

The Official Publication of the Buffalo Octagon Association



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The Breakdown

Serving all Sides of the Marque since 1983

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Buffalo Octagon Association

President—Peter Calabrese

mgcarnut@aol.com

Vice President & Editor – Jim Borkman

vicepresident@buffalomg.com

Treasurer—Larry Vito

treasurer@buffalomg.com

Secretary—Beverly Rice

secretary@buffalomg.com

Membership—Anjie Grzybek

membership@buffalomg.com

Letter from the President

Happy New Year to All,

The annual Christmas party at the Italian Village Restaurant always promises to be a great time, this year was no exception. Those who attended will attest to the abundance of good food, cheerful camaraderie and merciless, gift-stealing, animosity during the secret Santa exchange refereed by Jim Pelletterie. More on the latter, later.

Every year at the Christmas party an outstanding member is entrusted with the stewardship of the Herb Bradt Memorial Cup for one year in recognition of enthusiasm and club participation. It was my pleasure to have awarded the cup this year to Tom Klusek of Kenmore, NY.

Tom and his wife, Linda, own a splendid, red, 1969 MGB which they acquired a few years ago just prior to joining the BOA. Tom has enthusiastically been sorting out the usual problems which every new MGB owner inherits. He has learned much from the club's collective expert knowledge and sometimes received hands-on assistance from fellow members.

Although a member for a relatively short time, Tom felt a need to share his enthusiasm. As such, he created, organized, and ran the first "road rally" we've had in several years earlier this summer. The rally traversed some challenging roads as it took car, driver and navigator to the limits. On top of that, he fabricated trophies for the top rally winners in whimsical fashion! In the end, everyone was left wanting to do it again next time.

Letter from the President—*continued*

You will usually find Tom and Linda at most BOA meetings/events, and not just the popular ones where we give out food goodies! Thank you, Tom, for setting the pace and making the BOA a fun adventure with your occasionally funny joke, too!

Returning a moment to the Christmas party gift exchange; let me ask, “who are you people?” Did you have to keep stealing my Christmas pillow and Don’s bottle of spirits?! Good thing Christmas comes but once a year!

During the last regular meeting in November at the Windsor Park Tavern on Transit Road, it was pointed out that the same group of people usually attend every meeting. While I do enjoy seeing familiar faces, it may be that we need to offer to a more diverse slate of activities.

So your prayers have been answered... the next few meetings will have interesting themes, starting in January with “Hobby Night”. If you have a hobby (besides MGs proper) which you’d like to share with your fellow members, bring some representative sample of it to the BOA meeting and be prepared to say a few words. Yours truly will be breaking his back bringing an interesting, fully-restored, antique radio. Let’s have some fun... so show everyone some other hobby you’ve found to enrich your life! No live animals, please.

Safety Fast and good health with humor to all,

Peter Calabrese (MGcarnut@aol.com)

UPCOMING MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR

January 9th — Hobby Night and Meeting at The Tavern at Windsor Park

8444 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY (Near Kohl’s)

Reservation starts at 5:30 for Dinner, meeting at 7.

Bring some items or display to discuss your favorite hobby/collection.

February 13—Meeting at The Tavern at Windsor Park

8444 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY (Near Kohl’s)

Reservation starts at 5:30 for Dinner, meeting at 7.

February 26th —Winter Blues Luncheon—Location to be determined—watch your e-mail for details.

March 3,4 & 5th – Calvacade of Cars – Hamburg Event Center

[Cavalcade of Cars](#)

March 13 —Meeting at The Tavern at Windsor Park

8444 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY (Near Kohl’s)

Reservation starts at 5:30 for Dinner, meeting at 7.

March 24,25 & 26th – Buffalo Motorama – Buffalo Convention Center

[Buffalo Motorama](#)

Editors Column—by Jim Borkman

As winter approaches I am limited to working, instead of driving my cars. My 1979 MGB that I have had for about 12 years, showing 100K miles, needed a clutch and was running poorly. Since I needed to pull the engine I decided to do a “bit of work” on the engine as well.

Needless to say this has led to a new valve job as cylinders 2 & 3 had developed a compromised seal between the two cylinders. The head had also to be milled.

After pulling the cam, the lobes were worn and the tappets pitted. Oh boy, new cam and tappets.

Then the bearings were worn, ala, new bearings. Things are going great! Typical MG fix, after new gaskets and a little paint, oh did I mention a new oil pump; this car should be running fine. Come to think of it I still need to replace the clutch. Oh well, plenty of work to do while the snow flies. Hope you have a winter project too. Happy motoring.

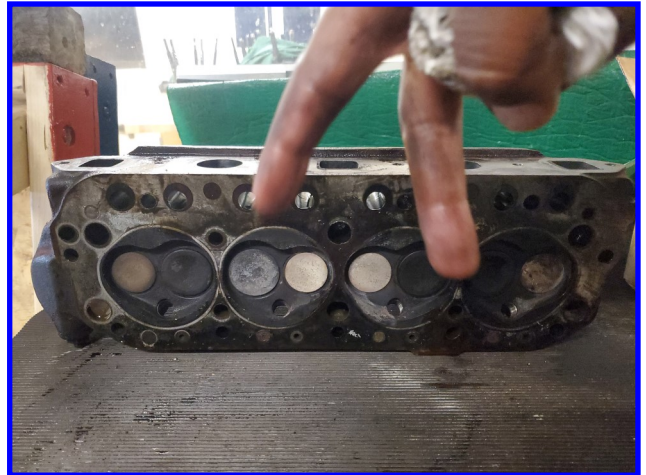


Photo of the Month

The Blizzard of 2022!

Don't be surprised if you see Peter Calabrese running around town in his MGB-GT. Nothing will stop him from driving his car in any kind of weather.

Safety Fast !!!



"JUST RAMBLIN"

Jim Pelletterie

It is with a heavy heart that I put words to paper. My friend and co-founder of the Buffalo Octagon Association Paul Garland passed away on the twentieth of December of complications with his lungs.



Paul Garland— BOA co-founder
Entered into rest, December 20, 2022

I met "Dusty" his friends name for him, by chance. I just purchased my 77 MGB and I found a guy on Broadway that had an MGB with a plate that read "OCTAGON". We soon connected thru the interest in the cars and a friendship was born. Paul was very much into his 67 MGB that he drove all over including a MG convention in Indianapolis. We would compare notes on the differences in the cars and before long we planned a road trip to Kingston Ontario for a convention of the American MGB Association (AMGBA). Two black MGB's driving down the road was a great site. We met great new friends and had a wonderful time until the clutch locked up in Paul's MGB. We towed as far as we could but it was decided to find another method. He rented a box truck and inserted his MG into the truck and got it home.

In spite of the difficulties we talked about starting a club for these cars. Sitting at my kitchen table we drew up a flyer that the two of us would disperse in as many places as possible. The first meeting of a new un-named club was held at McGruder's with a handful of MG enthusiasts in attendance. It was Dusty and I and he decided he did not want to run a meeting so I was pushed into the job. The attendance grew and an organization grew from an idea we had. At the beginning Paul was very involved but decided to take a backseat as his business Garland Graphics grew. Paul grew up in the carnival business as his dad owned Fairland Amusements. He became an excellent carnival artist hand painting colorful sign boards for his dad's shows. Paul was the artist who designed our first official BOA logo and countless flyers all hand drawn.

As the idea became an official organization both of us were proud of what we started. Although Paul was not involved he always wanted to know how the club was going. His beloved 67 MGB will be passed on to his sons so they may enjoy the miles of top down driving and the smiles they bring. Rest peacefully my friend, you are in my thoughts.

▪

The Cavalcade of Cars. The 'official' start to the car season.

By Dan Gryzbek



What a day to talk about a car show. As I write this the wind is howling and the snow is blowing around. Our once in a generation storm, hopefully.

Every year at the fairgrounds in Hamburg there is one of the largest indoor custom and classic car shows in NY. It's **March 3rd, 4th and 5th** in 2023 and is always jammed pack with cars. You can find everything from full on custom builds, from both local and national builders, as well as high quality classics. It's best to enter the fairgrounds off South Park Ave. There is plenty free parking there once you turn into the fairgrounds. There is also the 'show within the show' with the old school review room. A short walk down an enclosed walkway transports you back in time to traditional hot rods, gassers, race cars and Rockabilly music. For the last few years I have provided the music all weekend, did sound for all the great bands, as well as my band has played. I will be there all weekend again in 2023.

Roger, Steve and the entire crew work hard putting together great cars each year for everyone to enjoy. Look for the billboards and advertising going up in late January. Hope to see everyone there!

You might just see my current build there. I have been working on building a 1929 model A traditional hot rod. Custom frame, 5" chop and 4" channel. Lots of fun custom stuff. Been making good progress but there is still loads to get done. Here is a little teaser pic of my current progress.



BOA—Steak Roast Chestnut Ridge Park



Our annual steak roast was enjoyed by all. The steaks were great and seasoned to perfection. This was a wonderful event—beautiful day with good friends and excellent food. Great fall day, vivid colors and a wonderful time. Hope to see you all next year.

Christmas Party at the Italian Village



A good time was had by all at our annual Christmas Dinner & Awards banquet. The event was held at the Italian Village in Depew, NY.



Thanks everyone for coming, have a Happy New Year

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR



Herb Bradt Memorial Cup Award

This year's recipient of the Herb Bradt Memorial trophy was Tom Klusek for his enthusiasm and for developing and hosting our club's car Rallye this year. Thanks Tom and congratulations.

As part of Tom's remarks he shared the following:

Vroom!

You know you're a car nut when ...

- Your garage is bigger than your house.
- There are more car parts in the dishwasher than dishes.
- You have several shelves devoted to automobile manuals.
- You can talk about your car for an hour without repeating yourself.
- You keep a photo of your car in your wallet.
- You know the model year of each car you own, but your hazy about the ages of your grandchildren.
- Your idea of a great shopping experience is browsing at an auto parts store.



Congratulations!

Thanks to Jim Pelletterie - Master of Ceremony for our Exciting
Secret Santa Gift Exchange



Jim Pelletterie and Peter Calabrese surveying Peter's gift selection.

MG Marque—Yesterday & Today

By Jim Borkman

The history of the “classic” MG’s is well known. For this article, I thought it might be interesting to look at what has happened to our beloved “MG marque” over the years. I do not purport that I am an expert in this area or that I am necessarily interested in some of the new variants of the MG. However, as an MG owner I would like to know what has happened to the MG marque without regard to the historical story or quality of such vehicles.

MG history, as you know, goes back to Cecil Kimber who is considered as the founder of the M.G. Car Company. He began his career working for Morris Garages in 1921 as sales manager and was soon promoted to general manager in 1922. The first known reference to the MG with the Octagon appeared in the Oxford newspaper in 1923. The organization responsible for adopting the marque was Morris Garages Ltd.

The original Morris Garage was located on Longwell Street in Oxford, Birmingham, England. The new M.G. Car Company (majority owned by William Morris) was moved from Oxford to Abingdon, Oxfordshire in 1929. Kimber became Managing Director in July 1930. This organization built the earliest MG’s. Five years later, Morris sold his stake in the M.G. Car Company to Morris Motors Limited. Kimber, didn’t appreciate his loss of autonomy for design and direction of the company. In addition he had a fall out with Morris and was asked to resign in 1941. Soon after, his life was tragically cut short by a train accident in 1945.

The MG marque transitioned to the British Motor Corporation Limited (BMC), formed in early 1952 through a merger of the Morris and Austin businesses.

The marque continued to be used by the successors of BMC and the Rover Group. In December 1966, BMC changed its name to British Motor Holdings Limited (BMH). BMH merged, in May 1968, with Leyland Motor Corporation Limited, which made trucks and buses and owned Standard-Triumph International Limited.

Around 1972 the name M.G. Car Company ceased while the MG marque continued to be used. The last MGB convertible shown below, rolled off the production line at the Abingdon factory on the **22nd of October 1980** and it ended an era of sports car motoring, not only of the MGB but also of MG sports cars in general.



Final MGB off the line.

MG Marque—continued

After transitioning from British Leyland (BL) to the Rover Group in 1986 the MG marque briefly passed to British Aerospace in 1988 and in 1994 to BMW. In 2000 BMW sold the business as well as the MG marque to the MG Rover Group in Longbridge, Birmingham.

Noteworthy of mentioning is that the Rover Group revived the two-seater with the MG RV8 in 1992.



This “new” MGF became available in 1995 and was the first mass produced MG sports car since the earlier MGB’s that we are so familiar with.

To my knowledge, none of these were imported to the US due to import laws however some did enter Canada. We have seen one or two of these at our Autumn Classic Car show over the years.

The MG and Rover names were purchased in 2000 by the Phoenix consortium under the new MG Rover Group. Three new sports cars were delivered based on previous Rover designs. These included the MG ZR, MG ZS, the MG ZT/ZT-T.

A one-off MG XPower SV sports car shown below, was produced by MG Rover. Manufactured in Modena, Italy and finished at Longbridge, it was based on the platform of the Qvale Mangusta. The financial exuberance of this development contributed to the demise of Rover in 2005. This car had fantastic performance but sold poorly.

Transition to the Chinese Market

These financial difficulties, experienced by Rover, forced sale of the company to Najhng Automobile Corporation creating a new company called NAC MG UK. In 2007, the name was changed to MG Motors when Najhng merged with the Shanghai Automobile Industry Corporation (SAIC). While the production at Longbridge continued until 2016, separate production capabilities were transitioned from Longbridge, England to Ningde in the Province of Fujian, China in 2007.



MG Marque—continued

The first new MG model from MG Motors manufactured in the UK in 6 years, the MG 6, was based off a Chinese design. The new car was launched on June 26, 2011 during a visit to MG Motors by China's Premier Wen Jiabao to Longbridge. Two years later, the new MG 3 went on sale in the UK in September 2013.

SIAC MG showcased its first EV concept car in 2014. Later in 2017 SAIC revealed its first new vehicle at the Shanghai Auto Show. Today they have a numerous portfolio of cars from hybrids and EV's to minivans and sports cars.

In May 2020, MG showed a concept for a successor to the TF which they call the MG Cyberster.

An electric sports car designed in concert with Bilibili E-sports, which to my understanding is a glorified marketing firm. It is said that the silhouette of the Cyberster will reference the classic MGB from the 1960's. To celebrate MG's centenary (2024), the brand is looking to fast-track the production version of the Cyberster to offer an 'affordable sports car' for enthusiasts, according to an Autocar report dated February 7, 2022. The Chinese convertible is said to accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in about 3 seconds. Pretty good for an electric sports car.

There have been many prototype renditions and concept drawings of the Cyberster as well as a lot of hype with no product. Based on my research the Cyberster will at best be available in 2024. I believe it will be a well designed, relatively fast car, to compete with the Mazda RX-5's. So full circle, now to compete with Mazda.

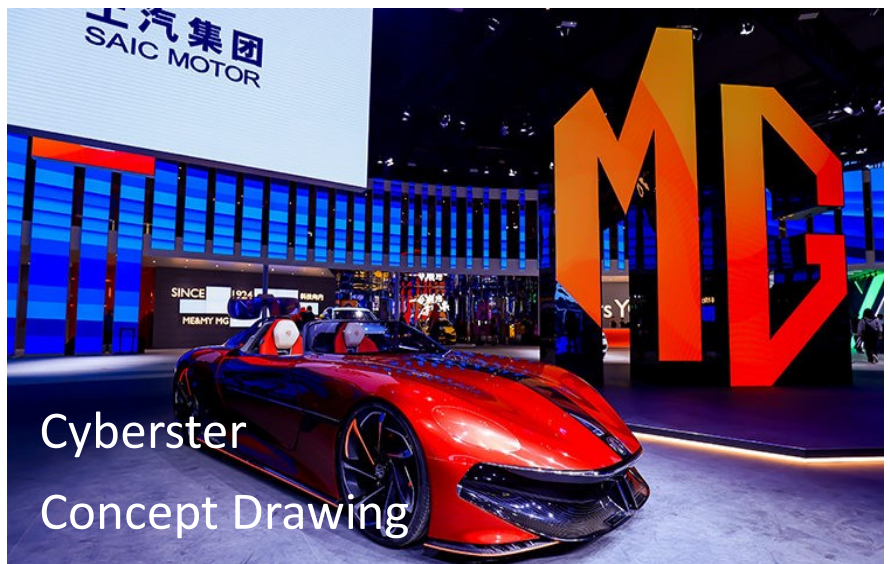
Today, MG Motors is the largest exporter of cars in China. SAIC Motors has established itself in 60 countries and regions around the world. It has numerous marketing and service outlets, as well as manufacturing operations in Thailand and India. Sales of MG's are worldwide including Thailand, the UK, the European Union, Indonesia, Chile, Australia and New Zealand, Middle East, India and Egypt.

The MG Marque continues on. As many of you know this is not the same car it used to be. Today's MG resembles the Honda's; Toyota's and Kia's we see on our roads. There are a variety of models and manufacturing facilities today that far exceed those of earlier years.

Same marque – a different breed of cars. SAIC claims their technology is geared toward the dreams of the younger generation. I don't believe they will ever match up to the dreams we recall about our treasured MG's from the last 50 years.



MG 6



Cyberster
Concept Drawing

100 YEARS OF MG



2023 is the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the MG Car Company in Abingdon-on-Thames. The Simeone Museum will be honoring this legendary marque with the Best of Britain devoted to just MGs. They are planning to have over two dozen examples in the show, spanning the pre- and post-war models. The show will run from February 11 to February 18, 2023.



In April the New England MG T Register will be holding it's Kimber Festival to be held at the Simeone Collection in Philadelphia, PA the weekend of April 28-29, 2023. The Kimber Festival is celebrating 100 years of MG and brings together enthusiasts who are keenly interested in M.G. history. Organized as an academic conference, the program consists of presentations about all M.G.s with topics that may include design and production, technical discussions, competitors, and competitions.

Buffalo Octagon Association is a Member of NAMGBR



And I heard him exclaim, as he drove out of site,
Happy Motoring to all and to all a Good Night!

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