



NEWS FROM NATIONAL

FROM: Wynne Smith, Executive Director
TO: BMW CCA National and Service Officers,
Chapter Presidents, Newsletter Editors
DATE: December 22, 2005

MEMBERSHIP STATS as 12/22/2005

	Full	Associate	Total
Current Membership	65,800	9,286	75,086
Last Month's Membership	65,853	9,225	75,078
Monthly Net Gain (Loss)	-53	41	-12
Monthly % Change	-0.008%	0.004%	0.001%
Last Year's Membership	66,625	8,686	75,311
Annual Net Gain (Loss)	-825	600	-225
Annual % Change	-0.12%	0.69%	-0.029%
New Members, 12/05	916		
Renewals, 12/05	52.2%		
Roundels Mailed	66,650		

BMW CCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

So far **343** members have signed up **520** new members! You are *really* doing a great job ...

The winners of this contest will have plenty of prizes to choose from and more are being added each week – zymöl has some really slick prizes set aside, certificates from Toyo, certificates from Yokohama, a DVD player, goodies from BMW NA, model cars provided by Mini Bimmers; and Nautilus is providing two very nice pieces of equipment – one a Bowflex and one a Nautilus. The Grand Prize is a weekend in Greenville featuring a day at the BMW Performance Center M-School. The grand prize winners will stay at two of the nicest hotels in town, dine in two of the best restaurants and there are day passes to one of Greenville's premier Spas for the spousal units to enjoy.

Watch the www.bmwcca.org website in January for updates to the prize list – and if you need applications or membership drive business cards to help you recruit – just email: jennifer.skatzes@bmwcca.org

DEC CONGRESS – DALLAS - JANUARY 20 –22, 2006

As of this writing there are **47** BMW CCA chapters sending representatives and **93** chapter volunteers signed up to attend this worthwhile conference. Whether your chapter is currently hosting driving events, or just considering adding driving events to your chapter event list – please consider having one of your chapter volunteers join us.

You can now register for the conference online by visiting:

<http://imisw.bmwcca.org/congress/>

BMW CCA ELECTIONS

The January issue of Roundel will go into the mail **January 4th** – it is just a little late mailing out due to the Holidays. Watch the January issue of Roundel for your ballots – **your mailing label to affix to the ballots** and the detailed information on the proposed bylaws change.

When the January issue arrives – **PLEASE DO NOT THROW YOUR LABEL AWAY – you will need it to vote.**

GATEWAY TECH

Registered yet? Why wait? We have tons of vendors already signed up including BBS! BBS is sponsoring one the banquets and will be on hand with a booth. You'll want to visit with representatives of zymöl, Active Autowerks, Lone Star Bavarian, Metric mechanic, Ultra Shield of St. Louis, BMW NA, Yokohama, Memphis Motorworks and HMS. Special presentations by BMW CCA Club Racing, Wisenberg Motorsports, and many others. Don't miss this 25th Anniversary technological bash. Will Boris Said be reprising his performance at Oktoberfest 2005? Very possibly. And what's this? Bobby Rahal as the Friday evening speaker? Join us and find out.

BMW CAR CLUB OF AMERICA FOUNDATION NEWS

The BMW Car Club of America Foundation has hired Bill Wade of Bluegrass Bimmers as the new Street Survival Program Manager – Bill will begin work January 15, 2006. Bill replaces Marshall Pruett who resigned in late December. Those of you who know Bill will recognize what a perfect fit he is to run and grow the Street Survival Program, for those of you who haven't had the pleasure – I urge you to contact him about the possibility of your chapter hosting a Street Survival school in 2006. Bill's current email is: billw488@bellsouth.net

*As 2005 comes to an end, remember that you may be eligible for a tax deduction for your charitable contributions. The following are basic guidelines on how to claim tax deductions for your gifts. Be sure to consult a tax specialist for specific information about your situation. If you haven't a charity of choice -- **why not consider a gift to the BMW CCA Foundation, especially the teen driving skills, Street Survival Program?***

Note: There are several temporary changes for charitable contributions in tax year 2005 that were passed in [hurricane relief](#) legislation. There are also new rules this year for [vehicle donations](#).

How does one claim a tax deduction for a charitable gift?

Charitable deductions can only be claimed on Schedule A of IRS Form 1040. Be sure to have the [proper documentation](#) of all contributions you list on the return.

Which gifts qualify for deductions?

You may deduct your contributions to religious, charitable, scientific, educational, literary, and other institutions that are incorporated or recognized as 501(c)(3) organizations. . Gifts to other kinds of nonprofits, such as 501(c)(4) organizations, cannot be deducted. To see whether your charity is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions, visit [IRS Publication 78](#).

Do you need any records in order to take a deduction for a charitable contribution?

Yes, and the record keeping requirements vary according to the amount and type of gift.

For cash contributions less than \$250, the canceled check, credit card or cash receipt will suffice. For contributions of \$250 or more, you must obtain a "contemporaneous written acknowledgment" from the charity, either on paper or electronically (such as by email) which must contain the name of the organization, date and amount of a cash contribution or description of a non-cash contribution, and a description of benefits (if any) received in return with an estimation of their value or if none, a statement to that effect. **The BMW Car Club Foundation provides such documentation within 48 hours of receipt of all charitable contributions.**

Donations 877/269-2202
Tel 864/329-1919

(877/BMWCC02 - Toll Free)
info@bmwccafoundation.org

One last Foundation note for now – Michael Mitchell who moved to Greenville in March, 2001 to join the BMW CCA National Office team when we arrived from Boston; has formally accepted a fulltime position with the BMW CCA Foundation. Michael has spent the past year or so working half days at this office and half days setting up and running the Foundation's archive. Michael has been an outstanding addition to the club's staff and will be sorely missed by all of us here at 640 South Main; however we're delighted to know he is just a phone call and ten miles away, so he might actually join us for lunch now and again.

You can reach Michael at 864 329-1919 or michael.mitchell@bmwccafoundation.org

FORMS

Forms are available as pdfs on the www.bmwcca.org website and are also available interactively on the site as well. The day we receive your Chapter Officer Questionnaire we will ship a brand new Operations Manual including insurance information, updated forms, the Crisis Communications Plan and Workbook and related materials right out to you. Extras are available and may be requested by emailing Jennifer.Skatzes@bmwcca.org

ZF Award documentation is headed your way with the hard copy of this newsblast and will be available on the website shortly. Apologies for the delay in getting these to you. The deadline remains February 15th for the ZF applications.

BMW CCA Club Racing Chair Selection

The BMW Car Club of America announced the appointment of **David McIntyre** as Chairman of the BMW CCA Club Racing program Saturday, December 16. David is a long-time BMW CCA member, chapter volunteer and chapter board member, and club race organizer. BMW CCA Board of Directors expects the program to move forward under David's leadership, and that it continue to be a unique racing venue in which intense competition is tempered by sportsmanship, camaraderie, safety, and fun for all participants.

The Board extends its sincere appreciation to Mike Mills, National Competition Steward and Acting Club Racing Chairman during the search process. With the approval of the Board, Mike acted proactively in taking charge of the program and moving it forward in preparation for the 2006 season. His contributions during this difficult period were significant and deserve the respect of the Board as well as the racers and staff of the program.

The job of Club Racing Chair involves a significant amount of volunteer time, a lot of work, and the potential for controversy. However, for the individual able to take control, build an effective team, maintain high standards of professionalism, and work well with all of the various stakeholders, it can be tremendously rewarding.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BMW CCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Held this year at Gateway Tech – St. Charles, MO March 25 and 26. For details or to observe, please call the National Office. 864 250-0022.

TURKEY LEGS AND BMW CCA CHANGES FOR 2006

This is my favorite time of year to take a few minutes (O.K., it's actually hours) to analyze what has been working and what needs to change. Being someone who does not embrace change as happily as I might, I find we tend to cling to traditions simply because they are comfortable and I have to fight doing things the way we have always done them – just because it's more comfortable than changing.

When is the last time you asked yourself, your chapter team, or your active members, "Why are we doing this?"

Sometimes the answer may simply be because, "It's always been done this way." A great example of this is the story of the lady who always cut off the left leg of the Thanksgiving turkey before roasting it. When her children wondered why, she explained it was a family tradition.

A few weeks later, her mother was watching her prepare the Christmas Turkey and asked: "Sweetie? Why are you cutting off the left leg of the turkey?"

The lady paused and looked at her mother, "I'm cutting it off because you always did – although I always wondered about the symbolism of removing the left leg of each turkey."

Her mother laughed, "What are you talking about? Symbolism??? Your father always bought a turkey that was too big for my oven. I couldn't close the door if I didn't cut off one of the legs!"

Crazy right? For more than 20 years, the woman had been cutting the left leg off a raw turkey for no good reason other than she thought it was a family tradition.

So, what are the symbolic turkey legs haunting your relationships with National, what turkey legs are there in how your chapter operates? What could we be doing differently to help you? How can you refine chapter operations to better serve your members?

This will likely end up as a topic at the Chapter Congress in 2007 – so let's open the discussions now.

NATIONAL OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE – 2006

New Year's Day	Monday, January 2	Labor Day	Monday, September 4
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 16	Columbus Day	Monday, October 9
Presidents' Day	Monday, February 20	Veterans' Day	Friday, November 10
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29	Thanksgiving	November 23 and 24
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4	Christmas	Monday, December 25

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best regards,

Wynne

