

The Square Rigger

SUMMER 2021 Edition

Published – June 2021



The Square Rigger



Quarterly Newsletter of the
Chesapeake Chapter of the
New England MG-T Register

[HTTP://WWW.CHESAPEAKECHAPTERMGTCCLUB.COM](http://WWW.CHESAPEAKECHAPTERMGTCCLUB.COM)

WORDS FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

So far this year we have had two excellent events!

First, the Mini-GOF 2021 at The Founder's Inn in Virginia Beach held April 30th through May 2nd was well attended. Hank and Stevie Giffin planned plenty of activities. A local collector made his large car collection available Friday night. The next day the Virginia Beach Military Museum had several rare planes on display in hangers as well as a second floor of other exhibits. This was followed by a catered lunch and a car show Saturday afternoon at the Big Ugly Brewery. That evening the winners of the car show were announced, and several items were raffled at dinner. Pictures of these activities are in this TSR issue.

A month later, on June 6th the Chapter held Original British Car Day at Serra Valley Farm in Mt. Airy, MD. Although it was touch-and-go when planning for OBCD 2021 began earlier in the year by April/May, the pre-registration increased over 25% and by the day of the show entrants exceeded 300 cars. There were several favorable comments made about the attendance, the overall way the event was run as well as its venue. There are photos of OBCD in this TSR issue and winners of the various Classes are also listed.

As many of you know Tom Renda took over as the OBCD Chairman. Much of the success goes to him but I am sure he will agree much of the success is also be attributed to the volunteers that laid out the field the day before as well as those who showed up on the 6th to help make this a memorable event. Several CCNEMGTR members as well as volunteers from other clubs helped make it happen. Hopefully, we can return the favor. Thanks to all for participating in the Mini-GOF and OBCD this year.

Currently, the next planned event is the Fall Ramble in October. Looking forward to a good turnout for that event, too.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Your Chairman, Shaun English

Safety Fast!



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WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBER

Please welcome New Member **Charlie Ewers** of Bivalve, Maryland. Charlie has a 1953 MG TD and he a member of the New England MG T Register. Charlie has expressed an interest in getting involved in several club activities. Below is a brief introduction:



Charlie Ewers has been a high school teacher, farmer, carpenter, journalist, crab boat crewman, professor, and photographer, among other things. He currently teaches in the Environmental Studies Department of Salisbury University, and his co-authored book *A Guide to Harriet Tubman's Eastern Shore: The Old Home is Not There* will be published in July by History Press.

His relationship with MG's goes back to the 50's, when he was given a plastic model T-Series while recuperating from surgery. His first brand-new car was a '74 BGT, and he has also owned a '69 Midget and a (related) '65 Austin Cooper S. This TD is his first experience with a real T-Series car.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS **2021**

Every other Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.	John Twist of University Motors bi-weekly zoom tech session -- not just for the T Series MGs, but all MGs. Check out the University Motors website for more information.
June 14-17, 2021	MG International 2021 – Atlantic City, NJ Visit www.MG2021.org for more information
September 19, 2021	Britain on the Green 2021 George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton, VA 22079
October 10, 2021	25 th Annual Hunt Country Classic Willoughby Farm
October 29-31, 2021	Fall Ramble, Cape May, New Jersey
February 3-17, 2022	Winter Tour, Florida



Our Club Symbol --- A Real Chesapeake Bay Skipjack

RECENT CHAPTER RELATED EVENTS

SPRING Mini-GOF – April 30 – May 2, 2021 Founder's Inn, Virginia Beach, VA



The MINI-GOF (Gathering of the Faithful) for the NEMGTR Chesapeake Chapter in Virginia Beach was held April 30 - May 2, 2021, based at the Founders Inn in Virginia Beach.

Friday evening was a treat with a buffet dinner and beverages at a local collector's 25 car collection! It was indeed exceptional!



Club Member Deb Shepperd inspects the delicious buffet.



The fine art of collecting antiques!



The Babarik Family and the Debelius Family enjoy the evening.



What a beautiful Ford truck!



Thanks to our Hostesses --

Team Giffin!



Enjoying dinner and drinks with old friends and new acquaintances

On Saturday morning, we visited the Virginia Beach Military Aviation Museum (militaryaviationmuseum.org), which included over 60 flyable vintage airplanes.



The NAP N3N "Canary" (circa 1935) was built in the only aircraft factory ever owned by the U.S. government, at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

The Jaguar XK120 was produced from 1948 to 1954 - this Jaguar was partially restored under water, off the coast of Russia, when it was owned by a local captain of a US Navy nuclear submarine.



The North American B-25 was used by many Allied air forces during World War II



World War I Hangar



The Museum also brought attention to the Women of Military Aviation – 1903-1953.



On Saturday afternoon, we hung out at the Big Ugly brewery in Chesapeake (biguglybrewing.com) – we displayed our cars and voted for the most popular.

We had lunch and drank free beer -- doesn't get much better than that people!! 😊



On Saturday evening, we enjoyed our buffet dinner at the lovely Founders private dining room. The Founders had excellent food and the food choices were expansive. The Mini Gof winners were announced:

- ❖ TC – Jim Tierney
- ❖ TD1 – Andy & Cynthia Wallach
- ❖ TD2 – Glenn Abbott
- ❖ TD3 – Mel & Allison Tucker
- ❖ TD4 – John Debelius & Donna McBride
- ❖ TD5 – Milton & Louise Babirak
- ❖ TF – Mike & Lucy Hughes
- ❖ Pre-War/Variant – 1933 L2 – David Harrison
- ❖ Car I'd Most Like to Take Home – 1938 VA Tickford – Hank & Stevie Giffin



AGAIN -- MANY THANKS TO TEAM GIFFIN!



Happy trails until we meet again!

THE ORIGINAL BRITISH CAR DAY

JUNE 6, 2021 – SERRA VALLEY FARMS, MT. AIRY, MD

2021 ORIGINAL BRITISH CAR DAY -- WHAT A COMEBACK!!

Thanks to the efforts of dozens of volunteers, the 2021 edition of Original British Car Day was a resounding success!

The number of exhibitors who registered and brought cars was over 300, a very substantial increase from 2019. We had hot weather, but we had some tables set out in the shade by the food trucks, and a “Rita’s Ice” truck on hand for a cool dessert. Best of all, we had NO afternoon thunderstorms to drench folks on their drive home.

According to John Tokar, the immediate past Chairman, feedback from those who attended the show was universally positive. The Club can take pride in the fact that this event, one of the oldest car shows still in existence, remains a fixture among British car enthusiasts. There are some things we can do to make the show even better in 2022. Online registration is vital. Having a means of electronic payment on the day of the show for exhibitors and spectators would also be welcomed. In addition to keeping the annual “Featured Marque,” we should think about inviting an individual who is a longtime British car collector with a significant car collection to come to the show as a “Guest of Honor” -- this way we could include a write up and some pictures in the program booklet itself. And I am sure there are other suggestions to improve the show. Don’t be bashful -- send me an email. Lastly, we really need a Co-Chairman. (Chairperson, if you prefer.) I am happy to continue with this great show, but we would be better served by having two people head up the show together. The time commitment is quite manageable (until the day of the show, of course, when all hell breaks loose!).

So if you are brave, please think about stepping up. At the end of the day, it’s actually quite rewarding (once you regain consciousness!) Tom Renda 2021 OBCD Chairman
For more information, please contact Tom Renda 410-804-7017.

Please click on the link below for the 2021 OBCD Winners Summary

[2021 OBCD Winners Summary for Website.pdf](#)







Susan Renda with Steve Sayer's winning MG TC!

See more photos by clicking on the link below – thanks to Kyle Babirak!

<https://os5.mycloud.com/action/share/dfe96c5d-cc97-4f87-b49c-61292c6d4a2e>

UPCOMING CHAPTER & CHAPTER RELATED EVENTS

Fall Ramble Cape May, New Jersey October 29-31, 2021



Yes, we are resuming the ever-popular Fall Ramble this year after a forced Covid-19 hiatus. We put off the Cape May trip last year, but now we are blazing back with a fabulous fall weekend at the historic Main Stay Inn in Cape May, New Jersey (You are invited to peruse the Inn's website at www.MainstayInn.com) October 29-31, 2021.

We have blocked 10 rooms, and a few more may be available if needed, but **please book as soon as possible**. The Inn's phone number is (609) 884-8690. We were fortunate to get these beautiful rooms at a reasonable price, as this amazing Victorian Beach town has come back strong with cooped up demand for weddings and gatherings (sending prices into the stratosphere at Congress Hall, which was originally planned for last year). The Mainstay Inn is centrally located a few blocks from the beach and near restaurants and shopping. Your room fee includes a full breakfast and afternoon tea. There will be off-street parking available for 10 MGs. The rooms range from \$240-285 per night, plus tax and pictures can be seen on the website.

The weekend will be filled with scenic drives, historic highlights, activities, shopping, and fine dining. Details are in the works. The drive to Cape May is beautiful, along Maryland's Eastern Shore to Lewes, Delaware and across the scenic Lewes/Cape May Ferry. Arrangements have been made to leave your trucks and trailers at the Ferry Dock on the Lewes side, so that you will only pay to transport your cars. The Ferry ride is about 70 minutes. The Mainstay Inn is only 5 miles from the Ferry Dock on the Cape May side.

Please book your rooms now and send in your registration form and deposit as well, so that we may track registrants. Feel free to call with additional questions- John Debelius (301) 318-3522.

John Debelius and the Planning Committee



2021 Fall Ramble Registration Form

October 29-31, 2021

Mainstay Inn

635 Columbia Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204-8690

When calling the Mainstay Inn to make your room reservations be sure to mention the "MG Club" (key words) to access the block of reserved rooms). Rooms range between \$240 and 285/night plus tax, and that includes full breakfast and afternoon tea.

Please reserve as soon as possible by calling (609) 884-8690

Registration forms due by August 1, 2021

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone (s) _____ - _____ - _____ / _____ - _____ - _____

EMAIL _____

Year and Model of your MG T that you will be bringing: _____ - _____

New England MG T Register member? Yes/No _____ Number _____

Chesapeake Chapter member? Yes/No _____

Will you be trailering? Yes/No _____

Will you park your trailer on the Lewes side of the Ferry? Yes _____/No _____

Registration

Registration fee will be applied to Friday night dinner, and hospitality room drinks and snacks.

Registration Fee: \$100/person, Number _____ x \$100 = \$ _____

Chesapeake Chapter members \$75/person, Number _____ x \$75 = \$ _____

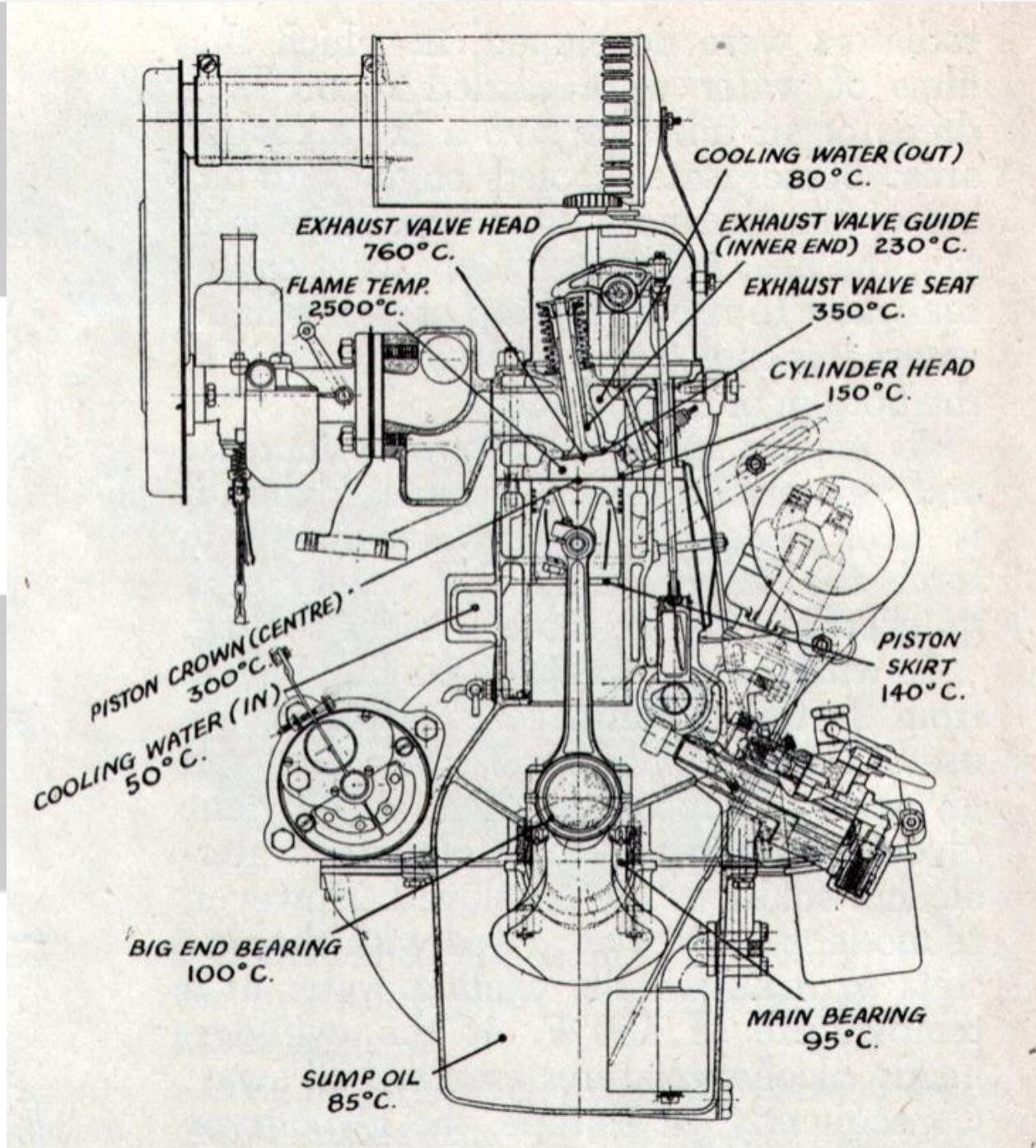
Total Enclosed _____ \$ _____

Mail form and make check payable to: CCNEMGTR, c/o
John Debelius, 10 Orchard Way North, Rockville, MD 20854

TECHNICAL MATTERS

By: Charlie Adams

Design temperatures of the prewar Morris Ten engine, predecessor to the XPAG engine.



INTERESTING ARTICLES, TIDBITS & TRIVIA

ONE PERSON'S CONTINUING LOVE OF THE MG TC

By: Richard Shepherd

When I was around the age of five, a neighbor who was in graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh came home from college one summer with an Ivory 1949 MG TC. I fell in love with that car, and he would take me for rides with the windshield down. I thought it was so neat that I could sit on the left-hand side of the car with the wind in my hair (and yes, I had hair at that age). I thought, after college it would be neat to have one of these TC's.

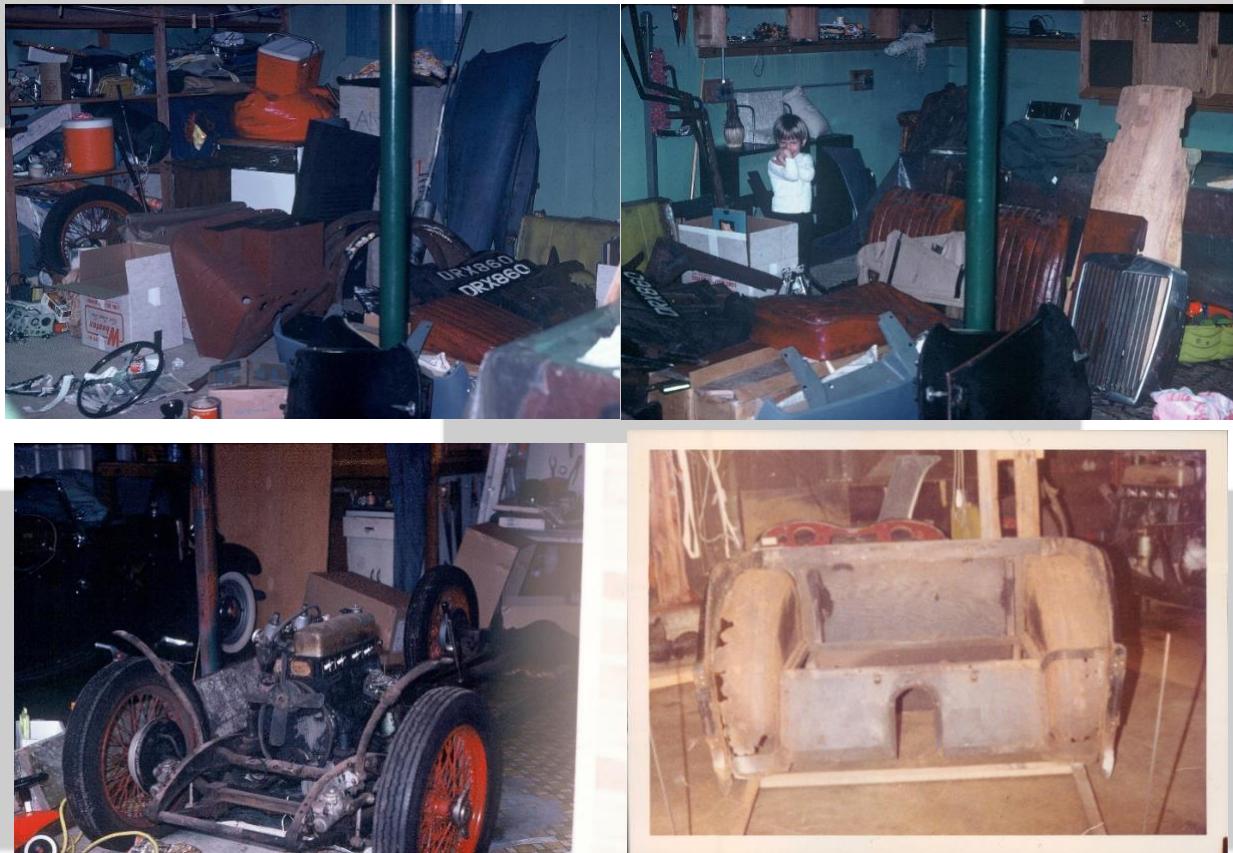
After owning a '62 Tri-Carb Healey while in college, and buying a new 1973 MGB after graduation, my search of a TC began, but with a slight detour. Upon some persuasion by Chesapeake Chapter members Bill Larkin, Len Renkenberger, and Mac Spears, I ended up buying a 1951 MG TD in need of some repair in the summer of 1974. They convinced me that between the TC suspension and Bishop Cam Steering box, I would find the TC unenjoyable for long-term driving experience. So, after some mechanical work, a new interior and learning how to spray paint a car in pieces, we had a beautiful MG TD (photos below).



Deb and I drove the TD all over the east coast, both alone and with our two children (one behind the seat and one in Deb's lap). In fact, the photo above on the left was taken at the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, NY. The right photo was in our driveway in Delaware with our two children, who are both now in their mid-forties.

But the MG TD, despite its positive attributes, was not the TC I remembered as a young boy growing up in eastern Ohio.

So, I began a search for a TC to restore. After a year, I found the car outside Buffalo, NY. It had been imported from England and had yet to be titled in the US. It was in pieces, and had no body tub, but it was a TC. So, we were off to Buffalo in January of 1976 to get the TC in a U-Haul truck. Well, the truck turned out to get only about 8 miles per gallon and the heater did not work. And I say we were going to Buffalo in January, well we froze, but we had our 1947 MG TC. It was in worse condition than I had imagined, but I did not care. Beside no tub, the fenders and running boards were almost completely eaten up with rust & rot. And many of the rare TC part were missing. Below are photos of what the TC looked like when we unloaded the car after returning home.



It was a TC in need of a lot of restoration work, which took the better part of the next three years. During that time, I became friends with Barry Walker in England (rare TC parts), learned how to lead fenders, and build coachwork with no plans. But it was all fun work, a true labor of love. And for those who did not remember the car it is shown below:



Deb and I owned this TC for 33 years. We took it to Canada, New England (five times), Ohio, Florida, and throughout the Carolina's. But in 2009 when DuPont was transferring me to one of their Virginia sites, we decided to sell the TC to a person in Florence, SC, where we were living at the time. The person had talked to us about buying the car a number of times. The restoration was beginning to show its age, and if I were to keep it, I thought it needed fresh paint, a new interior, fresh body rubber, etc. It was worth more to be sold in its aged condition, versus us putting another \$15,000 to \$20,000 into the same car.

So, the TC and I parted ways, and I began a search for a restored MG TF 1500. I was indeed tired of the Bishop Cam steering box. I tried every trick to improve the steering, and I had not heard of the VW replacement steering boxes yet. With the help of John Wright, I found a Birch Gray TF 1500 in western NJ. It is a beautiful TF. Here is the TF 1500:



Deb and I loved the car, but it was no TC, and I really was missing our TC. And when a fellow member of our Historic Williamsburg MG Touring Society sent out a note that he had a friend wanting a TF, I volunteered our TF 1500. After a few discussions, the TF changed ownership, and I began my search again for a restored TC.

Then at the recent Mini-GOF in Virginia Beach, I won the TC model in the Saturday night raffle, some suggested that we water the model to get to grow to a full-size car. But only a week later, a TC appeared. It is a Yellow and Green 1946 TC, and already has a new VW replacement steering box. It has some weird green fenders, running boards and front apron, but a little pale-yellow paint will cure that concern. So, in my mind, I am once again that little boy who gets to ride in a TC with the wind in what hair I have left. Our recently purchased 1946 MG TC:



Awesome article by Richard Shepherd!

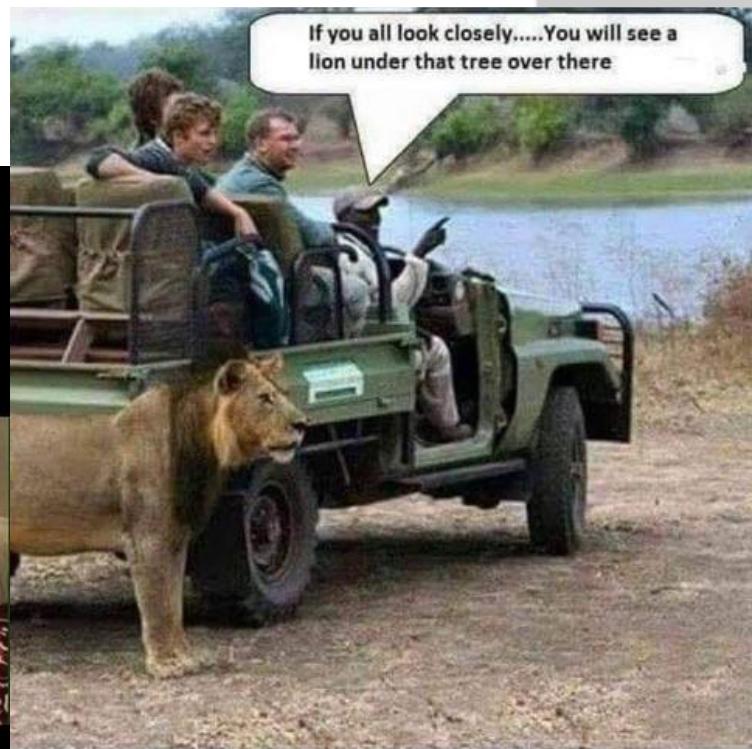
FUNNY STUFF

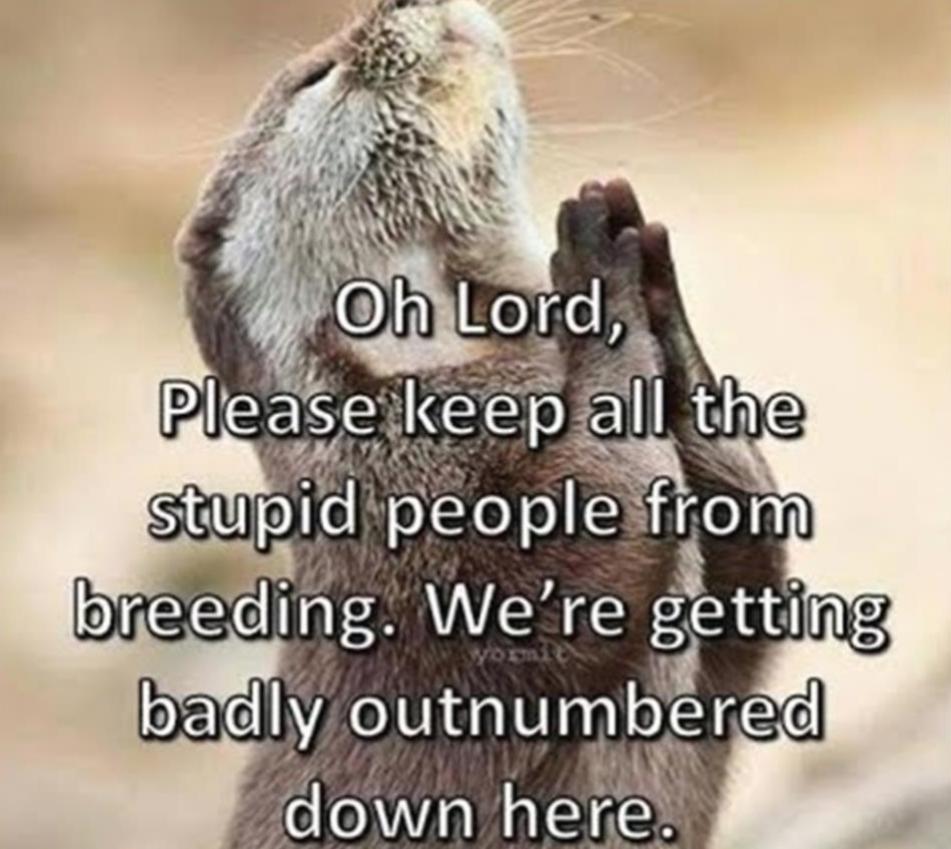


How fast was the ostrich running when it hit the tree?



Never buy a border collie when you're drunk.





Oh Lord,
Please keep all the
stupid people from
breeding. We're getting
badly outnumbered
down here.



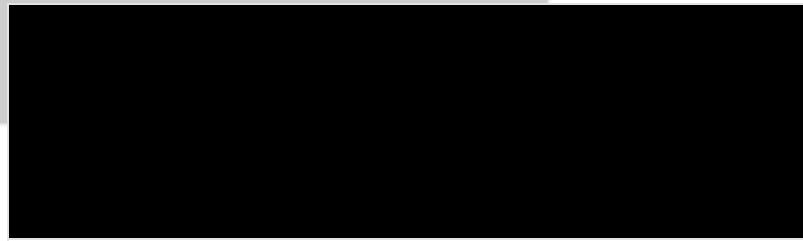
Here come the frogs!!

Oefening baart kunst! (1)11.mp4

A brand new documentary about an important bit of Virginia history.

Enjoy!

The Tunnel



The Tunnel

<https://youtu.be/IRJGKjT-ahQ>

"Hey guys! Let's take one more picture together before we get fired."



TSR Advertisements

FOR SALE



For Sale (Reduced in price) - 1951 MG-TD No 7103

By Club Member Jerome Prochaska

We have sold the farm and are moving to a retirement community in Winchester, VA. The time has come to say farewell to my faithful travelling companion of 61 years. Please see the Spring Square Rigger for more details and data about this unusual car. But this little filly likes to go! Some of the reasons are listed below:

- Shorrock Blower
- Mild California Street Cam
- Milled head and 1300 cc Displacement
- Porsche Racing Pistons
- Electronic Ignition
- Heavy-duty Clutch
- High-Speed Rear Axel

A number of items convey with the sale of the car. The car has its original interior upholstering (rare) and this is still attractive and serviceable. However, a Moss Motors leather seat recovering kit and a vinyl panel and trim kit, still in factory shipping boxes, also convey.

- Five Painted wire wheels with good bias-ply tires (including original 1951 Dunlap spare)
- Serviceable spare Radiator Shell (rare)
- Original manifold and 1 1/4in S.U. carbs
- Witworth tools and copper hammer
- Bits and spares (assorted)
- Original factory shop manual (worn)
- Tune-up books, pamphlets (period, various)

A full professional frame-up restoration was undertaken in the early 1990s. Photos and all receipts go with the car.

Serious Inquiries Only. **Price \$25,000 (REDUCED \$2,000).** Contact Jerome Prochaska at
Orleantrees@aol.com

MG

WANTED: Lucas generator for TD. I'd prefer if it worked and included the fan and pulley. I also am interested in a core generator that could be rebuilt. Milt Babirak, mbabirak@icloud.com, 703-501-7924.

Milton Babirak

Chesapeake Chapter Membership Registration Form

1. The form on the following page can be used to send your information to the Chesapeake Chapter of the New England MG-T Register for Membership Registration or other information requests.
2. Please note that we will never supply your information to a third party, will never use your information for telemarketing, and will use your information solely for membership application/registration purposes.
3. You must print, fill-out and mail the form to the address specified below. You may do this by clicking [here](#) or by clicking on the form below (*this requires the free [Acrobat Reader](#)*).
4. Our organization is a local chapter of the New England MG 'T' Register, so we must require that all Chapter Members also be members in the "Register." If you do not belong to the "Register," please request information and application forms by contacting the "Register's" specific website: <http://www.nemgtr.org/join.htm>

Additional Notes:

1. Note that you do not need to own an MG T-type --- all that is required for membership is an interest in MG T-type and other classic automobiles!
2. Please include all letters and numbers shown in the car and engine number boxed on the "maker's" plate.
3. TD owners please note that there are three boxes on your "maker's" plate; include the information from all three.
4. If the engine is a replacement, list the number of the engine actually in the car.
5. This information is needed for the chapter's records and to correct and update the Register's files.
6. Incomplete forms will be returned to you via your provided address, for needed corrections.
7. If you have additional MGs, please attach additional forms as required.

Please make check payable to: Chesapeake Chapter NEMGTR ---

Send check to: **Chesapeake Chapter NEMGTR c/o Milton Babirak, 47539 Coldspring Place, Sterling, VA 21065-7446**

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

The Chesapeake Chapter has a Facebook page. It is called "The Chesapeake Chapter of the New England MG T Register." Like us on Facebook and receive notices, announcements, videos and photos about the Chesapeake Chapter. If you have any questions or if you have any problems joining, contact Milton Babirak at mbabirak@babirakcarr.com or 703-501-7924.

 The NEW ENGLAND MG 'T' REGISTER, LTD.
THE CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Renewal New Member

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name: _____ Spouse or other: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: (____) _____ - Cell or Business Phone: (____) _____
E-mail: _____

MG INFORMATION

(1) MG Model/Type: _____ Year: ____ Color: _____
(2) MG Model/Type: _____ Year: ____ Color: _____

*New England MG 'T' Register Number(s) Assigned to this Car (s): _____

If you have three or more MGs, please put that information on a second page.

GET INVOLVED!! Check the Activities Below in Which You Have an Interest

Tours/Rallye; Tech Sessions/ Tech Help; Car Shows; Membership; Event Hosting;
 Newsletter/Articles; Advertising/Regalia; Other _____

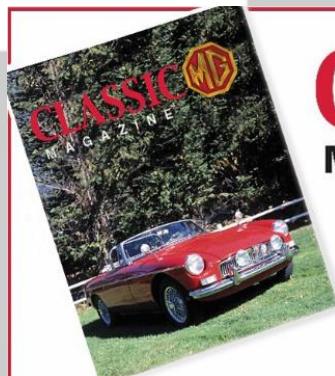
By completing this application, you hereby agree to hold this Chesapeake Chapter and the NEMGTR harmless from all actions and claims arising from any participation by you or persons accompanying you in any Chapter event or activity.

DUES*: \$12.00 per year or \$30.00 for three years
Please make your check payable to: Chesapeake Chapter NEMGTR. Please mail this form, any additional pages, and a check for your dues to:
Chesapeake Chapter NEMGTR
c/o Milton Babirak
47539 Coldspring Place
Sterling, VA 20165-7446

* The Chesapeake Chapter is a local chapter of the New England MG 'T' Register, so we must require that all Chapter Members also be members in the "Register." If you do not belong to the "Register," please request information and application forms from the "Register's" website: <http://www.nemgr.org/join.htm>.

Revised: April 25, 2013

Editor's Note: Members of the Chesapeake Chapter of the NEMGTR are encouraged to submit classified ads free of charge to the Editor via e-mail or snail mail at one of the addresses shown on page 2. Photographs are also accepted --- digital pictures are the easiest to deal with, however! Please let us know the results of your ad (did you make the sale, or find what you were looking for?). Also, let the Editor know whether you want it to appear just once, or in follow-on issues of our TSR Newsletter.



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