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Spring 2015 Issue





BMW "Nut News" Harvey Nuttall , President

You blinked.... Summer's back! We put our Hudsonville home on the market in April and then we tried to keep up with the Autocross events and everything else going on, but the

home sale and purchase of a new home and a double move took over most of our time and somewhere in there we even became homeless for a month or so. The new owners of our house were eager to get kids situated for school and we still hadn't found a new place for ourselves, so we started our search and found a wonderful home on six acres in Ada. The timing didn't work out for us to move out and move into the new house, and we agreed to give access to our old house, but that left us without a house starting on Sept 2nd. We have a great friend who happens to be our realtor and he agreed to let us stay in his 1300sq ft finished basement until our new home was available. He did help us get into this predicament after all. Anyway we moved everything out of the house and into storage and for the next month we camped out of suitcases in my friend's "Homeless Shelter". On October 11th when we moved into the new digs. As I write we are still in the process of working through boxes, but things are beginning to move in the direction of more normal again. One great thing about our new home is that it does have a double story garage with enough parking space for 8 cars. We have 6 cars right now when you count the dismantled 1960 MG A but my dad still needs a daily driver so we will soon have 7. We will be hosting a future Club event here soon.

Our third annual Deutsche Marques event went extremely well again this year and has begin to attract a fair number out of state cars too. We had a great turnout, superb weather and the day was a lot of fun. This year we were unable to gain support from a BMW dealership to sponsor the event but we are pleased to announce that Sharpe BMW has agreed to sponsor the event in 2015. The next day however, was the annual Mad Dogs and Englishmen event and we attended this event also, with my Dad's 1960 MGA. For those who are familiar with MG's this story is going to seem a quite typical MG story apparently. It started off fine leaving bright and early in the pretty little red MG A with Abby following behind in the 89 BMW 325i because the MG is only a two seater. We were headed over to Caledonia to meet with other members of the Old Speckled Hen MG Car club and drive a scenic route to the Gilmore Car Museum for the all British car show. Well here is where things started to go a little off. We were just taking the exit from the highway when my dad noticed the car was running hot, and we managed to coast down the off ramp and then push the car into a nearby restaurant, where we were able to get some water to add to the radiator. We thought we had identified a leak on a small drain spigot and that having replaced the water in the radiator we were now going to be fine. We continued to caledonia and were able to enjoy a fabulous drive down to the Museum without any further problems. We showed the car and say lots a great vintage British models and enjoyed the show tremendously. The Speckled Hens were meeting for dinner after the show at a pub nearby and when we left to join them, the MG started up okay but was not idling correctly. My dad fiddled with the carbs and tapped on the fuel floats and after a bit of tinkering it started to run just fine so we set off to the pub for dinner. After a fun meal with the Speckies we set off home and the Nuttall's new Pondokkie (if you're unsure of the meaning-Google it and see photo inset next page) MG started up and ran just fine until we got about 10 miles up US 131 and then suddenly the temp jumped up and the engine stumbled. We had to be towed from that point back home, and we have since discovered on dismantling the engine that the head gasket is blown and a couple of piston rings have cracked and done some pretty major damage to the cylinder walls. No more MG fun for the summer of 2014. We



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Nut News continued...

hope to get the engine sorts out for 2015 After replacing the front and rear suspension on Abby's 2000 323i wagon the car has been driving great but it had developed an exhaust leak near the manifold, which turned out to be a cracked catalytic converter on cylinders 4-6. I was able to find a set of used and re-certified catalytic converters for the car at a very reasonable price. The catalytic converters on these cars includes the manifold and it's quite a big job replacing these parts but with some help from my dad I was able toreplace them. In the process we discovered that after 196k miles both of the engine mounts were completely sheared and the engine was just resting on the mounts but not actually attached to the mount brackets. This was also easily remedied with a couple of new mounts and the wagon is back in business and running great again. If you own a BMW with high mileage you may want to check those engine mounts, they appeared to be just fine on inspection, but it wasn't until we removed one to gain access and remove and install, the manifolds that we discovered the mount was in two pieces.

Kirsti's 1997 328i with around 250k miles on it decided to overheat while waiting in a drive through line. Kirsti did exactly the right thing noticing the gauge going up, shut the car down, and called her dad.... Makes me proud! This problem was fairly easy to diagnose having experienced a similar behavior on a different e36 we have owned. The coolant system appeared to be free of leaks which led me to test the coupling. My method of testing the coupling may be a little unorthodox, I simply reached into the engine bay and stopped the fan with my hand, wearing gloves of course. It should have been locked up and blowing hard but it was idling, indicating a failure of the coupling. We were able to drive the car once it cooled down and the temp remains stable as long as the car is driving and



air is flowing through the radiator. Once stopped and idling the car began to overheat. Replacement is a bit fiddly but easily done.

The Chapter Holiday party was held in Fort Wayne Indiana last year. It's been a few years since we held our annual Holiday Party in Indiana and this year Tomkinson BMW organized and sponsored the event. We thank Kate Tomkinson for arranging the event and for a great time in Indiana.

Harvey Nuttall BMWCCA Michiana Chapter President



ving BMW owners since



BMW "Autocross News" Jason Powell, Autocross Chair

If you didn't know, 2014 was my 1st season as the Autocross Chair for the Michiana BMW Club. However, this was not my 1st rodeo having been the Autocross Chair for the Windy City Miata Club for several years before our family moved to the South Bend area in 2003. I've also continued to help the Miata Club each year they hold their events at Tire Rack, mainly doing their course designs and setup. My continued involvement in the autocross community made me comfortable when I pondered and finally volunteered to take the Autocross Chair position this year. Little did I know what I was actually getting myself into!

Being an IT guy, I immediately started investigating technology enhancements in an effort to make our events run more efficiently. After a bit of research I purchased some newly developed timing and event software to replace the prior Excel sheet that was being used. I also created a small wifi network that participants could connect to for live timing results. The participant feedback was unanimous - the live timing and scoring was a huge hit this year! The software brought some much needed efficiency the event processes.

Next up, I created an online event registration form and process, which worked OK for a couple events, but it didn't yield the efficiency we'd need long term. So I gave motorsportsreg.com a try which was a huge win in making registration, payment, and accounting way more efficient. Of course, by now the season was almost over, but I felt the right systems and processes were finally in place and I could see light at the end of the tunnel. In fact, I actually had time to compete (in borrowed cars) at the final 2 events - something I really hadn't been able to do up to that point.

I think it was actually a blessing in disguise that my engine was broke this entire season, so I could really focus on improving and tweaking event operations this year :-) Now all the hard work is done, the systems are in place and I can't wait for the 2015 season!

I want to say a huge thank you to anyone that pitched in to help with event setup and tear down, registration, timing, etc this season! Many hands make light work! Again, thank you, thank you! We're always looking for more people that could lend a hand now and then. Just let me know if you might be interested! I'd like to extend a very special shout out to Jason Nichols for stepping up to help out with all manner of various tasks throughout the season. Jason, YOU ROCK! :-)

The battle for Class A was fun to watch as it was tied between Don Sjolin and Ralph Sampson going into the final event. In the end, Don nabbed 1st and thus the Class A trophy by a scant .052 seconds!

Congrats to this year's class champions: Carl Zmijewski – AA class, Don Sjolin – A class, Matthew Huizing – B class, and Jason Nichols – E class.

Who will be our 2015 champs? It could be you! You know you too would love the riches, fame, and glory associated with a season champ title (Ok, you'd riches or fame are involved, but you'd sure have a good time). Start your planning now! :-)

I'm a bit of a data junkie. Here's some fun stats to celebrate the 2014 season!

- Highest single autocross event turnout to date at 42 (7/27/14)

- Highest average season attendance to date at 32.3

- Total driver runs recorded in our timing software = 1,579 runs

Of 98 unique drivers ...

- 63 of 98 (64%) participated with our Michiana BMW Club for the 1st time!

Of those 63 ...

- 18 of 63 (29%) were newbies to autocrossing Of 98 unique drivers ...

- 4 did all 6 events
- 8 did 5 or more events
- 13 did 4 or more events
- 26 did 3 or more events
- 47 did 2 or more events

Of 98 unique drivers ...

- 5 ran in Class AA
- 12 in A
- 20 in B
- 9 in C
- 1 in D



47 in E

7 in EMOD

To create improved info sharing, feedback, and community discussions, I've created a new facebook group for all things autocross and track. Over 50 people have already joined, you should come join the fun too! Heck, there's already a thread talking about proposed 2015 changes! You can find us at http://facebook.com/

groups/michianabmwautocross

Thank you all for making the 2014 autocross season such a great success! I truly hope to see everyone back again in 2015 and bring a friend :-)

Cya at the track! Jason Powell - Autocross Chair and the Autocross Team

If you have questions, feedback or suggestions in general we'd love to hear them.

Contact Information

Email autocross@michiana-bmwcca.com Michiana BMW CCA Autocross Website http://www.facebook.com/MichianaBMWCCA Thanks everyone for a great 2014 Season!!! Can't wait for 2015!



BMW Club "Upcoming Events"

Date	Description	Location and Details
May 3 rd	Car Control Clinic	Tire Rack Joint Event with Motor City Chapter
May 16 th	Spring Dust Off Tech and Prep Event	Grand Rapids Motor Car
May 30 th	Michiana Chapter Autocross	• 1 st of the Season
June 6 -7 th	Windy City Challenge Autocross Competition	 Between Windy City BMWCCA and Michigan Chapter at the Tire Rack
June 13 th	Michiana Chapter Autocross	• 2 nd of the Season
June 20 th	Spring Tour	Organized by Art and Sandy Welch
July 11 th	Deutsche Marques Annual German Car Show	Gilmore Museum
July 26 th	Michiana Chapter Autocross	• 3 rd Event
August 16 th	Michiana Chapter Autocross	• 4 th Event
August 29th	Michiana Chapter Autocross	• S th Event
September 19th	Michiana Chapter Autocross	• 6 th Event
September 21-26	BMWCCA Oktoberfest	Details forthcoming
October 17th	Fall Color Tour	Destination Frankenmuth Michigan
December 12th	Holiday Party	Details forthcoming



BMW "Street Survival" Eve Dolenski, Treasurer

I had the opportunity to serve as a driving coach at a Teen Street Survival event this past summer at the Tire Rack headquarters in South

Bend, Indiana. I was quite impressed by the program and how well it prepares teens with skills not taught in the traditional driver's ed programs.

The goals of the Tire Rack Street Survival program are to teach students some of the basics of car control, enhance their enjoyment of driving, and improve their competence as drivers. They want the students to understand how their actions govern a car's responses, and as a result to become safer, more effective drivers on the road.

Teen Street Survival events are currently held in Detroit, Chicago and South Bend. Teens in West Michigan are underserved and we can change that. We have the opportunity to make our roads safer, to keep our loved ones safer, and to hopefully prevent some of the terrible tragedies we hear about throughout the year involving young drivers.

Who is interested in joining me to create a Teen Street Survival program in West Michigan? You don't need to be an expert driver or used to planning or putting on events – we just need willing hands and a positive attitude.

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Club News "Fall Color Tour" Harvey Nuttall, President

Our fall color tour was spectacular in spite of adverse weather conditions. In the days leading up to this event we seemed to have equal chances of sunshine, rain, or snow. Our event organizers, Glenn Cousineau - BMW of Traverse City Brand Manager and Nicole Batista -BMW Client advisor, put together a great event. They recruited the assistance of our BMW CCA Regional Vice President Mike Lingenfelter who now lives in the Traverse City area to put together a great Poker Run tour on the Lelanau Peninsula.

We gathered at BMW of Traverse City where we were welcomed with some light refreshments and were surrounded by the latest BMW Models on the showroom floor. We had a great turnout of our regular attendees but in addition we had a number of members that live further north who came out to the event. First timers Kent and Sally Rozycki *(shown in photo below)* joined us for their first ever BMWCCA Club event. Kent has been a

member of the club since 1998 and lives Traverse in City. I asked Kent why he joined the club back in 1998 and he said he was referred bv the BMW of Traverse City dealership. He thinks he



picked up a copy of Roundel Magazine in the dealership showroom. He has always enjoyed reading Roundel and always reads the magazine cover to cover - but the reason he decided to come to this event was the convenience of the event being close to his home. I also asked Kent a how his wife felt about going to a BMW Club event the, and he said Sally is not a car person at all but she is a very sociable person. At the event Sally really enjoyed the friendly group of club members in attendance and the wonderful meal at the restaurant.

Kent and Sally have 3 boys 29, 28 & 20. Two of them dive Subarus and the other drives a Chevy Cruz – the BMW bug hasn't seemed to bite their three sons yet. Kent is an avid Golfer and takes every opportunity to be on the golf course. Currently Kent owns a 2011 328ix that he loves. Kent's first BMW was a 1998 528i that he fell in love with and found it to be great fun to drive. After that he owned a 330i manual followed by a 325ix automatic - both were really fun to drive. Next was an 09 535i twin turbo with 330HP (very fun), and now the current 328ix. Kent has purchased all his BMWs from BMW of Traverse City and brings his cars to the dealership for service and repairs. Prior to the current BMW they owned two Camaros and found them to be unsuitable for the Michigan winter weather conditions and switched back to BMW and the current ix model.

Kent recently made a trip to South Carolina and while in the area he drove down to Spartanburg hoping to take a tour of the factory. Having not made a reservation he found that it was not possible to go on a tour. Fortunately he was able to be number 20 on a 20 person tour at the last minute. He learned that the Factory in Spartanburg builds only X models and surprisingly they build 1200 BMWs per day and 70% of the cars built in Spartanburg leave the USA to be sold overseas. He also learned that the tour price is \$25 but for BMWCCA members the ticket price is only \$3.50. Kent also took the opportunity to take in some of the fantastic fall colors in the mountainous regions in South Carolina.

Kent said he really enjoyed all the BMWs being together at the beginning of the Fall Color tour. The cars complimented the good company of the other members, the great restaurant, and the great food.

The tour ended up being rainy, but sights to be seen on the Lelanau peninsula were superb – regardless of the rain. We stopped along the way at interesting stores and picked up a poker card for the poker round at the final destination. The dinner was at Harrington's on the Bay back in Traverse City and the food was superb.

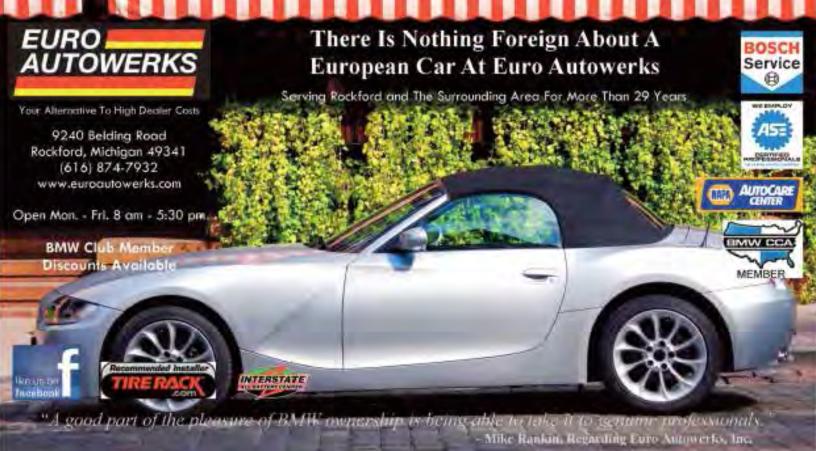
Thanks to Glenn, Nicole and Mike for all the work they

put into making this a wonderful event.

Harvey Nuttall Michiana Chapter President.







I am looking to form a small committee of 4-6 people who will help find a venue, source key items (semi truck/trailer, water truck, orange cones), promote the event, arrange for food for the day, and/or coordinate volunteer coaches and cone chasers.

If you are interested in joining me in creating a Teen Street Survival event in west Michigan, please contact Eve Dolenski at EveDolenski@att.net or 269-420-3010.

Thank You, Eve Dolenski, Club Treasurer



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"Neverlift" Craig Sisk, Performance Driving Chair

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Fort Wayne Coordinators **Rick and Kate Tomkinson** 877-872-1084 Spring has finally sprung, the days are getting warmer and longer – this can only mean one thing: The smell of brakes, tires, and high octane fuel will begin to fill the air at tracks all over the country - welcome to a new season at the track!

There are plenty of events to keep even the most dedicated of track drivers busy this year. First up is the Windy City chapter's driving school at AutoBahn Country Club in Joliet Illinois on May 16 & 17. As always Michiana members are welcome at all other BMW CCA chapter driving schools. I'll be there instructing along with some other Michiana instructors. If you'd like to paddock with us, feel free to get in touch with me and we'll be happy to have you join us.

The following weekend the Northern Ohio chapter is having their driving school at the legendary Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. I love this track - it was the first track I participated in a driving school at and it was a good one! I've since been back several times and enjoy myself each time. The Northern Ohio chapter puts on a great school with a very welcoming environment – I highly recommend it.

June 13-14 the Hoosier Chapter will be holding their annual Rites o' June driving school at Putnam Park Road Course outside of Indianapolis. I've been to this school a couple times and thoroughly enjoyed myself – especially last year when I got to work with an instructor that really helped me progress – thanks Bill! This is a very safe track to visit for first timers with lots of run-off room. Overall a very friendly group of people. There are usually several Michiana members in attendance at this driving school. I am going to try and attend again this year, but my schedule is a bit up in the air at the moment so I don't know if I'll be there yet.

The Motor City chapter is hosting a one day driving school at Waterford Hills Raceway on June 19th. I haven't attended this school or driven at this track before, but I hear good things.

The Buckeye chapter is hosting a driving school at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course Aug 22-23. If you weren't able to attend the May date, or couldn't get enough of this fantastic track, this is your opportunity to spend some more time at this lovely track. Last year I completed my Instructor Training at this school and had great time (although it was a busier than usual weekend with the ITS). The Buckeye chapter puts on a great school and has a large pool of talented instructors to pull from. I'm planning on attending this school this year, please get in touch if you'd like to join me and some other Michiana members.

September 20-21 the Motor City chapter is hosting a driving school at Grattan Raceway just outside of Grand Rapids, MI. This is my absolute favorite track (although Mid-Ohio is a very close second). This track is one of the Midwest's best kept secrets – it's like a rollercoaster for your car – every inch of it is a ton of fun! Last year I instructed at this school and am planning on doing the same this year. There are usually several Michiana members at this school – we'd love to have you join us and make the group even bigger. Come out and meet some of the fine folks from our neighboring chapter.

That's about it for the local(ish) BMW CCA Schools for 2015 – but there are plenty of other events going on throughout the season. One of the highlights I've got my eye on is the Celebrity HPDE (High

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"Neverlift" continued from page 8

Performance Driving Event) Track day with pro drivers Eric Curran and Lawson Aschenbach at GingerMan Raceway on June 2nd. If you follow any major US sports car racing you've likely heard of these guys. I'd like the opportunity to get some input from these guys on my driving and pick up a few tips and tricks for our local track.

GingerMan Raceway near South Haven, Mi also has open track days on May 15, July 4-5, July 10, August 21, and October 24-25. These open track days aren't for first timers as there is no instruction. If you've been to 4 or 5 schools they can be a good way to get some track time and learn how to improve on your own. It can be a bit intimidating at first not having an instructor in the right seat, but it will help your driving skills immensely once you learn how to assess your own driving and look for your mistakes instead of having them pointed out to you. The end of season open track day (Oct 24-25) at GingerMan has turned into quite an event with a party Saturday night. Past years have included a pig roast!

GingerMan also offers evening test and tunes throughout the season. These start around 4:30 in the afternoon and run till about 9pm. It's a cheap way to get a quick fix if the wait till your next track event is a ways off. It's also good place to test out new parts on your car or just do a shakedown run to make sure everything is in working order (including the driver!) before attending a weekend event.

This is by no means a complete listing of local track events for this year as NASA, SCCA, and Hooked on Driving have many events in our region and most of the tracks have some sort of event almost every weekend that you may be able to participate in.

For everyone out there pondering participating in a driving school for the first time in 2015, get in touch, we'll help to answer your questions and walk you through what you need to be prepared. We have helmets that can be borrowed from the autocross program with prior coordination. All you really need is fresh brakes, tires that are in good shape, an open set of ears with a willingness to learn, and the desire to have some fun.

I hope to see you at the track in 2015! Craig Sisk Performance Driving Chair







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