



# T•Talk



## The Delaware Valley Classic MG Chapter

of the



New England MG T Register



North American MGB Register



North American MGA Register

**Includes A-Talk and B-Talk**

**Vol. 33 , No. 2**

**April 2003**

T-Talk is the newsletter of the Delaware Valley Classic MG Chapter and is published four times a year, in January, April, July, and October. Copy is due to the Editor by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Articles and opinions appearing in T-Talk are solely those of the author, and are not necessarily endorsed by the Officers or staff. Anyone with an interest in MG automobiles is invited to join. Full membership requires affiliation with the appropriate Register: NEMGTR, NAMGAR, or NAMGBR. DVC dues are \$20 per year per family.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

It's been a long, cold winter in many ways. But as I write this, the crocuses and daffodils are starting to poke their heads up, the record snowfalls are fading in memory, and my thoughts turn to Springtime's warm breezes and new beginnings.

It's time to get out there in the garage, which is hopefully a little warmer now, and start those necessary tasks to take the MG out of winter storage and get it ready for the open road which beckons us. Another season of sparkling DVC events is about to commence!!

This issue of T-Talk will have gone to the printer just before the March 29th Anniversary Party, so look for that write-up next issue. Next on the agenda is Joe Bernert's annual Tech Session at his Havis Shields business in Warminster, calculated to help get us ready for a Spring to remember. For all the exciting details, please see **UPCOMING DVC EVENTS**, below.

New beginnings are often preceded by old things coming to an end, and so it is for me as your editor: this will be my last issue. I'm grateful for the help of those good and loyal friends whose loving advice helped me through the rough spots. Good luck, happy MGing, and may God bless us all.

*Jerry Ketter*

### DUES NOTICE - DUES NOTICE

If it still indicates "2002" on your mailing label, your 2003 dues are now "overdue".... Please send your \$20 to Treasurer Liz Niner NOW.... if not received promptly, this could be your last issue of T-Talk!!

### UPCOMING DVC EVENTS

**Sat./Sun., April 26/27: DVC Spring Tour - "Mauch Chunk with Your Hunk"**. Pack your saddlebags for an overnigher. Fill your quiver with your favorite firewater. The posse will ride out at sunrise (9:00 am) on Sat. from the Gilbertsville Shopping Center, Rte. 73/Swarmp Pike. Our tribe will ride toward the big mountain. Before entering Mauch Chunk we will test our thermostats by riding the 3-mile hill climb. Fire water gifts to those whose radiators are ready to blow. We'll ride into town and stable our Roadsters at the Broadway Guesthouse (please leave your piece at the front desk). Troops - please call Steve at the Guesthouse and make your room reservations as soon as possible. (570-325-9190, mention DVC MG sportscar club) Eleven Queen Bed Rooms @ \$95. One Queen Bed Room w/fireplace, jacuzzi, and sofabed @ \$140. One King Bed Suite w/fireplace, jacuzzi, and sofabed...2nd room has Queen Bed. Rates include Continental breakfast. Can't overnigher? Make it a day trip and join us on the trail. Questions? Call Tribe Leader Larry Kain (610) 933-8189 or e-mail [lcdkain@cs.com](mailto:lcdkain@cs.com)

**Sat., April 12: Annual Spring Tech Session** at Havis Shields Equipment Corp. (HSEC), 75 Jacksonville Rd., Warminster, PA 18974. Rain or Shine, as the Havis Shields facilities include indoor parking for all MGs. Push it, shove it, tow it... or just DRIVE IT... to the annual Spring Tech Session put on by the DVC membership. As the driving season approaches those MGs need a lot of TLC after sitting idle over the winter. The usual maintenance (oil change, tune-up, etc) will be OK. Nothing at the facility may be used, so please bring whatever tools and materials you may need. Havis Shields will dispose of used motor oil for you, but please bring appropriate

containers for the used oil. There's enough room inside for at least 6 or 7 MGs at one time, and (if needed) there should be plenty of skilled MG mechanics on hand to assist you. This will be a very active driving season, so get your MG up to speed.

Directions to Havis Shields from PA Turnpike:

Take Exit 27 (Willow Grove). Keep right, follow 611 north. Right at 2nd light (Nino's Pizza) to Blair Mill Ave. Right on County Line Rd (east). Right on Jacksonville Rd (332). HSEC is 1/4 mile on the east side of the road.

Directions to Havis Shields from I-95:

Take Woodhaven Rd exit to dead end, left to first light, then right onto Bayberry Rd. Follow Bayberry to 3rd light, then right on Bustleton Ave (Gulf). Follow Bustleton 2-1/2 miles to left on Street Rd (132) to Jacksonville Rd, and follow directions above.

*Your Host: Joe Bernert*



*Last year's Tech Session: Dick Suffredini's TD, Louise Story's MGB*

**Sun.-Thurs., May 12-15:** Austin-Healey Sprite 45th Anniversary Gathering, "SpriteSpree 2003". Once every 5 years ! World's Biggest Sprite Gathering ! Just before Carlisle Import Show [May 16 - 18, 2003 (717) 243-7855 [WWW.carsatcarlisle.com](http://WWW.carsatcarlisle.com)]. For info and registration forms, [SpriteSpree2003@Juno.com](mailto:SpriteSpree2003@Juno.com) & Rick Moses@Aol.com, or call (717) 534-2222, (717) 534-2525, (717) 379-5752.

Venue: Harrisburg Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in New Cumberland, PA 17070 Call now for special Meet rate! (717) 774-2721. Healey Clubs Evenings: Authentic English Pub Reception Night, Atrium Wine & Cheese Night, Special Guests Auction Evening, Banquet w Sprite Cars Night. Plus: Hospitality Beer & Food Suite, Continental Breakfast, Car Shows w awards, Sprite Concours, Fun Driving Events, Autocross for all, Hobby / Models / Photos, Flea Market, Regalia Sales. [MG Midget owners take special note of this event, submitted by Larry Cordiero]

**Sat., May 17th 8am to 5pm WHEELS AND WINGS AIR SHOW.** Millville Airport, Millville, New Jersey. Airshow Info 856-327-2347/Car Show info 856-451-0693 This airshow has become one of the largest on the east coast and attracted over 55,000 people last year. This show will be the only one to have performances by both the US Navy Blue Angels and the Canadian Forces Snowbirds. Vintage and Military aircraft fly in from all over the country and

are on display. Advance tickets are \$10 per car and that includes parking near the tarmac.

RSVP to your hosts, Jan & Mark Scherbekow, at 856-451-1527 so they can buy the tickets. It is important for our group to get there before 11am. The gates to the inside field area will be locked at noon. If we meet that day as a group the organizers will have us escorted inside. Please let Jan & Mark know if those who plan on attending would like to meet near the airport and caravan in.

DVCers should go to the main entrance to the airport and make sure they don't let anyone reroute them. Tell the officials you are part of the Old Car Vintage group and are supposed to park inside the field. Due to 9/11 no coolers, pets, smoking or alcohol are to be brought in. There will be numerous food concessions and beer available. Last year the food was great and varied. If anyone would like more info, Jan & Mark have newspaper clippings and flyers they can FAX. This truly is a great airshow and there is also at the Airport and open to the public a wonderful museum (Millville Army Air Field Museum). This Airport was "America's First Defense Airport".

*Your hosts: Mark & Jan Scherbekow*

#### **Sun., June 8th (REVISED DATE) ICE CREAM TOUR.**

Weather permitting, we will meet at the Feldgus' home in New Hope, PA about 10:30 AM -- we plan to have a "low-key" tour of Bucks County, PA, Hunterdon County and Mercer County NJ. Along the way we will visit 2 ice cream emporiums -- both offering food as well as ice cream -- should be a fun time. Sorry, no rain date!

Please call Ernie or Barbara to let them know to expect you and for any clarification of directions. 215-598-3133

**DIRECTIONS TO THE FELDGLUS'** at 6324 Pidcock Creek Road, New Hope, PA: From Peddler's Village -- Lahaska, PA -- go east on Street Road at the intersection with Route 202 (Jenny's Restaurant) continue for approx 2.2 mi -- turn left at Pidcock Creek Road -- follow and bear left at stop sign to Route 232 (Windy Bush Road) -- turn right and immediately turn left to continue on Pidcock Creek Road for approx. 4/10 mi to #6324 on right -- note that house, barn and carriage house are very close to the road with a white rail fence running in front of the property.

*Your Hosts: Barbara & Ernie Feldgus*

#### **Sat., June 21st: TOM HORNSBY MEMORIAL RALLYE**

(Rain or Shine) Registration: 12:00 Noon.

Driver's Meeting: 12:30 PM.

First Car Off: 1:01 PM.

Rallymaster: Jim O'Brien.

Entrant's Fee: \$10 per car.

Seat of the Pants Only (No instruments)

Start Location: Elmer Elementary School on Front Street next to Front Street Plaza. From Delaware follow Rte. 40 E. to Elmer and turn left at the curve before the traffic light. From PA take Rte. 40 W. to Elmer. After the traffic light in town proceed straight down Front Street (do not make the curve on Rte. 40).

FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD PLACE AWARDS will be to the top teams, with the Hornsby Cup presented to the FIRST PLACE T-SERIES MG. Questions? Contact...

*Your Hosts: Ben and Cyndi Nolan 856-358-2645.*

## EVENT REPORTS

**Sat., July 12th: FAMILY GOLF:** The Second Annual Golf Outing will be held at Waltz's Golf Farm, Limerick, PA (same place as last year). We will have the patio on Saturday July 12th from 11A-3P. There will be an area out front with special reserved parking for the MGs, so shine them up and drive them over! We have even arranged for a special package for the event. The package includes lunch and a round of golf. Lunch this year will be either a hot dog or a hamburger, a bag of chips, and unlimited beverages! The price of the package tickets are \$8.50 for the Farm mini-golf course or \$9.50 for either the Castle mini-golf or the Par-3 course. If you just want to join us to golf or eat, that can be arranged too! Extra games or a bucket of balls can be done too! We do need to get a head count on this to see if we should reserve the whole patio or just one side, so please let Lew Phillips know if you are planning on attending. You can email him at [Lew@DBigWoo.com](mailto:Lew@DBigWoo.com) or call 215-679-5101. The sooner you can let him know, the better, but please don't hesitate to come out even if you decide on Saturday morning! So come on out! Bring the family! Bring potential members! Bring the neighbors! Heck, bring the mail man! Let's have a great time!

*Your host: Lew Phillips*

## HEADS UP !

**August 22 - 24: Triathlon V.** The DVC will again try to secure the Teapot Trophy by sending the most Teams to compete in the Triathlon. Maybe you're already registered, or maybe you need information: either way, please call the DVC Triathlon Coordinator, Dick Suffredini (215) 355-3053 or e-mail Dick - [d.suff@juno.com](mailto:d.suff@juno.com) . CALL NOW !

## 2003 DVC EVENT SCHEDULE

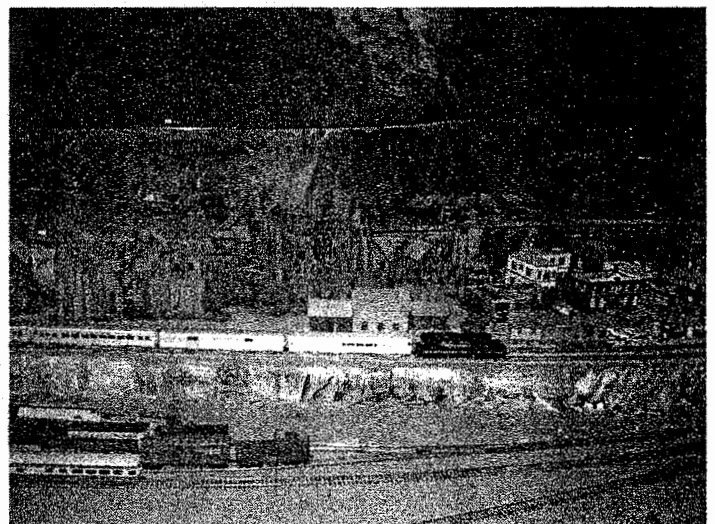
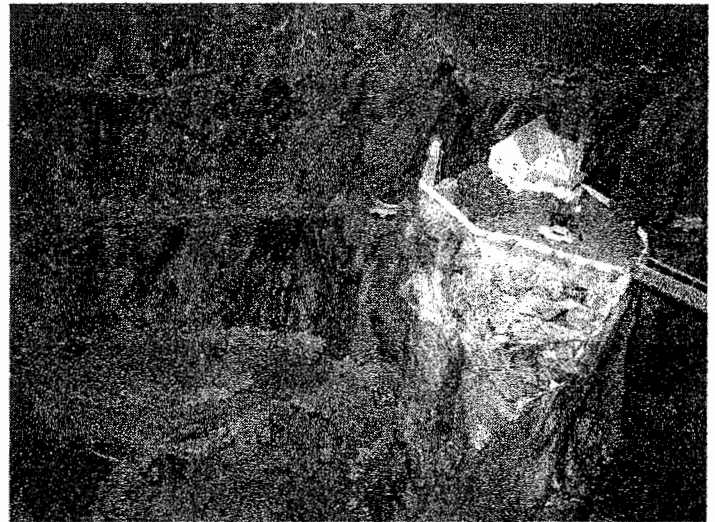
Jan. 25 .....Northland Railroad - Wagner  
 March 16 .....Sweetheart Bowling - Rippert  
 March 29 .....33rd Anniv. Party/Rallye - Niner  
 Apr. 12 .....Tech Session - Bernert  
 Apr. 26/27 .....Spring Tour (Mauch Chunk) - Kain  
 May 17 .....Wings & Wheels - Scherbekow  
 June 8th (REVISED DATE) .....Ice Cream Tour - Feldgus  
 Jun. 21 .....Hornsby Rallye - Nolan  
 Jul. 12 .....Family Golf - Phillips  
 Jul. 26 .....Pool Party/Rallye - O'Brien  
 Aug. 9 .....New Hope Party - Dougherty  
 Aug. 22-24 .....Triathlon V Tour - Suffredini  
 Sep. 19-21 .....QVR Weekend - Rippert/Suffredini/Fischer  
 Oct. 10-12 .....Fall Tour (Watkins Glen) - TBD  
 Oct. 25 .....Badda Bing Badda Bob Tour - Tiley  
 Nov. 1 .....Guy Fawkes Night - Goelz  
 Nov. 16 .....Annual Membership Meeting - Bernert  
 Dec. 6 (or 13?) .....Holiday Banquet - Alicea

***We regret to inform you of the passing of our fellow DVC member and friend, Bill Fritz, in late January. Bill's smiling face and enthusiasm will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sandy and the Fritz family.***

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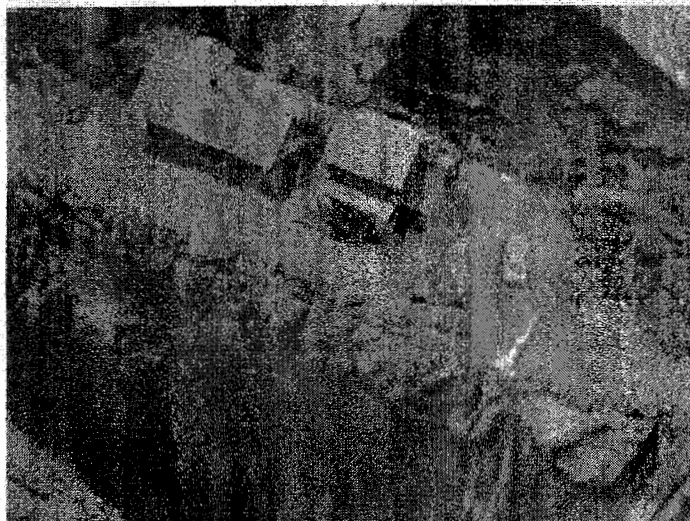
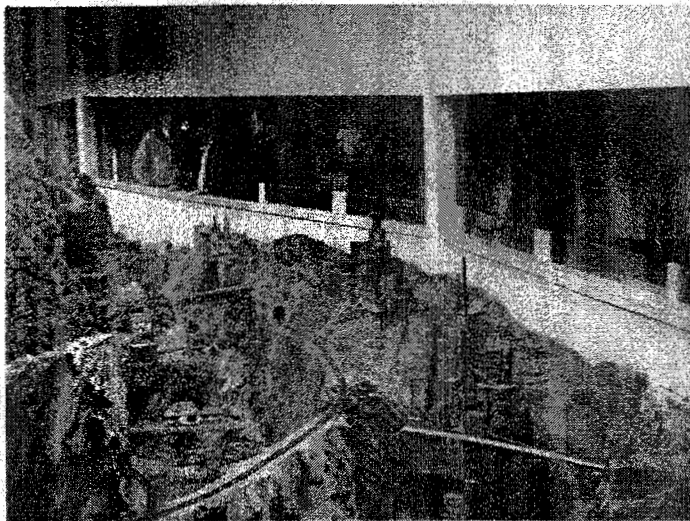
***Our condolences also to Mike Maloney and his family, on the recent death of Mike's father.***

**DVC "COLD WEATHER-STAY WARM" Tour to Northlandz:** On a gloomy January Saturday, why would anyone drive NORTH for a destination called NORTHLANDZ? No good answer but that's exactly what twenty or so DVC members did on January 25th to Flemington, N.J. Two cars arrived at ten o'clock and the occupants were so cold that seven of them piled into a four passenger car and were so entangled they almost missed the show in the big warm building called the Northlandz.



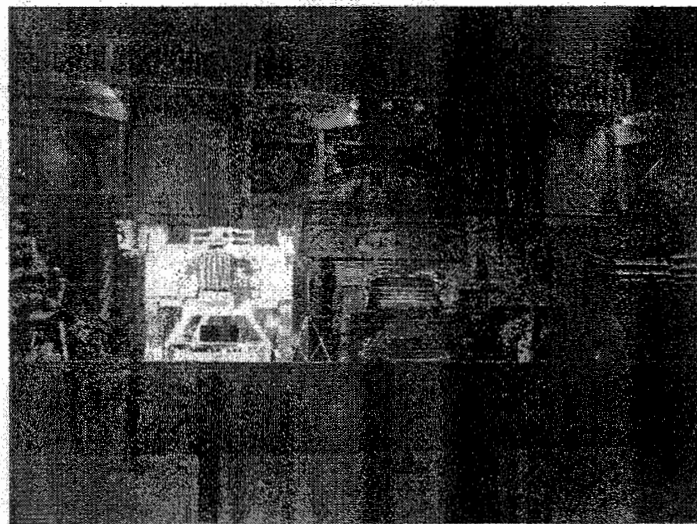
Inside heads were counted about four times in the hope of a quorum so that these DVCers wouldn't have to pay the full admission price (typical MG owners). After a brief welcome by Bruce Zaccagnino, the creator, designer and genius responsible for the magnificent display of history, art and scenery the British car nuts - excuse me - owners eased into the start of a one mile tour that could honestly be described as breathtaking. Here were towns, people, buildings, trees, farms, all combined to match perfectly the scale of the many HO trains. This was the start of many

dozens of scenic displays reaching high above the viewing paths and deep into valleys, involving hundreds of bridges, trestles, and thousands of hand-made houses and buildings interwoven with long electric trains and tracks. What a chance to play with those new gee whiz cameras!



Ok, here's the one that has the MGI

It is reliably reported that the lookers and gawkers stretched out on the path through this peaceful universe included such explorers as Ernie and Barbra Felgus, Chuck and Judy Goelz, Jerry Keller, Lee and Lis Niner, Tom and Jamie Rippert, Bob and Terri Tiley, Bob Wagner, Dick and Sandy Suffredini, Rocky Grillo, Roy and Sue Dougherty, Ben and Cyndi Nolan, Mark and Jan Scherbekow, and Mark and Donna McCarraher.



Part way through the tour Bruce showed his talent playing on a giant pipe organ. What a guy! What a warm day.

*Hosted by: Bob Wagner*

*Photos: Jerry Keller*

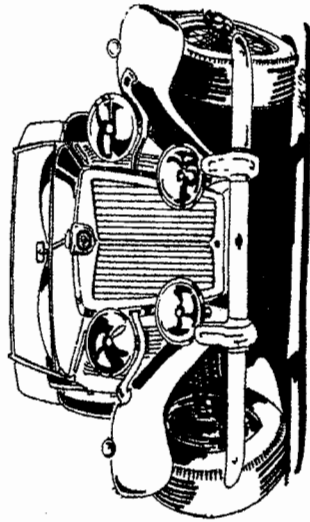
**NEMGTR Annual NATTER & NOGGIN:** The annual general business meeting of New England MG T Register (NEMGTR) otherwise known as the Noggin 'n Natter was held on February 7-9, 2003 in Research Triangle Park NC. RTP is centrally located between Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill NC. The Tarheel State MG T Motoring Chapter of the NEMGTR hosted the meeting and in addition to the directors there were representatives from the Upstate New York Ts, the Delaware Valley Chapter and the New England MG T-Party. Friday evening many of the attendees unwound from their travel and enjoyed dinner at the local chop house.

Saturday morning the directors met, followed by a buffet luncheon and the Annual Business Meeting was convened at 1:30 Saturday afternoon. There was a formal meeting agenda which was closely followed and the proceedings progressed very efficiently. (Yes, Hank ran the meeting.) It was announced that Eric Scott and Martin Schorer will transition to Directors Emeriti and Charlie Searles will become Registrar following Tony Thomas. Their significant contributions to the Register were acknowledged. There were the usual operational reports on the 2002 finances and the 2003 budget, Reglia income and expense, TSO advertising and membership. Finances are healthy and no problems were reported in these areas. An informal update was given on the Knudson-Churchill Scholarship Trust and major progress is being made on obtaining 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the IRS.

Charlie Searles reported on the 2003 and future GOFs. The spring 2003 GOF will be held June 4th to 8th in Stowe VT and the fall 2003 GOF in Williamsburg VA, September 3rd to 6th. The GOFs for 2004 were the

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## TOM HORNSBY MEMORIAL RALLYE

**REGISTRATION:** 12:00 Noon

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2003 RAIN or SHINE**

**FIRST CAR OFF:** 1:01 PM

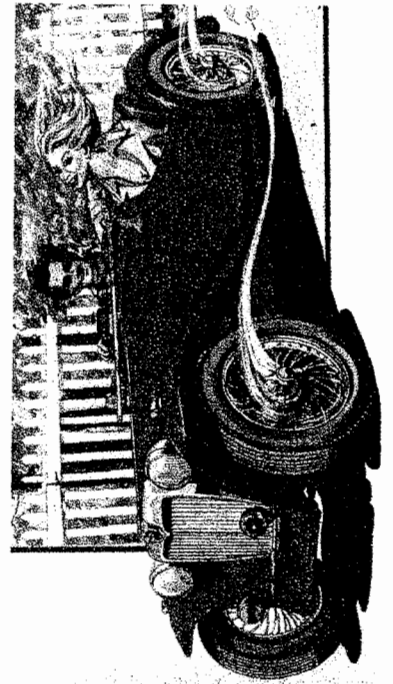
**DRIVERS MEETING:** 12:30 PM

**RALLYMASTER:** Jim O'Brien

**ENTRANT'S FEE:** \$10.00 PER CAR

### "SEAT OF THE PANTS ONLY" - NO INSTRUMENTS

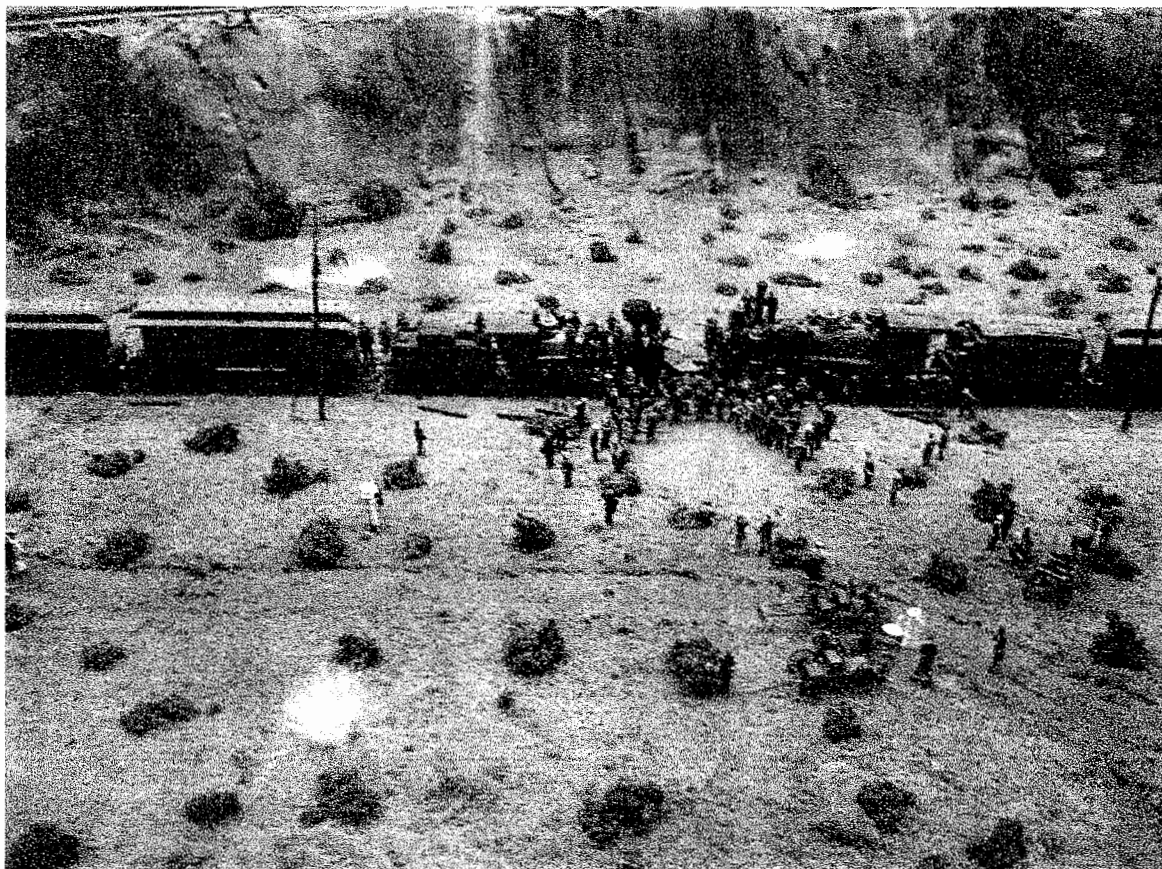
**THIS YEARS RALLEY START LOCATION WILL BE:** Elmer Elementary School on Front Street next to the Front Street Plaza. From Delaware follow Route 40 E. to Elmer and turn left at the curve before the traffic light. From PA. Take Route 55 S. to Route 40 W. to Elmer. After the traffic light in town proceed straight down Front Street ( do not make the curve on Route 40).



FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PLACE  
AWARDS WILL BE TO THE TOP TEAMS,  
WITH THE HORNSBY CUP PRESENTED  
TO THE FIRST PLACE T-SERIES MG.

Questions? Contact Ben or Cyndi Nolan

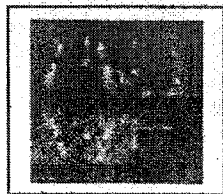
856-358-2645



subject of much discussion on both date and venue in that 2004 is the 40th Anniversary of the Register and also the 50th Anniversary of the Collier Cup races at Watkins Glen. The MG Vintage racers and the MMM Register are planning special activities in addition to those expected to take place at the Fall vintage races at the Glen. There was unanimous agreement that the 2004 Fall GOF be held at the Glen in conjunction with the vintage races and that the Best Western in Painted Post NY, the site of past GOFs, be contracted for the event. The 2004 spring GOF is tentatively planned to be held in the Lancaster PA area in June, after the school year is over. Stay tuned, 2004 will be an exciting year for the T Register.

The meeting was adjourned about 4 PM (said to be record timing). Later, the group dinner at the hotel was preceded by a cocktail party hosted by the Tarheel Chapter. This was the first Noggin that I have attended and it was a pleasure seeing new as well as long time MG pals, seeing how the Register's business is conducted and participating in the discussions. I look forward to attending future Natters and recommend you try it sometime.

Dan Amey



**DVC SWEETHEART BOWLING - 2003:** It took two tries, but Sweetheart Bowling finally happened on March 16<sup>th</sup>. And what a beautiful day it was. Just like the daffodils and crocuses poking their heads out of the snow after a very long winter, six MG's poked their heads out of the garage that day. It was a perfect (long awaited) top-down MG day! Twenty-seven DVC'ers came out for an afternoon of bowling at Earl Bowl in Earlington. In attendance were Mike, Joellyn, Justin and Brian Williams, Bob and Terri Tiley (MGB), Dick and Sandy Suffredini (MGTD), Chuck and Judy Goelz (MGA), Roy and Sue Dougherty and Madison Maloney, Steve Novelli, Betsy, Kimberly and Chris Pollock, Joe Weiss, Wade Albright, Lee and Liz Niner (MGTD), Larry, Carol and Danny Kain (MGB), Rocco Grillo (MGTD) and Tom and Jaimee Rippert (MGA).

After picking numbers to determine what lane you were to bowl on, the competition commenced. Three games were about all us old ones could handle. Lots of achy backs, knees, shoulders, etc., etc. When everyone was finished, scores were tallied with the results as follows: The "Best Team" consisting of Brian Williams (322), Dick Suffredini (341), Chuck Goelz (306) and Wade Albright (531) had a total team score of 1500 points. "Best Bowler" trophy went to Joe Weiss with a score of 558. "Best Kid Bowler" trophy went to Danny Kain with a score of 331. "Worst Bowler" trophy went to Chris Pollock with a score of 228, and last, but not least, the trophy for most gutter balls (41 to be exact) went to Madison Maloney. Maddie, stick to cheerleading!

After the trophies were handed out, we headed to the "Pizza Pub" in Hatfield for sandwiches and beer. Rocco brought Louise over to the Pub in her "ski boot" (I think so he wouldn't have to cook, you see Louise broke a couple

toes and is hobbling around in a big boot. Louise, what you won't do to get out of cooking)!

Thank you all for coming out, a good time was had by all.

Tom and Jaimee Rippert

## Delaware Valley Classic MG Chapter

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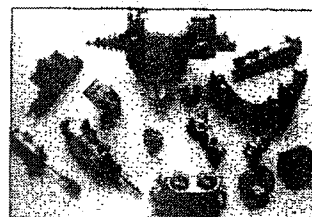
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**FOR SALE:** 1950 MG TD. Al Jones, Chalfont, PA  
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**FOR SALE:** 1952 MG TD. 3rd owner, owned since 1955. Yellow, in completely original condition, including Judson supercharger installed when car was new. Very good condition, 35K miles, luggage rack, side windows. E-mail: [wfpak@widomaker.com](mailto:wfpak@widomaker.com) or call Gary Stewart 757-874-7196 (home) or 757-532-8100 (cell). Car is garaged in Virginia.

**FOR SALE:** 1953 MGTD. Very good condition. Earlier frame off restoration. Ivory with green connolly leather.

Photos can be viewed on the web at

<http://home.uchicago.edu/~jjdoyle/mg.html>.

Same owner since 1977. Asking \$15,900. Phone Joe Doyle in Clarks Summit, Pa. (near Scranton) at 570-586-3736.

## NEW MEMBERS

**A hearty DVC welcome to these new members:**

Sue Helfand, Warrington, PA..... No MG yet  
Alan and Joan Gerstle, Phila., PA.....53 MGTD  
Brian J. Moyer, Lansdale, PA.....58 MGA 1500

## MORE ARTICLES

### "SKINNED KNUCKLES"

The Delaware Valley Classic MG Chapter of the T Register has had a tradition of holding a great raffle of MG stuff at their annual holiday banquet. For many years Liz & Lee Niner have solicited, scrounged and purchased MG stuff from parts suppliers, vendors, flea markets, magazines, etc and club members generously donate stuff for the raffle. You can even win something if you can't make the banquet for tickets are mailed with the banquet flyer and you can just return the stubs with the nominal price of \$1.00. It really works! We have won a couple times since we've been in North Carolina and have been pleasantly surprised when some neat regalia items have shown up in the mail. Well thats a long winded background to my subject.

About 15 years ago we were the lucky recipients of a 1 year subscription to "Skinned Knuckles" magazine at the DVC holiday banquet. I enjoyed the magazine and have been a subscriber ever since. Skinned Knuckles is a monthly printed on newspaper stock in magazine format and calls itself "A Journal of Car Restoration" and "...Written by Restorers for Restorers". A typical issue has 50 pages and it runs \$22/yr or \$2.50 for a single copy (if you can find it for it only has about 3600 subscribers and distributes a few hundred thru dealers.) The magazine has product evaluations (in the recent past there were excellent articles on rust preventatives, with field tests, oil additives and top oilers), shop tips, automotive basics and good practical info on car care and maintenance. It covers both pre-war and post-war cars and mostly american iron but just about every issue has some British and European content. Of interest to many of us is the MGA series which began in the June 2002 issue in a regular feature written by contributing editor Orest Lazarowich. Each article is 4 to 5 pages long and so far has dealt with the following subjects:

June 2002 The MGA  
July 2002 MGA Drum Brakes  
August 2002 MGA Disc Brakes  
September 2002 MGA Front Suspension  
October 2002 MGA Front Hubs & Steering Gear  
November 2002 MGA Drive Shaft & Rear Axle  
December 2002 MGA Clutch  
January 2003 MGA Engine & Transmission  
February 2003 MGA Electrical System

It isn't stated how long the series is to last nor are future

subjects beyond the next month listed but you can check it out at [www.skinnedknuckles.com](http://www.skinnedknuckles.com). The back issue price is \$2.50 or \$2.00/copy if you buy 10 or more. Enjoyable reading and well worth the price.

(Dan continues....)

The March subject is the MGA Ignition System and the April issue will cover the MGA fuel system. Check it out on [www.skinnedknuckles.com](http://www.skinnedknuckles.com).

The March / April Issue of "Vintage Motorsport" is full of M.G. photos and stories. The lead editorial "Chromosomes and old MGs" by Randy Riggs the Editor-in-chief takes you back to the early '50s and his memories of Dinky Toys, car models, the Langhorne Speedway (a PA track near Philly which is now a shopping center and the track where I saw my first stock car race in 1958) and a photo of him with his first car, a '55 TF. The driver profile feature is on John von Nuemann, a Californian (born in Vienna, emigrating to the USA just before WWII) who raced in the '40s and '50s. He became a successful Porsche, VW and Ferrari dealer, starting out peddling, servicing and racing M.G.s and was said to have modified his M.G. to where it was the fastest unblown M.G. on the west coast. The article has photos of von Nuemann's first 2 stall garage with 2 TDs on display and von Nuemann at-speed in his TD in a '51 race in Palm Springs. The 10 page article has many other photos and anecdotes of von Nuemann's association with Ken Miles, Richie Ginther, Phil Hill and other notable drivers of the era.

A 12 page article "The Last American Road Race" takes you back to 1959 to Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island in Lake Erie, north of Sandusky Ohio, where races were run on the island roads from '52 to '59. The area is a popular vacation spot and the site of the monument to Admiral Perry's War of 1812 naval victory. (Patti and I overnighted there a few years ago on her cousins cabin cruiser and enjoyed walking around the village, a good meal and sightseeing.) There is alot of M.G. in the text and photos. The lead photo has a Lester M.G. leading the 18 car field of Lotus', Jags, Porsches, TRs,TDs and an A. Other photos show the ferry packed with race cars including the Lester and a TD, a TD up on two wheels, a supercharged TC and TDs on a pace lap, and Bob Satava in his TD at the 1988 Put-in-Bay Revival race. The article's text is just chock full of M.G.!

Also in this issue is a 3 pager on the SVRA 2002 Fall Festival at VIR with a nice photo of a '74 B/GT V8 Group 8 winner leading a pack of Cameros round a bend. This is a great issue for M.G. enthusiasts.

Safety Fast,  
Dan Amey

## DUES NOTICE - DUES NOTICE

If it still indicates "2002" on your mailing label, your 2003 dues are now "overdue".... Please send your \$20 to Treasurer Liz Niner NOW.... if not received promptly, this could be your last issue of T-Talk!!

## MG MODEL COLLECTOR NEWS:

While there has been very little of late to report on M.G. stuff in the Brit car magazines there is some news for M.G. model collectors.

The latest issue of Safety Fast had an advert for a 1:18 scale MGC-GT model manufactured by Creative Masters and endorsed by the Heritage Motor Centre. Very few MGC-GT models have been made so this is special. It appears to be a fine model and you can check out all the details on [www.creativemasters.co.uk](http://www.creativemasters.co.uk) or call 011-44-845 6023614. It sells for about \$75 plus postage costs and they accept Visa and Mastercard.

MG returned to Le Mans in 2001 campaigning the MG-Lola and while not yet finishing they have had some successful runs. In October they also ran the Road Atlanta Petit Le Mans (12 hours) as part of the American Le Mans series sponsored by Panoz. Models are now appearing of these very colorfully decorated cars. Scalextric has announced 1:32 scale slot cars of the 2001 #30 and #33 cars. They will run about \$45 each and you can get the details on [www.scalextric-usa.com](http://www.scalextric-usa.com). Resin versions of the #26 and #27 2002 cars manufactured by Spark in 1:43 scale have recently been released. (The 2001 Le Mans and the 2002 Sebring versions were previously released. I have them and they are nicely detailed models.) I get them from Mini-Cast and you can check out the details on [www.minicastcars.com](http://www.minicastcars.com) where they sell for \$35 each.

(Dan continues his article....)

Last month I wrote about the Scalextric MG Lola slotcars. I've had a request in with 2 dealers listed in the Scalextric website for a couple months and they have not been easy to get. Well, the February "Safety Fast" arrived with an advert for the 2002 Knighthawk version (pg 26) so I called and they also had the 2001 version. I ordered both and the shipment arrived in about two weeks and the cost including shipping from Abingdon was about \$10 less than the US price + North Carolina tax! They are really neat models if you are into the newest of M.G. racing models. For those of you that do not receive "Safety Fast", the phone # is 011-44-1235-555552, web site [www.mgcc.co.uk](http://www.mgcc.co.uk).

Many of you may have probably received the latest Triple-C sales brochure. It is chock full of M.G. models and some that I have seen for the very first time. The most unusual are two versions of the MGB towing a Caravan (Britspeak for travel trailer) in 1:43 scale made by Hongwell. There is a green top down roadster and matching Caravan with mom and pop (driving on the left) in their summer attire and suitcases on the luggage rack. The other version is red with a black top up and the same figures and suitcases. Not bad for \$14.95 each. There are 5 variations of 1:72 scale MGBs (about 2" long) which come in a plastic display case. An unusual size with nice detail. The set of five goes for \$24.95. Also in this brochure are two sets of MGB 1:43 top up and top down models in various colors and the Yat Ming 1:18 scale TC in red and BRG. Check [www.triple-c.com](http://www.triple-c.com).

Yet another competition model from Mini-Cast ([www.minicastcars.com](http://www.minicastcars.com)) this month, a rally car. It's the

second type that I'm aware of made by IXO. The first was a 1986 Metro 6R4 blue and white Racing #15 which was carried by the MGCC. This new version is a 1986 Metro 6R4, RAC Rally #19 which Mini-Cast sells for \$29 + shipping. It is appointed with spoilers, antenna, light bar, mud flaps and lots of logos. Nice detail in these 1:43 models which also come in a plastic display case.

Again not much to report from the British car magazines this month and in the past I have not been including items in MG Enthusiast or MG World since they are devoted totally to M.G., however, the February/March 2003 issue #3 of MG World is worth mention. In this issue is a six page article with vintage and contemporary photos, history and specs on the K3 at Le Mans and the Le Mans Classic. Also in this issue is a feature on a supercharged ZB Magnette, the MG ZR and a highly modified MGB (180bhp!) amongst other articles. Barnes and Noble and Borders carry the magazine and it costs about \$7.50.

Happy collecting,  
Dan Amey

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Ragtops & Roadsters is pleased to announce that our 9th Annual Spring Open House will be held on Saturday May 17, 2003. between 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If weather is a question, please call 215 257-1202 Saturday morning as we may move our event to Sunday May 18, 2003 if necessary. All British Car enthusiasts and friends are invited to attend our Spring Open House as we will have many cars "in restoration" here at our shop located at 203 South Fourth Street Perkasi, PA.18951. Scones, tea and coffee will be served in the morning and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Our street and car park will be open for all who bring their British cars! We will also have a British car "autojumble" and activities for your family here at our shop. Please check our website for further details as we get closer to May and note this event on your calendar! After a long, cold, snowy winter, we are looking forward to good weather and seeing all of our British Car friends again! <http://www.ragtops.com>



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## DVC NAMETAGS

These 1" x 3" black plastic nametags have the DVC logo in gold and your name in big white letters. They are very valuable at events because, if you're like most of us, you can't remember your OWN name half the time... let alone anyone else's !! And best of all, they're CHEAP !! To get yours in about 2 - 3 weeks, send \$5 and your name as it should appear on the nametag to:

Liz Niner, 1125 Ellen Ct.- Box 510, Creamery, PA 19430-0510

### B-TALK... "Sprite Turns Forty Five"

By Connie & Larry Cordeiro

Spring 2003 marks the forty fifth birthday of the Austin-Healy Sprite. Although early production began in March 1958, the Mark I Sprite more commonly known as the 'Bugeye', or ('Frogeye' in the UK) was not introduced in Monte Carlo in late May 1958. It was to be BMC's bargain 'fun' sports car, the first since pre-war England where M.G. Midget's and Austin's Sevens competed as separate companies. Using basic components from the BMC corporate stores the Donald Healy Motor Company, Ltd. (Warwick) was able design a simple, small-engined, and fun two-seater. Fun, sporty, and competitive was the Sprite, and it soon found it's way into competition around the world. Using Healy Motor Company performance parts, BMC's own 'Special Tuning' parts from Abingdon, or other after market accessory companies.

Assembled at Abingdon the Mark I Sprite was to evolve into the Mark II Sprite in May 1961 in a joint effort between MG's Abingdon, and the Healy Group. This was soon followed in June of 1961 by the first under 1,000 cc M.G. Midget since 1936, the Mark I M.G. Midget. The Spridget as it soon became know would change yet again thirteen times over its eighteen production years. While Sprite production ended in 1971 after arrangement with the Healy Company ended, the Midget would continue alone until 1979. The engine size changed four times (948, 1098, 1275, and 1500) to stay competitive with it's major rival the Triumph Spitfire, in the end sharing it's 1493 cc engine.

Still competitive, you bet! In case you missed the Speed Channel broad cast last Fall. At the Valvoline 2002 runoffs held at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course held last September saw 13 Sprites, and 7 Midgets compete in the H/Production Class which was won by Bob Weber's Bugeye. And 15 Midgets, 4 Sprites, and 2 Spitfires squared off with Porsche 356's and 914's, BMW 2002's, Honda CRX's, and Mazda Miata's in F/Production. Steve Sargis's Spitfire, being closely chased by a couple of Midgets won this class.

What's it liked to drive a Spridget on the road? Well, first you have to be able to fit the car. As the name implies, those too much over 5'-9" tall will find things a little tight in a modern Midget. But if you can find your way in you will be rewarded with crisp and proper sounding exhaust, light uncanny responsive steering, and rifle-bolt accurate shifting. On the back roads the Spridget is very quick in part due to sure and predictable handling, and good power to weight ratio. And, the disc braked cars provide safe stopping power. In stock form the 948's are good for about 85 mph, the 1098's about 90 mph, the 1275's and single-carb USA 1500's about 95 mph. All are capable of giving up to 35 mpg, important, did I mention the six gallon fuel tank?

Happy Birthday Spridget, Safety Fast!