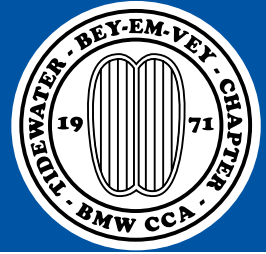


das Kummeret

The Newsletter of the Tidewater Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America



March • April 2016

1



The BMW Clubs in America *Present*

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August 19-28, 2016 in Monterey, California

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merchandise@tidewaterbmwcca.org



MEMBERSHIP

Tidewater Chapter: 738 as of December 2015
National: 70,426 as of January 2015

ADDRESS CHANGES

Address changes can be made on the BMWCCA National website (www.bmwcca.org) by hitting 'Login' and following instructions on site. From there, click on the 'Manage Account' link on the top of the page; then click on the 'Change Addresses' link.

Or write to:

ROUNDEL BMW CCA
640 South Main Street - Suite 201
Greenville, SC 29601

All changes done through the National office will update both your National and Tidewater Chapter address information. If you are a member of our Yahoo Group, DasKummet@yahoo.com, please also remember to update your profile.

NEWSLETTER and PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS:

Your articles and photos are very welcomed by us. To be included in an issue the materials must be received by the 10th of the month preceding the date of next issue. To spice up the newsletter we always need photos of chapter events. We may also use them on the chapter website. Send your contributions to Editor@tidewaterbmwcca.org. Thanks!

Visit our Chapter web pages at:

www.tidewaterbmwcca.org
on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/140702964729/>

To subscribe to our email lists: <http://www.tidewaterbmwcca.org/lists/>

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President's Corner

A close friend of mine recently purchased a new car. It was not a BMW. I drove him to the dealership to take delivery of the car, and along the way I began to think about my personal car buying experiences. I was thinking about buying a car other than a BMW. But before you say "Wait a minute, buying a non-BMW!", I wasn't thinking that I should buy a non-BMW. Rather, I was thinking why would I buy anything but a BMW! It was quite clear to me very quickly that I haven't considered...no more than that...it hasn't even been an option for me since 1999 (the year of my first BMW purchase) to own another brand. It literally never crossed my mind. I realize not everyone feels exactly as I do, and there are true needs for other brands, but for me (and quite possibly my wife Mary) the only car in our garage is and should be a BMW (or two in this case) - it flat out has never been a question.

So, back to my friend picking up his new car. It quickly occurred to me that I had no idea exactly where this dealership is. I live about a mile from it, along with many others in this area, which I pass by on a regular basis. I am aware the dealerships are there, but I couldn't tell you which brands are sold at what location (and I really am a 'car person'). However, if you ask me where the BMW dealerships are in Hampton Roads, or Richmond, or Washington, or Raleigh... Asheville... Daytona - I can provide you turn by turn directions.

So what drives me to own our favored brand - the simple yet sporty and elegant styling inside and out, the handling, the quality, and the fun it delivers on and off the track. And what drives me to participate on the Club Board? It's the fun the club delivers for me, the opportunities to drive these vehicles, and my desire for all our members to experience this as well. I hope to bring to the club the quality that BMW brings to us, and along the way I also hope to get my friend on the track to the BMW dealership!

Darin Kwasniewski, President

Our Chosen Charity For 2016:

Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia



You can support this effort by bringing canned goods or money to any chapter event. However, money provides more meals than canned goods. Chris Triplett leads the committee. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Chris Triplett, foodbank@tidewaterbmwcca.org

Join Us On Facebook!

Join us on Facebook to stay up to date with all your club's activities!

To become part of our Facebook group, you must have a Facebook account. After you sign on to Facebook at www.facebook.com, enter "Tidewater BMW CCA Activities Page" in the search block. You should be shown our activities page along with a link labeled "Join Group". Click on join group, a box will appear that will ask you if you want to join this group, click the "Join" button. You are then taken to our club activities page, where you can see and post activities and pictures.



Bimmer Breakfast in January delighted young and old!

VIVA ITALIA!

by Ray Laffoon

The BMW press seems to have many articles about driving on the German autobahn or lapping the Nurburgring; however, I have not seen much outside of a few online blogs about driving in Italy.

The world is enraptured with the culinary delights of Italian cooking and the cutting edge of Italian fashion. How many of us graced the walls of our adolescent bedrooms with the sensuous shapes of an exotic Italian hypercar? Italian roads had a role in several movies, and only in relatively recent times has Top Gear labeled Stelvio Pass in the Italian Alps as the best driving road in the world, an honor they more recently bestowed to another road in Romania. It's time for us driving enthusiasts to admit that another country may offer the enthusiast driver some highway heaven. But you may have to go through . . . well, you know . . . to get there.

I recently made a trip to Italy where I drove approximately 1300 miles covering roadways from the Swiss border south to Naples. Herein are some observations.

Let's start at the rental car counter. Your rental agreement will be in Italian. You can ask for an English version and sometimes the counter person will provide one. Then sometimes they won't—for whatever reason the counter person deems to have some importance. All I can say is, it depends on the counter person.

I consider Italy to be a country where the probability of dents and dings is high. Plan to get the insurance coverage which costs about as much as the rental. Most Americans do not have European insurance coverage in their regular policy, so this is a definite need. Your credit card may have some coverage, but read the fine print on your credit card agreement and plan to get coverage for the rest.

In winter, be aware that you are required by law to carry snow chains on alpine roads. You should check ahead of time to see if you will be travelling on one of these roads where they might be required.

If you rent your car in a nation outside of Italy, you need to let the rental car company know that you are



Italian road conditions may vary.

taking the car to Italy. Why? Most reputable rental car companies do not allow you to take a BMW or Mercedes into Italy, or into some countries in Eastern Europe.

On one of my trips, I rented a Ford Mondeo (our Fusion) station wagon in Frankfurt, Germany, with plans to drive it to Italy. The Ford proved to be a nice car which we enjoyed! If at all possible, rent a small car. Small cars are better in Italy than large cars. Parking in the cities and towns is tight when it exists at all. Many of the roads are narrow—VERY narrow! I discovered the narrow roads and small parking spaces to be the reason the Fiat 500 is the size it is.



Italian traffic.

Theft coverage is usually included in the insurance package, but it does not cover loss due to theft in certain ultra-high-risk provinces such as Campania. Naples is the capital of Campania. My son was stationed in Naples, so I was very careful with the car while visiting him!

After renting your car, you'll want to start driving. I'll start with the worst driving:

Naples (Napoli in Italian). Naples traffic is a lesson in fluid dynamics. Every space will be filled. Lane markings are advisory only. So are traffic lights and stop signs. So are police officers. Neapolitan drivers will change lanes at will, often without warning. During rush hour, every lane will fill to capacity and beyond. Motorcycles and scooters will fill the spaces in between, even when the traffic is moving. Think of a jar filled with rocks then marbles . . . then sand . . . and then water. Traffic circles and intersections become an exercise in passive/

Continued on pg 8

Activities Committee

We are glad that you are supporting our events - THANK YOU! It is still VERY important to RSVP (as early as possible) of your participation to any upcoming activities. These numbers are needed to allow our hosting restaurants to be prepared for us. Inaccurate totals make for unhappy restaurant managers and cause them to be reluctant to allow our group to book in the future.

We are always on the lookout for members that would like to be a part of the Activities Committee. Currently, the Activities Chairman position is open. If you are interested please contact Sam Wood for details. Meanwhile, read Das Kummet and check our websites regularly. We, of course, welcome your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions...as well as your 'constructive' criticisms! Please feel free to contact any one of the following committee members

Chris Triplett – (757) 620-6623
cmtrip@cox.net

Jason Dandalides -
dandalides.2@gmail.com

Marc Garcia - (757) 803-5658
marcg007@gmail.com

activitiescommittee@tidewaterbmwcca.org

...AND KEEP COMING TO THOSE EVENTS!!

Advertisements

Non-commercial classified ads are free to chapter members. Ads will run in three published issues and then may only be continued in subsequent issues only by contacting the Newsletter Editor. Ads submitted are limited to 200 words per ad including name, address, phone number and email address if available. Items offered for sale must be the personal property of the submitting member or family and not of a business.

Commercial ads are available to members and non-members. Such ads must be accompanied by payment in full. Rates shown below are per year (approximately 6 issues). All ads must be submitted in a usable digital format or as camera ready. "Das Kummet" reserves the right to edit or reject any ad submitted.

FULL PAGE
...\$135 per issue or \$700 per yr.

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Club TOOLBOX

The following tools are available for members use. A deposit may be required and will be refunded upon return of the tool in working condition.

- Service Light Resetting Tools - **VERY USEFUL**
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- Remote Starter Switch
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- Pilot Bearing Puller
- Fan Clutch Wrench & Bar
- Electric Impact Wrench
- Lockstrip Tool
- 17mm Trans. Drain Socket
- Brake Bleed System - **VERY USEFUL**
- Coil Spring Compressors
- Peake-Code/Reset Tool - all models - can be connected under hood or dash
- **NEW!!** SRS Air Bag Scanner

Call Bob Parsons at 587-7423 for your needs.

Club MERCHANDISE

We have made arrangements through Lands End for club members to order a wide variety of chapter logo items. Access by going to: http://ces.landsend.com/Tidewater_BMWCCA

Currently: The Merchandise Chair Position is open. Please contact Jeff Triplett at president@tidewaterbmwcca.org for details.

NAME TAGS: We have also arranged with KayCee Engraving for members to order name tags with the chapter logo. Contact Info: Kay Cee Engraving, PO Box 625, Heathsville, VA 22473-0625 or Call (804) 580-8247. kayceetags.com & kctags@yahoo.com

BMW CCA Map Grille Badges \$20
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aggressive psychology. Too passive and you go nowhere. Too aggressive and you can cause an accident. Finding the balance between passive and aggressive is necessary as is constant readjustment to that balance. Getting cut off in traffic is normal so don't take it personally. I find it best to leave the ego at home. Thankfully Naples is unique, even by Italian standards.

Now for the "Heaven" part of Italian driving. If you continue driving to the south of Naples along the coast, you will find yourself driving the Amalfi Coast, one of the most beautiful, picturesque places to drive in the world. Relax and enjoy! I say that because the traffic and terrain conspire to make for slow progress, so you might as well find a way to enjoy being there.

Italy's Autostrada is a very nice divided, limited access highway that compares favorably with Germany's autobahn. The autostrada is a toll road that will allow efficient travel up to 130 kilometers per hour which is roughly 82 miles per hour in the former British colonies that have not gone metric. This is a decent pace across most places, but can prove a challenge in the mountainous portions south of the Austrian border or those near Bologna, Modena and Maranello, the land of Ferrari and Ducati, where the road moves up and down and side to side and through the mountains (literally), like a serpent in Roman mythology. Rest areas that contain good restaurants and fuel stops are conveniently located all along the autostrada. For the most part, lane discipline is good.

I did notice toward the south of Italy that the Italians have a habit of driving partially in one lane, straddling the line as if they could not decide which lane to occupy. Most of these drivers were talking on their cell phone, which I believe is another case of the motive of a good law being lost in the enforcement, or the lack of enforcement. I eventually came to the realization that they were following the same route as they would if riding a motor scooter: lane splitting through the traffic. The effect with a Vespa is very different from the effect while lane splitting with an old Fiat!

Speaking of enforcement, which, if we're keeping the "heaven" theme, may be a little like Purgatory, the density of traffic enforcement devices that permeate the autostrada is staggering. There are many cameras and license plate readers, as well



Roads may be narrow, tight and scenic.

as radar and laser devices. However, these are not always turned on. Some sensors will record your license at point A and compare your time at point B, then determine your speed and if you need a traffic citation based on that. In any case the *Policia Stradale* (Highway Patrol) has a couple Lamborghinis wandering around the autostrada to make sure that we all behave.



Rest areas are nice and attractive.

License plate readers are also used in some cities and towns for areas restricted to local traffic only. A friend of mine accidentally drove into one of these and 18 months later received the ticket for a rather handsome fine in the mail, 6 months after the rental car company sent him a charge for handling the ticket (they provided the driver data to the police).

Traffic citations are normally sent in the mail, when the mail is working, and if they feel like it.

Now for the real "highway heaven". I love the lakes and mountains of northern Italy. The passes in the South Tirol, which straddles the Austrian, Italian and Swiss borders, are beautiful, rugged and full of some of the best driving and riding roads found anywhere on the planet. Stelvio Pass is probably the best

Continued on pg 10



Parking can have its challenges in Italy.

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known, but there are at least a half dozen more that are lesser known and perhaps more enjoyable since traffic volume will occasionally take away some of the joy of Stelvio.

For the most part, the roads are well maintained, and the more widely travelled are well marked and broad enough for cars to pass. Trucks and buses will present challenges, especially head on around curves, but the locals are aware of the challenges and we visitors will patiently deal with them all in the interest of enjoying ourselves in the majestic mountains. Right?

Like most places, the less traveled roads are not as well maintained and they are often much narrower, making encounters with opposing traffic a reason not to hurry things too much. It's not just the traffic, but the occasional cow, goat or sheep crossing the road. However, I love these roads since they are challenging to drive in a land filled with beautifully majestic landscapes and history. Last summer I crossed a pass where the road is part of a cross country ski trail in the winter! It was very interesting passing under ski lifts during the off season!



Hmmm... can this Fiat 500 take on the Selvio Pass?

Finally, use a GPS. Signs are well placed and readable on the autostrada; however, that does not apply on other roads and locations. While driving to Bellagio on Lake Como, my wife and I often found the official highway sign embedded in a clutter of commercial signs making it nearly impossible to



Alfa Romeo classic nestles in native Italian setting.



Old Mini and new MINI share old Italian cobblestones.

see at a glance while navigating a traffic-laden traffic circle. That is when there was a sign. We especially found a GPS helpful while winding our way through the streets of Naples even with our son, who lived there, helping with navigation. But GPS does have its limits. At one point, my GPS was telling us to go up a series of steps in the pedestrian zone! The Minis used in the Italian Job drove down steps, but I did not want to find out if the Ford I was driving did steps! We found another way.

There are some BMWs in Italy, even if not a lot. I spent several weeks at a hotel in northern Italy across from a BMW motorcycle dealer once and saw as many BMW cars as motorcycles there. However, one does not see as many BMWs driving around as I normally see in other European countries. I would see a few with license plates from outside of Italy, but not as many as expected. Perhaps this is pricing, but I suspect Italian tax enforcement to be one reason Italians tend to drive fairly ordinary hatchbacks. I was told that the Italian police will pull over nice looking automobiles and then check on their tax records for violation. Many Italians who own Ferraris and Lamborghinis keep them outside of Italy to avoid attention. I am not sure if this is a factor for BMWs, but I suspect that it is. I do see a lot of MINIs and a few Minis. The MINI is a good size for Italy, and it has the power and handling to enjoy the roads.

If you find yourself wanting to eat authentic Italian cuisine, shop for high fashion, or just enjoy overwhelming history and traditions in a beautiful land, just head to Italy for a marvelous and memorable experience. If you take a car, be sure to take the time to enjoy the challenging but marvelous roads that traverse this amazing country. However, leave the steps for pedestrians and movies.



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ANNUAL BANQUET REPORT

(Icy Roads and Warm Hearts)

Featuring Jeff Triplett's President's Report

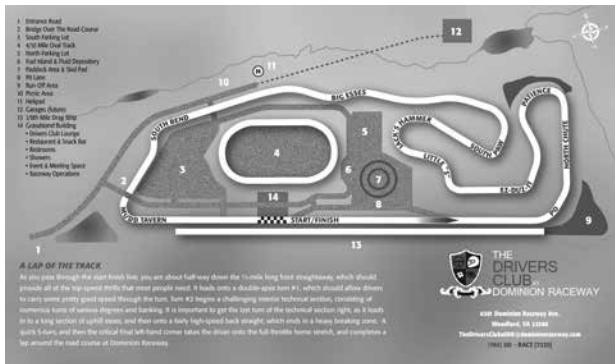
Our Tidewater Chapter Annual Banquet happened in spite of icy roads that claimed someone's nice E36 that sideswiped a wall on I-64. Quite a few members with reservations called in as no-shows, leaving lots more of the delicious roaming hors d'oeuvres for those who did make it to our warmly gracious Airport Doubletree venue.

Jeff Triplett gave his final President's Report that included the following information:

Officers for 2016:

President	Darin Kwasniewski
Vice-President	Open
Secretary	Ron Boustedt
Treasurer	Tiffany Crossley
Activities Chair	Open

The Big News: The Drivers Club at Dominion Raceway! We expect to have good access, through our club and other clubs, to this new driving resource in our area.



Map of the new Dominion Raceway, opening soon!

The Drivers Club at Dominion Raceway is a private membership club for owners of sports cars and race cars. It provides members the opportunity to get exclusive and uncrowded track time on the 2-mile long Dominion Raceway Road Course, where they can learn and practice performance driving skills, test and improve their cars, or simply drive their performance cars like they were meant to be driven.

- The Drivers Club also provides members the opportunity to meet and socialize with other people who have an appreciation of high-performance vehicles and performance driving.
- The Drivers Club will open this May, and is located in Thornburg, VA, about 45 minutes north of Richmond, right off I-95.
- www.TheDriversClubatDR.com

2015 Activities Wrap-Up:

- Annual Banquet
- Annual Picnic
- 7 Fun Drives including:
 - OBX drive
 - Valentines Day Drive
 - Independence Day Drive
 - Great Pumpkin Rally
- Quarterly dinners: New Member Meet and Eat and Great
- Monthly Bimmer Breakfasts began to strong attendance
- Pig and Oyster Roast (cancelled – hurricane)
- [Plus several members attended driving events at Virginia International Raceway]

2015 Stats & Facts:

- 736 Chapter members
- 7th oldest BMW CCA Chapter (1971)
- Well ranked in membership among all BMW CCA Chapters
- Active volunteer group
- Large number and wide variety of events

Continued on pg 13

New Member Meet Eat & Greet!

by Darin Kwasnieski

March 5th will be our next New Member Meet and Eat and Greet (NMMEG). So, what is the NMMEG you ask? Well first, it also includes some driving, so maybe it should be the NMMEGD (I'm sure you can figure out this acronym). And second, it is not just for new members – it is for all members, and we encourage all members to come to meet new and current members. What happens during these events is quite unexpected – we meet at a designated location, greet one another (i.e. socialize), then we take an abbreviated drive (about an hour) in our beloved BMWs (or whatever auto make you prefer – we welcome all) on some fun back roads. We end the route at an establishment that will serve us some fine grub. More car talk occurs here, along with the eating part. See, pretty crazy, huh?

So come on out members new and old, and meet, eat, and greet (and drive). Our host and lead driver, Marc Garcia, has planned a fun route through “somewhere” that ends at the Commune Real Food for a fun and casual dinner. Here's the info:

- WHAT** New Member Meet Eat & Greet (NMMEG) - drive and dinner.
- WHO** New members especially; all members welcome to help welcome the new ones!
- WHEN** March 5, 1:30pm-4:30pm
- WHERE** Meet at *Let's Talk Wine*, 236 Carmichael Way #308, Chesapeake, VA 23322 at 1:30.



Our drive will be through southeast Virginia Beach and conclude at Commune Real Food (<http://www.communevb.com/>), 501 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach

RSVP by March 2 to Marc Garcia, marcg007@gmail.com, 757-803-5658 or activitiescommittee@tidewaterbmwcca.org

Thank you and see you there!



Classifieds

CARS FOR SALE:

1988 e30 325is (auto) with only 93k original miles. 100% original with no mods. Interior in exceptional condition with like new dash. Seats in very good condition. Recent OEM front suspension parts replaced. Timing belt replaced 5k miles ago. Zinnoberrrot (Red) exterior with black sport seats. Car is in exceptional condition. \$8,500 firm. Contact Randy at Phone: 757-749-7809 Cell Phone: 757-749-7809

X3 2007 , 3.0 Si, low mileage - Heated front seats and steering wheel, Navigation, leather seats, Xenon headlights, back up sensors (BMW calls this PDC), Alarm, AM/FM HD radio, Michelin tires with spare, All weather protective mat for storage area, Carpet floor mats. All service records available. Priced significantly under private sale and in excellent condition. Pictures available via email. Contact davelender@cox.net via email or call Dave at Phone: (757) 229-2018 Cell Phone: (919) 412-7078

PARTS & ITEMS FOR SALE:

Headlights from 2006 E85 Z4 roadster Left and right sides. These headlights are used and in very good condition. They should fit 2003 to 2008 Z4 roadsters. Price is \$350.00 plus \$20.00 shipping. Phone (cell): 267-229-1244 or email: 60michael@msn.com

Volunteers include the following hearty souls:

- Newsletter Editor Mark Jumper
- Webmeister Judy Semo
- Facebook Manager Courtney Kerr
- Membership Open
- Member at Large Jeff Triplett
- Driving Events Bob Brochu
Ron Boustedt
- New Member Meet/Greet Marc Garcia
- Merchandise Open
- Tools Bob Parsons
- Food Bank Chair Chris Triplett
- Peninsula Rep Open
- OBX N.C. Rep Jack Robey
- BMW Classics Chair Steve Waddell
- Advertising Chris Wyatt

Activities Volunteers include:

- Chris Triplett (activities committee – annual banquet!)
- Marc Garcia (activities committee)
- Steve Waddell
- Joe & Mary Jo Braeutigam
- Bob Parsons
- Mary Kwasniewski
- Neils & Elena Brooks
- Larry and Robin Williams
- Mike Shimandle

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Vice President
- Activities Chair - CRITICAL NEED
- Activities Committee members
- Tech Session Coordinator
- Merchandise Coordinator

Food Bank Support: Jeff made the point that DOLLARS go much further to help those in need than pounds of food. For example:

- It takes 1.3 pounds of food to make one meal; 50 pounds of food provides 38 meals.
- But it only takes 29 cents to BUY one meal; \$50 cash provides 172 meals! Dollars are king when it comes to helping the most.

- Our Chapter contributed 50 pounds of food and \$375 cash in 2015 to the Food Bank, providing 1,331 meals.
- Our Food Bank collection jar will be open for contributions at each of our events in 2016.

Upcoming Social Events:

- Feb 14 – Valentine's Day Drive (and Italian Feast)
- Feb 20 – Monthly Bimmer Breakfast
- Mar 5 - New Member Meet & Greet & Qtrly Dinner (all invited)
- Mar 19 – Monthly Bimmer Breakfast
- May 14 – Eastern Shore Fun Drive
- June 5 – Annual Picnic
- July – Annual Independence Day Drive

Upcoming Track Events:

- April 1-3 – Tarheel BMW at VIR
- April 9/10 - ApexFest 2-Day Track Event at NCCAR
- April 30 – May 1 – PCA Sprint HPDE at Dominion Raceway
- June 17-19 – Tarheel BMW at VIR
- July 9/10 – PCA Summer HPDE at Dominion Raceway
- Sept 16-18 – PCA Fall HPDE at VIR

BMW CCA Octoberfest – BMW's 100th Anniversary Year!

- When – August 23 -28, 2016
- Where –Monterey, CA / Laguna Seca Raceway
- How – Curviest road you can find
- Why – To have a great time!

Thanks to our Supporters:

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Continued on pg 16



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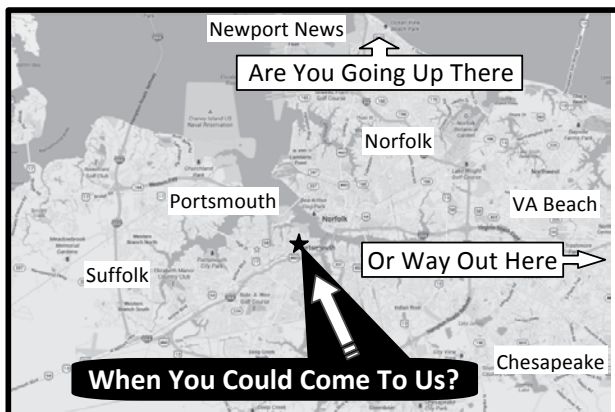
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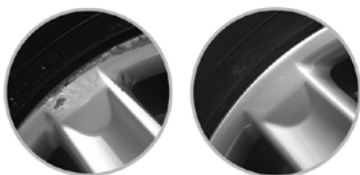


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car or another. Instead the real story is about being a BMW driver, because we are all BMW drivers now.

"Our own David E. Davis Jr. helped make [the 2002] a sensation among U.S. car enthusiasts in 1968 with a famous road test that carried the headline "Turn Your Hymnals to 2002." DED Jr.'s story helped institutionalize the values we still identify with BMW: austere yet timeless style, efficient yet compelling performance, and a certain soul-stirring liveliness. . .

"After 40 years, we now think of BMW not as a car but instead as a magic formula made from our own associations and expectations. BMW speaks to us of beauty, technology, and utility, and since car enthusiasts have come to embrace these same values, we all have become BMW drivers in a way. Other cars are either like a BMW or not like a BMW, and BMW is where every conversation starts. . .



i8 draws crowds to see BMW's future at the Hampton Roads auto show.

"Even though questions of air emissions, fuel economy, and safety have seemed so overwhelming in the U.S. over the past 40 years, BMW still believes in an automobile that is beautiful, energetic, and full of life. And so do we because, all these years later, we still want to drive the kind of car that David E. Davis Jr. rhapsodized about in 1968.

We've seen in its history that BMW has not always had it easy. Neither has the world for that matter, and neither have we! The mark of character is how you handle the challenges. BMW has shown fine corporate character by hanging on through thick and thin, staying true to its lodestar, and not just surviving, but thriving as it helps us find the best in driving!

Happy Birthday, not just to BMW, but to all those enthusiasts who have come to feel—yea, know!—that BMW somehow got into our heads and built its cars just the way we would want. It is this synergy of our hearts and heads, with these machines that seem to beat with a human heart, that brings us such "joy," as BMW puts it. Long may this partnership last!

Thanks to our Raffle Supporters:

Checkered Flag BMW, The Drivers Club at Dominion Raceway, Doubletree Hotel, and Pop's Diner!

The raffle drawings were performed by a couple of young children who were eager to move around after dinner, and were agreed by all to be completely fair and balance as to whose tickets they drew. The big raffle prize was a one-day pass to the new Dominion Raceway. Chris Wyatt won that drawing—perfect for his new M3 after he takes delivery in Germany!

It was a fun night full of good socializing and good thoughts of our heritage, focus and hopes. The ice grew thicker outside as our hears became warmer.



Energetic kids announce banquet raffle winners



Chris Wyatt receives the raffle-winning certificate for a Dominion Raceway day from Darin and Mary Kwasniewski

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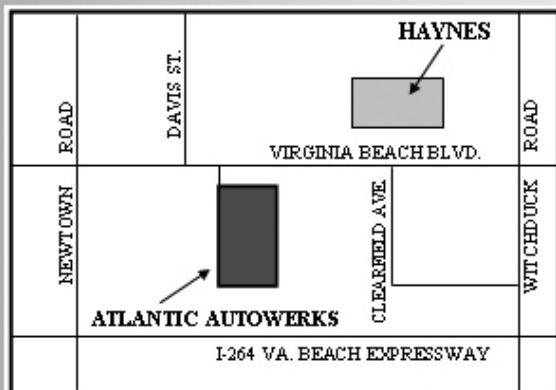
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Editor's Desk: Once More, and with **FEELING**: BMW is 100!

By Mark Jumper

Monday, 7 March 2016 marks the big anniversary that BMW and its fans around the world will be celebrating year-round. We Bimmerphiles are definitely part of something special!

But what exactly is it that makes BMWs so special? What makes a BMW a BMW?

BMW USA notes the following on its website:

“DESIGN: We make sure great design ideas live on to become ultimate driving machines. We see design as more than just curves and lines. We see it as a means to create emotion. The tell-tale curve of the Hofmeister kink. The classic kidney grille. The sleek aerodynamic design. It's what makes BMWs every bit as joyful to look at as they are to drive. At the heart of BMW's design philosophy is the notion that form should always follow function. Thus, the essential shape of BMWs – long hood with short overhang – is a direct result of our engineers' quest for perfect balance. BMW design is timeless and distinct, with classic details like the twin kidney grilles and four headlights connecting BMWs across generations. Avoiding fads and fashions, BMW is always looking ahead, leading the way in designing the cars of the future.

“AERODYNAMIC DESIGN: The mantra of BMW design is “form follows function.” For example, the integrated front spoiler on all BMWs reduces the amount of air flowing under the car, hence minimizing front-end lift at speed. The very shape of BMWs is a result of precise aerodynamic engineering. Each closed-body BMW has been designed for a low drag coefficient. With air flowing smoothly over the body, the engine has less drag to overcome. BMWs are also designed to minimize aerodynamic lift. Thus the legendary cornering and road-hugging agility of The Ultimate Driving Machine®.

“HOFMEISTER KINK: Certainly the BMW element with the most unusual name is the Hofmeister kink,

the distinctive bend in every BMW's C-pillars (the metal roof supports that separate the rear side windows from the back glass). Although it appeared as early as the 1930s, the kink formally debuted with the “New Class” 1500 Sedan at the 1961 Frankfurt auto show and was named after Wilhelm Hofmeister, then director of design for BMW. Aside from its pleasing visual effect, the Hofmeister kink subtly highlights a BMW trademark: rear-wheel drive.



BMW's modern HQ building

“KIDNEY GRILL: One of the most visible of BMW design elements, often seen rising

up in rear-view mirrors, is the traditional “kidney” grille. Introduced at the 1933 Geneva auto show, the distinct shape of the kidneys first emerged from an effort to reduce aerodynamic drag. Over time, they have evolved from tall ovals into their now-emblematic low, wide kidney-like shape. They continue to symbolize the timelessness of BMW design and engineering.

Automobile Magazine shared some super BMW philosophy by West Coast Editor Michael Jordan in its November 2015 issue (p. 49) that celebrated 40 years of BMW North America. Herewith:



Berlin showroom circa 1929.

“As BMW NA celebrates its 40th anniversary in the U.S., we think the story here isn't about some BMW

Continued on pg 16

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