



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

IOWA CHAPTER BMW CCA • [www.bmwia.org](http://www.bmwia.org)

# NEWSWERKS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA CHAPTER BMW CCA

## Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

by David Hanf

Make your plans now to attend our Annual Meeting on **Saturday February 27, 2010**. This year we will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary as a chapter. The event will take place at Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston. If you attended last year, you already have your GPS set for it. If not, the address is 5291 Stoney Creek Ct., Johnston.

Our guest speaker will be former National BMW CCA President Scott Blazey of Kansas City. Scott has been active in BMW clubs for what he says seems like a lifetime. Starting with a BMW club he joined in Germany while in the service to most recently volunteering to be the Club Racing interim Chairman. He has attended every Oktoberfest since 1995, always participating in some of the events. You can be assured that Scott will have many interesting BMW-related stories that may include his helping get the Iowa Chapter up and going.

Social hour begins at **6:30 pm** with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres (sponsored by BMW of Des Moines) and a time to visit with other chapter members. An International Buffet follows at 7:30 pm that features prime rib, shrimp prima vera, cheese ravioli, and chicken bianco. Dessert will cap it off for those that still have room left.

The evening promises to be fun and entertaining and one you won't want to miss. And, of course, you can't forget the door prizes and awards.

If you are coming from out of town and need a room for the night, Stoney Creek Inn has rooms available. Call them at 515-334-9000.

The cost is only **\$30** per person. You can use Pay Pal at the Chapter website or use the registration form on page 7 of this newsletter.

**“The Spirit of BMW”  
Germany Tour**

**Two Guys,  
Two Weeks,  
Two Countries,  
a 335i Two Door:  
My European Delivery Trip**

**Fall Tech Session**

**Fall Color Tour  
Recap**



## Calendar of Events: January-September 2010

Events, club activities, and all happenings BMW

**Sunday, January 10, 2010**

### **Chili Cook-Off**

Hawkeye Stages, Des Moines  
11:30 am  
See article on page 3

**Tuesday, January 12, 2010**

### **Informal Social**

A Dong  
6:30 pm  
1511 High St., Des Moines

**Tuesday, February 9, 2010**

### **Informal Social**

Jimmy's  
6:30 pm  
1238 8th St., West Des Moines

**Saturday, February 27, 2010**

### **Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet**

Stony Creek Conference Center,  
Johnston  
6:30 pm  
See article on front page

**Tuesday, March 9, 2010**

### **Informal Social**

Pappa Chubby's BBQ  
6:30 pm  
305 SE Oralabor Rd, Ankeny

**Saturday, March 20, 2010**

### **Tune Up Tech Session**

**Saturday, April 10, 2010**

### **Fun Rally**

Des Moines

**Tuesday, April 12, 2010**

### **Informal Social**

Royal Mile  
6:30 pm  
210 4th St., Des Moines

**May 2010**

### **Camp Courageous Car Show**

Cedar Rapids

**June 10-13, 2010**

### **Longest Day Driving School and Instructor Training School**

Midamerican Motorplex  
Council Bluffs

**Saturday, July 10, 2010**

### **Annual Picnic**

Easter Lake Shelter  
Des Moines

**Sunday, August 8, 2010**

### **Iowa Cubs**

1:05 pm  
Des Moines

**August 21-22, 2010**

### **ALMS Race Weekend**

Road America  
Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

**August 23-28, 2010**

### **Oktoberfest**

Road America  
Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

**September 4-12, 2010**

### **The Spirit of BMW**

Trip to Germany  
See article on page 4

## NEWSWERKS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA CHAPTER BMW CCA

NEWSWERKS is published for the Iowa Chapter of BMW Car Club of America.

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To join the BMW CCA or renew membership or change your address – [www.bmwcca.org](http://www.bmwcca.org)

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Please submit material suitable for publication to:  
Becky Brighton at: [newsletter@bmwia.org](mailto:newsletter@bmwia.org)

## Iowa Chapter Has Lost a Character by Fred Bell

Longtime member Scott Hamilton passed away this fall, and we will miss one of our more colorful members. I first remember meeting Scott down at Spartanburg SC, where the chapter was holding a driving school at the BMW Performance Center in September 2000. Scott drove his gray-market 7-series all the way down there for the event, and was kind enough to offer this stranger a ride over to the factory from the airport. The car, still with dashboard markings in German, had been christened Frau Blucar - entirely logically since it was a steel-blue hue! That was typical Scott - up for a road trip, always with a great sense of humor, and a willingness to assist wherever asked.

Scott was an enthusiastic supporter of our chapter events, and helped out as a volunteer at many. He was a charter member of our club and served a term on the board as our Chapter Secretary. When the Street Survival driving safety program arrived in Des Moines, Scott made sure his daughters and son-in-law attended the course, and Scott was out there on the grid directing traffic and having a ball. He was a regular on the grid at the chapter driving schools as well, assisting with several events over the years. If you didn't see Scott's big grin on the grid, you'd usually see his frame parked atop the Armco barrier at the pit exit, regaling bystanders with his latest adventures in life.

Scott, you were taken from us way too soon. Freude am Fahren, my friend, wherever you go after this mortal cruise.

## 2010 Chili Cook-Off

by David Brighton

The 2010 Chili Cook-Off will take place on **Sunday, January 10**, beginning at **11:30 am** in Des Moines. It will be a social time with pot-luck chili and assorted soups. Please bring a chili or soup to share. Crackers, relish, drinks and dessert will be provided. The event will take place in the new home of Hawkeye Stages in Des Moines, located at 6375 NE 14th Street just north of the Polk County Sheriff's Department. For more information, please contact David Brighton at [dwbrighton@gmail.com](mailto:dwbrighton@gmail.com)



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## “The Spirit of BMW” Germany Tour

The Iowa Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America is sponsoring a “once in a lifetime” tour of Germany and BMW facilities and history. This tour is being planned by Bob Oliver of Northland Travel of Fort Dodge. Bob has extensive experience in planning international travel and is a specialist in European travel. This tour will feature a blend of BMW history and traditional German sightseeing. Bob has secured exceptional events such as touring Munich in restored BMW automobiles from the BMW Museum, an evening dinner in the restaurant of BMW World with dignitaries from BMW AG and a trip to the Nurburgring. This tour will begin on September 4, 2010 and return on September 12,

2010. All lodging will be in traditional Four Star German hotels with breakfast included each day. Cost is currently being finalized as contracts are written, but should be just shy of \$4000 per person. This tour will be open to Iowa Chapter members only initially, if the tour does not fill up with Iowa Chapter members, it will be offered to neighboring Chapters and then to the National membership. The maximum tour size will be no more than 40 travelers. Following is the complete itinerary of the “Spirit of BMW Tour”. For more information, please contact David Brighton at [dwbrighton@gmail.com](mailto:dwbrighton@gmail.com) or 515-576-8059.

Legacy Tour and Travel presents... a custom tour for BMW Car Club of Iowa

## The Spirit of BMW

See and experience the great traditions of The Ultimate Driving Machine

### Saturday 04 September 2010

#### Travel to Frankfurt and Munich, home of BMW

- Hawkeye luxury coach Iowa departure cities – Chicago O’Hare International Airport
- Fly Chicago-Frankfurt nonstop via American Airlines (*cocktails and dinner served in flight*)
- Overnight – enroute Frankfurt

### Sunday 05 September 2010

#### Welcome to Germany – ICE Train to Munich

- Breakfast served before landing at Frankfurt
- ICE High Speed Train Frankfurt Airport-Munich HBF
- Remainder of afternoon to explore Munich on your own
- “Welcome to Germany” dinner at world famous Hofbrauhaus, Munich – *We enjoy a meal of hearty traditional Bavarian food and local beers*
- Overnight – Hotel Platzl (\*\*\*\*) Munich

#### **About Munich’s Beer Culture**

Munich is the third largest producer of beer in the world and its famed beer hall traditions date from the late middle ages. There’s a huge range of beer produced here, from light, wheat beers to the signature dark, powerful brews of Paulaner, Lowenbrau, Spaten & Augustiner; perfectly matched with simple country dishes of roasted chicken, sausages, radishes, spicy cream cheese and black breads. The huge Hofbrauhaus - most famous bier keller in Germany – hosts our welcome dinner.

### Monday 06 September 2010

#### Introduction to the BMW highlights of Munich

- Breakfast buffet served in the dining room of our hotel
- “Highlights of Munich” sightseeing tour in restored, historic BMW cars (*we travel in historic, restored BMWs from the BMW Museum collection – bring your camera!*)
- Technical tour of BMW factory with expert guide
- Afternoon visit to BMW World (*we tour Technology & Design atelier, BMW Delivery Center, Automobile Exhibition - worlds largest BMW collection, and see the fabulous Doublecone*)
- Dinner in the restaurant of BMW World (*an unforgettable evening in a uniquely BMW atmosphere*)
- Overnight – Hotel Platzl, Munich (\*\*\*\*)

### Tuesday 07 September 2010

#### More BMW sightseeing in Munich and travel to Nuremberg and Leipzig

- Breakfast buffet served in the dining room of our hotel
- Expert guided tour of BMW Museum (*housed in the futuristic, silver “salad bowl” building by Viennese architect Karl Schwanzer*)
- Travel Munich-Leipzig (*travel aboard a luxury coach – or in a rented BMW – optional at extra cost to traveler*)
- Visit several sites of Nazi-era interest in Nuremberg

- Continue to Modlareuth near the former German-German Border (*a fascinating look at life in a village on the border of the former East Germany*)
- Traditional dinner of German special dishes in Auerbachskeller Restaurant (*this beautiful restaurant is in the center of historic Leipzig and is famous for its cooking*)
- Overnight – Hotel Pentahotel, Leipzig (\*\*\*\*)

#### Wednesday 08 September 2010

##### **We go behind the Iron Curtain to Old Leipzig to visit a modern BMW Factory**

- Breakfast buffet served in the dining room of our hotel
- Guided highlights tour of Leipzig (with expert local guide aboard our coach)
- Tour of BMW Leipzig Factory-newest in BMW Group-home of 3 Series & 1 Series (*there will be an opportunity to meet rectory experts and test-drive cars right off the line!*)
- Discussion of life in Communist East Germany (*fascinating encounter with BMW employees who lived in Leipzig under the communists*)
- Evening and dinner on-your-own in historic Leipzig
- Overnight – Hotel Pentahotel, Leipzig (\*\*\*\*)

#### Thursday 09 September 2010

##### **Onward to Eisenach – where BMW first build cars in Germany**

- Breakfast buffet served in the dining room of our hotel
- Tram tour of historic Erfurt
- Expert guided tour of Automobilbaumuseum – ancestral home of German car industry with examples of Dixi, Wartburg & BMW cars
- Dinner in our hotel
- Overnight – Eisenach (\*\*\*\*)

#### Friday 10 September 2010

##### **Eisenbach – Cologne and “Cologne by Night” sightseeing**

- Breakfast buffet served in the dining room of our hotel
- Travel across Germany to Cologne
- Dinner of Kolner specialties in Haxenhaus Restaurant (*dinner of typical Cologne specialties - knuckles, home made sausages, Kolner beer, schnapps served in a beautiful 13th century building on the banks of the River Rhine*)
- “Cologne by Night” guided sightseeing tour (*a very special look at the city’s landmarks illuminated by night*)
- Overnight – Cologne (\*\*\*\*)



#### Saturday 11 September 2010

##### **Rhine River Cruise & high speed thrills at Ringwerk - Nurburgring**

- Breakfast buffet served in the dining room of our hotel
- Admission & self-guided tour of one of Europe’s finest gothic cathedrals (the D.O.M.) (*one of the few buildings in the city to escape destruction during World War II bombings*)
- Morning cruise of the Rhine River aboard a private chartered excursion boat (*we travel Cologne-Bonn, one of the most scenic portions of the Rhine*)
- Admission to new automotive theme park “Ringwerk” (*satisfy your “need for speed” riding a “Ring Taxi” (a V10 BMW M5) with professional driver on the fabled Nurburgring circuit – optional at extra cost to traveler*)
- Farewell Dinner in Old Cologne (*enjoy a real Kolner dinner with plenty of Kolsch beer at world famous Brauhaus Gaffel Kolsch*)
- Overnight – Cologne (\*\*\*\*)

#### Sunday 12 September 2010

- Early breakfast buffet served in the dining room of our hotel
- Motor coach transfer to Frankfurt Airport for our flight home
- Hawkeye luxury coach Chicago O’Hare International Airport – Iowa departure cities
- WELCOME HOME

## For Rent:

A week at a condo in Orlando during January-mid April, 2010 or the last two weeks of December 2010. Two bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six. Beautifully and completely furnished – all you bring is food! Within 20 minutes of ALL major attractions. Think Daytona 500, Sebring Enduro, Spring Break or Christmas vacation! \$700. Call Leslie or Jim at 303-671-6131 or e-mail colorado924@comcast.net ASAP to get your first-choice week reserved!



## Included in Your Tour:

### Unique BMW Travel & Tour Experiences - 8

- “Welcome to Munich” city tour in classic, restored BMW automobiles  
*Travel in beautifully restored classic BMW cars – a unique travel experience*
- BMW Munich factory tour (BMW’s “home” plant) with expert guide  
*We go behind the scenes with an expert guide in the home of the “ultimate driving machine”*
- Self-guided tour of BMW World, Munich
- Special catered dinner served in the unique surroundings of BMW World, Munich  
*Enjoy the special atmosphere of BMW World after hours with a special dinner menu*
- Guided tour of BMW Museum with expert guide, Munich  
*Futuristic “salad bowl” building houses a superb collection telling the official history of BMW*
- Opportunity to rent and drive a new BMW on the Autobahn  
*(optional at personal expense)*
- BMW Leipzig factory tour (one of BMW’s newest plants) with expert guide  
*A look at the home of the re-engineered 3 Series and 1 Series automobiles*
- Entrance to Automobilbaumuseum, showcasing a collection of BMW, Wartburg & Dixi cars

### Interesting Tours of Classic German Sights – 10

- Time to explore central Munich – one of Europe’s most walkable cities – on-your-own
- Special “Nazi history tour” of Nuremberg
- Meet and talk to Germans who lived behind the Iron Curtain in the communist era
- Dinner and evening on your own to discover the historic center of old Leipzig
- Tram tour of historic Erfurt
- “Cologne by Night” guided coach tour of the cultural city of Cologne
- Self-guided tour of Germany’s finest gothic Cathedral, the DOM of Cologne
- Morning cruise of the Rhine River (Koln-Bonn) aboard a K-D German Rhine Line steamer
- Admission to “Ringwerk” automotive theme park & famed Nurburgring circuit race course
- Travel in a high-speed “Ring Taxi” or rent a BMW on the Nurburgring circuit  
*(optional at personal expense, but highly recommended for a once-in-a-lifetime experience!)*

### Superior Tour Hotel Accommodation – 7 Nights with Breakfast Daily

- Hotel Platzl (\*\*\*\*) or Hotel Bristol (\*\*\*) or equivalent – Munich - (2 nights) **Stay & See Stop**
- Hotel Pentahotel (\*\*\*\*) or equivalent – Leipzig (2 nights) **Stay & See Stop**
- Hotel (exact hotel to be announced) – Eisenach (1 night)
- Hotel (exact hotel to be announced) – Cologne (2 nights) **Stay & See Stop**

### Memorable Dining – 14 Included Meals

- 8 Breakfast buffets (many traditional German foods will be experienced at breakfast)
- “Welcome to Germany” dinner of traditional Bavarian food & beer  
*Served in the unmistakable atmosphere of world famous Hofbrauhaus, Munich*
- Special catered dinner for our group in the Restaurant of BMW World, Munich
- Dinner of traditional German favorite dishes in Auerbachskeller Restaurant, Leipzig  
*This beautiful traditional restaurant in the center of historic Leipzig is famous for its cooking*
- Dinner in the dining room of our hotel, Eisenach
- Dinner of Kolner knuckles, home made sausages, beer & schnapps in Haxenhaus Restaurant  
*(on the banks of the Rhine River in a beautifully restored 13th century building in Old Cologne)*
- Farewell dinner with beer in world famous Brauhaus Gaffel Kolsch, Cologne

### Travel to Germany in Style

- Hawkeye Stages luxury coach Iowa departure cities – O’Hare International Airport
- Professional, uniformed driver
- Luggage handling (1 suitcase per traveler)
- Reserved seats on ICE express train (fastest, best of Germany Railways) Frankfurt-Munich HBF
- Luxury tour coach throughout our tour of Germany

### Pricing

- Fares, deposits and payment terms for this tour to be announced soon!

**Legacy Tour & Travel • PO Box 911 • Fort Dodge IA 50501  
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**IOWA CHAPTER BMW CCA  
BALLOT FOR  
2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



All members and associate members, in good standing, may cast a ballot.  
Mail your completed ballot to Iowa Chapter BMWCCA, PO Box 42113, Urbandale, IA 50323

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**2010 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet Reservation Form**

Mail reservation to:  
Iowa Chapter, BMW CCA  
PO Box 42113  
Urbandale, IA 50323

Reservations and payment may also be made via PayPal by visiting our website at: [www.bmwia.org](http://www.bmwia.org)

*Reservations are due February 12, 2010*

Total number of reservations at \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of vegetarian meals \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## Welcome New Members

LAST	FIRST	CITY	CAR	YEAR	CAR	YEAR
Simmer	Kent	West Des Moines	X 6	2009		
Pierce	Chance	Ames	325ci	2001		
Hauber	James T.	Dubuque	335i Convertible	2009		
Aronow	Martin	Ankeny	X5 Diesel	2010		
Bird	Justin	Cedar Rapids	325Ci	2002		
Miller	James	Cedar Rapids	328i	2009		
Miller	Sarah	Cedar Rapids				



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## Two Guys, Two Weeks, Two Countries, a 335i Two Door: My European Delivery Trip by Mike Williams

On October 15, along with my brother Ray, I took delivery of a 2010 335i in Munich, Germany. Here is the story.

My daily driver, a 2000 328Ci, was getting to 100,000 miles. The E46 still looked great, but so did the E92. At Christmas 2008 I devised a plan with Ray to do something about it. He would buy my car for his son (pretty good wheels for a high school senior) to go along with the 325xi that his family already had. I delivered the 328 at Easter, and then just drove my "summer" car for six months. (Ray had also helped me with the Museum Delivery of this Corvette from the factory in Bowling Green, KY, a few years ago.) To get the ball rolling for fall delivery of a 2010 model, I negotiated and ordered the car in late summer. This was interesting because at the time I did not know: the new prices (didn't change - even with HD radio now standard), colors (same as before), options & packages (essentially the same), or new look (also the same - the facelift did not happen on the 2010's). No delivery until 10/15 however, so no Oktoberfest in the offing.

The adventure began on Sunday, October 11, when I drove to my brother's home in Madison, WI. Had my portable GPS (smart request for a gift that previous Christmas) loaded with the routes and hotels that had been reserved on the internet. Monday we took a bus to Chicago to avoid long term parking fees at O'Hare. The overnight flight to Munich got in at 9:30 AM local time (2:30 AM body time). We purchased a second "Munich City Card" (the first one didn't get to Iowa before I left) and used it to get on the S-Bahn (Schnell/fast train) into the main city station. After figuring out which way was south, we wheeled our luggage four blocks to the Hotel Uhland - a nice family hotel recommended by the author Rick Steves.

We did take a quick nap, and then got on a U-Bahn to Dachau. Then we tried to figure out which bus to use to get to the concentration camp. Luckily, there was an English-speaking tour group headed there. We just fell in behind them! The main gate at Dachau is still standing, but most of the (wood) buildings are gone. You can see the foundations to get an idea about how large it was. One barracks is still there, and you can see what the "accommodations" were like in the mid 1930's, late 1930's, and the 1940's. There is an extensive, descriptive museum and many religious memorials. No crematoriums here, though, as Dachau and its satellites were work camps, not specifically extermination camps from what I could tell. It was a gray, rainy afternoon - quite appropriate. After reflection, we headed back to the hotel and a

sports bar for supper. Sports bar means 2 TV's to watch and lots of people playing cards. Bedtime was 8 PM (1 PM Central) that night.

Wednesday was the day to see Munich, scheduled just in case our luggage did not arrive when we did. A quick U-Bahn ride to the city center and a walk got us to the Deutsches Museum, the biggest technology museum in Germany. It might remind some of the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago. We saw the history of flight from balloons to a Wright brothers plane to many aero engines to V1's & V2's to Komets and Me 262's to modern airplanes and cockpits. There were many ship models to see and even the whole U-1 submarine. If you like power station motors, drilling equipment, the human body, optics, or early pharmacies, you could spend days there. Instead, in mid-afternoon, we went to the Haufbrau haus and each drank a liter of beer to go with the pretzel as big as your head that the nice girl brought us. Good for watching the hail coming down outside. The weather turned better and we headed to Marienplatz to watch figurines in the clock tower do their thing. On our way to the Residenz (Ruler's home) we checked out a BMW dealership with the new GT. Supper in town that night was at the Munchen Ratskeller. Liver dumpling soup as good as Grandma used to make!

Thursday was BMW day. Train right to the Welt (BMW World). Take a few pictures of the 4-cylinder building, museum bowl, Olympic site/TV tower, the delivery center itself, and head inside. The nice receptionist escorted us to the glass elevators and we headed up to the European Delivery headquarters. Now the royal treatment begins! Simone introduced herself and got things started



- explaining, signing, and scheduling our day. After the paperwork was done, we went next door to the premium lounge. Internet access, lots of snacks/drinks/reading materials, etc. I put my GPS (for the drive back to the hotel) in locker 335.

We had a morning English-speaking plant tour - very interesting, very clean. Then it was redeeming vouchers and other shopping at the gift shops. Also, I could see my car for the first time on the mezzanine across the atrium. I bought Ray lunch at the International Restaurant (Argentinean beefsteak and German wine for me), and then we looked at some BMW technology exhibits. Finally it was time for our delivery appointment. We met Matthias, our delivery specialist, in the premium lounge. He did some computer simulation driving practice with me (DSC, CBC on and off, etc.). Then it was time for the big moment. Using his magic key card, he opened the special stairway down to the mezzanine. As we descended, my car started to turn! Some more product instruction, a professional photo, and then our parade lap down the ramp and out of the building. To the parking garage. (We still hadn't seen the BMW Museum.) Walk back through the Welt, past the double cone, over the elevated sidewalk in the snow, and in to the museum for free, thanks to my own magic card. Thanks, Simone! Motorcycles, race cars, historic cars, experimentals, but only one art car. A full day! Now to unpark for free, gas up, get to the hotel, and more beer.

Friday we checked out and headed southwest to get a photo of the car with the Neuschwanstein Castle in the background, as expected from the boys on bimmerfest.com - a great resource. Then it was on to Stuttgart and the Mercedes Benz Museum. New - big - lots of history. On our way out of town, we drove by the Porsche Museum, but had no time to stop. We were late to get to our relatives in Altenbaunberg (near Frankfurt). As we got close on a local road that night, we came upon a bad one-car accident. The German rule that all cars must carry a warning triangle and first-aid kit is a good one. The situation was already being handled, so we proceeded to Gela & Michael's. Her father and our mother were cousins, and she is an English teacher. We had been there 40 years ago and 4 years ago. Good food and good conversation that night.

Saturday was my birthday. I got a real German Chocolate cake and a four lap pass card to the Nurburgring track nearby! After some other sightseeing, the four of us headed off in search of the 'ring. Not easy. Its a big track and there is no particular road that goes close all the way around. We found the grandstand area and several other observation points; but it took an hour to find the public driving



entrance. That day's pro race was over, and about 75 of us were waiting for the one hour of scheduled public time before sunset. We had something to eat and I bought some more souvenirs. We discussed with the stewards whether my red-striped zoll (customs) license plate would allow me on the track. It was decided that as long as it didn't have red numbers on it (courtesy car), it was OK. More waiting. Finally, it was announced that there was too much repair work/debris to open up the track for the time left. We went home disappointed.

Sunday was to be the drive to Berlin for the two of us. However, we decided to take a chance and head west to the track first. It was a foggy drive, and I was prepared for more delay and disappointment, but when we got there (having programmed in the exact coordinates into the GPS) the track was wide open! Just swipe the card and here we go! A trunk full of luggage, no helmets, no release forms, no one even checking to see if I had a drivers license! (I did have an international one.) I did have everything loose put in the trunk. If you have read articles about this place, you know it is way beyond Mid America Motorplex and our Longest Day Driving School. The width is similar. Guard rails all over, and close by. Five times the length. Hills to hide the curves. The Karussell - a switchback so tight and steep that the inside edge looks like a black funnel, I think. What a blast! I let Ray drive one of our laps. We took it pretty easy, since any damage to the track or car would seriously change our trip. The etiquette on the track was great. Pass on the left. Watch your mirrors. If anyone is coming up on you, move right,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



### Two Guys, Two Weeks, Two Countries, a 335i Two Door: My European Delivery Trip continued

blink your right signal once to show that you see them and won't be swinging out to the line around the curve. Needless to say, there were many fast cars and good drivers there. I had never even done a video game simulation of the track. I was passed 10 times per lap, but I actually did pass one car. Ray did one small patch of agricultural driving on his lap, but then he had never done anything like this before. Not bad. On the one straightaway, I did open the car up to 130 MPH (keeping below the 4000 RPM break-in limit) What a thrill!

Then on to Berlin. Maybe. Lucy, our name for the GPS voice, had us headed in the wrong direction. Ray did not like what we were doing compared to the Michelin maps we had, so after a while he did some old-fashioned navigating until Lucy recalculated. The Autobahn was fairly crowded, even without trucks on a Sunday, but we still got to Winter's Hotel at a reasonable hour. This was our cheap hotel for the trip (\$40 per night) but it was very clean; and the toilet and shower down the hall were no problem. A 5-star hostel.

Monday it was the perimeter train and then the U-Bahn into the city center. We saw the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, U. S. Embassy, Jewish Memorial, Berliner Rathaus (old red city hall), Berlin Dom church, and a real kitschy & fun DDR (East Germany) Museum. Lunch was a Berlin specialty - a 20 inch long currywurst sausage. We did not rent a Trabant (old, terrible communist car) to drive, but we did spend much of the evening at Checkpoint Charlie, its museum, and a decaying remnant of the Berlin Wall. Back to the hotel and more beer. (Our accounting showed 180 euros - \$270 - spent on beer over the ten nights. But remember - hotel beer is expensive!)

Tuesday was the drive to Amsterdam. Much of it was a cruise at 80 - 110 MPH. It gets you there fast, but you are still worn out because of the concentration it requires. Europeans are all great drivers, and we tried to do our part: always using turn signals, not hanging out in the inside lane, constantly checking mirrors, no drinking, no eating, not even a radio on! Boy do those signs come up fast at those speeds - and they are all in German! In total we drove about 1,500 miles on the trip, using 5 1/2 tanks of gas at about \$110 each. Heading in to Amsterdam, Lucy got us to the right street and to the Golden Tulip Hotel, but it was the one in the southeast part of town, not the northwest. Out with the Michelin map again. (Both really helped, and I wouldn't want to do a trip like this without each type of map.)

Wednesday started with the train into town. Public transportation in European cities is so easy, clean, fast, affordable and convenient! Then it was a canal cruise, the Rijk (Rembrandt) Museum, Van Gogh Museum, Heineken Experience, and the red light district. (Hey, its on the way back to the train station!) Amsterdam - what a city!

Thursday morning was the appointment to drop off the car at the docks. I had good maps all printed out on how to go southeast, over a bridge, and to the E. H. Harms Company. Lucy said go southwest. She actually had done several good things before, so we went with her recommendation. The path was getting a little strange, and then she said "now take the ferry"! Well, we had to (after figuring out how to pay and get the gate arm to open up). Luckily we came at a good time - last vehicle on and a quick trip. But then it took us another hour on the other side to find our destination. A nice stevedore on a big piece of equipment directed us from the warehouse we found to the office we needed to be at a mile away. Check-in was good. A cab ride and another train got us back to the city center in the afternoon. There we went to the Sex Museum. For three euros we couldn't resist. The Anne Frank House was next. Very well done and very powerful - perhaps more so than Dachau because it is so personal. Then our last biergarten, made even more interesting because the Amsterdam riot police and soccer fans were both gearing up for a big match that evening. One last stroll through the red light district (hey, its still on the way to the train station!) and back to the hotel lounge to watch the match.

Friday it was up at 6:30 AM to catch a train to the airport, the flight and bus trip back to Madison, and bed by 4:00 AM (9:00 PM Central).

Since then I have been tracking the progress of my car with helpful hints provided by bimmerfest.com. It took two weeks to get the car from Amsterdam to Bremerhaven and on a ship (Nov. 5). Don't know why Antwerp was not used. Then the ship stopped in several other European ports before hitting Baltimore and finally docking in Brunswick, GA, just before Thanksgiving. As I write this, I am still waiting. My baby needs to reach me! The winter tires and wheels are here, I just need a car. Perhaps I can show it to you at an Iowa Chapter event soon. Look for a Tasman Green coupe with a special Jade Gray interior and a Nurburgring track sticker on the back. The trip was the adventure of a lifetime. And you get a great big souvenir at a 7% discount. BMW AG knows what they are doing. They get a customer for life. Euro delivery - I highly recommend it. Just remember to slow down when you are back in America driving!

## Fall Tech Session

The 2009 Fall Tech session was held at BMW of Des Moines on Saturday, November 14. Kolin Brighton, the presenter for the session, covered the topic "winterization of your BMW." The subject was presented from two different angles, one being "preparation for winter storage" and the other "preparing your car for winter."

Kolin presented an outline of things for each scenario, followed by a group discussion of "tried and true" practices. You may contact Kolin for his suggestions on this topic.



## Wanted: Newsworks Editor

Becky Brighton will be stepping down as the volunteer Newsworks editor in early fall of 2010. The Iowa Chapter needs a replacement to learn the position under the teaching of Becky. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested in becoming the new editor, please contact Becky at [newsletter@bmwia.org](mailto:newsletter@bmwia.org) or at 515-576-8059.



## Fall Color Tour Recap

This year's annual Fall Color Tour might have come a little early to catch the best sights and smells of Autumn, however, attendees still relished the chance to spend one last good weekend before it's time to think of snow tires, battery tenders, and car covers.

On Saturday morning, Oct. 17, a fleet of shiny, freshly waxed BMWs stood ready on the square in historic Pella's downtown area.

Winding down throughout southeastern Iowa this year, the fall color tour broke new ground. The club made its initial pilgrimage to the southern part of the state. In previous years the tour has headed north. Lured by the roads that wind throughout the southern half of Iowa 16 hardy souls mustered out early Saturday morning in Pella, Iowa for the start of this year's tour.

Everyone made sure to stock up on Dutch letters while in Pella, a special treat found only in that part of the state. From Pella, the group caravanned across the lake and headed towards Osceola. In Osceola they headed over to the Southern Hills Winery to take advantage of a full tasting menu. Group members enjoyed getting a chance to sample some of Iowa's unique wines.

The lunch stop for Saturday was at Kinfolks BBQ, a traditional Texas style BBQ joint located in the heart of southern Iowa. After lunch, the group headed just down the road a bit for some real fall style fun.



Covering over 50 acres, the corn mazes at Dan D Farms were a little overwhelming to some. However, a few plucky club members braved the slightly muddy conditions, and answered some tricky corn based questions in order to make their way through the maze.

From Dan D Farms, the group headed south towards Lake Rathbun, and Honey Creek Resort and State Park, the site of Saturday's dinner and the host hotel for the fall color tour.

Sunday morning started off bright and breezy as the group saddled up for the last leg of the tour. After posing for a group photo members headed off for another quick drive before stopping for lunch.

As everyone headed their separate ways, it was clear the Fall Color Tour had been a rousing success.



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