

# The Square Rigger

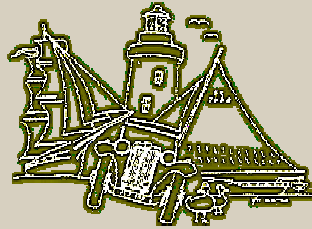
WINTER 2020 Edition  
Published – January 2020



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**Fall Ramble**  
**October 25-27, 2019**  
**Cambridge, Maryland**

# The Square Rigger



Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Chesapeake Chapter of the  
New England MG-T Register  
[HTTP://WWW.CHESAPEAKECHAPTERMGCLUB.COM](http://www.chesapeakechaptermgclub.com)

## WORDS FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

The year ahead and volunteerism.

By the time you are reading this **TSR** issue the holiday seasons will have past and the CCNEMGTR members will be enjoying the start of a new decade in this century. Let's make 2020 even better than last year.

There are several events lined up for this year with the first being the **Annual Eat Out**. We've been having this event each year in February so as not to conflict with other commitments we may have during the holiday season. It also provides an opportunity to get together with older members as well as for meeting newer members.

This coming year we'll also have a **Tech Session** with John Twist, the **2020 mini-GOF** co-hosted by Hank and Stevie Giffin at Virginia Beach, the **Original British Car Day** put together by Tom Renda to be held at Serra Valley Farm in Mt. Airy, MD, a **Tech Session** sponsored by John Tokar at Vintage Restorations Ltd. and the **2020 Fall Ramble** co-hosted by John Debelius and Donna McBride held at Cape May, N.J. All events are listed in the **TSR** so you can keep track of them. More importantly though they are put together by club volunteers for your enjoyment and benefit.

I'd like to invite you to volunteer for any of the club officer positions. We currently have two vacancies – Treasurer and Regalia Chair. Either position does not require much of a time commitment, only a desire to support and strengthen the Club. Let me know.

**TSR** Editor Maxie Brown always welcomes subjects that can be included in the newsletter be they personal experiences, articles, trivia, pictures etc. Contact her with any idea you may have.

***Safety Fast!***

**Your Chairman, Shaun English**

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## **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

### **Chairman**

Shaun P. English  
9318 Brambly Lane  
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[spenglish@aol.com](mailto:spenglish@aol.com)

### **Vice Chairman**

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**Volunteer Needed**

### **Membership Chairman**

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### **Regalia Chairman**

Lin Snider (Acting)  
**(Volunteer Needed!)**

### **Technical Advisor**

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### **Webmaster**

Chris Kintner  
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**Our Club Symbol --- A Real Chesapeake Bay Skipjack**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 9, 2020	2020 Annual Eat Out Normandie Farm Restaurant 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
April 18-19, 2020	John Twist will be at John Debelius' garage to work on Chapter member's cars
To be announced	Tech Session with John Tokar Vintage Restorations, Ltd.
May 1-3, 2020	Spring Mini-GOF Virginia Beach, VA
June 7, 2020	The Original British Car Day Serra Valley Farm, Mt. Airy, MD
October 30 – November 1, 2020	Fall Ramble 2020 Cape May, New Jersey

## RECENT CHAPTER & OTHER EVENTS

### Fall Ramble – October 25-27, 2019 Cambridge, Maryland

Another great Fall Ramble in the record books! Our Chapter thoroughly enjoyed this year's trip to historic and scenic Dorchester County, Maryland and Blackwater Wildlife Refuge. We began the weekend with lunch at Hemingway's Restaurant, located just off Route 50 at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.



*A relatively small but enthusiastic gathering for lunch!*



*A cloudy day view of the magnificent Chesapeake Bay Bridge*



*We saw this guy in the bar ... I think he skipped lunch and headed for some serious refreshments ...*



Our hotel this year was the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Maryland. Friday evening, we enjoyed dinner on campus and spent the evening getting settled in.



On Saturday morning, we rallied to the Old Trinity Church, Dorchester Parish, one of the oldest church buildings in the United States still used for regular worship. The Reverend Daniel K. Dunlap, Ph.D. serves as the Rector and gave us an informative and intimate tour of the buildings and grounds. The Church dates back to at least 1692, when “Dorchester Parish” was officially named. Situated on Church Creek, the parish church underwent restorations in the 1850’s and again a century later. The church’s walnut altar, two sconces and the floor tiles remain original. View our tour by opening the hyperlink below:

[Trinity Church Tour.mp4](#)

Saturday lunch at Old Salty’s did not disappoint.... One of the best crab cakes EVER!



Throughout the day on Saturday, we were very fortunate to have Mr. Bill Burnette, our lead car and local resident, guide us through the marshlands and beautiful scenery. Saturday afternoon, our drive through Blackwater Wildlife Refuge was breathtaking! Much of Blackwater is a tidal marsh habitat, and included sightings of bald eagles, osprey and herons. The photos below capture only a glimpse of the natural and untouched beauty of this place.





The 2019 Fall Ramble main event took place on Saturday evening at the Cambridge Yacht Club. Bill Burnette graciously arranged for the Club's Commodore, Jon Ingersoll, and his wife, Midge, to join us for dinner. Following dinner, Jim Duffy, an author who has written extensively about life in Dorchester County, presented valuable and entertaining insight about some of the routes we traveled during the day.



In summary, this trip was well planned, well balanced and well attended. Doesn't get much better than that! 😊

The **2020 Fall Ramble** will be held in Cape May, New Jersey! The Club is extremely fortunate to have John Debelious and Donna McBride on next year's Planning Committee. Donna considers Cape May a second home and is extremely knowledgeable about this beautiful seaside town. We can't wait!



# **UPCOMING CHAPTER & CHAPTER RELATED EVENTS**

## **2020 ANNUAL EAT OUT - FEBRUARY 9, 2020**



**Normandie Farm Restaurant**  
**Sunday, February 9, 2020 – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**Buffet meal offering too much to mention!**

Cost: \$45.00 per person (including tax and gratuity). Cash bar is available for cocktails.  
Web site [www.popovers.com](http://www.popovers.com). Please RSVP by February 2, 2020 and remit checks payable to: CCNEMGTR and send to Shaun English, 9813 Brambly Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309. Questions: 703-229-3317 or [spenglish@aol.com](mailto:spenglish@aol.com)

Direction: From I 495, DC Beltway, exit #39 MD Route 190, River Road, three miles west to 2nd Potomac Village signal, right onto Falls Road, MD 189, approximately one mile on your left is Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854. Tel # 301-983-8838.

## ***SPRING Mini-GOF – May 1-3, 2020*** ***Virginia Beach, Virginia***



The Spring Mini-GOF will be held at the Founders Inn on Indian River Road in Virginia Beach. We plan to visit a most significant 25 vintage car collection with buffet dinner on Friday evening a few blocks from the boardwalk, then visit the vintage military airplane museum in Virginia Beach Saturday AM, followed by the car display at a beautiful local brewery. Saturday evening, there will be dinner and an awards presentation at the Founders, known for its cuisine. Reservations (757-366-5700) will be open until April 1, 2020 to get the reduced room rate (\$139 plus tax). For registration info contact Hank Giffin at 757 375 1491 and [hankgiffin@cox.net](mailto:hankgiffin@cox.net).

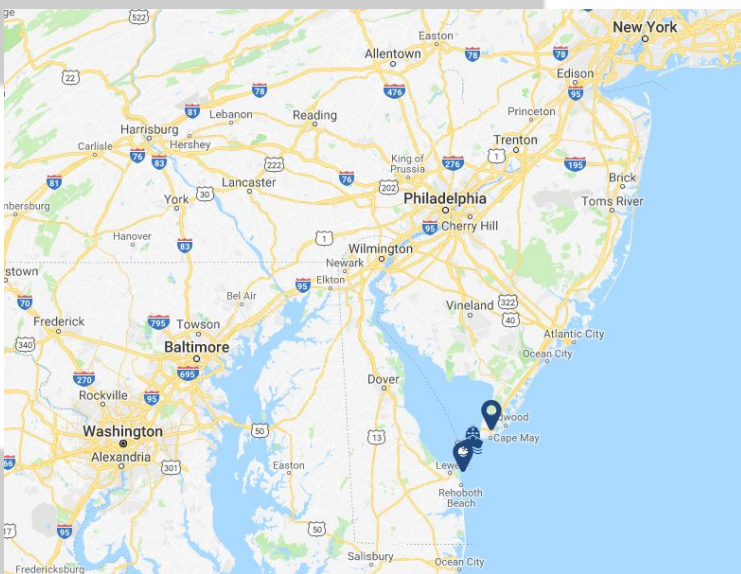
Please join us for this fun and awesome annual event!

## Fall Ramble 2020 in beautiful Cape May, New Jersey

### Save the date October 30-November 1, 2020

### Important Hotel Information

This year's Fall Ramble will take place in Cape May, a charming Victorian town on the beautiful Jersey shore. Put the dates on your calendar now, October 30-November 1, 2020! Those wishing to take the scenic Lewes/Cape May Ferry will be able to leave their trucks and trailers at the Ferry Dock at Lewes on the Delaware side, enjoy the 17 mile voyage in a large enclosed ferry with comfortable indoor seating, spectacular views, and a food and beverage bar, then drive the last 5 miles from the Cape May Ferry Dock to the center of town. We will be staying at the renowned Congress Hall Hotel with restaurants and nightly entertainment right on the beach front.





Dinners out will be arranged at first class nearby restaurants. The back-country roads are perfect for leisurely touring with marshes and scenic bridges winding toward Stone Harbor and Avalon with ample shopping for those inclined. John Debelius and Donna McBride have a summer house in Cape May and know the area well. They are working with your Fall Ramble Committee to make this a truly memorable get away. Various room options at Congress Hall are currently available, but due to the popularity of this destination, individual room **reservations should be made as soon as possible**. Hotel reservations can be made online at: <https://www.reservations.com/hotel/congress-hall?rc-ar=10-30-2020&rc-de=10-31-2020&rc-ro=1&rc-lo=Cape%20May&rc-ppid=0&rc-rm=2> Rooms start at \$219/night plus taxes and fees, and we do not have a reserved block or club discount.

As always, the Fall Ramble will take place rain or shine, and, while MG's are the preferred means of transport, members wishing to attend in modern cars will be welcomed.

Those wishing to attend are asked to email John Debelius now with your names at [DebeliusADR@gmail.com](mailto:DebeliusADR@gmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing all of you there. John & Donna



## **INTERESTING ARTICLES, TIDBITS & TRIVIA**

### **My 2019 OBCD Adventure**

**By Steve Sayer**

Hello fellow Members. For over three decades, I've been bringing at least two cars to the OBCD. During this time, I've only missed two of these shows due to weather. My friends and I have driven my MG TC and Morgan Plus Four from Bethesda, Md. to Allen Pond, Smokey Glen and Lilyponds over all these years without incident. That was until this year. My first concern was finding a manageable route to this new location without putting the TC on any major highways. One of my drivers came up with the brilliant idea of plotting the route with Google Maps for bicycles. This provided a nice safe route which was only about ten miles longer than the previous trips to Lilyponds.

The day started out well, everyone was on time, the cars were packed up and we were on the road with an early start. The driving route worked out like a charm. Then, as we entered Mt. Airy, the Morgan began to lose power. We were able to limp it into the parking lot of a closed auto parts store in the middle of town. We quickly determined that the front Zenith-Stromberg carb was flooding out and fouling the plugs. We pulled the float chamber and I actually had a spare needle and seat in my emergency box. In less than an hour we were back on the road heading to the show.

The show was really enjoyable this year and we all had a good time viewing all the wonderful cars on display. The ride home started out uneventful other than a few raindrops here and there. The Morgan wasted a good bit of fuel on the ride out and I was concerned that it may run out before getting back home. I soon found out that was the least of my worries. About four miles from home, on inbound River Road, it was the TC's turn to lose power. Working on the side of the road, the first thing I checked was the distributor cap since I've had a couple of them fail in the past. When it appeared to be fine, we all assumed it to be a fuel issue. Unlike with the Morgan, it seemed to be more of a starvation problem rather than flooding. The tickler on the rear carb would activate the fuel pump but the front carb tickler would not so that ruled out the fuel pump. So, we left two people with the TC on the side of the road and rushed home to drop off the Morgan and grab some parts. We headed back in my friend's truck and worked frantically to replace the front carb needle and seat as the sky was quickly turning black. There was moderate rain coming down on us at this point. Sadly, this did not fix it. Then the sky completely opened up with a vengeance. First the pounding rain, then the hail. Let me tell you, an open roadster with a canvas top is nowhere to be in a hammering hail storm. One person sat in the TC while the other three of us huddled in the truck summoning a flatbed from AAA. Only twice in thirty years has the TC come home this way. I must give great credit to the AAA flatbed operator. Working in the rain he used the utmost care and respect not to damage the car in any way. He used nylon straps to pull it onto the bed and wood blocks to keep the rear end from scraping. When we arrived at my house, my very wet drivers and friends had a well-deserved beer and headed on their way. There I was by myself with a drenched dead TC in my driveway. I put on the curtains and left it to deal with in the morning.

The next morning turned out to be one of those perfectly dry, sunny and breezy days, ideal for drying wet canvas and leather. I was a bit afraid that the little sucker was going to fire right up and run perfect, leaving me with a hot weather gremlin that would haunt me throughout the summer. Not the case. This time there was no spark at all. While on the side of the road, it at least started but just barely ran. Both carb ticklers activated the fuel pump so that wasn't the problem. I went back to the distributor and as I was unclipping the cap my hand brushed against the low-tension wire and I felt it move. The nut was about one turn away from falling off leaving the connector very loose on the stud. I shook my head and snugged it by hand and the car instantly

fired up and ran fine. I replaced that connector this past winter and evidently did not tighten the small nut quite enough. I made darned sure I did this time. Fortunately, there was no hail damage and everything dried out in a day or two and it's all ready for its next outing. I hope this is it for the next three decades and that it provided you with a good OBCD story.

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Check out this MGTD Article 😊

<https://www.hagerty.com/articles-videos/articles/2019/04/22/mg-td-values-are-slipping>

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## John Twist

**AMERICA'S BELOVED MG TECH AMBASSADOR TAKES ANOTHER TURN AT THE WHEEL**

By Words and Photography by Mark J. McCourt; Additional Photography Courtesy John Twist from the January 2011 issue of Hemmings Sport & Exotic

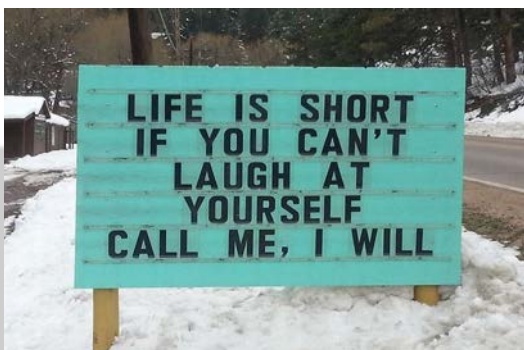
<https://www.hemmings.com/blog/article/john-twist/>

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**University Motors Ltd.**

<https://universitymotorsltd.com/john-twist/>

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## **The 16 Commandments of Growing Old:**

- #1 - Talk to yourself, because there are times you need expert advice.
- #2 - Consider "In Style" to be the clothes that still fit.
- #3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.
- #4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
- #5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
- #6 - You have days when your life is just a tent away from a circus.
- #7 - These days, "on time" is when you get there.
- #8 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.
- #9 - Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller ?
- #10 - Lately, You've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
- #11 - "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why you're there.
- #12 - When you were a child, you thought nap time was punishment. Now it feels like a mini vacation.
- #13 - Some days you have no idea what you're doing out of bed.
- #14 - You thought growing old would take longer.
- #15 - Aging sure has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
- #16 - You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.

## **REMINDER FOLKS!**

The Chesapeake Chapter website has a great deal of useful information about the Chapter for the members and the general public. One tab on the website that is helpful is the "Directory". At this tab you can find a directory of all of the chapter members, including their names, addresses phone numbers, and email addresses. If you need information about chapter member, you can go to the website. In addition, it might be helpful for you to check your own listing in the directory to make sure it is accurate and complete. The directory is password-protected and not accessible by the general public. if you need the password, please contact me and I'll be happy to give it to you.

Milton Babirak, Membership chairman

(c) 703-501-7924



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**Our Club also received this information from the New England MG'T' Register Ltd. Please take note below:**

- Please remind your chapter members that **Register dues were due in September**. They have gotten their last TSO if they have not renewed. They can still renew by going to this link and reactivating their membership.
- The **Kimber Festival** will be held 2020. Join us on April 3 -5, 2020 at the **Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum**, Buffalo, New York. We have many exciting speakers, a flea market and plenty of social time to share with other British car enthusiasts. You can find the complete details at the following link. <https://www.nemgtr.org/kimber-festival-2020/kimber-festival-info.html>
- The information and application forms for the **Knudson Churchill Scholarship** is now posted on the web site. The Knudson Churchill Scholarship is designed to promote and support education in the fields of Print Journalism or Automotive Technology. Endowed by the New England MG T Register ([www.nemgtr.org](http://www.nemgtr.org)), the program will present the best applicant with a monetary award to an, accredited, post-secondary school of winner's choice in order to study in one of these two areas. The award may be used for any educational expense in one of these fields.  
If you know of anyone who might benefit from this scholarship, please get this information to them. The complete instructions can be found at the following web link. <https://www.nemgtr.org/knudson-churchill-scholarship/2020-application-forms.html>
- The Register has a number of openings to help support the Register's day to day functions. Specifically, we are looking for a GOF Planning Director that would be the main contact for GOF planning and organizing the GOFs during the year.  
You can read about our job openings in the TSO or at <http://www.nemgtr.org/member-support/help-wanted.html> This page is updated as new information is provided.

**FOR SALE**



\$1,500 or best offer. Contact Linda Riley at 301-693-5062 or [lriley2951@aol.com](mailto:lriley2951@aol.com)

## **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.nemgr.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.
3. Please include all letters and numbers shown in the car and engine number boxed on the "maker's" plate.
4. TD owners please note that there are three boxes on your "maker's" plate; include the information from all three.
5. If the engine is a replacement, list the number of the engine actually in the car.
6. This information is needed for the chapter's records and to correct and update the Register's files.
7. Incomplete forms will be returned to you via your provided address, for needed corrections.
8. 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**



The NEW ENGLAND MG 'T' REGISTER, LTD.

THE CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM



Renewal

New Member

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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.nemgtr.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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