

July / August 2005

# the Milepost

the Kansas City BMW Club newsletter



## One Lap of America



### Inside:

- \* Club Picnic!
- \* One Lap
- \* Street Survival
- \* Mini Obsessions
- \* Mr. Excitement
- \* Upcoming Events

Chuck Vossler and Ned Smith, two of our own, competed in this year's fantastic event. Read about their great journey inside.

We are having an all club picnic at Shawnee Mission Park on August 20, save the date, it should be a blast. Bring some sunscreen and a clean car... or any car. I can't say clean, mine usually isn't.

Check out the new club logo! We had stickers, t-shirts, polos, and hats made so you can sport the new design. Come see it in person at the next meeting.

# Welcome New Members!

Miles Munroe  
Lees Summit, MO  
1972 2002ti

Clay Copher  
Lenexa, KS

Dane Kaplan  
Kansas City, MO

Brandon Blank  
Shawnee Mission, KS  
2006 325i

Ken Ford  
Shawnee Mission, KS  
2003 330i & 2003 325xi

Victoria Barnett  
Lansing, KS

Lindsay Kuhnen  
Olathe, KS

Patricia Seligson  
Overland Park, KS

Jack Graham  
Lawrence, KS  
1997 528i & 2005 545i

Trish Carney  
Leavenworth, KS

Jonathan Tasler  
Kansas City, MO  
2004 M3

Kent Crippin  
Leawood, KS  
2001 740i

Surendra Kavimandan  
Olathe, KS  
2001 X5 & 2000 Z3

Matthew Malkemes  
Leavenworth, KS

Bart Foster  
Leawood, KS  
1995 540i

Lonnie Worthington  
Emporia, KS  
1985 535i

Ed Macinerney  
Shawnee Mission, KS

Jonathan Nelson  
Kansas City, MO

John Ritter  
Stilwell, KS  
2001 540i

Marla Worthington  
Emporia, KS

David Bryan  
Little Rock, AR  
1991 850i

Halie Downes  
Smithville, MO

Jay Sportsman  
Kansas City, MO  
1985 525i

John Reiff  
Wichita, KS  
2004 z3

Alexander Khan  
Shawnee Mission, KS

Jacob Whitaker  
Lake Quivira, KS  
1989 325i

Matthew McCrary  
Shawnee Mission, KS  
1999 M3

Gregg Morelli  
Shawnee Mission, KS  
1990 525i

Jon Staples  
Shawnee Mission, KS  
1998 328i

Sarah Casey  
Overland Park, KS

Joe Benskin  
Olathe, KS

William Witbrod  
Overland Park, KS  
1995 525i

Brady Lonergan  
Shawnee Mission, KS

Jacob Fickel  
Olathe, KS

Shannon Casey  
Kansas City, MO  
2004 Z4

Scott Alley  
Independence, MO

Mark Scott  
Ottawa, KS

Bobby Breen  
Kansas City, MO

Kolete Rife  
Overland Park, KS

Taylor Davis  
Overland Park, KS  
2003 530i & 2002 x5

Jonathan Rojjanasrirat  
Olathe, KS

Brittany Johnson  
Kansas City, MO

Bill Kiely  
Kearney, MO

Jennifer Miller-Davis  
Overland Park, KS

Jared Dye  
Overland Park, KS

Tyler Johnson  
Shawnee Mission, KS

Larry Weians  
Kansas City, MO  
1998 M Roadster

Darcie Eddy  
Lenexa, KS  
2005 Mini Cooper S conv.

Scott McVay  
Archie, MO

Brent Kaplan  
Kansas City, MO

Dale Irwin  
Kansas City, MO  
1997 M3

**Don't forget to check out our chapter website at <http://www.kcbmwclub.org> and sign up for the email list to get the latest club information and announcements!!!**

MP  
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We invite all our members, new and veteran, to join us at our next meeting and event.

**the Milepost**

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July / August 2005

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the

# Milepost



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# Upcoming Events

## **KCR SCCA AUTOX Driving School**

**Saturday, July 9, 2005, 10:00 AM**

**Lot L, Truman Sports Complex**

Learn how to better handle your car at this BMW club only AutoX day clinic. Instructors will be assigned to provide specific information and feedback on your car and driving skills. Registration is \$74. Contact Chris Conant at cconant@kc.rr.com for more information and registration forms.

## **SCCA & CROWN AUTO X**

**Sunday, July 10, 2005**

**Lot L, Truman Sports Complex**

## **Open Track Day at Heartland Park Topeka**

**Wednesday, July 13, 2005, All day**

Run your car all day on the last day before Heartland Park is repaved. Only \$125 gets you out running on this final day of the track. Email Chuck at president@kcbmwclub.org for details.

## **CLUB MEETING!**

**Thursday, July 21, 2005, 6:00 PM**

**Kansas City BMW Club Board and Regular Meeting  
- Berliner Bear**

7815 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO; Tel. (816) 444-2828.  
Join our discussion and get involved with the chapter!

## **Habitat for Humanity**

**Sunday, July 30, 2005, all day**

**Habitat for Humanity Office**

1423 E. Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64109 Tel.  
(816) 924-1096

Join the KC BMW Club in helping Habitat for Humanity make a family's dream come true: having a new home. We will meet at 8am at the HFH Office, sign the necessary paperwork, and get hammering! There will be many different jobs available and any or no skills are welcome. Please remember to wear thick sturdy shoes and work gloves and bring a lunch. Contact Chuck Vossler at president@kcbmwclub.org for details or to sign up.

## **Susan G. Komen ULTIMATE DRIVE**

**Wednesday, August 10, 2005**

Register online starting July 4, 2005 and help BMW of North America raise One Million Dollars to help find a cure for breast cancer. For each mile driven, BMW NA will donate \$1 to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Check out the website or the Yahoo Announcement Group for details!

## **CENTRIX Financial Grand Prix**

**August 12 - 14, 2005; Denver, CO**

Keep checking our chapter website for details about a club drive and weekend in Denver for this exciting event!

## **DRIVE, PICNIC, AND CLUB MEETING!**

**Saturday, August 20, 2005, 10:00am**

**Shawnee Mission Park, Park Shelter #1**

Meet everyone at Barley's Brewhaus parking lot at the SE corner of Midland and I-435 at 10:00am. From there we will take a hour long drive and then head over to our picnic site at Shawnee Mission Park. Bring your own food to grill. The club will provide pop and water. Bring your frisbees, cars, sunscreen, dogs, kids, and anything else to join us for a fun day at the park!!!

## **Big Brothers/Big Sisters' A Night at the Races**

**Saturday, September 10, 2005**

**Kansas Speedway**

Volunteers drive little Brothers and Sisters around the Speedway in their own cars. Last year the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Kansas City raised a record \$120,000 on their annual auction and drive. Let's help them raise more this year! Please contact Michael Lawrence at (816) 777.2888 or michael@itsabigdeal.org for more information or to sign up.

## **BMW CCA Oktoberfest 2005**

**September 18-23, 2005**

**Greesboro, NC**

Registration information and forms will appear in future issues of the *Roundel* magazine but for event info check out [www.tarheelbmwcca.org/oktoberfest](http://www.tarheelbmwcca.org/oktoberfest).

## **Oktoberfest and German Car Show**

**Saturday, September 24, 2005**

**Springfield Brewing Company**

305 South Market Avenue, Springfield, MO; Tel. (417) 832-TAPS.

Join our Springfield subchapter for a showing of German cars and tasting of beers. More details will be posted so keep an eye out in the next Milepost or on the Yahoo Announcement Group!

# President's Page

This is the first year in at least 12 years that our chapter has not held its driving school. Heartland Park is repaving the entire course displacing a few driving schools from other clubs as well, and there are no other free weekends to move it to. Heartland Park is going to have an open track day for us and the other displaced clubs on July 13<sup>th</sup> to get our fix in before they start the work. Register via the link on our website and come out and join us if you can. We are all very anxious to see the work done as it has been a pretty rough surface in some parts for a few years now. Next year should bring a whole different experience as they are getting a whole series of upgrades giving the whole complex a new look. Our club is even responsible for a few new trees out there from money raised during parade laps the past few years. All this in preparation for the Sports Car Club of America's run offs which are moving from Mid-Ohio.

This July will also mark the first time our club has gone out and worked on a house for Habitat for Humanity. In the past we have raised money for them and this year we decided to go out and put some sweat equity into a project in midtown Kansas City on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you can help at [chvossler@yahoo.com](mailto:chvossler@yahoo.com). Any skills can be utilized including even those with no skills can help. I hope to see you there.

We will also be having a picnic out at Shawnee Mission Park on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Watch our newly redesigned website for details on what to bring. August 10<sup>th</sup> is one of my favorite annual events. BMW NA holds an event that is fun and for charity. The Susan G. Komen drive for the cure is where any licensed driver gets to drive a new BMW and each mile driven yields \$1 for breast cancer foundation. Register at [www.bmwusa.com](http://www.bmwusa.com) and look under the BMW experience section.

On July 9<sup>th</sup> our very own Chris Conant is putting on an Auto Cross school out at Arrowhead Stadium parking lot. Chris has been devoting a lot of time lining up some top notch instructors for us as well as coordinating the location and all the other details. This auto cross school is for all skill levels from those who

have never even seen an autocross to national autocross trophy winners. Lunch will be provided and the cost of the school also includes an autocross on a Sunday with the SCCA. Come one and come all!

On a personal note I wore our new club T-shirt to my last duathlon and ended up talking with quite a few folks about our club. There was even another M3 sedan there with a roof rack toting his bike. I also ran into someone I hadn't seen in a few years that had been told about Ned and my One Lap experience from a friend in Colorado! The new club logo t-shirts, polo's, decals, and hats have been a tremendous success and all the credit goes to Patrick Smith who took this bull by the horns and got the new logo done. He then went and got the print bids and saw it all the way through. Thanks Patrick!

A big thanks also goes to Scott Goodwin and all the volunteers that helped put on Street Teen Survival School the first weekend in May at the Woodlands. It was a great safe learning environment for teens and we plan to hold another one next spring.

Finally, we are planning a trip to Denver to see the 2005 Speed World Challenge and see Bimmerworld and Turner Motorsports race against some very fast competition. Watch our web site for developments on this.

## Contacting the BMW CCA National Office

To submit a change of address for the Roundel, or if it's the middle of the month and you haven't received your Roundel, or if you have any other membership questions that need to go to the National Office, the address is:

BMW CCA, Inc.  
640 South Main St. Suite 200  
Greenville, SC 29601

You can also call at (864) 250-0022. The National Office can be contacted Monday thru Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Central Time.

# Black & Blue

by Meg Vanderliest

by Joshua Ramsey

Gulp. My car hit 60k miles yesterday. It was kind of an exciting feeling as I watched the 5 and the 9's roll over but at the same time, I wanted to shake my head NO and put the car in reverse. There were 42K miles on the car when I bought it in November 2003 and it's hard to believe I have since then driven 18K miles. Sure I have taken a few minor trips here and there but I only live 20 blocks from work. Where the heck am I driving??? I would say my core group of friends vote me to drive when we go out but actually it's quite the opposite. Most of them don't know how to drive a manual and I definitely don't need them to get stuck trying to figure it out on a whim so we just take another vehicle.

I guess the real dread I felt has to do with the Inspection II I am about to open a small loan on and the fact that I want to kick myself for not knowing much about my car. As I am sure you all have done, I looked at the service manual and boy is that list long! I have determined I can MAYBE do a few things on the list ...check the blinkers (fluid), press on the brakes, look at the latches, mirrors, etc but mostly it is beyond my scope. I am hopeful that Josh will help me knock off a few more items but even then there will still be a lot to do. To be able to spend a Saturday completing some of the maintenance or modifications I read about on the yahoo group would be great. Once upon a time, I thought it was really cool that I could change the oil in my old car and did it regularly. These days however, I can't even imagine the struggle of getting underneath my car as it sits so low and then if I could, have the knowledge to take off the protection shield, change the oil and get it back on without forgetting something or stripping the screws.

Why I don't just ask? The answer...I'm embarrassed that I don't know a thing about a car I love so much, I'm shy, I'm afraid I will do something wrong, I don't know who to ask, I'm a girl. Yea, yea they seem like excuses but for a gal that lives 800 miles away from dad, it's not like I can go home one weekend or he can easily coach me through it. In any case, there is no real answer but that doesn't mean I don't want to learn. I guess for me, some of this stuff seems way too basic to cover in a tech session especially since I know others would like to complete more complex jobs but if we could, I bet there would be a few folks who would find it beneficial. As an editor, I am privy to other newsletters and some of the chapters offer basic tech sessions for new owners or chick tech sessions on a semi-regular basis. This might definitely be an idea for me to cultivate in our chapter for the future but until then...cha-ching goes my credit card!

This month's column is very hard to write. I want to talk about BMW and all of the club events we have coming up, but I can't stop thinking about the Supreme Court. This is a car newsletter, so I will just say, look up the recent Supreme Court decision regarding land owners' rights and eminent domain. I hope you don't own land that someone wants to buy.

I will refrain from jumping on a soapbox. Let's talk about BMW.

Anyone want to know how to change their own oil? Do you know how to flush your coolant properly? How about a brake fluid flush? Spark plug change? Better yet, have you changed a flat tire on your BMW? Want to change that burnt-out bulb, but just lack the expertise?

Well, my friends you are in luck. We are putting together a tech session for people who don't know how to change out their differential... and don't want to know. A Tech Session of Basics. Nothing complicated, just lessons on the things everyone needs to know how to do, but we seem to be forgetting.

BMW Assist cannot always come to the rescue. Grasp your independence and change that tire quickly and be done before the operator can even take you off of the hold queue.

Feel the pride as you change the oil on your BMW and save yourself \$50 bucks. When was the last time your brake fluid was flushed? Don't know, but don't want to take it in? Give new life to that pedal and learn something about your Ultimate Driving Machine. Remember, brakes are what keep us from destroying that precious machine. I don't mean the car, I am talking about you.

Yes, you might (will) get dirty. But remember playing in the dirt as a child, wasn't it fun? Now you can play, get dirty, save some money, learn something about your car, AND if that wasn't enough, meet some really cool people. We have about 30 to 40 people show up at the monthly meetings, and all of them are passionate about BMW, but mostly we just want to have fun.

Don't forget, while you are at the next meeting, pick up some shirts, maybe even a hat. They look good and you are guaranteed to get a conversation started when someone asks, "They have a BMW club?"

# BMW CCA Membership Reward Program

BMW of North America has extended the BMW CCA Membership Reward Program through 2005. BMW CCA members in good standing for at least one continuous year at the time of purchase may be eligible for a substantial allowance on the purchase or lease of a new or Certified Pre-Owned BMW through an authorized BMW center.

These are the reward amounts:

7 Series all models	\$1,500
5 Series all models	\$1,000
X5 all models	\$1,000
3 Series all models	\$500
Z4 roadster	\$500
Certified Pre-Owned Autos	\$500

Z8 and MINI are excluded from this program.

Official terms and conditions, eligibility requirements, and check request forms can be obtained by contact-

ing BMW CCA by phone (1-864-250-0022), e-mail (bmwclub@aol.com), or online (www.bmwcca.org and click on BMW CCA Services., then "Membership Reward Check Request").

This is a BMW of North America program just for BMW CCA members who have been members for at least one continuous year without any lapses. Please don't request extensions or waivers because exceptions aren't allowed.

This is one of the best reasons to make sure you renew your membership on time. You should receive a renewal notice in plenty of time. When you do, send it in right away to avoid any potential problems. In any event, check your membership expiration date (on your BMW CCA member ID card) to make sure you're not too close to missing your renewal. If you have any questions, contact the National Office at (864) 250-0022.



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-Robert Mosley, BMWCCA Member

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# PART I: AN OBSESSION IS BORN

by Darcie Eddy

It all began so innocently. It was a relationship born of the Internet. I could dress the lovely Miss Jones up, dress her down, even take off her top if I so desired. In fact, the website encouraged it. If I wanted, I could send her picture to my friends. I began to covet those stolen moments from my working day to access the website. I was free to look as much as I wanted. There was only one restriction. I had to let her be topless 90% of the time.

Sorry fellas, Miss Jones is not Miss December, but rather a pinup of the automotive kind. She is a Mini Cooper S Convertible. And how I loved her from afar. You may be wondering how someone could name a car that they had never seen in person, sat in, drove, or even took out to dinner. Honestly, I can't say except that I loved her from the moment of website creation. She was my baby, way before I dropped several grand to own her.

Finally, friends grew tired of my incessant discussion over color schemes and automatic versus manual transmissions, and insisted I actually get out and drive a MINI. So I did. And the obsession grew. That first ride was in a regular Mini automatic Convertible, with only 115 horsepower, she was sluggish. But I grinned like a fool with the top down as we did donuts in a parking space. As I drove her through town, with people waving like we were on parade, I realized the motto, "More Smiles per Mile," was true, and should apply to me.

The next MINI was a Cooper S hardtop with the John Cooper Works kit installed. At 210 horsepower, we flew. We hit speeds necessitating a 5-point harness and helmet before we got on the highway. This was fun, but the convertible called to me. Suddenly, I felt so confined in a regular car. I needed to have the top down, with the wind in my hair.

So we returned to the dealer. I, like most people who get out there and test-drive a MINI, threw practicality out the window. I HAD TO HAVE a MINI convertible. But the dealer broke my heart. They had limited orders and couldn't get what I wanted until September. September was much

too far away to even consider. So then the psycho stalking of every MINI dealership in the country began. The conversation went something like this, "Hello, New York? (Or Philadelphia, or Sacramento, or you name it, I called) "How soon could I get a MINI Cooper S Convertible? Not until August?" I felt like I was being rejected by every employer, prom date, and grad school around – no one could help satisfy my need for an entirely unnecessary car. Then I called St. Louis. Yes, they could help, but at what price? I won't tell you here, but I caved to their demands.

So, I ordered the MINI, just the way I wanted her, Chili Red, automatic, premium and cold weather packages, with bonnet stripes and chrome grill to come. It was a 4-week wait. Just ask anyone, it felt like 40. Every day I checked the Owner's Lounge. Where was she? Was she in production yet? Had she left England yet? I gave status updates to anyone who would listen. I called my salesman, sometimes just to say hi. Other times, I interrogated him, should I get the alarm, or how did he feel about the 10,000 mile oil changes? Lets just say, even the receptionist knew my voice.



Staff Photo

And then it happened. She was here – at the dealer, patiently waiting for me. It was a Monday, so I decided that I was feeling very ill that day, and took some much-needed sick leave to take the incredibly slow train to St. Louis. I was like a kid the day before their birthday. I wanted my present NOW. Finally, six hours later, the train pulled into the Amtrak station, and there was my salesman, waiting to unite me with the lovely Miss Jones. He assured me she was as beautiful in person as she was on the website. He whispered sweet nothings to me, words like twisties and responsive handling. Things that currently mean nothing to me, as my last car was the very efficient, but very unexciting Jetta TDI, but I'm sure, after the break in period is over, will become my mantra. So look for me at the next club meeting. I'll be the girl with the big dumb grin, ready to tell you all about the latest adventure with Miss Jones. Speaking of adventures, just wait until the next edition of the Milepost, I'll tell you all about the adventure at mile 363.

# Mr. Excitement's AutoX

by Doug Hitchcock

The Bimmer Brothers have continued their rampage through this summer's autocross events, racking up 11 first-place finishes over three recent events at Truman Sports Complex.

Chris Conant in "Ole Red," his E30 M3, consistently sets an example for all autocrossers.

Conant continued his domination of Street Touring X by taking first place finishes and beating off the Subarus at events May 1, May 15, and June 5. He's got a target on his back, as Subie racers in class are increasingly hungry to say they beat Ole Red.

So far, kids, they ain't. But don't kid yourself ... Conant's keeping his eye on them, too.

Mike VanAmburgh didn't seem to miss his E36 M3 too much during the month or so it was out of commission. On May 1, he scored second place in Street Modified driving Christian Els' black 1988 325is, which, incidentally, Mike owned previously.

Even more striking, on May 15 VanAmburgh drove Doug Hitchcock's red 1989 325i DSP car to first place in Street Mod 2, whipping one very quick, well-driven Porsche 911T and flatout humiliating a Boxster and a Honda S2000.

Mike's time that day in Hitchcock's car was 45.666, quicker by 1/10th of a second than even Chris Conant in Ole Red, which he drove to 13th place in class at last year's autocross nationals.

To top things off, VanAmburgh got his M3 back in time for the June 5 autocross. He won B Stock handily, besting his nearest competitor by more than 1.5 seconds and landing Eighth Place overall, out of 124 drivers.

To put it simply, Mike V. is one helluva driver, folks, able to overcome inferior cars etc. to post some blazing times.

Christian Els brought his 1988 325is back to the action at Lot L on May 1, and he spanked Doug Hitchcock (figuratively, of course) to win D Street Prepared by a margin of about 2 seconds.

On May 15, Els did not compete, so Hitchcock won DSP. Interestingly, Hitchcock's time that day was just a second

or so behind Conant, setting a personal best and earning 32nd overall among 109 drivers.

On June 5, Els returned and once again punished Hitchcock, winning DSP by a 3.3 second margin. Hitchcock also inherited the mantel of Bimmer Spinner by executing a clean 360 while exiting a decreasing radius righthander. "My Hoosiers overheated," he said. "That's my story and I'm sticking to it."

Meanwhile, new drivers are bolstering the Bimmer Brothers ranks, including Benjamin Cheng in his modded Arctic Silver E36 328is, Jonathan Tasler in his red E46 M3, Ty Staples in his Silver E46 M3, and Kyle Bagby in his black E46 M3.

During three or four autocrosses, Tasler and Staples have emerged as serious competitors who are gleefully demonstrating the potential of their deadly rides. Both are posting quick times and challenging the other Bimmer Brothers to go faster.

Likewise, Bagby always seems to put on a show. At the June 5 autocross he not only did a sweet 180-degree spin, but somehow kept the throttle nailed the entire duration of the spin, culminating in a stock-still burnout the likes of which one rarely sees by a Bimmer. A cloud of smoke enveloped the car before he skeeched around to finish the course.

Michael and Ritchie Bell manage to tap their own inner delinquents too at the May 15 and June 5 events. They were autocrossing a red 1992 525i 5-speed which they recently bought "at a garage sale."

Yes, that's a 5er you see sqawking off the line and fishtailing through the slaloms!

Yeehaw!

Deadlines for this article precluded any coverage of the June 19 Father's Day autocross, but Conant, VanAmburgh, Els, Hitchcock, Tasler, and Staples were all registered to compete.

Stay Tuned for more from Mr. Excitement, and remember, kids, Zinnoberrot Rocks and E30s Rule. Sorta.

# One Lap of America...

by Chuck Vossler

The One Lap bug bit Ned and I last year when the 2004 One Lap came to Heartland Park Topeka and we went to watch. We didn't go to together, I was leaving as Ned was arriving. As Ned walked up, I rolled down the window and he said, "We need to do this someday." After months of discussion with the families we decided go for it. The next few months were spent securing sponsors and prepping the car.

The steed chosen for the 2005 One Lap was my 1998 M3 sedan.

We only modified the suspension (ground control coil overs/swaybars) and strengthened the chassis. Fun electronic additions included an Ipod, laptop, GPS, Radar/Laser detector, CB radio, Blackberry, Blue Tooth, bear tracker radio detector and Motorola radios.

Guiding us in our endeavor, we looked to none other than BMW CCA President, Scott Blazey. Having run OLOA in an e36M3 twice, his advice was invaluable. Scott advised us as to what to expect and how to prep the car. One thing haunted me that later rang true, "even 2 or 3 hours in a hotel bed and a shower" is worth the money.

We started One Lap in our highest position when I scored a 31<sup>st</sup> place on the wet skid pad with our Michelin Pilot Sport 2's. From there, our position fell consistently. One Lap is heavily weighted towards high power to weight ratio and being able to drive 10/10ths. The top ten teams all pushed over 600hp cars. Each track has a standing start; there were drag races and even a supercharged cop car could

beat most BMW's in One Lap. Our goal was to complete the journey and have a great time losing.

We ended up traveling from track to track with a rat pack of M3's. Also included was another e36 M3 sedan driven by the Berghausen Father and Son team and the RimPro e46M3 driven by the Crazy New Englanders Steve Ostrovitz and Tom Merrifield.

My favorite part of One Lap was the in between track time where we met great people from all over, traveled in packs and drag raced the occasional unsuspecting convertible Pontiac Sunfire. Ostrovitz even convinced a waitress to do cartwheels in the restaurant while we were eating one of our only sit down meals.

The Kansas City chapter was very instrumental in helping us complete our journey; we stayed in constant contact with them via Ned's Blackberry sending emails and updating our blog (a webpage diary). My favorite blog was:

"5/4/05, Day 5, 1/2 past midnight and about 3000 miles. Peanut M&Ms, dark curvy Virginia state roads, and varmints. I was driving just past midnight and Ned was dead asleep. After rounding a sharp corner I looked up from my M&M's and there was a possum. There was nothing I could do. A loud thud quickly followed by a louder "WHUMP" and our trailing e46M3 called out, "You got all of that one! It just log rolled right by us!"

*Story continues on page 12...*



# ...Two Drivers' Perspectives

by Ned Smith

One Lap for me was more about the people than the cars or the races. A pipe dream at first, it became real in February when I received an e-mail from Chuck saying that he had paid our full entry fee and that I could pay him my half at my convenience. As with many things in my life, I jumped in with two feet instead of feeling the water. We were entered! Chuck and I have known each other for six years but have never done more than sit together at one of our annual dinners. We were now going to spend 8-9 full days together! As we pulled out of Chuck's driveway on our way to South Bend I looked over at Chuck and said, "We are either going to be the best of friends when this thing is over or we may never speak again." Just then I killed his car at the stop light and moments later he spilled his burrito in the seat. We were off to a *great* start.



Our hearts jumped as we approached Tire Rack on the highway and proceeded there to check-in and put our official One Lap stickers on the car. Upon our arrival I saw a 1978 Caprice Classic driving next to a brand new Radical (motorcycle powered kit car that handles more like a go-cart). Then I knew that One Lap was not the average driving event.

We did a pretty good job of putting the stickers on the car but neither one of us wanted to try to put the Tire Rack windshield sticker on as we both knew we would not get it right. That is when the guy that was parked next to us offered to help. He was Steve Ostrovitz, one of the "Rim

Pro Guys". Little did we know we would spend more time with Steve and his partner Tom Merrifield in the next eight days than we had with any of our best friends over the past year!

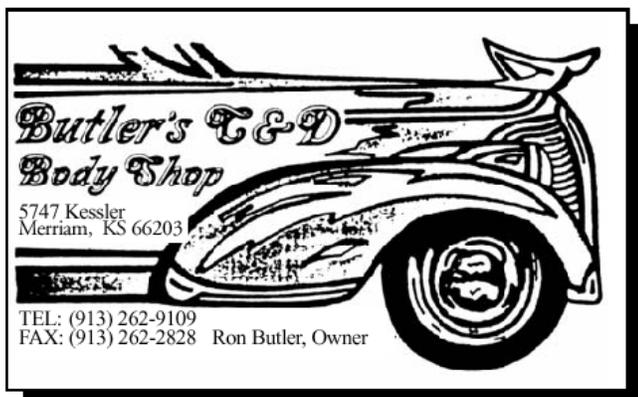
That night, our last night to have a sit-down meal, we had dinner with Steve Wasley and Ron Janeczko. Steve had completed two previous One Laps and mapquested all of the routes. We showed him the route book that my mother (Joyce Smith) put together for us and traded notes. After dinner Steve threw me the keys to his 2002 M5 and said, "Why don't you drive?" Who was I to say no? As we approached the hotel he said, "Keep going, there is a good curvy section ahead!"

I won't go into all of the stories as our blog tells the story pretty well. On the Club website at: [www.kcbmwclub.com](http://www.kcbmwclub.com)

I would like to thank our sponsors:

- Baron BMW supported us financially and provided labor and parts for the car. A special thank you to Charles Clay, Tod Hartje, Ron Brant, Larry Miller and Marion Bataglia. Baron did a great job for us and they are very interested in helping club members upgrade their cars.
- Bushnell provided sunglasses and radar guns to our team.
- Butler C&D reinforced the chassis of Chuck's car. Ron is a great friend of the club.
- KC Trends mounted and balanced our tires and wheels. Great service and great prices for club members.
- Cobalt Friction Technologies – Gave us a great discount on brakes. Cobalt brakes (Cobalt, Hawk and Axxis) are truly the best brakes on the market.

I would also like to thank Steve and Tom, "The Rim Pro Guys" and Sasha and Phillip Berghausen for a great week. I have not laughed so hard at 3:30 to 4:45 in the morning sober ever! The great thing was that I could remember what was so funny the next day. I truly hope that we



Story continues on page 13...

Chuck's story continued from page 10.

Thankfully the varmint didn't do any harm to the car and Ned didn't even stir. One of Porsche cars has been selling stickers of different road kill one lap cars have hit. So we are going to get a possum sticker and put it on the car. One car apparently has 3 so far.-Chuck" A total of 14 stickers were given out over the week.

Another great blog:

"Day 6 mile 4051 9:45 pm. We had just found the holy grail of road food for me-Chick-fil-A in Charlotte, and were about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way into our 800 mile jaunt. Ned had just tried to find the rev limiter in 4th gear to correlate track speed when a couple of minutes later the check engine light came on. No big deal I said we had just filled gas and maybe the gas cap was loose but then it happened. The engine started making a shuddering vibration and loosing power on the interstate we could not maintain speed going up a hill. We motorola'd our traveling partners in the e46M3 and the Cooper Works Mini that we were in trouble. We pulled off under a bridge and set up some emergency triangles. As Steve O and I trouble shot, Tom called a BMW engine mechanic in Boston.

It sounded like a loose plug to me. Upon restart the power loss didn't seem as bad and we decided to limp it off the interstate to a citgo gas station. We pulled the engine cover off and found plug #5 with a missing prong and #1 loose. Walmart was right next to where we stopped and I ran over there looking for spark plugs, which I thought was unlikely in Mt Airy, NC at 10pm. Unbelievably they had the right bosch plugs and they didn't need gapped. I bought 6.

I ran back across the parking lot and we were like a regular pit crew. Two guys on cell phones with engine experts Charles at Baron BMW in Kansas City and one in Boston rattling off torque specs and wrench sizes from memory. We changed them all with the mini's spark plug socket and fired it up and problem cured! Put the engine cover on and were back on the road in total time of less than an hour. It was amazing to see the help we got from guys who stopped during our longest leg. This is what one lap was all about."

With the check engine light still on, Roundel Tech Editor, Brett Anderson helped us out with our friend's supercharged M coupe's code reader while we were in the paddock in Ohio. He found a misfire in cylinder 4 which he said most likely happened from a bad plug wire. He said his

shop was 20 miles away and he would call and have the parts ready.

After running Nelson Ledges Track twice, we drove to Brett's shop, Koala Motorsports. We pulled into the garage, the guys dropped everything and changed the plugs and wires, and we were back on the road in 20 minutes! Thanks Brett and Pete!

My most exhausted moment came on day 6 at 4:30 in the morning when we were just lying down. I came up with the most apt analogy of One Lap; it is like 2 people running a wine tasting marathon in Napa Valley. You get two sips to share or not share and then you have to run another marathon to the next winery and repeat for 6 more days.

Ned and I wanted to drive the entire event individually so dividing up the tracks was tough. The top cars only had one person driving the tracks. We chose to split the tracks up even though it hurt our standings. We knew weren't going to win OLOA w/ 240 hp so our plan was to finish in one piece. It was an exhausting trip but an absolute blast made better by the other BMW nuts we met and traveled with along the way.

---

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# Street Survival Success

by Scott Goodwin

Our first Street Survival course was conducted on May 1, 2005 at The Woodlands and by all accounts, I would have to say it was a tremendous success.

My hat is off to everyone who participated and to all the volunteers without whom this would have been impossible. While I would like to name everyone, there just isn't space for that. However, I would like to say a special thank you to Mike Staub for getting the cones, generator, air compressor, and EZ-up. I know that was a hassle especially when we didn't even use the generator or air compressor. I couldn't believe none of the cars required air!

We had 28 students signed up and 23 actually participated. Most of those who didn't participate had children under the age of 16 and had to bow out. We had one senior moment where the parent forgot to mark the calendar. Bummer! I received several emails from parents and students congratulating us on an outstanding job. Some even want to do it again.

This was the third largest class conducted so far this year and would have been the second largest if all

28 signups had participated. The Golden Gate chapter had 39 earlier this year. Considering the size of that chapter, I don't feel so bad about our low turnout. This is a wonderful and worthwhile event that all teenagers should participate in and we must find a way to get the word out better next time. If anyone has any suggestions, let me know.

After adding up all the expenses, we lost money on the event but the Foundation will reimburse the club for that. It will take 40 students to make money on an event like this in the future. A special thanks to Josh Ramsey for saving us some bucks on the printing as well or it would have been even worse.

Once again, thank you so much to everyone who helped make this a tremendous success. The venue was perfect and will be even better next time when we can get the larger lot.

## Shameless Club Plug

Buy some cool club merchandise.

Email Patrick Smith at  
secretary@kcbmwclub.org for more info

*Ned's story continued from page 11.*

can one day either do One Lap again or have a reunion weekend. I consider all of them great friends and will always live by the motto of "Dude, you've still got another gear!!"

Steve's wife is battling cancer and they raised money for a support group that has been a great help to her and his family called the Young Survival Coalition. Chuck and I did not raise money for charity as many teams did. We would like to encourage all club members to donate to the

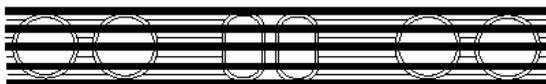
charity. Should you choose to donate, please follow the directions on this page: <http://cannonball.rimpro.com> Please add a note in the comment section stating that you are a Kansas City BMW Club member and that you wish to support **Judy Ostrovitz**.

I would also like to thank Chuck for being a great team mate and friend. We are definitely still speaking and I consider he and his family very good friends.

My mother provided the best route book we could have had. Between our route book and Sasha's GPS system we did not get lost often.

Most importantly I need to thank Anita, my wife for allowing me to take part in this adventure. I know it was not easy to be home for nine days alone with a two year old. I missed both of them greatly and while I would have liked to experience the event with them I know that it was not the type of trip she would enjoy or that Evan is ready for. Thanks for letting me have an experience of a lifetime!!

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**1988 BMW M5** Black on tan, apx 157K miles, excellent mechanics, no dings or dents. Springs, bilsteins, chip, cam gear, Miglia 1000 5 star mags, Dunlop SP500. \$7000. Contact Keith at (620) 421-1950 or email at [keith@maloneyins.com](mailto:keith@maloneyins.com)

**1988 BMW M5** Black on tan, apx 131K miles, drivers seat bolster worn, excellent mechanics and cosmetics. New springs, shocks, BBS, Dunlop, chip, short shifter kit and strut bar. \$12000. Contact Keith at (620)421-1950 or email at [keith@maloneyins.com](mailto:keith@maloneyins.com)

**2003 Mini Cooper S** Liquid yellow with black top, apx 16K miles, 6 speed, TSW 17" wheels, new Avon Tech M500 tires, Cross drill rotors, AP racing brakes, H&R racing springs, Koni shocks, Magnaflow exhaust, BPM air intake, water injector intercooler, Nology racing plug wires, Sparco short shifter. Alpine 5.1 digital surround sound. \$25000. Call Keith at (620) 421-1950 or email at [keith@maloneyins.com](mailto:keith@maloneyins.com).

## AUTOMOBILES - OTHER

**2001 2500 GMC Yukon XL** Metallic Blue with natural leather, apx 47K miles, supercharged 8.1 liter with intercooler, 500+ hp, 600lb ft torque. Upgraded engine, driveline, transmission, exhaust. Options include onstar, XM, Homelink. \$29500. Contact Keith at (620) 421-1950 or [keith@maloneyins.com](mailto:keith@maloneyins.com)

## WHEELS AND TIRES

### Wheels

For 320i, 14X6 Weds wheels, black cross spoke, polished rims \$250. 14" Six spoke, MSW Motoring for E30, \$150. Contact Jim at (913) 642-1380.

### Wheels and Tires

4 OEM Chromadora 5 spokes with AO32 255/50ZR 16" Yokos. Have been through 3 driving schools and will fit any E36 and Z3. Make an offer! Contact Woody at (816) 523-8356 or [wunderwood@kc.rr.com](mailto:wunderwood@kc.rr.com)

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## PARTS AND ACCESSORIES

**BMW Transmission:** Stock 4-speed from a 1973 2002tii. 173K miles on the engine when removed. Works well. \$50.

**Borbet Wheels:** 4 Borbet 5 spoke 15x7 wheels. Fits older 5,6,7 series. Has a couple of scratches but overall in nice condition. \$150.

**Tii Steel Wheels:** 4 stock steel 13x5 wheels. Tires are still mounted but are old and worn. \$50.

**BMW Doors:** Left and Right doors from 1973 2002tii. California care but one has minor rust. Inka orange and includes stock drivers side mirror. \$10 for both.

Contact Chris at (913) 680-1977 or email at [erinchriss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:erinchriss@sbcglobal.net).

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Contact Scott Goodwin at 913-7217-1998 or [proeagles@kc.rr.com](mailto:proeagles@kc.rr.com)

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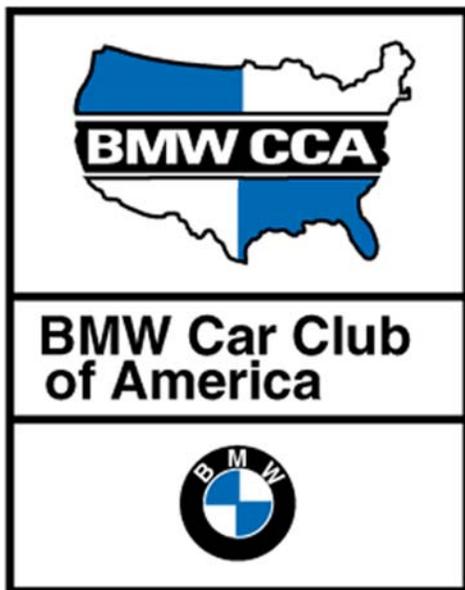


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## **KC BMW CCA Calendar July / August**



**07.09.2005 Saturday: All Day**

BMW AutoX School  
Truman Sports Complex, Lot L.

**07.21.2005 Thursday: 6pm**

Club Meeting and Cruise Night  
Berliner Bear - 7815 Wornall Rd; Kansas City, MO

**07.30.2005 Sunday: All Day**

Habitat for Humanity  
1423 E Linwood Blvd; Kansas City, MO

**08.10.2005 Wednesday: All Day**

Susan G. Komen Drive for a Cure  
Baron BMW - Merriam, KS

**08.20.2005 Saturday: 10 am**

Club Drive and **Picnic!!!**  
Shawnee Mission Park - Park Shelter #1

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To catch the latest in club events, sign up for the announcement emails on our website at: [www.kcbmwclub.org](http://www.kcbmwclub.org). If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [jramseyku@yahoo.com](mailto:jramseyku@yahoo.com) or 785.550.6342.