



bimmer immer

June 2011

- O'Reilly's/BB Clean-Up Day
- Disappearing Pixels
- BB Driving Event Dates



bimmer immer

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Photo: MHT image • J R Schabowski



2011 Calendar

June 10	Driving School - Black Hawk Farms - South Beloit, IL
June 11	Board Meeting 10 am - followed by the Car Show : Concours BMW - Glendale, WI <i>See page 6 this issue</i>
June 18	Golf Outing at Broadlands - contact: Dave Thuerk
June 25	Car Corral at Road America (outside turn 14) - Rolex/NASCAR Race Weekend
July 25	Track Day Blackhawk Farms Raceway
August 2	Badger Bimmer Car Show - 6-9 pm - Brew City Grill - Mequon, WI
August 8-9	Audi Driving School - Road America
August 11	Board Meeting - 7pm Brew City Grill - Mequon, WI
August 20	Car Corral at the ALMS Race (outside turn 14) - Road America
August 27	Masterpiece Car Club Day, downtown Milwaukee, at the Lakefront
September 8	Board meeting - 7pm Brew City Grill - Mequon, WI
Sept 15-18	Grand Tour around Lake Michigan - All Central Regions Participating
September 30	Advanced & Instructor Day at Road America
October 1-2	OktoberFAST Driving School at Road America
October 22	Board Meeting - 11am Enterprise BMW - Appleton, WI
October TDB	Fall Car Clean-Up - Port Washington, WI
November 10	Board meeting - 7pm Brew City Grill - Mequon, WI
November TDB	Winter Tire Talk with Peter Cunningham or Real Time Racing - Saukville, WI
December 8	Board meeting - 7pm Brew City Grill - Mequon, WI
January 14	Holiday Party

Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. They start promptly at 7:00.

Board meetings are open to all members. The Board encourages member attendance.

**Monthly Board meetings convene at: Brew City Grill • 10250 N. Cedarburg Rd. • Mequon, WI 53092
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From the President

Mike Loos

W

Why am I the president of Badger Bimmers?

Is it because:

A - I have elite upper management skills.

B - I run a shop with extensive knowledge of the workings of BMW's.

C - I am a likeable drivers school instructor.

D - I ran a successful campaign against Mr. Nobody.

E - I am willing to work to help ensure the club maintains the quality functions that have enabled me to make some great friends.

If you guessed "E" you win!

If you guessed anything else, thank you!

Thanks to all the people who donate their time and effort to making the activities the kind of events that foster friendships and shared experiences.

Here is a fun thing on the horizon. Will Hippensteel got tricked into, I mean, volunteered to build a new website. The new website is going to post member profile pages. I am excited about that. I would love to be able to put club member's faces and names together on the web.

Our car clean ups went well. Thanks to Dave Thuerk, Jeff Sonnleiter, and Larry O'Brien. I hope all had a good time.

Happy summer! Drivers education track days at Blackhawk Farms are coming up. June 10th and July 25th. See you there!



bj

Badger Bimmers

Presents Our

9th Annual Car Show at Concours BMW

June 11th, 2011

11:00 am

Awards presented 2pm

Trophies awarded for:

BMW's of the '70's - 80's - 90's - 2k

Plus

The People's Choice Award



Are your Pixels disappearing?

by Dave Tatem

I purchased my 2000 E39 540i M-Sport from an independent dealer in the fall of 2009. One issue that was on the “must resolve” list was a case of disappearing pixels in the instrument cluster (see below). The first two digits of the odometer were missing, and the info screen below was unreadable. The service people assured me it was just a bulb and would be easy to fix (I am convinced they really believed this). It's not.

The next 3 months served to give me a real education on the issue, and the purpose of this article is to pass along important lessons learned, and recommend a solution. The web is full of blogs and sites selling solutions to

this issue, (just Google E39 pixel) so you can take your choice of supplier but there are a few dead ends I took that I can advise against.

The instrument clusters in question were manufactured by VDO in Germany, and are found in BMW 3 series (E36), 5 series (E34 & E39), 7 series (E38), 8 series (E31) and X5 from 1988 to 2003. The failure is due to deterioration of the ribbon cable that connects the instruments you see to the circuit board you don't see. Over time the connections fail, and eventually most if not all of the pixels will disappear.

Solution 1: See if BMW NA would still cover it under warranty.

I contacted BMW NA customer relations by email, and after providing data such as VIN and a copy of my title my appeal was turned over to a resolution committee. They acknowledged it was a defect, but of course the car was almost 10 years old. After a couple personal phone calls they agreed to cover half the cost of the parts, and

set up the appointment with the local BMW dealer of my choice. The installation is pretty complex as they have to download all the data from the old unit, and upload to the new one. It's not a 10 minute job as I had hoped. The estimate was \$530. I needed another solution! To BMW's credit, they were very courteous and helpful, but a little too rich for my budget unless there was no other alternative.



Solution 2: locate a used cluster with good pixels.

I found a good source on line, and had a new/used cluster in hand for \$150 in about 2 weeks. This was a bad idea. I found out the hard way that each cluster is custom matched to a specific car/VIN and there is a chip programmed with all the options on your car etc. So I put my



replacement in, and had no traction control (DSC), the dreaded “service engine soon” light was on, and many of

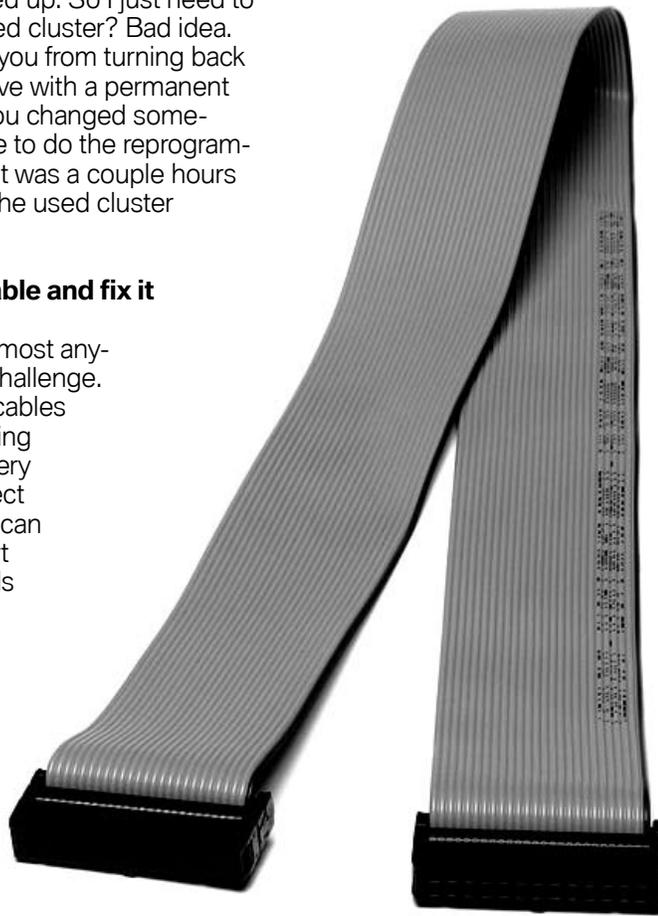
the other indicator lights were mixed up. So I just need to get my dealer to reprogram the used cluster? Bad idea. The cluster is anti-tamper to keep you from turning back the odometer, so you will have to live with a permanent indicator light that tells everyone you changed something. I didn't even get the estimate to do the reprogramming, as I knew from solution 1 that it was a couple hours of labor. Further, chances are that the used cluster would eventually fail as well.

Solution 3: Buy a new ribbon cable and fix it myself.

I pride myself in being able to fix almost anything, and this seemed like a real challenge. I found a source in Europe for the cables (www.pixelfix.net) and went searching for some instructions. I did find a very comprehensive paper on the subject (now there is a YouTube video you can watch) but when it came to the part about pulling off the indicator hands without damaging the electromechanical drivers, I began to get cold feet. The ribbon cable is about \$50 if you want to go this route.

Solution 4: Send my cluster away to a certified repair station.

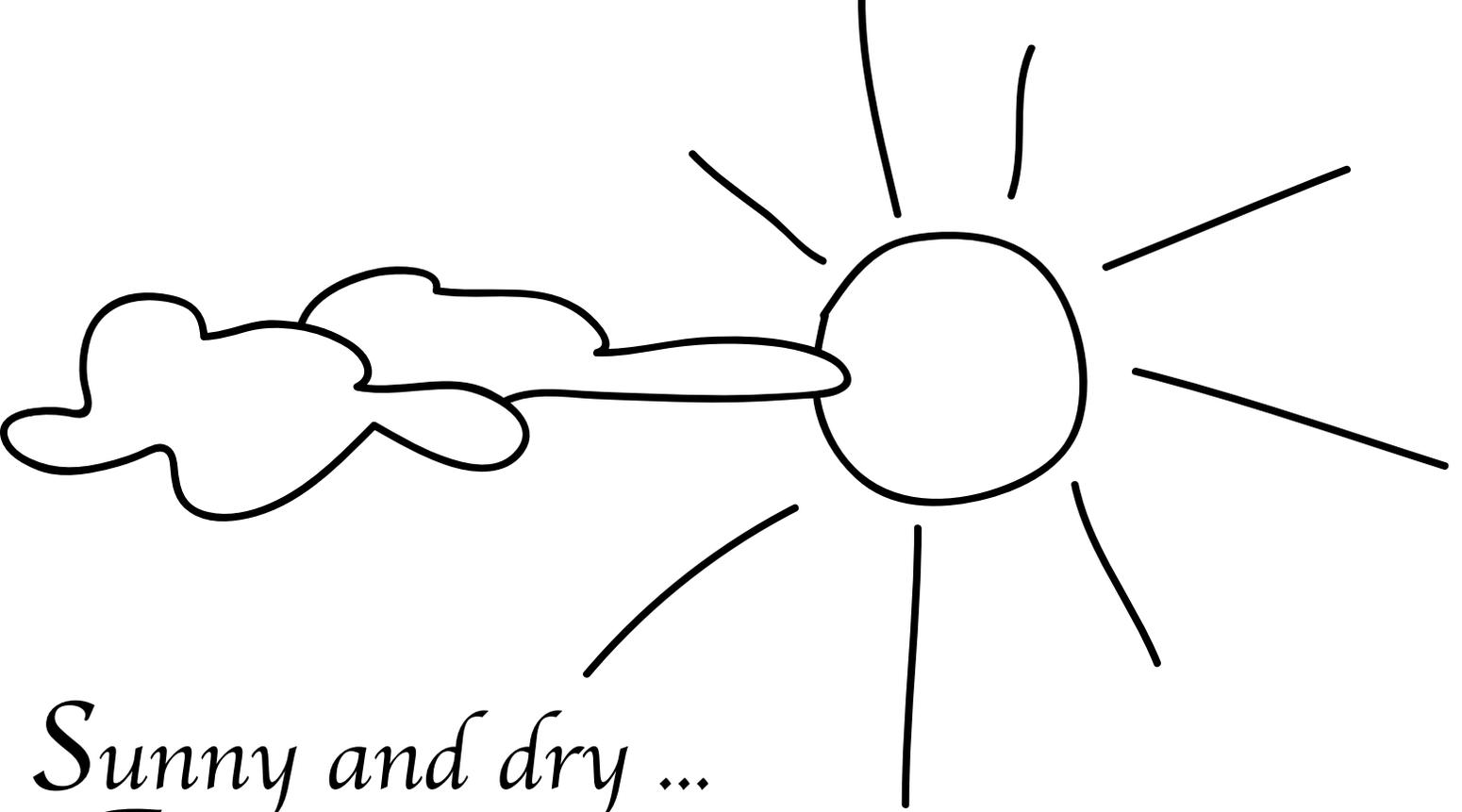
By this time I had a pretty good appreciation for what the repairs would entail so I did a thorough search of the multiple suppliers found through Google. Warranty and recommendations were important, as was finding a domestic source. I settled on VDO Repair - www.vdorepair.com in California. As far as I know they are not officially affiliated



with the VDO Company in Germany, but they have been in this business since the 90's and have an impressive list of recommendations. The cost at the time was \$270 (now \$299) with free return shipping, so I decided to give them a try. I pulled out my cluster using instructions found on their web site in about 30 minutes, and sent it out Priority mail. I had it back in a week, good as new. I had timed the repair to coincide with a vacation so the down time was not an issue. My recommendation is to go the VDO repair route, unless you are really adventurous and want to tackle it yourself. Have fun!

bj





Sunny and dry ... A great day for the Spring Clean Up

by Dave Thuerk

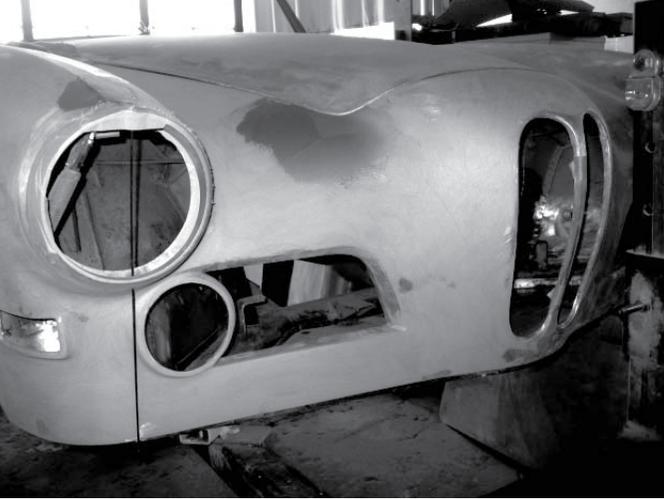
to 400, an E30 with an engine swap upgrade to the E36 M50 325i engine and a very nice Z3 M roadster.

Where did the dent on my trunk deck go? Nick Sanfilippo of ACCI-Dent stopped by shortly after the cars started driving in. I had been waiting

It was a nice spring day with clear skies - no rain. A great day after a spring that was cold and wet. The cars lined up early for washing and shortly after 10 AM the squeaky clean cars started driving into the shop and the polishing activity became intense and continued into the afternoon. There was a lot of well shined paint that rolled out that afternoon. This year's interesting cars included: a very nice 335i with modifications to boost horse power



since fall to have that exceedingly visible dent on my trunk lid removed and I was the first on the dent removal list. Nick was busy throughout the day on numerous cars. As the day was closing down on the Clean Up, Nick was finishing up on a hood dent that occurred that morning on a very nice white M3



convertible. He worked out all the dents that showed up that day and many members left very happy being dent free again and I was one of them.

Additionally, interested members received a tour of Bennett Coachworks which is located above O'Reilly Motor Cars. Bennett performs auto restoration which I personally find immensely interesting. We saw restoration in progress on old Mopars, AMC AMX, Nissan 260Z, an old 308 BMW and a few others I can't recall. It was great to see restoration in progress.

Join us next year!

bi



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2011 Driving Events

Blackhawk

Registration is open for both Blackhawk driving schools. This year the schools are scheduled for Friday, June 10th and Monday, July 25th. The schools this year are sponsored by the Badger Bimmer club and will be governed by BMW CCA driving school guidelines. Check www.badgerbimmers.org for links to the registration pages for these events.

Road America

Registration for OktoberFAST at Road America in Elkhart Lake will open on Wednesday, June 1st. Check www.badgerbimmers.org starting on June 1st for a link to a detailed article about the event and the on-line registration form.

OktoberFAST

This year OktoberFAST will be Friday, September 30th

to Sunday, October 2nd. Friday is for instructors and advanced students and Saturday/Sunday is the drivers' school with run groups for novice students, intermediate students, advanced students and instructors.

Helmets must Snell M or SA 2000 or later. 2011 will be the last year that 2000 specification helmets will be allowed. Starting in 2012 only 2005 and 2010 specification helmets will be allowed.

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GOLF

Outing

Badger Bimmers are going back to Broadlands Golf Club:

The date for our annual golf outing is Saturday, June 18th, once again at Broadlands Golf Club. Golf Digest rates the course at 4 Stars. The club's address is 18 Augusta Way, North Prairie. The first foursome tees off at 9:00AM.

The reservation form below has to be mailed to Dave Thuerk. The cost is \$30, a very affordable fee because the outing is subsidized by Badger Bimmers.

Bring your clubs, meet and greet your fellow BMW enthusiasts, and have a fun day at the links. The event is non-competitive. (But do NOT walk in front of a player lining up a putt!) Every year some participants play only once a year and think a handicap refers to their swing. For them this is just another Driving School. You too can enjoy the Ultimate Drive down the fairway.

Dress code - Men, collared shirts are required. No cut-off shorts allowed.

June 18



2010 Golf Outing Registration Form

- form and payment must be received by June 10th.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Badger Bimmers membership number _____

- **Make check out to Badger Bimmers for \$30 per person.**

Send payment and registration form to :

Dave Thuerk,

1225 Veranda Ct

Brookfield, WI. 53005

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*Discounts and savings are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. Certain discounts apply to specific coverages only. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify.**Original BMW Replacement Parts available except where prohibited by state law. ***Figure based on a February 2009 national sample of auto policyholder savings when comparing their former premium with those of Liberty Mutual's group auto and home program. Individual premiums and savings will vary. Policies are underwritten and provided by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates, principal office at 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. California Department of Insurance license number 0F52987. Minnesota Department of Insurance license number 40015723. ©2009 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. All Rights Reserved.

New Members

Badger Bimmers Welcome New Members

Jeff Becker
Vlad Berchanskiy
Robert Fill
Mark Haberman
Jeff Kane
Jeffrey Kodet
Cherissa Loire
Shoua Lor
Sam Seward
Alan Swatek

99 328i - Milwaukee, WI
03 325Ci - Mequon, WI
96 328i - Racine, WI
Brookfield, WI
99 Z3 - Winnetka, IL
11 M3 Coupe - Manitowoc, WI
08 Mini Cooper S - Salem, WI
98 Subaru Impreza 2.5 - Sheboygan, WI
00 528i - Bayside, WI
04 Mustang SVT - Brown Deer, WI



Other News



BMW Car Corral at Road America for 2011

The Badger Bimmer BMW Car Corral will be open and we invite everyone to park your BMW's in the fenced area outside Corner 14 for the following events. The club's grills will be fired up and available for use, so BYOM, bring your own meat to cook out if you like and picnic with us at the races. Further details to follow, keep informed on the website.

- **June 23-25 Bucyrus 200 NASCAR Nationwide Series (Saturday)**
- **GRAND-AM Rolex Sports Car Series and Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge**
- **July 14-17 Kohler International Vintage Car Challenge Racing with Brian Redman (Saturday & Sunday)**

Classified

CARS

1973 BMW Bavaria - Malaga with Tan Vinyl Interior, Oklahoma Car with little rust, Unknown Miles, 4 speed, runs and drives, many new parts, includes numerous parts from parts car (less engine, transmission, and interior), needs full restoration. (Parts for a 5 speed fuel injection conversion are available as well for an additional \$1200) \$2500 OBO Contact Kirt @ kam1271@hotmail.com for more information. Car is located in the Madison Area

1985 BMW 635CSi - 5-speed, black/black, 128,000 miles, stellar original condition. Never seen winter, no rust, paint all original deep shine. Interior near perfect, leather in incredible condition. Runs strong, pulls hard and has been well cared for. Regular valve adjustments and oil changes. Clutch solid and shifts smoothly. Front end tight and steering solid. No issues – everything works. Jim Conforti chip, Bilstein struts with Eibach springs. Rondel Style 0058 16x7.5 professionally refinished wheels with new Yokohama S-Drives. Have the entire set of 5 original TRX. Cat pipe upgraded to MagnaFlow stainless free flowing cat. Bosal exhaust. CD player. Headlights - Hella E-codes. Front air dam repainted this summer. Have actual log book of ALL maintenance done on car for past 11 years (along with receipts for parts and services). Always used BMW OEM parts when possible. Stunning condition. \$14,000. Email [markjmain\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:markjmain(at)gmail.com). Photos available.

1973 BMW 2002 - Malaga, tan interior, mileage unknown. Runs and drives, Weber carb, crane ignition, e21 sport seats. Floors solid, needs paint and body. Car came from Colorado. Extra parts available. \$1,500.00 - contact Bill 262 268-1006 wnicoud@wi.rr.com

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Parting Out 1988 325iX - Lots of good driveline parts. Motor suffered timing belt break. Text to 414.803.3385 or email: mhtjef@gmail.com

Running out of space to store all your cars? Three locations have 10' x 20' units available: Cudahy, Menomonee Falls or Random Lake. Call 414-352-3261 and mention this ad for your club discount.

BMW CAR CLUB OF AMERICA FOUNDATION SEEKS EARLY bimmer immers

The BMW CCA Foundation is trying to build a complete archive of newsletters from all chapters in the country. Does anyone out there have any issues from 1999 and before? If you do and are willing to allow the Club to photocopy some, please contact Darcy Yench at pres@badgerbimmers.com.

Non-commercial ads are free to Club members, and are subject to space and editing. Ads run for a minimum of three insertions and then are discontinued unless the editor is notified to continue running the ad. Please notify us as soon as the item is sold. - ED.

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