



BMW Car Club
of America
Buckeye Chapter



News, Views and
BMW Stuff to Do

AUTUMN 2017



BREAKING NEWS

**Declassified NASA eclipse photos
reveal startling new discovery**

Scientists baffled by lunar anomaly

(AP) NASA spokesperson Cosmo Logicalle admitted "Yes, one could certainly say we're baffled, or perhaps dumbstruck, or maybe even a bit confounded, or even gobsmacked, but I think it's all maybe not gobsmacked, but freaking id

Welcome to the autumn edition of the *Driving Light*! In short order we will begin to see the foliage change from green to the colors of fall, and the weather will become cooler and crisper. It sounds like a good time to get out and drive, if you ask me. In this edition you will read about what is happening in the Buckeye Chapter.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

by **Nick Schumacher**

Each area governor will provide details about exciting events that have transpired this summer, as well as future plans to pique your interests!

Needless to say, it has been an eventful summer. A personal achievement was when my E39 5-series hit the 200k mark on the odometer. It's been the daily driver for 10 years, and I am determined to keep it going for another decade. With regular service and a plan for some preventive maintenance, it might be possible!

A bigger accomplishment was the Bridgestone BMW CCA Buckeye Chapter HPDE at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. This event was held in August, and it is a spectacular high performance driving school. I had the opportunity to take the 5-series onto the track a few years back, and I found that, even in a big "tank" of a car that by no means competes with the likes of a M3, you can still go fast and catch up with other drivers if you learn how to follow the line. This is an annual event, so keep your eye on the calendar next year if you were not able to go this year. Thank you to the Driving Events Committee for a job well done!

Speaking of track time, you have another chance to get your car onto another great, local sports car course yet this year. The Buckeye Chapter has teamed up with our neighbors, the Bluegrass Bimmers and Hoosier Chapter, to bring you a brand new event! The very first Regional Round-Up High Performance Driving Event at the National Corvette Museum Motorsport Park (NCM). We will be driving the "Grand Full Course" 23-turn, 3.2-mile configuration. There is also a BMW CCA Club Racing event this same weekend. Student drivers will undergo a mixture of classroom and behind-the-wheel education under the supervision of trained instructors. The event will take place Friday, October 27th through Sunday, October 29th, and there are multiple options to choose from, including a supersize option that gets you four hours on the track each day!

Special guest Ross Bentley will also be at NCM to teach an Advanced Driving Clinic. This is a great opportunity to take your driving skills to the next level with the leadership of a performance driving coach, race car driver, and the author of *Speed Secrets*. Bentley won the 1998 GT3 United States Road Racing Championship and the 2003 SRPII Class Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona. He will be sharing stories from his racing and coaching days (and who knows what else!) at the banquet on Saturday night. Not interested in putting your car onto the track? In addition to the banquet with Ross Bentley, there will be "cars and coffee"-style car show! Open to all marques, there will be a

Join us for the very first

NORTH CENTRAL BMW CCA

Round-Up

BLUEGRASS • BUCKEYE • HOOSIER

October 27-29, 2017
NCM Motorsports Park
Bowling Green, KY

Bluegrass Bimmers and the Buckeye and Hoosier Chapters of the BMW CCA are co-sponsoring three days of Club Racing, a Driver's School, a Car Show, Chapter Challenge Karting and Dinner with Ross Bentley at the fun and challenging National Corvette Museum Motorsports Park! Don't miss out!

Sign up at: msreg.com/2017RoundUp
For information contact: bill.wade@gmail.com

Got Brick?

Strengthen the BMW CCA Foundation, one brick at a time
Help save lives and save history by ordering your personalized brick today:
www.fundraisingbrick.com/bmwccafoundation.org

People's Choice award on Saturday. NCM has also added a go-kart facility, and the fastest time will win the Chapter Challenge! For more information, check out the events calendar on our website or go to motorsportreg.com

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 48th Annual BMW CCA Oktoberfest from October 31st through November 4th and take a trip down to Bourbon Street in New Orleans. O'fest 2017 will be the next chapter in the club's history of celebrating all things BMW. In addition to soaking up the rich culture of the city, you can attend the Bridgestone autocross, Concours, rallies, and, of course, high-performance driving events!

Another notable venue to visit is the BMW CCA Foundation in Greer, South Carolina, next to the BMW manufacturing facility. The home of the famed Street Survival program, the Foundation is also the largest museum in the Americas that is dedicated to the history of the BMW marque, and you can learn about the history of the club as well. The museum archive preserves about 45,000 BMW-related items, and it belongs to us! What is even more exciting is the new exhibit "Heroes of Bavaria: 75 Years of BMW Motorsport". In partnership with BMW of North America and private collectors from coast to coast, 22 exceptionally rare and legendary examples of Bavarian Motorsport are on display for your viewing pleasure. Get acquainted with the 1937 BMW 328 Roadster that won at Zandvoort in 1939. Peer into the cockpits of the Group 4 and 5 Racing CSLs, including winners at Daytona and Sebring. Look over the LeMans-winning V-12 LMR, the Williams FW-22 Formula One car, and the only factory-built CSL Rally Car in existence. This fall is the perfect time for a road trip to either O'Fest or the Foundation.

Do you have a local BMW dealership who is your one-stop shop for sales and/or maintenance? We want to know about BMW centers in your area who may want to get involved with the club. Many BMW centers have been heavily involved in the club for years, have been introducing their customers to the benefits of being a BMW CCA member, and have hosted area

meetings. It is a great way to keep members up-to-date on the latest BMW innovations. Please let your area governor know who your local BMW center is. The Buckeye Chapter does already have excellent support from local BMW centers. For example, the Dayton area regularly holds meetings at Voss Village BMW in Centerville. I would like to commend Voss for their generosity and for showing us the 2017 BMW i3 at our meeting in their showroom this summer. Our members were able to test drive this fun, unique car, and I can attest that it may indeed be the fastest BMW from 0-30 miles per hour. We look forward to checking out the new X3 this fall. It would be very beneficial to have a liaison like Voss in all areas of the club.



The quick little i3 at left, and the well-stocked Voss BMW showroom full of goodies



Be sure to meet your fellow Bimmerheads! Each area of the Buckeye Chapter holds regular social gatherings for food, beverage, and various BMW-related activities. Contact your area governor to find out what is happening in your region. Get involved and share your ideas for events in your region or across the chapter. If you have any questions about who your area governor may be, feel free to reach out to Jaynee Beechuk, your membership chair. Check out Facebook or the Buckeye Chapter website for meeting times and locations. Safe travels! ■



NORTH CENTRAL BMW CCA
Round-Up
BLUEGRASS • BUCKEYE • HOOSIER

by
Tim Beechuk



OK, Track fans / Car Show fans / Kart fans / Club Race fans / Dinner fans and Speaker at Dinner fans, this is the opportunity for you to meet up with those same people from across the North Central Region at one of the more interesting places in southwestern Kentucky; the National Corvette Museum Motorsports Park track in Bowling Green.

We are preparing for the first annual North Central Round-Up that is sponsored by Buckeye, Bluegrass and Hoosier Chapters, and we will be inviting all of the North Central Region members. This will be a gala occasion to top off your year. One more chance to meet your friends, drive a challenging and technical track, have dinner with Ross Bentley, show your car, and enter the Go-Kart Challenge. The event will be held on October 27th, 28th and 29th, and we have been assured that the weather will be great, and since we are in the "South," winter won't be a factor.

The Round-Up, as we like to call it, is an opportunity to close out the year in style. Even though the two primary happenings are a High Performance Driving Event (HPDE) and a Club Race, this is not the usual 'track rat' event. This will be an occasion to join with friends old and new. To show your prized vehicle. To have a delicious meal at the National Corvette Museum, with a nationally recognized speaker... at least I recognized him... and to challenge your friends at the new NCM kart track. To race with, or watch, some of the best club racers in the region. And, of course, to participate in a challenging High Performance Driver's School with well-accredited instructors.

We plan on this being an annual event, circulating between the local tracks of our region, building momentum as the years go by. Don't miss the opportunity to be able to say that you were at the first event, way back in '17, when the really hot machinery was there. This will be a Regional Event to the Club, which brings all of the pizzazz that entails. Even your favorite Regional Vice-President will be there. Go to motorsportreg.com to sign up for the weekend.

Details for some of the events:

The HDPE. We will be on the Grand Full course, which holds all of the best features of the track, including the infamous "Sink Hole" and "Faux Rouge," along with most of the Mulsanne Straight test section that the Corvette team uses for practice.

The Club Race. If you aren't racing, there is a lot to watch, with qualifying and races. Be sure to stop by and talk to the racers in the paddock.

The Car Show. Don't want to drive on the track? Please come to the event and put your car in the car show. Open to all marques, this "Cars & Coffee" style event with a people's choice award will take place on Saturday. Hang out, catch a ride with an Instructor, and attend the Saturday night Banquet

The Banquet. We are having a banquet Saturday night! Join us at the National Corvette Museum for a sit down meal with entertaining speaker Ross Bentley. Ross is a performance coach, race car driver, and author. His performance coaching spans executive/business coaching to sports (athletes and teams in a variety of sports, with a specialty in motorsports). Born in Vancouver, British Columbia, he grew up in a racing household (father was a race mechanic, brother a mechanic and driver). He became one of only seven Canadian drivers to race in the CART Indy Car series in the 1990s; he continued his professional career in endurance racing. Bentley won the 1998 GT3 United States Road Racing Championship and the 2003 SRPII Class Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona. He will share stories from his racing and coaching days, and who knows what else!

The Karting. We are challenging you off the track as well. The track has recently added a fixed go-kart facility! They are helping us with facilitating a "Chapter Challenge". Buy a session of 8 minutes and post your best time along with your BMW CCA Chapter's name. Fastest time will win! You do not have to be registered in the HPDE or the Club Race to participate. Times will be recorded until 1:00 Sunday.

The Learning. Interested in improving your advanced driving skills? Join us for an Advanced Driving Clinic with Ross Bentley! This event is a great opportunity to take your driving skills to the next level with the leadership of a professional driving coach and Speed Secrets author, held on Friday October 27th.

Don't miss this fantastic first-ever event!

This newer BMW thing...

A somewhat unexpected thing happened in June. My wife and I bought an almost-new(ish) BMW – a 2014 X5. The actual BMW name is about 15 words long, but I am just calling it “the X5”. It has a six cylinder, not an eight. So it’s that one. It’s black, which I think is the only color you can get, besides silver. I could be wrong on that. This is the first newer BMW that we’ve had. We have a 2002tii, but really, that car was built in a different era. Like comparing a Bell Telephone to an iPhone.

I say the purchase was “unexpected” because it came together quickly, and we weren’t dead-set on buying a BMW. We needed a car to replace the 2010 VW Jetta Sportwagen TDi that we had. Time was running out before the kid’s college drop-off (one of the new car’s prime missions), and I wanted out of the VW before something strange happened to it. (Worst-case scenario – a tree falls on the Sportwagen, and my insurance company totals it and gives me \$7,500, when my VW buyout was \$18,000. I’m good a worst-case scenario building.)

Our main desire was to have an all-season, comfortable road trip car. One crucial usage scenario was that it had to fit my wife, son, and I, and all my son’s college gear, in it. So it had to be decent sized. Our old Sportwagen, for example, wasn’t going to cut it – it was too small.

We saw the X5s at the dealer (“let’s just stop in and look at cargo areas”), and knew it was big enough. Our particular X5 has some sort of Luxury Package, with a type of leather that is called “Mocha”. That is really what grabbed us – those seats, their color, and the wood trim. We were, at that point, the least savvy buyers on the earth.

“We’ll take it.” “Don’t you want to know the price?” “Yes, of course. Haha. We’re buying it though. Like, super buying it, right now. Please go take it off your website right now, while I guard it in the parking lot.”

The X5 has a lot of options on it. I should say “packages”, maybe (I think that is the right term). So there is a lot to learn for someone new to the modern BMW game. Most common exchange between my wife and I while driving it around the first few weeks – (car does something) – “are you doing that, or is the car doing that?”

The Top Newer BMW Observations:

In general, it’s a remarkable vehicle. It’s fast,

comfortable, looks pretty cool (except maybe from the rear – the styling department summer interns style the rear of BMWs, obviously), gets decent mileage on the highway, and is loaded with features, some of which are useful. It is quite an achievement to get a heavy car to handle nicely, and feel spritely, which this does surprisingly credibly.

It’s making me a nicer driver. Why? Well, I’m driving around in a big, black BMW SUV, the type of vehicle most Americans associate with uncaring, self-absorbed, mega-capitalists, I have a feeling. I don’t want to be the “idiot in the huge black BMW that didn’t let me in on the merge” guy. So, I let people in, I wave people through. I don’t cut anyone off. I smile.

The names of the packages and the technology are hilarious. It has to be a nightmare to come up with these names, because the technology just keeps advancing, making last year’s hyperbole sound like Beowulf-basic. Let’s just say if the same people were writing the names for the “packages” for our ’72 2002tii, it would have the “Free-Flow ComfortAir and UV MaxPlus Package” – a sunroof. And maybe the “Omniband ConstantEntertain SinglePlus Plus Package” – an AM/FM radio with one speaker.

It is still a BMW, despite its hulking size. It drives very light, and very lively, which you don’t expect when looking at it. Meaning the steering has a lot of boost, so it’s easy to steer, but more usefully, the steering is quick – you don’t have to crank a lot of wheel in it to turn. The brakes feel really solid and powerful, and again, the pedal effort is not high. It’s light. Really progressive, too. You quickly learn how to drive it

because it feels intuitive – I mean in 10 minutes you feel like “this is the car I learned to drive on, isn’t it”? The N55

engine sounds great, even in this Jumbo Bimmer application. When it starts up, it is surprisingly burbly. In Sport mode, if you floor it, it shifts at 7k rpm.

Again, you don’t expect the speed it can generate. Yup, still a BMW.

The quality of the parts and pieces is...surprisingly spotty, actually. Some of the parts of the car are the highest-quality parts I’ve ever seen on a vehicle. And some of them are so cheap-looking or feeling, it is mildly shocking. The



This newer BMW thing...

one thing about the VW – the quality of parts, say in the interior, was very consistent, and cohesive. Everything had a certain look and feel as if VW was militant about looking for inconsistencies. The X5 is the opposite. Most beautiful dash top I've seen, cheapest quality plastic on the fold-down tailgate that I've ever seen on a car. When you fold it down and sit on it, it makes the cheapest-sounding snapping and cracking sounds. It sounds like it is breaking. I just find that surprising. Especially coming

from another German brand that is down-market from BMW.

Lastly, I've quickly become accustomed to the luxury, the speed and athleticism; the technology that coddles, and makes life easier. Yes, I'm becoming a person that "needs" an N55 or N54 in all my cars. For sure. No more looking at E30s cabs for me; I'm looking at the more recent 3-series hard-top convertibles now. There's no going back, is there? The new M2 looks nice...wonder if you can get a stick? Hmmm. ■

CINCINNATI AREA NEWS

Marshall Garrison, Cincinnati Area Governor

Just to get these out of the way....

Q: How do you organize a solar eclipse party?

A: You planet!

Q: Why didn't the sun go to college?

A: It already had a million degrees!

Q: Did you hear about the moon's new restaurant?

A: Great food, but no atmosphere.

Q: You know what the moon's barber does, don't you?

A: Eclipse hair!

Q: What did the instructor say about his student at the track?

A: Eclipse his apexes!

I'm here all week folks; try the veal! Now, c'mon, you know, you can't even pay to get jokes of that quality anywhere! In case you couldn't guess, it just so happens that our ever-toiling Driving Light editor's deadline for this particular edition of the newsletter also nearly coincides with the apparent solar-system event-of-the-century, the much-bally-hooded solar eclipse. Here in southwest Ohio, although we had something like 92% occlusion, or whatever-the-right-term-is, it didn't darken up much more than how it looks with sunglasses on. My eclipse preparations, besides googling up the worst-possible eclipse jokes just for you, consisted of spending some approximate fraction of a second poking a pinhole in a piece of paper with a push-pin. No welding helmets here, just your standard old-school attempt to avoid the solar-induced retinal equivalent of an Oedipal eye-rendering. Unlike our ol' pal Oedipus though, since best I can tell I can still see just fine, it would seem

the rather uninspiring pinhole-projection viewing methodology successfully warded off any self-induced blinding... thankfully! Still, that doesn't mean the eclipse wasn't... cool.

However, not as cool as the preceding weekend's happenings - that being the Buckeye Chapter's very own main driving-event-of-the-year, our HPDE driver's school weekend at Mid-Ohio! Despite Saturday morning starting off with a non-eclipse-related dousing of rain immediately before the morning instructor's session, everyone took the wet track conditions in stride, kept it together, and with no more rain, things were drying out nicely by mid-morning. Otherwise, we lucked out with the weather – it was hot, but thankfully nowhere near as hot as mid-August might typically be, and even with the rain, the humidity wasn't much to complain about either. Sunday was even better, with no rain and a bit of a breeze to help out. All-in-all, a beautiful weekend at the track! A big thanks to all our volunteer organizers, and everyone who makes this event possible, for all your hard work and perpetual efforts! Also thanks to the students and everyone else who came out and participated; you're the reason we do it!

Around here in the Cincy area, we've had great monthly meetings all summer, which is just zipping by! In June, longtime club and Cincy area member Jerry Puterbaugh arranged for BMW of Cincinnati North (formerly Jake Sweeney BMW) to host us for our monthly meetup. They offered a few models to test drive and check out on a small parking lot layout setup by our very own Tim Beechuk, had a show-and-tell with an i8 on a lift in the service area, had some dealer swag for us with t-shirts and tote-bags, personnel on hand



Wet and weird at Mid-Ohio... briefly

to discuss BMW's latest offerings and answer questions, and a yummy buffet of BBQ fare! Service Manager Tim Gabbard took a few minutes to talk with us and discuss their service department – they're offering club members a 15% discount on parts, so be sure to have your club membership card with you if you're in for service or a parts purchase (you can print your own member card from bmwcca.org). They also did a HPDE tech-check and service deal for members doing our Mid-Ohio school, \$150 for the tech inspection and a brake fluid flush; can't beat that! It was a great turnout, with a number of new faces, (new faces are always welcome!), plus longtime Bluegrass member, and former CCA national president, Bailey Taylor and his son Patrick ran up from Louisville to check out the proceedings; always nice to see out-of-town friends! Our thanks to Jerry, Tim, and the rest of the Cincinnati North crew for all their hospitality in hosting us!

July was the Hofbrauhaus in Newport – thankfully the weather cooperated, so we were outside. Good thing, too, the inside was packed, as it turned out they were unveiling a new beer, offering new stein lockers, and had the oompah band in full swing. Ev-ery-body Polka! (for those of you old enough to remember Lawrence Welk...) The Hofbrauhaus always has delicious food with even better bier. Another great turnout, again with more new faces!

August means picnic time, so Jaynee Beechuk did it up right yet again this year and got us all set up at the Fern Hollow Shelter in Sharon Woods Park. This time it was hot, but that still beats rain any day, and all things considered, for what's typical around here in August, the humidity could've been much worse. A couple new faces again! Longtime members Mark and Sandra Morris also trekked

down to join us from their home digs a good bit further north, so a thanks to them for that effort; always nice to see them too! As usual, everyone pitched in bringing something, and more delicious chow was on hand (despite how it sounds, we do more than eat, honest!). A very big thanks to everyone who came, pitched-in, and helped out – particularly Jaynee and Tim for all the organizing, shopping, setup, and hard work, and Tanya, our chapter treasurer, taking on the task of being grillmaster on a hot and muggy evening!

Going back to June for a second, this year's Ault Park Concours D'Elegance car show, for the first time ever, had a "Tuner" class for modified rides. Brain Cain (who's hosted us for a couple of meetings at his shop, MWorks Garage) got a last-minute invite for his heavily-modded LS1-swapped E36 M3, and ended up winning the class, with a 1st Place Blue Ribbon! No small feat that, so a big congratulations to Brian and his crew, nicely done!

The end of June also saw the arrival of a planned excursion to see a Reds game – too late at the end of June, as it turned out. When looking at the calendar and running through possible dates back at the May meeting, a late June date for a Friday night fireworks-night game vs. the Cubs sounded like that might be alright. However, in failing to look ahead on the calendar (as Homer Simpson might say, "Doh!"), I didn't notice that this particular Friday was the beginning of the 4th of July holiday weekend. Little wonder then that expressed interest was a bit, uh, anemic! Next time, if there's some interest, we'll shoot for a game that doesn't align with the start of a major holiday weekend!

After getting rained-out in April, our area Street Survival teen-driver program was rescheduled for late July. This time, I don't think there was a cloud anywhere to be seen. But, it was hot and muggy! Bill Wade, Street Survival program director, was up from Louisville, handling the classroom duties personally; Tim Beechuk took care of the course and coaches meetings; with Jaynee and Tanya handling most everything else. By

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North Central Region Vice President Tim Beechuk was proud to present a well-deserved **Friend of the BMW CCA** award to Lance White at the BMW CCA Foundation Board Meeting. Lance is the current President of the Foundation Board and a strong supporter of the Club.

the end of the day, we had another group of teenagers better prepared to be safer, more proficient, and skilled drivers! The one glitch to the day had nothing to do with the weather, or our part of it. Jaynee headed off to retrieve a gazillion pre-ordered sandwiches from Subway only to find the location she had the order with to be as deserted as the Sahara. However, things worked out, the next nearest Subway stepped-up and saved the day by producing a bevy of sandwiches for our group of starving participants in record time. To learn more about the Street Survival teen driver program, check out <http://streetsurvival.org>

So, what's coming up, you ask? As for meetings, stay tuned to the Facebook page for meeting details (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/153450721386951/>), have yet to solidify plans for the remaining fall meetings. If you're not getting Cincy area emails for meeting announcements, email me at mhg@cinci.rr.com, and I'll get your email added to the google groups list we use for email blasts. Cincinnati Area meetings are normally the

second Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm, locations vary/TBD, (no December meeting).

What is coming up though, of particular note, is the first-ever North Central Regional Round-Up weekend at NCM Motorsports Park, in Bowling Green, Ky., at the end of October. See Tim Beechuk's write-up in this issue for details. This is the first time the tri-state Bluegrass, Hoosier and Buckeye chapters are jointly doing an event, so if you missed Mid-Ohio, this is the next BMW club event you'll want to get on your schedule – check it out, there's a good bit more planned than a typical HPDE track weekend, and it should be a great time!

There's also another teen driver Street Survival program coming up right away in Columbus, Saturday, Sept. 9th, at the Ohio History Connection. If you have a teen or know other parents that might be interested for their teen drivers, see streetsurvival.org. Sign-up is via motorsportreg.com, this is also linked on the streetsurvival.org schedule page: <https://www.motorsportreg.com/index.cfm/event/register.trss/uidEvent/8A56F0AE-DF17-F96D-3461C3FB4AE84E30>

As always, if you have any questions about Street Survival, please don't hesitate to ask!

It's also worth a mention, all events or happenings in the Buckeye Chapter or chapter's several sub-areas, are organized by volunteer effort. For decades now, it's members who dedicate and volunteer their time and effort to do everything we do. Organizing and running driver's schools, the newsletter, any newsletter mailing, chapter business, meetings, social events, tours, drives, you name it – all volunteer. A very big thank you to anyone and everyone, past and present, for your efforts to keep this enterprise of the Buckeye Chapter and its areas humming along for the last 41-something years! For those of you newer to the club and chapter, if there are events you'd like to see happen, let us know, we're always looking for ideas; better yet, come out to an area event or meeting, get to know everyone, and get involved!

Since it's summer and still hot, I can still say this: 'til next time, stay... cool! ■

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COLUMBUS AREA NEWS

Mark Borrer, Columbus Area Governor

Hello Columbus BMW CCA Members!

Can you believe it? The end of summer is here. I hope you had an opportunity to meet new people and attend some of the social events of the past. If you haven't, you still have a chance.

We are planning another Governor's Party in September. October will be our annual Hocking Hills Driving Tour. November 11th is our date for the OSU Football game, and January will be our elections for new Buckeye Chapter Columbus Area Governors. You might ask, "Why is the election part of the social events?" We need to think about passing the torch and continuing the excitement for our area. Remember, we are only as strong as our members input, and we have had some great input over the last few years. Thanks to all who have helped.

Anyways, check out the latest Columbus Area profile. We really do have some great people in the club!

And finally, if you are not receiving my monthly reminders for the meetings and would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact me at mborrer.cols.bmwcca@gmail.com. ■

DAYTON AREA NEWS

Alex Watts, Dayton Area Governor

Someone please explain to me how summer can go by so quickly. I thought the weather was unusually mild and the rains perfectly spaced to make me consider mowing every three weeks and baling the grass as hay. I hope every one enjoyed themselves and got most of their summer projects finished.

I am writing this at the last minute and sending it to our beloved editor Dohn Roush on the deadline day, after returning from a weekend race at Gratten Raceway in Michigan. The event is with the VSCDA (Vintage Sports Car Drivers Association). I really enjoy this scenic track and the amount of track time in three days. This was not a perfect weekend of racing with some minor mechanical problems, but racing was clean and I am learning to get

COLUMBUS MEMBER PROFILE



Chuck Grafton

Columbus Area Member

City: Hilliard, Ohio

Years in BMW CCA: 42

In the garage: 2016 X3 35i; 1999 M3; 1990 M3 (yeah, the real M3); 2013 Tacoma

BMW History: 1975 2002; 1983 320i; 1989 325is; 1990 M3; 2005 X3; 2010 328xi Sedan; 2106 X3 35i

Dream car: BMW 3.0 CSL Batmobile

Favorite drink: A good German Hefeweizen; Gin and Tonic

Favorite Social Event: BMW CCA Club events; HPDEs; annual social get-togethers

Best advice: Get involved with the BMW CCA events at the Chapter and Club level. Meet the people at social events, HPDEs, Tours, help out at Street Survival.

Learn something new in the Chapter and provide your expertise. Go to BMW CCA Octoberfest. Enjoy your BMW!

Why BMW? I had my first experience in a BMW 3.0csi in 1973 riding between Oberamergau and Munchen, Germany. My love has never changed since that night.

more out of my 2002. Next up for us may be the regional roundup in October. My son would like to do his first HPDE event in my car if I can get my exhaust sound below their 103 decibel limit. Another car problem to work on... it's always something. I always tell people my car is not fast, but you will hear it coming. I think it sounds great, but I guarantee it is too loud for the NCM Raceway. At least I have almost 2 months to replumb my exhaust. (*Sounds like a personal problem. – ed.*)

We had a great July meeting at Voss BMW. Aaron Kerstanski, our contact at Voss, put together another great evening. We had our usual good turnout and plenty of pizza courtesy of our host. Aaron came through on his promise to try to get us a car to test drive. There was a new i3 for us to try out. I had never driven an electric car, so I was really interested in the test drive and looking over the vehicle itself. The i3 is a true electric. Yes it does have a small gasoline engine in the range extender model, but it runs an electric generator, not the drivetrain. The trait that took a

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while to get used to is the automatic, or regenerative, braking, which helps generate charging for the battery pack. In this car, when you lift off the accelerator, the car starts braking. You will not coast up to a distant red light in this car. Honestly, it only takes about 10 minutes to get your brain adjusted to the change in driving dynamics. The ride is firm, but not harsh. The tires are narrow and relatively high pressure for better fuel economy. The acceleration is the big surprise. All the sales people said that 0-40 MPH the i3 is the fastest BMW they have. It is seriously quick with that instant torque from the electric motors. Maybe it's the silence and smoothness of the cars acceleration, but I guess I would have to see a real drag race with an M2 to believe that claim. The i3 is quite an impressive car for anyone looking to drive as eco friendly as possible. The car is nearly 80% recyclable. As an around town commuter, I would seriously consider this car. It is the size of a small SUV and very comfortable as far as seating and ingress/egress. Very good back seat and cargo space are not overlooked by the designers. Most of the comments I heard were favorable, but this is kind of a gearhead group and this car is 180 degrees from the high performance BMWs that most of us love. Fortunately for us, BMW does both styles very well. Voss is having us back on October 24th at 6pm, so watch your emails for a reminder. Aaron says our meeting should coincide with the launch of the new X3.

I have previously mentioned the Corvette of Troy Club autocross at KilKare raceway. I talked Club member Rick Baldwin into trying his M5 and another friend David Brown with a Porsche Turbo into giving autocross a go. We had a great time and learned a lot about navigating the tight course setup. You get ten timed runs for \$35.00 which seems a bargain for the amount of track time. Again, they will let any car run if it passes their brief tech inspection and you have a helmet. We will certainly go again. Spectators are encouraged and you can even take a passenger if you want. Loaner helmets are available.

Keep an eye open for the signups for the

2017 Regional Roundup hosted by the Bluegrass, Buckeye, and Hoosier Chapters. The event at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky will take place October 27-29. There will be drivers school, club racing, advanced drivers training with Ross Bentley, a car show, a go-kart track event, and a Saturday night banquet at the Corvette Museum. The North Central Region of BMW CCA has certainly provided something for everyone. Go to <http://msreg.com/2017RoundUP> to sign up.

Our September meeting is currently scheduled for Brixx Ice Co. on September 26, at 7pm. We may change venues based on your recommendations or on our experience at the Wandering Griffin, where we will meet in August. Hoping to see you there.

Hope to see you at the meetings, and again please give Chuck Craves and me your feedback on meeting sites and activities.

Get out and drive. ■

TOLEDO AREA NEWS

Phil Ross, Toledo Area Governor

Where have I been all these years?!! Just last month I learned of a motoring event that takes place on Put-In-Bay Island. Mark Aug 27-30, 2017. That's right, mid-week! This is the 9th Annual Put-In-Bay Road Racing Reunion of pre-1973 Vintage Cars, up to 3.0 liter displacement. They close the airport and race on the runways! I plan to be there this year.

Other than that there was a couple motorcycle events that have already come and gone. The Antique Motorcycle Club of America National Meet in Wauseon, OH in July, and the Indian Four Cylinder Club Annual Meet in Tiffin, OH, just a couple weeks ago. Both events have a great assortment of velocipedes to amuse, swap meets and people to watch.

The August meeting at Tekela had record attendance, with first time attendees (to be confirmed) driving all the way from Fostoria in their Z4 to join the group at Tekela's in Perrysburg.

Drop me a line and make yourself known to me, so I can help you get more out of your club membership. ■

Perfect

It's been exactly a year since I broke my ankle and was unable to drive, let alone drive on the track, for weeks after the fact. Now that all is healed, my e46 M3 was put to good use during a nearly perfect weekend with the Buckeye Chapter at Mid-Ohio (for those of you who frequent our home track, you'll understand that "perfect" is a rarely used term because of unusual weather patterns typically hovering over the middle of the state.) Yes, we had rain on Saturday morning, but mostly during the instructor session, leaving the first round of student sessions slippery and slow, but certainly not treacherous.

The odds of having a perfect weekend aren't always due to the weather. Many factors contribute to perfection, like having a good instructor, a well-running car, consistent track conditions, good health and well-being, and lastly, a well-run event – I could go on and on. As you might guess, a ton of planning and a small army of volunteers ensure that perfection is achievable. Our tireless group of volunteers do their best to make sure you have a great time, and as of Saturday night, it was pretty clear that folks were having fun.

And we'd like to thank our sponsors: Bridgestone, BimmerWorld and Forgeline. We hope you took advantage of their generosity, and we certainly encourage you to buy their products/services in the future so they come back next year.

Now back to the story... Part of my responsibilities this weekend were to monitor the C group on track and at the same time give rides to prospective students, students who needed some help understanding the track, or guests of students. I really love this part of the event, because I want to help educate, not just give thrill rides, to anyone who may be interested in joining the fun. My passengers included other instructors not familiar with the track, guys with similar cars who wanted another point of view, and several girlfriends/wives.

If you've read my column you know that

my personal mission is to create a safe yet fun experience for women who wouldn't normally jump into a race car. My hope is that they come back for another ride and eventually come back to drive the track at some point on their own, but I'm happy with big smiles and hugs. Speed, proximity to other cars, confined spaces, and lack of control contribute to their initial nervousness, and I don't blame them – driving 10/10ths in the same car you use to pick the kids up isn't a natural next step for most folks.

"... my personal mission is to create a safe yet fun experience for women who wouldn't normally jump into a race car"

One gal stopped me this weekend to say how happy she was that she had participated in a women's-only run group we hosted years ago, because she felt more comfortable with other women on the track. Trust is definitely one fear factor for novice drivers, especially women, so assuring them that you are A) trained, with years of experience and B) will get off track at any time they feel uncomfortable, is reassuring. The girlfriend of Steve's D student hopped in the car with me for the first time, with no concept of high speed driving. She doesn't watch racing, and has never gone to the track, but once we strapped her in, she started to "get it" we all had a great time. The wife of another student, who had never done a track event himself, got in the car with me because she couldn't understand his motivation. I was a little afraid she might talk herself out at the last minute, but I assured her I would tell her everything I was doing and why, which helped calm her down.

High Performance Driver's Education techniques are not intuitive to a novice, but once you understand the physics of why you must get on the throttle coming out of turn one (to increase traction by balancing the force from the outside tires to the inside tires) or why you start out wide in the Keyhole and Carousel and finish at the apex (because they are both decreasing radius turns) without really moving the steering wheel, then the brain starts to click, and the fear diminishes.

If you had a good time, tell someone, post it on Facebook or Tweet about your experience. If you had a bad time at Mid-Ohio, tell me so we can fix it (yes, we will order more chicken for dinner next time). If you can make the next combined chapter event at NCM (National Corvette Museum) October 27-29, please sign up now. And if you just want a ride, I'll hook you up. It's not just the cars, it's the people that make a perfect weekend, and our people are the best! ■

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