TOMCC Carolinas

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Photo of the month - Ernesto Agbayani

TOMCC DEALER OF THE MONTH

OLD TOWNE CYCLE CENTER

JOE BARNES

In Piedmont, South Carolina, Joe Barnes is a highly respected figure of the local vintage British motorcycle community. He operates his business, **Old Towne Cycle Center** from Piedmont, though he is widely recognized around the world by his well known eBay storefront, **SCBRITISHCYCLE**.

If you are restoring or maintaining a vintage or classic Triumph, BSA, or Norton, especially here in the Carolinas, Joe Barnes is one of the premier resources. Through Old Towne Cycle Center and his online eBay operations, he supplies a wide inventory of new, used, and hard-to-find vintage British motorcycle parts.

Joe got into British motorcycles out of pure personal passion. As he describes it on his online store, he "first loved motorcycles, then ruined a perfectly good hobby" by turning his personal obsession into a professional venture.He spent years collecting, repairing, and restoring classic vintage British (as well as Italian and German) motorcycles. He formed **Barnes Classic Restorations,** an outfit dedicated to breathing new life into old marques like Triumph, BSA, and Norton. Over time, his deep mechanical expertise meant acquiring significant part lots, project bikes, and New Old Stock (NOS) factory components. As his reserve of high-quality components grew, Barnes realized that other vintage bike owners struggled to source the correct, authentic hardware needed to keep these machines running. He transitioned into parts distribution by launching his eBay store. By September 2020, Barnes formalized his operation into a corporate business entity, registering Old Towne Cycle Center, LLC in South Carolina.

Amongst local vintage bike enthusiasts, Barnes is known not just as a parts dealer but as an

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KEEPING THE WHEELS TURNING!

2026 Wrap-Up, A Look to 2027, and Membership Renewals!

We have been having a great first year of riding in our new TOMCC Chapter! From local area meetups to epic rally asphalt-carving, our Carolinas community of Triumph enthusiasts has been growing and becoming active. We have gone from 4 members in 2025 to close to 70 members! Whether you were leading a ride on a classic Bonneville, attending a vintage bike show or showing up for a DGR charity ride, thank you for making 2026 a successful year.

While we started hitting the road as a club this year, we were also celebrating everything that makes owning a Triumph special. Things have been slowly taking off for some of the local groups, and such is the nature of building a new foundation.

Great first Regional Rally: Our branch found a good hub in Maggie Valley for the Spring Rally, so much so that the membership overwhelmingly voted to do it there again next year. One change for next year is we will move the week

2027 Events Continued, Page 2

Joe Barnes *(continued from pg 1)*

authority on classic bike mechanics. Customers across various motorcycle forums regularly praise his technical knowledge, noting his willingness to talk through troubleshooting—ranging from tricky Lucas electrical systems to finding original Whitworth-sized hardware. His inventory features thousands of high-grade UK-made necessities, proprietary US goods, and OEM Smiths and Lucas parts. He operates on a strict philosophy of only stocking and selling high-grade components that he would be willing to install on his own personal bikes. Joe's influence extends well past his workshop walls.

He is deeply embedded in regional riding culture as a leader in community events. Joe has co-hosted G.A.S. Vintage Motofest, a well know annual vintage motorcycle event in the upstate. Held right in Piedmont, alongside members of the G.A.S. (Greenville and Spartanburg) Vintage Motorcycle Club, the event showcases exceptional classic machinery from across the region. Joe also actively partners with and helps organize the Greenville-area Distinguished Gentleman's Ride, a global event for classic and café racer motorcycles that raises funds and awareness for men's health. Joe also participates and actively supports the reknowned annual British in the Blue Ridge Motorcycle Event each June in Hiawassee GA and serves as a resource for it's parent organization the Greater Atlanta British Motorcycle Association (GABMA).

As a member of our new Triumph organization in the region, Joe has offered his support and guidance in moving things forward. He even offers parts discounts to TOMCC members. Contact him directly for the discount, rather than just ordering the parts through his eBay store. If you are you looking to get in touch with Joe for a specific Triumph part, you can contact him at **scbritish@gmail.com,** or by calling then at 864-350-0067.

As for NEW activities and updates, we have a bunch going on!! (Refresh your browser, trust us...)

- **New Web Page** We decided our club needed a web page, and one of our members was just the person to do it! Louise St. Romain is laying it out, and you can find it at **www.triumphmotorcycleowners.com.** Still a work in progress, but we would love to hear your ideas!
- **New Discussion Forum for TOMCC Carolinas** Because social media is a crazy rat race these days, we decided to go a little "old school" and start a good ole discussion forum area for members. You can find it on the new web page at **www.triumphmotorcycleowners.com/forum** This is for actual ***TOMCC members only***, so join up and join in!
- **New TOMCC Carolinas Merch Page** That's right, you asked for it, and it is finally here! Our merch page is available at **www.tomcc.itemorder.com** and soon on our web site.

2027 Events *(Continued from pg 1)*

ONE CHANGE FOR NEXT YEAR IS WE WILL MOVE THE RALLY WEEKEND AWAY FROM THE TRIUMPH-SPONSORED DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN'S RIDE, SO THAT MORE OF OUR MEMBERS CAN PARTICIPATE.

We've continued to grow and establish a foothold here, forming 3 active local groups and are working to establish new local groups and a couple that are fledgling, connecting riders everywhere across the Carolinas. We are building community spirit. Beyond the throttle, our members shared stories, mechanical advice, and laughs over a warm brew at local bike nights. That is what building community is all about!

Looking Ahead to 2027: The planning teams are already mapping out routes, booking event spaces, and securing dates for next year. We are working to plan some ADV events, touring to destinations like TriFest in Indiana and the Triumph National Rally in PA, possibly even a track day event! It means our local groups will be are putting double the energy into making 2027 an even bigger touring, local riding and rally year yet.

Expect more local rides, specialized events for different riding tastes, and robust support for our rapidly growing local sections. Keep your eyes glued to your email for our regional newsletter and online for the official club magazine Nacelle for the latest happening (comes out the 20th of each month.

A Quick Note on Club Renewals (End of 2025 Joiners) Time flies when you're riding. If you joined TOMCC during our massive membership surge at the end of 2025, your annual renewal window is officially opening. To keep your access to the members' forum and Nacelle maintain your official branch affiliation, please take a quick moment to keep your status active. TOMCC doesn't send a notification that it is expiring.

2027 Calandar *(Thus Far!)*

April 24 - GAS Motofest, Piedmont SC. The great vintage bike evebt in Greenville/Spartanburg is back this year!

May 16 - Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride, Worldwide, Sponsored bt Triumph Motorcycles. Check **gentlemensride.com** for your closest happening!

May 20-23 - TOMCC Regional Rally, Maggie Valley NC - Back to the Route 19 Inn, by popular demand! 15% off on rooms for TOMCC members.

June 3-5 - British in the Blue Ridge, Hiawassee GA. Long running event, sponsored by Greater Atlanta British Motorcycle Association

June 26-28 - Triumph National Rally, Oley PA - A group of us is planning a road trip to attend. Holler if you want to go!

September 24-26 - TOMCC USA TriFest, Indianapolis, IN. Road trip?? More details to follow!

October 8-10 - AMCA Southern Nationals, Denton NC. If you can't make the trek to Barber in Alabama, this is your second best bet!

Local TOMCC Section Highlights

Charlotte TOMCC
Contact - Scott Kelly, Mike Martin

Local members are leading rides from a Facebook Messenger chat group for the area. Reach out to Scott Kelly is you want to get involved.
They are planning another get together at Harp and Crown next month and working on a route that rides around Kings Mountain and then have brunch or lunch at Southern Artisian Distillery, who reached out to us with an invite.
In additon to the events on our calendar, there are a few other opportunities for Charlotte area Triumph fans. Brit Bike Breakfast occurs each month on the north end of town, and SoMoto on the South side in Fort Mill / Rock Hill. Let the group know if there are rides and events where we should meet up!

Asheville TOMCC
Contact - Scot Dail

The Asheville group had a few meetups this month, these are mostly being planned on our Facebook Messenger Group, so reach out if you want to be included. We did our 2nd Tuesdays Meetup at Hillman Beer in Biltmore 13 October, a ride out 14 October when member John Vergara came to town, and then the Burgers and Bikin' event 18 October with a colour run up the Parkway and back down Elk Mountain into Asheville.
Eggs and Bikin on 3rd Sundays will be renamed "Burger and Bikin" for the winter, and start Sunday afternoons.
Monthly meetups will coninue on 2nd Tuesdays, but meet a little earlier at 6:00 pm.
Hunter Powersports, our Triumph dealer, has bike nights 3rd Friday of the month, Kickstands and Coffee events are at Prescott Auto Reserve and Dripolater Chandler every two weeks!

Raleigh TOMCC
Contact - Greg James

We had a great ride in October for our monthly meet up. The group was small, just me and one of our new members, Burke Foley as well as our Ducati friend Chris Thomas who graciously led us on a nice ride through Cary, Holly Springs and Garner. We ended up at White Oak and had a nice lunch at a delicious Mexican restaurant. Hope to see more folks next month!



harlotte Photo: Scott Kelly

Raleigh Photo: September Meeting and Ride (Occurs Monthly)

Greensboro TOMCC
Contact - Nat Simpson

Select Cycle in Greensboro is our local Triumph dealer, and we like to launch events from their location when practical. Ryan at Select also supports the TOMCC events there. Greensboro alos has a chat group in Facebook Messenger for discussing and planning rides.
The Greensboro group now meets on Second Saturdays at the dealership.
Get there around 9:00, meet the crew and go on a ride!
Tom D'Onofrio, TOMCC Member, has started working at Select! Stop by and say hello!

Chairman's Chatter

History of the Triumph Owners Motorcycle Club (TOMCC) - Part 1

One of our local Ton Up members said to me the other day "Not many people are aware of the TOMCC history" It's true, I wonder how many of you do? Though we are one of the oldest and largest motorcycle enthusiast clubs in the world, there is little recognition of that in the U.S.. OK, so stand back, here starts episode 1 of my miniseries on the TOMCC!

The Triumph Owners Motor Cycle Club (TOMCC) was founded in the post-World War II era, and our club has served as a central community for Triumph enthusiasts ever since. It bridges generations of riders by welcoming those who ride pre-war models, classic Meriden twins, or modern Hinckley machines. Celebrating more than 75 years of active fellowship, TOMCC has evolved from a small regional gathering in South London into a massive international community.

The story of the TOMCC began in November 1949. Six dedicated motorcycle enthusiasts organized an inaugural meeting at Chatham Hall in Battersea, South London.

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Ton Up NC
Durham, NC
October 31st!
Durham Central Park
Starts at 2:00 p.m.



TOMCC Carolinas Local Area Leaders

- **Asheville** – Scot Dail – scotdail@gmail.com 919-946-4080
- **Charlotte** – Scott Kelly - spckelly@comcast.com
- **Greensboro** – Nat Simpson – hnsimpson@gmail.com
- **Raleigh** – Greg James - greg.james@gmail.com
- **Coastal** – Wheaton Lefler – wheaton1002@gmail.com

TOMCC Carolinas Member Spotlight - Louise St. Romain
"Overlooking the Chaos" of Motorcycles, A Personal Journey



*Louise is a member of the staff at **Triumph of Asheville,** aka **Hunter Powersports** – the Tag and Title Administrator. Louise owns a Triumph Speed 400 and a Suzuki SV650. She is also a talented photographer, an artist, and moderates several internet discussion forums. For the Carolinas TOMCC, she is our unofficial / official internet web-master! (aka **Chaos-Watcher**)*



I've always had at least one motorcycle since I moved out of my parents' house. The last thing my folks wanted me to have was a motorcycle and when they saw me looking through the used vehicle pages looking for one when I was around 15, they did everything they could to discourage me. They would tell me the horror stories about accidents and saying that I would grow out of it. I didn't.



Within six months of moving out, I made my first motorcycle purchase from the local Honda dealership by the name of Cooper's Cycle Ranch near Trenton NJ (editor's note – a Triumph dealer back in the 1980s!), a 1979 Kawasaki KZ400 in red for the grand total of $700. A friend rode it to my apartment since I did not know how to ride at this point. I learned to ride it in the parking lot and a nearby field after which I started riding it everywhere. I had it for a number of years, managing to keep it nice looking, enough so that when the American Motorcycle Museum in Ohio was looking for examples for an exhibit, mine was the one they accepted.



I periodically get asked about why I ride motorcycles. This is generally asked after the person finds out that I actually own and ride motorcycles. For some odd reason, this little fact actually seems to surprise them. They get even more surprised when I tell them that I've been riding motorcycles for most of my life. Then they look at me as if I'm crazy and generally go "so, you have a Harley" (it seems that is the generic go to when someone finds out that one rides motorcycles) I'll tell them, no, I've never owned a Harley and am not fond of them. I have have a bunch of Suzukis and Hondas with a couple of other brands in the mix. Their next comment goes along the lines of "oh, crotch rockets" No, not really, though I guess my Suzuki SV650s could fit that description, sort of. It's been mainly stuff that could be described at the UJM (Universal Japanese Motorcycle) but leaning towards the sporty side which matches how I ride. Not really aggressive but I do prefer the twisties to riding in a straight line. I have had as many as five at one time but currently have two; the aforementioned SV650s and a Triumph Speed 400. Due to having rather bad knees (have an upcoming appointment with an ortho surgeon), I tend to ride the Triumph more; it weighs about 100 lbs less than the Suzuki and the leg position is not as aggressive.



So, coming back to the why I ride....
Many people talk about the freedom of the road and all that stuff. I'm not knocking that but it really isn't that for me. Rather, it is more the feeling of accomplishment of going into a turn just right, how smooth I can switch from braking to acceleration, hitting the planned marks in getting through a turn. I also don't notice how much my knees hurt normally; unlike walking when while my knees feel like something is nlike walking when while my knees feel like something is stabbing them every time I take a step. I suppose that the ability to do a physical activity without it bring on more pain is a kind of freedom. I think I'll take that.



This is just the beginning of Louise's story. See the rest on web page!

www.triumphmotorcycleowners.com

We also would like to share your motorcycle and life story, so reach out!







Make & Meet Friends, Take Rides, win SWAG!

May 20 - 23, 2027
at the Route 19 Inn
Maggie Valley, NC

Rooms will go FAST, reserve yours now !







TOMCC Raleigh Group Ride



TOMCC CAROLINAS BENEFITS, SEP 2026

MAKING RIDING MORE AFFORDABLE!

OK, so folks often ask about the club, "what's in it for me?". We think it is obvious, fellowship, community, help with your bikes, local and regional events and riding! We like to think of ourselves as a family. This is a formal club also, with rules and bylaws, offering a safer and more secure environment to ride.

Some people want more though! So, we have reached out to our local dealers and merchants for help. Here is what we have thus far - to sweeten the pot for TOMCC members:

1. **Art Moto Garage**, Raleigh NC - 10% off parts, accessories and merch
2. **Cycle Gear**, Raleigh NC - 10% off regularly priced parts
3. **Hunter Powersports**, Hendersonville NC - 10% off parts, accessories and merch for members
4. **Old Towne Cycle Center**, Piedmont SC - 15% of parts for British Motorcycles, scbritish@gmail.com 864-350-0067
5. **Motorcycles of Charlotte**, Charlotte NC - 15% off on all Triumph merch in stock, 10% off on other merch and ordered merch.10% off on parts
6. **Select Cycle**, Greensboro NC - 10% off parts, accessories and merch for TOMCC members. Free year's TOMCC membership with a new bike purchase

Bring your TOMCC Membership card, for digital members this can be printed off from off-line!

Chatter *(Continued from pg 3)*

Initially established as Triumph M.C.C., the name "Owners" was added soon thereafter, following a request from Triumph Engineering Co. Ltd. This group is known as the "Mighty South London" branch.

Triumph had just introduced Trophy TR5 and the Thunderbird 6T. This was also at the beginning of a golden era. Movie stars transformed the bikes into a global pop-culture, Triumphs set groundbreaking land-speed records and held a dominant role in motorcycle racing. For a power-hungry American market, Triumph was cementing itself as a motorbike of ultimate cool.

As ownership of Triumph motorcycles surged through the 50's and 60's, the club quickly grew. To cater to expanding membership, new regional branches formed. The growth followed a structured framework so members could start an official branch while maintaining ties to the core leadership.

The club adopted the Latin motto **"Nulli Secundus"** (Second to None), mirroring the prestigious Coldstream Guards, a title reflecting club pride in British engineering and its elite status among rider associations.

More next month!
(exciting, isn't it?)

CAROLINAS TOMCC	SCOT DAIL, BRANCH CHAIRMAN 919-946-4080 chairman@tomcccarolinas.org
www.triumphmotorcycleowners.com	Covering all of the Carolinas