

# L I G H T

BMW Car Club  
of America  
Buckeye Chapter



News, Views and  
BMW Stuff to Do

SPRING 2011



Scenes from the spectacular  
Holiday Party at Lance  
White's Playhouse, er, office.

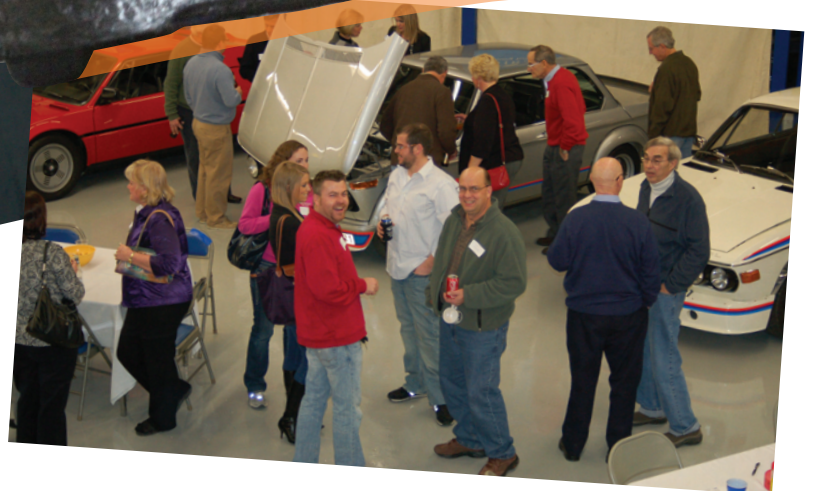
It was a sublime evening of  
good food, good friends and  
great cars more than able to  
warm a cold winter's night! **HEY!**

**HEY YOU!**  
You can't bring  
that kart  
in here!

Dang karting  
hooligans



Holiday Party photos courtesy of Nick Bagnoli





**As** you may have gathered from George Saylor's last article, some change has come to the Buckeye Chapter. After three years serving as Cincinnati area governor, then Vice President for a number of years, it is now my turn to serve as your Buckeye Chapter President.

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

by **Erik Shifflett**

I have had a chance to build relationships with my fellow Buckeye members in Cincinnati

and Dayton, but of course I have not met all 1200+ members of the Buckeye Chapter. So it stands to reason that you may be asking who is this new chapter president, what vision does he have for the chapter, and why the heck do some people call him "CrockPot"?

Let's start with the easy part; I have been a Buckeye Chapter member since owning my first E30 back in my college days at Miami University. Since graduating I have been working as a financial planner in the Cincinnati area. Given the large size of our chapter treasury and some

of the complexities involved in helping to manage the chapter's business, I feel that my background and work experience will assist me in serving as your new president. On the home front, I am married, my wife Lindsay and I have a very energetic three-year-old named Thomas, and we live on the east side of the Cincinnati Area.

Enough of that, let's get to the good stuff... the Buckeye Chapter. First of all, let me thank our outgoing President, George Saylor. He has done a great job over the past several years and set a fine example for me to follow. Second, let me thank all of the area governors, both past and present. They are truly the ones who help drive the energy and growth of our chapter. Buckeye is very fortunate to have many passionate volunteers at all levels of the chapter, whether serving on the board or in other ways. I am also excited to work with your new Vice President, Tim Beechuk, as we move forward with the chapter for the coming year.

My current vision for the chapter is to keep on doing the things we are great at: social events, driving schools, and Street Survival to name a few, and improve on membership involvement, retention, and recruitment. I plan to work with and support your area governors in helping them reach out to more of our current members, and hopefully find some new ones, so that this great organization continues to grow and thrive.

And finally, what about that "Crockpot" thing? Well, I promise I'll fill you in over the year with some additional newsletter articles, but let's just start with a 90+ degree day, 110% humidity, a pop-up thunderstorm, my E30 track car with no A/C, on an 8-hour trip to Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama. Starting to get the picture?

Hope you all have a great spring, have fun and be safe. ■

### BMW CCA CHAPTER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 2010

#### BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	Current Year Ending 12/31/2010	Prior Year Ending 12/31/2009
Cash in bank accounts	84,516.92	89,622.36
Inventory		
Equipment		
Accounts receivable		
Prepaid expenses/deposits	14,250.00	14,525.00
Other		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>98,766.92</b>	<b>104,147.36</b>

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Accounts payable		
Other:		
Equity/retained earnings	98,766.92	104,147.36
<b>Total Liabilities and equity</b>	<b>98,766.92</b>	<b>104,147.36</b>

#### INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME	Current Year Ending 12/31/2010	Current Year Ending 12/31/2009
Membership dues	18,382.98	19,144.17
Rebates from National		
Advertising revenue		206.25
Driving school fees	96,423.50	94,590.00
Autocross fees		
Other event fees	1,074.20	20,430.00
Merchandise sales	140.00	
Interest	87.21	134.12
Misc/other	822.00	3,700.26
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>116,929.89</b>	<b>138,204.80</b>

#### EXPENSES

Newsletter costs	9,893.69	10,298.08
Postage	36.43	119.63
Insurance		
Driving school expenses	103,797.35	74,529.23
Autocross expenses		
Meeting expenses	4,194.28	4,654.62
Other event expenses	1,949.46	16,726.85
Telephone expenses		
Misc/other	2,439.12	3,803.82
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>122,310.33</b>	<b>110,132.23</b>
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>-5,380.44</b>	<b>28,072.57</b>

#### MISC./OTHER

Misc./other income:	Current Year Ending 12/31/2010	Prior Year Ending 12/31/2009
Newsletter post/print reimbursement		340.26
Money Collected from charity raffles	522.00	1,990.00
National Service Award	300.00	
Lucas Award Donations		1,370.00
<b>Total misc./other income</b>	<b>822.00</b>	<b>3,700.26</b>

#### Misc./other expenses:

Charity Contribution	1,553.00	1,459.00
Bank Service Charges and Fees	42.00	42.00
Web	39.75	338.80
Misc.	221.75	
Office Supplies		96.20
D&O Insurance	230.84	230.41
Banners		428.00
Lucas Award		864.62
PO Box	320.00	306.00
Printing and Copying	31.78	38.79
<b>Total misc./other expenses</b>	<b>2,439.12</b>	<b>3,803.82</b>

# And the **WINNER** is...

## 2011 Buckeye Bluegrass Go Kart Challenge

*Sponsored by The BMW Store, Cincinnati*

On Saturday February 12th, in honor of Valentine's Day, many men from Ohio and Kentucky assembled at Competition Racing to attend to the Buckeye / Bluegrass Challenge. This annual go-kart event pits our finest hot-shoes against the southern rebels in an enduro race for the honor of possessing a small plastic trophy.



It seemed the least we could do. By the way, why is it that we don't draw out some woman drivers? We had some significant others to cheer on the troops, but no female competitors. Is there just too much testosterone in the room, or is the premise too silly?

This opportunity for bragging rights was all made possible by a little planning and a substantial sponsorship from The BMW Store. They stepped up to help us make this a great event. We thank them for the opportunity to go out and act like kids.

The afternoon began with everyone running a couple of sets of qualifying laps to provide a benchmark and basis for bragging about low times and difficult traffic. Then it got down to strategy, and stacking the odds. The format for the race would be eight karts on track for a 1 hour enduro. Four Buckeye and four Bluegrass karts, with four drivers per team. Each driver would be required to run a minimum of 10 minutes with actual leg times set by the team captains. Each chapter had a quick team of their fastest qualifiers with

blockers, or should I say supporting drivers, filling the remaining teams. Heck, during the race we even had pit signals to help keep our ringer team up front and with a clear path. Pole position was set with a coin toss and Buckeye won with the other grid positions set by alternating Buckeye and Bluegrass teams. The race was hotly contested with a bit of bump drafting, some outright nerfing, a little weaving uncontrollably and a bit of controversy. In the last 8 minutes of the race, the lead Bluegrass kart lapped a slower kart under yellow. While the Buckeyes lobbied for a black flag in hopes of regaining the lead, the staff at Competition Racing said they didn't see the pass, hmmm... wonder if they got some Bluegrass greenbacks lining their pockets? All kidding aside, there was so much action, it was hard to keep track; but fortunately, there was electronic timing. At the checker, sadly the winning kart was the Bluegrass team of Bill Heumann, Gary Nakasoto, Drew Doukas and Brian Morales. Our ace team piloted by Anthony Magagnoli, Erik Shifflett, Bud Dornette and Kevin Sweeney, while holding the lead for a while, finished a close second. So good was the effort that after 60 minutes of racing, 187 laps and three pitstops, the first and second place finishers were on the same lap, only about 9 seconds back.

Let NASCAR top that. Even though we all enjoy driving the karts, the real joy of this event is seeing a bunch of members from two chapters enjoying the day, swapping stories and slapping each other on the back. Yes, one team had the trophy, but we all won. The camaraderie was infectious. If you missed it this year, don't worry, we'll do it again next winter. Something this much fun won't go away. ■

Wait... What? Really? Oh.

Um...

Congratulations, *Bluegrass*.



*Go Kart Challenge photos courtesy of Mark Jeanmougin*



*Join us for the*  
**2011**  
*Buckeye Chapter*  
**BMW CCA**  
**Driver's**  
**Schools**  
*at the beautiful*  
*and challenging*  
*Mid-Ohio Sports*  
*Car Course*

**August 27-28**  
**October 22-23**

**Sign-up is open**  
**NOW!**

To register go to  
[buckeyebmwcca.org](http://buckeyebmwcca.org) and click  
on **Drivers' Schools**, then just  
select the school to sign up on  
[motorsportreg.com](http://motorsportreg.com)

And don't forget to sign up for  
the **Saturday Night Dinner!**  
Great food, tall tales and a  
terrific time with your friends.

Sign-in 7 pm to 10 pm Friday,  
August 26 and October 21

## From Your Buckeye Chapter Driving Events Committee

It's that time of year to stop thinking about the snow and ice storms! Let's think about having some fun with our BMWs at Mid-Ohio. Your DEC just had its 2011 organizational meeting. Buckeye BMWs Mid-Ohio dates for 2011 HPDEs are August 27-28 and October 22-23. Registration is open on [www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com), so sign up early. We plan on continuing our tradition of gourmet Saturday night dinners at the host hotel (to be determined) for both events.

Our August weekend will feature our first "Ladies Group" where we plan to have an entire run group of enthusiastic novices with "no male drivers allowed". Gentlemen, this is your chance to convince your significant other to get behind the wheel and find out why you're so eager to "go to the track for the weekend". And don't forget the Saturday night gourmet dinner. WARNING – if you get her hooked – look out!

Also at our August event we are planning on doing an ITS (instructor training school). If you are interested in instructing and want to do the ITS please let Lance White or John Lochner know. We need a resume so the DEC can pick candidates, as we can only accommodate a limited number.

The October HPDE weekend will NOT be hosting a Club Race this year. With the racers out of the way, we will have another run group we can fill with eager drivers for our annual Great Pumpkin School.

Housekeeping:

- 2011 will continue with our 2010 passing rules.
- Equal restraints required for driver and passenger (instructor)
- Helmets permitted for 2011 are Snell SA and M 2000, 2005, 2010; FIA 8860-2004, 8860-2010; SFI 2005 please check your stickers
- Insurance-please check your individual policies re:coverage. These are not timed events but wording varies. The club's insurance does not cover you or your car.
- Track damage – the track charges for damage to guard rail, tire walls, amount of oil dry, fire extinguishers etc. You are responsible for these charges, not Buckeye BMW CCA.

We know its early but wanted to get you our dates and plans for 2011. Your Buckeye DEC is looking forward to two fun HPDEs. Hope to see you there!

## CINCINNATI AREA NEWS

*Marcia McClure, Cincinnati Area Governor*

It's not about the cars...

Well, I can certainly say right now that IT IS ABOUT THE CARS!

How well your car is handling the ice and snow? All I can say is that I'm glad I drive an all-wheel-drive (Ford) for work. Thus far, I haven't found myself stuck or on the side of the road this winter. Hopefully you can say the same!

The Cincinnati Area started off the year with great momentum, and hopefully will carry on throughout the year.

We began the year with our annual Holiday Party on January 8 that proved to be a wonderful evening. The location couldn't have been more perfect for the 80+ Buckeye members that showed up for the event. Lance and Diane White were gracious enough to host the party at their newly remodeled and spectacular office in Cincinnati. It was like being at home! And to top it off, Ken and Mackie Price were there as well. It was great to catch up with Ken and see how well he is moving forward with his progress.

Immediately after the holiday party, we started off with our January meeting at Dewey's Pizza and our Area elections. I am happy to say that Nicky Schardt and I were unanimously re-elected as Vice Governor and Governor, respectively.

Being the dynamic duo that we are, Nicky and I hope to provide the Cincinnati Area with another great year, filled with activities and a variety of locations for our monthly meetings. Again, please contact either one of us if you have any ideas for a meeting spot or activity.

Mark Friday, March 25, on your calendar for the wine tasting at The Taj Ma Garaj in Dayton. Tickets are available on-line only, at [tajmagaraj.com](http://tajmagaraj.com)

Hope to see you soon. mmMarcia ■

## DAYTON AREA NEWS

*Chuck Craves, Dayton Area Governor*

On 01-26-2011 the Dayton Area Buckeye Chapter of BMW CCA held it's annual election for Governor and Vice Governor. After all the

preliminary handshaking, patting on backs, kissing babies and making all sorts of wild promises to do all sorts of things, the votes were counted and Mark Morris was returned to Vice Governor, and a new (old; as in recycled) Governor had been elected (re-elected?). That would be me, Chuck Craves, previously serving as Governor from 2001 - 2007. Some of you may remember me and ask why I wanted to be Governor again. I guess it just seemed like a good idea at the time.

Anyway, for those who don't know me, I have been a BMW CCA member since 1989. My wife Marta and our dog Missy, a Miniature Pinscher, live in Beavercreek and have a 1996 M3 and a 1998 328is as well as several other "foreign" cars: Porsche, Fiat, Chevy Astro, and a garage full of motorcycles, mostly old, but all Kawasaki's. We have five children, all grown, and seven grandchildren.

It's good to be back! – Chuck

*(Editor's note: Mark Morris, Vice Governor, and George Theilen, past Governor, had this take:*

The Dayton Area has continues to have good turnout, we usually get 12 to 20 people at the meetings. In January there was actually a competition for Governor, when past Gov Chuck Craves decided to give it a go again, and won. Mark Morris, in a hard-fought battle against No O Ponent, managed to keep the position of Vice Governor. We continue to meet at Brixx Ice Company. Check [www.buckeyebmwcca.org](http://www.buckeyebmwcca.org) for information and directions to our meeting at Brixx, or an alternate location when we have one. Watch for info on the chapter web site and emails. ■

## TOLEDO AREA NEWS

Phil Ross, Toledo Area Governor

Elections of Toledo Area Governor and Vice-Governor yielded Phil Ross and Jim Troknya during a record turnout vote. They represent NW Ohio in matters of the Buckeye Chapter of BMW CCA and are your local contact when questions arise about club activities. Feel free to contact either one with your thoughts.. ■

## GIRLS GONE DRIVING by Nicky Schardt

### Top Ten Reasons Why the BMW CCA Is SO Great

1. Cool cars (I'm on my 7th BMW in 15+ years and currently own 4.)
2. Cool people (I met my best friend Marcia McClure, my fantastic husband Steve Schardt and many other close friends via the club.)
3. HPDEs (When I bought my first BMW, my mechanic thought I should drive it on the race track – what a concept! I was hooked.)
4. Immediate support group (Yes, I guess it helped that I was a single woman at the time... I especially remember a very nice group of gentlemen at VIR who helped me unload my car and change tires in minutes flat all the while Scott Meyer looked on, knowing full well I could do it myself. :-)
5. Charity sponsorship (All our chapter-based social activities ladder back to a charity sponsorship, ours in particular go to the likes of Stepping Stones and the Ronald McDonald House.)
6. Street Survival Schools (Our chapter was one of the early adopters and so I've helped out with the organization from the get-go. You rock Bill Wade!)
7. Governing Bodies (As a repeat member of the local Buckeye Chapter, I've really enjoyed working with an organization that allows me to be part of the action.)
8. Instructing (I became an instructor several years back, thank you John Lochner, I love Mid-Ohio!)
9. Racing (They let me drive the Pace Car during local chapter events, a new race car for us may be on the horizon too...)
10. Rubbing elbows (BMW execs and drivers are very accessible at big events, one doesn't get rides from Hans Stuck just every day.)

There really are more than 10 things I love about the club, but I always come back to the fact that it's all about the people! I urge everyone to get involved at whatever level with whatever interests strike them. We just like to have fun and there's a whole lot of it to spread around. ■

## Buckeye Chapter Officers

### President

Eric Shifflett  
[eshifflett@cinci.rr.com](mailto:eshifflett@cinci.rr.com)

### Vice President

Tim Beechuk  
[tbeechuk@zoomtown.com](mailto:tbeechuk@zoomtown.com)

### Treasurer

Scott Ontjes  
[Scott@ontjes.net](mailto:Scott@ontjes.net)

### Driving Events

#### Chief Instructor

John Lochner  
[L8apexer@woh.rr.com](mailto:L8apexer@woh.rr.com)

#### Coordinator

Lance White  
[lwhite@dcs.ms](mailto:lwhite@dcs.ms)

### Website

Dan Krage  
[webmeister@buckeyebmwcca.org](mailto:webmeister@buckeyebmwcca.org)

### Newsletter

Dohn Roush  
[dm3roush@earthlink.net](mailto:dm3roush@earthlink.net)

### Cincinnati Area

#### Governor

Marcia McClure  
[mccmar@msn.com](mailto:mccmar@msn.com)

#### Vice Governor

Nicky Schardt  
[hardy\\_nicky1@hotmail.com](mailto:hardy_nicky1@hotmail.com)

### Columbus Area

#### Governor

Jim Heckman  
[jimheckmanlisw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimheckmanlisw@sbcglobal.net)

#### Vice Governor

Scott Scharadin  
[sscharadin@yahoo.com](mailto:sscharadin@yahoo.com)

### Dayton Area

#### Governor

Chuck Craves  
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#### Vice Governor

Mark Morris  
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### Toledo Area

#### Governor

Phil Ross  
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#### Vice Governor

Jim Troknya  
[jctroknya@hotmail.com](mailto:jctroknya@hotmail.com)

## The "I'm Not The President Anymore" Column

**Wherein George learns that Altima is less than ultimate, Jeep hurts, and you really CAN'T tell a book by its cover.**

by **George Saylor**

Ha! You thought you got rid of me! Well, this is what happens when the Spring edition of the newsletter comes up a little light.

What to do, what to do....

**How about a Car Review?** First, it's the 2009 Nissan Altima. Never did I imagine I could pry the keys of the SUV away from my wife. She liked the Nissan, as I had suggested, so we looked at a few. "No leather seats. I don't want leather." My wife is now the proud owner of an Altima with her primary requirement – heated seats. And they're leather. We all have to compromise and as I had hoped, leather isn't a big deal anymore. With the nasty weather lately I ask her if she wants to drive the SUV. "Nope, I like my Nissan." So, the review. It's your basic car. It does everything well. It has many of the same features as my 2000 528i, only 10 years later. And, it's boring. It also factors into a story later in this column.

**How about another Car Review?** This time we present the 2011 Grand Cherokee. Totally redesigned and featuring an innovation new to the Chrysler family – independent rear suspension. The owner is my daughter. That right there will tell you that the 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee is capable of sustained high speed cruising. Not so much cruising, more like a slalom. On a major Interstate highway. In a big city. During rush hour. My turn behind the wheel came after the very first stop ("Either I drive or I'm getting a rental"). The ride is smooth and the steering is well-behaved to the point that you swear this is the first Jeep with toe-in. Fuel economy is moderate, as it has the V-6 with the cylinder cut-out feature (not to be confused with more advanced BMW cylinder cut-out feature caused by oil in the spark plug wells). Overall a nice vehicle, with the exception of the MRI and five weeks of therapy feature known as the "back seat." It would seem that Chrysler, in its zeal to actually provide rear seat room for an adult, added a slight vertical curvature to one side of the upper part of the rear seat. Unbeknownst to me, five hours of this position can result in a bulging disc (L3-L4) with nerve impingement.

In other words, serious freaking pain. So, just think of the 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee as any other Jeep – at least the front seats are useable.

**How about a Book Review?** *"The Last Open Road"* by BS Levy. I laughed. I cried (from laughing). Contains many situations/feelings those of us who dabble in cars have certainly experienced. Thankfully Mr. Levy authored several succeeding novels of this ilk, so I vowed to consume them all. That was in 2006. I received my order from Amazon for the other three entries in the series last month. Ok, it took me a while. But I have them. Well, I thought I did.

The second book in the series is *"Montezuma's Ferrari."* I took my new hardcover version to the Nissan dealership so I could pass the time whilst the Altima was receiving its first major, scheduled, service. 90 minutes, they estimated. I'd have a fair portion of the book read in that amount of time. After having perused the fabulous, absolutely free, selection of year-old *Motor Trend* and *Guns & Ammo* magazines, I settled down with my book. Not just 'a' book. 'The' book. *Montezuma's Ferrari*. After turning the first few pages I noticed that Mr. Levy had employed a bit of a ruse in this one. The title, publication data, and dedication all referenced another book. What a great start! Ingenious! So, turn to Chapter One. Let's get this thing started.

Turns out, it was a completely different book. To be exact, *"While My Sister Sleeps"* by Barbara Delinsky. Having removed the jacket, the *Montezuma's Ferrari* jacket, I found the hard cover version of *While My Sister Sleeps*. Blasphemy! I furiously texted my wife to relay my astonishment and grief. Her words were somewhat reassuring, "Really? Barbara Delinsky is a good author. I like her."

While I did order the correct book, I inadvertently purchased a "used" copy which was provided by an authorized Amazon dot com reseller. So much for quality control. But, Amazon did handle the return painlessly and I now have a new, complete version of *Montezuma's Ferrari*. And the review? You'll have to wait. I've been distracted by physical therapy and writing newsletter articles. ■

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The Buckeye Chapter BMW CCA will once again be the host for an excellent wine tasting event at the incomparable Taj Ma Garaj on March 25th.

For those of you who have never been to a wine tasting, fear not, this is an excellent opportunity to get started, as there will be many different wine varietals in many price ranges from which to sample. There is no snobbery to be found, and you will have a great time. Your entry fee allows you to sample as many or as few wines as you choose. If you find one you like, go back to that table and have some more. Last year there were unopened bottles available at great prices when the tasting was over. There will also be heavy hors d'oeuvres included to complement the wines.

While you are sampling, there will be a variety of excellent silent auction items awaiting your winning bid. This event is the first event of the 2011 Taj Kreuzer's SpeedFest, which since 2000 has collected nearly \$500,000 for Miami Valley charities.

So...you are thinking: a wine tasting sounds nice...but what the heck is the Taj Ma Garaj anyway and why would I want to spend a perfectly good Friday night to go there anyway? Here is the story:

Once upon a time (in the 70's), a redneck from East Dayton is driving around in his big block macho-mobile when he is humiliated at a traffic light by a funny-looking German car with the engine in the rear. Said redneck catches up with said German car and asks what it is: "A Porsche" the owner responds, and from then on said redneck is intrigued. Years go by and said redneck becomes a highly effective

The Buckeye Chapter BMW CCA  
and Taj Ma Garaj Charity

# WINE TASTING Party

salesman, manager and motivator in the rent-to-own industry. Some years later, he retires in fine fashion. After consuming Porsche history ad-nauseum, to the point of being freakishly knowledgeable, he decides to spend his money on accumulating one of the finest collections of select Porsches in the world. His name is John Dixon, he's a (fairly) normal guy whose accomplishments would be unknown just by meeting him. He is pleasant, humble, compassionate and, as they say, down to earth. Jerry Seinfeld knows him though... and John is, like Newman, his nemesis. They often bid against each other for historical Porsche unobtanium. Seinfeld hates to lose. John knows.

John's passion is our gain. After years of hanging around Porsche Club types, John was so impressed with the humility of BMW folks that he decided to offer one of his premier charitable events to the BMW Club exclusively: The Taj Kreuzers Speedfest Wine Tasting. Come on out, enjoy the incredible cars, art and memorabilia. Enjoy some excellent wine and say hi to John and thank him for sharing his treasure with the BMW Club and the rest of the community. He'll be easy to find...he's the guy with a Bud Light... no wine for John, he just never developed the taste.

For those of you who have never been to the Taj Ma Garaj, well, you just have to see it to believe it. Porsches, Volkswagens, accessories and art are on display on a scale that is unmatched in the USA. Dennis Gage and My Classic Car have been there... so you don't want to miss it!

If you have been to this event in the last three years you probably are already planning on going, but you had better sign up fast... remember it has sold out and we have had to turn folks away in the past. Go to [www.kreuzers.com](http://www.kreuzers.com), check out the photos from last year, and sign up today!

**George Thielen**  
Fellow Kruezer and  
2011 SpeedFest Co-Chair



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Go to [www.buckeyebmwcca.org](http://www.buckeyebmwcca.org) for the latest event information, maps and updates.

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