

MotorCityCourier



Photo courtesy of Max C.A. Photo

Tentative 2013 Schedule

Check **online** at www.motorcitybmwcca.org for the most **up-to-date schedule**

January

February

March

20—kickoff dinner at Logan's Steakhouse on the grounds of Oakland Mall

April

27—spring thumb drive

May

tbd—Coffee Beanery Café Auto Zone meet and greet

05— car control clinic/ autocross

June

01-03— Detroit grand prix BMW car corral

21—one day high performance drivers school at Waterford Hills

16— EyesOn Design gathering

July

concours d'elegance rumble-seat picnic— tbd

winery tour—tbd

August

woodward dream cruise-in at the Beanery— tbd

street survival school— tbd

September

two day high performance drivers school at Grattan Raceway— 27– 29

October

November

K2K karting enduro—tbd

December

holiday party and annual members meeting— 04

- Note: *italicized* events are not affiliated with the MotorCity Chapter BMW CCA and are for information only
- For more information about upcoming events please contact us

MotorCity Chapter of the BMW CCA

Board of Directors

President	David Wong	248.245.7621	president@motorcitybmwcca.org
Vice President	Dan Cleary	586.665.1488	vicepresident@motorcitybmwcca.org
Vice President	Horst Reinhardt, Jr.	586.991.2455	vicepresident@motorcitybmwcca.org
Treasurer	Randy Perry	734.786.0232	treasurer@motorcitybmwcca.org
Secretary	Kyle Albert	248.739.2116	secretary@motorcitybmwcca.org
Newsletter Editor	Horst Reinhardt, Jr.	586.991.2455	newsletter@motorcitybmwcca.org
Driving Events Chair	Gary Davis	734.308.7299	drivingevents@motorcitybmwcca.org
Membership Chair	Paula Albert	248.739.2116	membership@motorcitybmwcca.org
At-Large Director	Ross Hotz	248.423.5573	director@motorcitybmwcca.org

Volunteers

Dealer Liaison	Open	xxx	dealer@motorcitybmwcca.org
Activity Director	Open	xxx	activities@motorcitybmwcca.org
Web Master	Phil Taylor	586.484.8600	webmaster@motorcitybmwcca.org
Events Registrar	Open	760.507.1602	registrar@motorcitybmwcca.org
Volunteer-at-Large	Bob LaMontagne	231.534.4585	atlarge@motorcitybmwcca.org

MotorCity BMW CCA P.O. Box 2174 Farmington Hills, Michigan 48333-2174

MotorCityCourier Pit Crew

Editor-in-Chief	Horst Reinhardt, Jr.	586.991.2455
Publisher	H Media	586.991.2455
Contributing Writers	Any Member	328.760.2002
Photography	Any Member	540.318.1600
Printing Services	Copyrite Printing	586.774.0006

Change of Address? Contact National HQ at www.bmwcca.org and click on the member services area or call 1.800.878.9292 or write to BMW CCA, 640 South Main St, suite 201, Greenville, SC, 29601

The MotorCity Chapter (the Club) is a non-profit Michigan Corporation. It is a chapter of the BMW Car Club of America (BMW CCA) and is not in any way connected with the Bayerische Motoren Werke AG or BMW of North America, Inc. The *Courier* is the publication of the Club and its contents remain the property of the Club. It is provided by and for the Club membership only. All ideas, opinions and suggestions expressed in regards to technical or other matters are solely those of the authors and no authentication is implied by the Club or its Officers. The Club assumes no liability for any of the information contained herein. None of the information bears the status of "factory approved" unless so indicated. Modifications within the warranty period may void the warranty. Articles are subject to editing and revision. Contents may not be reproduced without permission, in writing, except by the BMW CCA and its chapters. Though the Motor City Chapter attempts to screen club advertising, it does not endorse the goods or services of advertisers in the *Courier*. Please direct any questions about vendor or product recommendations to the Chapter Officers or Chapter Members. Classified ads online are free to individual BMW CCA members and \$10.00 per ad for non-members or businesses. **Advertising space is available in the *Courier*. Please contact the Ad Manager regarding the rates and terms.** This Newsletter's monthly distribution is approximately 850 copies.

The ultimate in

Paint Protection
for your vehicle

VentureShield®

keeps your vehicle in showroom condition....year after year.

Optically Clear



Lifetime Warranty



Total Protection



Twice the strength of the
leading Competitor



Don't let stone damage ruin your car's finish. Contact Michigan's
only certified **VentureShield®** dealer & installer today!



248-312-0968

www.graphixwerk.com

Visit www.ventureshield.com to view our complete list of vehicle,
motorcycle & RV patterns.

Buy your parts from BavAuto and save:

- **Free shipping** on most orders over \$150. Exceptions apply to heavy/oversized items and shipments to AK, HI, PR, APOs, etc.
- **No sales tax.** It doesn't matter what state you live in, we're in tax-free New Hampshire.
- **Best price guarantee.** We'll match any advertised price for same-brand, in-stock items. Details are on our web site.

BAVARIAN®
autosport

BMW parts, accessories and knowledge since 1974.

www.BavAuto.com • 800.535.2002

Download **FREE** tech & DIY articles
at www.BavAuto.com/newsletter.



coffee beanery café

Dan Cleary

Owner/Operator

28557 Woodward Ave.

Berkley, MI 48072

248.336.9930

"Your Performance Printer"



30503 Gratiot Avenue • Roseville, MI 48066

586-774-0006 • Fax 586-774-2792

www.copyriteprinting.net

Experience ... **"World Class Auto Detailing"**

Classic Appreciation

WORLD CLASS AUTO DETAILING CENTERS

81 Mill St. • Rochester, MI 48307 • 248.656.2159
677 S. Eton • Birmingham, MI 48009 • 248.644.9300
greg@classicappreciation.com

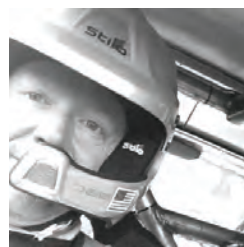
www.classicappreciation.com

Visit Our New
Rochester
Location!

Matthew J. Casey
TAX PROFESSIONAL

MATTHEW J. CASEY, M.S.T.

32985 HAMILTON CT. #132
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI. 48334
248.770.4247



Horst Reinhardt Jr

newsletter@motorcitybmwcca.org

rants & ramblings club business

Spring is a time of renewal. That's especially true in climates that actually have seasons. Along with the thawing of earth comes a renewed outlook of optimism. And while the ground is as ancient as the planet, the practice of tilling the fields brings new life to the surface. It's a necessary thing to do every once in a while.

In December you elected a new MotorCity chapter board, and while we may not all be as old as dirt, we have been around for a while. And thus we thought we'd do a little tilling. The newly elected board, as Randy explains in his final lap as president and columnist, conclave at a local pub and decides who will do what for the next term. And while the make-up of the group is the same, it's mostly different in terms of responsibilities shared. With these swapped responsibilities we hope come new ideas and renewed energy to see those ideas through.

But the board is only nine people and we cannot bear the total burden for the ongoing success of our little chapter. We need help and this is where you can make a difference.

In a perfect world the board's function is threefold; oversight, budget and most importantly guidance—laying out the direction for the club.

We are entrusted by the national organization, and by you, to make sure that the chapter functions responsibly, legally and within the approved guidelines. That means we have to produce a newsletter at least quarterly, we have to engage with our members through organized activities, we have to file

all the necessary paperwork and generally function as a proper enterprise.

As in any enterprise, there is cash flow. We need to make sure we stay solvent as a chapter, keep the right balance between investment, expenditures and savings. Major events like the driver's schools not only require a good deal of planning and volun-

We need to know from you what you expect and want from the club

teerism, but also money. The money comes from your membership dollars, advertising in the newsletter, sponsorships and event fees. Not every event has to make money, we are not a for profit company, but our losses in one area need to be made up for in another so that we remain balanced and solvent at year end. (A consistent money loser for the past few years has been the President's dinner, so for this year at least it's off the schedule).

Finally the board must guide the direction of the club. By that I mean the types of activities we foster. And this is where it gets fun for us. We didn't join the club and become board members simply to have another checkbook to balance or more tax forms to file. We're all car enthusiasts who enjoy the company of other car enthusiasts. And we want to promote events that

you will love and want to attend again and again..

Despite the mind numbing banality of the first two duties, this third one is actually the most difficult part of the job. And it is where you, dear reader and chapter member, can help the most. We need to know from you what you expect and want from the club, what activities you're interested in, and what you would be willing to step up and volunteer to help make happen. Contact anyone of us, our information is at the front of the book.

Eleven years ago I stepped into the editor's role for this newsletter. From the very beginning I wanted the *Courier* to be more than just a bulletin board of events. I wanted to engage with you on a broader enthusiast level so I began writing monthly columns that sometimes went beyond the usual club business. I encouraged our club presidents to dig deep every month and send me a proper column. And Randy Perry really delivered. Another big feather in the *Courier* cap was the addition of Dave Seemann's "Eye Drive" column five years ago.

To thank Dave and Randy for their hard work I began sorting through all of our columns with the intention of putting together a "best of" collection. One thing led to another and I ended up turning the assembled work into an actual book. If you want a copy for yourself, log onto Amazon.com and search for "Occasional Crisis of Conscience" in the book section and drop one into your shopping cart. (It takes up less shelf space than 10 years of *Couriers*).





BMW of Ann Arbor

501 automall drive Ann Arbor, MI 48103 734-663-3309 fax 734-213-5189

BMW of Ann Arbor supports the MotorCity Chapter of the BMWCCA

**As a member of the BMWCCA,
you are entitled to special pricing
in every department at BMW of Ann Arbor.
Just present your membership information
for your BMWCCA discount.**

**Now offering up to 20% off parts
for all BMWCCA members!**





Randy Perry

Paraphrasing Dick Nixon (remember him?), well, you won't have me to kick around anymore. At least not as president.

Following each election of members of the board of directors in December, your board, at its next meeting, elects officers—president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, webmaster, membership director. I've enjoyed being president of the club—meeting so many of you was the real reward—but concluded it was time for new blood (my blood being pretty old), and I declined to stand for re-election.

So over a few (quite a few) pints, your board put together a new officer lineup, with some changes and some keepers (and we are happy they agreed to be keepers). Here it is:

President: David Wong. Most of you already know David as a dedicated track guy and VP of the club. But he also has lots of ideas about bringing you new kinds of events and get-togethers. It will be great. Just watch.

Vice-President: Dan Cleary. Dan moves from treasurer to VP. Dan owns the Coffee Beanery on Woodward in Royal Oak (great coffee and food, by the way), and his business expertise was invaluable as treasurer. Now he gets to apply it in a new role.

Secretary: Kyle Albert has done a terrific job over the last couple of years as secretary, and, fortunately for us, he has agreed to serve another term. We are grateful.

Treasurer: That, uh, would be me. So now I have the checkbook...

Newsletter editor: Horst Reinhardt, Jr. When not running in the Targa Newfoundland, Horst puts together, month after month, what is simply the best BMW Club newsletter in the country. He's agreed to do it again for another year. And again, we are grateful.

Webmaster: Phil Taylor has served as our webmaster since he helped us make the move to a forum-based site a few years ago. It works great, and it's great he's agreed to serve for another term.

Membership director: As our membership director, Paula Albert has counted and courted you for a couple of years now. We're pleased to say she's agreed to do it for another year. We couldn't do this club thing without her.

And with that, let me introduce your new president—

Thank you Randy! It's been a privilege to have served you as VP the last four years. We are fortunate to have you continue your service as our Treasurer. I hope that I can lead the club as you have done so with the background of having served for the past five presidents (Randy, Erik Maassen, Abby Alexander, Vahan Shahinian and John Caton) as Secretary and Vice President.

I have been an officer of the Board for 10 years and I am excited to serve as the new MotorCity Chapter BMW CCA President for the upcoming year.

As Randy said, I guess you could say that I am passionate about track driving.



David Wong

president@motorcitybmwcca.org

But when I first joined the club, I had no clue about anything to do with the track. I was more interested in seeking likeminded enthusiasts for camaraderie and a knowledge base. And it didn't hurt that I could show off my new BMW! I can honestly say that as a member of this club, I have gained many lifelong friends as I hope that all members of this club find.

With your present MotorCity Board having remained intact for the past several years, we have a very cohesive group of enthusiasts working to serve this membership. This year, along with our signature track events at Waterford Hills and Grattan—that are not to be missed—and Street Survival and social tour drives, we are in the planning stages for several new events and activities. Please keep an eye out for upcoming announcements on our website, this newsletter, direct emails and our Facebook page. (And for the more adventurous, this year's O'fest will be held at the historic Laguna Seca Raceway and the Monterey peninsula in California this August).

Unfortunately we are canceling our President's Dinner this year as we do some reevaluating. Which brings me to my final point...

In the coming month, we will be conducting a survey that I hope everyone will participate. Please keep an eye out for this survey thru an email link. We would like everyone in the membership to have a say in our future membership activities. Your participation will help us plan the direction of our future activities as we move forward.



"Your service department prices are competitive? I never imagined!"

We understand you're passionate about your BMW.

You know you want your BMW cared for by a BMW trained technician.



Why not get the service
you desire at a
competitive price?

At Erhard you can.

Erhard's competitive pricing shows our edge.
Give us a call and let us earn your business.
-Erhard Motor Group

**Ask about even greater incentives for older model vehicles.

Erhard BMW of Bloomfield Hills

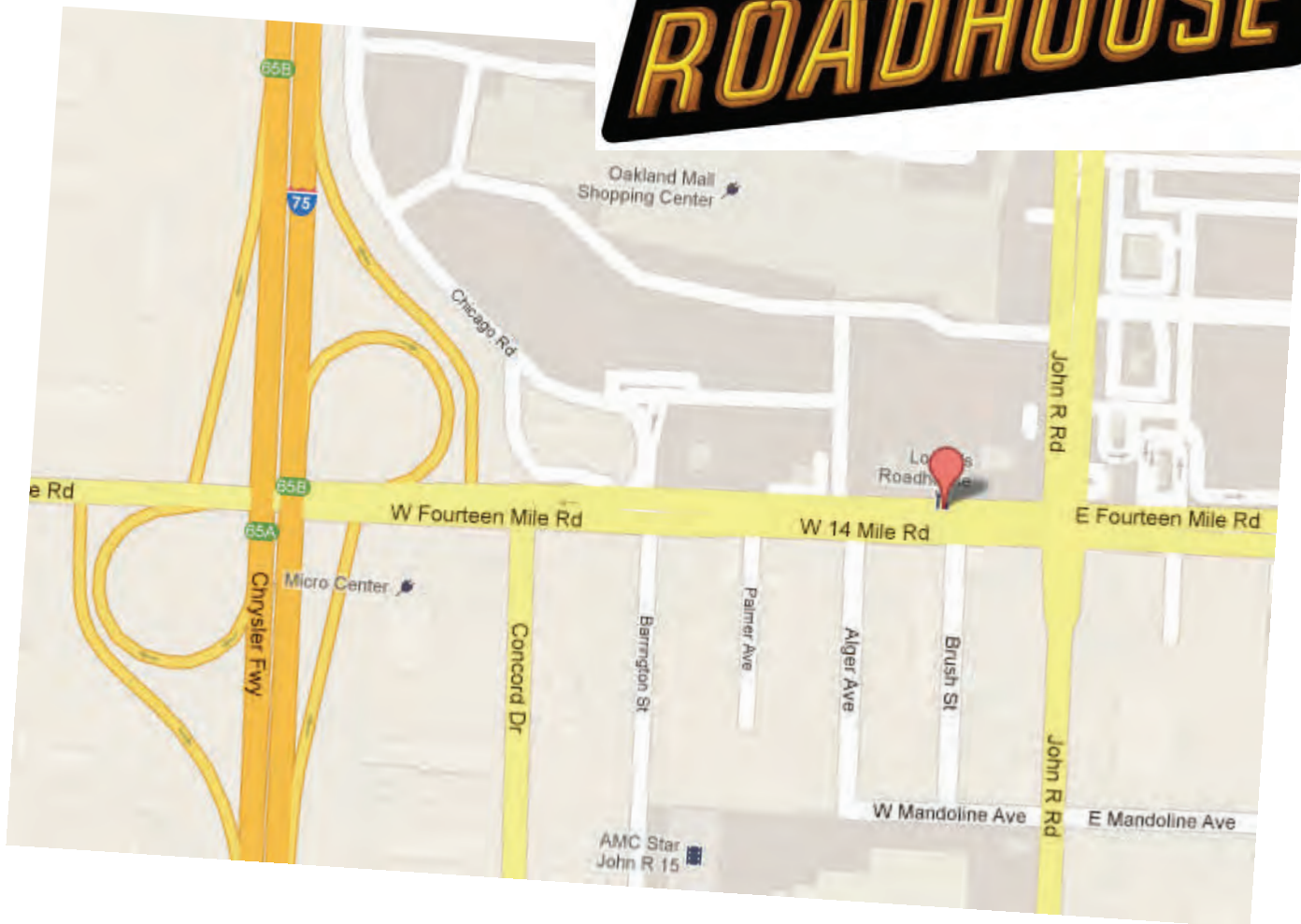
4065 W. Maple Rd
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
248-642-6565

Erhard BMW of Farmington Hills

38700 Grand River Ave
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248-306-6800

WorldOfErhard.com

*The Fourth Annual
Kick-Off Dinner at*



Once again we are starting off our year with a casual dinner and presentation at Logan's Road House. Join us for a tire kicking, beer drinking, steak eating, bench racing good time.

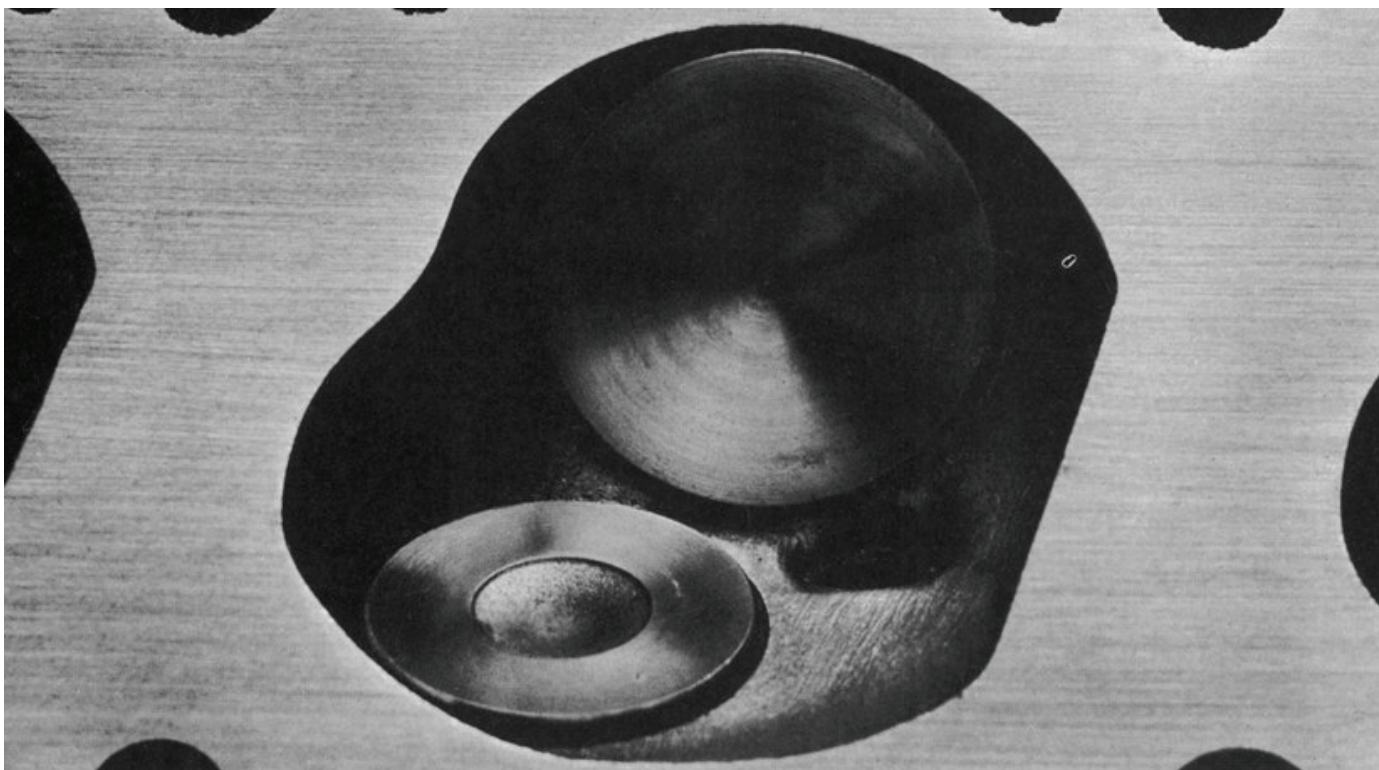
Date: March 20th 2013

Where: Logan's Road House

Address: 86 W Fourteen Mile Rd, Troy, MI 48083

Phone: (248) 583-6500

Time: 7:00 pm until the cows come home



Our exclusive Dreikugelwirbelwannenbrennraum.

You get it in the new BMW Bavaria.
6 cylinders. 2.8 liters. 130 mph. Under \$5,000. Wundercar!

What is it? Take a little free
German lesson:

Drei means three.

Kugel is ball or hemisphere.

Wirbel means swirl.

Wannenbrennraum means
combustion chamber.

Put it all together and you have a
triple-hemispheric swirl-action
combustion chamber. The main
reason why the power output of
the new BMW Bavaria 2.8 liter
engine beats any automobile
engine its size.

Our engineers have contoured
the new BMW's cylinder heads

this way to produce smoother
ignition, more complete
combustion and more efficient
utilization of fuel. The result is a
powerful, quiet-running engine
with long, trouble-free life.
An engine that hits 130 mph with
ease, lets you cruise effortlessly
at 120 mph.

And we haven't neglected your
comfort, either. The interior of the
new BMW Bavaria is roomy, with
an understated elegance that
makes the car unique as a sports
sedan.

Why not go to your nearest
BMW dealer and let him show
you? Better yet, ask him to let you
test-drive BMW's new Bavaria.
And if you think our Dreikugel-
wirbelwannenbrennraum is
something, wait till you see our
Doppelzweikreisbremsanlage.

BMW's are available in nine different four or six-cylinder models.
Suggested retail prices range from \$3,015 to \$8,453 P.O.E. New York.
All prices quoted exclude dealer preparation charge, Skai upholstery,
optional equipment, state and local taxes if any. Sole U.S. Importer:
Hoffman Motors Corporation, 375 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022;
12541 Beatrice Street, Los Angeles, California 90066; Dealers Coast
to Coast. Advantageous European Delivery Program.
Write for free brochure No. SCG-5

BMW
Bavarian Motor Works
in Munich, city of the 1972 Olympics.



Waterford Hills Road Race Course Friday, June 21st

One Day
High
Performance
Driver's
School

Our One Day High Performance Driver's School at Waterford Hills Road Race Course is the perfect venue for beginners and experts alike. It's cheap, it's local, it's only one day. If you've never been on the track and would like to give it a try, this is the school to attend. Registration is quick and simple at www.motorsportreg.com. If you have questions, check out the forums at our club website at www.motorcitybmwcca.org.

Grattan Raceway

Two Day High Performance Driver's School

September 28–29

Our Two Day High Performance Driver's School at Grattan Raceway near Grand Rapids is a real favorite of the pros. But don't worry, if you're a beginner you're welcome as well. Grattan is a track that offers it all, off camber corners, elevation changes and a big old front straight. Registration is quick and simple at www.motorsportreg.com. If you have questions, check out the forums at our club website at www.motorcitybmwcca.org

E36 Suspension Rebuild— What Could go wrong?



Photos and Story// Horst Reinhardt Jr.

Do not do this at home, trained professionals at work! Joking aside, a quick lesson for potential DIYers: think long and hard before tackling suspension work. We just completed a full suspension rebuild on a well worn, 182k mile E36 323i at the shop. This included all new dampers and springs, front control arms, tie-rod ends, and most importantly a complete set of bushings at all suspension points including rear sub-frame. It's this last part that is tricky for shade tree mechanics.

If you don't have the right tools, extracting and then pressing in new bushings is nearly impossible without potentially damaging something or hurting yourself. Not only do shops have access to hydraulic presses, they also have specially designed bushing tools and dies for the job. And despite all that, issues arise (especially on older cars where the bushings have welded themselves into position).

Also, count on having to replace most of the old hardware—nuts, bolts, clips and so on. And occasionally, as in this last case,

be prepared to weld or replace suspension arms. At the end of the day, this was a \$3500+ job and we didn't even charge all the hours we spent making things absolutely perfect.

The relatively easy part, the front suspension.

Out with the old front struts, including strut mounts and bearings (the top mount/bearing is something most people forget but is essential to replace when upgrading):



And in with the new strut assembly, in this case Bilstein HD dampers and H&R lowering springs.



The front lower control arms should be replaced on a regular basis, especially if you go to the track. The only way to replace the pressed in ball joints is to replace the entire arm (joints are not sold separately). We also replaced the control arm's rear bushing mounts. While we were at the front, we replaced the inner and out tie-rod ends that connect the steering rack to the front hubs.

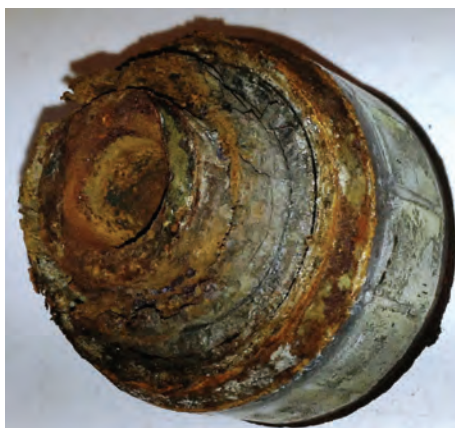


The rear suspension and sub-frame

In order to remove the rear sub-frame you must first remove the exhaust system, heat shields and drive shaft; disconnect the parking brake lines and hydraulic brake lines. Next remove the dampers and springs. Finally the four bolts that hold the sub-frame to the car can be loosened and the entire assembly lowered onto a specially constructed carrier. With the car on a lift, we raise the body and slide out the rear sub-frame and suspension assembly.



When the assembly is out of the car, we can remove the differential and then take off the upper wishbones (where the springs sit) and the lower control arms. Once the arms are removed we can press out the old bushings and press in the new ones. The outer bushings for these arms are located in the rear hub assembly; we use special BMW OEM tools to remove and then install these bushings. Here's a close-up of one of those well worn, 182,000 mile outer bushings.



Unfortunately, sometimes you run into parts that have failed and either need to be fixed or replaced. The left side wishbone on this particular car was cracked in two places and needed welding repair.

Next up are the four sub-frame bushings and the one differential bushing, all on the sub-frame and all removed and installed with a special BMW tool (a \$1500 tool to be exact). Bottom right is a photo of the isolated sub-

frame with all the suspension arms removed. The studs you see sticking up should have stayed with the car body, but they were so corroded that they chemically welded themselves to the bushing sleeve.



Once all the new bushings were pressed back into the suspension arms and sub-frame we re-assembled the rear end.

Finally we prepped the car body, the area where the sub-frame is attached, by sanding off the old paint and rust and then priming and painting.

Disassembling, replacing, fixing and re-assembling all takes time and money. But the final result is transformative; you end up with not only a car that handles like it is new, but one that is safe again. If you plan on keeping your car or turning it into a track star, this upgrade is essential.

Can this be done at home? Sure, with the right tools and lots of patience. Just be aware of what you're in for...



INDEPENDENT BMW SERVICE



NIKOLAS MOTORSPORT



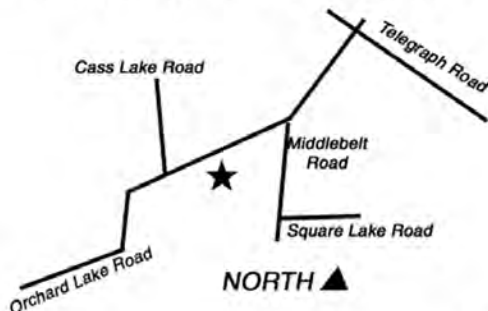
Member Of:
The International Association
of Independent BMW Service
Professionals

***Servicing All Newer BMW Models
S.E. Michigan's Only Independent Authorized Dinan Dealer
Offering -***

***All Scheduled Maintenance - General Repairs - Brakes and Shocks - Engine and
Transmission Repair/Replacement - Suspension Tuning & Alignments - Air Conditioning
Complete Line of Dinan Parts and Accessories - Also Servicing **Porsche** and **Ferrari*****



***DINAN PERFORMANCE SUSPENSION, ENGINE TUNING, DRIVETRAIN AND EXHAUST
COMPONENTS***



2683 Orchard Lake Road
Sylvan Lake, MI 48320
(248)682-7755

www.nikolasmotorsport.com

BMW CCA Member/SEM Porsche Club Member

New Members

Welcome all the new members that joined the MotorCity Chapter in 2012

Join us in welcoming our new and returning members of the MotorCity chapter. We're glad you're here and look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!

Paul Lee	Greg Parker	Erik Feinauer	Brian Dahlgren	JoNeil Smith
Francois Baert	Ronald Swapp	Leon Darga	Johnathan Burkhard	Robert Martin
Krystle Cariera	Tejaswi Nandam	Geoff Wilson	Carolyn Lepard	Cesar Nerys
Randy Fayne	Zach Evans	Jon Mojares	Josh Goldstein	Lynnette Lane-Wimbley
Kenneth Kernen	Debra Thornton	Susan Prebeck	Benjamin Hodge	Ari Lahtinen
Neil Britton	James Williams	Aaron Esterline	Donny Abdal	Alex Swapp
Robert Walters	Joseph Kaczmarek	Tom Bloom	Ajay Gupta	Quinton Mack
Raymond Wimbley	Noel Mack	Daniel Cutler	James Leshner	Amy Lindberg
Hammond Harry	Mark Stranahan	Art Dahl	Thomas Spangler	Nancy Blow
Glenn Cattanach	Joel Chinsky	Michael Donahue	Christopher Conrad	
William Roscoe	Christopher Capaldi	Leonard Cetner	Erik Andersen	
Ronald Bays	Damon Currier			
John Erwin	Alexandra Eaton			
John Butterfield	Trevor Kubitsky			
Curtis Tassinare	Craig Latham			
Raford Peddy	Bradley Miller			
David Hess	Ilissa Schutzbach			
Marc Bronzetti	Josh Seager			
Scott Freeman	Jasen Wesley			
Sukhmeet Kamboj	James White			
William Demers	Geoff Blow			
Nic Lower	James Scheiman			
Mike LaMarra	Eric Garcia			
Neil Pioch	Scott Kleman			
Hadrian Rori	Tom Siebyla			
Tony Pitts	Rafael Barkas			
James Kelly	William Owen			
Matti Lahtinen	Jon Chang			
Allison Miller	Andrew Morse			
Kazem Hodroge	Joshua Grosseck			
James Kwasny	Gerry Stover			

**Servicing imported cars
since 1969.**



Free one-day rental for BMW Club Members.

Call for details.



**3080 Huron St. (M-59)
Waterford, Michigan
service@munks.com
248.681.8081**

Michigan's #1 Rated Bosch Service Center



Bavarian BMW



Stop in to visit our recently expanded Shelby Township facility;
Now on 13 acres with Michigan's only Certified Pre-Owned indoor showroom.

Bavarian BMW is proud to support the Motor City Chapter of the BMWCCA.
Show your membership card and save up to 25% on parts and lifestyle goods in our BMW boutique.

Service has been our #1 priority for 40 years
Service ist unsere Priorität #1 für 40 Jahre



BAVARIAN BMW
4550 Dequindre Rd.
Shelby Twp., MI 48317
(248) 997-7700

New & CPO Sales / Service / Parts

BAVARIAN MOTOR VILLAGE
24717 Gratiot Ave.
Eastpointe, MI 48021
(586) 772-8600

CPO Sales / Service / Parts

www.bavarian-bmw.com



facebook.com/BavarianBMW

A map of Michigan is shown in the background, tilted slightly. Overlaid on the map is the text 'Spring Thumb Drive' in a large, 3D, blue and white font. The text is slanted and has a shadow effect. The map shows various locations including Cadillac State Forest Area, Roscommon State Forest Area, Gladwin State Forest Area, Big Rapids, Mt Pleasant, Midland Township, Bay City, Saginaw Charter Township, Saginaw, Alma, Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Kentwood, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Marshall, Portage, Jackson, Pontiac, Rochester Hills, Troy, Sterling Heights, Warren, Southfield, Livonia, Dearborn, Detroit, Windsor, Lakeshore, Chatham-Kent, Petrolia, and Sarnia.

Spring Thumb Drive

The MotorCity Spring Thumb Drive

Time to reboot! Join us for our first MotorCity Chapter Spring Thumb Drive April 27th. Clean up your car, check the oil and top up the brake fluid, we're taking a tour!

We will start off from the Coffee Beanery Café on Woodward, and then drop in at VRPerformance where we'll check out their latest projects. Our final gathering point will be on M53 where it crosses I69. Staying on M53 until we get to Port Austin in the tip of the Thumb. A stop for lunch in Port Austin is planned. Then we will take US25 along the east coast of "the Thumb" stopping at some scenic points of interest (and maybe even get an ice cream) as we head back to Port Huron, where the official Tour ends.

This tour is still in the planning stage so please keep checking the events thread on our website motorcitybmwcca.org for further information.

(Anybody familiar with the Thumb and would like to assist in the planning of this event, please contact

Phil webmaster@motorcitybmwcca.org).

eye drive biophilia



Dave
Seemann

editoratlarge@motorcitybmwcca.org

In 1984 E.O. Wilson published a book titled *Biophilia*. I confess to just skimming the book but I was intrigued with his thesis: “Humanity is exalted not because we are so far above other living creatures, but because knowing them well elevates the very concept of life.”

“Biophilia” I suppose never became a branch of science or a labeled psychiatric disorder but I have loved the idea since. For me the simple idea (so well expressed by Temple Grandin too) is that knowing animals creates a larger understanding of what’s good about being alive.

My wife and I are “dog people” which is no surprise to readers of *Eye Drive*. This resonates with other dog people because they know it means you share your life with a dog and vice versa. After all it’s been going on for fifteen thousand years.

One of our Golden Retrievers, Lanna, is blind. She’s twelve years old and suffers from an all too common (in Goldens) genetic eye disorder called Pigmentary Uveitis. The condition is not age related except symptoms usually don’t appear until five or six years of age.

She lost sight gradually in one eye two years ago then due to a pressure spike (which can damage the optic nerve) she suddenly lost sight in her remaining eye last spring. Everyone, including the eye vet, was pretty quick to say, “Hey, dogs do well with blindness. Just don’t move the furniture.”

Well they don’t exactly, not quickly. At first all she did was sleep. Of course she ate and we took her out on a leash but she didn’t do well. To us she was depressed – so were we.

Not to exploit your sympathy, she also suffers from profound hearing loss. Suddenly she was the dog version of Helen Keller. Lanna didn’t communicate with us and we would clumsily put a hand in front of her nose then try to push or pull her from one place to another.

Slowly though, over several months, she has worked out a new life for

But riding in the car is pure anticipation, a familiar happiness

herself. She smelled, touched, and talked her way to happiness. First she learned to travel at a speed that didn’t hurt when she crashed – she moved with a steady slow pace, never running, just somewhat gently bumping into objects then turning.

Out in the yard she would travel in circles – sometimes narrowing, other times widening. She learned where the fence was, our little barns, trees, shrubs, landscape rocks, the deck, the steps up, the door wall to the house.

Many times I would see her two or three hundred feet from the house turning in a small circle and I’d go out and bring her in. But she wasn’t deterred, she remapped her world without a visual landscape – maybe adding to her prior visual memory, but she finds her way back now.

Often she’ll just stand with her

nose in the air. The air for a dog is the equivalent of cyber space for us. It’s magnificent to observe – calm curious slight head movements seem to trace the prolific information. I just watch, dumb as gum but happy.

Other times she’ll just start barking. Big deep barks. Our other Golden (Mr. Darcy) will race around with excitement but disappointed that there is no action. Lanna used to get other dogs barking in the neighborhood and is still trying I guess.

She mapped out the house in the same way – moving from room to room and she’ll call out if she gets stuck. It’s a different sound from wanting to go out or eat dinner. It’s a shrill Yip! that says, “Is anybody there?”

Wonderfully she’s most free at the park for her daily walk. On a leash next to Mr. Darcy she walks fast, tail up, smiling, never hesitating. She still knows the usual stops too and puts on the brakes when we get close.

But riding in the car is pure anticipation, a familiar happiness. The excitement is there but relaxed and sure; sure there will be another discovery in an always-interesting world.

C’mon put the window down, is a new urgency for Lanna. Her head out, no matter what the weather, or just resting her nose on the door until we get to about 40 mph; then curl up on the seat.

E.O. Wilson is right, I can think of no better life than me and Lanna going down the road.



Trade In. Trade Up. Or Pull Over!

**Limited
Time
Offer**
Trade-in
your old
detector
and save!



Now available with **Blue** Display

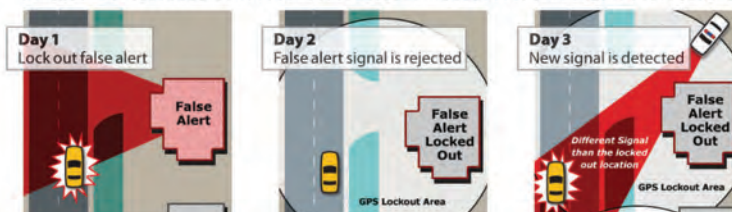
Speed traps get more sophisticated every day. Smart drivers make sure they stay one step ahead.

Now, for a limited time only, we're making it easier than ever for you to own the most advanced radar and laser detector on the market: The PASSPORT 9500i. Long-range protection, GPS enabled to provide the most accurate signal detection in the industry, and backed by our 30-day money-back guarantee.

Trade up to the best radar & laser detector on the market: The all-new **PASSPORT 9500i**.



Call or log on to our website today for more details on this great offer!



GPS-powered **TrueLock™** technology permanently locks out false alerts by exact location and frequency.

www.EscortRadar.com

PASSPORT 9500i • Red \$449.⁹⁵ • Blue \$499.⁹⁵ • S&H (OH res. add tax)

ESCORT®
THE RADAR AND LASER EXPERTS

Call 1-866-229-3555

► Department BMWCLB

MotorCityCourier

Motor City Chapter BMW CCA

P.O. Box 2174

Farmington Hills, Michigan 48333-2174

PRSRT STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

Mail-Tek

24792 Crestview Ct
Farmington Hills,
MI 48335

The End of Compromise

There is nobility in doing things well— a sentiment not forgotten at VRPerformance. If you have had enough of the over promising and under delivering trend, contact us today. We'll help guide you through the many performance options available for your car, create a plan, and then execute without compromise.

VRPERFORMANCE

Call today for an appointment, 586.991.2455 or email us your questions, eric@vrperformance.com or horst@vrperformance.com

In the neighborhood? Stop by, we're in the Utica Tech Plaza,
43706 Utica Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48314



ELEPHANT
MOTORSPORTS.COM

24/7 Secure Online Ordering - Thousands of parts!

Congratulations to the Elephant Motorsports team for their success at the 2008 NASA National Championships!

Team Drivers:

Simon Hunter, 2nd Place, SpecE30
John VanHouten, 7th Place, GTS2
Shea Burns, 12th Place, GTS3

EMS Sponsored Driver:

Scott Berkowitz, GTS3 National Champion
EMS Spec'd AST Suspension - 1st National Champion on AST

Elephant Motorsports is run by professional engineers with more than a decade of club and professional motorsports experience. This experience in everything from BMW CCA Club Racing to NASA to SCCA, married with our professional engineering background, allows us to provide the best solutions - that actually work on the track.

Bilstein ENGINEERING



www.elephantmotorsports.com | info@elephantmotorsports.com