

MotorCityCourier



Photo courtesy of Horst Reinhardt Jr

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

05— car control clinic/ autocross

June

01— Detroit grand prix BMW car corral

21—one day high performance drivers school at Waterford Hills

16— EyesOn Design gathering

July

winery tour—13

concours d'elegance rumble-seat picnic— 28

August

street survival school— 24

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

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Last year, over 5,000 teenagers died in motor vehicle crashes, the leading killer of American youths aged 16 to 19, accounting for more than 40 percent of fatalities in that age bracket. To reduce this number we developed Tire Rack Street Survival, a non-profit, national driver education program aimed at teaching teens the skills they need to stay alive behind the wheel.



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rants & ramblings on the road

Horst Reinhardt Jr



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There are many signs of spring. For gardeners it's bulbs sprouting and trees budding. For ornithologists it is the return of migratory birds. And for sports car racing fans, it's the annual running of the 12 Hours of Sebring in March. I've been going to this most blue collar of the sports car racing events off and on for two decades. Unlike fancier venues like Lime Rock Park or Road America or Laguna Seca, Sebring is much more amenable to couches on top of old school busses, ratty RVs, homemade bar-b-ques smoking, beer kegs pouring, wet t-shirt contests, tequila tents, and men walking around in cow costumes. It's spring break for those who have kids on spring break. A cold winter's worth of pent up anticipation spilling out in an orgy of fuel, liquor, smoke, noise and racing.

Sebring is also unique in the fact that it is totally unsuited to host a world class race, yet it has done so for over half a century. Situated in the middle of the state, as far away from the sunny beaches that give Florida its *raison d'être*, Sebring is a flat, rough, featureless course that looks every bit as much as the old US Army Air Force training base that it was. I love it.

The plan was hatched after a few beers at the local watering hole. We would leave Friday after work, drive straight through the night and arrive at the track as the green flag waved and watch the last *12 Hours of Sebring* sanctioned by the American Le Mans Series (next year it will be run by the new United SportsCar Racing organization, a merger between ALMS and Grand-

Am racing). Then, as the checkered flag falls, we would pack up and head back north, be in the office first thing Monday morning.

Considering the fact that we were on the road three times as long as we were at the race it's no wonder my notes from the trip have little to do with the race. (For the statisticians out there, according to the trip

I'm obsessed with smooth driving. We all know that smooth is fast on the track, but smooth is pure pleasure for me on the street.

computer we drove 2596 miles door to track to door, averaged 75 mph and consumed 90 gallons of diesel which works out to about 28.8 mpg. Not bad for a loaded up SUV with three sleep deprived guys in it.)

I'm obsessed with smooth driving. We all know that smooth is fast on the track, but smooth is pure pleasure for me on the street. The highest honor my passengers can give me on a long trip is to fall asleep, and stay asleep even as we pass through pot marked city bypasses or work our way up and over and around mountains. When I notice my passengers falling asleep I make a game of being as smooth as possible while still maintaining a good speed. All of my inputs from steering to throttle and braking are filtered and minimized. Call it chauffeur style.

My two compatriots on the trip had a wildly different style, more race driver than *Driving Miss Daisy*. Inputs were binary instead of analogue—we would vacillate between full throttle and brake checks. The average speed is much the same, but the experience is, shall we say, more frantic. I did not sleep.

As a young boy sliding around in the back seat of my father's Cadillac on route toward a fishing cabin or some sort of summertime attraction, the way I counted the distance traveled was the point the radio signal faded. At the time out of state stations and DJs just seemed so exotic and thrilling to me. Radio stations were unique from state to state and they gave the first indication that you were not at home anymore. I remember being fascinated by the twang in a DJ's voice and the bluegrass music on his program during a trip to Tennessee.

On the way home radio again provided a location beacon. I would squeeze between the front seatbacks and reach toward the tuning knob on the radio as we got closer to Michigan, delicately adjusting it past static, in search of a familiar voice. As soon as the stations that were pre-set on the mechanical push buttons came in clear, we knew we were close.

My VW Touareg is equipped with satellite radio. We listened to the same few stations in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. Any sense of locality or movement was lost. Even without satellite it seems small town stations are fewer and farther apart. Yet another unintended downside to modernity.





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right of way social business

David
Wong



president@motorcitybmwcca.org

Ah, what a weekend, and what better time to write this month's column for the newsletter as I'm sitting here in the back seat waiting for my turn on the 18 hour drive back from Sebring, Florida.

A month ago, your newsletter editor Horst invited me to join him & Eric Volz on their trip to the ALMS season kick off race for the 12 Hours of Sebring. At first I said no because I didn't want to use up any vacation time, but he said he wasn't planning on leaving 'till after work on Friday and coming back by Sunday night, so no time off work, a 'bonsai' trip, great!

Originally planned for four of us to go so the driving duties would be relatively easy, but circumstances left it to just three of us going.

We left at 4 pm Friday and planned on making it to Sebring by 8:30 am Saturday. Being the night owl that I am, I took the night shift, driving from 11 pm to just after 4 am, this after only sleeping 3 hours the night before because of work projects; the bottle of 5 hour Energy Horst gave me did the trick.

We made it to the track at 10:30 am just before the start of the race. We had a great time at the race, weather couldn't have been better, but unfortunately, the Rahal-Letterman BMW Team didn't win. They finished 4th & 7th in class, but a respectable finish for the brand new Z4 GTE race car. Hopefully they'll have some better results at the next race at Long Beach.

So as you are reading this month's newsletter, hopefully everyone who made it out to Logan's Roadhouse for our Kick-off meet/greet dinner event had a great time. And if you we're unable to join us, I hope that you can come out to one of the future gatherings. We did announce the event for the past few months, so no excuses!

**"Like" us at 'BMW CCA
MotorCity Chapter' and if
you use Twitter, join us at
"@BMWCCAMotorCity"**

In the past, at times, the club may have been accused of not getting information out regarding upcoming events in a timely manner or medium. One of my goals is to get the information regarding our events out to all our members in as many current mediums as possible, including social media.

Currently our events are advertised in the newsletter, email, Constant Contact email blast, and our website. And if you didn't know, we are also on Facebook. I asked a new member, Misha Nikolich, whom I happen to meet by chance at the recent NAIAS, to spearhead our social media effort. As of this article, we have a new Facebook Page that I invite you to join. "Like" us at 'BMW CCA MotorCity Chapter' and if you use Twitter, join us at "@BMWCCAMotorCity". So, whether you like to plan out the events

you participate in or you just happen to do things on a spur of the moment, we will get the information out to you. Speaking of which...

First up, on Saturday April 27, we have a wonderful spring drive planned titled "The Thumb Drive". As the title suggests, we are heading to the tip of the Michigan Thumb, a.k.a. Port Austin. This is a casual drive so all are invited (sedans, coupes, convertibles, SAVs and my case, motorcycles) to join!

Second up, on Sunday May 5, co-planned with our neighbors, the Michiana Chapter BMW CCA, we planned a Car Control Clinic/Intro and Autocross to be held at the Tire Rack in South Bend, Indiana. Just a short 3 hour drive from Detroit, we will have access to the Tire Rack test track facility. This will be a fun day of advancing your car control skills and seeing what you've learned with some timed Autocross runs! Registration will be at Motorsportreg.com.

And third up, on May 31 to June 2, we are planning a BMW Belle Isle Car Corral at the Grand-Am Road Race during the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix weekend. As part of the Corral, we will receive group ticket pricing, track-side corral parking, parade laps on the race track, paddock access and garage tours with the BMW teams. We need to meet a minimum of 25 cars for this to happen, so round up your fellow BMW race enthusiasts and lets make this a memorable weekend!



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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 VRPerformance where we'll check out their latest projects. Our second gathering point will be at 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 cone or two) as we head back to Port Huron, where the official Tour ends. Complete details at our website and on our Facebook page.

(Anybody familiar with the Thumb and would like to assist in the planning of this event, please contact Phil at webmaster@motorcitybmwcca.org).

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.



MotorCity / Michiana Chapter BMW CCA

Car Control Clinic & Intro to Autocross

When:

Sunday, May 5, 2013

Where:

Tire Rack facility
7101 Vorden Parkway
South Bend, IN 46628

Details:

This event is for new drivers, seasoned drivers as well as those who want to improve their driving skills. The one day event is spent learning and experiencing car dynamics through a series of exercises: skidpad, braking, turning, accelerating and so on.

It is the perfect venue for young drivers, seasoned drivers and drivers young at heart, to explore what happens at the performance limit of a car. It is a great first step or review for those who want to autocross or drive on a race track. Even if you never participate in one of these programs, many of the skills you learn will be useful on public highways.

Cost will be \$45 for early registration by midnight April 21, 2013. \$55 after with registration closing on midnight May 2, 2013.

Lunch is included in the cost.

Registration:

Open to all BMW CCA members and guests of BMW CCA members. Due to the nature of the event, SAV's or SUV or trucks will not be allowed, though convertibles are welcome. Registration is quick and simple at www.motorsportreg.com. If you have any questions, check out the club websites at www.motorcitybmwcca.org or www.michiana-bmwcca.com and at our Facebook pages at BMW CCA Motorcity Chapter or Michiana BMWCCA Chapter. For more information contact president@motorcitybmwcca.org

Concours d'Elegance Rumble Seat Picnic

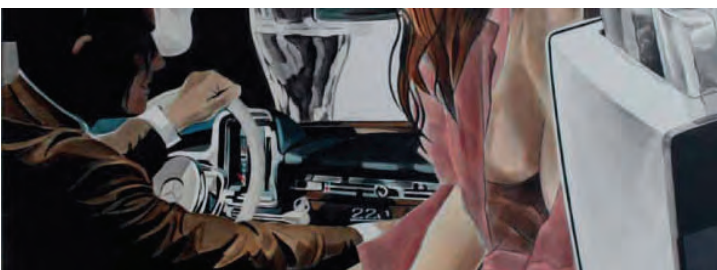
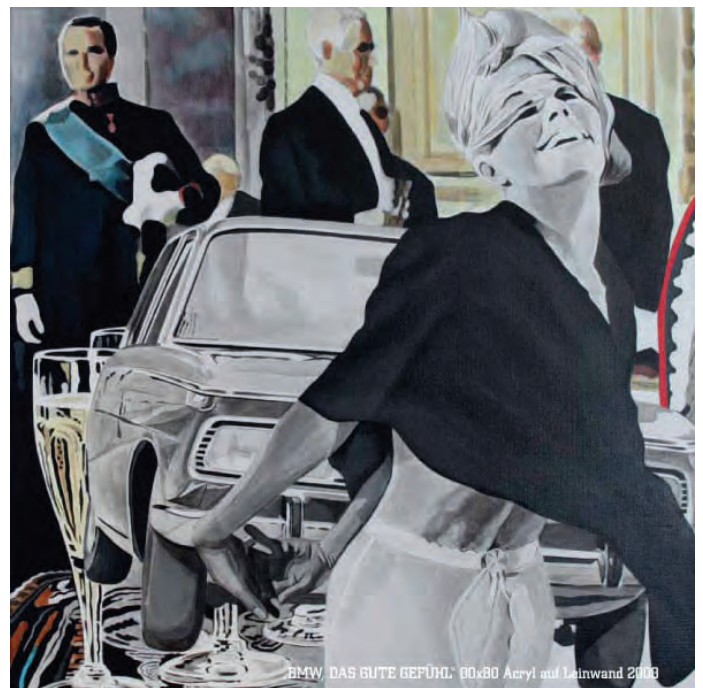


*Join us for our seventh annual
Rumble Seat Picnic at the 2013 Concours d'Elegance of America
at the Inn at St. John Sunday, July 28th*

Come Celebrate Automotive History & Heritage at the 34th annual Concours d'Elegance with your friends at the MotorCity Chapter of the BMW CCA. We will meet up for a pot-luck breakfast at XXX

We ask you to bring a light dish or beverage to share for the pre-event picnic from 8:00 to 9:30 am.

Please R.S.V.P. to Paula at secretary@motorcitybmwcca.org or 248.739.2116





Story and pictures// Paula Albert

As I contemplate this article which I have been promising to Horst for some time now, I wonder how Elmore Leonard would word it. I have been reading Leonard's books recently and really enjoy how he writes. For those of you who are not familiar, Leonard has been writing western and crime stories for decades, there have been movies based off his stories like **Get Shorty**, and recently he has been writing for the FX TV series **Justified**.

So earlier last year my husband and I decided to attend a few days of the BMW CCA's national Oktoberfest event particularly the events held at Mid-Ohio. This included one day of driver's training

on the track. As always it's a thrill to drive on that track and we both had excellent driving instructors. Because of the large number of instructors and drivers there were a couple run groups that resembled a traffic jam on I-94 minus the semi-trucks, instead of a driving event. All said the best part was the camaraderie that was from within our club members that attended and also all the friendships that were formed with members from other chapters. Some of our Chapter members that attended were: David Wong, Randy Perry, Norb Kaminski, Ross Hotz, Jeff Jones, Jeff O' Neal, Lorne Dunkley, Gary Davis and Bruce Groves.

So the reason that I bring up Elmore Leonard is because a couple things that happened read like a Leonard story.

There was the trip to the emergency room which one of our instructors took after surviving a roll over crash. Urban legend has it that he still had his helmet on when the nurse wheeled him into x-ray. There was apple pie consumed and I'm not talking about the stuff that's baked in the oven. A few other stories remain at Mid-Ohio because what happens there stays there.

We never made it to the events that were held in Columbus but there was a nice article in the *Roundel* that covered it— suffice to say, for us the action was on the track.



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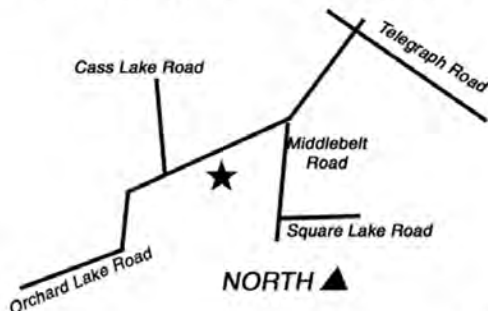
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Date: All Day Saturday August 24th
Fees: \$75 per student (includes 1 yr BMW CCA membership)
Where: Faith Christian Assembly Christian Church
25201 Outer Drive, Melvindale, MI 48122



"Your son or daughter, niece or nephew, neighbor or friend will be gaining some valuable skills to better his or her driving techniques on the road at the Tire Rack Street Survival School. Parents are welcome to stay for the school all day if they wish. You will be able to listen to the instructors in the classroom while they are teaching the students. The instructors will be available throughout the day to answer questions you might have about the course events students are going through."-- www.streetsurvival.org

Open to all licensed or permitted drivers

Registration: at www.streetsurvival.org

We have organized the course to go beyond the standard driver's education curriculum; to show new drivers some of the physical limits of their car and themselves in an open and safe environment. The course is a combination of classroom and real world vehicle exercises. And you do not need to own a BMW to participate— all are welcome.

Volunteers are always needed, if you would like to participate, please contact the driving events chair, Gary Davis at email drivingevents@motorcitybmwcca.org or 734.308.7299





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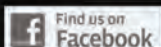
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MotorCity BMW CCA 2013 Belle Isle Car BMW Corral for Grand-Am Race

When:

Saturday, June 1, 2013

Where:

Belle Isle, Detroit

Details:

As part of the Corral, we will receive group ticket pricing, track-side corral parking, parade laps on the race track, paddock access and garage tours with the BMW teams (subject to track offering). The Grand-Am Race Series which sanction races for **The Rolex Sports Car Series and Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge** will take place on Saturday, June 1, 2013.

Pricing is as follows:

Single Day: Driver: \$120 / Companions: \$80

Registration:

This corral requires a **minimum of a 25 car commitment**. Upon confirmation that we have the minimum car commitment, a website link will be established to purchase online. For more information contact president@motorcitybmwcca.org



Grattan Raceway

Two Day High Performance Driver's School

September 27- 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



Dave Seemann

editoratlarge@motorcitybmwcca.org

eye drive 'driving america'

If you haven't been to the Henry Ford museum in Dearborn lately you might not know that after more than a year of renovation the "The Automobile in American Life" exhibit has been replaced by the new "Driving America" exhibit.

Opened just this past January it is located between the planes and trains, taking up an entire center portion of the museum. The main chronological automotive display curves its way from front to back and is flanked by several theme displays (we'll get to shortly).

You gather from the various enthusiastic but ambiguous TV interviews and press releases that one reason for the new grand narrative "Driving America" is to create a focus on the "user perspective".

Most of the cars in the new display are staged front to back on a highway of history ("Driving America Timeline") punctuated by large table top computers you can use with a provided ID card to customize and record pictures and text of the artifacts on display (plus thousands of background items) you can email to yourself and continue your exploration at home.

This newest technology makes you feel like a TV crime scene investigator as you sweep your fingers across the screen moving objects from the timeline, rearranging, enlarging, or shrinking them, dragging them to your personal account and otherwise building or creating your own experience that will be saved for you and retrievable at home.

You can leave your camera at home too if you wish because the photography available for download is excellent. It certainly fits the "user perspective" idea and the technology is being given its trial run at the

Driving America exhibit with plans to eventually computerize the entire museum collection.

I have to confess, though, I'm still not clear on why the new exhibit is called "Driving America" instead of the old "... Automobile in American Life". They say:

"Centered around an unparalleled collection of historically significant vehicles,

Most of the cars in the new display are staged front to back on a highway of history.

this remarkable mix of authentic artifacts, digital media, interactive play and personal accounts focuses on the enormous influence the automobile has had on American culture—from the automotive innovations that have changed our lives to the everyday choices we make."

You are also invited to write your own "My First Car" story and post it on the Henry Ford web site and many have.

The Henry Ford himself story and the famous assembly line marvel and cheap-practical-reliable Model T success is not omitted but is not the overriding theme at the museum. There is however a separate Henry Ford automobile time line highway that includes an interesting engineering "mistakes" display – new ideas that didn't work out.

I have to say though, my curiosity about the name change makes little difference -- Driving America at the Henry Ford is sim-

ply superb: you'll find yourself walking toward the familiar Kennedy limousine your gaze lifted to the brightly lit classic McDonald's sign as always.

But now you'll find that Lamy's diner, just behind the sign, actually serves the food that generations of visitors only saw as mere plastic replicas. A little further over, the historic Route 66 Texaco gas station is open for business – well, you can go inside for a closer look. Kids can "repair" a mock-up car and even slide under it on a mechanic's trolley.

The familiar Holiday Inn, campers, trailers, drive-in movie, and the rest are all freshly repositioned plus you'll find the new "Racing in America" display better than a pit pass. You'll learn how racing in America is unique because of our isolation from Europe and discover every car on display is a championship car.

You can take your journey in one direction along the timeline then make your way back through the truck section, small cars, luxury cars, and style displays. You'll stop at the hot rods and custom cars then find yourself in an open court just past the racing area.

Along the far side past the court area is a roads and road trips section, then you find yourself back to the drive-in theater near the Texaco station, a power options exhibit, and finally family cars.

And if you are anything like me, long before your visit is over your ability to take in the dozens of interesting displays and ideas takes a back seat to, say, a Sander's Hot Fudge Cream Puff at the museum Michigan Café.



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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.

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