

Gemütlichkeit

BMW Car Club
of America
Old Hickory Chapter


Quarterly Newsletter
Winter 2014



Presidential Address

Where did it go? 2013 has passed my by like a blur, but looking back, it has also been a very notable year in my life.

From my perspective, I spent a major portion of the year in preparation for a cross-country drive that took place in August. This might explain why January through July went by so quickly, because I spent practically every day thinking forward to my August trip to Oktoberfest in California.

Since August, I have been slowly re-adapting to everyday life without having to think ahead to my next adventure, at least not yet.

However, recollection of my cross-country adventure is still fresh in my mind and still brings a smile to my face. Looking back at the great year I really have had, the BMW Car Club of America has played a very significant role and has connected me to people that have become an integral part of my life, both locally and nationally.

I have to admit that the BMW CCA has enabled me to connect to individuals with similar interests and with people who speak the same car language that I would never have met otherwise.

I urge each of you to push your limits and reach out to BMW CCA members both locally and nationally. I think you will find a refreshing variety of people who will enhance your circle of friends.

Happy motoring. – Murray

Upcoming Events

Watch oldhickorybmwcca.org and your email for updates!

Old Hickory Chapter New Year Party – January 18

Our annual New Year Party will again take place at the **Lane Motor Museum**. The Lane Motor Museum is world-famous for its unique collection of European vehicles, small cars, propeller-driven vehicles, and other eclectic rides. The party will begin at noon, and all members of the Old Hickory Chapter are invited. The party will feature an "add-a-dish" type meal. If your last name begins with A-P, please bring an appetizer, vegetable, or salad. If your last name begins with Q-Z, please bring a dessert. The Chapter will be providing a feature entree meat. To participate in a "Dirty Santa" exchange, please bring a \$20 wrapped gift. RSVP to Murray Crow at mcrow@oldhickorybmwcca.org by **January 13, 2014**. Visit www.lanemotormuseum.com for info about the museum. 702 Murfreesboro Pike.

Time to Vote!

Old Hickory Chapter Elections – President and Vice President

A ballot for our president and vice president appears at the end of this issue. Fill it out, bring it to the New Year party, and drop it in our ballot box! You may also mail your ballot to Old Hickory BMW CCA, P.O. Box 3072, Brentwood, TN 37024-3072 by January 11.

Club Drive – February 8

We're driving to Bowling Green to tour the Corvette Museum's Corvettes from every decade, right up to the new Stingray. On the way, we'll stop by the garage of Old Hickory Chapter member George Richter, who has a great collection of high-end sports cars.

Chapter Meetings – Meet your fellow members for food and conversation!

February 13: Cozymel, 1654 Westgate Dr (off Moore's Ln), Brentwood, 6:30

March 13: Viener Fest, 117 28th Ave North, Nashville, 6:30

BMW CCA Foundation Challenge Grant – Ends December 31

An anonymous BMW CCA member is offering a \$250,000 challenge grant, matching donations made by **December 31, 2013**, up to that total amount. The grant is part of BMW CCA Foundation's \$7 million capital campaign. Old Hickory Chapter is contributing \$2000 to the effort – an amount doubled by this member's generosity. For details about Foundation programs or to make a donation, visit bmwccafoundation.org.

Other Car Events

North American International Auto Show. BMW's entries at the 2014 Detroit auto show include the new 2 Series, M3 sedan, and M4 coupe. If you're planning to attend, please contact Matt Smith. If you're not, watch the Old Hickory Twitter feed during the week of January 18-26 for photos and highlights.

Amelia Councours d'Elegance. March 7-9. This year's pageant of automotive excellence includes a special class for BMW's rare "batmobiles" – classic 3.0CSL art cars that combine beauty with performance.

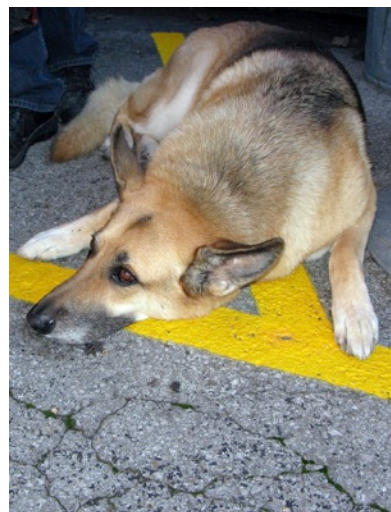


Old Hickory Happenings

Read more about Martin Stickley's yellow 318ti later in this issue!

Paradise Point Drive

In October, a group of Old Hickory Chapter members drove to Scottsville, Kentucky, for a visit to the Paradise Point Marketplace. It was a beautiful weather for a beautiful drive. After a delicious breakfast, we looked around the eclectic "Antiques + Funky Junk" for sale in the shop. Owner John Erskine was a gracious host, along with his friendly German shepherd, Hank. Visit www.paradisepointky.com to learn about this unique roadside stop's seasonal hours, gourmet foods, hot dogs, and oddball offerings. When the weather warms up, treat yourself to a lovely drive, a good meal, and an unforgettable experience.



German Cars and Coffee at Fidelity Motors

In November, Fidelity Motors' Michael Spurgeon welcomed owners of German cars and motorcycles for coffee. It was a great opportunity to mingle with folks from other German car clubs in the area and to see some awesome cars – in the parking lot and in the Fidelity Motors showroom. BMWs, Porches, Audis, Mercedes, and Volkswagens pulled in, and we all enjoyed a catered breakfast. We milled around the high-end cars for sale – Bimmers, Bentleys, Porches, a Ferrari, and a '67 GTO, among others. Visit www.fidelitymotors.net to see their eye-catching inventory. Our thanks to Michael for his hospitality!





Please Welcome Old Hickory
Chapter's Newest Members!

Nashville International Auto Show



This year's Nashville Auto Show offered three main improvements over last year's: 1) It was at the new Music City Center, so we finally had the chance to see inside this huge, fancy new facility. 2) This year's participation by duPont Registry meant there were plenty of exotic sports cars on hand to ogle. 3) There were BMWs this year!



BMW of Nashville's Nancy Allen was on hand answering questions about a range of new vehicles on display. We sat in the 435i and the 640i Gran Coupe and can report that they are *niiiiice*. Nancy says the new 4 Series are getting a lot of attention at the dealership, and it's easy to see why.

Our club meetings at BMW of Nashville are always a good time. We're hoping to set up another one in the spring, so be sure to join us!

More from German Cars and Coffee



For Sale: 2007 335i

Outstanding 2007 335i in beautiful shape! 6 cyl twin turbo, 300 hp, 6 speed Steptronic automatic transmission, paddle shifters, 69,700 miles. Pampered, always garaged, one owner, all maintenance records. Non-smoker, no body work. Premium package and sport package. Sparkling graphite metallic, black leather, 18-inch alloy wheels, new tires. Comfort access, moon roof, power front seats with driver memory, onboard navigation system, premium sound system, BMW Assist with Bluetooth, iPod and USB adapter. Asking \$18,950. Contact Randy Lee at (615) 369-1430 or (615) 512-8411



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Ed Stanford, *Lebanon*
Owen Trinkler, *Brentwood*

To all new and current members:

- Be sure to visit our official website, www.OLDHICKORYBMWCCA.ORG, for news, event updates, and items of interest to members.
- If you're not receiving emails about our Chapter activities, contact Tyree at tpeters@oldhickorybmwcca.org. Be sure your email is registered with BMW CCA.
- You can also follow us online at twitter.com/OldHickoryBMW and at facebook.com/OldHickoryBMWCCA.



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Gemütlichkeit wants to know! Did one of our articles get you thinking? Do you have a sweet car or event photo to share? A good BMW story to tell? A Bimmer for sale? Send your letters, stories, sale notices, and **huge** photos to msmith@oldhickorybmwcca.org.

Pass Gemütlichkeit on to a friend! You can help us spread the word about BMW CCA activities, discounts, and benefits by keeping **Gemütlichkeit** in circulation. When you're done with this issue, give it to another BMW owner or someone interested in cars. Hide it among the magazines at your salon, dentist, or mechanic. Tack it up in your library, break room, or mail room. Send folks to www.bmwcca.org, and let's get more BMWs in the club!

The Craigslist Cornucopia

Once again I have turned to old reliable Craigslist to search for a replacement vehicle, and once again I have found success. Purchases from Craigslist have always been a “buyer beware” exchange, but if you do your homework and take your time, the purchase can be a satisfying and quality transaction.

My most recent Craigslist adventure was to search for a replacement car for my wife's daughter. For several years she had been driving an older car of mine, a 2002 Acura that had logged 204,000 mostly reliable miles. However, the transmission on this vehicle was one of its weak spots and had previously been replaced at 119,000 miles. Even though the transmission was not causing any current issues, I had no confidence in its longevity and felt that we were reaching the end this car's dependability. Plus the cost of a new or rebuilt transmission would exceed the purchase cost of another vehicle.

There was no critical need to buy a replacement vehicle, so there was no hurry or panic to buy a car. Being that I'm a BMW person, I of course was of the persuasion to add another BMW to the family. But daughter couldn't really have cared less. She is of the current generation that considers a car to be little more than a means of transport from Point A to Point B.

However, she did seem to have a preference for power windows, remote locking, and seat heaters, plus a particular penchant for an up-market radio with Bluetooth and a USB port. Being of the current generation, the USB and Bluetooth would allow her to be much more in touch with her phone and the music on it.

Several days of extensive online browsing through a plethora of vehicles resulted in absolutely nothing that garnered any interest, at least from my perspective. Daughter had a few prospects that had a “cost no objective” price. (There's that current generation perspective again.) What I did see, though,

was an abundance of BMWs of every color, size, series, age, condition, price, and mileage that could ever be imagined, most within a 50-mile radius of Nashville. There were multiple E30s, beat up, rusted out roundies, and sharks. Cars with blown head gaskets or transmissions. Cars with less than 10,000 miles and cars with over 250,000 miles. Give-away cars and \$50,000 cars. Z cars, X cars, and M cars. You name it, and it could pretty much be found in Nashville Craigslist.

After several days, an acceptable car finally rose to the surface. My wife actually found it. Of course she would be the one to find a convertible. It was a 1999 BMW E36 323i, hellrot red with black top, tan interior, automatic, with just over 100,000 miles. It had an impressive write-up and variety of quality photos. After reading the ad, I made the phone call for an appointment.

Typically, photos don't really give a true perspective of a vehicle because they tend not to show flaws in the interior and exterior. However, upon inspection of the vehicle, the photos did not do it justice. The original paint was in exceptional shape, with no dents or dings, with stone chips at an absolute minimum. The engine was clean and drip free, the underside was clean, and the top was in good condition as well. It didn't take long after a short test drive to make a deal and sign the papers.

We bought the first vehicle that I went to look at, and I haven't had any reason to doubt the purchase. So if you're looking for a vehicle, don't be afraid to give Craigslist a look. Just be cautious and take your time, and the right vehicle will find you.

P.S: After acquiring the convertible, we cleaned the Acura inside and out, gave it fresh brakes and oil, and posted it on Craigslist. It sold the next day to the first person to look at it at a negotiated price that satisfied both parties, especially me.



In Memoriam

Ed Cottrell, 1933-2013

Ed Cottrell was a dear friend of the Old Hickory Chapter, and we were saddened to learn of his passing in October. As a founding member of BMW CCA (#172), he was among the club's most senior members nationwide. Ed was BMW enthusiast for 45 years, with a rotating collection that included dozens of 2002s and other classics.

If you'd like to learn more about Ed and his legacy, we profiled him and his son Kieran in last December's issue of Gemütlichkeit. He was a real gentleman, and we'll miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

The Name Game

Americans love to name their vehicles. It's like naming a pet or a child; we try to give them a personality to live up to. Some rise to the occasion, while others fall short of the mark. For instance, "Mercury Cougar" has rather sporting pretensions for a car with such pedestrian underpinnings, while the lofty "Ford Crown Victoria, Ltd" implies luxury not seen in a vehicle that is more likely to carry criminals than royalty.

Our counterparts around the globe don't bother with such nonsense. Europeans are happy with numerical designations denoting body style, engine size, and number of seats. If Ford were Mercedes, they would have called the Mustang the "E 4.7, 2+2." BMW would have called it "The 347." Neither would have inspired a whole generation of car buyers. Kawasaki hit upon a winning formula when they marketed their excellent ZX series of sport bikes under the moniker "Ninja." Honda tried to follow suit by renaming their CBR line "Hurricane," but this met with less success, and they eventually changed it back. Then again, CBR sounds pretty good on its own.



This is not to imply that other cultures don't believe in vehicle names, although in the case of the Japanese, the appeal of the "Nissan Sunny," "Toyota Starlet," and "Fairlady Z" is lost in translation. For a car to sound truly exotic, it's best that the owner not be too familiar with the place or thing being named. I have yet to see a Volkswagen Golf "Manhattan Edition" roaming the streets of New York, and I am pretty sure that GM doesn't sell Monte Carlos in the south of France (although I might have go there to investigate that one first hand).

The desire for catchy names doesn't end with cars. From the ugly acronyms such as Humvee (originally HMMWV for High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled

Vehicle) to the designation of fighter planes, the armed forces love projecting strength and virtue in names such as "Eagle" and "Fighting Falcon." Unfortunately, they usually show no more imagination than a mid-western high school mascot (go Wildcats!). There's not a "Pantera" or "Sirocco" in the bunch. As anyone in the military will tell you, the names from the marketing department don't always stick. The F-111 Lancer, F-4 Phantom, and A-10 Thunderbolt-II may sound impressive, but the brave men and women who fly them call them the Aardvark, Rhino, and Warthog. The F-111 is pointy-nosed, the F-4 is ugly, and the A-10 is *really* ugly.

Compound names were all the rage for a while, like the Olds Vista-Cruiser and the Boeing B-52 Strato-Fortress, but with the exception of the Ford Econo-line, these seem to have gone the way of the Veg-a-matic. The current vogue is to use bland, vaguely positive sounding names with no previous connotations. Like cotton candy, they leave no taste in the mouth and no memory after they are gone. These awful names only serve to inspire bad puns from automotive journalists. "We tested an Impreza, but we weren't impressed." "The Aspire doesn't inspire." "We found the Achieva to be something of an underachieve." And so on. Some are subject to grievous mispronunciation (the Ford Tortoise). Toyota's Previa is a medical condition (mal-positioned placenta), and its Prius sounds dangerously like Priapus.

The good names take on a life of their own and catch a foothold in popular culture (The Fabulous Thunderbirds, the B-52s, U-2). Some leave their origins in obscurity. (How may remember that the original Corvette was a naval fast attack ship?) The Italians, as always, score points on style and alliteration (the DeTomaso Mangusta, Maserati Mistral, and Lamborghini Miura come to mind). But in the end, the best use of the English language belongs to the English. The Brits are hands down winners of the best airplane name ever (Supermarine Spitfire), best car name (MGB-GT) and best motorcycle name (Vinc ent Black Shadow). If I were Richard Thompson, I might even be inspired to write a song or two about them.

The Dark Side and the Green



Joe Questel Drives the i3 and M6

This is the second year that Deb and I have attended the Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival & Concours d'Elegance. Besides the concours, the event included "Ride & Drives" from Porsche, BMW-Mini, Jaguar, Range Rover, and Infiniti.

At the BMW tent we found the M5, M6, i3, and Minis. My first ride was the M6 Gran Coupe, and my expectations were not high. The previous week I had read a less-than-flattering review in an automotive journal. Now I wish I hadn't left it on a plane, so I could tell you which highly paid automotive journalist is out of his freaking mind.

The M6 is like a hot poker cutting through butter. It's like the kick you get from a .45, only for your whole body. This car was pure power that was crying out to be abused (in a good sort of abusive way of course). It had a dark side that you wanted to explore, that you wanted to know, that you wanted to be yours. All I could think about as I drove it is *take me to your Master, now*. Darkness be dammed.

What impressed me most was the smoothness and quickness of the throttle response. It was instantaneous. Spooling up to 90 from a dead stop and down again almost as fast was amazing. Did I mention the ceramic brakes? They were equally smooth.

It isn't often that a car is more opulent than your living room, but this would be that rare instance. I'm guessing that the seats in this car add about \$10K to the price, but once you are over \$100K it's only money. This has to be the best looking car that BMW has in the lineup right now, and it looks as good on the inside as it does on the outside.

[Continued on next page]

Member Photo



Martin and the impressive Mimi



Martin's 318ti at our Paradise Point breakfast

If you went to some of the Cool Springs Cars & Coffee meet-ups this summer, you might have seen this beautiful little 318ti. It's a rare treat to spot these compact hatchbacks, which have a sporty and fun reputation. Martin Stickley tells the story of how he came to have this little gem:

My yellow 1998 318ti hatchback was special ordered by a second cousin of mine – let me refer to her as Mimi – who has always been a “car gal.” I recall that 40 or more years ago she was driving an Austin Healey Bug Eye Sprite, so cars are in her blood. She was 71 when she bought the 318ti in April 1998, paying \$1145.00 extra for the Dakar Yellow paint. Total cost was \$24,822.23; I have a copy of the original purchase order (and all of the service records). She ordered it with the “Active” package, fog lights, and a stick shift. The stick got to be harder for her to use, and when she injured her left leg, the doctor told her she had to give up driving it. Mimi has known of my car interests for many years, so she offered it to me rather than sell it to her neighbors. She didn't want to see their kids driving it around the neighborhood or possibly neglected. So I bought it from her in May of 2013 with less than 50,000 miles on it. It is in excellent condition and currently my daily driver. It was shown at the AACA Concours here in Brentwood in October of this year.

The Dark Side and the Green [Continued from previous page]

A few complaints, but just a few. Those of you who are electrical engineers by profession can ignore this part. But for the rest of us: too much electronics. As a gadget guy I'm all for technology, but this car is overkill with all the interfaces and variability the car offers the user. That may sound like a good thing, but once you dial in your drive, are you really going to change it every time you get in the car? I doubt it. I found that to be a hurdle to really falling in love with this car. Yes, the driving pleasure was all there, but there was a price to pay.

Will that bother most people who buy this car? Not in the least, since they will probably never bother to get that engaged with it – which would be a shame. BMW and Mercedes both need to get schooled in Detroit on their in-car infotainment systems. Chrysler's newest Uconnect and GM's MyLink are both better systems and simpler to use, with more functionality.

That aside, somewhere there is a “professional” automotive journalist who

is out of his freaking mind. This is how I want to go to the dark side.

The i3? Wake me up when it's over. No, just kidding – this is a really cool car, in a sort of Mini Cooper kind of way. There is no confusing the i3 for the M6, or the 320 for that matter. This is a beast of a different color. Still, I kind of liked this car. I'm not the i3's target market (and hopefully not even close), but I can see what would be appealing about it.

First, the drive. Our drives in the i3 were very limited, but we did get up to cruising speed. It moves out very nicely, even impressively, has a very solid, stable feel on the road. The car had a “go kart” sort of handling to it, I think due to its light weight and stance.

The i3 is spacious, with a very “West Elm” mini van kind of feel. Our particular car had the recycled material interior package. No joke, the product specialist was quite proud that most of the interior was made from recycled material, with

sustainable wood trim. My thinking is that I paid for it once, why would I want to pay to have someone else's trash for my car interior? But again, I am not the target market for this ride. Still, the interior is very well done, with space that just keeps on going as far as the eye can see.

The car I drove was the base i3 (think Nissan Leaf). There is also an extended range version, which includes a small gas-powered engine (think Chevy Volt). I was impressed by both the technology and practicality of this car. That said, I'm not factoring price, since I don't see price as a big part of this equation. You are either a green car person or you aren't. If you are, the i3 has the space that you don't find in the Leaf or the Volt, but the technology is all there in a great driving package.

And despite being loaded with technology, the i3's user interfaces seem *much* more friendly than those in the M6. Go figure. This is a car that could grow on you, so I would encourage you to take a closer look when it hits the dealers.

Election Ballot

Old Hickory Chapter BMW CCA

Election for Officers for 2014-2015
Please Select One for Each Position Listed

BMW Car Club
of America
Old Hickory Chapter



Nominated for President

- ☐ Joe Questel
or
☐ Other Write-in _____

Nominated for Vice President

- ☐ Jackie Hardy
or
☐ Other Write-in _____

Please bring completed ballot to our New Year's meeting/party on January 18, 2014

Or mail to: Old Hickory BMW CCA
P.O. Box 3072
Brentwood, TN 37024-3072

Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than **January 11, 2014**

More info at: www.OLDHICKORYBMWCCA.ORG



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