

Fourth Quarter 2016



In this issue:

- F10 550i Review
- 2016 Calendar Updates
- Gimmick Rally Update
- Lone Star Chapter Tour Update
- Holiday Party Info
- Autocross Update
- Elections and By Laws Changes

Driving Impressions - F10 Review

By Brian George

BMW is a great marque with a rich history of building cars for the most enthusiast of drivers. Hence the long running marketing tag line of "The Ultimate Driving Machine". It seems however that the enthusiast driver can get lost in the myriad of models that BMW cranks out today to satisfy everyone looking for luxury transportation. Walking across the lots of your average DFW BMW dealer will yield more low horse-powered cars with automatic transmissions than ever thought imaginable by those who still dream of "The Ultimate Driving Machine".

It is, however, still possible to find the true performance cars amongst these seemingly luxury econo boxes.

I recently fell into the purchase of one of these ultimate driving machines. I was able to pick up a 2011 550i with a 6 speed manual transmission from a Plano car dealership. Now, you may wonder how on earth does a bloated F10 5 series translate into a performance car. This car, in many respects, reminds me of my first BMW, a 1997 E39 540i with a 6 speed manual transmission. The outward styling of the F10 is reminiscent of the E39 in that both of them have a sleek appearance with well-defined lines running down the side into a well proportioned rear quarter. Both of them have a good bit of power to move them along nicely.



My article today, however, is going to focus on the F10 550i. Here are the numbers:

Engine: 4.4L Twin-Turbo (N63)

Economy: 15/22 mpg (6 speed manual)

Horsepower: 400 hp @ 5,500 rpm

Torque: 450 lb-ft @ 1,750 rpm

0-60 mph: 4.8 sec

¼ mile: 13.1 sec @ 109 mph

Curb Weight: 4,365 lbs

Dimensions: 193" L x 73" W x 58" H

Strictly by the numbers, this is a big car but it is fast. This is what classifies it as a sleeper by Road & Track magazine. This is truly a great touring car built by BMW. I call it a great touring car because it does several things well. It is my daily commuter, occasional family car, and touring car for those Lone Star Chapter Tours.

As a daily commuter, I can't think of a better car than the current 5 series. It is large enough to command respect on our busy freeways but not so large that you feel like you are driving a land yacht. Its demeanor on the road-way is second to none, smoothing out those rough roads providing that luxury experience you've come to expect from a BMW. The ample horsepower across the rpm spectrum provides the needed power to safely. The car does not power when you need it speed manual gearbox long, like they have been

“As a daily commuter, I can't think of a better car than the current 5 series.”

merge with and pass traffic struggle to put down the to do so. The shifts of the 6 are precise and not overly in previous 5 series sedans.

As a family car, the 5 room for 4 adults even 5. As with any current middle of the back seat is won't count this as a flaw this issue, in my opinion. in the back seat is enough comfortable. The driver are bathed in luxury with more ways than one could imagine. There is a lot of leg room providing a comfortable driving position for just about everyone.

series excels. There is ample though the car is rated for sedan, that 5th adult in the bound to feel a bit confined. I because every sedan has The legroom and headroom to make even my 6' 2" son and the front seat passenger the power seats that adjust in

As a touring car, the F10 5 series performs fine. Your definition of touring determines how well the car scores in this category. If you think of touring as a leisurely drive through the countryside, this is the car for you. It glides down the road with the power you need to take on any terrain. However, my definition of touring includes tight twisty roads that can challenge the most obsessive track junkie. In this environment, the car does not excel. The electric steering and soft suspension does not give the driver inputs needed for this challenge in motoring.

Overall, I love my 2011 550i as it is a great BMW that in my mind fills the category of “The Ultimate Driving Machine”.



2017 Tour Calendar

January

1 – Sun – Hair of the Dog Tour (Ray)

February

2/11 – Sat – Mineola Tour (Ray) (Weather dependent)

March

3/3-3/5 – Fri-Sun – Weekend Tour to Fredericksburg (Ray)

April

15 – Sat – Cranfills Gap (Brian) (Easter Weekend)

May

27 – Sat – Let's Eat Café (Brian)

June

3 – Sat – Cars and Coffee Tour (Brian)

July

7/10 – 7/16 – Weeklong – Tour to CCA Oktoberfest (Tues, July 11- Sat, 15th) (Ray)

7/8 or 7/22 – Sat – Muenster Run Tour + Horton's Car Museum (Brian)

August

5 – Sat – Gimmick Rally (Brian)

8/20 – Sun – East Texas (Ray)

September

9/20-9/24 – Late Wed leave for Amarillo through Sunday Return – New Mexico Trip (Ray); 2017 Santa Fe Concorso is “on hold” – venue is not available

October

10/14 – Sat – Waco Tour (Ray)

November

11/11 – Sat – Afternoon Choctaw Ranch House Tour (Brian)

December

2 – Sat – Toy Run (Ray)

Gimmick Rally 2016

By Raymond Mimick

Since January I'd been excited to try running another rally and I was glad to see Brian was willing to organize another adventure. As the New Year ran into spring and we were spending lots of interesting time in the south-west quadrant of our favorite roads, we started talking about a general route/destination area for Brian to start looking for our next Gimmick Rally. By June, the planning was well under way except that some of the roads and routes were washed out due to all the rain.

We spent a lot of effort recruiting people to join the rally. I had my personal trainer and his family ready to do it. My 2015 partner, Gerald, decided to move to Portland, OR, so I needed to find a new partner for this trip. Michael connected me with Austin. I got an experienced rally person (Jim) to join us and he came with another of our Arlington friends, JO. We had a pretty good set of brave souls ready to compete.

Here comes our first weekend of August. My partner, Austin, ended up with two flat tires. My personal trainer and his family could not go because they had a minor accident the night before. Brian ends up waking Lisa (his wife) and tells her to come along. Thinking August will be REALLY hot, we were all presently surprised at the nice morning weather as we gathered in Joshua, TX. We had 7 groups with 3 groups returning from last year.

So, what is a Gimmick Rally? The idea is that you have a starting point and then a set of instructions to follow. The "Gimmick" part is the answers to a question along the route that you must find. In Brian's design, each Gimmick is worth 1 point. Here is an example from last year:

Team Name: Kay Ger 8:57

Exit Reverchon Park, Turn Left onto Maple Avenue and continue until further instructed.

Turn Left onto Oak Lawn Avenue and continue until further instructed.

When was Old Parkland established? 1894 ①

Turn Left onto South I-35E/Stemmons Freeway. Take ramp onto freeway and continue until further instructed.

What is the exit number for East I-30? 428A ①

Take ramp onto East I-30 until further instructed.

You do not know the final destination or how you will get there. Brian, Lisa and Jim have both run a number of SCCA rallies and I have heard horror stories of the rally route – some will make you turn the wrong way and the wrong route will still generate answers but you will not realize you have done something wrong.

So, off we went. Everyone starts with high hopes and expectations that THEY WILL WIN.



Smiles on everyone's faces as we exit the gathering place



Now, I realize you may be thinking that I'll have the advantage with the Rally master's wife in the car...she has never participated in one of Brian's rally's and did not help pre-drive any of the route. So off we go. Our first clue was in downtown Joshua which was a trick-clue. We missed it (but did not realize this until the end). So we rolled along the highways, through Godley, back to Nemo, into Glen Rose.

Just outside of Glen Rose, we ran into a bike race, which kinda' slowed things down but not too much. We catch up to Brian near a cemetery and visit with him. We were actually the last to leave but about the 3rd car to show up at the mid-point. So are we doing better than the rest or is it just false hope?

We start getting hungry and start thinking about lunch. We also miss the next clue – it's in a cemetery right next to a 1-lane road's stop light. We ended up back-tracking and catch up with Jack and John. They were going to miss the clue, too, but ended up seeing us and jumping over. Now, you might be thinking we are desecrating a grave yard but we are actually looking at historical markers explaining the area and why it was important.



So on we go. Brian told us about a BBQ place along the route. We end up at Interstate 20 and there's the place – Jack's Roadhouse Texas Grill. Too bad it was closed for renovations (thanks Brian). So the road is taking us to Mineral Wells – we'll that's a big town and should be the end, right? No, it's not. Lisa and I decide to stop at a Dairy Queen in Mineral Wells. It's one of the oldest in the state – 1940s-era place. I end up with a combo meal and Lisa ends up with ice cream. Hmmmm...I think my priorities might be a little off. And to my friend Lynn, no Lisa was not allowed to eat ice cream in my car, either.

So, back to the route. We get back on the route but not we can't find the answer to "When can you get eggs?" Learning my lesson from last year, we stopped at some convenience stores, asked around but no one seems to know. Looks like that was our "Which team does Randy root for" from the 2015 Rally (no, we're not bitter about that).

So we wind our way into Weatherford thinking we are pretty much done. Nope, we have another 45 minutes of drive to go. By this time, it's getting hard for Lisa to stay awake. We end up in Granbury and would you believe that Lisa & I missed the Fuzzy's Taco Shop? We ended up 10 minutes beyond where we were supposed to end because that taco shop was slightly hidden on the left and part of a strip mall rather than a stand-alone building (ok, not a good excuse but really?).

Driver	Navigator	Pho
✓ Ray Mimick x 61	Austin Forney 12:05	817
Josh Green	Kayla Green	214
✓ Jack Lounsbury x 60	12:11 John	817
✓ Mark Williams x 62	Karen Card 11:56	97
✓ Steven Fratus x 60	Kristina Fratus Noon	81
✓ Jim Doutre	JO Miller	81
✓ David Sadley x 52	Gabe 12:32	81
✓ Jeff + Cameron x 57	12:50	

So after Brian tallied the scores, we came up with Mark & Karen as the winners of the 2016 Gimmick Rally. What did they win? So far, it's been some bragging rights.

At the end of the day, everyone that participated had a really great day. Jim & JO had to leave early due to an "engine malfunction" message early on (wondered why they were driving the wrong direction). Talking with Jim and Mark (both experienced rally people) they really appreciated the less-stressful design of Brian's rally. Of course, Brian is telling everyone that he must have designed it as too easy.

What will August 2017 bring us? I hope you'll join us on the next one – its great fun trying to compete with the others (yes, I want to reclaim that 1st place position again).

Lone Star Chapter Tour Update

By Raymond Mimick

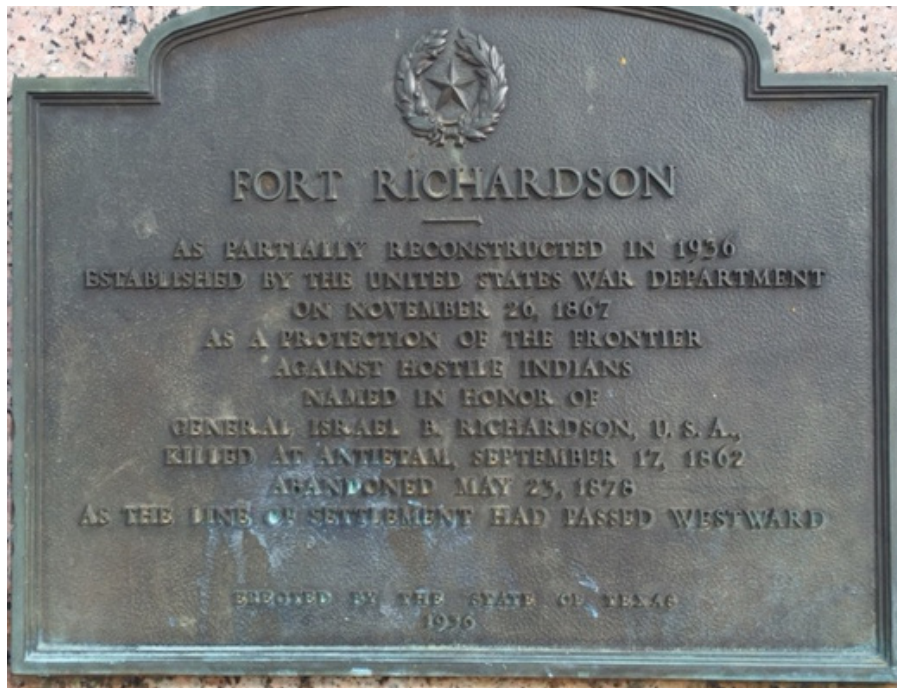
Here we are in November 2016 just getting ready to head out for today's tour and I have some time to put down what we've been doing these last few months since the last newsletter. We have had a few more half-day drives and an interesting all-day drive on our Texas Forts Trail tour. I can't wait for today's Paris, TX drive and hope to see some fall color but I want to take a moment to describe that Texas Forts tour.

What made that one unique as compared to some of our other tours? I've had a lot of positive feedback from it. Let's begin by describing what the "Texas Forts Trail" is. The Texas Historical Commission has a few road routes that can take us through different parts of our Texas History. So the Texas Forts Trail is a route with 9 historical forts along it. When I put the idea out there, I did not really realize the full scope of the entire trail – it would take about 12 hours of driving time to make the full loop.



So, knowing we had a starting point (Mineral Wells area) and your tourmeisters have been listening to requests about going to Perini Ranch in Abilene, we had a reasonable ending point (food is always a good destination, right?).

The day of the event, it's raining. Learning our lesson from some of our Sunday activities, we decide to make this a rain or shine event. About 14 cars meet up for breakfast in Weatherford and then we head out. The plan is to stop at 4 forts along the way, stopping for 30-45 minutes at each and drive about 45-60 minutes between each destination with an early dinner about 3:30-4:00p.



Fort Richardson was our first stop along the route. Just as we start pulling in toward Jacksboro, the rain has

stopped, the roads are dry and the weather is great. Fort Richardson is a Texas State Park and once we got in there, it was quite amazing to realize that some of these forts were created so quickly and then were abandoned so quickly after (most only lasted about a year to three years). The incoming settlers would keep pushing these forts out, creating a new perimeter of safety for all.



From Fort Richardson, we had a great twisty road and headed toward Graham, TX. We had our Gas stop and then stopped at Fort Belknap. This fort looks more like what you would think a fort should be – walls with guns. But why are the walls only have size? And stone? It was nice and shady and we were able to look through the various pieces of the fort and talk with the General Store manager about the history of the area. We also got a great group shot of our touring group.



Figure 1. (L-R, seated): Tom Heikkinen, Billy Rogers, Jyl Miller, JO Miller, Juan Mauri, Jana Terry, Renelda Schumacher, Dick Richardson, Vic Sorlie; (L-R, standing): Jack Rogers, Raymond Mimick, Susan Richardson, Cary Terry, Brian George, Maia Mauri, Jim Doutre, Lisa Hula, Don Hula, Caleb Schumacher, Scott Schumacher, Michael Nied

By this time, I realized we were quite a ways outside time-plan for stopping at all 4 forts. But that's not too much to worry about as there are some routes to skip our last. So on we travel to Fort Griffin.



Fort Griffin is home to the official Texas Long Horn herd and this fort is managed by the Texas Historical Commission and is quite an interesting stop. You see the parade grounds, some of the old houses and barracks and think about trying to spend months in the military at this location. The week after we were there, they have a full recreation of the fort as a living history event.



After this fort, we lost a few cars that needed to get back home for evening activities. The rest of us rolled into Perini Ranch for dinner. We had a great time talking about the route and really enjoyed the slower pace and cultural history of our home. Some were going to stay in Abilene for the night. A larger group wanted to get back to DFW so (sadly) we had to take the Interstate back home.



Figure 2. Perini Ranch Armadillo

For our 2017 tours, we're thinking of calling one of our events our "cultural" tour. Maybe 2017 we'll head down to Waco for the day. We are definitely working to finalize our 2017 schedule and we currently have 4 out-of-town tours that we hope you'll consider joining us on. There will still be plenty to do in town, so watch for those dates.

LSC BMW CCA Contact Info

PRESIDENT Mark Williams
(972) 315-3302

VICE PRESIDENT Joe Sullivan
(972) 633-2470

SECRETARY Brian George
(469) 400-0049

LoneStar BMW CCA
1096 Annalea Cove Dr
Lewisville, TX 75056-4312

lscbmwcca.org
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Want to see your story in these pages? Send it in for publishing to
jessie@autoscope.co!

Submitted by Jessie K. and Nerces M. for the BMWCCA Lonestar Chapter.

Holiday Party Update

January 21, 2017 – Saturday, 7:00p-9:00p

Doors open at 6:30p

Bavarian Grill in Plano

It's that time of year where we are making plans for our after the holidays HOLIDAY PARTY! This year the celebration will be at Bavarian Grill in Plano (221 W. Parker Road, Plano, TX 75023) from 7:00p-9:00p. The cost will be \$25 per person with non-alcoholic beverages included in the price. A full bar will be available at your own expense. Seating is limited to 35. Make your reservations early to ensure you get a spot.

Reservations:

Dinner reservations and payments can be made on the MotorsportReg website by <http://www.motorsportreg.com/events/lone-star-holiday-party-bavarian-grill-restaurant-plano-bmw-cca-059728>. Reservations must be made by January 16th. The restaurant only has seating for 35, so make your reservation today!

Menu choices:

All dinners include Gemischer salat and Bavarian bread and butter.

- a. Jagerschnitzel mit Spatzle and Rahm Spinat
schnitzel topped with special sauce with many mushrooms, German pasta and creamy spinach
- b. 1/2 Oktoberfest Hendl mit Kartoffelbrei und frischem Gemuse
1/2 oven roasted chicken with mashed potatoes and fresh veggies
- c. Eine Rostbratwurst and eine Nurnberger Bratwurst mit Krauter Kartoffelssalat und Ananaskraut
two grilled Bavarian sausages with herbed potato salad and mild Bavarian sauerkraut
- d. Kase Spatzle mit frischem Gemuse
vegetarian layered pasta dumplings with Swiss cheese and roasted onions with mixed veggies
- e. Gratenfreie Forelle Mullerin mit Bratkartoffeln und Rahm Spinat
boneless filet of trout sauteed in butter with Bavarian skillet potatoes and creamy spinach
- f. Oberstdorfer Sauerbraten mit Semmelknodel und Rotkraut
marinated beef roasted in tangy sweet and sour sauce with sour cream with bread dumpling and red cabbage

All dinners include Apfelstrudel for desert.

Dinners include coffee, tea and soft drinks

To get additional details about the event, contact Joe Sullivan (joe_racer@sbcglobal.net).

At the event, we will have our yearly election of officers and will vote on a couple of changes to our by-laws. Candidate application (or nomination form) can be found on the back page. Applications now accepted through January 1st, 2017. Email completed forms to Brian George (bgeorge0049@gmail.com).

Thanks and happy motoring,
Brian George

Autocross Update

By Franco Maras

The 2016 autocross season has ended and we are in full swing planning for 2017. You may wonder what autocross is all about or you see it mentioned as AutoX or Solo II as well?

Autocross may have many names, but it is a fairly simple concept, in which people participate by driving around cones which are set up in a parking lot. The path is called a course and it contains elements such as gates, slalom, offsets and sweepers. Although it may be set up as a smaller race course, the elements are conducive to improvement of car handling and in learning the capabilities of your vehicle in a safety minded environment.

I started autocrossing after my oldest son went through the Street Survival program. The finale of this program is to navigate a course through learned behavior from practice of maneuvers such as lane switching, break zone handling and figure eights. As a parent, I found fulfillment in seeing how much the students were able to learn and improve in just one day of training. I would recommend Street Survival to any teenager learning how to drive a car as it will, in most cases if not all, improve their confidence and driving capabilities on the street. See more here: <http://streetsurvival.org/>.

Back to autocross, as the correlation to Street Survival is the focus on improvement of car handling skills. Getting the feeling in autocross of how your car handles hard(er) braking and shifting of weight in slalom and corners will prepare you for unexpected scenarios on the road, when you have cars around you. At our events, we have instructors with many years of driving experience and some with national championships under their belts. They will guide you through the course and what to expect in various parts. This brings us to the competitive element of the sport, where each driver is timed from the start to the finish line. In the beginning, it's all about getting more and more confident in how the car feels and how you control its behavior. The next level may be that you are competing against yourself and finally if you want to be more challenged; glancing at the times of drivers in your class.

The 2017 schedule has not been finalized at this point, but look for it to be complete in the coming weeks: <https://lscbmwcca.org/motorsports/autocross/2017-autocross-schedule/>. You will also find registration info on the page as it becomes available..

For more details on our autocross events see: <https://lscbmwcca.org/motorsports/autocross/>

Looking back at 2016 we had a successful year spread out over 9 events, starting in February and ending in November. In total, we had almost 200 hundred drivers participate in at least one of our events and almost 70 participated in the Novice class. Our first event of the year was the busiest with 88 drivers. At a more regular event, we normally have 35 - 50 drivers.

I would say that in addition to learning the behavior of your car, a big plus is to enjoy the camaraderie at our the events. If the weather allows it we offer grilled hot dog lunch, which seems to be a popular feature. It takes planning and effort to set up a course and in addition to the LSC BMWCCA Autocross committee members, registered drivers are helping out wherever there is a need. It would not be possible to hold our events without the help of all participants. Thank you!

This year we are crowning 6 champions:

Class F : Matthew D

Class G: Ken O

Class X: John C

Class Y: Armstrong V.

Class Z: Warren P.
Novice: Blake P.

I would like to highlight the battle in Class Y, where Sir Armstrong beat Thomas J tied with 60 points each and the championship was decided on a time differential of 1.5 seconds over 7 races.

The full results are available here:

<https://lscbmwcca.org/motorsports/autocross/2016-autox-standing/>

We will have an Awards ceremony at the beginning of next year to hand out the earned prizes. Last year we combined the Awards ceremony with Go Karting and hope to repeat. Stay tuned for the announcement.

Hope to see you at the Awards ceremony and at our events in 2017!

Go Kart Racing & 2016 AutoX Awards

As the 2016 season is behind us and we're getting ready to an exciting 2017 season, come and join us for a fun event with indoor Go Kart racing and celebration of the 2016 Autocross award winners. The awards ceremony will take place after the go kart races and lunch is provided during the event. Note that the number of drivers is limited, so make sure to sign up early.

When

Saturday 21st of January
11:15 am - 1:30 pm

Cost

The cost is \$35.
A terrific value with 2-3 races, including lunch.

Registration

<http://www.dlbracing.com/Clubs/Registera.aspx?LMID=11&EventID=6510>

Where

Pole Position Raceway
10550 John W. Elliott Drive
Frisco, TX 75033

Info

Closed Toe Shoes required.
Helmets are available or bring your own (visor required).

Hope to see you there,

Franco Maras

Proposed By-Laws Changes

The Lone Star BMW Chapter has identified two changes that we request the membership to vote on.

Change 1: Changing the board's term of service

The first change proposal is to change the service term from one year to two years for each officer position (except for Member at Large) to allow for continuity of the operation of the chapter.

Original Text:

Article Five, Section 1: A President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually from the membership. The fifth voting Board member (Officer at Large) shall be elected by the duly appointed volunteers from within their ranks. These five elected Officers shall appoint other members as officers with titles, responsibilities, and specific duties deemed appropriate to conduct activities for the Club.

Proposed Text:

Article Five, Section 1: A President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected ~~annu-~~ally from the membership, with President and Secretary on odd-numbered years and Vice President and Treasurer elected on even-numbered years. The fifth voting Board member (Officer at Large) shall be elected annually by the duly appointed volunteers from within their ranks. These five elected Officers shall appoint other members as officers with titles, responsibilities, and specific duties deemed appropriate to conduct activities for the Club.

Members will be requested to either Approve or Not Approve the change.

Change 2: New Article Eleven

A new article eleven regarding the finances of the club is being proposed to provide board support of activities outside normal budget operations.

Proposed Text:

Article Eleven

Financial

All expenditures outside of normal budget that exceeds \$2000 require a majority of board approval.

Members will be requested to either Approve or Not Approve the change.

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Board Elections and By-Law Changes

11/21/2016

According to our By Laws (<https://lscbmwcca.org/membership-information/>), the Lone Star Chapter is required to have elections each year to the chapter's board of directors. There are five voting positions on the Board of Directors: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Member at Large. All positions are for a 1-year term (see proposed By-Law changes listed below). The LSC Board has announced the acceptance of candidates for all 5 positions and elections to be held from January 9th through the Holiday Party, January 21st, 2017.

Please fill out (or nominate someone) by January 1st, 2017.

(Excerpt from our By Laws):

DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT To prepare the agenda for and preside over all meetings except committee meetings, act as an ex-officio member of all committees except nominating committees, execute documents in the name of the Club as authorized by the Board, sign Club checks when necessary in the absence of the Treasurer, submit Club reports requested by the National Office or Zone Governor or required by law, appoint committees as authorized by the Board, and assign temporary duties commensurate with their offices to other officers of the Club.

VICE PRESIDENT To assume the duties of the President when the President is absent or requests such assumption, to maintain the Club Policy file, and to develop and maintain the Club Calendar of Events for planning purposes and publication in the Club newsletter.

SECRETARY To maintain an up-to-date list of members, to provide periodically or as required a current address list on mailing labels for the Club newsletter or other purposes approved by the Board, to provide current telephone lists when required and approved by the Board, and to record and preserve for use as may be required minutes of all Club meetings and Board meetings.

TREASURER To establish, preserve, and post on a timely basis all necessary financial records of the corporation, to include all documents obligating the Club financially, to receive, deposit, and disburse monies and maintain records of all such transactions, to provide regular financial reports to the membership, to prepare financial reports for transmission to the National Office or the Zone Governor as may be requested, and to advise the Board on financial matters and considerations.

OFFICER AT LARGE To represent the opinions of the non-voting board members (volunteers).

Application/Nomination for Candidacy

Name: _____ (Nominated by (optional): _____)

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Position (selection one):

- ☐ President (current: Mark Williams)
- ☐ Vice President (current: Joe Sullivan)
- ☐ Treasurer (current: Matt Dashiell)
- ☐ Secretary (current: Brian George)
- ☐ Member at Large (previous: Karen O'brien; current: unfulfilled)

Candidate's Message to Members:

ARTICLE SIX

ELECTIONS

Section 1. Elections of officers shall be conducted annually at a general membership meeting, normally within the last 90 days of the calendar year.

Section 2. A Nominations Committee appointed by the Board shall provide a slate of candidates for the elected officer position in time to permit orderly preparation of a ballot including the candidates' names and other material deemed appropriate by the Board.

Section 3. Ballots shall be counted at a scheduled General Meeting at which nominations may be made from the floor. Candidates must be members and declare willingness to perform the duties of the office for which nominated, as must floor nominees, before being certified eligible for election. Ties shall be resolved by a coin toss. Election results shall be certified promptly and the newly elected officers installed at once.

Section 4. Position of the elected volunteer representative (Officer at Large) and appointive officer positions shall be filled by the newly elected Board without undue delay.

Applications and nominations can be emailed to bgeorge0049@gmail.com