

D R I V I N G
L I G H T

BMW Car Club
of America
Buckeye Chapter



News, Views and
BMW Stuff to Do

AUTUMN 2019



It's Autumn... Glow with it!

Welcome to the autumn edition of the *Driving Light!* In short order we will begin to see the foliage change to the colors of fall, and the weather will become cooler and crisper. If you ask me, it sounds like a good time to get out and drive! In this edition you will read about exciting events taking place in the Buckeye Chapter and get some key insights about how to spend your fall season with fellow BMW enthusiasts. In addition to BMW CCA's national events such as Oktoberfest, each of Buckeye's areas holds their own exciting social events and activities, and everyone is welcome to attend! You will learn about what we have been up to this summer as well as future plans to pique your interests.

Needless to say, it has been an action-packed summer. A big accomplishment was the 2019 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. The track, which features 15 turns at 2.4 miles long, has earned its reputation

over fifty years among many of motorsport's legendary competitors. Buckeye visited Mid-Ohio earlier this year for the IMSA race, and it was something to watch! We had a tent set up near the track so that we could see cars come out of turn #12, also dubbed "The Carousel", and then race for the finish line. As fantastic as that was, The Buckeye Chapter HPDE provides a much more unique opportunity to BMW CCA members and those who are curious to discover what their Bimmer (or other car) can do. Our experienced in-car and classroom instructors teach performance driving techniques under the safest conditions possible. It is not a race, but rather a controlled environment where you can learn and expand the limits of yourself and your car, at your own pace. You get to learn the proper "line" and how to better handle your car under braking, at speed, and through corners. Once you've mastered the car control and situational awareness skills needed for track driving, you will be far better prepared for those unnerving moments that inevitably arise on the streets and highways.



Make your permanent mark in the BMW world.

We're celebrating the CCA's 50th birthday with a special exhibition, *PASSION: 50 Years of BMW Cars & Community*. It's the story of the Club...*your story*. What better time to make your permanent mark at the Foundation Museum?

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To make your mark, visit bmwchampions.org, or give us a call at (864) 329-1919.

BMW Car Club
of America
Foundation



I had the opportunity to take my E39 5-series onto the track a few years back, and found that, even in a big “tank” of a car that by no means competes with the likes of an M3, you can still go fast and catch up with other drivers, if you learn how to follow the line. Now that I’ve acquired a 1-series with the M Sport package, I am excited to learn about the capabilities of this car, and how to properly and safely drive it on the track. If you missed out on the Buckeye Chapter HPDE this year, don’t worry - keep your eye on the calendar for next August. Thank you to Bud Dornette and the Driving Events Committee for another job well done!

Our Buckeye area governors have been busy this summer, planning events for you, our invaluable members! Columbus went karting at Buckeye Raceway Electric Indoor Karting. Also held near Columbus was the 37th Annual Arthritis Foundation Classic Auto Show & Cruise-In, which featured over 40 classes and more than 1,000 cars with special displays, nightly concerts, great food, and of course, cold beer. The Tom Hatem Memorial Race was held at the nearby Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course during an HPDE and Club Race sponsored by NASA – Great Lakes Region. In Dayton, we visited the showroom of Voss Village BMW in Centerville. Voss is an excellent BMW center who takes the time to introduce us to the latest models and teach us about BMW’s latest technological innovations. Remember, as a BMW CCA member, some amazing rebates are available to you at your local BMW center! The Cincinnati area met up for a potluck picnic in Sharon Woods this summer, which was a great time for everyone.

All of our areas have monthly socials, and it is the perfect opportunity for you to see some nice cars, eat some good food, and meet fellow Bimmer buffs like you. Among the restaurants we went to this summer were Mellow Mushroom, Hofbräuhaus (German Bier!), Fly Boy’s Deli in Beavercreek, and Troll Pub in downtown Dayton. Like I mentioned earlier, you do not have to live within a certain region in order to attend one areas event. All members are welcome! And if you have a friend who is interested in joining the

BMW CCA, you can bring them along to one of our monthly socials, too.

Another exciting event that was attended by a number of Buckeye members was this year’s Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (PVGP). This festival of races, car shows and motorsport events lasted for 10 days, with 250,000 spectators in attendance. PVGP rolled through Schenley Park for its 37th consecutive year. Each year the PVGP brings in rare and historic cars to highlight at the show, and proceeds benefited the Autism Society of Pittsburgh and Merakey Allegheny Valley School.

Looking for something else to do this fall? Head to the BMW CCA Oktoberfest in Greenville, North Carolina. This will be an unforgettable event, as club members make the journey back “Home” to the Greenville/Spartanburg area from all over the country and the world. There will be exciting social, driving, and exclusive anniversary events taking place at the BMW Performance Center, BMW Plant Spartanburg – where the X3 through the X7 are made – and both the BMW CCA National and Foundation offices. You can enjoy BMW plant tours, hot lap rides, gymkhana, rallies, the Michelin Driving Experience, and more. While you are in town, stop over at the BMW CCA Foundation and check out their new museum exhibition, PASSION: 50 Years of BMW Cars & Community. Here’s to the 50th birthday of the BMW CCA, and 50 years of the BMW enthusiast experience in North America!

Want to get involved in local events? Contact your area governor to find out what’s happening in your neck of the woods near Toledo, Columbus, Dayton, or Cincinnati. If you are not sure which governor to talk to, feel free to reach out to Jaynee Beechuk, your membership chair. You can also see what’s happening across the Buckeye Chapter by joining our Facebook page or visiting our website. If you haven’t already, take a moment to check out our revamped website and view the new content and social media links. You will find recent news, photos, and BMW-related stories from our members. Safe travels. ■



HANGING WITH THE *Cool Cars*



When your bucket list seems to be getting short and you need items to fill it out, jot down a trip to Monterey, California for Car Week. Of course there is some event at Pebble Beach, and a group of people go to The Quail, but the real fun times are the two events put on by our Club: Legends of the Autobahn and the Turn 5 Corral at Laguna Seca, during one of the best race meets of the year, The Festorics.

The weekend starts off on Friday with Legends of the Autobahn at The Pasedera Club, a beautiful golf course next to Laguna Seca, where we take over a couple of the fairways to stage the cars. This is a fun concours and display event for BMW, Mercedes and Audi. You'll see some unique and interesting cars there. There are some nicely taken care of and well-detailed typical road cars in the display area, and you would be happy driving any one of them home. In the judged Concours area are some really beautiful-to-look-at cars you may have only heard about, and it's great to be able to see them in person. It's nice to have the three marques together, to see some different cars other than just BMWs.



Photos and
 Story By
Tim Beechuk



Friday night is the BMW dinner, and this year we were at Taste of Monterey, a nice restaurant on Cannery Row with a spectacular view of the bay. Our featured guests were Alex Schmuck from BMW NA along with John Edwards and Connor De Phillippi, drivers for RLL Racing, the BMW factory team. These were some friendly and approachable guys who were fun to talk with, and they did a little recap of their racing experiences this year.



Saturday and Sunday we moved to Laguna Seca, to host the Turn 5 BMW Corral. It's an ideal viewing area to see the cars from the exit of Turn 3, through Turn 4, and braking for Turn 5.



Good competition in this area. The races at Festorics showcase the best race cars from the 50's through early 2000's, including a race for a number of classic Formula 1 cars that sound awesome. Interestingly, I watched many of these cars race when they were new, and now they are classics...

The highlight of Saturday's Masters race was Bill Auberlen in the BMW LMR leading wire-to-wire, and on the cool down lap stopping alongside the corral, waving to the members as he did a 100-foot-long burn-out; just awesome, and what a nice guy.



All of the sights aren't just at the track and Concours; the cars on the street are worth keeping your eyes open for. Since Bill Wade, Jaynee and I go there to work the events, we spend quite a bit of time running around on the roads. It's a little crazy when McLaren's and Ferrari's become so commonplace that you pass them up looking for the occasional Lancia Stratos or Corvair convertible.

It's really worth the trip, so much to see and do that you'll want to come back again to get to see everything you missed. Some day I'll even get to the Concours at Pebble Beach. ■



By
George Thielen

KINGS OF THE HILL

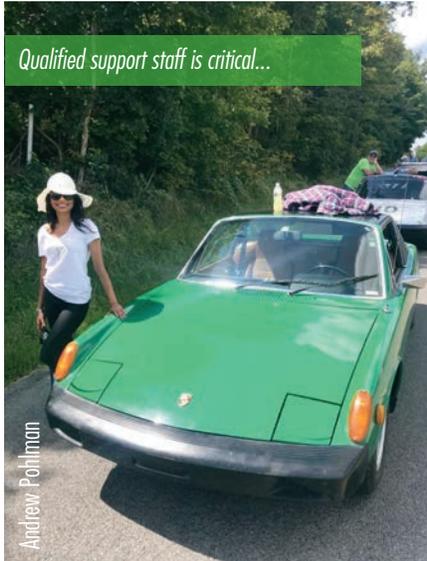
In 1957 Roger Penske brought his new fuel-injected Corvette race car to Bellefontaine, Ohio. Why? Because from 1953 until 1974 the SCCA sanctioned the Bellefontaine Hill Climb as a points event, leading to a national championship. The race was run up what the locals call “Corkscrew Hill”, a county road that runs .6 of a mile up the side of a hill, a topographic anomaly in the middle of farm land shared with the well-known Mad River Mountain ski lodge.

After the 1974 oil crisis, the event was canceled and had faded into relative obscurity. Until this year. Event impresario Kurt Niemeyer is a second-generation, Cincinnati-based vintage car enthusiast and racer, who, along with Dayton-based vintage car enthusiast, and part-time BMW Isetta racer, Barry Prosser, decided to revive the event.

Held during the last weekend of August, it featured not only the hill climb, but an autocross, a rally, a dinner and a car show.

But let’s talk about the Hill Climb. It was limited to vehicles manufactured up to 1974, though a few newer vehicles were allowed for exhibition.

Acura was a sponsor of the event and impressively ran a current generation NSX and TSX that were recent Pike’s Peak participants.

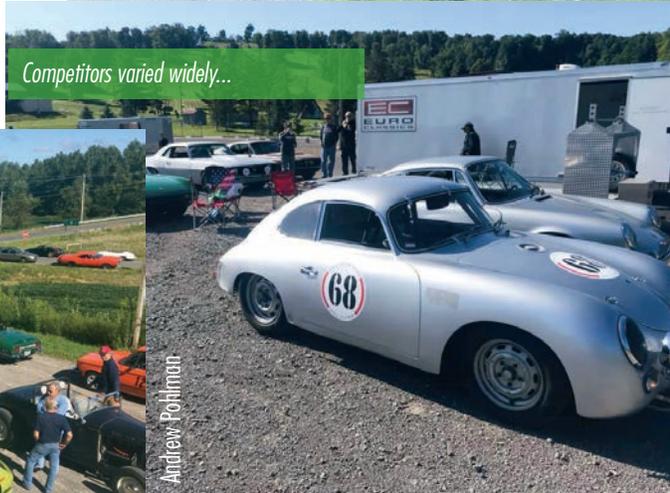


Qualified support staff is critical...

Andrew Pohlman



George disregarding the speed limit...



Competitors varied widely...

Andrew Pohlman



The staging area stayed busy all day...

Mike Edgerton



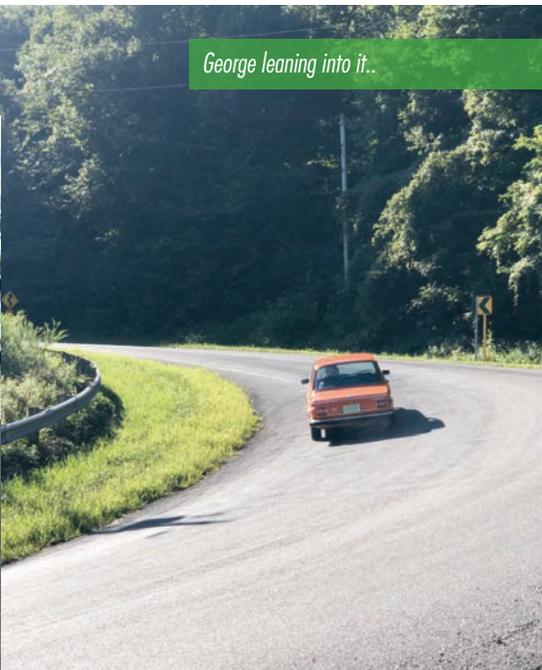
The car show was a big hit as well...

Kevin Eitel



A perfect day for a fast run up the hill...

Rick Huddle



George leaning into it..

As far as vintage BMW representation goes, Rick Huddle of Cincinnati drove his Baikol Blue 1972 2002 tii and I drove my 1974 Inka Orange 2002 up the hill. The vehicles ranged from MGTDs to a Lotus Formula Jr. to Chevy Camaros and Dale Oakes' 1967 Shelby GT 500 barn find. Cars were grouped by their vintage SCCA classes, with muffled cars going in the first heat in the morning, in deference to the residents who actually live on the road. The locals lined the start of the hill to cheer on the competitors, since the course itself is completely wooded and not suitable for spectators. Each competitor got three timed runs up the hill.

Next year, more runs are planned. The course is deceptively simple, with only five turns, but the road is heavily crowned, with absolutely no runoff. The speeds are limited to about 70mph, which sounds tame, but in reality is plenty fast enough, given the nature of the course. Everyone who participated or spectated had a blast, and even the local police tasked with redirecting traffic all day eventually got a chance to run the hill in their patrol vehicles.

With smiles from participants and spectators aged 5 to 85, the 2019 Bellefontaine Hill Climb was not only a sellout, but a community success.

Surely, the 2020 event is already being planned.

I'll be there for sure. Will you?

Keep up with results and photos and the latest developments by checking out **Bellefontaine Hill Climb Revival** on Facebook. ■

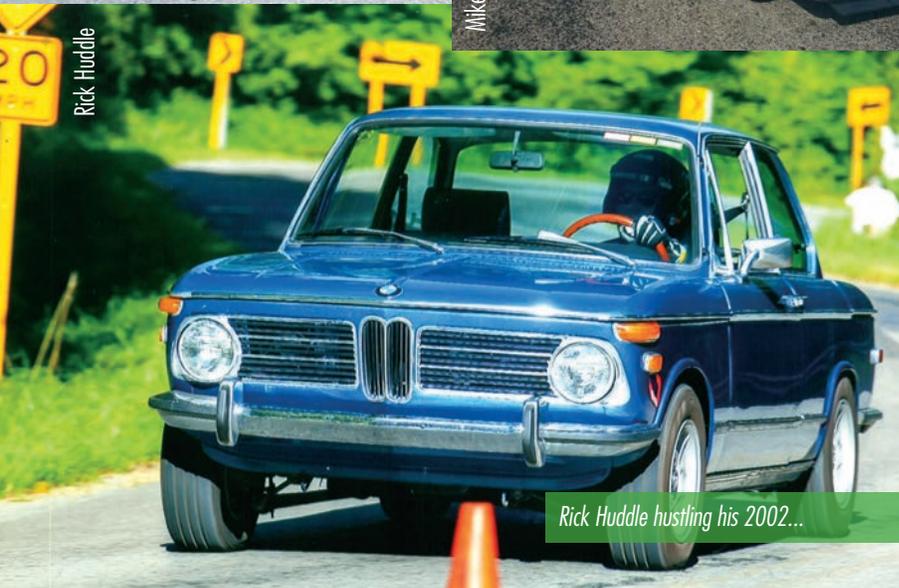


Dale's Shelby attracting police. Surprised?



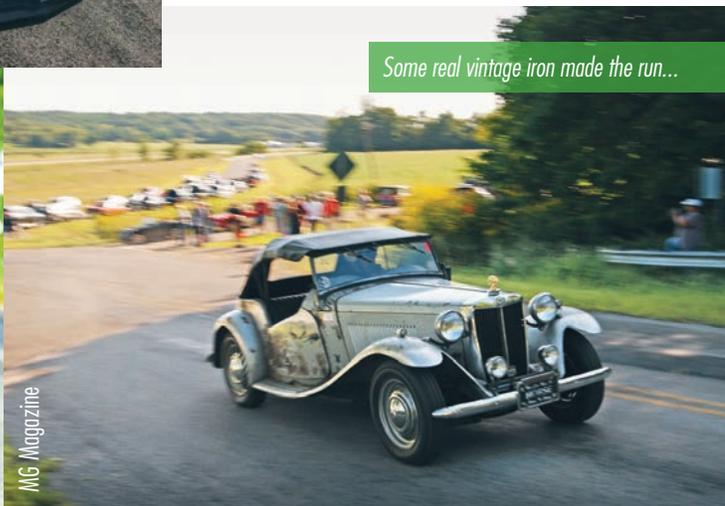
Historic class winner Ilm Schardt's Yenko Stinger...

Mike Edgerton



Rick Huddle

Rick Huddle hustling his 2002...



MG Magazine

Some real vintage iron made the run...



**Marshall
 Garrison**
 Cincinnati
 Area
 Governor

End-of-summer & early fall greetings, folks! I'm not sure whether Gershwin was right or not about how easy summertime livin' is, but, it sure seemed to zip by fast enough! June and the beginning of summer found Cincy Area regulars once again gathering at Mac's Pizza Pub in Fairfax to enjoy some Bimmer-oriented Gemütlichkeit, along with some of Mac's fine beverages and pizza fare. They come through for us with flying colors every time, and it's always appreciated!

In July we were off to the Hofbrauhaus in Newport, what better combination than the best of Bavaria's brews, chow and cars, right? Despite the heat and humidity, quite a few turned out for this casual mid-summer meetup, and it was a good time!

Our regular event for August the last several years has been a pot-luck picnic in Sharon Woods. Considering what's typical around here this time of year, we lucked-out with the weather again, and, unlike last year, no impending monsoon to push the evening to a close. A great turnout, as usual, and we were able to welcome a few new faces to boot! As always, a big shout-out to Jaynee Beechuk for all the setup and organization!

Wrapping up August was the Buckeye Chapter's annual driver's school at Mid-Ohio. A big thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to make this happen, and also big kudos to our local Cincy Area peeps who came out for the driver's school weekend and tried it out for their first time ever, Sue and Dave Kaesemeyer, and Pat Nau!

As for upcoming fall events, our Cincy September meetup is planned for The BMW Store. October and November plans are still in the works. There's still time to register for the BMW CCA's main national event, Oktoberfest – this year actually in October, the 15th-19th, celebrating the club's 50-year anniversary. I will be hanging around the club's and BMW CCA Foundation's headquarters in Greenville, SC. See <https://ofest.bmwcca.org/> for details and registration.

Cincy Area events are posted to our chapter Facebook group page and by email announcement – if you're not getting our Cincy Area emails, and would like to be added to the local email list, email me at cincinnati@buckeyebmwcca.org, and I'll get you added!

Hope to see ya'll at something this fall! ■

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Columbus

area news

Mark Arnold
Columbus
Area
Governor

I hope everyone had a great summer and got some good quality time with their BMW and made it out to a few of the club events. Looking back it's been a busy summer with IMSA event, our Columbus Go Karting, the Buckeye HPDE at Mid-Ohio, and all of our social events. I'm really happy to see all the opportunities to get out and meet other CCA members.

In a continuing effort to keep things fresh, we've been moving the monthly meeting around to a new place almost every month to see if we can get any new members to come. The Dublin area continues to bring a crowd of 20+ people to each of the meetings. The Mellow Mushroom in Dublin is a great spot with a lot of interesting pizza choices and a nice indoor/outdoor private room. The Hofbrauhaus has become our summer tradition and we had a great showing there with plenty of great German food and beer. In August we went to Fado and packed the place with close to 30 members (perhaps Irish food is really appealing to German car owners?). I've had a lot of positive feedback from members saying they enjoy all the new places we are trying, so thanks again to Jessica, as she is the biggest contributor to our monthly locations.

I was able to attend the August High Performance Driving Event (HPDE) and I was really happy to see we had several other Columbus members attending as well. The weather mostly cooperated, and we all saw a good amount of track time and only a little bit of rain. For those of you that are reading this and have never been to an HPDE, I'd highly recommend you try to come out one afternoon and see what it's all about. It's a fantastic group of people that all share a passion for cars and perhaps we can convince you to bring out your own car next time, to see what you and it are capable of.

In June we had a blast at the Go Karting event. We filled two run groups with a total of 15 people, which I'm really happy with. I'm hoping to turn this into a more regular event. I've been talking to other areas about trying to get something that covers the whole chapter and might turn into something a little more competitive, with points, trophies, and some bragging rights. While those details get worked out, I hope to host another Columbus event during the winter months when it's too cold to be at Mid-Ohio. Stay tuned here and on the website for more details.

Looking forward, we are planning our annual Hocking Hills drive. The date is still tentative but should be sometime in October. A new route is in the works and should include a lot of the newly paved roads of Hocking county.

Photos courtesy of Mark Arnold

Yes, it's a karting event, but first you have to check out everyone's ride...



More fire-kicking at a monthly meeting...

As always, we love member suggestions. If you have ideas for future events please reach out to us at columbus@buckeyebmwcca.org. And a huge "thank you" to those of you that have contributed your time and ideas already. We really appreciate it!

Looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming event! ■



Dayton area news top

Alex Watts
Dayton Area
Vice Governor



Left: A scene from the Dayton Concours d'Elegance, featuring Buckeyes Jeff and Elizabeth Lutes' Isetta

Below and bottom: The Dayton Cars & Coffee usually draws 500-700 cars of every description



Welcome to Autumn. There are still plenty of auto-centered events going on in the Dayton Area. The Dayton Concours D'Elegance on September 15 is a great gathering of all marques, and includes a selection of motorcycles as well. The setting at Carillon Park is a perfect place for the vehicles, and offers shade if the day is warm and sunny.

Dayton Cars & Coffee at Austin Landing is a fun way to see lots of interesting cars of all types. They are scheduled for September 14 and 28 and October 12. It is the best free car show around.

In June, our area group visited Voss Village BMW. Manuel Payne, our new contact person at Voss, arranged for us to test drive either the new Z4 30i or the new 3 series 330i. I drove the 4-cylinder roadster and it is really agile and fun. The 2-liter turbo puts out 255hp, which is more than adequate to propel this tightly-built convertible. The Z4 also is available in the M40i version, with M-tuned suspension, bigger brakes and 382hp from its turbo 6-cylinder. You are correct, we did not get to drive that model. Sadly, no manual transmission is available in either Z4. I did not drive the 3-series, but those who did really enjoyed the experience. Voss treated us to dinner from City Barbecue, which was really delicious.

Our July meeting was at Fly Boys Deli, and was well attended even though many of us could not attend due to vacation plans. August will find us back at the Troll Pub on Wayne Avenue. As of this entry, that is still five days in the future, so we hope you came and we all had a great time.

Our September meeting will be back at Voss Village BMW. Remember, those meetings start at 6pm. We have not heard what they have planned, but it will be hard to top the June meeting. It nice to see a dealer take such an interest in our local area group.

There is still good weather and time to drive Ohio back roads and watch the season change from summer to fall. Keep an eye on the Buckeye Chapter Facebook page for the Columbus Area Annual Tour of Hocking Hills. This has become an yearly event that was really enjoyed by Dayton Area members who attended last year.

Hope to see you all at one of the meetings. Safe journeys. ■



Phil Ross
Toledo
Area
Governor

Wow, it seems like it just stopped raining here in NW Ohio in time to plant soybeans, but too late for corn planting. Thus many fields are idle and full of volunteer weeds.

We tried a new venue for the monthly meeting in June (I think) and attracted a long time club member, but first time attendee with seven old cars in his stable. Hence, many stories around the table. Which brings me to the topic of venues for our monthly meetings. I live in Findlay but our meetings are usually in Perrysburg, near Toledo because that's convenient to the usual attendees. We have held meetings in Findlay before and are open to do so again. The membership demographics is weighted to Toledo, but if you know of a great place to meet, I'd love to hear from you. Come stag or drag, young or old.

July took me to Wrangell, Alaska to meet a first cousin of my wife who she had never met before. It was a success and great weather ensued, but I couldn't find any local BMW club meetings to attend.

Come Labor Day I'll be going to the Auburn, Indiana auction, swap meet and downtown car show. Last year I saw a sweet E30 M3 for sale in the outdoor area.

O'Fest is in October this year and I'm registered to attend. There's still time for you to get in and join the party. This is the 50th Anniversary of Oktoberfest and it's right at the nucleus of the BMW manufacturing plant, Club offices and Foundation headquarters. Let me know if you are going, as I'll be there representing the Toledo Area, too. ■

Top: Auburns in Auburn
Below: Counting down to Oktoberfest 2019



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