

bimmerinner

May 2016

OUR MADISON BOARD MEETING

Inside...

- What's in Your Garage?
- Bimmers' June Car Show
- E30 Meet 'n' Greet



BMW Car Club
of America
Badger Bimmers





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Driving Events Coordinator

Erik Ivarson • eicarguy@wi.rr.com

Editor

Don Gawronski • dgphoto@sbcglobal.net

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Technical Service Advisor

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Editor • editor@badgerbimmers.org

Cover: Madison Board Meeting Attendees at Wisconsin Brewing Company

Photo by Larry O'Brien



2016 Calendar

May 7	Spring Clean Up: International Auto, Zimbrick BMW, Bergstrom BMW
May 12	Board Meeting – BMW of Milwaukee North (formerly Concours BMW)
May 21	E30 Picnic/Meet & Greet, Frame Park, Waukesha
June 4	Badger Bimmers 13th Annual Car Show at BMW of Milwaukee North
June 5	Wings 'n' Wheels benefit for Boys & Girls Club, Fort Atkinson
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.

**BMW Car Club
of America
Badger Bimmers**



BADGER BIMMERS

Presents their

13th Annual Car Show

**BMW of Milwaukee North
Saturday, June 4, 2016
10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

FREE for car show participants and spectators!

RAIN OR SHINE! In case of inclement weather, the show will be held indoors in BMW of Milwaukee North's showroom and service area.

Awards presented in 7 vehicle classes plus People's Choice at 2:00 pm

Complimentary light refreshments will be available for everyone courtesy of BMW of Milwaukee North.



BMW of Milwaukee North, 5990 N. Green Bay Avenue, Glendale WI 53209

From the President

Jeff Fait

A little calm before the storm



It's finally starting to feel a little like spring, after being tricked a time or two into a false start. The fair-weather cars are beginning to emerge from their winter slumber, and the calendar is rapidly filling up with fun car-related events of all kinds. The first track days, car shows, and cruises of the year are now on the horizon, queuing up all kinds of (fun) work in the garage and driveway. But it's still early enough to take our time and revel in the anticipation of things to come.

Thank you, Larry!

We held our annual Madison-area board and general membership meeting at **Wisconsin Brewing Company** in Verona on April 16th. **Larry O'Brien** set up a fantastic tour and lunch, and over 15 Club members took part. For me it was great fun to meet some new and old Club members — and eat more tacos than I should have. See Larry's full report later in this issue.

Upcoming events

I hope you have plans to attend the annual **Spring Car Clean-ups** on May 7th at **International BMW** in West Allis, **Zimbrick BMW** in Madison, and **Bergstrom BMW** in Appleton, and the **E30 Picnic/Meet and Greet** on May 21st at Frame Park in Waukesha. If you have any questions about the clean-ups, contact Dave Thuerk at 262-784-4180 or by e-mail at dthuerkm3@gmail.com. Interested in the E30 Picnic? Contact Tim Jason at tjason@versevo.com. These are fun, casual events and a great way to meet other Club members and see all sorts of BMWs and other vehicles.

2016 Driving events' schedule

I mentioned this last month but it's certainly worth mentioning again. Registration has opened at motorsportreg.com for our two **Blackhawk Farms** driver education events, happening on June 13th and August 1st. These are always a lot of fun. If you've never been to a Club HPDE event, either one of these would be a great way to try it out, see if you like it. Our Club driving instructors are awesome and do a great job of teaching safe driving techniques in a non-intimidating atmosphere. If you're still not sure, we also offer a program that allows you to attend the novice classroom sessions and take rides on the track with instructors in their cars.

The latest event information and details are always posted on our website, <http://www.badgerbimmers.org>.

See you soon!

bj

What's in Your Garage?

'I thought you said you owned a BMW!'

Report and photos by Paul Zschaechner

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.

Many times I have remembered those words from a BMW Isetta advertisement. The lady in that ad had a surprised look on her face. I recall my feeling of amazement the first time I saw the little car going past our Wisconsin farm, on State Road 76. It was about 1959 when I fell in love, at the age of nine. Maybe, if my first excitement over a car had been seeing a Bugatti, my life would have been different. Our neighbor bought the 1958 Isetta for his son, so he could commute to high school. The damage was complete, when Edward stopped by and gave me a ride. This was quite the experience, since my dad was driving Kaisers, and my other mechanized transportation revolved around my operation of a WC Allis Chalmers tractor.

Cruel death, stormy rebirth

The little, light green car served its owner well, for a few years. I recall seeing it all dressed up as an insect, sitting on top of a homecoming float. Something along the lines, "We will squash our oppo-

nents like a bug."

Thirteen horsepower, and zero-to-the-top-speed of 55 mph in a long time, while trying to keep up with the V-8s. The broken valve, lodged between the head and the only piston in the 300cc engine, killed it. My dad bought the car, "as is," for about \$50.00.

Mostly, to keep my brother and myself from harassing him, my dad bought all the engine parts from Sears and Roebuck. Before getting time to put the engine back together, renters broke into the car and scattered the parts. My brother bought the car from my dad. Then, around 1973, I bought the car from my brother for about \$100.00.



Part of the heritage

For a long time, "real" BMW owners did not want to recognize that the Italian designed car was part of the history of quality built, German automobiles. Transitioning from the Messerschmitt, Heinkel, and BMW military aircraft, to a healthy, car manufacturing industry, was difficult.

Interest in the micro cars was slow and isolated, until about the 1970's. I left the car sit in my garage until I saw one at the Appleton Car Show, about 1984. I befriended the micro car "nut," and soon, I was off and running. I had never restored a car, but before



Continued on page 14

Madison Board Meeting 2016

Report by Larry O'Brien

Larry O'Brien is a Board member and Madison-area liaison. Thank you, Larry, for pulling all this together!
—Ed.

The Badger Bimmers' Board of Directors met for its April meeting at the **Wisconsin Brewing Company** on a near-perfect Saturday morning. Club president, Jeff Fait, convened the meeting out on the veranda and moved through the agenda with his usual expedience. Then he and the group moved inside to enjoy some of WBC's wonderful brews — in almost mass quantities (the place pumps out a wide variety of good stuff) — later to tuck into Pasqual's delightful taco bar for lunch.

WBC has expanded significantly since we were last there, continuing to use Wisconsin produce and equipment almost exclusively.

We had a particularly good group of area members and guests, some for the first time, who found out what a fine group of Bimmers we have.

Many thanks to WBC, Pasqual's and all the folks who came for the party and, oh yes, for the Board meeting.

bj

*Photographs by
Larry O'Brien and DAG*



Our tour guides





DRIVER'S SCHOOL
RAFFLE PRIZE

1984 - 1993

**E-30
3-SERIES**



E30 PICNIC.

May 21 | 10AM - 3PM | Frame Park



FREE FOOD AND BEVERAGE!

FRAME PARK - 1240 FRAME PARK DR. WAUKESHA, WI 53186

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer contact: Tim Jason - tjason@versevo.com



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BMW

— OF —

MILWAUKEE NORTH

Isetta restoration



I knew it, my ping-pong table was loaded down with parts that I was detailing. The maiden voyage was almost the last, since the battery is located directly below the seat springs — “a hot ride” took on a new meaning. For luck, I did not have the seat fully bolted in, so I was able to throw the seat out of the car. Isettas have only a single front door. The order of abandoning the ship was as follows: My wife, my son, and finally, the captain. My wife still laughs about my “burning” posterior.

A lot of car shows later, many interested attendees, and more recently, our trailering of the Isetta to micro-car meets in the U.S. and Canada, affirms the notion that little cars are more popular than I would have ever guessed. Mr. Bugatti, you have nothing on us.

(Written at the encouragement of my friend, Dale Kressin.) **bj**

~Paul Zschaechner

Driving School Insurance

Many automobile insurance policies now exclude coverage for events that take place on a race track. The only way to know whether or not your policy still covers driving schools is to read your policy. If you find that your policy does not cover our driving schools, you can purchase event insurance from Lockton Affinity Motorsports (<http://locktonmotorsports.com/product/track-insurance/>). BMW CCA members get a discount on the purchase of both single- and multiple-event driving school insurance. **bj**



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