



# THE GASLINE

*Brandywine Motorsport Club, Inc.*

[www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org](http://www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org)

**November 2017**

## **BMC Club Meeting**

*Skipjack Dining Restaurant, 401 Louviers Drive, Newark, DE 19711*

<http://skipjacknewark.com>

*Tuesday, November 7th – Greet & Eat @ 6:00, Meeting @ 7:00 P.M.*

## **BMC Holiday Dinner Party & Club Meeting**

*Tuesday, December 5th – see flyer*

### *Chair Chatter – Paul Alderman*



#### **PLEASE SEND HELP!**

I'm sure everyone has or has seen the folding car shades with a picture on one side and an emergency sign on the back. I was thinking about that for this month's newsletter, I would like your help - come

on out to a meeting and volunteer to help share the load. We can use help in all areas of the club's administration. See me about what you can do to help your club.

On another note, FTD at the final autocross of the season has another name on it for 2017. Congrats to Ken Houseal for his fast drive and getting his name on the Jack Lofland Memorial Trophy. And thanks to all the other drivers who have gotten FTDs at events this season. I think I need to get some better tires so I can keep up with you guys next season. Come on out and support the drift gang for the last event of the year on Nov 4th.

Come on out to the monthly meeting, on November 7th at Skipjack Dining.

*See you then,  
Paul*

### *Rally Report – George Alderman*



There will be no rallies until next year, so enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas. If any club member would like to become the club's Rally Chair please let Paul know, so your name can be put on the ballot for this year's Executive Committee election. I am willing to help but maybe we need a fresh look at this activity. Maybe we should just do tours to a place to eat. What do you think? We could talk about it at the next club meeting. Bring your ideas.

*George*

### *Meeting Report – Jim Martin*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, 2017 meeting was held at Skipjack's in Newark, DE. The turnout was 19 members and guests; the Executive Committee had a quorum. The meeting was called to order by Club Chair, Paul Alderman at 7:05 PM.

Paul spoke about the Curta Calculator and its prominent use during early rallying. It ranks up there with the slide rule; Duke will talk about that in the future.

**Membership Report** (Anita Steward) – We currently have 184 members. We agreed to have our Christmas Party at Tyler's on Limestone Road (Route 7). We will have it the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday on December (12/05) at 6 PM. Let Anita know if you are going.

**Financial Report** (Richard Wortmann) – Due to time constraints, we do not have that information.

**Rally Report** (George Alderman) – We had a Great Rally with 11 cars showing up. We talked about doing a Rally over the winter.

**AutoX Report** (Duke Wilford) – Our last AutoX (Lofland Trophy) is all set to go on Saturday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Drift Report** (Matt Burris) – Our next Event is November 4<sup>th</sup>. We could have up to 40 cars with a much larger layout.

**Property Report** (Dave Mitchell) - Nothing to report.

**Editor** (Jim Irons) – Remind everyone that all articles for the next newsletter need to be forwarded to Jim no later than the last Tuesday of each month.

Adjourned at 7:45 PM.

*Jim Martin*

## Autocross – Duke Wilford



October has traditionally been hit-or-miss for BMC – at various times we’ve had to cancel or postpone our autocross events, and last year we even ended our season in September to avoid uncertain weather conditions. This year’s forecast started out great and deteriorated slightly, but not enough to affect the event going off as planned. Considering some of the monsoons we’ve experienced October on race days, we’ll take it.

The day started out foggy and cool, with light mist keeping the course area damp during the morning run groups. However, the course dried out as the day progressed, and times fell notably. A few no-shows stayed home due to the weather forecast, but 64 drivers took the green flag. The event went off smoothly with few hitches, allowing 7 competition runs each.

Autox VI was our season finale and our Lofland Memorial Cup event, honoring departed BMC member and car enthusiast Jack Lofland. His family dedicated the Cup to be inscribed with the name of the driver who posts the fastest raw time at our final autocross each season. Despite proposed race-day rules changes and rumors to the contrary, drivers need not be BMC members to earn a spot on the Cup.

Utilizing the big front lot and the better portions of the middle area, the course was relatively open, straightforward, and fast. The ending sweeper was an exercise in patience, requiring careful throttle to avoid washing out past the exit gate. Shortly after the start was the only ‘brainer’, an optional 4-cone slalom. Drivers had a choice to enter to the right or left – a choice between sacrificing speed at the beginning of the element, or postponing the delay to the end. The vast majority of drivers chose to go left, which tightened up the beginning of the slalom but offered better entry position for the increasing-radius left turn that followed. However, some folks found time by taking the easier right entry and carrying more speed through the whole slalom, despite complicating entry to the later turn.

We enjoyed some fairly deep classes, with Street Touring totaling 13 cars and SM hosting 12 cars in various flavors. We were glad to see 5 Classic Street Car entries, including 3 from the Hunter family, Mark Cozine’s immaculate 1964 Alfa Giulia spyder, and drifter Jason Birch’s less-than-immaculate Mercedes 450SC, which won the class. Even at our final event, we enjoyed the opportunity to welcome a number of first-timers. We hope to see all of you back next year.

Once the mist stopped and the track started to dry, times fell steadily as the day progressed. It was not uncommon to see even experienced drivers drop 6 or 7 seconds from first to last run. Best times ranged from the high 40s for the faster classes to the upper 60s for the Street and Classic cars. Unlike AxV, the Top 5 were spread over 2 seconds, and the Top 10 delta was more than 4 seconds. Competition was fierce all day, but the car to beat was Matt Meyer’s well-sorted (and very fat-tired) B Street Prepared Mazdaspeed Miata. It was shared by the 2 fastest drivers, and took a commanding lead over the field. Jason Fetchko gave a heroic effort in his first time driving my SSM Miata, but fading tires and unfamiliarity kept him in 3<sup>rd</sup> overall with a 51.316 (I should probably not mention that is 3 seconds faster than I was in my own car). Owner of the very fast and very red BSP turbo Miata, Matt Meyer, pulled off a smoking 50.434. But co-driver Ken Houseal reached down deep on his last run, breaking the 50s barrier with an incredible 49.590 clean pass – the only sub-50-second run all day.

That time puts Ken’s name on the side of the Lofland Cup for 2017 and into fast company for the annals of BMC history. Congratulations on a great run, Ken!

Alex Meramo took the PAX win from D Street, with an indexed 41.346 almost a full second quicker than Ken Houseal’s BSP-indexed 42.300. Alex is a consistent top PAX finisher with us – congratulations to you as well.

With the autocross season wrapped up, so has our 2017 Championship. Complete, audited AxVI results and final championship points are posted on the BMC club website at [www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org](http://www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org). Class champions, as well as our 2017 PAX Driver Of The Year, will be presented with Certificates Of Awe-inspiring Autocross Accomplishment at our annual BMC Holiday Party in early December. Non-members are welcome, and details are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I’d like to thank everybody who came out to drive, ride, help, or just watch at our autocross events this year. It was a challenging but successful season, and we’re already looking forward to 2018. If you have anything to discuss, please feel free to contact me at [BMCautox@gmail.com](mailto:BMCautox@gmail.com). Thanks!

*-Duke “That’s a wrap” Wilford  
Autocross Chair*

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# **BMC Holiday Dinner Party**

**Tuesday, December 5th, 2017**

**Tyler's Bar & Grille**

**5343 Limestone Rd. (DE Rte.7), Wilmington DE 19808**

**<http://www.tylersrestaurant.com>**

**Cocktails 6 P.M. (Cash Bar)**

**Buffet Dinner 7 P.M.**

**Caesar Salad**

**Chicken Marsala**

**Slow Cooked Prime Rib**

**Crab Cakes**

**Roasted Red Potatoes / Sugar Snap Peas / Cookies**

**Cost: \$40.00 per person**

**Reservations & Payment at [www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com), OR**

**Pay by credit card:**

**Anita Steward (302) 690-5457 or [neats1102@yahoo.com](mailto:neats1102@yahoo.com), OR**

**Mail check payable to BMC to:**

**Brandywine Motorsport Club, PO Box 5517, Newark DE 19714**

**Reservations must be received by December 1st!**

**No at-door reservations.**

**Questions: Anita Steward (302) 690-5457**