



Gemütlichkeit

Newsletter of the Old Hickory Chapter – BMW Car Club of America



Jul-Aug-Sep 2012

Photo: David Yando

Presidential Address

Are You Willing?

The membership of the Old Hickory Chapter BMW CCA, like the National membership, is very diverse. We're young and old, male and female, new car owners and older and classic car owners, etc. The point is that we all have our differences and viewpoints in our daily lives, but we share our appreciation of all that is BMW.

Part of our purpose as a club is to provide assistance to members who need information or guidance regarding a vehicle purchase, vehicle inspection, parts acquisition, maintenance and repairs, or other vehicle-related needs. If you are willing, you can serve other members by answering their questions. Do you have a special knowledge or skill that you're willing to share? If so, you can be a valuable asset to someone seeking that knowledge. Do you need information regarding BMWs but aren't sure where to get the answer? Our club has very knowledgeable members who are more than willing to share what they know.

How, you may ask, can I ask questions of the membership? Check the email listings on this newsletter and feel free to email a question to me at: mcrow@oldhickorybmwcca.org. I might not know the answer to your question, but I most certainly can forward your question to other members who are happy to assist. Do you have a special BMW skill that you are willing to share? Feel free to let Editor Matt Smith or me know, and we will post your skill in an email to the membership or list it in the newsletter.

So ... are you willing to share? Or are you willing to ask? Feel free to be willing and you could be rewarded with answers or the sense of reward you get by sharing your skills and knowledge.

Happy Motoring – Murray

In this Issue:

85 Miles Per Hour in Texas ♦ Welcome to our New Members ♦ To Run Flat or Not to Run Flat? ♦ Old Hickory at Oktoberfest ♦ Front Wheel Drives of the Future ♦ M Cars of the Past ♦ Chapter Happenings

More at www.oldhickorybmwcca.org!



From the Editor

I hope everyone had a great summer driving around in your BMWs! I spent mine *looking* at BMWs—on blogs, in the news, and of course cruising all around me here in Franklin. As of this writing, I still don't have one of my own, so the Bimmer-brain I mentioned in the last issue has become a very serious, very distracting affliction.

However, by the time you read this, I *will* have one. I've ordered a 2013 328i, the F30. It's dark grey. It's manual. It's ... on a boat. A stout, watertight boat I hope, her captain sober and steady.

So I have a BMW but can only *think* about it. That's fine—working on this issue of the newsletter has given me lots of food for thought as I enter the world of BMW. There are many changes in the air, including several that have some long-time enthusiasts scratching their heads. I think by now everyone's used to the idea of a four-cylinder engine in a 3 Series. Believe me, I read and watched many, many reviews, and the consensus is that the TwinPower Turbo makes up for those two missing cylinders.

I'm less sure about the run-flat tires, which have inspired highly mixed, even extreme opinions. So have turbocharged M Cars. So have BMW's plans to produce (*gasp!*) front-wheel drive cars. Being new here, I don't have firm opinions on these controversial matters. This issue's contributors, along with the material I've compiled from BMW, are helping me think things through.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have a one-way plane ticket to Spartanburg, South Carolina. I'll give you three guesses what I'm doing there. Find out in next issue!

– Matt

Murray's Musings

Oktoberfest 2012 Edition

Murray Crow

This newsletter includes the first of two reports for BMW CCA's Oktoberfest 2012. Print for this edition has been delayed in order to report on the first few days of this year's National Club celebration. For those of you not familiar with O'Fest, it is an annual event conducted by the National Office of BMW CCA. This year's event is located in Columbus, Ohio, with track events based at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. Track rats can run up to five days at this year's event, with driving schools Wednesday through Saturday.

MID-OHIO SPORTS CAR COURSE



LEXINGTON, OHIO

Persons who are not track rats have lots of activities to choose from each day, including TSD rally, Concours car show, autocross, gymkhana, and a fun rally, with lots of social activities and food thrown in as well. This year as last year, one of the primary sponsors is Spaten, and yes, there were beer maidens serving the beer. I hope you enjoy the reporting, and maybe, just maybe, next year you will be attending in person.



The Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course

The Texas Toll Road Speed Limit

In case you missed it, it was big news recently when the State of Texas authorized a private toll road operator to increase the speed limit from 80 mph to 85 mph on a 41-mile stretch of a 91-mile toll road. The road lies between Austin and San Antonio, and the 85 mph authorization makes this the fastest legally traveled road in the nation.

Speed limits of 80 mph are not uncommon on certain stretches of road in Texas and Utah. What is remarkable about this speed limit upgrade is that the State of Texas will benefit monetarily from the upped limit. It was written into an earlier contract that if the state authorized the upgrade at the request of the toll road operator, then the toll road operator would pay a premium to the state. Apparently, high-speed travel is beneficial to the operator for nothing more than the sake of legal high-speed travel.

I guess residents of Tennessee and travelers through our state are fortunate that we have no toll roads. In my travels out of state, I found it inconvenient and somewhat costly at times to travel on toll roads. However, I also found that prices at the pump were considerably lower. As most of you know, our gas taxes are some of the highest in the nation, but in return, as much as we gripe about our roads, Tennessee roads are some of the best in the nation.

Will Tennessee ever see toll roads with 85 mph speed limits? I'll make a bold prediction that it will never happen in my lifetime. It's been discussed, and the politics behind such a transition in this state are very complex. So I guess we'll just have to be happy with our current maximum speed limits at 75 mph and get our "legal" high-speed kicks at performance driving schools.

– Murray

New Members

Please welcome the following new members to the Old Hickory Chapter!

Jeffrey Burdett , Franklin	Phil Kirkpatrick , Nashville
Jami Burnett , Brentwood	Thomas Knobloch , Nashville
Tom Christensen , Old Hickory	Peggy Kross , Franklin
Ted Clark , Nashville	Zachary Lomas , Franklin
Jessica Delaney , Nashville	Ryan McConnell , Nashville
Robert Drake , Franklin	Steven Miller , Brentwood
Ronald Hargrave , Nashville	Jay & Leigh Pandaleon , Nashville
Lori Henderson , Brentwood	Kunal Patel , Nashville
Gary Howard , Nashville	Robert Rodriguez , Nashville
Wayne Jaco , Hendersonville	Michael Rook , Nashville
David Jacobson , Nashville	Wes Sherman , Hermitage
Cordaro Jarratt , Hopkinsville	Matt Smith , Franklin
Terry Jones , Nolensville	Jesse Sullivan , Clarksville
Rachel Kahle , Clarksville	Michael Tabers , Nashville
Andrew Kilby , Gallatin	



To all new and current members:

- Be sure to visit www.OLDHICKORYBMWCCA.org for news, event updates, and other items of interest to members.
- If you're not receiving monthly emails about our chapter activities, get on our mailing list by sending a request to Tyree Peters at tpeters@oldchickorybmwcca.org.
- I'm working on updates to Gemütlichkeit's design and content approach and would like to include car or event photos from our members. If you would like to share a great pic of your awesome Bimmer, an Old Hickory Chapter activity, or a BMW-related event, send them (in large, high-resolution format) to msmith@oldhickorybmwcca.org. Even if I can't include them all in the newsletter, I'd sure love to see them.

Grüß Gott!

Downright Tired
Ron Steurer

It was exciting as a kid to start school again in the fall because that meant I would get a brand new pair of sneakers for the school year. The excitement of picking out and wearing a new pair, and that awesome fake leather/canvas smell was intoxicating to a 12 year old!

Let's fast forward to the present, fall of 2012. Petra, my beloved 2011 328 ZSP, is due for her first set of sneakers. At just shy of 20K on the clock, the Bridgestone Potenza RE050A run-flat tires have seen better days. They haven't really worn very evenly, especially the front, and have gotten increasingly loud. Since this my first set of run-flats, I'm not sure how long they should last, but I do understand that an ultra-performance sport tire just won't have the lifespan of a non-sport tire. Something has to give, and you have to pay to play.

Which brings me to my dilemma: do I go with non-RFT's this time or continue with RFT's? I'm really thinking of going with non-RFT's and have seen some good deals at tirerack.com and Discount Tire. From what I have read, non-RFT's will produce a softer, quieter ride and last longer, plus there is a better variety of manufactures and tires to choose from. The run-flats come at a bit more of a premium price too.

So Petra and I are currently shopping for a new pair of sneakers and also looking forward to the cooler temps that come with fall and a chance to break in her shoes once we find them. I think I just heard the last bell ring. Happy motoring!

Ron's not the only one re-thinking run-flats. According to BMW, they "keep performing even when the pressure drops: run-flat tires keep you mobile even if all tire pressure is lost. Instead of an unpleasant and unsafe roadside tire change, you can reach home safely or drive to the next workshop for assistance." BMW drivers and enthusiasts are divided on the topic, of course. Some appreciate the additional convenience and safety that run-flats offer. Others point to issues like performance, ride comfort, handling, and expense—and wind up replacing the run-flats on their new Bimmers with conventional tires.

What do you think? Do you like your run-flats? Have they been useful? Are you thinking of replacing them?



Oktoberfest 2012

Live Report



I know O'Fest 2012 will be over and done by the time you read this, but I am in attendance in Columbus as I draft this column. The event was hindered slightly in the beginning with light rain that affected the Concours, but as always, the show must go on. The Concours was well-attended, and the rain subsided by the time judging was complete. As always, meticulous cleaning of all surfaces—interior, exterior, trucks, and engine bays—had the participants scrambling to last minute to ensure that everything was prepared to perfection. Yes, all you have to do to get your car scrutinized is to enter it in a Concours. I guarantee every tiny imperfection will be exposed and placed on display for all to see.

Practically every generation of BMW was represented, including vehicles that were never imported into the US. One prime example was an excellent CS (*top left*), a wonderful vehicle with owners who share their pride by displaying at events such as O'Fest.

TSD Rally

For the first time in my O'Fest experience, I participated in the TSD Rally event. Preston Quirk had previously requested that I be his driver and rally partner. To those unfamiliar with TSD, it stands for Time, Speed, and Distance. Each rally team is given a set of directions to follow a specific route. The directions list various distances, times, and average speeds to arrive at several checkpoints at very specific times. You are judged and graded on how close you to your target times you arrive to the checkpoints.

The route was a considerable length of 140 miles through the back roads of Ohio. The fall weather, clear skies, and color change of the foliage made it difficult to concentrate on the directions, which required a lot of focus.

As driver, my job was the easy one. My main purpose was to follow the directions of the navigator. Preston, the navigator, was in prime form, attempting to digest the algebraic equations necessary to convert the numeric commands into directions that could be translated to the driver. Our 140-mile route carried us through hills, valley, cornfields, and numerous winding roads.

Preston's main job was to get us to the checkpoints at the correct arrival times and to predict turns and provide correct travel speeds. He did his job well because we found every checkpoint and made it through the entire route without getting lost. Whether or not we placed in the standings is yet to be known. That will be a story for the next newsletter, because at print deadline, the winners of the TSD Rally have yet to be announced. Find out in the next issue!





News of the Welt



What the Fuss is About

The idea of a FWD Bimmer has caused a furor among enthusiasts. BMW unveils the Concept Active Tourer at this year's Paris Motor Show. From BMW:

The BMW Concept Active Tourer is a key component in the ongoing development of the BMW brand and its model portfolio.

The BMW Concept Active Tourer has been designed as a so-called plug-in hybrid—ideally combining the benefits of electric drive with those of a classic combustion engine.

The new 1.5-litre petrol engine drives the front wheels. The electric motor acts on the rear axle, if necessary powering the car on its own.

The BMW TwinPower Turbo 3-cylinder offers running smoothness, revving power, spontaneous response, and a dynamic, sporty sound.

The FWD Bimmers are coming—and not just hybrids. What do you think?



40 Years of M: Celebration Continues

August 12, 2012. 2012 is a special year for all BMW M fans with BMW M GmbH marking its 40th birthday. BMW Classic celebrated the anniversary with an array of highlights at this year's edition of Germany's largest classic car race at the Nürburgring. BMW was a partner of this year's Oldtimer Grand Prix. Topping the bill of activities celebrating the anniversary and the division's illustrious motor sport heritage was the BMW M "Jubiläumsrennen" (anniversary races) and 10-minute demonstration drives with BMW M, in which the full gamut of BMW racing cars since 1972 were represented.

Old Hickory Happenings

Things to Do this Fall

Chapter Meetings

- **October 11:** Club Meeting, Cozymel's, Brentwood
- **November 8:** Club Meeting, Gerst Haus, Nashville
- **October 27:** Tech Session, Bell Buckle Motor Works (Tentative. Check www.oldsickorybmwcca.org for updates.
- **Chapter Drive October 13:** Target, 1851 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro. We'll meet in the parking lot of Target at 9:00 and depart by about 9:30. The drive ends in Cookeville, where we'll have lunch at Crawdaddy's West Side Grill. There will be two or three stops in between for people to use the restroom or get a snack. Please arrive with a full tank of gas, and you'll leave with a smile!

Other Events

Reminder: October 6th, 2012. Join the Old Hickory Chapter BMW CCA at the 23rd Annual Antique & Classic Car Show at Cool Springs Galleria in Franklin, adjacent to the Sears Automotive Center. Over 35 Judged Classes, including German! Registration Period is from 8AM to 12PM. Entry Fee: \$15. Spectators: Free. No Vendors. For show and club info, visit www.battlefieldaca.com.

BMW of Nashville Meeting

In August, BMW of Nashville hosted a club meeting. A word of thanks goes to Russell Stover, Wayne Janco, and Allen Betts for their hospitality. We would also like to thank them for their generosity in providing door prizes. Russell provided much insight for what to expect from upcoming BMW models, and as always, gave us new cars to dream about. We look forward to the support of BMW of Nashville in the future.



BMW of Nashville

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