bimmerimmer

May 2013

Drive Like a 'Rain Master'

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- Bimmers' Summer Picnic • Micro Hybrids • PCA-BMW Challenge Autocross

BMW Car Club of America
Badger Bimmers

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Cover Photo: Turn 8 at *Road America*
Photo by Mike Clemens

2013 Calendar

May 9	Board Meeting – 6:30 pm, Concours Motors, Board Room
May 11	Milwaukee Spring Car Clean-up at International Auto
June 1	Car Show hosted by Concours BMW in Glendale, WI
June 3	DE Day at Blackhawk Farms Raceway
June 13	Board Meeting – 6:30 pm, Concours Motors, Board Room
June 13-16	SCCA June Sprints at *Road America*
July 14	PCA/BMW Challenge Autocross at State Fair Park
July 15	DE Day at Blackhawk Farms Raceway
August 6	Board Meeting and Car Show at Highland House in Mequon, WI
August 10-11	ALMS and Grand-Am Badger Bimmers' Car Corral at *Road America*
August 19-24	BMW CCA OktoberFest at Laguna Seca, CA.
August 24	Club Day at Masterpiece *Concours de Elegance* weekend
September 12	Board Meeting – 6:30 pm, Concours Motors, Board Room
September 27	Advanced Driver & Instructor Day at *Road America*
September 28-29	*Oktober**FAST*** Driver School at *Road America*
October 12	Board Meeting at *Zero-to-Sixty Garage*, Sherwood, WI (Check our Web site for exact location and further details)

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 Erik Ivarson at *eicarguy@wi.rr.com*.

Board meetings *generally* are held on the second Thursday of each month. They start promptly at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are open to all members. The Board encourages members to attend.

Beginning April 12, 2012, monthly Board meetings will convene at 6:30 pm in the Board Room at Concours Motors • 5990 N. Green Bay Ave. • Glendale, WI.

Please consult the monthly Calendar (above) for exact locations and dates.

News of Note...

Seeking Point Person for Charitable Efforts

We are looking for a forward-thinking member to assist our Club in our philanthropic work, and help develop new charity ideas. In the past, we have donated money, food, and books to various charities. We have been especially committed to ***Feeding America***. It is time to ask you, the membership, for more input on where our Chapter puts our good will.

So, you ask, why does Badger Bimmers donate? Because we Bimmers are especially fortunate, enjoying a great quality of life and an appreciation for some of the best engineered and best driving machines in the world. We have a passion for life. Passion calls us to do more for others in need.

Please e-mail me if you are interested in this Point Person job. Also e-mail me with philanthropic ideas and/or organizations to consider for our donations — **nancypriem@hotmail.com**. bi

Blackhawk Farms DE Registration Open

We have scheduled three high-performance driver's education events for 2013. Two events will be held at **Blackhawk Farms** near Rockton, IL. These two events are scheduled for Monday, June 3 and Monday, July 15. Registration for the Blackhawk events is now open at **motorsportreg.com**.

OktoberFAST for 2013 is scheduled for Friday, September 27 through Sunday, September 29 at ***Road America***. Registration for ***OktoberFAST*** will open at **motorsportreg.com** on June 1, 2013. bi

Spring Clean-up Milwaukee May 11

We are planning the Milwaukee Spring Clean-up for Saturday May 11.

This year, we will be going to International Auto. Come join us for some clean fun and get the car shined up for the great Wisconsin summer driving season. Hope to see you there May 11th. bi

~Dave Thuerk

New Member Name Tags Available

Again we want to offer our members new name tags that include our new Chapter logo!

We would like our members to be able to show their Club support and enthusiasm with a personalized Chapter name tag. Wearing these at Club events allows much easier name recognition for other members (and they're so much nicer than sticky paper name tags).

These tags also come with a magnetic backing that will not damage your clothes. If interested, contact Cindy Ansay at (262) 388-3740.

The cost is $7.00 per tag. Please make checks payable to Badger Bimmers and mail to Mike Clemens, P.O. Box 345, Mequon, WI 53092. bi

Attention: *Ladies of Any Age!*

Come have breakfast and bond with your Bimmer!

On Saturday, August 10, **European Auto House**, located at 11020 Buntrock Ave. in Mequon, will host a **Ladies-only Tech Session** for our Club.

The tech session will begin at 10:00 a.m.

This event will be a wonderful opportunity to talk one-on-one with **Nathaniel Sumner**, a factory-trained BMW technician and owner of European Auto House. A grouping of different models of BMWs will be on hand to help us go through the basics of car care. He will also cover more specific details about your own particular vehicles. So bring your questions.

Please RSVP to **Cindy Ansay** at (262) 388-3740. Kindly leave your name, and the year and series of the vehicle that you will be bringing to the event.

From the President

Erik Ivarson

Getting Up to Speed... in an e46

I'd been checking Craigslist since moving back to the Badgerland last July, so when an original owner 2004 325xiT 5-speed was listed close by, I had to check it out. It was pretty used, but not used up. It drove straight, but the brakes felt funny. After checking the OBD-II for latent codes, I made an offer and she said no.

But a week later, I got a call. It seems the owner was tired of showing it just to get a few more bucks. Now it was mine and I poured over the records. Unfortunately, service was only done when necessary. The service booklet was empty. I thought the service writers took pride in explaining their work and stamping the boxes. Ha! Welcome to BMW's "We cover all factory-recommended maintenance at no charge for the first four years or 50,000 miles." Don't they cover rubber stamps?

Since the service book was never touched, the previous owner had no idea what to do (or when!) under warranty or after the warranty ran out. There was a dealer receipt for a brake fluid flush in 2007 at 66k miles and no other, not even at brake pad and rotor changes! I pumped up the one-man bleeder and got the mud out. I'm still dismayed. The not-to-be-named dealer waited an extra year for the bleed. Maybe they don't know how any more.

(Have you seen the new 4-series article in the *Roundel*? They have changed the brake calipers from cast iron to aluminum. If you think you can get away without bleeding the brakes on time, think again. Brake fluid absorbs moisture and water in brake fluid sinks to the lowest point.)

Back to the e46, it was a nice surprise to change the discolored outside mirror glass without needing any tools. The cabin filter is also changed without tools. So easy! The next issues are stabilizer links and drive shaft flex disk and center support inspection. While I'm under the car, I'll bleed the clutch and change transmission and differential fluids. I bet they're plenty tired — maybe even original. The clutch delay valve might get removed in the process. I never felt a clutch quite like this one — but maybe it's the fluid. When's the last time yours was changed? **bi**

How to Become a 'Rain Master'

~Part 1

by Shields Bergstrom

Hello, Badger Bimmers! I hope all of you are having a great start to 2013 and are excited to get back on the race-track. I know I am.

This past year I was fortunate enough, through good timing, luck, and some badass driving, to win another championship. Although it was not in a BMW (which I hope you won't hold against me), it was unique in being the first time in my career I managed to race through a season without ever encountering rain. Amazingly, throughout all of 2012, with all the testing, racing, driver coaching, and DE events I attended, it never rained. It wasn't until November of last year, in an Atlantic car on the west coast, that I got to drive on a wet track. I'll confess to you, I felt a bit "caught out."

It's no secret that when you don't practice, you lose skill. Whether it's business, sports or driving, if you don't keep up on your training, and practice the skills necessary to be the best, you begin to atrophy. That's absolutely true of driving in the wet. In the Atlantic car, I was forced to really think about what I was doing, how to do it, and how to adjust the car and myself to the conditions.

After a miserable first practice session, I parked the car in the paddock and relayed all the essential info to my engineer. As I was sitting in the trailer being cold, soggy and a little bummed out, I had a moment of clarity. Driving in the wet really comes down to three essential things a driver needs to know and do. No more, no less, just three things. After this minor epiphany, I felt reinvigorated, more motivated and eager to take on the challenge of wet-weather racing. I focused on the three essentials of rain driving, put the car on pole and went on to win the race.

Now, I would like to share with you those three essential elements of driving in the wet. Hopefully you'll practice them, use them, and turn yourself into a rain-master.

Relax

Most of us tense up while driving in the rain. This is the exact opposite of what you want. The more relaxed you are, the smoother your driving will be and the faster you will get around the track. The problem with this is, it's not easy to relax. We've all been told to "relax" by someone and that usually ends with us getting even more tense and anxious.

Relaxation takes practice. It doesn't just happen when you're in a stressful situation and it certainly doesn't happen if someone is badgering you to "relax." Usually our heart rate climbs, we get sweaty palms and can't help but think about what it would be like explaining to our significant other why the track car now fits into our back pocket. These are natural reactions, but it's important to recognize that you have the ability to control those feelings.

Practice deep breathing — take a slow deep breath, hold for a couple seconds and exhale slowly. Repeat this until you no longer have to think about how to breathe deeply. Change your mental focus. If I told you NOT to think about a purple poodle, chances are you'd still envision a purple poodle. To get unwanted imagery out of your head, you need to replace it with something different. Try to envision that last time you were really relaxed and comfortable. Maybe it was on your last vacation,

last weekend while you were watching the game, or a quiet night with your partner. Keep that image in your head and you'll find that the more you focus on it, the more relaxed you'll become.

All relaxation techniques take practice and time to perfect. I like to use deep breathing, mental imagery and quietude as a way to help me prepare for relaxed driving. Find out what works best for you and practice relaxing.

The Mythical Wet Line

There is no such thing as a "wet line" around a racetrack.

When we are learning to drive on a race circuit, we are always told about the "ideal" line or the "fastest" way around the track. As we discussed in the "Back to Basics" article [*bimmer immer*, April and May 2012], the line is never static — it's always changing based on conditions, car set-up, driving technique, etc. This is even truer on a wet racetrack. There is NO static "wet line" around any circuit. What may be a good line around the track during a sprinkle, will probably not work in a downpour. And the line that works in a downpour will not be ideal when the track is drying. The bottom line is this: The ideal wet line around a racetrack is wherever the water isn't. OR, the wet line around a racetrack is wherever the grippiest pavement is on any given lap. This can, of course, change from lap to lap depending on how much or how little it's raining.

The goal of every driver who drives or races in the rain is to find where the grip is. This is almost always where most of the water isn't. When you drive on the street in the rain, you know enough to stay out of the puddles, out of the standing water and out of the rutted sections of the streets and freeways because there's little or no grip there. The same is true on the racetrack. **bi**

[Continued in the next issue of *bimmer immer*.]

Bergstrom Launches Film Project

It is with great pride and pleasure that I can announce the start of production of a new documentary film called ***Why We Drive***, based in Milwaukee and featuring *Road America*. This will be OUR story — our passion for the car and track driving.

What is it about the automobile that allows us to form an emotional attachment with it? What motivates this attachment to a machine and pursuit of the art of driving as a hobby, sport and profession? Our film looks at these questions and others in a highly dynamic and visually extravagant way to uncover the motivations and truths of drivers and their love affair with driving.

The film follows a track-day driver from his garage to *Road America* and back, interspersed with captivating interviews from automotive designers, engineers, track-day drivers and professional race drivers. On-track scenes will be shot using new and innovative camera rigs to capture the sensations and emotions of driving on a circuit.

We would like everyone to take part in telling this story. You can join in the discussion, contribute your story and tell us why you drive by visiting the **Facebook** site for the film or by e-mailing us directly. You can also participate by visiting **Kickstarter.com** and making a contribution, in any amount, catch a glimpse of the film, and score some swag.

We are all looking forward to building this project and revealing the motivations behind what we love to do. Thanks to all of you for your help and support and look for ***Why We Drive*** at the **2014 Milwaukee Film Festival**.

~ Shields Bergstrom

shieldsracing@gmail.com

ALMS/Grand-Am BMW Corral @ RA

August 10 & 11

Report by Darcy Yench

Join the BMW CCA on August 10-11, 2013 in our **5th Annual ALMS/Grand-Am BMW Corral** at ***Road America***.

The Badger Bimmers Chapter, will provide private BMW parking, a hospitality tent with TV showing the race feed, private bleachers, paddock talks and hot pit tours during the race with this year's Z4 Race Team. Paddock meetings with ***BimmerWorld*** and other BMW teams are also being arranged.

Donations of $10/car per day will be going to our charity, **Feeding America of WI**. Box lunches each day will be provided but must be arranged for ahead of time. Contact **Darcy Yench**, **dryench@att.net**, to reserve your spot in the corral and to supply your member number for the lunch count. Only one guest per registered member.

You can purchase your track-day tickets online directly from *Road America*. Go to **www.roadamerica.com/Races/Race Information.asp?id=245**.

'Club Saturday at the M'
Coolness by the Lake

Saturday, August 24

Report by Darcy Yench

Car and Motorcycle Club Day at the Masterpiece *Concours d'Elegance* weekend

Exciting changes are in the works for the Club Day associated with the **Milwaukee Masterpiece**. If you haven't been to the Masterpiece before and you are a car person, you've been missing out. Sunday is a ***Concours d'Elegance*** to rival the best, like Hilton Head or Pebble Beach, without the hassle of travel. Saturday, however, is devoted to local car enthusiasts.

What's new besides the name?

This year there is an opportunity to meet first at the Harley Museum and Parade over to Veterans Park to kick off *Club Day at the M*. You may opt to start the day right at Veterans Park instead. Plans are in the works for each club group (PCA, BMW, Jaguar, Mustang, motorcycles, etc.) to select their own best representative for the day. These vehicles will then be voted upon by all the attendees to select one car to be elevated to Sunday's event. Music is being considered for entertainment. Food will be available for purchase at both the museum and on the park grounds. Online registration is in the works and will utilize **Motorsportreg.com**; the expected live date is April 1st. Stay tuned for further details.

Multiple marques are celebrating important anniversaries this year, too!

Porsche 911 – 50 years
Ferrari Club of America – 50 years
Corvette – 60 years
Aston Martin – 100 years
Harley Davidson – 110 years

Rumor has it the Corvette Club is planning to have a car from each year. The 50th Reunion of the Ferrari Club is at *Road America* in early August, so some of those cars are likely to remain for the Masterpiece as well. Early reports suggest as many as 50 Jaguars may attend for a *Concours* event within Club Day as well. We would love to have a good presence from every club. So start planning your detailing schedule now and put August 24th on your calendar. The only question is, *Which car do I bring?*

Pre-registration is required. Registration closes August 16th.

$21.50 per vehicle =	Club Saturday at The M display only
$37 per vehicle =	Parade AND Club Saturday at The M display

Your registration fee awards you two (2) exhibitor passes good for the entire Milwaukee Masterpiece Weekend and continental breakfast for two (2) on Saturday. Participation at Club Day also gives you entrance to the Sunday judged show at no additional cost!

This URL will link directly to the event/registration page:

http://www.motorsportreg.com/index.cfm/event/event.advert/uidEvent/BC31AD58-AA8A-47CB-B746B08DC0197F2A#.UXhm0fJDT0f

Email me at **dryench@att.net** if you have any questions. Hope to see YOU and your club members at the lakefront!

A Midsummer's Day Dream... Badger Bimmers' Summer Picnic

Report and Photographs by Bernie Kressner

Are you anxious to start enjoying the newly arriving summer with a cheerful car adventure? Are you looking forward to taking your "Ultimate Driving Machine" to an ultimate destination? Would you like to share a great time with new friends at a lake park and have some ***free*** food?

Well, have we got a deal for you!

While all *Bimmerphiles* are earnestly welcome, we would especially like to invite our upstate, north-country members as our guests for a Summer Picnic on Saturday, June 29th at Waterworks Park, in centrally located* Beaver Dam, WI. The Park has great facilities: a large pavilion; a nicely equipped playground for the kids; a boat launch for whatever "vessel" you may wish to bring (if any); large open areas for walking, Frisbees, or just goofing off; a volleyball court; a large, safe parking lot; and plenty of great esthetics. There is even an island for canoe or kayak exploration!

Free Food

We will be catering your visit with a complete two-entree noon-time lunch from a noted local restaurant. We will even be having a famous surprise luncheon speaker whom we shall keep secret for now! Ultimately we just want to meet you and get a chance to chat. So, plan on arriving about 11:00 a.m. We will be concluding about 5:00 p.m. And, best of all, it's all on us!

Register for the picnic at **www.motorsportreg.com.** Then please "RSVP" to me by the end of May at the latest. I need to know how many folks will come with you. We do have an upper limit on the number of people whom we can accommodate, so don't delay. My email is **nmgom@earthlink.net**.

Good Driving!

~Bernie

BADGER BIMMERS

BMW Car Club of America
Badger Bimmers

presents:

10th Annual Car Show at Concours BMW

June 1, 2013 10 am
Award Presentations at 2 pm

Trophies awarded for

BMWs of the '70s, '80s, '90s, 2000+ & People's Choice Award

5990 N. Green Bay Ave. (north of Silver Spring) in Glendale, WI

Micro Hybrids — What? Why? When?

Part 2

Report by David Thuerk

With a manual transmission, the engine-stop-and-re-start procedure needs assistance from the driver. Besides having the vehicle stopped, to activate the shut down, the driver needs to shift into neutral and release the clutch pedal before the engine will shut down. When the clutch pedal is depressed, the engine is started and the car can move after the operator shifts into first and releases the clutch.

Battery Status Crucial

To prevent a no-start condition, the computer constantly monitors the battery state of charge and will not shut down the engine when the battery's charge drops below a predetermined threshold. If the threshold is reached during a computer activated shut down, the computer will immediately restart the engine and not reactivate the shut down procedure until a specified state of charge of the battery is reached.

So what happens to all the accessories that you use when driving? Anything electrical will run off the battery; mechanically driven items are shut down until the engine is re-started. This could be (depending on whether or not the manufacturer changed the accessories to electrical power) the air conditioning, hot water supply to the heater, and power steering. To address the loss of these accessories, some manufactures are converting all pumps to electric power.

What About Trade-offs?

Besides the loss of the accessories that are powered by the engine, the battery is now being discharged frequently, discharged to a deeper discharge state and not being fully recharged in some driving applications. This all takes a toll on the battery, and results in a change in the failure mode and shorter battery life.

The failure mode for a typical automotive battery is corrosion of the positive plate structure. The failure for the Micro Hybrid application switches to the negative plates.

This is a major shift in failure mode for the battery industry and is requiring extensive development to identify means of extending the life of the negative plate. Currently the owner will need to replace the battery more frequently, every two to three years.

To provide longer battery life, car manufacturers are starting to use an advanced lead-acid battery that is described as Absorptive Glass Matt (AGM) chemistry. This advanced lead acid battery provides longer negative plate life, but it still fails earlier than a battery in a standard starting system

and, of course, it costs substantially more. The AGM lead-acid battery's primary use is in commercial applications providing back-up power for telephone land lines and cell phone towers, computer systems, cable TV, internet networks — and frequently in race cars.

What the Future Holds

GM started offering the Stop-Start Option in 2012 on limited models. Ford is introducing their version in the 2013 Fusion. European manufacturers have been using this in Europe since 2007 and have it on some US models. Japanese manufacturers have been using this concept in their Hybrid cars for years and are moving its technology into US models.

The next step in this stop-start technology is development of higher voltage battery systems that will allow the engine to shut down during coasting. The higher voltage will provide power to critical accessories such as electric steering, electric brakes, electric water pump and electric air conditioning. All power accessories will need to be electric so their function will not be affected when the engine is off. Johnson Controls, with headquarters in the Milwaukee area, has just announced a battery system they developed which combines a 12-volt lead-acid battery for running the basic vehicle operation,

combined with a 48-volt Lithium Ion battery for the higher power accessories, such as the air-conditioning and blowers.

You will be hearing and seeing more about Stop/Start-Micro Hybrid technology going forward. By 2017, the projected number of world-wide vehicles operating a Stop/Start system is 39 million. **bj**

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Porsche-BMW Challenge
Autocross

Sunday, July 14 — State Fair Park

The Milwaukee Region PCA invites the Badger Bimmers to join them for Autocross on Sunday July 14th at State Fair Park (North Parking Lot). Arrive between 8 and 830 a.m. to prep/tech your car and walk the course. First car goes out at 10 a.m. We usually get eight runs or more, while still finishing at a reasonable time.

What's autocross?

It's a safe, performance-handling experience in which participants learn how to quickly maneuver their cars around a course marked by cones in an open parking lot. Drivers compete against the clock, with one-to-three drivers on the course at any one time. Cars are kept a safe distance from each other. No modifications are necessary to one's car to compete. Convertibles are welcome, factory roll bars are fine.

Check out this video (sound up!) of region members in action during one of our 2010 autocross events at Miller Park (**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAt41kLsPiY**).

Requirements

- Running car in good condition
- Helmet: All drivers must wear a helmet with a Snell 2005 or later year SA, M, or K rating. For detailed information on helmets, see the Fact Sheet on Helmets posted on the Porsche Park site (**http://www.porschepark.org/journal.php?id=418**). Drivers under 18 must see the PCA site for additional rules and liability waivers (**http://www.pca.org**). Here is the Minor liability Waiver form (**http://www.porschepark.org/content/Minor_and_Parent_Form_Wavier.pdf**).
- Valid driver's license (16 years or older).

Checklist

In addition to your helmet, driver's license and BMW CCA card, make sure your brake lights are working, battery is securely mounted, seat belts are in good condition, lug nuts and bolts are properly torqued and vehicle is empty of all loose items, such as floor mats, etc. Bring some water and lunch with you too.

Here is the Autocross Tech Inspection form (**http://www.porschepark.org/content/Autocross_Tech_Inspection_Form.pdf**). You are responsible for your car being ready.

Questions? Contact Autocross Co-Chair George Kowalski via email at **caymans1021@gmail.com**.

Register either in person the day of the event or save a bit of money and pre-register on **Motorsportreg.com**. **bi**

Calling All BMW 2002 Owners!

Here's your chance to be part of a group dedicated to the preservation, enjoyment, and general mayhem associated with that iconic model.

Join the Chicago '02 Group! We have dedicated events during the "driving season," such as point-to-point drives to places like German Car night as sponsored by Brew City Cruises and held at Highland House parking lot in Mequon in 2012; car shows, and picnics.

We show at Coffee & Classics in Winnetka, Brew City Nights, as well as a handful of races and concours events throughout the season.

The Chicago '02 Group is also a good resource for parts, information on how to fix your '02, as well as where to buy a good used '02. We know you're out there, so if you know the difference between BMW factory colors Inka and Colorado, to say nothing of Sahara, Malaga, or Baikal, please contact us at **Chicago02group@gmail.com**.

There's no charge—or risk, if you're a Packers fan—to join our group. **bj**

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Classroom located at 4324 W. Bradley Rd in Brown Deer
Emergency clinics held at the old Northridge mall parking lots

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