

Volume 24 Issue 1

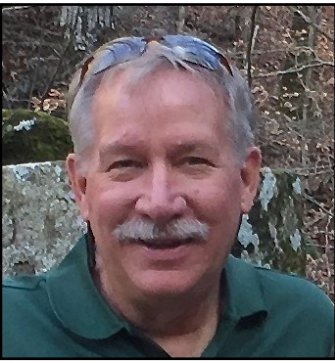
Spring 2018

# *THE ROADSTER*

The Official Newsletter of the Sandlapper Chapter of the  
BMW Car Club of America







By Tom Lappin

I think we're off to a good start for 2018. We held a successful New Year's Eve Autocross at the Performance Center, despite the snow the day before. The Upstate January meeting at LeMans Karting was great and we hope to do more

events there. A number of Sandlappers were down at Daytona for the 24 hour race which was the debut of the new M8GTLM and the new M5 for Hot Laps by the Performance Center aces. Brett, Ted, & Roger pulled off another successful Street Survival program, hopefully making the roads a little safer with 34 trained teen drivers. In the Upstate, we also kicked off our Saturday Tech sessions with a tour of Fairway Auto Body. And we held our Board of Directors meeting to elect a new Treasurer, Paula Watt, and re-elect John Howard as our Vice President. More on these activities throughout the newsletter.

We have initiated a Participation awards program to foster more involvement by members, as well as a broader range of activities. If there is some type of activity you would like to see the chapter sponsor, let's hear it and make it happen. Do not sit back and expect us to read your mind and do it for you. Check out the details on page 11, the top award is substantial! And you could have FUN doing it.

The Old American LeMans Series used the phrase "For the Fans" for their program to enhance the fan experience at races. We are looking to implement "For the Members" to enhance the membership experience. We are planning tech sessions, drives, and fun rallies. But your participation is needed.



New Year's Eve Autocross images by Michael Brown.



## 2018 Detroit Auto Show

By Mary Holcombe - Photos courtesy of Johnny Valencia

Over the winter, BMW unveiled some exciting new models at industry auto shows across the globe. With fresh new offerings in every department, they truly have something for everyone across their expanded product lines. Without further ado, here are some of the winners from the Detroit Auto Show that took place January 13-28, as well as the Geneva Motor Show (next page) which fell on March 8-18. Enjoy.



M3 CS in Lime Rock Grey Metallic. This limited edition M3 cranks out 453 hp and 443 lb-ft of torque from its twin-turbo inline 6 engine. Here in the States, the CS will be available for order beginning in May.



Left: The new M5 in Frozen Dark Red. The twin-turbo V8 generates 600hp and 553 lb-ft of torque and propels the car from 0-60 in 3.2 seconds, the fastest ever from a BMW. A new AWD drivetrain is introduced on this model, but you have the option to switch to a RWD mode, if desired.

Below from left: The X2 is a new smaller, sportier addition to the ever expanding X line. The i8 coupe caught the media's attention during its world premier in Detroit with its stunning design and increased electric range.





## 2018 Geneva Motor Show

Photos courtesy of Jason @ Bimmerpost



Possibly the most exciting concept unveiling that has occurred this year took place at the BMW booth at the Geneva Motor Show. The breathtaking M8 Gran Coupe stole the show with its stunning exterior lines and gave the world something truly exciting to look forward to. I, for one, cannot wait to see this new concept develop into a production car.

Clockwise from right: The standard M2 comes with a turbocharged straight 6 under the hood which produces 370 hp and 343 lb-ft of torque. This special edition Black Shadow version comes with a Black Sapphire metallic paint job, matte black Y-spoke wheels, and trim pieces finished in carbon fiber and gloss black. The Alpina XD3 had its world premier at the Geneva Motor Show. Its impressive diesel straight six boasts 4 turbochargers and hits 0-62 mph in 4.6 seconds. This model is not available in the US, but I still thought it was worth sharing. The newest generation of X4 was also revealed to the public for the first time in Geneva.





## Daytona 24 – You Won’t Believe What I Saw

By Tom Lappin

A good group of Sandlappers found their way to Daytona for the 24 hour race. Rain threatened, but it ended up being a great weekend. This was the debut of the M8GTLM. Beautiful cars, but the balance of performance specs left them on the slow side. The good news was that both cars ran well with no real issues over 24 hours. Looks like IMSA will give them a little more power for Sebring to equal things out. Hoping for good things.

Also new were the pair of M5s we drove down for Hot Laps during the weekend. Mike Renner and Matt Mullins were the pilots, Dwayne Mosley, Steve Maguire (Peachtree chapter) and I were on hand to keep the cars clean and usher riders in/out of the cars. 600 HP, variable all-wheel drive, these are serious cars. Very impressive on the track and secure and comfortable on the highway. Everyone was impressed.

Now for the “You won’t believe what I saw” part. A group of us went to the Daytona Beach Tap Room for a beer and burger. Doesn’t look impressive from the outside, but they offer a huge selection of beers on tap and great gourmet burgers, try it. Anyway, at one point I went outside for some quiet to call my wife. I’m standing there talking and I look up and there is a motorcycle parked in front of me, it has a sidecar, and there is a pony in the sidecar. OK, I go back in and tell the guys there’s a pony in the motorcycle sidecar outside. They look at my beer glass trying to recall how much I had to drink. No, really, go look.....



All photos courtesy of Tom Lappin.



## ChumpCar Endurance Race: Road Atlanta Feb 2-3

By Mary Holcombe

On a chilly morning in early February, dozens of ChumpCar teams gathered at Road Atlanta in Braselton, GA for a 14 hour endurance race, each with their own hopes of taking home the win. A large percentage of the teams entered the race with various BMW models, with plenty of E30s lining up on the grid. The race started at 8am and went straight into the night until the checkered flag was waved at 10pm. By the end of the day, Team Huggins, in a E30 325i, emerged as the winner with a total of 428 laps logged on the 2.54 mile course. Road Atlanta is an exciting and challenging track that we are fortunate to have right in our backyards. As temps rose into the balmy 50s, it turned out to be a fine day to watch

a race.

What is a ChumpCar you might ask? There are specific requirements that a car must meet in order to participate in a Chump race, and these rules are designed to provide access to this sport which can be prohibitively expensive to participate in otherwise. The “value” of a car is assessed with a point system that tallies up points for each performance mod you add to your base vehicle, and there is a limit of 500 points total that a car can rack up before it no longer qualifies as a ChumpCar. The system is designed this way so that the overall cost of participating is kept relatively low, and most importantly, fair to all entrants. There are always plenty of vintage bimmers at Chump races that have been given a second life as a racecar, and the Road Atlanta race usually attracts a good diversity of them. There were various E30, E36, and E46 models, each sporting their own unique and colorful paint job. These cars are sometimes pieced together in the most imaginative ways, and it is recommended you have at least one or two people on your team who are more than capable of keeping the car going if you experience any sort of mechanical issues. If you enjoy working on and racing cars, but the cost of traditional racing has prevented you from enjoying the sport in the past, then ChumpCar might be the answer for you.



Photos to the left by Mary Holcombe. Photos below courtesy of Al Floer.





# Street Survival Report

By Tom Lappin

The Sandlapper Chapter conducted our first of 2018 Street Survival program February 10 at the Michelin Laurens Proving Ground. If you are not familiar with Street Survival, it is a program to educate teen drivers and provide them actual experience in car handling at the limit. Essentially, we provide a safe environment to practice maneuvers they only see a slide of in drivers ed: a wet skid pad, braking while turning, emergency lane change, and handling courses. The day is divided between classroom and on track activities.

I've been an in-car coach for several years now. I've taught kids in everything from the father's M3 to a Honda minivan. Yep, I did get a little car sick on the skid pad in the M3. Most kids start off very tentative, but by the afternoon they're rockin' it through the lane change. You're not teaching racing, you're providing them the experience on how the car handles under certain conditions so that when they encounter a situation on the road its one fewer surprise.

Street Survival is the primary activity of the BMW CCA Foundation in conjunction with The Tire Rack. Coaches are primarily from the CCA chapters along with SCCA, Porsche and Audi clubs. The number of students we can handle at each course is determined by the number of volunteer Coaches since there is a Coach in the car at all times with the student. So, if you want to make the roads a little safer by having more aware, educated driver out there with you, sign up for the next Street Survival ( April 14 ) as a Coach or other volunteer positions.



The day started off a little foggy, but ended up great.



Photos courtesy of Justin Okamoto.



## Saturday Tech Session: Fairway Auto Body

By Tom Lappin

It was a rainy Saturday morning (typical it seems this year), good for the first of our Tech Tours that Neil Baer is arranging this year. TJ Whitt, General Manager, hosted a group of Sandlappers for a tour of Fairway Auto Body in Greenville. Fairway is the authorized repair facility for Ford, Subaru, BMW & Mini (Century). I found this to be very informative and came away with a new appreciation for what is required to repair body damage on a modern automobile.

First, with all the plastic and deformable exterior on a car much of the damage is hidden until the panels are removed. Then, when you consider how all the structures are designed to deform, compress, crush, and interact it gets really complicated. As an example, if a panel is connected with 20 spot welds spaced at 3 inches, that is how the repair must be made to duplicate the design crush characteristics of the structure. Using a continuous weld along the mating line of the panels would yield a different crush characteristic that could harm the occupants in a crash. And with all the electronic sensors dispersed throughout a car there is a whole new dimension to body repair. No longer just mechanical, now it's electronics too.

I enjoyed the tour and came away knowing a little more about the business.



Photos courtesy of Justin Okamoto.





By Mary Holcombe

It's almost spring, which for me means the long awaited beginning of track season is almost here! I have spent the winter working on my car and planning which events to attend, and I am more than ready for May to be

here so I can hop on the road and head to my first HPDE of the year. I am thrilled to be making the trip all the way to Watkins Glen International the first weekend of May, it will be my first time at that legendary track. The other events I have on my calendar this year include repeats of my favorite courses from last year and one more new addition. I'll be returning to Road Atlanta with the Peachtree chapter in September and VIR with the Tarheel chapter in early October as both of those events were truly a joy to participate in last year. On Oct 26-28, our very own chapter is hosting a HPDE at Carolina Motorsports Park in Kershaw, which will be my final event of the season.

In preparation for the season, I have replaced some critical parts of my cooling system and I began upgrading my suspension to better handle the stresses of the track environment. I also picked up a dedicated set of track wheels and tires, plus I installed some Bimmerworld race studs to help make wheel changes easier. Thankfully, I enjoy working on my car almost as much as I enjoy driving it, so it was a winter well spent. If you have yet to experience your ultimate driving machine on one of the many world class tracks here in the southeast, I highly encourage you to do so. You will not be disappointed! Hope to see you out there!



There's nothing like coming home to a set of brand new wheels.



My newly installed water pump and thermostat.



Bimmerworld race studs.



## March 3, 2018 Sandlapper Board of Directors Meeting

By Tom Lappin

The annual Board meeting was held in Columbia, as it is a central location for the members. At these meetings we elect rotating Board members, review the chapter financial status (we are in good shape), review what we did/did not accomplish the previous year, and discuss what we want to accomplish the coming year.

### Election:

John Howard (Charleston region) stands re-elected as Chapter Vice President

Paula Watt (Piedmont/Rock Hill region) stands elected as our new Treasurer

Many thanks to John Anderson our long serving Treasurer. He has managed our finances at a professional level and is working with Paula for a smooth transition. The position of Treasurer is our most technical position and we appreciate all of John's efforts.

### Highlights:

We have vacant Regional VP positions and no chapter organization in the Hilton Head, Myrtle Beach, and Aiken/Augusta areas. If anyone is interested in a position or knows someone who may be, please let us know and the Board can help with building a group.

Newsletter – Mary Holcombe, our new Editor is off to a good start. The newsletter is a critical requirement by the national office to receive our membership rebate. We are evaluating selling advertisements to help finance a glossy print edition suitable to display at businesses. We are also always looking for content. If you have a topic in mind, we welcome submission of articles and photographs for the newsletter.

Motorsports – Jack Sugameli has organized a High Performance Driving Education event at Carolina Motorsports Park for October 26-28, 2018. This will be a major driving event for us. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, please contact Jack. Registration for driving will open on MotorSportReg.com shortly.

We are also working on a Sandlapper autocross series. The major stumbling point is locations. We would like to have autocross sites across the state. Anyone with suggestions on locations let us know.

For the Members – We are working on activities for the members: day drives, weekend events, fun rallies, and tech workshops. If you have ideas or want to help – let us know.

And to add a little sweetener to the deal, we have established an incentive program for participation. Top prize is a set of tires (up to a \$1500 value). See next page for details.





## Introducing Sandlapper Points

How does it feel to live in the best part of the country for BMW's? Aside from Munich, there is no better place to enjoy all things BMW. The Performance Center. The BMW Foundation. The HQ of BMWCCA. The Factory. All interwoven with some challenging roads and beautiful scenery to enjoy our Bavarian creations.

Being in the Sandlapper chapter means we are adjacent to the very best. So why not make a good thing better? To help that thought we are introducing Sandlapper Points.

Sandlapper Points is a points-based system that rewards people for being active with the Club. Points are awarded for the following:

- Set Up an Event - 100 pts
- Submit Article to Newsletter - 60 pts
- Volunteer for Street Survival
- Set up/Tear down - 50 pts
- Instructor - 50 pts
- Conehead (help replace knocked over cones) - 40 pts
- Submit Published Tech Tip - 40 pts
- Attend BMWCCA Meeting or Event - 30 pts

The more participative folks are, the more the Club offers its members thus enriching the BMW experience.

### Benefits

The benefits of your activity and accumulating lots of points are:

Award 1 - Certificate from Michelin for a set of tires worth up to \$1,500

Award 2 - Two passes to the BMW Performance Center for a half day "Track Meet" program. This includes a nice lunch at noon, three driving events, hot laps with instructors and a beer, wine, appetizer reception afterward. One person will receive both passes so they can bring a friend or significant other.

Award 3 - \$150 gift certificate to Century BMW. Parts, accessories, or service.

Award 4 - 8 - Free year membership to the BMWCCA

### More details

We will have a sign in sheet for all events and you will want to make sure your name is on it.

Setting up an event includes identifying a venue, coordinating with the venue provider, coordinating communication, tracking participants, etc.

Events need to be reviewed and coordinated with your local Regional Sandlapper VP. They can also help publicize and promote them.

Tech Tips is a new concept that will be introduced shortly.

Awards are made at the end of 2018 or January 2019; depending on how close points leaders are.

Results will be published regularly to see how you stack up.

So - welcome to Sandlapper Points and the excitement we'll have this year!

BTW - if you have questions on the program, please refer them to Neil Baer.

## BMW Car Club of America Sandlapper





## New Members

We welcome our new members and invite them to attend a monthly club meeting. Please see the last page of this newsletter for the meeting location that works best for you.

Kay Addis - Mount Pleasant, SC

Todd Alasin - Aiken, SC

Brian Avinger - Orangeburg, SC

Kenneth Bailey - Daniel Island, SC

Christopher Ballou - Columbia, SC

Pam Batson - Simpsonville, SC

Reggy Batson - Simpsonville, SC

Lindsey Blackburn - Charleston, SC

Ronald Bolin - Greer, SC

Zoltan Boross - Columbia, SC

Chris Boswell - Greenville, SC

Bruce Braun - Greenville, SC

Ben Brawley - Columbia, SC

Brandon Brown - Lake Wylie, SC

Franklin Bruton - Taylors, SC

John Bullock - Seneca, SC

Garrison Christian - Greenville, SC

Bill Cline - Greenville, SC

Bill Dean - Simpsonville, SC

Douglas Erber - Asheville, NC

Jake Ficarella - York, SC

Randall Garlock - Greenville, SC

Eric Gleason - Greenville, SC

Jeff Goodman - Greenville, SC

Gregor Gordon - Charleston, SC

Terry Grainger - Columbia, SC

Debbie Harrison - Johnston, SC

Michael Horan - Columbia, SC

David Jones - Hilton Head Island, SC

Gerard Jones - Summerville, SC

Maxie Joye - Columbia, SC

Sharon Kelley - Greenville, SC

Todd Kiker - Simpsonville, SC

Dennis Lambries - Batesburg, SC

Elijha Lee - Summerville, SC

Christian Mace - Hendersonville, NC

Tanner Madson - Greer, SC

Nick Maylander - Charleston, SC

Steve McClure - Greer, SC

Phillip Mullinnix - Charleston, SC

Michael Paciocco - Kings Mountain, NC

Nicholas Paone - Columbia, SC

Alex Parks - Greenville, SC

Marshall Posey - Camden, SC

Bryan Price - Greenwood, SC

William Roberts - Simpsonville, SC

Brian Robinson - Greenville, SC

Christian Rodriguez - Simpsonville, SC

Andrew Sanders - Simpsonville, SC

Brandon Smith - Travelers Rest, SC

Leon Spheeris - Sunset, SC

Frank Starcher - Aiken, SC

Cheryl Steadman - Mount Pleasant, SC

Cyndi Strawhorn - Clinton, SC

John Townsend - Greenville, SC

Wendy Vanderwood - Greenville, SC

James Vorberger - Simpsonville, SC

Dozier Wallace - Gilbert, SC

Richard Ward - Lexington, NC

Gavin Witt - Anderson, SC

Rob Witt - Anderson, SC



## Anniversaries

Congrats to all of you,  
cheers!

### 5 Years

John Andrews

Hal Connelly

Alex Covington

Stephen DeTurk

Matthew Dickey

Anna Dinger

Gordon Dinger

Sean Dooley

Don Dyer

Jason Gwardiak

Haden Hamilton

Paul Hester

Melinda Hoover

Gregg Hughes

Shivas Jayaram

Richard Krenmayer

Henry Martini

Judy McKinney

Rob Merritt

Thomas Lago

Lawrence Ling

Geoffrey Pace

Kathleen Perry

Scott Rush

James Schumm

Evan Schmidt

William Snider

David Stasaitis

John Swink

Larry Urbik

Ian Wagner

### 10 Years

Jody Anderson

John Baens

Hal Blanks

Michael Brown

Michael Loeb

Greg Morton

Frank Patek

Daniel Senden

Joe Thaler

Frank Vestal

### 15 Years

Paul Barry

Alex Chapman

Hank Cormany

Daniel Gilbert

Danielle Giovannone

### 20 Years

Joseph Telecsan

Marc Young

### 25 Years

Joseph Lo Cicero

### 30 Years

David Hellen

Photos from Detroit Auto Show by Johnny Valencia.



M760i



M760i



X2



## Chapter Officers

**President:** Tom Lappin  
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**Hilton Head:**  
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**Augusta/Aiken:**  
Currently Open

## Legal Notice

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Note: Modifications to vehicles within the warranty period may void the warranty.

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The Sandlapper Chapter Newsletter is the publication of the BMW Car Club of America and is emailed to all Sandlapper Chapter members in good standing.

[www.sandlapperbmw.org](http://www.sandlapperbmw.org)



Facebook Discussion Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SandlapperBMW/>

General Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/sandlapperbmw>



[@SandlapperCCA](https://twitter.com/SandlapperCCA)

### Monthly Meetings:

**Upstate:** 3rd Monday of each month  
[Quaker Steak & Lube, Greenville, SC](#)

**Lowcountry:** 2nd Thursday of each month  
[West Ashley Crab Shack, Charleston, SC](#)

**Midlands:** 1st Tuesday of each month  
[Grecian Gardens, West Columbia, SC](#)

**Piedmont:** 2nd Thursday of each month  
[Fish Market, Baxter Village, Fort Mill, SC](#)

## Sandlapper Chapter BMW CCA

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