



Get Ready for Chuckwalla!

March 12-13, 2016

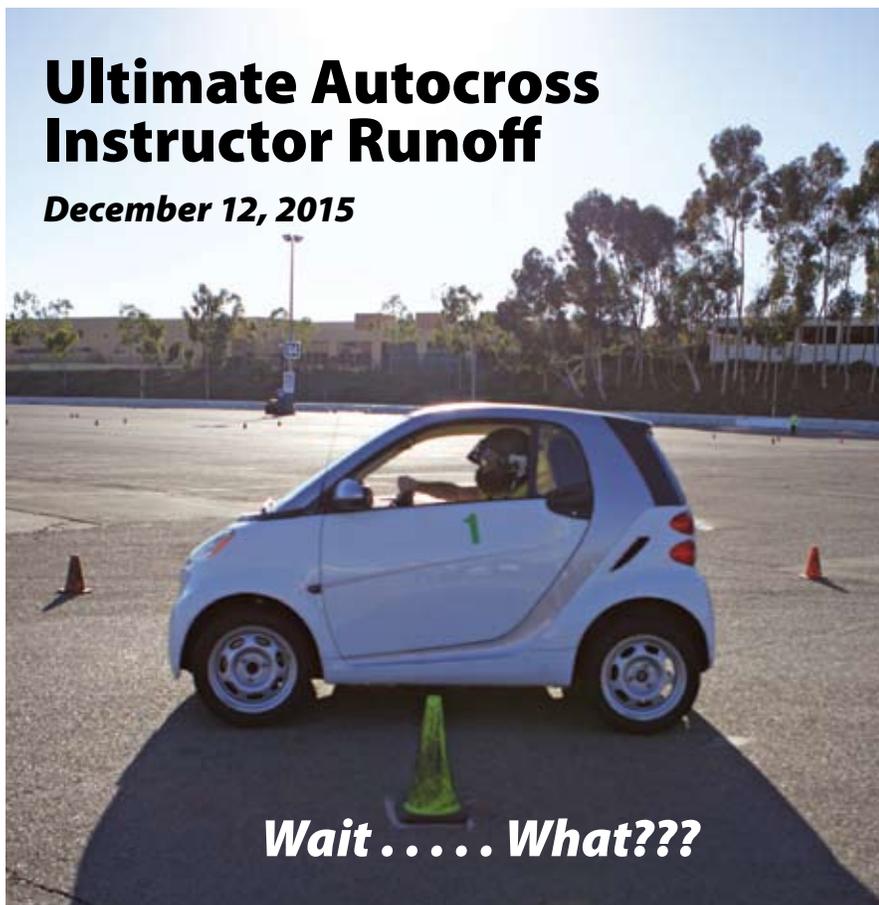


*The San Diego Chapter
High Performance Driving Event
and club race at Chuckwalla are on the horizon!*

Photo: Ben Carufel

Ultimate Autocross Instructor Runoff

December 12, 2015



Wait What???

Photo: Jeremy Jesinghaus

CHUCKWALLA VALLEY
RACEWAY



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Misc. Car Club Info

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SCCA Club Racing sdr-scca.com/rr

SCCA Cal Club (L.A. region)..... www.solo2.com

www.sdbmwcca.com

The President's Column

For my first President's column of 2016, I want to introduce the new board of directors. We have three new members on the board, Satakal Khalsa has taken over as Equipmentmeister, Rachel Mills is our new Social Director and Chris Keefer is our newest member at large. We have some who are back on the board: Connie Patterson as newsletter editor, Lisa Goehring as Secretary and Matthew Kogan as a member at large. I'm grateful for the rest of the board for signing on for another year. I want to thank the outgoing 2015 board members for their contributions, Paul Silver as Secretary, Ryan Moore as Social Director, and Jonathan King as member at large. I'm really looking forward to working with the board to make 2016 a great year for the club.

This year is a special one for BMW and for the club. The year 2016 is the 100th anniversary for BMW as a company. BMW started in 1916 manufacturing aircraft engines, in 1923 they added motorcycles and in 1928 added automobiles. BMW will be the featured marque at the Monterey Motorsports Reunion at Laguna Seca from August 18-21. This is not to be missed – the factory and private owners will be bringing out the best of BMW's long racing heritage to run on the track. Following the Motorsports Reunion, BMW CCA will take over Laguna Seca to hold our 47th Oktoberfest from August 23-28. This is another bucket list event, Oktoberfest in 2013 at Laguna Seca was hugely popular – this will be even bigger and better. The events will include club racing with 105 DB noise limit (a big deal at Laguna Seca) as well as a selection of factory race cars. Rumor has it that a large contingent of European racers are coming to join in the festivities. There will be the usual O'fest activities: HPDE, Autocross, Rally, Concours and the usual fun and games. Registration will open earlier than usual because of the expected high demand. Keep your eyes out for announcements on the club Facebook page, monthly email and *Fahren Affairs*. If you are interested in combining O'fest with the Motorsport Reunion it is not too early to reserve hotel rooms, I booked mine two months ago! There is a good website with information about the events around the 100th anniversary at <http://celebratebmw.com>.

Our board meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at Giovanni's, 9353 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. We welcome visitors, so come by and see what we are planning. The formal meeting starts at 6:30, but get there at 5:45 for pizza, soda and conversation with fellow BMW fans. All members and prospective members are welcome. Hope to see you there.

Jim Patterson



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SUBMITTING INFORMATION TO THE EDITOR

Please send us your stories, tech. tips, photos, etc. We welcome and encourage any material you think would be informative or interesting to other members. All information should be submitted to the editor directly by e-mail to sd-newsletter@sdbmwcca.com. The deadline for submitting information to the editor is the 15th of even months.

2016 Calendar of Events

January 12

San Diego Chapter – Board Meeting

January 16

San Diego Chapter – Resolution Autocross, Qualcomm Stadium West lot

January 30

San Diego Chapter – BMW Performance Center Event, Thermal Club, CA

February 9

San Diego Chapter – Board Meeting

February 12

Autocross Workshop and Tech Session, Independent Motorcars, 6:30pm

February 20

San Diego Chapter – Space Race Autocross, Qualcomm Stadium West lot

March 8

San Diego Chapter – Board Meeting

March 12-13

San Diego Chapter – High Performance Driving Event, Chuckwalla Raceway



New Club Members Welcome!

Kalin Agre	Eddie Halasa	Dustin Medeiros
Jeff Andrews	Nick Hedayati	Frances Mullenau
Bill Bailey	Jarred Hoffman	Andrew Paolini
Grayson Barbour	Dan Jennings	William Prario
Aicsa Becerril	Jeremy Jesinghaus	Mitchell Reed
Nick Bellstrom	Jonathan Jones	Bradley Rindone
Chiyin Chen	Kevin Jubbal	Jaime Rojas
Craig Claypool	Andreas K	Eric Sakariasen
Peter Cohen	Rob Kerstner	Ruben Servin
Eddie Craven	Jerry Kubik	Jacob Simms
Steven Cury	Matthew Kucewicz	Philip Smith
Joshua Davis	Rodrigo Lagos	Frank Thibaudeau
Jake Dekovic	Jesse Lavorin	Bret Tollgaard
David Eshom	Garmond Leung	Ray Uhler
Caerwyn Evans	Timothy Mach	Bryan Weaver
Eric Flicker	Elizabeth Mach	Alec Weinstein
James Funtas	Jennifer Mangum	Andrew Wolf
John Gage	Scott Martin	Mark Yeung
Charles Gillespie	Michael McCreary	Klaus Yi

San Diego Chapter Monthly Board Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month

Giovanni's Italian Restaurant,
9353 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

5:45 P.M. – Pizza & soft drinks
6:30 P.M. – Board Meeting

Be sure to check the website for all the
latest news and event announcements!

www.sdbmwcca.com



Scan this code
with your smart
phone to get all
the latest calendar
listings!

Are you moving?

Update your address with the *National office* at
bmwcca.org or call 1.800.878.9292

2016 San Diego Chapter Board of Directors

The annual election for the 2016 Board of Directors was held at the December 8 Board Meeting. Congratulations to many of our returning volunteer directors, and welcome to some of the new faces on our board! We look forward to another great year in 2016!



Seated: Don Duncan, Brett Littoff, Jim Patterson, and Lisa Goehring
Standing: Satakal Khalsa, Brandon Watson, Theju Ganesh, Rachel Mills, Chris Keefer, Connie Patterson, Dennis Damon, Kim Schwarz, Matt Kogan, Anne Littrell, and Jim Lloyd

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Foothills to the Mountains Run

Sunday, November 22, 2015



Photos: Lisa Goehring

Sunday, November 22nd was an outstanding day, weather-wise, to travel through the back roads of San Diego County. BMW Club members and some interested BMW owners met at the Target store parking lot in El Cajon for the start of the cruise. We had over 25 cars and about 45 participants all traveling through interesting windy roads and small back country towns. The group had a rest stop at the county park at Lake Morena. We almost filled up the parking lot with some beautiful German iron. The group then traveled to Old Highway 80 and climbed to over 5000 feet to the small village of Mount



Laguna. On the way down on Sunrise Highway, we had a view of the Anza-Borrego Desert. After that we motored through the Cuyamaca Valley and then on to the town of Julian. Even though parking was very difficult, just about all the cruise members had lunch in this delightful mountain town.

The next cruise is scheduled to be in the first part of 2016. Watch for more information in *Fahren Affairs* and on our website.

Jim Lloyd





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CHRIS KEEFER

Formerly of La Jolla Independent BMW Service, Chris has been a leading technician in the San Diego BMW community for the last 13 years. Chris started Independent Motorcars in order to continue to deliver a high level of service to his customers and expand those services to the other makes and models his customers have in their garage.



KATE CONSTABLE

Kate is a huge car nut which makes her the perfect fit as the Customer Relations Director at Independent Motorcars. Her daily computer feed is jammed with everything from the latest offerings from European auto manufacturers to the latest news and cars from sites like Jalopnik and Bring a Trailer.



JAY PRZEPADLO

Formerly of La Jolla Independent BMW and Herman Cook VW, Jay has an extensive knowledge of BMW cars and has been factory trained in VW and Audi automobiles during his 15-year career. His main focus is to maintain customer vehicles to a higher-than-factory standard.



ERIK STORER

Formerly of La Jolla Independent BMW, Erik is our resident customer service advocate, in-shop assistant, code enforcer, neat freak and comedian. Erik is the support system of Independent Motorcars in all facets of what we do. Chances are he has picked you up or driven you home without the use of navigation or Google Maps.

Show Your Membership Card and Save!

The following advertisers offer a discount to BMW CCA members. You must show your membership card at the time of purchase.

BMW of Escondido: 15% – parts & service

BMW of El Cajon: 15% – parts & labor

Charlie's Foreign Car Service: 10%

Dieter's: 10% off Parts and Labor

5 Point Auto Detail: 10% discount

La Jolla Independent BMW Service: 10%

Mastercare: 10% discount

Oceanside Motor Sports: Complimentary Detail Upgrade

High Performance

Do you like speed? Do you enjoy exploring the capabilities of your vehicles? Do you dream about getting on the go-pedal before you crest the apex?

Then what are you waiting for? We have just the program for you. BMW CCA driving events have long been the premier on-track driving education across the country, with an excellent safety record at some of the most prestigious and beautiful racetracks in the world! If you've never experienced the way your BMWs or any of your vehicles should be driven, there is no better venue to improve your skills while having fun in a safe, controlled environment.

If you've never driven on the track:

You are in for an eye-opening experience! As a beginner to high performance driving events, you will be paired with our award-winning instructors for the duration of the event while on track, and also a chance to learn about the fine art and the theories of driving in our excellent classroom sessions. We provide a safe, controlled environment with a stellar reputation



Photo: Lisa Goehring



Photo: Ben Carufel

and safety record, as you share the track with fellow beginners to ease you into the program. You will learn the basics of driving fast through the course of the event, and leave our events a better, safer driver, while gaining an understanding of your BMW's capabilities.

In addition to our excellent instruction and safety record, you can also get optional HPDE insurance through Lockton Affinity to cover any potential damage caused on track. Because of our safety record and stellar reputation, Lockton Affinity is providing significantly discounted rates for their wonderful HPDE insurance program, rates that are only available for BMW CCA events. Also, don't forget to check out our autocross programs and car control clinics!

If you've been driving with other organizations but never checked out BMW CCA:

You've been driving solo or doing lapping days for a while now, and have felt your skill and speed plateau. You can go out and churn some quick laps but can't quite figure out how that middle-aged lady in her spec Miata is passing you and leaving you in her wake. Or the aspect of lapping on the track, while fun, is not as rewarding as it used to be.

Driving Event

Chuckwalla Valley
Raceway

March 12-13, 2016

Photo: Lisa Goehring



Well you're a perfect candidate for our continued education program in BMW CCA HPDEs. We've all been there. While more seat time is always available, that extra bit of instruction, that second set of

eyes from the passenger seat has been missing, and the little bad habits you've been piling on for a while are holding you back as a driver.

By signing up for our event, you get that personalized training you need to progress, while learning some of the more advanced driving skills that will prepare you for the next level of learning.

Registration opens January 1, 2016, at Motorsportreg.com. We are offering a Novice class for people who have never participated in a BMW HPDE. The reduced rate for Novice students is \$425. For returning students the registration fee this year is \$500. Save \$50 with Early Bird registration if you sign up prior to February 21, 2016. The best part is you will still experience the same quality instruction and safe driving environment you have grown accustomed to from our Chapter.



Photo: Lisa Goehring



Photo: Ben Carufel

Once again, we would like to extend our warmest thanks to both of our long terms sponsors, BMW of Escondido/Brecht Motorsports and Toyo Tires.

Any questions contact Driving School Chair, Anne Littrell, sdbmwccadriving@gmail.com or 858 487 8094.



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RESOLUTION AUTOCROSS

Saturday, January 16

Photo: Jeremy Jesinghaus

Online Registration will open on December 16

Register Online at <http://sdbmwcca.motorsportreg.com>



Scan and
register now!

What's your New Year's resolution? Attend every SD BMW CCA autocross in 2016? Get consistent lap times or improve every lap time? Never miss an apex? Beat Neil Daly's times? Get started on your autocross resolutions with us on Saturday, January 16 in the West Lot.

Since we're back on Standard Time, we are limited to 80 participants, so register early!

YOU HAVE MORE TIME TO FIND YOUR SNELL 2015 HELMET! There was some confusion within our camp as to when the grace period ends for Snell 2005 helmets. After some clarification, our understanding is that, for all BMW CCA sanctioned events, the grace period for 2005 Snell helmets will end 12/31/2016. Snell 2015 helmets are already hitting the market, so you can start shopping now for the perfect helmet!

Please note: We have new car classifications as shown at right. Please make sure that your car class is up to date in Motorsport Reg, and if you have questions, feel free to email us at autocross-director@sdbmwcca.com.

Remember the sound limit at Qualcomm: **all cars must be under a 92db noise level – we'll be checking!**

Our sincerest thanks to BMW of El Cajon for their continued support of our Autocross Program!

Newcomers: We've all had a first time and we're all still learning, so relax, have fun, and enjoy your time with us. You will have an instructor take you around the course

for one lap in your car showing you turn-in points, braking zones and so on. Your instructor will then ride with you for your next three laps helping you learn the course. In your next session, and the timed runs, you can have an instructor with you as much or as little as you want – whatever makes you comfortable. These events are what you make them; you can push for good lap times and enjoy the friendly competition or you can have more of a social event where running laps is just another part of a fun-filled day.

See the **Autocross Information Page** at <http://www.sdbmwcca.com/autocross> to get a better idea of how to prepare for this wonderfully addictive sport for your first time.

Note: We do run if it's raining – you'll learn more and your tires will wear less – so if you see some unusual drops of water falling from the sky, grab your raingear and head to the Q! **Also, the helmet standard has changed to require Snell 2005 or 2010 ratings. Check yours now to be sure it's up to date – rentals are limited.**

The entry fee is \$65, including breakfast items, lunch, and beverages. You can pay online if you register in advance at <http://sdbmwcca.motorsportreg.com>, or with cash or check if you wait to register onsite. You must be a BMW CCA member to participate, and you can join online at www.bmwcca.org in advance. Please **print and bring your membership confirmation** if you have not yet received your BMW CCA membership card. We check membership of all participants at the gate.

REMEMBER: IF REGISTERED ONLINE, BRING PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP AND ARRIVE BY 7:30AM (BEFORE ON-SITE CUT-OFF) TO KEEP YOUR RESERVED SPOT

Gates will open at 6:30am; tech and registration will open at 7:00am. Tech will close at 8:20am and no cars will be inspected or allowed to run after this time. There is a **mandatory drivers meeting at 8:30am** and the course opens for runs at 9:00am.

When you arrive:

1. If you registered online, stop at the gate to sign the waiver and notify the Gate Greeter. Your name will be checked off the pre-registration list. All participants must show their BMW CCA membership card. Those who did not register online will receive a numbered card at the gate in their order of arrival; take it to the Registration table.

There is no guarantee that spots will be available for those who wait to register the day of the event.

2. Empty all loose items from your car, then go through the Tech Line and have your car inspected. Bring your Tech card and you will receive Tech and helmet stickers.

3. Take Gate card and Tech card to Registration to get checked off for pre-registration or pay your \$65 entry fee. You will receive car numbers to place on your side windows.

4. If you don't have a helmet, you can rent one from the club for \$10.

5. Your entry fee of \$65.00 includes one lunch and unlimited beverages. Additional lunches can be purchased at Registration for \$7 each.

Women drivers and Novices are classified based upon the car they are driving. We award a Women's Class trophy to the woman with the fastest time, and two Novice trophies to the two fastest novices. This means women and novices will be eligible for multiple trophies. You are only a novice for the first and second time you autocross, and if you win a novice or class trophy you are no longer a novice.

QUESTIONS? Contact Jim Patterson at: sd-autocross@sdbmwcca.com.

See you at the Q!



Please note car classes:

CAR CLASSIFICATIONS:

- LC** ALL BMWs through Model Year 1988; E30s through Model Year 1986; all naturally aspirated 4-cylinder models – Stock or Modified
- NAS** ALL naturally aspirated, non-M BMWs not in Legacy Class – Stock
- NAM** ALL naturally aspirated, non-M BMWs not in Legacy Class – Modified
- TS** ALL turbocharged BMWs (4-6-8-12 cyl, gas or diesel) – Stock
- TM** ALL turbocharged BMWs (4-6-8-12 cyl, gas or diesel) – Modified
- MS** ALL M cars under 400 factory hp – Stock
- MM** ALL M cars under 400 factory hp – Modified
- MPS** ALL M cars over 400 factory hp – Stock
- MPM** ALL M cars over 400 factory hp – Modified
- MC** ALL R-class MINI Cooper models (Stock or Modified)
- X** ALL non-BMW, or Austin MINI models
- G** ALL Instructors OR experienced drivers who choose Gold Class *and* drivers running non-DOT tires (i.e. slicks)

**Classification for specific cars is at the discretion of the Autocross Director*

ONLY Alterations Permitted in Stock Classes:

- ANY size wheel and tires. Tires must have DOT treadwear rating of 140 or higher
- ANY shock absorber using stock mounting and ANY suspension bushing material
- ANY air filter or air intake AHEAD OF mass airflow meter
- Non-stock software/firmware is permitted on naturally-aspirated engines only
- ANY brake pad material is allowed with Stock-size brake components
- Catalyst-back exhaust systems and strut tower braces are permitted

ANY other alterations move to Modified Classes, including:

- Tires with DOT treadwear rating under 140
- Non-stock springs, coilover suspensions, non-stock anti-roll bars
- Software/firmware alterations to turbocharged/supercharged engines
- Non-stock mass airflow meters, camshafts, downpipes, removed catalytic converter
- Non-stock-size brake rotors or calipers (stock-size replacements OK in Stock)



Holiday Party

We've come a long way. My first club holiday party was in 1985 in a private Del Mar home. We had about 25 attend and it was a potluck. We then held the event at Carl Nelson's repair shop in Pacific Beach. Potluck again for about 30, and I had a place under a BMW that was on a lift.

We then went to second floor in the San Diego Automotive Museum and started having the dinner catered. A few years later we moved onto the museum display floor among all the cars. With the new location and the free catered dinner, attendance rose up to around a hundred. Our party on December 6th brought out 81 and cost only \$10 per person. The central location, excellent dinner and super low cost seem to be the perfect match.

Dennis Damon



Photo: Lisa Goehring



Photos, unless otherwise noted: Admon Dallo

Roundel Editor Satch Carlson, who makes his home in San Diego, was in attendance.



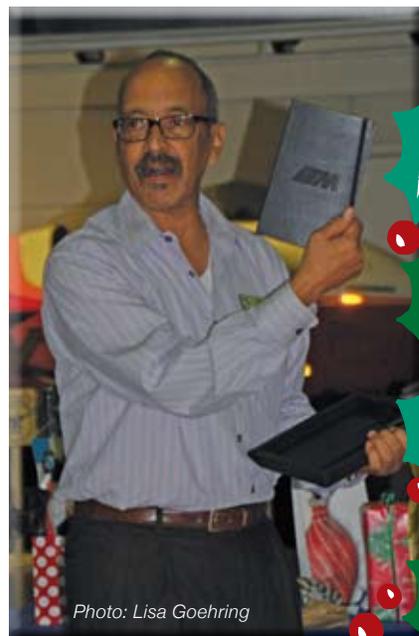


Photo: Lisa Goehring

Steve Johnson, President of BMW CCA, who is a San Diego resident, made an appearance as well.





Photo: Lisa Goehring



Photos, unless otherwise noted: Admon Dallo



Photo: Lisa Goehring

Autocross Workshop and Tech Session

Friday, February 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Independent Motorcars
5836 Autoport Mall, SD, 92121

This tech session will be geared to newcomers, novices and intermediate autocrossers, and will cover a multitude of topics relating to our chapter's autocross events. If you have never participated in autocross, this will be a great way to learn what it is all about, overcome any fears you may have for the well-being of your car, and learn about topics ranging from proper hand position on the steering wheel to adjusting tire pressures. We'll talk about simple tips to improve your car control, decrease lap times and increase the fun factor.

Topics covered will include:

- What to expect on the day of autocross
- Tech Inspections and how to prepare for them
- Suspension options for better handling
- Driving techniques and tips
- Getting the most out of your time with the instructors
- SDBMWCCA Autocross rules and safety

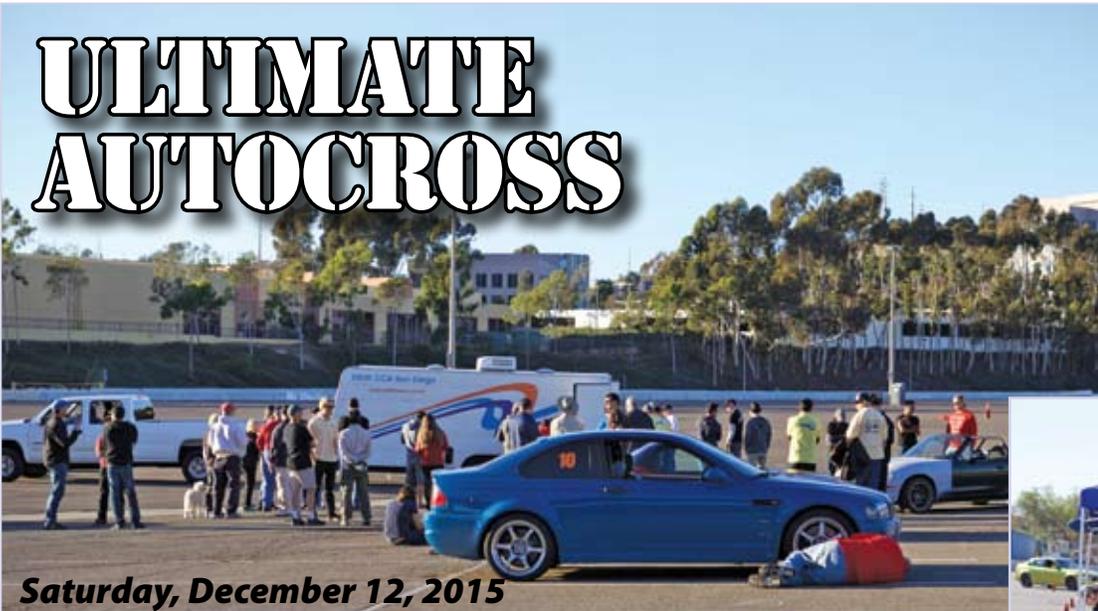
Chris Keefer of Independent Motorcars and Satakal Khalsa, our chapter's Equipmentmeister, will host the event. Our unofficial autocross caterer and crowd favorite, Aaron of Pro-Cooking, will be there serving up tacos. Come join us for a evening filled with great information, great people and great food! Hope to see you there. Please email autocross-director@sdbmwcca.com with any questions.

ULTIMATE AUTOCROSS

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Our sincerest thanks to BMW of El Cajon for their continued support of our Autocross Program!



Saturday, December 12, 2015

RESULTS

G – Gold Class

Pete E.	2013	M3	79.754
Mark F.	1998	M3	81.358
Sean T.	1992	Miata	81.44
Donald A.	1990	964/C2	83.72
Greg D.	1996	328	83.809
Thomas S.	1984	944	83.871
Conner B.	1999	Miata	84.094
Nick O.	1994	miata	86.276
Satakal K.	2000	323	89.687

LC – Legacy

Nicolas B.	1986	325e	76.552
Ben T.	1985	325	88.467
Bernard V.	1973	2002	96.222
Branson F.	1989	325	100.287

NAM – Naturally Aspirated Modified

Ryan W.	1998	327is	82.903
Alpesh K.	2005	330	85.294
Ed S.	1989	E30	85.493
Jeremy J.	1988	325	86.611
Wyatt G.	2004	330i ZHP	87.643
Stephen F.	1989	325 IC	93.228

NAS – Naturally Aspirated Stock

Hans V.	2009	328	80.61
Jason W.	1999	328	87.935
Harry W.	2000	Z3-2.8	88.686
Daniel F.	2005	330	93.663

MS – M Car Stock

Shawn F.	2011	1M	81.423
Jack R.	1999	m3	84.248
Sidney C.	2004	M3	87.493
Henry L.	2004	M3	90.21
Paul H.	2004	m3	90.761
Paul B.	2000	M Roadster	93.941



Photos: Jeremy Jessinghaus



MM – M Car Modified

Bryant N.	1988	M3	80.491
AJ Y.	1999	m3	82.423
Steve Y.	1995	m3	83.204
Jonathan K.	1998	M3	83.915
Lisa G.	1995	M3	84.606
Evan F.	1998	M3	86.389
Sal A B.	1997	M3	87.236
Ryan M.	2002	M3	87.657
Alfred R.	1999	M3	89.799
Sal J B.	1997	M3	90.043
Dana F.	1998	M3	97.596

Fastest BMW!

Fastest Woman!



MPM – M Modified Over 400 Stock HP

Rob J.	2013	M3	82.652
Austin F.	2013	M3	87.741
Ashley A.	2008	m3	93.778
Steve S.	2009	M3	94.383

MPS– M MStock Over 400 Stock HP

Travis H.	2011	M3	84.55
Stephen H.	2011	M3	85.125
Jodie S.	2014	M4	88.559
Ken S.	2015	M4	89.127
Vinh L.	2015	M3	90.066
Hannah C.	2015	M3	98.213

MC – Mini Cooper

Ron E.	2005	S cabrio	85.51
Mark S.	2003	S R53	96.925

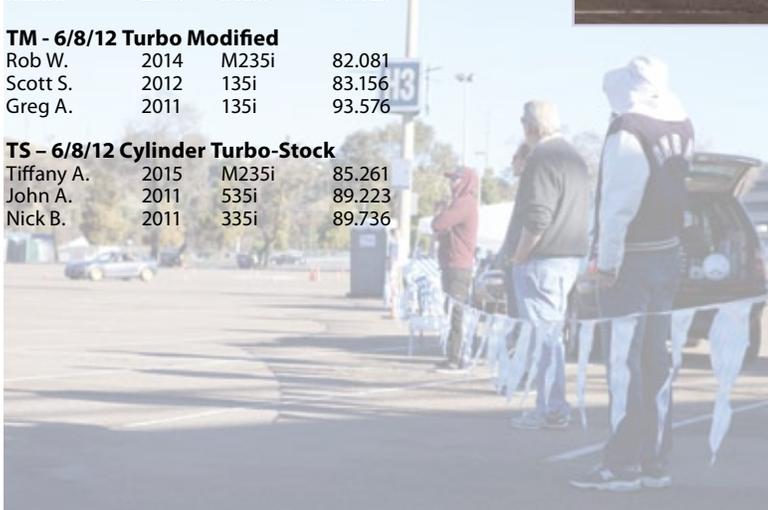


TM - 6/8/12 Turbo Modified

Rob W.	2014	M235i	82.081
Scott S.	2012	135i	83.156
Greg A.	2011	135i	93.576

TS – 6/8/12 Cylinder Turbo-Stock

Tiffany A.	2015	M235i	85.261
John A.	2011	535i	89.223
Nick B.	2011	335i	89.736



X - Non-BMW

Chris M.	2014	Corvette	76.996
Robert J.	2012	MX-5	80.342
Mike A.	2015	gt3	80.542
Hank Y.	2001	S2000	80.832
Carl L.	2006	Miata	81.154
Eric S.	2013	FR-S	81.538
Marc L.	2015	C7 Stingray	81.994
Luis R.	2006	Exige	82.969
Jason S.	1990	Miata	83.405
Paul S.	2006	S2000	83.516
Joel W.	1990	Miata	83.691
Richard S.	2008	STI	83.703
Scott S.	2003	S2000	83.958
Fred C.	1994	Miata	85.06
Jim A.	2013	FRS	85.085
Brian B.	1993	Miata	85.704
Steve G.	2007	Exige S	85.78
Daniel R.	2007	RX-8	86.075
Jason L.	2000	focus	86.241
Mark B.	2007	RX-8	86.751
John F.	2016	Golf R	86.814
Christian H.	2014	WRX	87.071
Rachel M.	1999	Miata	87.239
Jojo G.	2001	Miata	88.62
Jacob D.	2005	Altima 3.5SE	88.898
Brian S.	2006	Miata	90.65
Hayden H.	2006	A3	91.094
Jarred H.	2014	WRX	91.324
Kardon A.	1991	Mustang	92.374
Mike D.	2013	FR-S	94.53
Franco D.	2012	mustang	95.394
Lori D.	2013	FR-S	97.302
Rachel A.	2006	a3	98.505
Kevin D.	2011	Mustang	98.873
Thomas Y.	2016	CX5	99.55

Novice 1st

Novice 2nd



Volunteers of the Year



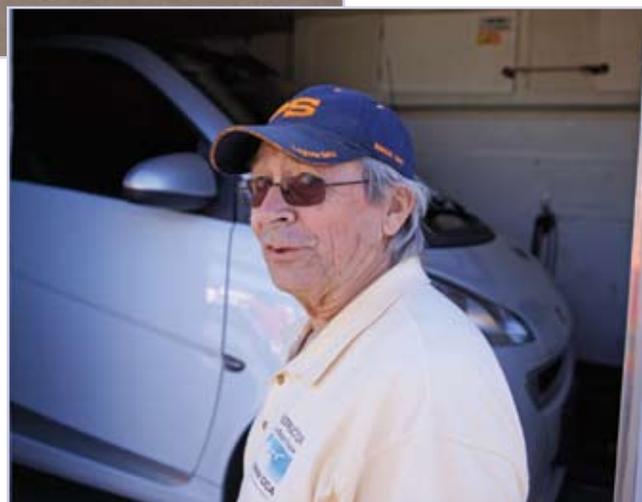
Brandon Watson received the 2015 Instructor of the Year award.



Satakal Khalsa reprised his role as Staff Volunteer of the Year for 2015.



Instructors had interesting reactions to the news of the car they would be competing in for the runoff. The two Smart cars were provided by Autobahn Dismantling prior to being scrapped.



Our Ultimate Autocross of 2015: Shhh...the Instructor Runoff is Happening

Our last autocross of the year is a special one because we have several special mini-events. We awarded our Instructor of the Year and Staff Volunteer of the Year as voted by participants. We also collected \$500+ for Toys-for-Tots at the event, which was added to the Chapter's regular donation of \$1000. And last, but not least, we had our Instructor Runoff – the sister event to the mid-year Rug Cunningham Runoff. Just like the sister event, the drivers of the runoff car got two laps in a car that was kept secret and revealed just before the runoff began. For the Participant Runoff back in June, we were fortunate to have Shawn Flanagan volunteer his Mini, and coincidentally, it was another Sean that offered an even smaller car for this year's Instructor Runoff.

Sean Steele, a fellow CCA member and co-owner of Autobahn Dismantling, approached me a couple months back with an offer that was too good to be true! We all know that we can find just about any BMW or Porsche part from Autobahn Dismantling, so when the instructors gathered around Autobahn's enclosed trailer, they probably thought that they were going to be taking laps in either a BMW or Porsche. But, we like to surprise our instructors with a completely unexpected runoff car and a BMW or Porsche wouldn't be all that shocking, right?

While announcing the logistics of the event to the excited and eager instructors, I threw out a comment, "This will be the quietest Instructor Runoff yet." You could almost see the gears turning in their heads as the instructors processed that smidgen of information, and then there were cheers as they realized that the trailer held the latest addition to Autobahn's dismantling and parts business – the Smart car. The instructors quickly gathered around as Sean opened the trailer doors to reveal not one, but two Smart Fortwo electric cars.

Enthusiasm and anticipation filled the air, bets were wagered

and the running order determined. One requirement of the running order was that the previous year's winner, Connor Bloum, must go last. Once the other details were ironed out, the instructors were off, albeit slowly, to a great start... well, most of them. Some instructors found the car to be challenging and indulged us with a rare site – a spinning Smart car. From what I overheard, the car was fun to drive, and from what I know based on my experience, sitting passenger was an absolute blast. The instructors seemed to truly enjoy driving a car that is a world apart from their own autocross cars. Micro in size, but huge in fun, the little electric cars proved to be the most entertaining Instructor Runoff car to date. There were lots of laughs, lots of smiles, a lot of joking and teasing, but there was only one winner.

He may have gone last, but he came in first: Connor Bloum took home the Instructor Runoff trophy for the second year running. It was a repeat day on other counts, too. Brandon Watson won Instructor of the Year for the second time and Satakal Khalsa won Staff Instructor of the Year for the THIRD time. Congratulations, everyone!

Thanks to everyone who makes our program such a success – our amazing participants, volunteer and instructors! Hey, anyone want to do this again next year?

by Kim Schwarz



Photos: Jeremy Jesinghaus

Instructor Run-Off Results

Connor B.	2015	Flyer	91.134
Nick O.	2015	Flyer	92.737
Neil D.	2015	Flyer	93.872
Ryan P.	2015	Flyer	94.336
Satakal K.	2015	Flyer	94.594
Anish P.	2015	Flyer	94.624
Peter B.	2015	Flyer	95.184
Mauicio M.	2015	Flyer	95.427
Andrew S.	2015	Flyer	95.451
Phil K.	2015	Flyer	95.914
Linda K.	2015	Flyer	96.976
Peter E.	2015	Flyer	97.107
Sean T.	2015	Flyer	100.432
Greg G.	2015	Flyer	105.308



Connor Bloum was the Smartest driver, winning the day with a lightning-fast time of 91.134.



Smart Car, Dumb Guy

During the instructor run-off, I overheard a driver comment “autocrossing that vehicle isn’t safe.” His comment was assuming a top-heavy balance of the Smart car. After 14+ drivers and 30+ laps, some of them unbelievably fast, neither of the cars showed any desire to be anything other than shiny side up.

Stating the obvious, the Smart car is small. More specifically, it’s short. It’s the same height and width of a normal small car, but the door handle seems like it’s straight up from the rear wheel. The seating position is very minivan – upright, unsupportive seats, a PRND selector, and 2 pedals. Also, the instrument cluster was light on information. There was no DSC off button for us to toggle. Actually, that’s something that Sean “fixed” for us ahead of time. He said he disconnected the yaw sensor so the car still had anti-lock brakes, but no traction control. The normal stability control was very limiting. Sean made the choice to see the Runoff be a competition of who can drive the goofy car the fastest instead of who can operate within the limits of the nannies most efficiently.

Once I got behind the wheel, I forgot about how short the car was. Upon confirming that there was nothing to do but put it in D and don’t suck, I was ready for my turn.

First thing I noticed was the lame acceleration – easily the slowest car from 0-60 in the parking lot that day. To the Smart car’s credit, it kept that same rate of acceleration all the way through that drag-race start. Turning in to the first element, a right-left at moderate speed, the car more or less went where I put it. The steering was light with little feedback. It was an exercise of feeling with my butt and cross-referencing that with the data my eyes were collecting. Without quality steering feedback, gauging understeer was a job for the ears. At the end of the throttle pedal’s range of travel, there was a switch/button for just a little bit more “go”. When on a straight, I would need to remind myself to get full use of the accelerator.

To my surprise, with the yaw sensor disabled, the car would rotate. The front end would go where pointed while the back end would slide, allowing for car to change direction

and corner much faster than if the stability control were in the loop. When too much rotation was asked of the car, it would do a humiliating snap into a spin. “Turn-in, nice rotation, ooh more rotation, uh-oh this feels like too much yaw but it’s no big deal, oh no it really is too much, apply counter steer, crap now I’m facing backwards.”

When asked if I thought I put in at least one fast lap, I emphatically stated that I did not. When asked what I thought of the car and if it was fun, I replied, “The car is difficult to drive.” I knew that a fast lap would be a finesse of just enough mid-corner rotation with no major mistakes. I had an impossible time getting the car to rotate enough to be fast.

One week later – yes the Smart was fun. It was a lot of fun. I’d be happy to spend a full day with it. Many thanks go out to Autobahn Dismantling for the awesome cars and their generosity toward the club. I can’t wait until next year’s Runoff.

by Satakal Khalsa



Photo: Jeremy Jesinghaus

Toys for Tots Donation

The club once again used the Ultimate Autocross as an opportunity to collect toys and cash contributions for Toys for Tots. Matthew Kogan brought the box for the Toys and we managed to make a donation box for the cash contributions. This year we filled up the toy box and collected \$525 in cash contributions including the entry fees for the Instructor run off. In addition to the funds collected at the Autocross, the club voted to add a \$1000 contribution. On Tuesday, after the Autocross, we took the toys and a check for \$1525 to the Marine reserve base to drop off. I had hoped for a photo opportunity when we dropped off the check and toys. Because of world conditions, the Marines were on high alert and I didn’t want to ask the nice young man with the automatic weapon to take time for a picture.

Jim Patterson



Photo: Jeremy Jesinghaus

Space Race Autocross

Saturday, February 20



Photo: JR Bassett

Online Registration will open on January 18

Register Online at <http://sdbmwcca.motorsportreg.com>



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Since we're back on Standard Time, we are limited to 80 participants, so register early!

YOU HAVE MORE TIME TO FIND YOUR SNELL 2015 HELMET! There was some confusion within our camp as to when the grace period ends for Snell 2005 helmets. After some clarification, our understanding is that, for all BMW CCA sanctioned events, the grace period for 2005 Snell helmets will end 12/31/2016. Snell 2015 helmets are already hitting the market, so you can start shopping now for the perfect helmet!

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Another successful Holiday Party was organized by Dennis Damon and enjoyed by club members on December 6 at the San Diego Automotive Museum.



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