

-November/December 2015

bimmer

THE NORTHERN FALL TOUR

Inside...

- Elections & Holiday Party • Chili & a Flick
- Fall Tour Report • Winter Tech Session
- What's Killing Your Battery? ...and more



BMW Car Club
of America
Badger Bimmers





bimmer immer

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Editor • editor@badgerbimmers.org

Cover: The Fall Tour lunch break at The Farm Inn, Shawano
Photo by Darcy Yench



2016 Calendar

January 9	Annual Holiday Party and Board Meeting at Golden Mast Restaurant
February 6	Chili and a Movie. Details TBA.
February 11	Board Meeting – Concours BMW
March 10	Board Meeting – Concours BMW
April TBD	Board Meeting – Madison area
May 12	Board Meeting – Concours BMW
June 4	Badger Bimmers 12th Annual Car Show at Concours BMW
June 13	Drivers School Blackhawk Farms
August 6-7	IMSA WeatherTech Car Corral at Road America
August 16	Third Annual BMW Cruise Night
September TBD	<i>OktoberFast</i> at Road America
October TBD	Board Meeting, Fox Valley area
November 10	Board Meeting – Concours BMW
December 8	Board Meeting – Concours BMW

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 Jeff Fait at jfait@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.

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.

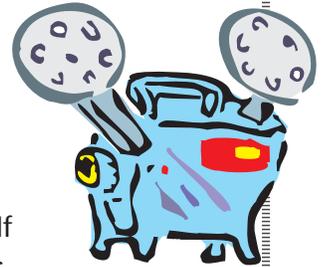
News of Note...

Save the Date

'Chili and a Movie' Once Again!

Where: Ron's Toy Barn
678 N. Progress Drive • Saukville

When: February 6, 2016 11am 'til 6pm



Come join us! Enjoy some great member-prepared chili and a race movie. If you bring chili (6 quarts) the event is free; if not, the cost is \$5.00 per person, which will be donated to **Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin**. Beverages will be provided. You must be at least 18 to attend. Registration opens at motorsportreg.com on December 1st. There will be more information about this event on our web site.

The movie is yet to be determined, but will probably be *Winning: The Racing Life of Paul Newman*.

And bring your own chair!

Attendance is limited to 25 people, so register early on Motorsportreg.com.

Getting Ready for Winter, BMW Style

Report by Cindy Ansay

Photos by Jeff Fait

Thank you, Nathaniel Sumner of European Auto House for hosting the Badger Bimmer Club for our "Winterizing Your BMW" Tech Session. The event was held Saturday, October 10. Our session started with a brief introduction and a meet and greet of our members and cars. A very nice selection of cars was in attendance: 2001 Z3 Coupe, 1998 M3, 2000 528i, and a new 2011 535i. Breakfast from Panera was provided by the Club.

We spoke about how important a qualified individual/facility is needed to maintain your BMW, not only in Winter but *all* year long. Many individuals feel that winter puts more of a strain on your vehicle, but it is actually the summer months that are more taxing.

Use of snow tires opened up



a nice discussion. Nathaniel Sumner, owner of European Auto, stated, "They turn an acceptable car into a significantly improved car and provide good fun in the snow."

Other topics of discussion were antifreeze, and brake and ATF fluids. Be sure to keep up with your vehicle's specific interval requirements for these services. Not all BMWs have the same requirements.

Nathaniel also shared with the group the most

common problems seen with each of the cars we brought to the event. He also placed several of our vehicles on the hoist to take a look at the engine bays and undercarriages. We all left with a wonderful BMW oil bag, quart of synthetic oil, and a filter.



bj

From the President

Jeff Fait

Fall Wrap-up...

Now that daylight savings time is over and it gets dark before dinner, the birdbath is frozen over in the morning and the yard is filled with fallen leaves, it's time to get the "fun" cars put into storage or prepped for the upcoming winter weather. Happens every year, but that doesn't mean I have to like it! I store a couple of cars for the winter, and it's always a bitter-sweet feeling watching that garage door close for the last time of the season, looking back on all the good times of summer, giving the old pride and joy a well-earned winter break, and dreaming and scheming about next spring's fabulous adventures waiting to materialize. Tell me again — when's that first cruise, car show, or track day in 2016?



Upcoming Badger Bimmer Board Elections

Well, it seems our call-to-arms for candidates for office in our next election has been successful! After several election cycles of one uncontested office after another, this election we will have an unprecedented FIVE candidates running for the two available Board Member positions. Please see Alan's, Dan's, Joe's, Chris', and Creston's candidate statements later on in this issue, as well as those of Vice President, Ron Pace, and Secretary Dave Thuerk. It's great to see so many people caring enough to get out there and give it a shot.

Even if you aren't running for office, remember that everyone is encouraged to participate as much as you can in the Club. You don't need to be an elected officer to plan an event or help out with running an event. Get involved, we have lots of resources and, if you have ideas for fun things to do, let's see if we can make them real.

Holiday Party

Our **Holiday Party** will occur Saturday, January 9th at **Weissgerber's Golden Mast** on Okauchee Lake. We have an incredible meal planned, lots of door prizes, and the winners of the election will be announced and inaugurated. Advance registration before January 4th is required, via motorsportreg.com. See the article a few pages away for all the details. If you've never been to one of our Holiday Parties, you're really missing out on some great times and the chance to meet other Club members over delicious food and drink. Highly recommended.

Things worth repeating...

I hope you all are as impressed as I am with the extremely high quality of our Club newsletter, *bimmer immer* — which you are reading now in case you forgot! We owe our editor, Don Gawronski, a huge round of applause for making this happen every month. Don's looking for an apprentice, a person who would be interested in learning the magic that makes this publication happen, and could eventually take over the editor duties. If you are intrigued by the possibilities, please contact one of the Club officers for more information. Contact information is on our web site.

Also — please take a moment to visit our web site (www.badgerbimmers.org) to see the full event calendar to be sure you don't miss anything.

bj

Badger Bimmers 2015 Fall Tour

Photographs by Darcy Yench & Dale Kressin

Report by Dale Kressin

I am pleased to report that the fall tour turned out to be another successful Badger Bimmer Club event. The social began Saturday morning, October 24, before 9:30 am in **Appleton**. The tour started on time at 10 am as scheduled with 14 vehicles and 26 participants. The weather cooperated quite well, however, there were a few downpours along the journey. Our starting temperature was approximately 63 degrees Fahrenheit and ended at 54 degrees. The trees were in full color. The cars, drivers and participants seemed to have a very nice time throughout the day. There were no driving incidents. New friendships clearly developed.

We traveled from Appleton northward through **Shiocton** and onto **Shawano**. We enjoyed views of



Tour Organizers Dale Kressin & Paul Zschaechner



Keshena Falls

the Wolf River, Shawano Lake and Keshena falls. Our lunch at **The Farm Inn** in Shawano was very nice and allowed tremendous social networking. The **Novitiate Ruins** were recognized as major significant historic events unfolding there back in 1975.

Our trip through the **Menominee County and Reservation** was particularly memorable along a 19 mile stretch of Highway 55. The area was absolutely beautiful at this time. The local traffic cooperated well with our group with slower vehicles pulling off to allow us smooth and uninterrupted travel. Bends in the road and a few abrupt elevations added to our enjoyment.

We travelled from **Mountain** southward to Appleton. A few of the drivers split off toward their home destinations at Highway 29. We stopped at a produce market in **Black Creek** and returned to Appleton at 4:30 pm.

We wish to thank all participants of the fall tour and encourage them to join us again at the upcoming Holiday Party. **bj**



CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF



Hi, my name is Joe Conway and I am running for one of the open Board positions. I've been a member of the BMW CCA since 1984, participating in a few chapter organizations as I moved for various jobs over the years. My car related interests include car maintenance, upgrades, car control clinics, driving schools, driving the Nurburgring and racing. I have participated in Club driving events as a student, instructor

and in administrative roles. External to the BMW Club, I am a race fan and an amateur racer. Some of my greatest joys in Club membership have included mentoring other drivers to better manage and control their cars, and to share the joy of a well driven BMW.

I believe the diversity of my involvement with multiple BMW CCA chapters and racing series, such as SCCA, LeMons and Chump, will aid in providing fresh ideas to the Club in driving and non-driving events to help our Club continue to progress.

(Please vote for me and I'll do my best to write interesting *bimmer immer* articles, too.)

Joe Conway

I have been a gearhead since I was young. Growing up I was in awe of German sports cars while my friends were always attracted to JDM stuff. Currently I'm on my second BMW, a '08 M3 sedan. My first BMW was an E46 330i. I love country drives and autocross. I did my first track day at Road America at this year's *OktoberFAST*. Besides driving activities, I enjoy tinkering with and performing repairs on my cars and attending car shows and races. Outside of auto related events, I work full-time as a systems engineer and enjoy traveling, photography, hiking, and running.

Although I am new to Club, I feel that I have much to provide. I would like to see the Club grow by adding more motorsport events. Perhaps an autocross event to serve as an introduction to performance driving. I would also like to organize a "tech day." This event could allow Club members to share technical knowledge about their vehicles and learn how to perform various maintenance tasks/troubleshoot issues.



Creston Flemming

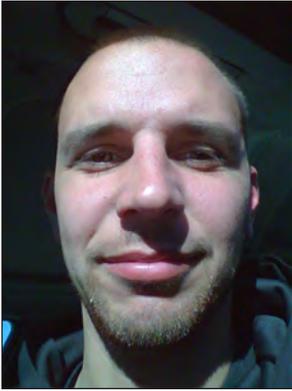
Please consider me as a candidate for the Badger Bimmers Board. I'm 29 and have been active in the BMW community for about nine years, and have been a service technician at Kummrow Automotive for the last four years. I love track events and working on cars. I believe I can expand the appeal of our Club to a whole new generation of BMW owners and enthusiasts who otherwise might not be interested, simply because they are unaware of all the great things we have to offer. I have the time, energy, and interest to make a difference. Please vote

Five excellent candidates...difficult choices

I have been a member of Badger Bimmers for several years, have enjoyed attending numerous events and have made many new friends along the way. Now I wish to take the next step and serve the Club in a more administrative capacity. I believe that I have the time, interest, ability and experience to be a productive member of the Badger Bimmers Board. I have a background in policy analysis, and a broad range of management experience. I am an enthusiast and enjoy many activities including car shows, track events, and as activities director of the Wisconsin Association for many years. I have been in the administration of car clubs and am a current member of the Milwaukee Brew City Cruise Night club through September. Please vote for me on the Badger Bimmers Board

DIRECTORS

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te for me in the election.



Dan Frodl



ective and effective member of the
Having retired from the Univer-
sity as an information technol-
ogy research administrator, I possess
management skills. I am an avid car en-
thusiast and social activities. I acted
as the Wisconsin SVT (Ford) Owners
Club Liaison and am knowledgeable about
clubs and car events. I also am
a member of a group that produces the weekly
car show held each year from May
to October. Please consider my candidacy for
November.

Alan Swatek

BALLOT ON PAGE 10

november/december 2015

Hello everyone! My name is **Chris Favero** and I am running for a Board position with the Badger Bimmers. I have been a member since '07 and have been active on and off for a while. You probably have recently read my part 1 of "Is there a perfect BMW? — One Mans Odyssey" article in the *immer*. I think I would make a good candidate for a Board position since I bring a more technology-focused and social aspect to BMW ownership. As you read, in my article, I think the merging of technology and car is a thing of beauty. I absolutely love BMW and if you count my Estoril Blue and Coral Red M235i XDrive convertible I will be picking up in SC soon, that will make five BMWs I have owned. I can't stop talking about BMW to my friends and I have made some converts along the way from other marques. I would like to help grow the Club for that other group of BMW owners who aren't that into racing their daily drivers but may like to detail (or talk about detailing) their cars, or meet at a BMW-and-coffee event at a local coffee shop parking lot to network. Things like that can help grow our Club and I would like to help. Please consider me for a Board position. Thank you.



Chris Favero

...and for Fox Valley Liaison

I am **Dale Kressin**, a member of Badger Bimmers for five years. I have served the Badger Bimmer Club as a Northeastern Wisconsin liaison for the past two years and I wish to continue in this position. I am a self-employed veterinary dental specialist working in Oshkosh and at veterinary emergency facilities in Glendale and Greenfield in the Milwaukee area. I am an auto enthusiast and, because of these interests, it looks like I will be working a very long time. I drive a 2010 M3 Sedan, a 2013 Nissan GTR Black Edition, a 2015 Porsche GT3, a 2014 Porsche Cayenne and I plow snow in my 2000 Toyota 4-Runner. I would like to see our Club grow by retaining current members and by getting more auto enthusiasts involved in social activities and in driving events (both autocross and high-performance driver education activities). I have a tremendously supportive wife, Joanne, a 15½ year old Golden Retriever and three elderly cats that I enjoy much of my time with. I ask for re-nomination as the Northern Wisconsin Liaison and support of the Badger Bimmer Club.



Dale Kressin

Election 2016

for Secretary



My present term as Secretary is nearing its end. The two year term has been interesting and quite enjoyable. As a result, I decided to run for an additional term as Secretary. So I am asking you to vote

for me and allow me to continue to be involved in the planning and support of the activities that make the Club interesting and fun.

Remember to attend our annual Holiday Party and bring your ballot. If you are unable to come, mail in your ballot and show support for the Board's candidates.

for Vice President



I seek your endorsement as Vice President of the Badger Bimmers for the coming two years. Having served in this role for the past four years, I am familiar with the duties and believe I can continue to contribute at a high level to the Club leadership. I truly enjoy the people in the region and feel fortunate to be part of such a forward thinking, dynamic group.

Ron Pace

Dave Thuerk

BALLOT

2016 BADGER BIMMERS ELECTION

VICE PRESIDENT

RON PACE

Write-in Candidate _____

SECRETARY

DAVID THUERK

Write-in Candidate _____

BOARD MEMBERS

(We are electing two candidates, so vote for two.)

JOE CONWAY

CHRIS FAVERO

CRESTON FLEMMING

DAN FRODL

ALAN SWATEK

Write-in Candidate(s) _____

FOX VALLEY LIAISON

DALE KRESSIN

Write-in Candidate _____

After you have voted, bring your ballot to the Annual Party, January 9, 2016, or mail to:

2016 ELECTION

c/o Badger Bimmers • P.O. BOX 71139 • Milwaukee, WI 53211



Annual Holiday Dinner

January 9, 2016

Weissgerber's Golden Mast
on Okauchee Lake

W349 N5293 Lacy's Lane
Okauchee, WI 53069

6:30 - 7:30pm Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres
7:30 - 9:00pm Dinner, election results, seating
new Board, awards

~ Menu ~

Surf & Turf: Beef tenderloin, sautéed shrimp,
garlic mashed potato, chef's choice vegetable

Vegetarian: Gourmet mushroom ravioli, fresh
zucchini & broccoli in tomato basil
buerre blanc

Two drink tickets per member & first guest,
plus cash bar all evening

Reservations required*

\$35/member, \$35/first guest.

Additional guests: \$60/person. Children under 12, \$20

Register at motorsportreg.com

*No reservations or cancelations after
December 31, 2015.

Please bring non-perishable food items or a cash donation for our charity,
Feeding America of Southeast Wisconsin.

What affects battery life?

Report by Dave Thuerk

I have been designing, field-testing and disassembling worn out lead-acid batteries for over 30 years, with 20 of those years involving automotive lead-acid batteries. The causes of automotive battery failure have not changed substantially in the last few decades. What has changed is the rate of failure and operating life.

When I started designing and developing automotive batteries, the primary cause of battery failure was corrosion of the internal lead component and/or dry-out from excessive gassing (water loss through electrolysis). This is still the primary cause of failure, but the time to failure has been extended when batteries are used in the same operation conditions. The gains are the result of continuous development of materials and processing. Improved lead alloys and lead purity have reduced corrosion rates and the concentration of elements that force gas generation and water loss. As a result of the improvements, water loss in a battery has been reduced to the point where adding water is no longer necessary for the life of the automotive battery. This is coupled with a reduction of the internal corrosion rate of the lead components by a factor of two to three times.

So why not 10 years now?

HEAT! The enemy of the battery is high temperature exposure. The higher the operating temperature the battery experiences, the faster the lead components corrode and the greater the water loss is. Over the last few decades, as under-hood temperatures continue to increase, gains in battery life have been suppressed.

With the location of the battery in the engine compartment and next to the radiator, high operating temperature is the norm. Many car manufacturers do make some effort to protect the battery by placing a heat-shield on the hot side or completely surrounding the battery. Even if the shield is metal, it reduces the heat transfer into the battery and

reduces the average operating temperature. The only worse place for a battery is next to the exhaust manifold, but that is not used because the plastic case would melt. BMW'S trunk location is the best location for maximizing life. So enjoy, you probably have the best battery longevity. Actually, any place isolated from engine-compartment heat is an improvement.

Cold weather failures

So why does my battery usually fail in cold weather in the north? Batteries are sensitive to temperature in other ways. As the battery temperature drops, the power you can draw from the battery decreases continuously. At -20° F, the battery can provide only 50% of the power it provides at 80 degrees. Added to this is the increased current needed to start an engine as the temperature drops. An engine at -20° F wants a lot more cranking power. The combination of degraded power from age, lower operating temperatures and increased power requirements for cold starts creates the starting problems. The engine wants more and the battery says *Nope, I don't have it to give.*

What can you expect for battery life? Typical life in northern climates is about five to seven years. In southern states, the average life is about three years because of the higher under-hood operating temperatures. There are designs that were developed specifically for the hot southern states that extend life up to five years in hot climates, but they do not have much effect here in winter country. In the '70s, battery life was three to five years with much lower under-hood temperatures.

How not to destroy your car battery

Here are a few guidelines to help extend battery life besides the major issue of keeping the battery out of a high temperature environment, which is not always possible.

- Before severe weather

Continued on page 14



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Extending Battery Life

strikes, check your battery terminals for corrosion, before winter in the north and before summer in the south. If corrosion is found (white or green deposits on the terminal or connector) remove the terminal from the battery post, dip the terminal in a baking soda & water solution and then clean with a wire brush. Clean the lead post with the baking soda solution and then brush with a wire brush, terminal-cleaning brush or sandpaper. Corroded terminals can prevent charging, resulting in battery failure and no starts.

- > **Caution!** Disconnecting the battery in some newer cars creates faults that cannot be cleared without connecting to a computer and using the manufacturers software. Check before disconnecting the battery.

- **LONG EXTENDED DISCHARGES** are detrimental to batteries. If you are storing the car for an extended period, more than a month, disconnect the battery (if safe) or connect a float charger to the battery, a Battery Tender (or equivalent). Using a float charger, the battery can remain connected in the car. Repeated deep discharges, or storing a battery in a discharged state, will destroy an automotive battery in short order. Since all newer cars have parasitic draws, a substantial amount of the battery's capacity is lost in a month.

- **IF YOU ARE NOT USING A BATTERY TENDER** to float the battery in storage (while not connected to a car), recharge it before storing and recharge it every three months for 24 hours. (If using a battery tender or equivalent, charge until the light turns green, usually several days). When a battery is discharged, recharge it as soon as possible. If you ever needed a jump to start because you left the lights on or something similar, put a charger on the battery for 24 hours. If you use the car, resume charging when it is not in use until you have a total of 24 hours of charging. Your daily driving will not fully recharge a battery in a reasonable time unless you're driving across country.

- **CHECK YOUR BELT TENSION** before winter or summer. A loose belt will not maintain the charge on a battery and the battery will slowly discharge. A loose belt does not always make noise. **bi**

~ Dave Thuerk



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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.



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