

**BMW Car Club
of America
North Star Chapter**



North Star Bavarian April, 2017



The BMW M Coupe shown was modified and built exclusively at BMW of Minnetonka.



Here at BMW of Minnetonka, we only say “working on BMWs” because “loving on BMWs” sounds a little creepy.



At BMW of Minnetonka, wrenching on Bimmers is our passion – on the clock, off the clock. That’s why we have the expertise to handle everything from the standard BMW lineup to the mod-stuffed racer you see here. Thinking about what we can do for your BMW? So are we.

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On The Cover



April, 2017

This edition's cover has a non-M BMW E30 on it.. Kind of weird, right?

This car is my 1990 BMW 318i RHD E30 BMW touring, now under the knife getting a 400-hp 98 M3 engine with a turbo-charger. Gratuitous CCA grille badge!

If you would like to see your car or BMW content on the cover of the next newsletter, feel free to email submission requests to editor@northstarbmw.org!

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Upcoming Club Events

BIR Tech Inspection at Motorwerks BMW
May 4th, 2017
Motorwerks BMW, Bloomington, MN

Car control clinic at DCTC
Saturday, May 6th, 2017
Dakota County Technical College

NorthStar BMW BIR week-end
Fri, Sat, Sun June 2, 3, 4th , 2017
Brainerd International Raceway, Brainerd, MN

Annual Member Appreciation Picnic
Saturday, July 22nd, 2017
Dakota County Technil College

3rd annual AutoLieben
July 30th, 2017
Afton Alps Ski Hill

Bimmers 'n' Brats Car Show
Sunday, September 10, 2017
Germanic American Institute, St. Paul MN

Stay tuned for future events!

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Winter Blues and Spring Euphoria

Words and photos by Erik Berger

Springtime. We know it, we long for it and we even lust after it during the darkest, coldest days of the Minnesota winters we so fervently press through. Dreaming of the months of beautiful and fun before we slide back in to the reality in winter. Snow and ice. As we break out our 'winter beaters' to prepare for winter, so do we in the spring prepare for the budding trees and flowers, crisp dewy Cars and Coffee mornings and the endless car washing desperately trying to rid our paint and undercoating of the dreaded road salt, all the while we mentally try to repair the damage mentally of watching your fellow man and woman skid, slide and crash on maintained winter roads due to poor equipment.

With the seasonal change, for some, comes a change of operated vehicles as well though -- Starting in some cases with moving aside the snow blowers, cluttered amazon.com boxes, moving on to unplugging the requisite trickie charger from your warm weather stallion, followed, of course by the first cold engine start of the new year. The shrill metallic whine of the reduction gear starter bendix



and solenoid shoving that spur gear in to the ring gear or flywheel, piston rings freeing themselves reluctantly from the cylinder walls, revolving in those dry bores until the computer sees crank rotations and the injectors and fuel pump give way via fat stoicheometry to the spark plugs and that ice cold engine burbles in to a stable yet low startup and idle, Almost a personification of the engine and associated computer giving you the middle finger for having not started your engine in 3-5 months.

Letting the engine idle for a minute, fluids circulating, coolant and oil temperatures stabilizing as the cold leather seat warms to body temperature and first gear (or reverse) is selected to remove the besast from its proverbail cage.

Why do we live in Minnesota? Well, the seasons aren't what most southerners think. Yes, we absolutely do have those mornings where we get in to the car and the ice cold LCD slowly comes to live only to display the outside temperature we really don't even want to see, sometimes reach-

ing as low as 40 degrees below zero on the farenheight scale. Why do we put up with that? Well, winter is arguably the most fun season to drive in. All of those adhesion limits are greatly reduced in these months due to the hardening of your tire compound, only added to be the reduction in static friction between that ever so small contact patch of the tire. Once the heater is going, it's really not unline any other day of the year with any outside temperature. The plus side? Well, this is purely subjective, but this editor relishes those changes of scenery, and even the change of seat between the seasonal vehicles.

Alongside the tremendous cold, we get beautiful springtime, a very moderate summer and an often-giving fall season, extending deep in to October in most years.. A rarity we take advantage of with your nice cars, feeling like we're really getting away with something special on those days. Only on THOSE days, the transition days, are the transitions so special in my eyes.



As we transition from Winter 2016-17 in to spring 2017, that special transition time is approaching and alongside that season, events, scenery and even on occasion, the people you spend time with will change. I do hope that if you're one of those odd enthusiast types reading this that you can relate to this and feel that same excitement, anxiety even, for getting that special car or those special cars out of the wintery cocoon and get ready for a fabulous season of cars, car events and car people in addition to the general mayhem that us Minnesotans take part in to squeeze enough hours of lengthened daylight sunshine in to our Vitamin D depleted skin cells.

Be sure to check your oil before the first start, check air pressures in your tires, wheel lug bolt torque and of course don't take your summer tire quipped pride and joy out below 45 degrees for best results!

Raise your glass, here's to a great 2017 car season!

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InterMarque Spring Kick Off Car Show

Words and photos by John Engstrom

I would like to take a couple of minutes of your time to invite members of the North Star BMW clubs with vintage cars (over 20 years old) to attend our Spring Kick Off show in Osseo on Saturday, May 13th. There is no admittance charge for vehicles, we do ask, however, that each entrant bring something for the local food shelf. We have the whole of downtown to show our cars in, all the stores and restaurants are open for business and there is a craft fairing the city park at the same time. It's a fun, casual show to attend where show goers can stop and talk to the vehicle owners.



Terrorism on the Highways

Words by Dave Nielsen

Terrorism on the Highways

Yes, I know its a sensationalistic headline, designed to grab your attention, but let me explain, you might agree.

Starts w/ the simplest transgression, the “gateway crime” of modern motoring. Not using an indicator signal before a turn. A blinking light on all four corners of the vehicle to telegraph your thoughts. Operated by a simple stalk switch, not a calorie-burning activity, requires only a fingertip twitch. One of the very few things the Federal Government has ever done that actually make driving safer. Sure they have mandated all sorts of things to make crashing safer, but this one’s sole purpose is for pre-crash safety. It has become less common to see it used, than not. Police set the worst example, less than 20% at my last real-world measured observance.

Here in Minnesota, it seems you all were taught by the same mis-guided Driving Instructor. “Never signaling before actually beginning the to-be-signaled maneuver“. Kinda incredibly stupid. By the time you are telling me you are about to change lanes, 1/2 your car is already in my lane. Only a “Brain Dead Boogerhead” would fail to notice 1/2 a car in the lane directly in front of you. Same w/ the on-ramp merger. If you aren’t able to turn your head, look out the side window and find a hole in traffic to merge with, the VERY least you can do is twitch a finger to tell me you are gonna cut me off going 15mph slower than traffic was previously flowing.

Here’s the very simple rules we were taught in common-sense school:

#1. Think about it

#2. Signal that you are thinking it

#3. Look to see if you have room to do it.

THEN do it!! don’t dawdle don’t hesitate and DON’T slow down as you are doing it.

We’ll skip all the rest of the “minor” transgressions and get right to the terrorism stuff. If I were to tell you about a loosely organized group of people intentionally working to slow down American workers and transportation on American highway’s. Would you believe me?? probably not. How about a group that actively blocks traffic in front of you to extend every mile you drive, regardless of where you are going?? Sound closer to home??

Little bites of time out of your life, time you’ll never get back, time needlessly stolen for someone else’s purely selfish reasons. Well since Steve Job’s Electronic Enslavement device hit the stands, the roads just haven’t been the same. Unless you lived in a state, say slightly east of here, that had a Bar-to-Resident ratio close to 1 to1, you rarely came upon a drunk driver, or a driver displaying drunken behavior. Now, the very same driving behavior can be witnessed by roughly 10-20% of your fellow motorists. Another 20-40% just act like they’re re-tuning their radios..... only slightly distracted. But it isn’t the obstacle-avoidance aspect that I’m complaining about, that actually adds some excitement to my otherwise very boring commute.

Its the extra time it takes. Little bites, 15 to 20 minutes each way, every day. Probably less time than I spend watching commercials on any given weekend. But its time that doesn’t NEED to be stolen. Make the right choice; Wanna talk on the phone?? Call UBER. Leave the left lane open for those that wish to reach their destination ASAP, and are willing to let the phone sit still for the duration. Then look in your mirror & do your best to NOT be the obstacle we have to avoid.

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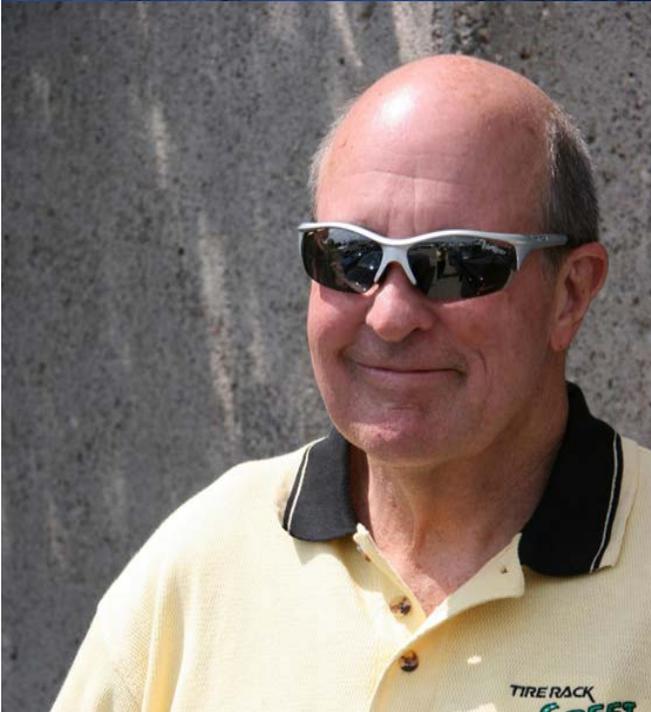
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North Star BMW Street Survival

The North Star Chapter has been awarded the Circle of Excellence award from the BMW CCA Foundation for our leadership in Street Survival classes! A lot has gone into this passion for teaching people, especially teens, the concepts of vehicle dynamics necessary to successfully navigate the curves thrown them at out on the road.

In 2002, Sheldon Nelson and Jay Gubrud led the initiative to develop our first driving school curriculum specifically for teenage drivers, and offered two schools per year through early 2006. North Star then chose to switch to the Founda-



tion's Street Survival curriculum. As a Street Survival host, the North Star Chapter has hosted 2-3 schools a year since 2006 and 4 schools planned for 2017. In total, the club has hosted over 30 schools, placing North Star as one of the top Street Survival hosts amongst participating BMW CCA chapters, Porsche Club of America, Sports Car Club of America, Audi Club of North America and other organizations nationally. Every school hosted since 2013 has sold out, frequently with double digit wait lists as well as an average 10% rate of student return.

There are too many stalwarts within the chapter to begin to list, though a few have been instrumental in



the successes being recognized today. Sheldon Nelson led the efforts from the club's origins in creating and delivering a teen curriculum. Dave Nielsen and John Biesecker were involved in the first teen driving schools, have been critical in developing long standing procedures used in the classroom as well as on track and are still very active today!

If someone would like to help us on this mission, the Foundation is looking for an Ambassador to raise funds within our chapter. If you are interested, please contact Gary Ganser via email at President@North-StarBMW.org. Thank you.





North Star Chapter, BMW CCA 2017 Driving Events

January 2017

21 Street Survival Teen Driving School at Dakota County Technical College

February 2017

4 Car Control Clinic at Dakota County Technical College

18 Street Survival Teen Driving School at Dakota County Technical College

25 North Star M School Day, Thermal facility in California

March 2017

4 Street Survival Teen Driving School at Dakota County Technical College

May 2017

6 Car Control Clinic at Dakota County Technical College

20 Driving Tour, Pie Trek

June 2017

2 - 4 High Performance Driving Event at Brainerd Int'l Raceway

24 Driving Tour, Vino in the Valley

July 2017

15 Driving Tour, Pizza Run

August 2017

5 Street Survival Teen Driving School at Dakota County Technical College

19 - 22 Driving Tour, The Great Eclipse Trip to Nebraska

September 2017

16 Driving Tour, Details Apple Harvest Express

29 - Oct 1 Driving Tour, Details TBA

October 2017

14 North Star M School Day, Spartanburg facility in South Carolina

Do you want a hard copy of the newsletter? This announcement may require action on your part!

You may choose to continue to receive a paper copy if that is your preference. Instructions are at the end of this announcement and will be sent to you in an email as well.

The North Star chapter of the BMW Car Club of America wants to keep you aware of activities offered by your club. We also enjoy presenting articles written by members. Whether in Electronic, or paper form, we will continue this service to you.

You have four months to take action if you want to receive a paper copy of your news letter. you can follow these instructions to change your preference at any time.

- 1.) Go to www.BMWCCA.org
- 2.) Click Login, enter your user i.d. and password.
- 3.) Click 'Manage Account'
- 4.) Click Email Preferences and Demographics
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