





SEPTEMBER 2012



Photos: Lisa Goehring









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BMW CCA National Office:	bmwcca.org
Membership (only)	
FAX	
General Info	

Misc. Car Club Info

San Diego SCCA Auto-X	www.sdr-scca.com/solo2
SCCA Club Racing	sdr-scca.com/rr
SCCA Cal Club (L.A. region)	www.solo2.com

www.sdbmwcca.com

The President's Column

Welcome to September San Diego BMWCCA!!!

It's hard to believe that September is here and fall is just an apex away. I'm still trying to figure out how to get all the MPG I can out of my E90 M3. I've been really paying attention to how much driving I've been doing, I am about to break 28,000 miles and I just got the car last April! Not to mention, I just replaced my third set of rear tires with some used 265/35R19 Pilot Sport 2s. You're probably thinking, "I'm not surprised Nick, considering how YOU drive." Let's just say that going back to a 35 series sidewall is much better than a 30 series like my previous set of 265/30R19s. When I had the 265/30/19s, the rear end of the vehicle seemed to want to rotate, or step-out, easier than when I had the 265/35/19s on the rear. It became apparent to me that the E90 M3 is very sensitive to this and it changed the behavior of the car. You could say that I made an excuse to "get rid" of my current set of tires to go back to a 265/35R19.

If you want a good read, check out the article I wrote about the pickup of my E90 M3 in April 2011. This was a big trip for me so I documented the entire trip from plane landing to arrival in Las Vegas for ///MFest. I don't want to give too much away but if you want to know what its like to attend a one day ///M School and pick up your car at the BMW Performance Center, take the time and check out the article!

September is going to be filled with some racing. We have Autocross at the Q on Sunday September 9th. If you're into the vintage scene, the Annual Coronado Speed Festival is on the weekend of Saturday September 22nd. This is a great event for the older generation of cars and there is always good racing and good food to keep you excited! The club is planning on having a BMW corral in the car club corral parking area. If you're interested in a corral pass, email speedfest@sdbmwcca.com

I would like to extend a personal invitation for you and your friends to come by and check out our monthly board meeting (the 2nd Tuesday of every month) at Giovanni's Pizza on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. but I recommend coming around 5:45 for free pizza and socializing with other club members and guests.

-Nick Owen

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SUBMITTING INFORMATION TO THE EDITOR

Please send us your stories, tech. tips, photos, etc. We welcome and encourage any material you think would be informative or interesting to other members. All information should be submitted to the editor directly. Preferred format is e-mail. The deadline for submitting information to the editor is the 15th of each month.

2012 Calendar of Events

September 5

San Diego Chapter – Meet & Greet at Urge Gastro Pub, 5:30 p.m. 16761 Bernardo Center Dr, Rancho Bernardo, CA

September 9

San Diego Chapter – Autocross at Quallcomm Stadium, Southeast Lot

September 11

San Diego Chapter – Board Meeting. The board meeting is open to all chapter members

September 17 – 23

BMW CCA National Event – 43rd Annual BMW CCA Oktoberfest; Columbus, OH

September 22 – 23

Coronado Speed Festival; info at fleetweeksandiego.org. Contact Jojo Gonzales for corral parking passes: widowson_jojo@yahoo.com

October 6

San Diego Chapter – BBQ, Guest speaker Bill Caswell. 11:00 a.m. Oceanside Motorsports, 343 Airport Road, Oceanside.

October 9

San Diego Chapter – Board Meeting. The board meeting is open to all chapter members

October 27

Tech Session with PCA at Drive Skills, 4145 Avenida De La Plata, Oceanside 9:00 a.m.

October 28

San Diego Chapter – Autocross at Quallcomm Stadium, Southeast Lot

December 9

San Diego Chapter – Holiday Party; San Diego Automotive Museum, 5:00 p.m.

San Diego Chapter Monthly Board Meeting

Giovanni's Italian Restaurant, 9353 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

6:00 P.M. – Pizza & soft drinks 6:30 P.M. – Board Meeting



Scan this code with your smart phone to get all the latest calendar listings!



Be sure to check the website for all the latest news and event announcements!

www.sdbmwcca.com



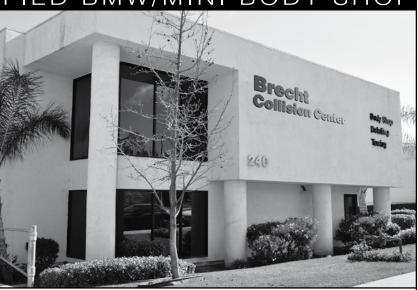
New Club Members Welcome!

Baker, Chad Biritz, Casey Bounds, Lee 1997 Z3 2.8L Cardozo, Cesar Carnevale, Chad Causey, Alexa Cox, Joe Cromwell, Christopher 2008 E92 M3 Flanagan, Gary Ford, Mark Fromer, Alex 2005 Impreza WRX STi Funk, Alex 2007 335i 2006 E90 330l; 2009 X5 xDrive30l Gonzales, Rob Goodding, Justin Grabinski, Rodney Hickey, Reed 1974 2002; 1991 K100RS Jones, Christopher Kochanek, Sarah Lafo, Alan Lao, Rex Lykissas, Jason McCormick, James Nelson, Ashley Nelson, Ryan Pfaff, Jason Pierson, Will Pratt, Rykie Rabbani, Noah Schupp, Andrew Smolik, Mike Srour, Shawn Stepanek, David 2000 BMW 740i; 2008 Dodge Avenger Stone, Jason Tansy, Jay Todd, Jacob Viloria, Daniel Waclawik, Matthew 2008 M3 Wetzel, Dave Wilson, Charles 2012 M3

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BMW CCA San Diego Chapter – Board Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2012

Board Members Present:

Nick Owen, Brett Litoff, Lisa Goehring, Andre Pantic, Tom Fota, Rich Gehring, Kim Dais, Don Duncan, Dan Tackett, Dennis Damon, Anne Littrell, Thejusvi Ganesh, Jim Lloyd, Scott Sansom

Members Present:

Boots Cuantico, Giancarlo Gurrola, Summer Gurrola, Jose Padilla, James Eberhardt, Paul Silver, Christopher Henderson, Chris Woods, Tim Woods, Deluna Stephen, Seth Hanson, Charlie Kaehler, Mike Turpen, Jojo Gonzales, Matthew Kogan, Satakal Khalsa, Darren Wong, Mike Singley, Gordon Anderson

Secretary's Report:

The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Don Duncan reported that he sent out projections of revenue to the board. Don also emphasized the importance of having an equipment fund.

Andre Pantic and Anne Littrell stated that they would be in favor of a budget committee for yearly expenditures, including donations.

President's Report:

Nick Owen reported that he had a conference call with chapter presidents across the US discussing Oktoberfest 2013. Nick stated that the Golden Gate Chapter would be doing all driving events and that there would be a 92-decibel limit at all events. On the call, Nick also learned that members could now auto renew their memberships online.

Vice President's Report:

Kim Dais stated that we have a total of 1550 members including associates. There was discussion about mailing out new members a welcome card.

Webmaster's Report:

Tom Fota reported that future events have been updated on the website through August.

Newsletter Report:

Lisa Goehring reported that the new color issue is out. Don Duncan stated that this issue is more than twice the price of the regular black and white one. Lisa reported that she is talking with EMG about printing our newsletter. According to Lisa, they would be able to make a color newsletter for close to the cost of our current black and white one.

Autocross Director's Report:

Dan Tackett reported that the Run-Off autocross was very successful. Despite some setbacks, the day started and ended on time. August 5th is our next autocross. There will be multiple lap running, possibly four laps at a time. There will be no trophies at this autocross.

Dan stated that Kim Schwarz is conducting the Car Control Clinic on November 17th.

Driving Events

Lisa brought up the idea of doing another driving school every year, possibly a one-day event.

Social/Advertising Director's Report:

Anne Littrell reported that there is a Meet and Greet at Green Flash Brewery July 11th. There will be a tour of the brewery and a random food truck will be there as well. The cost of the tour, which includes sampling, is five dollars.

Anne stated that there is a Padre's Game on August 4th and that the club has bought a block of ticket for the event. Anne encouraged members to see hear ASAP for tickets. Anne also reported that there is a tech session on August 18th at Phil Thearle's Autowerks.

Thejusvi Ganesh reported that most of our advertisers have paid for the year as oppose to month to month. Ganesh added that we should refer future potential advertisers to him.

Waxmeister's Report:

Dennis Damon read a letter from the United Ostomomy Association sent thanking us for our yearly donation. There was discussion about having specific events; such has autocrosses that are linked to a particular charity. In one example, participants would be asked to bring a can of food as part of their registration for the event. Dennis read off the list of charities and suggested ways to distribute funds. Anne motioned that we donate a total of 1000 dollars to the charities listed and the motion carried. The following is a how the money will be distributed: \$500 to Volunteer San Diego, \$200 to Youth Empowerment Services, \$100 to Becky's House, \$50 to I Love Clean San Diego, \$50 to Momma's Kitchen and \$50 to Magnolia School.

New Business:

Jim Lloyd reported that there is a cruise on Sunday, July 15th. The cruise will be approximately 63 miles.

Paul Silver stated that there is a Photo Rally on August 26th. The rally will begin at All German Auto. There is a minimum of two people required per car and it will be run as a charity event with a 5 dollar minimum donation per car. JoJo Gonzales stated that he would coordinate the distribution of Coronado Speedfest passes. Ganesh stated that he is working on automating the classified ads.

HRE open house on July 14th

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.



Show Your Membership Card and Save!

The following advertisers offer a discount to BMW CCA members. You must show your membership card at the time of purchase.

BMW of Escondido: 15% – parts & service BMW South County: 15% – parts & labor Charlie's Foreign Car Service: 10%

Chassis Masters: 10%

Hans Foreign Car Service: 10% Labor Only La Jolla Independent BMW Service: 10% Mastercare: 10%

Be sure to mention that you saw our advertiser's ads in Fahren Affairs!





Tech Session held at Phil Thearle's Autowerks

August 18, 2012







Photos: Paul Silver





Cover Me— I'm Changing Lanes Car Control Clinic

coming up on November 17th

Every day we venture out on public roads surrounded by motorists who have their minds on anything but driving. Going to work, taking the kids to school, and changing lanes are among the most dangerous things we do every day. The San Diego Chapter is hosting an event to teach you practical driving skills in the car you drive every day.

- Do you know how to adjust your mirrors to eliminate blind spots?
- Have you ever engaged your antilock brakes while turning?
- Have you experienced how your car handles in an emergency?
- Do you know how to "steer into the skid" and recover?
- When you rent a front-wheel drive car on a business trip, do you know how its handling behavior differs from your BMW?
- If you normally drive an SUV or minivan, do you know its limits?
- Do you trust any teenage drivers in your household with your BMW?
- Does your significant other understand why you love Driving Schools?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions or if you know of someone that might benefit from this clinic, mark your calendar for November 17th and plan to join us for another great Car Control Clinic! Watch the Fahren Affairs for more details, or email Kim Schwarz at bimmerkimmer@sdbmwcca.com.

—Kim Schwarz



Upcoming Meet & Greet

Shine up your car and come hang out with other club members to share stories, check out cars, and meet some new friends.

URGE American Gastropub

Wednesday, September 5 5:30 р.м.

16761 Bernardo Center Dr Rancho Bernardo, CA 92128



URGE Gastropub is the American reinterpretation of the traditional English pub. Great wines & great upscale pub foods are accompanied with an eclectic & extensive beer list that changes daily. Our philosophy is to cook pub classics using the best local hand-reared products when possible. Service is unpretentious & friendly, elbows & crumbs with beer to wash it all down.



Nein! Nein! Autocross

Work? Chores? NOPE! We're autocrossing on Sunday 9/9 Register Online at http://sdbmwcca.motorsportreg.com

Online Registration will be open from Aug 18 – Sept 4th The first 20 non-BMWs to register are guaranteed a spot

ure, we sometimes have responsibilities on weekends. But on 9/9, you can say Nein! Nein! to your weekend routine and head down to Qualcomm Stadium for some fun with your friends and your car. We will be in the Southeast lot this time, where we can fit a nearly mile-long course for your enjoyment. Remember, turn LEFT at the entrance; there's a major go-kart event on the other side. The helmet standard changed in January to require Snell 2005 or 2010 ratings. Check yours to be sure it's up to date-rentals are limited. Our friends at BMW South County in El Cajon once again are supporting of our Autocross program. With online registration, local drivers, long-distance travelers and non-BMW competitors can reserve their spot. You can register between August 18st-September 4th. Online registration opens 3 weeks before the event and closes just a few days before. Don't wait until the last minute because it's still first-come, first-served (with no online waiting list) and our 100 spots sometimes fill up in advance. We'll still offer registration on-site if any openings are left.

The entry fee is \$65, including breakfast items, lunch and beverages. You can pay online if you register in advance at http://sdbmwcca. motorsportreg.com, or register on site with cash or check if you wait. You must be a BMW CCA member to participate, and you can join online at www.bmwcca.org in advance. Please print and bring your membership confirmation if you have not vet received your BMW CCA membership card. We check membership of all participants at the gate. Our Chapter autocross policy gives priority to members who are driving BMWs or MINIs. Members driving non-BMWs will be allowed to participate if space is available. If we still have openings after online registration, we will allow registration on-site on a first-come, firstserved basis.

REMEMBER: IF REGISTERED ONLINE, **BRING PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP** AND ARRIVE BY 7:30 (BEFORE ON-SITE CUT-OFF) TO KEEP YOUR RESERVED SPOT

When you arrive:

1. If you registered online, stop at the gate to sign the waiver and notify the Gate Greeter. Your name will be checked off the pre-registration list. All participants must show their BMW CCA membership card. Those who did not register online will receive a numbered card at the gate in their order of arrival; take it to the Registration table. There is no guarantee that spots will be available for those who wait to register the day of the event.

2. Empty all loose items from your car, then go through the Tech Line and have your car inspected. Bring your Tech card and you will receive Tech and helmet stickers.

 Take Gate card and Tech card to Registration to get checked off for pre-registration or pay your \$65 entry fee. You will receive car numbers to place on your side windows.

4. If you don't have a helmet, you can rent one from the club for \$10.

5. Your entry fee of \$65.00 includes one lunch and unlimited beverages. Additional lunches can be purchased at Registration for \$7 each.

Gates will open at 6:30 am; tech and registration will open at 7:00 am. Tech will close at 8:20 am and no cars will be inspected or allowed to run after this time. There is a **mandatory drivers meeting at 8:30 am** and the course opens for runs at 9:00 am.

Car Classifications:

- 4C ALL 4 cylinder BMW models (except E30 M3)
- **6S** Stock 6 or 8 cylinder BMWs up to 295 factory horsepower
- 6M Modified 6 or 8 cylinder BMWs up to 295 factory horsepower
- **TS** Stock 6-8-12 cylinder BMWs over 295 factory hp, M cars before 1994
- TM Modified 6-8-12 cylinder BMWs over 295 factory hp, M cars before 1994
- MS Stock M cars, 1994 present
- **MM** Modified M cars, 1994 present
- MC ALL R-class MINI Cooper models
- X ALL non-BMW or MINI models
 G Gold Class for all Instructors, opt-in drivers, and cars with slick tires

Stock classes permit any size wheel and tire; non-stock shock absorbers, bushings and strut braces; any brake pad material (brakes must be stock-size), any air filter or cold air intake or catback exhaust; and naturally-aspirated cars may use aftermarket engine management software. Tires must be 140 treadwear rated or higher in Stock. ANY other performance modification. including but not limited to springs, "R"compound tires, and engine software for turbocharged/supercharged cars, puts the car in Modified. Non-DOT tires (i.e. slicks) on any car place it in Gold Class. All cars must be under a 92 dB noise level to be driven at Qualcomm—and we'll be checking. Our car classes are kept simple so we can use the honor system.

Women drivers and Novices are classified based upon the car they are driving. We also award a Women's Class trophy to the woman with the fastest time, and two Novice trophies to the two fastest novices. This means women and novices will be eligible for multiple trophies. For example, a very fast novice could win a novice trophy and a trophy in his car class. Remember, you are only a novice for the first and second time you autocross, and if you win a trophy you are now a ringer, not a novice.

QUESTIONS?

vAsk at sd-autocross@sdbmwcca.com

ATTENTION NEWCOMERS: See the Autocross Tips at www.sdbmwcca.com to get a better idea of how to prepare for this wonderfully addictive sport for your first time.

See you at Qualcomm Stadium!





Presents Featured Guest Speaker:

Bill Caswell



Saturday, October 6 11:00 A.M. Oceanside Motorsports 343 Airport Rd, Oceanside, CA

Bill Caswell is a self-taught racing driver, mechanic, and fabricator, who rose to Internet fame by taking a \$500 Craigslist BMW to a World Rally Championship event in Mexico in March of 2010. His exploits have been featured in places like ESPN Magazine, Grassroots Motorsports, NPR Radio, Wired.com and Jalopnik.com. Caswell graduated with an MBA from University of Chicago in 2004 and spent several years working in finance. The economic downturn gave him the opportunity to follow his dreams and after constructing a car for pennies in his mom's garage, he entered the world of rally in 2009. The next fifteen months saw Caswell embark on his rally adventure culminating at WRC Mexico 2010. With no team, no budget, and only a co-driver for help, he achieved a podium finish in one of the sport's most grueling events. Bill typically competes with Rally America and NASA Rallysport in the U.S. and has competed in the Pikes Peak International Hillclimb. For the Hillclimb, he built his own BAJA 1000 racer in less than 14 days and drove it in the race, and developed an international following. Caswell currently writes for Jalopnik.com and Wired.com. Paramount Pictures recently announced the development of a major motion picture based on his life's story starring Academy-Award-nominated actor Jeremy Renner. Learn more about Bill Caswell on his website, CaswellMotorsport.com and see the original March 22, 2010 article on Jalopnik.com, "How A \$500 Craigslist Car Beat \$400K Rally Cars".

Refreshments and lunch provided by Oceanside Motorsports. Please indicate your participation on our Facebook event page.





Joint BMW CCA/PCA Tech Session

DriveSkills Motorsports

Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

4145 Avenida de la Plata Oceanside, CA 760-721-7761

DriveSkills Motorsports is developing the latest technology in car driving simulators to improve the realism for both race track simulators and driver education applications. DriveSkills Motorsports will be hosting an open house tech session to demonstrate performance driving skills and techniques in the areas of GT and Formula 1 racing. In addition, DriveSkills will also demonstrate the use of simulators for use by teen and novice drivers focusing on situational awareness, collision avoidance, and driver evaluation. Club members attending will have the opportunity to get actual 'seat time' and practice performance and emergency driving techniques focused towards various BMW and Porsche platforms.

DriveSkills will provide refreshments and also introduce their new Motorsports facility located at the above address.



Photo: Lisa Goehring

No Beer, but 11 Bavarian Hops on Sunday October 28th

Register Online at http://sdbmwcca.motorsportreg.com Online Registration will be open from October 6th – 23rd The first 20 non-BMWs to register are guaranteed a spot

avaria is known for two great things: beer and BMWs. We'll celebrate one of them today at Qualcomm; you can commemorate Oktoberfest with the other one afterwards. Our usual format of practice and competition will let you take 11 hops in your BMW on a typically long and challenging West Lot course As a reminder, the helmet standard changed in January to require Snell 2005 or 2010 ratings. Check yours to be sure it's up to date-rentals are limited. Let's give a toast to BMW of South County in El Cajon for their hearty support of our Autocross program. With online registration, local drivers, long-distance travelers and non-BMW competitors can reserve their spot, so don't miss it. You can register between October 6th-23rd. Online registration opens 3 weeks before the event and closes just a few days before. Don't wait until the last minute because it's still first-come, first-served (with no online waiting list) and our 100 spots sometimes fill up in advance. We'll still offer registration on-site if any openings are left.

The entry fee is \$65, including breakfast items, lunch and beverages. You can pay online if you register in advance at http:// sdbmwcca.motorsportreg.com, or register on site with cash or check if you wait. You must be a BMW CCA member to participate, and you can join online at www.bmwcca. org in advance. Please print and bring your membership confirmation if you have not yet received your BMW CCA membership card. We check membership of all participants at the gate. Our Chapter autocross policy gives priority to members who are driving BMWs or MINIs. Members driving non-BMWs will be allowed to participate if space is available. If we still have openings after online registration, we will allow registration on-site on a firstcome, first-served basis.

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Sunday FUNday Autocross

August 5, 2012











Photos: Lisa Goehring (except as noted)

Photo: Paul Silver







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Have a story to tell?

If you'd like to share a brief story about your car, an experience you had at an event, what you love about the Club, etc., let us know!

Include a high-resolution photo(s) with your susbmission, if possible, and email to: sd-newsletter@sdbmwcca.com

Articles will published as space is available.



BMW South County Service Technician and San Diego Chapter President, Nick Owen has reached a special milestone—taking delivery of his brand new Alpine White E90 M3, at the BMW Performance Center in South Carolina and driving it across country to Las Vegas for ///Mfest 2011. What better way to experience a brand new M3, then to just spend a few days driving it?

"Ok, she's coming." says Ron Mangseth from BMW South County. "I've been sitting here for 20 minutes and I haven't signed or paid for anything. What do you mean my car is on order?" I reply. "Just pretend it never happened" says Ron, "I'll come find you when it hits 112 status." A few weeks later my Client Advisor, Kailash Joshi, calls me, "Professor Owen, you are set to pick up your M3 at the BMW Performance Center." From February to April I played the waiting game and before I knew it, I was sitting on a plane to South Carolina. I could not help laugh like a school girl. Thinking to myself, "I'm flying across the country to pickup my new M3 and I'm going to drive it back home," truly a dream becoming a reality.

I arrived in Spartanburg on a pleasant Sunday afternoon and was whisked away in an F07 to the Marriot Hotel. A short time later my phone rings and Executive Director of the BMW CCA, Frank Patek, has tracked me down. I agree to meet Frank in the lobby so we can attend the All Ladies Weekend Getaway dinner. Needless to say I took a little extra time to freshen up. Frank and I arrive at an elegant restaurant where we are greeted by Jackie Bechek and her lady entourage. I had the pleasure of sitting next to the lovely Brandy Halladay and the illustrious Caitlin McNiff. As if things couldn't get any better, the infamous Mike Renner, Director of the Performance Center, joined us for dinner. After hearing about Mike's adventure on his most recent trip to the

Nurburgring, Brandy's tales in her M6 and Caitlin's high heel collection, it was way past my bedtime.

Monday morning is ///M school. You know the feeling little kids get before they are about to go on a trip to Disneyland, well ///M school had the same effect on me. I spent the entire night half asleep in anticipation of one of the most exciting days of my life. I was dropped at the Performance Center in an X5d and walked through the glass doors to be one with the Mecca of BMW Performance. I and 11 other students were greeted by one of the Driving Instructors, Alison Duncan. We do guick introductions and an overview of vehicle dynamics on the various M cars that we'll be driving. We are grouped into different run teams and briefed on the driving exercises for the day.



For the first half of the day we learned to drift the M5, apex the M6 and go through a mini "corkscrew included" road course in the M3. After lunch, we headed back out to the cars for some serious track time. We jumped into the M5s and headed out to a shortened road course. This course was set up to teach track rhythm with the back straight long enough to let you top out 3rd gear in the 500hp M5. We spent a good portion of the afternoon chasing each other around the track while receiving constructive feedback from the instructors who watched from their posts off the beaten track. We cooled down the M5s and switched to the M3s for some Autocross. We drove the M3s through an "Autocross style" exercise which included a

slalom and "S" turns that ended in a brake box. With this being timed for bragging rights, tensions were high. After an impressive "Oh my!" from one of the instructors and a show stopper run put down by yours truly, the show was over and we headed to the final part of the day. The M6s were waiting and we took them to a wet, oval shaped skid pad to put these cars to the test of handling on a wet surface—with DSC off while racing someone to complete 3 laps!



Just when we thought our adrenalin had reached its peak, the instructors added one last element of surprise to finish out the day. The instructors took the driver seat this time in the M5 and put their skills to the test on the infamous hot lap which was literally like an adult roller coaster, sans a metal track, throughout the entire Performance Center. With lateral Gs being exceeded and tires smoking for more than half of the time on course, we are red in the face from laughing and trying to catch our breath. We end the day in the classroom with feedback and well wishes from the instructors. I put on my newly acquired BMW Performance Driving School hat, step out of the classroom and make my way towards the X5d waiting to pick me up.

As I make the turn around the corner for the main display room, I stop dead in my tracks at the glimpse of a shiny, white object in the BMW Performance Center foyer. There she is, my car was on display for delivery the next day. It took me a second to process what I was looking at. My desire and creation for everything I wanted in a car lay



before me. "Annika" I said to myself. Her name is Annika. I set down my jacket and took out my camera for some first time pictures. I peeked inside the driver door and checked the tag attached to the shift lever. N. Owen. 7 miles VIN: XXXXXX. It's official, it was my car! I opened the driver's door to sit in the black seats and before I am able to do anything, one of the BMW Center employees asked me to not touch the car. With the biggest smile on my face, I told him, "You don't understand. I am N. Owen and this is MY car."

I sat and looked at her for about 15 minutes before I realized I was the only person in the Performance Center. From all angles she was perfect. E90 M3 painted in the legendary Alpine White 300 with Black Cloth interior (Did I mention she has manual seats?) And the final touch was the Competition Package. Now when it came to the transmission (you purists are going to cringe), I opted for the DCT. Why? Because the technology is THAT superior. I've driven every form of E9X M3 and the DCT has made a lasting impression on me. Working with SMG II on M3s and SMG III on M5s, I was accustomed to that style of auto/manual nightmare. When I drove an M3 with DCT for the first time, I was speechless. This car was made to go fast and look good.

(It was hard to sleep that night. I REALLY felt like a little kid at Xmas knowing I was about to pick up my dream car the next morning. I really don't remember how much sleep I got but I assure you it was under the 6 hour range.)

At 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 19th, it was time to take delivery of my car. For me, I didn't need the delivery because I've been working on these cars since they came out and I knew more technical information than anyone there. Luckily, my Delivery Specialist and Veteran Driving Instructor, Donnie Isley, understood where I was coming from so we killed some time watching a video clip of his very recent Nurburgring trip while the other new car owners learned the basics of their cars. With some time to kill before lunch, Donnie turns to me and says, "Hey, I got an idea. Do you want to go play on the skid pad?" I wish I could have seen my face. "Did I just hear what I thought I just heard?" After 0.43210 seconds (same amount of time it takes the DCT to shift) I replied with a very enthusiastic "YES!"

Donnie picks out an E90 M3 (not mine) and we head out to the empty, wet skid pad. After seeing Donnie warm up with a little demonstration that ended in a (intentional) 360 degree spin, he turns to me and says, "Your turn." I trade places with Donnie and I make myself acquainted with the M3. I built up some tension in the suspension, waited for the slick spot and gave it some throttle. You can imagine what is going on. I am on Cloud 9—in heaven; I don't have another care in the world. I was in complete (for lack of a better word) joy. I thought to myself, "I'm taking MY M3 home and I'm currently sideways in an M3, drifting with a trained professional." My trip had reached its peak.

Some people may think that since I am a BMW Technician I'm supposed to like the last part, the factory tour. This is where it all comes together and I get to see how X3s, X5s and X6s are assembled. But, when my new M3 is parked and waiting for me outside are you really going to make me go through this tour?

I departed the factory and sprinted for my car.

(Apparently, South Carolina has 55mph speed limits. I could not work with this, I am from Southern California. But, I will say that since I just got a new car and was unfamiliar with the roads, I would behave appropriately.)

I took I-40 from North Carolina to Tennessee. The route was gorgeous! The trees, the mountains, the roads were just amazing. I stopped for dinner at a gas station restaurant, somewhere in the proverbial BFE of Tennessee. I was headed to Nashville and decided it was time to find a hotel for the night. Serves me right for not scheduling in advance; I discover that the next 3 Holiday Inns I called were full because of a Lady Gaga concert that night. A Tuesday night in Nashville. Who would have thought? With the weather turning poor around me, and a tornado warning in Kentucky, safety became a priority. After an upsetting but necessary amount of dollars later, I was tucked away at a hotel in the outskirts of Nashville, TN.

The next morning was the drive from Nashville, TN to Edmond, OK. Over 700 miles of driving and it was going to be a test of my long distance driving skills. The sites leaving Nashville and heading for Memphis were GORGEOUS. Hills with turns that let you see ahead for miles and allowed to you to give a fast car some throttle. Highway Patrol used these hills to their advantage and my V1 was working itself hard that morning.

About 50 miles into Oklahoma, I have my first run-in with a police unit and found the Oklahoma Highway Patrol to be very nice folk. I guess I appeared to be a little suspicious (young guy driving a white car that looks fast standing still with no plates). After a brief chat and a written warning with me sitting in the passenger seat of his pickup truck and his K9 in the back, I am back on track headed to Edmond. A few hours later I arrive at my (long time, no talk) Cousin Valerie's house and meet her two sons Trevor and Jacob. These two boys can hardly sit still at the dinner table as I'm interrogated and questioned by a 6 and a 9 year old that want to know more about BMWs.



The next morning I have an appointment with Jackie Cooper BMW in Edmond, OK for Annika's mandatory 1200 mile service. Not knowing anyone in the Midwest area, I went on a website (that I lurk on) called bimmerforums to post in the regional section for recommended dealerships for service. Parts Specialist, Drew Arnwine, notices my post on bimmerforums and puts me in contact with Service Manager, Sean Karn, who assures me he can accommodate my service. I arrive at 7:01 a.m. and pull up to a gorgeous, state of the art BMW dealership. I enter the service garage and am greeted by my Service Advisor, Daniel Parker who confirms my 1200 mile service. Shortly after, I track

down Sean and thank him for taking care of me on my road trip. I hang out around the premises and take in the different but similar aspects of the pristine dealership. It was nice to be on the customer side for once. I chat with Drew in parts for a bit and he sells me a liter of liquid gold (Castrol 10w-60) just in case Annika gets thirsty. After a short time period, my keys are returned to me and the car is waiting outside. I thank and say goodbye to Sean and his professional staff at Jackie Cooper BMW. With a fresh oil change and some time to make up, I proceed down I-40 at a brisk pace. Today's goal was Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The rest of Oklahoma was uneventful and I played the waiting game for the next 180 miles through the top of Texas. Good news was that as soon as I entered New Mexico, the speed limit went from 70 to 75 mph. With long stretched roads and nothing around me, I set cruise control at efficient pace and made good time through the state. In fact, I only saw one highway patrol and he did not seem to be interested in a white blur going down the highway. I decided I wanted to go further to help tomorrow's drive so I drove 150 miles past Albuquerque and into Gallup, NM.

The next morning I was off to Sin City Las Vegas. I got on the highway and made my way into Flagstaff, AZ. With only 250 miles to go, I headed down the 40. Now, this part of the drive was probably my favorite. If you ever get a chance to drive I-40 to or from Flagstaff, do it. The mountains, the trees (the E55 AMG that couldn't keep up with me) were gorgeous! I made a quick stop at the Hoover Dam before I got into Las Vegas. With a breath taking view and a brief moment of reflection, it was time to end this part of my trip. I would like to thank everyone who had any part in my experience and I hope that my story inspires you to do something special when your time comes to pick up the car of your dreams.

Nick Owen



Photos: Nick Owen

Member Spotlight

This is Andre's car.

You know, Andre—the guy that brews some "Bad Ass" Coffee at his Rancho Peñasquitos shop and brings it down to Qualcomm for all the Autocross events. Andre Pantic, a long time member of the BMW club in San Diego who is now—among other things—responsible for organizing driving schools like the awesome events that were held in Chuckwalla for the last two years. Well, it used to be his car actually...

Now, this 2008 "Year 1 of the one" BMW 135i belongs to Andre. You know—pretty new to the club, big, tall guy, funny accent, won an autocross trophy or two. The guy that Dan Tackett keeps insisting has 'eyes-inback?!' Indeed then, this car has only been owned by "Andre's."

From the very beginning, this car was going to be serving double duty as a daily driver and a track toy. As such, it wasn't going to remain stock for very long. Andre Pantic got the ball rolling early by having TC Kline install it's double-adjustable coil-over system and camber plates to firm up the handling. He later also added a BMW Performance shift lever and UUC short shift kit. A Split Second Turbo Tuner added a few easy horsepower for some added fun.

After trading owners, the modifications kept rolling in...



One of the very first steps to improve a recent, manual gearbox BMW is to modify the "Clutch Delay Valve" or "CDV" that BMW put in place to keep inexperienced BMW owners from breaking their gearbox. Removing or modifying this valve is one of the single biggest improvements on can make to their BMW to give it a much better shift feel.

On the engine side, the previous tuning chip was replaced with a custom GIAC flash tune. The airbox gave way to open pod filters and the stock intercooler and piping were replaced. A free flowing exhaust system allows the car to breathe more easily. An upgraded Quaife limited-slip-differential helps put the newly found power to the ground. The suspension was upgraded using M3 rear subframe bushings



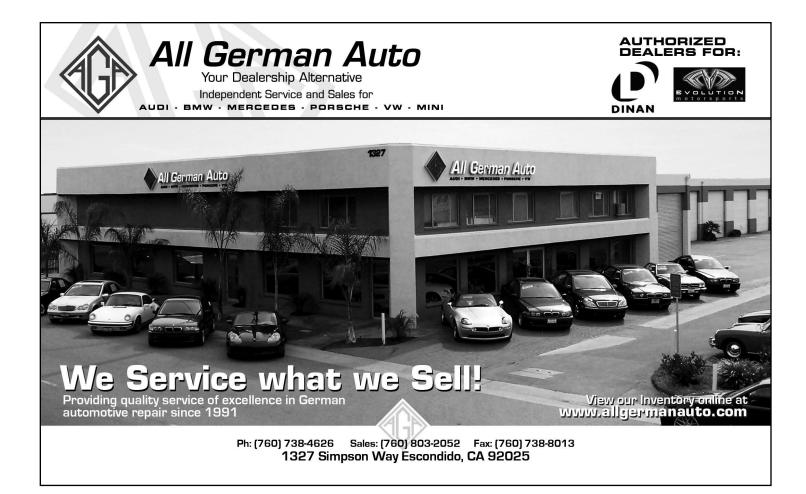
and a full plethora of suspension linkages borrowed from the M3/1 Series M Coupe, including a new strut tower brace that allows access to the adjustable suspension. A BMW Performance steering wheel, Alcantera shift boot and e-brake handle improve the look of the interior and add some driver comfort. On the exterior side, a slight window tint, BMW Blackline LCI tail lights, LED Angel eyes and the removal of the rear badges are subtle tweaks to modernise and improve the appearance of the car.

In "Autocross trim", an AIM Solo DL data acquisition system is mounted on the dash and hard-wired into the car's ECU, providing valuable feedback by logging all drivers inputs (throttle, brakes, steering angle) and other vital car data. Lightweight APEX Arc-8 wheels hold the 255mm wide tires on all four corners.

Those are only the major milestones on the road to transforming this car from a humble sports coupe to a poised track & Autocross machine.

Still being a daily driver, it's not uncommon for this car to transport the whole family (of three) to Legoland on a given Saturday, and hit the Autocross track the following Sunday. Nothing less would be expected of such an "Ultimate Driving Machine."

-Andre Eisenbach



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CARS FOR SALE



2004 M3 Convertible

VIN: WBSBR93474PK06908 special ordered and purchased new at Brecht BMW on 5-30-2004. Imola Red with black

interior. 46K easy miles, no autocross time, new Michelin Pilot Sport tires; 19" wheels in perfect condition; SMG; brushed metal interior trim; bi-xenon lights; Harmon-Kardon radio. Vehicle has all options minus NAV and cold air package; is totally stock and in excellent condition. All service has been done by Brecht technicians and is upto-date. I am the original owner and a long time BMWCCA member (89 M3, 95M3, plus 12 other BMW's since 1979) and have since retired to an X5 for traveling. \$24,000. David Maier, Cell: 760 803-9388, dmaier45@cox.net



2012 135i Coupe

VIN: WBAUC9C53CVM12079 M sport pack, premium pack, heated front seats, split folding rear seats, 7 spd double clutch

trans, Factory Nav w/ BT&USB, Media jack for iPhone 4 or 4S, Lojack, Calijet. \$7,500 in upgrades. AFE intake, BMS downpipe, CPE charge pipe, front koni coilover suspension, rear lowering springs, window tint, BMW black kidney grilles, new 255/35/18 rear & 225/40/18 front tires, custom 18x8.5 & 18x9.5 wheels. All stock parts (except orig wheels) included in sale, all keys, orig window sticker, all books. Factory warranty. Reason I'm selling my car is i need a larger car i have two kids. Asking \$42,900. Contact Travis, 858-353-6355, HEAVENBOUND11112@ gmail.com

PARTS FOR SALE



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\$200 OBO. Located in Poway. Contact Nader at 858-888-0094 or NaderEbeid@gmail.com

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335d Oil change kit

For DIYers: 8 qts Castrol SLX Professional OE 5w30 oil and BMW oem filter (w extra O rings). Cost \$90. Sell for \$45. Throw in half gallon bottle of BMW diesel exhaust fluid for free. Contact Richard 760-788-4337 or email bergens@cox.net.

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0.150"/0.180" (edge/middle/edge). Contact James (760) 688-8511

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