



# TEJAS TRAX

Newsletter for the Tejas Chapter, BMW CCA



**BMW Welt**

Photo by Adriana Diesen

**June 2009**



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## *From The President*

### **On Ponies vs. Horses .....**

I have a co-worker that is a diehard Mustang lover and owns a 2007 Mustang GT coupe. A few weeks ago, he noticed me driving the M3 and felt the need to get into a verbal debate about the Mustang versus the M3. I wasn't particularly interested in this game, since I knew full well that I was most likely biased and that he probably was equally predisposed to a particular outcome.

So, despite the trepidation, the game began. "I have a 4.6 liter V-8 and you only have a 3.2 liter straight 6", he began. "Well, I suppose that is true, but I have 361hp, how about you?". With a surprised look, he said "I have 300hp, but I have 320 lbs/ft of torque". Knowing he had me there, I said "mine is only 282 lbs/ft, but it's only a 3.2 liter straight six, remember?".

Having felt that he was now moving ahead in this game, he decided to press the attack. "Since mine has more torque and weighs less, I'm sure that it accelerates better. Mine will do 0-60 in 5.2 secs, how about yours?". Since I had no clue what the 0-60 time on the M3 was, but knew

that a bone stock M3 was rated at 4.8 sec, I smugly replied "Oh, mine will only do 0-60 in about 4.6 secs and my car actually weighs several hundred pounds less than yours". You could tell by the look on his face that I had successfully dodged his press and my evil twin took over and decided it was time to counter his press.

I told him that the M3 had independent suspension, traction control, dynamic stability control, and ABS. "How about yours?" I asked. "Mine has ABS", he said. "The M3 has a 6-speed manual and yours?". Slowly he said "Mine is an a-u-t-o-m-a-t-i-c, but I could have bought two Mustangs for what you paid for your M3!". Deciding that I had enough of this game and knew he was right on that point, I said "You've got me there!", and walked away.

A few days later, as I was getting into the M3, my co-worker walked by and with a wry smile he said "You may have more power and handle better, but I like the way mine sounds much more." I just smiled.

Last weekend, at the annual picnic, one of our members said to me "My daughter really wants the sound of your M3 on her iPod". Remembering my co-worker, I almost said "Maybe she would rather have the sound of a 2007 Mustang GT", but I didn't - he wouldn't understand.

**Until next time ....**

**Glenn McConnell**

## *Welcome New Members*

### Austin

*Debora Cornell  
Craig Couch  
Christina Dees  
Jeremy Heatley*

*Robert Heatley  
Sean McGaughey  
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### Midland

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of Texas*

At the town of Washington, fifty-nine  
representatives voted into existence  
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## Washington on the Brazos Tour Saturday, June 20, 2009 8:30am to ?

We will start at the HEB at I-35 and Parmer lane. Gather in the parking lot beside the HEB drive-thru pharmacy. We need to meet at **8:30am**, have a drivers meeting at **8:45am** and pull out by **9:00am**. If you need to eat breakfast, do so before meeting

**We will be collecting for the lunch, so please have cash or check available to pay for what you ordered.**

### Washington on the Brazos

We will initially drive Hwy 290, then break off the highway in Paige, taking a scenic route to Washington-On-the Brazos state historic site. There will be two "pit stops" before arriving to the State Park. Gas stations with sodas, etc. We will plan to stay at the Historic site for about 80 mins. Entrance fee is free



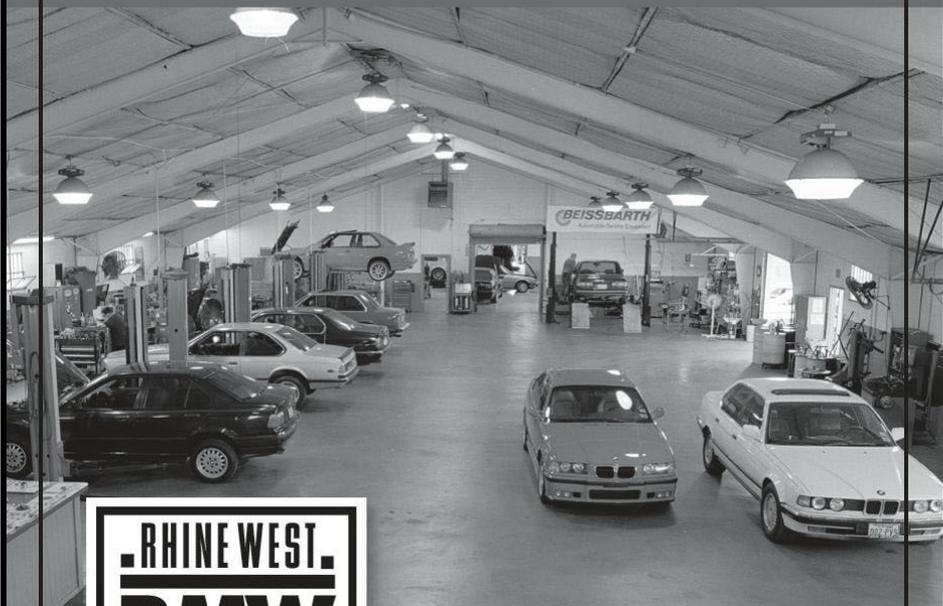
There is a \$5 fee to tour the museum which looks very interesting. If the Park Rangers have enough staff on that particular day, we can have a group walk/ranger talk about the history of Independence hall (20mins). There are short hiking trails along the Brazos river with historical markers/information. A gift shop is also available, bathrooms, water, etc. The longest trail is 1.6 miles along the Brazos. No food is available for purchase at the Park shop



Lunch will be at 1:30ish at Martha's Bloomers in Navasota. We will gather in the parking lot by 1:15 pm and drive about 10 mins to Martha's Bloomers for a nice lunch. Meal will be Chicken entre with vegetables or Sandwich sampler plate. Cost for the meal is \$19 for chicken and \$17 for sandwich sampler. Drink, dessert, tax and gratuity are included. We will have a big room reserved for us to sit together.

**RSVP by filling out the RSVP form on the website at  
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# **Waxonomy 101 Or How to Tell the Difference Between Auto Wax and a Dessert Topping**

by Donald Yule

To steal a line from Dan Aykroyd and Saturday Night Live (when the show was actually funny), it's a wax, it's a dessert topping. Hey, it tastes great and just look at that shine! But as I was doing research for this article and day dreaming of my Allan Gazza custom designed garage, complete with glistening epoxy-sealed floors and deluxe cabinetry (thanks Allan), it became apparent very quickly that writing about the waxonomy of automotive paint protectants was not going to be a walk around the block.

So what do car waxes actually do? Car waxes and paint sealants make the surface of a car reflect more light. As a result, your car looks more vivid, highlighting all those exterior design details we all love. Car waxes also provide our paint some protection from the elements. Here in Texas, our cars paint faces a very hostile environment. From the sweltering summer heat, to acid rain and the ever present danger of the random Grackle deposit. As anyone from Texas can tell you, letting Grackle lava sit on your paint is a sure fire way to reveal the shining metal underneath. With the ultra thin water based paints that are being applied to today's cars (the multilayered auto finish on your car, from the primer through the top clearcoat, is only .004 to .006 of an inch thick), finding an appropriate protectant is essential.

If there is one grumble that I have

about our 08 335i cv, it would be the paint. Not that it's of poor quality mind you, it's just so incredibly soft. If the Germans can develop a towel that will soak up Exxon Valdez sized spills, then they should be able to engineer a more durable paint. And not to get off topic, but do we really need a cigarette lighter that puts out enough BTU's to grill a 24oz. Porterhouse? Just wondering. But I digress.

Okay, let me get this straight, the paint is thinner and softer and our environment is hostile to the paint. Apart from bubble wrapping our cars, what's our next best choice to protect our paint?

Well, we would commonly refer to the solution as wax. Here's a factoid that you can regurgitate at the next BMW cocktail party ... European coachbuilders first applied coatings of animal fats and wax to protect the custom paint on their horse-drawn carriages. Really? I did not know that professor. However, the term wax as used here is a bit of a stereotype. Paint protectants come in several flavors. Natural wax's (like carnauba), artificial polymers and cleaners (anyone remember Rally?) and sealants or coatings. So which to choose? It's a complex question. Let's start with a little background on each.

Natural waxes fall into two categories, carnauba and bees wax's. I could dedicate a whole article to carnauba alone, as there are so many variations. Words of caution – not all carnauba waxes are the same. They vary greatly in percentage of carnauba wax in the product and in price. More expensive does not naturally equate to more carnauba or a better overall

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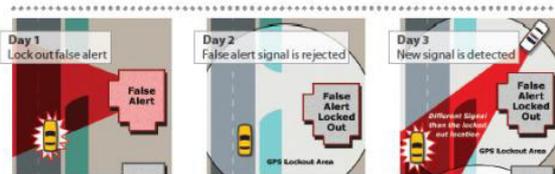
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## Waxonomy 101

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product. So what is this stuff? Carnauba is a wax derived from the leaves of the carnauba palm, *Copernicia prunifera*, a plant native to and grown only in the northeastern Brazilian states of Piauí, Ceará, and Rio Grande do Norte. It is known as the “queen of waxes” and usually comes in the form of hard yellow-brown flakes. It is obtained from the leaves of the carnauba palm by collecting them, beating them to loosen the wax, then refining and bleaching the wax. It’s used to coat candy and is the basis for many hardwood floor waxes. Carnauba car waxes tend to produce a deeper, darker, richer shine. Carnauba waxes bead water nicely, absorb the acid content in rain, and hide minor swirls in the paint. On the minus side, carnauba waxes are not as durable as synthetic waxes. Some carnauba waxes can be temperamental, occasionally streaking under certain temperature or humidity conditions. During our summer months, a carnauba wax job might last between 30 and 60 days. With the limitations of carnauba wax, you might be asking why use it at all. Well, once applied, carnauba just looks so cool and it has a three-dimensional quality that I think is lacking in the synthetics.

Synthetic Waxes are made from modern polymers or acrylic resins. Synthetic waxes offer excellent durability and ease of application. Quality synthetic waxes have been known to last 6 to 9 months or longer, and typically wipe on and off very easily. Synthetic waxes create a very

bright shine and rarely cloud or streak on the paint. On the down side, from my research, many enthusiasts feel synthetic waxes look wetter but lack depth and richness. Black cars can look a little sterile or silvery in direct sunlight. In addition, the mirror-like polymers can collect minor swirls and actually highlight paint flaws.

Nanotechnology polymer coatings are a brand new type of automotive surface protection. Nanotechnology polymer coatings are highly resistant to detergents, acids and hard minerals, like calcium. To be honest, this new technology sounds more like marketing jargon to me more than something really new. PTFE or polytetrafluoroethene coatings (Teflon) have been around for a while and these sound very similar. Remember the TV infomercial with the guy cooking an egg on the hood of the car or setting the paint on fire? These are PTFE based coatings. Same as your non-stick cookware. And yes, you’re cooking on a plastic! The chemical’s that are used simply creates a molecular blanket of protection by using molecules that are much smaller than water or acid molecules. These molecules then bind together to form what looks like a chain link fence, which provides the barrier to the surface of your paint or clear coat.

As you can see, there are many options. Most important, is to get a barrier between your paint and the elements. It’s a chore, but well worth the effort regardless of the product you use.

Thanks to Autopia Car Care, the Polishing Company and Wikipedia for their assistance and reference materials used in this article.

# Paying “BMW Welt” and the “BMW Museum” A Visit

by Adriana Diesen

Let me start this article by saying how bad I wished over and over again that you people were there to share the joy! A visit to BMW Welt was of course one of the highlights of our recent trip to Europe. I had prepared myself psychologically for the moment I would go through the main door and in case you were wondering, yes: I did get goose bumps!



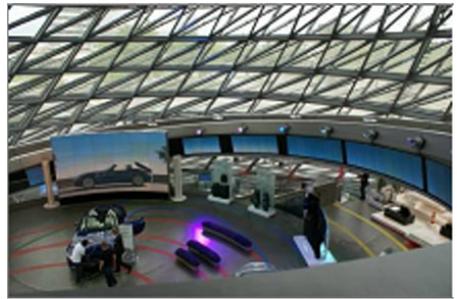
## “BMW Welt”: An Impressive Piece of Architecture

The visit starts with the building itself, which is an amazing piece of modern architecture that combines form and function. The steel façade and large walls serve as air-conditioning. I also learned that the vegetation outside the building was carefully positioned near to the natural ventilation elements in order to bind dust particles and offer a cooling effect. As to power, solar energy is supplied by the roof.

Due to the open style of architecture and glass façade a lot of natural light enters the rooms up the building towards its surroundings. It was also interesting to note that the building’s architectural style blends into the context of the architecture of the Olympiapark and the

adjacent BMW buildings such as the headquarters (4-cylinders) and the BMW Museum.

The building is comprised of 4 levels: E, E1, E2 and E3. However, the open plan allows you to see all levels at the same time. Level E being the Ground Level (Erdgeschoss) is where the main entrance and most of the attractions are: the Automobile Exhibition, the Technology and Atelier Design, the BMW Individual Room, the Production Forum, BMW Shop and more. Those doing European Delivery check in on E3 and the car is brought down to E1 for the official delivery.



## The Double Cone

The futuristic Double Cone is the architectural and communicational origin of the building. A turning platform moves the highlight of every exhibition and event into the right position. The Double Cone’s basement has a welcoming lounge atmosphere and the area is used for several purposes such as events and exhibitions and it is where BMW displays the new models. When we were there the Z4 was displayed, in several color combinations and also as art cars. In the same room, interactive tables give you the chance to find out more about product and brand themes in a very quiet and cozy environment that is ultra modern and exciting at the same

time. This basement area can be reached by elevator, but the coolest way to get to it is by the self-supporting spiral stairs that can be reached from the bridge on the E2 floor. This bridge connects both the museum and the plant with the Welt building at a height of almost 25ft. Once inside the cone, from the top of the staircase you have an awesome view of the room down below. The spiral stairs are equipped with 60 monitors, which turn the Double Cone into a media dome consisting of light and sound. On the upper end of the spiral stairs, the visitor leaves the Double Cone and steps onto the Gallery.



and is deliberately given a darkened atmosphere. This is where visitors see particularly valuable and important vehicles. Designers describe which vehicles influence BMW design today.

The 2nd one is **The House of the Company**, which provides in-depth information on company history and milestones such as the BMW aircraft engine origins in 1916, the first BMW motorcycle in 1923 and the first BMW automobile in 1928. In this house is located the interactive exhibition "Chronology" with its "Journey through Time" showing the company history of BMW. We were amazed by the format of this interactive exhibition; projected on light tables the text/content flows past the visitor. A slight touch on a topic of interest, and a panel opens up revealing further information about the particular topic. Close the panel and the text continues its path along the light table.

Next, **The House of the Motorcycle** uses a large number of exhibits to describe how BMW motorcycle manufacture developed at the production sites in Munich (1923-1969) and Berlin-Spandau (1969 - today).

The 4th house is **The House of Technology** where the themes are

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### **"BMW Museum": Revisiting The BMW Past**

As impressive as BMW Welt is I was probably even more astonished by the Museum and its 'contents'. Truth be said, the Museum building is an experience in itself. It spans more than 90 years of BMW heritage with a diversity of different exhibition areas. The key aspects typical of BMW are integrated in seven thematic blocks and an independent 'house' was originated for each thematic block.

The 1st house, **The House of Design**, sets the scene for the BMW brand, the museum and BMW design in the first room entitled "Inspiration". The lower area of the house forms the "Treasury"

## “BMW Welt” and “BMW Museum”

continued from page 11

"Lightweight Construction", "Engines" and "Aerodynamics" to



document the efficiency and performance of BMW technology. We liked particularly well the "Engines" exhibition area featuring the inline six-cylinder engine along BMW history.



The 5th house is **The House of Motor Sport** presenting major successes of BMW such as the victories gained by the BMW 328, the commitment to Formula 1, the building of the BMW Sauber in 2006, the racing heritage of BMW motorcycles and BMW touring cars. I did not know for example that BMW is the motorcycle manufacturer with the longest heritage in Germany, having been actively and successfully involved in motorcycle racing since 1923.

The 6th house is **The House of the Brand** focusing on the brand as reflected in advertising and the "relationship" between the customer and "their BMW". The exhibition area "Advertising" uses advertising posters, promotional advertisements and advertising films to show how communication between BMW and its customers has changed from the beginnings of the company to the present day. We chuckled at the site of some old posters and at the thought of how consumer 'wishes and wants' have changed along the decades.



Last but by no means least, is **The House of the Series** where you can follow the development of the individual series, the executive or saloon class (sedans in the US) and the M class. The lower exhibition area in this house is reserved for the M Division. I also learned there that it was BMW the first car manufacturer in the world to have a dedicated product line for its sporty automobiles.

Being in Munich and visiting the BMW Welt and Museum was a lifetime experience for this BMW enthusiast and I am already dreaming of the day I will be able to visit it again. Road trip anyone?

# Annual Picnic Review

by Sandy McConnell

We gathered at 8:30am in Kyle, Texas, at the new HEB off IH 35 and FM 1626. Allan Gazza, Marco and Mary Beth Cordon, greeted us with smiles and Starbucks coffee! The nearby store was a convenient place to buy ice and last minute picnic items. The weather promised to be good... warm; not too sunny; no rain in sight. After some time for fond greetings and welcoming newcomers, Allan gathered everyone together for a drive briefing and handed out route instructions. It only took a few more minutes to round up and head East, as we were filled with the anticipation that comes from exploring territory new to Tejas Chapter.

There are notable differences in the terrain heading East of IH 35, from what we're used to on the West side of the corridor. I enjoy the farm and meadowlands and the subtle transition into "piney woods" landscapes found there. The drive was scenic, interesting and well thought out, thus a real pleasure.

An impressive lineup of BMWs (and 1 Porche) filed into the Oak Thicket Park and on to the picnic area. We had our own end of the parking lot, which made a great photo opportunity for all our brute driving machines.

Our pavilion was near the waters of the lake, with a full view of the boats, swimmers and other activities around the lake. We all set up for our picnic lunches and, oh my, the dessert table was a mouth watering sight to see! It definitely wasn't a day for dieting!

After a leisurely lunch and satisfying time of tasting as many of those lovely desserts as we could, some remained in the pavilion for stimulating chat time, while the rest of us went for a walk on one of the

park's nature trails. Allan lead the way, since he had the map, and Marco, with his military logistics training, ably assisted. To get to the beginning of the trail, we had to conquer a wooden fence in our path. For onlookers, it probably was an entertaining study in human nature, as everyone took a turn either vaulting over, climbing through or crawling under the fence! We had one really good shower pass by while we were out hiking. Fortunately, the trees and brush around the trail offered some protection, so we didn't get completely soaked. Those that stayed at the pavilion shared a good laugh, at our expense, as they watched a virtual wall of rain move across the park, assured we were getting soaked and that they were pretty smart staying under the cover of the pavilion.

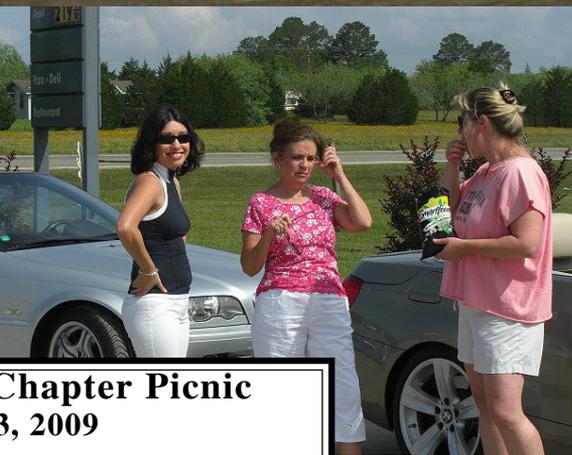
After our adventures on the trail, Chris and Steve Pedersen launched their paddle boat on the lake. Only a few took advantage of the opportunity to get out on the water. It seemed a little too much like work I think, but Chris and Steve are pros at it and Paul Goldfine and daughter Jennifer, are fast learners and good sports!

Allan queried us on a round of German trivia questions and then Mary Beth presented some door prizes. These went to the four people who had birthdays the closest to the date of the picnic. The prizes were hand crafted, patriotic wall adornments. As it turns out, Mary Beth should have taken one of her prizes home, as she probably had the closest birthday herself!

Thank you Allan, Marco & Mary Beth for a great event. For me, it was a special Memorial Day Picnic. We find we have many in the Tejas Chapter who have faithfully and sacrificially served in military service for our country and for the preservation of the freedoms we enjoy. A special thank you to each of you!



**Annual Tejas**  
**May 2**  
 Many thanks to Allan G  
 Many more great photos are a



**Chapter Picnic**  
**3, 2009**  
Pizzeria and Marco Cordon  
available on the chapter website



## **Supreme Performance, Exclusive Style: The BMW M3 Edition Models**

BMW Press Club.

Powerful, aesthetic design, supreme performance and exclusive style – the unique characteristics of the BMW M3 are now available in highly attractive Edition Models focusing on the most outstanding highlights of these outstanding cars.

Based on the BMW M3 Coupé, the M3 Edition Models offer a choice of no less than four highly individual cars boasting perfectly harmonised modifications in body design and interior features as well as special light-alloy wheels and an even lower chassis.

The BMW M3 Edition Models will be entering the market worldwide in July 2009 in Alpine White, Black, Dakar Yellow, and Monte Carlo Blue. In the interest of supreme exclusivity their production period is limited to just six months.

Individual highlights both outside and inside.



On the BMW M3 Edition Models the exterior paintwork and interior design are individually matched to one another. Depending on the respective Edition model, the body comes either in Alpine White Non-Metallic, Black Non-Metallic, Dakar Yellow Non-Metallic or Monte Carlo Blue Metallic. The combination with BMW Individual High-Gloss Satin Chrome accentuates the truly sophisticated character of the Edition Models.

The openings on the engine compartment lid on all models are finished in black, the BMW kidney grille, the side gills and the dual tailpipes on the exhaust system come in dark electrolytically plated chrome. The caps on the special BMW M exterior mirrors are likewise finished in black and are connected to the A-pillars by dual arms extending out of the mirror base finished in body colour.

Special colour highlights add an individual touch also to the interior of the BMW M3 Edition Models. The surfaces on the centre armrest, the centre console and the armrests on the door panels are finished in White on the Alpine White and Black models.

At the same time these Edition Models come with interior trim in Carbon Structure Leather with white contrasting seams. The seats in Black Novillo Leather feature bespoke contrasting seams as well as vertical trim stripes on the upper section of the

backrest and at the front of the legrest. On the Alpine White and Black models, these features come in white, on the Dakar Yellow and Monte Carlo Blue models they are in the appropriate exterior colour.

As a further feature the armrests and door closing handles at the inside on the Dakar Yellow and Monte Carlo Blue models come with yellow and, respectively, blue contrasting seams. And last but certainly not least, entry trim bars in Checkered Flag Design bearing the “M3” model designation give all Edition Models yet another highlight.

To optimise the looks of the car, all four Edition Models come with specially designed light-alloy rims and a unique suspension: On all models the 19-inch forged M light-alloy

rims in double-spoke design are available either in black or in the classic rim colour. And on the Alpine White, Black and Monte Carlo Blue models, the same rims are also available in a special white contrasting colour with polished spokes.

The suspension of the BMW M3 Edition Models adds to the sporting style of the cars, lowering the entire body by 10 millimetres or 0.4“.





## The 2009 730d: Flawless Flagship!

By Adriana Diesen & Tor Taklo

We had not been to Europe in 3 years, and having been invited to our youngest niece's wedding in Norway on May 16th we thought we would use the opportunity to spend some time traveling around the continent. With that in mind, we laid out a pretty detailed plan for our 3-weeks stay, including the countries and places we wanted to (re)visit. We arrived in Amsterdam on May 1st, and the next day we left for Düsseldorf in Germany where we were supposed to pick up our rental from SIXT, a car rental company specializing in the German auto brands.

We were given the keys to a 2009 730d, which was very exciting, since we did not have any experience with the modern BMW diesel engines from the US. Europe has been moving towards a majority diesel

fleet based on tax incentives and the revolution in diesel engine performance over the last decade.



But back to SIXT, in Germany, BMW AG seems to use SIXT as a marketing tool for new models, and flagship cars such as the 7 Series or the Mercedes S-Class will usually have just about all the options that are available for that model. Ours was a Titanium Silver Metallic, with Black Perforated Leather seats, Ash Grain Wood Trim, **Sport Package** (Integral Active Steering, 19" light alloy wheels, sports leather steering wheel, Active Roll Stabilization), **Premium Sound Package** (iPod and USB, Premium Hi-Fi, High Definition Radio, 6-CD changer), **Luxury Seating Package** (19 ways adjustable front seats with lumbar and thigh support, adjustable rear seats with memory, heating/cooling front and rear seats, heated steering wheel, massage function for front

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**The New iDrive and Additional Gadgets**

The loved-hated iDrive has become much more user-friendly, and it was a joy to play with it. There are so many new features that we honestly did not have a chance to try it all out. Also, as a rental car, our 7 did not have its own e-mail address, which would have allowed us for example to

download pre-planned routes from **BMW Connect Drive** or Google, receive and reply to e-mails and surf the Internet, all functions now available in the new 7.

The Owner's Manual is now fully integrated with the system. You can of course consult the manual like in the 'old days', but we found it much easier to use the e-version. You can search the topics by keyword or, in case you do not know what you should be looking for, no worries: simply search by picture, just like in the manual itself. The Owner's Manual is tailored to each specific car and will only show the options actually installed in your car.

The lighting for the instrument cluster and navigation system now differentiates day from night depending on the light conditions. Through the **BMW Services** you can now check weather forecast for any city (our system was of course set for Europe). There is also an option that checks "Convertible Weather"! The same goes for News Updates and Stock Market: simply enter the company ticker and get the latest stock status. Very cool was the tridimensional feature of the Navigation System: When in Perspective Mode,

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**Calendar of Tejas Chapter  
and Related Events**



Date	Event	Meet Location
June 20, 2009	Washington on the Brazos see page 5	Austin
July 25, 2009	TBD	TBD
August 22, 2009	Fun Rally	San Marcos
September 26, 2009	Wine & Dine Drive	TBD
September 28, 2009	BMW CCA Oktoberfest	Lake Lanier, GA
October 23-25, 2009	Annual Utopia Weekend	Kerrville
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.**

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## The 2009 730d

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buildings are displayed tridimensionally, and those of interest or national importance are displayed as representations of the original. For example, when we were close to the BMW HQ and Die Welt, those buildings appeared just as their original version, with the roundel and other architectural details. The same happened when we visited other cities and sites of national importance. Under the category **Points of Interest**, a detailed description and oftentimes the history behind the sites/monuments in that particular city are also displayed. It was like having a tour guide available at all times! As a matter of fact, a Michelin Tour Guide is available in the system as well, offering touristic info and travel/route tips.



When it comes to the screen, a useful change has been made: now, each side of the split screen can be independently operated, so you can for example have the route displayed on both sides, but with a different scale on each side. This is particularly useful on long trips, where the driver may need an overview of the adjacent areas as well as an overview of the entire route. Also, when exiting multiple lane highways, the right side of the screen and the head-up display will indicate which lane to use.

More useful for Europe where country borders are easily crossed, but still worth

mentioning is the **Country Information** feature, which brings detailed and useful info about the country you are entering (or another country for that matter), such as specific traffic regulations and traffic signs (with pictures!), speed and alcohol limits, country info (flag, number of inhabitants, capital, currency, language, area, brief facts and more.

Another neat feature that most of us ‘road-trippers’ have craved for long is the fact that you now can enter multiple destinations when creating one single route. As soon as you reach one destination, the system will automatically start to calculate and guide you to the next one. Road-trip lovers will also rejoice with the next feature: alternative routes are now available, meaning that for each route you enter in the system, two alternative routes are offered for the same stretch. You can then study the alternative routes segment by segment and decide whether you want to use one of them or the original route.



Two new and useful features available in the 7 are the Lane Departure Warning and Blind Spot Detection. When activated, **Lane Departure Warning** will detect painted lines in the road and generate a gentle vibration in the steering wheel that is felt only by the driver, warning that the vehicle is moving out of its lane. The system is also activated if the driver attempts to change lanes without using the turn signal.

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As to **Blind Spot Detection**, when activated, this feature will use radar sensors at the rear of the vehicle to monitor the traffic behind it and alert the driver of a vehicle in the blind spot by displaying a light on the side-view mirror housings. In addition, the light will also flash and the steering wheel will vibrate should the driver attempt the move anyway.

The **TV Function** is another neat feature, but can only be activated when the engine is off. Since our engine was on whenever we found ourselves in the car, I cannot say I made the time to watch TV!

The side view cameras are great when the view is limited for the driver. This was particularly useful on certain narrow T-

intersections when the nose of the car was already sticking out in the street, but the view was blocked by buildings on both sides.

### **Power, Performance and Handling**

The 730d has a turbo charged 3-liter inline 6-cylinder engine with 245hp and a phenomenal 400 ft lb of torque. As to speed, the BMW-published top speed for the 730d is 245kph or about 150mph – although on the German Autobahn, we concluded that number to be rather conservative \*smile\*. Redline is at 4,800 rpm, and the engine is normally running at 1,200-1,800 rpm. The torque at low rpm is very impressive, and the relatively heavy 7 Series still feels nimble with plenty of power at hand. The enormous power at low rpm is also allowing for high gear ratios: At 100 mph the 730d is cruising along at 2,500 rpm.



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The EDC in the new 7 offers 4 different settings: **Normal, Comfort, Sport** and **Sport+**. The car is now also outfitted with aluminum axles and steel-sprung suspension.

The **Active Cruise Control** function works perfectly on pretty much every driving situation, smoothly bringing the car to a complete stop if necessary. We tested the feature during city driving as well as on the Autobahn at higher speeds (although the system does not allow for activation over 180km/h - about 110 mph). The system can be set to react 'late', 'early' or 'normally', which means that it kicks in closer or farther to the vehicle ahead depending on the chosen setting.

What amazed us the most was definitely the consumption, which averaged 29 mpg (US) for the entire trip! Even at high speed and constant braking/ acceleration on the Autobahn, you would "struggle"

to bring the mileage below 25 mpg. The 80 liter tank (21 gal) yielded 600+ miles each time, even when Adriana was behind the wheel! The CO2 emission is between 192-194 g/km, which is pretty good for a vehicle of this size.

The car handles very well and having rear wheel steering also helps a lot, especially when driving on narrower roads that do not allow much room for maneuvering.

The new 7 series (F1) is a huge step forward from the previous one. It is as if BMW heard all the comments and complaints regarding the E65/66 and decided they would put an end to it all! All in all the 7 has become a 'more intelligent' and intuitive vehicle that deserves the title of BMW Flagship. We drove the car for 3 weeks, covering over 5,000 miles. The 7 behaved flawlessly and was a perfect companion for such a long trip. We'll definitely miss that one!



Ladies and gentlemen, the 2009 730d.

## 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

### 2009 Incentive Points Challenge Leader Board as of May 30, 2009

<u>430 Pts</u>	<u>170 Pts</u>	Martha Ricketson	Dwight Allmon	Brian McKinney
Allan Gazza	Kevin Duffy	<u>80 Pts</u>	Patricia Allmon	Brad Mitchell
<u>420 Pts</u>	Nathan Fong	John Wagner	Mark Anderson	Ken Patton
Gina Silvestri	<u>150 Pts</u>	<u>70 Pts</u>	Melanie Anderson	Michael Pepin
<u>370 Pts</u>	Tom Brown	Mike Del Portillo	Jacinta Avila	Mike Perkins
Roger Williams	<u>140 Pts</u>	Tad Goodwin	Mack Bari	David Plutowski
<u>350 Pts</u>	Mary Lou Katchen	<u>60 Pts</u>	Jim Blue	Harvey Reiter
Wayne Eltringham	Steve Ricketson	Mike Anderson	Richard Butler	Amanda Shanks
Sridhar Kamma	<u>120 Pts</u>	Donna Bogan	Don Charbula	Wyatt Shanks
<u>300 Pts</u>	Chris Pedersen	Spencer Cubage	Jonna Clark	Donald Sloan
Marco Cordon	Steve Pedersen	Joseph Hall	Bill Duran	Richard Stein
Herb Looney	<u>110 Pts</u>	Ken Hollins	Virginia Duran	Robin Stein
<u>290 Pts</u>	Ken Carson	Tom Motes	Fred Egloff	David Wakashige
Donald Yule	Harold Cohen	Philip Nybro	Bob Ellingson	Claude Welles
Susan Yule	Tim Ehrhart	Corinne Sayther	Hugh Fisher	Jo Ann Welles
<u>280 Pts</u>	Paul Goldfine	<u>50 Pts</u>	Yovanni Flores	<u>25 Pts</u>
Kathy Eltringham	Alan Greene	Ron Buchalski	Jeff Franklin	Denise Reid
<u>270 Pts</u>	Brian Hall	Alan Campbell	Terry Giroux	<u>20 Pts</u>
Mike Sevel	Kurt Schwerdtfeger	Don Heller	Tom Goodwin	Fred Brinkley
<u>240 Pts</u>	<u>100 Pts</u>	Casey Jordan	Frank Henderson	<u>10 Pts</u>
Eric Chang	John Swann	David Michna	Dalia Hunter	Brett Bartschi
<u>230 Pts</u>	<u>90 Pts</u>	Michael Schwartz	James Hunter	Billy House
Martie Peterson	Linda Cavazos	Daniel Urrea	Stephen Kneuper	
<u>200 Pts</u>	Linda Cook	<u>40 Pts</u>	Ray Landry	
Gregg Peterson	Tim Cook	Rick Morgan	Jack Laumer	
<u>180 Pts</u>	Robert Giles	<u>30 Pts</u>	Bob Lewandowski	
Adriana Diesen	Bill Leisey	Jose Alejo	Marc Marshall	

## 2009 Incentive Points Challenge Rookies Leader Board - May 30, 2009

<u>10.97 Pts</u>	<u>5.72 Pts</u>	<u>4.99 Pts</u>	<u>2.72 Pts</u>
Harold Cohen	Donna Bogan	Daniel Urrea	Richard Stein
9.27 Pts	5.65 Pts	3.39 Pts	Robin Stein
Brian Hall	Michael Schwartz	Mack Bari	2.58 Pts
7.63 Pts	5.06 Pts	David Wakashige	Jim Blue
Tad Goodwin	Joseph Hall		

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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.

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(works like a regular hood), 320 bottle cap 14" wheels. I would like to sell as a whole but will consider parting out if it does not. It has the Behr AC unit. Again this car comes with numerous spare parts. I am asking \$1,000.00 for the whole package. For questions or interest please contact me at (254) 383-3340 or e-mail at thoxic@clearwire.net. I can deliver for a fair fee in the Central Texas area

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# Classified Ads

this car around and know how well it looks as well as it has been maintained. Asking \$21,500 OBO, please contact Javier at 210-473-3091 or javistor@aol.com.



## 2003 Z4

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