



## Oktoberfest Review

By Mike Bengé

There are few words that describe the *Oktoberfest* experience, so bear with me and I'll try to put some down that may help explain it. This was my first and it will definitely not be my last. I expected that by the end of the week one or two things would happen, I would be sick of BMWs (not likely) or that I would be completely and forever over the top. You probably guessed which one it turned out to be. For those of us with **BMW** addictions this is the ultimate **BMW** car experience. For a week people just like you and me run around with their pride and joys to as many varied and exciting activities that a person can put into 6 days. The run down on events reads like a what's what among car enthusiasts, Slaloms, Rallies, Driving Schools, Autocross, Safety schools, club races, exhibitions of all sorts, Gymkhanas, Concours, and **BMW** factory tours. The evenings were filled with receptions and banquets ranging from simple hors d'oeuvres to extravagant spreads. I spent the week primarily as a spectator and yet I can honestly say that the week was as fun as almost anything I've ever done. For those with a participation gene the week would have provided an opportunity to explore and expand upon driving skills and learn more about the true potential of both driver and car. And the cars? Wow, everything one can imagine and more, from the legendary 507 to the beautiful new Z8 were present. There were hoards of 2002s and more M3s than a person without a calculator could count. There were beautiful restorations to original or better condition and there were many cars the owners had personalized to their own taste. Everyone seemed to be extremely proud of their own car and proud of the other cars present.

One example of the feelings these people had for their cars was at the hotel I stayed at. They had set up several garden hoses for people to wash their cars. Here people are, on a vacation, washing their cars. Confirmed nuts, some would say! During the entire time I was there at least one car was being washed, waxed or detailed and there always seemed to be a group of people talking and laughing together who had gathered around somebody's **BMW**. This was a natural gathering place for us car nuts (some would say just nuts!) to stand, to talk and to become friends. It sounds strange, to all but the most devoted car people like you and me, but I spent most of Thursday helping detail a Red M3 that was entered in the Friday Concours event. This was not a garage queen either, this was an instructor's racing machine and it had already been in 3 events at O'fest. This gentleman, Mark from Florida, started out as a total stranger and by the end of the day he and I were sharing wonderful conversation over a couple of tall cold drinks along with other friends who had either helped or stopped by during the day to say hello. That's what O'fest meant to me. People, Wonderful, genuine people who love cars that are worth loving. Some of the Iowa members in attendance for the Spartanburg festivities beside myself were **Scott Hamilton, Marlene Chamberlain, Fred Bell, and Dave Brennan**. The people made O'fest. Collected here were a huge collection of people from all walks of life with one common interest, fine **BMW** automobiles. **WOW!!**

# NewsWorks

Newsletter of the Iowa Chapter of the BMW CCA

### THE WIRE

*Vanos ?*

*Fall Drive*

*Oktoberfest*

*New Members*

*Annual meeting*

*Jay Read*

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## Disclaimer:

The NewsWerks is a publication of the Iowa Chapter of the BMW CCA and is in no way connected with Bayerische Motoren Werks AG. All of its contents shall remain the property of the club. This publication is mailed to chapter members in good standing. The ideas, suggestions and opinions expressed in articles are those of the club and/or its members.

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

Send to: Doug Wittkowski  
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## Technique

by Doug Wittkowski

## Vanos?

So what is Vanos besides something that makes your BMW a bit noisy at an idle. In short, it is a variable camshaft-timing device that has helped make BMW engines some of the most users friendly in the world. The ability to retard and advance the camshaft timing as the engine runs has given engineers the ability to tune for maximum power as well as be very docile at lower rpm's. At start up the camshaft is fully retarded and then is allowed to advance for low and midrange torque. When the engine reaches a pre determined rpm, between 4-6000, the camshaft is again retarded for maximum power at high rpm. This is also controlled by the DME (digital motor electronics) black box and is mechanically achieved by helical cut gears inside the camshaft drive sprocket and oil pressure.

Most modern BMW's, since 1992, have had the Vanos system on the intake camshaft and more recent engines have the system on the exhaust camshaft as well. Many other manufacturers have adopted very similar technology to this in the recent years. So what does this mean to you in real world driving? Much better economy and overall performance in a nutshell. So do you still want to return to the days of carburetors and ignition points?

So what is coming in the future? Well, in my opinion, variable valve-train is where the biggest gains in engine performance will be made. I have witnessed an engine with complete electronically controlled valve operation that has no camshafts or mechanical parts besides the actual valves themselves. This allows not only camshaft timing changes but also infinitely variable lift and duration of the valves. It also eliminates the rotating friction of the mechanical valve-train on the engine. At the time I saw this 4-cylinder engine, it was making a huge (upwards of 40%) power increase but wasn't able to achieve more than 5000 rpm. It is also very expensive to produce. But as the first handheld calculator I bought for \$200 dollars has become a better value so will this technology. Think of it as being able to have your 50-MPG economy engine as well as your fire breathing 300+ horsepower engine all at the same time. It *will* happen, and you heard it here first. It seems to me, a great time to be a fan of internal combustion.

ED.



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# Dates to Remember

**November**

Enjoy Your Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 9<sup>th</sup> 4-8 p.m.**

**Holiday Party/ Wine Tasting/ Charity Event**

Dave Brennan has invited us all to his place for an open house, Delicious snacks and great conversation. We would like all members to bring a bottle of their favorite wine and an unwrapped toy for a donation to the Toys for Tots Charity. We will provide the food and all the great company you can stand. Please RSVP

dbrennan@netins.net, 515 225 7891, or P.O. Box 42113, Des Moines, IA 50322.

**Annual Meeting**

**January 20<sup>th</sup> 5:45-9:30 p.m.**

That's right, were going to do this again. With many new ideas and suggestions from members, we are planning a big celebration for our chapter. Hey, we all deserve it. We have been very busy planning and lobbying, begging and borrowing. More details will follow soon in the e-mail update and a special mailing we will be doing in December. But with our chapter growth, this event could be limited to a first come basis. My suggestion, get your registration (in this issue) sent in early.

**Brake Tech Session**

**February 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

We will all be ready for a tech session by February, and to learn just how easy it is to change our Brakes. Martha has donated her car, Tony his talents, Doug his tools. Here is your chance to get all the inside tricks to saving a few bucks and learning the basics of BMW brakes. I'm sure all of us will learn something and have a good time doing it. Details to follow.

Group Luncheon to follow.

**Where is our Logo ?**

**Good question. We would like all of you to help us with our quest to find the perfect Iowa chapter logo. We would like to have several designs to consider before the annual meeting. Are there any graphically talented members out there?**

**Submit your design ideas to any of your board members by no later than *December 1st* for consideration. Thank You.**



# EuropeanMotorcars

## Who's Who

I've always thought that I should have been born a rich California playboy destined to drive race tracks with guys like Phil Hill, Dan Gurney, Jim Hall and Mark Donahue. Actually, I was raised in Iowa by loving parents of modest means, so I had to settle for reading about those guys in "Road and Track."

In high school I formed a club called the Sports Car Auto Drivers, or SCADs. We had a newsletter, but most of us didn't even have cars! Then, in 1954, a breakthrough, my older brother bought a new Austin Healey 100. Those were the days when sports cars were so rare that their drivers waived at each other. Anyway, we did a few road rallies with local car clubs competing against MGs, Jaguars and Morgans.

Because of my interest in cars I decided to take up mechanical engineering at ISU (then ISC). I wanted to work in the auto industry, which I never did, but I did help design and build an amphibious off-road vehicle at Brown Engineering and riding mowers at AMF Western Tool. These were interesting and challenging projects and as close as I got to automotive design.

Most of my career has been with Brown Engineering Co. in

Des Moines, a consulting engineering firm which designs industrial and power facilities. I held positions of mechanical engineer, project manager, department manager, partner and CEO before retiring in 1997. Currently I work part time for Brown as a consultant, primarily in the area of forensic engineering. These cases may involve analysis of mechanical failures in autos, machinery or building systems, accidents, product liability, etc. I also perform fire investigations.

Cars I've owned include Austin Healeys, Nissan Zs, Corvette, Supra, and a few American muscle cars. I did some auto crosses and rallies years ago and worked with an SCCA race team. My current BMW is the first one I've owned and I've driven it in about a dozen driving schools. I have owned a lot of cars in my life, but I believe my BMW has given me more overall enjoyment than any of them.

**Jay Read**

**Note:** Jay has recently been appointed to the Iowa chapter board as the Events Coordinator. If you have any ideas for future events, activities, or would like to volunteer he is your man.



### News

#### **BMW Ends First Nine Months With Record Results**

Munich, October 11, 2000...Worldwide volume sales of BMW vehicles are still well above last year's levels: in September, the BMW Group delivered almost 73,000 vehicles, which is an increase of 10.8 percent on the same month last year, and also the best September sales result of all time. In the period January to September, deliveries to customers reached over 616,000 vehicles, marking a rise of 8.6 percent (an increase of 48,600 units) in comparison with 1999.

#### **The BMW 3 Series And The X5 Recognized As Vehicles "That Most Excite" Their Owners The BMW 3 Series and X5 Receive J.D. Power and Associates' "APEAL" Awards In Entry Luxury and Luxury SUV Segments**

Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, September 21, 2000...The BMW 3 Series and the all new BMW X5 Sport Activity Vehicle both ranked highest in their respective categories in the J.D. Power and Associates' **APPEAL** study. The BMW 3 Series ranked as the "most appealing entry luxury car" and the X5 as the "most appealing SUV."



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# New Members

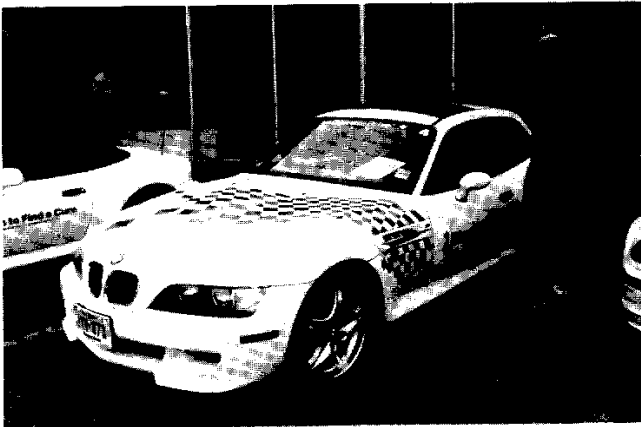
Welcome to the Club !

Current Iowa membership 346 National membership 55619

Angela Bashada Waukee 540ia  
Ann Duffy Bettendorf 740il  
Arthur Dickson Des Moines 330ci  
Barb Miller Clive 330ci  
Bruce Ray Urbandale 528I  
Carl Stone Fairfield 528ia  
Carol Rivas West Des Moines X5  
Cindy Dolmage Waukee  
Clint Leonard West Des Moines X5  
Colin Mahoney Cedar Rapids  
Curtis Dixon West Des Moines 323ci  
Dan Lederman Sioux City  
David Brighton Indianola 325I  
Deb Waddell Urbandale 328ia  
Dennis Duffy Bettendorf 740il  
Diane Gigger Des Moines 330ci  
Douglas Randleman Muscatine  
Dr. Michael Rinaldi Des Moines X5  
Edward Downey West Des Moines  
Gary Lago Ankeny 323I  
J Edward Oehler Moravia 330ci  
J Karmale Manuel Ankeny Z3

James Kuehl Clive 528ia  
Jill Stark Aurora 323I  
Joel Maske Des Moines X5  
John Franklin Mason City 528I  
John Hagie Clarion X5  
John Kercheval Montezuma 323I  
John Sunblad Polk City 540ia  
Josef Granwehr Clive 323iT  
Joseph Chen Coralville M3  
Judy Fristik Davenport 318I  
Justin Saylor Cedar Rapids 330ci  
Kathleen Kennedy Ankeny 528ia  
Ken Clark Creston 528I  
Kyle Brown Waukee 328I  
Larry Carter Des Moines 740il  
Larry Chambers Cedar Rapids  
Lawrence Lavalle Clive Z3  
Leandro Depaula Ames 323I  
Leatrice Olson West DM 323ci  
Leslie Duckett Aurora 323i  
Lisa Stallman Sioux City 323I  
Mary Hattery Cedar Rapids 323ci

Michelle Hughes Ankeny 323ia  
Mitch Runco Council Bluffs 323I  
Neil Moon Iowa City 328ia  
Nicholas Feigen Ames  
Nixon Lauridsen Des Moines 740il  
Pat Essy West Des Moines  
Ralph Gross Des Moines M3  
Rich Fristik Davenport 318I  
Rick Horbach Des Moines 323ci  
Robert Brackett West Des Moines X5  
Robert Trempe Cedar Rapids  
Ron Mullins Elkhart 320is  
Sam Siegle Des Moines 740il  
Stephen Johnson Johnston 740il  
Steve Thill West Des Moines  
Steven Beasley Urbandale 323  
Teresa Johnson Pleasant Hill 323ia  
Tim Rock Newton 740il  
Van Owens Ankeny Z3  
William Fultz Indianola Mcoupe  
Zane Craig Iowa Falls 528ia



“Dear Santa.....”

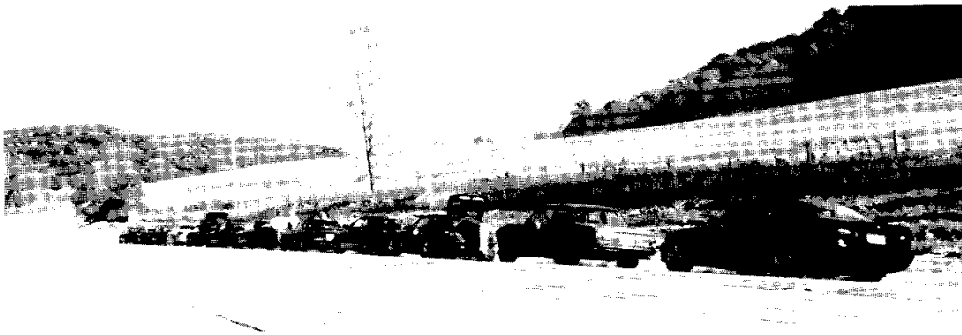
OOPS!



## FALL COLOR TOUR A HUGE SUCCESS!

By Martha Wittkowski

Great colors, great weather, great roads (all of them paved of course), great cars (and an Audi) and great club members resulted in a GREAT TIME. We had 31 participants for the rally on Saturday and as we started out of the Wal-Mart parking lot in Manchester, you could tell it was going to be an interesting rally, as not everyone was going the same way out of the parking lot!! For many of the participants, this was their first TSD rally but everyone was a good sport about it and everyone had a good time driving and navigating their way to Prairie De Chen. Who cared if you were suppose to turn left at the second "T", if you turned at the first one you were still driving on a great road!! Dave Ackley of Dan Kruse BMW attended and was able to meet some of the club members and it was great to have him part of the event. When the day was done the third place winners were Alison & Stephanie Bell, second place went to Ralph & Mary Briggs (in a great 2002) and the FIRST PLACE WINNERS were MJ and Andy Smith. All the winners received nice plaques and a great ovation by the other participants. After some conversation and stories about missed turns, missed check points and other various escapades on the rally we all enjoyed some beverages and then different groups went out on the town. On Sunday, the "pressure of winning" was off and we experienced another great day. Driving on the back roads through Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. We enjoyed a box lunch at Sunrise Orchard in Gays Mills, got to take some great photos and it looked really cool to see 14 BMW's and the Audi all in a row driving down the winding roads! Club member Tom Clark organized this event (with some assistance from his spouse Marita) and he did a wonderful job, the best news is that Tom has agreed to organize the event for next year! I know, I'll be there.



Beautiful, and the fall color wasn't bad either.

Would you trust these guys to score your rally sheet?



# For Sale

## Cars

**1988 325ic** Red/Black, Auto, **Great Condition.**173k,\$6000 o.b.o. Bill 319 447 0282

**1984 733i** High miles,needs some TLC or would be a great parts car, recent Transmission overhall and many new parts including tires. \$1900 obo Steve (319) 277 6854

**1980** Jag XJ40 sedan Silver/Blue 108k,Needs minor repairs \$4200 o.b.o. Jack 277 8562

**1984 Fiat** Spyder Many new cosmetic and mechanical parts , Great summer toy, Cheap Z3 substitute \$5500. Eric Burmeister 515 224 3617

**1992 M5 Perfect condition** 58k miles,sunroof,CD,built in radar protection front and rear, two sets of tires, stored winters, \$28750. Bob 515 229 1480

**1997 318ti Supercharged** 5spd. Red/Grey,Short shift kit,24k miles warranty through 7/01 very quick, Mike 319 369 3359

**1997 328i Sedan** Arctic/Grey leather,Loaded, Warranty to July 2001, \$27500 Mike, 319 369 3359

**1997 M3 Sedan** Boston/Magma,5speed,Lux.Pkg,Warranty to 10/01 or 50k,Beautiful Cond, \$30500 o.b.o. Stuart 319 337 3383

**1998 M3 Sedan** 22k,Cosmo/Gray,5speed,\$32000 515 577 8367

## Parts

**2002 13"** steel wheels, with excellent Goodyear tires and hubcaps. \$120 Jack 515 277 8562

**95 M3** 5-17X7.5 multispoke BMW Motorsport wheels excellent condition with 6 well worn but trackable Michelin Pilots. M car traction for any E36 3 series. \$900 obo, Doug @ 515 842 5859

**E30** 6 cylinder **Bavarian Autosport** 8mm High Performance Ignition wire set \$50. Rafael Toro 319 887 2399 after 5 p.m.

**Michelin** Arctic Alpin winter tires. P195/65/r15 mounted on BMW alloys , \$1500 new in 1999 \$750 Terry 712 325 1062

**2002 parts** 1973 engine,and drivetrain, Dave 319 352 1096

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**www.bmwia.org** Check it out !

## Presidential Views

Since we have had more interest from members who want to write articles for our newsletter I am cutting back on the length of my articles for the time being in order to yield space for them. Many thanks to **Tony Wiles, Alison Bell, Mike Bengel, and Jay Read** for your contributions! Keep in mind that we always welcome member input, articles, photos, and sponsors, so don't be shy.

I was thinking about the progress that our chapter has made over the past year during a brief and uncharacteristic lull in activity during Oktoberfest. When **Doug Wittkowski** and I had our first meeting last September to explore the possibility of re-starting the Iowa Chapter, I had no idea that we would succeed so well. Doors opened for us, national and regional officers pitched in and gave advice, and before I knew it, we had our charter meeting with more than 50 interested people present. That was last October. Now we find ourselves with over 340 members and have surpassed the Corvette and Mustang Owners Club as the largest single marque car club in the state, with the largest percentage growth of any BMW CCA chapter in the country. Many thanks to **Dave Dean of European Motorcars of Des Moines**. He has working with us to have a meaningful relationship including parts discounts, sponsorship of door prizes and meetings, and providing club memberships for purchasers of BMWs. Our growth is bound to level off over the next few years, but there are still many of BMWs out there, and we are still attracting new members with pristine examples of older cars as well. I am very pleased that we have had good turnouts at all of our events. We have tried hard to offer a variety of events. We have tried to involve all areas of membership concentration in the state with 4 of these events held in Eastern Iowa. Have you visited our web site lately? **Dana Schrader** has been doing a wonderful job of improving and adding to it since **John Christensen** first got it set up.

I want to thank **Wynne Smith**, National Executive Director of the club, and **Scott Blazey**, past president and newsletter editor of the Kansas City Chapter for their help in getting us on our feet and for ongoing advice and help. Thanks also to our special friend, **Satch Carlson**, who is even more entertaining in person than he is in his Roundel articles. Our Board of Directors deserves our thanks also. They put in hours of time and effort in planning and organizing our meetings and events. **Fred Bell** and **Tom Clark** each did a great job and put a lot of time and effort into planning one rally each. **Martha Wittkowski**, has done untold hours of work helping to keep us on track, and has been working hard to plan our next Annual Dinner. **Jason Smith** and **Jay Read** have contributed their individual talents and perspectives to the board, and **Tony Wiles** and **Dana Schrader** have also contributed to our group as skilled driving instructors. Finally, **Doug Wittkowski**, he has done more work than anyone knows putting together and distributing our excellent newsletter and e-mail updates. More than that, he has been a major contributor to virtually all of our chapter activities, and has been indispensable in the formation and growth of our chapter.

I've had a fantastic time as president this past year, and it has been great meeting all of the other BMW folks out there. The experience has been very rewarding personally, and I can honestly say that virtually everyone I've met or dealt with have been wonderful people who I am proud to have been associated with. So come on over to my place for hors d'oeuvres and a wine tasting with a bottle of your favorite wine and a toy for "Toys for Tots" on December 9 and we'll relive old times and plan the future.

**Dave Brennan**  
President Pro-tem

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**IOWA CHAPTER BMW CAR CLUB OF AMERICA  
2001 Board of Directors Ballot**

| <b>Position</b>                     | <b>Nominee</b>              | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>President:</b>                   | <b>Dave Brennan</b>         |            |           |
| <b>Vice President:</b>              | <b>Tony Wiles</b>           |            |           |
| <b>Vice President-Eastern Iowa:</b> | <b>Jason Smith</b>          |            |           |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                   | <b>Fred Bell</b>            |            |           |
| <b>Secretary:</b>                   | <b>Martha H. Wittkowski</b> |            |           |

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Member Number** \_\_\_\_\_

Members and Associate members may each cast one ballot. Please mail your completed ballot to M. Wittkowski, 863 Highway G-40, Pleasantville, IA 50225 or bring your completed ballot to the Annual Meeting on January 20, 2001. Blank ballots will be available at the Annual Meeting.



Fun at Marshalltown, Who needs golf ?

# IOWA CHAPTER BMW CAR CLUB OF AMERICA

## 2001 ANNUAL MEETING

### REGISTRATION FORM

**WHO:** All BMW Club Members & guests

**WHERE:** EMBASSY SUITES ON THE RIVER  
101 East Locust  
Des Moines, IA

**TIME:** 5:45 p.m. - Social-cash bar  
6:30 p.m. - Dinner  
8:00 p.m. - Guest Speaker  
9:00 p.m. - Raffle

**COST:** \$33.00 per person

Please RSVP by January 13, 2001.

Payment must accompany reservation. No refunds after January 10, 2001.

Hotel rooms can be arranged by calling the Embassy Suites at 1-800-362-2779 and refer to the Iowa Chapter BMW Car Club. The room rate is \$109 and is available until December 29, 2000.

**Yes, I/We plan on attending the 2001 Annual Meeting.**

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the following individuals:

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

Mail reservation and payment to:  
Iowa Chapter BMW CCA  
P.O. Box 42113  
Des Moines, IA 50322



P.O. Box 42113 Des Moines IA

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November  
2000

"Give Thanks"