

Das Krummet

The Newsletter of the Tidewater Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America



MAR-APR | 19



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 05.18 **BIMMER BREAKFAST**
Pop's Diner in Greenbrier at 9am
- 05.19 **OBX DRIVE / OUTER BANKS NC**
5234 Monticello Ave #115, Williamsburg, VA
- 08.22-24* **M-PERFORMANCE SCHOOL**
BMW Performance Center in Spartanburg, SC
- 09.15 **STREET SURVIVAL**
NCCAR, NC
- 10.11-14 **HEAD OF THE DRAGON**
Marion, VA

*M-PERFORMANCE SCHOOL - Saturday August 24th

RSVP and details for all events at www.motorsportreg.com
Questions: send email to events@tidewaterbmwcca.org



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MEMBERSHIP

Tidewater Chapter: 648 as of April 2019

ADDRESS CHANGES

Address changes can be made on the BMWCCA National website (www.bmwcca.org) by hitting 'Login' and following instructions on site. From there, click on the 'Manage Account' link on the top of the page; then click on the 'Change Addresses' link.

Or write to: ROUND EL BMW CCA, 640 South Main St., Ste 201, Greenville, SC 29601

All changes done through the National office will update both your National and Tidewater Chapter address information.

NEWSLETTER and PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS:

Your articles and photos are very welcomed by us. To be included in an issue the materials must be received by the 1st of the month preceding the date of the issue. To spice up the newsletter we always need photos of chapter events. We may also use them on the chapter website.

Send your contributions to Editor@tidewaterbmwcca.org. Thanks!

SOCIAL MEDIA:

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President's Corner

It is with great pleasure that I write this edition of my corner. 2019 is already off with a bang for our Club holding two significant events to start the year, and many more exciting happenings to come! It was a delight to see familiar faces at our Annual Banquet where I fortuitously let our attendees down with my failed presentation. The reason is embarrassingly simple, alas I was not able to remedy the situation in time. Like many of us in the workforce, I use a laptop at work and have a second monitor on my desk. When I take my computer home, I have to unplug the adapter cable that goes to the monitor. It is impossible to miss as it sits right there.

Well, funny story. Go ahead and laugh, I'll wait. You're not laughing. Okay, earlier this year I switched to a desktop at work. Yay, no more lugging my laptop back and forth. Because I do not remove the second monitor or the desktop from my office, I didn't see the adapter cable that also happens to be located on the back of the computer. Now, although I do not group myself with millennials, I do pride myself on being very tech savvy, so in an effort to not let this unfortunate situation defeat me, I found an adapter cable that would allow the output from my iPhone or iPad to connect to the projector. Ah-ha I thought, problem solved. I'll just put the slideshow on one of those devices and plug it in.

However, in my effort to make a beautiful, fun, and complete presentation I was hardly concerned with the file size. I have a 500GB SSD HD, so who cares about the size of the file?! It turns out that when one is attempting to transfer a file from the laptop to a portable device via the internet, one should very much be concerned with file size. I pushed the data to a cloud server, which would have been great, only it was going to take time to upload, and then download. I compressed the file for emailing, cut it to make it smaller, and anything else I could possibly think of, alas nothing worked. By Sunday, I had four copies show up on both my iPhone and iPad. I am of the personality that I do not like to make the same mistake twice, which is good news. Alas, I do still feel bad for what happened. To that end, to our Board, our membership, and our attendees I wish to apologize for the lack of formal presentation.

As I mentioned earlier, we have started this year with a bang. First was our Annual Banquet, followed by a delightful Valentine's Day Drive. Despite the outside temperature being a little cooler, we had an absolute blast! I am very excited to announce that we will be hosting our third annual Street Survival event this year. Please check page 18 for more details. This is indeed a fantastic event, and I could not be more proud to say our chapter conducts Street Survival. To that end, we need volunteers. There is a lot of coordination required for the smooth operation of TRSS. We need coaches and non-coaching volunteers. Your volunteer work could be as simple as picking up cones after an eager-learning driver knocks it down. It could be more involved with inspecting the cars in the pre-check, or even as critical as helping with student check-in. The point is, there is always a great deal to do at this event, and it is an opportunity to really REALLY make a difference in their lives. If nothing else, think this: the more kids we educate on safe driving techniques, the more safe-minded drivers will be on the roads with us avoiding hitting our beloved BMWs!

Although most of our remaining driving events for the year are similar to those in the past, they will be fun and exciting with new routes and mouthwatering cuisines. As such, rather than hastily saying I already did that event last year, I encourage you all to make an effort to attend as you'll get to experience something new. That being said, as was mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are exploring the idea of bringing back the Pig Roast. The idea being a casual get-together towards the end of the year, not a driving event but a social meeting with tasty food. Please reach out with feedback so we can assess if this would be a viable activity.

Continued on pg 13

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Vice President's Corner

I didn't set out to buy a BMW when I purchased my first one. BMWs weren't even on my radar, and frankly, although I admired them, I never seriously considered buying one. Oh, I would have loved to have an early 2002 back in the day. I remember reading Davis E. Davis' article in *Car & Driver* regarding "Piggy Tremalion and Bucko Penoyer and all their twit friends (buying) shrieking little 2-seaters with ragtops and skinny wire wheels..." and I thought one day when I'm rich and successful, I'll be able to buy one.

As it turned out I was more of a ragtop and skinny wire wheel twit kind of guy back in those days, at least in spirit, if not actual ownership. My first love was always British sports cars, and in many ways remains so today. My first car, on the other hand, was a well-used 1964 VW Beetle, which I managed to drive until the engine self-destructed, with a little help from my right foot. I always liked Volkswagens, having grown up with a series of them from when my father brought his first one back from a Med-Cruise in 1959. That is a story in itself, but I'll save that for another time.

My affinity for VWs broadened into an attraction for other German marques; however, I never really ventured outside the safety of the Bug-O-Sphere or American Iron until much later. Following the destruction of my first KdF-Wagen, I went through a series of unremarkable American cars until purchasing a brand-new Volkswagen Microbus in 1976. By this time I had a wife (#1) and two kids and was a newly minted Staff-Sargent in the USAF. We were way ahead of the curve with the whole Soccer Mom/Mini-Van thing.

Two years later I graduated from college and OTS. The worst car ever produced by man replaced the Microbus after a drunk driver totaled it. Following navigator and B-52 school we were headed to the "Northern Tier." I don't think I kept that piece-o'-crap Buick Century wagon for two years before thankfully trading it in on a 1980 VW Vanagon. With a black lab now part of the family, it was the perfect machine, and yes, we did transport our daughters to soccer practice in it. About this time I purchased a used VW Squareback for my transportation to and from the squadron and the Alert Pad. This was known as a "squadron car," because it was sold off by one departing crewmember to another just arriving. It was a truly fantastic car. I would go through any amount of snow, and even after sitting outside in sub-zero temperatures for the entire week I was on Alert, it would start right up every time.

Pilot training beckoned a couple of years later, so everything was packed into the Vanagon, including the lab, the Squareback was sold off to its next crew-dog caretaker, and off we went to Texas. Needing a second car (again) I did what any red-blooded USAF Jet Jockey would do and bought myself a red sports car, British, of course. Piggy Tremalion, Bucko Penoyer and David E. Davis aside, I loved that little car, and it served me well throughout my year in West Texas. As a freshly minted pilot I was now headed to Cali for yet another B-52 qualification course, this time solo as wife #1 decided she was ready for husband #2.

I'll pause here to share a USAF pilot joke: How many air force pilots does it take to change a light bulb? Just one. He holds the bulb, and the world revolves around him.

I jettisoned the MG for something more "practical;" an old land yacht otherwise known as the Buick Electra. Hey, I was newly divorced and therefore consequently poor, so it was the best I could do at the time, although it was a complete misery to drive. That was probably the time I could have had a nice used BMW 2002 for the same money, but I just wasn't that attuned (read smart) in those days. Yet again, a Buick that entered my life did not last long because as soon as I received my per-diem for BUFF training, I went out and bought another MGB, this time British Racing Green with rubber-baby-buggy-bumpers. I also took possession of the Subaru Station Wagon my now ex and I purchased to replace the Vanagon when we

Continued on pg 18

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BMW CCA is the largest single-marque car club in the world. Membership comes with special benefits such as rebates up to \$1500 on new or certified pre-owned BMW automobiles, rebates up to \$750 on BMW motorcycles, membership only discounts, exclusive club driving events, subscription to the monthly club magazine Roundel, access to club only merchandise, access to technical service advisors and much more.

As a BMW CCA Tidewater Chapter member there are even more benefits and discounts that come with your club membership. For more information please visit www.tidewaterbmwcca.org.

Whatever your reason for owning a BMW, you have the opportunity to meet others with common interests, form new friendships and learn more about your "Ultimate Driving Machine". Participation is up to you whether that be face-to-face, virtually, actively or occasionally.

So how do you join? Simply visit the membership signup page on the National BMW CCA website at www.bmwcca.org/join.



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TEST DRIVE IN THE NATIVE LAND

by Ray Laffoon

Several years ago, when I was flying bombers out of England (Cold War not the Great Patriotic War), our crew was discussing the copilot's MGB as we made our way in a Bedford van across the countryside. The copilot commented that he now understood why his MGB was built the way it was.

One advantage of my job are the frequent trips to Europe, specifically Germany. On the first Friday of February, I made my way to the BMW dealer in Stuttgart that has a Sixt rental car counter. I have discovered that when I rent from that location that I avoid the airport fees, and best of all, I always leave with a BMW. I believe they are getting to know me there. The customer service rep drives a John Cooper Works MINI, so we can discuss our cars. He also enjoys BMWs. This time I was offered the proverbial keys to the candy store. I had numerous cars to choose from, but settled on the new X2 that I had yet to drive. In addition to the key to the X2, I left with a model car, a late model 4 series coupe with the M Sport package. I have quite a car collection. It's not as great as some of your collections, especially since mine is mostly in 1/43 scale! Back to the X2.

This car was a grey, S drive 20i with BMW's marvelous manual adjustment, articulated sports seats covered in a nice textured, but comfortable, cloth. I prefer these seats to the electric variety, and am glad that the MINI is equipped with something similar. The X2 is small and nimble. I was impressed with how well it maneuvered, and it never seemed underpowered. Torque was descent, with minimal turbo lag. Like most BMWs today, the X2 offered numerous drive modes. The brakes were hard to feel, probably due to the energy recovery system. They seemed to work and I eventually got used to them, to a point. The steering felt better than the X1 I rented back in December, but it still felt overboosted.

As for driving, the X2 was in its native land (more or less). First, I had to drive it around Stuttgart, in the traffic and at times through narrow, congested streets. I was impressed. The size worked, power was linear, and visibility was good. However, the presence of understeer surprised me. It's not dangerous, and I found it to controllable. I am used to front wheel drive cars with understeer. However, the understeer is more than other BMW products that I have driven, to include front wheel drive MINIs. Likewise, despite winter tires and front wheel drive, the understeer made driving in the snow to be challenging, requiring very slow entry speeds to keep the front going where intended. Finally, I did enjoy the X2 on the dry autobahn, where I could easily maintain 160 KPH (100 MPH), and somewhat faster if desired, and yet fuel efficiency was decent for the speed I was driving.

Like most BMWs, I enjoyed driving the X2 in Germany. It was engineered for Germany's roads, and it is special to be able to experience the cars in their native environment. I would like to drive the X2 with the M-Sport package and see how it compares. I know it makes a difference on the X1. However, do not expect to see me owning one, as there are better options to enjoy the Joy of Driving!

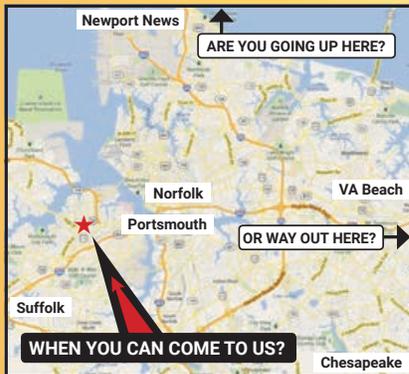


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Members Can Win Great Prizes !!

In the last issue of Das Kummert, Chapter President Shawn Halsey urged members to become “Stewards of Membership” and to “...and take a few moments to talk with someone about the benefits of membership. Invite them to an event. Share with them our joy and our passion for the brand that unites us all!”

Since we lack the knack for cold calls, we urge you to take advantage of the BMW CCA 2019 Membership Drive Contest. Recruitment brochures and “take one” applications are available from Tidewater Chapter officers at any event. The contest runs from 1 January, to 31 December 2019. Make sure that whenever you hand someone a brochure, your CCA membership number is on it.

Just make sure that whenever you hand someone a brochure, your CCA membership number is on it.

WHY? Here’s why:

Each new member earns you an entry in a drawing for these fabulous prizes.



1ST PRIZE!

One-day M school at the BMW Performance Center, plus one night lodging. That’s right! For each New member with your referring member number, you receive one chance. 10 new members...10 entries.



2ND PRIZE!

2020 Oktoberfest Social Package Registration



3RD PRIZE!

\$200 America Express Gift Card

BUT THAT’S NOT ALL

---All the new members are get their own drawing for A one-day M School. Just think of it as a \$48 raffle ticket because the M Schools are usually over \$1500.



And there’s more. For every new member, the referring member earns a BMW CCA Buck equal to \$5 spending money for anything sold by BMW CCA or applied to BMW CCA memberships. Recruiting 10 new members will pay your yearly membership dues. Twenty new members will get you a BMW Blue Motorsport Watch!

Complete rules and details are posted on the National BMW CCA website at <https://www.bmwcca.org/membershipdrive>

Three ways to get that new membership in:

1. Online: At the link above
2. Phone: 1-800-878-9292
3. Mail-in paper application, available at Tidewater Chapter events, the National Office at 864-250-0022 or request by E-mail to sshlossman@bmwcca.org

CLUB TOOLBOX

For those that have always wanted us to put a name with a face, here's a picture of our club tools. They've been relocated to our treasurer Ron Boustedt's house. Feel free to reach out if you need to scratch your shade tree mechanic itch.

- HELMETS for track events
- Service light resetting tools – very useful
- Tie rod separator – pickle forks
- Remote starter switch
- Clutch Alignment tool
- Pilot bearing puller
- Fan clutch wrench & bar
- Electric impact wrench
- Lockstrip tool
- 17mm Trans. drain socket
- Brake bleed system – very useful
- Coil spring compressors
- PEAKE code/reset tool – all models can be connected under hood or dash
- SRS air bag scanner



Contact borrowequip@tidewaterbmwcca.org for your needs.

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Apparel from Land's End with Tidewater Chapter logo is available for purchase.

Contact merch@tidewaterbmwcca.org for availability and questions about the following merchandise:

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President's Corner, continued from pg 4

In conclusion, as proud as I am to report that we have a complete Board and I believe we are progressing in the right direction, we still need help. More hands make light work for all. I can very much appreciate and respect that our time is a precious commodity, and the prevailing thought maybe I don't have time to volunteer. If that is your concern, please reach out to me. We do not need you to dedicate endless hours, day after day. If you know you have a lull in your schedule at a certain point, we can take advantage of that. Contributors to the Das Kummet are always appreciated. We also need members to verify our driving routes before the event. Having someone to coordinate with restaurants to ensure they will accommodate our size of group is helpful too! So, if you can support your local Chapter with any of those mentioned above, even just once, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shawn

Sei immer eins mit der Straße

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Tidewater BMW CCA M-Performance School

Join us for this fun event as we learn from the best driving instructors and put our skills to the test, whipping around the track in their **M2s, M3s, M4s and M5s!** This event will be at the **BMW Performance Center in Spartanburg, SC on Saturday, August 24, 2019** and we'll be driving their M cars!

Space is limited; only the first 32 registrants will be able to participate; **driving registrants must be either members of the Tidewater BMW Car Club or family of a club member. Only \$900 for a full day of training and track time -- a +40% discount from the standard fee.**

When registering, you can order lunches for your non-driving guests; **guest lunches will be \$30 (driver lunches will be provided).**

We have also made arrangements for a group rate at the nearby Home2Suites hotel for a block of rooms for the evenings of August 22 to 24, 2019. You can use this rate any of the following ways:

- Contact Home2Suites by Hilton, 20 Beacon Dr, Greenville, SC 29615; phone: (855) 618-4702. Please use Promotion/Offer code TWC.
- Go to Hilton's website (www.Hilton.com); use the above hotel information & offer code: TWC
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We'll also be traveling down to the Performance Center in a group -- we'll send an email to all registrants when those details are finalized

Please don't delay. Spaces are limited.





Tire Rack Street Survival goes beyond antiquated high-school driver education programs, which put more focus on classroom theory and parallel parking than controlling a 2,000 lb. vehicle at speed.

The primary emphasis of the Tire Rack Street Survival program is a hands-on driving experience in real-world situations. We use your own car to teach you about its handling limits and how you can control them.

The students will become more observant of the traffic situation they find themselves in. They will learn to look far enough ahead to anticipate unwise actions of other drivers. As the students master the application of physics to drive their cars, they will make fewer unwise driving actions themselves. They will understand why they should always wear their own seatbelts, and why they should insist that their passengers wear seatbelts, too.

The Tire Rack Street Survival school is a safe teen driving program, designed to go beyond today's required driver education and give teens across the U.S. the driving tools and hands-on experience they need to become safer, smarter drivers. The school provides trained and qualified in-car driving instructors as well as valuable classroom experience for each student.

Last year, over 5,000 teenagers died in motor vehicle crashes, the leading killer of American youths aged 16 to 19, accounting for more than 40 percent of fatalities in that age bracket. To reduce this number we developed Tire Rack Street Survival, a non-profit, national driver education program aimed at teaching teens the skills they need to stay alive behind the wheel.

We've conducted more than 100 schools each of the last five years, training even more teenagers to become safe, responsible drivers. Our goal for 2018 is 125 schools, from New Hampshire to California and Florida to Minnesota.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH

If you're a fan of classic BMW's you may like us. Hello Tidewater. I'm Steve Waddell, your Classics Chairman and I'm inviting you to join us for some classic fun. Whether you're in need of garage time, a shoulder to cry on when your classic is broken or simply interested in a classics day drive I'm your guy. For more information please feel free to contact me at 757-535-5878 or by email at classics@tidewaterbmwcca.org.



OKTOBERFEST: *50 What?*

That's right, BMW CCA is 50 Years Old! This October, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the BMW Car Club of America at the Oktoberfest in Greenville, South Carolina. It is fitting that this year's anniversary will take place in Greenville, the American home of BMW. A place that has given so much back to BMW, and to which we owe a great deal of our thanks for their beautiful production of the Z3 and the entire SAV line! The world owes a thanks to Greenville for that. Join us as we celebrate BMW, our history, and give our thanks to the brand that unites us as all at Oktoberfest 2019!

DATES: OCTOBER 15 – 19, 2019

HOST HOTEL: HYATT REGENCY IN DOWNTOWN GREENVILLE, SC

HOST DRIVING VENUE: BMW PERFORMANCE CENTER

Make sure to mark your calendar now for the 50th Annual BMW CCA Oktoberfest presented by Michelin, which will be held on October 15-19, 2019 in Greenville, South Carolina! Yes, this is the year we have all been waiting for! 50 years of the club and Oktoberfest! This will be an unforgettable event as club members make the journey back “Home” to the Greenville/Spartanburg area from all over the country and the world. We will have exciting social, driving, and exclusive anniversary events taking place at the BMW Performance Center, BMW Plant Spartanburg—where the X3 through the X7 are made, Michelin's Headquarters and Proving Grounds, and the BMW CCA national office. This will be an absolutely amazing event with many great surprises in store for attendees! We hope to see you there!

O'Fest registration will launch in Spring 2019.



Head of the Dragon



OCTOBER 11-14: No better way to spend Columbus Day weekend than with friends and fellow BMW enthusiasts as we slay, for the first time ever, the Head of the Dragon! Not only will this be a first for the Tidewater Chapter BMW CCA, this will also be a first for the Head of the Dragon, having a car club slay them! 66 Miles. Countless Smiles. 1 Amazing weekend. Don't miss this opportunity, for the dragon won't dare return after we slay it, at least not for another four years.

Arrangements will be made for a group discount at the gorgeous General Francis Marion hotel.

thought we were headed to Guam. Turns out she could not afford the monthly payments. Go figure.

Fast forward, but not too far. I sold the MG to buy an engagement ring for Wife #2. Some time later I drove the Subaru to the dealer for service and there it was, a brand new Pininfarina-styled Alfa Romeo Spider in "Ivory," which is really more of a pale yellow. It was beautiful. Okay, I know I'm not being politically correct, socially conscious or gender aware here in this era of #METOO, but for me it was like seeing Barbara Eden in her I Dream of Jeannie costume for the first time. That led to a 10-year affair with Alfa Romeos, including a Ferrari Red Milano, which was every bit as good as the BMW 3-Series. Yes, you read that right. No, I will not take it back. I look forward to your emails.

There were assorted other mundane cars and trucks during my "California Period" as well. When the inevitable orders came, Wife #2 decided she did not want to leave her native California for Virginia, so she and all of the cars, including the Alfas, with the exception of the Milano, stayed behind while I headed the 2,600 miles east to Langley AFB. Wife #2 and I soon agreed we liked living apart more than we enjoyed being together, so with that and the benevolent help of her big-ticket attorney, I gifted her the house, my remaining Alfas and most of my worldly possessions. I gifted her attorney a sizable portion of my bank account. I did; however, get to keep the Milano and a relatively new Jeep Cherokee on which I was now making payments.

The Alfa thing carried on for a bit longer until I got fed up with trying to get proper service and parts as Alfa Romeo departed the U.S., and sold the Milano to some unsuspecting sap. This left me with the Jeep, which served me well for a very long time, even after I ditched my air force flight suit for an airline pilot's white epaulet shirt and tie. A few more non-descript cars came and went while I waited for the day I promised myself would soon arrive. I decided that once I made Captain at my airline, I would go out and buy the Porsche I always wanted. Wanted is probably too feeble a word. Lust, desire, ardor, and passion are probably more apt, or am I mixing my feelings for a car up with my feelings for Wife #3? Anyway, that didn't happen. What happened was a Merlot Red Z4, but I'll tell you more about how that came about next time.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your new vice president. I look forward to assisting Shawn and the other board members as we help you build a bigger and better BMW CCA Tidewater Chapter.

Remember, if you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there.

Hals und Beinbruch!
Brad Purvis



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