

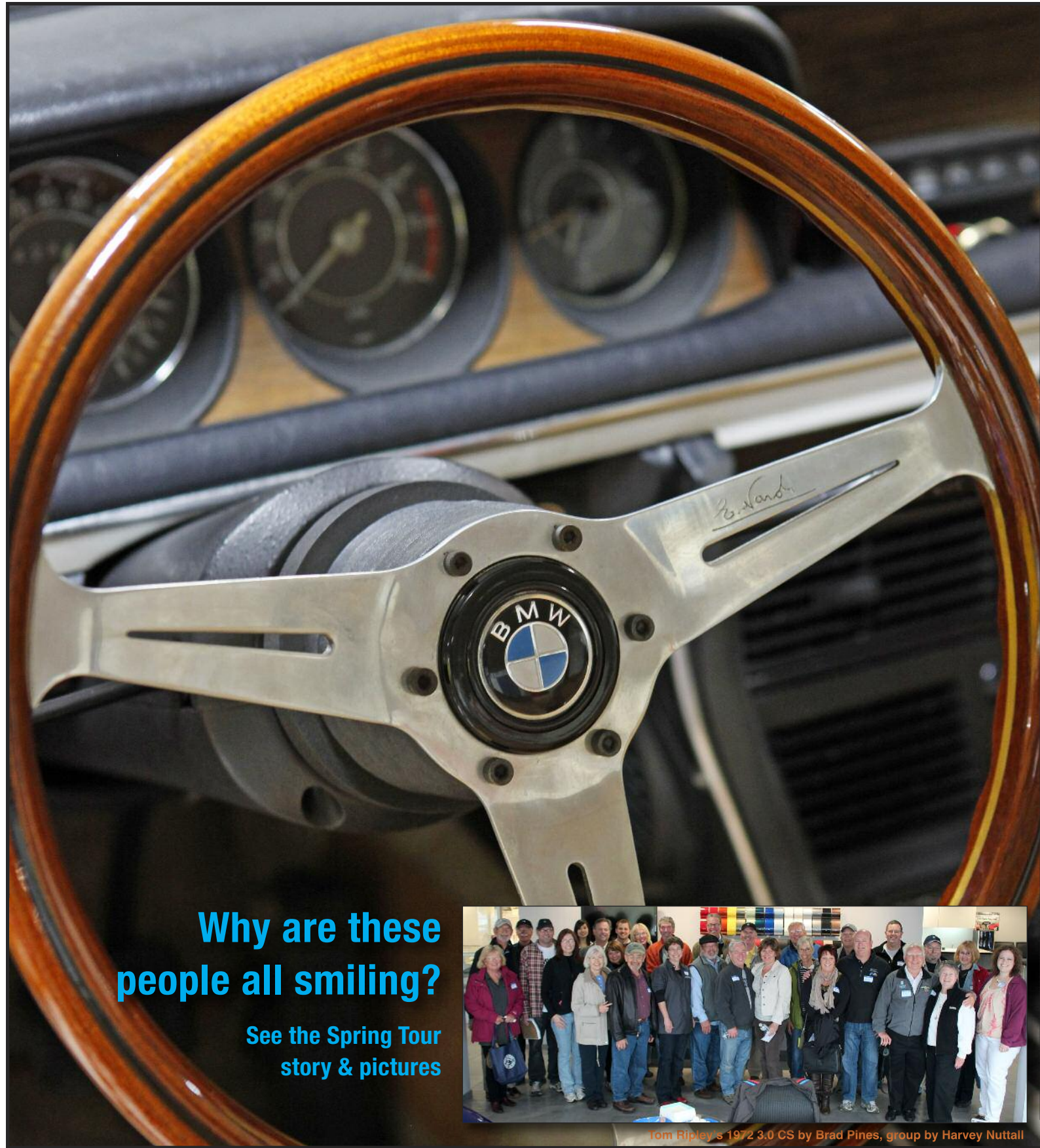


Bimmerbulletin

The newsletter of the Michiana Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America

www.Michiana-BMWCCA.com • www.facebook.com/MichianaBMWCCA

Summer 2013



**Why are these
people all smiling?**

See the Spring Tour
story & pictures



Tom Ripley's 1972 3.0 CS by Brad Pines, group by Harvey Nuttall

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BMW NutNews

by Harvey Nuttall, President, Michiana BMW CCA chapter



Contact:
BMWnutt@att.net
(616) 634-3655

On the BMW NUT home front, we have had a few BMW projects that had been waiting for warmer weather.

In April, I set about replacing the transmission in our 1989 325i sedan. This is the car that we have been using for track and autocross events for two years and it has been driven hard and done very well in competition.

On the day I decided it was time to put it away in storage last November, it decided to go into reverse and stay there. I found a really nice used transmission with only 45K miles on it from a reliable source. That made a great match for a car with about 195K miles.

The transmission swap went well. The clutch was in surprisingly good condition considering all the standing starts we have done starting autocross events. In fact, we measured it against a new one I had standing by, and the old clutch showed no sign of wear. It measured out almost exactly the same thickness as the new clutch.

A slight leak on the rear main seal prompted a replacement to avoid oil contamination on the clutch. We experienced that once before on my daughter Kirsti's e36. So, our e30 325i family four-door is ready for action once more.

Last October, we purchased a 1999 M3 to replace the '97 M3 that was destroyed during Oktoberfest 2012 at Mid-Ohio when a massive storm blew a huge tent onto several members' cars. In all, about eight beautiful BMWs were damaged and two were destroyed. (See the December issue of Roundel for details.)

Our new M3 has now also been prepped for the driving season with lube changes and a quick fix on the power steering leaks caused by the substandard single-use clamps on the underside of the reservoir.

I had the opportunity to compete in an early autocross event held by the Furrin Group (www.Furrin.org) in April at West Michigan Auto Auction on US 131 south of Grand Rapids.

For anyone that is looking to try an autocross, but not yet willing to drive to South Bend to see what it's all about, the Furrin Group puts on fine autocross events and they welcome BMW CCA members.

I took first place in the C-stock class in that event.

The night before our Michiana autocross season started on May 25, I decided to overhaul the M3's cooling system.



Abby Nuttall, behind the wheel of her new 1999 M3, gets some advice from veteran driver Ralph Sampson before starting a run during the Michiana Autocross season opener on May 25 at the Tire Rack in South Bend. For full event coverage, including story and more pictures, please see [The Autocross Report](#). (Harvey Nuttall)

This involved replacing the radiator with an aluminum unit. The stock radiator was showing signs of slight leaks on the ends where the plastic tanks are crimped onto the core.

The water pump was a genuine BMW part with stainless steel impeller, not the problematic plastic impeller, so I left that in place and replaced o-ring, the thermostat and coolant expansion tank. Hoses were all in good condition too.

I did replace both the belts and idler pulleys, and upgraded the thermostat housing from plastic, prone to cracking, to aluminum and also upgraded the pulley from plastic to aluminum. The plastic one was missing a chunk, so it was good timing to get this done before using the car in competition.

Our first Michiana Chapter Autocross event went very well and the car performed without problem.

We were in Class B and with only one other car competing in the class it was not as much fun, but we had a good time.

I managed to run about three seconds faster than Abby this time, but we discovered that Abby had forgotten to turn off the ASC (traction control).

This system intervenes by cutting power to prevent sliding or losing traction and in competitive driving like an autocross, you don't want that to be interfering with what



Harvey Nuttall serves as starter during the season opening autocross.

you're doing on the track.

We're looking forward to a great 2013 Michiana season of events including autocross, driving schools, car shows, including the DeutscheMarques show and the Winery Tour, both on July 13.

Please keep an eye on our Michiana chapter website (www.Michiana-BMWCCA.com) and our chapter Facebook page for up-to-date event information.



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Michiana Chapter Calendar 2013 events

A listing of events of interest to Michiana BMW CCA members

For latest information, please check: www.Michiana-BMWCCA.com • www.facebook.com/MichianaBMWCCA

**June 21, Friday
Driving School**
(Motor City BMW CCA Chapter)
Waterford Hills Road Racing
Waterford, Michigan
Novices very welcome.
www.MotorBMWCCA.org

**June 22-23, Saturday-Sunday
Driving School**
(Windy City BMW CCA Chapter)
Grattan Raceway
Belding, Michigan
From novices to experienced drivers.
Several Michiana instructors on staff.
www.WindyCityBMW.com

**July 6, Saturday 8:30 a.m.
Autocross Series Round 2**
Tire Rack
7101 Vorden Parkway
South Bend, Indiana
\$30 per driver, includes lunch
and up to eight runs on track.
Novices very welcome and
a few loaner helmets available.

**July 13, Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
DeutscheMarques
all-German Car Show**
Gilmore Car Museum
Hickory Corners, Michigan
Organized by Michiana members,
to make this our great car show.
www.DeutscheMarquesAG.com

**July 23, Saturday
Summer Winery Tour**
Tour starts in Jackson area to visit several
wineries, distilleries and brewers to finish
in Southeastern Michigan. (Joint event
with Motor City BMW CCA Chapter)
www.MotorBMWCCA.org

**August 3, Saturday 8:30 a.m.
Autocross Series Round 3**
Tire Rack
7101 Vorden Parkway
South Bend, Indiana
\$30 per driver, includes lunch
and up to eight runs on track.
Novices very welcome and
a few loaner helmets available.

**Aug. 17, Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Fifth Annual Open House
and Car Show**
German Auto Service, Ltd
1014 Scribner NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan
www.GermanAutoLtd.com

**September 21, Saturday 8:30 a.m.
Autocross Series Round 4**
Tire Rack
7101 Vorden Parkway
South Bend, Indiana
\$30 per driver, includes lunch
and up to eight runs on track.
Novices very welcome and
a few loaner helmets available.

**September 28-29, Saturday-Sunday
Driving School**
(Windy City BMW CCA Chapter)
GingerMan Raceway
South Haven, Michigan
From novices to experienced drivers.
Several Michiana instructors on staff.
www.WindyCityBMW.com

**October 5-6, Saturday-Sunday
Driving School**
(Motor City BMW CCA Chapter)
Grattan Raceway
Belding, Michigan
www.MotorBMWCCA.org

**October 12, Saturday
Fall Color Tour**
Site TBA, check website and
Facebook page for info

**December 7, Saturday
Holiday Party**
Holiday Inn
Spring Lake, Michigan
Check website and Facebook page for info.

**Every Month
1st Wednesday, Social Get
Together meetings, 6:30 p.m.**
Kalamazoo area: (May-Sept) Gilmore Car
Museum's Cruise Nights, 6865 Hickory
Road, Hickory Corners, Michigan.
Grand Rapids area: Ucellos, 10 Rivertown
Parkway, Grandville, Michigan.



Celebrating its second year on July 13, DeutscheMarques is an all-German car show at the world-class Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners. Michiana members created this event as a fun way to meet fellow German car enthusiasts and enjoy an afternoon at the Gilmore Car Museum. (Brad Pines)



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Traverse City Spring Tour

Story and pictures by
Harvey Nuttall



Jennie and Pete Kumrey.



Cindy and Robert Hofstetter.



Marjorie and Shawn Zimmerman.



Laura and Jim Austin.



Mike Dykema.



Art and Sandy Welch.



The Apache Trout Grill featured an excellent meal and Grand Traverse Bay views.

Blackstar Winery's lot, filled with our Michiana Bimmers.



“ In true Michigan spirit, we had now enjoyed every kind of weather ... ”



Pete and Jennie Krumrey's Z3 is flecked with some Michigan May snow.

Mike Dykema's e30 in the convoy of 37 Michiana BMW CCA members in their BMWs through sun, snow and rain during the 2013 Spring Tour near Traverse City on May 11. The tour was organized by Matt Westgate, the Michiana Chapter secretary.

This year's Spring Tour will not easily be forgotten by those Michiana BMW CCA members who made the trip to Traverse City on May 11.

We changed the name from the Spring Dust Off to the Spring Tour at the annual planning meeting in February because apparently there was some confusion about what type of event the Spring Dust Off was. Some, it seemed, thought it's an event where we clean our cars. It's always been a driving tour with a casual lunch or dinner.

Our first Spring Tour was a true Michigan experience from a weather standpoint. We had 37 members attending driving about 20 cars. There were four couples from Traverse City and one from Petoskey. Four of the five couples were attending their first Michiana BMW CCA event.

We are delighted to have enabled more of our members to experience a Michiana Chapter outing. Our goal was to try to reach into an under served part of our membership area and provide an opportunity for some of our members that can't make it to the events that are held in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, or South Bend.



Tour members visit the Old Mission Point Lighthouse, located on the 45th parallel.

A small group of members met at McDonald's in Comstock Park to caravan from Grand Rapids to Traverse City. The weather started out cloudy and cool but dry, but the forecast told us we were in for some rain later in the day.

We arrived in Traverse City to a very warm welcome from Grand Traverse BMW who sponsored our Spring Tour dinner

with a generous donation. We'd like to thank Grand Traverse BMW, Glen Cousineau, and his friendly sales staff, for arranging refreshments for our members when we arrived.

The brand new Grand Traverse BMW dealership is under construction and we were hosted in their temporary BMW sales area.

The new Grand Traverse BMW dealership in Traverse City is the first of its kind in the entire USA. As a flagship store, all other BMW dealers will need to remodel similarly to comply with the new BMW standards in the near future.

We set out from the dealership at 1 p.m. for our tour of Old Mission peninsula guided by Michiana Chapter secretary Matthew Westgate, who organized the Spring Tour.

By the time we got underway we were experiencing some light rain as we headed to our first destination. When we arrived at Blackstar Winery, it was pouring.

Everyone piled into the warm and dry winery tasting room to sample the local wines and to warm up. An interesting feature of the Blackstar Winery was that their tasting area counter looked like a huge oak wine barrel.

We had enough time to sample a few wines, meet some of the members, and purchase a bottle or two before heading off to the next stop.

On the next leg of the tour we worked our way along scenic roads that run along the edge of the Old Mission Peninsula with fabulous lake views, and on to the Old Mission Point Lighthouse.

By the time we arrived at the Old Mission Point Lighthouse on the 45th parallel, halfway between the equator and the north pole, there was a little bit of snow mixed in with the rain. Yes, the four letter S-word in Michigan is May.

The temperature had dramatically dropped and while many weren't dressed for the cold, we reluctantly went for a little stroll to view the lighthouse and take a few pictures before heading on to our next destination.

We then worked our way back down the peninsula to Chateau Chantel winery. Arriving at the winery we were now experiencing some heavy, sticky wet snow as the temperature kept dropping.

In true Michigan spirit, we had now enjoyed every kind of weather but sunny skies in one afternoon, but that was still to come.

After warming up in the beautiful Chateau Chantel Winery and sampling some more of Michigan's finest wines, we completed our tour by arriving back in the Grand Traverse Bay area for dinner at the Apache Trout Grill.

The restaurant welcomed us in their cozy rustic log cabin-style dining room with a warm fireplace overlooking Grand Traverse

Bay. The dinner service was excellent with a wonderful, family-style meal.

As we ate we awarded our 2012 Member of the Year award to Art and Sandy Welch for their faithful participation and volunteering to help at many Michiana BMW CCA Chapter events.

We also gave away door prizes and had a great time socializing. The wonderful Michigan spring sunshine returned while we were dining and was out for the rest of the afternoon.

Many of us spent the night at various hotels in Traverse City and several gathered later that evening at a local Irish pub featuring live music and great atmosphere.

A few members also met the following morning for breakfast in Traverse City.

The 2013 Spring Tour was a huge success and we will definitely need to return to the beautiful Traverse City area for future events. Hopefully next time we come we'll just experience one season at a time, preferably summer or perhaps in the beautiful Michigan fall color.

A huge thank you goes to Matthew Westgate for organizing a fantastic Spring Tour.

AutocrossReport



Autocross Series co-chair:
Carl Zmijewski
Carl.Zmijewski@gmail.com



Autocross Series co-chair:
Chris Itterly
Chris.Itterly@gmail.com



Katie Peck, left, looks happy about riding with Evan Gill.



Nick Nardin rides on three wheels to a Class C win.



Scott Limber races to victory in Class B during the Michiana Autocross season opener on May 25. (Harvey Nuttall photos)

Season opener draws 35 racers, lots of sunshine and smiles

by **Chris Itterly**
Michiana Autocross co-chair

It was a beautiful day, 65-degrees with blue skies, lots of BMWs and big smiles. The 2013 Michiana BMW CCA Autocross season opening round on May 25th drew 35 participants, a record number.

Among the drivers were nine novices and six female drivers, a great result as we continue to promote and grow our autocross program. We welcome all drivers, including those who've never tried autocrossing before.

Here are the podium finishers in all our five classes.

Class C, having the most moderately prepared BMWs, was won by Nick Nardin driving his red e30 warhorse to a best time of 50.842, followed by Eve Dolenski in her husband Dave's daily-driven MINI with a

time of 52.650, with Pete Maloy taking third with his white e30. Having placed for his first time, this advances Pete from novice status. Way to go, Pete.

Class B, having more capable BMWs, saw Scott Limber in first with a best of 50.651 in a beautiful Estoril blue e36 M3, besting the Nuttalls, with Harvey at 51.794 and Abby at 53.213, sharing their e36 M3. Their's is always a fun family rivalry to watch.

Class A group had veteran Ralph Sampson at the top of the podium with a 49.217 in his e36 M3, then Jim Lynch's uber-MINI at 50.352, and Fran Napieralski's beautiful Z3 taking third with 51.152.

Class AA, having the highest performance BMWs, was led by Jason Powell with a best time of 46.047, followed by Dimitre Dimitrov with a 47.823, then Kristian Petrov with a 49.092.

Class E is always a fun display for "Everything Else," the non-BMW driving participants. Steve Tamandill led the group in his V8-powered Fiero at 46.292, then Richardo Gonzales' 914-6 Porsche at 46.844, and then Don Sjolun, in his beautiful vintage Porsche 911, third at 47.195.

Congratulations go to Jason Powell for also setting the Fastest Time of the Day (FTD) with his 46.047 run.

With the season off to a great start, we will be continuing the fun during Round 2 on July 5th.

All Michiana Autocross events are held at Tire Rack headquarters in South Bend, Indiana. We are very fortunate to be able to use their top-notch facilities and thank them for their support.

Please come out and join us and learn to *consistently exceed the limits by recoverable amounts*. It's great fun.

Michiana Chapter BMW CCA 2013 Autocross Season

May 25

First autocross event

June 1-2

Windy City Challenge
(Windy City Chapter event)

July 6

Second autocross event

August 3

Third autocross event

September 21

Final autocross event

All events held at
the Tire Rack, 7101
Vorden Parkway,
South Bend, Indiana

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EDT

\$30 per driver, includes lunch and up to eight runs on the Tire Rack's test track.

Novices very welcome!
We have a few loaner helmets available and our experienced drivers volunteer to help get you started.

Links for more autocross events and information

The Furrin Group

Many area autocrossers attend Furrin Group events and they post a very complete calendar of local events.

www.Furrin.org

Windy City BMW CCA

Our sister chapter hosts its own autocross series.

www.WindyCityBMW.com

The Tire Rack

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The Pursuit of Happiness

by **Chris Itterly**
Michiana Autocross co-chair

Learning leads to happiness. Researchers have studied it and indicated that our minds are the key to happiness. Learning new skills to overcome challenges builds confidence. This can be used in every part of our lives and helps us to be more happy. Sounds good right?

While new skills are valuable on their own, it's developing this process that really matters. What process? Walking down the

car's balance at the very limit of adhesion.

Sure, as autocrossers, sometimes we even go beyond those limits, but we learn to bring it back and even how to use that beyond-the-limit-driving to our advantage in competition.

The fun of it is really like nothing else; imagine not just riding a roller coaster, but getting to be the operator at the same time.

The best part of learning are the things that surface that we never expected. As we explore any new skill, we begin to realize there's a lot more to it than we ever

“Autocrossing is a race against the clock that's not simply solved by pressing on the gas pedal.”

dark path, getting past doubt, taking the first step to learning something new. That's always the most difficult part, right?

Replace an automatic response of doubt with recognizing a new opportunity to increase our capabilities through learning.

Autocrossing is the answer.

For the large majority of us, the idea of high performance driving creates a strong emotional response. Fear, desire, doubt, and excitement are things we can feel all at the same time.

The mix of these emotions is different for each of us, like sweating palms and puffing up your chest in the same moment. It's that unique response which makes autocrossing the perfect activity to build a very important skill, remaining objective in highly emotional situations.

In addition, let's not forget about the more practical side of the activity.

How many hours do you spend driving an automobile every week? What's your comfort level managing a car in an emergency situation?

Autocross is an entry to high performance driving. While it is incredible fun, it also translates to greatly increased safety during your daily commute.

You are the most important safety feature in the automobile. Autocrossers experiment with vehicle dynamics at their extreme limits. This isn't a sterile engineering discussion, we are practitioners of the art of driving. We make decisions at a rapid pace with the goal of maintaining the

imagined.

Autocrossing is a race against the clock that's not simply solved by pressing on the gas pedal. You'll quickly come to understand that a car is a multi-dimensional tool used to minimize your time to complete the course.

In order to use this tool effectively, a variety of skills are needed, things like anticipation, balance, coordination, timing, tough mindedness, concentration, rapid decision making, and reflection.

By driving in an autocross, you'll become better at all these things.

My day job is in an office, a place filled by family folks. This autocrossing thing seems dangerous and scary to them.

My advice is to try something that tests your boundaries. Grab some new knowledge, surprise yourself. Discover that fear is only of what you don't yet know.

Realign to the time when you regularly changed your view of the world, learn. Emotional experiences are powerful, autocrossing is thrilling and exciting, make that the association you have with learning.

We all know that cars and driving them well are cool, otherwise, why else would we all have joined the BMW CCA?

While I'm sure high performance driving will provide great fun and wonder, I hope you'll recognize the best part of our club is its people. Come out, give autocrossing a try and let us help in your pursuit of happiness.

ChapterContacts

President

Harvey Nuttall
(616) 634-3655
BMWnutt@att.com

Webmaster

Craig Sisk
(408) 761-7910
MegaCraig@hotmail.com

Grand Rapids Coordinator

Dave Brandsen
(616) 437-2154
DaveB@3dmkting.com

Vice President

Greg Strader
(269) 270-1177
GregoryStrader@yahoo.com

Autocross Co-Chair

Carl Zmijewski
Carl.Zmijewski@gmail.com

Kalamazoo Coordinator

Randy von Steinen
RvonSteinen@yahoo.com

Secretary

Matt Westgate
(231) 414-0601
MatthewWestgate@hotmail.com

Autocross Co-Chair

Chris Itterly
Chris.Itterly@gmail.com

South Bend Coordinators

Tim and Mel Brassell
(574) 675-9532
mbrassell65@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Eve Dolenski
(269) 969-7492
EveDolenski@att.net

BimmerBulletin Editor

Brad Pines
(269) 383-0725
OneTrackMind.brad@gmail.com

Ft. Wayne Coordinators

Rick and Kate Tomkinson
(877) 872-1084

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Join our email group for chapter info: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/Michiana-BMWCCA>

You're invited!

We're trying to create a club that's much like your BMW. It's well designed, offers superior performance and is fun to be with. Test drive a Bimmer and you'll discover that they're great cars. Test drive your Michiana Chapter of the BMW CCA, too. You'll like what you see.

Thinking about attending one of our events? Send any one of us a note on the chapter Facebook page, or via email, and we'll meet you there and give you the VIP guided tour. Or, just show up, no rsvp required, and let us show you around.

Like many new members, my wife and I didn't attend any Michiana Chapter events when we first joined the BMW CCA. It wasn't until we came to a club outing that we discovered that our chapter is chock-full of really nice people.

They're just like you, only different, all interesting, and are great fun to hang out with. All of us drive cool cars, just like you do.

Some of us rebuild engines with their own hands, others simply enjoy making them sing with their right foot. While some can't wait to get their BMWs dusty at a twisty racetrack, others long to make them sparkle at a car show.

Many love to do both, eat great food, explore beautiful drives and socialize to enjoy good friends.

Yes, you're one of us. Pick an event and come out and play. You're invited to discover the friends you haven't yet met.

-- Brad Pines,
BimmerBulletin editor, driving school instructor
Questions? Send them via email:
OneTrackMind.brad@gmail.com

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