



# Gemutlichkeit

*Newsletter of the Old Hickory Chapter BMW CCA*

*April, May, June 2011*

## Presidential Address

Many of you won't realize this, but our club has just recently crossed a very significant milestone. We have collectively just conducted our first Performance Driving School which took place at the Nashville SuperSpeedway on May 21st. For those of you that didn't have the opportunity to participate, this was a classroom as well as hands on participation school that teaches the finer points of performance driving in your own vehicle. Club sponsored driving schools of this nature are a membership benefit that are made possible by your affiliation with the BMW CCA Old Hickory Chapter. BMW CCA sanctioned events such as this one, are well planned and safe and follow strict guidelines as set forth in the BMW CCA National Operations Manual. BMW CCA is well known among all car clubs across the Nation for conducting quality, well managed performance driving events. This event was a prime example. Even though the Old Hickory Chapter had never conducted an event of this nature, we have a wealth of experience within our membership that could collectively work together to plan, as well as manage the event. Adam Nitti, our Driving Events Coordinator worked long and hard to not only lobby for and get Board Approval for the event, but worked persistently to plan all details in advance. Through him and his personal resources, our Chapter crossed a significant milestone and shines in the eyes of the participants. Thanks Adam for having the

conducting this first driving event, I look forward to other driving schools in the future that can only be better than this first one.  
BMW.

*Murray*

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## Grüß Gott!!

*Ron Steurer*

### ***1 year and 10,000 miles later-***

So as I just passed my 1 year anniversary of picking up "Petra" my 2011 328i ZSP at the BMW Welt in Munich, it has been everything I imagined and more driving this car. Every day I smile as get in and push that magical start button and reassured I purchased the perfect vehicle for me out of BMW's line up. As I approach 10K on the ODO as I write this. I think the naturally aspirated 3.0 litre inline 6 cylinder mated to a 6 speed manual gearbox is the perfect blend of power, handling, driver connection and fuel consumption. The car always has more than enough power for any situation, excellent gear ratios, and tight handling. The run flat tires get so much grief from other drivers because of their stiff and jolting road feel but I beg to differ. I do not notice this and

the ride is quite smooth even with the sport suspension but maybe after coming from a 1997 e36 with over 150K on the clock I can't tell? The heated seats and steering wheel were an absolute joy this past winter. The heated steering wheel is such a neat feature too, no need for gloves anymore. I honestly think BMW's heated seats are the best in the biz and heat up instantly and are HOT! Very nice on those single digit mornings we experienced. I could go on and on about everything I love about this car but won't bore you with the details. I just wanted to mention that after a year of ownership I couldn't be more pleased with this car and even though I am probably biased, I think the 328i with the 6 speed and sport suspension is probably the best line up in BMW's stable dollar for dollar. Off now to go find some beautiful Tennessee back roads and let Petra stretch her legs – she deserves it!

Tschüß....

*Newsletter Editor, Ron Steurer  
Old Hickory Chapter BMW CCA*

## Murray's Musings.....

**More Than you ever wanted to  
know about the CHICKEN WAR!**

Several months ago as I wandered the maze of cubicles where I work, I spotted a photo of an unusual vehicle on the wall above a co-worker's desk. Being that the vehicle had a totally unfamiliar and strange profile, I stopped to take a look. Little did I know that stopping to take a look at the photo of this vehicle would spark my curiosity to research a political issue that dated back to the early 60's; a political



issue that crosses international boundaries; a political issue that directly affects vehicle imports into the US and is still in force today; the CHICKEN TAX!

And what is the Chicken Tax? The Chicken Tax was the result of a trade dispute between the US and multiple European Nations. In the early 60's, the US pretty much controlled the world market for chicken. Chicken was a highly sought after delicacy in these European Nations that depended on supply and demand for cost of chicken. Since the US controlled the market, European chicken producers were crowded out of the market due to the low prices of imported US chicken. So to support the local producers, the European Nations imposed a hefty tariff of 25% on chicken imported from the US, a tariff that would later be referred to as the Chicken Tax that sparked the Chicken Wars.

So what does the chicken tax have to do with a strange vehicle I saw in a photo on a cubicle wall you might ask? As payback, the US imposed taxes on certain goods being imported into the US from these European Nations; those goods being potato starch, dextrin, brandy & light trucks. This is where the chicken tax gets interesting. This tax is the origin of the limitations placed on light trucks being imported into the US. The US was specifically targeting West Germany being that Volkswagen was a threat to domestic manufacturers in the 60's. The tariff however, extended to all vehicle importers, including Japan. This was one of the determining factors for Nissan to decide to produce light truck in the US, thereby avoiding

the tariff. Remember the Subaru BRAT? The BRAT was an imported vehicle specifically designed with seats in the bed to avoid the tariff. Remember the Ford Courier and Chevrolet LUV? Although they were manufactured in Japan, they avoided the tariff through a loophole by shipping them to the US without the bed attached with the bed later attached in the US. This loophole was eventually closed.

Well, to get to the end of the story, the tariff on imported light trucks is still in place. The vehicle I spotted on the cubicle wall was a VW Doppelkabine, also known as a DOKA.



Apparently these are highly sought after vehicles not sold in the US. It is basically a reconfigured VW Vanagon with a truck bed, not unlike the Corvair Rampside of the 60's era. My friend David acquired his DOKA from an owner in California who had imported it from Canada. Being that all DOKA's in the US are "gray market" imports, they are most definitely an eye catching unusual site. This is David's 2<sup>nd</sup> DOKA. I guess owning a DOKA is kind of like owning a BMW, once you have one, nothing else will do.

## Membership Update

Welcome to our new members over the past few months!

Derek Lewis	07 Z4	Franklin, TN
Eric Edd	09 X5	Fairview, TN
Joseph Faiz	11 550i	Murfreesboro, TN
Alfred Gloddeck	91 850i	Brentwood, TN
Luke Herline		Brentwood, TN
Jan Richey	11 328i	Franklin, TN
Thomas Tomlinson		Nashville, TN
George Thomas		Jackson, TN
Ronald Young	89 325i	Clarksville, TN
David Butler	11 335xi	Clarksville, TN
Shawn Driver	01 M5	Clarksville, TN
Ernie Hassler		Cookeville, TN
Frank Moore		Nashville, TN
Tyler Nichols	01 M5	Thompson Station, TN
Walt Peterson		Paris, TN
Hameed Yusuf	06 M3	Nashville, TN
Cannie Roderick	08 328xi	Nashville, TN
David Fergusson		Goodlettsville, TN
Joseph Igou		Jackson, TN
Ryan Lofranco	11 X5	Clarksville, TN
Kyle Mann	86 535i	Antioch, TN
Heather Mullins		Crossville, TN
Robert Mullins		Clarksville, TN
Virginia Schubert		Crossville, TN
Robert Slider		Clarksville, TN

Need Club Info? [www.OLDHICKORYBMWCCA.org](http://www.OLDHICKORYBMWCCA.org)

Check the website regularly for club events as well as color digital versions of the club newsletter.

## Old Hickory Chapter BMWCCA Drivers Education Event at Nashville Superspeedway - 5/21/11

On Saturday, May 21st, 2011 the Old Hickory Chapter BMW CCA hosted it's first-ever Drivers Education event at the Nashville Superspeedway. The event marked a significant milestone in the chapter's history and represented a huge success for the club, attracting participants from 6 surrounding states! Once all of the registrations were tallied up, we had over 60 drivers, with over half of our students being first-timers to the track.

A Drivers Education event or "D.E." is a specialized driving school designed to teach participants proper high performance driving techniques in a safe and controlled environment. They typically take place on dedicated race tracks -- environments perfectly-suited for testing the limits of our driving abilities in our more-than-capable "Ultimate Driving Machines." Attendees include both students and instructors, and participating students are classed into run groups according to their experience and skill level. Both in-car instruction and classroom sessions are provided for all students, and concepts taught in the classroom are subsequently applied in the on-track sessions. Those who have done D.E.'s in the past will attest to the fact that they are probably the most fun you can have in your BMW legally!

The day started bright and early with the track opening at 6:30am. Although the majority of entrants were driving BMWs, a variety of makes and models populated the paddock, including Porsches, Corvettes, Mini Coopers, Nissans, and Subaru's. Each car had to be safety-teched prior to going on track, and club members Rob Case and Steven Reed inspected each car while Darien Hobbs worked the registration desk and made sure all paperwork was in order for each participant. My self and Matt Thornton led the drivers' meetings for instructors and students following registration, and then the track went hot for the first run group session of the day at 8:30. The number of drivers we had participating allowed us to run 3 different run groups throughout the day, which meant that each student and instructor would have the opportunity to get at least 2 hours of track time! Staggered in-between the run groups were classroom sessions for all students led by Dan Unkefer, who drove in from Raleigh, North Carolina to help us out. Dan's customized classroom curriculum presented various high performance driving concepts and theories and allowed each driver to establish on-track goals throughout the day. Dan has been conducting training programs for drivers and instructors at tracks throughout the country for over 20 years and brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience to help our students work towards becoming safer and more skillful drivers.

We couldn't have asked for better weather for our first D.E.. The sun shone brightly the overwhelming majority of the day and we really only contended with the possibility of rain during the last run group session. However, the storm clouds seemed to skillfully steer around the racetrack and we were able

to finish the day dry! Each run group ran without a hitch and we ended the event successfully with no bent sheet metal or mechanical catastrophes. Thanks to the staff at Nashville Superspeedway and the corner worker team at FBF Flagging, everything ran professionally, smoothly, and on schedule. Being that this was our first D.E., we were also very fortunate to have sponsorship support from a handful of generous contributors. Yokohama Tires provided promotional materials for all participants and also gave us a voucher for 2 free tires to give away. (Nissan 350Z driver Clark Crawford from Nashville was the lucky winner of the tires!) Liberty Mutual was on hand and brought free sub sandwiches for everyone to enjoy at lunch. Prior to the event, Jon Siccardi and BimmersUSA provided \$20 safety-tech inspections for participants. Details Direct was there demonstrating samples of their car care products and answering questions about auto detailing. Don Wright Designs was also at the track providing professional photography for the event.

I want to personally thank our chapter president, Murray Crow, and all of the board members for showing their support for the event and for allowing me to see this vision come to fruition. Although it required a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, there is no question that it paid off in the success of the D.E. and I couldn't be happier with the results. I also want to thank Matt Thornton, Rob Case, Darien Hobbs, Matt Shaw, and Steven Reed for volunteering their time to help with logistics on the day of the event. Finally, I want to thank all of the students and instructors and all of those who helped us to spread the word and attract more drivers. Participation is imperative to the success of any event like this, and we couldn't have pulled it off without you.

We hope to see y'all at the next one!

Adam Nitti  
Driving Event Chair  
Old Hickory Chapter BMW CCA



# Calendar of Events

## Upcoming Events of Interest



**June 18<sup>th</sup> – Street Survival – see details below**

**July 14<sup>th</sup> - Club meeting: Place TBD**

**July 16<sup>th</sup> – Keeneland Concours in Lexington**

### **Mark Your June Calendars Now for Street Survival 2011!**

**Nashville to Host its 2011 Summer Tire Rack Street Survival® Saturday June 18 at the Nashville Super Speedway (parking lot)**

The Old Hickory Chapter BMWCCA, along with members of the SCCA, will again host a Tire Rack Street Survival® car control school for the greater Nashville area. The event will be held at the Nashville Superspeedway in Lebanon, TN, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Keep watch for opportunities to volunteer for this life saving event soon. We will also send out an announcement as soon as we have a registration launch date to share with you. Be thinking about what teen you want to be sure gets registered!

To find out more and register, visit [www.streetsurvival.org](http://www.streetsurvival.org).

Street Survival is a teen focused safe driving program designed to go beyond today's required driver's education and give teens across the U.S. the driving tools and hands-on experience to become safer, smarter drivers. 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 and Tennessee is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> for the most teen motor vehicle fatalities. Street Survival is a non-profit national driver education program aimed at teaching teens the skills they need to stay alive behind the wheel.

The one day program is a mixture of classroom and hands-on exercises with a coach in the vehicle with the student. In the classroom they learn about proper seating and hand positions, mirror placement, the concept of the contact patch of their tires, the theories of weight transfer and the use of long distance vision and situational awareness. Then the student is put through a series of exercises based on real world situations. The student learns skid control on a wet skid pad, goes through lane change/accident avoidance maneuvers, braking exercises and they drive a slalom course to learn about weight transfer.

Participants must be 16-21 years of age and parents are encouraged to attend and participate in the classroom sessions with their teen. We will also consider offering school registration to parents of the students for unused spaces since we have had so many requests for this opportunity.

For more information or to get your name on the *U Bet I Want to Help Save Teen Lives* volunteer list, contact event coordinators-

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# Bayerische Motoren Werke News



## Spartanburg models lead surge in sales

Sales of the three BMW models produced in Spartanburg—the X3, X5, and X6—have led to a nearly 20% increase in the company's U.S. sales in April.

BMW of North America reported sales of 2,277 X3s during the month of May. How significant is that number? Well, it's a 253% increase compared with the 645 units sold during the same month of 2010!

What's more, in the first four months of 2011, the company has sold 7,987 X3s—a nearly 300% increase from the 2,000 units it sold during the same period last year.

The company sold 2,360 X5s last month, a nearly 13% increase from the 2,098 units sold during the same month of 2010. X5 sales for the year are up three units from the first four months last year to 10,054.

Sales of the X6 stood at 522 units in April, a more than 36% increase from the 383 units sold during the same month of 2010. But X6 sales are down 4% to 1,559 units during the first four months of the year, compared with 1,624 units during the same period last year.

As a whole, BMW's Sports Activity Vehicle division, which is exclusively manufactured in Spartanburg, was the automaker's best-performing segment. The SAVs constituted 20% of the company's total April sales figure of 25,247 vehicles. They also made up 21% of the 90,204 vehicles sold during the first four months of the year, which is a more than an 18% increase for BMW's total U.S. sales over the same period last year.

*Paul Duchene/BMWCCA.ORG*



*BMW's 2,000,000th motorcycle is a R1200 GS.*

## 2,000,000<sup>th</sup> BMW bike built in Berlin

On May 6, BMW celebrated the 2,000,000th motorcycle to roll off the assembly line at its Spandau plant in Berlin. Motorcycles have been built at Spandau since 1969, and exported to 130 nations around the world.

The bike which marked this milestone—a one-off, special-edition R1200 GS—was presented to Berlin mayor Klaus Wowereit by street-bike freestyle legend Chris Pfeiffer, after it was donated to be raffled as part of the "Be Berlin" campaign.

Pfeiffer then parked the GS and jumped on his F800 R stunt bike for a display that finished with a rear-tire burnout spelling out "2000000" on the tarmac.

"BMW has always remained loyal to Berlin, when others left the city, said Wowereit." Its entrepreneurial farsightedness and the conscious decision to stay in Berlin have turned out to be right. Together, BMW and Berlin have been through thick and thin."

BMW Motorrad head Hendrik von Kuenheim added, "Our motorcycles are ambassadors for the BMW brand—and at the same time, ambassadors for Berlin—all over the world. BMW bikes have been exported 'with Berlin's air in their tires since' 1969."

The Spandau plant employs 1,900 people and produces up to 510 motorcycles a day of all models, as well as about 24,000 brake discs for the car division. Annual output in 2010 was 97,076 motorcycles, compared to 12,000 in 1969, the first year of production in Berlin.—

*Paul Duchene/BMWCCA.ORG*

# Fast Formula 1 News

## Petrov hopeful of race return in Canada



His Monaco race may have ended in the barriers on, but Renault's Vitaly Petrov is confident he will be well enough to compete at the forthcoming Canadian event. Petrov was caught up in a collision between McLaren's Lewis Hamilton and Toro Rosso's Jaime Alguersuari during the race's closing stages.

"I'm fine," said the Russian in a video on the team's official website. "I have some pain in my legs but I should be fine for Canada. I couldn't get out of the car at first as my legs were blocked and I also couldn't feel them. So I thought I have a problem, maybe my legs are broken or something. So I just sat in the car and waited for the people to help me get out of the car."



"Once I was out we went to hospital for a full body check and analysis and it looks like everything is fine. So I'll rest for two to three days and then we will see what's going on. I'm looking forward to Canada. We need points and I hope we will finish near the front."

Petrov is currently ninth in the drivers' standings with 21 points. The Canadian event will take place in Montreal from June 10-12.

### Drivers' Championship after 6 rounds

Pos.	Driver	Team	Points
1.	<a href="#">Sebastian Vettel</a>	<a href="#">Red Bull</a>	143
2.	<a href="#">Lewis Hamilton</a>	<a href="#">McLaren</a>	85
3.	<a href="#">Mark Webber</a>	<a href="#">Red Bull</a>	79
4.	<a href="#">Jenson Button</a>	<a href="#">McLaren</a>	76
5.	<a href="#">Fernando Alonso</a>	<a href="#">Ferrari</a>	69
6.	<a href="#">Nick Heidfeld</a>	<a href="#">Renault</a>	29
7.	<a href="#">Nico Rosberg</a>	<a href="#">Mercedes Grand Prix</a>	26
8.	<a href="#">Felipe Massa</a>	<a href="#">Ferrari</a>	24
9.	<a href="#">Vitaly Petrov</a>	<a href="#">Renault</a>	21
10.	<a href="#">Kamui Kobayashi</a>	<a href="#">Sauber</a>	19

## 2011 FIA Formula One World Championship Race Calendar

Round	Race Title	Grand Prix	Circuit	Date
1*	Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix- <b>CANCELED</b>	Bahrain GP	Bahrain International Circuit, Sakhir	13 March
2	Australian Grand Prix	Australian GP	Albert Park Grand Prix Circuit, Melbourne	27 March
3	Petronas Malaysia Grand Prix	Malaysian GP	Sepang International Circuit, Kuala Lumpur	10 April
4	UBS Chinese Grand Prix	Chinese GP	Shanghai International Circuit	17 April
5	Turkish Grand Prix	Turkish GP	Istanbul Park	8 May
6	Gran Premio de España	Spanish GP	Circuit de Catalunya, Barcelona	22 May
7	Grand Prix de Monaco	Monaco GP	Circuit de Monaco, Monte Carlo	29 May
8	Grand Prix du Canada	Canadian GP	Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, Montreal	12 June
9	Grand Prix Of Europe	European GP	Valencia Street Circuit	26 June
10	Santander British Grand Prix	British GP	Silverstone Circuit	10 July
11	Großer Preis Santander von Deutschland	German GP	Nürburgring	24 July
12	Eni Magyar Nagydíj	Hungarian GP	Hungaroring, Budapest	31 July
13	Belgian Grand Prix	Belgian GP	Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Spa	28 August
14	Gran Premio Santander d'Italia	Italian GP	Autodromo Nazionale Monza	11 September
15	Singapore Grand Prix	Singapore GP	Marina Bay Street Circuit	25 September
16	Japanese Grand Prix	Japanese GP	Suzuka Circuit, Suzuka	9 October
17	Korean Grand Prix	Korean GP	Korean International Circuit, Yeongam	16 October
18	Indian Grand Prix	Indian GP	Jaypee Group Circuit, Greater Noida	30 October
19	Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	Abu Dhabi GP	Yas Marina Circuit	13 November
20	Grande Prêmio do Brasil	Brazilian GP	Autódromo José Carlos Pace, São Paulo	27 November





## Drive to Millers Grocery: March 18<sup>th</sup>

Jackie led us on a great drive from the Sonic in Nolensville to Millers Grocery in Christina (Rutherford Co) for a great lunch at a very neat restaurant. In typical Old Hickory Club fashion, we explored some wonderful windy and curvy roads to let our engines and suspension do what they do best.



Typical beautiful TN back roads as we make our way to Millers Grocery for lunch



Little bit of chit chat before everyone takes off.



Post lunch at Millers Grocery as the sun just pops out for the drive home.



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