



## PRESS RELEASE

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**Robert “Bob” Johns selected as Grand Marshal for 2022 Kastner Cup to be held in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix July 15-17, 2022.** *The 20<sup>th</sup> annual all-Triumph vintage automobile race will celebrate 70 years of Triumph sports cars in competition. Also, Early Bird Registration for racers ends May 21<sup>st</sup>.*

Robert “Bob” Johns was selected to be the Grand Marshal for the 2022 Kastner Cup will be held in conjunction with the 40th annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, America’s longest running vintage street race (<https://pvgp.org/>). The Kastner Cup will occur on July 15-17, 2022, at the PVGP Historic Races at the Pittsburgh International Race Complex ([Historics At Pitt Race | PVGP](#)). Pitt Race is in Wampum PA on a 427-acre road race and karting facility located 40 miles northwest of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. The road course is 2.8 miles in length, with 19 turns, a 36-foot-wide racing surface, and 110 feet of elevation change. The track is fast and challenging with extensive runoff areas, two long straights, and acres of paved paddocks.

While serving in the Air Force beginning in 1952, Johns had the good fortune to be stationed near one of the greatest racetracks in the world, The Nürburgring. Compiling an enviable record in the European motorsports’ world during his three-year stint with more than 25 events, Bob scored several important victories including first place finishes in the Eifel Motor Sports Club’s annual lap times (Nürburgring course), Landstuhl Air Force Base Road Races, and the Sembach Air Force Base Road Races. Back in the United States, Johns was contacted by Alan Bethel, President of Standard-Triumph USA. Bethel was assembling a team for the Triumph factory to compete in the only International Sports Car Race in the United States at that time, the 12 Hours of Sebring Endurance Race scheduled for March 1957. Bethel offered Johns a place on the team. Johns finished 1st in class and 19th overall. He retired from racing soon after. Johns was inducted into the British Sports Car Hall of Fame in 2017.

Johns brings a wealth of vintage racing knowledge and experience to the 2022 Kastner Cup. As Grand Marshal, he will present the Peggy Kastner Performance Awards to each top-performing driver in the various models of Triumph powered race car. Johns will also determine the winner of the R.W. “Kas” Kastner’s Trophy. His decision will be guided by Kastner’s original outline – 50% based on performance, 25% based on presentation, and 25% based on enthusiasm for vintage racing.

The PVGP Historic Race schedule will include practice and qualifying on Friday July 15<sup>th</sup>, a qualifying race and the Kastner Cup Race on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Kastner Cup Reunion Race on Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup>. The following weekend, the Grand Prix returns to race through Pittsburgh’s beautiful Schenley Park. Participants in the Kastner Cup have the option to run both the PVGP Historics and PVGP in Schenley Park.

Early Bird Registration for racers ends May 21, 2022. Race registration has moved to MotorsportReg (MSR). Many vintage racers are already signed-up and familiar with MSR so it will be seamless for most. If you have not used the on-line MSR registration system before, just set up an account and you will find out how easy it is to register using this link: [2022 PVGP Historics at Pitt Race \(motorsportreg.com\)](https://motorsportreg.com)

**About the Kastner Cup:** 2022 will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> running of the Kastner Cup. The race will celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> year of Triumph sports car in competition. The Kastner Cup was named in recognition of the career accomplishment and legacy of R.W. "Kas" Kastner who passed away on April 11, 2021 at the age of 92. Kas Kastner was one of the most influential individuals responsible for the racing success of Triumph sports cars from the late 1950's through 1970 and beyond. To this day, his series of Competition Preparation Manuals are a must read for competitors in Triumph sports cars. Later in his career, Kastner directed the Nissan IMSA GTP team that won the manufacturers' championship three years in a row and the drivers' championship four years in a row; a remarkable achievement.

The Kastner Cup race is held at a different track each year to provide Triumph racers across the country a chance to compete for the Cup. Open to race prepared Triumph powered cars, the Kastner Cup is awarded to one competitor based on the following criteria:

- 50% for the competitive results on the racetrack during the event (not necessarily the winner)
- 25% for the presentation of the car
- 25% for the attitude and interest in Vintage racing

The Kastner Cup is organized by members of the Friends of Triumph (FOT). FOT is a group of vintage racers dedicated to preserving the racing heritage of the Triumph marque. Campaigning these automobiles on the track is at the essence of why FOT was organized. The 2022 Kastner Cup Race Committee Chair is Curt Johnston. For more information about the Committee, contact him at [curt.johnston@comcast.net](mailto:curt.johnston@comcast.net).

The Friends of Triumph would like to acknowledge the support provided by the 2022 sponsors: the Vintage Triumph Register, Triumph Wedge Owner's Association, and the Western Pennsylvania Triumph Association. In kind sponsors are Classic Motor Films, Sports Car Art, North American Triumphs, and Gasket Innovations/Alexander Racing Enterprises. Please contact Curt Johnston for information regarding 2022 sponsorship opportunities.

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**About the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix:** Begun in 1983, the PVGP is a 40-year-old vintage racing event that covers two weeks of action. The first weekend is the PVGP Historics held at Pittsburgh International Race Complex, home for the 2018 and 2022 Kastner Cup events. The second weekend is racing on a 2.33-mile road course set on the streets of Schenley Park, a city park adjacent to the Carnegie Mellon and University of Pittsburgh campuses. Between the race weekends there are car shows, parties, car shows road rallies, and more. PVGP is a volunteer run event with more than 1,200 volunteers. PVGP event proceeds support Autism charities in Western Pennsylvania. [www.pvgp.org](http://www.pvgp.org).

**About Friends of Triumph:** The Friends of Triumph (FOT) are dedicated to preserving the racing heritage of the Triumph marque. Campaigning these automobiles on the track is at the essence of our purpose. We are unified by R.W. (Kas) Kastner and his motor sports contributions and sacrifices, his challenges and accomplishments, his kindness and knowledge. We come to race with family and friends. We carry the history of Triumph and the camaraderie of competition. For more information about the race this year, visit: <https://kastnercup.com/>. For background information on Kas Kastner and the history of the Kastner Cup, visit: <http://www.kaskastner.com/kastnercup.html>.