

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 2018



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Chapter Officers and Coordinators

President

Gary Sefcik ✓

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Vice-President

Robert Weir ✓✓

Treasurer

Darlene Lipovsek ✓

Secretary

Marianne Mehan ✓

Member-at-Large

Thomas "Rudi" Flavin ✓

Member-at-Large

Ron Vivian ✓

Social Director

Maxine Weir ✓✓

Driving Event Coordinator

Chris Williams

Pittsburg Vintage Grand Prix Chair

Ron Vivian

Webmaster

Emilio Veneziano

Social Media Coordinator

Steve Forest

Touring Coordinator

Glen Beattie

Newsletter Editor

Open Position

Dealer Liaison

Greg Calvimontes

Membership Coordinator

Marianne Meehan

President, BMWCCA

Steve Johnson

VP, North Atlantic Region

LouAnn Shirk

Membership Services

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✓ Voting Position

✓ New Board Member



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking ahead

The end of another chapter and on to the next

BY GARY SEFCIK

President, Allegheny Chapter

What an exciting year for the Allegheny Chapter! The final tabulations were completed in determining the contribution to the Charities of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. I am proud to say that the Allegheny Chapter established a new record, \$126,500! Just to put that in perspective, the previous record was \$75,000 (verify). Congratulations, to all of us.

In the Fall newsletter, one of my key requests was for people to step up and help the chapter fill several open positions. I am happy to say that we do indeed have two experienced members step up to accept nominations for open board positions. Bob Weir, accepted the nomination for Vice-President and Maxine Weir, the nomination for Social Director. Since each of the board nomi-

nees are running unopposed, in accordance with the chapter bylaws, we will forgo a formal election and get right into business. Thank you, Tiffany Nolan, for serving as Election Coordinator. Given the open board positions prior to expiration of the terms, the Board of Directors asked, and both Bob and Maxine agreed to step into their respected roles in January. We owe them a great deal of appreciation for agreeing to jump right in and take active roles in planning for the Post Holiday Party, Annual Meeting and March Planning Meeting.

It is also critical to the Chapter that a new Newsletter Editor is identified. We had been spoiled with the fine work that our previous editor Johna Snyder had done, including her work in creating a streamlined process. As guest editor for this edition, I gained a true appreciation for the work necessary in getting

this edition published. Unfortunately, I do not have the time to devote to this responsibility. I want to focus my time on being the best president that I can be. If you, or someone who you know, has an interest in assuming this responsibility, please contact me directly. We can jointly publish the next newsletter.

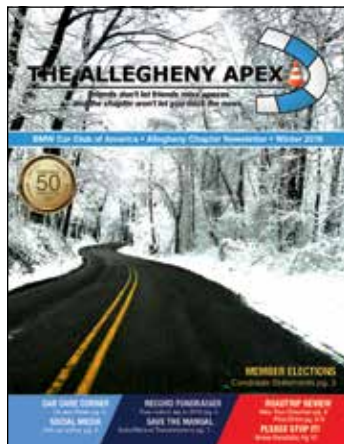
We have an excellent Dust-Off Drive planned for April, thanks to our new Touring Coordinator Glen Beattie along with Steve Forest. You will soon be receiving an invitation from them to participate in a planning session, where you can suggest ideas for driving tours, find how they are developed and learn how to lead one yourself. Given the popularity of tour events, we would like to train new leaders, so that we can increase the number of these events from 4 in 2018 to 5 or more in 2019.

EVENT APPAREL

Dress for the Club

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 inquiries contact stiches@logcabin-embroidery.com



Cover Photo Credit
Glen Beattie

BMW Car Club
of America
Allegheny Chapter



2019 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

PRESIDENT **GARY SEFCIK**

I am asking for your support in electing me as Vice President of the Allegheny Chapter, BMW CCA. I am the owner of two BMWs, an F25 X3 and an E85 Z4, my 5th and 6th since 2001. I had initially joined the club to take advantage of the rebates and of course Roundel Magazine. It was not until two years ago that I, participated in the Dust Off drive, and became active in club activities, that I realized the real benefit to being a club member. Its socializing with others who share the same passion of BMW. Since then, I have participated in numerous drives, club meetings, events and volunteer opportunities.

VICE PRESIDENT **BOB WEIR**

I am soliciting your support for the Vice President position of the Allegheny Chapter, BMW CCA. I have been a member of the club since 2001 but have been an active participant with my wife, Maxine for the past 10 years volunteering at the PVGP, attending club functions and enjoying driving events. I have been self-employed since 1990 and have owned& operated a medical supply company and three personal care homes in the Pittsburgh area. I hope to utilize my organizational skills, management acumen & marketing expertise to help with club operations and increase the enthusiasm and participation of our members.

SECRETARY **MARIANNE MEEHAN**

I have been a member of the BMW CCA for 29 years, actively participating in Allegheny Chapter events for the past 12 years. I have served as Chapter Secretary, as well as the Membership Coordinator, for 5 years. In June 2016, was honored to be named the 2015 Volunteer of the Year for the North Atlantic Region BMW CCA. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve the members of

the Allegheny Chapter as the Chapter Secretary for 2019.

TREASURER **DARLENE LIPOVSEK**

I am running for the position of Treasurer. My qualifications include a BSBA in Accounting, a MBA and 30 years of experience as a Corporate Controller. As the Treasurer this year, I have converted the Club records using Quickbooks and am able to provide professional quality financials to the Club.

SOCIAL DIRECTOR **MAXINE WEIR**

Although I've only been an "official" member since 2015, I've been actively participating in Allegheny Chapter, BMW CCA for nearly 10 years with my husband Bob, who piqued my interest in the club. We attend a variety of driving events whenever possible, volunteer yearly at the PVGP and most recently served as event hosts this past September at J&D winery. I have a proven track record in my various roles throughout my pharmacy career of demonstrating the ability to lead, manage and motivate diverse teams and implement well-developed plans. I offer great communication and listening skills and a commitment to deliver, which I feel are essential to being an effective & successful social director. I am energetic, creative and enjoy having fun! ?? I am sincerely flattered having been nominated for this role and promise to do my best to fulfill the club's expectations.

MEMBER AT LARGE #1 **THOMAS 'RUDI' FLAVIN**

Howdy Friends, As members of Allegheny Chapter we lead a charmed existence, I feel it. Not only do we enjoy an enhanced ownership experience as BMW CCA members, but our enthusiastic corps of volunteers, officers, committee members, event organizers, helpers, and you, participate in all the fun, have given us a year of activities and events to remember. I am proud to have been

your representative on the Board of Directors as Member at Large. Having had the privilege of serving as your Member at Large for 32 of now beginning my 35th year of Club membership, I've worn almost innumerable "hats". From sitting on committees to end of day/ event clean-up, Rudi is or had been there. I also served a decade as Newsletter Editor, was a Performance Driving Instructor, and chaired the Fall Leaves Tour & Picnic Committee for 32 years. My strongest assets, I believe, are bringing continuity to the Chapter's memory of what we have done and how it worked out, and an openness to presenting new, exciting experiences for our Chapters members. I promise to continue to be a strong advocate of driving events, to continue attending every meeting and activity possible and to be an accessible channel for voicing your ideas, opinions, and yes, criticism to the Board. I support the current slate of office holders in this election of officers to the Board of Directors. Like you, I look forward to an exciting new year shared with fellow members of Allegheny Chapter. Thank you for your vote. Love, Rudi

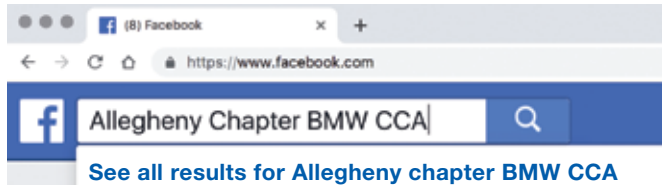
MEMBER AT LARGE #2 **RON VIVIAN**

My name is Ron Vivian and I am running for the position of Member at Large. I am recently retired from a large Pittsburgh Engineering firm where I worked for 27 years as, Customer Service Manager and Service Project Manager. I was born and raised in the Mon-Valley. I hold a BS degree in Business Administration. My wife and I have been married for 48 years, we have 4 kids and 9 grandkids. From a very young age I have had a love for automobiles and a deep appreciation for the complex engineering that goes into them. I promise to be a person that will listen to all the members in order to enhance the BMW Car Club experience for everyone. I will be there to help with whatever is needed to keep the Allegheny Chapter the best it can be. Thank you.

FACEBOOK

Are you on social media?

If so, the chapter has a Facebook page and a group.



(Figure 1)

The page has information about the chapter – drives, get-togethers, etc. – as well as BMW-related news and stories, but the content is determined by the chapter. The group is a member-driven forum where members can share pictures, stories, events, questions, etc. that are not necessarily chapter related.

To join the page and/or the group, click on the search box at the top of the screen and type “**Allegheny Chapter BMW CCA**” and then click on “**See all results for Allegheny chapter BMW CCA**” (see Figure 1). This will bring up the results in Facebook for the chapter. Then simply click on “**Join**” for the group and “**Like**” for the page and you are all set (see Figure 2). On behalf of BMW CCA, we look forward to new members joining us on Facebook.



(Figure 2)

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL MEETING



BY MARIANNE MEEHAN
Secretary, Allegheny Chapter

For the sixth year, the Chapter's September Social was held at J&D

CAR CARE CORNER

Oil and Water

BY GLEN BEATTIE

Touring Coordinator,
Allegheny Chapter

You've heard that an endless diet of short trips is bad for your vehicle's engine. But do you know why?

Water condenses in your crankcase and oil pan just like it does on your windshield and doors. Naturally, you don't want water in your oil any more than you want it on your windshield. And the way to get rid of it is with heat.



So you start your engine and in a couple of minutes the temperature gauge comes off the “C” peg and the defroster and cabin heater start doing their job. Problem solved.



What you may not realize is that the rise in oil temperature lags very far behind the rise in coolant temperature. In some cases, it may take more than half an hour for the oil temperature to reach 212° F—the minimum temperature required to begin to boil off water in the oil.

If your trips are limited to the grocery store, the dry cleaners and the movie theater, you may not be purging the condensed water from your oil. So do your vehicle a favor and stack your short trips together into long trips, and make sure your engine regularly runs for more than an hour.

CHAPTER EVENTS

BMW Shatters Marque of the Year Fundraising Record

BY AL APEX

Five years ago, when the local BMW club chapter requested to be the PVGP's 2018 Marque of the Year they were determined to be the best marque ever. At the PVGP Victory Lap Celebration held fittingly at the Hofbräuhaus Pittsburgh, they learned they did just that. With the help of the BMW CCA bringing their national Oktoberfest event to Pittsburgh, over 750 show cars at Schenley Park, more than 110 BMW racers entered and the tireless efforts of the local Allegheny Chapter – a record \$126,500 was raised!

More than a dozen members of the local and national clubs were in attendance at the Victory Lap event to celebrate the record setting efforts. Dan DelBianco, PVGP Executive Director expressed heartfelt congratulations from the PVGP to the BMW Car Club of America, BMW North America and all the participants saying “the BMW Club embodies all that is special and unique about our event and our supporters. They put in years of planning, work and dedication and pulled off a wonderful event.”

The Pittsburgh area BMW dealers, led by Rick Speicher and Bobby Rahal BMW, fueled the record with their sponsorship and a generous donation of auction items. This record fundraising effort



Front row: Zack & Melissa Cunningham, Ron Vivian and Chris Williams. Back row: Gary Sefcik, LouAnn Shirk-BMWCCA Regional Vice President, Brett Sutton, Frank Patek-BMWCCA Executive Director, Jeff Taylor, Ron Vivian and Michael Meehan.

comprised of donations raised from track rides, event ticket sales, racer entry fees, individual donations and merchandise sales, with the largest portion coming from car show entry fees to the O'Fest gathering at Schenley Park. The previous marque record of \$75,300 was set in 2013 by Mustang and the Neighborhood Ford Store.

According to Gary Sefcik, President, Allegheny Chapter BMW Club “last night I had the distinct pleasure to attend the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Victory Lap Celebration, along with the Chapter leadership team and the National leadership representatives. I am proud to announce that we

shattered the past record with a final tally of \$126,497. This could not have been reached without the vision of Jeff Taylor and Brett Sutton (shown with sign at left), who had the idea to combine the BMW Oktoberfest and the PVGP, the dedicated volunteers who spent countless hours planning and executing and all of the members who attended the events. We also owe a thank you to all of the sponsors who help make the PVGP a “must attend” event for our chapter and the other chapters from around the country who attended. A special thank you to Bobby Rahal BMW, who donated two Indianapolis 500 weekends and provided considerable support throughout the event.”

The special moment that the check for this record fundraising effort will be presented to the PVGP charities will take place on the much larger stage of the 2019 International Car Show's Dancing With the Cars party at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on Thursday, February 14. All attendees of the Victory Lap Celebration were entered into a drawing for two tickets to Dancing With the Cars and the winners were Jeff Duxbury from the Bob O'Connor Golf Course and Tim Swisher from the BMW Club. With Shelby and Mustang as the Marque of the Year in 2019 and Porsche designated for 2021, these organizations already have plans underway and a big fundraising target to shoot for.

Members Bring Sunshine To Final Drive

BY GLEN BEATTIE

Touring Coordinator, Allegheny Chapter

Since the very first Last Drive of the Year in 2013, we've been blessed with spectacular late-summer weather. But not this time. This year, the weather-meister cursed us with cold, dank, dreary weather. It was really too bad because the foliage was at its peak.



But the weather steadily improved as the day went on. Fortunately, we were able to overcome the marginal weather with an incredible drive with fantastic stops.

The drive coordinator tried desperately to hold everything together...



We had 44 members participate, a very respectable number.



Our penitentiary tour guide Chuck had us all engrossed with his first-person experiences...



The buffet dinner at Breezy Heights Tavern was great...



Anyone who was on this drive has to admit that the real star was the roads. Unfortunately, we hit some obstructions on the southern roads. But the northern portion of WV-88 was nothing short of spectacular. This route is worth a revisit at our earliest possible convenience. As a car club we should drive!





Annual Tour Takes New Direction

BY AL APEX

The 2018 Fall Leaves Tour took a new direction. In keeping with the Dust Off Drive's "castle" theme from earlier in the year, we met in Cranberry, took some fabulous twisty roads north towards two destinations in Moraine State Park, then on to our lunch destination Shakespeare's Restaurant & Pub, located in Ellwood City at Olde Stonewall Golf Club.

Despite the damp weather, 47 members in 28 cars showed up and were anxious to get to the twisty roads and test their ultimate driving machines. After the brief drivers meeting where drive leaders Gary Sefcik and Steve Forest were introduced along with sweeps Glen Beattie and Bill Permar, drivers were instructed to form two groups. Garmans were set to the well-planned route, hand-held radios tuned to 7.5, and off we went!

As usual, Franklin Road did not disappoint. The Cranberry to Evans City section contains many challenging twisties. Although a couple of interlopers

were successful in injecting themselves into the groups, we lost them in the northern section.

We entered Moraine State Park from the North, stopping across from the marina for some quick photos, then proceeded around the lake to the southern section, where photo opportunities abound. I am certain that if the clouds had allowed the sun to peak through, our pictures might have made November's edition of Roundel.

Almost on clockwork we departed from the park, making our way to our final destination in Ellwood City, Shakespeare's Restaurant & Pub at Olde Stonewall Golf Club. This beautiful facility is designed like a castle, complete with actual suits of armor. The restaurant staff was ready for us and served flawlessly, using the full lunch menu. A special thank you from all attendees is owed for the outstanding hospitality provided by the staff.



Save the Manual



BY GLEN BEATTIE
Touring Coordinator,
Allegheny Chapter

Until recently, manual transmissions offered both better performance and better mileage than their automatic counterparts. That helped keep the manual transmission popular, especially in Europe and the rest of the world where fuel is quite expensive.

Traditionally, a manual transmission was considered standard equipment and an automatic transmission was offered as an option costing several hundred dollars.

All that has changed.

Today's automatic transmissions come in multiple designs and are small, lightweight, fast and efficient. They typically offer both faster acceleration times and better mileage than a manual. The shifts are computer-controlled and are very fast. A typical 8-speed automatic will have both a lower low and a higher high than a typical 6-speed manual, improving fuel economy.

Best of all, automatic transmissions are less complex to drive and reduce the driver's workload.

Automatics also enable other vehicle features that are impossible with a manual, like adaptive cruise control, semi-autonomous driving and remote engine start. In the case of BMW, automatics also permit X-Drive and launch control,

which are not available with a manual.

So by almost every measure, today's automatic transmissions outperform manual transmissions. And the sales numbers show it. The take-rate of manual transmissions is hovering around 3%. Dealers will no longer stock

So why would anyone order a car with a manual transmission?

It all comes down to the driving experience. A manual transmission keeps the driver connected to the primeval act of driving. You don't see drivers of manuals eating hamburgers or combing their hair as they

My mechanic recently told me that in his 25+ years in the business, mine was one of only two cars he ever saw that made it to 100,000 miles with the factory OE brakes. 100,000 miles on a set of brakes is especially remarkable in an area as topographically challenging as Pittsburgh. I doubt I could have achieved that milestone with an automatic transmission.

Lastly, but certainly not least important, driving with three pedals is more fun. The driver of a manual feels more engaged in the experience at an elemental level, and less like a passenger.

I'm surprised that BMW is introducing a roadster (generally the most minimalistic and sporty of all road cars), without a manual transmission option. The mighty M5 is no longer available with a manual. BMW's bread-and-butter sedan—the 3-series—loses the manual option in 2019. Yet I sympathize with the pressures on the manufacturers. It's very hard to justify the cost of certifying an entire drivetrain for 3% of a single model's market. And meeting the CAFE mileage requirements is easier with an all-automatic fleet.

I fear the day is quickly approaching when the manual transmission will go the way of the rumble-seat, the inner tube and the running board. And a sad day that will be for those of us who still take great joy in rowing our own gears.



them. Few Millennials know how to drive them.

Although manuals still outnumber automatics in Europe, there's a tidal wave swinging toward automatics. More and more EU driver's licenses have code 78, which restricts the driver to automatics only, if they took their test in an automatic.

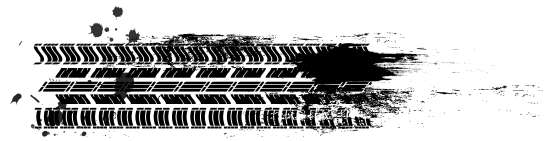
Most vehicle models in the US no longer offer a manual option. Now, automatics are generally standard equipment and a manual—if offered at all—is usually a no-cost option. So manual transmissions have also lost their cost advantage.

drive. They tend to stay much more connected to the road and engaged with their environment. They're not as easily distracted.

A manual transmission also improves the driver's awareness of their car's energy. I once heard someone say that there are two types of drivers who understand energy management...those who ride bicycles and those who drive manuals.

As good as the automatic's computer-controlled shifting is, it can't see the decreasing-radius exit ramp coming up and finesse the transmission through the downshifts.

Please IT!



BY GLEN BEATTIE

Touring Coordinator, Allegheny Chapter

In most passenger vehicles, the engine is not the most powerful system in the car. The brakes can dissipate significantly more energy per unit time than the engine can generate.

If you press both the brake and accelerator pedal to the floor, the brakes always win (and your car goes into internal hemorrhage).

Automobile brakes are amazingly reliable...so much so that we rarely give them much thought. In fact, over-reliance on brakes is common. How often do you

tremely hot, three bad things can happen. The first is brake fade, where the coefficient of friction between the rotor and the pads can significantly diminish. The second is a vapor lock, where water absorbed by the brake fluid flashes to steam, which is compressible. With a vapor lock, the brake pedal might go all the way to the floorboard with little effect. The third is rotor warp.

None of these things is likely to happen during normal street operation, so most drivers can ignore them unless they're

on the pavement), that big round thing the driver is holding in their hands does absolutely nothing.

I got a very convincing demonstration of this many years ago at a BMW driving school. They set up a series of cones to create a traffic lane that curved gently to the right. There was a run-up area before the cones to allow the vehicle to accelerate to 40 MPH.

The idea was to hold 40 MPH, then mash the brake to the floor when reaching the first cone, and steer through the curve.

with no problem.

With ABS, the stopping distance was somewhat longer than it was on sliding tires. But at least you could steer. So don't think of ABS as necessarily providing the shortest possible stopping distance (at least not on dry pavement). Think of it as providing "steering-while-braking".

With modern brakes, the sudden total failure of the entire system is extremely rare. Brakes generally give their owners plenty of notice when they require

***"Your brakes deserve attention and respect.
After all, they're the most powerful system in your car."***

see a driver approach a red light at 40 MPH without a thought of slowing down in advance? They are performing the oldest magic trick a driver can perform; turning gasoline into brake dust.

Until the brakes get very hot, the characteristics of the tires have a much greater influence on stopping distance than do the brakes. As the old saying goes, it's the tires that really stop the car.

But when the brakes get ex-

descending from Pikes Peak or Yosemite. But they can happen on the track.

ABS is a marvelous invention. It greatly reduces your stopping distance on wet, snowy or icy roads. But not on dry pavement.

A rubber tire sliding on smooth, dry asphalt or concrete has a very high coefficient of friction. Unfortunately, when the front tires are sliding (and depositing an expensive amount of rubber

ABS was off in the first run. (I don't believe it's even possible to turn off ABS in a modern BMW.) After locking up all four wheels, there was nothing you could do to avoid smashing through the cones. They put a marker where you stopped.

Then they reset the cones and turned on the ABS for the second run. When you mashed the ABS brakes, the car popped, pulsated, and made all sorts of weird noises. But you stay in the lane

service. You just need to heed the signs. If your brakes make noise or if the behavior of the brakes change, you ignore it at your own peril. It may lead to a very dangerous condition and will almost certainly lead to a more expensive repair.

Your brakes deserve attention and respect. After all, they're the most powerful system in your car. You should take the effort to have them inspected and serviced regularly.



NEW MEMBERS

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

AUGUST 2018

Terrence Ho.....Vancouver BC
 Frank Sanns.....Pittsburgh PA
 Michael Johns.....Pittsburgh PA
 Carlo D'Amato.....Chester CT
 Robert Hessinger.....Erie PA
 Yvonne Miceli.....Gibsonia PA
 Bryan Stevenson.....Butler PA
 Stephen Day.....Beaver Falls PA
 James Pakiela.....Fairview PA
 Teresa Danylko.....Erie PA
 Joseph Messalle.....Delmont PA
 Susan Bronder.....Saxonburg PA

SEPTEMBER 2018

Jonathan Sligh.....Coraopolis PA
 Carla Fabian.....Beaver PA
 David Goodnight.....Harrisburg PA
 Nathan Mizla.....Glenshaw PA
 Dan Diehl.....Manns Choice PA
 Greg Ross.....Sewickley PA

OCTOBER 2018

Ron Swaine.....Winnipeg MB
 Rena Peterson.....Lake Mary FL
 James Graham.....Sewickley PA
 Marybeth Cadotte.....Canonsburg PA
 David Delaney.....Holly Springs NC
 Jeffrey Winston.....Carnegie PA

NOVEMBER 2018

Eric Morse.....Washington PA
 Martin Mancuso.....Cranberry PA
 Timothy Powell.....Meadville PA
 Frederic Rongier.....Pittsburgh PA
 Doug Johnson.....Gibsonia PA
 Bimal Shrestha.....Pittsburgh PA
 Cindy Strayer.....Greensburg PA
 Orryn Sledge.....Cranberry PA



HELP WANTED

The Allegheny Chapter is seeking volunteers to assist with the following positions:



Newsletter Editor

Publishing the chapter newsletter at least every ninety (90) days is a required function of the BMW CCA. The newsletter editor is responsible to ensure that every member receives this communication from the chapter on time. The editor does not need to personally accomplish every facet of newsletter production. The Allegheny Chapter utilizes third parties to format, print and mail our publication.



Social Committee Members

Ideally, the committee consists of 5 or more members who support the social director, an elected board position. Committee members provide advice and leadership in supporting chapter activities. The Allegheny Chapter has a separate leader who plans and executes events related to the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.

Join us on social media - See page 3

On behalf of BMW CCA, we look forward to new members joining us on Facebook.



THE ALLEGHENY APEX

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



The Allegheny Chapter of BMWCCA

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