Triumphs on the Track

Enthusiasts vie at Road America for the coveted Kastner Cup

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHAWN FRANK

our miles of black magic. Those are where they belong, in competition.

The Kastner Cup started in an are the founding marks. Triumph, used to describe Road America. Raceway. It was started to honor Triumph For those who don't know of Road America, competition royalty. For those of you unfait is a top-tier race track that holds some miliar with Triumph history, Kas Kastner famous and largely known races like the is one of the main reasons Triumphs are SCCA Runoffs, American Le Mans Series known for their competition back story. racing, and Rolex Series racing, among others. It's a 4.048-mile road course with driver in the late 1950s, a class champion 14 turns and high-speed straights. It first for the California Sports Car Club, and opened in 1955, following years of rac- Sports Car Club of America Champion in ing in the streets of nearby Elkhart Lake, 1959 in a Triumph. He was chief instruc-Wisconsin. The first race, in 1950, was a tor for the California Sports Car Club, and 3.3-mile road course, and in 1951 and national licensing chairman for the SCCA. 1952 the circuit was 6.5 miles on the two- His experience with performance parts lane roads and highways winding through is second to none, even to this day. He the village and into the countryside. The not only raced Triumphs, he convinced barricaded streets, painted lines on the the Triumph executives to allow a works pavement and strategically placed hay racing team sponsored by the factory to bales were part of the feel.

to a state-of-the-art facility that attracted that these cars received would ultimately more and more people each year. Designers result in sales. They granted his wish after created one of the longest and most chal-some rearranging, and made him head of lenging road courses in the world, designed the U.S. Competition Department for the rolling hills and glacial terrain. Drivers love the team to victory after victory, nationin. Race enthusiasts, and even celebrities was very successful, and he was equally like Tom Cruise and Michael Jordan, have successful in team management, as well been known to attend races there. It's no as writing a series of model-specific prepawas one of the greatest courses in the world. been used by enthusiasts for years now. It

Festival attracts enthusiasts from all over deemed the Kastner Cup. the United States and around the world. by the Friends of Triumph, an elite group Road America's turn. of Triumph historians who keep these cars

The Kastner Cup started in 2003 in the founding members of Friends of Ontario, Canada, at Mosport International Kas was a well-known production car

showcase Triumph cars. He figured the In time, it moved from the village roads exposure at the tracks and competitions

The Kastner Cup has been held at differ-In 2013, it coincided with The Kastner ent tracks every year, giving participants Cup, an annual race for Triumphs and convenient access and variety, no matter Triumph-powered cars. The Vintage Sports where they live in the U.S. or abroad. Car Drivers Association (VSCDA) keeps Tracks like Watkins Glen, Road Atlanta and based on track performance alone. track of scoring, timing, and regulations, Laguna Seca have been some of the venues but the event is organized and operated for this prestigious event. This year was track performance, with 25 percent based

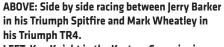






around the topography of the land, with Triumph factory in the early 1960s. He led TR4s, two TR4As, two TR250s, three TR6s, four Spitfires, four GT6s, a TR8, a Pevote to take it on, and spectators love to take it ally and internationally. His racing career MKII Special, a Devin bodied TR4, and a TVR 2200S, all strikingly beautiful and race-specific. (Among the TR250s was the TR250K, a Peter Brock- and Kas Kastnersecret that the late Paul Newman thought it ration handbooks and articles that have designed beauty that started in the back of the field even though he qualified for the Every vear, the Elkhart Lake Vintage seems to fit that this annual event would be front row—a very gentlemanly gesture.) Watching them tear around the track made it easy to see how much these drivers love racing these vintage examples of form and function. Some were faster than others, of course, but the Kastner Cup is not won

> Fifty percent of the choice is based on on car presentation, and 25 percent on The grid consisted of four TR3s, 13 exemplifying the spirit of vintage racing.



LEFT: Ken Knight in the Kastner Cup-winning Triumph TR4.

RIGHT: (from left) Joe Alexander, Peg Kastner, Charlotte McGuire. Kas Kastner. Chuck McGuire and Shawn Frank.



echoed off the rolling hills. RIGHT: Dennis Delap screams up the straight in his Triumph TR4-powered TVR 2200S.



ABOVE: Sam Halkias tears up the track in his Triumph TR6. RIGHT: Ken Knight, in green, receiving the coveted Kastner Cup from Kas Kastner.





The decision in its entirety is made by Kas and shook Kas's hand, smiling from ear to Kastner himself. No one can win the trophy two years in a row, and the previous the trophy with a sense of accomplishment. year's winner must relinquish the trophy A great moment to witness. for the next winner to receive.

ners' names, saying, "It is my distinct pleaner with this trophy. It was a very difficult decision, as usual. This person deserves I wouldn't say that is a bad thing. this trophy. I present to you the winner of the 2013 Kastner Cup, Ken Knight in his May 16-18 at Eagles Canyon Raceway in '64 Triumph TR4!"

The camaraderie among this group was blatantly apparent as they all congratulated Ken. As they cleared a path, Ken walked up Magazine.

ear. He made a short speech and looked at

If you have a chance to catch a Kastner As a silence swept over the garage, the Cup race, you will not be disappointed. The crowd anxiously awaited the announce- competition, the camaraderie, the displays ment by Kas himself on the winner. He of gentlemanly racing excellence, and, of held up the silver trophy bearing past win- course, the artistic beauty and sound of historic and vintage race cars will almost sure to present this year's Kastner Cup win- be sensory overload. Prepare yourself and soak it all in, because you will be addicted.

> This year's Kastner Cup will be held Denton, Texas. See you there.

> Shawn Frank is the editor of Spitfire & GT6

Results

Peter Bulkowski, 1977 TR8
Sam Halkias, 1971 TR6
Tony Garmey, 1967 TR250K
Bill Babcock, 1959 Peyote
MKII Special
Ken Knight, 1964 TR4

FASTEST LAP, B	Y MODEL	
TR8	Peter Bulkowski	2:39
TR6	Sam Halkias	2:40
Peyote Special	Bill Babcock	2:44
TR4	Ken Knight	2:48
Spitfire	Jerry Barker	2:49
TR250	Leo Oddi	2:50
GT6	Clark Lincoln	2:53
TR3	Andrew Willms	2:59
Awarded by Snook's Dream Cars of Bowling		

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