexpected Christmas present ...

Jeffreys Bay Classic Car Club chairman Johan Marais was approached by a lady who said her husband was in possession of a very rare South African hand-built car and asked if he would care to take a look. "I followed her to their house and, covered in dust in a dilapidated barn but seemingly complete, was a car that I had never seen before."

"What became clear was that it was indeed a once-off design handcrafted out of metal on a Triumph TR3A chassis and running gear," says Johan. The license on the windscreen suggested that the last time the car was registered for the road was 1975. On January 19, 2013 Johan made a deal to purchase the Davdon, just in time to prevent it from being turned into a hot rod by another interested party...

A remarkably rapid restoration began in earnest. The Davdon was completely stripped down (with photos taken to aid reassembly) and the only parts found to be missing were the boot hinges; but an Internet search located replacements.

(Continued on P. 8)

A Dream Find (Continued)

Amazingly, some of the tools that David had used to build the car were in the boot.

The body was taken down to bare metal before sending it out to be painted sky blue with a cream roof. Being a South African design, the Davdon boasts a solid stinkwood dash that adds a further touch of uniqueness.



The removable window frame with glass powered by a wiper motor is another piece of the classic KISS principle of engineering employed by Loudon. The mechanicals & suspension components were all refurbished as part of the task.

The now nearly restored Davdon made its public debut at the George Old Car Show – 40 years after it was taken off the road. It attracted a lot of attention and only the leather upholstery has yet to be completed. Johan is to be applauded for bringing back to life another piece of unique South African motoring history – a Triumph of engineering ...



Editor's Note:

Many thanks to Mike Monk, editor of *Classic Cars South Africa*, for this both interesting and entertaining story!

**Photos by Gertjan van de Klasthorst, International Coordinator of the Dutch TR Register - Netherlands.*

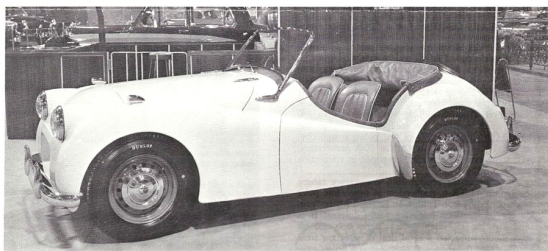




P. O. BOX 70 RADIO CITY STATION NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

Twenty Years of TRs

For the many readers who must have wondered on occasion why the first Triumph sports cars seen in this country were designated TR-2, here's the answer.



The TR-1, prototype of all the TRs since, on the stand at Earl's Court in 1952. Very similar in appearance to the eventual production TR-2, it was actually quite undeveloped and many refinements were made before the final introduction in 1953.

There was a TR-1 and it was introduced to the public twenty years ago at the 1952 Motor Show in London. Seen from the front, it looked much like a TR -2, with the parking lights on top of the fenders instead of on the front of them. From the side, as far back as the forward edge of the rear fenders, it had the familiar TR-2/3 silhouette. At the rear, however, it was chopped off sharply, with a curving rear deck that had a well to accept the exposed spare tire. No trunk - just luggage space behind the seats in classic sports car tradition. The engine was a 75 bhp version of the Vanguard engine, which might possibly have gotten the car up to 100 mph, but only just.

The prototype TR-1 went back to Coventry and, during 1953, the design was modified throughout and came to its final form. The TR-2 was introduced as a production model at the 1953 Motor Show and it was soon proven to be a real performer. The engine, by now, was up to 90 bhp and in modified form the car was driven 124 mph in Belgium. Exports to the United States started almost immediately and, by 1955, a subsidiary company had been formed here to market Triumphs which had formerly been imported in small numbers by independent foreign car merchants. The chronology, from that point, is well covered in the TSOA Handbook.

Triumph sales in the United States for October were the highest on record for that month. If shipments come through, a record sales year is still possible. And speaking of records, there's an excellent chance that the white Group 44 TR-6 will be in the CP race at Road Atlanta during the American Road Race of Champions. Despite running only a few races late in the season after recovering from injuries, Bob Tullius is first alternate from the Northeast Division and, under the new qualifying rules, should make the grid with no problem.

If the first twenty are any indication, the second twenty years will be a real experience. By 1992 we'll be up to the TR-12 or so ...

Editor's Note:

The above article was recovered from the Nov. 1972 edition of the TSOA Newsletter (Vol. 18, No. 11) by CPTC's Jerry Frasso.

European TR Meeting: Update

As most of you will recall, last month's edition of *Triumph News* carried a story on the 2016 Euro TR meeting in Italy. Following that meeting, the area was hit by a major earthquake which damaged or destroyed much of a 13th Century cathedral in the village of Norcia. The photo below shows the square and what remains of this magnificent cathedral and associated structures:



Let us hope that this beautiful edifice will someday (soon!) be restored to its former glory! [Ed.]

**Photo submitted by
Gertjan van de Klashorst*

Stuff That's Good to Know

Need an extra set of keys for your LBC ?
Duty's Lock Safe & Security, Inc.,
located at 3101 Gettysburg Road, Camp
Hill, PA, has key blanks for most makes
of British cars - stop in or give them a
call 717-761-6337

Welcome Spring Party

April 2, 2017

1:00 - 4:00 PM

West Shore Elks

108 St. Johns Road

Camp Hill, PA 17011

An opportunity to get together with
friends and fellow Club members to
celebrate the advent of spring and the
start of a new driving season!

Menu includes roast beef, chicken,
pasta, vegetables, desserts, coffee,
tea and spring water.

Cash bar - Delicious food!

Cost: \$22/person

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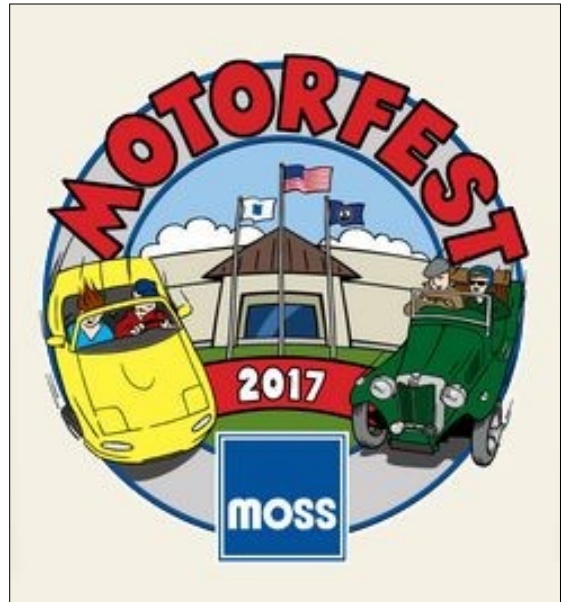


This great event will be the featured event at the 2017 VSCDA Blackhawk Classic at Blackhawk Farms Raceway in Rockton, IL on June 16-18, 2017. The track is perfect for small bore production racing and perfect for spectators.

The host hotel for the event is the Hampton Inn Beloit, located 15 minutes from the track. The rate is \$120.60/night.

Hampton Inn Beloit
2700 Cranston Road
Beloit, WI 53511
Phone: 608-362-6000
www.beloit.hamptoninn.com
Room Block: Blackhawk Classic Friends of Triumph

General info:
KastnerCup2017@comcast.net



2017 Moss Motorfest
June 3, 2017

25651 Simpson Road
Petersburg, VA 23803

The Motorfest returns for 2017

See www.mossmotors.com for
Event details and accommodations

Your Help Is Needed!

To assist in our efforts to keep our membership information current, please email or call John Krause with changes in your contact information. John's email and phone are located on the second page of this newsletter...

Drive Your Triumph Day - Feb. 10th From Rye Livingston of the Triumph Travelers Sports Car Club in Northern California:

A few years ago I encouraged the members of our club to drive their Triumph on **February 10th**, to celebrate Sir John Black's Birthday, the man who organized Standard's purchase of Triumph after WWII, and went on to make the cars we enjoy driving today.

On **February 10th**, go for a drive on a country road or out to lunch, then take a photo. The photo is mainly of the car, ideally in front a landmark, scenic view or even in front of a market or hardware store. Send me the photo with basic info: name and place photo was taken. I've set up a special email address for you to send me your photos:

driveyourtriumphday@gmail.com

Those in the northeast USA, who were snow bound with their cars tucked away under covers for the winter, were encouraged to go out and pose with their car in the garage. I coordinated all the photos and sent them to *The Vintage Triumph*, and Mike Cook published multiple pages of photos taken on February 10th of Triumphs around the US, in the VTR magazine.

Editor's Note:

To any CPTC members who participate in the 'Drive Your Triumph Day' - Please send a copy of your photo to me, [news-letter@cptc.org] as well as to Rye, and I will be more than happy to include them in the upcoming issues of *Triumph News*.



August 15-20, 2017

*Celebrating 50 Years
of the Triumph GT6*

Visit our web site

VTR2017.ORG

VTR Convention **August 16-20, 2017**

Convention Headquarters:
Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village
201 Village Boulevard
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: 800-937-8461

**Funkana, Autocross, Rallies and
Tech Sessions, plus activities for
non-car participants!**

More information at:
VTR2017.ORG

Mossmotors.com

800-667-7872



*Pleased to support the
Central Pennsylvania Triumph Club*



The Brokerage

Where Buyers Meet Sellers

1975 Triumph TR6 - Restoration completed 3 years ago; 3500 miles since. Rebuilt engine with street-able performance parts, J-type overdrive, new interior, good top, new metal fenders, good tub & frame, Mimosa w/black interior - very good driver quality car, located in the Pittsburgh area. Asking price - \$15,000. May consider a trade for a TR7 or TR8. Email Pat Ledford (Non-member) at dpledford@gmail.com for photos and additional information. [Listed 2/17]

1981 Triumph TR7 - Fair condition \$3,500 OBO. Mileage 61,502. Repainted in original color (Bordeaux Red) about 12 years ago. Newer tan convertible top, original tan interior. Needs new tires and has some minor electrical hiccups. Last worked on at Triumph Rescue. Garage kept since 1999 - Presently in Hackettstown, NJ. Contact owner (Non-member) via email: mybluedaisies@comcast.net or text (preferred) to: 973-906-6572 [Listed 11/16]

1973 Mercedes 450 SL Coupe - This is a rare coupe, white with light blue interior. Ran when stored in 1991. Slight damage to fender, or quarter, and some minor rust on floor pan. All original parts - \$2,000. Call Sam (Non-member) at 717-253-5849 for more information. Car is located in Hanover, PA. [Listed 11/16]

1957 TR3 (small mouth) - Blue exterior, 54,000 miles, electric overdrive, hundreds of spare parts. The car is in excellent condition; but is an unfinished restoration which has been in our family for 50 years. The vehicle is located in Berkeley Springs, WV. Complete description & photos available at: <http://washingtondc.craigslist.org/mld/cto/5659276680.html> Price: \$22,500 with spare parts, OBO without. Contact Mark Schwenk (Non-member) at 304-676-4599 or mark@frogvalley.com [Listed 7/16]

1962 Triumph Spitfire - Restoration project/parts car; located in Northampton, PA; reasonable offers considered. Call Mary (Non-member) at 814-317-5578 for photos and more information. [Listed 6/16]

1971 TR6 Project - Ran when parked; 3 fenders done, balance of car to finish. Two extra doors, hardtop, new interior still in bags - \$4000. Please contact Bob Logan (Member) at boblogan61@gmail.com or call 610-401-0834. [Listed 5/16]

(Continued on P. 14)

The Brokerage (Continued)

1968 Triumph TR4A - Red with black top/interior. Ground up restoration completed in 2009; driven 450 miles since. Garaged, never driven in inclement weather. Pertronix electronic ignition, concealed battery disconnect, fire extinguisher, solid birds eye maple wood dash, silver painted wire wheels, car cover, shop manual, extra red paint. In excellent condition and runs good. Antique auto tag, transferable. Asking \$25,000. Contact Charlie Benner (Member) at 717-898-2638. [Listed 12/15]

PARTS & EQUIPMENT

Stow-able Top and Frame - fits '62 -'70 MGB. Top is in good shape; black with the original two piece frame from my '65 MGB. \$350. Willing to consider trade for a nice, period correct luggage rack. Call Jeff (Member) at 717-574-2775.

Rebuilt TR6 Engine - Head & block done by Dorman Machine in Mill Hall, PA. All new bearings, pistons, internals; rebuilt carbs; head, timing chain cover & pan gaskets not installed so buyer can verify work; photos upon request; may visit to inspect. Price: \$3000, \$2500 w/o carbs & intake manifold. Contact Chad (Member) at 570-295-7069 or email chad.l.sample@gmail.com [Listed 8/16]

Interior panels - New wheel arch panels, black, purchased for '67 Triumph GT6, Spit Bits price is \$160 + S & H. Will sell for \$110. Contact Ken Drye (Member) - email: akdrye@gmail.com or call 301-271-4042. [Listed 3/16]

Disclaimer:

Items for sale are provided as a courtesy to members of the Central Pennsylvania Triumph Club (CPTC) and the readers of *Triumph News*. This section is provided solely to facilitate contact between Triumph enthusiasts and the use of this information shall create no liability or responsibility upon CPTC, or its Officers or Directors.



The Triumph Lunch Bunch

The next meeting of the **Lunch Bunch** will take place at noon on **Thursday**, February 16, 2017 at John's Diner, 146 Sheraton Drive, New Cumberland, PA. Take Exit 40A (Limekiln Road) off I-83. If you enjoy great company, engaging conversation and good food, consider joining them on their next outing. Please call Diane at 717-761-1741, so she can include you in their reservation.



New Protocol for Purchase of Club Regalia

Holly's Embroidery is the exclusive embroiderer for our club. You can now select men's or women's styles in a wide range of clothing from the full inventory of Holly's catalog.

Call or email Holly with your request, telling her that you are a member of the Central Pennsylvania Triumph Club. She will calculate the cost of the item, embroidery and shipping and get back to you with a price. Pay with a check or credit card and the item will be shipped to your door. View her catalog at www.sanmar.com. Email HollysEmbroidery@comcast.net or call her at (717) 599-5975.

The Vintage Triumph Register

The Vintage Triumph Register (VTR) was founded to promote historic research, encourage sensible and accurate preservation of Triumph automobiles, maximize the enjoyment to be had from driving a Triumph and emphasize camaraderie and social interaction among Triumph owners. VTR welcomes all Triumph automobiles. Membership to VTR is \$35.00 USD and includes 4 issues of *The Vintage Triumph* magazine and newsletter.

Write to: VTR-E-New Membership,
PO Box 655, Howell,
MI, 48844 or visit
www.vtr.org for
more information
and a membership
application.



CPTC Events Coordinator

Tom Miceli

Phone: 717-432-5650

Email: tr-tom@comcast.net

If you'd like to volunteer a little time to help Tom coordinate our various Club events or if you have any suggestions for events or additional Club activities, please feel free to share them with him.

Membership Renewal Information

The membership renewal date for **all CPTC members** is now June 1st of each year! Please bear with us through this transition as we simplify the renewal process for all concerned. Thank you.

Central Pennsylvania Triumph Club
P.O. Box 493
New Kingstown, PA 17072



FIRST CLASS



1974 Triumph TR6
Owners - Mike & Gwenda Zakis