

BMW Car Club
of America
North Star Chapter



North Star Bavarian July, 2015



The BMW M Coupe shown was modified and built exclusively at BMW of Minnetonka.



Here at BMW of Minnetonka, we only say “working on BMWs” because “loving on BMWs” sounds a little creepy.



At BMW of Minnetonka, wrenching on Bimmers is our passion – on the clock, off the clock. That’s why we have the expertise to handle everything from the standard BMW lineup to the mod-stuffed racer you see here. Thinking about what we can do for your BMW? So are we.

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On The Cover



The cover of this issue of the Northstar Chapter BMW club newsletter is graced deliciously by an über rare BMW E28 Alpina B9 owned by a local european automotive enthusiast named Harold Sheff.

Harold also owns a rare BMW E30 Z1 roadster, which is one of 9 in the contiguous United States.

Harold also owns several other very nice vehicles, most noteworthy in this writers' opinion is a 73 E10Tii

~ Erik

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Upcoming Club Events

BluntTech.com Show and Shine

Sunday, July 12, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
18305 Minnetonka blvd, deephaven, MN 55391

Leinenkugel Loop

Saturday, July 18th, 2015 9:45 am - 9:00 pm
9885 Hudson Place, Woodbury, MN 55125

Social Summer BBQ and new member picnic

Saturday, July 25th, 2015 10 am - 4 pm
200 Brookview Parkway North, Golden Valley, MN 55426

Auto Lieben Motorsports Fest

Sunday, August 9th, 2015 10 am - 3:30 pm
6600 Peller Ave S. Hastings, MN 55033

River Road Pizza Run

Saturday, August 15th, 2015 2:45 pm - 9:00 pm
7990 Hardwood Ave S. Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Bimmers 'n' Brats

Sunday, August 30th, 2015 11 am - 4 pm
301 Summit Ave, St Paul, MN 55102

Apple Harvest Express

Saturday, September 19th, 2015 9:45 am - 9:00 pm
7990 Hardwood Ave S. Cottage Grove, MN 55016

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A hectic and hot summer week filled with a very charismatic car.

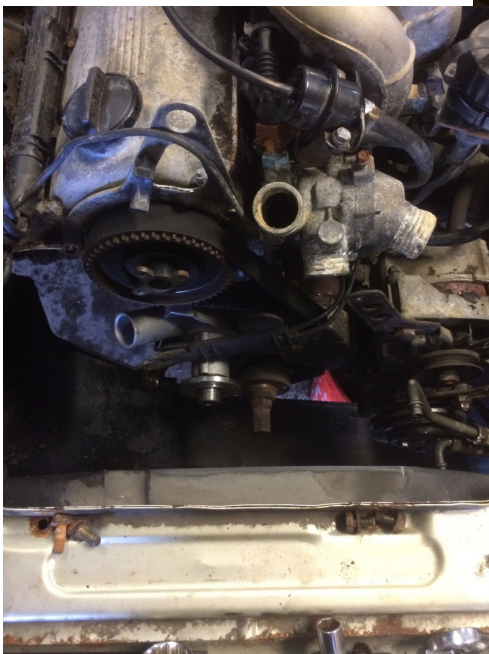
Words and photos by Erik Berger

In March of 2015, I was at work catching up with parts requests online when I saw a sterling silver 1990 BMW E30 320iT/a estate come across my feed. This was certainly not the first time that had happened, but most of the examples that came across the block were 325i, manual transmission and very clean, as such they commanded price tags nearing \$10,000. This touring was posted for just over a third of that and still appeared very solid over all.

The company that had the car for sale was and is a company I do a lot of parts business with as they are also a specialty BMW parts company, so I called the Owner Neil to talk turkey -- he assured me that the car had recent MOT inspection and was mechanically very sound, the rust it had was all on removable panels and what was there was superficial and non structural. After hearing a bit more about it and getting a couple more photos from him, I offered him his full asking price on the condition he would hold it until June 21st which I had a vacation already planned just minutes away from the vehicles' location in Naples, FL.

After the deal had been done, and the flight booked, I started ordering some common maintenance items for the car so I could do the 1770 mile journey home more or less worry free, but I realized just how difficult it would be to find parts for a RHD 320i touring pretty quickly. Eventually, I decided just to upgrade the non-AC 2.0 liter to the large 2.5 liter A/C cooling system and do the belt/water pump along the way. All of the maintenance took a total of 3.5 hours in a non airconditioned shop at 86% humidity and 96 degrees.

The trip home to Minneapolis was riddled with little issues but the car didn't skip a beat. the new cooling system needed to be bled in Atlanta, GA, the car would lurch in drive at a stop light, so we put the selector in neutral at lights, the rear left wheel is badly bent, so we were limited by comfort to 71mph, but the total 36 hour trip with amazingly bad detours and two parts stops, the car is home and will be in the midwest for the foreseeable future, garnering comments from John Q. Public all along the way about the steering wheel being in the wrong place.



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Bimmers 'n' Brats: Save the date

August 30th, 2015

Bimmers and Brats is an event held at the tail end of the car season every year by Northstar BMW at the Germanic American Institute in St. Paul. This event features cars of Northstar BMW members with a quaint european backdrop. Oh, did I mention there were brats? Because there are brats as well!



Fancy seeing incredibly rare and pampered BMWs in a quaint, low traffic setting with some delicious food? Bimmers and Brats delivers.



Tour de Twine

Words and photos by Tom Lawell: Getting the Ball Rolling in 2015

As BMW aficionados, we think nothing of going for a drive just because we can. We really don't need a reason to do so, we just go. We all have folks in our lives who look at us and scratch their heads. They ask, "You waste gas to just go drive around?" Well, of course we do! We are passionate about our hobby, and we just enjoy driving.

Back in 1950 Francis A. Johnson took up his own peculiar passion and started rolling baler twine into a ball. He didn't stop rolling until 1979. When it was all said and done the twine ball weighed 17,400 pounds and had a circumference of 40 feet! Fair to say a few folks scratched their head over his obsession as well. And what a coincidence that Johnson's twine ball has survived and is located in Darwin, MN, only a few hours west of the Twin Cities! What a perfect destination for the first official Northstar BMWCCA Road Trip of 2015.

Our group of 40 aficionados departed Shakopee mid-morning on May 16th, and in true road trip fashion, the idea was not to take the most direct, but rather most entertaining roads possible en route to Darwin. That meant many curvy and narrow farm roads, along with scenic vistas and an occasional encounter with wildlife.



Watching 21 BMWs of all models and ages carving the countryside was a sight to behold. The route took us through Waconia, New Germany and Lester Prairie. The twine ball in Darwin is tucked away behind plexiglass in a large gazebo on Highway 14 right in the middle of town. Various signs tell Francis' story and how the ball of twine came to be. A true roadside oddity that has been written about in many travel books. If you visit you'll learn that the Darwin twine ball is the largest in the world rolled by one man. Apparently there is a larger ball somewhere in Kansas, but it doesn't really count since it was rolled by many people over many years. The Darwin ball is the real deal as it represents the obsession of one man who was dedicated to his passion, just like a certain group of BMW drivers we know.

You can only look at a ball of twine for so long, so the group headed south through a series of beautiful lakes en route to Hutchinson. Lunch was at Zella's located on Main Street right downtown. The food and service was excellent and if you're ever in the area, give them a try (www.zellas.net). You won't be disappointed.

After lunch some went shopping, some went to Dairy Queen for dessert and others just socialized and enjoyed each other's company. Not sure how many friends Francis made while rolling his twine ball, but those who join a BMW road trip are guaranteed to make many new friends.

Rolling twine may not be your thing, but rolling down the road in your BMW is. Connect with other club members as often as you can and you'll enjoy your Ultimate Driving Machine all the more. The 2015 driving season won't last long. Visit the club's website and sign up for a road trip today. Should you have any questions, contact Tom at tours@northstarbmw.org.



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