



BLUEGRASS BIMMERS
CHAPTER
BMW CAR CLUB OF
AMERICA
341 Longmeadow Ln
Ft Mitchell, KY 41017-3189
www.bluegrassbimmers.org

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Pferdestärke welcomes
submissions!
Send your story, photo-
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officers@bluegrassbimmers.org

Pferdestärke

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What's in your toolbox?

By: Andrew Floyd

For the second installment of our ongoing series, I decided to introduce you to a tool that's not normally found in the "every persons" garage. In fact I bet you have already used it today, heck you may be using it right now. And its used to decode that pesky SERVICE ENGINE SOON light.



FULL DISCLOSURE: I am not the go to mechanic, heck I barely trust my self to work on my own clunker. Always seek the advice of a trained professional. Now on to the good stuff..

Remember when the amber light of ambiguity would pop up and you sit there thinking how bad is it? Should I drive to the nearest service center, stop by AutoZone, or call the flatbed to come pick me up? Well now that we have these little super computers (aka cell phone) in our pocket, we should never be so helpless. If your car is 1996 or newer you should have OBD2 connection under the dash on the driver side. If you have that then you can use the phone, a OBD2 to Bluetooth connector, and some free "Apps" from your phone manufacturer's application store to start reading and decoding these error codes. Ok, so you probably do not have a OBD2 to Bluetooth connector. Don't worry these are inexpensive and readily available on most major online markets places, in fact they go from \$25 to \$100 plus. The one that I use is the PLX Kiwi and I have not had an issue with it communicating with any of my vehicles.

Now that you have your phone of choice, your connection device, you just need the software to communicate with your car. This is where you will have to try out various apps to see which satisfy your need. For me, I just wanted to read and clear codes. So the app I settled on is the free version of *Torque*. It has some nice customizable displays and data logging features that allow you archive performance data. Upon launching the *Torque* App you will be presented with its default layout. From there you can pull your error codes and once they have been received, you can touch them to get more details on what they mean. Once you have collected the errors, you can then clear them to see if they are an anomaly or something more serious.



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CHAPTER
BMW CAR CLUB OF
AMERICA
PO BOX 4575
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
40204
www.bluegrassbimmers.org

Officers

President:

David Nalley
davenalley@bluegrassbimmers.org

Vice President:

Zach Ketring
zachketring@bluegrassbimmers.org

Secretary:

Steve Cullen
stevecullen@bluegrassbimmers.org

Treasurer:

John Wilson
johnwilson@bluegrassbimmers.org

Lexington Coordinator:

Chad Sledd
chadsledd@bluegrassbimmers.org

Louisville Coordinator:

Dan Miller
danmiller@bluegrassbimmers.org

Membership Chair:

Zach Ketring
zachketring@bluegrassbimmers.org

Pferdestark Editor:

Andy Floyd
andyfloyd@bluegrassbimmers.org

Webmaster:

Greg Nehring
gregnehring@bluegrassbimmers.org

To Join, Renew, or Change

Address, contact:
BMW CCA National Office
640 South Main ST, Suite

201
Greenville, South Carolina
29601
864.250.0022
www.bmwcca.org
questions@bmwcca.org

Pferdestärke welcomes submissions!
Send your story, photograph, or
comments to:

andyfloyd@bluegrassbimmers.org

Presidents Corner

By Dave Nalley

Greetings Bluegrass Bimmer Friends! I'd like to take this chance to introduce myself as the new Chapter President, share the great events we have in store for 2013, and share a little about my love for BMWs.

For those of you that don't know me, my name is David Nalley, and while I've been a member over ten years, only got more active in Chapter leadership a few years ago. I hail from Fort Mitchell, in Northern Kentucky, and while it didn't start this way, my love for BMWs primarily revolves around their use on the track. 2013 brings new things for me – for one, my role with the Club. For another, this is the first year in over 13 that I haven't owned at least one e30 3 Series car. (Although now that some e30 Tourings are over 25 years old and can be more easily imported, one wonders how long I'll be without another one!)

2013 is just starting, and we have a good selection of activities in store, and may be adding more as the year progresses.

Already open on Motorportreg.com for registration are our Annual Bluegrass-Buckeye Karting Challenge, March 16; The Spring Drive driving tour, April 20; and our largest event of the year – the Hoo-Grass Driving School, presented in conjunction with our friends at Hoosier Chapter, June 22-23.

We are also planning our usual Fall Driving Tour, with a dinner and overnight stay. In addition, July 20-21 is the Keeneland Concours, and although BMW is not the featured Marque, we expect a nice showing of some beautiful Bavarian Iron!!!!

You may have noticed a "new" email update that I've started. Keep your eyes on those for additional information about these and other possible events. I'd also encourage you to join our Facebook group, and sign up for the BGBimmersChat yahoo email list.

If you have an idea for an event you think our members would enjoy, contact me at dave-nalley@bluegrassbimmers.org. The club is here for the enjoyment of its members. We welcome your input on what you'd like to see us do as an organization. There are a lot of different ways we enjoy this Club and these great cars. Whether it's hanging with the "track day" crowd, debating Zymol vs. Zaino with the "Concours Q-Tip Fanatics", enjoying a spirited drive on a country road, or just meeting and enjoying the company of fellow BMW enthusiasts, we have a lot to offer. I hope to see you somewhere along the road . . . with a big wide BMW-induced smile.

Danke,

-Dave

Travels with Bill

Testing a new Michelin Tire

By Bill Wade

I was lucky enough to be asked to be a 'Marketing Influencer' for Michelin on their new All Season Performance Tire the *Pilot Sport A/S 3*.

Having done one of these events in the past it's a pretty cool gig. Michelin will get you to the venue, do a little wine and dine, then the next day you get to play with a car or two, then you are on your way back home. Well this one was a little different.

I was flown to New Orleans and picked up at the airport and transported to the French Quarter's 'W' hotel. I got there in the early afternoon so I was able to meet up with a few other acquaintances, Frank Patek the Ex Dir of the BMW Club, Steven Schlossman of the BMW Club, Larry Fletcher a BMW Club Racing official, a few Porsche and Audi Club friends. David Jankowski, a fellow track junkie who has instructed for us at Putnam, stepped out of a shuttle just as we got to the hotel. We didn't know each other would be here. Hmmmmmm.... Since we had a couple for hours to kill before the reception started, we check in and then went on the hunt for oysters. I've been to New Orleans at least once a year for the last 5 years of so, mostly because of a mission that my church did with Habitat for Humanity, rebuilding after the Hurricane. During my visits I have a streak of almost 30 days in a row that I have at least a dozen oysters a day. Since I knew we would be on a tight schedule the next day this was my only chance. I wanted to hit my favorite Bourbon St haunt, Felix's Oysters, but it was closed for renovations, so we went across the street to the Acme Oyster House. After introducing Dave to this awesome delicacy, (he's not a fan) a Sazerac and great dozen later, we were back at the hotel.

More introductions, cocktails and appetizers were passed about. Greetings were exuded. We were divided into groups and given a guide for a walking tour of the Quarter. The rich history of the French Quarter has been documented much better than I will attempt in this piece. If you have any interest in early American history, food, music or art you owe yourself a trip to New Orleans. After an informative walking tour with, cocktails in hand of course (legal in NOLA), we arrived at the historic restaurant of K Paul's. Paul Prudhomme opened his *K Paul's Cajun Kitchen* in 1979 and is known as the King of Cajun Cooking. Serving dinner for 75 was done without a hitch. Even after failing health over the past couple of years he came out and addressed the crowd. The rest of the night was spent laughing and telling car stories.

Morning came early and we where bused to the new NOLA Motorsport Park, breakfast was served and instructions for the day were given. A full blown Hollywood press release was given showing off the tire and the team that made it. Tire engineers were treated like rock stars. 5 ALMS drivers; Patrick Long, Colin Braun, Tommy Milner, Johannes van Overbeek and Kuno Wittmer, came out for introductions. We were told that we would have the opportunity to get a hot lap with one of them, OH!,... and in a Porsche Turbo, a Ferrari 458, a Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder, or a Corvette ZR1, on the new Michelin tire of

course.

I was blessed to receive a sausage, egg, cheese grits and beignet breakfast settling (unsettling?) blast in the Lambo with Mr. van Overbeek. Nice.

In the same groups as the previous night we were given different tasks and were ushered off to different parts of the track. We started conducting back-to-back tests in Michelin shod cars. Each task offered six packs of Cadillac CTS's, Infiniti G37's, Subaru STi's and Audi A4 cars, 3 with the Michelin tire and the other 3 with a tire from each top competitor. These competitors tires were in the same class as the all-season. We tested the Caddy on the road course, driving the Michelin tire first, then a competitor tire, then a Michelin shod car again, then another competitor, then this routine one more time. The road course difference was noticeable, more stable, much quieter. Pressure gauges where offered to show no funny stuff was going on.

We then did a dry 'autocross' in the Subbie. Same drill, the Michelin tire, then competitor, 3x's with different competitors tires, but the difference here was the competitors tires were not their all seasons they were their summer tire. The Michelin kicked butt! With an all season tire!

Lunch was served and then a wet and dry braking session with the Infiniti's. These were not subjective tests, these was measured using the same instruments the engineers use. We hammered the accelerator up to 65 mph and then stomped and I mean stomped on the breaks, full ABS engaged stops. As soon as the car starts to brake the instrument kicks in and measures the distance. My tests showed stopping 16, 18 and 22 feet shorter than the competitors tires. That's an accident avoiding distance! The next was the wet 'autocross' course in the Audi. I'll keep my comments about this car to myself but again the tire's performance was noticeable and impressive. Going back to back to back was the key to feeling the difference.

We were stuffed back into buses and off to the airport. 28 hours in NOLA driving cars at their limits, keeping my oyster streak alive is better than a stick in the eye.

At each session the engineers were there to give us information on another aspect of the tire.

The uniqueness of this tire comes from many new innovative elements.

Variable thickness sipes provide additional biting edges in low grip conditions to improve wet and snow traction. For those of us who have kept our summer tires on just a couple of week-ends too long know what happens when that tire gets cold. Something that used to feel like Velcro now feels like a granite donut. This new compound uses a "Helio compound" with sunflower oil that helps increase traction at low temps while 'extreme silica technology' provides exceptional wet grip. This silica technology was used in their winning LeMan's tire last year to help them set the best time for pole.

This tire will be available this summer. Pricing has not been released yet but the Michelin way is that it is priced in close relation to the tire it replaces. All standard fitments will be available. While I loved to be wine and dined, these tests showed that this tire is truly superior to its competitors all seasons and even better than some of their summer tires.

I will put these on my wife's car when the time comes.

CASHMERE

Part I

By Greg Nehring

Patty was getting a little antsy. The 2006 X3 had just turned over 108K miles and she, (nor I) liked the idea of her getting stranded along side the road because of a breakdown. A little mellow dramatic I know, but she likes the idea of security in a new car. And who am I to say no to a 2013 BMW X1 3.5 xDrive in Cashmere Silver Metallic with Black Nevada Leather and light matte wood trim, with all the geegaws' and whatnots a car enthusiast could want. Cold weather package (nice toasty buns and hands on the coldest of mornings), Ultimate Package (Technology, Premium and Drivers assistance package). Of course, these are the packages SHE wanted, not the Sport Line or the (I'd give my first born for M Sport line) every BMW enthusiast lusts after. No Paddle shifters, No sport seats with the bolsters that hold your hiney firmly in place in the sharpest of corners, no M Sport suspension pieces that make you feel like Joey Hand in a DTM race, nada, nothing. Sigh.

But, the X1 3.5 is no slouch. The buttery smooth 3-liter turbo'd 6 cylinder, pulls like a rocket and shifts just as smoothly. I myself am a fan of the steptronic manual shift, and let me tell you that it shifts in a snap, not like the older versions where you'd hit the shift lever, count to 3, then the transmission would shift-maybe to the count of 4. Where the automatic is smooth the steptronic manual gives you a nice little kick in the butt - you can feel the snap of the shift--I like it.

As most of you know—photos generally don't do the car justice, and the X1 is no exception. I liked the look of it in the pics on the website but the color in person, the shape and curves of the bodylines and the stance of the littlest of the X's is, well, just perfect. Its not like sitting up high in a X5 or even a X3, the X1 feels more car height like than SAV height, making the driving experience, more 3 series like. I think that the 18x8.0, 225/40s also help with that feeling. Low profile tires on a SAV, hhhmmmm, what's this world coming to. I also like the adaptive lighting that turns into a corner with you and the driving light that turns on only on the side that you've got your turn indicator set to.

This version, the 3.5 xDrive, is as supple a ride as I've felt. Supple over bumps, firm, flat and still supple while taking a turn at speed. True BMW style. Fit and finish are excellent and flawless; interior is just as a Bimmer should be.



Everything has a place and everything in its place (I think that's a German saying, not sure). Nothing's better than that thick leather wrapped three spoke steering wheel that feels just right in your hands, yes the one W/O the paddle shifters. Haven't had lots of time to fiddle with the new iDrive system, but it seems pretty intuitive, and we have both picked it up pretty quickly. The Nav system is good, but there are a few things that I'd like to see. One is night mode actually switching to night mode as it turns dusk. At this point we have to manually turn that function on. My iPhone nav does that automatically. I'm not saying that there's not a package that does that, but would be a nice feature, if it happened automatically, after all, it does have the Ultimate Pkg. Then, the auxiliary cup holder, the one on the passenger side that is removable, it makes you sit at a weird angle and my leg was always hitting it. But there's a great feature for your drink bottles in the door, a lot that the bottle slips into just perfectly at an angle that is easy to reach and right where you need it. The Leather is nice and thick, yet soft, and who can argue with that new car leather smell.

Well, those are some first impressions. Have only had the X1 for a week now and I'm sure we'll figure out that Night mode thing, and some other goodies along the way, along with a few problems. Oh, and Patty got the 100k mile 6 year extended warranty, and the BMW assist, so we won't have to worry about breakdowns or where to find a good Chinese restaurant in Nashville.

Get Connected



Connect with old friends, and make some new ones. Find us on Facebook for technical talk, race chat or just share your passion with like minded individuals.



YAHOO!
Groups

If Facebook doesn't do it for ya, We've got two Yahoo groups for you to join.



Bluegrassbimmers "Chat" yahoo List
Get help with repairs, organize spontaneous get-togethers, or just shoot the breeze,
Sign up at:
groups.yahoo.com/group/bgbimmerschat



Bluegrassbimmers yahoo List
Join this group to receive chapter news and reminders of upcoming events,
Sign up at:
groups.yahoo.com/group/bluegrassbimmers

Upcoming Events

May 11 - Street Survival (Louisville) : 8:30 - 4:30 @ Papa Johns Stadium

May 11 - Cars and Coffee (Louisville) : 9:00 - 11:00 @ Captains Quarters

May 14 - Monthly Social (7:00 - ???)

Louisville: BoomBozz Taphouse 31448 Bardstown Rd

Lexington: Clarion Hotel (old Holiday Inn at I-75) 1950 Newtown Pike

June 1 - Street Survival (Bowling Green) : 8:30 - 4:30 @ National Corvette Museum

June 8 - Cars and Coffee (Louisville) : 9:00 - 11:00 @ Captains Quarters

June 11 - Monthly Social (7:00 - ???)

Louisville: BoomBozz Taphouse 31448 Bardstown Rd

Lexington: Clarion Hotel (old Holiday Inn at I-75) 1950 Newtown Pike

June 22 - 23 2nd Annual Rites O' June @ Putnam Park Road Course

July 9 - Monthly Social (7:00 - ???)

Louisville: BoomBozz Taphouse 31448 Bardstown Rd

Lexington: Clarion Hotel (old Holiday Inn at I-75) 1950 Newtown Pike

July 13 - Cars and Coffee (Louisville) : 9:00 - 11:00 @ Captains Quarters

July 18 - 21 Keeneland Concours d'Elegance

For more info on any of the events listed above go to...

www.bluegrassbimmers.org

www.bmwcca.org/

www.motorsportreg.com

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341 Longmeadow Ln
Ft Mitchell, KY 41017-3189