



News, Views and
BMW Stuff to Do

SUMMER 2012

D R I V I N G

Secrets of the
Motorsports Country Club
Go-Kart Challenge

REVEALED!!!



Matching jump suits –
worth .8 seconds a lap



Creative apexes –
often aided by
one-handed driving



Expert, well-lubricated coaches



And the *Dayton
Secret Weapon* –
Surgically
conjoined drivers
for four-across
driving!

Details
inside...

Well, as promised in my February update, spring has arrived and summer is coming up fast. The Buckeye chapter has had a very busy spring. We started with a successful Go-Kart Challenge in Lawrenceburg, and thanks to some local SPEC E30 racers we took home first place this year! However, the Bluegrass chapter promises to polish up their skills and come again next year to try and reclaim the trophy. Thanks again to our sponsor, the BMW Store of Cincinnati, for their continued support for this event.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

by **Erik Shifflett**

Also during February, National (BMW CCA headquarters) hosted the Chapter Congress in Dallas, Tx. Tim Beechuk and Evan Keller from Cincinnati, John Lochner from Dayton, Scott Scharadin from Columbus and I attended this very important event. We all came away with some great ideas to implement for our chapter

and local areas. I am sure the time spent will pay some big dividends, with some great new social events and continued excellence in the driving programs we host. During March we had our Spring board meeting and set the chapters directions for the year. I would like to welcome Charlie Grafton to our board; he will serve as an area alternate for Columbus. He promises to bring some youth, energy, and fresh ideas. We can always use the help.

Speaking of help, I would also like to personally thank Scott Ontjes for his service as our chapter treasurer over the past several years. Scott stepped up at a very important time of transition for our board and our Chapter. He has done an amazing job, and has kept our finances in beautiful order. Thank you, Scott, for all that you have done, it is people like you that make the Buckeye Chapter what it is.

This means that we are actively looking for a replacement for Scott. Not to fear. If you have a bit of experience with Quick Books, or are just good with numbers, Scott has promised that he will help mentor our next treasurer and that he has a system in place that is easy to replicate. If you are interested in helping your Chapter, please send me an email at: Eshifflett@cinci.rr.com.

While April was a bit quiet, May has started off with a bang. Dave and Deb Castle in Troy, Ohio, just hosted another great Spring Kick-Off Party. If you have never attended, this is a great social event and car display. Typically our members will show up with clean cars, a big appetite, and a hunger for a good time. Trust me, nobody walks away disappointed. My 4-year-old, Thomas, loved the large fishing pond and large yard to run in. By the looks of it everyone else enjoyed all the great food, company and cars. Thanks again to Dave and Deb for a great event. Looking forward to next year.

The summer promises to be just as full of events, with car corrals at the Cincinnati Concours and the Grand Am race in June, our local area's special events, and don't forget O'Fest is just around the corner. Hope you all have a great summer. ■

DRIVERS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS INVITED!

Join us for the 2012 Buckeye Chapter

Mid-Ohio Drivers' Schools

Oktoberfest Drivers' School & Club Race
September 19-23 (register for 1 to 5 days of fun!)

Great Pumpkin Drivers' School October 19-21
Registration is open now!

Oktoberfest: Go to BMWCCA.org and click on Oktoberfest

October School: Go to buckeyebmwcca.org and click on Drivers' Schools, then just select the school to sign up on motorsportreg.com

And don't forget to sign up for the Saturday Night Dinner!

Headquarters Motels –

Oktoberfest – Hilton Columbus/Polaris – 614-885-1600

Great Pumpkin School – Quality Inn and Suites – 419-886-7000

The 2012 Motorsports CC Go-Kart Challenge

by **Colleen Kelly**

The Cincinnati May monthly meeting was hosted by Motorsports Country Club of Cincinnati on May 9. Since those in attendance knew they would be able to get in some hot laps on a beautiful evening in Owensville, we had members from both Cincinnati and the Dayton area.

A great pizza dinner started out the night, with over 30 members on hand. We did our monthly collection for Stepping Stones, which people continue to support generously, and as the food was consumed, excitement built for getting into the karts. Many were eager to see what they could do on this track.

Michael Kelly gave the safety talk, which included the driver's safety as well as the kart's safety – this was all for fun. With 10 karts in each heat, we split into three heats. Buckeye Bimmers were able to familiarize themselves with the full track configuration, which consists of fifteen turns, including one 22 degree banked turn. This configuration makes the 6/10 mile course challenging even for experienced racers. Each kart has a transponder, so MCC is able to provide lap times for each driver. Fastest lap of the night went to George Thielen, Scott Ontjes was second fastest, and Dave Knapp rounded out the top three.

I was a corner worker for the evening, working at the horseshoe. I can tell you the karts were flying by me, with plenty of skidding going on, as people were pushing themselves and their karts to the max in their quest to break the one minute lap time.

Michael Kelly was asked to demo a shifter kart for comparison, so in the last heat he joined the group to show some of its capability – one racer said it sounded like a hornet's nest overtook him – as the speed differential is amazing.

For more information on membership, or holding your own karting event at Motorsports Country Club, please visit their website at www.mccofcincinnati.com.

Our next meeting is at Enthusiast Auto, where I'm sure there will be plenty of rehashing of the MCC event. ■



Columbus Dreamin'

by **Tim Beechuk**

Are we there yet? I know that's in your minds as we all await the ultimate road trip, O'Fest. The anticipation, the thoughts of Mid-Ohio, the chance to see old friends and meet new ones. There are already 23 Buckeyes signed up for the event, most of them first-timers. Check out the National website, bmwcca.org, to see all there is to do. Even experienced festers will find new excitement to keep them going all week. Things like the DE BBQ, hosted by Forgeline, at the track hotel on Saturday night; a trip to

the Longaberger Basket factory for something in which to carry home the week's goodies; and the old standbys like the Concours, Autocross, TSD and Fun Rallies, Car Control Clinic, Gymkhana and Track events. The evenings will include a Casino Night, Vendor and Motorsports receptions, and the Awards Banquet. All of these activities fueled with Spaten, from our adult beverage sponsor. Speaking of sponsors, we have quite a bit of local support from friends like Kelly BMW, Enthusiast Auto and Forgeline.

I'm sure you are thinking "how does

all of this run so smoothly?" Well, it could be thanks to YOU. We'll need volunteers at every event to assure all is going as planned. We have chairpersons for the events, but they will need your help. Please contact me (tbeechuk@zoomtown.com) with questions about helping at any event. If you aren't attending events, but just want to volunteer, that's cool, too. But be sure to register as a volunteer to get the nifty shirt and so we can keep you informed.

Let's show the rest of the country, and Canada too, how the Buckeyes do it. ■

BUCKEYE CHAPTER DRIVING LIGHT SUMMER 2012

*Mark Morris submitted
this special event report:*

The Buckeye Chapter held its 3rd annual Spring Kick-Off party May 12th.

It was hosted again this year at the country home of Deb & Dave Castle, outside Troy. The weather was great, the food was better, and what can you say about a bunch of BMW friends getting together? I didn't count the cars, but there were probably 8 or 10, and maybe 20 people. The weather was nice, so we sat out on the patio and enjoyed the great view of the country and their pond. Dan even went fishing and caught a few fish. We didn't cook them on the BBQ, they were released, and we can catch them again next time. After sitting and chatting for a while, we looked at our watches, and it was around 8:30, so we lit a fire on the patio and enjoyed that for a while, before breaking up and heading our own ways home.

The only thing that kept this from being an even greater event is that too many of you didn't come out and enjoy the party! There was enough food for more people, you should have come. This is a car club, this is an event to enjoy your car and drive to it. As Sandra's and my motto says, "We drive for food." I hope to see you there next year. ■



CINCINNATI AREA NEWS

Marcia McClure, Cincinnati Area Governor

It's not about the cars!

So, I'm taking a break from yard work (oh darn) to write this article.

Here in Cincinnati, we are off to a wet, stormy and very busy spring/summer season. Our last several meetings at Dewey's Pizza have been well attended. And now that we are taking our show on the road, I hope to see many more of you at our meetings this summer.

Our Board Meeting in March was well attended, and we accomplished quite a bit of business. It certainly helped that the time and location of the meeting was The Taj Ma Garaj in Dayton, just before the annual wine tasting. Which reminds me to thank all the volunteers who helped pour wine this year. As usual, the Buckeye Chapter came through strong. Thank you again, John Dixon, for being such a gracious host.

On a personal note, by the time you read this article, I'll be done!!! For those of you who know what I'm referring to, all I can say is YAHOOO!!!!!!

Also, by the time you read this, we will have had our May meeting at The Motorsports Country Club of Cincinnati, for an evening of karting. I'm sure we had fun!

In June, we are back at Enthusiast Auto Group for their annual meeting. As usual, there will be plenty of cars to "oohh and ahhh" over, as well as good food, drinks and company.

In July we are at Jake Sweeney BMW. This year they helped out with sponsorship for our April Street Survival, so I hope we can repay them by showing up in numbers.

In August, for the first time, we will be at The Dingle House in West Chester for a car corral and beer tasting. What could be better than that?

Please check our website frequently for updates on meeting locations, as well as updates on O'Fest.

Have a good summer, everyone. ■

COLUMBUS AREA NEWS

George Saylor, Designated Writer

It's the end of an era – I'll soon be down to 1.25 BMWs. The 6-series was put up for sale at a ridiculous price (for me). I took it for one last spin around the block today and it's amazing just how well the car still handles and runs. Just don't look at it. It was neglected sitting outside and I had started to strip the interior. After all, who needs all that fancy stuff for a track car?

So my hopes are still my one-in-176,000,000 shot at winning the lottery, so I can buy an M635, and perhaps a few other cars and a lot of motorcycles. I keep thinking about all the cars I would buy with my lottery winnings, but I still come back to a really nice E24 that I don't have to restore. I might even be so brave as to buy an E39 M5 (after all – I'd be rich and I could actually keep it running). However, if I were to win the really big bucks then it would be "Sorry BMW, but I just found a couple of guys who re-created the Ford GT40 Mark IV."

I'll be honest – nothing in the Roundel lately has caught my interest, with the exception of the new M6. New features of Bimmers, which require less attention and skill of the driver to operate the vehicle, do nothing for me. And while I like Mini's (I tried to talk my wife into buying one), they're becoming larger and more unrecognizable (I saw one in the parking lot at Kroger today and it took me a while to figure out what it was). Perhaps it is simply the early onset of my advancing age where everything old was – and still is – good enough.

If you're of like mind, or not, feel free to join us on the third Wednesday of each month, at the Winking Lizard on Bethel Rd., in NW Columbus, at 7:30PM.

If you have an old BMW, we'll have much to talk about. If you have a new BMW, we'll have lots of questions for you (we can't figure out how the new stuff works, since we are stuck in the 1970s!). ■



Scenes from O'Fest concours past.
– photos by Tim Beechuk

DAYTON AREA NEWS

Chuck Craves, Dayton Area Governor

The Dayton Area March meeting was held at Voss Village BMW in Centerville, Ohio, where we drove the new 3-series, and it was very well attended. Several new members showed up and we hope to see them at future meetings.

In April we met at Boston's Bistro in Dayton and again had a good turnout. This is always a popular meeting place, plus Dave Boston, the owner, is a previous BMW owner, having had a pair of 1600s, and is currently looking for another.

On May 12th, Deb and Dave Castle hosted the 3rd annual Spring Kick-Off Party, or as it used to be called, the Spring Fling, at their lovely home outside of Troy, Ohio. Attendance was down a little this year, but with so many activities this time of year it was no surprise. Those who were in attendance had a very good time and enjoyed some excellent food, as always. That same day, prior to the party, Mike Self's annual highway cleanup was held in Beavercreek. ■

TOLEDO AREA NEWS

Phil Ross, Toledo Area Governor

Our Spring Area Event was the Glass City Marathon, and it has come and gone, but many more Chapter events are on the calendar. Find them in here in the DL, on the website or via email blasts.

The mild winter and early, persistent Spring weather was a welcome change from previous years.

I've been out of town, doing an informal survey of the presence of BMW vehicles in China. Being exactly 12 hours ahead of us, I didn't even have to reset my watch.

I've concluded that the marque is alive and well. One model that particularly caught my eye was a 520Li badged car. I didn't get to study it, but guess that it has a stretched wheelbase and more rear seat legroom, similar to the 7 Series model over here. I also learned that the Chinese are not communist, socialist, capitalist or any other known political group. They are forming something new, that combines the best features of each, but haven't yet found a name for it. Their belief is in the CAT theory.

It matters not what color the cat is, but whether or not it catches the mouse. There are many signs, as varied as industrious people sweeping the streets and roadways with brooms to columns of highrise apartment buildings springing up like mushrooms, in a push to urbanize the population.

See you at O'Fest. Don't miss it. ■

2011 Buckeye Chapter Financial Statement

Submitted by Scott Ontjes 3/30/2012

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Cash In Bank Accounts	95805.48
Inventory	0.00
Equipment	0.00
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Prepaid Expenses/Deposits	9335
Other	0.00
Total Assets	105140.48

Liabilities & Equity	
Accounts Payable	0.00
Other	0.00
Equity/Retained Earnings	105140.48
Total Liabilities & Equity	105140.48

Income Statement

Income	
Membership Dues	17282.65
Rebates from National	0.00
Advertising Revenue	0.00
Driving School Fees	90160
Autocross Fees	0.00
Other Event Fees	785
Merchandise Sales	0.00
Interest	69.31
Misc./Other	1833.00
Total Income	110129.96

Expenses	
Newsletter Costs	9256.41
Postage	30.44
Insurance	0.00
Driving School Expenses	87373.26
Autocross Expenses	0.00
Meeting Expenses	1957.95
Other Event Expenses	2859.93
Telephone Expenses	0.00
Misc./Other	2278.41
Total Expenses	103756.40

Net Income (Loss) 6373.56

Misc./Other Income

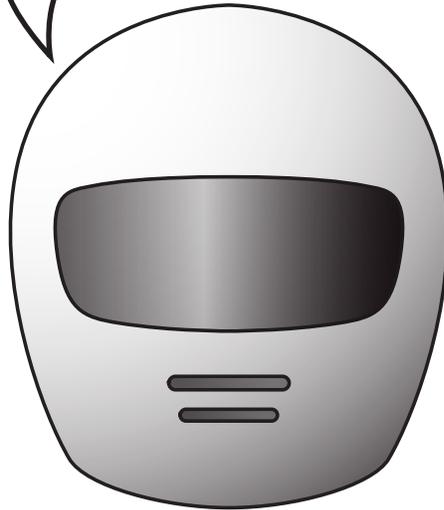
charity collections	1333
sponsorship	500
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
Total:	1833.00

Misc./Other Expenses

Charity Contributions	1333
Bank fees	18.5
Web Hosting etc	464.8
Misc	152.45
eCommunications	70.15
D&O Insurance	230.84
Printing & Copying	8.67
	0.00
Total:	2278.41

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Instructor says:
Now, find your brake marker, squeeze on the brakes, turn in with a little trail braking, clip the apex lightly, get on the gas as you unwind the wheel, eyes up, look where you want to go, the next turn is coming up fast...



Student hears:
Now, find your **brake** marker, squeeze on the brakes, **turn** in with a little trail braking, clip the apex lightly, **get on the gas** as you unwind the wheel, eyes up, look where you want to **go**, the next turn is coming up **fast**...



The **Instructor-Student Relationship**

by **Tammy Wright**

Before becoming a track fan I was a teacher. Through the course of my career and through general life experiences I began to realize that some people are just born to do the things they do. People naturally excel in areas where born talent exists. Instructors are no different. And, much like instructing is an art form, so too is learning. So one might say that the relationship between an instructor and their student is much like a dance, where both partners have to be acutely aware of the other's intentions, expectations and communication style.

Whether you have experience driving on the track, or little to no experience on the track, you can always benefit from the teachings of an instructor. So how do you ensure that the dance you are about to perform is safe and graceful, and perhaps will make you a little faster? The answer lies within.

To begin with, you have to be available and ready to learn. Open your eyes to something new. Listen to the one with more experience.

Try things and determine for yourself if they fit. Realize your comfort level. Acknowledge your limitations. But most importantly keep the communication open.

Communication is paramount to the success of the Instructor-Student relationship. Without it you have nothing of any value. It is the job of both parties involved to create an environment where communication is open and accepted. An instructor has to be confident in their instruction. A student has to be comfortable with the instruction. As long as the lines of communication are open both shall feel in harmony.

If you take it upon yourself to participate in a HPDE, then realize that the key to a successful weekend will be in the relationship between you and your instructor. And, if that relationship is difficult, due to personality difference, then talk with the Chief Instructor or other event support person about a change. The weekend is so short, and there is much to learn, so do it with someone that makes you feel comfortable and confident. ■

GIRLS GONE DRIVING

by
Nicky Schardt

Taking It To The Streets

Now that you've got the Doobie Brothers stuck in your head, I'd like to take a trip down memory lane, to reminisce about why I started writing this column in the first place... *I selfishly want more cool women to join the club and participate in club activities!* And now our biggest event is coming in September, BMW CCAs Oktoberfest, hosted by our chapter, and it promises to be a great venue to recruit.

As of this writing, out of the 150 people registered for O'Fest, some 40% appear to be of the female persuasion. Yes, many of these entrants may be kind spouses lured to the event with a promise of a shopping trip in exchange. However in "Nicky World", I have to believe that many of these women actually WANT to attend. In fact, I really hope there are many women who will take the opportunity to have fun driving their BMWs, not just on the track, but as part of our TSD Rally, Gymkama, Autocross, Car Control Clinic, Test Drives, or yes, our DE or Race School, where I'll be spending most of my time. The good part is that you won't have to do a darn thing to your car, except make sure it's full of gas and other important fluids. And certainly no experience is needed for any of these events; in fact we have trained staff on hand to help with your car, directions or just moral support. O'fest is a unique experience, and I can guarantee that you won't find the breadth and depth of car know-how anywhere, in one place, like this.

So to help support my original hypothesis, I dug up some interesting facts that I'd like to share: The U.S. Department of Transportation did a study identifying that 35-44 year olds were the largest share of our drivers, and about half of these drivers are female. That makes for a lot of buying and influencing power in the auto industry, which now seems to be spilling into the motorsports industry. Following are a few more interesting facts:

- If you're in the market for a car and don't have an in-house expert, there's a website for women looking for "women-friendly" car dealerships at <http://women-drivers.com>
- Since 1958, only five female drivers have ever raced in Formula 1
- In 2012 there are two female drivers signed up with the Williams team – Susie Wolff as a development driver and Maria de Villota as a test driver
- Two women are now driving in NASCAR, Danica Patrick and 19-year-old Johanna Long
- There have been female drivers in Indy Car for some time now, thankfully
- We in the States may take our driving privileges for granted, however, Saudi women have recently taken to the streets to show their independence, at the risk of being arrested or worse

I'm personally doing my part for the cause by getting the M3 in order for a full year of DE's, and hopefully running in one race with the P-car group. Even the guys will be jealous of my new adjustable camber plates and sweet race rubber hand-me-downs. And please don't forget to stop by the Forgeline tent at Mid-Ohio anytime – I'd love to talk to you about cars, shopping, recipes, boys, whatever – I'm still a girl through and through, even if I don't sport much in the way of pink.

One down and many to go; after our most recent Street Survival School I think I may have even converted a middle-aged, too-scared-to-drive-over-the-speed-limit, minivan-loving nurse into a sexy sports car driving mom (her words, not mine) who is now much safer on the road than ever before. Sometimes it just takes permission from a peer, and a slippery skid pad, to convince the most mild-mannered to break out of their shell. If you're at all considering driving as a sport, please let me know, and I'll give you a ride around the track anytime. What can it hurt!? ■

Editor's Note

In your hands is the first *Driving Light* from Enthusiast Media Group, our new printer. We look forward to the new relationship, *and* the significant savings it provides for the Chapter.

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Go to www.buckeyebmwcca.org for the latest event information, maps and updates.

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