

Na, Na, Na, Na, Na, Na, Na, Bat-Car

Opportunity knocked back in March, and I answered the door. Actually it was the phone. Out of the blue, Gary Kaberle phoned me looking for input and help. Gary owns BAT 11, the modern Bertone design that, after 50 years, continues the original BAT car designs in the 1950's. At one point, Gary also owned BAT 9 for almost 30 years. The story of his ownership of that car is truly amazing.



Back in 1963, Gary saw BAT 9 sitting on a car lot in Greenville, Michigan. Even though he was only seventeen, he decided he wanted THAT car. After borrowing some money from family, combined with money earned selling popcorn, BAT 9 was his. The car stayed with Gary through college, marriage, and a growing family. He even had the car restored and became friends with the Bertone and Scaglione families. The car did not stay with him through his wife's breast cancer fight though. In need of money to pay for her cancer treatments, Gary sold BAT 9. Thanks to those treatments, Gary's wife survived a couple more years.



Sometime in the new millennium, Gary contacted Bertone about doing a modern take on the BAT cars, once again to be based on Alfa mechanicals. The results so far are the BAT 11 DK which was unveiled outside the Geneva Motor Show in 2008. The car was to be displayed at the NY International Auto Show in early April, and Gary, a working dentist, needed help

displaying the car. He was looking for anyone who might be able to stay with the car during the show to help pass out information. That's when opportunity called.



In talking with Gary, I realized that the shortest distance between NYC and Traverse City, MI where Gary lives, would take him right through our area. Suggesting a rest stop in Buffalo on the way home was welcomed. Then Gary threw out the big news that his daughter, Kelli Cravey, lives locally. In working with Kelli to find a suitable location for the BAT 11 to be viewed, Jim Sandoro stepped up with an offer to host the car at the Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum.

The "rest stop" turned into a week long stay for the BAT 11 with the car on view at the museum on April 25 and 26. Additionally, a dinner with Gary as the featured speaker was held on the night of the 25th.



A tremendous thanks goes to Gary Kaberle for allowing us this opportunity to view (and touch!) his dream car, to Kelli Cravey for her help in setting up this event, and to Jim Sandoro for graciously hosting and coordinating the dinner party. I hoped many of you were able to come view the car at some point during that weekend. If you missed the car this time around, you can travel all the way to Westport, CT in September for its next viewing.

