

**BMW Car Club
of America
Kansas City**



MilePost

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Special Points of Interest:

- **Club Toolbox Announcement**
- **President's Corner**
- **Member Spotlight**
- **Digital MilePost**
- **Annual Dinner**
- **2014 Ballot**





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The President's Corner

by Mike Staub

Four years! That's how long it's been since I said I would be President for *one* year.

Time has flown by, and countless new friends have been made along the way, both in the club and in the KC European car community in general. There have been many events in that time frame, and many miles have been driven—some of which were at legal triple digit speeds on track.

This, however, will be my last President's Corner article, as I'll be passing the torch to our new, soon-to-be-elected president.

When I look back on the last four years, it's nearly impossible to pick out one or two favorite events or moments—there have been so many. I have been blessed with great Boards and event organizers. I should restate that: The *chapter* has been blessed by having these people who have given up so much of their personal time to organize and run fun-filled events. Your appreciation is the only pay they receive, so be sure thank the organizers at your next event. Thank you to all the participants over the last four years, too. Nothing feels greater for event organizers than to see people enjoying themselves.

Finances. Yes, it's that thing we never like to talk about. As the old timers reading this know, once upon a time our chapter had a big bank account thanks to many years of financially successful driving schools. Then more tracks opened, more groups started doing driving schools, track rental prices went up, and the economy slowed. We started to subsidize our driving schools from our bank account, and we also had several "extra nice" annual dinners where we had to greatly subsidize financial losses. So, three years ago the Board and I decided we needed to tighten our belt on subsidies. We were very successful, and we rebuilt our war chest.

Time to share: The Chapter is giving back! We just had the final Board of Directors meeting for our current Board. While we have been pretty "stingy" with spending previously, the BOD was very generous this time, so chapter

and national members and teen drivers will benefit greatly!

- The first expenditure began with a great presentation by Scott Blazey regarding the BMW Club Foundation Member Challenge Grant drive. Scott was asked to serve on the Foundation Steering Committee, and the BOD approved a \$3600 commitment to the BMW Club Foundation over three years, with eighty percent earmarked to go to Teen Street Survival. A generous club member is matching contributions, so this donation will actually mean \$7200 total. I think most of us will agree that no member has done more for our chapter, or BMW CCA as a whole, than Scott Blazey. To underscore Scott's contributions, the \$3600 contribution was made in honor of Scott. Thank you for all you have done, Scott.



- Wanna fix that BMW, but don't have the right tool? The second significant expenditure the BOD approved was a budget of \$3,000 to spend on specialty repair tools for the new "Club Tool Box." These tools will be available at little or no cost to members for use at our tech sessions. If this program is successful, we will purchase additional tools as we move forward. The BOD believes this is a great way to give back to our members, and is also a great recruiting tool—pardon the pun—to attract new members.

Part of the manner we can help fund the above, as well as grow other future events and

activities, is the electronic newsletter initiative noted on page 6 of this issue. This will save a considerable amount in printing and postage cost.

I'm not quite gone from the BOD yet, as I will serve one more year as Vice President if elected. I truly hope someone will step up to take that position in 2015, however, and then succeed our 2014-15 President in 2016. A real succession plan is what I have always hoped for, so as VP in 2014, I will make it my mission to update the Chapter Bylaws to give better guidance on this and other issues. As we all know, guidance is worthless without people to follow it, however..

Request to members. Please consider stepping up and volunteering in the coming year. Volunteering is a great way of getting into the club leadership culture. From there, consider volunteering for a BOD position as Joe Myers just did. The club needs you. A big thank you to the following people for stepping up this past year to help with events: Joe Myers, Tricia Nygren, Mel Grindol, and Ryan Neis.

Thank you to Ryan Staub. In closing, I'd like to thank the person who originally got me into the club. I won't retell the story of how this happened, as most of you have heard it before, and some have heard it multiple times, but I want to personally thank Ryan for introducing me to the Club. Ryan will be turning over the baton of DEC (Driving Events Coordinator) to

John Fickel for 2014. So, as chapter President, I want to thank Ryan for doing a great job over the last several years as DEC. Kirk Kiloh's shoes were big ones to fill, and Ryan did an excellent job. Firsts for the chapter under Ryan were two joint DEs; the No Excuses DE at Hallett; the Flat Out Classic, which was the largest undertaking in our chapter's history; an Adult Car Control Clinic; and an ITS (Instructor Training School). Ryan will be staying on as Chief Instructor and BOD member. Thank you Ryan.

And an advanced congratulations to John Fickel, who I am sure will do a great job as DEC. John has honed Teen Street Survival to perfection, and I'm sure will carry that success over to the DEC position.

As always.....keep the shiny side up!

///Mike



Upcoming Events and Activities

February 8, 2014

Annual Dinner

Reserve the date, and then go to page 7 for the information.

We're back at Baron BMW and it's shaping up to be best dinner event in recent memory.

Register: <http://kcbmwclub.motorsportreg.com/>

Deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014.

Calendar

NOTE: Many activities below are tentative. Please visit: <http://kcbmwclub.com/forum/> for the latest and most up-to-date information about all upcoming events.

Jan	4	First Saturdays, Panera
	TBD	Winter DIY Session
	16	Third Thursdays, Zarda
Feb	1	First Saturdays, Panera
	20	Third Thursdays, Zarda
Mar	1	First Saturdays, Panera
	20	Third Thursdays, Zarda
Apr	5	First Saturdays, Panera
	17	Third Thursdays, Zarda
	25-27	Flat Out Classic III



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Announcement

MilePost

Goes Digital

for 2014

by Angel Hall

The KC BMW Club Board of Directors has voted to switch our chapter to digital (emailed) newsletters starting in 2014.

This is in an effort to:

- Retain more Chapter Reimbursement funds.
- Apply these funds towards activities and their increased expenses to perform them.

This switch will take effect with the March 2014 issue. This means that the December issue will be your *final* paper-mailed copy of the *MilePost*, unless you opt-in for U.S. Mail delivery at the BMW CCA Website. (<http://www.bmwcca.org>). National will also contact you via mail with instructions on how to opt-in for U.S. Mail copies should

you wish for them to continue in that format.

As of December 31st, 2013, National will set *all* membership profiles to email. If you wish to continue to receive mailed copies of the MilePost, you must go to your account at <http://www.bmwcca.org> and set your preferences as such.

As a courtesy reminder, we encourage ALL MEMBERS to please log in to your membership account to not only make your newsletter selections, but to also update your personal information and vehicles so that we can tailor more activities to your needs.

Thank you for your continued support of your local chapter!

KC BMW Club Annual Dinner

by Kevin Denault



We've had a fantastic year, and now it's time to celebrate! Our Chapter's Annual Dinner is back at Baron BMW!

If you've never been, here's what you can look forward to:

Project Art Cone

Project Art Cone comes back for the second year. Created by our own Angel Hall, Project Art



Cone is a new tradition where multiple members create art pieces from standard issue autocross cones. We then auction each of these

off to raise money for club supplies. Last year's Project Art Cone was a great success with four amazing examples of what fellow BMW club members can do when they pull their car out of the garage and work on a cone instead.

Raffle

A staple of our annual dinner is the raffle, so be sure to take your chances on winning any of the impressive prizes that our club sponsors thoughtfully donate to show appreciation for our support. Past prizes include things like a BMW

bicycle, car detail gift certificates, and BMW iPod adapters.

BYOBTS

Wine connoisseurs and beer aficionados rejoice! We know what BYOB means, but that extra "TS" means To Share. Bring your favorite craft brews or bottles of wine and share what you love with your fellow members. Discuss the nuances of a dry aromatic red, expand your horizons with a hoppy brew, or just have a refreshing beverage and relax.

Come celebrate the great events of 2013 and meet the 2014 Board of Directors who will lead us into an event-packed year.

Join us on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014 from

6:00-9:00 P.M at Baron BMW, located at 9010 Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Merriam, KS 66202.

Register: <http://kcbmwclub.motorsportreg.com/>

Deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014 11:59PM.



The Wichita Report

by Joel DeHaven

Saturday, December 14th marked the second year for the Wichita sub-chapter's "Donation Drive" for Wichita Children's Home. Members met at Mead's Corner for our usual Second Saturday coffee social, followed by a short drive to WCH to drop off clothing, dishware, toys, gift cards, and other donations. The staff offered warm greetings and were very appreciative of the Club's generosity. A photo with Santa topped off the trip. Some of us are planning a return visit before Christmas to help with gift wrapping and donation sorting, and we will also be bringing food donations to help stock the kitchen for their holiday season meals.

We met with Janet Pack, Director of Development for WCH, and asked what else

our members can do to help. She let us know that they are always updating their wish list on their website and are always in need of diapers. If you missed the Donation Drive and still would like to help out WCH throughout the year, check out the donation page here: www.wch.org

We are planning a detailing session with a local product distributor, and we hope to get in a leisurely drive and Club lunch later in the spring. You can always find us the second Saturday of each month from 9:00-11:00 A.M. at Meads Corner in Wichita.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page and the area Club website (www.wichitabmw.com) for up-coming events in 2014.



Scott Blazey Honorary Fund

by Bob Young

Don't let the name fool you! We recently spoke during the final Board of Directors meeting of 2013, so Scott's alive and well. I'm sure everyone who has been in the club for some time has heard of Scott or knows him personally, and you probably know of the incredible work he's done for the club.

Scott spoke to us about making a contribution to the BMW CCA Foundation Capital Campaign. He's a smooth talker, as we would say in our part of the country, and so we came up with a name for our contribution fund: The Scott Blazey Honorary Fund.

Our chapter made the decision to fund the Foundation with \$1,200 per year for three years, and 80% of the funds will be going toward the Street Survival program with the remainder going to the general fund.

The Foundation is also open to receiving any additional funds from our chapter members, and those will also be directed toward the Foundation.

Thanks to everyone for their assistance and pledges, and a very special thanks to Scott Blazey for his continued work within the BMW CCA.

KC BMW Toolbox Announcement

by Greg Lippert

The Kansas City BMW club is proud and excited to announce our latest member benefit...

Building on the success of our popular do-it-yourself (DIY) program, the club will be offering a club toolbox containing many specialty BMW tools. The tools will be available for use at official club DIY tech sessions for a small fee or deposit.

Having the

proper tool to do the job is essential; And expensive! Club members will now have the opportunity to work on their cars using the right tools: Bushing removal and installation

tools, pressure bleeders, coolant leak check kits, and many others will be available!

Please watch for further details. We'll be making announcements on our website, forum, social media, email, and via the official club newsletter—the *MilePost*.



Member Spotlight

Name: Paulo Dominguez

Email: paulo.c.dominguez@gmail.com

BMW(s): 2009 Alpine White 128i coupe—daily driver except for winter. Modified with BMW Performance accessories, such as the Performance Steering Wheel with programmable shift lights.



1997 Estoril Blue M3 sedan—track car and winter “beater” (snow tires really work!).



How I started to like BMW cars: When I was young, my family took many long road trips to visit family. My parents always picked large vehicles that could carry all of us and our stuff comfortably. The best example was a VW van, which they bought because it happened to be popular at the time.

My father, a lead-footed driver, always complained about the van’s lack of power. Whenever he tried to pass another vehicle on the highway, it was always a painfully slow process. He was known to stomp on the gas pedal in desperation, and he would frequently say “If we had a BMW, I’d have passed three cars already!”

He always drove fast in his non-road-trip car, so in my young and impressionable eyes he seemed to know what he was doing, and I always thought he

was a good driver. If he wanted a BMW, they must be good cars.

Later in my childhood, I received an electric racetrack as a gift, and one of the cars it came with was a white BMW E30 M3 with M racing stripes and headlights that lit up when the car ran around the track. It was by far the coolest car I had, and I think I played with it until it disintegrated.

As I grew older, my father continued to display his desire for BMWs, so when I finally had the means to get a car, I knew I what I had to get.

Living in Virginia at the time, I purchased a 2000 E46 330Ci with manual transmission, and I finally got to experience the pleasure of driving one. I still remember my favorite on-ramps, but a year later I moved to a different country, so I sold it. The love affair had begun...

Best BMW CCA memory: Driving to Austin with other club members to attend the Texas Trifecta high-performance driving event at the Circuit of the Americas in 2013. The 13-hour drive to Austin with fellow car nuts and short range family radios was a lot of fun. The highlight, of course, was driving on an F1 racetrack. On the Sunday we had to fix a trailer’s wheel bearings in the paddock, which was a tough but a great experience for on-the-spot emergency repairs and a great example of the club camaraderie; many of us stayed behind with the owner until the trailer was fixed.

Favorite club event: I like to drive fast on track, so the Flat Out Classic is my favorite chapter event.

Favorite BMW old or new: I’ve always had a secret lust for the first generation M coupe—the clown shoe—just because of how unique it is.

Favorite driving slogan: A t-shirt I saw a few years ago at the No Excuses event at Hallett had the slogan, “Don’t brake ‘til you see God!” Perfect!



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2014 KC BMW Club Ballot

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Vice President: Mike Staub _____

VP, Springfield: Bob Young _____

VP, Wichita: Joel DeHaven _____

Secretary: Keith Hui _____

Treasurer: Justin Rutherford _____

BOD Members at Large (Vote for seven):

Ryan Staub _____

Kevin Deneault _____

Brad Rein _____

Greg Lippert _____

Tim Gerrity _____

Joe Myers _____

Alan Staples _____

Bring your ballot to the KC BMW Club Annual Dinner, or you can mail your ballot to:

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