



Sonnenflecke



The Official Newsletter of the Sunbelt Chapter BMW Club

Fourth Quarter 2013



Oklahoma BMW CCA License Plates Take Two!

Over a year ago the Sunbelt Chapter attempted to garner enough support for our special BMW plates, however we failed to reach the required 100 pre-orders. The main issue holding us back was we required proof of CCA membership when the bill was passed. Tireless work from Justin Power has gotten us one more chance at receiving these plates. Another bill is through the Oklahoma Legislature and the Governor should sign it on November 1st.

The second bill removes the CCA member requirement. This opens the door for plate collectors and other BMW owners to purchase the plates.

We regret the frustration you may have faced with filling out the paperwork last time only to have it returned. We hope the inconvenience won't prevent you from trying again. We heard a lot of members say that they were waiting to see "how close we got" before sending in the paperwork. Folks, this tactic didn't work well last time, so if you want a plate, please fill out the application as soon as it is available. This will promote an accurate count along the way and allow us to focus our advertising efforts where needed. Remember you can purchase one for your car even if you don't plan to put it on, and you don't have to renew the plate the following year. We simply need 100 plates to start; afterwards the number is no longer a factor.

The club will spread the word via newsletter, email, and forums, but it is up to all members to promote these plates to fellow Oklahoma BMW owners. Feel free to print some applications for friends, co-workers, and neighbors.

HOW DO YOU GET A PLATE?

Beginning the first part of November, anyone is eligible to purchase either a numbered or personalized BMW CCA license plate for \$18.00. 100 of these license plates have to be pre-sold prior to October 31, 2014 in order for them to begin production. If we don't receive the requisite orders in that time the opportunity will expire, and there will likely never be another opportunity.

-Fill out an application (the sunbeltbmwcca.org homepage will have a direct link to the application) or you may visit the Oklahoma Tax Commission's website.

-Mail completed form and \$18.00 to the address on the back of the application. Further details and instructions are on the back of the application.

If you have any questions about the plates you can send an email to: licenseplates@sunbeltbmwcca.org

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Sonnenflecke Going Digital

News

The National CCA office has required all chapters to switch newsletters to digital delivery. Therefore, you're likely holding the last copy to arrive in your postal mailbox.

The Sunbelt Chapter is excited about this prospect since we spend no less than one third of our yearly budget on newsletter mailings. This change will allow us to spend more money on club events. We are, however, concerned that the digital letters won't reach everyone like the hard copy does, especially since emails have a tendency to work their way down inboxes quickly.

There are some important things you should know about this switch: Only members who have an email on file with us will receive the digital newsletter. There are currently about 50 members with no email on file, so these members will continue to receive a mailed copy until an email is added. As most of you know, the club already passes event information via email. We encourage those members without an email on file to update their information on the National site (bmwcca.org) as soon as possible.

The club will officially make the switch on November 1st, and at that point if you would still prefer to receive a mailed copy you may login to the National site and change your preference to "mailed".

Please look for your next copy of Sonnenflecke via email, but if you should miss it, all newsletters are always available under our chapter page at bmwcca.org.



AutoCross

Our events are always a "low threat", friendly environment, and our instructors will be happy to get you started.

Those interested can contact Bob Ederer at webmaster@sunbeltbmwcca.org.

The schedule is posted at sunbeltbmwcca.org.

Our next autocross will be held on November 3rd.

Cars and Coffee

Held the first Saturday of every month at
Northpark Mall, 12100 N. May,
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
8:00 to 11:00 am

Our AutoCross Sponsors

We are grateful to our AutoCross sponsors who have made this season possible by their kind generosity.

Allstate Sheet Metal

(Commercial Sheet Metal)

Goforth Plumbing & Mechanical

(Commercial Plumbing & Mechanical Contractor)

HighTecTronics

(Commercial Fire Alarms & Security)

Please support these vendors whenever possible!

***Factoid: Never tailgate a car
with better brakes.***

We had a good turnout for the winery tour at Tidal School Winery in Drumright, with 23 members and guests. The weather was great for everyone's drive to the event with cooler temperatures than last year.



The format for this year's event was a little more laid back, visiting only one winery, which provided more time to get acquainted and socialize. This tour is often the first Sunbelt event for many attendees, so we want to give everyone the chance to get to know one another. Tidal School is one of the best facilities in the state, so if you didn't make the tour, stop by and see what you missed.

After a half hour or so outside admiring each other's cars, we ventured inside to the much cooler "dining room" for a sit down wine tasting. The staff did their usual fine job of explaining the wines, and I think just about everybody found at least a couple of

wines that they liked.

Next up, we made a quick trip downstairs to learn about the production area, and the wine making process, including the only automated bottling machine in the state (but with all the labels and instructions in Italian). Back upstairs, we enjoyed a Bistro meal, had a chance to get acquainted with some more folks, and talked about other upcoming Sunbelt events and opportunities.

Surprisingly, nobody asked why the event is called the J R Schneider Memorial Wine Tour. J R, one of the founding members of the Sunbelt Chapter, and the BMWCCA National Oktoberfest coordinator for many years, started the wine tours several years ago. After he passed away last December, the board thought it was appropriate to honor him in this way. I think he would approve that the group he loved so much would carry on the tradition in his name.

We would like to have two of these events next year, both to get more members involved, and because we have pretty much exhausted the wineries that are more centrally located. We have also discussed going to a brew pub for a similar type event. If you would like to help out with any chapter event, run one yourself, or have an idea for another type of event, contact one of the board members. It's really not that hard folks, and is great way to meet your fellow Sunbelt members.



No Excuses 6, High Performance Driver's Education, 6-8 Sept 2013

Article and photos by Steve Jackson

Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, home for NE6, was mentioned by Grassroots Motorsports as one of the best tracks in the Midwest; and after driving it I have to agree. This 1.8 mile road course is described as “technical” and forces you to be precise in your driving. Built around a rock outcrop, it takes you up and down 50 feet of elevation change several times during each lap. In short, a great place to build your driving skills. The track layout allows more passing areas than at Topeka, but as with all BMWCCA driving schools, a point by is required for passing.



Several Sunbelt members took leadership positions in this four chapter event. Bob Ederer was the co-event coordinator and an instructor. Mike Moore served as grid master, keeping the on track sessions running smoothly. It was 100 degrees both days, so Mike Kesting and Mike Moore kept everybody supplied with iced down water bottles placed around the paddock. Kyle Denham was an instructor during the instructor training school, held on Thursday and Friday prior to the HPDE. The classroom sessions, taught by our own Bud Scott, were also a great place to cool down, review the last track session and get assignments for the next one. Bud went over the real meaning of the flags used on the track, such as the “surprise driver skill test ahead” (debris flag) that we saw during one session, and the “we’re trying to save you money flag” shown when the instructor’s park light popped out.

Other instructors and staff came from the Kansas City Chapter, who originally started this event, and the Lone Star and Great Plains Chapters. Morning driver’s meetings were held at the track café, which was also available to get out of the heat, have lunch or some ice cream, and meet some of the folks who showed up from Texas, Nebraska and other points far and wide. We had the chance to get to know more folks Friday night in Sand Springs at El Maguey Mexican Restaurant, and Saturday night at Kilkenny’s Irish



Pub in Tulsa. While we were there to drive, this club really is about the people, and it is a great opportunity to meet folks and find out what we have in common besides cars.

No Excuses 6, High Performance Driver's Education, 6-8 Sept 2013

(continued)



My instructor this year had an E36 M3 with modifications almost identical to mine, and was also a former military pilot, so we had a lot in common. Being only my second HPDE, I still have a lot to learn, and he was patient with getting me up to speed on a new track and at a pace I was comfortable with. I also got to spend two sessions riding in his car during the instructor group sessions, letting me see the correct line and braking points without having to concentrate on driving at the same time.

Preliminary planning is to have NE7 in September of next year, so look for the announcements and your chance to join in the fun. The Lone Star chapter announced that participation in NE6 gave us priority for registration at the HPDE next spring at Circuit of the Americas. Yes, the track in Austin used for F1. Demand is very high for that event, so if you are interested, you might want to put next year's NE7 on your calendar in hopes that this perk is offered again.



Oktoberfest Car Show, September 7, 2013

by Charlie Snyder

This year the Sunbelt Chapter hosted the Oktoberfest Car Show on the last day of the Oktoberfest held at Choctaw Creek Park in Choctaw, OK. The event brought out 49 vehicles and raised \$500 for charity. The occasion turned out to be special for the BMW marque with Marc Muscaro's 1988 M6 winning the Best BMW trophy and also the Austin Wiseman Memorial Best of Show trophy! Another member of our club, Rick Kayler, won Best Volkswagen with his 21 window 1967 Deluxe Micro Bus. Our club thanks all those who attended the event and brought out wonderful examples of German vehicles, old and new.

While it was a warm day, the BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche and Volkswagen owners who attended enjoyed great German food and drink, while being entertained by live acts on the stage. The Choctaw Oktoberfest is co-hosted by Old Germany Restaurant and the Choctaw Chamber of Commerce. Long time Sunbelt member Mike Turek, of Old Germany Restaurant, provided our car show T-Shirts commemorating the event.

Our perennial Judge for the show was another long time Sunbelt member, Jeff Leatherock, owner of Hammer & Dolly Body Shop in Oklahoma City. Because of the large number of vehicles, he was assisted by a volunteer from each marque who helped him review the entries. Our BMW volunteer was Buddy Butler. Other volunteers from our club who handled various tasks during the event were Sherri Butler, Brad Mehlinger, Frank Swing and Cole Snyder. The help provided by all the volunteers is most appreciated and resulted in a very successful event!



*Marc Muscaro's
1988 M6*



***Oktoberfest Car Show
September 7, 2013***



Reasons to Renew

BMW CCA members in good standing may be eligible for substantial rebates up to \$1,500 on the purchase or lease of any new or certified pre-owned BMW. Visit bmwcca.org for more information.

Roundel Magazine, delivered to your door each month.

Discounts on parts and service.

Free CCA decals available from the club office.

Access to driving schools, driving events, and autocrosses.

Local tech days, wine tours, and parties.

Many other travel and shopping discounts are available at www.bmwcca.org/membershipbenefits

Sunbelt Chapter Board Meetings are

held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. Locations change, so please check the website (sunbeltbmwcca.org) prior to the meeting date. Board meetings are open to all members. We encourage anyone to attend to promote ideas & suggestions, or just show up to find out what's going on. We'd love to have you!

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From our lawyers:

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Membership Corner

Joe	Spann	Bartlesville	OK
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Scott	Towery	Oklahoma City	OK
Allen	Vaughn	Tulsa	OK
Shawn	Sejera	Bixby	OK
Eric	Chapman	Shawnee	OK
Larry	Eulert	Hominy	OK
Fabio	Mota	Ada	OK
Tim	Lloyd	Oklahoma City	OK

We would like to welcome these new members to the Sunbelt family.

Congratulations on joining the CCA. We look forward to seeing you at some upcoming events!

If any member is not receiving emails for upcoming club events, please update your membership information at bmwcca.org.

2013 Tentative Calendar of Events

We will continually update the calendar as events draw closer, but since newsletters only come out every few months, please check the website (sunbeltbmwcca.org) for the most up-to-date information on club events.

November

- 3- Auto-X
- 20- Board Meeting

December

- 8- Holiday Dinner, Old Germany Restaurant, Choctaw, OK
- 18- Board Meeting



Scan anytime for up-to-date calendar information.

Holiday Party

Old Germany Restaurant

Choctaw, OK

December 8th



2:00 pm Social Hour 3:00 pm Luncheon

“Dirty Santa” Gift Exchange

\$23.00 per person includes dessert and non-alcoholic drinks

Watch for email invitations

Volunteers are Always Welcome!

Want to get involved? Have an idea for an event? Help plan a tour or a drive!

Email or call a board member with your suggestions.

The more people who stand up and volunteer, the more successful our club becomes.



 Find us on Facebook

@ Sunbelt Chapter BMW

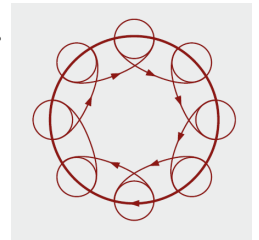
Are you In the Buff?

Flex XC 3401 vs Porter Cable 7424 Buffers

by Steve Jackson

I've been polishing cars for about 45 years, and I've gone through a progression of machines, starting with the old style commercial circular polishers with wool pads, (which have the possibility of burning through paint due to excessive heat build-up). Then, several years ago I thought I'd found a safe DIY polishing solution with the introduction of the ubiquitous Porter Cable (PC) 7424; and simultaneously making the switch to foam pads. The shine on my silver M3 really improved; especially after learning to use the correct pad and polish combination. But when I acquired a black E90, I just couldn't get rid of the scratches the previous owner put into the paint without creating a clear coat haze, sometimes called a hologram, that never quite came out. So I took the plunge and bought a German polisher to use on German cars, a Flex XC 3401, even if it was made in Stuttgart!

The Flex is a true dual action (DA) polisher, and uses geared backing plates (5 1/2 or 4 3/8") to force a uniform 5/16 eccentric stroke around the circular rotation (see diagram). The advantage over rotary/circular motion is DA's help eliminate swirls and holograms, especially on dark colors, caused by the uniform rotation of the rotary polisher.



Many polishers that are advertised as DA, as the PC often is, use a counterweight to produce what is commonly described as a random or jiggling motion, along with vibration that you feel while using the polisher. Yes, the pad can move in two directions, but does not do so uniformly, and sometimes not at all, especially if you apply pressure. The geared backing plate on the Flex forces the dual motion.



The Flex has "soft start" and speed control, which reduces the tendency to jerk it out of your hand when starting. While the PC slows down with very slight pressure, the Flex maintains the selected speed, even when the pad loads up with polish or the polish on the panel you are working is about gone. The locking trigger also allows gradual acceleration to your selected maximum variable speed, while the PC uses a slide switch that forces you to move your hand to turn it on or off. The Flex has a grip in front of the body and a handgrip in the rear, which I find easier to use and more stable than gripping the much larger motor, and side handle, on the PC (the newer version of the PC appears to be slightly smaller where you hold it). This configuration means you can switch hands at will, reducing fatigue, and increasing maneuverability.

The Flex has a slightly lower overall height, and to me, ideal weight distribution for better control. Attaching the small backing plate does not require adaptors like some generic backing plates, so the height remains the same and the balance is not affected. Another handy feature is a button to lock the motor during plate changes.

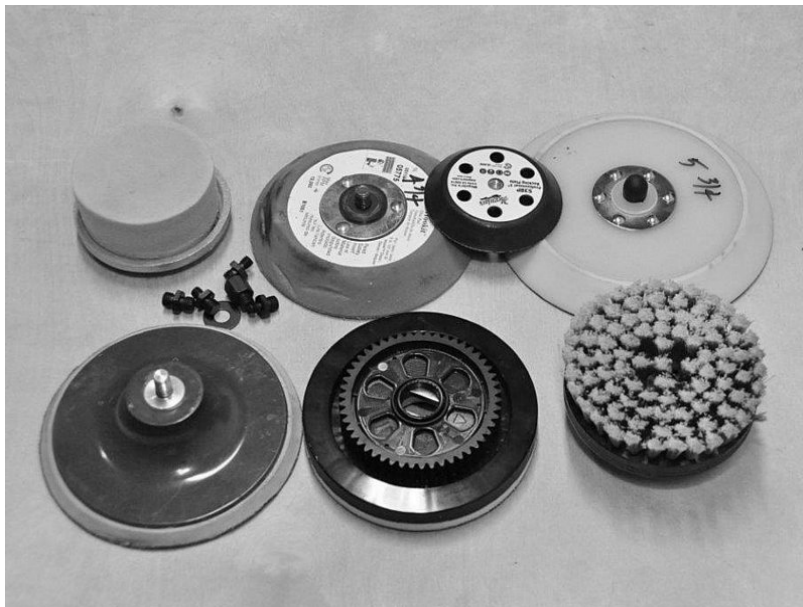
Are you In the Buff? (continued)

Small pads are great for polishing out individual scratches or clear coat damage from bird droppings by using a more abrasive polish, without affecting larger areas. Then you switch to larger pads and finer polish for the entire car. There are polishers made specifically for use with small pads, such as Griot's garage 3-inch orbital polisher.

The only drawback to the Flex is the price, which has gone up to around \$349. However this is a high quality machine that helps save time, and increases your chances of getting that perfect show car shine. If you're not ready for that level of commitment, check out the Porter Cable 7424 (\$175 w/separate backing plate) or Griot's 6-inch Random Orbital (\$140).

Always wear eye protection when using any kind of polisher; believe me polish spray stings eyes. Also, when you are washing the car before polishing, check for loose trim and sharp edges that could tear the pad, and avoid or tape them while polishing. Always place the cord over your shoulder, so it isn't being drug across the paint (it's been on the floor), but make sure not to get it wrapped around your neck. Extension cords should be heavy enough to support the load during extended use. Hearing protection is also advisable. Wearing an apron will help avoid scratches from buttons and zippers on your clothes.

As a starting point, never apply the polish directly to the car, instead, apply it in a "plus sign" on the pad, then use the pad to dab the polish onto the paint in the area you're going to work so it doesn't sling all over your garage. Immediately turn on the polisher and make overlapping vertical passes, then make a second set of overlapping horizontal passes. Continue alternating for 6-8 passes each, or until the polish is "dry". Polish about a two-foot square area at a time, working gradually and evaluating your progress frequently. Don't apply pressure; let the polisher do the work. Polish along ridges and edges, not over them. Most importantly, don't try to fix all the imperfections in your paint during one session, that's what usually gets folks into trouble, spending too much time on one spot on the car.



We will explore foam pads in the next installment, but just in case you should receive a Holiday buffer gift, you should know that the abrasiveness being applied to the paint is a combination of pad density and the selected polish. Many retailers offer discounted buffer packages, including three or more pads, and possibly other accessories such as a "how to" DVD. You can also find video instruction on web sites such as autotopia.com, auto-geek.net, & ammonyc.com/videos, demonstrating how to use a polisher; as well as comparison tables and application charts for the different types of pads.

Sunbelt CCA members can request a detailing FAQ by emailing: president@sunbeltbmwcca.org



Sunbelt Chapter BMW CCA

P.O. Box 54551
Oklahoma City, OK 73154

Participants at the No Excuses 6, High Performance Driver's Education, Hallett, Oklahoma, September 2013

