

October 2015

bimmer immer

OKTOBERFAST '15

Inside...

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- OktoberFAST • What's in Your Garage?

BMW Car Club
of America
Badger Bimmers





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Cover: On the grid at *Road America*

Photo by David Burman



2015 Calendar

October 10

October 24

BMW Winter Prep Tech Session at European Auto House in Mequon

Northern Wisconsin Tour. Details on page 12.

2016

January 9

February 6

Annual Holiday Party and Board Meeting at Golden Mast Restaurant

Chili and a Movie. Details on page 4.

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
Concours Motors • 5990 N. Green Bay Ave. • Glendale, WI.**

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

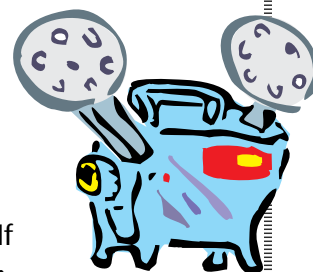
News of Note...

Save the Date



'Chili and a Movie' Once Again

Where: **Ron's Toy Barn**
678 N. Progress Drive • Saukville
When: **February 6, 2016 11am 'till 6pm**



Come join us! Enjoy some great member-prepared chili and a race movie. If you bring chili (6 quarts) the event is free; if not, the cost is \$5.00 per person, which will be donated to **Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin**. Beverages will be provided. You must be at least 18 to attend. There's more information about this event on our website, and registration is open at **motorsportreg.com**.

But bring your own chair!

Attendance is limited to 25 people, so register early on **Motorsportreg.com**.

Save the Date

Annual Holiday Dinner



January 9, 2016

Dinner will be held at
**Weissgerber's
Golden Mast
on Okauchee Lake**

Cash bar & appetizers at 6:30
Dinner at 7:30



Menu items, cost,
possible entertainment,
and registration information
will be announced in
our next issue.



From the President

Jeff Fait

Tracking Out of Summer

The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting cooler, but there have been plenty of things going on around the Club!

Upcoming Badger Bimmer Board Elections

It's time to start thinking about the leadership of YOUR Club! Every year, half the officers and Board of Badger Bimmers is up for election for a two-year term. This year, the positions up for grabs are Vice President, Secretary, two Board Member-at-Large positions, and the Fox Valley Liaison. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please contact one of the current Board members via our web site for more information. We need your candidate statements and intent to run for office within the next couple of weeks. Participation at this level in the Club is a very rewarding experience!



Champagne Picnic

September 12th saw the revival of the **Champagne Picnic**, and it was a great time! It was a lot of fun to meet friends and Club members from other parts of the state and also enjoy some delicious food and drink in a beautiful setting on a gorgeous day. Hopefully this will continue on as an annual event! Thank you to the **Wrights** for so generously sharing their home!

OktoberFAST

WOW! Three years in a row of stellar weather and thrilling experiences for *OktoberFAST* at **Road America**, September 25-27. I don't think there's a better setting or a better group of people for a driver's education event. See the article a little later in this issue for story and photos.

Appleton Board Meeting

On October 3rd, we had our annual Fox Valley area Board and general membership meeting at **Enterprise BMW** in Appleton. We had a delicious lunch and interesting tour of the newly remodeled BMW dealership facility there. A big thank you to **Ron Hayes** from Enterprise for hosting the event and to **Dale Kressin** for setting it up!

Northern Fall Tour

On October 24th, we will have a **Fall Tour** drive up to northern Wisconsin. **Dale Kressin** and **Paul Zschaechner** have set up a very scenic and fun driving route for a day trip, starting in Appleton, running up through Keshena, and ending back in Appleton. Please be sure to sign up by e-mailing Dale at dale@vin.com.

Don't forget — please take a moment to visit our web site (www.badgerbimmers.org) to see the full event calendar to be sure you don't miss anything.

bj

CALL FOR CANDIDATES



Ron Pace

In this year's election for seats on the Badger Bimmers' Board of Directors, five positions will go up for grabs: Vice President, Secretary, two Board Members-at-large, and our Appleton area Liaison.

Board members **Bill Nicoud** and **Cindy Ansay** are in the last months of their second consecutive terms, so they will not be running for re-election. Incumbents **Ron Pace**, Vice President and **David Thuerk**, Secretary, are also bumping up against term limits. **Dale Kressin**, Appleton Liaison, will be campaigning for his second term.

Thus far, we have two declared candidates for the Board seats: members **Dan Frodl** and **Alan Swatek**.

Our Club by-laws prohibit serving more than two consecutive terms, in the roster position; however there is room for interpretation that an incumbent may run for a third term if there is no opposing candidate and she/he wishes to do so.

Many recent election cycles have seen that happen. That hardly seems fair since a very small group of members do all the work and, more importantly, may steer the Club in directions you might like to improve upon, which is surely not fair to you, our thousand-or-so-members-not-being-heard. Such phenomena have also been known to result in very stodgy organizations, which would be a sad fate for Badger Bimmers given how dynamic the Club has been.

The best solution? **Step up and run for an office.**
It's easy... and you'll have some *very well experienced*
Board members to help you!

The next issue of *bimmer immer* will present all the candidates along with their personal statements, and a ballot that can be mailed in for tabulation, or submitted at the Holiday Dinner,
January 9, 2016.

Run if you can, vote regardless!



David Thuerk



Dale Kressin



Alan Swatek

2015 OktoberFAST: Spectacular!

Report by Jeff Fait

Photos by David Burman

An event of this magnitude is a monumental undertaking. Huge heapings of thanks go out to everyone involved with making this happen. Thank you all!

OktoberFAST — Badger Bimmers' premier High Performance Driving Education (HPDE) event — was held September 25-27 at Elkhart Lake's *Road America*.

Nearly 200 students enjoyed the world-class 4.01 mile track circuit under the tutelage of a great driving instructor corps. Classroom and track sessions geared for everyone from first-time novices to seasoned (grizzled?) veterans meant that each and every person had the chance to learn something new and safely hone their driving skills on one of America's legendary road racing courses.

Saturday's track activities were followed by a banquet at the **Osthoff** resort in Elkhart Lake, where we enjoyed a great buffet dinner and told plenty of tall tales about the day's escapades.

Driving Events Coordinator Erik Ivarson adds, "We had 448 people come to RA. Of those, 192 were on track: 51 advanced, 41 intermediate, 20 novice and 52 instructors and 32 staff."

bj



Champagne Picnic Revival 20

September 12, 2015



Photo by Howard Stearn, Sony NEX-6, Tarot 680

Report by Bill Nicoud

This year the **Wright family** hosted a revival of the 1980's champagne picnic, an annual event formerly hosted for years by **Tom and Jan Rost**. The Wrights have been Badger Bimmer members since the early '80s and have many fond memories of picnics at the Rost's Cedarburg home. The Wrights hosted the event on the grounds of their beautiful home in Fort Atkinson, WI. The house is perched on a hillside overlooking the Jefferson county countryside.

The day started a little cool but clear. As the day wore on, the sun brought temps up to a comfortable level. Thirty-one cars and two tractors were on display throughout the course of the day. A wide variety of BMWs and non-BMWs covered the grounds in front of the Wrights' estate: 2002s, 3-Series, 5-Series, 8-Series, M-Series, Porsches, Ferraris, even a Volvo wagon, were on hand. Several people who attended the '80s picnics were in attendance to kick off this revival.

The Club provided brats and beverages. Yes, including a limited amount of champagne for adults.

Attendees brought dishes for all to pass. Needless to say, no one went home hungry. Salads, desserts, and side dishes of all kinds were available.

People's Choice 1973 3.0 CS

One People's Choice award was given this year — a difficult decision, given the variety and condition of the cars and tractors on display. Special thanks goes to **Scott Anders** for providing the Club with the unique award for the People's Choice winner. A beautiful, engraved presentation box and folding wine table were presented to **Luis Arisso**. Luis and **Ann Arisso** arrived in an amazing Golf Yellow 1973 3.0 CS.

Attendees enjoyed good food and a beautiful venue, along with a wide variety of fine cars and shared stories, both old and new.

The Wrights would like to make this an annual event, and with a little help from the Club and our membership, this could become a reality.

bj

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2015 Badger Blimmers
Champagne Picnic Revival
People's Choice Award
The Wright Estate - Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

Hexacopter



Ground-level photography by
Peter Wright and Bill Nicoud



Is There a *Perfect* BMW?

One Man's Odyssey

First of a Series by Chris Favero

I am not your typical BMW aficionado. I have been a member of the BMW fan club since '07 when I first leased my 328xi. When that lease was up, I migrated to a 135i convertible that I absolutely adored for a few years. I traded up from a 135i to a M235, but lost the convertible for a coupe and gained the manual shifter. Now, don't get me wrong, I love the M235i. It's fast, nimble and has all the bells and whistles I would want. It even has the manual transmission that I believe many drool over.

But it's Just Not for Me.

Over the course of time since I bought the M235i coupe, I changed jobs and my commute went from less than 10 minutes to well over 45 minutes. Yes, I know... first world problems. I work with Technology and I type a lot. I mean, A LOT. I am getting older and between the typing and longer drive with shifting in rush hour, my right wrist is showing its age. I'm 42 so I'm not *that* old, but age is age and I don't really want to get into the carpal tunnel surgery line just yet. I also found out another thing about my love of BMWs. I love Convertibles. I really REALLY missed my 135 convertible. So I began the uphill discussion with the wife of what I was going to do about the drive and the car.



Call Me Idiosyncratic...

Here is where I will diverge from (and probably anger) over 60%+ of the BMW CCA membership. I like the new BMWs more than the older ones. I don't care if there is no dipstick. I don't care that it's harder to work on. I don't work on my cars anymore. I like to drive my cars all year 'round and I love convertibles.

One more thing that may incense the readership...I also love gadgets. The more gadgets in my car the better if you ask me. Real-time traffic notifi-

cation? Yes, please. Tweeting from my IDrive? Yes and yes again! I also don't track my car, so there. I have found that I desperately miss the automatic from my 135! You forget how much work is involved shifting when you don't have one. Then you get one and it's all wonderful for the first six months until it loses its luster. At least it did for me.

Okay, now that this young upstart has sufficiently angered the readership, lets plunge on in the story.

Finally the Answer

I had always said that there was a "holy trinity" to my definition of my "perfect car." *If only BMW would make an M235 XDrive in a soft top.* Early this year my prayers were answered!

I saw that in mid-year 2015, BMW announced that they would be making an M235 XDrive convertible — I knew that this was what I was looking for. You could not actually build it online, I found out, since this new model was available only if you downloaded all the build sheets and wrote it up yourself. You then had to go to the dealer and walk them through ordering it manually once it became available in the system. I took the liberty of doing just that — *building out the car!*

I would like to preface the following build with one small fact. I am a HUGE Spider-man fan. I mean HUGE. I am 42 work in I.T. and I'm still a Marvel-comic-subscription-kind-of-fan. Yes, I am a Nerd, and as Peter Parker says, "With great power comes great responsibility." Now that we have that out of the way... check out the details of my build (page 14).

I basically have all the options except the nanny-state lane-deviation warning items, and I ordered the car in Spiderman Blue and Red! I have built my very own Spidey-Mobile!

As of this writing I am confirmed to be taking delivery in Spartanburg, SC at the Performance Center and will be documenting the whole ordeal as it progresses. I am set to take delivery in mid-November. There was a small blip in the communication from BMW as they had my e-mail address wrong, but after 11 days of not receiving a confirmation, I e-mailed them and my Sales Advisor and it was all fixed.

Continued on page 14

What's in Your Garage?

Daily Driver to Full-blown Track Car

Report and photos by Alan Swatek

We'd like to know **What's in Your Garage?** It's simple: tell us about your car. What you like (or dislike) about it, how you drive it, maintain it, name it, bathe it, talk to it, fondle it.... Whatever. It's all relevant. Jot down a few words, take a few mug shots of yourself and your favorite ride (BMW or not), and send it all to **Tim Jason**, Membership Chairman, at tjason@versevo.com. Everyone's waiting to hear from you. —Ed.

After retiring from administrative duties at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2004, I became much more active in the car scene, including car clubs, shows, and track events. Presently, I belong to Badger Bimmers, the North Woods Shelby Club, the Audi Club, and the Wisconsin SVT (Ford) Owners Association. You may recognize me as one of the crew members of the weekly Brew City Cruise Night. I'm the guy who greets you when you arrive.

One of My Favorite Things

Tracking has become one of my favorite aspects of the car hobby. Using my 1999 Ford Mustang GT as a platform, I started by taking this stock daily driver to the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, IL. I wondered why everyone else had trailered their cars and were working feverishly on jacked vehicles. It didn't take long to realize what track laps can do to stock parts, so I soon began the process of converting the old GT into a dedicated track vehicle.

I did the standard modifications including a tune, brake pads, and tires, followed by suspension and brake upgrades, racing seats and five-point belts. When I added a roll cage, I permanently crossed the line from street to track — so I went on to install a Ford Racing Boss 302

crate engine, a Tremec TKO 600 transmission, Eaton differential, and custom exhaust system.

I have now reached the point where only the sheet metal (some of it) and the glass remain from the original Mustang. Of course, I also had to obtain a trailer to house the GT and a pickup truck to tow the rig.



Big Plans for 2016

All of this aside, the most important aspect of the car hobby is social. It's the people whom you meet and the friendships that you make that define the experience. I am so grateful for these relationships and it has been wonderful to have been welcomed into so many communities.

Though some health issues derailed my 2015 season, I can't wait for 2016. My plans include track events at Road America, Autobahn Country Club, Black Hawk Farms, and perhaps Gingerman Raceway in Michigan. I will stay busy this winter planning more modifications and ordering parts and tools for the new season. I have my eye on the new Ranger portable hydraulic lifts and perhaps an air compressor.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Brew City Cruise Night events and, of course, at the track.

bj

Badger Bimmers 2015 Fall Tour: Keshena

By Paul Zschaechner & Dale Kressin

Join us on **October 24th** for a driving tour from Appleton heading north. You'll enjoy beautiful, winding rural roads, **Shawano Lake**, as well as river and forest views, and have a chance to appreciate the **Menomonee Reservation** topography and the historic events of the seizure of the famous **Novitiate**.

Treat Your Palate, too

We will have an opportunity to fuel up at Kwik Trip, near **Enterprise Motors** in Appleton, where we'll have a brief social and drivers' meeting from 9:30 to 10 a.m. We'll leave on our tour at 10:00 a.m., traveling through the country on winding roads northward through **Shiocton** and on to **Shawano**. We will enjoy views of the Wolf River at **Bamboo Bend**, stop briefly to honor the history that unfolded at the Novitiate Ruins and view Shawano Lake from a county park. We'll break for lunch in Shawano at a cozy local restaurant called the **Farm Inn on Main** (www.farminnonmain.com). Your tour guides strongly suggest you accept the temptation to select bakery to take home. Orders for fresh baked bread (a wide selection) or other treats can be placed a few days before the trip (715-524-4916) and they will be ready for us when we arrive.

The Shotgun Eddy's Stretch

We continue on to **Keshena Falls** and then through Menomonee County along 19 miles of U.S. Highway 55. The trip north on U.S. 55 is a sports car/motorcycle paradise. The serenity of the overhanging tree canopy makes you feel as though you want it to last forever. If the tree canopy has thinned out in late October, we can enjoy wider views of the terrain. Still, the many curves in this 19 mile stretch are a little too tempting for a "casual" drive. There are many pull-outs, where slower traffic should move over, but often doesn't. So we may get separated on this stretch. We'll go as far as **Shotgun Eddy's**, (whitewater rafters) where we'll wait for any trailing cars at the Hwy. W/WW turn to the east.

Anyone have an idea why we could lose drivers in Shotgun Eddie's area? Badger Bimmer members are safe drivers, so little worry!



Home Before Dark

We will take a rest and fuel stop just south of **Mountain**, on 32/64. The drive back to the south takes us through **Cecil**, **Bonduel**, **Black Creek** and then **Appleton**. There will also be an opportunity to stop at a produce market near Appleton. Drivers from Green Bay or Wausau can take alternate routes (Highway 29 east/west) on their drive home. We anticipate that we'll be returning to Appleton later in the afternoon, approximately 4:30 p.m.

Please contact **Dale Kressin** (Dale@VIN.com) with any questions you may have, and to sign up for this Northern Wisconsin tour.

bj



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 - 248 Heated Steering Wheel
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 - 502 Retractable headlight washers
- ZDA Driver Assistance Package
 - 3AG Rear view camera
 - 508 Park Distance Control
- ZTP Technology Package
 - 609 Navigation system
 - 6AK BMW Online and BMW Apps
 - 6AM Advanced Real-Time Traffic Information
 - 6AP Remote Services
 - 6WA Instrument cluster with extended contents
 - 21U 18" double-spoke orbit grey 436M wheels w/ non-run flat tires
 - 4WG Aluminum Hexagon Trim with Black high-gloss highlight
 - 5DP Parking Assistant
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I just checked the BMWUSA.com website and the car is done being built and soon will be en-route to the USA. I plan on tracking it online to see its progress on the ship. Only one month away from driving back home with my new BMW!

Stay tuned, Spidey Friends.

bj



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