



TEJAS TRAX

Newsletter for the Tejas Chapter, BMW CCA



BMW's 17th Art Car
Photo by BMW Press Club

July 2010



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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 personalizing your BMW

At every event, our members show off their BMWs and invariably someone has added something new to their ride. These changes run from carbon fibre lip spoilers to some new trick Dinan part. Fortunately, our members have very good taste and their personalizations enhance their Bimmer and do not detract from what BMW invisioned in the first place. Unfortunately, there are some in this world that don't understand good taste when it comes to their BMW. I have included here just a few of the pictures that I have collected that document those Bimmer owners who should have bought an Aztek!!

Until next time

Glenn McConnell



Welcome New Members

Austin

**Kimberlee Augustine
Garrett Benyo
Robert Brown**



Georgetown

Mark Hillis

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**Jay Hollenbeck
Samantha Tullo**

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BMW Hot Summer Days Tour

Saturday, July 24, 2010

Event planned by Allan Gazza



What is better to do on a Hot Summer Saturday in July other than taking a dip in the swimming pool? I would have to say taking a drive during this Texas heat wave weather through the rural parts east of New Braunfels on

small farms and opportunities to see deer, and Texas wildlife prior to enjoying our stop at Dry Comal Creek Winery. After the winery we will enjoy the Friesenhaus German restaurant in New Braunfels.

When: Meet at 9:00am

Where: At IH35 and 725S in New Braunfels at Whataburger (east side of IH35)

Drivers Meeting: at 9:15am

Depart: 9:30am promptly

Arrive: 11:30am - Dry Comal Creek Winery for private wine tasting with seating in tasting room and sample current non-reserve wines. \$13.00 per person (collected at the start of the event)

Depart: 1:30pm

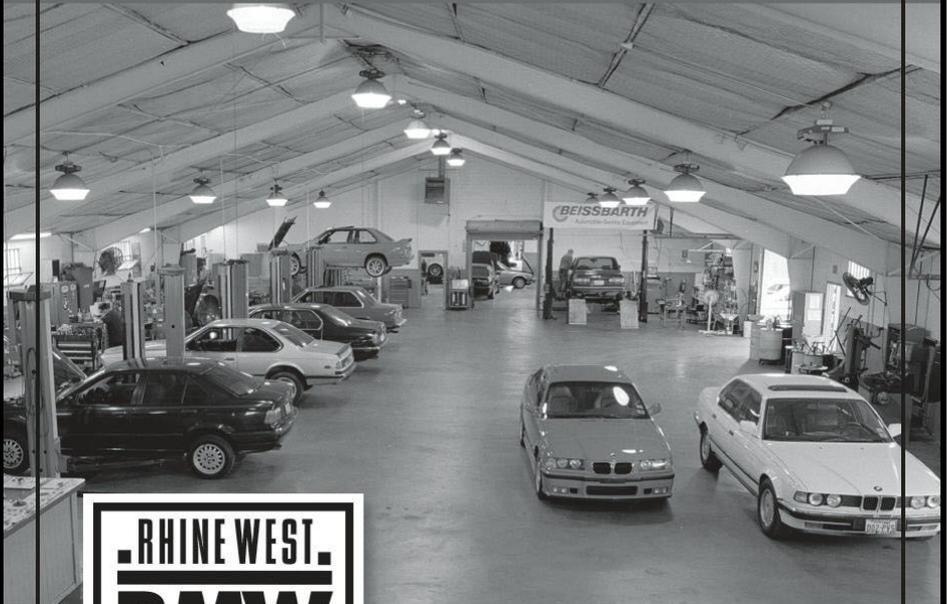


Arrive: 2:00 pm at Friesenhaus restaurant and will be seated in Banquet Room. Three meal choices. Prices range from \$16 to \$23 and include meal, soda, tax, and tip.



**RSVP by filling out the RSVP form on the website at
<http://www.tejaschapter.org>**

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The Ultimate Driving Event – High ‘5’ event!

by Sridhar Kamma



BMW USA recently organized the ultimate driving event with coordination from local BMW dealers and here in Austin it was held at BMW of Austin. BMW is unveiling an unprecedented array of new models this year, and this event was organized to experience the Joy of driving the new ultimate driving machines including the new 5 series.

After reading many great reviews about the new 5 series and the Grand Turismo, I was eager to drive those cars at the event. I first got into the Grand Turismo 550i, equipped with 4.4 liter V8 twin turbo engine. The GT



was equipped with all the options possible, and the seats were designed for first class driving. Options included rear parking camera and sensor, navigation, idrive, heated seats, leather. It had heads up display;



the one option I would think should be standard on all future cars. The convenience of having the heads up display proved to be a very useful feature. I would certainly like to have

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The Ultimate Driving Event

continued from page 7

this on the M cars and not have to take the eyes from the road. The night vision is a cool feature and proves to help drivers see through the darkness.

The 550 GT was like driving a 3 series sports car but with the comfort of a 7 series. It handled very well on the Austin's mini Nordschleife (a.k.a Spicewood springs road). It gripped the road like a BMW and handled the corners like riding a motorbike. It had an 8 Speed automatic transmission and the gear changes were seamless. However it can also be a great family car and am sure the kids would love the luxury of being driven round in the ultimate driving machine. If you decide to take your friends or co-workers for lunch make sure the gas tank is full, because you ain't going to have lunch close by.

After the GT test drive I got a chance to drive the new 5 series 535i. It was great to personally experience the new design and style of the 5 series that is bringing those characteristics into the BMW's new line up. The 535i was equipped with a 3-liter twin power turbo engine, producing 300 HP. It was the base model with few options like the premier package and navigation. It was equipped with an 8-



speed gearbox and it has phenomenal power during acceleration. The car was very roomy for the driver and front passenger, and has good leg room for the rear passengers too. My first impression was like driving a 3 series. The car did not feel heavy at all and the seating was ergonomically designed. The car handled well on the Spicewood springs road and cornered with ease and had power to maneuver the slowest corners in 5th and 6th gears. The styling is close to the 7 series and it inherits many features from the 7. It has BMW's efficient dynamics and you can see the battery being charged during braking.



I drove back to the dealership and I missed the 550i again. It was more popular to drive and was a preferred choice for many other attendees. I would think the 550i is sportier and powerful, and I wish I waited and got to drive it. It seemed like the ultimate driving event was organized as a launching pad for the new 5 series and I am sure it was enjoyed by many as much as I did - sure was nice to experience the new 5 series. BMW have designed and manufactured another masterpiece in their lineup. The new lineup of vehicles proved to be yet another testament to BMW's ultimate handling characteristics vehicles.

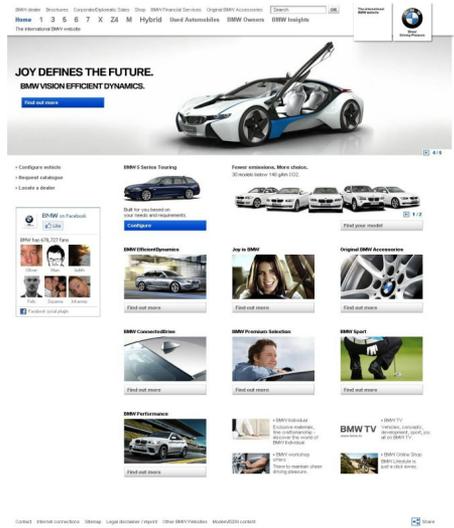
New international BMW website – www.BMW.com

BMW has freshened up its international brand website www.BMW.com and is moving further forward with its social media integration. With its reworked home page, the Munich-based motor manufacturer is aiming to increase user-friendliness and further expand the “Story of Joy” brand campaign online.

The aim of the rebrush, amongst other things, is to provide a more customer-focused presentation, including an improved main navigation system, an interactive teaser format and subject-specific landing pages. Shorter click paths and the prominent positioning of buttons are intended as further incentives to use the website. Visitors will also benefit from a more integrated search function and direct access to the vehicle configurator.

The highlight, however, is the

integration of the brand-new Facebook Like Box on the home page. With this, BMW is consistently moving towards the integration of onsite and offsite activities as part of its social media strategy.



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Tejas Chapter Incentive Points Challenge for 2010

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 2011. 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



2010 Incentive Points Challenge Leader Board As of June 25, 2010

<u>545 Pts</u>	Eric Chang	Hugh Fisher	Nathan Fong	Billy Harris
Allan Gazza	Alan Greene	Brad Mitchell	Alice Villarreal	Stephen Heyman
<u>520 Pts</u>	Gina Silvestri	Johnny Mitchell	<u>40 Pts</u>	Derrick Houghton
Sridhar Kamma	<u>160 Pts</u>	<u>80 Pts</u>	James Blue	Clifford Jones
<u>460 Pts</u>	Josh Butts	John Russell	<u>30 Pts</u>	Joe LeFevre
Herb Looney	<u>150 Pts</u>	Steve Tatro	Mike Alewine	Bill Leisey
<u>450 Pts</u>	Linda Cook	<u>70 Pts</u>	Jose Amador	Daniel Mazza
Donald Yule	Tim Cook	Brian Cook	Kimberlee Augustine	Brian McKinney
<u>330 Pts</u>	<u>140 Pts</u>	<u>60 Pts</u>	Graham Bishop	Carl Nybro
Linda Cavazos	Jeff Franklin	Jose Alejo	Einstein Blaize	Ronald Romonosky
<u>300 Pts</u>	Javier Torres	Chip Beaudette	Donna Bogan	Amanda Shanks
Susan Yule	<u>120 Pts</u>	Fred Brinkley	Rob Brown	Wyatt Shanks
<u>280 Pts</u>	Jonna Clark	Bill Craig	Greg Cernosek	Robin Stein
Marco Cordon	Roger Williams	Spencer Cubage	Francisco Cruz	Duke Stevens
<u>250 Pts</u>	<u>110 Pts</u>	Tom Dawson	Daryl Cunningham	Francis Terway
Mike Sevel	Mike Anderson	Nancy Fisher	Gay Dawson	<u>20 Pts</u>
<u>230 Pts</u>	Ken Carson	Mary Lou Katchen	Fred Egloff	Michael Lambert
Paul Goldfine	David Elyea	Jack Laumer	Tim Ehrhart	Terre Williams
Gregg Peterson	Sam Love	Blake McIntyre	Kathy Eltringham	<u>10 Pts</u>
Martie Peterson	Connie Stried	Kurt Schwerdtfeger	Wayne Eltringham	Donald Sloan
<u>200 Pts</u>	<u>100 Pts</u>	Brad Thompson	Robert Flores	
Philip Nybro	Brandin Lea	<u>50 Pts</u>	Dennis Freiheit	
<u>180 Pts</u>	<u>90 Pts</u>	Christopher Code	Kathy Freiheit	
Tom Brown	Herb Carey	Kevin Duffy	Bennett Hall	

2010 Incentive Points Challenge Rookies Leader Board

As of June 25, 2010

<u>12.48 Pts</u> David Elyea	<u>5.51 Pts</u> Blake McIntyre	<u>4.22 Pts</u> Kimberlee Augustine	<u>2.84 Pts</u> Jose Amador	<u>2.53 Pts</u> Clifford Jones
<u>8.67 Pts</u> Brandin Lea	<u>5.48 Pts</u> Bill Craig	Rob Brown	<u>2.72 Pts</u> Francisco Cruz	<u>1.22 Pts</u> Terre Williams

Tejas Chapter Patches

Display your Tejas Chapter membership with a high-quality embroidered patch. May be sewn or glued to anything from shirts to bags to notebooks.



To get yours, send \$5.00 for each patch to the Tejas Chapter mailbox or get one at the next chapter event.

Tejas Chapter Merchandise

Are you interested in getting shirts with the Tejas Chapter logo? Do you need a good BMW related gift for someone? A Denim Shirt, Polo Shirt, or a T-Shirt perhaps? Long sleeve, short sleeve, or maybe sleeveless. Perhaps a tote bag or ball cap would be of interest to you.

Chapter members Jose & Cathy Alejo of ALEJO USA, can make this happen for you. They can apply our Tejas Chapter logo on almost anything they carry in their catalogs. Embroidered and screen print logos are available. Seen in the picture below, the Denim shirts have embroidered logos and the T-Shirts have color screen print logos.



You may contact Jose or Cathy by calling (254) 527-4060. You may also go online to www.alejousa.com. or email alejousa@alejousa.com.

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Calendar of Tejas Chapter
and Related Events



Date	Event	Meet Location
July 24, 2010	Hot Summer Days Tour see page 5	New Braunfels
August 2010	TBD	TBD
August 23-29, 2010	BMW CCA Oktoberfest	Elkhart Lake, WI
September 2010	Tri-Marque Concours	Austin
October 22-24, 2010	Annual Utopia Weekend	Kerrville
November 2010	TBD	TBD
December 2010	Annual Charity Event	TBD

Web Site Info

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



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Fun Rally 2010 Review

by Allan Gazza

For those of you that attended the Fun Rally which was hosted by Marco and Mary Beth Cordon you have attended one of the hardest events to possibly plan. The day started out meeting in New Braunfels at 9:00am. The Cordons held their drivers



meeting promptly at 9:30 am, and shortly afterwards let the first car out to experience the questions and adventurous roads leading us through a Texas history lesson. I am sure glad that Mary Beth did not have a 4th grade Texas history test at the end of the event, as I may have not remembered everything I quickly scanned through reading on our journey.

Throughout the fun rally there was never a dull moment, as the questions kept your head going from left to right always searching for clues or the correct answer. There were the times when I was thinking I must have taken a wrong turn, as there was not a BMW in sight. But knowing Marco, and the kinds of roads he would choose, I would keep going until the site of a BMW appeared ahead.

After the first part we ended up in Gonzales for our Texas history lesson.

We had only 30 minutes to learn that it took years for Texas to become the 28th state. The last question in the



book was to draw the flag, with “Come and Take it”. I drew the flag exactly as it was represented on the wall, but thought I was drawing a Chili pepper below the star, when in actuality it was supposed to be cannon. Good thing for the waving flag to cover up for my



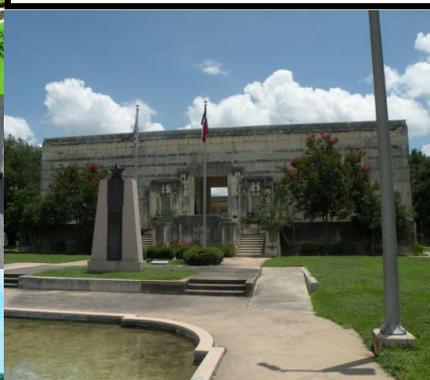
mistake. Then the thought of the cookies and drinks that were available, when you finished this exercise would motivate you to finish as quickly as possible. The muffins and cookies were delicious and well appreciated.

The questions that led us through the final part of the fun rally were very

continued on page 16



2010 Fu
June 1
Many thanks to Mary
Many more great photos are a





**n Rally
D, 2010
Beth & Marco Cordon
available on the chapter website**



Fun Rally 2010 Review

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interesting as well. There were many open road sections in this leg of the rally to enjoy some of the benefits of owning a BMW. By the time we reached the restaurant everyone was ready to sit down and share the experiences they enjoyed throughout this event. Some of the locations that most people passed included the Unionwine Rd. and stopping at the first historical marker 5858 instead of the one they had listed as Marker 1412. I must have read that sign three times before thinking how can that horses name be on this sign.



The restaurant offered a great back room to have everyone in one place. Sometimes, this can be one of the most challenging things to find when planning an event. After the points were figured out, Marco and Mary Beth awarded prizes to the top



three in Novice and Experienced classes. It was a pleasure seeing new members to the club being awarded for their Rallying Skills for this event.

We look forward to every event that our members gather with us to talk about our BMWs, share stories, and spend time together as one of the best Car Clubs in the United States. On behalf of all the members I would like to say a big thank you to Marco and Mary Beth Cordon and Sandy McConnell for all the work that went into this event.

Until next time, Happy BMW motoring.

Editor's Note: The winners of the fun rally were as follows:

1st Place Experienced

Fred & Sherry Egloff

'92 318i

2nd Place Experienced

Jack Laumer & De Anne Peterson

'99 M Roadster

3rd Place Experienced

Kurt & Jessica Schwerdtfeger

'05 325i

1st Place Novice

Josh & Katherine Butts

'06 M Roadster

2nd Place Novice

Paul & Jennifer Goldfine

'91 318iS

3rd Place Novice

Kimberlee & Jim Augustine

'00 M5

The 17th BMW Art Car at the 24 Hours of Le Mans

by BMW Press Club

On June 12 at three in the afternoon the legendary 24 Hours of Le Mans will officially begin. A highlight will surely be the participation of the Jeff Koons' 17th BMW Art Car which has been presented in Paris just a week before. In April 2010, BMW Motorsport Director Mario Theissen announced the driver line-up for the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Andy Priaulx (GB), Dirk Müller (DE) and Dirk Werner (DE) will race the BMW Art Car #79. Jörg Müller (DE), Augusto Farfus (BR), Uwe Alzen (DE) will drive the BMW Le Mans car #78.

The 24 Hours of Le Mans is the world's oldest endurance race in all of sports car racing, held annually since 1923 near the town of Le Mans, Sarthe, France. Commonly known as the Grand Prix of Endurance, it is organized by the Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO) and runs on a circuit containing closed public roads. The race is designed not only to test a car and driver's ability to be quick, but

also to last over a 24-hour period.

The BMW M3 GT2

Derived from the BMW M3 high-performance sports car, the BMW M3 GT2 boasts a 4.0-liter V8 engine with a maximum output of 500 bhp, an upgraded chassis, racing-caliber brakes, and extensive use of lightweight materials. Able to reach 100 km/h in 3.4 seconds, the BMW M3 GT2 is rapidly emerging as a real first year contender at this year's event.

For the Comeback at 24 Le Mans BMW Motorsport is supported by numerous successful partners. This is why the BMW M3 GT2 will be labeled with the logos of Castrol, Crowne Plaza, Dunlop, Randstad, Sympatex, LuK, H&R, BBS and NGK for the race on the "Circuit de la Sarthe".

The 17th BMW Art Car by Jeff Koons

At the premiere of the 17th BMW Art Car Jeff Koons unveiled and signed his car in front of 300 international VIP guests on June 1 in the Centre Pompidou, one of the

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Art Car at Le Mans

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world's most prestigious cultural institutions for modern and contemporary art. It is the same place where Roy Lichtenstein back in 1977 first presented and signed his Art Car.

In the spirit of Calder, Stella, Lichtenstein, Warhol, BMW announced this year that the 17th Art Car created by Jeff Koons will race where the first rolling pieces of art by legendary artists raced – at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France on June 12-13, 2010. Koons' canvas is a BMW M3 GT2, which was homologated to compete at this year's running of the world's most famous endurance race. Jeff Koons has announced that he will donate his fee from BMW (two BMW cars of his choice) for the creation of the Art Car to the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, which coordinates a global network of organizations fighting child-sexual exploitation and abduction, and the Koons Family Institute, a resource of ICMEC. Jeff and Justine Koons have announced that if the BMW Art Car wins at Le Mans in its class, they will double the amount of the donation.

The Design Process

As part of his creative process, the artist collected images of race cars, related graphics, vibrant colors, speed and explosions. The resulting artwork of bright colors conceived by Koons is evocative of power, motion and bursting energy. Its silver interior along with the powerful exterior design, the Art Car will impart a dynamic appearance even when it's standing still.

The challenge to create the BMW Art Car had to do with using a light material and a design that would not interfere with the racecar's aerodynamics and weight. Timing was also an issue, as there was only a two month window between the first design sketches and the Paris world premiere. This is why digital print on car wrapping vinyl was used covered by a double clear-coating to bring out the color. To apply hundreds of dynamic lines of Koons' design onto the car, CAD designs were translated from 3D into 2D for the printing process and then painstakingly applied to the entire car as well as onto individual spare parts. Koons design incorporates many bright contrasting



colors to communicate the aesthetics of power. The concept design was transformed into hard edged lines of color. Graphics of debris were added to the rear sides and back of the car to simulate the power of the car. Furthermore, two graphic rings on the rear of the car represent supersonic acceleration.

Koons and BMW

The germination of Koons' collaboration with BMW began in 2003, when he expressed his desire to create a BMW Art Car. His relationship with BMW started more than two decades ago when he drove a BMW while residing in Munich, home to the BMW Group headquarters. Koons is known for his heartfelt appreciation of cars. Earlier this year he was even recognized by music icon Bono of U2 as one of the ideal artists to design a car that would make the world fall in love with

automobiles again.

Koons' creative process for the BMW Art Car mirrors techniques, some borrowed from transportation design and development, which he regularly employs for his artistic production. For example, in the creation of Koons' monumental sculptures, his studio uses 3-D CAD models to evaluate the surfaces, assembles them via methods found in bike chop shops, and paints them in a manner based on sophisticated automotive painting techniques.

BMW Art Cars

Since 1975, artists from throughout the world have turned BMW automobiles into art signifying a particular period through the Art Car program. In 2007, the latest installment was revealed with Olafur Eliasson's "Your mobile expectations:

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Art Car at Le Mans

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BMW H2R project.” Many of the cars by the likes of Warhol, Lichtenstein, Stella, Rauschenberg, Hockney and Holzer have been exhibited in renowned museums throughout the world including the Louvre, the Guggenheim Museums, and the Shanghai Art Museum. They have been displayed at the BMW Museum in Munich, between 2006 and 2010 and many went on a world tour throughout Asia, Russia, Africa, India, the United States and Mexico. The Koons car number, “79,” pays tribute to the 1979 Andy Warhol car. The Warhol car was assigned the number “76,” an homage to the 1976 Frank Stella car, both of which raced at Le Mans.

The home of all BMW Art Cars is the BMW Museum in Munich. Starting in September, Koons’ 17th BMW Art Car will be presented there together with some of its predecessors.

With over 100 major projects worldwide, BMW Group cultural programs have been an integral part of the company’s contributions to society for almost 40 years. Besides contemporary art, architecture and design, classical music and jazz are key components of this engagement.



Texas World Speedway 2010 Driving Events

<h3>TWS Performance Driving School</h3> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>JUNE 26-27</td> <td>SEPT 19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JULY 24-25</td> <td>OCT 17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AUG 28-20</td> <td>NOV 20-21</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">DEC 12</td> </tr> </table> <p>-Open to all driving levels -Each day provides four 25 minute sessions on track</p> <p>\$195 for one day PDS \$295 for two days (weekend) \$25 garages/day</p>	JUNE 26-27	SEPT 19	JULY 24-25	OCT 17	AUG 28-20	NOV 20-21	DEC 12		<h3>Open Track Day Events</h3> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>JUNE 4</td> <td>SEPT 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JUNE 11</td> <td>SEPT 17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JUNE 25</td> <td>OCT 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JULY 16</td> <td>OCT 22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JULY 23</td> <td>NOV 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AUG 6</td> <td>NOV 26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AUG 27</td> <td>DEC 3</td> </tr> </table> <p>-Open to Blue Solo & Advanced Drivers -4 Hours of Open Track -See website for more details</p> <p>\$125 for Open Track Day Events (includes garages)</p>	JUNE 4	SEPT 10	JUNE 11	SEPT 17	JUNE 25	OCT 15	JULY 16	OCT 22	JULY 23	NOV 12	AUG 6	NOV 26	AUG 27	DEC 3	<h3>Test & Tune Events</h3> <p>JULY 30 - NASA Drivers Yellow & Advanced SEPT 24 - Blue Solo & Advanced NOV 19 - Open to SCCA Drivers</p> <p>\$215 for Test & Tune Events \$25 for garages</p>
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JULY 24-25	OCT 17																							
AUG 28-20	NOV 20-21																							
DEC 12																								
JUNE 4	SEPT 10																							
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You Can Trust Your Car to the Man Who Wears the Star

Unfortunately He's Broke

By D.L. Yule

It's a beautiful Saturday and members from all over central Texas have gathered for another BMW Tejas Chapter day outing to places yet to be discovered. Along the way, there's the typical stop for a good stretch of the old legs, and more often than not, a better to be safe than sorry fill up.

Recently on one of these trips I'm standing there, fuel hose in hand staring at the pumps display and I notice that those dollars signs seemed to be whizzing by faster and faster. So I top off the tank and then immediately start to feel that dull ache in my buttocks, right around the area where my wallets sits. Now no offense to the ladies, but it's been my experience that woman don't typically understand this sensation. For example, Susie's wallet (my grandmother called it a pocket book) is usually insulated from these effects by several layers of Kleenex, hand sanitizer,

Ibuprofen, antacids to relieve the indigestion I'll have after eating that burrito that I was sternly advised not to, a list of the top ten things I did to irritate her – this week, and those elusive trip directions that I fully intend not to follow. I gulp hard and have to look a second time to make sure I'm reading those numbers correctly. So much for your inheritance kiddo's.

So after the initial shock wore off, I started to wonder if I hadn't been taken to the cleaners. Now looking at Bloomberg, I see that a barrel of oil was trading right around \$75 as of Friday's closing bell. So why in the heck do fuel prices continue to hover around \$3 for premium gasoline? The price of oil has actually been in decline, so what gives? And for us BMW owners, we all know that Ethyl is the juju, but man o man the premium on Premium can be staggering. Here's a fun fact for you Gen X and Y's out there. Back in the olden days, you know, before fire and the wheel, Premium gasoline was also known in some parts as "Ethyl". This was actually a brand of leaded gasoline. That's right, there used to be tetra-ethyl lead in

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Man Who Wears the Star

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gasoline to help reduce knocking. So now you know why your parents acted the way they did. We we're all suffering from lead poisoning - but that's a story for another time.

Okay, back to the price of a gallon of gasoline. As I dove into this, I asked myself several questions. The first that came to mind was what's the correlation between a barrel of oil and a gallon of gasoline? By the way, a barrel of oil contains 42 gallons of gasoline and according to some, bees can smell fear. Whoa, must have been channeling Jerry Maguire there for a second. Anyway, the answer is pretty complex. The relationship between the price at the pump and crude oil prices depends largely on refining, transportation expenses, supply and demand, the fear factor (concerns that some form of international incident that will impact OPEC oil production) and oil futures trading. Taxes are also a significant component. Think about it this way, most of the taxes woven into the price of a gallon of gasoline are fixed. In California according to GasBuddy.com, currently taxes eat up about \$0.639 per gallon and this doesn't even include the 6% sales tax. Thank goodness we live in the great state of Texas where taxes are only \$0.384 per gallon! Well that was a dead end. It's pretty apparent that there is no straight line one-to-one relationship between the prices of oil and fuel.

I thought that there had to be more. I certainly wasn't going to ship off only four paragraphs of drivel to Glenn. I needed at least six! So getting back at it, quite clearly trying to figure out the cost of oil to gasoline ratio was going to be elusive, not to mention boring. So I decided to look at

the subsidies that keep our fuel prices among the cheapest in the world. Maybe folks would find this interesting.

According to the International Center for Technology Assessment, the federal government provides the oil industry with numerous tax breaks designed to ensure that domestic companies can compete with international producers and that gasoline remains cheap for American consumers. In total, annual tax breaks that support gasoline production and use amount to \$9.1 to \$17.8 billion. That's billion with a "B".

Anyone heard of protection subsidies? The big fig newton is the cost of our military's protection for oil-rich regions of the world. Sounds like La Cosa Nostra, which in Italian means the land of a thousand payoffs. Who knew? And who's paying this so called protection money? Oh yeah, it's us. Here's a question, if we decide to not pay the protection money, do we have to break our own legs? Just a thought. Again, according to the ICTA, US Defense Department spending allocated to safeguard the worlds petroleum resources total some \$55 to \$96.3 billion per year.

We've all heard of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve right? This federal government entity is designed to supplement regular oil supplies in the event of disruptions due to military conflict or natural disaster. This costs taxpayers an additional \$5.7 billion per year. The Coast Guard and the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration provide other protection services totaling \$566.3 million per year. Of course, local and state governments also provide protection services for oil industry companies and gasoline users. These

externalized police, fire, and emergency response expenditures add up to a whopping \$27.2 to \$38.2 billion annually.

Hmmm, maybe \$3 a gallon isn't so bad after all, that's if you can pay for it. But there's another wrinkle. Back to supply and demand. I keep hearing more and more about the trouble the refining industry is in, but how bad is it really and what's the impact on fuel costs.

The US Energy Information Administration (the government body charged with statistics analysis tracking for all forms of US energy consumption) estimates that as of today we consume 19,498,000 barrels of oil per day. A pretty staggering number. Conversely, statistics noted in a white paper issued by the Federal Trade commission shows that since 1981, of the 324 refineries then in existence, 175 refineries have closed leaving the U.S. with 149 refineries with a total U.S. refining capacity of 17.3 million barrels per day and collective capacity usage of around 90%. That's a nearly a 2 million barrel a day refining capacity shortfall. General macroeconomics will tell you that more demand and less supply drive price movement upward. Easing on demand, more supply or more aggressive government subsidy will be required to stabilize the price.

Okay, so what. I'm just as much in the dark as I was before and to be honest a bit depressed. How many points is an article worth? It may not be enough. There has to be a point in here somewhere. The wheels may be coming off the bus so time to wrap it up.

So where does this leave us? On the hook twisting vigorously in the wind I'm afraid. In real terms, the external costs of fuel are higher than we may

realize. Everything that I've read, and it's been a lot trust me, indicates that the connection between the price of crude oil and a gallon of petrol is elusive at best. And it gets better or worse depending on your perspective. Many automobile manufactures, BMW being a leader in this area, are looking for alternatives to the internal combustion engine. Unfortunately the petroleum industry, with the complete participation of policymakers, willingly, almost joyfully perpetuates the false assumption of an endless supply of inexpensive, plentiful gasoline.

The price at the pump seems to corroborate this. How many people would question the purchase of a new M-5 if a fill up cost between \$65 and \$180? In fact, research indicates, hold on to your britches for this one folks, that Americans currently pay at least \$5.60 per gallon of gasoline. This, however, is the minimum estimate; all in, the actual price may stand at an eye popping \$15.14 per gallon or higher. As auto enthusiasts this is a wakeup call as we may be seeing the final days of high output, high performance autos. I for one cringe at the thought of having to drive a Prius or some other egg shaped, hybrid, fuel cell, electrovolt turdmobile every day. That's right, the new Conestoga 5000 get's 150 miles per bale, accelerating from 0-3 miles per hour in a blistering 2.5 minutes. Well I'm sure it won't be that bad, but enjoy it now because the writing may be on the wall.

See you all at the next fill up. Hey maybe we can all chip in on the gas and just cram ourselves into Sri's M3 for the next outing. We'd definitely get to where we're going in record time.

Until next time... May the world and the road be kind to you.

BMW extends office functions to include incoming e-mail with voice output

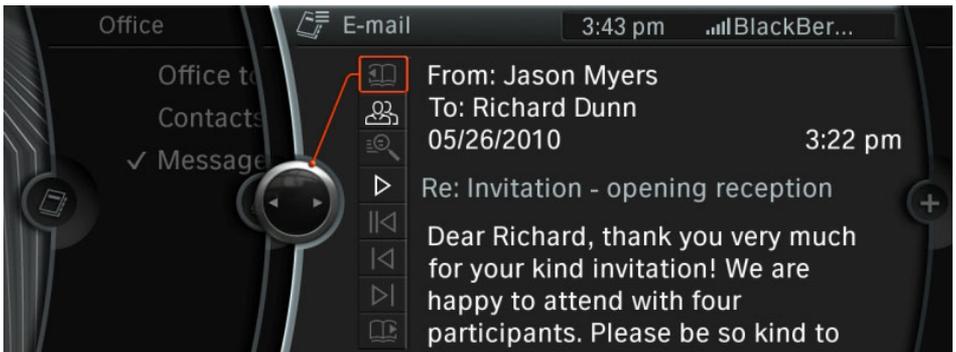
As part of the ongoing expansion of office functions in BMW ConnectedDrive, BMW is now the first automobile manufacturer in the world to enable e-mail messages to be received inside the vehicle enabled by a Bluetooth connection. From autumn 2010, owners of a BlackBerry® smartphone made by the mobile phone manufacturer RIM (Research In Motion) will be able to access the phone's e-mail function via the operating system iDrive. A new Bluetooth interface to integrate the BlackBerry device into the vehicle enables e-mails to be received, displayed on the Control Display and even read out by means of an optional voice output function. With this innovative technology, the premium automobile manufacturer continues to extend its leading role in the integration of entertainment, communication and online functions in vehicles.

The new facilities for e-mail access tie in directly from the BMW ConnectedDrive office functions presented at the beginning of the year. Likewise unique worldwide, these allow not just call and contact lists but also calendar entries, text messages, tasks and memos to be transferred from compatible smartphones to the vehicle via Bluetooth interface. The relevant entries can be selected using the Controller of the iDrive operating system and shown on the Control Display. Even the picture file saved with

a contact address on a mobile phone can be shown on the vehicle monitor. In addition, BMW ConnectedDrive also allows the music player functions of smartphones to be conveniently operated using the iDrive system. Incoming e-mail in the vehicle represents yet another milestone in the integration of modern smartphones. The new BlackBerry® Pearl™ 3G is the first smartphone from the BlackBerry smartphone portfolio that supports this functionality.

Like the functions previously introduced, e-mail access via Bluetooth also helps make the use of communication and entertainment options of modern smartphones in the vehicle convenient and safe. The operating system iDrive provides unique facilities for the simple, safe and intuitive control of all functions while causing minimum distraction from the road. For the first time, incoming and saved e-mails from the Bluetooth-integrated smartphone can now be retrieved and shown on the Control Display in just a few standardized operating stages. Relief of the driver is further enhanced with the optional voice output function. It can be activated at a single press of a button, the text of the e-mail is then read out loud.

The new e-mail function is available for all BMW models fitted with the navigation system Professional including mobile phone preparation. It will be offered in Europe and North America from autumn 2010.



Classified Ads



1989 325i

The pictures (more pictures in Members' Cars) tell the whole story of this pampered BMW 325i. This car belongs to an active BMW CCA club member, has always been garaged and only used on the weekends for club events and drives in the country. It has received synthetic oil changes every 5K miles and everything on the car works. The leather interior was replaced a few years ago and is in nearly new condition. The carpet was replaced at the same time. The car has a recent Kenwood CD stereo with Infinity speakers and an XM Satellite radio. Mechanically, it is mostly

stock with Ronal Wheels and Supersprint exhaust. Please keep in mind that this is a 21 year old car. There are some minor blemishes in the paint and a few small door dings. However, it has never been in a wreck. It is tight and straight and runs and drives just as good as it looks. \$6,999 ***\$250 discount to active BMW CCA Members***. Contact Daniel Briggs at 210-240-5660 or send email to dmbriiggs@yahoo.com.



1988 M3

Complete rebuilt to include S52 conversion, over \$35K spent by the previous owner, finished late 08', e-mail me for all details, \$21,000 OBO, thanks!. Contact Javier Torres at 210-473-3091 or send email to javistor@aol.com.



GET FUELED UP AT OKTOBERFEST

Join us at Road America, Elkhart Lake, Wi.

To register, or
for more details, visit
www.bmwccaofest.org
or call
800-878-9292

Monday 8/23	Tuesday 8/24	Wednesday 8/25	Thursday 8/26	Friday 8/27	Saturday 8/28	Sunday 8/29
First Timers' Meeting	Concours	TSD Rally Gymkhana Car Control Clinic Driving School Club Race School	Autocross	Autocross	BimmerMeet II	
			Car Control Clinic Driving School Club Race School	Driving School Club Race	Driving School Club Race	Driving School Club Race
Fun Rally Beach Party	Fun Rally Buffet	Fun Rally Lunch at Road America	Fun Rally Buffet at Road America Karting Drive-In Movie	Fun Rally Final Banquet		

Classified Ads



1993 M5

127k, numerous performance modifications done by the previous owner, such as the Dinan chip, suspension, and short throw shifter, Hella Blackout taillights, smoked turn signals and side markers, and I added a few myself, such as a Racing Dynamics Strut bar, and refinished M-system wheels.. Contact Jonathon Griffith at (210) 573-0988 or send email to regaljay350@yahoo.com.



Turbo Tuner

for 2007 - 2009 135/335/535, Split-Second Turbo Tuner 2 - adjustable boost from 0-4 lbs over stock, easily installed & removed. Adds 40hp and 50 ft-lbs. measured at rear wheels. Has safeguard circuitry to protect engine. \$299.00 or best offer. Contact Alan

Greene at 512-401-3484 or send email to a_greene@austin.rr.com.

1998 M3 Adjustable Throw Quick Shift Kit

Originally bought for my '98 M3 several years ago. The following is the info from BMP.com for this item: "The BMP design adjustable quick shift kit is designed to reduce shift travel by up to 40%. Less on some vehicles due to space limitations. The flexibility of the adjustable shift lever pivot point gives you the option to adjust the shift reduction to your liking. Additional features are, a high quality adjustable silicone bronze pivot ball, and the anodized billet aluminum upper shift lever. Upper shift levers are machined to receive any factory push-on type shift knob, or any of our after market universal units. The complete kit includes a custom lower shift lever with adjustable pivot point (for adjusting shift throw), high quality silicone bronze shift bushing, for durability, and a high strength solid steel selector rod, to eliminate selector rod breakage." Currently sells for \$272.65 at BMP.com. I never got around to installing this so it's now for sale at a much discounted price- \$100 (OBO). Contact Thomas Goodwin at 210-566-4688 or send email to tomgoodwin2@sbcglobal.net.

Classified Ads

Wheels Wanted

I am looking for original (OEM) basket weave wheels with caps for my 1990 BMW E30 M3. They need to be straight and in good shape. I will purchase or trade for my after market Borbet Wheels. Thanks. Contact Duke Stevens at 210-326-5226 or send email to dukejr@thestevensgroup.net.

Calipers for Sale

Rebuilt Calipers with cross drilled rotors and pads from an 1985 M635, approximately used for less than 5k miles. \$150 plus shipping, please call 210-473-3091, thanks! Contact Javier Torres at 210-473-3091 or send email to javistor@aol.com.



2005 645Ci

Titanium silver metallic, black convertible top, Dakota black leather. 32k miles. Automatic

(Steptronic) transmission, V8 4.4 litre engine. Sport package, cold weather package, premium sound package, digital window sticker, original brochure, completely stock, always garaged (on battery tender), no racing, excellent condition, looks and drives awesome, very pampered, CPO warranty until November, 2011. Asking Price \$35k . Contact William Harris at 210-402-0112 or send email to omarguitar@hotmail.com.



Rims & Tires

4 2005 X5 rims and tires excellent condition \$800.00 obo. Contact Terry Daniel at 210-393-4208 or send email to trdaniel007@yahoo.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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