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2019 SPRING EDITION





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**TORQUE** OF THE **TOWN**

Post Office Box 56763 Houston, TX 77256-6763 [www.Houston-BMWCCA.com](http://www.Houston-BMWCCA.com)

## Spring Edition

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# Look forward to a Busy Year for Members

## Board works towards hosting a variety of member events in 2019

chris stokes

president

Happy 2019! I hope everyone had a pleasant and relaxing holiday break and were able to spend time with friends and family.

I do believe this year is the busiest year I've known to date. Our social committee has been hard at work creating many different and fun social events to draw out a different portion of our membership. We are all trying new and different things across all of the committees, from creating a new PAX class in Autocross to hosting Escape the Room social events. If you like the changes, please let us know. If you do not like them, please let us know that too.

As a non-profit membership organization, we are required to publish financial health to the membership to ensure transparency. I want to leverage this column to keep you, the membership, up to date with our financial health and objectives. As of 31 December 2018, our total assets were \$149,303. We have had a steady growth over at least the last 12 years that I've been part of the board, which you may be asking "why is a non-profit organization trying to grow our asset base?". Well, it has never been intentional. Your elected board takes their stewardship role (wise and prudent investment spend) very seriously, which has inadvertently caused this growth.

We are in the process of assessing projected program budgets for the next 3 years to put a fiscal plan in place that will allow us to do a controlled increase of investment into our membership activities/ programs to

slowly pace back our asset base growth to a conservative amount. This equates to you seeing decreased fees for social activities, continuation of awesome prizes at the annual banquet, and just possibly nicer toilets at Autocross.

Speaking of investing in the chapter, we are still working with the national office on some branding updates that will see us purchasing a new tent and flags. I had wanted to wait until we could finalize a new chapter logo, but we have since decided to hold on the change as I haven't had the cycles needed to give it the attention it requires. The new tent will get used almost exclusively at Autocross, while the flags will be seen more at our social outings to help folks find the group as well as advertising that we exist.

As always, please check the Chapter website (<http://www.houston-bmwcca.com/>) for up to date event details.

We will also post all the events via Facebook as well.

If you have an idea, no matter how big or small, please share it.



### GET INVOLVED

LOOKING FOR SOME ENTHUSIASTIC CLUB MEMBERS TO JOIN THE TEAM

#### LOOKING FOR A MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Be the face of the chapter. Help welcome new members into the club. Answer any emails, or messages from current or future club members about activities, club details, & how to join

Monitor the chapter membership activity. Report back to the board at quarterly meetings Help contribute to the overall well being of the club and the various events the organizes through out the year.

#### LOOKING FOR A SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR

Represent the chapter on Facebook and Instagram. Manage content and post bi weekly updates for members. Answer any messages from current or future club members about activities, club details, & how to join

Monitor the chapter facebook posts from members. Report back to the board at quarterly meetings Help contribute to the overall well being of the club and the various events the organizes through out the year.

#### VOLUNTEER AT AN EVENT

**TEEN STREET SURVIVAL**  
Help make the streets safer for everyone by coming out to the autocross track to help teach young drivers safe driving habits. More info on page 17.

**CLUB MOVIE NIGHT**  
The Social Committee is looking for a member to step up and help organize 2 club movie nights. Information has been gathered, the social chair is looking for a movie fan to help get this event across the finish line

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS contact the Houston Chapter Board [board@houston-bmwcca.com](mailto:board@houston-bmwcca.com)

# Club Calendar of Events

A list of upcoming driving opportunities and social events.



## May

- 5.11 Coffee Meet @ Cedar Creek Cafe
- 5.19 Autocross #2 @ Houston Police Academy

## June

- TBD Coffee Meet @ Cedar Creek Cafe
- 6.2 Autocross @ Houston Police Academy
- TBD Sunday Brunch @ Top Golf
- 6.7-9 Schnellfest @ COTA

**ELECTRIC MINI ON THE RING:** The MINI E sets a time of 9:51:45 on its lap around the Nürburgring-Nordschleife circuit. The special Green Hell prepped Mini was fitted with a special light weight body, and roll cage to provide optimum performance but used the same production electric motor. BMW uploaded the MINI E lap onto you tube for fans to check out.

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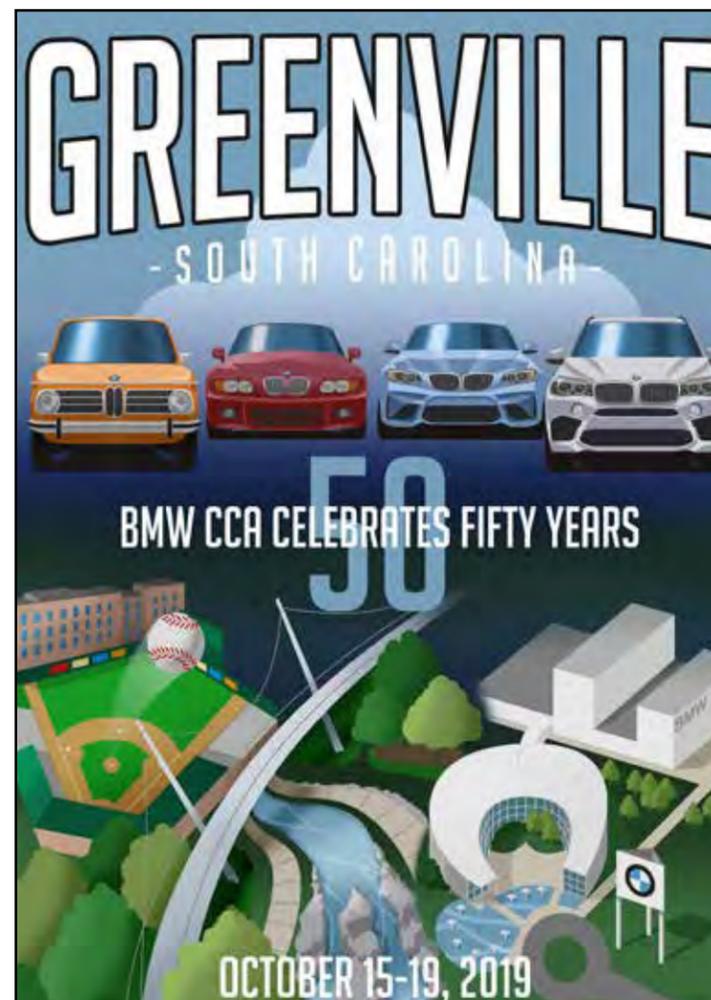


## ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2019



SAVE THE DATE



### From the Social Desk

#### Bragging rights go to the Houston Chapter

We are the champions of the German Car Clubs! Our very own Houston Chapter took home the First Annual German Auto Club Bowling Tournament trophy. A big thanks to all the members that made it out to our practice event. I think that was key to clenching our win.

I am working on scheduling the first go karting event of the season, be sure to keep an eye on the facebook page for updates.



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The Torque of the Town is the quarterly publication, mailed to all members in good standing of the HOUSTON BMW CCA (the club), a chapter of the BMW CCA and is not connected with BMW Na or BMW AG.

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*Have an idea for an article?*

**All members are encouraged to submit ideas for articles or full articles with photographs to the newsletter e-mail.**

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## TAKATA AIR BAG RECALL

## EVERY OWNER MATTERS

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If you or a friend own an older model BMW (2000-2006) please visit [bmwusa.com/safety-recall.html](http://bmwusa.com/safety-recall.html) or call 844-468-4752 to check if your vehicle is in need of repair. The repair takes only a few hours and dealers will work with owners to make the trip as convenient as possible. If repairs are needed, contact one of the local Houston BMW dealers to schedule an appointment for the FREE repair.

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# DIY Quick fixes to pass the Annual Vehicle Texas State Inspection

jeff otten

tech advisor

Each year when registration rolls around my cars seem to have small problems that prevent passing inspection. In Texas you must get the inspection within 60 days of renewal. To me this is too short and should be allowed at 90 or 120 days before. A couple problems I have had with our 2005 X5 and DIY repairs are discussed here.



**MATERIALS:** Small flat head screw driver, WD-40, Fix All Adhesive, Small Zip Tie, Electrical Tape, Duct Tape

## Emergency Flasher/Lock Switch

The four-way flasher switch on the E53 is located right behind the gear shift lever. Not the best location as it is easy to push it on accidentally. Our switch quit working, the switch also contains the lock button, which also quit working. The switch used is PN 61318368920 and is also used on E46 3-series, E84, and E85 Z4 cars. Pelican Parts lists the BMW part at \$46 and a Febi part at \$31.25, so not too expensive to replace. The problem with the switch is the body clips break and the switch pops apart. The buttons felt as if they have no travel and don't work. For our car the switch lights still illuminated, so a fuse issue could be eliminated. Searching on YouTube I found several videos of damaged switches. Carefully consider YouTube information as much of the information is from car dismantlers who don't care if they damage surrounding parts. Buying a new switch is, of course, a good repair, but part of the problem is figuring out how to get the switch out, so decided to see if it could be fixed before ordering a new one. To remove the switch, some WD-40 was first lightly sprayed around the socket. This may help release the switch if accumulation makes it bind. WD-40 won't damage the finish or electrical components. The repair sequence is shown in Figures 1 through 5. The only complication since ours fell completely apart is not losing the spring and installing it back on the post. A single wire connector



on the bottom connects the switch.

When applying the glue the spring pushes the switch apart unevenly so a combination of a zip tie and vise allowed the switch to stay square while it cured. Reinforce the switch with Duct tape across the sides and bottom then electrical tape around the body, do not cover the wire connection on the bottom. Degrease the side before applying the tape. One layer of Duct tape and a couple wraps of electrical tape fit fine. Top Tech Tip: Consider taping before the switch breaks!

**MATERIALS:** Black Nitrile Gloves, DeoxIT L260CP (Amazon), WD-40, paper towel

**GALVANIC CORROSION:** Also referred to as dissimilar metal corrosion where accelerated corrosion occurs due to electrical contact of a more noble and less noble material in the presence of a corrosive electrolyte (such as water). The less noble material will experience accelerated corrosion. The more noble material will have reduced corrosion due to a cathodic protection effect from the less noble material. Materials are ranked in a "Galvanic Series". Materials like titanium or stainless steel are higher (more noble) than copper, steel, aluminum, or zinc.

**DIELECTRIC:** An insulator of electric current. A dielectric grease insulates and does not break down with high voltage applied and can provide lubrication such as for spark plug boot rubber parts while preventing arcing.

## Rear Lamp Failure

The E53 has conventional light bulbs. The dash indicator displays when one is not working. The rear bulbs use a white socket used on a lot of BMW cars. The tabs seem to lose contact with the base plate. The sockets can be replaced at about \$12 each (PN63216943036) for the tail lights. Replacing them seems to only work for a couple of years then the problem returns. The problem may be the base plate interface. There may be a galvanic corrosion issue between the dissimilar metals or coatings used. Previously I had used dielectric grease on the tabs and also had bent the tabs up a little to increase the contact force. After a few months, the problem would reappear. There are conductive electrical greases available. Searching on the Internet the DeoxIT products were found. Amazon had the DeoxIT L260CP available for \$16.55 by Caig Laboratories Inc. DeoxIT is claimed for "cleaning, deoxidizing, protecting and lubricating preparation". It is a grease that contains copper particles that conduct and protects from corrosion and oxide build up on the contacts. They also make a grease with aluminum particles, but since the contacts on bulb holder appear to be plated steel, the copper version was selected.

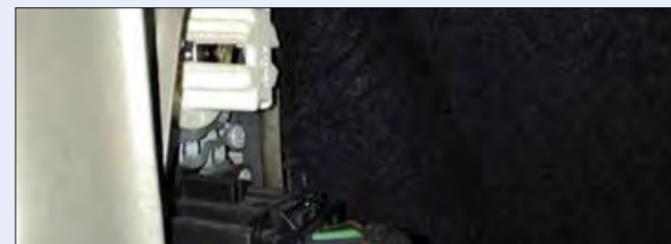
Simply remove the bulb holders, and clean then tweak the tabs a little and apply a small spot of the L260CP grease. Just a dab was used, as it could be possible to create a short since the grease conducts. My bulbs had been replaced before so they were removed and assembled with a dab of dielectric grease on the contacts. GM has used dielectric grease on bulbs since the 1990s, but BMW did not use it on the E53, so the benefit may be debatable. With old-style bulbs the vehicle vibration wears the solder at the bottom, it appears dielectric grease reduces the wear so the bulb life is improved.

Apply the grease to both vehicle sides so the resistance for each side is the same. The warning can

Having a bad day in the garage?

CONTACT JEFF OTTEN

TECHADVISOR@HOUSTON-BMWCCA.COM



**TOP:** DeoxIT grease and Dielectric grease, these are handy for your garage supplies

**MID:** Take note of the socket position as they tabs only fit one way and it is difficult to see the orientation.

**LEFT:** Small dab of grease on the contacts

be tripped if the resistance varies too much side to side. Hence the normal recommendation to replace bulbs in pairs. No sandpaper was used on the contact area, it's too difficult to see on the light side, and if plated it will be thin so may be made worse by trying to sand. Just clean with clean towel and WD-40, brake cleaner, or electronics isopropyl alcohol. Our car has had no errors in over three (3) months now, so it seems to have helped.

# HOUSTON AUTOSHOW 2019

## Fancy Hot Rods heat up Space City

jim robinson

senior writer

The Houston Auto Show Opening Gala was well attended by members of the Houston Auto Dealers Association and guests as well as automotive media and your faithful narrator. After everyone enjoyed the cocktail hour and mingled, the first presentations began.

First up on the agenda was the unveiling of the new Dodge Ram 3500 Long Horn Edition with a Heavy Duty Cummins Diesel. This truck is huge! And it was towing an equally huge horse trailer complete with compartments so you could sleep with your horses. (didn't they make a movie about that? "They Sleep with Horses, Don't They"; or something like that. I'm wondering if they plan to come out with a Texas A & M Aggie Edition? I don't want to start a new ruckus with their rivalry with the University of Texas, but that's for Dodge Ram to sort out. I'm just sayin'.

After that, there was time for us to look at the other cars before the next unveiling.

There were a lot of dazzling high-end automobiles as well as the latest offerings from all the major manufacturers.

I took the interlude to check out the BMW display, hosted by local dealerships Momentum and Advantage BMW. Once again BMW NA opted to not participate in the Houston Auto preferring to have a presence at other US auto shows. Recently, BMW debuted the new X5 at the LA Autoshow. Houston is the fourth largest city in America, and with all the dealerships in our area, I'm disappointed that we don't rate the same class as L. A. or other cities. Thanks to Momentum and Advantage BMW I was able to check out some new models.

Most notable was the M850i and the Roadster i8 done up in Duracell Orange. It received a score of 1.3 by the Soviet Judge. \*

If you've read any of my other comments about previous auto shows you know I'm not a big fan of this car. For me, the i8 isn't aging well. To digress a little bit; the concept was supposed to be an homage to the venerable Mi. But BMW decided to join the fray of putting Hybrid / electric cars in their lineup. It seems to me that as electric vehicles forge ahead electric power prices will bloom accordingly and disposal of those battery packs is said to be expensive also. I was expecting to see the convertible 850i and the new X7. The M850i shown here was a favorite with someone at the opening gala having been christened with a kiss. It was cleaned off the next day; I would

have left it on there. There was the new X5 but mostly what was displayed were bread & butter models and a couple of Mini's. All nice cars and I understand that the show is about presenting models for buyers. But people like me still like to dream.

Ford displayed a yellow GT this year. They also had their new Mustangs, Trucks, and cars. Lincoln had their offerings, but I didn't see Matthew McConaughey promoting the new sedan with his trademarked; "Well, okay, okay okay."

Jaguar had a nice display with some pretty cars. They also were presenting their I-Pace electric soccer-mom model. They're getting better on the range of these vehicles, and I suppose if you have a place to plug it in, I guess it will be inevitable that these things become the norm. At least if Tesla has anything to say about it.

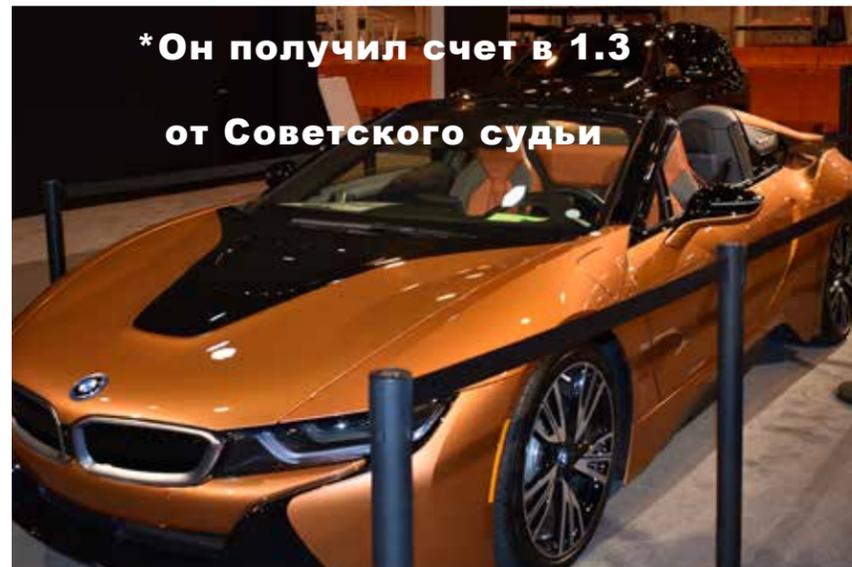
Chevy had a brace of tricked out Corvettes, and the new Camaro looks good. I'd almost buy one of those if I weren't a fan of BMW. Back in the day, I had a Dodge Challenger, it's rival than as now, but the Camaro still holds some retro-nostalgia harkening back to the gearhead days.

And then with the salsa band playing; Drum roll please: Aston Martin stole the show with their DBS Superleggera!

It was a good thing I attended the Gala because the DBS was only there for that opening event.

Founded in 1913 Aston Martin has a long and storied history that goes far beyond James Bond. The DBS series began in 1967 and was brought back into production in 2007 based on the DB 9 with a V12 engine. This latest edition has a tubular frame "Superleggera" harkening back to the DB 5. This car has carbon fiber body panels and a twin turbo 5.2 V12 producing 715hp. There are more powerful and expensive cars, but Aston Martin is in a class by itself.

When I go to car shows, I'm drawn to the exotics first then look for other foreign makes, and I breeze through the American marques. U. S. makers are producing some outstanding models these days, but I go to car shows to see the cars you don't see every day. Also part of the HAS are the antique cars and hot rods. Below are some notable examples that I found. I took a lot of pictures, and it was hard to select the few I post here while I may not like some of the treatments done to the BMW models displayed in this area; these cars are included just because their owners put into them their unique style and vision.



**\*Он получил счет в 1.3  
от Советского судьи**



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# Read up on club business and up coming plans

## First board meeting of the new year

### Present board members:

**Chris Stokes**, President  
**Albert L Ball**, Vice President  
**Diane Albretch**, Secretary  
**Jeff Compton**, Treasurer

**Michael Anastasio**, Social Chair

**Jeff Thomson**, Webmaster  
**Richard Lo**, Driving Events Chair  
**Chris Augustine**, Autocross Chair  
**Jeff Otten**, Tech Advisor

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm on February 20, 2019.

**Autocross**  
 Chris Augustine (AC) presented the Autocross budget for the 2019 year.

Augustine (AC) will talk with the company to see if we can purchase the toilets to keep them at the track to save money.

The Board discussed getting a storage unit for timing equipment. After a discussion about getting a storage unit for timing equipment, the Board decided that we weren't ready to get a unit at this time but did ask Augustine (AC) to look into getting a trailer for the timing equipment.

The Board approved the autocross budget as presented.

### Social Committee

Michael Anastasio (SC) presented the budget for the year. There was discussion about trying to do a Concourse with all the German car clubs and having an O'fest party in the fall. Anastasio (SC) will

reach out to the dealers about hosting coffee meets at the dealerships. Any costs aren't included in the budget.

The Board approved the budget as presented.

The Board decided to charge nonmembers \$5 per car for social drives. Jeff Thompson will update the registration on the website to ask for member number. The non-member charge will go towards funding a gas card for the volunteer who pre drives the route.

Anastasio (SC) will talk with PCA about having a concourse.

Anastasio (SC) will talk with AJ Hoyt about having a coffee event at his garage.

The club discussed going to the Vehicle Delivery Center. Chris Stokes (P) will get contact names for Vehicle Delivery center.

**Annual Dinner Report**  
 The annual dinner cost

\$15002.  
 The Board also decided that members must be present to win raffles & prizes.

Anastasio (SC) will chair the committee for next years annual meeting

### Action Items Follow Up

Club to order new instructor shirts for approved autocross instructors.  
 Time trials for ad hoc member days at MSR  
 Jeff Compton (T) to help Richard Lo (DE), Anastasio (SC) come up with some dates and budget.

Anastasio (SC) & Katie Otten(N) to design a post card with list of events  
 2 social events in addition to autocross per month to advertise club activities.

Otten (N) to send Compton (T) list of advertisers to update records.

Otten (N) put an ad into newsletter asking if members still want

to receive a printed newsletter.

### Charity contributions

Board voted to donate \$500 for Way out Women's Center  
 Stokes (P) will manage the donation process.

### New business for next month

Names need to be changed on club credit cards.

Stokes (P) to get with Katie to put a budget in the newsletter

Storage proposal from Augustine (AC)

Anastasio (SC) to come up with a social event cancellation policy

Review proposal for Advertisement cards next month

Charity event recommendation for all board members

Board meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

## THE BALANCE SHEET

Income	
Membership Dues	\$18058.75
Rebates from National	\$5552.00
Advertising Revenue	\$6833.00
Driving School Fees	\$20940.19
Autocross Fees	\$14925.46
Other Event Fees	\$3184.55
Merchandise Sales	\$0.00
Interest	\$69.70
Misc./Other Income	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$69563.65</b>

Expenses	
Newsletter Costs	\$4822.53
Postage	\$1872.58
Insurance	\$387.34
Driving School Expenses	\$3836.08
Autocross Expenses	\$23435.69
Meeting Expenses	\$11899.85
Other Event Expenses	\$15430.18
Telephone Expenses	\$0.00
Misc./Other Expenses	\$3277.32
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$64961.57</b>

Assets	
Cash in bank account	\$143736.16
Inventory	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Prepaid expenses/deposits	\$0.00
Other Assets	\$5130.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$148866.16</b>

Liabilities & Equity	
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Other Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity/Retained Earnings	\$144264.08
Net Income (loss)	\$4602.08
Adjustments to Retained Earnings	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$148866.16</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$148866.16</b>

# Putting young drivers on the path for success

## Club prepares to host the next Teen Street Survival

Now in our 14th year, the next Teen Street Survival driving program is scheduled for the fall at the Houston Police Academy. Over the years we have seen for ourselves what a difference this one day course makes in the driving skills and confidence of the young drivers who attend. Many families so believe in the course that we are on our second and third child from the same household. Additionally parents have written to advise how their children have put the skills to work in real world and have avoided what could have been tragic results.

To make this school a success we need volunteers! Please consider helping us out for one day that could make a life or death difference to a teen and their family. We need able bodied volunteers to assist with registration, setting up and retrieving all the orange cones that get sacrificed during the driving exercises, and making sure we have water at all the exercise stations through the day. You will be rewarded with a great t-shirt and fabulous Subway lunch! More importantly though you will know that you contributed to creating 32 much better drivers which benefits us all.

If you have kids that are near driving age consider bringing them out to volunteer. They can gain a lot of insight from watching the other students. Then when they attend the school they will get even more out of it. Heck bring any kid over about 12 years of age to help. We will put them to work helping out the less mobile and agile of the volunteers.

I sincerely hope that you will consider making this one day sacrifice to help a truly valuable program for our young people. If you are interested or have any questions contact our volunteer coordinator Nikola Dragojlovic at ndragojl@gmail.com

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# THE NEW Z4 HAS AN ALTERNATE

## IDENTITY



# DOES THE NEW Z4 LEAVE ENOUGH SPACE FOR THE SUPRA TO EXIST, TOO?

articles by: katie otten  
photos courtesy of BMW PRESS GROUP

**WE WANT TO STEP AWAY FROM REALITY, SOMETIMES.** Guessing what ‘thing’ people escape with is serious business. Watching a larger than life superhero save the planet from a glowing, megalomaniac alien bent on vaporizing all human life, seems to be pretty popular but even un-serious movies require serious talent and collaboration. Be it movies or vehicles, companies gladly bleed money for creative innovation when a large return is anticipated, but when reality fails imagination when the public just doesn’t take ‘it’ seriously, it’s time to evolve. Which leads me to ask, would you use BMW’s new z4 roadster, to the save world or the supra?

Roadsters are the definition of looking sporty. The most important guideline when designing a roaster is how does it look. The importance placed on ascetic is what makes roasters desirable. This has given the Z4 a devoted following, but unfortunately it is not considered a popular model outside of its niche market. By definition, a two-seater roadster is not family friendly. By design, it isn’t travel-friendly, either. Packing the trunk space requires an advanced degree in Tetris. If, however, you find yourself saving the world from an evil genius, it’s perfect. Just ask James Bond who have to save the world from an evil master mind on an annual basis. Roadsters are the cars we love looking at, nothing else drives like them. The roaster exists to be fun to drive and to look cool.

People quit paying attention to roadsters because they stopped being fun. When BMW added the convertible hardtop, they put weight in the wrong places and increased the price to cover it. It’s the



## THEIR SHARED CONNECTION

### THE INLINE 6 TWIN TURBO B58

job of the M2s to be serious, to show the practicality of what BMW can do. But the damage was done. The e89 was bloated and didn't age well. As the e89 finished up its 2016 production year, it became such a low volume car that its decline affected the majority roadster market. The z4, specifically, bore the brunt of the downturn, claiming the title of the second worst selling car of 2017. The models that did sell were not even 2017 production; they were left over 2016 models. As the market for roadsters continues to decline, BMW is forced to look for cost-effective and creative solutions to finance the development of the next installment to the z line.

Fortunately, BMW has not lost commitment to production; it has instead partnered with an unlikely ally, Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC). To reveal the attraction between BMW and TMC, we travel back in time to 2013 when the deal was signed. At the time, both BMW and TMC recognized that the future of mobility needed to be sustainable and by partnering, progress could be made more efficient by working together towards that goal. Sharing a vision of sustainable movement, BMW and TMC came together to collaborate research on four fronts: fuel cell system, lightweight technology, post-lithium-bat-

tery technology, and ultimately, a sports vehicle.

#### THE FUEL CELL SYSTEM

Both companies agreed that to achieve zero emissions, development needs to shift to fuel cell technology. By collaborating, BMW Group and TMC can jointly develop alternative fuel systems to produce zero emission vehicles.

**THE LIGHTWEIGHT TECHNOLOGY.** The companies are testing and developing newly reinforced composites to build vehicle bodies for both BMW and TMC sports vehicles and others.

**THE POST LITHIUM BATTERY TECHNOLOGY** The research goal was to develop a lithium-air battery with increased life and faster charging than current batteries available on the market.



## THE STATS

	G29 Z4 M40i	2020 SUPRA
ENGINE TYPE	INLINE 6 TURBO (B58)	
DISPLACEMENT	3.0L (183CL)	
TRANSMISSION	8 SPEED STEPTRONIC SPORT	
POWER	382 HP	335 HP
TORQUE	369 LB FT	365 LB FT
ACCELERATION	3.9 SECONDS (0-60)	4.1 SECONDS (0-60)
CURB WEIGHT	3,443 LBS	3,397 LBS
WHEEL BASE		
NB LAP TIME	7:55	7:40 (EST.)
PRICE	\$63,700 (Z4 3.0 \$60,695)	\$54,920 (BASE 50,920)

	E89 Z4 3.5iS	M2 COMPETITION
ENGINE TYPE	INLINE 6 TWIN TURBO N54	INLINE 6 TWIN TURBO S55
DISPLACEMENT	3.0L	3.0L
TRANSMISSION	7SP DCT / 6SP MANUAL	7SP M DCT
POWER	335 HP	405 HP
TORQUE	332 LB FT	406 LB FT
ACCELERATION (0-60)	4.5 SECONDS	4.0 SECONDS (M DCT)
CURB WEIGHT	3,549 LBS	3,655 LBS
WHEEL BASE		
NB LAP TIME	8:09 (UNOFFICIAL)	7:54
PRICE		\$58,900 (M2 57,000)

**AND A SPORTS VEHICLE** BMW Group and TMC began a study to determine the feasibility of joint development of a mid-size sports car, which, through the process of elimination, had to be a z4 (BMW would remain the exclusive protector of 3 series, 5 series or x secrets). The desired outcome was to combine the technology and knowledge of each company to streamline development and production, while still meeting customer expectations.

Why then, if this agreement was signed in 2013, did it take 6 years before we saw results? Working together brings faster results, does it not? It turns out Team Munich works very differently than Team Japan. The designing and engineering teams struggled to find common language to communicate their design goals. BMW needed a partner to make the development of the z4 cost-effective while TMC needed a successful inline six engine to ensure a tangible connection to the Supra lineage. After sorting through philosophical differences, both teams walked away from the table with a foundation from which each team could create a unique car which included the combined research on sustainable mobility.

After 5 years of designing, engineering, and testing, we have two very different and capable roasters that will elevate this sector. So both cars are heroic.

The g29 z4 marks a return to what made the original e85 z4 so much fun to drive. A great engine, in a light car, with a sporty

transmission. It looks good, top up or down. With a 0-60 time of 0.0 second, BMW made a worthy addition to the z4 lineup. It's stocked with plenty of technology and gadgets to keep even the most modern millennial happy. The US spec Z4 will be highest tuned model, the European version The Z4 will use the same engine as the G20 M340i. The return to the soft top convertible leaves just enough trunk space so you can, actually, take luggage the next time you escape reality.

The Supra will have 47 less horse power than the Z4 and will come with a different turbo charger but Supra fans are looking for a car that can be customized and tuned. TMC decision to use BMW as the engine supplier insures a reliable foundation for all the mods. Supra fans want a car that they can personalize and make their own.

For BMW fans wanting news about a g29 coupe version, no announcements from BMW, yet. BMW confirmed no M version coming, just the 4.0 M package configuration. It doesn't mean there won't be a coupe version or manual version; it just means BMW wants to test the market first. The Z4 will go on sale in 2019 and the Supra not until 2020.

And yeah, when I get paged by S.H.I.E.L.D for their next meet up, this is what i want to use to save the world.

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