

Volume 55, Issue 2  
March 2023

The Official Newsletter of the Jaguar Affiliates Group of Michigan

# Kicking Off 2023 With Old Friends and New



See Page 5 for the story

# JAGM Officers

**President**  
Currently Open

**Vice-President**  
Currently Open

**Secretary**  
Phil Crutchfield  
734.347.8747  
george.p.crutchfield@gmail.com

**Dealer Relations**  
Gary Cunningham  
248.649.4959  
ghcunningham@comcast.net

**Treasurer**  
Tim Moore  
586.945.4509  
tfm0719@live.com

**Concours Chairman**  
Mark Griffith  
248.437.5442  
markgriffith50@yahoo.com

**Chief Judge**  
Dave Wathen  
248.539.9464  
twowathens@hotmail.com

**Membership**  
Pauline Blunt  
517.468.2293  
Membership@JAGM.org

**Newsletter Co-Editors**  
Ellie & Gary Hillebrand  
313.278.4206  
Editor@JAGM.org

**Webmaster**  
Phil Crutchfield  
734.347.8747  
Webmaster@jagm.org

**Board Members**  
Loran Brooks  
248.434.7663  
loran.d.brooks@gmail.com

Domenic Federico  
616.340.6706  
domenicrf@aol.com

Bic Gohil  
313.720.9647  
bicgohil@gmail.com

Mark Griffith  
248.437.5442  
markgriffith50@yahoo.com

Gary Hillebrand  
313.278.4206  
ehillebrand521@comcast.net

Teresa Klotz  
248.635.1027  
Teresamk12@yahoo.com

Steve Myerscough  
313.590.4549  
smyerscough@comcast.net

Phil Wiltshire  
574.202.8919  
pwiltshire@comcastnet

## Welcome New Members

Member Name	Jaguars Owned	JAGM welcomes our newest members. Please help us extend them a warm welcome.
Jad Yaish & Christine VanDamme	2001 XKR Coupe 1972 E-Type OTS	
Mark Mesaros	1995 XJS Coupe	
Rob Reizner	2000 XKR Convertible	
Marta & Ralf Pionke	1992 XJS V12 Convertible 1987 XJ6 Sedan 1986 XJ6 Sedan	
Tim & Marlene Stolarski	1997 XK8 Coupe	

## Last Chance!

According to the Lap the Lake 2023 web page, there are still a few spots left, so there's still time if you were thinking about joining in! There are currently five JAGM entries, so you'll be among friends.

See the past few months' Indicators for more info on this unique drive event around Lake Michigan.

## Feather Bowling at the Bath City Bistro

**When:** Sunday, March 19, 2023  
**Where:** Bath City Bistro, 75 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens, MI, 586.469.0917, [www.bathcitybistro.com](http://www.bathcitybistro.com)  
**Arrival Time:** 10:00 AM for Brunch  
**Cost:** \$14 per person for all you can eat brunch, payable to the Bistro, \$3 Mimosas or Bloody Marys also available

Feather Bowling will begin at 11:00 AM. JAGM covers the lane charge! Membership meeting following the bowling. Put this FUN activity on your calendar! It's really a fun time for young and old alike. No experience or athletic prowess required. Join us to bowl, to watch and to simply have fun.

**Phone Confirmation to the Bailey's by March 10th 734.743.5760**





bowling is a game played with wooden balls shaped in a similar way to cheese wheels. It closely resembles the Scottish sport of curling. The game originated in western Flanders, Belgium, where it is known as Trabbollen. It is a fun time and does not require any special physical skill.

During April we have a Zoom Membership Meeting and also a Gathering d'Elegance at The Ford House in Gross Pointe Shores. This is a joint event with JAGM and D-WMGC. We will have a tour of the house, lunch at the Continental, and then spend some time by our cars, parked in a special cordoned-off section of their parking lot. Hopefully, there will be considerable visitor traffic to engage with about our cars.

Join us and get a start on Spring 2023.

Phil Crutchfield

March, or Martius in the early Roman Calendar, is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. In ancient times this was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter. However, today we think of it as the beginning of spring, as it brings the vernal equinox and the Full Worm Moon. The Full Moon of March is called the Worm Moon, and it's considered the final Moon of Winter. In March the Spring season is imminently upon us.

During March we have planned a trip to the Bath City Bistro in Mt. Clemens for brunch, feather bowling, and a membership meeting. Feather



## Activities Calendar

	March	April	May
<b>Outside Activity</b>	Feather Bowling/Membership Meeting Bath City Bistro Mt Clemens, MI Sunday, March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Zoom Membership Meeting Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM	Vintage Racing GingerMan Raceway South Haven, MI Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>
		Gathering d'Elegance at the Ford House (Edsel and Eleanor) Grosse Pointe Shores, MI Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Lap the Lake Lake Michigan Shoreline Mon—Fri , 15 <sup>th</sup> –19 <sup>th</sup>
			British Car Corral Baker's of Milford Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>
			Steak Fry/Membership Meeting Linden, MI Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>

For the most up to date listing & schedule of events, go to: [www.jagm.org/events](http://www.jagm.org/events)

# In Our Garage—My XJ8L Air Suspension Replacement Project

During the early summer of 2022, my 2005 XJ8L developed an air suspension issue. Intermittently, an Air Suspension Fault light would show on the dashboard display.

During start-up, the XJ undergoes a two-minute test cycle to determine if the “proper” ride height has been obtained based on three sensors and the system's settings. If it does not obtain the correct ride height, an Air System Fault is displayed. However, when the air system fault light was displayed, my car ride height continued to be good and the ride quality also seemed good. Not happy with this light, the hunt for the issue began. After a trip to the shop did not find an issue with the pump or any air leakage, the problem was assumed to be with the ride sensors.

My research turned up that an air suspension fault is not uncommon for XJ8s. Frequently the dash light was just ignored if nothing seemed wrong. So over time, I developed a strategy to ignore the fault as long as the ride quality, or observed ride height, seem OK. But if either became an issue I would just replace the air suspension with a coil-over kit. My perspective was that fixing air suspension issues over time would be somewhat like a game of whack-a-mole. Fix one issue, only to find yet another occurring over time. And the coil-over ride quality was reportedly not much stiffer than that of the air suspension.

During the first two months of winter storage, the suspension began to sag in the rear. So an undetectable leak must have turned into a noticeable leak with the onset of colder temperatures. The discussions on the various forums mentioned this happening.

So I started looking for a service provider to install a coil-over kit. There are several manufacturers of these kits, such as Arnott, Dorman, and StrutMasters. The online forums seemed to favor Arnott

because of their construction and ride quality.

I contacted five service providers in total. They were Steve’s European Automotive (Waterford), Action One Automotive (Rochester), The Auto Doctor European (Southfield), Motor City Euro Repairs (Farmington), and Cooks’ Automotive (South Lyon). I ended up getting three quotes, one each from Steve’s, Action One, and Cook’s. All three were using an Arnott coil-over kit. The lowest price was from Steve’s at \$2,947, with Cook’s next at \$8 more and Action One slightly more.

I went with Cook’s Automotive since they are local, their price was nominally the same as the lowest quoted price, and I have six years of experience with them on the X-Type and now on the XJ8L.

I scheduled the work and dropped the car off on Monday morning and picked it up Tuesday after-



noon, following an alignment. The ride quality on my short trip home over two sets of railroad crossings was perhaps a smidgen stiffer, and the car sits perhaps an inch taller, but the car still rides very nice.

I will be keenly interested in getting back on the road in late April to break in the new suspension. I will not miss that irritating dash light one bit.

Arnott does have a video (on YouTube) demonstrating the replacement of front and rear air shock on an XJ8 with their coil-overs, for those who want to tackle the work themselves and reduce the cost by perhaps one-third. By one customer’s review, the final, and perhaps the most difficult step, was the removal of the rear seat back to gain access to the control module, where the electronic termination kit gets installed.

Phil Crutchfield

# Tipping Point Theatre 2023

With afternoon sunshine and temps brushing against 50 degrees, JAGM members gathered in Northville for our annual Valentine's Day celebration. This year we saw a performance of the play *The Light* by Loy A. Webb.

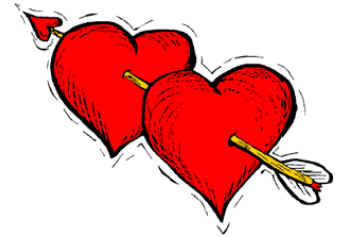
The provided description of the play - *"Not every marriage proposal goes as planned and a young couple's joy quickly unravels as ground-shifting accusations from the past resurface. The Light is a reckoning that unfolds in real-time and peels away the layers of truth, doubt, pain, and, ultimately, the power of love"* - was at best an understatement of the story to be told. The cast of two put on a performance that was

heartfelt, and emotional and frequently left the audience in hushed anticipation of the depth of the unwinding story. A standing ovation - well done!

Following the play, we drove less than a mile to the Deadwood Bar and Grill. There they got us all seated at one long string of tables. They did a great job with our drink and food orders, and the catch-up conversations began in earnest around the table.

Everyone had a great time.

Phil Crutchfield



## JCNA Newsletter Article Award Presented – Finally!



Way back in December 2020, Randy Drexler was one of the three JAGM authors of the Indicator's international coverage of the London to Brighton Run. Randy wrote the Canadian entry. That set of articles won a JCNA award in the Events category. Unfortunately, with the border closed during the pandemic we weren't able to share the award plaque with Randy and Linh, who live in Windsor.

Finally in January, Ellie and I got together with Randy and Linh for dinner and a movie and we were able to present the plaque. The picture, with the Ambassador Bridge framed between us, was taken at Mexican Village in Detroit. Now that the border is open again we hope to see the Drexlers back at a JAGM event soon!

Gary Hillebrand

## British Car Corral at Baker's of Milford – Sunday, May 21

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, JAGM along with other local British car clubs will be supporting these special once-a-month gatherings of British cars within the larger cruise-in happening every Sunday afternoon at Baker's of Milford. The first British Car Corral will be Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 2 pm to 7 pm.



If you haven't been to Baker's for any of the weekly cruise-ins, think about checking it out this summer. It's billed as the largest weekly cruise-in in the country and always draws a big crowd of astonishingly diverse vehicles. Other 2023 dates for the British Car Corral are: June 18th, July 16th, August 20th, and September 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Vintage Car Racing Event May 6, South Haven, MI

The Vintage Sports Car Driver Association (VSCDA) is holding its Spring Brake race weekend at GingerMan Raceway, near South Haven, the weekend of May 6-7. Phil Wiltshire brought this to our attention, and we thought it might be interesting to some of our members. We could meet at GingerMan for the racing event on Saturday, and anyone interested in driving their own car on the track can participate in what they call "Touring" the track during the mid-day break in the racing.

GingerMan is a road course, about 2 miles long,



and the weekend event features multiple classes of cars, each running in a qualifying race then a 20 minute Sprint race. Practice sessions start at 8:30 am and racing finishes around 5 pm on Saturday (racing continues on Sunday as well, in case you want to stay to see more).

For more information on the event, go to: <https://vscda.org/events/gingerman-spring-brake-drivers-school-races/>. The site includes a detailed schedule of the entire weekend event.

Admission to the track is \$10/person, and the cost to participate in the "Touring" run at noon is \$35.

**Register for the event at [JAGM.org/Events/Upcoming](https://jagm.org/Events/Upcoming).** You'll also find a registration form for the Touring event there. Depending on the number of interested members we may coordinate the drive to the track, restaurants, and hotels for those who might want to make a weekend of it.

Organizers: The Phil's (Wiltshire and Crutchfield)

## Gathering d'Elegance at the Ford House - Saturday, April 29



Looking for an early-season chance to get your Jag out this Spring? Join JAGM and the Windsor-Detroit MG Club for a tour of the **Edsel and Eleanor Ford House**, followed by a buffet lunch at The Continental. Meanwhile our cars will be on display for visitors of the estate to enjoy.

Here are the details:

### Time & Location

Saturday, April 29, 11:30 AM – 5:30 PM  
The Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236

### About The Event

Please arrive around 11:30 AM entering through the North Gate. Park your car in the cordoned-off section of the Visitor Center Parking lot. From there, we will enter the Main Residence at 12:15 PM and take a guided tour from 12:30 - 1:30 PM. We will go back to the Visitor Center for lunch at The Continental from 2:00 - 3:00 PM. Following lunch we can explore the exhibits and The Shop on our way back to our cars.

We will depart through the North Gate by 5:00 PM.

### Registration and Cost

The cost, including the tour and the buffet lunch, is \$48.75/person.

**YOU MUST REGISTER BY 4/13/2023. To register and pay, go to: <https://form.jotform.com/212056337142043>.**

# 2023 Ice Runs – Canceled!

A typical Good News/Bad News story. The good news been canceled. That mild winter has kept Ross Lake, (in my view) is that this Michigan winter, aside from a few cold spells and snow storms, has been quite mild. Here's the bad news: Tom Hudak recently informed us that all of the scheduled Ice Runs for the SCCA Saginaw Valley Region have



up in Beaverton, from developing a sufficient ice covering to support (literally!) the ice racers.

Oh well, as they always say in any sport – there's always next year!

Gary Hillebrand

## Classified Ads

**For Sale: Set of five very nice Dunlop chrome wire wheels** removed from our 1969 S2 E-Type OTS with 51,000 original miles. Four wheels have Michelin 205/70 R15's mounted. The spare has an older Michelin 195R15 mounted. Includes one never mounted matching Michelin in 205/70R15 tire.

**\$500 or OBO.**

Contact Brian  
(248) 514-4539 or  
[healeynut@aol.com](mailto:healeynut@aol.com)



**For Sale: 1996' XJS "Celebration" Convertible.** White with tan interior and top. 48,613 miles. Originally sold and stored in Florida; moved to Michigan in 2014. Covered and stored its whole life. I purchased it in 2015. Maintenance and service under my ownership: 2 oil changes, tire rotation, new battery, transmission suspension replaced, Cam/Crank Sensors replaced – all by Jaguar of Lakeside and Registered Mechanics. Vehicle has non-OEM spoke wheels but still has the factory rim on the full-size spare. Leather seating and center console top show some minor wear. Factory radio replaced with an updated unit (factory unit Included); all four speakers replaced (with Alpine) due to failure. Changes in life (children) and storage space are the reasons for the sale. Additional pictures and video (including under car) available upon request.

**\$14,500 Motivated seller open to offers.**

Please contact Matt @  
586.615.9580 or [MattV@FeatPresAV.com](mailto:MattV@FeatPresAV.com)



**Wanted: JAGM Concours dash plaques from the past (2001 and earlier).** Will pay any reasonable price.

Contact Tim Moore at 586-945-4509.  
[tfm0719@live.com](mailto:tfm0719@live.com)

### Two Cars For Sale:

- ◆ **2006 Jaguar XJ8** in Indigo Blue, with a Champagne leather interior. The car is in excellent condition with only 66K on the odometer.
- ◆ **2007 Jaguar X-Type Estate** in Liquid Silver, with a Black leather interior. The car is in excellent condition with only 57K on the odometer.



Attractive Pricing to any interested JAGM member.

Please contact Gary Cunningham at either  
248-470-4000 or [ghecunningham@comcast.net](mailto:ghecunningham@comcast.net).



**For Sale: G.W. BARTLETT CO.,** original Jaguar interior for E-Type Series II, 2 + 2. Black in color. Current price new from OSJI (formally G.W. Bartlett Co.) is **\$4900.**

Come and take a look as I will refuse no reasonable offer. Call Rob at 734-564-0366



Ellie & Gary Hillebrand  
Newsletter Editors  
521 Fort Dearborn St  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
Editor@JAGM.org  
www.JAGM.org



## Thank You to Our Sponsors !

Select Motors  
[www.selectmotors.com](http://www.selectmotors.com)

XKs Unlimited / Moss  
Motors  
[www.XKs.com](http://www.XKs.com)

SNG Barratt  
[www.sngbarratt.com](http://www.sngbarratt.com)

GB Classic Trim - William  
Wengel 313.330.7684

Complete Auto  
Restorations  
[www.completeautoresta  
tions@gmail.com](http://www.completeautoresta<br/>tions@gmail.com)

## See You at the March 19<sup>th</sup> Feather Bowling/Membership Meeting!

