



# Bimmer News



DIE LETZTE FAHRBAHN—The Ultimate Track  
FOURTH QUARTER 2010

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## BMW M6



A Newsletter for Choo-Choo Chapter Members of the BMW Car Club of America

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## FOURTH QUARTER 2010



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### Oktoberfest 2010 in Elkhart Lake, WI

This year propeller heads from all around the country converged on Elkhart Lake, WI to testify to all things BMW. Brenda and I headed west on I-24 on August 23rd for what has become ritual - BMW CCA's Oktoberfest. Lots of rain on the way to Chicago. In record time we were in the Loop where we met BMW CCA friends from Houston, TX. We had a wonderful dinner and strolled about the city. Sunday morning we headed for Navy Pier for sightseeing and even managed to get in an architectural tour of the city. Brenda and I used to live in Chicago, but a lot has changed in 30 years. Early afternoon found us headed north to Elkhart Lake to be about things O'fest. After checking in we took a stroll about the premises of our home for the next week, the Osthoff Hotel. The place was literally infested with BMWs of all vintages, in addition to scads of motorhomes and trailers everywhere. A few years back the Concours de Elegance part of O'fest was moved from the last day of O'fest to the first day. So now, instead of a relaxed arrival day, it is a day of frenzy for all the people who are showing off their prized steeds in the ConCours de Elegance. The current set up makes more sense, however.

On Monday morning all the Con Cours de Elegance cars line up before preceding to the parade grounds to be judged and this is a sight for sore eyes. The sounds of the engines snarling in various tunes from deep throated 4's to sonorous V-12's all singing harmoniously to the various throttle blips of the drivers. Down the road a mile, or so, the club racers are hard at it running whatever. Club racers busy racing from early morning to early evening, no pampering for these guys. They come to race and race they do. These are mostly BMW's, but Porsche's. Mustangs, Mazda's and other vehicles are out there running happily.

Brenda and I were worker bees this year and we enjoyed the fun of getting O'festers registered for the week of festivities. Once one has been to enough of these events you come to know the amount of work it takes to pull off an event of this magnitude, and yet no one complains. They just go about the business of making Oktoberfest a fun time for all participants. We probably don't thank them enough. So here and now a big thank you to all O'fest Worker Bees.

Throughout the week of O'fest we rub elbows with BMW brass and ask them questions about various things BMW. This year we got the word an M version of the 1 series is due in the spring of 2011. We actually got a small peek at the left front fender of the little beast. Too bad they weren't taking orders that evening because they probably could have sold 5 or 6 at the banquet - sight unseen.

Once you get immersed in O'fest time seems to fly by and you wonder where it all went. Suddenly you are talking to your friends about next year and saying good by simultaneously. The 2011 O'fest is going to be in Birmingham, AL (actually in October) at Barber Motorsports. Hmm that is I-75S to I-24W to I-59. O'fest 2011, yes! - Chuck Terrell

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## SAFETY CORNER

### When not to use cruise control

I realize that many BMW drivers hardly ever use cruise control. However, I find it useful to help keep the blue lights of my tail in cities, towns, school zones and known speed traps. I also admit to using it on Interstate highways and similar roads on trips where I set it on the speed limit so I can decelerate to the limit when Mr. Valentine says to. So, it can be a very useful “feature” when used diligently.

### Never use cruise control in the rain!

Here’s why. Let’s say you are driving down I-75 with cruise control on (probably at around 90 in the right lane to avoid being blown off the road ☺) and it starts to rain. Being a prudent BMW driver, you slow down and reset your cruise control to 50. You hit an unexpected patch of water and suddenly, you are up on top hydroplaning. This can happen in a few milliseconds, though you may not register what is happening for  $\frac{3}{4}$  second or so. During a hydroplaning event, most people concentrate on steering and not braking during the first few seconds. I know I do.

When you go up on the water, your BMW will instantly begin to slow down (though it won’t seem like it to you at the time). The cruise control will then accelerate to get the drive wheels back up to 50 mph. Now, your drive wheels indicate 50 mph, but your car is actually going slower than that. **When you regain traction, your car is going to take off like a, well BMW, in whatever direction it is pointed at that moment.**

If you are spinning or sliding sideways, your car will decelerate much quicker and thereby increase the difference in indicated speed and actual speed when you land. One can imagine an automatic or SMG in auto mode downshifting to get back up to 50mph. The more torque and horsepower, the greater the risk. The wider the tire contact patch, the greater the lift.

The physics applies to ice and snow as well.

If you have friends or relatives who might use cruise control in the rain, The best type of vehicle for them might be a low-powered front-wheel drive (extra weight up front) with skinny tires. Not a BMW.

PS - I am not aware of all the features of so-called intelligent cruise control systems, but BMW already measures the relative rotation speed each wheel on cars equipped with traction control. I imagine some software addition could take those mismatched front and rear inputs and take actions like disengaging cruise control and applying the brakes. Maybe even pre-tensioning the seat belts. Someday, maybe steering toward the original direction.

I’ll have to think about X-Drive cars. Maybe some members have opinions.

Bob Wilson

## TEASER PHOTOS OF NEW 2012 BMW M1



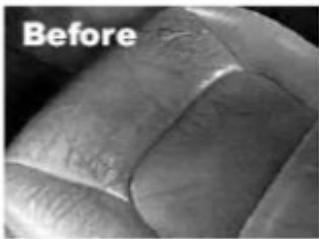
2012 BMW M1 is expected to be released in Early 2012. New M1 will be a plug-in hybrid. For performance BMW plans on including two electric motors, which will be powered by 98 lithium powercells. BMW M1 will get an impressive 356 horsepower and 590 pound-feet of torque. Initial tests say that the M1 will go from 0-60 in 4.8 seconds.

In the exterior, BMW is designing it to be particularly aerodynamic. M1 is a two-door coupe that has a bit of Batmobile in it. Taillights are angled and pronounced, and the design hugs the road.

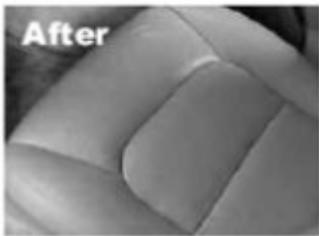
In the interior, 2012 BMW M1 will seat two passengers in the front and two in the back.



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# BMW ORACLE RACING



**BMW ORACLE Racing, winner of the 33rd America's Cup, returns to racing action next week at the RC 44 World Championship Islas Canarias Puerto Calero Cup.**

The team has two crews entered in the first world championship for the one-design class. BMW ORACLE Racing is led by team CEO Russell Coutts while team skipper Jimmy Spithill leads a second crew aboard the grey-hulled 17.

Coutts and Spithill will skipper the light-displacement 44-footers during the match racing portion of the regatta. They'll be joined by Jose Calero of Lanzarote and Anders Myralf of Denmark, respectively, during the fleet racing portion, which requires amateur helmsmen.

After four of six scheduled regattas, BMW ORACLE Racing leads the RC 44 2010 series overall with 6 points. Spithill and the 17 crew are placed fifth with 11 points. In between are three other crews tied with 7 points.

"I've never sailed the RC 44 before, but it looks like a nice fleet of boats that needs a bit of teamwork to get them around the course," said Piet van Nieuwenhuyzen, bowman for Spithill aboard 17.

Van Nieuwenhuyzen is a new member of BMW ORACLE Racing, having joined for the 34th America's Cup in 2013. With two America's Cup wins to his credit, van Nieuwenhuyzen brings considerable experience to the bow team.

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## Know a Bimmer Fan Who'd like to join us?

Please help us build a strong and active membership by telling other BMW owners and enthusiasts about the benefits of a BMW club membership. We have monthly membership meetings - we have great events, drives, family picnics and enjoy the camaraderie these events bring. So don't wait – join today!

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