

Hello,

My name is F. Houston Smith. I am from and currently reside in Columbia, South Carolina. I make my living flying airplanes for a corporation.

I have always been a tinkerer. As long as I can remember, I have taken mechanical things apart and, usually, reassembled them.

I worked for my Dads' business when I was in high school. There, I met a mechanic named Richard Long who was a British car guy. We became friends and through that friendship, I also became a British car guy. But more specifically, a Triumph guy. Richard had a Triumph Spitfire Four that he was willing to sell me for \$325. I was fourteen years old and did not even have a driver's license. My Dad let me buy it and keep it in our garage. That was it. I was hooked

I attended a bunch of vintage races in the 1990's at Road Atlanta and Roebing Road, primarily. I set about trying to find a Spitfire race car. I ended up finding three! When I found the last one, I knew I'd found my car. I found it on ebay. Amazingly, it was local to me. The guy who had it really did not know much about it. I won the auction, and the seller had a friend that was willing to deliver it and the trailer load of spares that came with it for a case of Miller Lite!

The car is as raced in the 1970's. It has no flares or other abominations. Upon investigating what I had just bought and it's four logbooks(!), the find just got better and better. I discovered that it had been raced nationally by one family out of Kansas. They raced it at the Runoffs every year from 1977 through 1981! I have since made friends with one member of that family. He raced it at the Runoffs in 1977 at the age of 22 or thereabouts.

In addition to the Spitfire race cars, I also have a TR6, TR4 and a TR8 amongst the other mostly Triumph street cars.

I would be honored to be accepted by the Friends of Triumph. I hope that I can have the opportunity to join your group!

Sincerely,

F.Houston Smith