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November 15th North Georgia Jaguar Club 2025 Annual Board Meeting *page 2* Time to Renew Jag Club Membership for 2026

# Plans In The Works for May 14th Overnight Excursion "Tail of the Dragon"

Submitted by Joe Perez Hello everyone! Thanks for welcoming me to the club. Although I have been a member for a couple of years, life happened and my focus remained on other priorities. Finally, I am having a little more free time and will try to participate and support all club efforts to continue promoting our passion for these beautiful machines. I want to share with vou the dates for the F-Type group event this coming May 2026 as well as some general information. This has been a yearly occurrence since 2019 and all Jaguar owners are welcomed to join and participate in this fun event. Date: Thursday May 14 15 to

Date: Thursday
May 14 15 to
Sunday May 17
Location Topoco
Lodge, Robbinsville
N.C

Who is invited: ALL Jags owners and their guests. Other car brands welcomed. Tail of the Dragon drive

The weekend is usually divided as follows:



# Time to Renew Jag Club Membership for 2026

Submitted by John Baxa

A portion of our club membership dues goes to support the national umbrella organization, Jaguar Clubs of North America (JCNA) as well as your subscription to their bi-monthly magazine. While the national membership portion of our dues has increased to \$55 we have decided to increase our dues slightly to \$80.00 for the calendar year. This is still well below what most other Jaguar clubs charge, thanks to our ability to keep most activities self-funding.

The 2026 membership dues for NGJC of \$80 are due by January 1. If you are going to renew your membership for 2026, please mail your dues by the middle of December. If you know you are not renewing, a quick e-mail to John Baxa jwbaxa@mindspring.com would be appreciated so that our e-mailing of the roster to JCNA will not be delayed. We have to send a roster to JCNA with dues payments for each member on the roster in early 2026 so it is very important that we have all our dues collected by then.

There are now three ways to pay: by check, major credit card, or by PayPal. Please note that you do not need to have a PayPal account to pay by credit/debit card. If

paying with PayPal, please go to www.ngjc.us and click on the **Membership** tab at the top of the page and follow the directions.

If paying by check, please make your check payable for \$80 to the North Georgia Jaguar Club and mail it to

John Baxa VP Membership 1250 Lake Charles Drive Roswell, GA 30075

If your payment does not reach us by the end of January, you will be dropped from the renewal roster which we send to JCNA. If you rejoin later, we have to reinstate your membership which takes the time of people who are doing all this voluntarily. **Do your part and make your payment when you read this.** 

In making your decision on renewal, you should consider the following tangible benefits of club membership

A Concours program providing friendly competition with good people and a scoring system that is known and respected around the world. A JCNA score defines the level of authenticity of your car that can't be disputed.

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# Letter from the President

A lot happened at our yearly business meeting in mid-November. The good news is that we have 130 members with 32 new members. While the majority of our members live in Georgia, we have eight from Tennessee, four from Alabama, and at least one from North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Mississippi. At a time when other clubs are struggling to hold onto their legacy members and find new members, we're growing.

Thanks to JCNA, our members, and the sponsors for making the IJF a resounding success! Lynn Cunningham spun straw into gold. Lynn's goal for the IJF was to breakeven, but somehow we came out with a \$1,600 profit. We enlisted 15 sponsors to help fund the IJF. JCNA contributed \$5,000 to cover the show's

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### Please welcome new members

Mark and Donna Ibenthal of Greer, SC

**Officers** 

expenses.

The Board voted to increase the yearly membership dues from the current \$65 per member to \$80 per member starting next year. The reason for the increase is that we need a little larger margin after reducing the membership dues by the fee we pay to JCNA. We currently pay \$55/member to JCNA, so that only leaves the Club with a \$10 gross profit. Our Treasurer Linda Frost explained that we owe about \$3.60/member to PayPal, which leaves \$6.40 for the Club fund. That's a very thin margin, which means that just about every Club event has to at least break even. With the dues raised to \$80, we have a little more cushion. The Club may be able to partially subsidize some events. At \$80/ member we are still below the amount other JCNA-participating clubs charge their members. For example, the Jaguar Club of Florida charges their members \$91 per year.

The Board is considering finding and supporting a charitable organization. We could find a charity for next year and then select a new charity for the following year.

Some members are moving up to fill existing vacancies, leaving new vacancies. Bill Flavelle is moving up to be Vice President, creating a vacancy for Vice President of Concours. Walter Heine is moving up to replace Linda Frost as Treasurer. Lois Heine is moving up from Member At Large to become Secretary. Dick Preston will replace Lois as Member at Large. Dave Kirkman is stepping down from Vice President for Activities, so that position is open. All the officers who hold

their current positions have agreed to stay on for next year. If you're considering one of the two open positions (VP Activities or VP Concours) but are unsure if it's a good fit for you, feel free to reach out to me (404-402-8423 or dhpeck69@gmail.com) or Jeff Killip to discuss your taking on one of these rewarding roles.

By the time you read this newsletter, it may be too late to register for the Holiday Party. The deadline for registering is Wednesday, December 3. I must turn in a head count to Tam's by December 4th. You can register through the Club website by clicking on the Calendar of Events and then clicking on the little box for registering. This year's party will be at Tam's Backstage at 215 Ingram Ave., Cumming, GA from 1:00 to 3:30 on Saturday December 13. There will be a full lunch buffet with choices of Beef Tips, Chicken Santa Margherita, and Tilapia Piccata along with salad, rice pilaf, desert, and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be a cash bar. We have reserved a private room on the second floor. The cost per member is \$45 (\$90 for a couple) which includes tax and gratuity. The cost for nonmembers and guests is the same. You must pay in advance; there will be no-pay-on-the-day of the event. PayPal is the preferred payment method. Details are on the website.

Don't forget to renew your membership. You can renew through the Club's website and pay using PayPal. Dave



# November 15th North Georgia Jaguar Club 2025 Annual Board Meeting

Submitted by Walter Heine

November 15, 2025 Date: **Street Side Classics** Location:

213 Thronton Road Suite 400

Lithia Springs, GA 30122

Attendees:

Dave Peck - President Bill Flavelle - Vice **President Concours** Dave Kirkman – Vice **President for Activities** John Baxa – Vice President for Membership

Lois Heine – Member At Large

Walter Heine - Secretary Dave McKay – Chief Judge Linda Frost - Treasurer Jeff Killip – Vice President John Yates – Newsletter **Publisher** 

Member Attendees: Lynn Cunningham Dick Preston **Iose Perez** Richard Turner Barbara Turner

President:

David Peck dbpeck69@gmail.com 404-402-8423

## Vice-President:

**Jeff Killip** jeffkillip@yaboo.com 706 362 5084

## Vice-Presidents for Activities:

Dave Kirkman kirkmandav1@aol.com 770 886-7435

# VP-Membership:

John Baxa jwbaxa@mindspring.com 770-642-7535

## Vice President Concours:

Bill Flavelle bflavelle@att.net 770 310-6024

#### Treasurer:

Linda Frost frostlinda2337@gmail.com

#### Webmaster:

Dick Maury rcmaury@bellsouth.net

### Secretary:

Walter Heine walter beine@botmail.com

# Concours Chief Judge:

Dave McKay dmckay@att.net

## Newsletter Editor:

**John Baxa** jwbaxa@mindspring.com 770-642-7535

# Newsletter Publisher:

John C. Yates johncyates@comcast.net

## Member-at-large:

Lois Heine loisbeine@botmail.com

Deadline for Newsletter Articles and Advertisements is the 26th of the preceding month. All submissions are nonbinding and subject to approval.

#### **NGJC EVENTS: December**

M	T	W	T	F	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## **NGJC EVENTS: January**

Other Event

	М	Т	W	Т	F	SAT	SUN
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Ī	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Club Event					Holiday		

# January OPEN

## **February**

15 - Saturday, Noon, Valentines Day Lunch, Pearl Lian, John's Creek Sponsor Dave Kirkman

# March

15 - Saturday, Time TBD, Cofer Car Collection, Tucker Sponsor Dave Kirkman

21 - JCOF Concours d'Elegance, Longwood, FL

29- Saturday, Gateway Caffeine and Chrome Show, Arrive by 8:45 AM 2705 Ronald Reagan Parkway, Suite 200, Cumming, GA 30041

## **April**

11-12 Brits on the Bay (Pensacola)

25-27 Walter Mitty (Road Atlanta)

24 - 27 - JCNA Annual Meeting, JCNA AGM, King of Prussia, PA

27 - Sunday, Brasstown Resort Drive Lunch Spring Drive, Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa 6321 US-76, Young Harris, GA 30582

**Sponsor Dave Kirkman** 

## May

18 - Sunday, Motorcar Day Suwanee Town Center, Suwanee, GA Registration will open in March.

#### June

7 - Saturday- Jaguar & Friends BBQ Picnic, Canton GA Sponsor John & Robbie Yates

14 - Saturday JCNA Sanctioned Concours — Virginia Jaguar Club, Richmond, VA.

12 - 15 Thursday - Sunday Highlands motoring festival, Highlands, NC

19 - Quinlan Visual Arts Center 514 Green Street NE, Gainesville, GA 30501 - 5:30 Sponsor: Howard Bollinger

# July OPEN

10-13 - Carolina Jaguar Club Concours, Little Switzerland, NC

#### August

23 - Saturday, 10:00 AM, IJF Org. Meeting - GA Expo, 3355 Martin Farm Rd, Suwanee, GA 30024 Sponsor: D. Kirkman

17 – Sunday, – Pebble Beach

Concours, Pebble Beach, California

TBD - Saturday - Jefferson Car Show Jackson County Agricultural Center

#### September

6 - Saturday — British Car Fayre, Time: 10am-3pm Norcross, GA

25 – 28, International Jaguar Festival Savoy Museum in Cartersville, GA

20 – Saturday - Fight To End 9:00am-1:00pm Alzheimer's Car Show, Jefferson, GA

#### October

11 - Roswell Motoring Festival, Roswell, GA

26 – Cars of Chateau, Chateau Elan, Braselton, GA

#### November

15 - Saturday, 10:00 AM, NGJC Business Meeting - Streetside Classics, 213 Thornton Rd, Suite 400 Lithia Springs,GA, 30122 Sponsor: Dave Peck

TBD - Suncoast Jaguar Concours, Sarasota, FL

#### December

13 – Saturday, – Holiday Party, Tam's Backstage at 215 Ingram Ave., Cumming, GA from 1:00 to 3:30



# Time to Renew Jag Club Membership for 2026

Submitted by John Baxa

- The specific Event and Year-End Trophy Awards Program for Concours, Rally, and Slalom.
- Special Awards to recognize those who have provided great service and great participation.
- Bi-monthly Jaguar Journal magazine, technical articles, history, features, Club events
- Blanket insurance for Car Events and all Club Officers and Directors
- Historical and technical information Library access
- A common communications networks for Intra-Club activities, Calendar of Events.
- New JAGUAR owner membership referrals, CLUB LOCATOR SERVICE
- Five percent discount on collector automobile insurance (HAGERTY).
- Automobile Advertisers resources in the JAGUAR JOURNAL.
- Classified Ads in JAGUAR JOURNAL, JCNA Website, Club Newsletters, and Club Websites.



- Book and Gift Store Inventory in the JCNA Store
- North American and Regional Hosted Events
- Access to Coventry Foundation JAGUAR TOOL LENDING PROGRAM
- North American Inter-Club networking
- JCNA Tech Hot Line is just a phone call away
- An excuse to bring likeminded good people together for socialization and idea sharing.
- Authenticity Services for everyone through the Coventry Foundation
- Various Jaguar Corporate trademark logos for local Club use.
- JCNA Facebook account to keep up with events, activities, and ideas.







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# Eagle Lightweight GTR Is an E-Type So Skinny It Weighs Under a Ton

By: Daniel Patrascu, Autoevolution

It's been quite some time since one of Britain's most iconic car brands, Jaguar, fell off the radar and went into hiding, planning to reinvent itself and re-emerge as the maker of electric cars everyone is expecting. As we wait (and hope) for that to happen, we continuously scan the industry for anything Jaguar related — you know, to keep the fire burning.

And guess what? Something Jaguar just emerged from the shadows. It's not a piece of news coming our way from Jaguar itself, but from one of the company's most faithful torchbearers: Britain's Eagle E-Types.

If you are into Jags, especially the E-Types the company used to

make back in the day, then the Eagle name probably means something. Established in 1984, this crew has been remaking the iconic vehicle family into new engineering marvels ever since.

And they now have quite the portfolio to show off, comprising a total of five models: Eagle E-Type, Speedster, Spyder GT, Low Drag GT, and Lightweight GT. And now, a new one is getting ready to take its place in the lineup.

The last time we've heard anything from Eagle was five years ago, when something called the Lightweight GT broke cover - a retro-modern reinterpretation of one of the rarest Jags ever made, the E-Type Lightweight.

This car was imagined by Jaguar back in the early 1960s as a racer meant to replace the D-Type. Like most other cars this company made back then, the Lightweight was an engineering gem: made extensively

in aluminum (which made it light enough to put that into the car's name), it had a 3.8-liter engine that would have made it a tough nut to crack on the track.

Jaguar planned to make 18 of these things, but ended up producing just 12 of them. This makes the E-Type Lightweight one of the most sought-after vehicles on the collectors' market. It seems, though, that not all of these people like theirs in the original form.

The Lightweight GT Eagle presented back in 2020 was based on the Series 1 E-Type and featured a 4.7-liter engine instead of the original 3.8-liter one. What made it special, though, was that the changes made to it allowed it to tip the scales at just 2,242 pounds (1,017 kg).

I don't know if I ever thought this possible, but an even lighter variant was presented this week by Eagle. It's called Eagle Lightweight GTR, and it's a road-legal contraption made to customer commission, meaning no other like it exists.

At its core, the GTR is your basic Lightweight GT, but with modifications made wherever possible in a bid to shed more weight. A bid that succeeded, as this thing now weighs under a ton, something that's not easy to do for a four-wheeled vehicle of this kind.

More specifically, the car comes in at 2,150 pounds (975 kg) with all the fluids on (or 2,050 pounds/930 kg without them). For

reference, that's 30 percent less than the weight of a standard E-Type roadster.

Eagle does not go into the specifics of what it did to the donor Jaguar to allow it to lose so many pounds, but it does mention the extensive use of aluminum, including in the 4.7-litre straight-six that runs a trio of Weber carburetors. Elsewhere, other lightweight materials the likes of magnesium, titanium, Inconel, carbon, and lithium, were used.

Along with the drop in weight, the car was subjected to aesthetic surgery to make it look apart. We're told every "body line of the original has been carefully re-sculpted" to give the vehicle a hunkered



stance. Also contributing to that are the raked glass and lowered roofline.

The Jaguar now moves on an independent suspension system not unlike the one of its GT sibling, but with a revised geometry. The hubs have been remade in titanium, and adjustable bespoke-rated springs from Ohlins were installed. Carbon ceramic brake discs are installed behind each of the four wheels.

The interior of the GTR is where the efforts to cut weight are most visible, because it is there that minimalism is most present. All black by design and wrapped in Alcantara, the cabin comes with aluminum seats meant to remind one of period racing cars, but is equipped with all the safety features required from modern-day racers: four-point harnesses and an integrated fire suppression system, among others.

There are a few fine touches inside the GTR, stuff like a floating binnacle where auxiliary switches made from platinum with mother-of-pearl inlays are installed, a magnetic phone dock, and heated glass all around. All these elements, we're told, have been asked for by the unnamed customer who paid for this project.

Speaking of price, we have no info on how much the Eagle Lightweight GTR is worth, but, given the nature of the design, that number probably is not for the weak of heart.°

## **NEC Classic Motorshow**

Over 3,000 stunning classic cars. 338 car clubs. 430+ exhibitors. 600+ cars for sale. One epic weekend. The Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show returned to Birmingham's NEC from 7–9 November 2025

Touring car racing in the 1980s was all about the battle between Ford and BMW, right? Not entirely. The early years of Group A threw up some unexpected contenders, including Jaguar. It entered the European Touring Car Championship with a brace of TWR-run XJS V12s, an unlikely racer but a very effective one. Team boss Tom Walkinshaw took the 1984 driver's championship, winning the Spa 24 hours along the way. This is one of those 1984 cars and it's quite a menacing thing, but I just want to drive it hard and glory in its wailing V12.

The NEC Classic Motor Show is the UK's largest indoor classic car event, taking over more than half of the National Exhibition Centre. If you're not familiar with the scale of the place, imagine a room that doubles in size every time you think you've nearly reached the wall, and you'll get the idea.

The 2025 edition featured an array of car clubs, dealers, traders and special displays. Iconic Auctioneers held a mammoth sale of over 600 cars and bikes. If you took your time over getting round the whole show, you could easily fill the three days it's open to the public. There are literally thousands of fascinating cars of every variety to see. Cars that were once everywhere and now exist in penny numbers, star cars of huge historical significance, the weird, the wonderful and everything in between. Here, in no particular order, are the ones that grabbed my collar and pulled me in for a closer look.



# Secrets Of The Ill-Fated Jaguar XJ Revealed

By Michael Gauthier

# While Jaguar killed the model at the last minute, it could have offered gas and electric powertrains

Jaguar is gearing up to introduce an all-new electric GT, but years ago, the company was putting the finishing touches on a redesigned XJ. However, the project was killed in early 2021 despite being nearly complete.

We haven't heard much about the car since then, but an image of a prototype leaked last year. It showed the model would have combined

styling features from the previous XJ and I-Pace.

Fast forward to today, and designer Ian Callum has revealed additional details during the My Week In Cars podcast.

# What Might Have Been

In the wide-ranging interview, Callum said the car would have broken from tradition by offering a single wheelbase that effectively split the

difference between the previous short- and long-wheelbase variants.

The XJ was "pretty well complete" by the time he left Jaguar, and was intended to be electric-only. However, the designer revealed the model was "packaged to take a six-cylinder engine, if need be."

That's a surprising development, but it likely would have been a brilliant move as several electric luxury sedans have faltered. After seeing lackluster demand, Jaguar likely could have responded by installing a turbocharged 3.0-liter inline-six developing around 355 hp (265 kW / 360 PS) and 369 lb-ft (500 Nm) of torque.

# A Number Of Other Models Were Also Axed

While we knew the XJ was almost complete, Callum revealed

the company was also working on an assortment of other models, including a new F-Pace crossover. Jaguar was also developing an all-new J-Pace, which was roughly the size of a Range Rover, and a new sports car, which would likely become an F-Type successor.

Callum was pleased with all these upcoming models, but then there was

a management shakeup. As a result, "all these lovely cars were stopped."

Only time will tell if this was the right move, but things aren't looking good as Jaguar recently delayed their upcoming GT.



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## Plans In The Works for May 14th Overnight Excursion

- a. People that make it on Thursday stay in Asheville or Knoxville based on the group consensus. They usually have dinner together and drive in the morning taking several scenic roads on their way to Robbinsville NC
- b. The main group arrives on Friday and goes out for a cruise drive on Friday afternoon. Then dinner together that evening.
- c. Saturday Most people from north Georgia make it to Robbinsville before 9:00 AM. Then the Driver's meeting. We stop for lunch around
  - 1:00 PM as a group. Then more driving until early evening and dinner at Tapoco Lodge
- d. Sunday Morning drive over other scenic ways. Lunch as a group and then, everyone is on their own. Most people return home on Sunday although a few stay in the area longer.

This is an individually funded event. The Tapoco Lodge gives us a special rate. Each participant is responsible for their own meals, and



consumption. There is no GROUP insurance, all participants must make sure their insurance policies are valid and up to date.

People are encouraged to inspect their cars before heading into the mountains. Some drivers do courtesy safety checks, and all participants enjoy this time together.

Specific details regarding roads, schedule, and individual activities during this event are published a few weeks in advance.

To get the latest information, all

interested may request to join the closed group: "F-TYPE FOREVER EVENTS" on WhatsApp.

Also the website http://f-type.org/ has the registration links for the drive and reservation for Tapoco Lodge. It also provides more information about this group and events. All disclaimers and legal considerations are posted on the registration form

# November 15th North Georgia Jaguar Club 2025 Annual Board Meeting

By Walter Heine

Meeting was called to order by Dave Peck, the agenda was presented, reviewed and accepted.

## Financial Review by Linda Frost -

It covers a ten month period, January through October 2025.

- ▲ Balance is essentially unchanged with \$9044.55 on hand.
- ▲ We have \$1000.00 to transfer from the PayPal account.
- ▲ Received \$5000.00 from JCNA to cover costs for the IJF.
- ▲ Total balance is \$15044.55.
  - Our club events have essentially paid for themselves.
  - JCNA dues are now being paid with the NGJC credit card due to JCNA's inability to process / locate four checks that we sent to them. The checks were finally cancelled by Linda, and the credit card was used.
  - We have 25 people signed up for the Christmas Party.
- ▲ We have plenty of reserves to cover the cost of the party.
  - Thanks very much to Lynn Cunningham for the outstanding job managing the finances for the IJF.
  - We were able to enlist 15 sponsors to help fund the IJE.
  - Lynn noted that the goal for the IJF was to breakeven, we came out with a \$1600.00 profit which will be added to our general fund.
  - A separate checking account was established for the IJF. This will be closed, and any balance will be rolled back into the general account.

## Membership Update by John Baxa

- We have 130 members, 32 are new members.
- -Geographic breakdown:
  - 113 Georgia
  - 8 Tennessee
  - 4 Alabama
  - 2 North Carolina
  - 1 ea. from Florida, South Carolina and Mississippi
- Four signed up and paid after September which carries their membership dues through 2026.
- It was noted that we did not get any new members through the IJF.
- No one has renewed their membership for 2026, which is not unusual. Members typically renew their membership when they sign up for the Christmas Party. We will ask Dick Maury to send an email blast to the membership reminding them to renew their membership.
- Thanks to John Baxa for his invaluable contribution to the success of the IJF.

#### **General Discussion**

- Review of our annual dues:
- Our annual dues are \$65.00. Of this amount, \$55.00 goes to JCNA, \$3.60 to PayPal which leaves NGJC \$6.40 for the club fund.
- Considerations: Do we maintain our membership in the JCNA. Discussed the benefits of staying with the JCNA. The most notable

benefits are the Jaguar Journal and competition / points for judged cars.

- Dave Peck pointed out that the Canadian clubs do not see the value of maintaining their membership with JCNA. Typically, they have fewer members, and they mustdeal with foreign currency exchange rates, which do not work in their favor. They would like to see JCNA reduce their dues.
- JCNA has been losing money for several years. Primary cost drivers are:

Print costs for the Jaguar Journal

- Declining membership
- The discussion regarding JCNA has been tabled until we see what their 2026 dues will be.
- Discussed annual dues for NGJC. Looking at the fee breakdown and anticipated cost increases in 2026, a motion was made by John Yates to increase the 2026 dues to \$80.00. This was seconded by Bill Flavelle and unanimously approved by the board.
- John Yates suggested that we identify and support a charitable organization. We will investigate this and revisit the discussion. Lois Heine suggested that, if we decide to support a charity, we should make this a one year commitment, then select a new charitable organization the following year.

#### **Review 2026 Calendar of Events**

Various events and activities were discussed. They will be added to the calendar and published in the newsletter.

We will also highlight the Atlanta Jaguar Society drives and activities in the newsletter.

#### **Board Elections**

The following individuals have been elected to the 2026 Board of Directors:

Jeff Killip – President

Bill Flavelle - Vice President

Open – Vice President for Concours

Open – Vice President for Activities

John Baxa – Vice President for Membership

Dave McKay – Concours Chief Judge

Walter Heine – Treasurer

Lois Heine - Secretary

John Baxa – Newsletter Editor

John Yates - Newsletter Publisher

Dick Maury - Webmaster

Dick Preston – Member at Large

### Close

A special Thank You to NGJC and JCNA members and all the Sponsors for making the IJF a resounding success.

Thank you to the outgoing board members, Dave Peck, Linda Frost and Dave Kirkman, we greatly appreciate your time and commitment to the North Georgia Jaguar Club.

Thank you for attending today's board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM.



# Look what we found in Ireland!

Lois & Walter Heine





# JLR Fired the Man Who Designed the Jaguar Type 00 Concept: Report

By Eric StaffordPublished: Dec 2, 2025

Gerry McGovern's abrupt exit comes amid new leadership, who may have plans to take Jaguar in a different direction.

- Gerry McGovern, JLR's chief creative officer, has been fired, as reported by Autocar India.
- McGovern's exit was reportedly prompted by JLR's new CEO, P.B. Balaji, who last month replaced the retiring Adrian Mardell.
- Along with leading Jaguar's controversial rebrand, which included the Type 00 concept, McGovern was behind the Land Rover Defender and Range Rover Velar.

JLR, the brand formerly known as Jaguar Land Rover, is cutting ties with the man behind some of its most popular models and one of its biggest controversies. Gerry McGovern, JLR's chief creative

officer since 2020, has been fired, according to a report today by Autocar India.

The decision to get rid of McGovern was reportedly made by P.B. Balaji, JLR's newest CEO. Previously, Balaji was the chief financial officer for the Tata Motors group (JLR's parent company), but last month, he replaced Adrian Mardell, who retired after three years as JLR CEO and 35 years total with the company. Now, Balaji takes over a company that's still recovering from a massive cyberattack that halted production, and with Jaguar having delayed its \$130K electric grand tourer, it appears JLR's new leadership may have plans to take things in a different direction.

According to the Autocar report, McGovern was considered to be a driving force in Jaguar's controversial rebrand, which included switching to an all-electric lineup and building more expensive, limited-production models to compete with ultra-luxury brands such as Bentley. That move coincided with the release of the polarizing Jaguar Type 00 concept. Car and Driver reached out to JLR to confirm the news of McGovern's dismissal, but a spokesperson said the company won't comment on the situation.

While McGovern's most recent creation courted controversy, the 69-year-old has a wide-ranging portfolio and has no doubt left his mark on the Jaguar Land Rover brands. Along with the rebooted Land Rover Defender, McGovern's credits include the Range Rover Evoque and Range Rover Velar.

