



Peachtree Pit

Newsletter of the Peachtree Chapter BMW CCA

Fall 2010, Issue 3

Nov 2010

Inside this issue:

My Autocross Experience	1
President's Message	2
Why Do Swirls Marks Come Back? Part I	2
By-laws Referendum	3
Calendar of Events	4

My Autocross Experience by Carrie Bushman

On Sep. 19, 2010 the Peachtree Chapter of the BMW CCA club gathered for a day of autocross in a large parking lot at Lake Lanier. Autocross has been an activity with the club for quite some time, yet not every car enthusiast in the club participates in these events for an uncertainty of what to expect. An autocross event is nearly always set up in the same manner, and the one on Sep. 19 was no exception. A day of autocross can be broken into three separate parts: set-up, runs, and clean-up.

There are five people in charge of the chapter's Autocross and these five, with the help of their computers, ran the event from a large shade tent. Many people showed up for the event, with most running and some watching. The participants are grouped into classes by their car's modifications, and these groups are intermingled in runs, but their scores are grouped. The course is set up ahead of time, and is made with orange boundary cones and yellow direction cones. Thought seemingly short, the course winds about and can cross over itself to be longer than is originally assumed. Courses



typically take around 60 seconds to complete, but are different at every event. Slaloms, 180° turns, straight-aways, sharp turns and long curves make up the courses. A wide range of skills and experiences is joined on the asphalt, and everyone learns his or her strengths by the end of the day.

Upon arrival at the parking lot, one would go to inspection and have his or her car checked for class compliances. After the check, drivers went to the shade tent, called the timing tent, to receive their shifts. This specific event had enough people to be split into three run groups, and a driver would run one shift and work one shift as a cone retriever or flag-holder. Once shifts were given out, everyone lined up their cars in order or parked out of the way. Minsoo Pak, one of the instructors at the autocross, walked through the course with a group of eager listeners and explained the best way to tackle the twists and turns. Drivers readied their regulation helmets and made sure their cars were in the correct condition. When the first run was about to start, the drivers got into their cars, buckled themselves in, put on their helmets, and pulled up to the starting line one after another. Careful timing and communication gave precision to



BMW CCA Peachtree Chapter Officers

President	Bill Zawrotny billz@peachtrebmwcca.org
Vice President	Jason Courant jcourant@peachtrebmwcca.org
Secretary	Shawn Doughtie scrappycow@mindspring.com
Treasurer	Julio Palacio julypalace@gmail.com
Member at Large	Geordie Johnston geordie.johnston@peachtrebmwcca.org

Peachtree Pit Staff
Editor Tracey Bigelow
tracy@peachtrebmwcca.org

Photography Carrie Bushman
Jean-Claude Corcoran

Contributors Bill Zawrotny
Tracey Bigelow
Carrie Bushman
Jean-Claude Corcoran

The Peachtree Chapter BMW CCA is a nonprofit organization of enthusiasts of the automobiles manufactured by BMW AG. The chapter sponsors gatherings of its members and fellow MW enthusiasts throughout the year and publishes a club newsletter on a bimonthly or quarterly basis. BMW CCA and its chapters are in no way associated with the importer or any other agent of BMW AG.

The Peachtree Pit is a publication of the Peachtree Chapter BMW CCA. Copyright © BMW CCA. All material presented in the publication may be used in other chapter's publications provided the Pit and the article's author are given proper credit.

The acceptance of advertising for any product or service in the Peachtree Pit does not imply endorsement for that product or service by the Peachtree Chapter, BMW CCA or BMW NA. This newsletter and its contents are, and shall remain, the property of BMW CCA and the information contained herein is provided by and supplied for the members of the club. The ideas, opinions, and suggestions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and no authentication is implied by the editor.

The club assumes no liability for any of the information contained in this newsletter. It should be noted, unless otherwise indicated, that none of the technical information presented in the Pit bears the status of "factory approved". It is noted that any modification performed on a car that is in a warranty period may void the said warranty. Peachtree Chapter strongly encourages owners to check the limitations of their car's warranty prior to performing work that may affect their car.

Club Information

Web Site: peachtrebmwcca.org
Peachtree Chapter BMW CCA
10800 Alpharetta Highway
Suite 208-548
Roswell, GA 30076

President's Message by Bill Zawrotny

Dear Fellow BMW Enthusiasts,

As we enter the holiday season, I have no doubt that we all have many things to be thankful for. I, for one, am thankful that I am not still wandering the roads of North Georgia trying to find the next checkpoint in the Peachtree Chapter/Georgia Sports Car Club joint rally event that was held a few weeks ago. Notwithstanding my stellar last-in-class finish, it was a fun event and we plan on joining the Georgia Sports Car Club for a couple more rally events next year.

Overall, I think 2010 was a great year for our Chapter. We had a large number of diverse events and, more importantly, saw a lot of new faces and heard from a lot of new (and not so new) members as the year progressed. Our goal, however, is to make 2011 even better. Be on the lookout for information regarding our January Holiday Party, which will be our kickoff event for another year of fun and camaraderie.

At the top of our list of things to do in 2011 is a greater focus on communication with members. Right now we primarily depend on our website (which we will continue to improve), our Facebook page, MSR, and other online resources to communicate with members. Next year we will attempt to implement regular email communications with the membership, but the success of this will depend on you. Please ensure that the email address that you have registered with the National Office is accurate as it is the primary list we will use to implement the program.

Have a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at various Chapter events next year!

Bill Zawrotny
President, Peachtree Chapter

Why Do Swirl Marks Come Back? Part I by Jean-Claude Corcoran

"Yes Sir!! A buff and polish for your car is included in our full detail for only \$125! It's the best deal in town!"

If you've heard that, I bet you've also heard yourself asking the question, "HOW DID THE SWIRL MARKS COME BACK?!! I just had them fixed!" a few weeks or so after you left with a shiny car.

This article is designed to educate you on the why's and how's of swirl marks and what it takes to *finally* get rid of them. We will also speak about what causes different surface defects.

The culprit, swirls on a hood.

WHAT ARE THEY?

Swirl marks are light etchings, or scratches, in the top layer of paint that's called clear coat. (Single stage paint can have swirls as well, but we will be discussing clear coated cars today as cleared cars are what is common for 99.9% of the new cars on the road.) Because light no longer can reflect cleanly off of the surface of the paint, light being refracted off in different directions causes an unsightly look.

Other types of defects include, acid rain marks, holograms or buffer trails, sanding marks, bug marks and bird droppings. The end result is the same on all of these. The top layer of paint, the clear coat, is no longer smooth on a microscopic level and is refracting light.

.... Stay Tuned To Be continued in the next issue



Bylaws Referendum

Peachtree Chapter Bylaws Referendum

Background: During the 2010 National BMW CCA Conference, it came to our attention that we are one of the few CCA Chapters that still elects our officers/directors annually and for one-year terms. After a significant amount of discussion, the current Peachtree Chapter Board of Directors decided that it may be in the best interest of our membership to amend our current bylaws to either (i) extend the terms of officers/directors to two-year terms generally, thereby eliminating the somewhat disruptive annual election process and subsequent transition period, or, (ii) have staggered elections whereby each year a fraction of the officers/directors are elected (3 positions one year, 2 positions the following year). Staggered boards are common as they maintain a certain level of continuity from year to year and prevent the possibility of having the entire leadership change in any given year. *Any bylaws amendments approved by the membership will go into effect beginning in January 2012.*

Voting Options: The following voting options will be on the referendum ballot:

- (a) **Two-year terms:** The Peachtree Chapter Bylaws will be amended to change the current one-year terms for officers/directors to two-year terms, whereby every two years all officers/directors will be up for election.
- (b) **Two-year terms/Staggered:** The Peachtree Chapter Bylaws will be amended to change the current one-year terms for officers/directors to two-year terms, but elections will be staggered such that every year either two or three officer/director positions will be up for election.
- (c) **One-year terms (no change for current format):** The Peachtree Chapter Bylaws will not be amended and all officers/directors will be up for election every year.

Voting Procedures: The ballot is available on the Peachtree Chapter website (<http://www.peachtreebmwcca.org/>). Please complete the ballot (including membership number) and (i) email it to sales@hmsport.com, (ii) mail a hard copy to David Harrison 1805 Hembree Rd. Suite F, Alpharetta, GA 30004 no later than December 17, 2010, or (iii) bring your ballot to the membership meeting at the Five Seasons (west side) on December 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

My Autocross Experiencecont.

every individual run. A typical run is quick and aggressive, with a great deal of rapid turns and little bursts of speed at every possible place. Most of the course was designed to keep speeds low and reasonable, so any little place where speed could be picked up was taken advantage of by the more experienced drivers. New autocross participant Mike said that he was "ready to get out there and knock down some cones" while watching the run that he was neither driving nor working.

At one point during the day, there was a car that stopped on the course because of a fuel leak, but the other participants were quick to help the driver. The atmosphere of lighthearted fun was present all day, despite the fact that the autocross does end with a time-based list of winners.

When the three shifts were over, everyone took part in cleaning up somehow. Cones were stacked, coolers and folding chairs were put away, and all of the cars were packed up. After a while, the scores were announced based off of class. Friends waved goodbye and left with a smile. Pictures and people's comments were posted on the boards and Facebook after the event, and everyone was able to reminisce about the day's successes and failures.

The Peachtree chapter of the BMW CCA will continue to host autocross events, and people will continue to enjoy them. As Pete said, autocross events are a way "to be able to legally drive my car aggressively." With a great deal of tire squealing and competitive joking, the day was a success, and new members will hopefully participate in autocross events much like that of Sep. 19.



Calendar of Events

- Dec 4 - Jailhouse Brewery Tour
Hampton, GA
- Dec 9 Monthly Social Meeting
5 Seasons Westside
Atlanta, GA
7pm
- Jan 2011 Peachtree Chapter
Holiday Party
Location: TBA

Visit peachtreebmwcca.org for more information

**SPECIAL TIRE & WHEEL PRICING
FOR CLUB MEMBERS**

HI-SPEED ON-THE-CAR BALANCING

FOUR-WHEEL ALIGNMENT

NITROGEN TIRE INFLATION

BUTLER TIRES & WHEELS

ALPHARETTA - **678.893.0502**

BUCKHEAD - **404.303.1114**

MARIETTA - **770.973.8622**

AUSTELL - **770.941.7422**

WORLD CLASS PERFORMANCE TIRES BY:

MICHELIN **PIRELLI**

KUMHO **TOYO** **NEXEN**

**HUGE INVENTORY OF
CUSTOM WHEELS IN-STOCK!**



BUTLER
TIRES & WHEELS

butlertire.com



**Peachtree Chapter
BMW CCA**

10800 Alpharetta Highway
Suite 208-548
Roswell, GA 30076