

## It's more of the same for 2007

■ "Eastern Region has more Fun" You will all have heard our slogan and many of you will have used it over the last few years. (I think it goes back originally to an exchange of emails between me and former AC Geoff Walton after the National Rally in August 04, but not entirely sure!)

In those days we used to get in trouble (believe it or not!) with club national officials for referring to ourselves as a Region rather than an Area. Fast forward to the December 2006 edition of STHT and the Area Information pages and what will you see? Our info is now published under the title of "Eastern Region has more fun". So the Owners Club is slowly changing, attitudes are definitely more relaxed, and from what I can tell everyone now wants to have more fun! This then begs the question "where does the Eastern Region go from here?" Personally I have no real idea but I like to think that we have all been getting it pretty much right since the Region was re-established by the aforementioned Geoff in about 2002, and if it aint broke don't fix it. So with that I offer you the 2007 events calendar (see back page of this newsletter). Hopefully there is something there for everyone.

As I write this we have a regional membership of 249 of which we saw about 80 members last year at one or more event. I reckon that's pretty good going but for those who have not ventured along to a run or anything before then you will be more than welcome any time.

I wish everyone who I have not already seen in 2007 a belated "happy new year" and let's keep "having more fun"

MARTIN

## Chat about all things ER online

■ Club areas now have their own section at [www.mx5ocforum.co.uk](http://www.mx5ocforum.co.uk). Pop in and check out the EASTERN REGION FORUM under the AREA FORUMS section.

# A real Christmas cracker



■ UNIVERSALLY CHALLENGED: Sharon, Gillian, Andrew and Judith hand in their completed answer papers - I wonder how they did?

## ER EVENT

### THE CHRISTMAS DO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2006

■ The Eastern Region annual 'Christmas Do' took place on Saturday, December 2, at Ufford Park Hotel near Woodbridge.

Many of those attending took advantage and booked a room in the hotel for the weekend, it beats camping! We were particularly honoured this year as Owners Club Chairman Gillian Fearon and her husband Andrew were in attendance. After an excellent meal the festivities continued with the traditional ER Anorak quiz. As Robbie Marsh

set the quiz (in both 2004 and 2005) and Jon Elsey was the winner, it was Jon's turn to be quiz master this year. He presented us with a wide variety of MX-5 and Eastern Region related questions and the winner was Ken Ward. Ken is rapidly becoming an ER star as he is also the current ER go kart champion, congratulations to Ken. The raffle followed, hosted by Area Coordinator Martin Curtis. This year the raffle was held for charity and £100 was raised which was donated to the St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich, thanks to everyone who took part.

The evening was accompanied by an excellent display of pho-

tographs from ER events from 2006 projected on to a big screen. Jon compiled the show and it was great to be reminded what we had done during the year. It gave many of us a laugh as Jon had included some of the more embarrassing shots of members.

Area Coordinator Martin was taken by surprise when presented with an award of his very own. Having complained that he never wins anything (it does help if you actually enter though Martin!) he was presented with the award for "Best Area Coordinator Ever" by ER member Kendra Dixon. Martin commented later "wow, that's fantastic, thanks to everyone for thinking of me, it will take pride of place on the mantelpiece, I hope I can keep up the good work and won't have to give it back at the end of next year"

As is often the case when Eastern Region members get together it was a rather late night for quite a few of us, but I can say that so far as we are aware there were no "no shows" for breakfast this year!

Jon Elsey and Tracey Sparling organised the event and a massive thanks to them both for putting on the best ER Christmas Do ever.



■ CAN WE PHONE A FRIEND?: Ady, Katie, Darren and Matt appear stumped by the quiz.

## Club members fly the Region's flag at AGM meetings

■ The weekend of 11 / 12 November saw Area Coordinator Martin Curtis and ER member Robbie Marsh head off (in the Eastern Region Track Day Car Project Merlot) to the Owners Club AGM and the Annual Area Coordinators meeting.

It was a most interesting weekend for both Martin and Robbie. Martin said on his return "Its good to get together with those actually running the club and to hear what they have to say for themselves but I like to think that the success that the Eastern Region has been over recent years is actually having a positive effect on the club and that they do as much listening to us we do to them"

To find out more about these events check out the Forum where you will find copies of the minutes of the AC meeting.

## EMG opens doors to ER members

### DEALER EVENING

**EMG MAZDA - CAMBRIDGE**  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2007

■ EMG Mazda in Cambridge have invited us along to an open evening.

No details available yet but if you are interested in coming along could you please let me know so we have an idea of numbers for the catering!

In case you are not aware discounts are available at EMG to Owners Club members on production of a membership card. These are currently 20% off labour and engine oils, 10% off service parts (other parts may vary).

Just remember to ask for your car to be booked in with "Robbie Marsh"

## COME AND JOIN US

### MONTHLY MEETING

■ The Manger, Bradfield Combust, 8pm, first Wednesday of every month. Convoy run from The Beagle pub in Ipswich, leaving at 7.30pm.

### MID-MONTHLY NORFOLK MEETING

■ The Countryman, Tasburgh on the A140 south of Norwich, third Wednesday of every month, 8pm

■ Plans are in the pipeline for another monthly meeting to take in Cambridgeshire for the West of the region. Watch out for further details.

# Your guide to having fun the Eastern Region way!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

■ Well here it is – the 2007 Eastern Region Events Calendar. Thanks for everyone's input at the January Suffolk Monthly Meet.

No doubt the calendar will be subject to a few minor changes, but hopefully this will give you a pretty good idea of where we are heading this year.

As always all details of events will be sent out by e-mail and posted on the Owners Club forum and both the National and Eastern Region websites.

Please check website or forum for all up to date information or contact Martin.

### JANUARY

3	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
17	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet
27	Saturday	Track day (Snetterton, Norfolk)

### FEBRUARY

7	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
21	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet
28	Wednesday	Mazda Dealer Evening

### MARCH

7	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
21	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet

### APRIL

1	Sunday	The Annual Eastern Region Pub Hunt
4	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
18	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet
28	Saturday	Off Road Karting
29	Sunday	Tech Day 1

### MAY

2	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
16	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet
19	Saturday	Run up to the Spring Rally
20	Sunday	Owners Club Spring Rally
21	Monday	Beamish County Durham
21	Monday	Tour of the North East following Spring Rally
22	Tuesday	Tour of the North East following Spring Rally

### JUNE

2	Saturday	Curborough Sprint (provisional date)
3	Sunday	Essex Run
6	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
20	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet
22	Friday	Goodwood Festival of Speed - Weekender
23	Saturday	Goodwood Festival of Speed - Weekender
24	Sunday	Goodwood Festival of Speed - Weekender

### JULY

1	Sunday	Cambridgeshire / West Suffolk run
4	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
6	Friday	Yorkshire Weekender
7	Saturday	Yorkshire Weekender
8	Sunday	Yorkshire Weekender
18	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet
20	Friday	Japanese Auto Extravaganza (Peterborough)
21	Saturday	Japanese Auto Extravaganza (Peterborough)
22	Sunday	Japanese Auto Extravaganza (Peterborough)

### AUGUST

1	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
5	Sunday	Helmingham Festival of Classic and Sports Cars
12	Sunday	MaX5 Brands Hatch (rounds 11 and 12)
15	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet
18	Saturday	The Big ER Weekend - featuring the Suffolk Run
19	Sunday	The Big ER Weekend - featuring the Norfolk Run

### SEPTEMBER

2	Sunday	Norfolk Police Gala Day
5	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
15	Saturday	Run up to the National Rally
16	Sunday	Owners Club National Rally
		Heritage Motor Centre
		Gaydon Warwickshire
19	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet
23	Sunday	MaX5 Snetterton (rounds 13 and 14)

### OCTOBER

3	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
6	Saturday	Tech Day 2
7	Sunday	On Road Go Karting
		Red Lodge Newmarket
17	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet
20	Saturday	The Autumn Run (provisional date)

### NOVEMBER

3	Saturday	Owners Club AGM
4	Sunday	Owners Club AC Meet
7	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
21	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet

### DECEMBER

1	Saturday	Christmas Do at Ufford Park Hotel near Woodbridge
5	Wednesday	Manger monthly meeting
19	Wednesday	Countryman monthly meet