



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

IOWA CHAPTER BMW CCA • www.bmwia.org

NEWSWERKS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA CHAPTER BMW CCA

2010 Show and Shine

by Dave Brighton

The annual Car Club Show and Shine will take place on **Sunday, September 26 at Zimmerman BMW, 1920 51st St. NE, Cedar Rapids**. The event will begin at 11:00 am with a lunch provided. There will be no judging of vehicles, just a show of what you drive to the event. Get your baby out of the garage, shine it up and bring it over to Zimmerman's so others can get a good look at it. For more information contact Kolin Brighton at kolin.brighton@gmail.com or 515-238-4649.

Fall Colors Tour

Iowa Cubs Game Recap

Annual Picnic Recap

Longest Day Driving School

The Longest Day, A Matter of Perspective



Calendar of Events: September 2010 - March 2011

Events, club activities, and all happenings BMW

Monday, September 13, 2010

Informal Social
6:30 pm
Champps Americana
101 Jordan Creek Parkway
West Des Moines

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Show and Shine
Zimmerman BMW
11 am
1920 51st St. NE
Cedar Rapids
See article on front page

October 9 & 10, 2010

Fall Colors Tour
10 am
Zimmerman BMW
Cedar Rapids
See article on page 3

Sunday, October 10, 2010

Street Survival
Des Moines
More information available soon

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Informal Social
6:30 pm
Hessen Haus
104 4th St.
Des Moines

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Informal Social
6:30 pm
Old Chicago
2732 SE Delaware Ave.
Ankeny

Saturday, December 11, 2010

Holiday Party
6 pm
Cedar Ridge Winery
Cedar Rapids
More information available soon

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Informal Social
6:30 pm
Plaza Mexico
6110 NW 86th St.
Johnston

Saturday, March 12, 2011

Annual Dinner
Kirkwood Community College
Cedar Rapids

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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

NEWSWERKS is a publication of the Iowa Chapter BMW CCA and is no way associated with BMW AG. The contents featured herein shall remain the property of the chapter. This publication is mailed to chapter members in good standing six times per year. The ideas, suggestions and opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the chapter and/or its members.

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From the outgoing editor -

I want to thank all of you for your support and help these last three years. I enjoyed helping provide you with information about our wonderful club. Also, thank you to those who wrote articles or provided pictures. Please welcome, Nicole Jobst, our new editor, with your same support.

Becky Brighton

2010 Fall Colors Tour

by Dave Brighton

The Iowa Chapter BMW CCA Annual Fall Colors Tour will begin at Zimmerman BMW in Cedar Rapids **Saturday, October 9 at 10:00 am**. The drive will leave Cedar Rapids and meander northeast through the countryside with a stop at noon for lunch. Following lunch we will continue on and eventually stop for the evening in Dubuque. It appears that a stop at the "Field of Dreams" will be on the route, so bring your glove and bat to participate on the famed field before it is torn down.

Lodging and the evening meal will be held at the Holiday Inn-Dubuque located at 450 Main Street in downtown Dubuque. The meal will be a buffet consisting of 2 meats, potatoes, vegetables, pasta, salads, fruit and dessert at a price of \$30 per person.

On Sunday morning, we will continue on with the drive to our lunch dining spot. After lunch, all participants will be free to return to their home.

Room rates for the evening at the Holiday Inn will be \$107.95. Reservations must be made by calling 563-556-2000 and asking for the Iowa BMW Club room rate. For more information contact David Brighton at dwbrighton@gmail.com or call 515-576-8059. Please RSVP to David Brighton also so the appropriate reservations can be made at the noon restaurants.

Change of Address Information

Please send your requests for address changes directly to the National Office at the address below. The local chapters have to receive this information from them and cannot change this information themselves. Please send a note with your proper information to the National office at:

Roundel, BMW CCA, Inc.

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Iowa Cubs Game Recap



Photos by Dave Trachtenburg

Hopefully you didn't miss the annual BMW Club day at the ballpark. On Sunday August 8, the club met at Principal Park in Des Moines to watch the Iowa Cubs beat Portland. With the heat index well over 100 degrees, we were very fortunate to have two connected air conditioned sky boxes. We did have a few brave individuals that braved the heat and watched the game outside. 35 tickets were sold for the game and like past years, we displayed some of our finest cars outside the park. While watching the game, we munched on some great ballpark food including burgers, hot dogs, chicken fingers, oriental wraps, fruit plate, 7 layer dip, chicken sandwiches, etc. and topped it off with some cookies and brownies for dessert. Don't miss this popular event next year. Wonderful entertainment at a top Des Moines venue, good food and drink, a nice display of BMW's and some great conversation. See you next summer at the ballpark.





Annual Picnic Recap by Dave Trachtenberg

If you missed this year's picnic....you missed a great one. On Saturday the 10th of July, more than 60 people enjoyed some great weather, food, cars and conversation at Easter Lake in Des Moines.

It was a perfect day for a get-together --- we saw some great cars and enjoyed some amazing food, compliments of the Van Lengers.

In the vehicle department, we had everything from the new "5" to a 1960's era Porsche. BMW's included everything from station wagons to convertibles. There was even a 2011 328!

And food.....WOW!!! Don and Stacey really did it this time with the menu including..... Smoked Beef Brisket, Red Beans and Rice, Low Country Shrimp, Craw Fish and Potato Boil, BBQ Spaghetti with smoked pork, Bacon and cheese corn bread with maple syrup, Coconut Key Lime Pie, Grilled Fruit, Grilled Flat Bread with Pecans, dried cranberries, Maytag Blue Cheese and Balsamic Syrup.

A great time was had by all. A big thanks goes out to Don and Stacey Van Lengen for putting together a wonderful meal.

Don't miss this premier event next year.....see you then.





Photos by Dave Trachtenberg

More photos on page 8.





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Longest Day Driving School - 2010 by Mike Bengé

The preparations for the Longest Day Driving School (LDDS) 2010 were all completed and now what remained was to see how and if our hard work would pay off. As I drove to Omaha from my home in Cedar Rapids on Friday there was plenty of time to reflect and realize that yes, we are ready to host LDDS or no, we are not ready. At this point if the club was not ready to host the event in all likelihood it was too late to change any of the details. That does not provide one the luxury of complacency however; it merely allows one a moment of respite from the mental gymnastics of running thru the myriad of details to insure each and every one of those important details has been addressed. As volunteers who have worked the driving school over the past several years know there is no such thing as insignificant details.

I started an article on the driving school about volunteers for a specific reason, for without those individuals who spend countless hours working those details there would be no driving school. That is not only significant, it is a certainty. As the event chairperson this year I wanted to say thank you to those volunteers who made this school possible. Thank you.

For several years the Longest Day Driving School has contracted with Don and Stacey VanLengen for a Bar-B-Que Saturday evening after the track closes. I want to say thank you to both of them for

providing an exceptional meal. Think about this a second, they both track their own cars (Don is also an instructor) and still come up with a fabulous meal at the end of the day that is prepared perfectly and served on time. It's a challenge to serve that many people in the best of circumstances; it's quite another thing to do it at a track without the benefit of a full kitchen, refrigeration, counter space, etc.

Additionally this year the school was fortunate enough to have extremely generous corporate sponsorship. Their willingness to purchase the school's memento for early registrants was immensely appreciated. Thank you BMW of Des Moines.

As club folklore goes, the title of our school was chosen in hopes that the school would coincide with the Summer Solstice. This is the day with the longest number of daylight hours in a calendar year which is typically either June 20 or June 21. Hosting the school on those dates turned out to be impractical for a number of reasons, not the least of which is those dates do not always fall on a Saturday or a Sunday. Another reason which makes hosting the school on the exact day of the Summer Solstice is track availability. One of the many details I alluded to above is reserving the track. While Mid America Motor Plex makes every effort to meet our schedule there are times when schedules with other clubs reserving the track conflict with ours.



That may explain the origin of the name to some. These are some of my observations on the name and how it might relate. The Longest Day to some students might refer to the eagerness as they wait to enter the track early Saturday morning to their utter exhaustion at the end of a mentally and physically challenging day. To some of the novice students it is the apprehension and foreboding turning into confidence and determination as the day marches on. To a few instructors it is a series of apexes interspersed with running from one student's car to another in order to provide insights and support. To a number of the volunteers it's a day starting with registration long before the track is officially open to spending countless hours waving cars onto the track. Yes, the title has many meanings and it all depends upon your perspective.

This year the school was a tremendous success assuming for a minute you leave the financial part of the equation alone. Successes to those who run this school in no particular order is safety, safety, safety, safety, instruction and of course safety. Our school has always stressed and will continue to stress that this is a driving school first and foremost. It is not a race nor are any prizes awarded for whoever comes in first. We take pride in hosting a safe school on an extremely safe track for the purposes of imparting car handling techniques to students who range in experience from taking no driving schools to those who have taken dozens upon dozens and now are part of our instructor core.

One of the most consistent comments we receive on the surveys that students fill out at the end of the school is "I should have done this sooner." Invariably there is always one student that who is visibly terrified at the beginning sessions on Saturday and by the end of the day Sunday that same student is the first to grid up and chomping at the bit to get on the track. This year was no different, I noticed one individual who appeared to be extremely apprehensive Saturday morning. Late in the day Sunday I asked that person how they were doing. He said one thing "...this is the coolest thing I've ever done..." To anyone out there that is putting this off until whatever is "perfect," all I will say is that things will never be perfect and if you come out and join us you will have a blast.

Every year the driving event chairperson selects a charity to receive all monies raised during the "Parade Lap" sessions. This year's selection was Animal Welfare Foundation. An organization that has no paid positions whatsoever and still saves literally hundreds of cats and dogs that were abused, neglected or abandoned. They thank you for all your contributions. You showed a great deal of generosity and the animals will be the ultimate benefactors.

*Photos by Dave Trachtenberg, Allison Bell and Becky Brighon.
More photos on page 12.*





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The Longest Day, A Matter of Perspective

by Matt Armfield, KC Chapter Member

I recently attended the Longest Day (actually two days) Instructor Training School (ITS) and was asked to write a synopsis of it, and the subsequent two day driving school. Typically, I believe, the longest day is associated with one of two things: The physical longest day of the year, or a long miserable experience which makes time drag on seemingly forever. As I am told, the event was named such as it was typically done on or about the “Longest Day of the Year”, yet it could be argued (with respect to the ITS) almost two days in a car with “Sybil” the unfortunate child that had 16 personalities, *and* having her at the wheel of a very capable BMW, could be a tad stressful at the least.

My mentor for the school was a great person named Tony Wiles, from the Iowa Chapter. As I understand, Tony’s job was to display all of the worse traits an instructor might encounter with a student at a Driving School; and then coach me as to how I could better try to control the environment to help the student stay safe, learn important driving skills, and to have fun. I believe that all of the other student instructors had similar experiences with multi-personality drivers from the meekest of meek doing 20 mph down the main straight to the “Loose Cannon” whose primary goal is to see how fast he can go on the straight with seemingly no concern for making the corner. Many times, three or more people could be at the wheel in the same session. These challenging track sessions (expertly administered by Tony) were alternated between highly informative classroom sessions, which all together, provided a great learning experience with loads of camaraderie.

After the two day ITS, came the two day driving school. We had rain, sun, damp, sun, drenched, you get the picture – an excellent weekend to learn to control your favorite automobile – and eat awesome meals with friends. While I came to the events with my ex-SCCA Datsun 510 race car turned track car (*as I finally realized that if I ever wanted to retire, I better quit racing*); they did not hold it against me as it is after all, “a poor man’s 2002.” Additionally, I also have my trusted best friend, Rodney (another story). Rodney is my 1988/89 E30 325is semi prepared street car that I left resting peacefully at home (yet burning with jealousy as I took the 510 to the event).

In summary, I can honestly say that I do not remember the last time I had so much fun. Personally, I find no greater joy than driving my car at speed on a road race course (*yet I’ll always miss diving in and passing on corners*). The varied weather created a perfect environment to learn all facets of car control. I met way too many friends to even begin listing them all; the event was well organized, well planned, a great learning environment, led by professionals who take car control and safety seriously. Did I mention the home made meal? I truly had one of the best weekends I can remember in a long time. The camaraderie and bonding at such events cannot be paralleled. I believe the schools were a complete success as to my knowledge everyone drove their cars home as safe and sound as their owners – all concerned are surely better from the experience. One last note - if you were not there.....you missed it suckers! Please take note that better planning can correct that for you next year-grin.



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