

**BMW Car Club
of America
Iowa Chapter**



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

IOWA CHAPTER BMW CCA • www.bmwia.org

NEWSWERKS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA CHAPTER BMW CCA

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Calendar of Events: September 2015-February 2016

Events, club activities, and all happenings BMW

November 2015 January 2016

November 10
Informal Social
Buzzard Billy's
Des Moines

November 15
Annual Planning Meeting
Smoky D's
2nd Ave, Des Moines

December 2015
December 3
Jolly Holiday Lights Drive & Dinner
Des Moines

January 12
Informal Social
Smoky D's
2nd Ave.
Des Moines

February 2016
February 6
Annual Dinner
Des Moines
Speaker - James Clay
(Owner & Driver for Bimmerworld)

February 9
Informal Social
A Dong
Des Moines

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Roundel, BMW CCA, Inc.
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Greenville, SC 29601

Or email to: BMWCCclub@aol.com (yes, 2"C's)
Or on the website: BMWCCA.org

NEWSWERKS

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NEWSWERKS is published for the Iowa Chapter of BMW Car Club of America.

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Please submit material suitable for publication to:
Becky Brighton at: newsletter@bmwia.org

President's Corner

by David Brighton

My son Kolin and I attended our first Oktoberfest in Colorado in 2002. We did not know exactly what to expect, so we joined the caravan of members from all over the Midwest and eastern parts leaving from Omaha. During this venture, we met many of the car club friends we still have today. We shared a condo with Jeff Goman and his wife, Sheridan White and his wife, and another couple from Colorado. That started a long string of O'fests our family has now attended.

If you have never attended an O'fest and/or only attend one in your lifetime, next year should be the one. Held for the second time in three years in California, the last one was such a smashing success, a second one is scheduled for 2016. The following excerpt is from the BMW CCA National website promoting next year's BMW celebration.

O'Fest 2016 will be part of a once-in-a-lifetime celebration spanning almost two weeks in honor of BMW's 100th anniversary. The event will be held in conjunction with two other favorite club events—Legends of the Autobahn and the Festorics Turn Five corral—so you do not want to miss this historic event. The host hotel for O'fest will be the Hyatt Monterey and the track is, of course, the thrilling Laguna Seca Raceway. Yes, finally you, too, will drive the Corkscrew! Monterey is known for incredible scenery, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Fisherman's Wharf, and the nearby vineyards in Carmel Valley making this location the perfect setting for the centennial celebration and O'Fest!



Oktoberfest will run from Tuesday, August 23 through Sunday, August 28, 2016, and will feature many of the staples that longtime attendees have become familiar with at previous gatherings, including the Bridgestone autocross, Pirelli Concours, rallies, and of course, high-performance driving events. This year's edition will also feature some very unique social events—a beach party along the Monterey Bay, a strolling dinner at Holman Ranch with stunning mountain views, and the BMW NA Awards Banquet at the Hyatt with some very special guests to end the week.

Hope to see you there.

Thanks to the sponsors of the 2014 Annual Dinner

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Save the Date - February 6, 2016 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

The 2016 Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet date has been set for **February 6, 2016**. BMW of Des Moines will open their new showroom for us to tour, explore and dine in their exciting new location. Special featured speaker will be James Clay, owner and driver of the BimmerWorld race team, which competes in the Continental Tire Challenge sports car series. Put the date on your calendar now so you don't miss this exciting night!



Annual Planning Meeting

by Alison Bell

The Iowa Chapter is looking for a few good men/women to help plan and chair events in 2016! Have you ever thought of an idea for an event, but weren't sure how to make it a reality? Did we host something that you enjoyed in the past, but we don't do it anymore? Come out to Smokey D's BBQ on 2nd St. on **Sunday, November 15, at 12:00 noon** and help us plan the 2016 calendar of events. We have a party room reserved at Smokey D's, one of the best BBQ joints in the state of Iowa. Their competition winning BBQ has been featured on Guy Fieri's show, Diners Drive-Ins & Dives, on the Food Network, and

they've won over 700 local, regional and national BBQ awards! After lunch, we'll brainstorm ideas, and start to form the 2016 calendar.

Please RSVP to Alison Bell at alison.bell@bmwia.org by November 10 to reserve your place at the table. We need to have a fairly accurate count of attendees so we know how much delicious lunch to order.

Hope to see you there!

Jolly Holiday Lights and Dinner

by Rick Talbot

It's scheduled for **Thursday, Dec 3 2015**; meeting at 6pm on the east side of Fleur Drive in the park across from the entrance to Jolly Holiday Lights (Water Works Park, 2201 George Flagg Parkway). Shortly thereafter, we'll "parade" across the street for seeing the Jolly Holiday Lights. Optional dinner will follow at Bordenaro's Pizza at 6108 SW 9th St.

"Light Up a Child's Life® at Jolly Holiday Lights, a great holiday tradition from November 25 thru January 1! Join your Iowa Chapter BMWCCA friends, bundle up the family and enjoy a 3.5 mile ride through magical light displays. 100% of admission fees go directly to Make-A-Wish® Iowa!"

Jolly Holiday Lights is a drive-through holiday light display that is annually set up by Make-A-Wish Iowa in Des Moines' Water Works Park. The event raised enough money in 2013 to grant the wishes of more than 35 kids in Iowa! Don't forget to get your picture taken with Santa (\$10) and enjoy a cookie and cocoa at Santa's Wish Shop! The gift shop, located at the end of the route, has snacks, Santa and small gift items. All proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish Iowa. Admission Prices: \$10 per car.

Tickets can be purchased at Des Moines area Hy-Vee, Casey's or Dahl's stores. However, no ticket is necessary. You may pay at the gate."

Iowa Cubs Recap

by David Trachtenberg

On Sunday August 30, our chapter watched the Iowa Cubs beat Sacramento 9-1. This annual event at Principal Park was a sell-out. We enjoyed both indoor and outdoor seating in two connected skybox suites. Like previous years, we showed some beautiful BMW's in front of the ballpark during the game. While watching the game, we had some great food and drink catered by the ballpark. If you missed this event, join us next year for what has become one of our most popular annual events.

See you next season. Play Ball!!!





Fall Colors Tour Recap

by Drew Hillman

October 10 marked the date for the fall color tour to Hannibal, MO. 15 people in 8 cars gathered at the Press Box Bar and Grill in Mt. Pleasant. After lunch there was a short drivers meeting and we departed heading towards the Iowa/Illinois border.

After crossing the border, the group turned south to follow the Mississippi River. The trees had just started turning color as the weather got cooler. The roads following the Mississippi provided for a scenic view and windy roads. Turning west brought us into Hannibal, MO, the birthplace of Mark Twain.

After arriving at the Sleep Inn, Hannibal's newest hotel, there was time to relax and do some sight seeing in Hannibal, MO before dinner. There are many attractions revolving around the life and stories

of Mark Twain, including the white picket fence from the Adventures of Tom Sawyer, which you could help white wash.

Dinner included a tour on the Mark Twain Riverboat. We set off at sunset with the Captain giving us a brief history of the sights along the banks. After the sun set dinner was served, followed by live music.

Sunday morning began with a hot breakfast at the hotel, after everyone was able to check out. Five cars and 11 people participated in a short morning drive. Heading south towards Saverton on Highway 79, cutting over to Route T via Route N. The morning tour provided some of the best driving roads of the weekend, ending at the scenic overlook.



Tire Rack Street Survival Recap

by Peter Kovacevich

Twenty students attended the October 4 Tire Rack Street Survival School at Iowa Speedway.

Locally, more than 250 students have received hands-on driving instruction at Street Survival since 2005.

For those of you not familiar with Street Survival, students received both classroom and in-car instruction. During the in-car exercises, Street Survival students gained hands-on experience controlling skids on a wet skid pad, performing threshold breaking/ABS exercises and learning about weight transfer on a slalom course. Students also had the privilege of taking touring laps on the Iowa Speedway oval as part of their graduation ceremony.

None of this would be possible without the generous financial support of the Premier Chevy Dealers and efforts of volunteers from the Des Moines Valley Region SCCA and Iowa Chapter BMWCCA. Thanks also go to Anderson Erickson Dairy, DMACC, Des Moines Fire Department, Interstate Battery, In the Bag, Interstate Battery, Newton Police Department, Newton Water Works, O'Reillys, Wrench and Go, and TIG Distributing for their support.



Des Moines Concours d'Elegance™ Recap

by David Brighton

The Iowa Chapter, BMW CCA was proud to be part of the 2015 Des Moines Concours d'Elegance™ held at the Pappajohn Sculpture Park on September 13. Our Club was an exhibitor with a tent in the car club section of the show and also promoted The Tire Rack Street Survival™ program from a second tent in the vendor area. Club representatives manned both tents and were

able to promote our club and programs by visiting with spectators as they passed our locations while viewing the beautiful and historic automobiles. The Des Moines Concours d'Elegance™ is the premier automotive exhibition held at the Midwest each year and presents an invitation-only exhibition of more than 100 vintage and classic motor vehicles.



Oktoberfest 2015 or “How I spent My Summer Vacation”

by Alison Bell

“Why would you go to New Jersey??” my friends and co-workers asked when I said where I was headed on vacation. What they didn’t understand was that the location itself was only secondary. We’d probably go to Timbuktu if the annual BMW CCA “family reunion” was held there. We may say we’re going for the race tracks, or the fancy hotels, but it’s really the people. People from our own chapters, but also people from all over this great nation that we see but once per year and look forward to seeing again next year.

Oktoberfest 2015 was held September 21-25 in Absecon, New Jersey, at the Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club, just 15 minutes away from Atlantic City. The historic hotel was the site of Grace Kelly’s Sweet Sixteen party, so that gives you some idea of the settings we were surrounded by. The hotel played host to most of the evening dinners, as well as the Spaten Beer Garden. It looked like rain all morning on Tuesday, but the clouds parted and we had a great morning for the Concours. No Iowa Chapter participants this year, but many beautiful cars and even motorcycles and the Wiley’s barn find the Farmobil.

Then right after lunch on Tuesday, due to a compressed schedule this year, we headed off to start the TSD rally. For those that don’t rally, the goal is to arrive at each checkpoint exactly on time. You’re given a set of route instructions, and in those instructions you are given speeds at which you must average, and though you don’t know where each checkpoint is, somehow arrive on time. Now this may seem simple, but sometimes your odometer can be off (especially if you’re running your smaller diameter

track wheels/tires), or perhaps you missed a speed change. There are different classes that you can participate in, depending on your level of experience and equipment. Class A is for the serious rallyists, who run Timewise rally computers and are practically professionals. Class B can use laptop computers and handheld GPS devices, and Class C can use a simple 4-function calculator and whatever equipment your car comes with, whether it be navigation, or the onboard computer. Our rallymaster also had a

tiebreaker portion, looking for pictures tacked up on trees or telephone poles of the local legend of the Jersey Devil. You may have seen in the news recently that someone out there claims to have seen the Jersey Devil while out on the road. After a fun jaunt through the Pine Barrens of Southern New Jersey, and only one Jersey Devil sighting (supposedly there were 6...), we arrived at the end. Team Fugawi, consisting of myself as driver, and my dad, Fred Bell, as navigator, secured 2nd place in Class C. Jan & Candy Gerber won first place in Class B.

Due to the observance of Yom Kippur on Wednesday the 23rd, we were all given a free day.

We thought about going into Philadelphia to see the sights, but with the Pope’s upcoming visit, we decided it might be better not to. Instead, we spent the day trying to work through the Fun Rally, which led us further south along the Jersey Shore, into Atlantic City and into Margate (home of Lucy the Elephant, which used to be a house), and other small towns along the seashore. You could run through all of the streets found in Monopoly, and then some. Other options for the day included a trip the Simeone Automobile Museum in Philadelphia.



Thursday and Friday for most meant either autocross in Atlantic City or track time at New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville. NJMP has two tracks on the property of an old airfield, Lightning and Thunderbolt. First-timers were on Lightning, and the more experienced students on Thunderbolt. Thunderbolt was a fun track, fairly technical, and not too hard on brakes. Since we only had one day there, it was pretty easy to learn the line and then work on specific areas from there. The autocross took place on the runways of the former Atlantic City airport, at Bader Field. The course was pretty straight forward and very fast. Because they had huge wide runways to work with, they were able to use a ton of real estate to lay out the course. Using Scott Smed's 1 M coupe, our resident chef Don Van Lengen scored 3rd place in class.

Friday night's awards banquet took place at the Resorts Casino Theater in Atlantic City. Our guest speakers for the evening were current and former BMW Motorsport drivers Bill Auberlen and Brian Redman. I especially enjoyed hearing Brian's stories of the 1975 season with the drivers having to drive the team motorhome and cars between race venues and trying to explain to the American race fans what BMW actually stood for. Their amazing win at Sebring helped bring forth the program we all know today as

BMW Motorsport and the great drivers like Bill. They also revealed who won that special Dinan M4 we all bought raffle tickets for. Sorry, nobody from Iowa this year... but as us Cub fans say, "There's always next year!"

For those that haven't been to Oktoberfest, it's really hard to explain what all goes on at such a big event. It's more than just the cars, or the racetracks, it's the lifelong friends you make over a glass of Spaten. Telling stories of how the Houston Road Monkeys traveled to this year's venue, or how you lost your brakes at Canada corner at Road America. It's always a little bit sad when dinner is over Friday and you say your goodbyes to your friends. "Until next year" we say. And we do mean next year, because as soon as you leave, you start planning for how much time off you'll need and different things to see on the way there. Oktoberfest 2016 will be in Monterey, California again... Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca...need I say more? It is the 100th anniversary of BMW, and thus BMW will be the featured marque at the Monterey Historics and at Pebble Beach. So if you haven't already started making plans to see your BMW family in August 2016, better start now. We'll be looking for you there!





Who I am:

I am an electrical engineer, working for an aerospace avionics company in eastern Iowa. This 27 year stint comes after a bunch of years as a self employed sound and lighting contractor and a couple college degrees before that.

I have been working on vehicles since childhood with my family. I grew up on a farm, and by necessity we had to work on lots of equipment, including cars. In the past 15 plus years I have taken to finding inexpensive well used vehicles, but ones that still showed 'good bones.' I give these enough TLC to make them a reliable inexpensive transportation for my family, or I make these vehicles available for needy families in the area. The down side of this is these vehicles end up coming back to my home for their regular maintenance and service, which makes the fleet I by default maintain pretty large. My current personal fleet stands at seven. Three VW TDIs, a Lexus, a 15 passenger van, and two BMWs. The important cars are: a 1995 M3 which is a nicely modified and dedicated track car, and a 2006 325i daily driver. Those two are the current members of the BMW line, but there have been seven before this.

There has been an E30, a couple Ti's, three models of 325i, a 525 and a 318i. The number of vehicles that I have licensed at one time or another at best recollection is fifty-five.

I am a member of the Iowa chapter BMW CCA, a HPDE track day driving instructor, and an instructor for Street Survival.

Since I have worked on so many different vehicle brands and models, I feel qualified to write about a real variety of car issues. As an electrical engineer, I can explain in an understandable manner some of the more interesting electrical problems I have come across. I can explore the trouble-shooting techniques used in uncovering these problems, but mostly just share the day-to-day stories that come from working with cars.

When I first started buying BMWs, I was misinformed that the BMW owners are snooty elitist drivers that never wrench on their own ride. I was pleased to find out there is a large contingent who like working on as well as driving their own ultimate driving machine. It is to this crowd that I hope to provide input and entertainment.

Bryan McCoy

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The Joys of Detailing

Rail Dust and Clay



A topic that is often misunderstood is the concept of rail dust and cleaning your ride with clay. We see a lot of misconceptions about it. Let's review what this is really all about. We will break this down into two topics. The first will be defining what rail dust is and the second topic will be about claying your ride.

To begin with, what is rail dust? Rail dust refers to those very fine shards of metal that become embedded in your ride's paint. They show up as tiny, pin head sized brown dots and will have a rough or gritty feel as you

run your hand over it. Rail dust originally got its name because it was first noticed by people who lived close to railroad tracks. As the trains would go by, fine metal shards of dust would be kicked up by the trains metal-to-metal contact between the train wheels and the rails. These small metal particles would then be found deposited onto their cars.

Since most of us don't live close to railroad tracks, I'll bet you're asking how it got there. That's easy; the rail dust comes from driving on our streets. Have you ever noticed that our concrete streets, driveways and



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sidewalks rust? Here in the Midwest, the limestone that is used to make concrete for our roads contains iron. As you drive over our concrete roads, very small amounts of the road surface is worn away. The iron particles from the limestone are kicked loose and embed themselves into your ride's paint. Rail dust is found most often on your ride in the high turbulence areas. These areas would be defined as the front of your ride, behind the wheels and on the rear bumper area.

It is important to remove rail dust from our rides on a regular basis. Since it is rusting iron, left on your ride, it will eventually rust its way through your paint, chrome and other finishes. The good news is that it is easy to remove if done correctly. Rail dust will not be removed with just washing or waxing. It must be removed by



using a clay bar. Now before you run into your house and grab a bar of your kid's Play-Doh or your wife's floral arranging clay, you need to know that there is clay that is made specifically for this

task. You can purchase it at places where automotive care products are sold. You will find that it often comes in a fine and a medium grade. For most cases, the fine clay is what you want to use. The medium clay is coarser and is used to remove contaminants like paint overspray and very bad cases of rail dust. You will also need a clay lubricant spray. As you can guess, clay will not just glide over your ride's paint. Plus, clay is

abrasive and it will scratch the surface without a proper lubricant. Using a lubricant spray that is specifically designed to be used with clay will make the job go quickly and easily while also acting to protect your paint from the abrasive effects. Used correctly, the clay will remove the rail dust and other surface contaminants without harming or scratching the surface in any way. Please be sure to use only the lubricant that the manufacturer recommends for their clay bar to ensure the best compatibility.

Now finally, how do you use the clay? It's very easy. Be sure your ride is clean and has been washed. Take the clay and form it into a pancake shape about the size of your palm. Then simply spray the lubricant onto a 2' by 2' area and rub the clay over the paint. As the clay picks up the contaminants and becomes soiled, simply fold the dirty surface of the clay in on its self and flatten into your palm for a fresh, clean surface. Use plenty of lubricant. When finished, wipe away the excess lubricant. There you go! Now enjoy your rail dust free ride!

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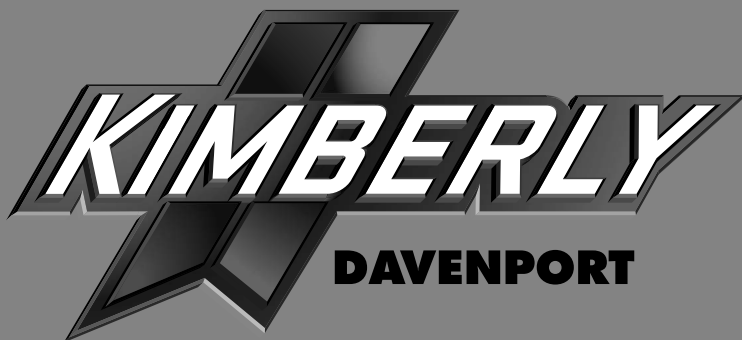
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