

News Werks

Hot Fun in Topeka

by Tony Wiles

The Kansas City BMW CCA Chapter recently held the "Surface of the Sun" BMW driving school at Heartland Park in Topeka, Kansas. I know what you're thinking... Topeka, Kansas in the heat of the summer? It's not exactly everyone's idea of a good time. Drivers school? This sounds like some kind of class, taken under court order. Neither of these notions could be farther from the truth.

So, what's the real story? What is there to do in Topeka? What is a driver's school? Its difficult to describe, but believe me, it's a great time! The "Surface of the Sun" event earned its name from previous years of scorching heat. On that note, why would anyone want to endure 100-degree temperatures, standing on a concrete track or driving around in a car without air-conditioning? FUN, of course! More than anything BMW driver's schools are designed to be fun. Ok, so they're also supposed to teach you more about yourself, your car, and fellow BMW enthusiasts. Did I mention that they are FUN?

Driver's schools give you the chance to drive fast, explore what your car can do while improving your control skills. All at your own pace, while in a safe environment, and while limiting the risk of damaging your car and or your driving record. This year The Iowa chapter attended the event in force. Among those in attendance were Dana and Natalie Schrader, Doug Wittkowski with support crew Martha, Fred Bell and family, Dave Brennan and family, Chris Brennan, Jay Read, Siraj Podikunju, Scott Smed, Russ Wiles, Gary D'Argrosa and myself. The group's experience ranged from first-time

THE WIRE

Topeka

New M3

Beemer ?

Rally Lessons

New Members

Disclaimer:

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The Editor of this newsletter seeks material suitable for publication by and for its members.

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performance drivers to instructors. Chris Brennan in a 318ti and Fred Bell in an M coupe were especially impressive as novices. Natalie Schrader showed the track, a few of the other drivers, and her E46 328i, who was boss. It was Natalie's first time to Solo as an intermediate and she was very impressive. I took a ride with club president, Dave Brennan in his 540i. Wow, can he drive! It was a momentous occasion for Dana Schrader who was a first-time instructor at Heartland Park and was also their to drive his Mustang Cobra for the last time. Dana once again showed us that smooth is FAST! and tried too instill those virtues to his student and fellow chapter member Doug Wittkowski. Scott Smed exercised his 328i, or is that an M3 luxury package? The rest of us, Siraj, Gary, Russ and myself drove our M3's and or instructed. The Iowa Chapter members set up a tent that provided shade and a common area to regroup and relax. Saturday's weather was nearly perfect. The tent and shade were great. On Saturday evening, many members attended the awards dinner where Satch Carlson, editor, Roundel magazine, (you may remember Satch from last year's annual meeting banquet) was the featured speaker. The event got rave reviews. He made good fun of the Iowa contingent. If you know Satch, he's always entertaining. Sunday was another perfect day at the track... nothing out of the ordinary to speak of, but the road trip home however, was another story. The Iowa chapter split into two groups. One headed into KC for some BBQ; the rest continued north to Iowa. I have a very colorful story that is amusing; however, I will leave it for another time and place. Suffice it to say, I now know why they call Missouri the "Show Me State."

The next big question! When is the next BMW School at Heartland Park? Next year. But, for those of you who want to make it sooner, we are planning to attend an event on November 4th and 5th. Sponsored by the Kansas City Quattro Club, Hope to see you there!

Tony

What is a Beemer ?

By Doug Wittkowski

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Bimmer, Beemer?

So, what's is a name? Toe'mate' o" Toe' maht' o', Po' Tate' o, Po' tot 'o' Who cares?

But when it comes to BMW's there are proper nicknames, and rules that just must be followed. ☺

Many folks, including some of our own fellow members just don't know these rules.

So here goes, A Beemer (pronounced Beam'er') is a BMW Motorcycle and was the first one to get its nickname some time after WWII (the big one).

Several years later, if my research is correct, during those horrible BMW/yuppie years of the 70's and 80's BMW cars were nicknamed Bimmers (pronounced Bim'er').

There also seems to be different levels of abuse in different parts of the country. On both the east and west coasts they are more often right than wrong. Yes its true, they are a bit more sophisticated and ahead of the trends than we Midwesterners, are they not? The deep south and near west is the very worst at this. I have never experienced the correct terminology in either area unless they were true BMW enthusiasts or transplants. In Detroit, where I have spent many years, they call BMW's "Beamers" with much destine. No doubt, due to the fact that they just cannot seem to build a proper copy as of yet. Here in Iowa it runs about 50/50. That is probably due to our unusually high numbers of BMW motorcycles per-capita, an another strange phenomenon that needs to be investigated one day.

So what does all this mean? Absolutely nothing, You can call your BMW anything you like. I personally call my own M3 "Steffi" after my favorite German tennis star Stephanie Graf who also wears white and is good on her feet.

The purpose of your "NewsWerks" is to inform. Now you know the proper terminology for BMW's. Aren't you glad? Don't you dare answer that!

***New Members :** To all the recently new members out there. It is tradition for the newsletter to list your names and welcome you to our chapter. This will soon be a regular feature. However with all the recent transfers from surrounding chapters it has just been overwhelming to keep an accurate list. We certainly are not forgetting you and appreciate the huge growth we have experienced Welcome to you all and feel free to immediately participate in any way that would benefit you, your car and or the club. If you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or anyone in the box to the left as we are here to help you enjoy your club.*

Also remember that there is an e-mail update system in place and if you are interested in receiving the latest chapter news almost as it happens please forward me your address at: wittawerks@se-iowa.net All of us, look forward to meeting all of you soon .

ED.



Dates to Remember

September 29 BMW Performance Center Driving School (Great fun!)
Contact Club President Dave Brennan
Note: Registration deadline extended to **September 15th**

October 1-6 BMW CCA OktoberFest, Greenville/Spartanburg, SC

October 14-15th **Fall Color Tour** – Northeast Iowa and Wisconsin

The Fall Color Tour will be held the second weekend in October, starting Saturday October 14th in Manchester, Iowa (in the Wal-Mart parking lot at 10:30 am, coffee and donuts provided) and will end on Sunday in West Union, Iowa. In between, we will take in the beauty of Northeast Iowa and have plenty of time to see the sights along the way— in places like Prairie Du Chein and Gays Mills, Wisconsin and back into Iowa at Lansing, where we will tour the upper Iowa river valley through Decorah and into West Union. Along the way and throughout the weekend, we will be able to try things like apple cider, gambling on a river boat, shopping in some very nice antique shops or at an outlet mall. Quite a variety of fun options for you are available on this trip, or maybe just relax and enjoy the drive, its up to you. There will even be a competitive event, in the way of a timed rally at the beginning of the weekend. We also have 20 rooms set aside at the very nice Quiet Place Hotel for Saturday night in Prairie Du Chein, Wisconsin and you should make your reservations directly by calling the hotel at 608 326 4777 and mention that you are with the BMW Club of Iowa for a special rate and room. We plan on having a relaxing, fun, quiet, and beautifully great time on our first casual driving event of the **Iowa Chapter**. If you have never seen this part of the country, you are in for a wonderful surprise. These dates should almost assure us of some spectacular fall color in what many consider, the most pretty part of our state. Please plan on joining us. For more information or to help with the final details please feel free to contact **Tom Clark, toclark@cisco.com** , 319 399 5182 or **Jason Smith, jason@iscins.com**

November 4th - 5th **Kansas City Quattro drivers school at Heartland Park Topeka**
Kansas. see : www.quattroclubusa.org/r/kc/ for more information.

December **Enjoy your holidays !!!**

January 20th ,2001 **Annual meeting. This year we will be holding the annual meeting at the downtown Des Moines Embassy Suites hotel. We will be keeping you updated as all the fun details unfold.**



European Motorcars

Rallies as life's lessons are learned the hard way

by Alison Bell

On July 15th, following the tech session at European Motorcars, several club members headed downtown to participate the Des Moines Valley Region SCCA Weekend Sports Car Rally. What we thought would be a seemingly simple drive through our own neighborhoods turned into an adventure. Little did we know that the Rally master, Ric Johnson, had a few tricks up his sleeves. More than Fred Bell did at our club rally in the Amanas. (To clarify, the "we" in this article refers to me and, my partner in crime, Chris Brennan, driving his 318ti). Other club members on the rally were Fred Bell, and his other daughter Stephanie.

Because this was a Time, Speed, Distance (TSD) rally we had to make sure we weren't behind on time or ahead, so the navigator (me) was important. We started the rally on Ingersoll and wound our way through Water Works Park to West Des Moines. As the navigator, I had to keep looking ahead on the directions and noticed that the rally went near my house. Since we were getting close to the end of the free zone(untimed) and we needed to find somewhere to kill 10 minutes, my house looked like the perfect spot, we could grab some munchies and say "Hi" to Mom! Back on the road and several directions later, we found ourselves looking for a "T" to turn at. When we found ourselves on a gravel road out in the country, we figured we had messed up! We headed back to where we thought we made a wrong turn, wasted about fifteen minutes, and re-read the directions. Apparently, dead end streets do not count and we figured out that we should have turned at the first opportunity past the dead end sign!! A lesson for all navigators – read the instructions properly, before heading out.

Once we got back on track, we needed to make up for the "lost" time, so this is where the speed came in. Theoretically, since we were the first car out, we had to be the first car back. As we continued along the route, we started to notice a few things... such as, "Are you getting this strange sense of déjà vu?" "Have we been here before?" Well, yes we had been here before: it was during the whole "T" escapade. There were a few laughs, and then some choice words! Once we got to the end, the checkpoint sign was there and we turned in our fill-in sheet and unopened "panic" envelope and continued to the party site, the Tavern II. When we got there, we found most of the participants had already arrived. And on the table lay the answers to the fill-ins. Because we were so involved with playing catch-up, and knew the area, we just assumed what the signs were for and

filled them in. Unfortunately, some were on the left side of the road, meaning that they didn't count. So we lost a few more points in addition to the points lost for being "late".

First, the answer to the question I think you all have... Yes, the navigator and driver are still on speaking terms! The only people we were not speaking to were the winners of this event, Fred and Steph. I did not say it following the rally, but "Congratulations to Dad and Steph". We ended up in 8th place of nine. There were a couple of lessons learned during this escapade:

Lesson #1. Navigators's should read all directions thoroughly before beginning the rally, paying more attention to spellings and what side of the road they are on. And if you are in an area you think you know, forget it! Pretend it is the first time you have driven on the road! This will help keep you alert so you can see the signs and follow the directions.

Lesson #2. Love the performance aspects of your BMW. It may come in handy some day. You never know when you'll have to do a tight U-turn or speed someplace due to an error caused by your navi-guesser.

Lesson #3. Never take it personal... losses, words spoken, etc. It all turns out okay in the end. And a rally is supposed to be FUN!!!!

The next DMVR rally is on Saturday, October 21st at night. Be ready for some Halloween antics on the Wicked Witches Way Rally. See the DMVR SCCA web site for more information.



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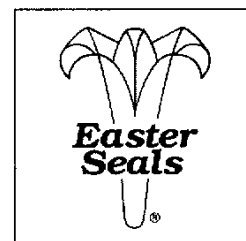
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The New M3

By the time you read this, the next generation of what many experts consider to be the very best sports coupe in the world will be in production and on its way to our shores.

So, if you are BMW what do you do for an encore? First the facts. We know it will be built on the E46 platform, which is considered by many, superior to the previous generation E36. We have seen the press released photos and they look good. But let's face it BMW's are never about body styling in the end. We know that it will ride on enlarged 18" wheels and rubber, which will no doubt cover even bigger and more powerful brakes. The Rumors are even more exciting. A modified steering system, Revised rear suspension, A 3.2L straight six with both intake and exhaust Vanos systems, Individual throttle body's, and at least 220 H.P., a 8000 RPM redline, 0-60 MPH in less than 5 seconds, and handling second to no other sports car at any price. There is also some interesting equipment and options. A new M differential lock, that is an electronically controlled limited slip differential system that could be very interesting. Standard DSC, and some very wild M3 only color and interior choices.

All this for a rumored price of \$46-50,000, which is about what the last 1999, M3 would have sold for with this level of equipment.

Further out in the rumor mill there is also to be a stripped down enthusiasts version similar to the 95 model Lightweight that promises to terrorize driving schools and club level racers all over the world. Another source insists there will also be a Convertible and four-door sedan in the next year.

If you want one of the first, get on your dealers list *now* as the other rumor is that first years production will sell out as soon as the first driving tests hit the national magazines. You can bet this editor will be begging for a test drive of his own very soon.

M Power BABY !

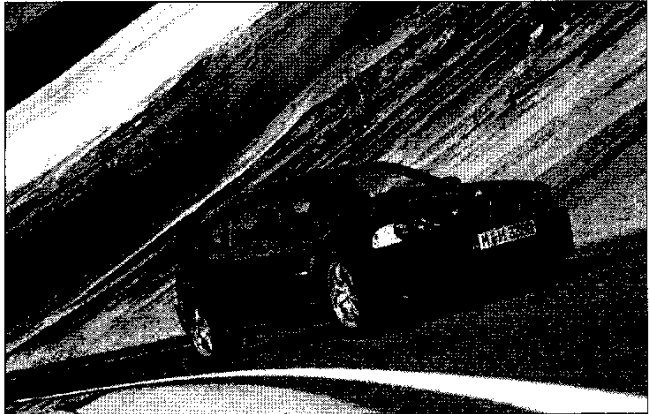
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Okay, so \$45k plus is a little steep for you. I can relate to that. So what about those raffle tickets that BMW CCA sent you? Have you mailed them in yet? They gave 13 M3's away at Oktoberfest last year. How about you win a new M3 for \$25.00? Get them in the mail now, while there is still time.

Deadline September 15th

IT IS NOMINATION TIME!

As outlined in our Club by-laws, each year members have and are encouraged to nominate individuals to serve on the Board of Directors. The Club has seven officer positions; President, Vice President, Vice President of Eastern Iowa, Secretary, Treasurer and two members at-large. (In addition, the Board appoints a Newsletter Editor, Web Master and Events Coordinator to the Board and the immediate Past President serves in an ex-officio capacity.)

If you are interested in serving on the Board or would like to nominate a fellow club member, please submit, verbally, in writing or electronically, your nomination to the Club Secretary, Martha Wittkowski, at mwittkowski@eastersealsia.org, 515-289-1833 ext. 235 (office) or 863 Highway G40, Pleasantville, IA, 50225

Nominations must be received by November 1, 2000.

The Board shall serve as the nominating committee and develop a slate of candidates to present to the membership for election at our Annual Meeting on January 20, 2001

The election will be held by secret ballot, which will be tallied at the Annual Meeting. Ballots will be mailed to all members at least 21 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Your ballot may be returned by mail, prior to the annual meeting, or brought to the Annual Meeting by Club members, in good standing.

Officers and Board members shall hold office for a period of one year that shall run from the time the election results are tallied and announced, until the time the subsequent election results are tallied and announced, or for a period of time which exists between successive annual meeting dates.

How are we doing?

That is a two-fold question. This newsletter is all about self-promotion of our chapter, so what is the real story? How are we actually doing as a chapter? Well, it's like this; last month we had a 23% increase in membership over the previous quarter. Okay that might be due to the fact that we are a new chapter and still growing? I'll give you that one. We were the very first chapter in the country to provide a driving school at the BMW of North America driving school in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Pretty impressive eh? We had Satch Carlson as our guest speaker at the annual meeting three months after we had our first ever gathering at Easter Seals Camp Sunnyside. That was an accomplishment, I assure you. We have had many kind words of encouragement and praise from BMW CCA nationally and many favorable comments on the quality of our newsletter. We are all proud of that. Now, if we could just find a way to get that bad-boy printed and mailed in a timely matter.

Now the big one, With a few more members (about 50) we will be the largest single marque car club in the state of Iowa, a goal we hope to reach and announce at our annual meeting in January. With just a few more than that we will be the biggest car club in Iowa of any kind. How is that for success?

That brings us to the second part of the question. How are we doing in your eyes? This is YOUR chapter after all. Please feel free to give us input. We are striving for this club to be a benefit to all of its members. What else can we do in the way of events or services? Write us e-mail, give us a call, send us an anonymous note. The point is, we would like your help.

New Ad



European Motorcars
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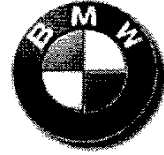
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I look forward to assisting you with your automotive needs.

Sincerely, **James R. Simpson**



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"Change"