

MOTORSPORT

REPORT



BMW Car Club
of America
Rocky Mountain Chapter



The official publication of the
Rocky Mountain Chapter BMW CCA
SPRING 2020





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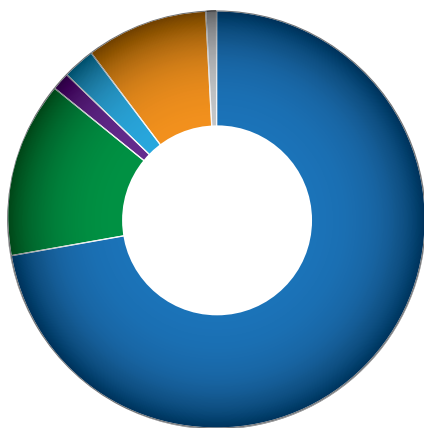
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RMC BMW CCA MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP REPORT

AS OF JANUARY 31, 2020



Primary Members (1,580)

Renewing Members (204)

Secondary Members (0)

Lapsing Members (17)

Associate Members (300)

Life Members (28)

New Members (55)

DIGITAL DELIVERY OF THE MOTORSPORT REPORT



Beginning with the 2020 Summer Edition, the Rocky Mountain Chapter BMW CCA's quarterly newsletter, Motorsport Report, will be distributed electronically to all members. Please note that printed copies will still be available at select area businesses.

Our move to switch to digital-only distribution was based on a recent decision by National BMW CCA to discontinue the quarterly newsletter requirement of all chapters. In addition, digital distribution allows us to communicate information to our members in a more efficient manner, as well as to decrease overall printing and postage costs.

IMPORTANT: To ensure your electronic delivery of the Motorsport Report, please visit the National BMW CCA website at www.bmwcca.org to verify/update your current email. If you need additional assistance, please contact Susan Rhodes at msreditor@rmcbmwcca.org. ■

2020 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.

Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the RMC BMW CCA events schedule has been adjusted to reflect the current guidance from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the National BMW CCA Board of Directors. Please be aware that the dates listed below may change in order to comply with any change in guidance. We will continue communicating any changes via our email blasts, website, and our RMC Facebook page.

Thank you for your patience as we work through these changes together and thank you for being a supportive member of our Rocky Mountain Chapter of BMW CCA.

MAY

May 13 - RMC Monthly Conference Call
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

May 29 - Closing date for submissions to the 2020 Motorsport Report Summer Edition

JUNE

June 10 - RMC Monthly Conference Call
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

June 21 - Autocross #1
Front Range Airport
E 30th Avenue
Watkins, CO 80137

June 27 - Member Meet-and-Greet
Location TBD – 9:00am – 11:00am

JULY

July 8 - RMC Monthly Conference Call
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

July 12 - Autocross #2
Front Range Airport
E 30th Avenue
Watkins, CO 80137

July 18 - Co's BMW Fest
4150 Byrd Drive
Loveland, CO 80538
5:30pm – 8:30pm

July 25 - Autocross #3
Front Range Airport
E 30th Avenue
Watkins, CO 80137

AUGUST

August 12 - RMC Quarterly Board Meeting
Location TBD – 6:30pm – 8:00pm

August 15 - Autocross #4
Flatrock Regional Training Center
23600 E 128th Avenue
Commerce City, CO 80022

August 22 - Member Meet-and-Greet
Location TBD – 9:00am – 11:00am

August 28 - Closing date for submissions to the 2020 Motorsport Report Fall Edition

August 29 - Autocross #5
Front Range Airport
E 30th Avenue
Watkins, CO 80137

SEPTEMBER

September 5-6 - Fall Driving School/ TT Event
High Plains Raceway
93301 E US Highway 36
Deer Trail, CO 80105

September 9 - RMC Monthly Conference Call
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

September 15-19 - 51st Annual BMW CCA Oktoberfest
National Event
Thermal, CA

September 19 - Women's Autocross
Front Range Airport
E 30th Avenue
Watkins, CO 80137



September 20 - Autocross #6
 Front Range Airport
 E 30th Avenue
 Watkins, CO 80137

OCTOBER

October 14 - RMC Monthly Conference Call
 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

NOVEMBER

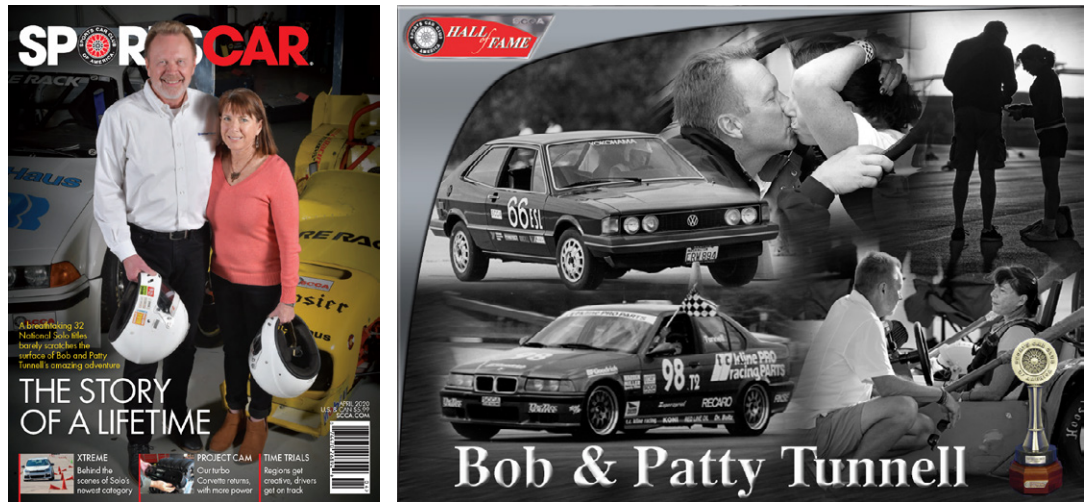
November 11 - RMC Budget & Planning Meeting
 Location TBD – 6:15pm – 9:00pm

November 21 - 1st Annual Pie Run West Tour
 Location & Time TBD

November 27 - Closing date for submissions to the 2021 Motorsport Report Winter Edition

MEET THE NEWEST INDUCTEES INTO THE SCCA HALL OF FAME

BY COLIN WOOD, ©GRASSROOTS MOTORSPORTS



The Solo duo of Patty and Bob Tunnell has posted an illustrious record when it comes to autocross competition. From Volkswagens in the early 1980s, through a long and storied stretch driving BMWs at many preparation levels, the married couple achieved success few have matched.

They have claimed numerous Solo Nationals Championships and ProSolo Championships across many classes and categories, from Stock through Modified, in cars which were not the obvious choice for victory. Bob's recognition awards from SCCA have included the Solo Cup and, together with Patty, Driver of Eminence.

Beyond their success between the orange cones, the Tunnells stand as an example of how to be active, involved members of both the Solo community and Club as a whole. Bob has served the Club on a variety of fronts, including time on the Solo Events Board and as a Chief Steward for Solo Nationals. Patty and Bob have also lent their valuable experience and positive attitude to the Club's burgeoning Time Trials National Tour program. All throughout, the Tunnells never forgot how important it is to encourage experienced competitors to befriend and mentor those new to SCCA activities. Their kindness and compassion are also on display through philanthropic endeavors that create a very positive image for the Sports Car Club of America®.

Congratulations Bob and Patty on your induction into the SCCA Hall of Fame! ■

WINTER CELEBRATION AT WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES

BY FOX CHUNG

What a fantastic way to spend an evening! It was great to see everyone who joined us for food, drinks, prizes, and friendship at our annual RMC BMW CCA Winter Celebration at Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum on February 1st.



Photos by Fox Chung.

THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered their time to make this a huge success. Hope to see you all at more events throughout the season!





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If you've followed our advertising over the years you've probably noticed that every spring we announce that we've won another **Gold Star Award** from the Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau. Well, this year is no different – we were just awarded our **seventeenth** in a row in addition to receiving the BBB's highest rating of **A+**!

But what is a **Gold Star Award** and what does winning one really mean?

Winning **one** means the Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau, of which Bimmer Haus is a member, hasn't received a single complaint in the last three years. And winning **seventeen in a row** means we haven't had a single complaint since we opened our doors in 2001!

Does it mean we've never made a mistake? Of course not... we're all human and everybody makes mistakes once in a while. But what separates a reputable company from a bad one is how they **correct** their mistakes.

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Bob Tunnell, Owner



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A+ Rated

RMC BMW CCA MEET-AND-GREET

BY: FOX CHUNG



Check out the photos from our Club-sponsored “Meet-and-Greet” that was held on February 22nd! In total, there were about 60 people throughout the morning – what an awesome turnout!

Special thanks to Jude Baffico & Bob Daneker for volunteering their time to host the event!

Please visit our [EVENTS PAGE](https://rmcbmwcca.org/events/) on the RMC Club website (<https://rmcbmwcca.org/events/>) where you’ll find information on the upcoming season for the Autocross School and Car Control Clinic, the Spring Driving School at HPR, helmet tech sessions, BMW Sonic burger nights, volunteer opportunities, and much more! ■

Photos by Fox Chung.

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NO, I AM NOT JAY LENO AND I AM NOT MAKING THIS UP

BY: VIC LUCARIELLO

Hello Bimmerphiles! This time out I have a great tech tip from Bimmerphile Carl Francolini as well as some of my thoughts on battery maintainers.

Inveterate Philes' reader and correspondent, Carl, recently bought a 2008 (E60) 528i and he experienced some problems with the iDrive controller knob. Carl reported that the knob would intermittently not allow the downward push input that is a menu-selection input. Other than that, all the other iDrive functions seemed to be normal.



Now I am neither a fan of nor an expert of iDrive (see Photo #1, courtesy of Carl), but it is an efficient means of providing multiple functions to the driver and passenger with a minimum of old-fashioned pushbuttons, which consume a lot of valuable and expensive instrument-panel space. A great advantage of iDrive is that it is operable with a gloved hand. Not so for the plethora of pushbuttons and selector switches that would be required to duplicate all the functions of iDrive. While to some inveterate, hard-core Bimmerphiles, iDrive may seem to be a new-fangled feature, however BMW has been using it for two decades!

Anyway, other than suggesting to Carl that a common cause of iDrive problems is spilled beverage that invades the controller via the iDrive-knob shaft, I couldn't be of much help to him. I had heard of iDrive problems where the system did not respond to downward movement of the control knob, but never where the knob refused to move down.

A few days later, Carl reported that he had solved the problem! It seems that he was using a USB cable plugged into the port in the console, and that occasionally the cable would slip under the iDrive knob and impede its downward motion. Carl said that he was embarrassed to report this simple fix, but I don't think any embarrassment is warranted. Given the proliferation of USB-connected devices and USB ports in vehicles nowadays, I'll bet Carl is not the first to experience the problem.

Much thanks to Carl for sharing his experience with Philes' readers.

Photo provided by Vic Lucariello.

Anyone who has read Philes' for any length of time knows that for decades I have been a fan of and user of battery maintainers. During a quick jaunt around the shop, storage container and enclosed trailer, I stopped counting battery maintainers after around 15! No, I am not Jay Leno and I am not making this up!

The maintainers vary from the more expensive CTEK and BMW (Battery Tender) units to the less expensive Harbor Freight and Morange models. Heck, I even have a few from J. C. Whitney and one from Walmart! Some of the maintainers, such as the CTEK and VDC Electronics models, purport to recondition batteries by removing or reducing sulfation. My testing suggests that there might even be some merit to these claims.

Of all the maintainers I have used over the years, only one, a Black and Decker, failed to operate properly. Whether this is a generic flaw or a fault of my particular unit, I don't know. The B&D did have a nice AC cord and battery leads, though, which I snipped off and kept prior to disposing of the unit.

My sojourn through the realm of battery maintainers began in the early 1970s when I stopped driving my hotrod as frequently as I wanted to. When I did find the time to take the old girl out, many times I would find the battery dead or severely discharged. You probably know that one of the best ways to significantly decrease the life of a lead-acid battery is to let it sit in a discharged state.

You probably also know that "jump-starting" a car and driving it around will not fully recharge the battery. BUT it may cook your alternator.

This was before battery maintainers became popular. Indeed, if they existed, I was unaware of it. So, I tried connecting a "trickle charger" (very low amperage charger) to the hotrod battery. This served to overcharge the battery after a couple weeks and boil away the electrolyte. This is another good way to ruin a battery, probably even more efficacious than letting it sit while discharged.

My next approach was to connect the trickle charger to a timer such that the charger only charged the battery for an hour or so every day. This achieved a modicum of success, but one had to be careful with the charger on-time so as not to overcharge the battery.

What was needed was a trickle charger that was smart enough to sense the battery state of charge and shut off at full charge and resume charging when the battery needed it. Enter the battery maintainer.



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If you have a modern vehicle that sits for more than a few days at a time, my experience suggests that using a battery maintainer can significantly extend the life of the battery.

Here are some factors to consider when selecting a battery maintainer:

- The length and quality of the AC cord (if equipped) and the battery leads (a maintainer with a metal housing should have a three-prong AC plug)
- The quality of the clips that connect to the battery terminals
- Whether the maintainer has multiple options and leads for connecting to the vehicle
- If the maintainer has a fuse in its positive battery lead
- If the maintainer has reverse-polarity protection (my J.C. Whitney maintainers do NOT have this protection, see below)
- The charging capacity of the maintainer, some maintainers will recharge a discharged battery (albeit over a couple days) while others should not be used on a discharged battery
- Whether the maintainer has indication(s) of what it is doing (the CTEK is probably the best in this regard, while the JCW maintainers have no indication, except they let you know of reverse polarity by letting their smoke out!)
- Whether the maintainer draws battery current and discharges the battery if the maintainer's AC power is interrupted
- Whether the maintainer's leads spark when being connected to the battery.
- Whether the maintainer is suitable for use with an AGM-type battery
- Warranty

That should be enough to get you thinking about battery maintainers. If you would like more detail, email me and I will write a follow-up column where I describe the features of the various maintainers in service here at NJ Chapter West/Rocky Mountain Chapter South.

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

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2020 ICE GYMKHANA DRIVERS & RESULTS

EVENT DATE: JANUARY 18, 2020

BY: PAUL SCHULTZ

Last Name	First Name	Number	Vehicle	Tires	Drive	Class			
Borchardt	Blake	A-1	1975 BMW 1975 BMW 2002	Studded	2WD	A	1:40:27x	1:40:09x	1:38:86
Gulkin	Emma	B-2	1996 BMW 318ti	Non-Studded Snow	2WD	B	2:52:76	3:02:96x	2:45:47x
Gulkin	Timber	B-2x	1996 BMW 318ti	Non-Studded Snow	2WD	B	2:26:43	2:31:94x	2:35:10x
McCulloch	Alex	E-1	1989 BMW 325ix	Non-Studded Snow	2WD	B	1:38:49x	1:38:79x	1:38:86x
Schmidt	Michael	B-1	2016 BMW M3	Non-Studded Snow	2WD	B	2:29:77x	2:40:33x	2:33:43
Bair	Christopher	C-1x	1989 BMW 325ix	Studded	4WD	C	1:55:19x	1:51:49x	1:49:97x
Downard	Catherine	C-1	1989 BMW 325ix	Studded	4WD	C	2:06:71	2:28:53x	1:55:26
Swanson	Marc	C-2	1989 BMW 325iX	Studded	4WD	C	1:23:26x	1:20:93	1:19:77
Bower	Jonathan	D-7	1991 BMW 325iX	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	1:55:49x	1:54:70	1:51:84x
Crenshaw	Fraser	D-10	1988 BMW 325iX	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	DQx	2:23:59x	2:08:11
Frank	Wayne	D-11	2010 BMW 335xi	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	2:23:29	2:22:20x	2:18:44
Gulkin	Casey	D-2	2018 Chevrolet Equinox	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	2:13:28	2:10:51	2:09:26x
Kliewer	Kimberly	D-8x	2020 BMW X3m	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	2:16:43x	2:27:27	2:20:71x
Moody	Julie	D-3x	2013 BMW X3	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	2:30:80	2:36:44x	2:32:19
Moody	Steven	D-3	2013 BMW X3	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	3:12:40	2:05:12x	2:09:91
Papadopoulos	Christos	D-6	2005 BMW 330xi	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	2:31:76x	2:20:81x	2:22:50
Parcher	Daniel	D-12	2008 Infiniti FX35	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	2:17:06	2:07:57	2:14:47
Rocca	Don	D-4	2018 BMW 430i xDrive Gran Coupe	All-Season	4WD	D	2:24:46x	2:27:44x	2:22:83x
Rowan	Cory	D-9	2019 Volkswagen Alltrack	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	1:52:86	1:48:50	1:48:52
Thiesen	John	D-1	2013 BMW X5M	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	2:21:36x	2:19:16	2:12:59x
Venugopan	Vishnu	D-5	2018 Volkswagen Golf R	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	2:15:59	2:11:55x	2:12:87
Wamer	Nathan	D-12x	2008 Infiniti FX35	Non-Studded Snow	4WD	D	2:16:07	2:13:34x	2:08:27x
Kliewer	Bryce	D-8x	2020 BMW X3m	Non-Studded Snow	4wd	D	2:15:44x	2:16:37x	2:12:15



Photos by Adrian Gonzales

AUTOCROSS UPDATE

BY: KEITH DANA



Autocross Enthusiasts,

The 2020 driving season will soon be upon us. I want to make sure you are aware of the RMC BMW CCA Autocross program for this year. The schedule is listed below and is also available on our website at www.rmcbmwcca.org/events.

As you probably know, our events are the best! They run smoothly. Everybody is welcome, whether you are a first timer or a national champion. Everybody will be asked to contribute to getting the job done. You will get a lot of runs. If the weather cooperates, we usually get 8 runs.

RMC BMW CCA Autocross Event Schedule for 2020:

Autocross #1 June 21st at Front Range Airport (FRA)

Autocross #2 July 12th at FRA

Autocross #3 July 25th at FRA

Autocross #4 August 15th at Flatrock
Regional Training Center

Autocross #5 August 29th at FRA

Women's AX September 19th at FRA

Autocross #6 September 20th at FRA

Hope to see you soon, hanging out on the tarmac with a bunch of like-minded friends, really cool cars, and driving fast.

Leave no corner unturned,

Keith Dana
RMC BMW CCA Autocross Chairman

Photos by Fox Chung.



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Chapter Website: www.rmcbmwcca.org

Real time event changes, master RMC calendar, event scores, registration, and club information in one place.

Chapter Online Forum: <http://rmcbmwcca.org/forum/>

The place to discuss topics with other RMC members, sell a car or parts, and get information on upcoming get-togethers.

National Website: www.BMWCCA.org

Interested in joining the BMW CCA, want to check out national events, need a new membership card, or have an address change? The recently updated website will keep you abreast of all things BMW and allow you to access your account information.

Chapter Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/rmcbmwcca

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