

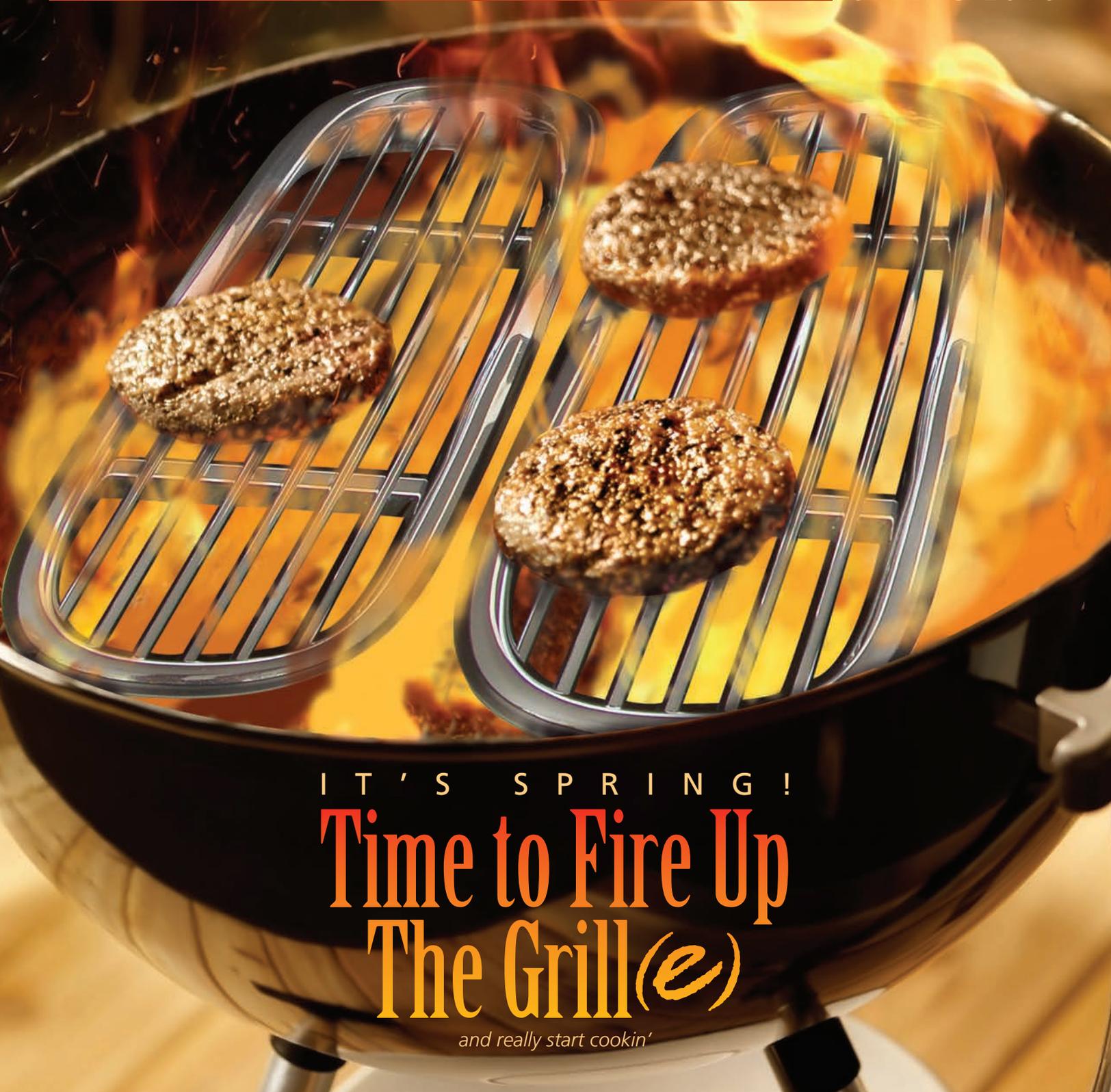
# D R I V I N G

BMW Car Club  
of America  
Buckeye Chapter



News, Views and  
BMW Stuff to Do

SPRING 2016



IT'S SPRING!

# Time to Fire Up The Grill(e)

*and really start cookin'*

It's a new year and with that comes a few changes to our Chapter. Perhaps the most notable is the Area elections of Governors and Vice-Governors. There are changes: Marshall Garrison is now Vice-Governor of the Cincinnati Area and Mike Laci is Vice-Governor of Columbus. Dayton and Toledo Areas remain the same as 2015. I would like to thank Michael Trevor and Charlie Grafton, of Cincinnati and Columbus respectively, for their service as Vice-Governors.

## **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

by **George Saylor**

We will also be taking this opportunity to update the Chapter web site Contacts page, as many of the forwarding links for e-mail do not function properly. Information for 2016 driving events will also be provided. While the current e-mail link for me does not work, my cellphone number is listed and I use text messaging often. If you have a question or comment, just call or send me a text. Our chapter Facebook page (Buckeye Chapter, BMW CCA) is another great way to communicate. Although it is a public page, you do need to join the group (just submit a request) in order to post messages.

Our North Central Regional Vice-President is Tim Beechuk. This is a voting position on the National Board and represents the 13 chapters making up our region. Tim holds quarterly conference calls with the Chapter Presidents to cover important National information and to discuss items of regional significance. This is a great way to exchange ideas and make sure everyone is on "the same page." Several items we discussed recently are:

**Oktoberfest 2016 in Monterey, CA** By the time you receive this newsletter, registration will have recently opened for this event. It's Monterey. It's wonderful. It will have a lot of BMW's. There's nothing more to say!

**Chapter Congress in Dallas, TX** The BMW CCA national office hosts representatives from each chapter at a 2-day event to discuss changes and updates affecting the club. This year the Congress will be held April 30th – May 1st and will be for Chapter DEC (Driving Events Committee) representatives and Club Racing Stewards. A National Board meeting will precede the Congress. Tim Beechuk will represent us at the Board meeting and also at the Congress, as he is also the Board's liaison to the DEC. Note: The DEC represents "all wheels turning" events, not just high performance driver's schools. This includes autocrosses and social events which include an organized drive (e.g., an Autumn Leaf Drive). Basically anything requiring the Chapter to obtain an insurance waiver for a driving event is covered by the DEC.

**National Membership Drive** Want a one-day M School at the BMW Performance Center, an Oktoberfest social package, or a \$200 American Express gift card? Simply participate in the 2016 National Membership Drive and be entered to win. With every membership referral you will receive one entry in the contest. Details are on the BMW CCA web site.

**National Corvette Museum** The track is the important element here. Driving events are on for 2016 and it's a great track.

**Tire Rack Street Survival** Jaynee Beechuk is quite active in the Tire Rack Street Survival program. She is as passionate about saving lives as anyone, and organizes our Buckeye Chapter schools. As testament to her commitment

in time and energy, Jaynee was named to the Circle of Excellence at the 2016 National Street Survival Annual Meeting. Congratulations Jaynee!

Many organizations suffer from declining membership. Some say it is because of the internet providing on-demand information and even socialization. While the internet is an important element of our efforts, BMW CCA membership is the lifeblood of the club and drives our chapters. We are reaching out to generate new members and retain our current members by providing better communication and information. Two ways the BMW CCA implements this is the Chapter Comp Listing and a program to engage BMW dealers with the Club and the local Chapters.

The Chapter Comp Listing is a program providing complimentary issues of the *Roundel* each month to individuals, groups, and businesses, as specified by each local chapter. The number of comps available is determined as a percentage of chapter membership. For 2016 we have submitted a total of ten businesses covering each of our areas, typically BMW dealers and local independent businesses specializing in BMW service. Many who own BMWs may not be aware of the BMW CCA. Having complimentary issues of the *Roundel* available at local BMW businesses can help generate interest and membership in the club.

The BMW CCA is not affiliated with BMW AG or BMW NA as are many clubs (for example, the Harley Owners Group, HOG, is owned and operated by the Harley-Davidson Motor Company). But that does not prohibit us from establishing a more formal business relationship. Along with Area Governors/Vice-Governors, I will be visiting designated BMW dealers in each of our areas to introduce ourselves and the Chapter. We will seek opportunities which enhance the sales and marketing efforts of the dealer while generating membership opportunities for the chapter. We want to expand the existing collaborative efforts with local BMW dealers and encourage new ones. This is a long-term effort on behalf of the Club and the Chapter. If any member would like to provide input, please let me know.

I look forward to the Buckeye Chapter's programs and events for 2016, and I hope you do as well. ■



**A**utonomous cars are a reality, soon to be enhanced with self-driving cars. In 2013 NHTSA defined “Self-driving vehicles are those in which operation of the vehicle occurs without direct driver input to control the steering, acceleration, and braking, and are designed so that the driver is not expected to constantly monitor the roadway while operating in self-driving mode.” Recently Volvo said, “blame us” if any of its self-driving cars crashes when it’s in autonomous mode. The company hopes the assumption of liability takes away one concern of the public and spurs the development and adoption of self-driving cars. Volvo says self-driving cars will be here sooner than many believe.

This year California decreed the driver has to be in position to take control of the car. In other words, semi-autonomous cars were okay, but self-driving cars were not. Enter the Federal Government. At this year’s Detroit auto show, Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Fox said that his department wants to get self-driving cars on the road quickly and will fast-track policies, and even waive regulations, to do it. The potential for roadblocks has faded. In a February 2016 report, Paul Hemmersbaugh, NHTSA’s chief counsel, stated “Computers that control cars of the future can be considered drivers, just like humans, and will interpret ‘driver’ in the context of the self-driving system and not any of the vehicle occupants,”

Let me offer some perspective. I traded a low-mileage 2013 American sedan for a 2008 M3, mainly because I prefer the feel of manual hydraulic powered steering, brakes that have some semblance of modulation, and a throttle that doesn’t cut out if I happen to be using the brake at the same time. My cars are the last of a breed; dinosaurs that are rapidly heading to the same ultimate demise. I am among that disappearing breed that actually likes to drive.

I drove a RWD Tesla Model S shortly after its release. As much as I wanted to hate this all-electric car, I was impressed. Last month a friend let me drive his new AWD Tesla Model 90. He didn’t spring for the P90D with “ludicrous speed” mode. Even as an enthusiast I wondered, given the exceptional performance of his P90, who really needed to spend the extra to go 2.8 seconds zero to 60 mph?

As we headed down a two-lane, 45mph road with moderate traffic in both directions and cars turning and entering from side streets, he told me to activate a switch on the stalk left of the steering wheel. I noticed a blue indicator on the dash that the car was now driving in autopilot (automated) mode with a lane vortex indicator displayed. His next instruction, to remove my hands from the wheel, was totally alien, and initially I could not oblige. On his insistence, after all it was his car, I turned the car over to “Joules,” his aptly named vehicle. The dash indicator displayed “6,” which I was told was the distance to the car ahead, measured in car lengths. Of course, the following distance is settable. On subsequent rides with him Joules performed flawlessly, transporting us unaided to multiple

destinations at most any speed we chose. Yes, Joules knows the speed limit, and will politely inform you that you are exceeding the posted legal limit. The regenerative braking activates as soon as the throttle is disengaged, in autopilot or manual mode. As we exited the highway at 74 mph onto a right-hand sweeping ramp, Joules never slowed until calculating

the distance required for a smooth deceleration to the light ahead. The driver is required to rest a foot on the brake to come to a complete stop. Brake modulation? Overrated.

Recently, Joules received her summoning software, automatically downloaded of course. Joules can be preheated to any desired temperature from a phone or watch interface, but summon mode instructs Joules to automatically open the garage door, back out of the garage and arrive at your location. Of course when you arrive home, Joules will open the door, enter your garage, park itself and shut down.

Of course on my drive, autopilot was disengaged as soon as I was convinced the car barely needed me. The feeling was somewhere between wanting to be part of the experience and a direct assault on my ego. Joules had no problem acquiescing to my childish needs, and responded flawlessly to human commands. As we approached a car travelling somewhere on the north side of the limit, on my command Joules leapt forward, leaving the vehicle a speck in the mirror as we exceeded triple digit speeds. (Just kidding, officer – ed.) The handling around and back into the lane was impeccable. As I slowed I actually had the thought that Joules was waiting patiently for the opportunity to regain control, and some semblance of social responsibility.

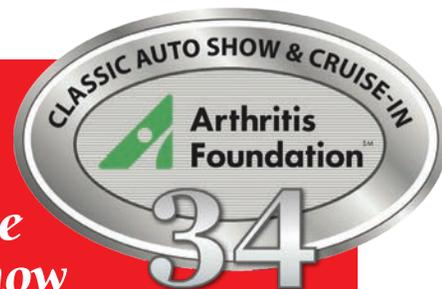
Yes, I am a dinosaur, preferring to drive cars conceived by mechanical engineers instead of software geeks. I am also increasingly alarmed over the phone users, the texters, the ignoring of red lights and no turn on red. Maybe the progress toward self-driving cars is an inevitable and needed change.

In October 2015, BMW announced gesture control, allowing hands-free use of navigation, audio, calls, and as a first step toward hands-free driving. If interested in just how far road-mapping technology and self-driving thinking has matured, go to YouTube and watch the June 2015 TED.org presentation from Google, Chris Urmson: How a driverless car sees the road: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiwVMrTLUWg>.

The hybrid, electric and most other cars being built today are preparing for either autonomous or self-driving mode. Most millennials will undoubtedly embrace the new freedom from driving. If the new cars can do automated and manual mode equally well, maybe this dinosaur can adapt too. *Home, Joules.* ■



## Arthritis Foundation to feature BMW at the 2016 Classic Auto Show



by  
Garrick Forkenbrock



# M

y obsession with BMW began when a 1987 325is became part of our family nearly 28 years ago. Sure we had other marques and models throughout my childhood, and they were always nice, but there was something special about the E30. The lines were clean and purposeful. The motor was smooth and mechanical. The smell of the leather. The sound of the door latches. Those BBS wheels. It had personality.

Over the years I've had a few BMWs of my own, and in the summer of 2012 I entered one in the Arthritis Foundation Classic Auto Show (CAS), a large multi-day event I had first attended the year before as a spectator. The experience could not have been more positive. The CAS staff was organized, helpful, and courteous. The diversity and quality of the cars was fantastic. As a car guy who had been living in central Ohio for nearly 16 years at the time, I could not believe it had taken me so long to discover the show, and I've been participating in it ever since.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Arthritis Foundation, it was established to help the arthritis community by providing life-changing information and resources, access to optimal care, advancements in science and community connections. The Foundation's goal is to help families develop personalized plans for living a full life—and to work towards a cure.

The CAS is one of a number of local fundraising events hosted by the Foundation. Held during early July in Dublin, OH, the CAS raises nearly \$240,000 annually. Each year, this show displays approximately 1100 automobiles, and attracts 5000 spectators on site. In celebration of its 100 year anniversary, BMW will be a featured marque in 2016, along with Mercedes-Benz (who will be celebrating their 90th anniversary) and Shelby.

The CAS includes three days of activities. The "Rolling Legends Tour" begins on morning of Thursday, July 7, and concludes that evening with a cookout. On Friday July 8 there's a cruise-in featuring informal (overall, not class-specific) judging and 6-foot trophies. The formal judged show takes place on Saturday, July 9.

BMW-specific classes returned to Saturday's judged show in 2014. For 2016 there are five sub-classes; three based solely on model year, one for M cars only, and one for later model Minis. Participants can always opt to show their vehicles without being judged.

- Pre-1980 (including Isetta)
- 1980 – 1999 (non M-series)
- 2000 – Present (non M-series)
- M-series (all)
- Mini (2001 – present)

Registration for the 2016 show is will open in January, and a small token of appreciation will be given to the first 800 pre-registered guests. Additional details are available at <http://www.arthritisautoshow.com> or from CAS event director Liz Martin at [emartin@arthritis.org](mailto:emartin@arthritis.org).

On behalf of the Arthritis Foundation, I invite you to participate in the 34th annual CAS. It's for a great cause, and as fellow BMW enthusiast I look forward to seeing your amazing vehicles in attendance. M1 to 1M, Isetta to Mini, street to race... all BMWs are welcome! ■



## One Saturday Morning

By Mark Jeanmougin and Jaynee Beechuk

One Saturday morning I headed to the Street Survival registration desk, inexplicably drawn to a ruckus. Smart people avoid getting involved with another family's drama. Especially before coffee. Double especially on a Saturday morning. Not this girl.

A daughter and her mother are "discussing" the situation in the hallway, within earshot of the registration desk, other students, other parents, the course workers, the Mayor, and most of the Great State of Montana. In short, they were Loud.

The daughter refuses to sign the Minor Waiver. The Registrar's first reaction was "OK. Send her home." A male parent comes over to talk to the young lady. A cordial conversation happens, but the daughter's body language tells me she's not budging. There were soldiers in The Great War who weren't as entrenched as this 16-year-old.

Mom makes a phone call and hands the bedazzled, sparkling, pink phone to the daughter. "Yes, Daddy. OK, Daddy. But, Daddy! Fine, I'll talk to her... \*Click\*" I think that things are going well.

For those of you with the scars that only come from rearing a teen, you know better. The daughter unleashes a tirade not fit for these pages at the mother.

I've been volunteering at Tire Rack Street Survival for many years. I've never seen anything like this. On one hand, Street Survival is about giving people the skills to thrive in uncomfortable situations; this young girl needs help. On the other hand, nothing we covered in the volunteer training covers this situation.

It was time for me to diffuse the situation. I put on my best (pre-coffee, even!) happy face and walked over to the parents and daughter. "Is there something I can help with?" My English teachers collectively roll over in their graves for ending a sentence with a preposition.

As my ears bleed from the high pitched cries of an angered teenage girl, I know it is time for a different plan of attack. I offer to continue the conversation outside, away from the concrete cinder block walls and their painful echoes.

She declines.

I encourage her to continue the conversation, one on one, in private, outside. I then just walk away. She follows.

Outside, I let her rant for a bit. At our schools, we explicitly tell the kids that we won't treat them like kids. We treat them like adults. It was time to engage this young woman as a peer in a difficult time. "What's wrong? No. What's really wrong? What's the issue, here?"

"My Mom's making me come here. You're making me sign a waiver. You're going to make me do crazy things in my car.

"I'm scared. I don't want to die here."

Wow. I've never heard that from a student before. This shaking young woman was terrified.

I had driven hours from home to come volunteer at this out-of-state school, and this woman was convinced she was going to meet her maker. Anon, choose your next words carefully.

My under-caffeinated brain revs as high as it'll go. My instinct is to talk through the exercises, why we have each one; that's too technical, she won't relate. My next thought is to offer a hug; too "touchy-feely". I talked about how she'll be in control. She won't have to do anything that she doesn't want to do. How all these people in yellow shirts are here to ensure she is safe, and learns. We're all there to do everything we can to build a nurturing environment for her.

That helped... a little.

I offered to be her instructor. Ride with her all day. That helped a little more.

I pushed her: "Do the morning exercise. If you don't like it, leave at lunch." She didn't want to waste her parent's money. This I was prepared for! I always start the day out with a crisp \$100 bill; at the end, I offer it to anyone who wants a refund. I tell her if she isn't having fun by lunch, I'll give her the \$100 personally, and her parents will be up \$25. Or, she could keep the \$25 and give her parents the \$75, \*wink\*. That pushed her over the hump. Whew! She agreed.

While I walk her through registration, mom took the car through tech inspection.

Nailed it!

After the classroom instructor did the initial greeting, I met her for the drive down to the straight line acceleration-braking wake up exercise. I did everything I could to keep that girl talking. Anything to make her more comfortable. I talked her through what to expect out of the next exercise. She was nervous; like crustacean at a seafood restaurant nervous. When it was our turn, she didn't exactly stomp on the gas like I asked. In fact, I think we were passed by a sloth. I didn't even know sloths were indigenous to this area. I queued her when to stomp on the brake; hoping for ABS. Nope. We coasted to a gentle stop. There may have been the tiniest upcurl at the corners of her lips; or maybe my coffee was finally kicking in. We successfully completed the first exercise. I was well on the way to building her confidence. I celebrate the small wins!

I wouldn't have believed what happened next if I wasn't there. For the second run, she stands on the gas. That grey sedan leaps forward, automatic transmission whining, the engine hitting revs it didn't know it had. That sliver of confidence fades. The eyes show fear of the unknown. "BRAKE!" \*pause\* "HARDER!" \*pause\* "Harderharderharderharder!"

She didn't get into ABS like I wanted. She did get into some cones. Most importantly, she got into her smile. Her relief at getting into, and most importantly out of, trouble was palpable.

She eagerly went off to class with an open mind and a desire to learn a little more about what she was shoved into today.

This is where I had my first little freak out of the day. We had a small victory, but it was just straight line braking and accelerating. The next exercises would really lay on the difficulty. How would I build this delicate flower throughout the day? I paced considering my options. I thought about the coaches I've had the joy to work with at TRSS's. What did they do that

worked? I thought about my instructors from HPDE's. How did they build my confidence? I thought about the TRSS classroom instructors I've liked. How did they engage the students? I ran through conversations in my head; planning reactions. I prayed.

I over prepared. She did fine. I worked with her, exercise by exercise. I kept her talking. I showed her the path and she drove to higher self confidence. I learned about the Mom and Step-Dad here today; and Dad out on the coast. She hit more cones; the course workers stood them back up. She smiled. She laughed. She was enjoying this! At lunch, I asked if she thought she'd want a refund. She thought she'd stick around for the afternoon. I knew that was an understatement.

If possible, the afternoon was even better. She grew and grew. I learned more about her life growing up. We tackled the slalom. I shared stories of quilts made for overseas soldiers. She even spun a 180 on the wet skidpad; blond hair flying, joyful giggles echoed off the safety glass.

At that moment, I knew she had done it; faced her fears, conquered them, and came out a better woman for it.

Knowing that she didn't get the chance to tech her car, I wanted to run through the basics with her. After a long day, with a long drive home ahead, my patient husband awaited me in the wings. She learned about all the greasy bits under the shiny flap at the front of her car. Before today, I'm not sure she knew that hoods even opened. I showed her how to read the tire pressure sticker on the door jam and then use the tire pressure gauge (Thanks, Michelin!) to check her pressures.

She asked her Mom to stop and get air for the tire on the way home. I think it was the start of the most cordial conversation they've had in months. Appreciating the moment, I started to slip away to my husband. She caught me out of the corner of her eye. Rushed over to thank me with a hug. We said our goodbyes. As I turned to face my husband, the tears rolled down my cheeks.

I know it's cheesy, but after years of schools I really saw, in her and her mother, "It's about more than driving. It's about living!" ■

Grad

WHAT A BLAST!

Eat your heart out, Danica!

I did it!

WINNER!

# Circle of Excellence Volunteer Recognition Program Class of 2015

The Tire Rack Street Survival program has selected its Circle of Excellence members for 2015, and one of our own is an awardee. We are proud to congratulate Jaynee Beechuk as having been selected to this honored group. 2015 is the second year for this special award.

The Circle of Excellence epitomizes the support and effort given by the program's most devoted organizers, workers and organizations. Members of this group show a unique passion and devotion to the Street Survival events that make this a world-class program. They have given a great deal of volunteer time not only to their schools, but also toward assisting other organizations in putting on an event.

All recipients of this award will receive a personalized jacket with the Circle of Excellence emblem; a framed certificate; and recognition in Circle of Excellence promotions.

This award has been funded by an anonymous donation to the BMW CCA Foundation, aimed at recognizing those who do the most for the Tire Rack Street Survival program.

We hope these recipients feel as honored by this award as we do working with them in the education of our teens.

## Volunteers & Instructors of the Year

### BMW Car Club of America / BMW Car Club of Canada

Brett Baker - Sandlapper Chapter  
Jack Joyner - Heart of Dixie  
Rick Largen - Illini Chapter  
Eric Maassen - Motor City Chapter  
Jaynee Beechuk - Buckeye Chapter

### Porsche Club of America

Gary Chapman - Portland Region PCA  
Mario Marrello - Upper Canada Region

### Sports Car Club of America

Ted Theodore - South Carolina Region  
Sandi Kryder - Mahoning Region  
Dean Benz - Reno Region

### National Council of Corvette Clubs

Dave DuBois - Northern Virginia Chapter

### Tire Rack

John Rastetter

### School Host of the Year

South Bend Region BMW CCA

### Hero of the Year

Rich Dunbar - Philly Region SCCA



## Planning your 2016 driving season?

Here are the BMW CCA HPDE events open for 2016 within 350 miles of Columbus. Go to [www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com) to sign up. Northern Ohio and Buckeye Chapters will be at Mid-Ohio in May and August, respectively. Hope to see you there. — Scott Scharadin

Friday, Mar 25 – Saturday, Mar 26, 2016

**BMW CCA - Bluegrass Bimmers Chapter**  
NCM Motorsport Park, Bowling Green, KY

Friday, Apr 1 – Sunday, Apr 3, 2016

**BMW CCA - Tarheel Chapter**  
Virginia International Raceway, Alton, VA

**BMW CCA - National Capital Chapter**

Friday, Apr 8 – Sunday, Apr 10, 2016  
Summit Point Raceway - Jefferson,  
Summit Point, WV

Saturday, Apr 16 – Monday, Apr 18, 2016

**BMW CCA - Delaware Valley Chapter**  
Jefferson Circuit / Summit Point,  
Summit Point, WV

Friday, May 20 – Sunday, May 22, 2016

**BMW CCA - National Capital Chapter**  
Summit Point Raceway - Main,  
Summit Point, WV

Saturday, May 21 – Sunday, May 22, 2016

**BMW CCA - Windy City BMW**  
Autobahn Country Club, Joliet, IL

Friday, May 27 – Sunday, May 29, 2016

**BMW CCA - Northern Ohio Chapter**  
Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington, OH

Friday, Jun 10 – Sunday, Jun 12, 2016

**BMW CCA - Hoosier Chapter**  
Putnam Park Road Course, Mount Meridian, IN

Friday, Jun 17 – Sunday, Jun 19, 2016

**BMW CCA - Tarheel Chapter**  
Virginia International Raceway, Alton, VA

Saturday, Jul 23 – Sunday, Jul 24, 2016

**BMW CCA - New Jersey Chapter**  
Summit Point Raceway - Main,  
Summit Point, WV

Friday, Aug 19 – Sunday, Aug 21, 2016

**BMW CCA - Buckeye Chapter**  
Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington, OH

Friday, Sep 9 – Sunday, Sep 11, 2016

**BMW CCA - National Capital Chapter**  
Summit Point Raceway - Shenandoah,  
Summit Point, WV

Friday, Sep 30 – Sunday, Oct 2, 2016

**BMW CCA - Tarheel Chapter**  
Virginia International Raceway, Alton, VA

Saturday, Oct 8 – Sunday, Oct 9, 2016

**BMW CCA - New Jersey Chapter**  
Summit Point Raceway - Shenandoah,  
Summit Point, WV

Join us for the first party of the driving season as we slip out of the battery tenders, slap on a fresh coat of wax, and hit the fun roads for the 2016



# Spring Kick-off Party

Saturday, May 21, 3 pm until ?  
 At the home of Dohn & Marsha Roush  
 9385 Woodledge Pt., Dayton, Ohio 45458  
 Food and soft drinks provided; BYOB. Don't miss it!

## BMW CCA Buckeye Chapter 2015 Financial Statements

### BALANCE SHEET

<u>ASSETS</u>	Current Year Ending 12/31/15
Cash in bank accounts	119,955.
Inventory	_____
Equipment	_____
Accounts receivable	1,500.
Prepaid expenses/deposits	4,200.
Other	_____
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>125,655.</b>
<u>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</u>	
Accounts payable	_____
Other:	_____
Equity/retained earnings	125,932.
<b>Total Liabilities and equity</b>	<b>125,932.</b>

### INCOME STATEMENT

<u>INCOME</u>	Current Year Ending 12/31/15
Membership dues	16,770.
Rebates from National	_____
Advertising revenue	_____
Driving school fees	62,332.
Street Survival / CCC	0.
Other event fees	471.
Merchandise sales	0.
Interest	128.
Misc/other	2,625.
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>82,327.</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Newsletter costs	3,828.
Postage	9.
Insurance	_____
Driving school expenses	60,191.
Street Survival / CCC expenses	1,088.
Meeting expenses	2,689.
Other event expenses	7,313.
Telephone expenses	_____
Misc/other	1,431.
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>76,553.</b>
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>5,773.</b>



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## CINCINNATI AREA NEWS

Mark Jeanmougin, Cincinnati Area Governor

Hello BMW CCAers! Welcome to 2016. I hope it is at least 1 better than 2015. :)

I'm back as the Governor of the Cincinnati region. This year, I'm lucky to be joined by Marshall Garrison as Vice-Governor. If you don't know Marshall, you're missing out. I encourage members to come out and meet him!

This is a time of the year to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. For those that missed the Holiday Party or the Chili Party, I hope you're able to make them in 2016. Truly great events. They're a wonderful way to meet CCA members that talk about things other than brake pads and apexes. :)

We're looking for members to help plan some 2016 events. 2015 gave birth to some ideas that we didn't get to implement. So, if you'd like to run with one of those, or come up with your own, help us out! Hit me up at markjx@gmail.com. (Personally, I'd like to see a family-oriented Zoo day this summer.)

May 7th is our next Tire Rack Street Survival. The Porsche Club of America is hosting this one, but some of your BMW CCA friends will be there helping out.

As I'm writing this in February, I'm watching the launch of Ferrari's 2016 F1 car and looking forward to cheering on the driver who made his debut in a BMW on US soil, Sebastian Vettel. The high for today is almost 70, so a car wash is in my future. Which is good; it's scheduled to snow on Thursday. Oh well.

My wife has a new hobby. Which means I have a new hobby. She's fostering sick cats to be adopted. I had no idea this was a thing. So, I've got a cat locked in my basement for 30 days because she's contagious with an "intestinal" disease. You can guess what that means. If anyone wants to adopt a cat, the organization has about 50 in various stages of recovery. Many are ready for their "forever home."

Have a great 2016! ■

## COLUMBUS AREA NEWS

Mark Borrer, Columbus Area Governor

Greetings Columbus members. It's almost over, winter that is! It seems like yesterday I accepted the position of Governor for the area. I can still see vividly in my mind the night of elections, George, Charlie, Jim and Mark stating, "It's easy", "You'll be fine" and so forth. In January we held our annual voting for the Columbus area positions and I'm happy to announce that I will continue as Governor. It's still stuck in my head "that it will be easy". Thanks guys! I'm also happy to announce that Mike Laci will fulfill the Vice Governor's position for the next year. As you have read in the Driving Light columns, it was Mike who got me involved in BMW CCA. I look forward to mapping out a plan for our future events with Mike. Maybe in the coming months, Mike will write about his experiences with the BMW brand. Hint, Hint... We need more involvement with our members.

My hope is members will see the opportunities the club has to offer. Over the past year, I have volunteered for the Tire Rack Street Survival event, taken a ride in Jim Heckman's 2002 track car at Mid-Ohio, attended our first annual Hocking Hills Fall Drive (thanks Tom!), created a Twitter account with Mike Laci, and organized the "Pop the Bonnet" before monthly meetings. Events I've missed are the annual Holiday Party and the Chili Party. I think I've gotten my money's worth out of my membership.

I have a few ideas for the coming year for our members. How about some target shooting events? GoKart racing? How about some house parties? Photo shoots with our cars? Tour bus to the Detroit Auto Show? And wouldn't it be great to have a party at a dealership to sit in a brand new M2 or 7 series? Look for emails or survey's from me or Mike for members interest.

As always, we are only as strong as our membership participation. Your ideas are welcome and we would love for you to come out to a monthly meeting and share them. We meet every third Wednesday at the Winking Lizard, located off of Bethel Road at 7:30pm.

(continued)

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If you would like to be on our email distribution list for meeting notices, please contact me at mborror.cols.bmwcca@gmail.com. ■

## DAYTON AREA NEWS

*Nick Schumacher, Dayton Area Governor*

Winter is nearing its end, and it will be time to back the Z4 out of the garage before you know it. Much to the bane of our members who finally decided to buy snow tires this year, the accumulation has been minimal (no snowmen this year), and it has not been too cold. I believe there were some flurries the night of the holiday party in January, but it was still a big hit.

Thank you, Jim and Margie!

Although Old Man Winter was nice to us, we members who have been holding down the fort in Dayton are eager to be reunited with our friends who migrated down south some months ago. Once they trek back up to Buckeye territory, we look forward to a bigger turnout at our monthly meetings. By the way: more attendees at our meetings means more free appetizers! And good company, too!

As we wait in anticipation of clear, blue skies and a bit more sunshine, we have been busy planning for 2016. At our January meeting we held our election, and I am happy to report that I am still the Dayton area governor. From his office in Florida, Mark has graciously accepted the role of vice-governor for another term. The group discussed some options for meeting locations. We will be visiting special venues in April, May, and August this year. Some highly-regarded suggestions include restaurants such as BJ's Brewhouse, pizza places such as LaRosa's, and downtown places like Dayton Beer Company with a food truck present. We will also be meeting at a local BMW dealership at least one month this year. Keep an eye out for updates!

Normally our meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at 7 PM. Our "home base" is Brixx Ice Company, which is a bar and grill across the street from the Dayton Dragons baseball field, and we have a meeting room upstairs. Take a look at the events calendar on the Buckeye Chapter website to stay up-to-date on all things BMW. Details about meetings

and events will be added throughout the year. You can also stay connected by joining the Buckeye Chapter group on Facebook! Are you on the Dayton Area e-mail list? If not, just e-mail Mark or me and ask to be added to the list to receive the latest updates and event reminders. See you at a meeting. ■

## TOLEDO AREA NEWS

*Phil Ross, Toledo Area Governor*

As you may have guessed, yours truly is continuing as the Toledo Area's focal point for BMW stuff as their Governor. Jim Troknya continues as Vice-Governor.

As always, I am here to facilitate things that area members are interested in doing in this area. Feedback is slim, but a loyal core continues to meet monthly at Tekela's Mexican Restaurant in Perrysburg, just South of Levis Commons, on the second Tuesday of every month, at 4:30PM. Attendees have shown a preference for taking advantage of the Happy Hour Half-Price appetizers and adult beverages thru 5:30PM.

How many of you read car magazines other than the award-winning *Roundel*? I've been a long-time subscriber to *Car & Driver*, and the March issue has a cool four-page pamphlet insert that is titled "The New Rules of Car Buying". It is sub-divided into six concise categories – Research, Budget, Negotiate, Trade-In, Finance and Insure. Powerful stuff.

I also subscribe to *Cycle World*. I tend to save all my subscriptions. The problem is that last year I got an offer to get *Motorcyclist* for a paltry \$10/year. Couldn't resist. Justified it by saying that I'd give it to my neighbor, who rides a nice Harley bagger. Then near the end of the year, snail mail offers of similar value arrived for *Automobile*, *Motor Trend*, *Autoweek* and *Road & Track*. *Hemmings Sports & Exotic Cars* hooked me, too. The March issue has a cover page article on 100 years of BMW, a nifty "Z8 Buyers Guide", and an end piece article by our very own Satch Carlson. Now I'm getting email offers for *European Car* and *Truck Trend*. There is too much of a good thing. Deliver me from temptation!

See you at the next meeting! ■

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A little weather tease from a couple of our happy snowbirds, Tim and Jaynee Beechuk.

(Looks suspiciously like Ohio.)

(Other than the palm trees.)

(And uh, the ocean.)

(Oh, and the sun.)

## Momma needs some new shoes

When I first joined the BMW CCA I was, ahem, a bit younger, and more apt to add to my shoe collection than worry about my tire collection. So now in my more “reasonable” years, I’ve changed my mind a little. Now instead of buying cute high heels in all sorts of colors and styles, I’ve invested in a nice collection of black/grey/white Puma flats that can go from desk to track without a blink. Practicality isn’t all bad, however it does show that investing in a product that does the right job well is, well, smarter.

Who’d have think that there were so many types of tires. After seeing the breadth and depth of global tire manufactures at the SEMA show in Las Vegas I can only guess their numbers may rival the shoe manufacturing market. Just think about it, anything with a wheel needs a tire – your tricycle, lawn mower, bicycle, ATV, motorcycle, RV, trailer, car, truck and race car require tires in order to glide smoothly over a variety of surfaces for a variety of reasons during a variety of weather variables. Practicality is imperative, otherwise our connection with the pavement will be foiled, and significant consequences like trips to the hospital, body shop and/or mechanic may be result.

While tire “fashion,” such as a white wall, is no longer in vogue, there are far more important factors to consider when choosing a new tire. For most us, living in the Midwest, we have five basic tire types to think about when rubbering-up\* our cars:

## All-Season Tires

These are tires marked with the M+S (Mud & Snow) symbol and capable of providing year-round traction. The steering response and handling capabilities of All-Season tires will not match the performance of the Summer Performance tires, but the rubber will still perform in temperatures below 40F. All-Season tires will have longer wear, a comfortable ride, and predictable handling

## Summer Performance Tires

A blend of dry- and wet-street traction, with great handling at temperatures above 50F. Examples would be the Michelin Super Sport or the Bridgestone RE-11. Not intended to be driven in snow or on ice, these technologically-advanced ultra-low profile, high-speed tires have very technical tread patterns and softer rubber that will grip the road. This will mean you’ll need a set Winter tires for four months of the year, if you plan to drive your car year round.

## Track Tires

These are for drivers wanting tires for dry conditions on a race track, time attack or autocross competition. There are two types of trackable tires, Streetable and Non-Streetable. Tires like Hoosiers were never intended to be driven on the street, or exposed to temperatures below 40F, and are not DOT approved. These tires have a slick type of tread design and compounds optimized for dry traction to provide incredible acceleration, cornering and braking in dry conditions. Streetable track tire examples are the Toyo 888 or Michelin Sport Cup. These tires are for drivers who want DOT-legal street tires that allow you to drive to, from, and on the racetrack on the same tires.

## Performance Winter Tires

These are the most popular category of snow tires. These tires are for drivers who want decent dry-road handling from their winter tires and are willing to trade some snow and ice traction to get it. These tires can be used where high-speed driving on clear roads can be combined with traction on snow-covered roads. You can opt for a true winter tire, but you also get a lower speed rating and a very noisy tire.

## Run Flats

These tires may come on your new BMW, and can give you more security if you are afraid of getting a flat tire. Run flat sidewalls are so stiff that they will continue to support the load of the car even if deflated. They generally make for a very hard ride, and cannot match the performance of Summer Performance tires. In our household we take these off immediately, buy real tires, and keep them for when we resell the car in several years, or sell them outright.

The other thing to understand is how tires are coded. There is actually a bit of madness to the method...

## Decoding Tire Naming Conventions

P225/60R18 63H M+S

- P - Type of tire (in this case, Passenger)
- 225 - Width of the tire across the tread in millimeters
- 60 - Aspect ratio of the sidewall compared to the width
- R - Radial construction
- 18 - Diameter of the rim in inches
- 63 - Tire’s load rating
- H - Tire’s speed rating
- M+S - Tire is suitable for all-season driving

Whether you Club race, do an occasional DE or drive your BMW to work, the more you know about tires the better...

\* Data supplied by local wheel manufacturer, Forgeline, and my awesome and incredibly funny yet professional husband, Steve. ■

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