

bimmerimmer



A BUCKET LIST WEEK

By Ron Pace

As the snow flew in early February in Milwaukee, I was fortunate enough to embark on a “bucket list” trip. Sunday started with a direct on-time flight to Los Angeles to meet up with five friends and then go on to Burbank, CA. Bright and early Monday morning, the six of us gathered with a great deal of anxiety for our visit to Jay Leno’s Garage. The instructions we received via e-mail indicated that we would get a one-hour guided tour with no guarantee that Leno would be there. We were told that no pictures could be taken and we were to keep the address confidential. The anticipation was nearly overwhelming as we drove to the designated location.

We entered a gated compound where we were buzzed in and met up with Bob Schmitt, our guide. Bob was incredibly knowledgeable about each vehicle. Very quickly he realized this was a group of car folks who knew and appreciated the finer points of the vehicles. Now, the “garage” is a series of buildings that are linked together and occupy some 100,000 square feet! The collection is magnificent and very eclectic. Vehicles ranged from contemporary race cars and super cars like McLaren to steam powered turn-of-the-century vehicles, and everything in between. Even an early 1900s battery-powered car with the original batteries was there.

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What's This?

Hello club members!

We're in the process of revamping how you receive communications from and about Badger Bimmers. We've experimented with printed newsletters, electronic newsletters, e-mails, and our website. This publication marks the first edition of the now-quarterly production of the *bimmer immer* and was mailed to all current chapter members in late March. We've decided that a printed and mailed paper newsletter, prepared quarterly, and supplemented by regular e-mail updates and expanded content on our updated website, would be the most effective way to keep our members up-to-date on club activities.

Our website – www.badgerbimmers.org – is currently being updated to better accommodate the expanded content, and also to provide a better experience for classified ad users. Be sure to check it out regularly, since it is being updated regularly and it will soon become the definitive source for current club information.

I'd like to give a huge "Thank You" to club member and new webmaster and developer extraordinaire **Jordan Ward** for taking on the challenge of making the website everything we want it to be. *Thanks Jordan!*

Our **Saturday, February 11th Chicago Auto Show** bus trip was a blast! 37 people spent the day at the show and enjoyed the luxury coach transportation through the traffic travails of Chicago.

The **Fourth Annual "Chili and a Movie" event Saturday, February 18th** at Ron Pace's "Toy Barn" in Saukville was also a big success. We had 5 kinds of chili to devour and watched the **1971** movie "Vanishing Point", which is definitely a period piece of art!

Registration is open for our three driving events for **2017!** We will be at **Blackhawk Farms Raceway** on **June 19** and **July 31**, and **OktoberFAST** will be at **Road America, September 29 through October 1**. Check out our website and motorsportreg.com for all the details.

May 6 we will be holding car cleanup events in **West Allis, Madison, and Appleton**. Details at www.badgerbimmers.org.

Finally, please send any of our officers or board members your feedback on any aspect of the club you would like to comment about. We'd love to hear what you think!

Events 2017

Details on Events can be found on the website: www.badgerbimmers.org

April 15	Board Meeting – Kelly Moss Motor Sports, Madison
April 29	2017 Spring Tour
May 6	Spring Cleanup – International Auto, Zimbrick BMW, Bergstrom BMW
May 11	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
May 20	E30 Picnic/Meet and Greet – Frame Park, Waukesha
June 3	Badger Bimmer 14 th Annual Car Show – Concours BMW
June 4	Wings & Wheels show and breakfast – Fort Atkinson Airport
June 13	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
June 19	Blackhawk Farms Driving School
July 1	Cars, Coffee, & Donuts at Valenti Classics, Franklin, WI
July 10	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
July 31	Blackhawk Farms Driving School
August 5-6	Car Corral @ Road America's IMSA Continental Sports Challenge and WeatherTech® SportsCar Championship weekend.
August 10	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
August 15	Third Annual BMW Cruise Night
September 7	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
September TBD	Champagne Picnic in Fort Atkinson
Sept 29-Oct 1	OktoberFAST at Road America
October TBD	Board Meeting – Fox Valley
November 19	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
December 14	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North

Board meetings *generally* are held on the second Thursday of each month. They start promptly at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are open to all members. The Board encourages members to attend.

Monthly Board meetings will convene at 6:30 pm in the Board Room at

BMW of Milwaukee North (formerly Concours BMW) • 5990 N. Green Bay Ave. • Glendale, WI.

A Bucket List Week (Cont.)

By Ron Pace

All Driven Regularly — by Leno

The neat part of the cars is that they are all driven! No garage queens and museum cars here. Jay appears daily and takes several of the cars out for drives lasting many hours. There were well over 100 cars and likely 50 motorcycles. The motorcycles ranged from conventional powered bikes to steam and turbine powered examples. Even Elvis Presley's Harley was there. The collection just seemed to be endless — Duesenberg, Cadillacs, Pontiacs, Cosmos, the Chrysler Turbine car with a spare power train, fire engines, fuel trucks, a model 600 Datsun, Pierce-Arrows, and on and on.

And to boot, Jay has commissioned local artists to recreate the advertisements of the day. They are situated on the walls behind the cars and are about 20x30 feet in size! Some even have a tongue in cheek image of Jay in them. The place is dotted with models and memorabilia of the era as well. He even has a fully functioning steam generator that was taken from a large city, refurbished, installed and is fully operational. It almost seems like his goal is to retain a bit of the past in the transportation industry for future generations.

We finished up the tour in the fabrication shop. What a shop! This is where 10-12 craftsmen do everything from engine rebuilds to complete fabrication of car bodies using English Wheels and hammer and dolly. It is by far the cleanest, most well organized working shop I have ever seen. And the equipment is beyond belief. As we were wrapping up with Bob nearly three hours after we started, who should wander up to see us other than Jay Leno! Not just a casual "Hello" but a dialogue of where we were from, our interests and how we got to see his collection. It lasted nearly 45 minutes. He spent time going over some of his creations, which were underway, and the new 3D printing technology he was using to make parts that are not otherwise obtainable. To say all of us were overwhelmed would be an understatement. He was just a regular car guy talking to car folks about cars.



A Bucket List Week (Cont.)

A High Desert Climax

But my bucket list week was just beginning. On Tuesday, I and another of our Leno attendees drove to Pahrump, NV, over a mountain or two past Death Valley. What is in Pahrump, you might ask? Originally the brothel for those that could not afford the Las Vegas strip (pun intended), Pahrump has become the home of Spring Mountain Motor Resort and Country Club. I had visited the track over 10 years ago when it was an isolated track with a couple of temporary tents in the middle of the high desert owned by an entertaining Englishman. Lots can change in a decade. The Englishman has moved on and the new owner has constructed something unique. Now it is 6.1 miles of various configurations of track. The longest track in North America. But it doesn't stop there. In addition to one of the largest skid pads I have ever seen, there is a clubhouse with a sauna, hot tub, game room and large dining area. There are classrooms for the Corvette and Cadillac schools. Elsewhere on the 600 acres is a man-made lake with jet packs, an island, racquetball courts and an indoor shooting range. There are endless private garages and luxury condos. The plan is to purchase additional land and build 16 miles of road racing circuit — the largest in the world with a jet landing strip and helipad. There even are housing plans in the works.

Our first day (Wednesday), they opened the 1.5 mile section of the track just for us! Our own play area for four people. Some 11 turns in a mile and a half — it makes Blackhawk Farms seem relaxing. Then on Thursday and Friday they opened the Mansell Course, which expanded the course to about three miles. This time there were open- and closed-wheel cars since there was a race weekend coming up. We got to drive on Thursday and Friday, as well as view the first race. I estimate that I drove at least 250 track miles over the three days. On Saturday there was another race, which we got to see. Since we had some free time on one of the afternoons, we went four-wheeling into the mountains that surround Pahrump. Hard to believe 30 minutes from the 70 degree weather and we were in over a foot of snow. The views were breathtaking and the land seemed endless. Saturday afternoon I boarded a plane to come back to reality. My Bucket Week was over, but the memories will linger for a very long time.



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Legal Stuff

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