



# News Werks

The official newsletter of the Iowa Chapter BMW CCA

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## Fifth Annual Spring Clean Car Concours

Well, you guessed it—another Concours, and another bad weather day. Lousy weather seems to follow this event. Can you believe that we've had only one decent weather Concours in five tries? You know what they say—maybe next year.

This year's event found us in the town of Five Seasons—Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at the parking lot of True North Companies. My wonderful assistant, Mike Bengé and I arrived early to set up. The event was to start at noon, the temperature was in the upper 40's, cloudy with drizzle. Who wants to spend a Saturday cleaning up their car, and then take it out on Sunday in this stuff?

The clock struck noon, and Mike and I were alone in this huge parking lot, looking at the sky. The good news was that the rain had stopped. We prayed for beautiful BMW's to file into the lot. As you might guess, you can't keep BMW enthusiasts away for long. A little cold weather wasn't going to spoil this event. The cars started rolling in, including Lindsay Clark's 1990 325i—arriving in style in an enclosed trailer. We had nine entries in three classes—Vintage, M Class, and Sedan.

Luckily, there was no need to worry about any mechanical mishaps. In attendance were three of the best "wrenches" in Iowa—Jim Simpson, Jack Kramer, and Doug Wittkowski.

Fred Bell (not new to these awards) grabbed the trophy in the M Class, with his well detailed 1999 M Coupe. Steve Johnson—the only entry in the Sedan category took home the trophy for his very sweet seven. Believe me, this car would have won even if several had entered. Finally, in the hotly contested Vintage category, Jim Simpson picked up the prize for his beautiful red 325—only slightly modified....yeah, right.

Once the main prizes were handed out, it was time for the People's Choice award. This award was for the favorite car at the event. Proceeds from this and from part of the entry fee, went to the Variety Club of Iowa. We donated \$200 to Variety Club. Nice to see our dollars helping sick kids in need. Scott Hamilton's very cool '89 M3 was the day's favorite, with the most dollar bills clinging to the windshield.



Thanks go out to Mike Bengé for his help coordinating the event and judging, and to Jason Smith for judging and for the use of the parking lot of True North.

Think sunshine for next year. See you then.

Dave Trachtenberg, Event Chairman

**THE  
WINNERS**



## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

*Updated information will be posted on the website as it becomes available. Be sure to check for current information at [www.bmwia.org](http://www.bmwia.org)*

**July 4 - 9**

### **Oktoberfest - Pasadena, California**

*If you are planning on attending please contact  
Scott Smed at [scotts@bergländandcram.com](mailto:scotts@bergländandcram.com)*

**July 17**

### **Annual Club Picnic**

**and**

### **New Member Welcome**

### **Easter Lake Shelter #2**

**Starts at Noon**

**Meal Served at 1:00 pm**

*Easter Lake is a beautiful Polk County Conservation Board property located on the south east edge of Des Moines. A beautiful setting, so be sure to bring your lawn chairs! And the roads into the picnic shelter are all paved! This is a great event with fantastic food, beverages and conversation! We have also been known to give away some door prizes! **No cost** to members or their guest!*

*Just an RSVP is needed.*

**RSVP by July 12th to Don VanLengen at  
[dvanlengen@mchsi.com](mailto:dvanlengen@mchsi.com)**

**August 15**

### **Sunday at the Ball Park**

### **Iowa Cubs vs Albuquerque**

### **Sec Taylor Stadium, Des Moines**

**Game time is 1:05 pm**

**Ticket Price is \$4.00**

*A limited number of tickets are available  
so you must **RSVP** to David Trachtenberg by **August 10th** at  
[david.trachtenberg@mchsi.com](mailto:david.trachtenberg@mchsi.com)*

*There is also room for us to display 10 nice examples of BMW's for the other fans to see when they arrive. So if you would like your car "displayed", please let David know when you RSVP.*

**October 16 -17**

### **FALL COLOR TOUR & RALLY**

*It is not too early to start planning. Please read the article on page 7 for more information.*

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*The Editor of the NewsWerks seeks material suitable for publication.*

*Send submissions to:*

*Martha Wittkowski  
[wittawerks@se-iowa.net](mailto:wittawerks@se-iowa.net)*



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Phil Martens	
John Miller	
Mike Mycka	

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU  
AND HOPE TO SEE YOU AT AN EVENT SOON!**



*the*  
*longest day*  
DRIVING SCHOOL  
BMW CCA

Wow! What a weekend! The sun was shining, the cars were shining and all was good in the world. Then on Saturday afternoon the sky turned colors, that no one likes to see, and everyone scrambled to get their cars under some type of protection. You could hear everyone asking the same questions - "Is a tornado coming?, Is it going to hail?, When will the rain come?" The sky opened up and it rained and rained and rained. So for a couple of hours on Saturday afternoon, we all stood in and around the concession stand to stay out of the rain and watch. When the rain quit, it was time to get the cars back out on the track. Opps can't do that as the lightening was still shooting down all around us and the corner workers could not go back to their stations they would be like lightening rods out there. What would we do? The track was dry enough but we can't go full speed on the track without the corner workers. So we did the next best thing - we ran parade laps for about an hour. Very fun and still educational.

The students and instructors who attended the event were all very good natured about the lost Saturday afternoon and thankful that the hail never came down! Saturday evening everyone enjoyed a barbecued steak dinner at the track and we all went back to our hotels thinking (and hoping) that Sunday would be better! No one was disappointed on Sunday, the weather was perfect, sunny and warm and the officials at the track did a great job in getting the mud and muck off of the grid and the track. After a brief meeting, everyone was ready to get to the classroom or back on the track! A great day for everyone. No problems, a few great saves on the track and just a little agricultural driving! A few door prizes were drawn and everyone had a great weekend, despite mother nature. We also had the traditional charity parade laps at noon on Saturday and Sunday and raised \$210 for Animal Lifeline.



**TO quote a student, who had a great european accent and participated in the event:**

**"This was the best weekend of me life!"**

**We could not agree more!**

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BMWCCA MVC Presents

### ***Trieben Schnell Driving School***

Mid-America Motorplex, Pacific Junction, IA  
September 11-12, 2004

The Missouri Valley Chapter of the BMW CCA would like to extend an invitation to attend the "Trieben Schnell" Driving School September 11-12 at Mid-America Motorplex located on the Iowa/Nebraska border 20 minutes South of Omaha on I-29. There will be a track familiarization day on Friday September 10 for all instructors, instructor candidates and advanced students.

Come enjoy a weekend of classroom instruction and lots of track time at one of the safest new facilities in the Midwest. This event will fill up quickly and is first come first served, so don't delay. For information on the track, visit their website at [www.midamericamotorplex.com](http://www.midamericamotorplex.com).

***For registration information and all other questions, visit the Missouri Valley Chapter website at [www.bmwccamvc.org](http://www.bmwccamvc.org) and follow the Trieben Schnell links.***

*We look forward seeing you at the track!!!*

\* This is not a racing event, no timing devices will be allowed. \*

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## TECH TALK

# SUPER CLEAN, A GUIDE or CONFESSIONS OF A WAXOHOLIC

By Doug Wittkowski

So you really want to get that BMW in shape. Here are some of the things I have learned over my many years of obsessing over cars. Now reformed and many years retired from competition, I am willing to come clean, at least with some of the basics.

**Equipment:** Not too many power tools involved here, but some of items that can really help: A shop vacuum, a must for getting all the junk out of your carpets. But also consider an air compressor. No, you don't need an industrial model but this is the secret weapon the professionals use to get all that junk out of those nooks and crannies. You could no doubt use a compressor for many other little projects around the house and this tool will make cleaning car interiors, floor mats and everything automotive just a blast away. An orbital polisher. Polishing is tricky business but the best orbital models are very easy to use and it is almost impossible to burn paint with them. Leave the real high speed polishers to the trained professionals but these do a nice job of paint preparation and that is the key to shine. You will also need a large number of towels, both paper and cloth, soft brushes for wheels and crevices, and a number of microfiber towels. These towels are a very recent invention for the automotive world and make final polishing and glass cleaning a breeze. You will also need at least two buckets for washing. If you have carpet stains, a small steamer or extractor works wonders.

**Cleaning agents:** There are many but here are the basics. A good brand of auto wash. Auto wash is easy on your cars finish and will not strip wax. However, if you are going to immediately wax your car here is a tip. Use liquid dish soap. I like Joy as it strips off all the dirt and grease and readies your paint to be polished. Use this only when you are prepared to do the complete detail. For engine compartments, wheels, under body panels, door jambs and just about everything else, I have found a great product - orange cleaner. I use Zep or Greased Lightning brand. The stuff works well on everything I have used it on and so far it has not harmed any surface I have tried it on. For outside vinyl and rubber, I like STP or Armorall dressing. For tires, the one-step spray products are a great place to start with a touch up at the end. If you have the problem of rubber or plastic parts fading or getting white with wax residue I have found several of the black again or forever black products work well. Mothers makes a nice cream product that works very well. Remember to do all of your rubber and vinyl before waxing, to help avoid getting wax onto those areas.

For leather, I like Lexol or Zymol, and for interior vinyl, Zymol's dressing is superior. For glass, my forever problem area, fellow club member, Kolin Brighton recently turned me onto the Stoner invisible glass product and it has worked very well. Remember to do your glass before you use any leather or vinyl dressing to keep those streaks and fingerprints to a minimum.

Now the biggie! Paint Preparation. This is where the shine comes from. It is not all in the wax, it's mostly paint preparation. For a car with a good finish, Zymol's HD cleanse or 3M Glaze are both great products. If you have some problem areas or fine scratches you will need to go to a heavier polishing product.

3M is my choice here. Be very careful and follow the directions to the letter! Use two applications of the cleaning/glazing/polishing products on each panel keeping your towels clean in between. Paint preparation is the absolute key and your goal is to end up with a smooth flat surface to apply the wax to. Before the next step, wash the body of the car again to remove any residue left behind, dry it with a leather chamois. Yes, I'm old school and still use a leather chamois. And then...

**Wax.** There are many good brands. From what I have read, seen, used, and been preached to about, Zymol seems to be the clear winner. Their products have won several national awards, as well as being on numerous Pebble Beach Concours winning cars. That is good enough for me. There are also some poly products out there (Zaino) and they seem to be good but until they prove themselves with the professionals that do this for cash and prizes at the national level, I'm sticking to wax, and Zymol is my brand. If you really get into this try some of Zymol's highline products, they are high percentage Carnauba, very expensive, but truly amazing to use. Being naked is optional.

Now that she is done, you need to keep her looking good. Please NO drive through automatic washes, as the chemicals they use to clean your car, without touching it, strips wax off in just a few washes. If you must go to the car wash, use the "quarter wash" and just the rinse cycle. In between your full hand waxing, once you dry your baby (another use for that compressor) use a spray on quick wax or one of the poly products. They really will re-shine your car nicely.

Enjoy!



## Fall Colors – Already?!

It seems a little early to be making arrangements for the annual Fall Colors tour and rally, but we wanted to make sure you had the info in plenty of time to make hotel reservations.

This year's event is on **October 16-17** and has a Northwest Passage theme, since the state is celebrating the Lewis & Clark expedition sesquicentennial. We'll be traveling to a different region this year, just for a change of pace and scenery & our route will probably (hey, it includes a rally, I can't give you ALL the details at this point) head northwest from the Des Moines area, up through the Des Moines River Valley, with an overnight in Storm Lake.

Sunday will feature a group drive down through the Loess Hills, and then maybe a lunch at the transplanted German Hausbarn in Manning before splitting up and heading back to our various abodes.

The hotel is the AmeriHost Inn in Storm Lake, 712-732-1000, or 800-434-5800. We have a block of rooms, held until Sept 20 – but don't put it off! Tell them your with the BMW Club, and you'll get a room rate of \$50 + tax. I'd also appreciate a **RSVP email**. If you're thinking of coming please let me know. My e-mail address is **[fourbells1@mchsi.com](mailto:fourbells1@mchsi.com)**. This will help us plan for the lunch stops and for Saturday night's dinner. Speaking of dinner, we have a room just for us, and the menu boasts quite a variety, from prime rib and of course Iowa chops to scampi and walleye. Meals are all on a no-host basis, so the fee for the Fall Color Tour and Rally will remain at \$10/car.

We look forward to seeing you on the tour! If you would like to join us but would rather not participate in the Rally, we do need volunteers to work the check points! Please e-mail me if you would like to help.

Committee members – Fred Bell, Dave Brighton, and Gary D'Agrosa



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**1987 535is** Overall good condition. It runs well but needs more attention than we can give it. One mild Iowa winter. \$3200 Obo, Jeff @ 515 276 2536

**1997 M3** sedan auto White/Magma, No winters 30k miles Sunroof CD alarm super nice \$25k obo. Iowa location Andy 512 970 3734.

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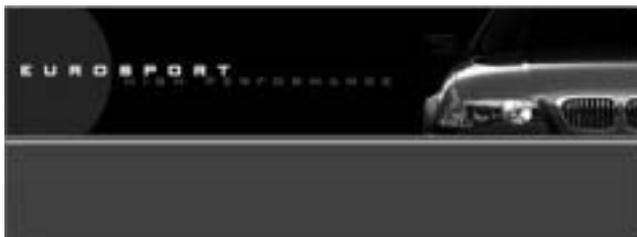
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