

Gemütlichkeit

BMW CCA Old Hickory Chapter Newsletter – Summer 2015

BMW Car Club
of America
Old Hickory Chapter



ROAD TRIPS

... to the Vintage with Murray Crow



... to the Mitty with David Yando



... to The BMW Performance Center with Graf Hilgenhurst



Chapter Officers:

President: Joe Questel

President@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org

Vice President & Activities Co-chair: Jackie Hardy

VicePresident@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org

Membership Co-director: Murray Crow

Membership@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org.org

Membership Co-director and Web Admin: JC

Webmaster@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org

Treasurer: William Hafley

Treasurer@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org

Dealer Liaison: Mike Gillespie

Liaison@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org

Activities Co-chair: Jeff Youngblood

Events@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org

Secretary: Hailey Aldren

Secretary@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org

Newsletter Editor: Matt Smith

Newsletter@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org

Board Member at Large: David Yando

BML@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

It's official, summer is here, the Memorial Day holiday is in the rear view mirror and summer 2015 is coming on fast. You may have plans to fill your summer or maybe you are taking a more casual approach to the next 3 months, whatever your plans call for I hope you have time to take in a few of our club activities we have planned for our long middle Tennessee summer.

I want to encourage you to check out your club's new website. Our address remains the same, <http://www.OLDHICKORYBMWCCA.ORG>. But the site itself is all brand new, thanks to member J.C. Costarakis. JC is a newer member to our club and drives a Z3, works for Nissan and does websites as another business. He has completely overhauled our site and added more functionality with even more to come.

We now have a complete and updated events calendar, as well as moving the current month to the home page for easier access to events. It also has a twitter feed on the home page that on the day of events will be updated to reflect any changes on the day of events.

One of our goals as a board is to make sure we are communicating with you in your most preferred method. That is why we have invested in upgrading the website, why we have a twitter feed, and our club Facebook page. Whatever method you prefer, just subscribe to or add us onto your homepage or bookmark us and we will push our relevant information to you.

Looking forward to the next three months and some great upcoming events.

– Joe

In this issue: Chapter Events – New Members – The Scene at Vintage Autocraft – Wet but Fast in Bowling Green – Vintage Bimmers in Winston-Salem – Up Close with The Mitty's Classic Racers – Fighting Instinct in Spartanburg – 3.0 CSL Hommage Design Explosion – Welcome John McLarty!

CHAPTER EVENTS

Check oldhickorybmwcca.org and your email for updates!

Old Hickory Chapter Drive-in Night

On July 26, we'll have a chapter drive that combines dinner at Cherokee Steakhouse in Lebanon and an evening of movies at the Stardust Drive-In Theatre in Watertown. If you haven't been to the Stardust before, you're in for a treat! See our website and watch for emails for additional details.

Chapter Meetings

Meet other members for food and conversation! Meetings begin at 6:30. Second Thursday of every month; locations to be announced for July 9, August 13, and September 10.

Other Car Events

The Classics at the Biltmore. June 26-27, the Biltmore Estate, Ashville, NC. The BMW Car Club of America Foundation hosts its inaugural Classics at the Biltmore event on Saturday, June 27, with additional events scheduled for Friday, June 26. 50 exceptional classic cars will be available for public viewing on June 27 on the Biltmore lawn. Proceeds from the Classics at the Biltmore will benefit the BMW CCA Foundation's Street Survival® teen driver safety program. See bmwccafoundation.org/latest-news/biltmore-concours/.

Cars & Coffee. Saturdays at the Carmike Theater parking lot Cool Springs Blvd, 8:00. This has grown into a big C&C, and an especially large turnout, including exotics, shows up the first Saturday of every month. See facebook.com/carsandcoffeenashville.

Cars and Brews. 5-7:00 PM, July 19. Granite City Food & Brewery, 1864 West McEwen Dr., Franklin. A more reserved alternative to cars and coffee! A parking area to the right of the restaurant is cordoned off to only allow participants to park. They have a beer trailer set up with draft beer and can provide other beverages for purchase. Additional Sundays: August 16, September 20, October 18

German Cars, Motorcycles, and Coffee. Saturdays: July 25, November 7, 8-10:00 AM. Join a family of German cars, motorcycles and coffee at the historic Factory in Franklin! The Factory at Franklin has a great coffee shop, Honest Coffee Roasters, that will have food and beverage available for purchase. On October 10-11 there's a special event associated with Nashville Oktoberfest. We will have guarded parking on 6th Avenue from 10am to 1pm on both days, with passes to the VIP tent which includes German food and beverages as well as good seats for viewing the entertainment.

National Corvette Museum Motorsports Park events: Bowling Green, KY. See www.motorsportspark.org for HPDE events, track days, and other throughout the year. There's an SCCA Track Night in America event July 21! Bluegrass Bimmers event September 25-27! Watch bluegrassbimmers.org for details.

This year's **BMW CCA Oktoberfest** is September 21-26, New Jersey Motorsports Park, Millville, NJ. See bmwccaofest.org for registration and details. Start planning!

The **Rally for Kids with Cancer** is back in Nashville on October the 2nd & 3rd. This memorable event gives participants two days of fun in support of the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. The event is described as a high-end scavenger hunt meets "Amazing Race" & "Celebrity Apprentice." To learn more visit www.rallyforkids.com/Nashville.

Please welcome our NEW MEMBERS

Aaron Amstutz, Murfreesboro

Brent Anthony, Nashville

Todd Brown, Franklin

Will Bell, Bradyville

Rich Borow, Franklin

Michaela Braithwaite, Madison

Wade Fulton, Nashville

Joe Harrison, Nashville

Paul Hutchings, Nashville

Zack Jones, Brentwood

Kent Kersten, Nashville

Sean Long, Nashville

Brandon Mathis, Nashville

Hannah Oakley, Brentwood

Ross Robinson, Brentwood

Benton Stewart, Wartrace

Nick Thompson, Chapel Hill

Charles Trotter, Brentwood

Ken Woodard, Nashville

To all new and current members:

- Be sure to visit oldhickorybmwcca.org, our official website, for news, event updates, and other good stuff.
- If you're not receiving emails about our Chapter activities, contact Tyree at tpeters@oldhickorybmwcca.org. Be sure your email is registered with BMW CCA.
- You can also follow us at twitter.com/OldHickoryBMW and at facebook.com/OldHickoryBMWCCA.



Scan these codes with your smartphone to visit us on Twitter (left) and Facebook (right).



Gemütlichkeit wants to know! Did one of our articles get you thinking? Do you have a sweet car or event photo to share? A good BMW story? A Bimmer for sale? Do you have an idea for an article? Send letters, stories, classifieds, and big photos to msmith@oldhickorybmwcca.org.

Pass *Gemütlichkeit* on to a friend! You can help us spread the word about BMW CCA activities, discounts, and benefits by keeping *Gemütlichkeit* in circulation. Forward this issue to another BMW owner or someone interested in cars. Send a link to someone you know. Print interesting articles – or write one! – to show your friends. And join us at chapter events! See (and share) the membership benefits sheet at the end of this issue.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

A Tour of Vintage Autocraft

On May 2, Old Hickory members joined other area car enthusiasts for the first annual cars and coffee open house at Vintage Autocraft in Lebanon. We learned about their services, including their nano ceramic paint protection technology, and had a tour of their current restoration projects. Vintage Autocraft specializes in restoration and preservation of pre- and post-war European sports, touring, and race cars, American special interests, muscle cars of the 50s and 60s, and custom builds.



We got to see some projects just getting started ...



... others that were further along ...



... and others that were ust about done.

A Visit to the National Corvette Museum's Motorsports Park with the Bluegrass Bimmers Chapter

Graf Hilgenhurst. Our sister chapter, Kentucky's Bluegrass Bimmers, returned to NCM Motorsports Park in Bowling Green on May 14-17, for what we hope will become an annual spring Driver's Ed event. The weather was looking iffy, so we brought raincoats, umbrellas, and rain tires just in case.



Gloomy day, great museum!

NCM's Motorsports Park is a brand new facility with a long and "technical" (meaning tricky) 3.2-mile, 23-turn track. It can be configured several ways, but we ran the long version, which is to say the whole track. Since the inaugural event last fall, it has grown on me. While I first considered it overwhelming, now I would just call it "challenging."

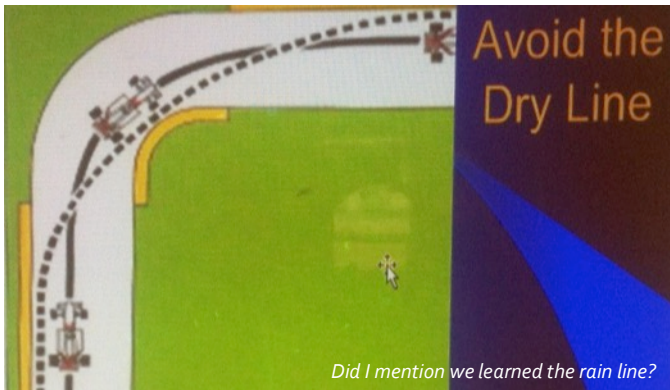
Progress has continued in building the track into what will surely be one of the premier racetracks in the southeast. The turns now have names, such as "Corvette Curves," "Table Top," "Deception," and "The Sinkhole." I don't know where the names came from, but thankfully there is no "Graf's mistake" listed anywhere. *(Cont. next page)*

Work continues on the grandstands, with a tower to follow. Hopefully by fall there will be a place to watch others racing while killing time waiting for your run group. To borrow from Steve McQueen, "Racing is life ... anything that happens before or after is just waiting."

And so we waited, noting how precious little enclosed space there was, and how dark the clouds were getting. As the weather moved in, tents and tarps were hurriedly erected. Midway through the first run group, the heavens opened up. I was glad I still had some tread left on my Hankooks but felt sorry for my instructor, who had dared the rain gods by keeping his slicks on.



Anyone who says they like to race in the rain is a liar! The rain line is very different from the dry line, and is largely a matter of where the water is *least* deep. Also, if you see the extra shine of water on tire marks, you can bet it will be slippery there.



So we went tip-toeing thru the raindrops. In some cases this meant "rim-shots" around the outside of the turns. In others, it meant being a "middle of the road sort of guy," avoiding brake zones, apexes, and track out points that were coated with alternate layers of rubber and water. If nothing else, it was a good opportunity to experience hydroplaning first hand, and how to react to it (basically do nothing).

By early afternoon we were starting to get discouraged, as one can only go so fast with standing water on the track (in my case, about 60 mph, before the hydroplaning got truly uncontrollable).

I looked for the driest place within a mile of the track, which turned out to be the National Corvette Museum. It's always a good place to kill an hour or two, and even more so when the alternative is getting drenched. When I came out, the rain had stopped, and I hurried back to the track.



As the track dried, we all looked forward to picking up the pace. We all got faster, which is a good thing ... up to a point! I was out with the instructor group when we got the dreaded red flag. This is rarely thrown and usually reserved for a situation so serious that it's not safe for anyone to be moving. We pulled to a stop (off the track, but within sight of a flag station), and awaited further instructions.

After the emergency trucks rolled, they black flagged the session, and called us all in. It turns out that the "emergency" was that one of the instructors had his steering wheel come off in his hands when a spot weld on the quick release broke. Amazingly, he brought the car to a stop with only minor damage to his front bumper.



Sunday was much better weather, and we got through the day with only one minor aberration, which shall hereafter be known as "The Turtle Incident". Heard over the CB radio: "What's that on the track?" "It looks like a turtle!" "What's it doing?" "Trying to get to the other side!" "Do we need to stop the cars?" "No, he's going pretty fast!" And so at the end of the day, it was no runs, no hits, and no one left on base – which is to say no car contact, no wall contact, and no mechanical failures. Everyone declared it a great weekend on the track!

For those who missed it, the fall event will be September 25th, 26th, and 27th. Put it in your calendar or in your phone, and I will look forward to seeing you there!

MURRAY'S MUSINGS

Murray Crow

A Trip to The Vintage

If you're a lover of vintage BMWs and other things vintage (and who isn't), then you would love The Vintage, a Memorial Day weekend event in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, featuring older BMWs. The event is primarily a one-day "show and shine" where registered vintage BMWs line the streets of Old Salem. Old Salem is a historic district of historical residences and businesses that cater to the area's significant tourist industry. Shopkeepers wear period dress to enhance the historic feel. As you wander through the streets, you see active bakers, gunsmiths, silversmiths, blacksmiths, and potters busy making their wares ... all with vintage BMWs parked at their front door.

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The event is considered the largest gathering of vintage BMWs in the Eastern US and possibly in the entire US. This year's registrations exceeded 300 vehicles, with E34 models being the "newest" permitted to register. The most abundant models were the 2002s, E9s, E24s, and E30s, with a little bit of everything else mixed in. The condition of the various vehicles ranged from fully restored, trailered show cars to rusted out original condition survivors, and everything else in between.

The E9s seemed to be the attendees' favored vehicles based on the crowd that continually surrounded these quality cars. The E9s were all exceptional in their presentation and display, with their distinctive styling being in the forefront.



The 2002s were also attention getters, in that the sheer number of '02s to view was overwhelming. This model probably had the greatest variation of condition, with a mix of survivor cars and fully restored show cars. Plus ... who doesn't love a 2002 or 1600? I guess they could be considered the most recognizable older BMW on the road.



Being that The Vintage is basically a show and shine, there is no official judging of the cars. However, the participants do get to vote for their two favorite BMWs, with the votes counted for the "People's Choice Awards." The top vote-getter's award and nine runner ups are presented to the owners at the end of the day. The E9s took the top award and the most honors.

This was the first time that I attended The Vintage and probably won't be the last. Any time you get a crowd of BMW owners in one place, especially vintage BMW owners, it's a good time. Event coordinator Scott Sturdy is to be commended for his diligent efforts to plan and present this event.

This was the fifth year for the event at Winston-Salem, and the previous venue had been the Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina, where it was called "Vintage at the Vineyards." Scott announced at the end of the show that the venue would likely change to Asheville next year, because he personally would be relocating to that area in the near future.



The Vintage is always held on Memorial Day weekend, so make your plans now to attend next year in Asheville. The event has its own website at www.atthevintage.com.





MINGLING AT THE MITTY

David Yando

The Mitty (aka The 2015 Speedfest at the Classic Motorsports Mitty) was held April 24-26 at Road Atlanta. BMW was this year's featured marque, so instead of taking a car from Lane Motor Museum as we often do, my wife Lora and I decided to drive down in our E30 M3. The Peachtree Chapter was hosting an infield corral, bumped up from the normal 45 cars to upwards of 300, in anticipation of a large weekend turnout.

Friday and Sunday's weather could not have been nicer. Saturday dawned a bit wet but cleared by 10:00 a.m., giving plenty of track time for everyone. 350 cars were on the entry lists, but due to the forecasts, some were no-shows. Still, well over 300 cars took to the track over the weekend – from sub-1-liter Turners to ex-NASCAR road cars, and even a group of 1970s-80s Formula 1 cars. Scattered among the ten racing groups were two dozen BMWs – 2002s were abundant, and there were several E30s (including an M3), an E21, a brace of E36s, an E46 M3, an E12 sedan (!) and a pair of Toj sports racers with BMW M12 engines.

The corral was like old home week! We ran into many Oktoberfest friends who we missed after skipping last year. The BMW CCA Foundation was well represented, with a large tent, lots of merchandise, and even a few National officers in attendance. The E30 M3 SIG (special interest group) also had a presence, so it was nice putting faces to names I've long known. Lots of Old Hickory Chapter members were there as well – Aaron Amstutz, Murray Crow, Jackie Hardy, Randy March, Preston Quirk, and Joe Questel were around all or part of the weekend. If we missed you, my apologies!

The racing was great, and in the laid-back atmosphere of a vintage race weekend we could walk through the paddock and right up to the cars and drivers. It can be pretty thrilling to walk right up to a March Formula 1 car driven to victory at Monza in 1976 by Ronnie Petersen and get an up-close look at it, unlike today's ultra-secretive F1 pits! Owners and drivers are generally more than happy to talk about their cars.

I was particularly interested in an early 2002 that I had noticed was much faster than his peers. It turned out that the owner/builder had first campaigned the car in the 1970 Trans-Am season, against the likes of Kwech, Craw, and Morton! He was fast all weekend, until a just-passed Ginetta sports racer smushed his side-exit exhaust shut, robbing him of power in the group's last race on Sunday. He still finished better than mid-pack, but likely would have won. That's racin'!

There was plenty of action off the track as well – a bustling vendor village in the infield, where we waited in line with Brian

Redman for ice cream. GT Radial Tires offered back-to-back drives of a MINI shod with their tires and those of a competitor down near the skidpad. Sunday saw both the skidpad challenge and the Concours de Lemons during quiet time. All three days gave opportunities for both parade and touring laps, thanks to Classic Motorsports and HSR, the sanctioning body. Friday also gave the nearby Sharkfest attendees, 75 strong, a place to come and stretch their legs on the track during parade laps, while Saturday's lunchtime laps emptied the Peachtree Corral. BMW Classic brought several of BMW NA's historic cars, which led us onto the track – the historic #25 CSL (see cover photo) which had dominated Daytona and Sebring 40 years earlier was nicely matched with the current Z4 GTLM campaigned by BMW Team RLL. (Cont. next page)



Hospitality from the Peachtree Chapter.



Friendly waves from the Formula 1 drivers.



Toj Sports Racer with powered by a BMW M12.



Murray Crow making it happen in his M5.

Vintage racing is increasing in popularity, with events near and far. Close to us, Barber in Birmingham has a new event that should be fun, and Indianapolis is also hosting an SVRA event in mid-June. A bit further are events like the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, held in a public park, and major events such as those at COTA, Watkins Glen, Road America, and Laguna Seca are drawing record fields. It's a great opportunity to see rolling history, and not spend too much doing it.

A local group, Zapata Racing, has produced a very well done documentary called Vintage Racing Today. A short clip is available on YouTube if you want to see what all the fuss is about. https://youtu.be/Nll6nK5_qIY.



2002 racer holding its own.



Overall a strong showing from BMW,



this year's featured marque.

This 2002 turned out to be a veteran of the 1970 Trans-Am season. The Mitty is where these classic racers show they've still got it.



GRAF'S GRUMBLINGS

Graf Hilgenhurst

A Corporate Event at the BMW Performance Center

I have a "connection" who knows the staff at BMW Performance Center in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and has been trying to sign me up for one of their courses for a while. The planets finally aligned, and I was able to meet him there for what BMW refers to as a "Corporate Event." Over half a day, participants start with lunch and a classroom session, then head to the track for three separate driving events, a hot lap with a professional driver, and a catered reception.

The first driving event was on a short track of 1/2 mile or so. We each got to drive five laps in the current M3, M5, 335i, Z4, and X6M. Let me start by saying that I have never seen so much red leather (technically Sakhir Orange/Black Full Merino leather, \$3600), so much carbon fiber, and so many Harmon Kardon speakers (\$875) in one place. I think "Silverstone Metallic" or "Mineral Gray Metallic" over red leather must be BMW's theme for 2015, and I will admit that it gets my attention every time. Let's just say I wouldn't throw any of these beauties out of my garage for dripping oil!

The 335 and Z4 were more than adequate, the M3 was outrageous, and the \$103,000 M5 was what the Tour de France riders refer to as "Hors Categorie," which roughly translates as "beyond all description." Not that I need a rocket ship to drive from Brentwood to Smyrna, but it'd sure be fun! The M3 and M5 have the M double clutch transmission (\$2900), which makes faster shifts and a firmer connection from the engine to the driving wheels than the torque converter automatic. (This is not to say that the eight-speed automatic is a bad thing.) A manual transmission can be ordered in any of these cars, but is not seen on driving school cars for obvious reasons (can you say *melted clutch*?). Even the X6M gave a good accounting of itself, for anyone who insists on a six-figure expensive, 5300 pound SUV (excuse me, SAV) that is also *seriously fast*.

The next event was a "best of five laps" autocross in identical M3s, with the winning time being a fraction over 25 seconds. Just for comparison, one of the instructors, Andy Van Cleef, holds the all-time record of 21.03 seconds.

The final driving event was an off-road course featuring X5s with both gasoline and diesel engines. I was unaware I was even driving a diesel until afterwards, which goes to show how clean and quiet modern diesel engines have become. For me, this was the most fun part of the day, as I would never even *think* of driving a vehicle through 14" of water, not even if I rented it. Nor would I drive one at 25° of lateral tilt, or 30° uphill or downhill. Not even if I *stole* it! This carefully designed course showcases the amazing capability of the X5. To borrow from another car company's SUV ad, "Not that you *would*, but it's nice to know that you *could*!"

Before ending the day, we were treated to a hot lap with a professional driver (kids don't try this at home), which served to remind me I'm not quite ready to quit my day job in pursuit of a motorsports career. But I'm sure you knew that already!

For a list of courses, go to:

www.bmwusa.com/performancecenter-overview



An architectural style you might call Deutsche Flughaffen (German Airport).



The bank angle indicator confirms what your eyes are telling you: your horizon is tilted exactly 25 degrees. I'm out of my element if all tires don't touch the ground!



This is just wrong. Just plain wrong.

SNAPS FROM THE ZENTRUM



No visit to the Performance Center is complete without stopping by the BMW Zentrum, a free museum of all things BMW.



Bond ... James Bond. Pierce Brosnan sat in this car!



Apparently BMW has a long and varied involvement with motorsports. Who knew?



A nice collection of motorcycles, dramatically displayed.

NEWS OF THE WELT

At the 2015 Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este, BMW unveiled yet another one-off design concept. The 3.0 CSL Hommage pays tribute to the great 3.0 CSL, the iconic BMW Coupé from the 1970s. If you look for them, there are several design cues that bridge the 40 years between these models. As usual, the response from car journalists and enthusiasts has been mixed. What do you think?



BMW of Nashville Welcomes a New General Manager!



John McLarty comes to Nashville from BMW of Chattanooga, where he spent two years as manager. He managed Tom Williams BMW in Birmingham for four years before that. He worked as a detailer, service advisor, in the parts department and various other positions on his way to becoming a manager.

John says he always looked up to BMW of Nashville as being one of the best, and he is really excited about being here and also about the caliber of the existing team. As a team-oriented leader, he says having all these opportunities was helpful in building his communication and team strengthening skills. John also is looking forward to enhancing the dealership's involvement in the community and working with the Old Hickory Chapter.

A native Texan and Ole Miss graduate, John and his wife are expecting their first child in October. And naturally he's a BMW driver – an X5. Be sure to introduce yourself when you see him around BMW of Nashville!

Old Hickory Chapter friend and former General Manager, Russell Stover, left the dealership to pursue other interests. We wish him all the best.



BMW CCA's 46th annual Oktoberfest is right around the corner – September 21-27 in Abescon, New Jersey, and the New Jersey Motorsport Park. Check out ofest.bmwcca.org for details and registration!



Visit www.bmwccafoundation.org to learn about the foundation's programs for promoting driver safety and preserving BMW heritage.



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Whether you are looking for a new BMW or you just need your current BMW serviced with tender loving care by your BMW family. BMW of Nashville is the ONLY authorized dealer for new BMWs, Certified Pre-Owned BMWs and for BMW Service. BMW of Nashville is the ONLY choice for Middle Tennessee.

BMW of Nashville
4040 Armory Oaks Drive Nashville, TN
Nancy Allen, Client Advisor
nancy.allen@bmwofnashville.com • 615

BMW of Nashville
4040 Armory Oaks Drive – Nashville, TN
Nancy Allen, Client Advisor
nancy.allen@bmwofnashville.com



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

THERE ARE BENEFITS TO BEING A BMW CCA MEMBER.

Members are eligible for special privileges, local chapter membership, special regional and national events, discounts on a wide variety of goods and services, rebates on new or Certified Pre-Owned BMWs, our monthly *Roundel* magazine and much, much more!!



VEHICLE REBATE



Enjoy up to \$1,500 off a new or Certified Pre-Owned BMW!

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- Access to our Technical Service Advisors for personalized advice.
- Ombudsmen to help with dealer issues.
- Outstanding national events including BMW CCA's premier annual gathering.
- Regional festivals, concours, and club-sponsored corrals at major road races.
- Driving schools, autocrosses, rallies, safety schools, and Club Racing.
- Free classified ads on the website and in *Roundel* magazine.

ROUNDEL MAGAZINE

Declared **one of the finest car club magazines in the world** by *Car and Driver*, each monthly issue has 128+ pages of articles, reviews, photography, and classifieds dedicated to all things BMW.



MEMBER DISCOUNTS

BMW PERFORMANCE DRIVING SCHOOL



BMW Performance Driving School

Club Members get a 15% discount on BMW's Performance Driving Schools held in Spartanburg, SC.

CAR AND AUTO



Get special Michelin rebates and offers.



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Discount of 15% off everyday prices on most Brooks Brothers clothing and accessories

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RENTALS



10% off golf club rentals

67 LOCAL CHAPTERS

BMW CCA's local chapters provide a range of social, technical, and driving events. They're your gateway to many of the club's driving schools, rallies, and autocrosses. Many events are geared toward the novice mechanic or driving event participant.

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LEARN MORE AT WWW.BMWCCA.ORG/MEMBERSHIPBENEFITS

**BMW Car Club
of America
Old Hickory Chapter**



P. O. Box 3072
Brentwood, TN 37024-3072



*It rained for Old Hickory Chapter's spring drive,
but the countryside was that much greener –
and after all, BMWs can handle a bit of wet!*