



March 2024

THE OIL SPOT

The official publication of the British Car Club of Western New York



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President's Message

As mentioned last month in this very newsletter, changes are a comin' and not just in the weather, thankfully.

As of this month, we have a new meeting site and the potential for a spot for our car show and it's all in one place. The George F. Lamm Post 622, located at 962 Wherle Drive, will be our new meeting home for the foreseeable future. We will be able to keep the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 for our meeting date and time. Unfortunately, the convenience of having a restaurant on-site, as we've had in past years, will not be the case. I'd like to thank Randy McPhee for the due diligence in establishing this new relationship and getting this set up. The Legion does have a full bar for any drinks you may want to enjoy and a spot for us to meet.

Another benefit of this new relationship is a location for our show, and while we may not be able to hold it to the level of past years, it'll be nice to have a large enough location to grow it in the future. That being said, we will need organizers and some options for a date of the show, which we can discuss at our next monthly meeting on Wednesday March 20th.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting!

Happy motoring in 2024!

Pat Mullins

Event Calendar

The following is a tentative calendar of planned and proposed events for 2024. If you would like to add an activity or know of a speaker you would like to have at one of our meetings please call Cass Culotta at 716-545-0275 or Todd Schupbach at 716-435-4279.

March 20 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 pm, George F. Lamm Post 622, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville **NOTE: Dinner not available. Bar open.**

April 14 - Cars & Coffee at the Rails, Dunkirk, 9-11 am, weather permitting ☕

April 17 - Regular Meeting, 7 pm

April 21 - Cars & Coffee, Wimbeldon Lanes, West Seneca, 9am - 1 pm ☕

April 21 - Ancaster British Car Flea Market, Ancaster Ontario,
9 am - 2:30 pm

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Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Linda Kula

British Car Club of WNY Meeting Minutes

Date: February 21, 2024

Location: Buffalo Irish Center

Opening

- Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by President Patrick Mullins.
- 14 members in attendance.
- There was one guest, Jim Hohensee, present. Jim is the owner of Interworks, an antique and classic car restoration establishment.
- New members Joe and Gail Brzezowski introduced themselves and spoke about their cars - Singers in particular.
- Patrick reminded us the club still has Officer positions open that need filling.

Treasurer's Report - Paula Barbari

- Expenses: Account service charge, MeetUp and domain fees, holiday party expenses, and payment to the Irish Center for the party.
- Deposits: Membership dues, party payments
- Patrick suggested the club do a small auto related scholarship for a high school or ECC.
 - George mentioned we sponsored a school (for tools??) at one time.
 - Randy said a revenue stream would be necessary to keep something like that going.
 - Linda suggested giving money as a gift.

Membership – Robin & Dennis Illig

- We have 70 members with 50 having paid their dues.
- New Members: Tony and Joanne Vaccaro

Programs – Cass Culotta and Todd Schupbach - both absent

Regalia - Rick Magro - absent

Web Master – Dave Dill - absent

Newsletter – Linda Kula

- New feature: Five questions sent to semi-randomly picked club members to find out their LBC stories. Questions are listed in the February Oil Spot. Wonderful stories have been sent in and all would be welcome! They can be a paragraph or a full blown article! Please share!
- Patrick suggested that during slow times, the newsletter just consist of meeting minutes and just necessary information.
- George suggested doing a bi-monthly newsletter.

Meetup – Skip Gould - absent

We are suspending our Meetup site . It really isn't being used.

Historian – Position remains open.

Technical Session Coordinator – Randy McPhee

Check February's Oil Spot for a product he found interesting. A discussion ensued as to this product's use, etc.

Old Business

• Car Show

- Members spoke about people asking if our club will be doing Euro Car Day again.
- This year we will do more of a cruise than a judged show.
- Suggestion of teaming up with another club to do a show. How would we split proceeds, etc.

- **Monthly Meetings** - We need a new venue in which to hold our meetings. Suggestions:

- Rose Garden - We got pushed out of there. The club is still working on an issue with them.
- Cheektowaga Knights of Columbus, Union Road -Easy to get to from all directions. Do they serve food? There are several restaurants near by. We could alternate restaurants.
- Columns on Union and Polish Falcolns were suggested.
- Need a place for the March Meeting. Patrick suggested using Tavern in Windsor Park in Williamsville for one time meeting spot.

New Business

- Question arose as to whether we need a website.
 - Facebook seems to be the go-to for club information. Should we just set up a redirect from the website to FB?
 - Anyone can post on FB; you don't need the administrator to do it.
 - Linda pointed out the newsletter is posted on the Website.
- **Picnic** - Robin asked if she should plan it for a meeting night again since we don't know if meetings are going to be on the third Wednesday of each month at this point. It was decided she would go ahead and reserve the shelter for the date she was considering.
- **Club Visibility and Upcoming Events** - Need to be more active and participate in events if we want to keep/attract members.
 - Mini Club announces on Facebook that they are doing and people show up.
 - Cars & Coffee, Eastern Hills Mall - Could show up as a group and park together.

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Epic Firsts

We continue our members' stories about their forays into the world of British cars. The passion shines through! ***Thank you, John and Jay, for sharing these stories about your treasures!***

Our first MG *John Leible*

Back in 1997 Deb and I took a ride in our every day driver to Lewiston NY. But before that in my college days, my friend had a Triumph Spitfire that I was envious of. So on journey to Lewiston we were going down Pekin hill on route 429. Just before descending down the hill, I spotted out of the corner of my eye what I thought was a Spitfire on the front lawn. I said to Deb, "There's a Spitfire for sale. We should look at it." Her response was, "Ok" ***so I proceeded to make a 180 right in the middle of the hill*** and went back to the car. To my surprise it was not a Spitfire but a 1979 Brooklands green MG Midget. I fell in love with the car at first sight. I went the front door of the owner but no one was home. In my disappointment I wrote down the phone number from the windshield. The next day I called the owner and made arrangements to meet them that evening. When we met she told me the story about the car; she purchased it right out of college along with a 1979 Camaro at the same time as an everyday driver. She also told me that the Midget was taken off the road every Fall - which I believed because after 18 years, the car had only 27000 miles. After some negotiating, the car was mine and I drove it home with the biggest smile on my face. I had the car painted and put a new slave cylinder in it and proceeded to have years of fun. We went to 7 or 8 NAMGBR conventions and took home five 1st place awards during that time. Over the years I sort of grew out of the Midget and purchased a MGB. But that story is for another time.

Working on British Cars and Learning Experiences *Jay Lockrow*

For the most part I have always done most of my own work. I feel this is part of the fun and learning experience. I recall looking for a workshop manual for the TC for some time and eventually found a pretty good one. These are fine for such things as what to lubricate and when, how much water, oil, or other fluids are needed, how to disassemble certain units etc. ***But what they do not do is tell you what to do when you get things apart.*** Now if a part is broken it is obvious that it needs to be repaired or replaced. But why did it break and what can you do to prevent this in the future? Years ago an acquaintance from down east wrote a book called *The XPAG engine*. This just dealt with the engine from the MG TB,TC,TD and TF. There is a drawing in the book showing the timing gear and timing chain setup. I did this drawing probably fifty years ago. This book is your bible for the T series engine. It tells you things you can do while it is apart to improve performance, reliability even smoothing out the idle. This is the difficult part to learn. For example when I had the TR3, for some time I had the car it would just stop for no apparent reason. I checked lots of things and it would usually start right up. Then again it would just quit. It was not the condenser, points, distributor cap or any of the obvious so one day I started pulling or pushing wires and one came off in my hand. It was a wire to the coil and it was broken about two inches from the end under the insulation. You could stop or re-start the engine by moving this wire up, down or sideways. I replaced it and I never had another problem.

Certain cars have idiosyncrasies that today would justify a re-call. It used to be you would hear about certain problems that might happen to a car that you owned so you could check these things out ahead of time. Some times it would pay off others time not. But the learning curve is there you just have to keep at it. I could most likely spend hours telling about little gremlins I have found in cars but the knowledge is not in the books it is in working and recalling what and where to look.

Do you have anything to share about your obsession with LBCs?

1. What was your first British car, when did you get it, and why did you get it?
2. What is your most memorable, funniest, or most unexpected experience in a British car? (Any British car.)
3. If you work on your car(s), what was the most helpful thing you've learned about fixing them?
4. Have you ever convinced anyone else to get a little British car and what were the reasons you gave to talk them into it?
5. Do you have a British car joke to share?

Email your story to Linda at lmkula1@gmail.com!

Fool Me Once... by Jay Lockrow

February's Mystery Car

The Allard was one of the early "mixes." By this, I mean that the car was not totally made in one country. Take today's cars for example; you would be hard put to find a totally American car. Most cars today have numerous units built in several countries and then shipped to the country where the car is put together. Many GM cars are built in Mexico, Chrysler in Canada the mix goes on. Anyway, the Allard was a hard car to beat in the early days of road racing for the simple reason it is hard to beat cubic inches. Most Allards came to this country without engines and then were fitted with large American V8s. The early competition cars were pretty sparse but would go like the dickens! Later they produced some more road cars and that is what is pictured in the February Oil Spot. Allard even produced a few saloons. I'm not familiar with all of the Allard models but this picture is one of them.



OK, March mystery Car..... This could be a real stinker but if you look at the Old British Car, VSCC, or several other old car websites, this car shows up frequently. It is French and I looked it up once on the internet which was a total waste of time because it was all in French. I recall seeing it recently and thought it would be giving it away, so go looking.

Jay jaylock7440@gmail.com

Events for the Caffeinated



[\(20+\) Cars & Coffee at the Rails! | Facebook](#)

Cars & Coffee at the Rails - Dunkirk

Weekly casual car meet at "The Rails", Lakefront Blvd. Dunkirk NY. Sunday mornings 9:00-11:00 am (Weather permitting). Laid back, family friendly atmosphere! First meet: Sunday, April 14th



Buffalo Cars & Coffee

'A **monthly** event, 9 am - Noon, bringing together car enthusiasts to showcase their cars and to view other enthusiast's vehicles. The event will be held at the Eastern Hills Mall in the parking lot! See you there!

Location:

Eastern Hills Mall 4545 Transit Rd. Williamsville, N.Y.

carruisefinder.com/new-york-car-events/event/buffalo-cars-coffee/2024-05-19/



Cars & Coffee - West Seneca

Sunday morning, get out of the house, enjoy a fresh cup of coffee, see some cars and friends and even enter the 50/50 raffle. Donations to local Western NY charities.

This is a **monthly** event,
9 am - 1 pm.

Location: Wimbledon Lanes, 220 Center Road, West Seneca.

carruisefinder.com/new-york-car-events/event/wimbledon-lanes-cars-coffee/2024-04-21/



Reminder: Membership letters were sent out. Please reply to Robin by the end of March.

Please let her know if you are a NAMGBR member.

Events Calendar *(Continued from page 1)*

May 10 - 11 - Carlisle Import & Performance Nationals, Carlisle, PA

May 15 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 pm

May 19 - Buffalo Cars & Coffee, Eastern hills Mall, Williamsville, NY, 9 am - 1 pm ☕

June 19 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 pm

July 15 - Cruisin' at the Wurlitzer - Featuring British Cars

July 17 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 pm

July 29 - Lockport Optimist Club's British and Foreign Car Night Cruise

August 21 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 pm

September 6 - 8 - Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival and Vintage Races

September 14 - 22 - 6-Pack Trials - See January *Oil Spot*

September 18 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 pm

October 16 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 pm

November 20 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 pm

December 18 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 pm

*Please send in
your events for
the calendar!*

Meeting Minutes *(Continued from page 2)*

• Club Visibility and Upcoming Events *(Continued)*

- Promotional materials would be good. Our current club cards need to be redone as they give a previous meeting location.
- Membership could set up events and dates and the Event Coordinators could recruit people to host.
- Patrick added we could work with structured events that are in place (like shows) and make an effort to get our members to go as a group.
- John Leible shared that *Cruisin' at the Wurlitzer - Featuring British Cars* will be on July 15.
- John answered an questionnaire from Field of Dreams about their car show. He suggested they have British car class.

• NAMGBR Insurance - It was determined we have 8 club members who are NAMGBR members.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

The next meeting will be on 03-20-24 at 7:00 pm at the American Legion, George F. Lamm Post 622, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville.



The only MEMBER-RUN organization
for MGB, MGC, Midget, 1100/1300 and
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The **OIL SPOT** is the official newsletter of the **British Car Club of Western New York**.

The purpose of BCC is to foster good will and camaraderie among enthusiasts of British cars, and to exchange ideas and technical expertise attendant to the restoration and preservation of all British marques.

The monthly **OIL SPOT** is sent by e-mail or traditional mail to all BCC members. It includes a calendar of events, articles and photos of general interest provided by the members, and classified ads.

E-mail contributions should be sent by the 25th of each month to Linda at lmkula1@gmail.com. Attach the file, or type information in the body of the e-mail. You can also send articles through the mail to **Linda Kula, 1566 Inwood Avenue, Angola, NY 14006**. Photos should be in JPEG format. Articles are appreciated in MS Word or pdf formats. Classified ads appropriate to this newsletter are free. Ads run for three issues.

For further information or a membership application, visit our website at: www.bcc-wny.com.





British Car Club of Western New York

British Car enthusiasts from the area are invited to join our club for meetings, technical sessions and drives throughout the

See our Facebook page to exchange news, events, information, photos and humor at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/229699855909145>

For details on our meetings and organization, see our website at

<http://www.bcc-wny.com>



Linda M. Kula
1566 Inwood Avenue
Angola, NY 14006

New Location

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 pm at the American Legion,
George F. Lamm Post 622, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221**

Note: Dinner is not available. Bar is open for our patronage!