

BMW Car Club
of America
Michiana Chapter



Bimmerbulletin

the newsletter of the Michiana Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America

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Spring 2016 Issue

BMW's in the mist...



Photo Credit to Carl Zmikjewski



BMW "Nut News"

Harvey Nuttall, President

2015 is in the books and we had a great season of fun social events. We started off the season with our combined Car Control Clinic with the Motor City Chapter. We had perfect spring weather and a great event. If you missed it last year look out for details on the 2016 edition.

We ended the year with a fabulous Holiday Party at the Gilmore Car Museum organized by Pete and Margaret Hamlett. It was a super venue for a really fun event. 2015 was also an election year and we elected two new officers to our Chapter Board. Our new Chapter Vice President is Joshua Beute. Josh is in the Grand Rapids area and is of course an active BMW enthusiast and Autocrosser he owns a really sporty 335i and is working on an e30 restoration project. We also have a new Chapter Treasurer, Jake Gaitan. Jake is also an avid BMW enthusiast and recent winner of our 2015 Chapter Member of the the year Award. Jake attended his first BMW club meeting in February 2015 – our planning meeting. He jumped in with both feet and volunteered to organize our fall color tour with Matthew Westgate. Jake also attended every single event we offered

in 2015 aside from our autocross events. He attended the Car Control Clinic at the Tire Rack, the Spring Dust Off in Grand Rapids, the Spring tour in Okemos, the Deutsche Marques Car show at the Gilmore Museum, organized the fall color tour in Frankenmuth and attended the holiday party in Hickory Corners at the Gilmore. Jake lives in Eaton Rapids near Jackson and married with 2 children.

We want to thank Greg Strader for his contribution to our chapter as Vice President for the past four years. Greg has done an excellent job of handling the chapter event insurance and been a great contributing member at our board meetings and throughout his tenure bringing his calm and balanced approach to handling problems and getting things done. Greg is an active driving school participant and driving school instructor and used to be a very active autocrosser. I'm sure he will get back to having fun with us at the Tire Rack when things slow down a bit with his kids sporting activities on the weekends.

We also want to give a huge thank you to Eve Dolenski for 6 years of dedicated service to the chapter as treasurer. Treasurer is one of the more active board po-



There's one in every family. And in ours, it's the first-ever 2 Series Coupe. It may be BMW's youngest powerhouse to date, but with a hard-hitting inline six-cylinder engine and 320 horses, it's anything but the runt of the litter. Somewhere between 0 to 60, you'll see what we mean—in just 4.8 seconds.*

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sitions and requires filing a tax return for the chapter each year as well as keeping track of chapter inflows and outflows. Eve brought her exceptional engineering skills to her role as treasurer and we had reporting and analysis of chapter cash flow and historic data was used to predict future needs and let's just say Eve had an incredible handle on what was going on with our chapter funds and made sure everything was allocated fairly to its proper use to benefit the members. Our Goal as a chapter is not to amass a large amount of cash in the chapter account but rather to keep enough funds on hand to make sure we can meet obligations in the event of a lack of inflows but at the same time to utilize the funds we get from BMWCCA National, to do things that benefit our members. If you show up at our events, you will find that they are very reasonably priced because we use chapter funds to supplement the expense of most of our events. We have really appreciated Eve's detailed analysis of where and how funds are being used and dedication to ensure that what we do with funds always benefits our chapter members in some way. Eve is committed to making sure there is a smooth handoff to Jake Gaitan and will help and support him as he takes over the treasurer position. Eve will also continue to support our chapter in her new role as the Street Survival coordinator Eve will be attending a training event held by the BMWCCA Foundation in February and we will be working towards holding regular Street survival events for our chapter. Eve is also a driving school instructor and actively participates in driving schools and autocross with her husband Dave.

Our organization relies heavily on all the won-

derful volunteers to make things happen, thank you to those who are currently serving and those who have served before that brought us to where we are today.

Finally, an election was held for Chapter President and I was re-elected for another two years. Our chapter bylaws were amended during 2015 to allow for the current president to be re-elected a third term if there is no one interested or willing to run for the Chapter president position. Since Greg Strader was not in a position to take on the president role because of his kids sporting activities and other commitments I was happy to continue to serve in my current role as president for another term. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last four years as president of the chapter and look forward to continuing to create opportunities for our members to get out in their BMWs and have some fun and meet some new people and socialize or experience the limits of car control at a driving school or autocross event.

To wrap things up I apologize for no news at all about the usual friendly autocross competition between Abby and I. We were so busy in 2015 with building a barn that we were not able to attend any autocross events. So instead an update on the barn project.



Having never built a pole building before I have found myself on many occasions thinking "what have I got myself into here". I made a commitment to do all the work myself and it has been extremely challenging as well as satisfying to see the building come together. The work started in spring with me having to dig 32 holes with a post hole digger, 42 inches deep and 21 inches wide. I had a little help from my son and my daughter and her boyfriend. Then we poured concrete footings and started setting poles in the ground. Working our

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BMW "Autocross News"

Jason Powell, Autocross Chair



Wow, we had another record breaking club autocross season in 2015! Thanks to all who participated and a special shout-out to those that volunteered with setup/teardown. Before I share the 2015 champs and stats, we're excited to announce our 2016 autocross dates: 5-1, 5-14, 6-12, 7-9, 7-24, 8-14, 9-17. If you've never tried autocrossing, or it's been a long time, you owe it to yourself and your BMW to come out and have some fun. We'll pair you up with an instructor who will show you the ropes and make sure your day is fun and stress free. Autocross is an inexpensive, safe way to experience performance driving. The skills you learn and practice here; smooth transitions, enhanced braking, and skid correction, will have an immediate impact on improving the safety and skill of your street driving. If you have questions, please contact autocross@michiana-bmwcca.com or visit our Autocross Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/groups/michianabmwautocross.

Congrats to our 2015 Season Champions!

- Dimitre Dimitrov class AA
- Matthew Huizing class A
- Jason Powell class B
- Cathy Kenny class C
- Michael Kramer class E
- Don Sjolin class EMOD

2015 Autocross Season Stats

We enjoyed another year of record setting attendance despite 4 of 6 events having rain associated with them. We did 6 autocross season points events + 1 autocross test-n-tune (only 11 drivers due to crummy weather) + 1 car control clinic/intro to autocross co-event w/

MotorCity Chapter notables:

Highest single event turnout to date at 45 (7/26/15) ... up from 42 last season.

Highest average season attendance to date at 38.2 ... up from 32.3 last season ... [18% improvement]

Catered BBQ at each event [100% improvement :-)]

Rain had some impact on 4 of the 6 autocross events :-)

Total driver runs recorded in timing software = 1,830 runs

229 total registrations [up 18%] of which:

122 of 229 (53%) were unique drivers [up 2%]

Of 122 unique drivers:

61 of 122 (50%) participated with Michiana Club for the 1st time [down 13%]

Of those 61:

22 of 61 (36%) were newbies to autocrossing [up 7%]

Of 122 unique drivers:

3 did all 6 autocross events

8 did 5 or more events

20 did 4 or more events

29 did 3 or more events

47 did 2 or more events

75 did only 1 event

Of 122 unique drivers...breakdown by class

5 == AA

13 = A

16 = B

10 = C

68 = E

10 = EMOD

2015 was a great season and we're looking forward to making 2016 even better! Hope to see YOU at a future event!

Jason Powell – Autocross Chair

Nut News continued...

Continued from page 2



way up with purlins we finally got to set the trusses with the help of a crane. Next came the roofing and we had a glorified 40x 72 sand pit with a roof. Things seemed to start moving a little quicker once the roof was on, I laid out the tubing for the heated floor system. Then I had a friend from church that does concrete come in and pour the floor. We were finally putting up siding! The siding job is still ongoing as of my writing but we are very close to completion as you will see in the photo. The garage doors are also a work in progress as we had some damaged panels that could not be used so we came to a halt on that until replacement panels arrive. In spite of the lack of completed walls and doors I have been able to get the vehicle hoist installed and the electrical supply to the building up and running. In fact, we got to do our first oil change on Abby's 2000 323i wagon the other day. I'm hoping the barn will be completed by early spring and we will be able to get back to our autocross and track events again. Looking forward to a great 2016 season of fun with my friends from the BMW Club. If you've never attended one of our events please give it a try. You will get hooked!



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BMW "From the Treasurer"

Car Washing Basics - Jake Gaitan



Car washing, I am sure you have been doing it for many years and thought that water in a bucket with some dish soap is how it's done. Why not? It's been done that way for years and you probably remember your Dad washing the car this way on Saturdays. Being a new member to the Michigan BMW Club I have been looking for ways to contribute to the club. So I was excited when Harvey said I could write articles for the newsletter about my hobby to help fellow members keep their Bimmers beaming.

I have been car detailing for almost 10 years and have tried hundreds of products. Some cheap some really expensive, but it's a learning process and I am happy to share some tips and products that I feel really do a good job. It started out as a hobby and now as a nice stress relief from my real job. There is nothing like spending a few minutes in the garage sipping on a cold beer forgetting about the day, while keeping my Bimmer in near showroom condition. Almost every day I get asked how do I keep my car so clean and shiny? Well, it starts off with a proper wash and washing the car on a regular basis. My friends think I am insane washing my cars every week, but if you take care of your car you will always have a nice car. How do I properly wash my car? First, wash your wheel wells, tires and wheels.

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When I left you last I had returned from Mid-Ohio in August and had purchased a replacement cold air intake for the rocket and a couple of go-fast goodies that I had been eye-balling for a while. I'd like to start by saying that my car handles great. It's got a moderate aftermarket suspension kit installed on it and some big wide tires at all 4 corners – but it can always handle a little better right?

My car definitely had some flex in the front end when under high cornering load. I felt like I was giving up some front end bite on turn in and mid-corner as I felt like that was allowing the tires to roll over too much and loose a little grip. BMW made a factory part for convertible e36 chassis cars and the e36 lightweight M3 – the part is commonly referred to as the motorsports cross brace. The part replaces a single bar on the underside of the car that connects both sides of the chassis with a criss-cross brace that looks like an 'X' on acid. The goal of the part was to tie the front end of the car together much better and provide stiffer torsional rigidity. I bought the factory brace as well as a Rogue Engineering strut tower brace. The strut tower brace does essentially the same thing as the cross brace except from the top side of the engine compartment – it stops the top of the shock towers which are heavily loaded under hard cornering by tying the two towers.

I had the cross brace installed at Foreign Car Services while the car was in for some other routine work and I installed the strut tower brace when I was installing my replacement cold air intake. There are lots of strut tower braces out there for the e36 M3, I picked the Rogue Engineering bar because it looked the strongest and like it had the most ability to resist movement. It was extremely easy to install – it took about 15 minutes tops. The fit was perfect with no slop or excess movement. I must say with the Rogue bar and the new cold air intake my under-hood sexiness has gone up quite a bit.

Great you say, you got the parts, got them installed, and they look super spiffy – but how do they work? Was it worth it? To answer that question I headed to Grattan Raceway near Grand Rapids in September with a bunch of fellow Michiana Members – Greg Strader, Bob Colburn, Chris Itterly, and Carl Zmijewski. I definitely felt a difference in the front end and the way the car was handling. It was more confidence inspiring and turn in was more crisp and immediate. Overall the front of the car felt more solid and like it was moving less. It took me a half a day to get used to the new handling characteristics because it different than what I was used to.

After I had time to get comfortable with the new handling

characteristics I started fiddling with the front camber plates on my car and bumped them up from about 2 degrees negative camber to 3.5 degrees negative camber. I had done this previously at other tracks and there wasn't much of a difference – perhaps a little more grip but no huge gains. This time when I maxed out the camber plates I could feel the grip actually decrease as the wheels and tires were not able to flex and roll over so the tire was being held up a little on its edge versus the flat surface of the tire and that reduced my overall cornering grip when I went that far. So the lesson learned was to back it off a little bit to get the maximum grip from the front tires – a point I had not been able to reach without the braces. So was it worth it? I think so – if nothing else my car looks hotter now and you know that's really what counts ;-)

Grattan was its usual completely awesome amount of fun – this is my favorite track and it never seems to disappoint. I wandered the paddock looking at license plates again and the best one of the weekend was "Badilac", it belonged to a Cadillac wagon that looked like it could really hustle. One of my students had an M235i – that was a really nice car and fun to get to ride in one at speed. I also saw one of the new twin turbo M3s there. It's nice to see the new generation M cars actually getting used in the environment they were designed to be so capable in. There was also a sharp looking Audi R8 in attendance. Several of us decided to camp at the track and that turned out to be a great choice – while it got a little cold at night we had our jackets and good sleeping bags and stayed plenty warm. It sure was nice to not have to pack some stuff up each evening, drive to a hotel, drive back in the morning, and unpack the car again. We got to walk around the entire track and that was something I hadn't done at Grattan previously. It was eye opening how downhill the back section of the track is from the "toilet bowl" turn to the back hairpin. When you are driving, that stretch of the track only seems a little downhill in one section – in reality after walking it, the entire section is downhill (with the exception of two small crests which are visible at speed). Standing at the end of the back straight before the hairpin and looking back up at where we had come from, it was apparent just how downhill that section of track was.

For the upcoming year I'm planning on purchasing a set of power pulleys to free up a few more ponies and a few more torques to complement the extra handling capabilities I added at the end of last year. My Hawk HP-Plus pads continue to work well for me, but this year I'm thinking about stepping up to their HT10 or DTC-60 compounds

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"Neverlift Article"

Continued...

during the hotter months. I'll let you guys know how that goes if it happens. Speaking of time at the track in 2016,

here are the events you should consider and where you will likely find fellow Michiana members in attendance:

- Autobahn Country Club May 21-22
- Putnam Park June 11-12
- Mid-Ohio August 20-21
- Grattan September 17-18

Don't let another year go by thinking you'd like to try this track thing out – mark these dates down and come out and join us for some fun. If I had to recommend one school for first timers this year it would be the Grattan school. It's right in our backyard near Grand Rapids, it's a lot of fun, and its one of the less expensive schools – it also fills up, so you might want to register sooner than later. If you've got questions about getting on track this year, get in touch with me – I'd be happy to answer them. If you aren't sure about attending a driving school get in touch with me and we may be able to arrange a ride along at one of these events so you can see first person if it is something you'd like to experience firsthand.

Next time I'll tell you all about searching for and finding my new daily driver. It took me almost a year and I think my wife threatened to give me a black eye if I didn't stop talking about it and just do it!

I'll see you at the track in 2016 – NeverLift!



Grattan is one of the most picturesque tracks I have been to, the first time I pulled in I thought I was at a golf course!



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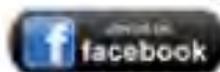
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"Neverlift Photos"

Continued...



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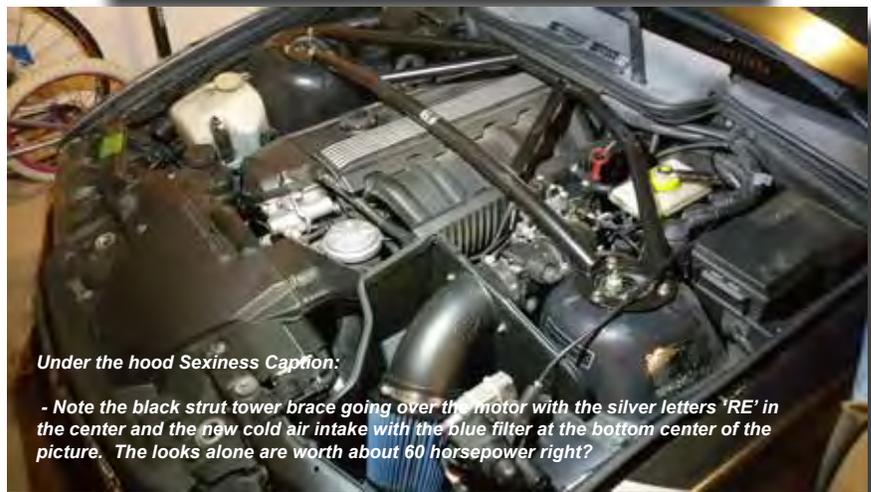
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*Instructors group lined
ready to go out at Grattan!*



Under the hood Sexiness Caption:

- Note the black strut tower brace going over the motor with the silver letters 'RE' in the center and the new cold air intake with the blue filter at the bottom center of the picture. The looks alone are worth about 60 horsepower right?

"Upcoming Events"

Date	Description	Location and Details
April 30	Spring Dust Off	Grand Rapids Motorcar
May 1	Autocross Clinic	Tire Rack South Bend IN
May 21	Board Meeting	Presidents Home
May 21-22	Driving School	Autobahn Chicago
June 11-12	Driving School	Putnam Park Indianapolis
June 12	Autocross	Tire Rack South Bend IN
June 18	Spring Tour	Details will follow
July 9	Autocross	Tire Rack South Bend IN
July 9	Deutsche Marques	Gilmore Museum
July 24	Autocross	Tire Rack South Bend IN
August 14	Autocross	Tire Rack South Bend IN
August 20-21	Driving School	Mid-Ohio Lexington
September 17-18	Driving School	Grattan Grand Rapids
September 17	Autocross	Tire Rack South Bend IN
October 8	Fall Color Tour	Traverse City Details will follow
December 2016	Holiday Party	Studebaker Museum

"Car Detailing Basics"

continued from page 5

If you are using a wheel cleaner and it splashes on the paint or more dirt from your wheels get on to the paint it's no big deal you are going to wash the paint anyways. Use a wheel cleaner that is safe and ph balanced, like Sonax Full Effect Wheel Cleaner, which the best I have come across. Never use the same sponge on your tires and wheels on your paint. Use a sponge that is only for that purpose or you can use wheel brushes. Mother's makes really nice wheel and tire brushes that are readily available at any car parts store.

Next, start with the right soap. Dish soap is really harsh and it strips your paint of any wax or protective coating and leaves the paint dry. You want to look for a car shampoo/soap that is specifically formulated for car washing. There are literally hundreds of different brands so it may be hard to choose just one. In fact, I have three different car wash shampoos, each for a different purpose. For general washing I use Optimum Car Wash. This car shampoo is an excellent choice to wash your car. Optimum cleans your car without removing the removing wax or paint sealant so your Bimmer remains protected. If you need a little more cleaning power, I recommend Chemical Guys Citrus Wash and Gloss. This car shampoo can be diluted to the strength you need to clean your car. I use this shampoo after the winter months to really remove any salt and other containment from winter driving or for my friends who want me to detail their car and may not have been washing regularly.

After you have your car shampoo ready, find some shade. Never wash your car in direct sunlight as the water evaporates fast and leaves hard to remove water spots on the paint. Make sure to use two buckets with grit guards for washing your Bimmer.

One bucket is for shampoo and water and the other bucket is a rinse bucket, just water. When washing your car the sponge you are using is picking up all kinds of dirt and grit from the paint, you will want to rinse the sponge in the rinse bucket so that the shampoo bucket does not get containmenated with the dirt and grit. Start washing your car from the top to the bottom and rinsing the sponge and re-dipping in the shampoo bucket as needed. For really



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“Car Detailing Basics”

continued from page 9



stubborn spots, like sap or baked on bugs, you can use rubbing alcohol 70/30 with a towel and the sap and bugs should remove pretty easily. Rinse off the car with cool water once you are done. I like to do panel by panel when washing. For instance wash the roof, rinse, washing the front quarter, rinse, and so on.

So now your car is all washed and it's time to dry. Drying is the time that most cars get scratched or swirl marks. I am sure that my neighbors think I am off the deep end when I bring out my electric leaf blower and blow dry my car. I have found that my leaf blower removes a lot of water from little crevices like rims and around mirrors. After I blow dry the car, I use a quick detailer to help lubricate the drying towel as I towel dry my Bimmer.

The quick detailer I use is made especially for this purpose and is called Chemical Guys After Wash. It helps make the drying towel glide along the paint and also leaves a nice shine. Use a waffle weave towel to dry your car, Chemical Guys has some of the best drying towels I have used. If you ever drop a towel on the ground, get a new towel, and never use the same towel on your paint as your wheels. Consider getting different sets of towels for wheels and paint.

Wow, look at the clean Bimmer! Now that your Bimmer is shining like the day it came from Germany, what else is there to do? I like to follow up by using some tire gel to make those tires have a deep black gloss. My personal favorites are Wolfgang's Tire Gel or Sonax Tire Gel. The Sonax leaves a high gloss shine and the Wolfgang is a little more matte, so it really depends on taste. Always apply with a sponge for an even coat. After applying tire gel, I let it sit for about 30 minutes and then wipe off any excess with a tire only towel. I found that this reduces sling when you hit the road to show off all of your hard work.

If you have any questions or comments please email me. I will be happy to answer questions regarding process and product choices. The next article we will talk about how to properly prepare your Bimmer's paint for wax and the differences between all the car waxes in the market. Until then, Shine On!



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