

**BMW Car Club  
of America  
Michiana Chapter**



# Bimmerbulletin

The newsletter of the Michiana Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America

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Autumn 2012 issue

## Just around the bend

### September 8

Autocross at the  
Tire Rack, the  
final round.

Stop by to compete, or  
just to watch the action at  
The Tire Rack, 7101  
Vorden Parkway, South  
Bend, Indiana. Beginners  
very welcome, loaner  
helmets and instructors  
are available, \$30.

### October 13

Fall Color Tour.

Meet at Harold Zeigler  
BMW, 4201 Stadium  
Drive in Kalamazoo at  
noon, first car off at 1  
p.m. Tour through the best  
of southwestern  
Michigan's colorful back-  
roads before having dinner  
at 5 p.m. at the Gull Lake  
Country Club. Check the  
Chapter Facebook page  
for the call for RSVPs  
soon, \$20.

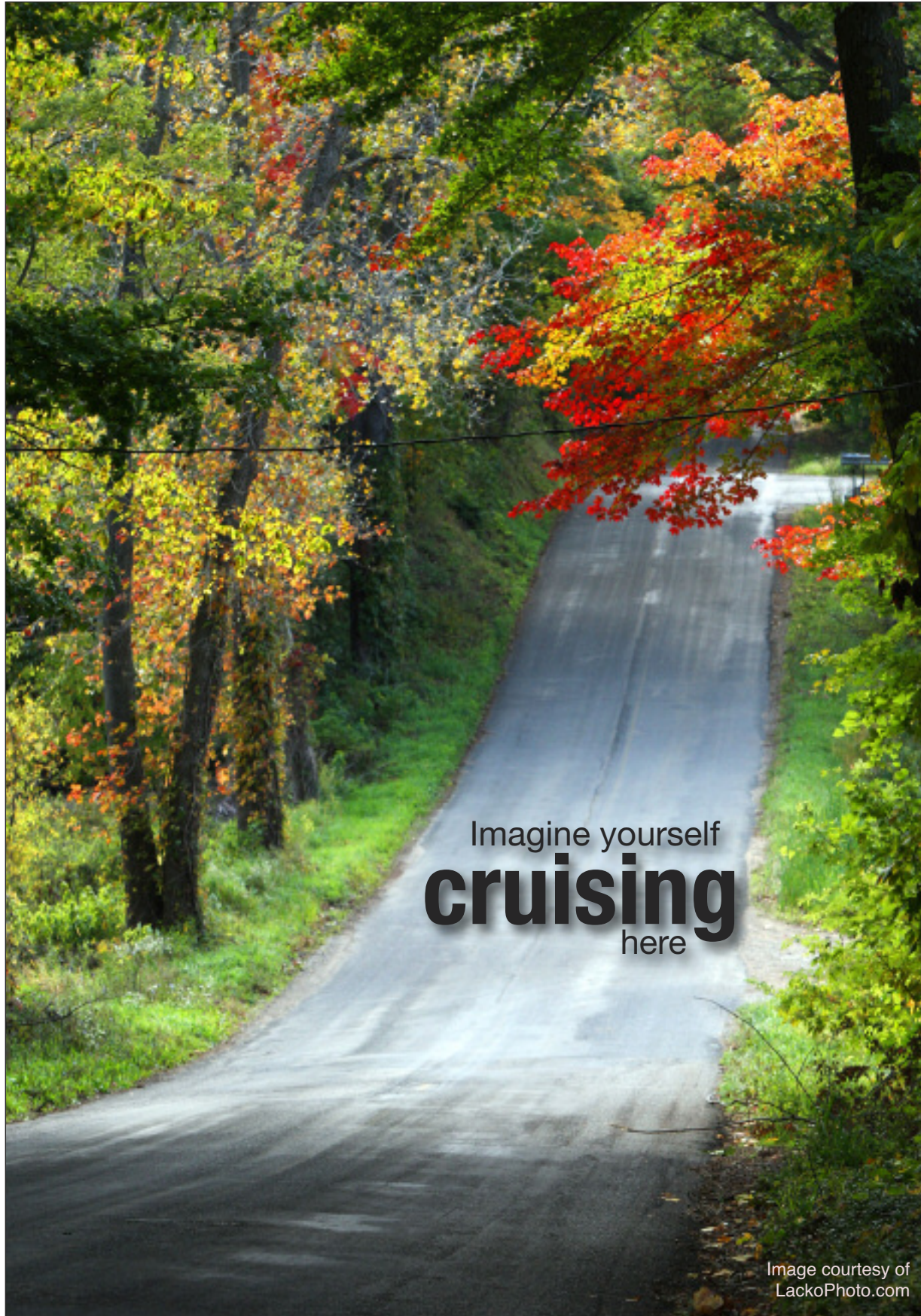
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Got a good idea for an event or BMW information to share? Let us know. Please contact a Michiana Chapter officer.



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# BMW NuttNews

by **Harvey Nuttall**, Michiana BMW CCA chapter president



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With summer flashing by, the BMW CCA Oktoberfest is fast approaching. I can't wait. Many of our members probably haven't the foggiest idea what O'Fest, as it's affectionately known, is all about, except perhaps thinking it involves a lot of beer drinking.

Back in 2006, I was only able attend the opening day reception at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids and the concours event. I caught just a tiny glimpse of what O'Fest is all about.

In 2007, O'Fest was in Dallas when I was scheduled to be in there for business. Thanks to Eve Dolenski, who encouraged me to go, I was able to spend Monday through Thursday afternoon at O'Fest with Lindsay Draime, who shared his car because I flew there.

It was in Dallas that I came to the realization that I had been missing out on a fantastic event designed just for BMW nutcases like me. Starting on Monday with the wonderful reception, to Tuesday's concours with all the BMWs sparkling and ultra clean, to the gymkhana event on Wednesday and the autocross and time-speed-distance rally on Thursday, it was absolutely amazing.

The 2008 O'Fest was held at Watkins Glen in upstate New York, but I had a more important event to attend, my U.S. citizenship ceremony in Grand Rapids. We departed from the Gerald Ford Museum parking lot immediately following the ceremony, arriving on Day Two. We participated in our very first autocross in the 2000 323i Touring.

At the 2009 O'Fest at Road Atlanta

we drove 60 mph touring laps on a racetrack for the first time, won 1st place in a BMW photo contest, did our first fun rally and autocrossed our tires right down to the cords.

We discovered a huge improvement in performance due to new Bridgestone tires fitted on site.



Harvey Nuttall enjoys autocrossing his 1989 325i E30 sedan.

Thanks to Chris Welty of Bridgestone, we became competitive in our class. On the drive home, we cruised through the Tail of the Dragon. What a blast - 318 curves in only 11 miles!

In 2010, we brought two cars, a 2003 745Li and our 2000 323i Touring to Road America in Elkart Lake, Wisconsin. With help from my family, Timothy, Kirsti and Abby, our 7'er won 1st place in class in the Clean Car Concours, which we now affectionately call the insanity contest.

In fierce autocross competition, Abby beat my best time by .7 sec.

Last year's O'Fest was at Barber Motorsports Park near Birmingham, Alabama. We drove our new-to-us 1989 325i sedan through the Tail of the Dragon three times through the rising sun while on the way.

The lakeside reception after arriving was exceptional and the reunion with other O'Fest regulars

is always wonderful. At 6:30 a.m. the next day, while preparing the 325i for the concours, I discovered nail in a tire. After an early morning call to Chris at Bridgestone, I get two new tires on the car by 8 a.m.

With help from Abby, we take 3rd place in the concours. Our

first driving school was cut short by a driveshaft bearing problem. With help from Dave Dolenski, and another member with a spare, we fitted a new flex coupling trackside to allow us to compete in the autocross. I took second in our class, and Abby third. Once again, O'Fest was super fun.

This year, the 2012 O'Fest begins Sept. 17 at Mid-Ohio racetrack near Troy, Ohio, and we're signed up for another driving school. We'll have to find some twisty roads as Tail of the Dragon is a bit too far out of the way. Abby has gotten hooked and says we should do this every year. Yes, what a blast!

I hope to see you soon at a BMW CCA Oktoberfest, or our own Fall Color Tour on Oct. 13, or during another Michiana Chapter event.

We hope you enjoy our first all-color newsletter. Please be sure to support our advertisers who helped make it possible.

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# Autocrossing Report

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 EveDolenski@att.net • Carl.zmijewski@gmail.com

## THE TIRE RACK - AUG. 11, 2012.

It wasn't supposed to rain. But rain it did, and the track was wet for the morning runs. After lunch, things dried out, we finally chalked the cones and things improved all around.

The small turnout allowed us to run 6 runs in the afternoon, instead of the typical 4, somewhat making up for the sloppy morning.

Scott Nardin posted the fastest time of the day at 42.635 seconds in his 1996 white Solo Vee. The fastest BMW was Jason Powell (class AA) at 46.546.

Finishing second and third respectively in class A/AA were Ralph Sampson (class A) and Carl Zmijewski (class AA).

Chris Itterly (class B) won the B/C/D class with a time of 50.894.

He was followed by Harvey Nuttall (class C) and Abby Nuttall (class C) finishing second and third, respectively.

Finishing second and third in class E were Steve Tamandli and Ricardo Gonzales.

With four of five events behind us, the points leader is Chris Itterly (class B) with 36 points, who has won the B/C/D class at all four events this season. Jason Powell (class AA) is in second with 27 points, having won the A/AA class for the three events he attended.

Tied for third are Ralph Sampson (class A) & Jim Lynch (class A) at 18 points each. There is a 3-way tie for 5th, with Carl Zmijewski (class A), Harvey Nuttall (class C) and Matthew Huizing (class C) each with 12 points.

We welcomed two novices at this event, Emmanuel Camus, coached by Ralph Sampson, and Jennifer Hauch, coached by Chris Itterly.

"It was a really great time, and everyone was absolutely great about helping out, a fantastic



Chris Itterly, shown during competition at the Tire Rack, is the 2012 season's points leader.

group," said Jennifer, whose parents saw her triumphant smile as she lowered her time with every attempt.

Following our last event on Sept.

8, we'll toast the season champions at a local eatery. Check our Facebook page and website for the location, where complete results of all events may also be found.

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# ChapterGallery



Lots of smiles on this year's Spring Dust Off cruise, beginning at Zeigler BMW in Kalamazoo on May 12.



A bevy of Bimmers in the spring drive. Don't miss the Fall Color Tour, scheduled for Oct. 13. See cover for info.



See lots of pictures from Michigana Chapter events on our Facebook page:  
[www.Facebook.com/MichianaBMWCCA](http://www.Facebook.com/MichianaBMWCCA)

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# Michiana members invent event: DeutscheMarques

Pete Hamlett decided that British car fans shouldn't have all the fun. Mad Dogs & Englishmen has been a standard on the Gilmore Car Museum's schedule for more than twenty years, so he decided to start a German car show.

Pete enlisted friends from the Michiana Chapter, including Lindsey Draime, Harvey Nuttall, Gary Apps and Brad Pines, and got to work.

On July 7, despite weather in excess of 100 degrees, 88 cars filled the show field at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners.



Margaret Hamlett greets Dave and Eve Dolenski in their M3 during the inaugural DeutscheMarques event at the Gilmore Car Museum on July 7.

Many Michiana members were on hand to display their BMWs and take part in the fun. Hector Orlandi took home the Best in Show BMW

award and his name is engraved on the Harold Zeigler BMW trophy.

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