



TEJAS TRAX

Newsletter for the Tejas Chapter, BMW CCA



BMW Performance Driving School
Greer, South Carolina

February 2009



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Ding Co. Tech Session
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Visit the Tejas Chapter Web Site at <http://www.tejaschapter.org/tejas.html>

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From The President

On the Technology Trap

Working as a systems analyst in the Information Technology (IT) world, I am constantly amazed how the solution to every problem that exists has seemed to become technology. Everytime there is a business problem, the first solution always seems to be “let’s automate the process”. I have seen thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours thrown at a business process in trying to automate it, when in fact what is broken is the process itself.

Of course, another trap is that you cannot do away with stupidity through technology. A case in point is a motorist from Germany. The motorist obediently following the satellite-guided navigation system of his car drove straight into the Havel River in eastern Germany, police said. He drove his BMW Friday night past a stop sign, down a ferry ramp and about 12 feet into the river before stopping. The 57-year-old driver from Hamburg and his passenger were not

hurt. Police said the driver reported he was following the navigation system, which had evidently failed to note that the road in the town of Caputh near Potsdam ended at a ferry crossing!

One of the biggest technology traps - one that BMW has embraced with open arms - is that technology always makes things easier. Do you remember the days when you could push a button to change the station on your radio? Or do you remember when adjusting the temperature of the air conditioner involved turning a simple knob? Have you tried to do those things in a new state-of-the-art BMW? If you can take your eyes off of the road long enough to use a Nintendo controller to navigate through a less than user-friendly menu system and actually find the component you are looking for and the item you are trying to change, you might achieve the same success that you did when you pushed a button in the old days!! Isn’t technology wonderful?

Until next time

Glenn McConnell

Welcome New Members

Austin

Brian Hall Cynthia Podolnick

Joseph Hall Jay Podolnick

R. Scott Harris Shawn Williams

Anthony Overfield Dixon Wu

San Antonio

James Blue

Jonathan Kelly

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C-D-B

Coffee, Dents and Bar-B-Q

Saturday, February 21, 2009

8:30am - ?

Event planned by Roger Williams



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9:45 am - Drive over to the Ding Co.
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BMW For A Good Cause

by Denise Reid

Just wanted to send a photo of our 2007 328i convertible that was recently decorated for the Chuys Blue Santa Parade in Austin this November 29th;

Every year for the last 7 years, I and my teens have participated in this parade with a vehicle decorated full of stuffed animals. This year we really had fun by stringing the cuddly critters together and decorating the car (all soft plush so no scratches here!); as we drove thru the parade route down Congress to Cesar Chavez and the river. It was so much fun to hear the little kids along the street, viewing the parade, shout "Wow, I really like your car—look at those animals!". A lot of the adults said the same thing, and everybody was all smiles. My 16 year old daughter and her 2 friends dressed as bigger-than-life-turkeys and danced along the parade route, while my 17 year old son took photos to use as part of his Sr. project

for Cedar Park High School. At the end of the parade, the animals were all collected by volunteers and added to all the other toy donations.

Every year we all look forward to doing this parade, and this year, it was the best, with the addition of our 328 convertible!

We can't wait till the 2009 Chuys parade!

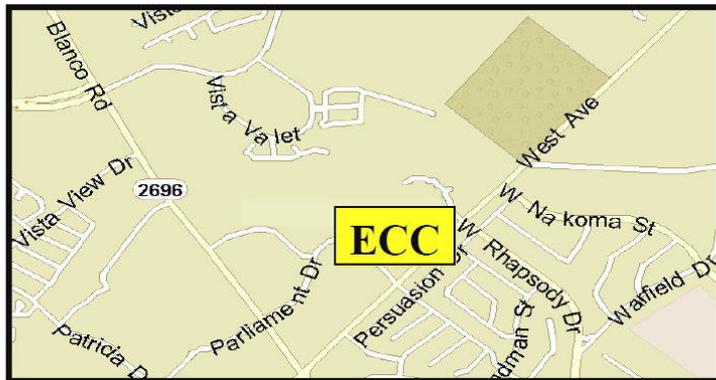
It would be a lot of fun if we could get a group of BMW's to participate, as there are motorcycle clubs, antique car clubs and other groups that also do this, and it all goes to a great cause. Any takers??

denise@mercurypermits.com





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BMWEngines Earn Two Places On Ward's Annual 10 Best Engines List

Diesel and Gasoline Engines Make BMW the Only Double Winner for 2009

Woodcliff Lake, NJ - January 15, 2009... BMW of North America yesterday accepted two 10 Best Engines awards from Ward's Automotive Group. As the only double winner this year, two BMW twin-turbo inline-6 engines — one diesel and one gasoline — were elected to the 10 Best Engines list for the 2009 model year by the Ward's panel of expert judges.

"These two awards are further testament that BMW's EfficientDynamics engineering strategy is delivering the performance and efficiency that drivers expect today." said Hans Hohenner, General Manager of Drivetrain Development for BMW Group. "Each of these very different engines brings to market new technologies that combine to create the highest-performing six-cylinder engines BMW has ever produced while delivering fuel efficiency that was previously unattainable.

"BMW's gasoline 3.0-liter twin-turbocharged DOHC Inline-6 received a Ward's 10 Best Engines honor for the third time since its introduction in the summer

of 2006. The acclaimed engine now powers 11 BMW models in the US - from the 135i to the X6 xDrive35i Sports Activity Coupe. This 300-horsepower engine features twin low-mass turbochargers, High Precision Direct Injection and electrified accessory drives for an unbeatable blend of power, efficiency, and responsiveness. As an example, this engine propels the BMW 335i coupe from rest to 60 mph in just 5.3 seconds (manual transmission) yet delivers an EPA-estimated highway mileage of 26 mpg.

The second Ward's 10 Best Engines honor for BMW was awarded to the new 50-state BMW Advanced Diesel with BluePerformance technology. Featuring all-aluminum construction, this lightweight 3.0-liter Sequential Turbo DOHC Advanced Diesel inline-6 offers V-8 performance on four-cylinder consumption: 265 horsepower and 425 lb-ft of torque, with EPA efficiency figures of 23 (city) and 36 (highway) in the 2009 BMW 335d Sedan, which is capable of 0 - 60mph in just 6.0 seconds. In addition to the 335d model mentioned, this new engine will also be available in the X5 xDrive35d Sports Activity Vehicle, which is capable of 0 - 60mph in 6.9 seconds and 26mpg on the highway. Both Advanced Diesel models will be in BMW centers later this month.

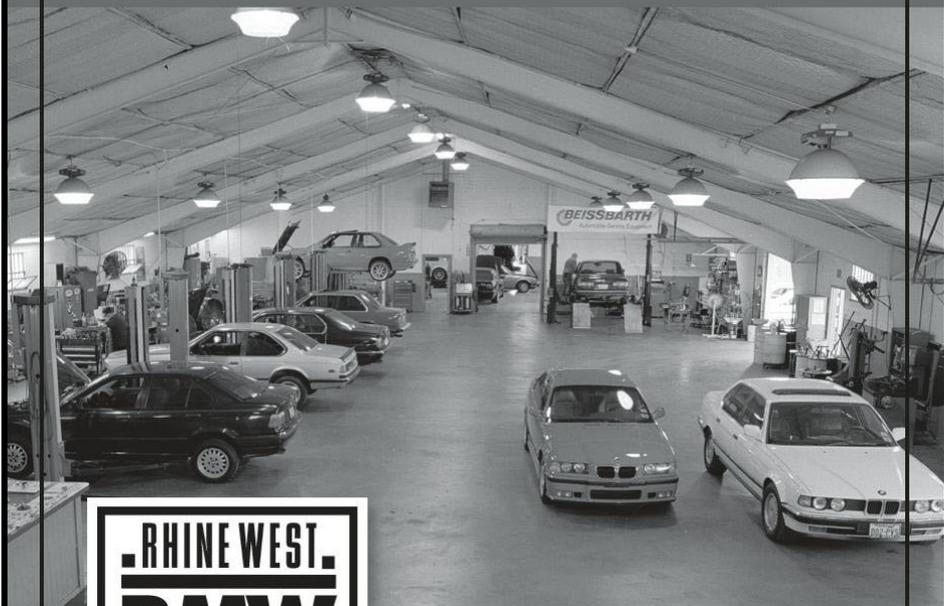


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BMW Assist(tm) Extends Automatic Collision Notification To Include “Risk Of Severe Injury” Algorithm.

Woodcliff Lake, NJ - January 11, 2009 at 13:00EST... BMW of North America today announced that 2009 and later model BMW vehicles (excludes X3) feature BMW’s unique “Risk of Severe Injury” calculation when equipped with the BMW Assist(TM) system. If an accident occurs, this BMW-exclusive system collects data from on-board control units and transmits it automatically to the BMW Assist response center. There, the data is evaluated using a unique algorithm to determine the probability of severe injury. Rescuers can now be informed not only of where an accident took place, but also the risk of severe occupant injury.

“Knowing not only the precise location of a crash but also the potential for life threatening injuries immediately will propel emergency services to the scene armed with the necessary life-saving tools,” states Dr. Jeffrey S. Augenstein, director of the William Lehman Injury Research Center in Miami. “When fully implemented, a trauma system based on enhanced Automatic Collision Notification will save thousands of lives. BMW has taken a leadership position in this effort. BMW is due a tremendous amount of credit for spearheading this life-saving safety initiative.

”Following a severe accident, the first priority is to dispatch prompt and appropriate assistance to the scene. BMW Assist helps ensure rescue services are notified quickly and accurately. Now, using a predictive algorithm jointly developed with the William Lehman Injury Research Center, BMW Assist’s

Automatic Collision Notification service has been enhanced to include more-detailed information about the injury probability and type of collision to help the local emergency services determine the most appropriate response team to dispatch.

BMW introduced vehicles with Automatic Collision Notification in model year 2000. This service helps ensure rapid response after a crash by sending an alert promptly and automatically, including the accident location, and then establishing a voice call. More than 500,000 BMW vehicles are now in operation with this core BMW Assist feature.

More data helps determine the best response

In the event of a severe accident, the BMW Assist system will automatically transmit location and vehicle data to a response specialist. The specialist then communicates verbally with the driver to determine the condition of the vehicle’s occupants. Meanwhile, a second response specialist contacts the appropriate Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to request dispatch of emergency services, sharing the vehicle’s transmitted location, based on GPS coordinates and information obtained from the driver. This information can also be made available to the PSAP via a web site.

To better understand the type of accident and possible extent of injuries, BMW Assist’s enhanced Automatic Collision Notification service takes into account a wide range of relevant data. Numerous sensors distributed around the vehicle shed light on the type of collision and the resulting probability of injury. The deployment status of various safety systems in the vehicle is ascertained along

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BMW Assist(™) Extends Automatic Collision Notification

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with front seat occupancy and seat belt engagement status for the front seats. This information makes it possible to identify and differentiate frontal, rear, side, and multiple collisions, and estimate the level of injury to occupants.

About BMW Assist:

BMW Assist provides the driver with services that enhance on-the-road security and convenience, for added peace of mind. The BMW Assist and Bluetooth® System is standard on all 5, 6 and 7 Series models, including the M5 and M6, and is included in the Premium Package or available as a stand-alone option on all other models. BMW includes the Safety Plan for 4 years at no additional cost. BMW is the only manufacturer that offers this duration of service as other manufacturers only include the first year. The BMW Assist Safety Plan is a subscription based service that is subject to certain limitations.

The in-vehicle equipment integrates GPS technology and hands-free wireless communication functions to deliver emergency and other services, accessed via buttons in the overhead or center console. The BMW Assist system transmits the location and vehicle information to the BMW Assist Response Center. A response specialist speaks with the vehicle occupants to coordinate dispatch, notify emergency contacts on file, and link BMW Roadside Assistance or emergency services as needed and/or requested. A severe accident automatically activates the Automatic Collision Notification function.

The BMW Assist Safety Plan also includes Door Unlock and Stolen Vehicle Recovery services, which can save the

driver time and money. MyInfo allows users to send business listings and street addresses with associated phone numbers from the internet, directly to their BMW. TeleService automatically notifies the BMW center when the vehicle needs service. A service advisor then proactively calls the customer to set up a convenient appointment and have the needed parts ready.

BMW Assist subscribers can also enroll in the BMW Assist Convenience Plan (available at an additional cost of \$199 per year) to avail themselves of BMW Assist concierge services; from finding the lowest fuel price or the best French restaurant in the area to information on flight arrival gates or times, as well as receiving directions, traffic and weather information. On most models produced September 2006 and later, a selected destination and its phone number can be sent directly to the BMW Navigation system and the subscriber's Bluetooth-linked mobile phone, after a push of the Concierge menu option. New for most 2009 and later models is BMW Search, which allows online access to the Google Maps database inside the vehicle to quickly find a desired business with just a key word. The Convenience Plan also includes Critical Calling, a service that can connect the driver to a requested party via a response specialist in case their mobile phone is not in the vehicle or its battery is discharged.

Lastly, the BMW Assist system includes Bluetooth hands-free calling and phone connectivity with phonebook access and speech recognition for dialing by name or number via steering wheel controls. Use of this feature requires a customer-provided compatible Bluetooth mobile phone. To learn more about BMW Assist, please visit www.bmwassist.com.

Tejas Chapter's 2009 Post Holiday Party

A Review by Sandy McConnell

The historic Faust Hotel and its elegant banquet room were the right place for the occasion, the occasion being the Tejas Chapter's annual Post Holiday Party and Awards Banquet. A lively and expectant group of 58 people began arriving at 6:00 pm and were checked in receiving their door prize tickets, name tags, Tejas patches,



and unexpected DVDs (more to be said about those later.) As they began mingling with the other Tejas friends and guests, a drink bar was made available and the door prizes were readied for the bidding. The pile of gifts for the white elephant gift exchange grew in size and in mystery, as one could only imagine what types of surprises, good and bad, might be collecting there.

Chapter members, Allan Gazza, Sridhar Kamma, Mary Beth and Marco Cordon, surprised us with DVDs they had put together, with an expressive collage of pictures covering the various Tejas events of 2008. The DVD was being projected all during our event and we derived great

pleasure in seeing and remembering the fun we had this year. The DVDs also enabled many to fill in the blanks about the events, for those who had not had the pleasure of attending them all! Each Tejas member in attendance was given one of the DVDs at registration. Our thanks to Allan, Mary Beth, Marco & Sridhar for this special treat!

The door prizes up for bidding this year were donated by BMW of San Antonio, BMW of Austin and Tejas Chapter. BMW of San Antonio provided BMW sunglasses, a CD case, BMW key fobs and hats. BMW of Austin provided a gorgeous 3.0 CSI model and Tejas Chapter contributed several Tejas denim shirts.

Glenn presented the awards for our top 13 incentive points winners. The winners are announced in another section of this newsletter, with a picture. A special thanks to Glenn for designing the very elegant award plaques.

Dinner was a buffet meal serving roasted pork loin, Chicken Scallopini, garlic mashed potatoes, roasted corn, various vegetables and dessert... all mouth watering and perhaps one of the more unique dinner venues of our holiday parties.

And then our notorious white elephant gift exchange! The basic rules allowed items to be *stolen* 3 times and then they were *frozen* and could not move again. The first person to pick a gift, also had the option of being the last person with the right to pick from any of the gifts. We had a genuine *white elephant* this year! It really was very elegant, but it amazed me that in all the years

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**Post-Holiday
January**
Many thanks to K
Many more great photos are a





Day Party
24, 2009
Kathy Eltringham
available on the chapter website



Post Holiday Party

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we've been doing this, I cannot remember anyone ever having done this before! I know who brought this gift icon, but I'm not telling. Some of you who know our group pretty well, can pretty well guess who this was without too much stretch of the imagination. We had some of those not so popular gifts that we've come to expect, like an old used radio/cassette player, and a returned item from last year, a large diamond - about a 4 inch, not so valuable one! We also had some really nice gifts that made the rounds until they were frozen. Items like the bottle of Bartenura, Italian Moscato white wine, some useful automotive tools, popular brand car cleaning supplies, a wheel clock and various car models were among the most sought after gifts. If one person got picked on the most, i.e. had their gifts stolen time and time again, it was Spencer Cubage. He was a really good sport, but first, he was so unlucky as to get the old cassette player, which he creatively got rid of by putting a \$20.00 bill on it! Yes, it did get

taken... then. Then he had the wheel clock, a BMW keychain, and a car model taken. As I recall though, he finally ended up with a nice keeper.

This year someone had brought an extra gift, so we added a little different twist at the end of the exchange. Folks were asked who thought they had received the worst gift and whether they would like to trade it for the unknown gift, being advised that it could be better; it could be worse. Risking all (just like in Let's Make A Deal) was Marco Cordon who was willing to trade in his original, patented, Turbo-Vented, KLEEN WHEELS Dust Shields! Well, you decide if he got a good trade... he got an IMAX NASCAR race DVD!

We want to be sure and thank Kathy Eltringham for refereeing the gift exchange and for finding the Faust Hotel and making all the arrangements for this really great post holiday event. Everyone seemed to have a terrific time and all the feedback received, confirmed that. It was an encouraging beginning for another fun-filled and exciting year for the Tejas Chapter.

See you in February at our *Ding Company* Tech Session, Salt Lick Lunch event!



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The M Azing School!

By Adriana Diesen

The date had been set since the summer: December 10th and 11th, but Jonna and I decided that we'd spend that entire week in South Carolina and surroundings. Jonna was supposed to fly in from San Antonio on Monday December 8th and I would meet her onboard the aircraft for the final leg: IAH – GSP (Greenville-Spartanburg).

Monday, December 8th 2009

I never considered myself to be a lucky person, but hey, never lose hope right? It just happened that I ended up with this new, fully loaded 335i sedan in my hands that very morning. With the approval from this baby's owner, I was left with a decision to make: to drive or to fly? Well, those of you who know me will totally understand when I tell you that it was actually a no brainer decision. Of course I would drive the 957 miles instead of covering this distance by air. Duh! So I called Jonna – who was boarding the plane in San Antonio – and updated her on the situation. Long story short, being my "identical twin" when it comes to



The 502. Built from 1954 to 1964 it had a V8 engine and 100hp.

our relationship to the ultimate machines, Jonna called me after a while saying that she now had got her luggage out of the plane: "Come get me at IAH!" she said. Around 1:30pm I picked her up at Terminal C and off went "Thelma and Louise"!

Because we were registered for the 3pm tour of the manufacturing on the following day, we did not have time to spare, so driving the "short route" was our only option. At 11pm we stopped in Montgomery, AL where we spent the night.

Tuesday, December 9th 2009

We left Montgomery at around 7am. Worth mentioning, the 335 was a sweet car to drive, pretty responsive and agile. I guess our only problem with that car was the vibrant Crimson Red exterior, which seemed to attract "studs in trucks", especially as we crossed Louisiana and Mississippi. Nothing that 300hp weren't able to handle though. ☺ By 1pm we were checking in at the Greenville Marriott. It had been raining pretty much all the way and the weather in South Carolina was no different. Pretty frustrating since we were going on the track the next day and the forecast seemed grim. "There goes our M experience" we thought.

At 2:30pm we were pulling over at the parking lot of BMW. Being Adriana and Jonna we had the goose bumps all over and could not contain our smile. The little girls going to the candy store. We were in sacred territory! At 3pm sharp the group was taken into the plant. We saw the new diesel models, and were told about the future plans for the Spartanburg plant,

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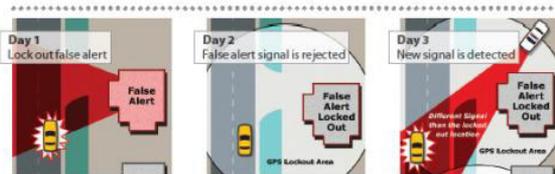
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The M Azing School!

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The 3.0 CSL

such as the arrival of the X3, which from 2009 will be produced exclusively in South Carolina. No word on the upcoming X1 though, but we were told that a new 2.9 million sq. ft. facility is under construction adjacent to the current facility. The building site is totally visible from the road and from the Performance Center – if you went to the Z3 Homecoming you probably spotted that site as well. Once the new building is ready, a total of over 5 million sq. ft. will be available for the manufacturing. It was a nice tour that lasted about 45 minutes and had us walk quite some miles inside the plant.

Back at the hotel we got ready for dinner and once in the restaurant it wasn't really hard to tell who was there for the school and who wasn't: we all had "BMW Menus". After dinner Jonna and I met some fellow M owners and had some very interesting conversations (on BMWs, engines and performance of course!).

Wednesday, December 10th 2009: Day 1

Early in the morning we met the rest of the group in the breakfast room. It was really hard to contain our

excitement and, despite the heavy rain that just kept pouring, we could hardly wait to get into the bus and off to the Performance Center. Can't be late to class! ☺ We were welcomed by the instructors and taken straight to the class room for the theory session. It was then that Jonna and I noticed that we were the only women in a group of some 20+ people. Hey, the more male butts to kick on the track the merrier! ☺ The rain had just gotten worse when we were taken out to ... the machines! And there was the sight all BMW lovers dream of: three lines of brand new M3s, M5s and M6s. In fact we learned that the M3s we had at our disposal were the all new 2009 M Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) ones and had just arrived in the country a couple of days earlier. The instructors had finished breaking them in the day before and we would be the first group to drive them. What an honor!



Me on the skidpad

We were told to jump into the M6s for our first exercise. If you have never been to a school at the Performance Center, what we basically do is perform a series of driving exercises using the different cars in that type of school. In this case we were using M cars only, so each exercise was done in the M3, M5 or M6, one at a time. The school

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The M Azing School!

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comprises a number of hands-on exercises such as emergency braking¹, skid pad², track / autocross exercises and, in the case of the M school, also some racing on the Performance Center's racing track – but we wouldn't know that one until the next day *smiles*

We were all too curious to try the new DCT M3, but we didn't really get to it, except for the rat race, which didn't really give us opportunity to feel the car, so that was disappointing. Or so we thought...



Jonna in love with the new M3

On the new M Dual Clutch Transmission: as it was explained, the M DCT system comprises two independent shafts, say left and right, where the left one houses the odd-numbered gears (1,3,5 and 7) and the right shaft the even-numbered gears (2,4,6). By overlapping the clutch functions the flow of power is not interrupted and the gear change process is extremely smooth. This process means virtually no lag. Well, that is not totally true: there is a 0.0004 second lag *smile* As the latest BMW Magazine puts it, "it takes about 50 times longer to bat an eyelid than for this new 7 speed transmission to carry out an entire gear-shifting

process". www.bmwusa.com/m3

And by the way, asses we kicked alright! In the autocross Jonna actually had the overall best time, which was almost 2 entire seconds ahead of the second place! I had the 4th best time, which wasn't small either. And yes, it poured all day long.

As most students were leaving the next morning, we wrapped it up with dinner at a nice Greenville steak house.

Thursday, December 11th 2009: Day 2

If we had had any hope of better weather on the second day, it died the moment we opened the curtains in our hotel room and were greeted by even worse weather than we had had the day before. Well, you can't have everything. We were only four students on the second day so it was going to be like a private class. Could we have asked for more?! Our instructors on Day 2 were Jim Clark, who is nothing less than the Performance Center's Chief Driving Instructor, and Matt Mullins, whose career also includes some driving stunts in movies such as Talladega Nights. The program on the second day included only track exercises (autocross and racing) except for one exercise on the skid pad, where we learned a more advanced control technique. The "curriculum" included a number of different track setups that became increasingly more complex until we got to the last exercise of the day: a race whose setup used the full track, several miles long. We would drive each setup some 10-12 times, then take a 5 minutes break and return to the track for a new setup.



Jonna Clark, our “colleagues” Jim & Jim and Matt Mullins

Jonna and I were assigned to Jim Clark and given that we were only four participants that day we were given free choice of [M] car. Need I say which car we picked? ☺ Each two cars would follow one instructor during the warm-up and recognition laps. As our knowledge of the track increased so did the speed. Jim would coach us via the radio, pointing out the correct positioning for the given setup we were driving, the recommended gear on each curve, the recommended breaking points, apex, etc. As our track skills improved Jim’s instructions would become fewer and fewer until he wouldn’t say anything anymore, but join us in our joy.

I can tell you: there is no sensation like the sound and the sight of three M cars driving behind one another in absolutely perfect synchrony on a race track that is pretty much yours alone. All your senses become engaged in the experience and you literally feel you are one with the machine. You know for a fact that you will move right and the car will move with you, because you are in control. Your brain is totally immersed and concentrated in the driving experience and for those moments you have no worries, no fears, not even thoughts crossing your mind. At a certain point we actually

totally forgot about the ever pouring rain, noticing it only once as we exited the cars at the end of the program. You have reached nirvana with your BMW and each and every one of its horses!

Die-hard-I-will-never-drive-a-non-manual-six-speed-car-Jonna was so amazed by the new M3 that she literally had tears in her eyes when she got out of her car after our final lap. Myself, I had my usual goose bumps all over. I had been in heaven for two days and I didn’t want to leave it. Being Jonna and Adriana we were in total awe, shock and ecstasy.



“Snowy” Louisiana?!

In the car on the way back to Houston it took us some several hundred miles before we snapped out of the M mode and out of the sensation we had been feeling since we exited the track on our last lap. We could literally feel the adrenaline running in our veins long after we had left South Carolina. Sometimes we would talk nonstop about the experience and at other times we would be totally quiet for entire minutes, both knowing what the other one was thinking about. We knew we had just had the best driving experience of our entire lives thus far. Period.

The drive back home wasn’t as fun
continued on page 22

The M Azing School!

continued from page 21

and exciting as the drive up to SC, but we were definitely glad we drove or we'd have missed the thick layer of snow that covered parts of Louisiana. Pretty amazing!

So lessons learned:

1. The new M DCT system is an unbelievable piece of Bavarian engineering
2. M School = nirvana
3. The 335i is a very nice car
4. On the second day I beat Jonna's overall best time by 0.04 second. Now I could sleep happy ☺
5. What do you do to drive on a racetrack when it is raining? You switch your windshield wipers on of course! ☺

¹ Drivers are traditionally taught to pump the brakes on slippery roads to avoid a skid, but with ABS, firm and continuous pressure – not pumping – is required to activate the ABS feature. An ABS system pumps the brakes automatically, many times a second, to prevent lockup and help a driver to maintain control. The main advantage of ABS is that it prevents the

wheels from locking up, which helps to keep the vehicle from going into an uncontrollable skid. Thus ABS allows you to maintaining steering control during emergency braking, but only if you continue to steer. The National Safety Council has the following recommendations:

a) **Slam** on the brakes during an emergency, all the way to the floor – don't be alarmed by mechanical noises or pedal pulsations when applying ABS brakes. ABS is only activated under hard braking. Pulsations, and sometimes noises, are normal and indicate the ABS is working correctly. Don't pump the brakes in an effort to avoid locking up the wheels. ABS automatically pumps the brakes, much faster than the driver ever could.

b) Keeping your foot on the brake pedal, steer the vehicle in the correct path. Maintain firm and continuous pressure on the brake pedal when braking, even if the pedal pulsates.

² In the skid pad exercise you learn to control [or regain control of] the car on a slippery surface.

For information on the different driving schools offered by the Performance Center go to the Experience menu on www.bmwusa.com

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From the membership chairman

by Gina Silvestri

2009 is here and first and foremost, I would like to welcome all of our new members from 2008! And welcome to our “old” members, too! As our Tejas Chapter president, Glenn McConnell, reported in the January 2009 issue of the Tejas Trax, we had many wonderful events during 2008 and we are looking forward to our fun, exciting, and new events for 2009.

Next, I would like to remind everyone of some benefits of membership with the BMW Car Club of America. I have recently been checking out their website (<http://bmwcca.org>) and discovered the many options the website has. To begin with, opening tabs include BMW News, BMW CCA (club bylaws, etc.), National Activities, Roundel Magazine, Join the Experience, and Members Community.

Staying current with the BMW CCA website is an amazing experience. For example, today I was able to vote for officers, view the entire membership list and be able to message fellow members, and read about contests and club rebates. For example, did you know that the BMW X6 and 1 Series models have been added to the Membership Rewards rebate program? Yes! If you buy a

new BMW as of 01/01/2009, an X6 is eligible for a \$1,000 reward, and a 1-Series is eligible for a \$500 reward. A CPO X6 is eligible for a \$500 reward.

Wow! This is great news for me and any of you out there who were waiting until 2009 to buy your new BMW. I have my eye on the 1 Series, but an X6 isn't out of the question, either. Under the Members Community tab, you can find forums where members post threads on everything from vehicle reviews to BMW events, to tech tips, BMW CCA statistics, and just about everything else under the sun related to both Bimmers and Minis. There is also a classified ad section – what a great alternative to finding another ultimate driving machine to add to your collection. You could literally spend days on this sole website.

With access not only to our Tejas Chapter website, events, and newsletter, but to the BMW CCA website, it is my hope that our chapter members will become even more active than they already are, as well as to keep informed about everything BMW. I look forward to seeing you all at the planned tech event in February, as well as all events for 2009.

As always, please feel free to call me at (512) 632-4240 or contact me at ginasilvestri1@gmail.com concerning membership. Comments and suggestions are always welcome!

Tejas Chapter Incentive Points Challenge for 2009

To encourage participation, the successful Incentive Points Challenge began in 1998. The members or associate members who earn the highest number of points by the end of the year (up to 10th place) receive valuable prizes at the Post-Holiday Party in January 2010. The Rookie of the Year award is for the member that joined in the current year and earns Rookie Points based on Incentive Points earned divided by the time as a member during the year.

Activity	Points
Return Survey Form (form available on request or at website)	50
Attend a meeting or event	30
Organize a monthly event, (social/technical etc.)	100
Assist with a monthly event (credited by organizer)	50
Each new member recruited (credited by CCA)	30
Original photo(s) published in the Trax (30 pts max/issue)	10
Original photo(s) published on the website (30 pts max/event)	10
Original Tech Tip published in the Trax	15
Original Article published in the Trax (500 words or more)	30
Original Article published in the Trax (less than 500 words)	15
Recruitment of a commercial ad for Trax	20% of ad cost



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2009 Incentive Points Challenge Leader Board
as of January 30, 2009

<u>160 Pts</u> Kathy Eltringham	<u>80 Pts</u> Marco Cordon	Martie Peterson Roger Williams	Linda Cavazos Linda Cook	David Plutowski Harvey Reiter
<u>130 Pts</u> Allan Gazza	Kevin Duffy Brian Hall	<u>50 Pts</u> Ron Buchalski	Tim Cook	Martha Ricketson
<u>110 Pts</u> Wayne Eltringham	Mary Lou Katchen	David Michna	Spencer Cubage	Corinne Sayther
Nathan Fong	Steve Ricketson	<u>30 Pts</u> Dwight Allmon	Tim Ehrhart	Mike Sevel
Sridhar Kamma	John Wagner	Patricia Allmon	Joseph Hall	Donald Yule
Susan Yule	<u>60 Pts</u> Eric Chang	Mike Anderson	Bill Leisey	<u>25 Pts</u> Denise Reid
<u>25 Pts</u> Gina Silvestri	Adriana Diesen	Jacinta Avila	Bob Lewandowski	<u>20 Pts</u> Casey Jordan
	Herb Looney	Tom Brown	Chris Pedersen	
			Steve Pedersen	
			Gregg Peterson	

2009 Incentive Points Challenge Rookies Leader Board
As of January 30, 2009

<u>674 Pts</u> Brian Hall	<u>253 Pts</u> Joseph Hall		
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Congratulations
2008 Incentive Points Challenge Winners

From left to right: Nathan Fong - Honorable Mention; Roger Williams- 4th Place; Gina Silvestri - 5th Place; Linda Cook - 10th Place tie; Kathy Eltringham - 2nd Place, Mike Sevel - 10th Place tie; Allan Gazza - 3rd Place; Wayne Eltringham - 1st Place; Herb Looney - 6th Place; Kevin Duffy - 1st Rookie; Susan Yule - 7th Place, Donald Yule - 8th Place; Tim Cook - Honorable Mention

Not shown: Geraud Martin - 9th Place

**Calendar of Tejas Chapter
and Related Events**



Date	Event	Meet Location
February 18, 2009	Steve Dinan at BMW of Austin see Tejas Chapter website	Austin
February 21, 2009	Tech Session at Ding Co. see page 5	Austin
March 21, 2009	Italian Tour	Austin
April 25, 2009	BMW Bluebonnet Bi-way (B3) Drive	TBD
May 23, 2009	Annual Picnic	TBD
June 20, 2009	Drive and Dinner Train Ride	TBD
July 25, 2009	Shakespeare in the Barn	Winedale
August 22, 2009	Fun Rally	TBD
September 26, 2009	Wine & Dine Drive	TBD
October 23-25, 2009	Annual Utopia Weekend	Kerville
November 14, 2009	BMW of Austin Tech Session	Austin
December 5, 2009	Annual Charity Event	TBD

Web Site Info

**<http://www.tejaschapter.org> for the most up-to-date
information about the TejasChapter.**



Classified Ads



1985 M635CSi

VIN WBAEE310901051656 Burgundy metallic/black leather, 103,500 miles, rebuilt motor, upgraded brakes and suspension, 17x BBS RS wheels, new BS RE050A PP tires, custom stereo, matching Recaro C and KRXT seats, perfect OEM front seats included, CA title available, will deliver lower 48 or ship, Excellent condition, \$22,900 OBO 830-537-3497 or email terrabogey@gvtc.com (TX)

2002 M3

VIN# WBSBL93402JR16234; Imola Red/gray leather, SMG, 46,500 miles, premium package, bi-xenon headlights, Harmon/Kardon sound, nearly new PS2s, original owner and serviced by BMW of Austin, Inspection II just completed (\$1900), all service records, no wrecks and "clean" CARFAX, always garaged and in excellent condition. Extended warranty until 05/18/2009; \$26,900; Contact Fred Brinkley, 512-343-7454.

Car Covers

I have 3 "official" car covers for sale:

1 for 2006 M3 (or similar), 1 for 2007 Z4 M Roadster (or similar), and 1 for 2007 X3 or similar model. Bought for over \$100 each. BO. Must sell. Moving!. Contact Gina Silvestri at 5126324240 or send email to ginasilvestri1@gmail.com.

M Series Wheels

18"x 8" ET13 M Parallel replica wheels with matching spare, BMW center caps, aluminum hubcentric rings, & M badges included, mounted on 245/40 ZR18 Falken Azenis ST115 tires for sale. They came off of an E34 5 series, but may fit others as well, asking \$1,000. To see what they look like on the car, check out the Utopia trip last year, they should be in there. Contact Jonathon Griffith at (210) 573-0988 or email regaljay350@yahoo.com.

M3 Wheels

4 2003 BMW spoke rims for sale. \$400.00 OBO Contact Anton (Tony) Ciomperlik at 903-445-8922 or anton.ciomperlik@us.army.mil.

Brake Pads

Brake Pads for 540i Brand new, never used, BMW e39, 1997 - 2003 540i, PBR Semi Metallicxs, a great stopping, quiet, and low dust pad. Sold the car before I had a chance to install. New cost about \$100 plus shipping, I will sell both sets (front and rear) for \$50. Contact Robert Ogle at 512 653-0802 or send email to logle@austin.rr.com.

Classified ads FOR PERSONAL USE items are printed free for current members of BMW CCA. Ads will run for three issues, unless stopped earlier. Ads may be extended by a request in writing to the Tejas Chapter mailbox or by email. Members are limited to five (5) classified ads running at a time. The ad rate for non-member ads or member ads of a COMMERCIAL nature is \$10.00 per issue. These ads will be accepted on a monthly basis and payment must be received before ad is printed. Classified ads submitted for publication in the Tejas Trax are also placed on the Tejas Chapter's website.


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