# BMW Car Club of America Badger Bimmers THE SPRING SOAKER TOUR • Bimmerstrause Car Corral @ RA Tour: A Diamond in the Rough What's in Your Garage? Spring Clean-ups nside... June 2016



# bimmer immer

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**Cover:** On the Spring Tour Photo by Mary O'Brien



# 2016 Calendar

June 9	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
June 13	Drivers School at Blackhawk Farms
July 14	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
August 1	Drivers School at Blackhawk Farms
August 11	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
August 6-7	IMSA WeatherTech Car Corral at Road America
August 16	Third Annual BMW Cruise Night
September 8	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
September 17	Champagne picnic in Fort Atkinson
September 23-25	OktoberFast at Road America
October 8	Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive: A Badger Bimmer Fall Color Road Rally
October TBD	Board Meeting, Fox Valley area
November 10	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North
December 8	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North

### BMW CAR CLUB OF AMERICA FOUNDATION SEEKS EARLY bimmer immers

The BMW CCA Foundation is trying to build a complete archive of newsletters from all chapters in the country. Does anyone out there have any issues from 1999 and before? If you do and are willing to allow the Club to photocopy some, please contact Jeff Fait at jfait@wi.rr.com.

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.

Please consult the monthly Calendar (above) for exact locations and dates.

## **News of Note...**

# **2016 Driving Events Schedule**

he 2016 Badger Bimmers Driving Events calendar opens with our Monday, June 13 Driver School at Blackhawk Farms Raceway. Our second Blackhawk DE is Monday, August 1. Registration opened March 1 at www.motorsportreg.com. Search "Badger Bimmers." We run rain or shine and Blackhawk's two miles make it a quick learn.

Contact one of our advertisers to arrange a **Tech Inspection**. The tech and medical forms are available at **http://www.badgerbimmers.org/Badger-Bimmers/Forms.htm** along with the typical schedule and a bevy of PDF files you should read before the event.

OctoberFAST 2016 will be held September 23-25 at historic Road America. Friday is for Advanced drivers and Instructors only. Registration opens June 1st at www.motorsportreg.com. The three-day event has been our most popular with over 500 people through

the gate last year.
By popular demand,
we will hold the
Saturday dinner at the
Osthoff Hotel. Lodging
can be reserved at the Osthoff or Baymont Inn and
Speak with a manager to
discount.

Badger Bimmers offer a safe, fun way to learn the dynamics of your own car. You learn skills you can use every day. *Please use them responsibly.* 

Contact me if you or someone in your group can help with registration. There's no pay, but you won't starve. Thanks for your registration help, **Nancy Priem** and **Charles High**. **b**<sub>i</sub>

-Erik Ivarson, DE Coordinator

Suites.

get the Club

# BMW Working to Reduce U.S. Dealer Overstocks

Excerpted from Roundel Weekly May 10, 2016

BMW and other luxury-automobile brands are not off to a great start in 2016 U.S. sales. As a result, dealers are sitting on more inventory, which isn't helping the bottom line.

The laws of supply and demand may be in play in the U.S.

premium-car market; dealership giant Group 1, for example, says that many of its BMW, Mercedes-Benz, and Audi dealerships have up to a 90-day supply of vehicles on hand — which is way more than they need.

"We are adjusting our production plans and reallocating more SUVs to the U.S.," said BMW Group's Chief Financial Officer Friedrich Eichiner in a conference call last week.

BMW's Spartanburg, South Carolina plant is the

company's largest factory worldwide. It makes only X3, X4, X5, and X6 vehicles. Later this year, when its latest billion-dollar expansion is complete, it will have the capacity to produce 450,000 vehicles annually, including the new BMW X7.... BMW is counting on it to boost sales.

Officially, BMW is predicting a stronger second half of 2016. By then, the company and its dealers

hope that overstocked models should be sold.

The information released by BMW concerning dealer surplus inventory did not mention an earlier announcement that some 2016 BMW 7 Series may be at dealers under a stop sale order because of potentially defective

airbags. Those cars will remain in inventory until Continental provides new airbags to replace ones that may fail to deploy.

Even though BMW is predicting an increase in sales worldwide in 2016, it might be a rocky road ahead for some U.S. dealers that may have to take drastic measures to move inventory. Whether that provides an unintended benefit for buyers looking for bargains on new BMWs remains to be seen. **b**<sub>i</sub>

—Scott Blazey



# From the President

Jeff Fait

# **Spring Has Sprung!**

It was a perfect day for erasing the indignities foisted upon our rides by old man winter.



Also, even though this time last year in this space I mentioned our family's springtime "should we replace the E39?" ritual and our decision to keep it until the wheels fall off, the wandering eye struck again — darn International Autos showroom! — but was successfully defeated for another year. BMW sure got it right when they came up with the E39 5-Series.

#### E30 Picnic and Our Annual Car Show

As I write this, tomorrow is our annual E30 Picnic held at Frame Park in Waukesha. The weather forecast is stellar, **Tim Jason** has ordered a veritable feast, the car is clean, and life is good.



Depending on our printer and the Post Office, or if you've discovered that the *immer* is available to download as a PDF from our web site many days before the mail carrier delivers it to your doorstep, you may be reading this before or after the 13th Annual BMW Car Show being held on Saturday June 4th at BMW of Milwaukee North (aka Umansky Motors, née Concours BMW). This is always a fun event with all models of Club members' BMWs on display, lots of free snacks for everyone, and participant-judged trophies awarded.

#### **Our Long-awaited Track Events**

Registration is open for our two **Blackhawk Farms** driver's schools coming up on June 13 and August 1. We can always use more instructors so, if that describes you, please contact **Erik Ivarson** soon so we can open up more student spots. Also, by the time you read this, it may be June 1 or later. In which case, registration for **OctoberFAST** at **Road America** is open! This event always sells out early, so don't delay with your registration. Also, hotel rooms are filling up quickly so plan accordingly. If you plan to stay at the **Baymont** in Plymouth, be sure to make your reservation by calling the hotel directly and tell them you

are with Badger Bimmers. Otherwise they'll tell you they are sold out for that weekend.

And finally, please take a moment to visit our web site every week or so (www.badgerbimmers. org) and peruse the full event calendar to be sure you don't miss anything.

## What's in **Your** Garage?

# AKA, the 'Bowtie' Was an Underdog!

Report and photos by Ron Pace

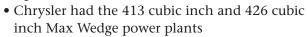
Whaddaya say? We'd love to hear about your favorite ride, too. Send contributions to **Tim Jason**, Membership Chairman, at **tjason@versevo.com**. Everyone's waiting.... —Ed.

t was the mid 60s — yes, I know many of you were not even born yet, but stay with me. Muscle cars were taking over from supercars, the differ-

ence being that supercars were full-size vehicles with high horsepower, bigblock motors, while muscle cars were built on mid-size wheel bases.

All was not well in 1965 for Chevrolet followers who wanted a competitive muscle car.

Compare:



- Pontiac had the GTO with a 389 cubic inch engine
- Oldsmobile had the 442 with a 400 cubic inch engine
- Buick had the Grand Sport with a big-block nailhead
- Ford had the 427 cubic inch in side-oiler trim, while
- the lowly Chevy Chevelle topped out with a 327 cubic inch small block.

#### The Bowtie faithful in dismay

Now don't get me wrong. Chevrolet had an amazing big block in the 396 cubic inch

Mark IV power-plant that had dominated NASCAR as the famous mystery motor. However, the powers-to-be at Chevrolet had not planned on introducing the 396 to the mid-size line until 1966. Chevrolet was first going to introduce the 396 on full-size cars and the Corvette in 1965, then in 1966 in the

Chevelle. Not only were Chevrolet's loyal following getting their lunch money taken at drag strips across the country, but also on the Saturday night sporting

events going on at Woodward Avenue in Detroit, the Cross County Connector Road in New York and on Van Nuys Boulevard in LA. Chevrolet had to do something and do it fast.

The answer was the **Chevelle Z16**. In February, their chief performance mar-

keting executive told the field to have faith. There would be 200 Z16 Chevelle cars being produced in sequential order at the Kansas City plant. They were destined for very special customers with 129 at the discretion of Zone Mangers, 30 going to public

relations venues with the car magazines, and the balance reserved for COPO (Central Production Order). They were intended to garner PR and entice the faithful to wait for the 1966 Chevelle SS396.



### So what was a Z16?

They were available only in red, black or yellow. The option added over \$1500 to a car that listed for a bit over

\$2000, so it wasn't cheap. It included special exterior markings including the SS396 emblems. The vehicle was built on the stronger convertible frame with additional reinforcements to handle the power and weight of the power plant. It had heavy duty underpinnings with brakes from Continued on page 14

# The Spring Cean-up

Report and photos by Dave Thuerk

The sun was bright and shined on the new M2 delivered that very morning

Te had a sunny and dry day for our Spring Cleanup. The morning rain that was forecasted did not materialize. International Auto provided the service bay, in the adjacent Fiat building, and use of the car wash for our event. The surprise car was the new (delivered that *morning!*) M2. The proud owner, Dave Mundt, brought the M2 to the cleanup. (I believe it was especially valuable for me to see since I am considering one.)

International provided sub sandwiches and our Club provided drinks and munchies. This year attendance was 11, slightly lower than typical. Besides the M2, I brought my M235i. **Tim Jason** brought an excellent, red 318i; **John Morgan**, his 911 track car; **Josh Merlin** brought in an old 5-Series modified for the track, and **Chris Fredette** brought in his Lotus track/street car. The cars left cleaner and some were shinier as a result of some dedicated effort.

A great benefit of being at International BMW is the opportunity to view new cars in the open show room. There were the electric i8, i3 and, what I found particularly interesting, an M4 in Mineral White. The mineral white is metallic so it takes on a different sheen in the sunlight.

The Badger Bimmers' Board of Directors would like to thank International BMW for supporting our Club activities and for providing the location for our Spring Cleanup. We're already looking forward to next year.

Hope to see you at one of our other events.

—Dave Thuerk











# Diamond in the Rough

## Badger Bimmers' Spring (Soaker!) Tour

Report by Peter Wright

Prayer is a wonderful thing. Whoever it was that prayed for a steady soaker of rain on the same day as our Spring Tour did a masterful job — particularly since I thought I was doing a pretty good job of praying for a splendidly sunny day.

No matter. Our 12 Bimmers (ok, there was one AMG MB thingy in there) and 23 Bimmerites

met, laughed, chatted and kicked tires at the appointed meeting place in Dodgeville. After receiving the immensely creative travel bags filled with goodies and fact sheets for the various towns along the way, at the appointed time we stepped out into the dry, though chilly circumstances, into the beauty that is Grant County. That "dry" lasted, oh, I don't know... maybe 90 minutes?



The Spurgeon Vineyards & Winery was a great place for the first stop after romping through spectacular scenery. (But what was up with that brazen hussy of a cat crouching in the weeds at the apex of a particularly sweet corner, as our entire entourage flirted speedily, whiskers away from his curiosity? I bet he was yucking it up thinking, "YOU MORONS; I just peed there!") Some of our faithful group did the informative hands-on winery tour, while samples of Spurgeon's

outstanding *Ice Maiden* white and other offerings proved to be every bit as yummy as I recall from previous visits.

We relaxed, oblivious to the moisture starting to bead up on the freshly waxed, patiently waiting chariots.

### Spirit, performance never dampened

Even though what took place during the rest of the driving day may well be described as "lancing puddles," our enthusiasm, and the gusto with which every corner was executed, was hardly dampened. As promised, we giggled at the symphony of fingers, eyes and feet, and the Rain-X worked like a charm!

Continued on page 10







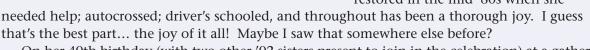
## Man, I love these cars!



Peter Wright with "The Duchess"

The Matriarch of the Wright *Blau Mit Weiss* gaggle (known at various times as "The Duchess," "The Chariot" or "The Grey Lady") was at the top of her '02 game, every bit the joy she was when The Navigator and I drove her out of the BMW showroom (the back room at C.R. Berry Rolls Royce in Miami) with seven miles on the odometer, 40 years prior to our Dodge

County 2016 Spring Soaker Tour weekend. In that time, she has enabled three Wright family members to earn their US driver's licenses; brought two babies home from the hospital; faithfully commuted to work; beautifully restored in the mid '80s when she



On her 40th birthday (with two other '02 sisters present to join in the celebration) at a gathering of the Badger Bimmers' faithful for a Spring Tour in Grant County, one of the driver's license candidates was there (that would be *moi*), the babies were there with their own spouses and BMWs, The Perfectionist (and his loving bride who allowed him the time to do the needed work) who painstakingly did the restoration was there, as were several former driver's school students and other treasured friends, both long standing and new to help celebrate. What better way to de-

and other treasured friends, both long-standing and new, to help celebrate. What better way to do that than with a romp through Grant Count's beauty with like-minded Bimmerites, and the Webers singing all the way?















A total of 59 tour photographs were submitted by Bill Nicoud, Mary & Larry O'Brien, David & Tiffany Helmke, Kate Wright, and Peter Wright. Thank you for the excellent quality of your work!

—Ed.

## The Spring Soaker

The Unique Café



The quaint **Unique Café**, our lunch stop in Boscobel, was busier than I recall from previous visits and the chef was not to be rushed with the expected culinary delights. The collection of curiosities which decorates the walls defies accurate description, but the ambiance created is clearly... well... unique.

#### The Grant Co. Courthouse





Lancaster's **Grant County Courthouse** was a hop, skip and a jump away to some serious history. The Civil War historical collection was awesome! The recently restored building was magnificent and, thanks to our tour director, David, we had the run of every curious nook and cranny of this brass-domed wonder to explore its beautiful paintings, libraries,





court rooms and other offerings. Following the tour, some of the ladies disappeared to shop at a particularly enticing spot while the rest of our group visited **Doolittle's Pub** to "soak" our whistles.

### Dinner earlier than planned

With the very wet pineapple juice from above not letting up, and seemingly no end in sight, we decided to shortcut the "drive" part and head for **Potosi's National Brewing Museum** for some time together. There we enjoyed an earlier than planned "evening meal," lots more socializing and enjoying each other's unique experiences on... well, just about everything under the sun. We could not have had a better time with our small group even if we had planned it that way, and all disappeared for parts

unknown after fond "see you soon" wishes. Isn't life good that way?

Gloomy rained-out day? Not a chance!!! Pure bliss? EXACTLY! Thank you to all who helped make this memory special, particularly David and Tiffany (one of the babies) for laying out the route and running it repeatedly to fine tune, and for all who took the time from their busy schedules to do what matters... spend more cherished

time together; and to The Navigator for putting up with me. The best is yet to come!





# The Spring Cean-up

Report and photos by Dale Kressin

# Appleton car cleanup brings new participants

n May 7th, the Badger Bimmers were welcomed at Bergstrom Enterprise Motorcars! Ron Hayes, Robb DeRuyter and Nick Opinker laid out the red carpet for our members to use their detailing supplies and a stall in their Detail Area. I learned much from the Bergstrom team and from Club members with substantial experience in auto detailing.

This event brought new members and experienced car detailers. We had a nice group with good discussions on BMW performance, mechanical maintenance and repairs. We had a brief lunch and enjoyed sharing experiences. The participants expressed interest in touring, track events and autocross.

Last year, resulting from this event, we discussed and developed a successful northern Wisconsin fall tour. It is possible we will see future activities to come from this great social event.

Thank you, Ron, Robb, and Nick for your outstanding hospitality! **b**i









# Bimmerstrause BMW Corral @ RA

August 6 & 7

by Darcy Yench

The IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Champion-ship takes over Road America's four-mile circuit for what will be the most incredible weekend of sports car racing in the world. Plan on coming to our Bimmerstrausse Car Corral at the IMSA race at Road America on August 6 and 7, 2016. Hear presentations by team members in their paddock areas, and by sponsors and officials from BMW. Enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow BMW CCA members and BMW owners. Cheer on our BMW drivers to their wins!

#### Races, with all the amenities

Fans will get to see the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge race on Saturday, August 6, with the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship event on Sunday, plus races from the IMSA GT3 Cup and Lamborghini Trofeo all weekend. Fan activities include an open grid, autographs, tech talks, fan forums, and Tour de RA bike event.

The Badger Bimmers Chapter will provide private BMW parking outside Turn 14, a hospitality tent with TV showing the race feed, private bleachers, paddock talks and hot pit tours during the race with this year's Z4 Race Team. Paddock meetings with RLL Racing, *BimmerWorld* and other BMW teams are being arranged. Donations of \$15/car/day will be going to our charity, **Feeding America of Southeastern Wisconsin**. Box lunches for each day will be provided but must be arranged for ahead of time, so register today.

#### **Registration information**

Contact Darcy Yench (dryench@att.net) if you have any questions. Only one guest per registered member permitted — no exceptions. You can purchase your track-day tickets online directly from Road America. Weekend tickets are \$105 but advanced pricing ends July 27, 2016.

The schedule for the weekend has been posted on the Road America website.

Keep abreast of the latest news on Facebook, on our website (www.badgerbimmers.org) and watch your *bimmer immer* newsletter for information about this event. You MUST preregister for this event to be counted for lunches at http://www.motorsportreg.com.







## The Z16 Chevelle

the full-size Chevy, larger tires, and of course the legendary 396 cubic inch 375 horsepower motor. It was built with mandatory options like seat belts, special instrumentation including a 160 mph speedometer special high-rpm tachometer and an AM/FM Stereo sound system. No one could order one with the options they wanted — the cars were all specified by the Chevrolet performance leadership. When all was said and done, the car listed for \$4500+, well above the price of a GTO, 442 and most any other muscle car. In fact you could have gotten a Corvette for less money than the Chevelle Z16. So how does all this ancient history fit into the theme of "What's in Your Garage" you might ask?



#### Here's the package

Seen here is one of 60 Z16s that still exist, and what is believed to be the only one with the original power-train (engine, transmission and rear axle). As you might imagine, these cars were driven hard and put away wet with uncaring editors and other PR types thrashing the vehicles to an inch of their lives. They really did not give the car much quarter. As such, many of the Z16s required service replacement drive-train components.

This 100-point restored vehicle is a near-perfect example of the breed. I was fortunate enough to save it from the Arizona Auction block that would have likely taken it out of the US. It is a truly amazing example of muscle car history. For those of you who have gone to "Chili and a Movie," you had an opportunity to view this unique example of Chevrolet history.



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