

# THE SPOKES



A Monthly Publication of the Richmond, Virginia Chapter of The Vintage Triumph Register  
and a Triumph Register of America Local Center

Check Out Our New Website at [www.richmondtriumphregister.com](http://www.richmondtriumphregister.com)



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**Don't Miss  
RTR's May Monthly  
Meeting at the Simms's  
Thursday May 11th  
Event Details on Page 2**

## PRESIDENT'S GARAGE

By **Tim Thacker**  
RTR President



Well, it appears that we have skipped Spring and moved right into Summer. The good news is that we can all go topless a little sooner than usual this year. So let's drop those tops, put on your shades and hit the road. It's a great time to enjoy the warm weather while we can.

I am currently in a friendly challenge with Glenn to see whose car will be first on the road this season. While I am currently lagging a little behind at this moment, I hope to narrow the gap in the next month or so. Will it be the Stag that hits the road first or will it be the Spitfire? Stay tuned for the results.

We should have some club activities coming up so please be sure to check the calendar in this issue of the Spokes or go to our club [website](#). Let's try to see some new faces this season!

Cheers!

Tim

### On This Month's Cover

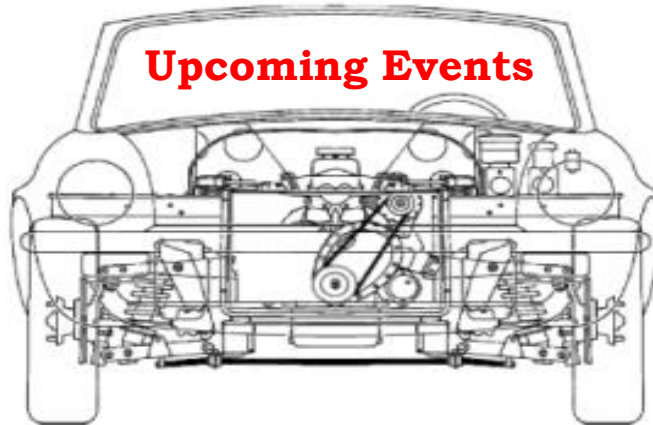
Jim Scherer and Gary Kinney present a tech session on SU carburetors at RTR's April 13th monthly meeting. A big thank you to Jim and Nancy for hosting. We had a near record crowd with 24 guys and 5 ladies attending. Congratulations to Doug Harris for winning \$35 in the 50/50 raffle.



### Spokes Volume 389

In the January 2022 issue of the Spokes, I wrote an article on the history of RTR's newsletter and how 371 issues had been produced. Whew! Well, now we're up to issue 389, and you'll notice I'm now indicating the issue number on the cover alongside the date. We're doing this in conjunction with the launch of RTR's new website, which hopefully will gradually contain most, if not all back issues of the Spokes by volume and date. G.L.

### Upcoming Events



**Ladies Invited!**  
**RTR Monthly Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 11th**  
**At Ken and Cheryl Simms's Home,**  
**Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Tire Kicking Starts at 6:30 p.m.**  
**20007 Talon Point Dr., South**  
**Chesterfield**

RTR's May meeting will be held at Ken and Cheryl Simms's home. We'll have a short business meeting in Ken's garage starting around 7p.m., followed by a tech session on adjusting the valves on a TR6. We are having dinner starting at 6:30, but it won't be pizza! Come hungry! Also, we will have your favorite liquid refreshments. Please bring a camp chair.

The ladies are invited. Ladies, please bring a hors d'oeuvre for the ladies to enjoy.

**Directions to Ken's Garage:** Ken and Cheryl Simms live in southern Chesterfield adjacent to Lake Chesdin. The easiest way to get to there is with your GPS. Make sure you enter 20007 (that's 3 zeros). GPS will get you there. Easiest route: Rt. 288 to Rt. 10 Chester, right on Beach Rd., left on Nash Rd., right on Woodpecker Rd. and a quick left on Nash again. Left on River Rd. Right on Oak River Dr, left on Talon Point Ct and left onto Talon Point Dr. Fourth house on the right.

For additional information about the meeting and getting to his garage, contact Ken at [ken.simms56@gmail.com](mailto:ken.simms56@gmail.com) or 804-516-6052.

**RTR Breakfast**  
**Saturday, May 20th, 9 a.m.**  
**Joe's Inn Bon Air**

Our next RTR breakfast is Saturday, May 20th at Joe's Inn, 2616 Buford Rd. in Bon Air. We hope you can join us! For information, contact Tim Thacker at [thackett@outlook.com](mailto:thackett@outlook.com) or (804) 502-3532.





**AACA Richmond Collector Car Show and Swap Meet**  
**St. Joseph's Villa, Richmond**  
**Saturday, June 10th**  
**8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

You are invited to participate in the 54th annual Richmond Collector Car Show and Swap Meet, to be held on the lawn of St. Joseph's Villa in Richmond, VA. This event is presented by the Richmond Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America. We are excited to feature "Factory Hi-Performance Cars" this year! Please note: Only pre-registered show cars will be eligible for judging and awards.

As an alternative to having your car in the judged portion of the show, you are invited to participate in the 2023 St. Joseph's Cruise In! This non-judged area of the front lawn will be reserved for you to arrive in style, with the freedom to depart whenever you wish. Opening ceremonies and the singing of our National Anthem begin at 10:00 a.m.

An amazing feature display of Factory High-Performance vehicles will offer you the opportunity to see the evolution of automotive performance. Cars will include a Stuz Bearcat, supercharged Auburn, hi-performance Fords, Pontiacs, Mighty Mopars, Maserati, Ferrari F40, and more!

Also recognizing a milestone in automobile history will be a display of 100 years of the MG, presented by the Central VA British Car Club.

Food and beverages will be available throughout the day. Awards presentation will be at 2:30 p.m. 100% of the proceeds raised from the General Admissions gate will be donated to St. Joseph's Villa.

Visit [www.richmondcarshow.com](http://www.richmondcarshow.com) to register your show car, purchase discounted admission tickets, or to learn more about the 54th annual Show.

**British Car Night**  
**River City Diner**  
**Saturday, May 6th**

It's "BRITISH NIGHT" at the Chesterfield Cruising Cruz-in! 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at River City Diner (Huguenot Rd. @ Shops of Bellgrade). Make-up date from last October. All drivers of British vehicles will receive 20% off their dinner purchase and everyone attending gets a free ice cream sundae with dinner purchase. British food will be on the menu with a special music program featuring the 1960's British Invasion. For more info, call the diner at 804-897-9518 or e-mail Cadillac Jeff at [caddyman617@yahoo.com](mailto:caddyman617@yahoo.com).

**Breakthrough Car Show**  
**May 13th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Pamplin Park, Petersburg**

The Central Virginia Car Council will host its Fourth Annual Breakthrough Car Show on May 14th, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Pamplin Historical Park, 6125 Boydton Plank Road in Petersburg. The show is open to all years, makes and models. Find out more at [pamplinpark.org](http://pamplinpark.org).

**CVBCC "Mini Car Show"**  
**Wednesday, May 24th, 5 p.m.**  
**Brandermill Country Club**

Our friends with the Central Virginia British Car Club (CVBCC) have scheduled their annual Mini Car Show for May 24th at the Brandermill Country Club in Midlothian. Though an invite has not yet been extended, the CVBCC has in past years graciously invited RTR members to participate in this annual mini show. RTR will email our members with any update closer to the 24th.



## RTR Launches Its New and Greatly Improved Website

For many years the Richmond Triumph Register maintained a very basic website, with minimal information about our club and its functions. That's all changed effective immediately with the recent launch of our new and greatly improved RTR website. The old .org address has been replaced with [www.richmondtriumphregister.com](http://www.richmondtriumphregister.com).

You can even access our new site with this QR code. Pretty up-to-date, considering we drive 45+ year old cars with no built-in computers! The site, while still a work in progress, is live right now. Check it out!



Thanks to RTR member Ken Simms's efforts and expertise, along with member input, our new website contains many new features that will enhance RTR member access to current and back issues of The Spokes, club and area classic car events, tech tips and more. With this new site, Triumph and classic British car owners in the Richmond area and beyond can easily join our club.

Here's an preview of the pages and other clickable features accessible to all visitors and RTR members only:

### The Home Page (All visitors)



**About Us (All visitors):** This page gives visitors a brief introduction to the Richmond Triumph Register.



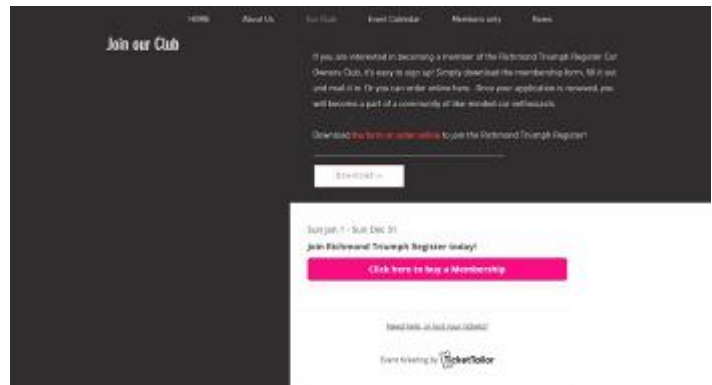
**Our Club—Club Activities (All visitors):** We plan to add even more pictures of member cars, future activities, and events.



**Our Club—Club History (All visitors):** In addition to information about RTR's history, this page contains links to the Vintage Triumph Register's website and how to join VTR.



**Our Club—Join the Club! (All visitors):** Here, prospective new Richmond Triumph Register members have two ways to join our club, either by downloading an application form and mailing in a check, or registering electronically with on-line payment. We hope that all members will renew



online starting in 2024. This new electronic application process saves us money and is much more efficient. We have had 3 BRAND NEW MEMBERS sign up in the last several weeks. This is great news for our club!



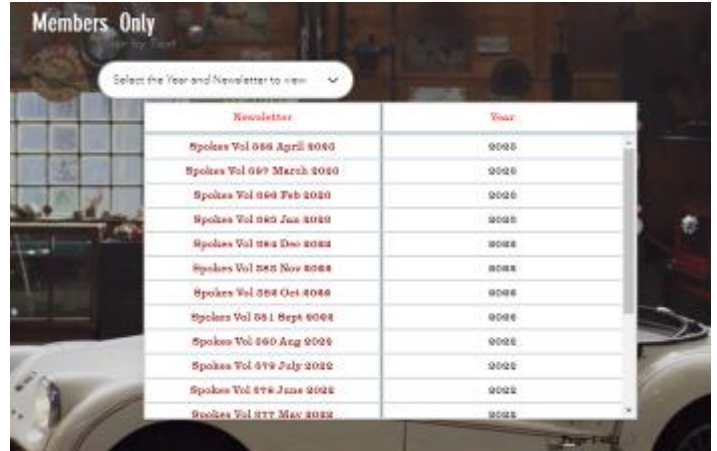
# THE SPOKES

**Event Calendar (All visitors):** Check out the latest RTR and area classic British car events on this new calendar, which will be updated regularly.



**Member's Only (Members only password protected):** This password protected area currently only contains The Spokes archive, but we plan to add additional members only accessible features. The password to this members only page is: **RTR2023**. All RTR members will receive password updates on a regular basis.

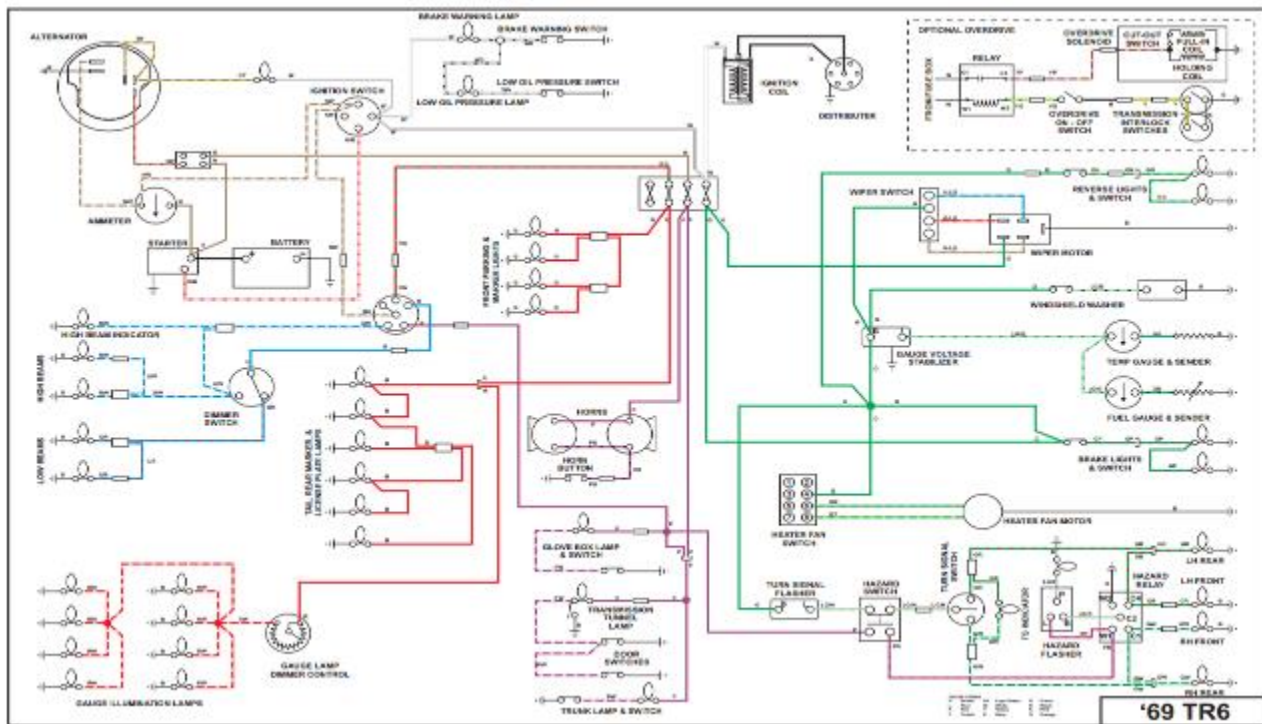
**Spokes Newsletters (Members Only):** Find the latest issues of The Spokes here, along with back issues (Currently 2023 and 2022). We hope to eventually add some (or all) back issues of the Spokes back to at least 1998, if not further. Check out The Spokes Volume 109 from December, 1998. Very few gray hairs back then!



**Still to Come (Members only):** We have several ideas on expanding the Members only area of the website. Some of our ideas include:

- A section about our Officers and contact info.
- RTR Members Contact list that normally comes out in the March Spokes.
- An area devoted to tech tips, local resource recommendations, etc. Have something to contribute? Send it to us.

Stay tuned for more updates! Let us know what you think about RTR's new website. Any ideas for further improvements and additional content are greatly appreciated.



RTR member Tyler Hancock sent me an eight page PDF file of wiring diagrams for the TR250 and each year for the TR6. Contact me at [glarson182@gmail.com](mailto:glarson182@gmail.com) if you want me to email you a copy. G.L.

## GT6 Gearbox: Assembly By Mike Roe

As mentioned previously, the input shaft and mainshaft of my gearbox had been modified/damaged and were no longer suitable for rebuilding. My laygear and laygear shaft were also damaged through modification and the loss of two teeth on 2nd gear. A check of the usual suppliers revealed that though overdrive mainshafts were available, non-overdrive mainshafts were NLS (no longer supplied). I had an overdrive gearbox purchased through eBay several years ago, which had a good input shaft, laygear, and laygear shaft, so I could scavenge these parts from the O/D box for the time being (I decided not to pull the trigger on upgrading to O/D at this time).

While on a business trip in early March to the U.K. I visited my buddy Roy Lacey, who also owns a GT6 MK1 and just happens to live near [T.D. Fitchett's](#). For those who may not know, Tony (T.D.) Fitchett

bought most (if not all) of the spare parts inventory of Standard Triumph Ltd. When the company folded in the early '80's. His operation consists of several warehouses packed full of NOS parts, several dozen shipping containers full of parts yet to be inventoried, and a disas-



sembly/rebuilding operation that refurbishes gearboxes, differentials, overdrives, etc. It is truly a treasure trove of the unobtainable for the Triumph enthusiast, and every marque from Standard 10 through TR8 is represented. They even have a Triumph Herald with 34 documented miles that they keep on hand as a reference standard! I had brought my broken 2nd gear main with me for matching, as 2nd gear changed through the build years of GT6, so they were able to match me up with a new one. They also had a variety of mainshafts available, both with standard nose diameters and increased diameter, as this is a known weak point of the design. I was able to pick up a standard non-O/D mainshaft in very good condition



for about \$150, which is a very good price considering how many still exist.

Reassembly is pretty straightforward, and the videos from Elin Yankov helped a bunch with the many spacers, distance pieces, etc. needed. The loose needle bearings in the laygear are a challenge, as you



need to drop the laygear down in order to install the input shaft. The trick is to take an old laygear shaft and cut it off so it is just slightly shorter than the laygear, then install this shorter shaft into the laygear before dropping it into the case. The shaft

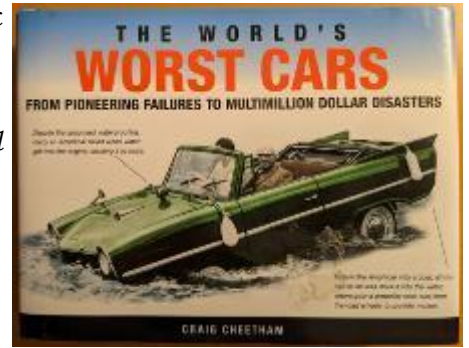


keeps the needle bearings in place, and since the laygear only drops down about a half inch or so, both slotted laygear bushings stay (more or less) in place. Once the input shaft is installed, you flip the gearbox upside down and slightly rotate the input shaft and mainshaft to allow the laygear to come into mesh. Once the bushings and laygear are aligned with the holes in the transmission case, you push the new laygear shaft in from the rear. It will push the shortened shaft out of the front of the case while keeping the needle bearings and bushings in place.

Once assembled, it is a good idea to move each shifter assembly forward and back (into the adjoining gear) to verify that everything will work once in the car. You should feel the brass synchro rings start to bind on the steel synchro cones before the dog teeth engage. In my case, the 4th gear synchro did NOT bind on the cone before the teeth engaged, which is a problem. This will result in the dreaded "grinding" when engaging 4th, as the two mating surfaces will remain at different speeds as they try to engage. Fortunately, inspection required removal of only the input shaft to remove the 4th gear syn-

## Here and There...

*I bought this book from a bargain table recently for about \$1. The Triumph Stag and TR7 are featured in the "Badly Built" section. Who knew? On a more positive note, I'm hoping to have the engine in my Stag reinstalled next week. G.L.*



*High zinc content 20W-50 motor oil for our British classics is getting increasingly hard to find. While I've occasionally been able to find it at Walmart, I've discovered Castrol GTX Classic is now also [available at Amazon](#).*



*A good turn-out at the April 22nd British and Classic European show in Williamsburg, but many RTR members had to dodge raindrops on the way home. Photo by Ken Nachman.*



chro. Examination revealed I had mistakenly installed a worn synchro (from the pile of synchros on my workbench). As you can see in the photos, a good synchro will have distinct grooves on its interior face, while in a worn synchro these grooves are much less prominent.

After replacing the worn component, the synchros felt as they should, so I proceeded with final assembly and installation into the car. A quick test without the tunnel cover in place confirmed that I did indeed have 4 forward gears once again (plus reverse!), and the synchros for each gear felt great. With a new tunnel cover in place, it drives much more quietly than before, so I'm very pleased with the results!



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## CLASSIC-FIEDS

Classic-Fied ads are FREE for any paid member of the Richmond Triumph Register. Please check your ads and notify the Spokes editor of changes or ads to be removed. Sell most anything within reason. Ads are run for two months unless canceled.

**For Sale:** 1975 TR6. 58,000 miles. Garaged and not driven for seven years. January services included new battery, new gas lines, new front brake lines, rebuilt carburetors, new throttle linkage and bushings and 4 new tires. Overall, I have spent about \$2,900 getting it back on the road. It is fully stock with an overdrive transmission that I installed in 2006. I still have the numbers matching original transmission. It's considered a good looker from about 15'. The issues are a dent in the passenger's door and a small dent on the right rear quarter panel as well as a small tear in the top. Otherwise, it's solid TR6 and runs nearly perfectly. I have more pictures if someone is interested, and the car is available for viewing locally. I live near 288 and Hull St Rd. Asking \$11,000. Contact Sean O'Brien at 804-937-8186.



**Spotted:** TR6 hardtop that needs to go to a good home. If anyone is interested, it is at Virginia Auto Parts. 1325 Portsmouth Blvd in Suffolk, VA. Ask for Gill at 571-589-7054.

**Wanted:** Need the metal bracket that holds the high low headlight switch located on the left inner panel on a TR3. Contact Bob at [rlplkp@comcast.net](mailto:rlplkp@comcast.net).

## Welcome New RTR Members

Louis and Angela Quick  
124 Smith Crossing Lane  
West Point, VA 23181  
[bquick2010@aol.com](mailto:bquick2010@aol.com)  
804-843-3424  
1963 TR4

Kenneth and Marilyn Wayland  
3604 Whispering Wood Ct  
Richmond, VA 23233  
[kenwayland@freeagentsmarketing.com](mailto:kenwayland@freeagentsmarketing.com)  
804-363-7353  
1969 TR6

Mike Adams  
12382 Greenwood Rd  
Glen Allen, VA 23059  
[descova1@yahoo.com](mailto:descova1@yahoo.com)  
804-405-3451  
1972 TR6  
1952 MG TD

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## THE SPOKES

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**4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
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## RTR 2023 Officers

<b>President</b>	Tim Thacker	(804) 502-3532	thackett@outlook.com
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<b>Secretary</b>	Jim Coleman	(804) 569-9135	JimByJove@comcast.net
<b>Treasurer/Membership/TRA Rep</b>	Jim Scherer	(804) 594-5694	rosiesch3@aol.com
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<b>6 Pack &amp; Tech Advisor</b>	Mike Roe	(804) 774-1750	microtr6@gmail.com
<b>Historian</b>	Eric Crenshaw	(804) 320-1951	ericcrenshaw@gmail.com
<b>VTR Representative</b>	Gary Kinney	(804) 334-2605	gkinney72@gmail.com
<b>Activities</b>	Ken Nachman	(804) 840-1441	Kennachman@comcast.net
<b>Car Club Council Rep.</b>	Jamie Walker	(804) 350-8941	greenspit79@gmail.com
<b>Past President</b>	Bruce Vaden	(804) 330-2487	shelleyv8@comcast.net
<b>Webmaster</b>	Ken Simms	(804) 516-6052	ken.simms56@gmail.com

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you know of an event, or have an idea for one that might be of interest to our members, contact us with details (or rumors). Please use the contact to confirm event status before making any trips. RTR sponsored events are in yellow.

May			
6	British Car Night at River City Diner, W Huguenot Rd, Midlothian	SAT	804-897-9518
11	RTR Monthly Meeting - Ken Simm's House - 7 p.m.	THURSDAY	Ken Simms 804-516-6052
12-13	Import/Performance Nationals - Carlisle, PA	FRI-SUN	<a href="http://www.carsatcarlisle.com/">http://www.carsatcarlisle.com/</a>
13	Cars and Coffee - Regency Mall, 1420 N Parham Rd - 8 to 10 a.m.	SATURDAY	<a href="http://carsandcoffeerichmond.com/">http://carsandcoffeerichmond.com/</a>
13	Breakthrough Car Show, Pamplin Park, Petersburg-10 a.m. to 3 p.m	SATURDAY	<a href="https://pamplinpark.org/">https://pamplinpark.org/</a>
20	RTR Breakfast - Joe's Inn Bon Air - 9 a.m.	SATURDAY	Tim Thacker 804-502-3532
21	Jefferson 500 at Summit Point, WV	SUNDAY	<a href="http://www.summitpoint-raceway.com/">http://www.summitpoint-raceway.com/</a>
24	CVBCC Mini Show - Brandermill	WEDNESDAY	
27	Cars and Coffee - Regency Mall, 1420 N Parham Rd - 8 to 10 a.m.	SATURDAY	<a href="http://carsandcoffeerichmond.com/">http://carsandcoffeerichmond.com/</a>
27-4	British Car Week		<a href="http://www.britishcarweek.org">www.britishcarweek.org</a>
June			
4	Original British Car Day - Mt. Airy, MD	SUNDAY	<a href="http://www.chesapeakechaptermgmtclub.com/index.htm">www.chesapeakechaptermgmtclub.com/index.htm</a>
8	RTR Monthly Meeting - Don Tate's House - 7 p.m.	THURSDAY	Don Tate 804-833-9750
6-9	British V8 Meet, Monticello, IL	SUN-WED	<a href="https://britishv8meet.org/">https://britishv8meet.org/</a>
10	Richmond AACA Show - St. Joseph's Villa, 800 Brook Rd.	SATURDAY	<a href="http://www.richmondaaca.com/show.html">http://www.richmondaaca.com/show.html</a>
10	Cars and Coffee - Regency Mall, 1420 N Parham Rd - 8 to 10 a.m.	SATURDAY	<a href="http://carsandcoffeerichmond.com/">http://carsandcoffeerichmond.com/</a>
17	RTR Breakfast - Joe's Inn Bon Air - 9 a.m.	SATURDAY	Tim Thacker 804-502-3532
17-18	Virginia Festival of the Wheel - Charlottesville	SAT-SUN	<a href="https://www.vafestivalofthewheel.com/">https://www.vafestivalofthewheel.com/</a>
18-23	TRA Nationals, Oxford, Ohio	MON-FRI	<a href="http://www.triumphregister.com">www.triumphregister.com</a>
30	RTR at Gelati Celesti, Huguenot Road - 7 p.m.	FRIDAY	Tim Thacker 804-502-3532
24	Cars and Coffee - Regency Mall, 1420 N Parham Rd - 8 to 10 a.m.	SATURDAY	<a href="http://carsandcoffeerichmond.com/">http://carsandcoffeerichmond.com/</a>