

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 County Chapter Newsletter • Fall 2015



**2015 Pittsburgh
Vintage Grand Prix**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAPTER EVENTS

September 12, 2015
PITT Race/Allegheny Chapter Autocross at Pittsburgh International Race Complex in Wampum, Pa.

September 13, 2015
Street Survival – 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Pittsburgh International Race Complex. Read more here. Register at motorsportreg.com

September 13, 2015
Social Meeting and wine tasting at J&D Winery in Eighty Four, Pa.

September 19, 2015
Allegheny Chapter is hosting a tech session on alloy wheel repair and body dent removal at Alloy Wheel Repair in Carnegie, PA from 9am-3pm.

October 2-4, 2015
Overnight Fall Tour – Hocking Hills, Ohio.

October 8, 2015
Business Meeting to discuss 2016 events – Spaghetti & Steakhouse.

October 10, 2015
PITT Race/Allegheny Chapter Autocross at Pittsburgh International Race Complex in Wampum, Pa.

October 17, 2015
Fall Leaves Tour and Picnic at Watters Smith State Park, West Virginia

November 7, 2015
Second Annual Last Drive

December 10, 2015
2016 wall calendar debut at Azul Bar y Cantina in Leetsdale

NATIONAL EVENTS

September 21-26, 2015
O'fest – Millville, N.J. – Each year the BMW Car Club of America throws a party—a world famous party known as Oktoberfest and sometimes simply O'fest. This movable celebration of everything BMW occurs at exciting locations throughout the country and is the ultimate motorsport family reunion.

November 7-8, 2015
Members Only Two-Day M School at the BMW Performance Center in Spartanburg

OTHER EVENTS

October 16-17, 2015
Eurofest in South Carolina

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

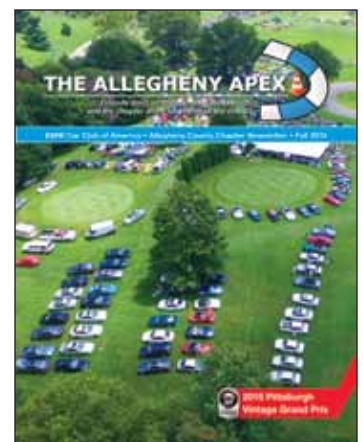
Rocking Out

BY JOHNA SNYDER

This newsletter was not a solo effort and I would like to thank the ROCK stars who assisted: Jeff Taylor, Glen Beattie, Brett Sutton, Allen Christian, George Snyder, Eddie Henry, LouAnn Shirk, Marc Caden, Lisa Craig, Michael Sanchez, Minuteman Press Downtown, Jerry Verios, Kate Flavin, Marianne Meehan, Mi-

chael Meehan, George Mitchell, Lori Jackson, Emilio Veneziano, Steve Adams 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.



BMW Car Club of America Allegheny Chapter



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A New Season of Adventure Awaits

After a Great Summer, Fall is Full of Fun Events for Chapter

BY GEORGE SNYDER

Where did the summer go? It just seems like last weekend that we were doing the Dust off drive in early spring and now we are looking toward Labor Day and the end of the summer season.

Before I say much more I just wanted to say THANK YOU to all the volunteers that gave of their time, energy, sweat and probably some tears to help the Chapter out this summer. So many pitched in and helped out that I cannot mention everyone by name.

But it goes without saying that it is because of all of you that the Allegheny Chapter is as great as it is. You all deserve a standing ovation for all the help that has been given this year so far. I for one greatly appreciate

it and I know everyone else does as well.

Since the summer is winding down, the PVGP, the Pool party are now fond memories. We can look forward to what the Chapter is doing for the rest of the year. The Chapter has a lot of interesting events happening this fall. From the annual trip to J&D Wine Cellars in September to Street Survival then off to the two drives in October. One heading to Hocking Hills Ohio and then the Fall Leaves trip to join the WV chapter for a nice lunch. I also know Glen is working hard already preparing a fantastic Last Drive of the season. Which will take us right into the calendar reveal.

Please make sure you check

FALL EVENTS

WINE CELLARS
STREET SURVIVAL
FALL GRAND TOUR

out the web site for all the details about each exciting event coming up.

Speaking of the web, I want to thank Steve Adams for being the Chapter's web site admin and email blast admin. Steve has done a fabulous job of keeping us all up to date on the Chapter's happenings and now Steve is going to take on a new task and hand over the reins of the website and the email blasts to Emilio Veneziano. Steve - I

thank you for all the hard work you have put into the web site and the email blasts. I appreciate it sir. I wish you the best in your next adventure. Emilio – welcome to the team.

Since this is our first Allegheny Apex edition, I hope you all are enjoying the new name and new look. Congratulations to Brett for the name and Congratulations to Johna for taking the newsletter from a letter to a beautiful new format. Well done!

I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Chapter events and since there is still some summer weather left, it's a good time to get outside, wash your favorite BMW and go for a drive.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Word Play: The Name Game

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry. There were a total of 40 different entries submitted for consideration and we have a new name!

Brett Sutton had the winning entry - The Allegheny Apex – "Friends don't let friends miss apexes and the Chapter won't let you miss the news".

Brett was presented with an Allegheny Chapter Polo Shirt at the Pool Party in August for his winning entry.



Not only did Brett have an idea for a name but also had an idea for how the new name should look.

From Brett's sketches to the desktop and magic of Emilio Veneziano the idea was

brought to life – thank you both!

Did we stop there?

No.

We have new look to ride

along with the new name. A very special thank you to Lisa Craig and Michael Sanchez at Minuteman Press Downtown for taking part in bringing it all together. Take a look and tell me what you think.

Good or bad – what do you like – what do you not like? How can we make it better? I want to hear from you!

Congratulations Brett!

Please send your comments and suggestions to editor.
alleghenybmw.com.

GRAND TOUR



Ready for a Road Trip

Hocking Hills and Car and Driver Loop Sells Out

BY JEFF TAYLOR

This is a first for our over-night tours we sold out.

Yes you read this right. We had reservations for 10 rooms at the Select Registry Glen Laurel Inn and Cottages and we filled each one.

Maybe it was the lure of the Car and Driver Loop or maybe it was the time of the year or maybe it was the Glen Laurel Inn or just maybe it was a chance to meet other BMW enthusiast who like to have a good time. Whatever the reason everyone I have talked to is excited about the Grand Tour.



4 THE ALLEGHENY APEX

We will be leaving from Settlers Ridge on Friday October 2 at 1:00 pm in the afternoon heading for the Glen Laurel Inn and Cottages in the Hocking Hills region of south central Ohio.

We will have radios in all the cars to keep everyone informed of the happenings as we venture west. About half way there we will depart the interstate for those two lane twisty, undulating roads we have heard so much about as we weave our way to the Inn.

At the Inn our accommodations feature luxurious suites, romantic crofts and quaint cottages. We have a group social hour planned and reservations for a six course seafood dinner. Oh and did I mention jeans are not permitted. (I better go buy something now to wear.)

Saturday after our gourmet

breakfast we will head out to explore the 13.9 mile, "Car and Driver Loop." (Named as one of the five best roads in America.) Raved by many, driven by few this course is supposed to mimic the demands of a race track.

Some folks are staying back at the Inn to enjoy the special treatments of the spa until we return to pick them up to go one of the many planned scenic fall leaves tour loops. I don't

quite understand that spa stuff but as I say if it makes you happy then I'm happy.

We are not sure what we are doing for dinner. We talked about it and figured we would just let the road and the day

GRAND TOUR

FRIDAY, OCT. 2
HOCKING HILLS
REGION, OHIO

lead us to a destination. Not sure how late into the evening we will be out because I think everyone is hoping to get back to their lodgings early to enjoy their private hot tubs or privacy of their rooms.

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

On Sunday, our final day we will enjoy another gourmet breakfast before selecting a route as we head back to our homes. Sorry you can't join us but you can read all about our trip in the next newsletter.

ANNUAL TOUR

Fall or Nothing

Start Your Engines and Leave Your Worries Behind

BY KATE FLAVIN

LADIES & GENTLEMEN, CHILDREN & PETS! START YOUR ENGINES! IT'S ON!

Time to dust off the Lieberhosen, shine up the Bimmer, cook up some Streusel and bring out the Schnapps. It's the Annual FALL LEAVES TOUR & PICNIC, a celebration for you, the members and friends of Allegheny Chapter to join up with our West Virginia neighbors, for the longest running «joint» Chapter event in Car Club history. It's the first event the fledgling Allegheny Chapter was invited to and we've been going ever since - 33 years and counting.

Join us for the Caravan to WATTERS SMITH STATE PARK (just past Clarksburg, W.Va.) on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015.

We meet at Wendy's in the Great Southern Shopping Center around 10:00 a.m. Leave approximately 10:23 a.m. for about a 2 hour drive. We head out south on I-79, then it's through Washington on I-70 to I-79 S till we get to Exit 10 - Lost Creek. A few miles to the only stop sign in town, then a right for another few miles of some West Virginia winding roads. A left turn after the first bridge and before the second bridge (which heads back to Clarksburg) and we're at historic Watters Smith State Park. It's the 2nd left to the rustic Lodge, just after you pass Mr. Smith's original log cabin.

FALL LEAVES TOUR & PICNIC

SATURDAY, OCT. 17
WATTERS SMITH
STATE PARK IN WV.
(Remember It Is Dry!)

We picnic at the Lodge, its indoor accommodations with all the amenities, a stone fireplace, working kitchen, dance floor and huge parking lot. Allegheny Chapter provides delicious pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, chilled shrimp, and soft drinks & water. We ask you to bring a side dish, entree, salad, dessert, and appetizer - whatever you wish to share.

We're celebrating Rudi's return from an extended absence due to illness and surgery. We're celebrating 33 years of getting together in the fall for a drive through the countryside via highway and winding roads. We're celebrating friendship & tradition & the 'Saga of the Wurst'.

It's a picnic, a car show, there's space for riding bikes, skipping stones across the pond, exploring an old family graveyard, walking around the pioneer homestead of Watters Smith, his original log cabin (c. 1796) and his descendants home (c. 1876) and many farm out-buildings.

Questions & Comments can be addressed to RUDI. After all, if Rudi doesn't know after 33 years, who does?





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Wheel Solutions

DAMAGE CONTROL: Wheel Repair and Dent Removal

BY AL APEX

Join us and our friends from Alloy Wheel Repair and Metal Menders on Saturday September 19 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to learn the various techniques used in repairing wheels and dents in your car.

Mike and his staff from Alloy Wheel repair are again hosting our tech session at their shop located in Carnegie on Keystone Drive. Mike will explain their processes of refinishing, straightening and remanufacturing scraped, gouged, scratched, dented, out of round and cracked wheels back into new.

Additionally, they will explain how they can change the color of your wheels to last a life time and give your car that personalized look. Sessions at 9:30 and 12:30.

Metal Menders is a paintless dent removal (PDR) company owned and operated by Greg Olszewski and Dan Adamik. With over twenty years of experience, they will explain their process of dent removal. Whether a set of golf clubs, fly ball, a stray grocery cart or hail storm is to blame, dents and dings are often an unavoidable reality for vehicle owners.

PDR is a process that is

TECH SESH

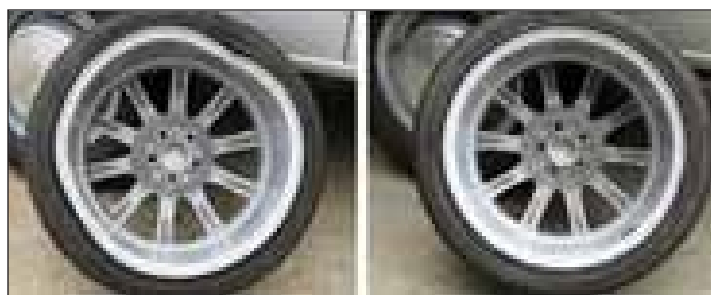
SATURDAY, SEPT. 19
9AM-3PM
ALLOY WHEEL
REPAIR AND
METAL MENDERS

designed to get behind a vehicle's "skin" and massage dented panels back to their original shape. The process allows Greg and Dan's staff to remove hail damage, dings, minor dents and creases without compromising the vehicle's factory paint job. Large or small learn how you can save time and money. Sessions start at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm.

Metal Menders can also remove your car's unsightly blemishes while you wait or schedule a time to come to meet you and repair your vehicle. Do to time constraints; Alloy Wheel can schedule a time to provide an estimate on your repair.

Both of these companies are offering discounts to all Allegheny Chapter members. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

PDR is a process that is designed to get behind a vehicle's 'skin' and massage dented panels back to their original shape.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BMW Performance Driver Ed

BY AL APEX

The PITT Race PDE program is designed to provide a safe, structured and controlled teaching and learning environment. The program is intended so that participants can improve their driving abilities and acquire a better understanding of vehicle dynamics and driving safety.

Participants will experience first-hand the capabilities of high performance automobiles

in a controlled, closed-course environment and acquire skills that will enhance safer vehicle operation in all driving situations.

The PITT Race instructors will teach you to drive your BMW the way they were designed it to be driven. PITT Race schools are run in a safe and controlled environment on a closed course. Like any new sport your instructor will guide you into this exciting world of high performance driving.

Participants are divided into specific run groups based on experience. This enables first timers to gain a better understanding of their vehicles dynamics without the pressure of an aggressive driver trying to pass you.

As a student you will receive both classroom instruction and on-track instruction. In the classroom sessions you will be briefed on the terminology that will be used by your instructor, basic performance driving concepts, safety and flag meanings etc.

Registration is through

For more information go to www.pittrace.com or email Jeff Taylor at bmw.event.coordinator.com.

PDE PROGRAM

SUNDAY, OCT. 11
PITTSBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
RACE COMPLEX

mortorsportreg.com. The Allegheny Chapter of the BMW CCA offers a 10% rebate to all active BMW CCA members. Normal cost is \$225 for Group 1 & 2 participants and \$200 for Group 2 Solo and Group 3. Group 1 & 2 are hosted in the morning and Group 2 Solo and Group 3 are in the afternoon.

Learn to drive your BMW the way they were designed to be driven.



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Autocross 101

BY JEFF TAYLOR

Autocross is a form of motorsports that emphasizes safe competition and active participation.

An autocross is a timed competition in which drivers navigate one at a time through a defined course on either a sealed or an unsealed surface. Autocross differs from road racing in that generally there is only one car on the track, racing against the clock rather than other cars. As an entry-level motorsport it provides a stepping stone for drivers looking to move into other more competitive and possibly expensive forms of racing.

Autocross courses are typically one to two kilometers long and tend to place demands on car handling and driver skill rather than on engine power and outright speed. Courses are marked by traffic cones and direct you through the course. Events typically have many classes that allow almost any vehicle, from economy sedans to purpose-built racing cars, to compete. Due to the nature of a typical track, speeds can be slower when compared to other forms of motorsports, usually not exceeding highway speeds, but the activity level (measured in discrete turns per minute) can be higher than even Formu-

AUTOCROSS

DATE PENDING
PITTSBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
RACE COMPLEX

la one due to the large number of elements packed into each course.[3]

The Introductory program will teach you how to understand the course layout and the best techniques to navigate the course. The program will run from 9:00 am to 12:00pm. Registration will open at 8:00 am.

You are required to inspect your vehicle for safety prior to the training program. You are to check tires, wheels, body for loose trim, trunk for removal of

loose items, interior for removal of loose items and engine compartment. An inspection form will be provided to you the day of the event to be returned prior to taking to the track..

This exclusive introductory program is only \$20. Normally a program like this will cost well over \$200.

Experienced instructors will be on hand to demonstrate techniques and to ride along for guidance. So come out and support Pittsburgh International Motorsport Complex and find the benefits of learning about your driving abilities in a low stress, safe environment. Helmets are required and can be rented from PITT Race for only \$8.00. Registration opens on motorsportreg.com.

For more information contact Jeff Taylor at bmw.event.coordinator@gmail.com.

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CLUB RACING NEWS

Historic Races, Happy Faces

Members Enjoy View from
Spectator Hill to Watch Races

BRETT SUTTON, BMW CCA CLUB RACE COORDINATOR

July 10-12 was a great weekend in Pittsburgh for race fans. The annual BMW CCA Club race was held at the Pittsburgh International Race Complex in Wampum, Pa. in conjunction with the PVGP Historic races. The chapter had a great spectator turn out with almost 40 BMW's at the car corral. We also had a record turnout for club racers at 43. Everyone wanted to check out the impressive new track and facilities.

Although not complete, PIRC is turning into a premier facility on the east coast.

The chapter featured a

new venue this year. We moved from up on the hill by the water tower to a new spot right below Spectator Hill close to where the old and new track meet.

From all of the feedback I received, I think we have a good location for years to come.



Photo Credit: Tom Dressel

Spectator Hill has an awesome view to watch the races. You can see the majority of the new track and parts of the old track that were never in view before.

For all of us old timers, next year we will have a golf cart to shuttle everyone up the hill!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bobby Rahal BMW of South Hills for donating their catering facility for the weekend. Not only for the use of the truck and trailer but also the manpower for setup and teardown on Friday and Sunday. Wexford Post Office did a great job on the box lunches this year.

A special thanks to all of the chapter volunteers that helped out to make this event a success. Last, a shout out to the Club Racers. This year was the 20th anniversary of Club Racing.

Without your donations, time, and a passion for the sport this weekend would not be possible. THANK YOU.

With the race schedule



changes this past year, and the rainout on Sunday, there was not a lot of track time which I will work on changing for 2016. It was still a record breaking turnout.

BMW made up 25% of the entire race field for the event.

Next year we hope to have our own race group and to once again make this a four race national event. Our goal is to have a 50 car BMW grid.

I want to thank everyone who attended the Historic Races this year. The chatter around

the track from the PVGP volunteers was that attendance and gate revenue was over double from last year. Thank you for your donations.

The Allegheny Chapter looks forward to seeing all of you next year at the track!



Apex Apparel

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

The Log Cabin Embroidery offers a wide selection of shirts, hats and garments that can be customized with our logo.

For more information: stitch@logcabinembroidery.com



Happy 50th Birthday, Alpina

BY BRETT SUTTON

It all started about fifty years ago in a small town outside of Munich. There was a young man that had a passion for cars. (No, it is not me) His name is Burkard Bovensiepen and grew up around his father's typewriter factory in Buchloe, Germany. Burkard tinkered with carburetion on 2002's. He came up with an idea to take replace the single barrel carb and design an intake to mount dual Webers carbs on the small 4 cylinder motor to increase horsepower and the rest is history. Alpina, named after his father's typewriter was born.

The concept of the company is quite simple. You take a wonderfully designed new BMW from the factory and move it one step further. With just a handful of employees in the early years it would take about 10 days to transform a BMW into an Alpina. Items modified included suspension, steering, drivetrains, custom interiors, to name a few options.

All of this could be added at the factory by the customer. Fast forward 50 years.

Alpina now has about 220 employees at the same upgraded and expanded facility in Buchloe. Burkard still lives in his house on the property. They will produce about 1700 automobiles this year alone. Enough on the history of Alpina.

In March of this year Dee

and I received an invitation to attend their 50th anniversary celebration at the factory. After I came down from walking on air for a day or two, we made travel and hotel reservations for an 11 day trek to Germany and Austria.

We stayed in Buchloe for 3 days. It is your typical awesome little German town filled with farmers markets, bread shops, a few stores, hotels, and of course a small biergarten. The celebration was a four day event. Thursday was for family and friends, Friday for corporations, and when we attended on

Saturday was for select customers and guests. Then on Sunday there was an open house on the blocked off streets in front of the factory in which about 7000 people attended.

Saturday started around noon with judging and a parade. I know I will never see 250 Alpina's together in one place. Around 2:00 was registration for your self guided tour and for dinner that evening. After cocktail hour and a horrific storm we were seated for a five course meal and entertainment. The entire event was over the top.

Near the end of the evening Dee and I got to meet Burkard. It was nice to finally meet him for a moment considering there were about 700 guests attending.

Around midnight Dee and I were leaving and we were greeted by Burkard's son Andy (the now CEO) to say goodnight and he presented us with a 50th anniversary book in which he signed for us. The entire day to me is unforgettable. I am still going through the pictures I took and withdraws. I sure am glad for the digital world.

Dee and I have been to Germany 3 times. We always say, "How are we going to top that trip?" Hmmm???





A Grand Old Time

Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Kick Off Rallye

BY ALLEN CHRISTIAN

Sunday morning July 5th, the sun breaks through the morning haze, providing a beautiful day in the City of Pittsburgh. Perfect weather for the 2015 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Kick Off Rallye.

Excitement and anticipation fills the air as 75 automobiles of all marques and ages, waxed and polished to perfection, sparkling in the sunlight are guided into the starting formation and assigned their rallye number for the day.

A driver and navigator representing each vehicle checks in at the registration desk to receive their packet of rallye instructions revealing the destination and navigation directions for the event.

As we review the information provided in the packet and obtain more information at the pre rallye driver's meeting we learn that some challenging changes are ahead for this year. As opposed to the Time Speed Distance Rallye style of past years, traveling throughout the countryside of western Pennsylvania, this year is classified as a Gimmick Rallye.

The Gimmick Rallye was designed this year to showcase the City of Pittsburgh, its diverse neighborhoods and cultures. The 52 mile course, with an established completion time of 2.5 hours, wound through downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The route was both scenic and educational. The rallye scoring this year was based on the answers provided to 27



PHOTO CREDIT: Allen Christian



questions from information gained along the route traveled, not on time and speed as in the past.

Leaving the starting point in Schenley Park (a) do you see the carved head of Catahassa?

Winding through the streets of Squirrel Hill (b) do you see Frick Park?

Did you know that the Community Day School in Squirrel Hill was the on location set for the 1966 remake of the movie Diabolique? Motoring on into Hazelwood did you

see (c) Burgwin Park?

Arriving on the Southside we have the opportunity to stop at the well-known Page Dairy Mart. Not only time for a well deserved ice cream treat but also to collect information from the billboard on the back of the building that shares the history of the business since it was established. (d) Do you know the weight of a 10 gallon milk can?

Continuing through the Southside, we visit the AT&T Clock, The Jaggerbush and the Polish Army Historical Marker. Then onto the panoramic views offered by the Mt. Washington observation decks.

While on Mt. Washington, we also had the opportunity to stand on top of two planes (think about it).

Heading north to Camp Horne Road and beyond to Ohio Township, (e) which was established when? Then on

CONTINUED ON P22





Photo Credit: Steve Adams



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Something for Everyone

Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Always Delivers

BY MARC CADEN

PHOTO CREDIT: Marc Caden

There is no denying that we live in an increasingly virtual world. For example, my son's "go to" place for cars is not always the latest issue of *Car and Driver*, but YouTube. In just a few clicks, he is shuttled from our living room to the Silverstone circuit in England where he can watch automotive journalist Chris Harris drift the new McLaren P1.

While the virtual world can certainly deliver a lot of information, it is no replacement for our real world experiences. That is why I am thankful for events like the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (PVG).

I still believe that the best way for us to learn about cars (and the people behind them) is not at home on an iPad or



CONTINUED ON P19

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PVGP FROM P17

computer, but in a first-person way at a real world event.

Although Pittsburgh is about a four hour drive from the Washington, D.C. area, it is well worth the trip and many members from my local BMW CCA Chapter attend this event every year.

The PVGP offers something for everyone with ten days worth of events that in-

clude car shows, parades, rallies, and vintage races.

Of course what makes it so unique is that the racing occurs on curvy public roads that have been temporarily closed and converted to a street racing circuit.

As a street circuit, there are many hazards that wouldn't otherwise exist at a track - like stone walls, sewers, street signs, and the inevitable pothole. In fact, the PVGP is the only event in the US where you can

see drivers compete in vintage races run entirely on city streets.

The race entries are grouped based on their production years and engine size. For example, there are classes for cars under 1.0 liter, under 1.5 liters, under 2.0 liters, and over 2.0 liters. There are several BMW entrants that compete and my personal favorite is a little blue 1960 BMW 700 Sport driven by Klaus Selbert in the under 1.0 liter class. There were also several 2002 entries including the 1969 2002 driven by Roy Hopkins that previously won the 2008 Targa Newfoundland Rally.

Italian cars were honored as the PVGP marque of the

year and they came out in full force at the weekend car show which occurs on the golf course in Schenley Park. For the first time, I saw the new Alfa Romeo 4c. This is the car that Jeremy Clarkson raved about on Top Gear and said he would buy for his personal collection. There were many Lamborghini offerings including a Miura, Countach, Diablo Spyder, Aventador, Aventador Spyder, and the new Huracán. Among the many Ferraris on display included a Dino, F12, 599 GTB, California, 575, 512, 458, and a plethora of 308s.

Portions of this article also appeared in National Chapter's magazine Sept/Oct issue of the der Bayerische"

Racing occurs on curvy public roads that have been temporarily closed and converted to a street racing circuit.

From Patroon to Allegheny

Meeting Allegheny Chapter Members Makes Drive Worth It

BY JERRY VERIOS, BMW CCA - PATROON CHAPTER

I am writing to express my excitement about the Pittsburgh Grand Prix Car Show. I attended last year as a part of the Allegheny Chapter and returned this year with the same group from New York and Canada.

Last year, we were extremely impressed with the show's organization from the private lot at the hotel for our prized BMWs, to the lovely dinner at the dealership. Despite the rain last year, the show was still a wonderful experience.

This year, after driving seven hours from Long Island, New York - we expected much of the same and looked forward to another great experience. To our delight, we left with even better memories in comparison.

Friday's Welcome Dinner at the LeMont provided us with an amazing view of Pittsburgh and that was just the beginning. The food was delicious and the welcoming gift of BMW binoculars was a particularly nice touch.

The following day, at the show, the organization was commendable with a wide variety of food and drinks, in-



After driving seven hours from Long Island, New York, we had another great experience.

cluding beer. The atmosphere was palpable with enthusiasm over our common interest and the Allegheny Chapter left with many awards. In fact, I don't think anyone left empty-handed.

The show was fantastic but it would not have been remotely as successful had it not been for the wonderful individuals that comprise the Allegheny Chapter. I attend many shows throughout the year and I have to commend the people of this chapter for their welcoming and warm demeanor.

They were an integral factor to the enjoyment of the show and many of my favorite moments were created with one or several of them.



Why We Return to Pittsburgh

Allegheny Chapter Knows How to Throw a Party

BY LOU ANN SHIRK, NITTANY BIMMERS MEMBER

I was asked: "What brings you back each year?" In a nutshell, we know we are going to have a great time! The Allegheny Chapter knows how to throw a party!

Each year your group of dedicated club members create a schedule of events to please all niches for the attendees. This year, you knocked it out of the park! Great job everyone!

I am still trying to fathom how we had time to participate in the lengthy list of activities and also have time to relax and

socialize with our BMW Car Club Family.

We thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the weekend including the Hofbrauhaus gathering, parking lot socials, Lamont Dinner, pizza party at Artifacts, and the record breaking car show on German Hill.

The PVGP car show is like a sea of cars with waves of every marque you can envision lining the hills of the gorgeous golf course.

The love of cars and socializing with friends while sur-



rounded by the roar of vintage race cars in the background is what brings my husband and I back each year.



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GRAND FROM P15

to Emsworth, we pass by the historic Dickson Log Cabin. The Union Dale Cemetery is on our left as we motor into the Northside past the historic architecture of the Allegheny General Hospital and then on to Troy Hill.

Nearing the end of our journey we depart from Troy Hill by way of the infamous Rialto Street. A steep narrow slope that would give even the most agile of mountain goats pause to consider his options before attempting the descent.

Crossing the 31st Street

Bridge, with the Strip District in sight, and our final destination of the Spaghetti Warehouse nearby, we park the car and walk on Smallman Street, reading multiple historical markers to learn of The Pittsburgh Reduction Company, the production of commercial aluminum and Eisenhower Grease.

With 52 miles logged and answers to 27 questions in hand, we join our fellow rallye teams at the Spaghetti Warehouse for an enjoyable Italian lunch buffet and icy cold brews.

We depart from Troy Hill by way of the infamous Rialto Street.



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While the lively conversations took place, comparing our observations of the day with other teams, scoring of the answers turned in upon our arrival was completed and soon to be shared.

With the scores tallied and the winners announced, we learned that rallye car number 31 was not to be awarded a trophy this year, but still we

ended the day with memories of a great driving adventure completed.

As we prepare for more 2015 Vintage Grand Prix events in the days ahead, we are already planning our strategy and looking forward to the 2016 Kick Off Rallye.

Yes (b) No (c) No (d) 20 lbs. (e) 1803



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RIDE REVIEW

A Ride to Remember with Renner

Driver Expert Showcases Performance of New M3 Sedan

BY EDDIE HENRY, NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER BMW CCA



Mike Renner demonstrates the M3 Power and Performance attributes of BMW's New M3 Sedan During Track Ride at Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.

My wife Janette and I have attended the PVGP for the past three years and have enjoyed every minute.

The corral location is excellent and the Allegheny Chapter comradery is always enjoyable as well.

This year, thanks to my lovely wife, I was able to experience an M3 Track Ride with Mike Renner.

This was my first experience with the new BMW M3 sedan, and Mike Renner is certainly more than qualified to demonstrate the M3 Power and Performance attributes.

Based on a coin toss, I was relegated to the passenger-side back seat. However, I had a fairly decent view of the road and in particular, a very good view

of the M3 instrument panel as the speedometer topped 120 mph through the back-straight.

Also, I was able to watch Mike Renner as he so proficiently negotiated the M3 through the Schenley Park race course. Hopefully next year I will be able and convince my wife to allow me to return the favor.

Totally looking forward to 2016 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Eddie Henry
National Capital Chapter
BMW CCA
BMW CCA Member
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ZFEST 2015

BY GLEN BEATTIE

When it comes to car clubs like the BMW CCA, the ZSCCA, and zBimmers, I'm all about the drives. I enjoy participating in them, I enjoy creating them, and I enjoy leading

them. It's the primary reason why I'm a member of car-clubs and I think it's the primary reason a car club exists, in my humble opinion.

I've said many times that the success of a drive is largely determined before the first car

leaves the lot. A successful drive is 90% planning and 10% execution. Either the drive is well thought out and rehearsed many times, or it isn't.

I'm also a strong believer in the value of a capable sweeper. The sweeper communicates with the leader and makes sure that everything doesn't fall apart.

Lastly, I'm a strong believer in using Talkabout radios. When everyone has one—with most people just listening—the group acts in a cohesive manner and can usually cope with an unexpected curve-ball with a minimum of disruption.

When not everyone has a radio, it's important that at least the leader and sweeper have one.

So it was with these things in mind that I set out to create the Westbound Departure Cruise from ZFEST 2015 in State College. I wanted to create a 3-hour drive that would potentially interest people returning to the Pittsburgh area, the Erie area, the Cleveland area, and the Akron-Canton area. As such, it needed to terminate somewhere between Pittsburgh and Erie. It also had to be interesting and worthy of BMW roadster traffic.

The primary objective was to stay off of I-80, which is

not only boring to the point of being coma-inducing, but it's also under major construction this summer.

The secondary objective was to get to I-79 within the 3-hour window.

I laid out a route that looked interesting on MapPoint and Google Maps. I "drove" sections of it on Google Earth and it looked good. So I decided to test-drive it for real.

During the test-drive I needed to identify a rest stop about an hour and a half into the drive. My first choice was a very interesting and eclectic Amish general store I found in North Mahoning that sold everything from furniture to jellies & jams, and even had a wine-tasting area. They also had a large parking lot with plenty of room. I got really jazzed when I found the place. It had all sorts of character.

But when I inquired about restroom facilities they directed me to porta-potties in the back parking lot. Major fail.

I moved the rest stop to a Sheetz in Punxsutawney. Sheetz is not very exciting but they have large, clean restrooms, which is the most important attribute that a rest stop can have.

I initially thought I'd ter-

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minate the trip at a restaurant in the New Castle area. But I couldn't identify a suitable restaurant that didn't involve a very difficult drive. So I changed the destination to Primanti Brothers Restaurant in Grove City, adjacent to the Grove City Outlet Mall.

With the drive terminating there, participants would be free to shop at the outlet stores after lunch for as long as they liked. Also, Grove City's proximity to I-79 and I-80 makes it equally attractive for westbound, northbound, and southbound participants.

I stole the last :30 minutes of the route from the July 17th PVGP drive. (I knew at least one person would recognize it, and I was right. I got called out on it.)

We left State College with

12 cars in our caravan. I think 8 to 12 cars is ideal for a convoy, so this was perfect.

Since I put so much effort into the important 90% planning phase, I didn't worry too much about the 10% execution phase. Since the weather was good and the traffic was light, I knew it was in the bag. But it turns out that I shouldn't have been so confident.

The drive was going very well with no surprises and no difficulties. But at some point I lost focus. I began to daydream and started thinking about other things. It occurred to me that my Z4 was nearly due for an oil change and I started calculating how many miles I had driven since my last oil change.

As I was doing the math, I suddenly got a call on the radio

informing me that I just missed a turn.

Rats! A quick look at the GPS indicated that it wasn't a

fatal error because there was a parallel road a mile further down that would take us to the same place.

A successful drive is 90% planning and 10% execution.

No problem, right? Wrong. The alternative road turned to gravel within a quarter mile.. There was no choice but to do a U-turn and go back the way we came. Now, instead of one right-hand turn, we had to execute two left-hand turns separated by about a mile. In-

evitably, we got strung out with interloper traffic. Even worse, our schedule was delayed so long that we had to make an

unscheduled rest-stop in West Kittanning.

We arrived in Grove City about an hour late. Nevertheless, everyone seemed to enjoy the drive and I never heard a single complaint. But the experience has reminded me that the devil is always in the details, not only during the planning but also during the execution.

I hope I don't forget the lesson anytime soon.



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Membership Update

The Allegheny Chapter extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

May 2015

Kimberly ArdingerPittsburgh
Michele PerelmanNew Castle
Jonas GeiselJohnstown
Dan TalonePittsburgh
Alexander ErdieAncaster, Ontario
Thomas WeirSewickley

June 2015

Rebecca HetzelBeaver
Gerry PolyhronopoulosQuebec
Douglas MurphyErie
Larry GoldbergToronto
Marc CascianiWexford
Claus SchusterBurgthann, Germany
James MalysOil City
Bob PriceNorth Huntingdon
Debra SchurkoPittsburgh
Jason CzapMoon Twp.

July 2015

Suresh PariaghChaguanas, Trinidad
David PalmerBaden
Steve GagnonCalgary
Charlie GlynnMcKees Rocks
Jeremiah LyonsOakmont
John GeorgevichJohnstown
Bernadine LeachPittsburgh
Mike CookMurrysville
Ralph TravisJefferson Hills
Robert MajerskySeven Fields
Jeff SemanMcMurray
Kenneth FasanellaAllison Park
Gary StoneCranberry
Tammy NelsonWhite Oak
Raymond RotaWashington
Wayne ReckPittsburgh
Justin PdeutiWaynesburg
Ron CarnevaliJohnstown

Fernando CardozaMonroeville
Michael CherockSewickley
Alex ColonPittsburgh
Sarah LancioneSaint Clairsville
Chuck BolesPittsburgh
Karin BoreckiSewickley
Zachary LeeperPittsburgh
Tim FullerPittsburgh
Zaid SharafadinPittsburgh
Dave AlvisoPittsburgh
Joe MacciMercer
Jesse TaylorPittsburgh
Alexander KnellMcMurray
Jeffrey HooperJohnstown
Asif AliIrwin
Zaman EidPittsburgh
John HennePittsburgh

Milestones

Please join us in congratulating the following members who are celebrating membership milestones this quarter:

35 Years	25 Years	20 Years	15 Years	10 Years
Patrick Regan	Ivan Hofmann Scott Nastold Walter Barie Mal Stauff	John Farrow	Steve Karas David Clark Gordon Smith Dade Lunsford Michael Strain Jerry Vest	Ted Licastro Mary Jane Temple

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A Chapter Verse

Sometimes I'm asked to write a poem or a verse.
I always hesitate cause my humor is quite perverse.
My sarcasm is strong
You'll notice, it won't take long.
But this time, I'll try extra hard to behave.
So I don't embarrass the one who's head is shaved.

So let's talk about the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.
An annual event that brings joy and brings Glee.
Whether a participant or Guest
All agree it's the Best

With this event, charity funds we do Raise
Each of the car clubs deserve lots of Praise.
The BMW club's efforts are second to None.
Without our efforts, the job may not get Done.

The Allegheny Chapter is known far and know Wide
When we say we're from Pittsburgh, we say it with Pride.
From atop German Hill we look Down
While the other clubs look up, look up with a Frown.

But it wouldn't happen without all the work you don't See.
It happens because of volunteers like you and like Me.

Folks that coordinate every small Detail
Making notes that get sent in an Email
Seventy to Eighty emails a Day
So next year, try to volunteer for Awhile.
I promise you'll leave with a Smile.

**Thank You
PVGP 2015**

Eric Zagrocki, Denese Yeager, David Yeager, Jim Williams, Chris Williams, Wexford Post Office, Maxine Weir, Bob Weir, Nancy Tullar, Ken (Bear) Tullar, Tim Swisher, Dee Sutton, Brett Sutton, Pete Stiponovich, Kathleen Stipanovich, Johna Snyder, George Snyder, Sewickley BMW, Chuck Rice, Bill Premar, Pittsburgh International Race Complex, Bill Pelgar, Erin Parker, Tiffany Nolan, Michael Meehan, Marianne Meehan, Liberty Mutual, Lemont, Rick Lambert, Darlene Lambert, Sophie Jeong, i.e. Insurance, Hofbrauhaus – Pittsburgh, Griot's Garage, Norm Franke, Fibercon, Doubletree by Hilton in Greentree, Eric Docherty, David Cutherell, Club Racers – BMWCCA, Allen Christian, Greg Calvimontes, Erin Calvimontes, Ashley Calvimontes, Scott Briggs, Alex Bowman, Bobby Rahal BMW of South Hills, BMW Foundation, BMW Classic, BMWCCA, Rich Becker, Kent Beaver, Glen Beattie, Alpina, Steve Adams, A&L Motor Sales.