

# THE ALLEGHENY APEX

*Friends don't let friends miss apexes  
and the chapter won't let you miss the news.*



BMW Car Club of America • Allegheny Chapter Newsletter • WINTER 2015

# 33

Years and Counting

## FALL LEAVES TOUR

Road Trip  
Reviews

Upcoming  
Events





## Chapter Officers and Coordinators

### President

George Snyder

### Vice President

Brett Sutton

### Treasurer

Tom Wettach

### Secretary

Marianne Meehan

### Member at Large

T. "Rudi" Flavin

### Interim Member at Large

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### Club Race Coordinator

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### Newsletter Editor

Johna Snyder

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Emilio Veneziano

### Membership Coordinator

Marianne Meehan

### Social Media Coordinators

Erin Calvimontes

### President, BMWCCA

Steve Johnson

### VP, North Atlantic Region

John Sullivan, Jr.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHAPTER EVENTS

**January 16th, 2016** Post-holiday Party at Bobby Rahal in the South Hills

**February 12-15, 2016** Pittsburgh Auto Show

**February 25, 2016** Annual Meeting (location TBD)

**March 10, 2016** Social meeting (location TBD)

### NATIONAL EVENTS

**February 6-7, 2016** Members-Only Two-Day M School at BMW Performance Center

**West -** The first Members Only Two-Day M School of 2016 will take place at BMW's Performance Center at Thermal Club raceway near Palm Springs, California on February 6-7. This \$3,395 (normally \$3,995) course includes not only the ample amenities of the brand-new Thermal Club facility, but also all the amenities one would expect at the renowned Spartanburg, South Carolina Performance Center.

**March 12-13, 2016** Members Only Two-Day M School at the BMW Performance Center in Spartanburg - The second BMW CCA Two-Day M School of 2016 will take

place on March 12-13 at the Performance Center's Spartanburg, South Carolina location. Offered for members at a discount of several hundred dollars, this \$3,395 (normally \$3,995) course includes not only the ample amenities of the Performance Center

To register for either school, please call BMW Registration at (888) 345-4BMW.

You must have a valid BMW CCA membership to participate in this program.

For more information on the BMW Performance Center and their schools, check out [www.bmwusa.com/performancecenter](http://www.bmwusa.com/performancecenter).

## WHAT TO WEAR

### Club Apparel

The Allegheny Chapter has partnered with Log Cabin Embroidery to provide you with a wide selection of club logo apparel.

The Log Cabin Embroi-

dery offers a wide selection of shirts, hats and garments that can be customized with our logo. For detail or order inquiries go to: [stiches@log-cabinembroidery.com](mailto:stiches@log-cabinembroidery.com)

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

# Thank You to Pitt Crew

BY JOHNA SNYDER

This newsletter was not a solo effort and I would like to thank the ROCK stars who assisted: Jeff Taylor, Allen Christian, George Snyder, Lisa Craig, Michael Sanchez, Minuteman Press Downtown, Kate Flavin, Marianne Meehan, George Mitchell, Lori Jackson, Emilio Veneziano, Jonathan and Suzana, Erin Calvimontes, Tom Dressel, Chuck Rice, Brian and Kristin Strohmeier,

Bob and Maxine Weir, Pete and Kathy Stipanovich, Anthony Matuga, Melissa Cunningham, Patti Jennings, Allen Christian, Frank Patek (for keeping me honest!) and finally to those who have placed their ads with us.

Their contribution to the newsletter not only makes it special but allows us to continue to bring you the news in full color. Please consider these ads the next time you are in need of their services.



COVER PHOTO BY JOHNA SNYDER

BMW Car Club  
of America  
Allegheny Chapter



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Gear Up for BMW Events in 2016

### Allegheny Chapter Celebrates Another Great Year of Membership Fun

BY GEORGE SNYDER

Well it is official – 2015 is rapidly coming to a close.

I do believe that my parents were very wise in saying to me when I was in my late teens that the older you get the quicker time goes by and the years seem to go by in an instant. Very smart indeed.

I for one cannot get over how fast 2015 has flown by. It just seems like last month we were celebrating at the Wettach's house for the Post-holiday Party.

The chapter has had a slew of fun events since the last newsletter.

We did everything from conducting the Street Survival at Pitt Race, a big thank you to Greg and Bob and all the volunteers that helped make the event successful and J&D Wine Cellars (both on the same day), kudos to Dee for making this event a staple of the Allegheny chapter. I might add as well the crepes were absolutely delicious to go with the wine.

Jeff and Barbara did it again with the wonderful Grand Fall Tour down to Hocking Hills in Ohio.

The GlenLaurel Inn was in a word - spectacular. So much that, I think the Chapter should do it again. Kate and Rudi did yet another great job with the Fall Leaves Tour and Picnic. I personally was very glad to see the amount of people at the picnic and to see 3 generations of Flavin's at the event. Well done!

Last but definitely not least the 2nd annual Last drive of the year. Glen, you did a terrific job of setting up the drive. The roads were amazing. Thank you!

I know that I have said it before but I am always thankful for the members of the chapter. I love coming out to events and seeing people that I haven't met before and seeing those that I get to see often. I truly appreciate how welcoming and fun loving you all are. It makes me very proud to be a part of the Allegheny Chapter.

So THANK YOU to all of those that have made it out to the events throughout 2015 and to those that work behind the scenes to have the events go off without a hitch.

If you haven't made it out to an event yet, I think you should. Your fellow chapter

## SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JAN. 16  
POST-HOLIDAY  
PARTY



members are fantastic and will make you feel like family.

Speaking of thank yous, I cannot let the Apex go out without thanking Tom Wettach. Tom has been the chapter's treasurer for some time now and has done a great job at what is a thankless job. Tom, I haven't had the chance to work with you for a long time but I certainly have appreciated you and the work that you do for the chapter. You will be missed on the board.

As you know we have formed a social committee for the Chapter. Thank you to those who have volunteered to be on the committee and a special thank you goes out to the newly appointed Social Committee chairperson, Allen Christian. Allen and the committee have already been hard at work gathering ideas. I am sure that you saw the survey that they sent

out. Stay tuned for some exciting new events from the social committee.

Something to keep in mind is the Chapter's Post Holiday party. We will be having the party on Saturday January 16th. It will be held at Bobby Rahal BMW. More details about the party will be coming so please keep a look out.

One more thing, keep your eye on the website. Emilio has some interesting ideas for it, so make sure you check it out in December.

I have truly enjoyed 2015 and I am looking forward to seeing what 2016 has in store for the Allegheny Chapter. It has been great meeting all the members at each event and talking with you all. I want to say thank you to the entire Allegheny Chapter, you all are the reason why this chapter is successful and fun to be involved with. Hats off to you all.

Even though the weather is turning colder and the snow will be here before we know it or want it to be, let's keep our fingers crossed for a couple more sunny afternoons where we can take out our cars and drive!

Even though the weather is turning colder, let's keep our fingers crossed for a couple of sunny afternoons so we can take out our cars and drive!

**The Allegheny Chapter in Western Pennsylvania has about 900 members. It is one of 67 chapters nationwide and is here to provide you with the opportunity to enjoy your BMW with other like-minded individuals. The Chapter is enthusiastic about BMW cars, vintage or current, including the MINI.**



# Tradition Drives Fall Tour

## Chapters Meet Up for 3 Decades

BY KATE (Chair of Rudi's FLT&P Committee)

Excitement was in the air as we joined the BMWs gathering at Great Southern Shopping Center in Bridgeville on Saturday morn, October 17, 2015.

The blustery, cold wind and grey overcast sky that made me wish for winter gear, but I was anticipating warmer weather. After all, we were heading due south, our destination Watters Smith State Park, traditional venue of our annual T & P, "THE PICNIC" in West Virginia.

We were 15 cars strong and realized that just may be too many Bimmers to maintain as an organized caravan. Too much of a good thing (all those beautiful cars) and tedious, what with all the passing and trying to stay together, so we formed two wings, 7 and 8 cars. Bill Permar was lead car for the first group and Mike Meehan, in Marianne's cute red 325 convertible, was lead car of the second group. Rudi's

little olde black 325 ix (Black Magic Woman) was clean-up car, catering to stragglers, join-en-routers, breakdowns and whatever.

The drive was smooth and fast, although a few more of those twisty, two-lane West Virginia country roads would have been appreciated. Upon arrival at the Park, the leaves were a canopy of crimson and scorching yellows and deep burgundy that enveloped us with a peaceful calm and an invitation to stretch our legs and enjoy a gorgeous fall day. The Lodge had a welcoming fire blazing against the chill. Maybe it was the brisk weather or that it was lunch time and we were hungry or simply because the dessert table was first to be set up that, in no time, a crowd was engaged in sweets and animated conversation. Appetizers were quickly put out and the barbecue was soon sizzling on the stove.

Folks were chatty and checking out the scenery and

Fall Leaves Tour and Picnic was the first event the Allegheny Chapter was invited to. It has been going ever since - 33 years and counting.

picnic area, while with no little haste the 'chef' readied the succulent pulled pork and hot sides and salads, and did we get right to it! As always, there was more than plenty. We are thankful for the bounteous sharing of friends and good food. Wise beyond his tenure, our President regaled us with the shortest welcome speech ever. George Snyder then gave a splendid introduction to Rudi and Dave Chenoweth (from Mt. State), two of the original, thirty-three straight years', Picnickers!

Funny, but our initial encounter with Dave was us (Rudi & I) cruising on I 79 in our '83 733i five speed toward our very first West Virginia picnic. In fact it was our first ever BMW (no space)CCA event ever. We passed a powder blue 3 Series

BMW. Turns out it was Dave and though he was going about 90 mph, we just flew by him. Naturally, Dave had to pass us, and the game was afoot. Yes, they played a bit, but it was all in fun. When our cars met up at the parking lot of the picnic grove in Watters Smith State Park, "I knew you must be going here", a friendship was forged that has lasted these 33 years. All because we share the 'Freude am Fahren, driving the ultimate Marke,' i.e. BMW.'

That about sums up the picnic: friends, food and cars. Our granddaughter was there with her little Bimmer, we rejoined lots of familiar faces and met a few new ones. Several doggies, a 'photo-drone', the mass gathering for our traditional group photo (which



would be a great FULL PAGE PICTURE above October of our club 2016 Calendar), folks exploring the 'model-farm' park, taking kids on walkabouts of grounds, sliding boards and swings, throwing pebbles in the pond and courtesy of Marianne, games and prizes, all and everything made for a fun afternoon. Clean-up was a breeze, because everyone helps, and a special thanks to Johna for washing the pots (my least favorite thing of the entire picnic).

We hope to continue the legacy of the 'FEAST & CELEBRATION of THE WURST'



and the continued joint event which Allegheny Chapter has shared with Mt. State for the last 33 years. We (the Committee), encourage y'all to give it a

try next year. If you remember from our last Newsletter (and who doesn't read "The Allegheny Apex" now???), as Lou Ann Shirk said "Allegheny Chap-

ter Knows How To Throw A Party" and, of course, we know what a PICNIC should be.

Thanks to all, and love to all.

## Members Welcome New Faces at Picnic

### Couple Enjoys First Outing with Group on October Trip to West Virginia



BY JONATHAN AND SUZANA

*The quality is remembered long after the price is forgotten*  
— Henry Royce

Owning a BMW had been a dream of mine since I first laid my eyes on an E38 when I was a child. Back then I didn't know what a BMW was or

what it meant to have one or drive one, but I knew BMW had to be it for me. I can't tell you how many thousands of times I have been on bmwusa site to build each car to my liking just for fun.

My dream came true on 11/28/2014 when we took delivery of our dark graphite 535.

We have been blessed ever since and we know that we will always have a BMW in our family.

We have been members of the BMW club for some time now, and The Fall and Leaves Tour was our first event we were able to join. It was a bit intimidating at first because we did not know what to expect or how we would be received. We were not disappointed! We received a very warm welcome from the minute we got out of the car. Everyone came over to meet us and they seemed to be genuinely excited to have us join them for a ride. We were very impressed with everyone wanting to learn more about us and why we were actually there. It was so nice to be surrounded with people that have the same passion for cars that we do. It did not matter how old or new your car is or how old or young you are. What mattered is the unified feeling of why we were there and what we all have in common. Passion for

the ultimate driving machine! Jonathan was so excited to be able to have educated conversations with people about the cars outside of just how nice BMW vehicles look and how much we paid. Over the last few months, we have been in the market for a new car. We have looked at Benz, Audi, Volvo and none of them come even close to what we are looking for. We agreed that we are spoiled by our 5 and we just have no interest in anything else. It has been an ongoing dilemma for us because we kept discussing owning two BMW's and how we would feel about that, but after meeting all of you, we realized that there is nothing wrong with having two of the best cars that we could possibly ask for. The reality of it is that there is nothing better out there and everyone in the club made us realize this.

Therefore, we want to thank everyone for the warm welcome we received and for sharing your passion with us.

It did not matter how old or new your car is or how old or young you are.

## OVERNIGHT TOUR

# Hocking Hills Hold Adventure

Visitors Believe Scottish-Inspired Luxury Inn is Magical Escape in Ohio

Scotland has been handing down its traditions since the earliest days of the clans in the 12th century. The traditions that are handed down from generation to generation are living breathing things that grow and evolve as the time passes. When you visit GlenLaurel, the traditions are their own and they are strong.

The Inn's hospitality and attention to details ensured that our time spent there was magical. We were transported to another time when you are called to dinner by bagpipes and the innkeeper would recite a verse of poetry as a blessing before the meal. Nine clans made the journey to this mystical place, here are a few of their tales.



### **VENEZANIO-DOUGLAS CLAN (Emilio & Francesca)**

When we set off for our trip to Hocking Hills and the GlenLaurel Scottish Inn, we had no idea



what to expect. Upon arriving at the Inn, we were amazed at how quaint and beautiful it all was, from the individual cottages to the 150 untouched acres that surrounded the property, everything was breath taking. From the moment we arrived, to the moment we checked out, we experienced nothing but exceptional hospitality that exceeded our expectations from every employee; you could tell that they truly cared about your stay. This is one place that focuses on your experience as a couple and they make it easy to capture the moment and escape the stressors of everyday life. The inside of our suite was beautifully done and not a speck of dust was found.

One part of our trip that was out of our element was the

Scottish inspired menu for the six course prix fixe gourmet meal that was planned for the day of our arrival. As soon as we took our first bites of the first course, we knew we would not be disappointed with all of the amazing courses that the chef had in store for us. The food was absolutely amazing in every aspect. The breakfasts to follow the next two mornings were just as amazing from the homemade cranberry scones, to the porridge.

The Inn was everything we could have wanted to make our visit a memorable stay.

The simplicity left us with our minds rejuvenated.

Besides the amazing experience that we had at the GlenLaurel Inn, the drive on the Car & Driver loop was an amazing experience. Due to the rainy weather, our first time around the loop was not as exhilarating. Once the rain cleared we completely understood why Car & Driver named it as one of its favorite roads on the East Coast. We are definitely interested in any future events that could take place in Hocking Hills and the GlenLaurel Inn.

Drivers explore 13.9-mile Car and Driver Loop, named one of the five best roads in America.



## **TAYLOR-DRUMMOND CLAN (Jeff and Barbara)**

For me it all started 3 years ago, when I was sitting in a dentist office waiting room. There I was skimming through an old copy of Car and Driver Magazine, when I noticed an article on the new Aston Martin Vanquish.

Normally I only look at the pictures, but what caught my eye was a drawing of a route called the Car and Driver Loop.

The best part was that the Car and Driver Loop was within a 4 hour drive around a place called Hocking Hills. Now my interest was piqued.

So I did what most car guys who like to explore new roads would do, I ripped the page out of the magazine and stuffed it into my pocket.

When I got home I pinned the article on my bulletin board in my office and for the next three years, my beautiful wife, Barbara put up with me talking about planning a trip to find the Car and Driver Loop.

So for three years all I heard about the Car and Driver Loop. As the months got closer, I looked up Hocking Hills area and knew it was going to be a beautiful ride and stay!

Too bad the weather didn't cooperate. The conditions were absolutely wet and cold, but the destination, cocktails, dinner, and breakfast was warm and delicious. I could not think of a better week end away and with a FUN group of riders that I call friends! Let's do it again!!! [I hope it was good for you too, Jeff!]

FYI: On Sunday Jeff, George, and Emilio took an early morning spirited drive on the sunny, dry roads and wore some rubber off their tires!



## **STROHMEIER-MACKENZIE CLAN (Brian and Kristin)**

When we first saw the description of the Allegheny Chapter BMWCCA Hocking Hills Grand Tour road trip advertised in the Club Newsletter, we knew this was an event made for us. A weekend away from home with fine dining and first rate accommodations at the Glen Laurel Inn to keep Kristin happy, combined with a long spirited drive from Pittsburgh to Hocking Hill in the company of many fine BMW cars to keep Brian happy. Having an opportunity to drive the famous 13.9 mile Car and Driver Loop on Saturday was added icing on the cake. We have been members of the Allegheny Chapter since 2010. Although Brian has attended a few Club Autocross events over the past year, this was our first social event with the Club as a couple. We should have started attending much sooner! I don't know what took us so long! We have several favorite memories from the trip. First and foremost was the tremendous camaraderie and friendship that was extended to us newcomers. When we arrived at the meeting point for the trip,



essentially everyone else in attendance took the time to come over and introduce themselves to us and welcome us to the event. That friendship was extended throughout the weekend. We immediately felt at home in the Club - friendly, fun people and great cars! Our second favorite memory was the wonderful MacKenzie Room at the Glen Laurel Inn and the 5-star food we enjoyed all weekend. Lastly was the great spirited drives. Our 2015 BMW X1 xDrive35i had no trouble keeping up with the various M-cars and other outstanding BMW coupes and sedans in attendance. Although more than once, Kristin was screaming at me to "Slow down!" through the corners!

## **WEIR-MACBETH CLAN (Bob and Maxine)**

Our croft was lovely, warm & welcoming. It was a nice drive with friends. We thoroughly enjoyed everyone's company and hospitality. We re-kindled friendships and began new ones. The ambiance of Hocking Hills is unforgettable. The drives were spirited and fun and the company and cocktails a real treat!

The folks of this chapter are not only fun, but caring and sincere which proved to be true when we experienced our tire blowout on the way home. The care, concern and companionship was like none other. Everyone stayed with us until they were sure we had a tow and a plan.



We absolutely love participating in these chapter events and always look forward to the next one. Thanks to everyone there, it was AWESOME!!

### **STIPANOVICH-CAMPBELL CLAN (Pete and Kathy)**

What if there was a magical place where one could escape to experience tranquility, camaraderie and adventure. All this and more we found at GlenLaurel in the Hocking Hills of Ohio.

We were both welcomed and warmed by the ambience of the Scottish country inn and fireplace in our room. A spectacular view outside our window afforded us the luxury of daydreams.

The gourmet dinner and breakfast at the inn was superb (must experiences) as was the attentiveness of the staff. From hiking the private paths to exploring the state park and, of course, driving the Car and Driver Loop adventure awaited us at every turn. Sharing these experiences with club members made the trip that much more enjoyable.

Though we arrived as strangers, the hospitality enjoyed by us felt as though we left as friends. Though we must depart, we leave with lighter hearts. Till we meet again!



### **MITCHELL-MACDOUGAL CLAN (George and Jan)**

*"Live Fast - Die Young - Leave a Beautiful Corpse"* (Good Advice As I Get Older)

After a rough year with health issues and having to cancel the Bedford trip, Shark Fest, the Vintage, and the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, Jan and I headed to Hocking Hills, Ohio.

We packed canes, walking sticks, and crutches determined to be there. Batten down the hatches and damn the high water.

On making the reservation I requested a handicap access room and was told the MacDougal Croft was the only one. It was cute and worked out for us.

Initial challenge came at dinner as we went to the front

door of the dining building and we were informed that the BMW group would be dining downstairs - the staff showed us a 15 step steep staircase that Jan and I could not navigate. The staff offered to escort us around the outside on a leaf covered slippery concrete path then through the kitchen. We carefully maneuvered down and were glad we did because the gourmet meal was excellent. This was our path for all meals and I must say the staff and the Innkeeper did all they could to make sure Jan and I had a pleasant experience, and we did. With no television our motto became "Be frugal in MacDougal."

### **SNYDER-MACLEOD CLAN (George and Johna)**

When the clans gathered to make the journey to this far-away place, no one could have imagined what was in store for us. The moment that you turned onto the drive, you were transported. The wooded surroundings in colors of orange, red and gold coupled with no internet, limited cell service was the perfect recipe for truly escaping. The warmth of the innkeeper and the staff plus the smiles and the laughter from all the clans made this a time to remember. If you ask us what we remember most, a thousand images fly through our minds faster than taking the turns on the Car and Driver Loop (still making me smile). We have participated in overnight drives before but this ...by far, has been the most memorable. Friday evening, the clans gathered all dressed in their finest for a few drinks and a meal that was truly spectacular. Saturday was spent driving the Loop after breakfast and back to the MacLeod property for libations and laughter. Saturday evening while gather-







ing in the main parking area to caravan to a local BBQ joint for dinner, we watched a man walk straight out of the mist and the rain to stand solo on the hill. With a kilt around his waist and bagpipes around his shoulder, he played and called the other guests to dinner. A tradition taken seriously.

Sunday morning began early for the MacLeod's. Waking to the sounds of GlenLaurel and the room lit by only the fireplace blazing in the corner of our room, we stepped outside to take a hot bath (hot tub) while watching the sun rise over the tops of the trees. It was not long until the Chief of our Clan left to battle the Loop once again before sitting down to the table for breakfast and

the journey home. As with every event we participate in - it is more than just the cars that keeps us coming back - it is the people in the club that we call family.

As we close on this journey and the end of an amazing year, it seems appropriate to leave you with a few words from a famous Scottish poet Robert Burns: Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne? For auld lang syne, my jo, for auld lang syne, we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne. And surely ye'll be your pint-stoup! and surely I'll be mine! And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.

## 25 Cars Hit Road for 2015 Last Drive

BY ERIC CALVIMONTES

We could not have asked for a better day for the 2nd Annual Last Drive! As drivers arrived into the Eat'n'Park parking lot, it was a crisp overcast morning. It's always a site to see the rows of rondels in perfect lines waiting to get on the road. We were a team of 47 members and 25 cars!

After brief instructions we were placed in two groups and then the announcement was made "Drivers Start Your Engines!" We all headed to our cars, started them up, and filed out of the lot one by one with anticipation of the course ahead of us created by Glen Beattie destination Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort.

The course did not disappoint! It had everything from straight a ways to the car loving winding back roads! I swear I

heard my car squeal with excitement! We went through valleys, what seemed to be a ghost town, and drove through the majestic scenery of the Laurel Highlands!

Once we arrived at Nemaocolin, we entered into a parking garage that had all our spaces reserved for the BMW club. We all took a short walk to the Tavern where we had several tables set for our group to enjoy each other's company, have a wonderful lunch, and talk about the drive and our cars.

After lunch wrapped up everyone went their separate ways to explore the grounds of Nemaocolin. We had our choice to go to the casino, some could have gone to the adventure center, or even the spa. Several of us to a leisurely walk through the buildings and explored the large art col-



lections throughout. Everything from Tiffany Room full of lamps, Norman Rockwell's, and even an Alexander Calder piece, he also created a BMW Art Car!

It was wonderful to see so many new faces and seasoned

members all together for the afternoon. The Spring Drive can't come soon enough!

As a side note - Allegheny Chapter to the Rescue

Further proof that no man is left behind even if not driving a BMW!



## AUTOCROSS

# Contests Close at Series Sessions

17 Members  
Compete in  
6 Classes

BY JEFF TAYLOR

Our PITT Race/Allegheny Chapter Autocross series season ended on a windy cloudy temperate October day at the Pittsburgh International Race Complex. Unfortunately, only a handful of chapter members attended the season finally but throughout the season we averaged over ten cars per session. Overall, seventeen members competed in 6 different classes throughout the season. First time participants included Pat Manning (E46 M3), Allen Juneau (E90 M3), Rich Lambert (E46 325i), Mike Conrad (E85 Z4) and New Castle Amy (E92 335i).

Classes are basically determined by the age, model and if your vehicle has any modifications. The class 2 Showroom had the most participation



with a M5, 335is, 335i, 435i, 135i and a Z4. Each session was hotly contested all season with only tenths of a second differences but, Driving Event Chair Jeff Taylor (E82 135i) dominated in four of 5 session attended, taking fourteen

out of a possible fifteen points. Second place went to Romain Condezza in his E60 M5.

There were hopes for a second contested class in the Modified Class but due to other commitments members Jeff and Jesse Taylor couldn't make the finally with their 1976 2002. That was unfortunate for Chris Williams who was leading the class in his highly modified 1973 2002.

Our chapters second year of autocross bore mixed results. We had five less members sign up for the complete season series but more individuals showed up for one of the sessions. After reaching out to some of last year's participants, a few explained that they could not attend on weekends due to other commitments also others could not commit to the series but would attend ala

carte, picking and choosing when they would attend. Everyone agreed the reduced cost was an incentive for them to participate but that the schedule was the true determining factor. PITT Race contributed \$60 per Chapter Member and your Chapter contributed \$24 reducing the cost to only \$156.

New Driving Event Chairman Chris Williams states that PITT Race is recommitting to our partnership for the 2016 season. If we have weekend sessions we are exploring changing the start times to 9:00 am. We are also discussing the option of interjecting some evening sessions on the weekday. (Please give us your feedback.) On behalf of the Chapter, we thank Chris Williams, Jesse Taylor and Eric Docherty for volunteering with cone chasing and timing and scoring.





## STREET SURVIVAL

# Student Drivers Take Wheel



## Volunteer Instructor Teaches Car Control at Teen Safety Program

BY MELISSA CUNNINGHAM

I normally never ride from the right hand side of any vehicle. For those in the chapter that know me, I am normally on the left hand side behind the wheel piloting my MINI Cooper around autocross courses or tracks. However, I do volunteer to be in that right hand seat for a great cause named Street Survival. As a volunteer, I get paid in "thank you" and smiles from the students and their respective family members.

On Sunday, September 13, 2015 the Allegheny Chapter hosted its second Street Survival event. The day was blustery and had periods of rain. The weather did provide extra learning experiences for the students. For a little background, Street Survival was created back in April 2002 by the BMW Car Club of America Foundation.

The first schools around the country took place in 2003. Cost of the school is \$75 per student. I know from being an instructor both years that our chapter has hosted a Street Survival event there was a wait list for the students. So be sure and register early for next year. For additional information check out: [streetsurvival.org](http://streetsurvival.org).

I cannot begin to describe how rewarding this Street Survival course is for students and parents. I am happy to raise my hand and volunteer every year for this event. I truly believe there is no substitute for seat time and having that hands on learning for how a car handles under specific circumstances.

The exercises that the students repeat are real world experiences that they could face in their daily driving routine. An emergency lane change from an object falling off of a truck in front of you. An unexpected skid induced from black ice that they may not have seen. In this controlled environment we help them experience those feelings of skids and weight shift to assure that when it does happen in real life basic muscle memory can take over.

It's amazing to watch how the students learn faster response skills and car control even from the morning session to the afternoon session.

I must admit that having a student with a new car enhanced with modern technology does change the instructing game a bit. I had one student with a new German make other than BMW machine.

The technology included seat belts that pulled tight as we completed the circles around the skid pad. I thought at first the car was possessed. At this point witnessing technology at work I felt dated.

Gone were the days of "power brakes," one switch to shut off traction control, an actual emergency brake handle, and manually yanking on the seat belt to lock it in place.

Actually getting the car to skid and overcome any nanny computer devices was a bit challenges. I guess yaw sensors are quite smart. The menu of screens to change the



### STUDENT PROFILE



**ANTHONY MATUGA, 17**

**What did you bring to drive?** Silver VW Jetta

**Who was your instructor?** Rick

**What was the hardest part of the course?**

Turning while using ABS

**What was your favorite part of the course?**

Skidding

**Do you feel that this helped you be a more prepared driver?** Yes, definitely. I now know of some different techniques I can use to safely get myself out of dangerous situations.

**Would you do it again?**

Yes, I really enjoyed the course and learned some valuable techniques.

**Will you tell your friends about it?** Definitely, not

only can my friends learn a lot from the course but they can also get a discount on their car insurance too. I know that makes parents happy.

**If you are dreaming big, what kind of car would be driving?** I love the

Mercedes Benz vehicles so that would definitely be my dream car.

**Any additional words of thanks you would like to add?** The staff was really

cool with all of the students and I'd like to thank my instructor Rick. I'd also like to thank George and his team for organizing this fun event.

**CONTINUED ON 19**



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# Ticket Winner Takes Driver's Seat

Event Raffle Fuels Exciting Experience at BMW Performance Center

BY EMILIO VENEZIANO

There are no words to describe how excited I was when I first won the raffle at the PVGP for the 2 Day M School. In fact, I was told I was emotionless at first, that was probably because I was so excited and shocked that I could not even understand what just happened. It was not until the confirmation call from the BMW Performance Center and the drive down that made me realize what was about to take place.

The only part of the entire M School experience that is not covered by the initial cost, is the transportation down to the Performance Center. Once you arrive at the host hotel, everything is taken care of by BMW. I had arrived the day before the school began and had a wonderful dinner, compliments of the BMW Performance Center. Then shortly after check-in, I was greeted at my door by a welcome package from BMW. This included a polo shirt and a jacket branded with the M colors and the BMW Performance School logo.

The following morning, I met the rest of my class, a total of 16 people, at a Performance School only breakfast in the hotel's restaurant. Once we were all finished eating breakfast, we were taken to the Performance Center via a shuttle.

At this point, the excitement kicked into overdrive and I could not wait to see what was in store for the next two days.

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and a new helmet custom painted in M colors.

**Total value: \$3,300!**

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Winners need not be present to win.



As soon as we approached the Performance Center, all you could see was BMWs for days. The Center's fleet consists of 120 M cars and another 100 SAVs and regular 2, 3, and 5 series BMWs. After walking into the building, we were greeted by our head instructor, Clint Kimel, along with a BMW/M themed interior.

We entered a classroom where we heard introductions from all of the instructors and found out what the day had in store for us. We also went over some driving tips and techniques including proper seat positioning, how to turn into an apex properly, etc. After about the 20 minutes of classroom time, we were instructed to go outside and get into our assigned car.

We were broken up into 3 groups and each started with a specific car assigned to certain exercises. My group began the day in the M5 where we practiced a mini autocross/slalom course. The best part of this class is that each person has their own car and are in the driver's seat the entire time. After our group finished the autocross course in the M5, our next exercise was drifting the skid pad in the M3, and

then we learned and practiced another portion of the course in the M4. After our first rotation through the exercises, we then went inside for lunch and a chance to purchase items from the gift shop. Each person was assigned a number which corresponded to a car, this was so the instructors could easily keep track of who was in what car during the exercises.

After lunch was over, we returned to the black top to continue exercises and partake in one of the most thrilling events of the day. A Rat Race on a wet skip pad, with traction and stability control completely off. The object of the race, whoever got closer to the other at the end of 8 laps won the race.

At first, my group was taking things seriously trying to catch the other. By the time our second opportunity to run the course came up, everybody was drifting each and every corner. And the best part was, the instructors encouraged it and complimented us on how well we could drift. At the conclusion of day one, we were given the advice from our instructors to go back to our room and rest because we had barely scratched the sur-

face. We were told that day 2 was more technical and a little more demanding.

Day 2 of M School was AMAZING! My group began the day with performing practice and timed runs, on the same skip pad and circumstances as day 1, but on a Figure 8 track versus an oval. After our group finished with the Figure 8s, it was time to put everything that we had learned together and to the test. The remainder of the day was spent running the full track in both the M3 and the M5. We ran about 20-30 laps in each car and was one of the most exhilarating experiences! For my specific group, I went from the M3 to the M5 and wow could you feel the extra torque and horsepower that the M5 threw down.

The BMW Performance Center 2 Day M School is something that any BMW enthusiast should experience at least once in their lifetime. You do not even need to be a BMW owner to appreciate these amazing vehicles and the excitement of the program. Half of the people in my class did not even own a BMW, but by the time the weekend was over, they were highly considering picking one up for their next purchase.





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# Pros Share Tips for Repairs, Dents

## Group Visits Alloy Wheel Repair and Metal Menders for Demo

BY AL APEX

On a pleasant September Saturday, Mike Feeney of Alloy Wheel Repair of Pittsburgh and Greg Olszewski and his partner Dan Adamik of Metal Menders hosted an informative tech session on the various techniques of alloy wheel repair and paintless dent removal. Mike's wife from Alloy Wheel Repair decorated tents and tables and presented a nice spread throughout the day, offering donuts to hot-dogs. This was the second year for this event and Mike, Dan and Greg have already committed to a third year.

The owner of Alloy Wheel repair of Pittsburgh, Mike Feeney explained his business. His primary customers are various dealerships throughout western Pennsylvania, where he contracts his repairs on the wheels of new cars that had mishaps and the abused wheels of trade-ins. Mike showed examples of the various repair techniques his Team uses to refurbish dented,

scrapped and cracked wheels. Everyone was amazed with the results, not only could you not tell where the damage was often they looked better than original. Mike stressed that his techniques restore the wheels but that they are not new. New wheels can cost an individual three to four times the cost of his repairs. For those wanting an economical wheel solution Alloy Wheel repair is a great alternative. Some of those members who came to the tech session took advantage to schedule their wheel repair over the winter. If you are ever in need of wheel repair just call Mike at 412-992-7710.

A new service Alloy Wheel Repair has added to their arsenal is powder coating. Mike explained that Powder coating is a type of painting that is applied as a dry powder. The main difference between a conventional liquid paint and a powder coating is that the powder coating does not require a solvent to keep the binder and filler parts



in a liquid suspension form. The powder coating is applied electrostatically and is then cured under heat to allow it to flow and form a "skin". It is usually used to create a hard finish that is tougher than conventional paint. Besides making your wheels like new you can change the original color to one of your personal tastes. The skies the limit with how your wheels can be colored.

Greg and Dan of Metal Menders demonstrated their techniques of dent repair. With work vehicles full of numerous tools of the trade they set out to show us how they manipulate the dent from behind and massage the metal until it was no longer visible. It was impressive the way they could work their tools through a molding into a crevasse, through a small hole and reach the dent. Then like a contortionist they would push, pull and turn their instrument of trade until a smooth surface was achieved. Often they can repair a dig or dent in less than thirty minutes. Some areas they have to remove interior trim but there is

almost no area they can't repair.

Many members took advantage of Greg and Dan's services on the spot and had their beloved vehicles repaired on the spot. I am happy to say that the ding behind my driver's door that looked like a blemish in the middle of a forehead is finally gone.

Like Alloy Wheel Repair, Greg and Dan rely on contracted work through dealerships. They have several vehicles that work throughout the area servicing many of our favorite dealerships. Throughout these areas they will also go to residential customers and make their repairs in an individual's own driveway. If you are ever interested in their services just call Greg at 412-580-0361 or Dan at 412-580-8625 to schedule an appointment. Make sure to let them know you are a member of the Allegheny Chapter and receive a discount for their services.

Plans are underway for next year's Tech session with other vendors offering to join us. So watch for details.







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# Racers Take Course at O'fest

46th Annual BMW Car Club of America Oktoberfest Held in New Jersey

BY MELISSA CUNNINGHAM

The sounds of the waves crashed against the sand. The seagulls scooted across the warm sand. I would love to know why the sounds of the ocean are so calming.

The lights were so bright at night. A glow from the signs backlit the night sky. It was almost as if the lights were tempting you to come closer and investigate the opulent casino and all its riches and spoils.

Few times during Oktoberfest do I ever personally do non performance driving during the week. Between the autocross and the track time it's hard to squeeze in much else. It was so nice to be able to go to Cape May and see the ocean and feel sand between your toes. I have never been to Atlantic City before until Oktoberfest. I cannot begin to describe how much more vast my travel experiences increase with every Oktoberfest trip that I make.

The host hotel this year was the Stockton Seaview Hotel. It definitely was steeped in history and character. The view of the ocean from the hotel reminded this land locked Pennsylvanian that she was on vacation.

The concourse event was held on the front lawn of the hotel. While my car was display entry only, I took pride that it was in the minority of MINI Coopers there. I love the con-



course to see the pride that folks take especially with cars that are not new. The cleanliness and attention to detail is remarkable. I could never be so dedicated to enter in a judged class.

One day of autocross is reserved for M cars only and the second day is all non M cars. The autocross was held at location

that the concrete and asphalt was so expansive. Even in a MINI I flirted with needing third gear. I must admit I would have needed a few more times walking the course or even drawing it out to be able to remember all of the twists and turns. The course was a nice mix of technical components and power sections.

I heard that there was a roaring twenties themed party one night at Oktoberfest. Please understand I know these parties are popular and some members'

favorite part of Oktoberfest. I just go for the driving events. I did appreciate all of the detail in folks attire and there reveling in the gala of the party. These events show that there truly is something for everyone at Oktoberfest.

I was fortunate enough that my track time covered both tracks offered by New Jersey Motorsports Park. Even though it was one day at Thunderbolt and one day at Lightning it was enough to understand the track layout and improve during each session. I will say it's the one time at the track that Lightning and Thunderbolts are ok. Also, I was fortunate to not have any mechanical problems while at the track. The courses are small enough to be challenging and easy to remember which turn or section is coming up next. If you are close to the race track there I recommend going. The track and facilities are very nice.

Oktoberfest is one amazing celebration of the ultimate driving machine that spans a week. From the concourse to a more brisk charity lap in a vintage BMW race car, Oktoberfest should be on your bucket list of car events every year.

Next year the adventure continues to Laguna Seca in Monterey, California. It's a bigger event next year since it is the 100th anniversary of BMW. You combine special festivities in the warm California sun and a legendary race track like Laguna Seca you definitely have a once in a lifetime trip. See you next year on the West Coast!

Thunderbolts and Lightning  
Can Be Good While on Vacation.

# Chapter Announces Social Committee

## Board Members Vote to Appoint Allen Christian as Chair

With each new year comes new ideas, new adventures and new experiences, that soon become fond memories and great friendships.

As you are all aware, over the past several months the Board of Directors has asked for volunteers to form a Social Committee for the Allegheny Chapter.

The group of Volunteers; Eileen Graham, Chuck Rice, Emilio Veneziano, Bruce Gezon and Allen Christian, conducted their first organizational meeting and brainstorming ses-

sion on September 10th, 2015. A Board Member vote at the October 15th, 2015 Board Meeting appointed Allen Christian as committee Chair.

With a list of potential activities compiled for 2016, a Survey was sent to membership on November 2nd, 2015 to obtain feedback, interest and any additional suggestions for activities in the coming year. Data collected from the survey will be utilized to determine events for the coming year in addition to the traditional annual events.

As events are determined and posted to the website, we welcome and encourage members to host an event or become involved in the planning and execution of an event that may be of special interest to you.

The Social Committee is looking forward to new adventures and experiences through event participation with current Allegheny Chapter members and new members in the months ahead.

Plans for the Holiday Party are in progress and will be

made available to you on the webpage soon.

Your comments and feedback are welcomed by contacting Allen Christian at [chapter-socialcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:chapter-socialcommittee@gmail.com) or Emilio Veneziano at [webmaster.alleghenybmw@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.alleghenybmw@gmail.com).

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## STREET SURVIVAL

### CONTINUED FROM 11

car dynamics were mind boggling. Alright, alright. I suppose that's enough of my rant to bygone days.

The progression of the students and their comfort knowing the response to save themselves makes the day worthwhile. Getting a quiet, introverted student to laugh and be personal is an amazing thing. To explain a concept of understeer in a different way and seeing the light bulb of acknowledgement and understanding is greatly rewarding.

This event cannot be put on without some serious work. Thanks to Greg Calvimontes for everything that you do to make this

event happen. Thanks to Bob Briggs to make the schedule of the day flow in a timely manner. Thanks to Jeff Taylor and Chris Williams for the help in setting up the facility the day before the event in the rain. And last but certainly not least thanks to every one of the volunteers, staff, and fellow instructors.

We certainly have fun that day at Pitt Race. The bigger result may be the time that one student, just one, has the skills needed to avoid a deadly situation. We may never know if that happens or not, but the thought of helping someone in that paramount moment is the best reward of all.



## J&D Wine Cellars Hosts Chapter in Eighty Four

BY PATTI JENNINGS

On Sunday September 13th we enjoyed another chapter favorite, wine tasting at J&D Wine Cellars in Eighty Four, PA. A number of members and a few new members took the opportunity to relax and learn more about John and Dot's winery while tasting a variety of their reds and whites.

We enjoyed a delicious

lunch that included andouille sausage sandwiches and a variety of yummy crepes while listening to some great live music.

Marianne introduced our new members and awarded gifts to them and the winners of our word search game. It was a wonderful early fall day, slightly overcast and cooler but spirits warmed by visiting with new and old friends once again.





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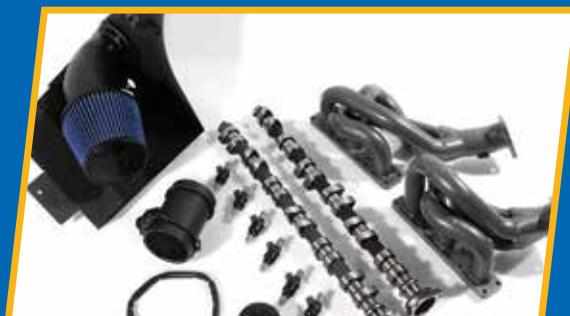
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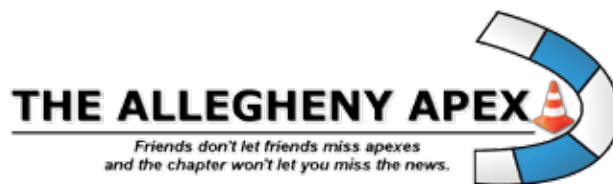
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## MEMBER UPDATES

### New Memberships

The Allegheny Chapter  
Welcomes New Members

#### August 2015

Wilson Smith - Ontario  
Bruce Gelman - Pittsburgh  
Curtis Huffman - Mars  
Aleksandar Kasagic - Toronto  
Sahib Sirdhar - British Columbia  
Adam Ouellette - Ontario  
Robert Kand - Mars  
Nicolas Theodorou - Quebec  
Erik Moore - Pittsburgh

#### September 2015

Robert Lambert - Indiana  
Nikola Hrgic - Pittsburgh  
Theodore Mitchell - West Mifflin

#### September 2015

Jason Rahardja - Indonesia  
Amy Jo Labi-Carando - New Castle  
Brian Earley Jr. - Washington  
Shawn Najowicz - Washington  
Travis Wellner - Pittsburgh  
Edward Modaro - Pittsburgh

#### October 2015

Thomas Junker - Pittsburgh  
John Blich - Fairview  
James Garr - Penn Hills  
Shane Suehr - Crescent  
Alex Zanon - Pittsburgh  
Mike Leasure - McDonald



### Milestones

Congrats to Members Celebrating  
Milestones this Quarter

#### 25 Years

Jonathon Gleason  
James Mermigas

#### 20 Years

Aleem Gangjee  
James Bernier



#### 15 Years

Hugh Docherty  
Anthony Sciuolo  
Richard Martin

Terry Shaffer  
James Wojcicki  
Walter Mahoney

#### 10 Years

Michael Simmons  
Ray Pannier  
Herb Snyder  
Raymond Pontzer  
Bill Nauman  
Allen Hartman  
Paul Frank



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your addresses are current.

You can update your information at [www.bmwcca.org](http://www.bmwcca.org) and login to your account. If you have never done this, there are easy instructions to create a username and password.

In addition to managing your account, the site has recently remodeled The Garage, where you can add your vehicles.



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