



Der Fahrersitz

The Newsletter for the
River City Bimmers

Also in this issue:

- Insuring an Older Car; What Defines Worth?
- Keeping Wheels Clean for More Than Five Minutes!
- Fall Activities Include Street Survival, Autocross, A Drive Maybe?



Can a diesel be fun?

10-4

James gets Stiggy with it.

We're looking for shots like this for a calendar. See page 7.



Photo by David Aplin

BMW'S and Pick-Up Trucks... ***A lesson in unintended consequences***

Dick Carruth

About a year ago I decided to downsize the fleet at my house and business. I finally sold the semi- car-of-my-dreams, my 356 Speedster Replica (therefore the semi part of the description) and turned in my Subaru company ride before the end of the lease. The result? Two fewer cars, check. Lower insurance, check. Better cash

Saturday, 4 p.m.:

Ben: So what are you going to get to drive for work?

Me: Dunno. Maybe a BMW pick up..oh, they don't make one, but I need room. Got any ideas?

Ben: HmMMMM.



flow, check. Happier wife, double check. Driving the Flaming Slug, my garage queen Dinan ix, as a daily driver, not too good. In fact, awful. That great suspension, so perfect for autocross threatened to render my kidneys non functional. Those great BMW sports seats, vintage 1988 were just a little too sporty (and too narrow) and every car on the road looked to my obsessive eye like Something from "Road Warrior" waiting to pounce.

Enter the "Track-it Brothers", Ben Wardlow and Greg Flint. It went something like this:

Greg: Knowing smile and a slight nod.

Saturday, 6 p.m.:

E-mail from Ben: You may want to check this out.

Saturday, 6:10 p.m.:

Did that.

Sunday afternoon:

Test drove the car with Greg. Bought car from Greg's neighbor, pending inspection by Alpine.

The result? There it is, in the photo - my daily driver BMW almost pick up.

And all I was trying to do was cut cost, be frugal, do the responsible thing, make Marian happy.

It hasn't all been roses though. People notice when you drive a BMW...for better or worse. In my case I have had some backlash from clients and potential clients who see my \$6500 Craigs List car as extravagant. These are the same people who would think nothing of a new Ford F250 Crew Cab truck but the blue and white screams expensive even when it 's not. I'm considering putting a set of Pontiac logos on the car.

I understand James Parker has some that he isn't using...but that is another story.

Disclaimer

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Modifications within the warranty period of your BMW may void the warranty.

Torque of the Town

The 2011 BMW 335d

Greg Aplin

Diesel powered cars have quite the checkered past in this country. From the early imports that belched smoke to the failed efforts of US manufacturers, diesel cars have always been oddities to us. So much so that most manufacturers stopped shipping them here some time ago.

Their popularity in Europe has never waned, and in fact has increased dramatically over the years. Take a look at Autotrader from the UK or Germany; notice how many oil-burners you see, some of them sporting some pretty racy options from the factory.

But what would we make of a diesel in what is arguably the definition of a sports sedan here in the states? Would it be a "real" BMW, an ultimate driving machine?

Oh, my, yes.

Meet the 335d, A 3 liter twin-turbo, DOHC engine sits in front of you, that produces 265 hp. Not bad, not bad. but it's the other number that automakers, especially those who pride themselves in power delivery, that is most impressive indeed. There's 425 lb. ft. of torque underneath your right foot. How much is that? Better than a Porsche Carrera GT, a Lamborghini Gallardo, and an Aston Martin DBS. It's also only 60 less than a Ferrari Enzo - apples to oranges, obviously, but there's a fun fact to drop at the next club meeting!

And while it's pushing you along with similar verve as a Corvette, it's getting an EPA estimated 36 mpg. As is known, the EPA estimates are very conservative. But while testing the 335d, the EPA



policy wonks must have been smiling, as the OBC showed far better numbers on the highway than 36. More on that later.

A basic no-frills 335d runs \$43,950. Our tester was a well-equipped Alpine White model with Beige Dakota leather. It came with Premium and Comfort packages, which means it was nicely appointed indeed. Among the finery was navigation, heated seats with power lumbar support, burl walnut, rear park distance control, Comfort Access - where as long as the fob is on you, you can start the car - and a rear window sun shade, which was actually a pretty cool thing to have on a 98° Memphis afternoon. All that luxury brought the MSRP to \$52,625.

If you want, there's a lot of other stuff you can specify, including - and here's the fun part - a Sport package that brings larger tires and wheels, sport suspension, and a higher limit on the speed governor. Check the M Sport package box, and there's a body kit added, providing an aggressive stance, and an M Sport steering wheel with paddle shifting. Go nuts with the equipment boxes on the build-your-own portion of the BMW website, and the price goes up another 10 grand to \$62,500.

The car drives like you'd expect - it's a 3, and the E92 platform is a good one. The car was well balanced, handling was neutral, and the ride was pretty cushy yet still communicative. The steering is the best in the business, quick in hand, not over boosted; you know what the front end is doing.

Nits to pick? Well, a coupe would be nice, and the car is sporty enough that it wouldn't be a waste. And the choice of a manual or DCT transission would be nice, too.



But the thing gets fabulous mileage! Even with all that torque - which begs you to mash the throttle and zoom off into the distance - doing the "errand" loop of our test, the OBC mpg ticker consistently read mid to upper 20's in town. To check the highway numbers, we took the 335d on a Lap of Memphis, starting on 240 just after the flyover and doing a clockwise lap of town back to the I40 East exit. The cruise control was set at 66 mph, and with only a few seconds variation, a constant speed was maintained (a little harder and way more dangerous than anticipated; there's some crazy drivers here).

The thing was amazing. The photo below speaks for itself. The lowest number posted on the lap was 37.3. Obviously, an average of city to highway will be somewhat less, but the EPA highway estimate of 36 should be easily attainable, and sometimes could be surpassed with judicious driving.

Which brings us back to the EPA policy wonks. Maybe they all had too much fun being mashed into their seats by gobs of torque and fudged the number. After all 36 mpg isn't a bad at all. It's just that 425 is the greater number.



To Protect Your Investment, Specialty Car Insurance Is The Only Way To Go

Dick Carruth

You don't have to drive around Memphis very long to have a near miss or worse with another car. If you happen to drive a late model automobile with full insurance coverage it doesn't remove all of the stress, but at least you know that in the event of disaster your car will either get fixed or you will be compensated for its loss.

But....and it is a big but....what is your car is 23 years old, in perfect condition, and is the repository of most of your surplus cash for the past 7 years or so? What you will be offered is fair market value for you baby. What's it mean?

At Allstate, screwed. State Farm, the same thing, Progressive, no better. And that cute little Gecko is not your friend, either. In essence, if you have an old great daily driver, be careful. If, though, you have a classic BMW garage queen, there is hope.

It is called Agreed Value Insurance and it is sold by specialty companies, the best known being Hagerty. After a near miss in traffic last week

that is where I turned. It won't work if you put very many miles on your car every year, but if you have a weekend joy ride or similar use car this might be just the thing.

It works like this. Your mileage will be restricted although that is somewhat negotiable. The car has to be garaged, and you and all drivers in your household must have a daily driver. You will be required to send photos of the car to be insured and some insurance records and to declare an insured value for the vehicle. The higher the declared value the more expensive the coverage.

In my case I chose \$12000, got better coverage with no deductibles and saved about 60% on the premium on the Slug. Your car doesn't have to be old for this to work either. That new Shelby Mustang that you bought as an investment and will rarely drive would be a good example of an opportunity to save.

Hagerty is easy to find online or search collector car insurance for lots of other choices.



We Love, We Love, We Love, Our Calendar Girls!

Would you like to see your car in the River City Bimmers Car Calendar for 2011? James Parker is creating a calendar for 2011 that will feature 12 or 13 cars from our chapter.

The calendar will represent the breadth of BMW models through the years. This won't be an "All M3, All the Time" or "Memphis Sharks" or "5ers of the MidSouth" calendar.

All photography will be done around the Memphis metro area. Those living outside the area are welcome to participate as long as your car comes to Memphis for the shoot.

Cars that will appear in the calendar need to be complete with all body parts painted one color. The vehicle needs to be clean / detailed as a clean car photographs better than a dirty car. Cars which are 'works in progress' or under construction will not be photographed for the calendar.

The deadline for consideration is no later than September 30th. With a limited number of slots, don't delay! He will keep a waiting list in case a shoot falls through.

If your vehicle is selected, you will be scheduled to bring your clean / detailed car to a specific location and time on either the weekend or possibly a weekday after 5:30 p.m. All shoots will be scheduled as soon as possible and completed no later than the end of October – in other words, don't wait until September 30th to decide. The shoot for your vehicle will run approximately 60 to 90 minutes.

To enter your car in the photo shoot, email james3342@comcast.net. Please include year, model, color of your car. If you have a photo, please attach it to the email. Also include the best time and way to reach you, and days you are available to have your car photographed. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at 901-412-6093. You can also see samples of James' work on his website at www.photophilephotography.com. Select "galleries" then "cars."

Visit *River City Bimmers* on Facebook or online at www.rivercitybimmers.org. Post photos online on the website or on the Facebook page, keep up with meeting notifications, and get to know other members of our club. You can also follow us on Twitter.

Comments are always welcome. Send an e-mail to otto99@roadfly.com with comments, suggestions for articles, or whatever's on your mind!

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Keep Your Wheels Cleaner Longer! A Product That Really Works! Really!

James Parker

The number one problem with BMW brakes is the huge amount of dust they produce that cakes your wheels until they are almost solid black. You spend time washing and scrubbing your wheels (and on some of the multi-spoke wheels this can be a major headache) only to have them black with dust after only a day or two. Sure, you can replace the pads with a low dust alternative but that is a pricy way to somewhat fix the problem. I've tried Wheel Wax that is supposed to protect the wheel and keep it clean longer but to be honest, I have never seen it make any difference at all. There just hasn't been a product that will keep your wheels clean.

Until now.

I was in Target browsing the automotive aisle and spotted something new - Armor All Wheel Protectant. The can proclaimed:

- Forms a protective barrier on wheels and rims
- Keeps wheels cleaner longer
- Repels brake dust, road grime, and dirt

Hmmm... Seems too good to be true. Nothing I



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had tried had ever come close to living up to those claims, and here is an Armor All product touting to do what no one else has.

Now I have never been a fan of Armor All products. I guess it goes back to the mid 1980's and the original Armor All you used on your dash. It left the surface way too shiny and greasy feeling and I thought it made the inside of the car look cheap. Plus, if you got it on your window or gauges, you had another greasy mess to clean off. I was never impressed with it. Fast forward 25 years (dang – has it been that long???) and Armor All now has a product I absolutely love.

The wheel protectant comes in a 7oz aerosol can that costs about \$7. Not the cheapest stuff for such a small amount, but I bit the bullet and tried it. Directions are simple – wash your wheels and make sure they are totally dry. Spray the protectant on the wheel liberally. You want to make sure you cover all of it. You need to let it dry at least an hour before driving the car but drying time can vary depending on the outdoor temperature. That's it. It drives perfectly clear, no runs, drips, or mess. After driving a WEEK my wheels looked like I had just

cleaned them. The protection lasts up to a month and works beautifully. I've treated 2 of my cars with one can and have plenty left. I'd guess you can get 4-5 applications per can. I give this 2 thumbs way up – this will stay in my detailing kit.



How to Contact the BMWCCA

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Fax: 864-250-0038

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Website: www.bmwcca.org

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Calendar of Events

September 16 - Central BBQ, 2249 Central, 272-9377

October 21 - The Flying Saucer, 1400 North Germantown Parkway, 755-7530

November 18 - The Half Shell, 7825 Winchester Rd., 737-6755

Street Survival/Autocross - Tire Rack Street Survival[®] Returns to the Memphis Metro area Saturday, October 30th. Please watch the website or Facebook page for location. There were two possibilities at orestime. The primary emphasis of the Tire Rack Street Survival[®] is a "hands-on" driving experience in real-world situations! Drivers age 16 - 21 use their own car to learn about its handling limits and how to control them. The students will become more observant of the traffic situation they find themselves in. They will learn to look far enough ahead to anticipate unwise actions of other drivers. As the students master the application of physics to drive their cars, they will make fewer unwise driving actions themselves. They will understand why they should always wear their own seatbelts, and why they should insist that their passengers wear seatbelts, too.

It's about more than driving - it's about LIVING!

The cost is \$75 which includes hands on & classroom instruction, lunch and beverages. To sign up for the event, visit www.streetsurvival.org and choose 'School Schedule / Registration'. The upcoming schools are found at the bottom of the page. Click on the link to our school. Follow the instructions for registering. Don't delay in registering as we only can accommodate 40 students.

Are you interested in volunteering to help with the event? Please send an email to: StreetSurvivalMemphis@gmail.com with "Volunteer" in the subject. We will need assistance with registration, exercises, etc. Don't have email, please call 901.490.9296 to volunteer. Thanks!

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Stage 2 Clutch, Free Flow Exhaust System

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or visit rivercitybimmers.org for more info!

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Got stuff in your garage you need to sell? Looking for parts, want to sell your car, looking for a ride to OktoberFest? Place a classy classified here in your newsletter! Send the information to Greg Aplin at otto99@roadfly.com

Welcome New Members!

Denielle Birks • Columbus, MS

Robert G. Ellis • E39 528i, E46 325i • Germantown, TN

Jason G. Ellis • Germantown, TN

Larry Schwartz • Cordova, TN

Catherine Chanel Faulkner • Eads, TN

Just so you know, we don't always receive what car you own from National when we get new member updates, so if you like, please send the year and model, and we will update the list periodically. Better yet, send a photo of your car. You don't have to be Ansel Adams here, just send a largish photo from a camera, not a phone. Around 1MB give or take is sufficient. Send model, year and photo to otto99@roadfly.com. We love seeing photos of cars, and we're not one-marque blind - if you've got some cool iron that doesn't wear the Roundel, sweet! Send those photos, too!

Greg

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