



# TEJAS TRAX

Newsletter for the Tejas Chapter, BMW CCA



At Flat Creek Estates Winery

Photo by Eric Chang

October 2009



Inside  
This Issue

Gotcha Covered  
The Wright Roadtrip  
September Event Review

## Tejas Chapter Officers

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|  | <b>President</b><br>Glenn McConnell<br>Austin<br>gmconn535@aol.com        | <b>Vice President</b><br>Herb Looney<br>San Antonio<br>loonjak@swbell.net            | <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b><br>Sandy McConnell<br>Austin<br>ZeeYa3@aol.com |
| <b>Membership</b><br>Gina Silvestri<br>Austin<br>ginasilvestri1@gmail.com         | <b>Driving Events</b><br>Linda Cavazos<br>Austin<br>racegir1330@yahoo.com | <b>Events Coordinator</b><br>Kathy Eltringham<br>Rowlett<br>k_eltringham@hotmail.com | <b>Chapter Mail</b><br>P.O. Box 17216<br>Austin, Tx 78760                 |

### Project Coordinators, Chapter Email and Newsletter

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Austin Area</b><br>Vacant  | <b>San Antonio Area</b><br>Vacant            | <b>Kerrville Area</b><br>John Swann<br>Kerrville<br>swannzee@swannzee.com             | <b>San Marcos Area</b><br>Jack Laumer<br>San Marcos<br>jacklaumer@yahoo.com |
| <b>Corpus Christi Area</b><br>Donna Bogan<br>Corpus Christi<br>dblrddonna@yahoo.com | <b>Chapter Email</b><br>TejasChapter@aol.com | <b>Tejas Trax Newsletter Editor</b><br>Glenn McConnell<br>Austin<br>gmconn535@aol.com |   |

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
|                                  | <b>BMW CCA</b>   |   |  |
| BMW Car Club<br>of America<br> | <b>Vice Pres. South Central Zone</b><br>Mark Doran<br>1777 South Harrison St<br>Denver, CO 80210<br>303-758-4200 | <b>South Central Tech Tips Rep</b><br>Terry Sayther<br>Austin, Tx<br>512-442-1361<br>(8am-5pm Central Time) | <b>Membership Information</b><br>\$40 per year<br>1-800-878-9292<br>VISA or MasterCard<br>www.bmwcca.org |

### Commercial Advertising Rates for Tejas Trax

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Full Page</b><br>Per Year - \$500<br>Per Month - \$50 | <b>Centerfold</b><br>Per Year - \$900<br>Per Month - N/A | <b>Half Page</b><br>Per Year - \$300<br>Per Month - \$30 | <b>Quarter Page</b><br>Per Year - \$200<br>Per Month - \$20 |
|--|--|--|---|

**Visit the Tejas Chapter Web Site at <http://www.tejaschapter.org/tejas.html>**

**The Tejas Trax is printed monthly by Kinko's of Austin**

**DISCLAIMER: TEJAS CHAPTER is a local association of BMW owners. TEJAS CHAPTER (hereafter, the Club) is a non-profit (74-2732211) Texas corporation (#10340292-01), and is associated with the BMW Car Club of America as a local chapter. The Club is not connected in any way with BMWAG or BMWNA. Tejas Trax is the publication of the Club and is mailed to all members in good standing, as well as to all current advertising patrons. All of its contents remain property of the Club, but BMW CCA & BMW ACA Chapters may quote from the publications, provided proper credit is given. The ideas, suggestions, and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and no authentications, endorsement or guarantee is expressed or implied by TEJAS CHAPTER. TEJAS CHAPTER assumes no liability for any of the information presented. None of the information presented bears the status "Factory Approved" unless so indicated. Modifications within the warranty period may void the warranty!**



## *From The President*

### **It's That Time Again .....**

First of all, it is time for chapter officer elections again. I don't know where the time has gone, as it doesn't seem possible that it has been two years since the last elections.

There is a nomination form on page 7 of this issue that can be filled out and mailed in. In addition, there is a nomination form on the Tejas Chapter website that can be submitted, if you don't want to cut up your copy of the Tejas Trax. Deadline for nominations is November 15, 2009. If you are interested in running for a position on the Tejas Chapter board, you are encouraged to nominate yourself for that position.

Secondly, it is time again for our annual Utopia drive weekend. We have been doing this event since 1999 and it just gets better every year. This is one of those events that many of our members put on their calendar many months in advance. John & Maria Swann always do an outstanding job in planning and executing this event. It is the event that I look forward to the most each year and this year is no exception. From the details that John has provided,

I believe this year's Utopia weekend will be the best one ever. John and Maria have even opened up their home this year for a Friday night ice-breaker. You can't ask for better event hosts than that!

For information on the event, see page 5 of this issue. Also, there are many more details in the Events Section of the Tejas Chapter website, as well as the RSVP form to fill out. If you don't do any other event with the chapter this year, this is the one to attend! Hope to see you in Kerrville on October 23rd.

Lastly, it should be that time of year for the annual BMW of Austin Tech Session. For four years, BMW had opened their doors to the Tejas Chapter and put on a spectacular Tech Session event that got bigger and better each year. They provided door prizes, a BBQ meal, gift bags, and, most importantly, provided their technicians and lift space to allow us to do work on our Bimmers at a very reasonable cost - in many cases FREE! This year, BMW of Austin is not able to financially continue the tradition. Some major hail storms that wiped out over 200 cars and a down economy would not allow them to put on an event that was of the standards they wanted to live up to. I know that many, many people will miss this event this year, but fully support BMW of Austin's decision.

**Until next time ....**

**Glenn McConnell**

### *Welcome New Members*

#### Austin

*Bernadette Biermann*

*Les Logan*

*Stacy Marcus*

*Geoff Reid*

*Eric Varga*



#### Del Rio

*Ric Babcock*

#### Windcrest

*Tiffanie Mason*

#### San Antonio

*James McDermott*

# BMW of Austin

"Experience Our Passion"

7011 McNeil Dr  
343 - 3500

**THE ULTIMATE  
DRIVING MACHINE**



**10% Discount on  
Parts & Service  
for BMW CCA members**

## The New Diesels are Here... 2008 "World Green Car of the Year!"

BMW Advanced Diesel. It's diesel reinvented.

- 580 miles per tank
- 4-cylinder efficiency
- V-8 power.



**335d**

Not only the most fuel-efficient diesel in its class, it's the most powerful 3.0-liter, 6-cylinder passenger diesel car in the world.



**X5 xDrive35d**

Strength of a V-8 while still delivering the efficiency of a 4-cylinder.

## Tejas Chapter

# Utopia Drive Weekend

Friday, Saturday & Sunday,  
October 23-25, 2009



### Friday, October 23rd:

- Spend Friday night (23rd) and avoid having to drive into Kerrville early on Saturday morning.
- BYOB and an appetizer to the Swann's home for a Friday evening ice-breaker. 5.30 to 7.30pm.

### Sunday, October 25th:

- Meet at Comanche Trace visitor's center at 9:30am. (Get Directions)
- Sunday will begin with a picturesque drive into some of the less traveled areas around Kerrville.
- Then we'll end the event with a fabulous lunch in a goat barn at the Welfare Cafe, while our cars sit contentedly in the goat corral. The German style cuisine will complete our epicurean medley. This restaurant is a new addition to our itinerary, and the location is just a couple of miles from Interstate 10 near Boerne. Lunch will be \$20, which includes iced tea, choice of main course, dessert, tax and tip.

### Accommodations:

- No "home hotel" this year, but recommend any hotel on Sidney Baker near La Quinta, for convenience.

Participate either day as a single event or join us for the whole weekend (separate Incentive Points for each day).

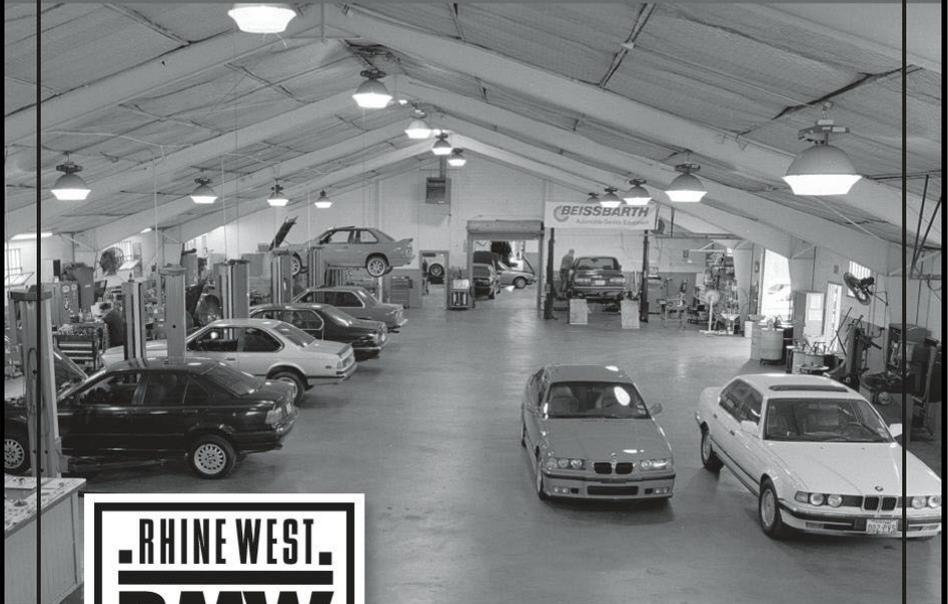
**RSVP by filling out the RSVP form on the website at  
<http://www.tejaschapter.org/tejas.html>**

### Saturday, October 24th:

- Meet at La Quinta Inn at 9:00am.
- Morning drive
- Lunch on Saturday will be near Utopia. Lunch will include an appetizer, soup, choice of two main courses, dessert, iced tea, or coffee, and will cost just \$18 plus tax and tip.
- Afternoon drive
- Cocktails at 7:00pm, Dinner at 8:00pm. Dinner will be at the Comanche Trace Country Club (Vista Room). Menu is pasta dinner, with individual cooking stations with salad bar, dessert and tea/coffee/soft drink. Dinner will be approximately \$18 inclusive. Cash bar.



CORPORATE-LEVEL TECHNOLOGY.  
INDEPENDENT-LEVEL SERVICE.



PRECISION BMW SERVICE SINCE 1981.

BY APPOINTMENT  
8926 BROADWAY  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78217  
(210) 826 0014  
FAX (210) 822 7808

[www.RhineWest.com](http://www.RhineWest.com)

VISIT [www.RhineWestPerformance.com](http://www.RhineWestPerformance.com)  
FOR BMW MOTORCYCLE SERVICE, PARTS, ACCESSORIES  
AND OUR NEW PERFORMANCE SOFTWARE.

# **It's That Time Again!**

**Nominations for the Tejas Chapter Officers  
for 2010 - 2011**

**Please take a moment to fill  
out the nomination form below.**

**To be eligible, nominations  
must be received by November 15, 2009**

**2010-2011 Officer Election Ballots  
will be included in the December 2009  
issue of the Tejas Trax.**

**Tejas Chapter, BMW CCA  
2010 - 2011 Officer Nomination Form**

**Name:**

**Membership Number:**

**In the boxes below, write in a name for each officer position.  
Nominees must be current BMW CCA members to be eligible. You  
may nominate yourself for a position! Send this nomination ballot  
to the Tejas Chapter mail box.**

**President:**

**Vice President:**

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

**Driving Events Chairman:**

**Membership Chairman:**

**Events Chairman:**

**The nomination ballot is also available at the Tejas Chapter web  
site, under the Officers Section (<http://www.tejaschapter.org>) if you  
would prefer to submit it via the internet.**

# Gotcha Covered

by Donald Yule

## The blessing and the beast

Since we all reside in a country that until recently has been blessed with great prosperity, many of us own more than one vehicle. If you were one of the many that took advantage of your loan from the Chinese government, you may have partaken of the so called “cash for clunkers” program and have something new and shiny in the drive. Like many U.S. homeowners, we’re blessed with a lovely two car garage that only truly fits one car. So where there are multiple persons in the household, there’s always the debate about who gets to park in the garage. I’m personally in favor of deciding who gets garage time privileges by the alphabetical order method. But to be honest, just because I possess an X chromosome doesn’t really mean that I’m the decider here. Which means there is a darn good chance that my trusty steed will probably have to face the elements sooner rather than later. Now I’ve got a car cover, but it’s a generic and not really meant to do much more than keep the sun and dust off. So what’s the best approach to tackling the car cover beast?

Like car enthusiasts everywhere, we’re all on a series of mailing lists, which inevitably leads to an ungodly number of parts and accessory catalogues flooding our mailboxes. Among the plethora (I finally get to use the word plethora in a sentence) are companies that sell a number of car covers, but are you getting a good selection at a decent price? When you really start delving into this, it appears

that buying a car cover is harder than finding a good, well, a good anything. Pick your poison, tires, shoes, paint ... an honest politician. They all kind of fall into the same category – we’re looking for good consistent performance, over time, without having to suffer from a buyers myocardial infarction. Prices really vary, from a few hundred dollars to over five hundred for custom fitting, embroidery, multicolored panels etc. This by the way adds nothing to the protective qualities of the cover.

## A multitude of choices

The number of cover types is staggering. The number of manufacturers is less so. Covercraft is probably the largest producer of car covers around. Even third party catalog resellers (even if they’re branding the covers as their own, they’re typically not the manufacturer) are selling Covercraft covers. So I thought we’d use them as a good example of what’s out there.

To simplify things, we’ll place the covers into two categories. Outdoor/Indoor and Indoor/Storage. In both categories, there are plenty of options, all of which really boils down to what fabrics are used in the cover. Keep in mind that just about all covers are made of synthetic or natural fibers, either polyester, polypropylene or a brushed poly cotton material. They come in a confusing variety of brand names. Today, we’ll focus on those types that are most available.

## Outdoor/Indoor Covers

**Technalon:** Kimberly-Clark manufactures the fabric used in

Technalon car covers, and is one of the nation's leading makers of car cover fabrics, come to find out. This fabric provides good moisture resistance and protection against typical damaging agents, including bird droppings, industrial pollutants, tree sap, and acid rain. Dries quickly and the fabric fibers resist moisture. It's breathable allowing for the free flow of air throughout the fabric, which is extremely important. And it is somewhat impact absorbent. But this is really limited to scratches, indentations, nicks, and dings.

**Noah:** Noah car covers are made from polypropylene and polyethylene. This material is durable, water resistant, dust resistant, UV resistant and highly "breathable," allowing all trapped moisture, including seam seepage and condensation to evaporate easily. The fabric weighs 4.45 ounces per square yard, making it easy to handle and fold. Noah fabric is a very popular material for outdoor car covers.

**Weathershield HP:** WeatherShield HP is a woven polyester product. Manufactured through an immersion process that applies heat and pressure which permanently encapsulating the fibers of the fabric. Through this process (supposedly), Weathershield has properties that allow it to shed moisture and block dust, dirt, bird droppings, tree sap and grime. Interesting how so many of these fabrics have the same repellent factors. Hmmm?

**Sunbrella:** This is the same material used for outdoor awnings, umbrellas and patio furniture seat cushion

covers. This fabric is a solution dyed woven acrylic so it's more resistant to fading, but it's not noted for its breathability or moisture repellency. Sunbrella is supposedly designed to block damaging UV rays from reaching the vehicle's exterior and interior. Hey, maybe someone can develop a fabric that can protect us from mind numbing marketing rays! Look, all covers protect your interior and exterior from UV – uh, because it's covering the car? Duh.

### **Ultra'tect – Marketing BS Alert!:**

This cover is marketed as being designed for the budget conscience consumer who requires a high quality outdoor all-weather car cover at an affordable cost. Developed by Safety Components Fabric Technologies (Wow what a mouthful. Makes you wonder what else they manufacture. Sir may I interest you in this lovely car cover and water resistant ballistic underwear combo?), the Ultra'tect fabric is said to retain its color and strength in extended outdoor exposure and provides a high degree of water resistance and UV protection. Stated as being manufactured from double 150 denier yarns - well, this is a bit of good old American marketing horse hockey. The term denier is actually a unit of measurement of linear mass-density of textile fibers calculated as one gram per 9000 meters. Who knew? So what's really being said here is that this cover is made of double thick yarn, whatever that means? Look, it's a budget cover that is somewhat fade and water resistant. There you go. Of course that's doesn't sell car covers does it.

continued on page 10

## Gotcha Covered

continued from page 9

### Indoor/Storage – Good Basic Indoor Protection

**Polycotton, Flannel and Dustop Covers:** If you're looking for a basic car cover to provide some protection to your vehicle that is primarily stored indoors, a polycotton car cover may be the best choice. The polyester and cotton blend provides a bit of protection from and minor scratches. These car covers are in the affordable category but do provide good air circulation under the cover, and they can be washed in your home washing machine. Tan flannel covers are very popular due to their soft inside layer, compact size, and incredible breathability. They provide decent

protection from dust and dings, making it a good choice. Dustop covers are woven from a soft polycotton blend that provides good indoor protection. These types of covers are breathable to allow moisture underneath the cover to evaporate, and are light and easy to store. With all of these covers, you could be super economical and use an old sheet, which probably gets you 90% of what these covers provide with a lot less expenses. However, it will look like a sheet and peg you forever as a cheap ass, but what the heck.

Well folks there you have it. I hope that we gotcha covered on the basic ins and outs of the car cover game. Until next time ...

Honey... Hey ... it's my turn to park in the garage!



12323 West Ave.  
San Antonio, Texas 78216  
**(210) 340.1510 or (210) 385.0505**  
Email: [eccars@hotmail.com](mailto:eccars@hotmail.com)  
Web site: [www.eccars.com](http://www.eccars.com)

# BMW Group Publishes New Sustainable Value Report

BMW Press Club

The BMW Group released its Sustainable Value Report 2008 at the IAA Frankfurt Motor Show today. This is the company's seventh report, highlighting its achievements, challenges and goals in the field of corporate sustainability.

The new report clearly states the BMW Group's position on sustainability: identify demands and reflect on challenges; invest in the future; understand that success and sustainability belong together – and then seize that opportunity.

The new Sustainable Value Report once again sets new standards in terms of both content and form. This is the first time the key pillars of the sustainability strategy revised in spring 2009 have been presented. Sustainability has now been established Group-wide as a corporate target and measured by means of a balanced scorecard. This allows detailed guidelines to be developed for all BMW Group divisions. All proposals must now be measured against the corporate goal of sustainability. Every project submitted to the BMW Group Board of Management for approval must first be evaluated according to sustainability criteria. These include aspects such as resource consumption and emissions as well as the social and sociopolitical implications of the different options.

The BMW Group has also overhauled its sustainability organisation: In summer 2009, a Sustainability Board was established at the highest management level. This board, which comprises the entire Board of Management, will determine the strategic alignment for corporate sustainability. Twice a year, its members will meet to discuss and adopt the strategies and activities proposed at operational level by the Sustainability Circle.

The new Sustainable Value Report is classified as Application Level A – the highest ranking in the Global Reporting Initiative's (GRI) international guidelines for sustainability reports.

The BMW Group's Sustainable Value Report 2008 was also produced in compliance with strict environmental standards. The report is printed on 100 % recycled paper, and the carbon emissions generated through the production of the report have been offset. The new Sustainable Value Report also conforms with the requirements of the Blue Angel" (RAL-UZ 14) environmental label, considered one of the world's strictest environmental labels.

Just a few days ago the BMW Group was once again able to defend its leading position as the most sustainable automobile company in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes. The BMW Group has been listed in this major sustainability index for 10 years – and has been the industry number one for the last five consecutive years.



## BMW 550i GT - coming in December

The BMW 5 Series Gran Turismo adds new facets to BMW's Ultimate Driving Machine tradition and refines the concept of first-class travel. For the first time, attributes of an elegant sedan, a contemporary Sports Activity Vehicle and a classic Gran Turismo are masterfully melded into a single, harmonious vehicle concept.

The traditional European term Gran Turismo (Grand Touring) was first applied by Italian carmakers in the 1950s when they combined the performance, handling, and style of a 2-seat sport car with luxurious ameni-

ties and luggage room for each occupant. BMW's new Gran Turismo nurtures this tradition in its own contemporary way, providing exceptional space, style, luxury, and comfort for four passengers, plus the performance and driving pleasure of a BMW.

It does so with 21st-century performance. BMW's wide-ranging EfficientDynamics initiative endows this new automobile with an outstanding balance between performance and efficiency. Thanks to its innovative twin turbo V-8 engine and 8-speed automatic transmission, the 550i Gran Turismo can accelerate from rest to 60 mph in just 5.4 seconds, yet delivers remarkable fuel efficiency in everyday driving.



### Buy your parts from BavAuto and save:

- **Free shipping** on most orders over \$150. Exceptions apply to heavy/oversized items and shipments to AK, HI, PR, APOs, etc.
- **No sales tax.** It doesn't matter what state you live in, we're in tax-free New Hampshire.
- **Best price guarantee.** We'll match any advertised price for same-brand, in-stock items. Details are on our web site.



www.BavAuto.com • 800.535.2002

Download **FREE** tech & DIY articles at [www.BavAuto.com/newsletter](http://www.BavAuto.com/newsletter).

# Tejas Oktoberfest

by Sandy McConnell

Saturday, September 26th, we gathered under sunny, warm skies, just after lunch, in the substantial parking lot of Cabela's in Kyle, Texas. Gina Silvestri greeted us with smiles, maps and a specially planned agenda for the day! Allan Gazza, who also helped planned the day's activities was not able to be with us, as he was out of town involved in his own travels and plans that happened to fall on the same weekend.



Sridhar Kamma, the third person who helped in the planning, arrived in his gorgeous and long anticipated, brand new, bright red, M3. (See Sri's article in the September Tejas Trax to learn more about his European pick up and delivery adventures.) After some time for fond greetings and welcoming newcomers, Gina gathered everyone together for a drive briefing and then we all organized for a caravan to our first stop of the day, Flat Creek Estate Winery. Sri had the honor of leading us in his new *M* and we happily followed.

Our route toward Flat Creek was scenic and well chosen. We passed the famed Salt Lick Restaurant, the Mansfield Dam and beautiful Lake Travis, the popular, rebuilt, Oasis Restaurant and other interesting and captivating sights. The drive was enhanced by curvy and fun

roads like Bullick Hollow Road, Volente Road, and FM 1431. What a sight to see



so many beautiful BMWs in agile, synchronized motion, along the way.



We pulled into the Flat Creek Estates and parked our bimmers. I was impressed at how strategically the three black Zs parked under the striking setting of some grand old Oaks!

An outside pavilion was the setting for our wine tasting experience at the Flat Creek Estates Winery. Our hostess Madelyn greeted us warmly and had an impressive layout of wines available for



tasting. They had also arranged tables for  
continued on page 16



**Flat Creek Winery**  
**September**  
 Many thanks to Allan Gazza, G  
 Many more great photos are a





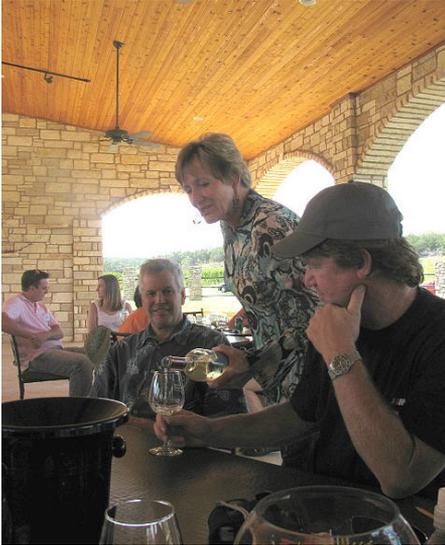
**ery & Walburg**  
**r 26, 2009**  
**ina Silvestri & Sridhar Kamma**  
available on the chapter website



## Tejas Oktoberfest

continued from page 13

our group, decorated simply, but beautifully, to set the perfect ambiance. The vineyards, within sight of the patio, were green and fresh and provided an inspiring and relaxing setting for our time there. Madelyn presented several of their wines, by explaining the types of grapes



that go into their production, the processes that were used in their production, as well as other unique factors that may have affected the flavor and textures of each wine. She informed us that this year they had to import a lot of the grapes used in their wine production, because their crops (and most of the other wineries in central Texas) were negatively affected by the drought and extreme weather conditions of this wine production season. We were then treated with an opportunity to taste a number of available wines and, as always, this was a popular passtime. The wines were very delicious and as varied, as the individual tastes and preferences represented by the people that consume

them.

After a leisurely time at the winery, we were on the road again, enroute to Walburg, Texas. Again, we had a very scenic and challenging drive as we headed north via Leander and Liberty Hill, Texas, and then east and north of Georgetown to Walburg, Texas. Walburg was largely influenced and settled by German immigrants. The Walburg Restaurant shares in this heritage and specializes in German cuisine and a wide selection of imported German beer and wines, all in keeping with their Bavarian heritage. The restaurant's building is a vintage structure originating in 1882 and over the years, the meals have been sampled by the likes of the Governor of Texas, and movie stars Robert Urich, Jane Seymour, Robert Duvall and John Travolta.

Due to the foresight of Allan Gazza and Gina, we had the opportunity of participating with them in the first weekend of their 2009 Oktoberfest celebrations! The upstairs room in the restaurant was reserved specially for us and we were able to enjoy the scrumptious and elaborate German food buffet that was laid out for the occasion. Our waitress's were efficient and very pleasant, also. Besides the food, the restaurant decor and memorabilia are all German and for Oktoberfest, they were also featuring live music, (some from Munich, Germany) out back in a specially set up tent in the Biergarten! If you missed this event, you missed a good one!

I would like to offer a special thanks, to Gina Silvestri, Allan Gazza and Sridhar Kamma for the outstanding planning and leadership that went into this event.

See you next month in Kerrville!

# "One step closer to accident-free mobility"

BMW Press Club

Munich. The road-safety visions of society, politics, business and science haven now been clearly defined as "Vision Zero (Accident-Free Mobility)" and "Safety for All". The "Ko-FAS" (Cooperative Vehicle Safety) research initiative has set itself the goal of implementing these visions. It wants to make a contribution towards making accident-free mobility a reality. "In the future, maintaining safe conditions on the road will require extensive cooperation between road users. This interplay is bringing the Ko-FAS initiative one step closer to achieving its aim of accident-free mobility," says Dr. Ralph Rasshofer, member for the BMW Group in the steering committee of the Ko-FAS initiative.

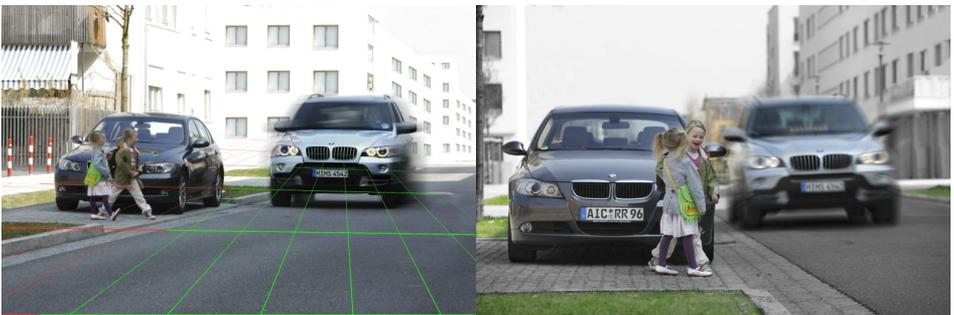
The best-possible accident protection that an automobile manufacturer could provide motor vehicle drivers with is active safety. According to official statistics, less than two percent of accidents are caused by technical malfunctioning, while the vast majority occur as a result of human error. This means that it is important that the driver is

afforded a maximum level of support behind the wheel, to prevent the circumstances that cause accidents from even occurring.

It is against this background that the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology launched the Ko-FAS research initiative on September 18, 2009. Its aim is to achieve a significant increase in road safety and an accompanying reduction in road accidents and motoring fatalities. This will necessitate finding ways of reliably mapping out the driving environment, with the aid of cooperative sensory and perceptive systems, conducting a comprehensive situational appraisal to draw up a precise assessment of collision risks, culminating in the activation of appropriate preventive protection measures.

The joint project involves 19 partners, comprising reputable vehicle manufacturers and parts suppliers, universities and institutes of applied sciences, as well as research institutes throughout the whole of Germany. A total budget of 25.5 million euros has been made available to the project partners for the duration of the project, which is scheduled to continue for just under four years.

continued on page 18



## "One step closer"

continued from page 17

### Three joint projects – one common goal

The Ko-FAS initiative comprises three joint projects, known as Ko-TAG, Ko-PER and Ko-KOMP. The research and technology department of the BMW Group is heading the Ko-TAG and Ko-PER projects.

The specialists involved in the Ko-TAG project will be conducting research in the field of Car2Tag communication, which employs a network of transponders whose function it is to precisely locate and classify objects using cooperative sensory systems. The aim in future is to employ this technology to protect particularly vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists but it is also to be used in the area of vehicle-vehicle safety.

Employees of BMW Group Research and Technology successfully developed the first pedestrian protection system to be based on this kind of technology during the AMULETT project, which preceded the current one. It involved a test vehicle which exchanged wireless data with an active module, similar to RFID, which can be integrated into a

child's schoolbag, for example. This cooperative sensor technology would make it possible to locate such individuals and classify them as vulnerable road users who are not visible to the driver at the moment in which the risk situation occurs.

Ko-TAG will take the findings of the AMULETT project as its starting point and subject them to further studies. Researchers are now particularly interested in such questions as how this radio technology can be employed in more intense situations, such as those in which many people are involved. "In future, this radio technology will allow us to draw extremely precise and highly reliable assumptions from the sensory data. This will in turn provide us with a means of effecting yet another considerable improvement in road safety," explains Daniel Schwarz of BMW Group Research and Technology, and project spokesman for Ko-TAG.

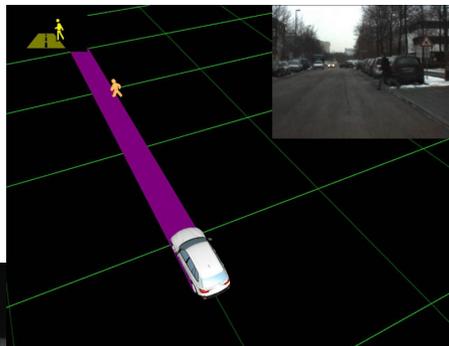
The Ko-PER project is responsible for conducting research into processes of cooperative perception in longitudinal traffic and at intersection areas. "For this project, we are supported by the findings of the successfully concluded EU research 'PreVENT' project, but what we are now also looking for is an active



exchange with the national 'simTD' (Safe Intelligent Mobility Test Field for Germany) support project. The various research activities all lead towards the same joint goal – to increase the level of safety on the roads," says Dr. Reiner Wertheimer, Ko-PER project spokesman for BMW Group Research and Technology. The researchers from the BMW Group involved in the Ko-PER project are looking into ways of utilising cooperative sensory networks for mapping out the traffic environment. The aim is to create an overall picture of the immediate traffic environment by exchanging and merging information from various sensors, employed to gather data in both vehicle environments and transport infrastructures. What researchers are aiming at in particular is to create a way of revealing hidden road users and identifying the dynamic chronology of road events. This will make it possible to conduct a constant

and comprehensive assessment of existing collision risks.

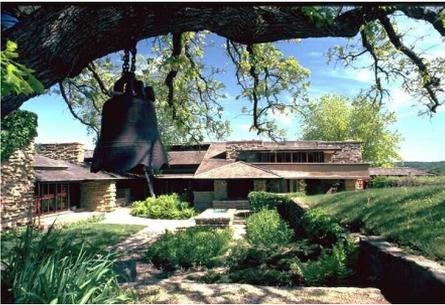
The members of the Ko-KOMP project will be researching into protection systems for vehicles which are activated prior to an impending collision and whose aim it is to prevent an accident from occurring or at least tempering the consequences of the accident. In particular, the project will be involved in examining systems for expanding the external vehicle shell and effecting the timely activation of autonomous emergency-brake functions. Also planned is a virtual test field for simulating communications channels for diverse road traffic scenarios.



# “The Wright Roadtrip”

by Spencer Cubage

After a 3 year hiatus from BMW, and our beloved M Roadster, this spring we “did the right thing” and bought a new 2007 335i Coupe. How I wandered off of the BMW path...I do not know. As we do a lot of city driving and this Coupe was to be our daily driver, I opted for the new, 6 speed automatic, complete with paddle shifters. The sport package was included as well. What a beautiful machine ! This automatic comes with a sport mode and the aforementioned paddle shifters. Yes, you can really explore the twin turbos with the transmission in sport mode !



A year ago, Liz and I were in Wisconsin and visited Frank Lloyd Wright’s Wisconsin home in Spring Green, known as Taliesin. We have always been Wright fans and on that trip discovered that some of his homes were available for nightly rentals. After researching on the internet, we found four homes and one hotel available for rent. We structured our trip around these houses, as they are booked far in advance. We would end up staying in and visiting a total of 12 of Wright’s designs.

In studying our route and timetable, we decided to visit a couple

of other notable houses on our trip. One, the Farnsworth House, designed by Mies Van de Rohe, and the other was the Biltmore Estate. Our route included the following states: Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. We drove a total of 5290 miles....every mile was really fun !

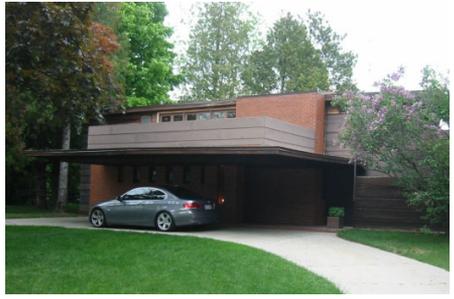
Traveling on both interstates, (known as toll roads up north) and back roads, the Coupe was a joy to drive. We were fully loaded for the 19 day trip, including my guitar ! On leisurely days, we would program the Garmin Nuvi to “shortest route”, it almost always guaranteed a fine, back road route. Those are the roads where we had our fun. So many of the beautiful back roads were well paved, curvy, hilly and empty. Great fun !!!



The first notable Wright structure was the Price Tower in Bartlesville,

Oklahoma. Great place to stay. We were on the 13th floor during a great thunderstorm. It was very interesting, but enjoyable. As we drove north toward Wisconsin, the weather turned cooler and was beautiful. Like springtime in Texas. We had to build fires every night in the Wright homes that we had rented.

We stayed in two Wright homes in Wisconsin, one in Indiana and one in Ohio.



**Schwartz House  
Two Rivers, WI.**



**Seth Peterson Cottage,  
Lake Delton, WI**

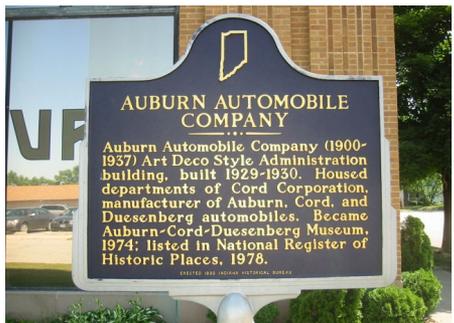


**Haynes House  
Ft. Wayne, IN**

Near Ft. Wayne, Indiana is Auburn. The Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum is located there. It is a great place to visit. The building is the original Auburn Administration Building, done in the Art Deco style of the era. The car collection is fantastic.



**The Penfield House  
Willoughby Hills, Ohio**



continued on page 22

## “The Wright Roadtrip”

continued from page 21



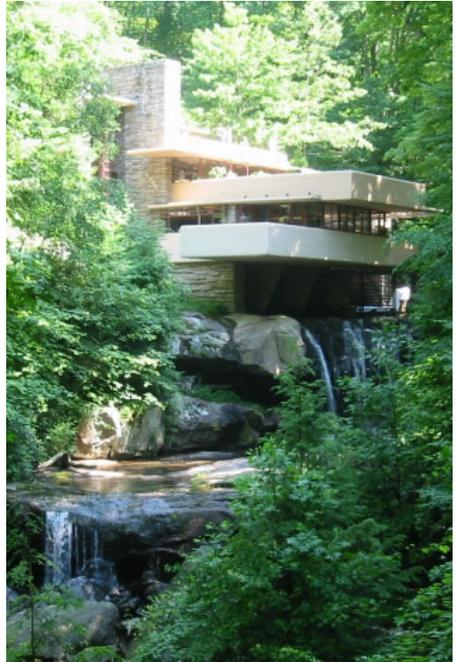
Making our way to Wright’s masterpiece “Fallingwater”, we drove through the hills of western Pennsylvania. What great roads and beautiful scenery are there. After touring Fallingwater, we went to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, site of the infamous Johnstown flood of 1889. The museum in downtown Johnstown is in the library that was built after the flood. The original library was destroyed in the flood, with many of the downtown buildings at that time. We then went to the damsite which is run by the National Park Service where the remains of the dam are still very visible. It is a beautiful area, with mountains and streams everywhere.

We left Western Pennsylvania and headed for Asheville, North Carolina

to visit the Biltmore Estate. Now, that is one large home ! It takes about 2 hours of steady walking and climbing to explore it on the self guided tour. It was built at a time of no income tax and money was not an issue.

After leaving Asheville, we headed to Alabama to visit our last Wright house on the trip. From there we drove the Natchez Trace Parkway into Natchez, Mississippi and spent the last night of our vacation in one of our favorite B&Bs, Monmouth Plantation.

We arrived home on Sunday, Father’s Day, very happy to have done the “Wright Roadtrip” and just as glad to be back home !!!



**Fallingwater  
Mill Run, PA  
probably Wrights most famous  
house...**

**Calendar of Tejas Chapter  
and Related Events**



| Date                 | Event   | Meet Location  |
|----------------------|---|----------------|
| October 23-25, 2009  | Annual Utopia Weekend<br>see page 5                                   | Kerrville      |
| Oct 30 - Nov 1, 2009 | Houston Chapter Hill Country Weekend<br>Tejas Chapter members invited | Fredericksburg |
| November 1, 2009     | F1 Club of Austin Oktoberfest   | Walburg        |
| November 14, 2009    | TBD   | TBD            |
| December 5, 2009     | Annual Charity Event  | TBD            |

**Web Site Info**

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

***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 have our Tejas Chapter logo and can apply it 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](http://www.alejousa.com). or email [alejousa@alejousa.com](mailto:alejousa@alejousa.com).



## 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 Rookies Leader Board As of October 2, 2009

|                   |                  |                 |                 |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>26.54 Pts</u>  | <u>7.63 Pts</u>  | <u>5.06 Pts</u> | David Wakashige |
| Chip Beaudette    | Tad Goodwin      | Joseph Hall     | <u>2.72 Pts</u> |
| <u>20.94 Pts</u>  | <u>5.72 Pts</u>  | <u>4.99 Pts</u> | Richard Stein   |
| Harold Cohen      | Donna Bogan      | Daniel Urrea    | Robin Stein     |
| <u>12.07 Pts</u>  | <u>5.65 Pts</u>  | <u>4.30 Pts</u> | <u>2.58 Pts</u> |
| Les Logan         | Michael Schwartz | George Hessler  | Jim Blue        |
| <u>9.27 Pts</u>   | <u>5.27 Pts</u>  | <u>4.28 Pts</u> |                 |
| Brian Hall        | William Harris   | Lisa Foight     |                 |
| <u>8.79 Pts</u>   | <u>5.16 Pts</u>  | <u>3.39 Pts</u> |                 |
| Albert Merrifield | Johnny Mitchell  | Mack Bari       |                 |

### 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.



**2009 Incentive Points Challenge Leader Board  
As of October 2, 2009**

|                  |                    |                   |                   |                 |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <u>965 Pts</u>   | <u>230 Pts</u>     | Robert Giles      | Frederic Lynes    | Dalia Hunter    |
| Allan Gazza      | Kevin Duffy        | Jack Laumer       | Albert Merrifield | James Hunter    |
| <u>710 Pts</u>   | <u>210 Pts</u>     | Bill Leisey       | David Michna      | Stephen Kneuper |
| Sridhar Kamma    | Harold Cohen       | Martha Ricketson  | Michael Schwartz  | Bob Lewandowski |
| <u>560 Pts</u>   | <u>200 Pts</u>     | <u>80 Pts</u>     | Daniel Urrea      | Marc Marshall   |
| Roger Williams   | Ken Carson         | Ray Landry        | <u>40 Pts</u>     | Brian McKinney  |
| <u>550 Pts</u>   | Mary Lou Katchen   | John Wagner       | Chris Basse       | Johnny Mitchell |
| Gina Silvestri   | Kurt Schwerdtfeger | <u>70 Pts</u>     | <u>30 Pts</u>     | Ken Patton      |
| <u>530 Pts</u>   | <u>180 Pts</u>     | Mike Del Portillo | Jose Alejo        | Mike Pepin      |
| Herb Looney      | Adriana Diesen     | Tad Goodwin       | Dwight Allmon     | Mike Perkins    |
| Donald Yule      | Nathan Fong        | Rick Morgan       | Patricia Allmon   | David Plutowski |
| <u>520 Pts</u>   | <u>170 Pts</u>     | <u>60 Pts</u>     | Mark Anderson     | AJ Ranft        |
| Marco Cordon     | Alan Greene        | Mike Anderson     | Melanie Anderson  | Harvey Reiter   |
| <u>500 Pts</u>   | <u>160 Pts</u>     | Donna Bogan       | Jacinta Avila     | John Schmid     |
| Susan Yule       | Paul Goldfine      | Jonna Clark       | Mack Bari         | Donald Sloan    |
| <u>470 Pts</u>   | <u>150 Pts</u>     | Fred Egloff       | Jim Blue          | Richard Stein   |
| Wayne Eltringham | Spencer Cubage     | Hugh Fisher       | Richard Butler    | Robin Stein     |
| <u>415 Pts</u>   | Chris Pedersen     | Joseph Hall       | Mike Byrd         | Shell Storer    |
| Kathy Eltringham | Steve Pedersen     | Ken Hollins       | Don Charbula      | David Wakashige |
| <u>360 Pts</u>   | <u>145 Pts</u>     | Tom Motes         | Richard Crowley   | Claude Welles   |
| Eric Chang       | John Swann         | Corinne Sayther   | Bill Duran        | Jo Ann Welles   |
| <u>330 Pts</u>   | <u>140 Pts</u>     | Amanda Shanks     | Virginia Duran    | <u>25 Pts</u>   |
| Mike Sevel       | Steve Ricketson    | Wyatt Shanks      | Bob Ellingson     | Denise Reid     |
| <u>310 Pts</u>   | <u>130 Pts</u>     | <u>50 Pts</u>     | Yovanni Flores    | <u>20 Pts</u>   |
| Linda Cook       | Chip Beaudette     | Ron Buchalski     | Jeff Franklin     | Fred Brinkley   |
| <u>290 Pts</u>   | <u>120 Pts</u>     | Alan Campbell     | Oscar Gamboa      | Lisa Foight     |
| Martie Peterson  | Philip Nybro       | Jonathan Griffith | Tom Ginnity       | <u>10 Pts</u>   |
| <u>280 Pts</u>   | <u>110 Pts</u>     | J. Harper         | Terry Giroux      | Brett Bartschi  |
| Tim Cook         | Tim Ehrhart        | Don Heller        | Tom Goodwin       | Billy House     |
| <u>260 Pts</u>   | Brian Hall         | Casey Jordan      | Jordan Greene     | Wm Murphy       |
| Tom Brown        | Brad Mitchell      | Ken Lahanas       | Billy Harris      |                 |
| Gregg Peterson   | <u>90 Pts</u>      | Les Logan         | Frank Henderson   |                 |
|                  | Linda Cavazos      | Sam Love          | George Hessler    |                 |



**Tropi Care**



**Car Care Products**

**Tropi Care - Exceptional  
Products for Exceptional Cars**

- Professional Strength Cleaners & Treatments
- Microfiber Towels & Specialty Detail Products
- Buffing Machines, Foam Pads/Accessories

*Special consideration to BMW owners - Get 10% off of any order  
use discount code: **10offTC***

[www.tropi-care.com](http://www.tropi-care.com)

Toll free: (866) 341-0050

# Classified Ads



## 1995 M3

2nd owner by BMWCCA Member (#106598), 10/95 production date, clear title, no accidents, owned since 9/2001 @ 133,260 miles, currently 210,200 miles, matching engine/chassis numbers, stock 3.0 liter x 6 cylinder DOHC, super strong engine, no oil usage, engine oil/filter changes every 3,000 miles, no track, no racing engine: Recent Fluidyne aluminum heavy duty radiator (\$860), new coolant expansion tank w/new updated tank cap, new coolant tank level sensor, hoses/clamps, new dual low temp radiator sensor (80-88 Degrees C), new upper/lower radiator hoses, recent steel impeller water pump & profile gasket, recent aluminum thermostat housing & profile gasket, recent low temp thermostat & profile gasket, new fan clutch, new BMP brass coolant tank bleed screw/o-ring, new expansion tank level sensor, recent alternator (80 amp changed in 9/2005), new a/c drive belt & deflection roller, new alternator/water pump drive belt & deflection roller, recent complete valve cover gaskets/spark plug hole gaskets, BMP magnetic oil pan

drain plug, Recent New Sachs OEM Clutch/Pressure Plate/Throw-Out Bearing/Pivot Pin/Clutch Bolts/Shifter Guide Pin Suspension: H & R springs with Bilstein Gas Sport Shocks, all new spring perch rubbers, BMW Motorsport upper shock tower reinforcement plates (5mm), OEM lower xX-bracex, Racing Dynamics front/rear sway bars & bushings, Racing Dynamics upper shock tower brace, Active Autoworks rear shock tower brace, BMP alum/red urethane rear upper shock mounts, BMP adjustable rear trailing arms, Ireland Engineering urethane rear control arm bushings, recent OEM steel lower control arms w/bushings Exhaust: Super Sprint DTM stainless steel rear muffler, new (4) exhaust flange bolts/nuts & (2) new metal exhaust donut seals (at time of SS rear muffler install) Brakes: New Brembo cross drilled & slotted front brake rotors/pads, stainless steel brake lines, Tires/Wheels: After market M3 CSL replicas 17x (fair condition) w/stainless steel valve stems mounted on Yokohama ES 100 - 235/40/ZR17 performance tires, excellent condition (9 out of 10) Best Offer!! Contact John Coates, Jr. at 985-285-0973 or send email to fahrenm3@aol.com.

**More details on this car on the Tejas Chapter website.**

# Classified Ads



## 1995 540iA Sport

76,000 miles. One of 200 built for the US and one of only 35 automatics. Cosmos Black with leather parchment interior. Nurburgring adaptive suspension with M servomatic steering. Larger brakes and M trim were all part of option 813 for that year. Over \$10,000 invested since purchase. All fluids, bushings, belts, hoses and catalytic converters replaced. New cooling system including radiator and water pump. New brakes. BMW 18" Double Parallel wheels with Michellin Pilot Sport II tires. Pioneer sound system. Original Stereo and code available. All receipts including original factory sticker. \$12,000. Additional photos listed in "Members' Cars". Contact Ken Sepulveda at 512-858-7619 or send email to [bigdogchewtoy@yahoo.com](mailto:bigdogchewtoy@yahoo.com).



## Steering Wheel

E46, BMW Euro Sports Steering Wheel with airbag (new), fits all E46 incl. M3, Steering wheel is new and covered with black leather (2 different leather - on the top and bottom - plain leather and at the sides - perforated leather) and with 3-color M-Stitching and never installed in a car. It comes complete with a new 2-stage Airbag and new black "SRS Airbag" bracket - no other parts needed. Mint Condition, you will get a unique steering wheel, Made in Germany, Outside Diameter is 370 mm, Please note: the wheel fits only e46, not e36 or other models. Contact Claudio Sanchez at 512-627-3499 or send email to [claudio3@swbell.net](mailto:claudio3@swbell.net).

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.

  
**Tejas Chapter  
BMW CCA, Inc.  
P.O. Box 17216  
Austin, TX 78760**

  
**PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #1434  
Austin TX**

