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March/April 2013



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Volume 43
No. 2

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Zündfolge (USPS 715-250) is published bi-monthly by the BMW CCA, Puget Sound Region. Office of Publication: 11514 Lake City Way, Seattle, WA 98125. Subscriptions are \$15.50 annually (available only as part of the \$48 membership fee). Periodical postage paid at Seattle, WA and at additional mailing offices. **Postmaster**, send address changes to:

Zündfolge
PO Box 1259
Bellevue, WA 98009

Boilerplate

This magazine is the monthly publication of the BMW CCA, Puget Sound Region, and remains its property. All information furnished herein is provided by the membership for members only. Ideas, suggestions and opinions, technical or otherwise, are those of the authors, without authentication by or liability to the editors or the Club. The editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

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KALENDER

March 26

Board Meeting. Members welcome. RSVP to president@bmwpugetsound.com.

April 6

Caffeine & Gasoline at Griot's Garage featuring BMW PRO3 race cars. Starts at 8 a.m.

April 6

Auto Detailing Tech Session at Griot's Garage. Follows the Caffeine & Gasoline event at 10 a.m.

April 7

Meeting at Munich Evolution/Gleeson Collection. Details in this issue. Don't miss it.

April 9

First Track Day of the season at Pacific Raceway. Both High Performance Driving School and Car Control Clinic will be held.

April 13

Autocross with Porsche Club. See article in this issue for more information.

May 4

PRO3 Cars at Griot's Garage Caffeine and Gasoline Car Show starting at 8 a.m.

May 4

PRO3 Open House at BMW Northwest in Fife starting from 1 to 3 p.m.

June 7-9

Red Mountain Wine Tour. Registration opens April 2. See article in this issue for more information.

June 22

Dyno Event & BBQ. Begins at 10 a.m. at Carb Connection in Kirkland. See article in this issue and be sure to reserve your spot. Contact Jeff Butler at 206-365-1565 or jeff@hauryscollision.com.

June 29

E30 Tech Session by R3V Limited. Start off the E30 Weekend with your E30 friends. The location is Griot's Garage in Tacoma. See more in this issue.

June 30

E30 Picnic at LeMay Marymount in Spanaway. See article in this issue.

July 28

Concours d'Elegance. The 33rd annual BMW Seattle Concours d'Elegance & Heritage Picnic will once again be held during the IKEA Renton River Days Festival at Cedar River Park.

August 19-24

BMW CCA Oktoberfest in Monterey with driving events at Laguna Seca Raceway.

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 Please limit phone calls to these volunteers to between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

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2020

2020 Vision Update

WAY BACK IN 2010, the Club's Board of Directors started talking about what the Club should look like in 2020. A couple of UW MBA students were commissioned to study our chapter and come up with suggestions. In 2011, they delivered a report that has been very useful in setting our strategic direction.

Since then we've been making changes to modernize the way the Club operates. The website got a major renovation. We've started a Facebook page.

Around the Sound, our eNewsletter typically arrives in your email inbox twice a month.

Zündfolge, our newsletter, is the way the chapter has communicated for most of its existence but that is changing. In 2013, *Zündfolge* will be published six times rather than the traditional eleven issues per year.

The goals are to communicate with members in a faster, more effective and more economical way. And to do so through multiple channels. Will we ever get to the point where we don't do any ink-on-paper publication? Probably, although the timing isn't clear at this point.

We do plan to start publishing some web-only feature content, so keep an eye out for that and visit the website often. The website is also a good place to stay informed about any late changes to events.

David Lightfoot

Letter to the members...

HELLO AGAIN! Now that we are starting to come into the driving event season it's going to get busy and we have a lot of great things planned for you to participate in, read about and hopefully meet new people along the way.

At the beginning of February I and three other members from the Puget Sound Region Chapter participated in the BMW CCA Pacific Region chapter conference. The structure of the meeting was centered on membership retention, evolution in how each club provides services to their members and how that can differ between the various locations in our region. There were about thirty-five people in attendance with some National office staff including the Executive Director, *Roundel* Editor, and the following Board of Directors: President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer and two Regional Vice Presidents. I believe the work that this Chapter has done to create our 2020 Vision and the following progress of implementing the evolution is at the forefront given how active our, meaning YOUR, community is. It wouldn't be possible without you!

I believe the work that this Chapter has done to create our 2020 Vision and the following progress of implementing the evolution is at the forefront given how active our, meaning YOUR, community is.

You know what's even cooler? Did you know that March 1 was an important day? Well, it was because it signaled the start for registration for the BMW CCA National Annual Oktoberfest in Monterey, CA August 19-24 with organizational support from the Pacific Region. There is a full range of events from a DINAN factory tour, social events including a wine tour, casino night, a Concours and of course

the opportunity to get spirited on track related activities at Laguna Seca. Is that on your bucket list? There are several events: a Gymkhana (organized by the Puget Sound Region Chapter, and no, not like Ken Block), Autocross, Car Control Clinic and a High Performance Driving School, for an amazing price and you're around other BMW enthusiasts. Can't picture it getting better? How about the beautiful backdrop of the Pacific Ocean, German beer and all we need is to add YOU and it'll be a blast. For more information about Oktoberfest there is a link from our home page (www.bmwpugetsound.com).

In closing, I'd love to hear from you to find out if there is anything we are missing the boat on or what you think we do well because compliments are nice to hear, too! Never know what's working unless we see you participating or hear feedback. I know I'm looking forward to this year, meeting new faces and saying "hi" to those familiar at a future event. If you can't want to catch me in person drop me an email at president@bmwpugetsound.com.

*From the driver's seat,
de-Anna Martin, President*



ON THE COVER:
BMW Team RLL will campaign the Z4 GTE in the American Le Mans Series this year on behalf of BMW North America.

Photo by BMW Press.



Griot's Garage Car Care Tech Session

Saturday, April 6, 11 a.m.



JOIN YOUR FELLOW BMW CLUB MEMBERS in celebrating the arrival of spring at a car care tech session at Griot's Garage on April 6

at 11 a.m. This is always one of the more popular events of the year. Please join us! There could be no better venue to show off our BMWs than at the beautiful Griot's flagship store in Tacoma, where we will learn how to get our BMWs cleaned up and looking excellent after a long winter. For those planning to enter their BMWs in the judged category at the Concours d'Elegance in July, our expert hosts will be on hand to offer special tips and tricks to help you score maximum points!

Once you have learned how to shine up your car, take a self-guided tour through the indoor Auto Display area, where you will see a collection of beautiful and evocative race cars from our past. Don't miss this fun and informative event! *Note:* Products may be purchased from the Griot's Garage retail store during regular Saturday business hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.), and on this day only, Club members in attendance will receive 15% off any items purchased—a great way to stock up for the year!

This event is free to attend, and all Club members and their guests are encouraged to join. Please send your RSVP to me at the email address below.

Karl Freese
karlfreese@gmail.com

Griot's Garage
3333 South 38th Street, Tacoma, WA 98409
253-922-2200 • GriotsGarage.com



Munich Evolution/ Gleeson Collection

Sunday April 7, 1–3 p.m.

PETER GLEESON HAS ASSEMBLED THE FINEST BMW COLLECTION in the Pacific Northwest and one of the best in the U.S. This will be the first opportunity to see his full Seattle collection, located at Munich Evolution (www.MunichEvo.com), a consignment shop specializing in BMWs, Porsches and other high-end cars. Matt LaCross of Munich Evolution, has a fondness for BMW M Cars, thus the name of the business.

Peter Gleeson's Collection has a "full set" of BMW E9 CSLs—left- and right-hand drive, carbureted and fuel-injected, and winged and non-winged. He also has a low mileage E30 M3, M1s including Johnny Cecotto's personal M1, the BASF M1 Procar, a red Z1 and silver Z8 and the list goes on.

Perhaps the most unusual item is a 1958 BMW/Abatte 507 wooden speedboat, one of only two ever made. It was ordered new by Helm Glockler of Porsche fame.

The meeting is at 950 N 135th Street, Seattle (one block west of Aurora Avenue North on North 135th Street).



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IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER and seems like forever since our last tour. Are you ready for some driving? Club tours are a great way to meet other members, see parts of our beautiful Northwest that you may not have seen before, and just enjoy driving your BMW.

Join Club members for our first tour of 2013! We will be heading east to the Puget Sound Energy Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility near Ellensburg. Get up-close views of the wind turbines and solar arrays from a 3,500-foot ridge set against the backdrop of the Cascade mountain range. From this vantage point you can see the entire facility, Mount Rainier, Mount Adams and Mount Hood. We will take a short tour that includes a look inside one of the 351 foot tall wind turbines.

We will meet in the parking lot of the Issaquah QFC (1540 Gilman Blvd) at 7 a.m. for donuts and coffee. After a short driver's meeting, we will depart at 7:30 a.m. sharp! Bring a picnic lunch!

All tours are driven on public roads, minding local traffic laws. We focus

on safety, but always make an effort to find little-known twisty roads that are enjoyable at any speed. Your first time being part of a long line of shiny Bimmers will not be forgotten. While we highly encourage participation in our High Performance Driving Schools, no special skills or equipment are needed to participate in a tour. Come alone or bring the whole family.

Due to space restrictions at the facility, this tour will be limited to the first twenty-five cars or forty people that that send an RSVP to tours@bmwpugetsound.com. Please include your Puget Sound BMW CCA membership number in your email. We look forward to seeing you there!

Scott Hieronymus, Tour Director



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Red Mountain Wine Tour

June 7-9



AFTER A ONE YEAR BREAK, the BMW Wine Tour is back for 2013! This year we are tasting our way through the most prestigious Washington American Viticulture Area (AVA), Red Mountain.

Red Mountain is the smallest AVA in the state, though it produces some of the biggest and best wines in our region and is home to premium vineyards such as Ciel du Cheval, Klipsun, Col Solare, Galitzine (of Quilceda Creek) and many others. An interesting feature of Red Mountain terroir is the diverse palette of soils that impart unique qualities which can vary significantly within a vineyard due to a combination of glacial activity, the Great Missoula Floods and accumulation of wind-blown dust.

The three-day weekend starts on Friday morning as we cruise over the Cascades, led by our driving tour leader

Scott, on a journey that includes fun roads, fun people and a picnic lunch on the warmer side of the mountains. Each day includes scheduled activities that will keep you engaged throughout the weekend, and also provide some free time for exploring.

While the agenda is not completely finalized, there are a few numerical highlights that will hopefully pique your interest to join; four exclusive meals, three private tours, at least two wine-makers and the Wine Boss production facility experience. This is not the entire list of activities; there is more in store for our adventure.

The registration fee is “almost all-inclusive.” After arriving at Red Mountain, all wine tastings, tours, lunches and dinners will be included, and dinners often include all-you-can-safely-drink wine. A detailed agenda will be released to confirmed attendees a few weeks prior to the event.

Space is limited to forty attendees to ensure an enjoyable experience at the wineries and locations we will be visiting, so early registration is your best opportunity to guarantee a spot!

Registration is \$195 per person. In addition, you will be responsible for lodging at our host hotel, the Marriott at Columbia Point, which is located on the edge of the Columbia River. Details for reserving a discounted room (\$129 or \$149 depending on view preference) will be given to confirmed attendees.

Registration opens Tuesday April 2 at www.bmwpugetsound.motorsportreg.com. If you have any questions, contact Dane Martin at bmw@pc-resource.com.



Automotive Legal Seminar

Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. to Noon

HOW TO BE MADE WHOLE, have your vehicle repaired to BMW specifications, successfully negotiate an insurance claim or total loss, and recover diminished value after a car accident

This event is intended to inform Club members about the rising difficulties with automotive insurance claims following a car accident and how to avoid issues and resolve disputes with an insurance company, settle a total loss for full value and recover diminished value.

Jeff Butler, owner of Haury's, along with Attorney Rich Milham will speak about the complexities of automobile property damage claims. Both will share their knowledge and experience dealing with insurance claims that will leave the participants informed and better equipped to navigate the insurance claims process and receive proper repairs specified by BMW. They will also discuss specific insurance policy language and reveal how some insurers are far better than others. You are encouraged to forward a copy of your insurance policy for review during the event.

The program kicks off at 10 a.m. with a tour of their modern state-of-the-art collision repair facility authorized to repair BMW and MINI. For the techies, we will see a few demonstrations including rivet bonding, compression spot welding, structural re-alignment processes and structural panel replacement.

Join us on April 27 at Haury's Lake City Collision. RSVP to jeff@hauryscollision.com.

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12th Annual E30 Picnic Weekend!

June 29–30



E30 Picnic

Sunday, June 30, 10 a.m.– 3 p.m.
LeMay Collection at Marymount
325 – 152nd Street East, Tacoma 98445
www.LeMayMarymount.org

E30 Tech Session

Sponsored by R3V Limited
Saturday, June 29, 1–4 p.m.
Griot's Garage
3333 South 38th St, Tacoma 98409
www.GriotsGarage.com

GRIOT'S GARAGE IN TACOMA is graciously letting us use their R&D facility to get technical with the E30. We'll be covering various topics in one-hour blocks all afternoon. Sponsored by R3V Limited.

Sunday will be the traditional E30 Show & Shine starting at 10 a.m. The E30 Picnic has evolved into the largest gathering of E30s on earth. There will be special E30s on display, and plenty of opportunities for all E30 owners to share questions and stories. We are planning on 200+ E30s that day, so be sure to be part of the fun! All E30s are invited, from garage queens to daily drivers (like mine!).

New Registration Format!

Receive a discounted entry fee by registering at www.MotorsportReg.com. MotorsportReg.com is the only place this year to register for the E30 Picnic. Early registration opens on May 1 and is \$12 for BMW Club members, \$15 for non-members. Early registration closes at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 27. You can also register on site the day of the show for \$20, cash only.

All Club Members Welcome!

There is no cost to visit and view the E30s. See www.E30Picnic.com for all the latest information. See you there!

*Lance Richert, E30 Picnic Chairman
lance@richertnet.com, 425-443-2188*



Photo by Curtis Creager.

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BMW Dyno Day and BBQ Event

Saturday, June 22, 10 a.m. start

AKA gearhead get-together, bench racing session with proof or just all around good time with car show and food.

It's time for our ninth annual Rubber Meets the Rollers event. Come out and give your Bimmer a good flogging and let's see what kinda horsepower it really makes. This has been a great event in years past and we expect a good turnout this year. I'm thinking of several E90 M3s in the Club that would be nice to see run. I will have my nicely modded E36 M3 completed with a fresh engine out for a run as well as the ultimate loaner car with some mods. How about a new twin turbo M5 or M6? I know a certain '57 Chev with aluminum heads and a roller cam that runs mid to low 11s I would like to see run (Doug).

Alex and the guys at Carb Connection in Kirkland are hosting our dyno tech session for our Club at a discounted rate. We will pay only \$75 (normally \$145) to run our cars on their Dynojet 248 4wd chassis dynamometer. Make up to three runs and get a printout of your car's actual horsepower and torque at the wheels as well as air/fuel ratio. Bring a flash drive and they will save the file for you.

The Club will be providing the barbeque and other refreshments around noon. There is plenty of parking on the backside of the building by the dyno room, so whether you're going to run your car or not, join fellow gearheads in having a great time.

Jeff Butler, Tech Events Chair

Carb Connection
13611 NE 126th Place, #240
Kirkland, WA 98034

RSVP Required to Jeff Butler
jeff@hauryscollision.com

33rd Annual Concours d'Elegance

July 28

JOIN US ONCE AGAIN for the 33rd Annual BMW Seattle Concours d'Elegance & Heritage Picnic at Renton's beautiful Cedar River Park. On July 28 the BMW Car Club of America, Puget Sound Region, will be providing the opportunity for BMW

enthusiasts of all ages to present their cars for all to admire. Being highlighted will be the luxurious 7 Series as this year's Feature Car. Look for additional information in upcoming issues and at www.BMWpugetsound.com.



Photo by Paul Sanders.

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2013 Race Schedule

- April 28 Portland International Raceway, Portland, OR
- May 12 Pacific Raceways, Kent, WA
- May 25, 26 Oregon Raceway Park, Grass Valley, OR
- June 23 Portland International Raceway, Portland, OR
- July 12, 13, 14 Spokane Raceway Park, Spokane, WA
- July 21 Pacific Raceways, Kent, WA
- Aug 11 Portland International Raceway, Portland, OR
- Aug 31, Sep 1, 2 Mission Raceway, Mission, BC

Sep 29 The Ridge Motorsports Park, Shelton, WA



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TOYO TIRES

BMW Northwest Tacoma, WA BMWNorthwest.com
PRO3 Contact: Lance Richert Lance@Richertnet.com
Photography: Doug Berger • Poster Design: Matt Ferbrache

PRO3 is a Pacific Northwest racing series for the 1987-1991 BMW 3 Series E30 chassis. Founded in 2003 under sanctioning body ICSCC, PRO3 has grown to over 70 prepared BMW race cars.

PRO3

The PRO3 Line

A New PRO3 Premiere Sponsor!

THIS MONTH, I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE SOMETHING BIG FOR PRO3 that has been in the works for a while now: BMW Northwest of Tacoma has signed on to be the premiere PRO3 sponsor for 2013.

BMW Northwest of Tacoma has signed on to be the premiere PRO3 sponsor for 2013.

If you have spent any time traveling I-5 through Fife, whether at speed or the more familiar clutch disk thinning stop-and-go traffic, you have undoubtedly seen the BMW Northwest showroom and its well-stocked inventory of shiny new BMWs (and shiny used ones too!) I have personally made many trips to their service counter looking for those last minute bits to complete whatever project I am tackling on The Reaper at the time.

Faithful followers of PRO3 know that we do things a bit differently when it comes to our sponsors and their support of our class. Rather than the

more typical cash payouts for the top three finishers, we have chosen to use a raffle drawing after each event to choose who takes home the sponsor goodness. In the case of BMW Northwest, an end-of-season raffle will be held to determine who wins the awards. The award values will be split with the higher amounts being given out to the top ten finishers and lower amounts distributed among the remaining racers. The recipients must fill out their official entry form at the end of the season to be included. The number of entries a person is allowed is based on how many PRO3 races they entered.

This is very similar to how we award the coveted prize from Accurate Engines, who has for the third consecutive year, provided us with a complete race-ready M20B25 engine. The drawing is held at the end of the season and each racer gets one entry in the drawing for every race s/he entered that season. Enter ten PRO3 races, get ten chances to win.

The raffle system, for some racing purists out there, doesn't fit with the competition aspect of racing. To those folks, I say, "Too bad!" We have a long list of car owners now (seventy-two) and even more drivers who have come to appreciate that even though not

everyone can make every race, those who make at least one race have a chance to participate in the sponsorship prizes. What that does for the grid as a whole is it motivates every car owner to apply the requisite sponsorship decals to the car and thus gives our sponsors the greatest possible chance for additional exposure. And that is really what drives our sponsors to help us out: exposure.

Sure, PRO3 isn't a televised event (yet) and we don't draw big crowds to the races, but we are visible to more than just the local racer crowd through our public displays, calendars, and advertising posters. The sponsors enjoy being able to point to our class and declare their support for accessible road racing that is within reach of the average car enthusiast.

In this case, BMW Northwest recognized the opportunity to present itself to the public and the BMW CCA through a different media channel, if you will. We are, after all, a tight-knit car community centered on the BMW marque here in the greater Northwest. And it was only fitting that one of our long-time fans become our headline sponsor. Watch for the all-important windshield banner to change out from Toyo Tires to BMW Northwest this season as we welcome their team into our class.

I have only mentioned two of our sponsors thus far, and there are many more! James Clay of Bimmerworld.com has signed on once again to be a part of PRO3 through his company's sponsorship of our class as well as plans for another Pros-v-Joe's race to be held this year in Grass Valley, Oregon.

Griot's Garage in Tacoma has agreed to continue with their sponsoring of the class. Griot's was also the host of our end of season non-banquet banquet back in November. Thanks, guys! We appreciate the hospitality (*Note: Griot's rents out its facility for larger groups; it makes for a unique and very cool automotive-themed venue.*)



Photo by Doug Berger.

The fellas over at 425 Motorsports will be continuing their sponsorship this season as well. Located in the Overlake area of Bellevue, 425 Motorsports offers a good inventory of racing gear that you can touch and try on before making a purchase. Check those helmets and belts for expiration dates; you may be due for some replacement gear!

ProFormance Driving School, and Don Kitch, Jr. is one of our important public outreach sponsors. Don is a big supporter of PRO3 and offers a chance for his students to try the wheel of a PRO3 car through his school. This has proven to be a great recruiting tool for our ranks and we appreciate his support.

Finally, Toyo Tires rounds out the list of returning sponsoring companies. We have had a great relationship with Toyo now for five full seasons and each year they increase the amounts paid out to PRO3 racers through Toyo Bucks—certificates redeemable for tires. I'm here to tell you that if there is one thing that will kill any race budget quickly,

it's buying five or six sets of tires! The consumables really add up and we are lucky to have Toyo on board with PRO3.

On a related note, I think it's worth a mention here, or more of a reminder to our members of PRO3 about our sponsors: all of the companies that generously donate money and products to PRO3 do so because they want to support our class and be a part of something that we all find pretty cool. On the return side of the equation, as a group, we should be doing everything we can to promote our sponsors and even more importantly, that we support them directly by buying from them when the need arises. So please consider this when spending your winnings and thank them for their continued support by directing your consumer dollars appropriately.

*Michael Olsen is a BMW CCA Club member and drives the Spirit Halloween Superstores PRO3 car #130 in local ICSCC competition racing
rickshaw_racing@yahoo.com
www.pro3-racing.com*

Mark Your PRO3 Calendars!

SATURDAY, MAY 4, there are two events in the Tacoma area where PRO3 cars and drivers will be on hand to answer questions and offer a chance to get up close and personal with the cars. *Event #1* starting at 8 a.m. and extending through 11 a.m., PRO3 will be a part of Griot's Garage Caffeine and Gasoline Car Show at the Griot's Garage on S. 38th Street in Tacoma.

Event #2 is a PRO3 Open House at BMW Northwest in Fife, from 1 to 3 p.m. It offers a second chance to come on out and see the cars and meet the people that make up PRO3. It's also an excellent opportunity to see the latest BMWs on the showroom floor. Swing on by to meet the service department while you are there.

In the centerfold this month we have a commemorative tear-out PRO3 Schedule for 2013. A full-sized version on heavy stock can be picked up at BMW Northwest, other local shops and at some chapter events.



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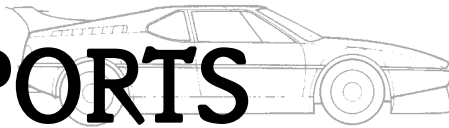
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MOTOR SPORTS



Hey Motorheads! It is time to start thinking about going to the track!

HAVE YOU BEEN ACHING to check out your car's performance and still keep your driver's license? Are you in bad need of a "track fix?" Are you day dreaming about taking that freeway on ramp with no other cars on the road except you? Are you dreaming of going to the track to drive but think you need "the right car" rather than your daily driver?

Well, dream no more! Make your plans this year for the track days sponsored by Puget Sound BMW CCA. Put the track days on your calendar and plan for some seat time. Come out to our first of the year High Performance Driving School event or take the Car Control Clinic on April 19, 2013. Enjoy using your car like it's meant to be driven with some of the Northwest's highest caliber driving instructors at your side. We have two events to satisfy your track needs!

Car Control Clinic

Come experience a thrilling day at the track and practice some of the fundamentals of high performance driving skills. Run your car through the following drills: slalom course,

emergency braking, collision avoidance, braking on a curve, skid pad, autocross and handling oval. You will get to drive a few parade laps on Pacific Raceway racetrack during the lunch break. Then, stick around after the CCC is done and get some hot laps on the racetrack with instructors in their cars. There will be helmets to borrow. You will get a thrilling ride in a safe environment with experienced instructors. This is a great way to get exposure to high performance driving and increase your driving skills. You will need to attend one CCC event prior to being allowed to register for HPDS.

HPDS High Performance Driving School

Utilize our talented pool of instructors and driving coaches to guide you around the racetrack. Learn how your car performs in corners and at speed. Learn how that German engineering keeps the

Learn how your car performs in corners and at speed. ... More importantly, learn to trust your car.

car on the road and be amazed at this technology. More importantly, learn to trust your car. Many first time students at a HDPS have commented "I did not know my car would do that." But how could they if never had the chance to push their cars and driving skills on a racetrack with an instructor coaching? You will get four, twenty-minute sessions and be grouped with drivers of a similar skill level. You will have a communicator in your helmet so that your instructor can coach you around the track. This serves two purposes. Instructors use the communicator as a teaching tool and as a safety tool. Part of being an effective instructor is to anticipate potential problems and correct them in real time.

Track Preparation

It is never too early to start preparing your car for the coming year. I have prepared what I call my "track box" of important supplies and tools needed for a track day. Here is a list of what I take to the track.

- *Engine Oil*—just to top off if needed. My previous car, an E36 M3 liked to consume oil at the track just to annoy me.

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- *Window cleaner and paper towels*—to clean off the bugs being pulverized on the windshield.
- *Torque wrench*—This is a must if you plan on doing track days. Your life depends on the wheels staying on the car! Purchase a ½ drive torque wrench calibrated in Newton meters. Also, purchase a ½ inch breaker bar with a 6-inch extension and a 17mm socket. Wrap electrical tape around the end of the socket to protect the finish on your wheels. Consult your owner's manual for the proper torque setting.
- *Plastic Tarp*—We live in the Northwest which means rain. A tarp is handy to lay out in the paddock to keep the various bits from the car dry. Also, it keeps out the pesky crows lurking around Pacific that seem to be able to find food at will. Also, a folding, camp chair is good to have while waiting for your session to go out.
- *Water*—We emphasize drinking a lot of water! You do not realize how much water you lose during the day, especially as the weather warms. Snacks are also important during the day. Another fellow instructor and I always start the day by sharing a package of small white powdered donuts. It is now a tradition, so don't forget Chuck, it is your turn.
- *Rain Gear and Warm Clothing*—Again, we live in the Northwest. Driving events are run rain, shine, snow, or all three!
- *Air Pump and Air Gauge*—Cigarette lighter powered air pumps are available from BMW dealers or automotive supply stores. A quality air gauge is really important.
- *I have other bits in the box but these are for changing wheels*—spare lug nuts, spacers, and a lightweight floor jack. If you have dedicated track wheels, you will need these.

Remember, all of our events are managed at Motorsportreg.com. The link to this site can be found at <http://bmwpugetsound.motorsportreg.com> or on the www.bmwpugetsound.com website. Please take the time to register with Motorsportreg.com as you will not be allowed to register for our events without an account.

Buy *one-day track insurance*. High performance driving has certain risks associated, some that can be avoided and some that cannot. Over the last five years, the Puget Sound BMWCCA events have been accident free and all cars have gone home under their own power. A few had mechanical failures, but not on-track incidents. We cannot comment on whether specific insurance companies cover track events. However, there is an insurance company that offers track insurance: <http://hpdeins.locktonaffinity.com>. Please read over the terms and conditions of this insurance policy. Puget Sound BMWCCA has no affiliation with the company. According to MotorsportReg.com, the number of people purchasing this policy has been increasing.

Finally, remember to *get your car inspected* at one of the shops listed on the website. Yes it will cost some money, but your safety is paramount. Over the years, some major problems have been identified during these inspections. Your safety depends on your car being in perfect operating condition. Do not forget to bring a copy of your tech form for the HPDS events.

We will see you on the track!

Steve Libby, Vice President
Roster Manager, Insurance Coordinator,
and Instructor
Slibby57@gmail.com

Rick Gulstrom
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2012 Financial Report

ANNUALLY THE CHAPTER IS REQUIRED to publish our financial statements to remain in good standing with BMW CCA. While our chapter remains financially sound, the history of losses for the last few years reduced a bit but still continued in 2012. The poor economy has had a negative impact on our activities, and we have not been immune to its effect. We have done more belt tightening this year and have found some ways to save money most notably by decreasing our publishing costs. We will

begin to really see these savings in 2013. We have further narrowed our losses from 2011 and 2010 and are looking forward to a break even financial report in 2013.

If you have questions about the financial statements or chapter finances in general, please contact me or attend a board meeting.

Michelle Miller, Treasurer
 treasurer@bmwpugetsound.com
 253-334-9948

Balance Sheet

At December 31, 2012

Assets

Cash accounts	\$ 60,743
Accounts receivable	2,335
Prepays	10,936
Fixed Assets	1,519
Total Assets	\$ 75,533

Liabilities and Equity

Chapter Equity	\$ 75,533
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Income Statement

For 2012

Revenue

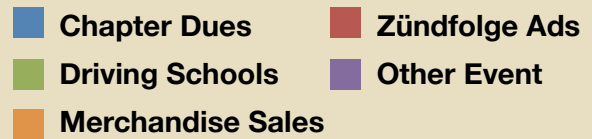
Chapter dues	\$ 31,906
Zündfolge ads	39,797
Driving schools	53,950
Other events	4,407
Merchandise sales	1,156
Total Revenue	\$ 131,216

Expenses

Zündfolge	55,423
Driving schools	56,290
Other events	8,470
Administration	14,653
Total Expense	\$ 134,836

Net Loss	-\$ 3,620
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Then and Now

Thought you might want something for the magazine. Here is my story. I ordered a new BMW 330ci in the summer of 2001. Upon taking delivery on 9/12/2001, I decided to keep my then five-year-old son 'busy' and away from the chaos on TV from the events surrounding 9/11 that terrible day. We did

a full detail on the car this day and I snapped a picture of him cleaning the wheels.

Fast forward to October of 2012 this year. We purchased another BMW (Certified Pre-owned 328i) and thought we should do a retro picture!

Brian Nelson



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CONVERTIBLE SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. Unless you are one of the diehard forty degrees top down while the heat is blasting types! Working at Convertibles Only for the past seven years, I have seen and learned a lot when it comes to soft tops. Starting out in a garage shop behind his house in 1989, owner of Convertibles Only Les Hurlbert had a passion for the convertible automobile and interior restoration. Through many years of excellent workmanship and dedication to the craft (and being an all around honest and nice guy) he gained loyal customers and lifelong friends in the auto restoration community. In the winter of 1999 he moved the shop to South Lake Union in Seattle where the business continued to grow. For over two decades we have been the only company in the Northwest dedicated to convertible top replacement and repairs. Over the years we have gained an invaluable amount of knowledge concerning soft tops and interior repair, replacement, and design. We have also acquired extensive knowledge of convertible BMWs and their tops' functions. This past December, we moved our shop to 3430 4th Ave South in SODO Seattle.



Here are a few tips from Convertibles Only to keep your convertible in “top” shape:

Plastic Window?

Beware of putting your top down in chilly weather. Vinyl (plastic) windows are especially vulnerable to weather. Do not put your top down when the temperature is below 45 degrees to avoid the window cracking.

As plastic windows get older, they lose their elasticity and can become stiff and brittle. It might not be something you notice until it is too late! We end up replacing many of these every year in the spring from the hint of that first nice almost warm Northwest day when it is still too cold for the window. Also, if you take your car in to your mechanic make sure they are aware of this hazard as well to avoid cracking the plastic. If you really want to put the top down on one of these mornings but are worried about this happening (and you have access to a garage) you can use a blow dryer to heat the plastic up a bit and it will then be fine to lower. Just remember, when you go to put the top up you need to re-heat the window as it can crack going back up too!

Plastic Window Replacement

BMW convertibles that have rear plastic windows come with the windows zipped into the top originally. Over time and exposure to sun and dirt they get a foggy, milky look to them that can make them hard to see out of. We recommend using Meguiar's Mirror Glaze #17 Clear Plastic Cleaner to clean the window, and #10 Clear Plastic Polish to polish it to get it as clear as possible. However, the life of the plastic is only about 60% of the life of the top and the plastic will get to a point where you will not be able to see out of it and will need to be replaced. The OEM zip in windows make replacing them relatively easy once that time comes. It's not quite as easy as it sounds however. It takes our technicians almost two hours to install one (with a few tricks and the right German curse words). We would recommend having a professional do this to save you the headache. If you have had your top replaced, there is a very good chance that it was with an after-

market top, in which case the window IS NOT zipped in, but sewn in. This window can still be replaced, but will need the top removed to sew in the new plastic window and will be a bit more money because of the labor hours involved. Once the new window is in, it is a good idea to protect it to keep it as clear and unscratched as possible. We recommend using a soft terry cloth towel to cover the window when the top is lowered.

Top Care and Maintenance

The average life of a cloth convertible top is about twelve to fifteen years, depending on its exposure to the elements and usage. We've seen them last twenty to twenty-five years when cared for and garaged. Always store your top in the up position to retain its fit and shape.

To clean your top, use a cleaner specifically formulated for convertible tops; a mild car wash soap or dishwashing soap will work, too. Use a sponge or a piece of boat cushion foam (polyether foam or poly foam) to clean your top. We have this foam available for free at our shop, swing by and pick one up! Wash your top in the shade whenever possible. If you have a clear vinyl window, wash it first, the top second, and rinse well so your sponge doesn't pick up dirt from the top and then scratch the window.

The two most damaging things to a convertible top are sun and dirt. There are cleaners available that are specific for vinyl or cloth tops. We recommend using 303 Fabric Guard for cloth tops, it acts as an extra water repellent and for those of you with a tan or lighter colored top this is especially a good idea because it will seal the cloth from getting dirt embedded into the fibers.

Multiple Issues with E36 Top Systems

E36 BMW convertibles can have many different issues with the function of the top, most of them are related to one culprit, the webbing straps. Located between the convertible top and the headliner, these straps are attached to the frame and help the top fold up and down correctly. Over time the elastic attached to the straps wears out and can cause a few different very problematic issues with the top functions. Most repair

shops that you go to will tell you that you need to replace these straps to solve the issue. (The webbing straps run \$460 from BMW and can take many hours to install). We have come up with solutions to all of the problems that these elastics cause without having the webbing straps replaced—a significant savings to you. It is important for you to get your top issues diagnosed if you notice anything not right with its function because it can cause further problems by running it when it is malfunctioning.

E36 Leak Issue

E36 BMWs have a notorious leak issue that happens usually when the drains get clogged and water gets into the car by the rear seat and floods the carpet. Generally the reason the drains get clogged is from the headliner backing, (brown flimsy material attached to the inner side of the headliner) which has a foam backing on it that deteriorates and falls off. The headliner is still fine; you can just pull this backing material off so that it doesn't clog your drains. The

drains are located behind the driver and passenger seat area of the rear top storage compartment, below the frame hinges. Make sure these are clear of debris and even run a hanger down them if you think they may be clogged. If you pour water in them it should drain out underneath the car. Otherwise it is going into the car which can cause problems. The carpet area in front of the rear seat has about a 2-2 1/2" piece of foam under it and with all of the space under the carpet you can accumulate a couple gallons of water! You may notice water condensation in your trunk. The trunk is probably not leaking, but getting condensation from the water under the carpet in the car. We regularly have to pull out the seats, pull up the carpet and dry out the car for a few days with heaters. If you have extensive mold damage and the car is dried out you can request an Ozone machine treatment which kills odor causing microorganisms in air and water sources so the smell and mold goes away.

Z3 Leak Issue

Z3's have a notorious leak issue which comes from where the rear of the convertible top meets the car body. If you have your top replaced, the installation shop needs to thoroughly seal that area.

Z4 Top Motor Issue

The Z4 convertible top motor is located on the rear driver's side area where the frame connects to the body. It is located in a recessed "cup" area where there is a drain hole so water can run off the top and out of the car. If this hole gets plugged with debris, the cup can fill and soak the motor, frying it. This was a poor design since you can't get to the drain plug to unclog it without taking the frame off the car. Be aware that this is an issue, stay away from pine trees, and good luck!

We're crossing our fingers for a warm and relatively rainless summer! Call us if you have questions or concerns about your top or interior. Please stop by to take a tour of our new shop. We're always working on fun and interesting projects!

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Driving Helmets

FOR THOSE OF YOU JUST GETTING STARTED in the sport of high performance driving, it is important to note the difference in helmets today.

When we talk about helmets in relation to cars and the race track or an autocross park, one probably knows that a bicycle helmet just won't suffice. However, common sense may not tell you that a motorcycle helmet isn't up to par either. There are many types of helmets and in the sport of driving, it is important that you choose an automotive helmet.

Automotive helmets are available in open or full-faced models. They vary in color, size, weight, shape, eye-port size, ventilation and price. One thing they all

have in common is their Snell Rating. Automotive helmets are labeled with a SA-Rating. This means that the Snell Foundation has approved the helmet for automotive use and your head will be properly protected in an accident while tracking your car. The Snell rating for automotive helmets changes every five years and is valid for ten years. Therefore, you want to purchase the most current rating to make sure you get the most life and use out of your helmet. The most current SA-Rating today is SA-2010.

Finding a helmet that fits properly is equally as important as the correct rating. A helmet should fit as tight as possible without giving you a headache.

Therefore, you should shop local and find a store near you with some options to try on. Identify a size that feels snug and contacts the entire crown of your head, presses firmly on your cheeks and does not bounce off of them when you shake your head. You should have good visibility and should not feel claustrophobic. After trying them all on, it will be clear which one fits you the best. Wear this helmet while browsing around the store for ten to fifteen minutes to make sure it doesn't create any discomfort or cause a headache. If all is well, ask the sales person how to protect your new helmet during use, storage as well as transportation to and from the track.

Dan Reiss, CEO

425 Motorsports, Bellevue, WA



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