

# SPECIAL ISSUE

## 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 • SPRING 2016

A YEAR TO  
*remember!*



Spring  
2016  
Driving  
Season

Road Trip  
Reviews

Upcoming  
Events

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### Membership Coordinator

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### President, BMWCCA

Steve Johnson

### VP, North Atlantic Region

John Sullivan, Jr.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHAPTER EVENTS

**April 16th, 2016** PITT Race  
PDE Session 1

**April 16th, 2016** Dust-Off  
Drive - Mingo Creek County  
Park

**May 7th, 2016** Intro to Auto-  
cross

**May 7th, 2016** Autocross -  
Session 1

**May 13th, 2016** PITT Race  
Test and Tune - Session 1

**May 14th, 2016** Spring Drive/  
Overnight Event - Cleveland

**May 20th, 2016** PITT Race  
PDE Session 2

**June 12th, 2016** Ice Cream  
Social - The Meadows in Mon-  
roeville

**June 12th, 2016** Autocross -  
Session 2

### NATIONAL EVENTS

**May 20th-22nd, 2016:** The  
Vintage in Asheville, North Car-  
olina. For 2016, The Vintage  
will be moving to Asheville, lo-  
cated in the mountains of North  
Carolina. The area offers some  
great roads so several drives  
are planned, and the main dis-

play on Saturday will be at a  
fantastic piece of property at  
Hot Springs, NC.

The location may have  
changed, but the event re-  
mains the same fun weekend.  
Lots of hanging out in the hotel  
parking lot with your vintage  
BMW friends, special activi-  
ties like tours of Sierra Nevada  
brewery, a fun rally on Friday  
down to the BMW CCA Foun-  
dation, and more. Asheville  
has earned the name "beer  
city" with more breweries per  
capita than anywhere else in  
the U.S., so a trip to downtown  
Asheville for some brewery  
hopping would be a good way  
to spend the evening.

## 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, Glen Beattie, Brett  
Sutton, Allen Christian,  
George Snyder, Lisa Craig,  
Michael Sanchez, Minute-  
man Press Downtown,  
Marianne Meehan, George  
Mitchell, Lori Jackson,  
Emilio Veneziano, Bob

Briggs, Rick Roudebush,  
Chris Williams, Greg Calvi-  
montes and finally to those  
who have placed their ads  
with us. Their contribution  
to the newsletter not only  
makes it special but al-  
lows 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

# 2016 Starts Off With A Bang

## National Board Members Visit Annual Post-Holiday Party

BY GEORGE SNYDER

It is hard to imagine that we are already well into 2016.

As the Chapter grows and evolves – both by adding new/returning members and increased participation of members at our events - we have to make some changes.

This year these changes started with the Post Holiday Party. To support the growth of participation, we needed to change the venue. This is always a good problem to have.

So off the Rahal we went and took it a step further to have the event catered. Thank you Rick Speicher and Rahal BMW of the South Hills for their hospitality and to Holly and her team at Wexford Post Office for the delicious food. A special thank you goes to Ralph Travis for lending his time and equipment for the photo booth shenanigans.

With all of the I's dotted and T's crossed, we were blindly unaware of exactly how much the entire National Board and their guests would be making their presence felt – and in a tremendous way.

The Allegheny Chapter was bestowed a wonderful

honor in being named the BMW International Car Club of the Year.

Our chapter does great things for our size. As one person said to me recently in the Allegheny Chapter punches like a heavy weight champ but in a light weight body. I personally think that speaks volumes about the membership of the Allegheny Chapter.

I am blessed to be a part of the chapter. Anytime I get to talk about the Allegheny Chapter and its wonderful members I do. You all bring a smile to my face for how dedicated everyone is and how willing you all are to rolling up your sleeves to get a job done.

From planning drives, to working the events, to helping out with the PVGP, to simply welcoming a new member into the Chapter's family, myself and the board truly appreciates it.

After holiday party came the Pittsburgh Auto Show. Thank you to all of you that volunteered to man (or woman) the table at the BMW display. It is always nice to be able to talk to potential new members about the chapter and more importantly the people that make up the chapter.



### SPRING INTO CLUB EVENTS

DUST-OFF DRIVE

SPRING DRIVE

PITTSBURGH VINTAGE GRAND PRIX

ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND CRUISE

I do want to apologize to the membership about the Annual meeting that was in February. I unfortunately was unable to make it due to an unforeseen circumstance. I want the membership and in particular those who were at the meeting to know that I take full responsibility for not having the correct amount of board members present for the meeting.

As the President of the Allegheny Chapter, even though there is a five member Board of Directors, the buck stops with me. So please if you have issue or a question, I am easy to reach via email or phone.

Here is my email address [gsnyder71@yahoo.com](mailto:gsnyder71@yahoo.com) and here is my personal cell phone 412.576.0041 which can also be found on the back of your membership card.

I will be the first to state that I am human and I will make mistakes however I will

always do my best to correct them and be better going forward.

Springing forward - the Chapter has a lot of things starting to happen. Soon enough the we head out for the Dust Off Drive and shortly after that the Spring Drive will be upon us as well.

As you know the PVGP will be here before we know it. So as we are working behind the scenes to gear up and get everything ready, please consider volunteering. We can always use a few dozens extra sets of hands during the PVGP.

I have my fingers crossed that Phil will be right and that we will have an early spring. In closing, I say thank you to all the members of the Chapter for your hard work, welcoming spirit and Congratulations on being awarded as the International Club of the Year, it is very well deserved.

This spring members will enjoy the Dust-off Drive and Spring Drive with 3 routes to Cleveland.

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.

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## Bobby Rahal BMW of South Hills **PRO TECH TIP**

"Some of the most overlooked items during brake maintenance is the hardware associated with the brake system. This includes caliper mounting bolts, springs and pins for the brake shoes or pads.

For example return springs along with adjuster and shoe expander for drum brake shoes and internal parking brake shoes should be replaced during shoe replacement.

Floating style brake calipers need to have the caliper retaining spring replaced after four years. Caliper guide screws should be cleaned only, no grease should be used on them as it will attract dirt. This would cause the caliper to not slide properly. Replace any damaged guide screws or bushings showing damage.

Properly lube pad contact points per repair instructions using approved brake contact paste. Torque guide screws and caliper bracket bolts to correct torque values.

On vehicles with fixed style calipers found on older classic vehicles and M-Sport vehicles installation of new pads is very important. Pad retaining pins and expanding springs need to be replaced on vehicles four years old and replaced every four years thereafter with pad replacement. Follow repair instructions for lubing contact points."

- Mike McMurray

Shop Foreman

Bobby Rahal BMW of South Hills

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Rahal**  
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Example of Savings

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**\$61.59 Club Member Price**  
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Only BMW parts are designed to fit first time, giving you complete peace of mind. All BMW Parts come with a two-year unlimited mileage warranty.

# 2016 DRIVING SEASON



Autocross	Pitt Race PDE Group 1&2 \$225 Group 3 \$200	Other Events	Pitt Race Test & Tune Full day \$300 1/2 day \$200
Intro To Autocross May 7 - 10-12am Autocross 12pm-4pm	4/16/2016 Group 1&2 - 7am-1pm Group 3 - 1pm-5pm	June 17 - All Womens PDE 7am-12pm - \$225 Lunch & Learn Only - \$10	5/13/2016 7am-5pm
6/12/2016 12pm-4pm	5/20/2016 Group 1&2 - 7am-1pm Group 3 - 1pm-5pm	September 25 Street Survival 8am-3pm	8/12/2016 7am-5pm
7/31/2016 12pm-4pm	6/13/2016 Group 1&2 - 7am-1pm Group 3 - 1pm-5pm	Allegheny Chapter Intro To Track - Fall Event 7am-12pm - \$85	9/9/2016 7am-5pm
8/14/2016 12pm-4pm	7/15/2016 Group 1&2 - 7am-1pm Group 3 - 1pm-5pm		Sep 30 (P.M. only)
9/11/2016 12pm-4pm	8/15/2016 Group 1&2 - 7am-1pm Group 3 - 1pm-5pm		
10/9/2016 12pm-4pm	9/16/2016 Group 1&2 7am-1pm Group 3 1pm-5pm		



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Dust Off Again

## Drive Becomes Annual Event

We will start the day by gathering in the parking lot outside Panera in Settler's Ridge. Coffee will be ready at 9 and we will depart at 9:30 after a brief driver's meeting. The drive will take us to the heart of Mingo Creek County Park in Finleyville. After a brief stop to stretch your legs, it is on to our final destination of Salati-no's River House, 506 McKean Avenue, Charleroi, PA 15022. Established in 2008, the River House Cafe is located in the Historic District of Charleroi,

### DUST OFF

SATURDAY, APRIL 16  
DUST-OFF DRIVE

PA. They are a family owned and operated business who work hard in providing customers with a great all around dining experience. Estimated time of arrival at Salati-no's River House will be 1 pm.



## Cool Cruise Set for June

The chapter will have a car cruise on June 12th to The Meadows in Monroeville for our June social event. The address for this Sunday afternoon is 4329 Northern Pike, Monroeville PA 15146. We will be meeting at 1 pm.

### HIT THE CONE

SUNDAY, JUNE 12  
ICE CREAM SOCIAL



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George Riggin  
(724) 473.8575

email Mindy for more info: : [mindy.rsa@gmail.com](mailto:mindy.rsa@gmail.com)  
(website under construction)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Spring Drive Gives Choices

## Three Routes Mapped Out for Weekend Trip to Cleveland

This year's Spring Drive will be about choices.

We will be traveling to the Auto Museum in Cleveland, Ohio.

The auto collection on site began almost by accident. At the 1936/37 Great Lakes Exposition in Cleveland, a display of antique automobiles was part of the overall automotive displays. As the Expo ended, Thompson Products president Frederick C. Crawford heard that the exhibitor was going to literally junk one of the histori-



### SPRING DRIVE TRAVEL ROUTES

- 1 HIGHWAYS WITH TOLLS
- 2 HIGHWAYS NO TOLLS
- 3 NO HIGHWAYS AND NO TOLLS

cal cars, a 1910 Duryea.

Mr. Crawford, aware of the impact of the Duryea brothers to early automotive history, had Thompson Products purchase the car, and display it in their factory.

Inspired by his rescue of the Duryea, Mr. Crawford set out to try and save other early automobiles threatened with destruction. He instructed his Thompson Products salesmen to keep on the lookout for antique automobiles as they

served their sales regions, and to inform him if they located anything worthy of collecting.

When they would locate an interesting car, they would wire Mr. Crawford, who would authorize the purchase and shipping of the vehicle back to Cleveland.

Many of these cars were found in barns and garages, and could be had for virtually nothing. (\*\*\*) as told by the museum website) <http://www.wrhs.org/research/crawford/autos/>

Details regarding overnight accommodations and plans for Sunday are still in the finishing stages and will be made available as soon as they are set. Some ideas for Sunday are The Rock n Roll Hall of Fame or The Christmas Story House which are both are open to the public for tours.

The jumping off point for this drive will be the Marriott in Cranberry with a planned arrival of noon at the museum for a tour.

There have been 3 routes drafted - 1- all straight highway w/ tolls. 2- highway w/ no tolls. 3- no highways and no tolls. Departure time will be dictated by your choice. Keep an eye out for more details soon!

### VISIT THE PAST

SATURDAY, MAY 14  
AUTO MUSEUM



See more photos on page 13

## Volunteers Needed

### PVGP Brings Nationwide Visitors

Every year, people from all over the country come to Pittsburgh to stroll the hills of Schenley Park and watch the historic races from high atop German Hill.

This is only possible with your help. Setting up the tables, cleaning up, parking, registration, keeping the ice chest full - all necessary duties to show the city of Pittsburgh and beyond how we like to en-

### GERMAN HILL

PITTSBURGH  
VINTAGE  
GRAND PRIX

joy a day in the park.

If you can lend a hand, please contact Michael Meehan at [mfmeehan@yahoo.com](mailto:mfmeehan@yahoo.com).

# Exclusive Offer for BMW CCA- Allengehy Chapter Members



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## AUTOCROSS EVENTS

# Chapter Offers Exclusive Program

## Introduction to Autocross Session Drives Into Third Year

On May 7, 2016 the Pittsburgh International Motorsport Complex located in Wampum, Pa. is offering an exclusive Introductory Autocross Program presented by the Allegheny Chapter of the BMW CCA.

The Introductory program will run from 9:00 am to 12:00pm. Registration will open at 8:00 am. This program is open to all who would like to have a better understanding of an autocross or for those who would just like to spend some time learning the finer tech-

niques of car control.

Prior to taking your vehicle out on the Vehicle Dynamics Area 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 send to you after registration.

On the day of the program there will be a brief classroom session and discussion for Autocross followed by Autocross

**\$20 GOES FAR**

SATURDAY, MAY 7  
AUTOCROSS INTRO

practice sessions. This program is being offered as an introduction to learn more about the dynamics of driving your car and your abilities.

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 is open on [motorsportreg.com](http://motorsportreg.com).

This program is being offered by Pittsburgh International Motorsport Complex. The BMWCCA, Allegheny Chapter, its Board Members and Membership assume no liability. You will be required to sign wavier forms by Pittsburgh International Motorsport Complex. You must be 18 years of age to participate.

For more information contact Jeff Taylor at [bmw.event.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:bmw.event.coordinator@gmail.com).

A program like this is normally priced at more than \$200

# Race Series Returns to Wampum Complex

## Chapter Announces 2016 PITT Race- Allegheny Chapter Autocross

The Allegheny Chapter is proud to announce the return of the PITT Race- Allegheny Chapter Autocross Series. Held at Pittsburgh International Race Complex in Wampum, Pa this low key series will consist of six (6) autocross sessions, with a start date of May 7 (immediately following the Allegheny Chapter's Introduction to Autocross program). The Series first session starts at 12:00 pm. The remaining dates are; June 12, July 31, August 14, September 11 and October 9.

The series is open to all

chapter members, any car is allowed and experience is not required. If you are concerned about damaging your car the likely hood is very minimum. There is only one car at a time on the course and the only things to hit are cones. While there is timing and scoring and we recognize class winners you

are really just trying to become more comfortable with your cars characteristics and develop your ability to control your car in adverse or speed situations.

Car classifications are established by the age, model and modifications of the vehicle. The first determining factor is if your car is stock, tuned or modified. A list of these factors are available on our website. After establishing one of these three factors, the model and age of your car will place you in a class. These classes are used to pair cars of like abilities to driv-

ers of varying abilities.

Any chapter member can sign up for the series and receive a \$60 discount from PITT Race and a \$24 discount from the Allegheny Chapter or attend on individual dates and pay the non-discounted amount of \$40 as you play. Registration is located at [motorsportreg.com](http://motorsportreg.com). Helmets are required and can be rented from PITT Race. Individuals only need to attend three out of six events to be considered for class winners depending on if there are enough cars within your class.

**SIGN-UPS OPEN**

SATURDAY,  
MAY 7  
PITT RACE



## RACE REVIEW



# Day in Daytona is Event of Lifetime

## Rolex 24-Hour Sports Car Endurance Race Excites Night and Day

BY RICK ROUDEBUSH  
ILLINI CHAPTER

"There are four seats available for hot laps in M4's, but we have to get to the pit area right now!" Well, that kind of announcement will wake up the most reluctant riser after a night of pre-Rolex 24 celebrating. This is the way we started our first morning in the motor coach parked track side with our Allegheny Chapter friends, Brett and Dee Sutton. Poof... we're outa' there! It's nice to know people in high places.

"Print and sign, here is your wrist band, go to the pit out gate over there!" barks our escort at the waiver tent. We wait just a few moments and the gate opens allowing us onto the flat part of the track

at the end of turn 4, where we see three M4 Grand Coupes, dressed in BMW Motorsports livery, and the familiar face of Mike Renner standing beside the last one. Mike is lead driving instructor at the BMW Performance Center M Driving School at Spartanburg, SC and well known hot shoe/hooligan who pilots many charity rides at BMWCCA events across the country. Of course, we move to the end to get in his car. Sonja and I hop in the back and Dee in the front. Brett went on the next lap where he videoed the unbelievable experience on his phone (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-DqR7fS-FGU>) Few tracks in the world are as legendary or have the storied history as the Daytona International Speedway. Most

Rolex 24 is a 24-hour race held at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida annually.

folks know this track as the home of the NASCAR Daytona 500, with its tri-oval layout. This year's Rolex 24 was the first event and grand opening after this winter's 400 million dollar re-imagining of the "World's Center of Racing" facility. It was also the kickoff of the IMSA 2016 racing season and is the 54th running of the famed Rolex 24. I couldn't be happier to have been there for it. The Rolex 24 race uses almost all of the tri, but diverts into the infield at the end of 'pit out', just before turn 1. The infield por-

tion is pretty flat and very intense. It has several slow speed curves, some short straights and two 180's, named "horseshoes" (both are right handers), before shooting back onto the high bank of turns 1 & 2. When we slid into that banking at full tilt boogie with fun pedal fully mashed, it felt and looked like we were blasting off for a moon launch. We were right on the tail of the M4 in front of us, which was hugging the wall. If I had the window down and my arm resting on the ledge, I could have easily touched the

wall with my elbow. The speedo needle was pointing downward before the end of the corner. To make 'The 24' more interesting and challenging, there is a chicane just after the middle of the backstretch, called the "bus stop". Before Mr. Renner began braking for this, I thought we were just gonna stay on the 15° banking and go straight on through. When he finally did brake, then diverted down towards the bus stop, our eyes bugged out like cartoon characters. Over the rumble strips on all four corners with masterful flicks of the wheel and we were blasting back up on the 15° banking, on our way to the 30° banking of turns 3 & 4. When you watch the video, keep in mind it looks really slow compared to the way it feels, but it does give a pretty good impression of just how steep the banking is.

When he landed this rocket and we got out, I realized my knees were shaking, I felt a little beat up, my heart rate was elevated and I was breathing harder than at the end of our jog over there. This, after riding for one, three-minute lap in an expertly piloted luxury car. The professional drivers would later endure this pounding for 90 minute stints in very harsh suspension race cars, performing 36 gear shifts per 3.56 mile lap, while trying to shave off every tenth of a second at every opportunity... all while passing slower classes of cars and being passed by faster classes of cars. What's this you say? Four classes of cars on the same track at the same time?

Yes, for 24 hours straight.

What could possibly go wrong? I gained an even higher level of respect and admiration for the incredible skill and stamina required to be a race car driver.

Manufacturers and racing teams who venture into this grueling sport welcome the considerable challenge of building and maintaining a machine that can withstand this 24-hour torture test and do so faster than the other guys. BMW is debuting four brand new racing versions of the M6, with all new technology and a chassis powered by a new V8 racing engine, featuring reverse flow and two turbochargers, nestled in the engine's V. To quote Will Turner of Turner Motorsports GTD, "It's like putting together a new football team just two weeks before the Super Bowl." The Rahal, Letterman, Lanigan Racing team had two of the M6's in the GTLM class. The GTLM class is my favorite and I was excited to see the new M6's of course, but Ford had its spectacular new Ford GT's in the hunt and Lamborghini entered new Lamborghini Huracans. Aston Martin showed up with its stunningly beautiful DB9's and there were fierce looking Dodge Vipers. But this season opener would turn out to be a battle of the old proven technology of the Porsche's and push-rod-engine Corvettes against the new everything in the Fords and BMW's. Anytime you have Ford, Chevy, Ferrari, and BMW competing against each other, you know everybody is pulling out all the stops.



PHOTOS FROM RLL RACING

Fierce rivalries and much tradition at stake makes for a very intense competition. Everyone involved is fully aware of the slogan, "Win on Sunday, sell on Monday," but mostly, the drivers want to win and receive one of those coveted Rolex Oyster Perpetual wrist watches and the bragging rights that go along with it. To do that you must stay out of trouble for 23 hours and save some car for the last hour and be in a position to lead that all-important last lap. Bit of a challenge, to say the least.

A big part of the excitement of this race is being there in the infield long after dark, where you are treated to a fireworks show in the sky, as well as the one on the track. While the strategists are calculating how to save some car for the end, while remaining within striking distance, you are free to roam around and find that perfect spot to watch and mingle with the other dedicated racing fans. I've said this before: there is nothing like the passion and camaraderie of car nuts. Several nice folks helped direct me to the curve that had the best viewing of glowing brake rotors. A perfect shot of your favorite car with its brake rotors aglow like sparklers from the heat proved quite difficult to capture with a

cell phone camera held over a fence higher than your head, but I had a lot of fun trying.

Speaking of hot rotors, the 100 car of RLL suffered a dramatic brake rotor failure at about 2:00 am, resulting in a nose-first crash into the outside wall, disabling the race car. Too bad, because it was performing quite well up till then and looked pretty darn cool at night with its 100th anniversary reflective cloak glowing as it charged around the track. The Fords had some 'new car' issues with one of their cars eventually dropping out. One of the Turner cars succumbed to the punishment of 'The 24' as well.

If you watched the race you know it could not have been a better day to be a Corvette fan. Congrats to them... hurumph! That aside, the reality is after 24 hours of hard racing, all the non-attrition GTLM cars were on the same lap at the finish and the remaining Turner car was still in the running in the GTD class. HUGE thanks to our friends for inviting us to spend the weekend with them for the event of a lifetime, hot laps and track side at the Daytona Rolex 24. It's gonna be an exciting year of racing. I hope to see you at Road America on the 7th of August!

Part of the excitement is being there after dark, where you are treated to a fireworks show in the sky and on the track.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# Big Award Drives Enthusiasm

## National Board Names Chapter International Club of Year

BY AL APEX

This year's Post-Holiday Party is one that will not soon be forgotten. Saturday night began with a buzz as the BMW CCA National Board of Directors and the National Office Staff arrived for the festivities. Most of us are accustomed to seeing their faces every summer in Schenley Park during the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (PVGP) but this was completely different.

Our Chapter President, George Snyder, kicked things off around 7:30 with a warm welcome before handing it over to Frank Patek, BMW CCA Executive Director who introduced everyone from National. What happened next was not expected.

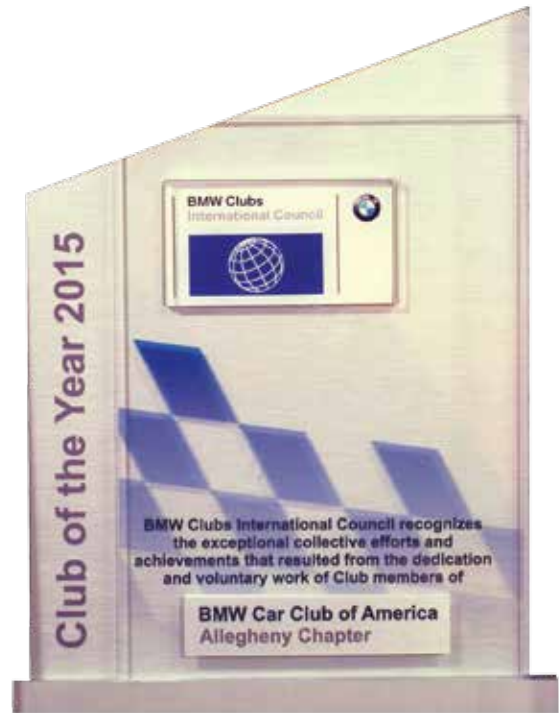
The Chapter was presented with the International Club of the Year Award for 2015!

This is the fourth time that this prestigious honor has

been awarded. Previous winners include BMW Motored Club Malaysia (2014), BMW CCA Foundation (2013) and BMW Car Club New Zealand (2012). Achievements in growth and social responsibility are two of the criteria that qualify a club for this award. The Chapter's hard work and dedication over the years with the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (PVGP) and the money we have raised for the PVGP charities, has contributed to this success.

To all the members past and present. This award is the ultimate recognition of all the energy, effort and long hours that you all have put in over the years. Thank you for all you do!

Thank you to Steve Johnson and Frank Patek and the rest of the National BMW CCA board for coming to Pittsburgh in January to attend the Post Holiday party and present the Chapter with this prestigious award.



**Allegheny Chapter members celebrate at annual Post-Holiday Party at Bobby Rahal after BMW CCA National Board of Directors presents 2015 award.**



*Congratulations,  
Club Members!*

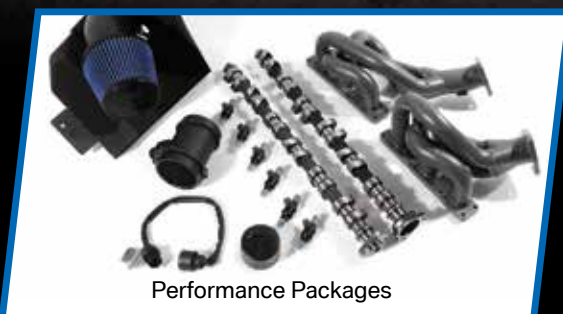






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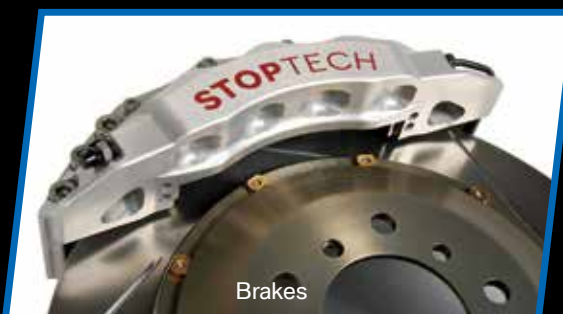
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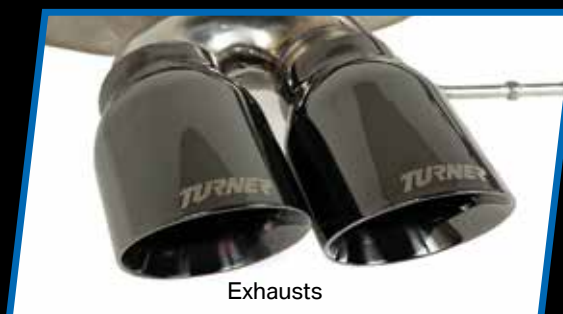
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# Schools Teach Skills, Safety

## Chapter Promotes Drivers' Lessons

BY BOB BRIGGS

"To encourage safe and skillful driving classes", this was written into our by-laws as a founding purpose of the chapter. While we don't currently put on drivers' schools, we still want to promote them, so let's talk about going to those that are available.

### What is a Drivers' School?

An event designed to improve your driving skills. A school provides you with classroom instruction on the theory and methods of proper and safe driving and hands on experience in your own car. You will be taught by a group of instructors with backgrounds of event, driving, teaching and racing experience. Schools are held at a race tracks to provide a safe controlled area where you can concentrate on sharpening your skills without having to worry about others who don't take their or your driving seriously. A school is also a social event where you get to spend time with a diverse group of people who all share the interest of being better drivers. And, of course, it is fun!

### Is it safe?

One of the most stressed topic at a Drivers' School is Safety. You will have sole control of your car. You will not be pushed into doing things

### GAIN CONTROL

SEVEN TRACKS  
WITHIN 300 MILES  
OF PITTSBURGH.

you don't want to. You will be grouped with drivers having similar experience. Only one group of drivers will be on the track at one time. Each driver will have an instructor riding in the car until you both feel you are ready to drive the track solo. Cars will only be side by side when passing and then only in designated passing areas. Any driver acting in an unsafe manner will be excluded from the event. In case of any problems, paramedics standing by for you and a tow truck for your car.

### What preparation is required?

You need to schedule and prepare well in advance of a school. Registration is typically months in advance. (I'm already registered for my season's 16 track days through October) You will need car inspected to make sure that it is in compliance with the technical requirements of the school. You will need a driving helmet. For out of town events, you will also need travel and accommodations.

### What events are available?

There are seven tracks in a 300 mile radius of Pittsburgh. BMW clubs hold events at most of them as do other car clubs and some tracks hold their own.

Locally, the Allegheny Region Porsche club and PitRace hold events at the PitRace facility. While all events are similar, each organization has their own curricula and does things their own way. Facilities also differ, Summit Point has skid pads available while allow for teaching car control.

### How will the Allegheny Chapter promote Drivers' Schools?

The Driving Events Committee has a proposal pending to list schools in our calendar and subsidize BMW club member attendance at PitRace events via a 10% rebate. Watch your chapter publications to see if it is passed at the next business meeting.

### Where can I get more information?

I'm happy to discuss Drivers' Schools and answer any questions you have about them, just send me e-mail at [rbriggs@comcast.net](mailto:rbriggs@comcast.net) and we can go from there. I hope to see you at the track.



## EVENTS

### LOCAL

**June 4 - 5** PittRace Full Track: Allegheny Region Porsche Club of America

**July 30 - 31** PittRace Full Track: Allegheny Region Porsche Club of America

### PittRace Performance Driver Education (PDE) events: North Track

**April 16** - Saturday

**May 20** - Friday

**June 13** - Monday

**June 17** - Friday - Women Only

**August 15** - Monday

**September 16** - Friday

**September 30** - Friday

### OTHER CHAPTERS

#### Mid Ohio

**May 28 - 29** Northern Ohio Chapter

**August 20 - 21** Buckeye Chapter

#### Watkins Glen

**April 29 - May 1** Genesee Valley Chapter

**June 10 - 12** Genesee Valley Chapter

**July 13 - 14** Delaware Valley Chapter

**September 30 - October 2** Genesee Valley Chapter

#### Summit Point

**April 8 - 10** Jefferson Circuit: National Capital Chapter

**April 16 - 18** Jefferson and Main Circuits : Delaware Valley Chapter

**May 20 - 22** Main Circuit: National Capital Chapter

**July 23 - 24** Main Circuit: New Jersey Chapter

**September 9 - 11** Shenandoah Circuit : National Capital Chapter

**October 8 - 9** Shenandoah Circuit: New Jersey Chapter

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## UPCOMING EVENT

# West Coast Hosts O' Fest

Celebrate 47th Annual BMW CCA Oktoberfest in Monterey, California

### TRAVEL WEST

AUGUST 23-28  
LAGUNA SECA

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.

For 2016 O'fest returns to the thrilling Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. O'fest was last held there in 2013, but club members can be assured that we will have an even bigger celebra-

tion this time around!

O'fest attendees can participate in various driving and social activities, such as: autocross, concours, gymkhana, rallies, and of course, high performance driving experiences on Laguna Seca.

For more information, go to: <http://celebratebmw.com/>

This is your chance to see what the fuss is all about before it comes to Pittsburgh in 2018. Speaking of which, if you would like to get involved, there will be an Oktoberfest Planning Meeting on April 30th at 9:00am at the Doubletree Hotel in Greentree.

Please RSVP to [Oktoberfest2018@gmail.com](mailto:Oktoberfest2018@gmail.com) to ensure that there is adequate space.

### PITTSBURGH PLANS OKTOBERFEST 2018



This is your chance to see what the fuss is all about before it comes to Pittsburgh in 2018.

If you would like to get involved, there will be an Oktoberfest Planning Meeting on April 30th at 9:00am at the Doubletree Hotel in Greentree.

**Please RSVP to [Oktoberfest2018@gmail.com](mailto:Oktoberfest2018@gmail.com).**

## ANNUAL EVENT

# Auto Show Draws Crowd

Chapter Volunteers Endorse Benefits of Membership

BY AL APEX

Thanks to the BMW Dealers Association for again wel-

coming the Allegheny Chapter to the BMW area at the Pittsburgh International Auto Show February 12-15.

There was a nice turnout of visitors who were particularly interested in the new M2.

BMW owners, not currently CCA members, received enthusiastic endorsements of the benefits of Club membership; we hope to see them soon at one of our upcoming events.

The new M2 brings visitors to Pittsburgh's Annual Auto Show

### VOLUNTEERS

Bob Fratangelo  
Allen Christian  
George & Johna Snyder  
Emilio Veneziano  
Francesca Ionadi  
Jon Webb  
Suzana Jurica  
Ken Sachs  
Mary Ann Gross  
Ken, Nancy & Courtney Tullar  
Tiffany Nolan  
Greg Calvimontes  
Marianne Meehan





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## BRAKE DOWN

# A Letter from a Father to His Son

## The Most Powerful Part of a Vehicle is the Brakes

BY GLEN BEATIE

Hi Son,

Here's something for you to ponder.

If you asked drivers which component of their car was the most powerful, almost everyone would say the engine (although some might say the radio <->).

But in fact, the most powerful component is the brakes.

A typical car can accelerate from 0 to 60 in about 7 seconds and brake from 60 to 0 in about 4 seconds. So in terms of energy-per-unit-time, the brakes are almost twice as powerful as the engine.

Few drivers think about the implications. The brakes convert kinetic energy to heat through friction. If you've ever

touched your brake rotors right after a drive, you probably burned your fingers. The amount of energy it takes to stop a 4,000 lb. car from 60 MPH is enormous. And yet modern automobile brakes are so reliable (they have to be), that we rarely give it a thought.

There are two brake-related items that deserve attention.

The first is the brake fluid. DOT 3 brake fluid is hydroscopic and will absorb water from the atmosphere. This degrades the fluid's performance and if allowed to accumulate over a period of time, can drastically reduce its boiling point. New DOT3 fluid has a boiling point of 401°F. But after it is absorbed 3.7% water by volume, the boiling point is

reduced to 284°F.

This can allow a water vapor bubble to form in the brake line near the hot brakes. Water vapor is compressible, so this can lead to "mushy" brakes.

Most car manufacturers recommend changing the brake fluid every 3 years, regardless of mileage.

Your sister recently experienced this herself. Coming down from Yosemite National Park she stayed in 5th gear and rode the brakes down the mountain. About halfway down, the brake pedal went all the way to the floor. She managed to pull off into a rest area and stop. Her brakes were incredibly hot. Even the dust shields on the front brakes were hot enough to boil water. We let them cool for about 45 minutes and then continued down the mountain using engine compression to assist the brakes.

As soon as she got home, she had the brake fluid changed.

The second item is the brake pads. Although you



Brakes convert kinetic energy to heat through friction.

can "safely" wear them down to about 2/32", they start to lose their ability to dissipate the heat at about 4/32". So to protect the rotors, they should be changed early. If you wait until the brakes are making squealing noises you've almost certainly caused damage not to mention that the car is dangerous to drive.

The point I'm trying to make is that a 3-year-old car with 40,000 miles that's never had any brake work deserves a brake fluid flush and a detailed inspection. A convenient time to do it is when you buy new tires.

Love,  
Dad

If you've ever touched your brake rotors right after a drive, you probably burned your fingers.



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## UPCOMING EVENT

# 3rd Street Survival Class on Track

Chapter Hopes for Class of 36 at Fall 2016 Event, 4 Members Registered

BY GREG CALVIMONTES

In 2015, the Street Survival program ran 101 programs across the country.

On Sept. 25 2016 Allegheny Chapter will hold our 3rd Tire Rack Street Survival class.

This class is aimed at the newer driver in an all-day session divided between classroom time led by Jeff Taylor and a driving course led by Bob Briggs. The class will be at Pittsburgh International Race Complex in Wampum PA.

We are hoping to have a class of 36 this year. As of Feb 26, we already have 4 students

### SAVE THE DATE

SEPT. 25, 2016  
STREET SURVIVAL

registered. And this was with us just handing out flyers at the Pgh Auto Show booth the club had!

The students use their own cars that they drive on a regular basis and are already familiar with. In the class they become familiar more with the things they may come across in

an emergency situation. So we teach them what to do on our skid pads, slalom course etc. They learn what it's like to have to slam on the brakes at driving speed in a safe, controlled environment. They learn how to change lanes quickly in a controlled way. All with a one to one in car instructor.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help in both instruction as well as support.

We are trying to build this up to have enough instructors to have it twice a year. You do not have to be a Track Nut to become an instructor. But it does not hurt to have those skills!

If you are interested in helping out, please contact me at [gregc@pghcustomht.com](mailto:gregc@pghcustomht.com).

And if you know someone who wants to register for the class, it's at <http://tinyurl.com/SSAllegheny>

Class is all day with sessions in the classroom and on a driving course.



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## MEMBER UPDATES

### New Memberships

#### The Allegheny Chapter Welcomes New Members

##### November 2015

Teddy Nisenbaum – Pittsburgh  
Dean Yannacci – New Kensington  
Deborah Prise – Pittsburgh  
David Argent – McMurray

##### December 2015

Barry Charriere – Canonsburg  
Michael Williams – Pittsburgh  
Keaton Paluzzi – Apollo  
Craig Thomasmeyer – Butler  
Kristen Bocka – Pittsburgh  
Jeffrey Kline – Aspinwall  
Stephen DeAngelis – Beaver  
Steve Liadis – Pittsburgh

##### December 2015

Bharadwaj Gabbula –  
Columbus, Indiana  
Lee Stern – Pittsburgh  
George Sagan – Wexford  
Cody Kuhns – Canonsburg

##### January 2016

Louis Sforza – Oakmont  
Elizabeth Mueller – Bridgeville  
Chris Juliano – Grove City  
Matthew Wasilewski – Cranberry Twp.  
Eric Auslander – Pittsburgh  
Stephen Cousins – Canonsburg  
Benjamin Weiss – Pittsburgh

### Milestones

#### Congrats to Members Who Celebrate Milestones this Quarter



##### Kent Beaver

##### 20 Years

Gary Schultz  
Brian Mandic  
Gary Minchau

##### 15 Years

Michael Poprik  
Peter Stephans  
Harry Titus  
Gary Ferguson  
George Paleos  
Brian Mullins

##### 10 Years

Lee Plummer  
Michael Nicoella  
Michael Swartz  
Frank Cameron  
Christopher Mager  
David Bobro  
Dwight Heron  
Alan Marthinsen  
Jon Sweringen  
Megan Sweringen  
Gary Sefcik

### Keep Your Info Current

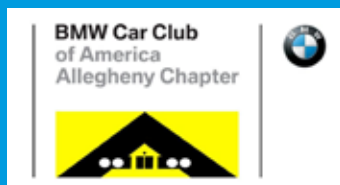
Have you moved or changed your email address?

The National Office maintains one database of membership information. It is used for USPS mailings, such as the Roundel and our chapter newsletter, and for email blasts of the weekly electronic Roundel and chapter blasts of updated information.

It is very important that 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.



### Allegheny Chapter BMW CCA Board of Directors

### *The Nominations Are In!*

#### **President** (Incumbent)

☐ George Snyder

#### **Vice President** (Incumbent)

☐ Brett Sutton

#### **Secretary** (Incumbent)

☐ Marianne Meehan

#### **Treasurer** (Running unopposed)

☐ Darlene Lipovsek

#### **Member-at-Large** (Incumbent)

☐ Rudi Flavin

Ballots can be mailed to the Election Secretary at:  
**1305 Aviara Place, Gibsonia, PA 15044**  
Follow up meeting to be announced.



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