



# Eastern Region Newsletter

Coordinator Martin Curtis

[www.mx5easternregion.co.uk](http://www.mx5easternregion.co.uk)

## Please someone, STOP ME! By Martin Curtis

Hi, and welcome to what is a new look Eastern Region Newsletter. As a lot of you will be aware Jon Eley, who has produced the designs and layout for us now for some while, has moved on up and is now designer for the club magazine Soft Top Hardtop, and along with Tracey Sparling as editor they are bringing their great expertise and flair to give that a big boost and I am sure you will agree they have been pretty successful so far.

So what of our Newsletter then? Well its back to basics for a while, but hopefully the important bit, which is the words and the information they im-

part, will still be just as worthwhile. A huge thanks to Jon for all his hard work and welcome to the new editor, and top Eastern Region enthusiast, Katie Pyle, who has stepped into the breach.

Going on from my blurb in the last Newsletter there are a couple of further updates to inform you of. First of all, sadly, all my news years resolutions are now history and secondly, (probably as recompense for the broken resolutions) I have been volunteering again! As you will see from SHTH this month the Clubs Committee structure has been reorganised and yours truly, in a moment of weakness (yet again), put

his hand up when the assembled members of the previous committee were asked, "who wants to be team leader for communications?" That's it though now, no more volunteering for me, that's as far as it goes, I am issuing strict instructions to all those who know me to tie my arms behind my back next time the Owners Club needs anyone else. Thanks for reading this far, I hope to see lots of you over the coming months and if you see me start to put my hand up, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

### Special points of interest:

- Martin volunteers again!
- 1st ER run of the year
- Brighton in January
- Events
- Google calendar!
- Last but not least !  
**MERLOT MOTORSPORT**

**EMG CAMBRIDGE – PROUD SPONSORS OF PROJECT MERLOT**

**EMG**  
mazda

**THE NEW NAME FOR MAZDA IN THE EASTERN REGION!**

**To celebrate their association with the MX-5 Owners Club, EMG Cambridge are pleased to offer all members...**

- 20% off EMG's normal labour rate for servicing and mechanical repair work.
- 20% off engine oils.
- 15% off all Mazda parts and accessories, with access to a Japanese parts catalogue. (quote ref MX5OC)
- Discounts on MOT testing.
- Four-wheel laser geometry check and adjustment at a reduced rate.
- Discounts on tyres (discount amount depends on brand and size)
- Have an Owners Club member and genuine MX-5 enthusiast work on your car. (Ask for Robbie Marsh - excludes tyre fitting and alignment)

**Zoom-zoom**

**01223 472000** EMG Motor Group, 381 Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1SR  
[www.emgmotorgroup.co.uk](http://www.emgmotorgroup.co.uk)

**Please confirm discount prior to ordering parts or having work done. Have your current membership card available.**

## The ER Spring Run

The first Eastern Region run of 2008, a bit later in the year than usual, took place on Sunday 9 March and turned out rather well. Despite the dire weather forecast for rain and wind it stayed dry and calm with intermittent sunshine which was very nice, and certainly unexpected. Arriving more than 30 minutes before the appointed departure time I was surprised to see that about a dozen MX-5s had already assembled at Beacon Hill Services. By the 10.00am departure we were up to 19 cars, picked another 1 up on the run, as we headed out to take the twisty route to Snape Maltings some 42 miles away. For much of the drive we had fairly clear roads without too many hold ups but a Volvo pulling a large trailer and then a big group of cyclists, who obviously need to read their highway code, slowed down the front of the convoy for a short while. Fortunately one of my favourite sections of Suffolk Road was clear, the B1078 from Tunstall towards Orford. A fast section of road through

Tunstall Forest with sweeping bends and gradients, it's the nearest thing we have to the Nürburgring, honestly! I did warn everyone about the vicious speed humps at Snape Maltings but was more than surprised when even I managed to creep over them in my extra low Roadster without so much as a scrape! Snape Maltings is a great place to stop, having done that several times on Eastern Region runs now, we get a whole field to park in and a well staffed coffee shop who always cope well with the sudden influx of customers.

The run part 2, took us down to Aldeburgh and along the sea front to Thorpeness before heading back inland. At Leiston the route took a departure from all previous Eastern Region runs and headed West towards Saxmundham and Framlingham. This is another great section of B road with some excellent twisty bits, just the sort of thing our cars were designed for.

The final destination was a return back to Beacon Hill Services where several of

us thought it might be good fun to go around again!

Thanks to everyone who came, we had several new faces on this run, who hopefully we will see a lot

*"it's the nearest thing we have to the Nürburgring, honestly!"*



Great turnout for the first ER run of the year!!



Look! No rain!!



If only the weather had been like this!

## The London to Brighton Run

The Eastern Region took to the roads on Sunday 13 January for Bob Paine's now legendary London to Brighton run. Getting our initial convoy together in Colchester in the dark at about 7.00am was not one of the highlights of the day but meeting up with so many other Club mem-

bers at the starting point at Ockham Common certainly was. Read all about the run in this month's Soft Top Hardtop, and believe me it was extremely windy on Brighton Pier that afternoon

# what's on

## EASTERN REGION EVENTS 2008

The full ER calendar for the year has now been agreed and just in case you have not received a copy by email or down loaded one from the forum or website here it is below together with full details of how to keep in touch by using Google Calendar.

### MARCH

30 Sunday - Fish and Chip Run to Southwold with Northampton Area

### APRIL

20 Sunday - Essex Treasure Hunt with North Thames Region

### MAY

4 Sunday - Eastern Region 2008 Tech Day 1  
18 Sunday - Owners Club Spring Rally, Haynes Motor Museum followed by ER tour.  
25/26 Sun/Monday - MaX5 Racing at Snetterton Circuit  
31 Saturday British Drift Championship, Kings Lynn, with our very own Capt Muppet!

### JUNE

7/8 Sat/Sunday - MaX5 Brands Hatch  
7 Saturday - Ma5da Racing Rockingham, The new MX-5 Racing series for 2008.  
22 Sunday - The Essex Boys Run

### JULY

12 Saturday - MaX5 Rockingham  
25-27 Fri-Sunday - Silverstone Classic, Owners Club stand. See April Soft Top Hardtop for details.

### AUGUST

3 Sunday - Helmingham Festival of Classic and Sports Cars, the Eastern Region Stand.  
16/17 Sat/Sunday - Norfolk Run and Eastern Region BBQ and Big Night Out!  
29-31 Fri-Sunday - The Japanese Auto Extravaganza, Mersea Island, Essex, Owners Club Stand.

### SEPTEMBER

7 Sunday - Owners Club National Rally, Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire  
28 Sunday - Eastern Region 2008 Tech Day 2

### OCTOBER

18 Saturday - Ma5da Racing at Snetterton Circuit

### NOVEMBER

14-16 Fri-Sunday - Classic Car Show NEC, Birmingham

### DECEMBER

6 Saturday - Eastern Region Christmas Do, Ufford Park Hotel, near Woodbridge

## Fenland Fives Events 2008

Now with their very own 2008 events calendar, carefully coordinated with the main Eastern Region Events calendar. Check it out online here; [www.fenlandfives.co.uk/2008events.html](http://www.fenlandfives.co.uk/2008events.html)

*"British Drift Championship, Kings Lynn, with our very own Capt Muppet!"*



Ready to Rock and Roll!



ER Crew!

## Monthly Meetings

### Suffolk Meet

The first Wednesday of every month from about 8.00pm – The Manger, Bradfield Combust, near Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LW. (A few miles South East of Bury on the A134)

### Norfolk Meet

The third Wednesday of every month from about 8.00pm – The Countryman Inn, Ipswich Road, Tasburgh, NR15 1NS. (A few miles South of Norwich on the A140)

### Fenland Fives Meet

The Second Tuesday of every month from about 8.00pm – The Three Horseshoes, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE28 2PD.

## MERLOT MOTORSPORT

The Eastern Region's very own track car, Project Merlot, will be taking part in track days again this year giving more Eastern Region members the opportunity to get behind the wheel and find out what driving is really about. For details of upcoming events check out the "Eastern Region Forum" at; [www.mx5ocforum.co.uk](http://www.mx5ocforum.co.uk)  
For all the latest Project Merlot news go to; [www.merlotmotorsport.co.uk](http://www.merlotmotorsport.co.uk)



## PROJECTMERLOT

the track car YOU can drive!

## MERLOT Sponsors & Supporters

Insurance by Aon.  
[www.aonprivateclients.co.uk](http://www.aonprivateclients.co.uk)  
Support by EMG Mazda Cambridge.  
[www.emgmotorgroup.co.uk](http://www.emgmotorgroup.co.uk)  
Performance support by Performance 5.  
[www.performance5.com](http://www.performance5.com)  
Graphics by Solar Graphics.  
[www.solargraphics.net](http://www.solargraphics.net)  
Precision engineering by Godfrey Engineering Ltd.  
[www.godfreyengineeringltd.co.uk](http://www.godfreyengineeringltd.co.uk)  
Design and support by Jonnie5Designs.  
[www.jonnie5designs.co.uk](http://www.jonnie5designs.co.uk)  
Support by Dandycars.  
[www.dandycars.com](http://www.dandycars.com)  
Training support by Cambridge Area Training Ltd.  
[www.cambridgeareatraining.co.uk](http://www.cambridgeareatraining.co.uk)  
Four-wheel alignment by Wheels in Motion.  
[www.wheels-inmotion.co.uk](http://www.wheels-inmotion.co.uk)  
Track days by Javelin.  
[www.javelintrackdays.co.uk](http://www.javelintrackdays.co.uk)  
Bodywork restoration by DWR Classics.  
[www.dwr-classics.co.uk](http://www.dwr-classics.co.uk)

## GOOGLE CALENDAR

All Eastern Region events are now also available for Google Calendar. For those who already use Google Calendar then you can find the Eastern Region and other useful Club events by using the public calendar search facility for the following;  
"Eastern Region" All the above Eastern Region events including monthly meetings.  
"Fenland Fives" All the Fenland Fives events.  
"MX-5 OC Events" All the Club National and big Regional events of interest to Eastern Region members.  
"MX-5 OC Motor Sport" Owners Club official motor sport events.  
"Merlot Motorsport" Track events that Project Merlot will attending.  
"MaX5" MaX5 Racing dates for events in and near our region.  
"Ma5da Racing" Ma5da Racing dates for events in and near our region.  
If you don't already use the online Google Calendar then check it out here;  
[www.google.com/calendar](http://www.google.com/calendar)

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Details of all events will be emailed to those on the email list (let martin know if not already on the list) but don't forget for all the very latest information check out the Club Forum under the "Eastern Region Forum" section at;  
[www.mx5ocforum.co.uk](http://www.mx5ocforum.co.uk)

**Coordinator**

**Martin Curtis**

**E-mail**

**[martin@mx5easternregion.co.uk](mailto:martin@mx5easternregion.co.uk)**

**Telephone**

**01473 711774**

**Mobile**

**07752 750894**

**[www.mx5easternregion.co.uk](http://www.mx5easternregion.co.uk)**

# HAVE MORE FUN!!

With

# EASTERN REGION