

MOTORSPORT

REPORT



BMW Car Club
of America
Rocky Mountain Chapter



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Rocky Mountain Chapter BMW CCA
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GET OUT & DRIVE

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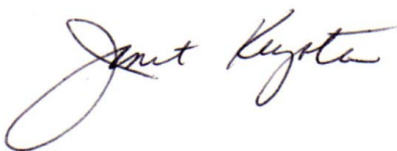
THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY: JANET KIYOTA

September. This month seems to trigger something in me as the days get shorter and in enjoying the outdoors, there is a sudden realization that Mother Earth is getting ready for our next Colorado winter. September has become like a TSD checkpoint for me – slow down, stop, check the data, make adjustments and move ahead. **Here are a few of our RMC 'checkpoints' that tell me it has been a terrific year:**

- 1. It takes a village.** Many of our 1800+ members continue to not only participate in events but 150+ members have given back by volunteering. Enough cannot be said of the 10 board members who continue to work countless hours to ensure that each event is scheduled, advertised and running smoothly on game day.
- 2. Technology is king.** Even though I have a love-hate relationship with technology, there is no doubt it is here to stay. Our AX team instituted a new scoring system eliminating the need for paper by producing immediate results via a cell phone app. Driving school upgraded technology for classroom instruction and our blossoming Time Trials program. And as we enter the new year, our MSR team of **Susan Rhodes, Fox Chung, Leslie Jenkins** and **Cory Rowan** are working behind the scenes as we transition to an electronic delivery of the MSR. **VisFire**, our media partner, has provided support all hours of the day and night to ensure the security of our site as well as production of our eblasts and social media presence.
- 3. Celebrate we must! RMC has much to celebrate this year –**
 - Election of **Karen Lange** as Secretary and **Matt Johnson** as Treasurer. Running unopposed, both Karen and Matt will bring fresh perspectives with them. Look for their bios on page 5.
 - **Gary Bohn** and **Steve Hamilton** are now designated as nationally Certified Race Stewards. They are featured in the summer newsletter issue #2 of BMW Club Racing. Congratulations Gary and Steve.
 - **Michael Feldpusch** serves as the current National BMW CCA Autocross Chair. His team has been working feverishly as the new classification standards will be unveiled in 2019.
 - **Bruce Hazard** serves as committee chair for the next BMW Foundation museum exhibit honoring the 50 years of BMW CCA. *PASSION: 50 Years of BMW Cars and Community* will open in May 2019 in Greenville, SC.
 - **Darlene Doran** is completing her second term as National Board Secretary. She is heading up the overhaul of the club's operations manual, a huge task.
 - AX sponsors, **Co's BMW Center, SCR Performance, Aurora Schools Credit Union, AMC Theaters, Blackbelly Market**, TSD sponsor **Hagerty Insurance**, social event sponsor **3zero3 Motorsports**, continue to enhance events throughout the year with product and personnel support. We could not do it without you!
 - Event attendance has exceeded every expectation this year. It is not too late to join us on 10/7 for the Tire Rack Street Survival driving program, 10/13 for AX #8, 11/11 AX Banquet or at the annual Ice Gymkhana and Winter Celebration in January.

Sincerely,



2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

GET UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING DRIVING, SOCIAL EVENTS, AND REGISTRATION ON OUR WEBSITE AT: <http://rmcbmwcca.org/events>
All dates and event locations are subject to change.

OCTOBER

October 7 - Tire Rack Street Survival – Sponsored by Co's BMW Center
The Ranch Events Complex
5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO 80538

October 13 - Autocross #8
Front Range Airport
E 30th Avenue, Watkins, CO 80137

NOVEMBER

November 10 - Planning Meeting
Mountain Shadows Condominiums –
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
2 Adams Street
Denver, CO 80206

November 11 - Autocross Banquet
Event details to be posted on our website

November 23 - Closing date for submissions to the Motorsport Report 2019 Winter Edition

JANUARY

January 19 - Ice Gymkana
Georgetown Lake
Georgetown, CO 80444
Event details to be posted on our website



THE MOTORSPORT REPORT IS GOING GREEN!

Beginning with the 2019 Winter Edition, the Rocky Mountain Chapter BMW CCA's quarterly newsletter, Motorsport Report, will be distributed electronically. A paperless newsletter allows us to communicate information to our members in a more efficient manner, as well as to decrease printing and postage costs. Printed copies will still be available at select area businesses and will also be mailed to those members that request a paper copy.

IMPORTANT: To ensure your electronic delivery of the Motorsport Report, be sure to visit the National BMW CCA website at www.bmwcca.org to verify/update your current email.

In addition, you can opt to receive a paper copy by logging into www.bmwcca.org and clicking on "Manage Account" located at the top of the webpage. Here you will find links to update your profile and email preferences. If you need additional assistance, please contact Susan Rhodes at msreditor@rmcbmwcca.org or call 303-910-2770. ■

MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS

WELCOME KAREN AND MATT!

Your board members are the foundation for every driving or social event put on by the chapter. We are fortunate to have Karen Lange and Matt Johnson step forward to fill the positions of Chapter Secretary and Treasurer. We look forward to their ideas and energy as BMW CCA enters its 50th year in 2019.



Karen Lange, Secretary

I have been a member of the BMW club since 2005 and I am the current club Secretary. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time and interaction with the Board and would like to continue serving as Secretary for the club. I am excited to have the opportunity to continue working with the Board and moving the club forward with the many club and chapter upgrades coming in the future. I am also the current Chief of Registration for our Autocross program. Over the past 13 years, I have participated in many different club activities: mostly autocross, several driving schools including the Monterey Oktoberfest, many different social events and of course, our monthly Board meetings. I own two BMWs: a 1999 E36 M3 and a 1996 318ti which you can find me driving around on our mountain roads.



Matt Johnson, Treasurer

Matt moved to Colorado in 1998 to attend CU and has lived up and down the Front Range over the years. He and his wife have two children: a freshman at Gonzaga University in Washington and a sophomore in high school. Matt works in IT and has been employed as a Systems Engineer at Google for 13 years. Matt has been track driving and Autocrossing with the Rocky Mountain Chapter for the past three years. He drives a 2004 M3 and does about ten HPDE days a year with the BMW and NASA clubs.

SAVE THE DATE! 2019 ICE GYMKHANA AT GEORGETOWN LAKE

We missed it last year due to unseasonably warm weather, but it's back for 2019!

Join the Rocky Mountain Chapter BMW CCA to enhance your winter driving skills on the ice at Georgetown Lake on Saturday, January 19, 2019. Registration for this popular winter driving event will begin in December 2018.

Watch for more details via our website: www.rmcbmw.cca/events ■



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SAVE THE DATE!

2018 AUTOCROSS BANQUET

When: **Sunday, November 11, 2018 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Where: **Halfpenny Brewing Company**
5150 East Arapahoe Road, Unit D1-B
Centennial, CO 80122

Cost: **\$30 per person**

Registration for this event will be available soon through MotorsportReg.com. For updated event details, visit our website at rmcbmwcca.org. We hope to see you there! ■



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Autocross photos by Fox Chung.

2018 BMW 640 GRAND TURISMO REVIEW

BY: ISAAC BOUCHARD



The BMW 640GT is a vivid example of a “leading indicator” in that it shows the influence of the world’s largest new car market, China, on vehicle design. For many years the US was the big dog, and such things as the introduction of cup holders into most every imported vehicle were the way you know the force we wielded.

The Chinese market will soon be twice the size of ours—or Europe’s—and we will be seeing more and more instances of Middle Kingdom preferences in the cars, trucks and SUVs we can buy here. The 640i Grand Turismo xDrive, the only model offered here, is a great example of the benefits of such a vehicle. For its footprint, it is huge inside, with easy entry and exit and a massive rear hatch that lifts to reveal 31 cubic feet of space with the spacious rear seats in use and up to 65 cubes with them folded. The GT sits higher than the older 6-series or current 5-series, making visibility better and ingress/egress easier. The interior is airy and nicely detailed; surfaces, colors and materials are all attractive and inviting. The latest version of the iDrive infotainment is still industry-leading in speed and intuitive operation, but that is the case in almost every modern BMW. What really stands out is the usefulness of the GT’s interior; while its outside is about the size of a Chrysler 300, its trunk is almost twice as large—in fact it is more voluminous than the lovely Volvo V90 wagon and more usefully shaped than most all crossovers it might compete with.

If we compare it dynamically to the 540i it suffers a bit; its larger, higher-riding body means that its reflexes are blunted and its masses not as well controlled. Yet it certainly is more engaging to drive than an equivalent crossover, even one of BMW’s Sport Activity Vehicles. Motivated by the ubiquitous B58 3-liter turbo (335hp and 332lb-ft) and ZF 8HP automatic, drive is channeled through all four wheels, making it a great ski vehicle. The 640i GT is fast, with 0-60mph taking only 4.7 seconds, and it rides better than most vehicles on the market, too, in a truly luxurious manner over almost all surfaces.

Photos provided by Isaac Bouchard.

EPA ratings:
20/28mpg; 23mpg
combined

0-60mph:
4.7sec (indep. test)

Price as tested:
\$84,010

Here is what BMW
has to say.
4 Stars

Based on sales of the 4- and outgoing 5-series Grand Turismo, this aesthetic has been challenging to American tastes; the 640i goes some way towards addressing this, with less top-heavy proportions. And in an automotive landscape that now includes the positively bulbous Tesla Model X, it seems almost conventional. Since it carries none of the off-road adventure cues of the BMW X models, GT sales are destined to remain small in this country. Regardless of that, we will see more and more vehicles that share its general shape as we move to an electrified, autonomous future, and the benefits inherent in its design will be shared by more and more people, all over the world.



Contact Isaac Bouchard for help saving time, money and hassle when buying or leasing one at isaac@bespokeautos.com ■

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AUTOCROSS - 2018 MID-SEASON RESULTS



Class	Driver	Event #1	Event #2	Event #3	Event #4	Event #5	Season Total Points	Season Points Avg.	Points Total	Points Avg.
BAS	Christopher Dawkins	9779	9621	9584	9786	9796	38982	9746	48566	9713
BAS	Geoff Barrett	9590	9474	9558	0	9460	38082	9521	38082	9521
BAS	Kris Lee	9487	9539	0	9441	9504	37971	9493	37971	9493
BAS	Eugene Yen	9540	9464	9283	0	9501	37788	9447	37788	9447
BAS	Fox Chung	9365	9431	9428	9529	9398	37786	9447	47151	9430
BAS	Shelton Sanders	9553	9248	9464	9513	0	37778	9445	37778	9445
BAS	Kenton Dawkins	9553	9264	9298	9556	0	37671	9418	37671	9418
BAS	Sam Smith	9248	9129	9078	9522	9397	37296	9324	46374	9275
BAS	Christopher Moody	9265	9210	9278	9372	0	37125	9281	37125	9281
BAS	David Duecker	9388	0	9340	0	9415	28143	7036	28143	9381
BAS	Bryce Kliewer	0	9711	0	9737	0	19448	4862	19448	9724
BAS	David Jobusch	9410	0	0	9740	0	19150	4788	19150	9575
BAS	Alex McCulloch	9423	9421	0	0	0	18844	4711	18844	9422
BAS	Bruce Drachmeister	9423	9267	0	0	0	18690	4673	18690	9345
BAS	Mark Gerrard	9422	0	8941	0	0	18363	4591	18363	9182
BAS	Garrett Arendt	0	0	0	8959	9230	18189	4547	18189	9095
BAS	Matt Johnson	8953	9183	0	0	0	18136	4534	18136	9068
BAS	Kristen Arendt	0	0	0	8578	8834	17412	4353	17412	8706
BAS	Peter Kapuranis	8676	0	0	0	8586	17262	4316	17262	8631
BAS	Keith Dana	0	0	9736	0	0	9736	2434	9736	9736
BAS	Andrew Colfelt	0	0	9336	0	0	9336	2334	9336	9336
BAS	Frank Jacobs	0	0	0	9241	0	9241	2310	9241	9241
BAS	Robert Odenheimer	9115	0	0	0	0	9115	2279	9115	9115
BAS	Kurt Himes	0	8687	0	0	0	8687	2172	8687	8687
BAS	Courtney Crandell	0	0	8621	0	0	8621	2155	8621	8621
BAS	Steve Smith	8457	0	0	0	0	8457	2114	8457	8457
BAS	Roger Laty	0	0	8324	0	0	8324	2081	8324	8324
BAS	Rudy Laty	0	0	7930	0	0	7930	1983	7930	7930
BBS	Eric Van Der Heide	9714	0	9263	9581	9415	37973	9493	37973	9493
BBS	Alain Van Der Heide	9387	9285	9370	9427	9316	37500	9375	46785	9357
BBS	Steven Moody	9289	9525	9304	9345	0	37463	9366	37463	9366
BBS	Dan Garfinkel	9303	9309	9359	9491	0	37462	9366	37462	9366
BBS	John Coleman	9442	9259	9176	9301	9241	37243	9311	46419	9284
BBS	Mark Haynes	9117	9053	9030	9086	9138	36394	9099	45424	9085
BBS	Jeff Grant	0	8881	8394	9222	9012	35509	8877	35509	8877
BBS	Marc Swanson	9499	9158	0	9372	0	28029	7007	28029	9343
BBS	Keith Dana	9332	9393	0	9175	0	27900	6975	27900	9300

Autocross photo by Fox Chung.

AUTOCROSS RESULTS CONTINUED

Class	Driver	Event #1	Event #2	Event #3	Event #4	Event #5	Season Total Points	Season Points Avg.	Points Total	Points Avg.
BBS	Brad Lefevre	9015	9124	9323	0	0	27462	6866	27462	9154
BBS	Mike Lewandowski	0	8991	8803	9130	0	26924	6731	26924	8975
BBS	Julia Moody	0	8725	8799	8585	0	26109	6527	26109	8703
BBS	Elyse Kupfer	0	8355	8570	8665	0	25590	6398	25590	8530
BBS	Jon Moorhead	0	8714	8272	0	8236	25222	6306	25222	8407
BBS	Robert Critchley	0	0	9064	0	9649	18713	4678	18713	9357
BBS	Mark Wiercinski	9439	0	9093	0	0	18532	4633	18532	9266
BBS	Max Esayev	0	0	8592	8776	0	17368	4342	17368	8684
BBS	Gabriel Suszynski	0	0	0	8610	8727	17337	4334	17337	8669
BBS	Bruce Farrell	0	0	0	8523	8645	17168	4292	17168	8584
BBS	Shane Kurowski	9409	0	0	0	0	9409	2352	9409	9409
BBS	Kimber Bogush	0	0	0	9283	0	9283	2321	9283	9283
BBS	Hallie Kupfer	0	0	0	8842	0	8842	2211	8842	8842
BBS	Somsany Phakonekham	0	8470	0	0	0	8470	2118	8470	8470
BBS	Christine Foley	0	0	8417	0	0	8417	2104	8417	8417
BBS	Ken Carpenter	0	0	8079	0	0	8079	2020	8079	8079
BCS	Will Pope	9571	0	9415	9625	9531	38142	9536	38142	9536
BCS	Jim Pope	9455	9486	9525	9643	9422	38109	9527	47531	9506
BCS	Steven Moody	9289	9525	9304	9345	0	37463	9366	37463	9366
BCS	Brian Bowden	9230	9135	9159	0	0	27524	6881	27524	9175
BCS	Julia Moody	0	8725	8799	8585	0	26109	6527	26109	8703
BCS	Brian Moore	0	8707	8439	0	8826	25972	6493	25972	8657
BCS	Jon Moorhead	0	8714	8272	0	8236	25222	6306	25222	8407
BCS	Elek Cseh	0	0	0	9330	9317	18647	4662	18647	9324
BCS	Mike Critchley	0	9235	0	0	9212	18447	4612	18447	9224
BCS	Andi Cseh	0	0	0	9055	9186	18241	4560	18241	9121
BCS	Brad Kettler	0	0	0	9557	0	9557	2389	9557	9557
BCS	Mark Zeichman	9269	0	0	0	0	9269	2317	9269	9269
BCS	John Gehring	0	0	0	9146	0	9146	2287	9146	9146
BCS	Kayman Riley	0	0	0	9141	0	9141	2285	9141	9141
BCS	Chris Guy	0	0	8876	0	0	8876	2219	8876	8876
BCS	Cori Ewing	0	0	0	8778	0	8778	2195	8778	8778
BCS	Chu Son	8732	0	0	0	0	8732	2183	8732	8732
BCS	Alexander Rossmann	8361	0	0	0	0	8361	2090	8361	8361
BDS	Robert Critchley	9464	9489	9064	9527	9649	38129	9532	47193	9439
BDS	Mike Critchley	0	9235	0	9058	9212	27505	6876	27505	9168
BDS	Jason Doyle	8804	9056	0	0	8900	26760	6690	26760	8920
BDS	Joe Lavelle	9283	0	9092	0	0	18375	4594	18375	9188
BDS	Zachary Gurley	9377	0	0	0	0	9377	2344	9377	9377
BDS	Doug Young	0	9374	0	0	0	9374	2344	9374	9374
BDS	Benjamin Dixon	8875	0	0	0	0	8875	2219	8875	8875
BDS	Diane Critchley	0	8634	0	0	0	8634	2159	8634	8634
BDS	Grant Moore	0	0	8331	0	0	8331	2083	8331	8331
BES	Joe Levonas	9674	9438	9464	9544	9659	38341	9585	47779	9556
BES	Caleb Levonas	9520	9408	9461	9622	9679	38282	9571	47690	9538
BES	Ian Guy	0	0	9314	9383	0	18697	4674	18697	9349

AUTOCROSS RESULTS CONTINUED

Class	Driver	Event #1	Event #2	Event #3	Event #4	Event #5	Season Total Points	Season Points Avg.	Points Total	Points Avg.
L	Melanie Pora	0	9400	9121	9384	9309	37214	9304	37214	9304
L	Karen Lange	9028	8694	8943	9002	9046	36019	9005	44713	8943
L	Tamara Haynes	0	7989	8357	8390	8431	33167	8292	33167	8292
L	Maegan Contreras	9718	9627	0	9369	0	28714	7179	28714	9571
L	Tracy Riley	0	8847	8649	8980	0	26476	6619	26476	8825
L	Kim Kliewer	0	9353	0	9515	0	18868	4717	18868	9434
L	Alison Hopkins	8924	8807	0	0	0	17731	4433	17731	8866
L	LuAnn Ott Jilot	0	0	7939	8291	0	16230	4058	16230	8115
L	Katherine Haynes	0	0	0	8382	0	8382	2096	8382	8382
L	Jody Neiman	0	0	8365	0	0	8365	2091	8365	8365
L	Mariana Sons	0	8226	0	0	0	8226	2057	8226	8226
O	Eric Mees	9733	9911	9717	9855	9745	39244	9811	48961	9792
O	Keith Papulski	10000	9788	9575	0	9705	39068	9767	39068	9767
O	Robert Stanley	9962	9749	9619	9633	0	38963	9741	38963	9741
O	Tom Pora	0	9671	9590	9821	9759	38841	9710	38841	9710
O	Salil Shukla	0	10000	9856	0	9806	29662	7416	29662	9887
O	Ryan Lutze	9820	9768	0	9584	0	29172	7293	29172	9724
O	Paul Lutze	9591	9422	0	9462	0	28475	7119	28475	9492
O	Juliette Harrington	9327	0	9190	9524	0	28041	7010	28041	9347
O	Austin Maguire	9336	9325	9002	0	0	27663	6916	27663	9221
O	Sonya Decman	9099	9053	9126	0	0	27278	6820	27278	9093
O	Bryan Hilgendorf	0	0	8927	9204	8994	27125	6781	27125	9042
O	Samuel Hilgendorf	0	0	8937	8986	9043	26966	6742	26966	8989
O	Alan Neiman	0	0	8775	8899	8838	26512	6628	26512	8837
O	Yong "Skip" Chang	8610	8496	0	0	8822	25928	6482	25928	8643
O	Ryan Sotak	9949	9586	0	0	0	19535	4884	19535	9768
O	Bob Klingler	9798	0	9648	0	0	19446	4862	19446	9723
O	Bob Klingler	9798	0	9648	0	0	19446	4862	19446	9723
O	Greg Paine	9680	0	9624	0	0	19304	4826	19304	9652
O	Yarko Thomas	9669	0	0	9605	0	19274	4819	19274	9637
O	Brian Thompson	0	0	9644	9546	0	19190	4798	19190	9595
O	Mike Jaltuch	0	0	0	9271	9581	18852	4713	18852	9426
O	Jeff Morgan	9421	0	9250	0	0	18671	4668	18671	9336
O	Greg Tarantino	9417	0	9102	0	0	18519	4630	18519	9260
O	Joe Lavelle	9283	0	9092	0	0	18375	4594	18375	9188
O	Thomas Fritz	0	0	9039	0	8988	18027	4507	18027	9014
O	Randy Hickman	0	8802	8675	0	0	17477	4369	17477	8739
O	David Cudd	0	8641	8789	0	0	17430	4358	17430	8715
O	Joshua Adams	0	0	8589	8729	0	17318	4330	17318	8659
O	Isaac Bouchard	0	0	9904	0	0	9904	2476	9904	9904
O	Justin Metz	0	9852	0	0	0	9852	2463	9852	9852
O	Sam Noblett	0	0	0	9519	0	9519	2380	9519	9519
O	Michael Wong	0	0	9461	0	0	9461	2365	9461	9461
O	John Lee	9415	0	0	0	0	9415	2354	9415	9415
O	Michael Gauthiere	0	0	9358	0	0	9358	2340	9358	9358
O	Troy Steele	0	9256	0	0	0	9256	2314	9256	9256
O	Brandon Bennett	0	0	9218	0	0	9218	2305	9218	9218
O	Dan Bye	0	0	9156	0	0	9156	2289	9156	9156

AUTOCROSS RESULTS CONTINUED

Class	Driver	Event #1	Event #2	Event #3	Event #4	Event #5	Season Total Points	Season Points Avg.	Points Total	Points Avg.
O	Mark Legg	0	0	9091	0	0	9091	2273	9091	9091
O	Dan McInnis	0	9026	0	0	0	9026	2257	9026	9026
O	John Leet	0	8900	0	0	0	8900	2225	8900	8900
O	Tonya Wooten	0	8871	0	0	0	8871	2218	8871	8871
O	Kevin Schwall	0	0	0	8710	0	8710	2178	8710	8710
O	Ian Overgard	0	0	0	8686	0	8686	2172	8686	8686
O	Christopher LaPanse	0	0	0	8538	0	8538	2135	8538	8538
O	Joshua Cass	0	0	0	8272	0	8272	2068	8272	8272
O	Steve Armstrong	0	0	8250	0	0	8250	2063	8250	8250
O	Steve Armstrong	0	0	8250	0	0	8250	2063	8250	8250
O	Robert Calzia	0	0	8060	0	0	8060	2015	8060	8060
O	Charles Wood	0	0	0	7951	0	7951	1988	7951	7951
O	Wayne Frank	0	0	0	7700	0	7700	1925	7700	7700
O	Joshua Biggio	0	0	0	7377	0	7377	1844	7377	7377
X	Mark Smith	9705	9912	9788	9897	9853	39450	9863	49155	9831
X	Michael Feldpusch	9830	0	9545	9728	10000	39103	9776	39103	9776
X	Jesse Shapiro	9741	9623	9729	9717	0	38810	9703	38810	9703
X	Michael Rosacci	0	8797	8760	0	8871	26428	6607	26428	8809
X	David Jobusch	0	9939	0	0	9923	19862	4966	19862	9931
X	Jason West	0	0	9936	9915	0	19851	4963	19851	9926
X	Mark Baer	0	9858	0	0	9852	19710	4928	19710	9855
X	Stephen Murphy	0	9789	0	0	9881	19670	4918	19670	9835
X	Mark Melchior	0	0	9652	0	9829	19481	4870	19481	9741
X	Mark Jr Mauro	9343	0	10000	0	0	19343	4836	19343	9672
X	Mark Mauro	9511	0	9618	0	0	19129	4782	19129	9565
X	Jonathan Kuo	9900	0	0	0	0	9900	2475	9900	9900
X	Tyler Faucett	0	9717	0	0	0	9717	2429	9717	9717
X	Sam Noblett	0	0	0	9519	0	9519	2380	9519	9519
X	Hsun Chen	0	9480	0	0	0	9480	2370	9480	9480
X	Mike Faucett	0	9301	0	0	0	9301	2325	9301	9301
X	Tom Miller	0	9184	0	0	0	9184	2296	9184	9184

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But if you attended an RMC Autocross, Bimmer Burger Night, or the Spring or Fall Drive this past year, you probably noticed that some BMWs seem to be just a little "more equal" than others. Some draw a crowd or are frequent visitors to the podium, while others simply get lost in the pack.

The same can be said for commuter cars and grocery getters... some seem to have more than their fair share of problems while others just keep going, and going, and going.

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CO'S BMW

2ND ANNUAL BIMMER FESTIVAL

EVENT RESULTS AND PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MARISSA WEST

On July 7, 2018, Co's BMW Center held their 2nd Annual Bimmer Festival in Loveland, Colorado. People showed up with some of their Bavarian-best for an evening full of spectacular cars, music, food, and of course, fellow enthusiasts.

As with last year's event, cars were judged by those in attendance across four categories: TOO FAST: BMW M and M Performance, TOO ADDICTED: BMW Non-M, TOO OLD: BMW Classics ('88 & earlier), and TOO HOT: Everything not BMW or MINI.

The winners of this year's Bimmer Festival were:



Too Addicted Winner Becky Brenkert



Too Fast Winner Tracy Riley



Too Hot Winner Micahl Kelter



Too Old Winner Mike Bolonga

The Z Series Car Club of America

BY: JON MOORHEAD

The Z Series Car Club of America (ZSCCA) is a Special Interest Group of BMW CCA dedicated to the enjoyment of all Z-Series BMWs. The Hi RockeeZ group is active in Colorado. Find us on Facebook or visit us at: www.zscca.org. ■



<https://www.bmwcca.org/content/z-series> on 5/31/2018.

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PHILES' FORUM

I MISS YOU, ALPHONSE

BY: VIC LUCARIELLO

Hello bimmerphiles! This time out, I have a warning for those of you who change your own oil. I hope that is most of you. But first...

You will recall that I wrote a tribute to Trip Lee in my spring column last year. It is with great regret that I proffer another tribute, this one to Al Drugos.

“Big Al” was how he referred to himself and what he liked to be called. But to me he will always be “Alphonse”, even though his given name was Albert. I don’t remember why I started calling him Alphonse, but I have been for a long time. In his later years, especially after his bypass surgery, although he was not as physically big and strong as he once was (he was still always threatening to kick my butt), he still had his big heart. Those who bothered to get to know him well will know what I mean.



Alphonse contributed greatly to the NJ Chapter for many years. He served as Vice President – Activities, where he was responsible for our monthly meetings. He also later served as Social Events Chair, where his main responsibility was our annual banquet. He also arranged for us to attend baseball games. But he is probably best remembered for working the Pit-Out position at our driver schools. Suffice it to say that Alphonse did not countenance any “prima donna” histrionics at Pit-Out.

Alphonse also served for years as a valued member of our driving school tech team. I suspect that some folks, knowing they had to face Alphonse, were better prepared than they otherwise would have been (see photo at left).

One afternoon some years ago, Alphonse and I were hanging out in my shop. I remember he was giving me a hard time because I like to keep my pickup truck (heck, all my vehicles) indoors, and he felt that trucks should be kept outside because they are so big and because, “It’s a truck, it belongs outside.” Okay, whatever.

He was also telling me, in referring to a mutual acquaintance, “Ya know, I have such great friends.” My response was, “Alphonse, you have great friends because you ARE a great friend,” which indeed he was.

I guess what I loved most about Alphonse is that you always knew exactly where you stood with him. No two-faced politician was he. Alphonse, wherever you are, please stay out of trouble and don’t punch anyone out, even if he desperately deserves it.

Photos provided by Vic Lucariello.

Inveterate readers of Philes' Forum know that I often preach about the importance of using a torque wrench to tighten the engine oil drain plug in your Bimmer. I also preach of the importance of replacing the drain plug sealing ring (BMW now seems to be calling them "gasket ring") every time the plug is removed. Well, this preaching seems to have taken on new importance.

For many years, Bimmers with aluminum alloy oil pans had the drain plug in the side of the pan, right near the bottom. This design allowed for nice thread depth in the relatively soft aluminum and virtually all the oil drained out when the plug was removed. Some on the lunatic fringe, like Vic Jr. (the torch has indeed been passed, folks), would actually jack the car up on a slight side-to-side angle so that every last drop of oil drained out, but with the side-plug design, this was not really necessary.

On some recent models, let's say starting around 2010, BMW has moved the pan drain port to the bottom of the oil pan. This presented a problem in that providing sufficient thread depth in the aluminum pan would compromise the draining. BMW's solution was to cut a "V" notch in the drain port threads such that the pan would more completely drain (see photo below).



I am still investigating which engines have this "feature," and I will follow-up in a future column. When you are draining your oil, please note if your pan has the "V" notch and let me know. Out here in wild-west rural Colorado, I don't get to see many Bimmers other than my own, and mine all have the side drain on the oil pan. Subarus, pickups, and SUVs? The area has plenty.

The problem with this "V" notch-drain-port design is that in my opinion the notch in the threads weakens them and makes them more likely to strip. If you do not renew the drain plug gasket ring and if you overtighten the drain plug, the threads are even more likely to strip. As I have previously written, a quality aftermarket canister-type oil filter element will come with a

new gasket ring as well as a new O-ring for the oil-filter-housing cap. If you buy your oil filter at a BMW dealer, it will come with the new O-ring, but you will need to buy the gasket ring separately. Customer-friendly dealer parts counters, like BMW of Bridgewater, will include the gasket ring.

If the older-designed side drain oil pan threads were to strip, and this would rarely happen over the life of the vehicle if a new seal ring was always used and the plug was not overtightened, the drain port threads could be repaired with a thread repair device such as a Heli-Coil. However, if the drain port with the “V” notch strips, the repair is not as straightforward. Indeed, many technicians on iATN, the International Automobile Technicians Network, recommend a new oil pan if a pan with the “V” notch strips. Priced a new BMW oil pan lately?

To get another perspective on this, I contacted Matt Kimple, Service Manager at BMW of Bridgewater (908-287-1800). Matt reports that he has had no problems with the “V” notch pan design, provided a new gasket ring is used and provided that a torque wrench is used to tighten the drain plug. Matt and his technicians use the torque value prescribed by BMW, 25 newton-meters (N·m), which is about 18.5 pound-feet. [Matt cautions us not to exceed the 25 N·m torque setting.](#)

A 3/8-inch drive torque wrench works well in the 25 N·m range. The 1/2-inch drive wrench you use (!) for your wheel fasteners is likely too big for 25 N·m and not likely to be accurate at 25 N·m, even if you could adjust it to that low a setting. You can pick up an inexpensive 3/8-inch drive, click-type torque wrench at Harbor Freight Tools on sale for about \$10. No need to buy a more expensive model for oil pan drain plugs. So, no excuses for not having one. I have an array of torque wrenches ranging from the HFT one to a really nice one from Snap-on Tools. I have concluded that any torque wrench is better than no torque wrench. You can easily ballpark-check the accuracy of a torque wrench, but that is future Philes' Forum fodder. Also, I think it is important to exercise any brand/price click-type torque wrench by setting it, then “clicking” it a few times on a test bolt held in a vise. You don't want to find out that your wrench is sticking, not clicking, on your Bimmer's oil drain plug!

Much thanks for Matt for his numerous emails on this subject and for spending time with me on the phone. I have previously written that BMW of Bridgewater (formerly Hunterdon BMW) was my dealer of choice for many years. And even though I am in Colorado now, that is still the case.

That's all for now, bimmerphiles. See you next time. And, Alphonse, I miss you, my friend.

Anyone wishing to contribute to Philes' Forum can contact me at vic.sr@njbmwcca.org. I'm interested in tech tips, repair/maintenance questions, repair horror stories, emissions-inspection sagas, product evaluations, etc.

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35TH ANNUAL COLORADO CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE – JUNE 10, 2018

HOT DAY, HOT CARS!

BY: DAVE STACKHOUSE, EVENT CHAIR

It was another year for extraordinary BMWs at their holiday best. Thank you to all of the owners who spent the day with us and to Melissa Stackhouse and Larry Winslow for volunteering to ensure the success of this event. Here are the winners:

1996-Current: Super Clean

1st - *Joseph Smedra*
2009 White M3

2nd - *Bean Brant*
2006 Grigo Medio M5

3rd - *Tom Radon*
2000 White M Roadster

1996-Current: Clean

1st - *Lloyd Rogers*
1997 Avus Blue 328i

1980-1995: Super Clean

1st - *Jim Dullea*
1988 Diamond Schwartz M3

2nd - *Carl Altevogt*
1988 Black M6

1980-1995: Clean

1st - *Carl Altevogt*
1992 Red 318iC

2nd - *Brian Bowden*
1989 Alpine White M3

Pre-1979: Clean

1st - *Mike & Josephine Bologna*
1972 Gray 3.0 CS

2nd - *Eric Schauble*
1974 Fjord Blue 2002





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