



## Choo Choo Bimmers Chapter Of the BMW Car Club of America

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2013  
April to June

### President's Address

We are well into spring and the club has been pushing forward to get us into fun things for the year. Some of us spent the weekend in Atlanta a few weeks ago, attending a regional conference for BMWCCA and the whole weekend was filled with lots of information regarding the direction of BMWCCA henceforth. The theme of CCA is that we have to make the club fun for as many members as possible. So we'll be working on that. Two weekends ago we took a leisurely drive to Rome, GA the hard way and had great fun on the switch backs and there was not a speeding ticket, or anything close to a gendarme to issue one. Of course we played

nice, so we weren't concerned about traffic tickets anyhow.

We drove at a pace that everyone could enjoy. I think it is called driving safely.

The board will be meeting tonight to plan for more activities. Already we have planned to join the "Beemer's" BMW Riders of Chattanooga on May 4 for a drive to Montaluce Winery in Dahlonega, GA and lunch with our cuzn's.

Much more to come this year!

Please drive safely!

Brenda



44<sup>th</sup> Annual BMW CCA Oktoberfest  
Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca  
August 19 – 24

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### MEMBER PROFILE

#### PAT AND CHUCK WETHINGTON

Pat and Chuck Wethington have lived in Chattanooga for the past eight years. Both grew up in Cincinnati Ohio.

Pat worked at a major tennis and fitness club in Akron Ohio as the assistant manager prior to coming to Chattanooga. She currently enjoys being a homemaker. Her interests include tennis and interior design.

Chuck worked for Roadway Express as an area Safety and Maintenance Manager prior to coming to Chattanooga. He currently works for Koch Foods as their Corporate Fleet Safety Director. His interests include golf, tennis, and home remodeling.

Pat drives a 2006 BMW 330Ci convertible...Chuck gets to drive it when it needs to be washed or needs gas.

Please submit your Bimmer profile to Lana Freeland for inclusion in our Newsletter.

### Summer Drive

- MAY 4, 2013
- Montaluce Winery
- Dahlonega, GA
- BMW Riders of Chattanooga

Board Members

A Word from the Editor

Brenda Terrell President 423-432-1079 <a href="mailto:BrendaJTerrell@gmail.com">BrendaJTerrell@gmail.com</a>
Jennifer Askew VicePresident Membership Chair 423-364-6261 <a href="mailto:Jennifercummins@epbf.com">Jennifercummins@epbf.com</a>
Donna Horn Secretary <a href="mailto:Slkmb09@comcast.net">Slkmb09@comcast.net</a>
Ray Horn Treasurer Web Master <a href="mailto:vonhome@comcast.net">vonhome@comcast.net</a>
Lana Freeland Editor 423-322-7641 <a href="mailto:lane77@catt.com">lane77@catt.com</a>
Bob Wilson Events Coordinator 423-596-2422 <a href="mailto:REWilson@Bledsoe.net">REWilson@Bledsoe.net</a>
Art vonWerssowetz CrisisCommunications, <a href="mailto:ArtvonW@gmail.com">ArtvonW@gmail.com</a>

You know, the newer BMWs all come equipped with “keyless” fobs. In many situations, they are a wonderful convenience. Like if it’s raining and you rush to your car, you don’t have to search around for your fob to activate the “unlock”, you just grab the handle and bingo! you are in the car. Truly a fine convenience!

However, I’m beginning to discover some downsides to the keyless system. The other day, I had to go to Erlanger Hospital to get blood drawn. I drove into the little enclave in the front, got out of my X3 and Tom took the car. I ran inside to get my procedure while Tom drove off. The idea was that Tom would find a remote place to park and wait until I came out, I would call him and he would pick me up. Neat!

Well Tom decided that since he had time on his hands he’d go down to the gas station almost at the corner of 3rd and Holtzclaw and fill up. He did just that. When he went to start the X3, he got a message saying “sensor does not detect remote”. The reason? I had the fob firmly in my purse almost a mile away!

Tom tried to call me. But since I was ensconced firmly in the bowels of Erlanger, my phone did not work. Tom could not move the X3, nor even lock it. Sitting inside, he could push the lock button and lock all 4 doors. But when he unlocked the drivers door and got out, he could not re-lock it. He decided he was not going to

leave our wonderful X3 all alone in the unlocked state. So he sat at the gas pump feeling most uneasy.

Tom called Chattanooga BMW to see if BMW assist could start the X3. The answer was no, BMW does provide remote starting because doing so is considered a security risk.

So there he sat until I finally came out and called him. He told me to turn left and get ready to walk! That I did, and finally found him at the station.

Since there’s no key, it’s easy for your fob to become separated from your car. If this happens while your car is running, you may not notice. If you don’t pay attention, you may be in for a very exciting day!

Lana

Bruce Hazard  
(President, BMW CCA),  
Rob Mitchell,  
Michael Izor,  
Gary Moxim, and  
Jerry Thompson



## Friend of the Marque Award Bestowed on Rob Mitchell from Chattanooga

The Friend of the Marque is an award bestowed by BMW Classic and the BMS Clubs International Council. This prestigious award has been presented to less than 30 people over the last 14 years and is carefully selected to honor those people who have gone far “above and beyond” in their support of the BMW brand and clubs. In the world of Bimmers, it’s an Oscar, Emmy, Tony and Grammy all rolled into one.

Our own Rob Mitchell was awarded this distinction in January. A committee of Bruce Hazard, BMW CCA president; Michael Izor (winner in 1997, one of the original members of BMW CCA and model-car guru without equal); and Michael Mitchell, office manager and curator of BMW CCA Foundation and Rob’s son, traveled from Colorado, Boston and Greenville, SC, respectively, to surprise Rob with presentation of the award at a meeting of the local BMW Riders Club.

Guess who is the president of the BMW Riders’ Club? Rob, of course.

If it’s been done in a BMW over the last 40 years, Rob has probably been involved in it. Driven a 507 in the Mille Miglia? Rob’s done it. Driven just about every BMW out there, including an M1—Rob’s done it. Guess who does the voiceover on BMW’s website for the evolution of the 3 series. As Director of Communications at BMW NA, Rob was responsible for much of the work that introduced BMW’s new models to the world, and especially to automotive journalists. Those all-expense-paid junkets to exotic places taken by the guys with dream jobs who get paid to drive and write about cars, BMW cars—you must have been very good in a prior life to be an auto journalist, pro golfer or bass fisherman—were arranged by Rob.

And it wasn’t just business for Rob. A member of BMW CCA for over 40 years, he probably has

*blau mit Weiss* blood.

He is an avid motorcyclist, one who takes trips to Germany to ride as is intended by BMW designers. Just look at the loving attention to detail on his E30 cab that looks better than new after all these years.

We are very fortunate and honored to have Rob join us. If you want a special BMW lesson, listen to Rob any chance you get. He and Susan are great people and we are blessed to have them as part of this community.

Congratulations, Rob. We all wish many more years of Bimmer/Beemer enjoyment for you.  
B

## The Old Curmudgeon’s Corner . . .



Could someone out there please tell me who thought ethanol would be the best thing to happen to gasoline since the car?

The powers that be on Capitol Hill claimed it would help with vehicle emissions, thus helping to clear the air in our environment. However, I have heard from a chemical engineer that ethanol lowers the gas mileage by 2 miles per gallon. Sounds logical. I’ve noticed a decrease in my gas mileage since it’s implementation. How nice. So, can someone tell me how can a fuel additive be good for the environment, when the average person loses 32 miles of travel per tank full and you have to use up more fossil fuels to go just as far as you did before? We’re clearing the air but depleting our natural resources. New Alaska pipeline right over here, please!

As a lovely bonus to all of us U.S. citizens, we get to pay more for gas with ethanol because the refiners have to pay for the corn-based additive. On the flip side, it actually makes the gas cheaper to produce because ethanol is actually diluting the gas. Price hike on pump 8, please.

Then ethanol hits our wallet again each time we visit the grocery store. A large portion of the products we eat are made with corn sweeteners (i.e. corn syrup and high fructose corn syrup). Most breads, pastries, crackers, yogurt, ice cream, soda, juice, canned fruit, candies, etc. are made with corn syrup as a sugar alternative. Years ago, our friends on the Hill thought it would help out farmers to embargo the importation of raw sugar so food & beverage manufacturers would switch to corn syrup as a cheap, readily available alternative to real sugar. The food/beverage manufacturers compete against livestock farmers for corn as feed for corn as sugar alternatives. Now the food/beverage manufacturers also compete against the refineries for corn to be processed into ethanol instead of corn into sugar alternatives. Can we say price hike aisle 9, please?

Then, there’s the affect that ethanol has on our beloved cars. It’s highly corrosive to engine parts and no long-term studies have been completed to see if this awful stuff will eventually kill our cars. Common sense says corrosives destroy things, so how is ethanol good for a gas combustion engine?

Ethanol, please? No thank you.

TOC



**THINK WE'RE EXPENSIVE?  
THINK AGAIN.**

## **BMW Value Service**

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### **Future Meetings**

**April 9, 2013**

**The Palms at  
Hamilton**

**May 14, 2013**

**Café on the Corner**

**June 11, 2013**

**Marco's Italian Bistro**

## **Newsletter Stuff**

Contributions to this newsletter are welcomed and encouraged by the editorial staff. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and content. All editorial material: classifieds, articles, art work etc. should be sent electronically to the editor

Advertising in the Bimmer Newsletter is an inexpensive way to get your company or services known to a great demographic group.

We print about 140 copies quarterly and the publication reaches club members and other BMW car enthusiasts not to mention the hand around factor. Using a standard publishing matrix, an average of three people look at each copy, including friends, family and whoever else picks it up and flips through it.

### **Prices:**

Business Card-	\$10.00	1/2 page-	\$25.00
1/4 page-	\$15.00	Full Page-	\$50.00

***ChooChooBimmers.org*** or follow us on

***Facebook: Choo Choo Bimmers Chapter – BMW CCA***



Please help us to build a strong and active membership by telling other BMW owners and enthusiasts about the benefits of club membership. Not only do we have monthly membership meetings at local restaurants to have fun and discuss club business, there are other benefits list below.

**BMW CCA offers the following benefits and services:**

- The single finest automobile publication available: Roundel
- Discounts on parts and supplies
- Free classified ads reaching all members plus non-member web surfers
- Library and video services
- Help from technical and maintenance experts
- Distinctive club decals
- "Friends of BMW" booklet listing members who will assist you
- Ombudsmen to assist you with BMW dealers or suppliers
- Value Information Coordinator to assist with insurance claims, purchase or sale
- BMW Special Interest Groups (SIG's) listed in the Roundel

***For additional membership information, contact BMW CCA:***

*at web site: [www.bmwcca.org](http://www.bmwcca.org) (BMW CCA National Office)*

*BMW CCA Office Fax: 864-250-0038 BMW CCA Office Phone: 864-250-0022*

Choo Choo Bimmers  
PO BOX 21766  
Chattanooga, TN 37421