



June 2008

Eastern Region Newsletter

Coordinator Martin Curtis

www.mx5easternregion.co.uk

So far so good!

Martin Curtis

Welcome to the second edition of the new look Eastern Region newsletter, this month featuring a few more contributions from members which is always nice to see. Thanks to those who have contributed and don't forget if you want to share your thoughts on a Club event or have any news that may be of interest to Eastern members then please forward on to me.

It's been just seven days since the Spring Rally at Haynes International Motor Museum in Somerset. It was good to see plenty of Eastern members in attendance especially as it's not exactly on our door step! And what a brilliant day for a rally, I hope you all had a great time. And how good was it to have a sports car club rally with some actual sports car driving going on as well. The sprint track event at Haynes was the highlight of the rally for me, and not just

getting to drive, but spectating as well. The Eastern Region event philosophy has always been to have something to appeal to everyone. I hope we are still achieving that. Runs, tech days, social events, motor sport, all add to the mix. I enjoy it all, I hope you do as well, if not, please let me know.



Martin Curtis, Eastern Region Co-ordinator lying down on the job!

Special points of interest:

- Martin's Comments
- Karting Fun!
- Spring Rally
- Fenland Fives outings
- Tech day
- Seaside adventures
- Merlot Motorsport

Booking Now; Helmingham Festival, 6 August, contact Martin ASAP for details

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- 🗄 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)

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

ER go Karting! - Red Lodge Karting - Saturday 22 March 2008

The Eastern Region ventured into the world of karting again this year. It all kicked off at 2.00pm on a sleety/snowy afternoon on 22 March. Nerves were taught and tensions high as the 14 ER members waited to be booted and suited for the upcoming experience.



Karting Fun!!

After dressing in race suits and wet weather coveralls we sat for our briefing with Lane, a rather appropriate name for karting! We were talked through the lights and flags and also the etiquette for the track. Sadly, no physical contact as this

is not a contact sport, the disappointment was apparent on Roadster Robbie and Shiny Steve's faces as was the evil glint (this would not hold them back!) All 14 drivers tramped out to the aptly named 'dummy pit' and picked cars. After eve-

ryone was settled the marshals signalled for us to pull off and the qualifying lap was on. There was a bit of jiggery pokery as people jostled for position. But eventually it seemed to settle down.

The day was a success with 3 winners, Roadster Robbie Marsh gaining a

Lane, a rather appropriate name for karting!

well deserved 1st place with Ady Neill in 2nd place and Shiny Steve Hider in 3rd. All drivers went home exhausted but happy.

A big thanks to Robbie for organising the event.
Katie Pyle



Robbie Marsh—1st Place!!

Spring Rally - Haynes Motor Museum - Sunday 18 May 2008

Despite the distance (over 400 miles were covered in just getting there and back) Eastern Region had a great turn out at the Spring Rally at Haynes Motor Museum, Somerset. There was lots to keep people occupied during the day with the museum offering a discounted entrance (and a Top Trumps quiz!) and Mazda



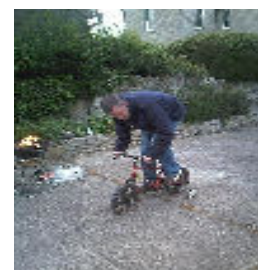
On Track organising a track event. Over 580 MX5's rolled onto the field showing a good range of customised and standard cars.

The track event was popular, with a number of cars taking part including Project Merlot with Eastern Region drivers Robbie Marsh, Jon Eley, Martin Curtis, Ady Neill and James Huggins. Thankfully there were no casualties except for the Merlot tyres.

On the Saturday evening a BBQ was laid on for anyone who wanted to attend. Bur-

gers and sausages were supplied and a cheap bar while Owners club members mingled and enjoyed the atmosphere.

Although camping was available close to the site and some of the ER contingent were seen in the vicinity, a large portion of them took advantage of a local barn and cottage in order to enjoy some of life's luxury's such as heating, hot water and a comfy bed! Much fun was had with a kiddies bike, Sing-Star on the PS2 and a



trampoline. Ken Ward showed some hidden talents but as usual the weekend was over too quickly.

Thanks to James Huggins for organising the accommodation. Roll on next year!
Katie Pyle

Fenland Fives, A Sweet Success - Sunday 27 April 2008

Despite a pretty poor weather forecast for later in the day 12 5's assembled at the Oundle Co-op car park in brilliant sunshine all in eager anticipation of a great day out. Some more eager than others due to the half way stopping point. After 50+ wonderful miles the chocoholics were satisfied at Hansens Chocolate House, Folkingham - wow, sweet tooth's heaven.

After a short, calorie laden break, another 30 miles of challenging country roads leading to our final stopping

point, Burghley House where lunch was welcomed by many in the rather elegant Orangery.

After some rather well fed goodbyes, 12 MX's went there separate ways thinking that a jolly good time had been had by all.

Thanks to John and Sally for all the hard work and time involved in organising a run like this.

Bill Medlow



Fenland Fivers

Airfield Fun Day – North Weald - Monday 21 April 2008

Darren Wragg (Daz) of Fenland Fives kindly arranged for us to have some sideways and top down fun with Andrew Walsh of Car Limits. We were joined by the RX-8 Owners Club and an out of region Laguna Blue Mk1 (94M) to make up the numbers.

The day consisted of three events; The Corner and two coned courses one of which included part of the area used for the corner. The object of the days' exercises was to find your limit within

your car and driving ability and to have fun doing it. "The Corner" involved setting off down a straight as fast as you dared and making a 90 degree bend onto a wide area where you were supposed to finish up on the left side of a metal grill in the tarmac. This was the imaginary wall, cross the grill and you've hit the wall – so go back around and have another go. Before each run Andrew would give a few pointers to avoid the wall

and improve cornering speed.

The coned courses were against the clock; one included the straight from the earlier cornering exercise with cones at each end to add to the challenge. It was necessary to negotiate the cones, head off down the straight turn around a single cone and retrace your steps to the start/finish line. The weather was reasonable; rain had been suggested by the forecasters but it really did not materi-

alise so the MX5's got their tops off and had fun all the way.

If you missed out on this event, don't panic as there is another one planned so keep an eye on the calendar for further details.

Ailsa Thompson

The day consisted of three events; The Corner and two coned courses

Tech Day 1 - Woolpit Sunday 4 May 2008

The first Eastern Region Tech Day got off to a good start on Sunday 4 May. A number of members turned up with various jobs to be carried out. As usual the region technical guru Robbie Marsh was on hand to give guidance and a strong arm when needed. The location was Stripy Steve's workshop. Food was provided by various members and coffees and teas were in continual supply throughout the day. Jobs done included cambelt changes by Katie Pyle and Ady Neill, Area Coordinator

Martin Curtis, (with lots of help) managed a full service on his Roadster as well as fixing the dodgy head lights. An unexpected hole was spotted in the underside of Steve Hiders' "Reds Motorsport" track car and with an MOT test in a few days this caused some concern. However with help from Jamie Tink and Steve Alleyne a suitable piece of steel was fabricated and welded in place. The usual fluid changes were done. Martin Curtis/Katie Pyle

Robbie Marsh was on hand to give guidance and a strong arm

A trip to the Seaside

Sunday 30 March saw the Eastern Region in another joint event, this time with Northampton Area, who make an annual pilgrimage to the seaside for fish and chips. This year the destination was Southwold. Picking up the Fenland Fives along the way and the Eastern Region convoy at West Stow Country Park the fish and chip run headed through the back roads of Suffolk and by the time we got to our destination had over 40 cars! The fish and chip shop at Southwold harbour coped admirably with so many of us. Thanks go to Ken Stanbury of Northants area for organising the run. Martin Curtis

what's on

EASTERN REGION EVENTS 2008

The full ER calendar is as below. You can also access this on the website and through Google calendar. details over the page.

JUNE

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

JULY

6 Sunday Essex Boys Run
12 Saturday - MaX5 Rocking-

ham
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, Es-

sex, Owners Club Stand.
31 Sunday Norfolk Police Gala Day

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

Monthly Meetings



ER Crew!

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.
****New Fenland Fives Venue****
The Black Bull, 89 High Street, Somersham. PE28 3EE will be our new meeting place starting from the 8th July meet.

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 For all the latest Project Merlot news go to; www.merlotmotorsport.co.uk



PROJECTMERLOT
the track car YOU can drive!

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;

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www.dwr-classics.co.uk

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

www.mx5easternregion.co.uk

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