

The Southern Accent

BMW Car Club of America

Gulf Coast Chapter



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Which BMW performance car venture do you want most, McLaren or Toyota?
September 20th, 2015 by [Nico DeMattia](#) via BMW Blog

We just recently found out that [Toyota will be making the final decision](#) on the joint sports car venture between the Japanese brand and BMW later this year. We've all been waiting anxiously for some concrete evidence of such a car, but it appears that Toyota has been getting cold feet. Hopefully Toyota and BMW are a full-go by year's end and we get some cool new cars in the market. But if not, I hear BMW will be working on a sports car with another company that's pretty good at making performance cars.

BMW M has [recently announced its partnership with McLaren](#) to build a new supercar with a carbon fiber chassis and a quad-turbo, BMW-developed, mid-mounted V8. If that doesn't get your blood pumping, I'm not sure what will. But it's good to know that if the

BMW/Toyota partnership doesn't pan out that BMW will be working on something equally, or even more, exciting.

But which one will be more important to BMW, really? Obviously, the enthusiast in us all would say the McLaren co-venture, because who doesn't want basically a new version of the [McLaren F1](#)? But would that really be more beneficial to BMW, and its followers, than the venture with Toyota?

A [BMW/Toyota sports car](#) would be tremendous for both BMW and its fanbase, as it would allow BMW to sell the car for less than it would have if it developed the car on its own. This allows enthusiasts to get a BMW sports car for relatively little money. A McLaren/BMW supercar will only be produced in triple-digit numbers

each year and be extremely expensive. So in the real world, it would do much for BMW or its fans. Knowing it exists, and maybe even seeing one on the road, would make enthusiasts happy, but that's about the extent of it. Such a supercar might bring BMW's brand reputation up and get more bodies into showrooms, much like the LFA did for Lexus, but I'm not sure BMW actually has an issue with brand image, in terms of performance, like Lexus does.

A joint sports car with Toyota would actually probably help BMW more so than one with McLaren, but it seems like it might not happen anymore and the McLaren/BMW supercar does excite far more. So which joint venture would you like to see BMW follow through with if one were to collapse?



© Larson
BMW/Toyota sports car rendering





BMW M2 spotted with M mirrors

[BMW M2, Spy Photos](#) | October 3rd, 2015 by [Horatiu Boeriu](#) via [BMW Blog](#)

With less than two weeks before its official unveil, a [BMW M2](#) was spotted wearing the production-ready M mirrors. The test mule continues to sport the black and white tape which masks the latest design details. The prototype runs with the production-ready body kit and the [black wheels](#) which we know will be available at market launch.

The launch color palette will be limited: Long Beach Blue, Alpine White, Mineral Grey and Black Sapphire. New colors are likely to be offered in the future as a replacement to the first ones.

BMW unveiled yesterday the [X4 M40i](#), the M Performance Automobile also powered by a revised N55 unit. Looking at the specs, the engine of the BMW X4 M40i is a close

relative of the engine for the BMW M2 F87, with the M2 Coupe getting an even sharper power stage with a power rating of 370 hp and improved response.

The basic N55 engine is used in both vehicles with a 3.0 liters of displacement and a twin scroll turbo-charger, however, some components from the S55 are included for more stability and to allow an increase of boost pressure and injection quantity. An optimized air intake and an optimized exhaust system are also included.

The torque and power diagram shows the 360-hp N55 variant for the BMW X4 M40i with a rated output between 5,800 and 6,000 rpm/min. We currently estimate that the 365-370 hp

version of the N55 will not provide its rated output in such a wide area, as well as can be expected with a little more torque.

The forged steel crankshaft, the crankshaft bearings and the special pistons and high-power spark plugs will allow an increase in the peak power combined with optimum durability in most sports usage

The wait is almost over and soon we'll be able to see and feel what the M wizards been working on for the last two years.

The M2 was conceived under outgoing M GmbH chief Friedrich Nitschke, and we doubt that his successor, [Frank van Meel](#), will change the purist approach of the new model, which is moving close to market launch.



BMW Car Club of America FOUNDATION

[Survival Teen Driving Safety Program](#)

Formed in April 2002 by the BMW Car Club of America Foundation, the [Tire Rack Street Survival \(visit\)](#) safe teen driving program was launched. With the help of several corporate sponsors ([BMW of North America](#), [The Tire Rack](#), and [Liberty Mutual Insurance](#)), Tire Rack Street Survival was initiated. Tire Rack Street Survival is built upon the premise that 'safe driving is learned by doing.' From the outset, Street Survival has always been hands-on and designed to go beyond the typical high school driver's education program. The program teaches students to avoid accidents by thinking and looking ahead. Tire Rack Street Survival is unique in that it offers students instruction in their own cars so that they learn the limitations of the car they drive daily.

The **Tire Rack Street Survival** school is a safe teen pro-

gram designed to go beyond today's required driver's education and give teens across the U.S. the driving tools and hands-on experience to become safer, smarter drivers. Trained and qualified in-car driving instructors as well as classroom experience for each student.

Last year, over **5,000** teenagers died in motor vehicle crashes, the leading killer of American youths aged **16 to 19**, accounting for more than 40 percent of fatalities in that age bracket. To reduce this number, Tire Rack Street Survival has developed a non-profit, national driver education program aimed at teaching teens the skills they need to stay alive behind the wheel.

The year 2003 was the pilot year for Tire Rack Street Survival and several successful schools were held around the country. In 2004, more than a dozen schools

providing instruction for several hundred students were held. During 2008, 70 schools were held, training even more teenagers to become safe, responsible drivers. During 2013, 101 schools were held – our goal for 2014 is over 110 schools, from New Hampshire to California and Florida to Minnesota.

Most of us are aware of the carnage that occurs on American highways and good driver education will help reduce accidents. With your support and help, the goal of the Tire Rack Street Survival program will help make our teenagers safer drivers.

"Few people realize driving is one of the most dangerous things they do. A car traveling at just 4 mph has more energy than a bullet. That's a lot of responsibility."

Bill Wade, National Program Manager



<http://www.bmwccafoundation.org/about/programs/driver-safety-program/>

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Upcoming Events

Cars & Coffee Ft. Walton
Every 2nd Saturday 10-12
Behind Starbucks at Santa Rosa Mall
340 Mary Esther Blvd, Mary Esther, Fl. 32569

Cars & Coffee Tallahassee
Every 3rd Saturday 8-10:30
Texas Roadhouse
3131 Capital Circle Northeast
Tallahassee, FL

Cars & Coffee Pensacola
Every 4th Saturday 8-10
Behind Mellow Mushroom
5175 Bayou Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32503

PensaCruise 2015
November 28th at 10:00AM
Meeting at 301 W. Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502
This is a rolling car show through downtown
Pensacola

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