



# T Party TIMES



February, March & April 2019

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## Famous Car Quotes:

“When a man opens a car door for a women it is either a new car or a new wife”

Prince Philip

## From the Editor

OK, I woke this morning to -13 degrees and a wind chill of -23 degrees, top down, wind in the hair motoring is literally the last thing on my mind! Despite the weather, the days are getting longer and we're now through the coldest month in the year, so spring, while not close (remember all the snow last March?) is at least in sight. To that end, we will be meeting in March to plan our 2019 schedule; all are welcome, see page two for information & directions. You'll note by the picture above that the NEMGTR has been busy this winter planning GOF104 to be held in June in Plymouth, MA ...that of course will be on our schedule! See the NEMGTR web site for more information. Also in August will be an opportunity to join folks from the Chesapeake Chapter who will be touring New England in their T-Types, they have invited any T-Types from New England to meet up with them as they tour CT, MA, NH & ME. See page 11 for more information.

So there you have it, below zero outside and already three events on the calendar, me-thinks 2019 is going to be a cracker-jack of a driving season!!

*Safety Fast!*



# MG T-Party Annual Events Planning Meeting and “Potluck Lunch” Sunday, March 10th, 2019 11:30 am meet and greet

Building will be open @ 11:00 am to set up; Lunch @ 12:00 noon; Call to order for the business meeting immediately following lunch.

## Wilmington Council for the Arts

### 219 Middlesex Ave. (Route 62), Wilmington MA

Join us for our annual meeting and event planning session. Come with ideas, suggestions or just to support the rest of the board as they get down to work setting up the year's events. We have secured the Arts Council building to give us room to spread out and accommodate a big attendance by the members. We specially invite all of our new members to join us and meet some of the club members in a relaxed and fun setting. Bring your ideas for an event to share with the group. Before the meeting, we will have a pot luck lunch. **Please bring a dish to share with everyone.** Enjoy good food and friends. We always have too much food but it's fun to try to make it go away!

There are no provisions for heating up food in the building so if you want to bring a hot dish, a crock pot or other heating device will need to be brought with the dish. We look forward to seeing you all there!



***Please note that no alcohol is allowed in the Arts building by city regulation.*** Take Exit 40 off Interstate 93. (Route 62, Middlesex Ave) Go West on Route 62, through two sets of traffic lights. The Arts Council is a white building on the left side just past Wildwood Cemetery. (The Congregational Church is across the street on the right.) If the WCA parking lot fills up, it is OK to park in the church lot. There is a small refrigerator in the conference room, and two large coffee makers. We have folding tables, and plenty of chairs.



## Chairman's Cable



### Winter Doldrums and "Electric MG" Shock Therapy

Previously, if my recollection is correct, I believe I have featured in these pages before news about the Chinese-owned-MG "E-Motion" electric sports car reportedly headed for production in 2020:



Next came news of the "MG EZS" electric SUV, which will be the once-British brand's first production electric vehicle, suitable for all those Anglophile-soccer-moms:



—who, are currently sadly relegated to carving up the leafy suburbs in their pseudo-British (German-engineered and BMW-owned) Mini Countryman sport activity vehicles (SAV's). If it ever comes to these shores ladies, you can out-style all but the 1% moms driving their *Uber-fashionable* Land Rover Evoque's.



Read more about the MG EZS SUV here: <https://tinyurl.com/y73v5cv8>

Now comes the inevitable story of an enterprising and forward-looking company offering an electric-conversion MGB, albeit all-new, using new British Heritage shells:



With apologies to the classic *Animal House* movie scene "is that a pledge pin on your uniform" (which you can watch in its entirety here: <https://tinyurl.com/z9c896p>), I offer my completely unoriginal take on the above-mentioned "electric" MGB:

Neidermeyer: "You're a goddamn disgrace. MGB, what's that on your trunk, mister?"

MGB: "It's an electric plug, sir."

Neidermeyer: "An electric plug! On your boot lid?!!"

Neidermeyer: "Just tell me, mister, what kind of car club would pledge an MG like you?"

MGB: "E-E-Electric House, Sir."



Neidermeyer: "You will report to the stables tonight, and every night, at 1900 hours. And without that electric tail plug! Do you understand! You're all worthless and weak. Drop and give me twenty!"

If you can stomach it, you can read all about the British company offering these "bespoke" electrified MGB's here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ya35jzvb>

and here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycba4j36>



***"Is that a selectable transmission knob where the 4-speed gear shift lever should be! Soooo wrong..."***

All of this Electrified MG News was enough to shock me out of my winter doldrums and send me heading out to the garage to play with the real thing! Well, perhaps more accurately, down

to the basement to retrieve a couple of pairs of Zenith-Stromberg CD-1.75 carburetors that I have had sitting around for more than a decade that have been waiting for a rebuild. These are spares that I acquired off of e-bay from a 1971 Triumph TR6, and are earlier variants without most of the fiddly smog controls of the post-1974 variety. I acquired them in anticipation of a future triple-carb conversion setup and engine rebuild on my 1974 TR6.

Since Roy Crane was going to be rebuilding some carburetors for his new Austin Healy 100-4 project, I thought I would join him to work on my Zenith-Strombergs, enjoying the expert assistance of our good friend Jack (Fred) Horner, to assist with some of the trickier procedures (like replacing the seals around the throttle shafts). All went smoothly, and I now have two complete pairs of early TR6 carburetors that I will likely install on the TR6 later this spring.

In any event, I hope all of you are already thinking about the upcoming driving season and have plans out in the garage of your own. We have scheduled the annual MG T-Party Events Planning Meeting and Potluck Luncheon for **SUNDAY, MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Wilmington Council for the Arts building in Wilmington, MA. Please see the accompanying event flyer for details.

I hope many of you can attend and will bring your good ideas for some fun new things we can try this year—and lots of food.

—Charles







## 2018 Holiday Party

Speaking strictly for myself, I found the Holiday Party this year to be much better than last year...perhaps it had something to do with my having the use of both my legs this year! While it was fun scooting around the Princeton Junction Restaurant last year, I most certainly prefer walking on my own two feet, although it did take longer to get to the bar!

It is fun to get all gussied up as the winter begins, breaking away from the typical New England winter uniform of jeans and a plaid flannel to actually find a tie. We had a good turnout on a rainy & cold day. For Kim & I the drive down to MA was quite adventurous, everything from dense fog to torrential rain, rather harrowing! Harrowing perhaps, but in the end well worth it! We were in a larger room this year which made conversations and access to the bar much easier, along with the ability to mingle which was rather restricted in the smaller room last year. The food was excellent of course, I always get the prime rib and have yet to be disappointed by the quality or portion size, almost a Fred Flintstone cut! Good food, good drink and good company...a great way to start the holidays!



**MG T-PARTY STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE**

**January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018**

		<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$5,783.33</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
	Dues (paid in 2018) regalia	\$1,825.00	
	holiday party	\$1,188.00	
	silent auction	\$60.00	
	donations	\$30.00	
		<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$3,103.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	Marque web hosting	\$300.00	
	Newsletter	\$230.96	
	URL Renewal (2 yrs) + privacy	\$53.96	
	British Marque (paid for Apr 2017-2018)	\$ 361.00	
	Rental of Wilmington Arts Council for planning meeting	\$50.00	
	postage (newsletter, dues, misc)	\$78.87	
	Tech session food, etc.	not this year	
	Charitable contribution	\$200.00	
	holiday party	\$1,344.03	
	gifts for officers	none	
	Cangiano cup (2017) regalia donated to GOF	none	
		<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$2,618.82</b>
		<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$6,267.51</b>



## Lord & Lady Fauntleroy Cross the Atlantic

O.K., not really, just Kim & I, however, if you want to feel like a titled Lord or Lady, we can highly recommend an Atlantic crossing on the Queen Mary 2!

An Atlantic crossing, just the mention brings to mind the glory days of the 30s, 40s & 50s when the only way to get to Europe was by ocean liner. Over 200 liners plied the North Atlantic ferrying the likes of Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn & Liz Taylor to and from Europe. Today there is only one ocean liner left that was built for the specific task of regular scheduled crossings between Southampton, UK and New York City, the Cunard Queen Mary 2. Unlike today's mega cruise ships with the amusement parks & go kart tracks on the top decks, the Queen Mary 2 was designed to handle the North Atlantic in any weather, spring, summer, fall or winter when the crossing can be especially rough. As such, she is a very sleek and beautiful ship, which is amazing considering she is



the largest Ocean Liner ever built, and yet sleek is the very thought we had when we first saw her at the berth in Southampton. Sleek and massive, which was very calming as the weather for the crossing was predicted to be a bit stormy, a nice way of saying it would be a typical North Atlantic winter crossing, rough! However, along with the romance of a crossing, it was the adventure of crossing the North Atlantic in the winter that appealed to us. Anybody can cruise the Caribbean, but how many can say they crossed the Atlantic in Gale Force 11 winds and 30-40 foot seas? We both flew jets in the Air Force...maybe we are still just adrenalin junkies after all!

The first thing you notice upon arriving at the ship is how very organized everything is, Cunard has been crossing between Southampton, UK and New York City since 1856, they have the logistics well worked out! We attached special luggage tags to our bags in London and handed them over to a Cunard Representative, the next time we saw them, they were in our stateroom. The check-in was very quick, they took our pictures and registered our credit card, gave us our cruise card that would be our stateroom key and payment card during the seven day crossing (you use no money on board) and that was it, easy-peasey!

Unlike other cruises we have been on where they keep you in a large lobby while your staterooms are "being readied", giving them the opportunity to try to sell you a drink package or a internet package or a myriad of additional packages for the cruise, we were free to explore the ship or head up to our stateroom at our leisure...how very civilized! Of course



we had to stop at the Golden Lion Pub for a pint before heading up to our stateroom, you don't think I could actually walk past a pub now do you? I would describe the stateroom as understated elegance, no Las Vegas chintz here, muted royal blue & gold with warm lighting, and a live little Christmas tree on our table! Later as we got settled, a bottle of Champagne arrived, compliments of Cunard, so we could toast our departure from Southampton. Again, how very civilized!



We cast off lines at exactly 1700 (yes I was timing it, I wanted to see how efficient these Brits actually were!) and headed out into Southampton Harbor toward the Isle of Wight. Kim & I toasted the shore and watched in awe as this behemoth ship headed out into the crowded and narrow harbor. I spent a goodly amount of time on the bow watching as we navigated through the narrows, amazed how such a large ship could slip through such a narrow channel, it was quite impressive. Once I was satisfied that the Captain knew what he was doing, it was time to dress for dinner!

A word about the style of the ship, it is quintessential British elegance, think Downton Abby. During the day, gentlemen and ladies are expected to dress “country club casual” khakis and a button down or polo shirt for men, slacks and dress shirt for women. Everyone is expected to dress for dinner, on

informal nights ( four nights during the crossing) gentlemen are required a sport coat and dress slacks (tie is optional) while women will be in either dress slacks and top or a dress. On formal nights (three nights during the crossing) gentlemen will have a dinner jacket, tuxedo or a suit (I saw no suits the entire voyage!), while ladies will have either a full length or half length gown. It may sound stuffy, but there is something magical about coming down the grand staircase in a tuxedo with your lovely lady decked out in her finest gown while 900 other tuxedoed & gowned men and women admire you...magical indeed! The overall vibe of the ship is so very British,



from High Tea every day at 1600 with tiny cucumber and salmon sandwiches, various sweets and wonderful tea, served by white gloved waiters, to the authentic English Pub, with three cask ales and 10 added ales on tap, not to mention the 15

additional bottled ales (yes, they had Old Speckled Hen!!) Every night there was dancing in the Queens Ballroom (the largest afloat) to a full orchestra, lectures by renowned authors (on our crossing we had three separate lectures on the glorious ocean liners of the 30s, 40s & 50s by a gentleman who has written over 400 books on the subject!) There were dance classes, spas, pools, you could be busy all day, or you could be as relaxed as you wished, spending time in the library (again, the largest

afloat) with glorious views over the bow. Kim & I spent a lot of time in the Library, I think it was our favorite place on the ship!

The food was spectacular, the menu changing every night, from filet to lobster, lamb chops, Beef Wellington, Sea Bass en papillote...anything you could imagine. The service was impeccable of course and the setting in the two story main dining room was just lovely. After dinner, there was a choice of lounges for after dinner drinks, the very formal Commodore Club on deck eleven (modeled after the Commodore Club on the original Queen Mary) or the equally elegant Chart Room on deck 4 where they served a killer Martini! It was hard to choose, so most nights we made it to both!

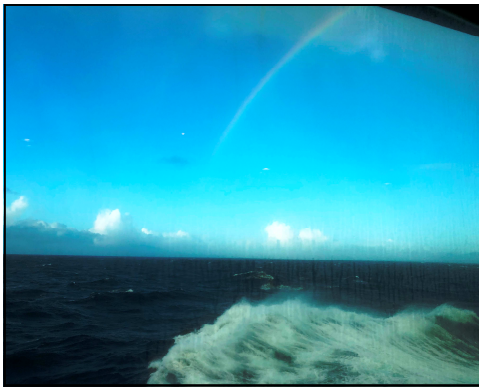






And how was the weather you might ask? In a word, spectacular! We ran the gamut of Gale Force 11 winds (Gale Force 12 is a full blown Hurricane) with 30-40 foot seas to glorious sunsets & rainbows and everything in between. As I mentioned, the Queen Mary 2 was constructed specifically to cross the North Atlantic so she has extra steel in the bow to deaden the force of high seas and large stabilizers which kept the roll to a rather pleasant 2-3 degrees during our high seas, barely noticeable at all. (The original Queen Mary didn't have any stabilizers, she was known as "a roller", often leaning 35 degrees port to star-

board!) The power of the North Atlantic was awesome to behold, our stateroom was on deck 8 which is eight stories above the water, yet during our second day out the spray was coming up past our balcony! Our only complaint about the weather was the high winds which kept us off the promenade deck. We had wanted to walk the deck every day (3 times around equals one mile) but the deck was closed for six of the seven days of the crossing due to high winds. Even 15 knot winds were too high as the ship was making 23 knots which made the wind across the bow 38 knots! I'm told during a summer crossing the winds are very calm and you can lay out on the deck chairs all day...not so in the winter! On day five it was very calm as we passed 10 miles north of the grave of the Titanic, I have a new understanding of the terror faced in that sinking, the North Atlantic is a vast and lonely place.



I don't get up at 0400 for many things, but coming into New York Harbor and passing under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge is certainly one of them. I told you the Queen Mary 2 is the largest true ocean liner in the world, well she is so large that she clears the bridge by only twelve feet! Seeing Manhattan by sea is something we will never forget, one could only imagine what our ancestors felt seeing New York City for the first time as they arrived from Europe. How scared they must have been, arriving in a new land with not much more than the clothes they were wearing, and yet how excited by the possibilities that America could afford. I'll admit to a tear or two as we glided past the Statue of liberty, very humbling for me to think of all the Irish who came so long ago, escaping the famine that forced them from their homes and families. All too soon we were back on solid ground and headed into Manhattan to spend Christmas with our daughter Kerry and her husband Kevin. Disembarking was a bit of a hassle, so close to Christmas, it seemed that many of the Custom Agents had taken off for the Holidays...welcome home!! Would we go again...HELL YES!!! It was a trip we will never forget.



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# The Ales of the United Kingdom

“Give my people plenty of beer, good beer & cheap beer, and you will have no revolution among them”.  
Queen Victoria



## Arkells Brewery Ltd

Kingsdown Brewery  
Swindon



## Moonlight Ale

Anyone visiting Arkell's Brewery for the first time could be excused for thinking they have walked straight into a time machine.

The beer is still brewed in much the same way as it was when John Arkell first made it in 1843 and the brewery buildings seem untouched by the passing years. If you speak to any of the staff about the company it is clear that everyone is still as fiercely proud of its local and family roots as John Arkell was himself.

But Arkell's has not achieved its unique position as Swindon's oldest company and one of the oldest traditional breweries still operating in Britain today, simply by standing still.

The company has remained true to the principles of loyalty, quality and tradition set down by its founder 175 years ago, but it has also adapted brilliantly to the changing world around it. Some things never change at Arkell's, but it is the ability to change effectively when change is necessary that has been at the cornerstone of the brewery's success story over the last 175 years.

We believe that without raw materials of exceptional quality it is impossible to produce first-rate beers. This is why we go to great efforts to source the best malted barley from around the UK and spend the hop harvest every year picking out the finest grown hops for our Ales. We have a staple of distinctive regular beers and also introduce seasonal and special ales throughout the year.

Brewed to mark the 100th anniversary this year of the Royal Air Force. Moonlight was originally a special in 2003 to celebrate the 80th birthday of Peter Arkell OBE, the late father of the present Chairman James. The name moonlight portrays Peter's missions flying low-level sorties over France in 1943, picking up agents in occupied territory using the moon to land. The label on the bottle has a Lysander plane on it, which Peter Arkell actually flew. Now a regular beer, Moonlight has a golden auburn colour with a warm toasty aroma and distinctive citrus hoppy flavour from Celeia hops.

Source: <https://www.arkells.com/beer>





## MG SUMMER SOJOURN TO NEW ENGLAND

August 2019 (Approximate)

### AN INVITATION

Come join the Chesapeake Chapter of the NEMGTR for some cool summer weather and beautiful scenic drives for two weeks this summer on the Chapter's Annual MG Summer Sojourn to New England.

The participants will trailer their cars to New England and then drive their MG T Series cars through Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and the seacoast of Maine. It's an exciting tour. Each day we will drive a scenic route, enjoy some local activities, and relax over local cuisine. We plan to visit several Maine seacoast villages, including Bar Harbor, attend the New England Auto Auction, visit several classic car museums and enjoy related activities.

All registrants must be a member of the NEMGTR and participate in the event in a  
T Series MG.

To register or for more information, contact Milton Babirak at [mbabirak@babirakcarr.com](mailto:mbabirak@babirakcarr.com)  
or 703-501-7924. There is no registration fee.

### MG Lovers Lament

*Sung to the tune of Janis Joplin's "Mercedes Benz"*

“Oh Lord, won't you buy me a pretty MG,  
My friends all drive Jaguars, that's no fun for me.  
Worked hard all my lifetime, now let's have some fun,  
Oh Lord, won't you buy me an MG that runs.  
Oh Lord, won't you buy me a nice MGB,  
Or maybe a hardtop, it's called a GT.  
I don't mind some rust spots, or oil on the ground,  
I just want to drive my MG around.  
Oh Lord, won't you buy me a TC or TD,  
Make all the collectors jealous of me.  
I've been a good boy, I have can't you see,  
Oh Lord, won't you but me a pretty MG.

*\* Editors note: Not sure where I found this, internet probably. I give all credit to the author  
and salute him/her!*

# The MG Prayer

God Bless our little MG car,  
and guide us as we travel a far.  
Help us find the roads we seek,  
and please don't let the oil leak.  
Save us please from Engine trouble,  
and mechanics that will charge us double!  
As we travel on our way,  
Bless us with a sunshine day!  
Lead us to good fun & Friends,  
and when at least our journey ends  
Grant our roadster a sweet rest,  
until the next endurance test!

TM  
BEETLE-INK



# T Party Regalia

There are jackets, shirts, car badges, cloth pins and now pens available for purchase. That MG fan in the family might just fancy something from our collection.

Jackets.....	\$35.00
Add a name to the Jacket.....	\$5.00
Shirts with pockets.....	\$28.35
Shirts w/o pockets.....	\$27.50
Car Badges.....	\$30.00
Hats, Navy bill w/teal upper, MG T-Party (lettering in white).....	\$9.50
Pins.....	\$2.50
Cloth Patches.....	\$1.50
License Plate Frames.....	\$1.00
Pens.....	\$.50

Add **\$5.00** per jacket/shirt for shipping & handling. Other items will be billed actual postage.

Contact Betty Butler to purchase Regalia.  
[bjbutler@metrocast.net](mailto:bjbutler@metrocast.net)

## New England Classic MG



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Restoration, Repairs, Parts • Coach Rebuilding

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Dean Sprague # 13051 — David Ahrendt #10213



### 1954 MGTF

Bright red with tan leather and wire wheels.  
 Excellent condition inside and out.  
 Complete restoration by Steve Neal.  
 5 speed Skyhook Engineering transmission  
 Tools , tonneau and memorabilia .  
 Maine" MGTF 54" plates transferable in state.  
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 \$ 35, 500.00



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## T-Party Key Personnel

### **Charles Dyer, Chairman**

Hamilton, MA 978-468-0156  
[dyer-charles@comcast.net](mailto:dyer-charles@comcast.net)

### **Alex Gottfried, ViceChairman**

Framingham, MA 978-764-4702  
[alex\\_gottfried@msn.com](mailto:alex_gottfried@msn.com)

### **Judy Krongelb, Treasurer**

Acton, MA 978-263-2519  
[kronwasser@yahoo.com](mailto:kronwasser@yahoo.com)

### **Maryellen & Rick Pelletier, Membership**

East Wakefield, NH 603-819-6418  
[mpelletier1951@gmail.com](mailto:mpelletier1951@gmail.com)

### **Chris Nowlan, Technical Advisor**

Amherst, NH 603-6730939  
[nowlanc@comcast.net](mailto:nowlanc@comcast.net)

### **Rick Smith, Technical Advisor**

Dedham, MA 781-326-9055  
603-253-6524 (weekends)  
[fdsmith50@gmail.com](mailto:fdsmith50@gmail.com)

### **Betty Butler, Regalia**

Belmont, NH 603-524-2543  
[bjbutler@metrocast.net](mailto:bjbutler@metrocast.net)

### **Bob Dougherty, Editor**

Laconia, NH 603-948-2078  
[rdoc2mg@gmail.com](mailto:rdoc2mg@gmail.com)



### *Supplemental Regalia available from KP Creative Stitches*

KP Creative stitches is a home based embroidery studio that has digitized the T-Party logo so it can be put on items that are not currently stocked by the T-Party Regalia. Currently we can offer the logo on denim shirts (\$35) & sweatshirts (\$40). [kathy@kpcreativestitches.com](mailto:kathy@kpcreativestitches.com) Special orders accepted  
Kathy Ahrendt 603-426-8568 or Priscilla Guenther 828-728-4927