



“The Breakdown”



“The

“Serving all sides of the Marque” 1983-2010

Breakdown”

Volume 27, Issue 3

May/June 2010

Upcoming dates to Remember

- June 23-27, MG2010 in Belleville Ontario
- July 6th, Cruise Night at Sweet Melody's at 8485 Transit Road.
- July 12th, BOA meeting/Ice Cream Rally.
- August 9th, BOA meeting at Otto's
- September 5th, Autumn Sports Classic at Como Park

Buffalo Octagon Association Officers

Joe Puma- President	876-6382
T.J. Bradt-Vice President	677-0102
Lisa Bradt-Treasurer	677-0102
Celeste Kray-Secretary	633-4586
John Leible-Membership	625-9201
Jerry Urban-Newsletter	937-6182
Chuck Privitera-Regalia	873-5339

NAMGBR National Convention
.June 23-27, 2010 in Belleville ONT.



President's Message

By Joe Puma

Welcome to summer! I hope you've been able to take advantage of the great early summer weather this year and get out in the car. It seems there's always an excuse to not take the MG – it's buried in the garage, too many cars to move, it needs some sort of minor repair, needs to be inspected, it might rain, etc., but I really find that the experience of driving one of these cars is so unique in today's world that it is something that should be cherished and enjoyed as much as possible. Driving an MG - top down, growling engine, no power steering or brakes, rowing through the gears while sitting only a few inches from the pavement is something that 99% of today's (and tomorrows) drivers will never be able to experience. We take it for granted, and we shouldn't – remember, even the newest of these cars is now 30 years old, and even the later, more “modern” cars weren't really that modern even when they were new. They all really take you back to an automotive era that was unique and we will never see the likes of again. With a few notable exceptions, modern automobiles have taken the fun out of driving and have become comfortable and reliable appli-

ances to transport you from point A to point B – nothing more. But we know better, and we may be some of the last drivers who can truly say that.

We have a wonderful new addition to our club – Lily Grace Bradt came into the world on May 7th, 2010 to the delight of proud parents TJ & Lisa. She couldn't be blessed with a more loving family, and please join me in congratulating TJ & Lisa and wishing the new expanded Bradt family all the best this world has to offer.

Now for a bit of club business - we're still in need of a regalia chairman – it's not a tough job , and we don't want to let it fall through the cracks. Please consider volunteering for this position if at all possible. Jim Pelletterie has stepped up and volunteered to chair the Autumn Sports Classic car show, with Debbie Leible filling in the last committee chair vacancy – food & beverage. Thanks so much Jim & Debbie for your enthusiasm and continued dedication to the B.O.A!

Hope to see you at (at least) one of our fine events this summer!

Joe

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April Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Celeste Kray

TJ called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm – there were 27 members in attendance. Jerry Urban made a motion to accept the minutes as published in Breakdown – Jim Pelletterre said that there was a correction to be made. Correction to March 2010 minutes – Under membership - Charter members dues do not go up they are locked in. Motion made to accept with correction to be published in these minutes, seconded, motion carried. Treasurer report – deposits have been made for dues, expenses will be for today's food and cake for birthday, Joker game has a big pot. Motion made to accept treasurer report, seconded and carried. Newsletter report by Jerry Urban – Jerry was wondering when everyone who re-

ceives newsletter by mail received it – he is looking for the post office that has the fastest delivery. He thanked everyone for sending articles – it was a great issue. Member thanked Jerry for getting the pizza and Lynn for the cake. Chuck Privitera said he does have regalia with him if anyone is interested. John Leible reported that there were no new members this month. To date 17 members have not renewed.

Old Business: Car Show Chairperson is still needed. TJ also made mention that since he will not be going to the 2010 MG Show – his room reservation is still available to members if anyone is interested.

New Business: Thank you was re-

ceived from the Red Cross for Haiti survivors donation that we made. Flyers are here for our car show – Don Bogdan agreed to take flyers to the Ancaster show which is this weekend.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting, seconded and carried. Jim Pelletterre will give a tribute to Cecil Kimber. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Kray

Joker Winner: BILL HAIN – Big Smile \$198.00 – LISA – Is Sad

50/50 Winner: Celeste Kray \$22.00

Cruisin' Cuisine

By Jim & Elaine Pawlak

Spring is in the air...it's that time to get the Ol' MG out of hibernation. The weather has been cooperating and the salt is off the road. I slid the cover off the MG to reveal a wash and wax that sustained the winter months in the garage. I proceeded to disconnect the battery charger and hooked up the battery cables. The "B" fired right up and was eager to get out in the sunlight. After going through the usual out of storage routine we headed down the road to 647 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, New York.

Curly's Bar and Grill is just down the road from Our Lady of Victory Basilica. Curly's has been there since 1934. If the front door could talk....imagine the stories it would tell. Curly's has a full lunch

and dinner menu. We made dinner reservations which are a must on the weekend...

Chef Krista VanWagner specializes in Jamaican fare. The Jamaican Jerk Chicken is a half chicken marinated in Krista's Jamaican Jerk sauce. This Americanized Caribbean style barbeque consists of allspice, cinnamon, garlic, thyme, soy sauce and pineapple sauce \$16.99. The signature Black Bean Soup is garnished with diced onions and sour cream. Entrees include vegetable, starch, freshly baked bread and a choice of soup or salad.

I had the Seafood Pomodori. Mussels, clams, shrimp and scallops sautéed and deglazed with Pernod, finished with a light marinara sauce tossed with

Linguini \$26.99. Pasta Entrees include freshly made bread, and choice of soup or salad.

Elaine had the Grilled New York Strip Steak (12oz.) finished with herb butter and veal glace. \$25.99.

The extensive lunch and dinner menu includes everything from Conch Fritters to Peanut Butter Pie. Curly's Peanut Butter Pie was awarded the Best Dessert at the Taste of Buffalo.

The food is great, the service was excellent! There is plenty of parking across the street. Curly's Bar and Grill was well worth the drive. **We give Curly's four lug nuts!**

May Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Celeste Kray

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. He announced that Lily Grace was born on Friday at 3:34 pm. Mom and daughter were doing fine. There will be no treasurer report today.

Jack Cudmore would like to invite us to join the Jaguar and BCC clubs on a ride through amish country on May 29th starting at 9:00 am at Cracker Barrel on Transit – we will end up at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Springville for lunch, arrival time approximately 2:30-3:00 pm. Joe Puma let everyone know that the next meeting will be the summer picnic on June 14th at Galo's Grove in Como Park. It is the first pavilion off of Bowen Road entrance. Bill Han and Karl Weber will be cooking, picnic will start at 5:30 – 6:00 pm. Everyone should bring a dish to pass, the club provides hot dogs and soft drinks. This is the day after the BCC Car Show at the Rosegarden. Ancaster car show was very nice. Everything was in the new building. Celeste read the minutes from the April meeting, motion was made to accept minutes, seconded and carried. The date of the multi club picnic is June 12th on a Saturday. Joe Puma has to cancel his reservation for the MG 2010 show – if anyone is interested his reservations are in the host hotel.

John Leible has 12 members who have not renewed. Joe stated that we still need someone to step up to take over the regalia since Chuck will not be able to continue since he is moving to Florida.

Old Business: Need a car show chairperson – show usually runs itself. The trophies have not been ordered yet. Joe Puma mentioned that he is very concerned about club members not stepping forward and volunteering for activities – in October there will be an election for new

officers in November, he is very concerned about the future of our club. Jim Pellettaire volunteered to chair the show if someone will do the food and trophies. Jim said he has a friend who is a volunteer fireman and what they do is put everyone's name in a hat and draw to see who will chair various functions that they host. Chuck always had sign up sheets at all functions to get people to volunteer for various jobs at the car show. Member suggested that possibly it is time to consider merging the two European car clubs and Jaguar club also. All the clubs are suffering from not getting enough people to volunteer to chair activities. These three car clubs have many of the same people as members. The MG Car Club of Toronto was originated somewhere between 1954/1958. Lots of other clubs encompass more marques. TF's in London mainstay was having a new car. Longbridge is now MG UK Birmingham. Something to think about.

The car show has not suffered people always support the show by helping out in many ways. Thank you for your continued support. Jerry Powarski only does body work on MG's. Jim P mentioned that the class at Burgard is still going on for people to work on their cards. Proposal made to possibly start discussion about merging the clubs. Approach other clubs to jointly combine together – presidents of the three clubs should get together and see if this would even be of interest. This happens in other clubs, we are not the only ones having problems. Jaguar would be interested in joining in also – combining events would help get more activities for all the clubs. Debbie Leible volunteered to be the chairperson for food for the car show – she will need lots of help lifting and transporting food items, please call her if you are in-

terested. Jim P. would like a list of what everyone will be doing for the show, please let him know what you are volunteering to help with.

It was again mentioned that with Chuck moving to Florida we will need a regalia chairperson, if anyone is interested please call Joe Puma.

New Business: The ice cream run will be in July, more info to follow. Karl will chair the steak roast in August, more info to follow. Encourage everyone to attend the multi-club picnic in Queensten Park on June 12th from 10:00 am-3:00 pm. The easiest route is over the Rainbow Bridge goes into the park. There is a \$5.00 charge to get in, bring your own lunch and drinks. For those going to the Bellview show MG10, Myron has a route set up.

Motion was made at 8:40 pm to adjourn meeting, seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Kray

**MClassic
Motorsports
magazine**





Buffalo Octagon Association
P.O. Box 236
Bowmansville, N.Y. 14026

Living the Dream.....

By Joe Puma

As many of you know, I've been a fan of Vintage Road Racing for many years, and for the past five or so years I've been busy building my own vintage racer, a 1967 MG Midget built to period specifications that has recently been completed. So, this spring it was time to take the next step (or should I say leap) and enroll in racing school.

After talking to lots of folks about which school to take, it became clear that there were only a few schools that teach road racing in real race cars and only one that offered cars at least somewhat similar to the one I would be racing - the Skip Barber MazdaSpeed three-day road racing school at Lime Rock Park in Connecticut. This school uses Mazda MX-5 (Miata) Cup race cars of the same specification as used in the Playboy SCCA Pro Racing MX-5 Cup series. Plus, it was only about 6 hours away, just over the NY border in Connecticut, and is pretty much considered to be the top road racing school in the country. The decision was made.

The school I attended took place this past May 17-19, and was with-

out a doubt the most exhilarating thing I have ever done in my life. A team of four very experienced, down to earth and friendly instructors took 11 students through three days of intense training, starting with basic heel-and-toe downshifting and threshold braking exercises and culminating with race starts, passing and all-out racing on the beautiful 1.53 mile 7-turn Lime Rock road course. Each day started promptly at 8:00 with an hour of classroom instruction, followed by 3 hours of on-track instruction in the race cars, all before lunch. After lunch, another hour in the classroom and 3 more hours on the track. Two students shared each car, so each student got to spend about 3 hours per day behind the wheel. Three hours of intense concentration, focus, and adrenaline. Three hours of driving on the edge. By the time 5:00 came around, everyone was exhausted and limped back to the hotel to eat dinner and get to bed early - no time to kick back - this was serious stuff.

As intense as the school was, we were "lucky" (the instructors word,

not ours) enough to have rain for two of the three days. The wet track did not slow them down one bit - we just learned how to race in the rain - simple as that. Learn the "wet" line. Go faster (easier said than done). I was lucky enough to return in one piece, no lighter in the wallet, but a couple of others weren't so fortunate. No one got hurt, but one car was wrecked, and another seriously damaged. All in a day's work for this school and these instructors - like I said, this was serious stuff. Also very addicting.

So, I can now proudly say that I am a Skip Barber graduate and I possess a Skip Barber competition license. The plan is to use the rest of this summer and fall sorting out the race car and hopefully entering my first vintage race next year. I can truly say, even if I didn't have my own car and had no plans to go racing, this was the experience and thrill of a lifetime and I would recommend it to anyone who ever wanted to know what it is like to be a race car driver.

I want to go back!