

River City Bimmers
P.O. Box 382305
Germantown, TN 38183-2305
www.rivercitybimmers.org

PSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEMPHIS, TN
PERMIT NO. 374

BMW Car Club
of America
River City Bimmers



Der Fahrersitz

The Newsletter for the River City Bimmers

January - April 2011

3 with a 4



Also in this issue:

New slate of officers • Street Survival set for September • New chapter branding?

Memphis' Finest!

**JOE STEWART
BODY SHOP**

"The Mark of Excellence"
Since 1969



2916 Summer Avenue • 901.323.2296

Indoor Drive-In Estimating Available

www.joestewartbodyshop.com



New Steeds in the Corral

Top: Simon Vinson's 2012 335is

Far Left: Kurt Galbraith's "new"
E32 Turbocharged 735i

Near Left: David Usilton's
revitalized E28.



River City Bimmers
P.O. Box 382305
Germantown, TN 38183-2305
www.rivercitybimmers.org
Chapter Officers and Staff
President/ Newsletter Editor
Greg Aplin • 901.212.9098
otto99@roadfly.com
Vice-President
Kurt Galbraith • 901.409.2122
dentman247@yahoo.com
Treasurer
Dick Carruth • 901.210.5399
Rdcarruth@aol.com
Secretary
Mike Windham • 901.484.1744
m3mike98@yahoo.com
Arkansas Officer at Large
Stuart Bennett • 501.259.0483
skbenett71@gmail.com
Mississippi Officer at Large
TBD
Membership Chair
Greg Flint • 901.517.9626
Membership@rivercitybimmers.org
Driving Events Chair
James Parker • 901.383.2853
james3342@comcast.net
Social Chair
Ed Sapinsley • 901.497.3866
eps.3@hotmail.com
Website
Juan Larin • 901.383.2853
j.larin@att.net

Welcome New Members!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alberto Alcala, Memphis, TN | Dennis Tutor, Collierville, TN |
| Brian Badger, Germantown, TN | Jared Baker, Cordova, TN |
| Kim Badger, Germantown, TN | Raymond Berglund, Memphis, TN |
| Robert Bonner, Cordova, TN | Janet Brown, Southaven, MS |
| Susan Bonner, Cordova, TN | Rebecca Hilbner, Cordova, TN |
| Edward Efke, Germantown, TN | Juan Larin, Horn Lake, MS |
| Lee Johnson, Little Rock, AR | Ryan Mills, Bartlett, TN |
| Terrence Knowlton, Memphis, TN | Ed Sapinsley, Germantown, TN |
| Drew Mecca, Cabot, AR | Simon Vinson, Cordova, TN |
| Andrew Polnicki, Maumelle, AR | Ryan Alverson, Little Rock, AR |
| Melvin Sacks, Port St. Lucie, FL | Mary Beth Graves, Bartlett, TN |
| Andrea Stevens, West Point, MS | Mark Powers, Cabot, AR |
| Harry Stevens, West Point, MS | Richard Sleep, Germantown, TN |
| John Long, Memphis, TN | Vicki Stavrum, Bartlett, TN |
| Adriane Page, Little Rock, AR | Steve Stoll, Cordova, TN |
| David Shanklin, Memphis, TN | |

We rely on National Office for this information, so if there's a misspelling of your name or location, please drop a line to otto99@roadfly.com so we can make sure we have the correct information.

Classic **901-433-9677**
europaean motors

Carolina Capote

HOBSON
REALTORS

901-761-1622
HobsonRealtors.com

Calendar of Events

April 14, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.

**Autocross
Millington Jetport**

April 14, 2012 - ~3:00p.m.

**Cookout at Tom Coughlin's
8485 Hwy 196, Eads, TN
Map available on Facebook page**

April 19, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.

**Dinner Meeting
Central BBQ
4375 Summer Ave., Memphis, TN
901.767.4692**

May 12 2012 - 9:00 a.m.

**Autocross
Millington Jetport**

May 17, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.

**Dinner Meeting
The Half Shell
7825 Winchester Rd., Memphis, TN
901.737.6755**

June 9, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.

**Autocross
Millington Jetport**

June 21, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.

**Dinner Meeting
Fox Ridge Pizza
1769 N Germantown Pkwy, Cordova, TN
(901) 758-6500**



Aplin Detail
Auto Care Service

- Interior Cleaning
- Swirl Mark Removal
- Headlight Restoration
- \$40 Wash, Wax, Vac
- Mobile Service Avail.

David Aplin - 901.626.7623
aplinautodetail@gmail.com



Call us today or stop by the shop at:
QUALITY DENT REPAIR
5055 Covington Way Suite 3
Memphis, Tn 34134
(901) 409-2122
www.qualitydentrepair.net

**CAR CLUB DISCOUNT IS 25%
OFF ANY PAINTLESS DENT
REPAIR**

QUALITY
DENT REPAIR
901-409-2122

BBB
ACCREDITED
BUSINESS

Free BMW tech help.

Have a technical question about your BMW or MINI? Our free tech blog – **blog.BavAuto.com** – has a searchable database containing hundreds of tech Q&As, do-it-yourself articles and videos. Just one more way Bavarian Autosport saves you money.



BAVARIAN
autosport
www.BavAuto.com • 800.535.2002

Check it out at blog.BavAuto.com...

Letter from the PresEditor

Well, you've done it now. For those of you who aren't regular attendees of our meetings and events, allow me to introduce myself. I'm Greg Aplin, your new President and still Newsletter Editor. I thank those responsible for the trust they have placed in me, and I tip my hat to the other brave and stalwart gentlemen who stepped up to fill the other positions on the board roster. I think it will be a good year for the club, and we have recently gained some new and enthusiastic members.

We have a full calendar of autocrosses and other driving events in the works, we are holding a Street Survival event later this year, and other activities are being discussed, so if there's something you'd like the club to consider, please drop any of the board members a note with your ideas.

Dinner meetings will continue every third Thursday at places to be announced. At press time, the next meetings places had not yet been scheduled, so please visit the website or the Facebook page to keep up with coming events between issues of the newsletter.

Disclaimer

This newsletter is a publication of the River City Bimmers (the Chapter) and its contents remain the property of the Chapter. The Chapter is not connected in any way with BMW A.G. or BMW N.A. All information furnished herein is provided by the membership of the Chapter for members only. The Chapter assumes no liability for any of the information contained herein. The ideas, opinions and suggestions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and no authentication is implied. Unless otherwise noted, none of the information in this newsletter is "factory approved". Permission is hereby granted to reproduce any material published herein provide full credit is given to the author and River City Bimmers, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED OR SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED.

Modifications within the warranty period of your BMW may void the warranty.

Now to reach out to the members we never see; you're out there, we know you're out there, and maybe even reading this right now. We want to be the club our members want us to be, but unless we hear from you, we have no idea what that is. So if anything in the previous list of events isn't your cup of tea, tell us what to brew and we'll make it happen.

I would also like to open discussion on re-branding the chapter to better reflect the broad geographic area our membership covers. It's time to at least take into consideration that we as a chapter no longer just serve the greater metro Memphis area, but also have members covering a large part of Arkansas and North Mississippi. I've heard it said that we don't need to change the branding, all we need to do is plan more stuff that includes more of the membership. Well, we've had more than ample opportunity to do just that and haven't, so perhaps by changing the branding to be more inclusive of our widely scattered membership, we may also change the way we plan events; changing starting times of events to allow more people to attend without leaving home at 4:00 am, finding more venues away from Memphis to hold occasional drives, dinner gatherings or whatever. If you like the idea, let me know. If you hate it, let me know. If you want to talk about other activities we as a club can do, let me know. And join us at a meeting or event if you haven't in a while. We'd love to see you.

Greg

Visit River City Bimmers online at www.rivercitybimmers.org or on Facebook. Post photos online on the website or on the Facebook page, keep up with meeting notifications, and get to know other members of our club.

Comments are always welcome. Send an e-mail to otto99@roadfly.com with comments, suggestions for articles, or whatever's on your mind!



The 4-Banger is Back!

It's been a while since you could sit behind a 4-cylinder BMW engine, but they are back, residing in the engine bays of the 328i and 528i. Replacing the 3 liter inline 6 of the past decade or so, this 2 liter, twin turbo 4 banger is slightly more powerful than the 6 it replaces, and quite a bit more efficient.

At idle, the engine seems a little rough, almost sounding slightly clattery, like a diesel. This is because the engine management system is do-

ing everything it's little electronic brain can do to lean out the fuel mixture, squeezing as much fuel economy as it can from normal use. There is a setting on the console that allows the driver to alter the car's programming - both engine mapping and suspension settings - that will allow the car to extract every bit of fuel efficiency from every drop, at the obvious expense of performance, but more on that later.

The new 3 Series, or F30, is the sixth generation of the marque's best seller, and it comports itself nicely among the ancestry. A larger car than any previous 3, the F30 platform is now easily as big as an E34 5 Series. and not far off from the E39. It still looks like a 3, and for 2012 is only available as a sedan, the E92 coupe soldiering on for another year. It comes in 4 and 6 cylinder versions, the 328i tested here along with the 335i turbocharged inline 6.

The one big difference in the new 3 is the way it's presented. There are three Lines - Sport, Modern, and Luxury - and all have to do with the trim specifications. The basic car is unchanged across the board, but if a Modern Line, like our tester, it has specific 18" wheels, specific colors of trim and woodwork for the cabin and silver matte finish exterior appointments, somewhat lost on our silver test car. The dash and steering wheel are the taupe color you see here whether or not you choose the oyster leather shown or the only other available color, black leather, which is particularly striking. The dials are very stylized (more than any BMW gauge EVER!), and a cool, textured wood trim that almost resembled horn was scattered across the dash, console, and doors. Other trim bits come in a matte silver or a pearlized tan.

Luxury Line gets two highly polished wood choices, chrome accents instead of matte silver,



Help us save BMW...

well at least a small part of it.

The Library, Archives, and Museum Program (LAM) has created a repository for BMW-related historical documents, literature, and paraphernalia, providing the public with access to rare and interesting BMW artifacts while ensuring their continued existence. This archive is housed in Greenville, South Carolina near the BMW CCA National Office and BMW Manufacturing.

Our growing Archives, Library, and Museum needs your tax-deductible donations. See our website for more info.

Join the Drive to Donate!



www.bmwccafoundation.org
864.329.1919

How to Contact the BMWCCA

640 South Main Street
Greenville, SC 29601
Phone: 864-250-0022
Fax: 864-250-0038

E-mail: questions@bmwcca.org
Website: www.bmwcca.org

Vice President,
North Central Region
Michael Lingenfelter
15106 Kampen Circle
Carmel, IN 46033
northcentralrvp@bmwcca.org



BMW Service • Parts • Accessories
Track Prep • Pre-Owned Autos
JOHN SCHEIDHAUER
901-377-1007
901-843-0428 Fax
1986 Fletcher Creek Drive
Memphis, TN 38133
bmwservice@alpineautoworks.com E-mail
alpineautoworks.com

2012 Autocross Schedule

Here's the autocross schedule for 2012 as set forth by all the clubs. All events are at Millington Jetport except those with MIR after them, which are at Memphis International Raceway. Please check the respective websites for times and any schedule changes

**April 14 BMW - 9:00 AM
April 21 PCA - MIR
Apr. 28-29 NASA**

**May 5-6 SCCA
May 12 BMW
May 19-20 NASA
May 26 PCA**

**June 9 BMW
June 23-24 NASA**

**July 7-8 SCCA
July 28-29 NASA**

**Aug 4-5 SCCA
Aug 18-19 NASA
Aug 25 PCA - MIR**

**Sep 8-9 SCCA
Sep 15-16 NASA
Sep 22 BMW
Sep 29 PCA**

**Oct 6-7 SCCA
Oct. 13-14 NASA
Oct 20 BMW
Oct 27 PCA**

**Nov. 3-4 NASA
Nov 17 PCA - MIR**

Dec 08 PCA - MIR

a different 18" wheel, and three choices of leather colors, black, beige (think off-white) and the stunning saddle tan.

Sport Line comes with a sportier suspension to accompany its unique 18" wheels, the seats - in black, red, or light gray - are more in keeping with the sport seats we know, but are a lot more detailed and styled, and the exterior trim is a gloss black. Shadowline? Well, not so much as black chrome. Interior trims are red or brushed silver.

All the new 3's have a switch on the console that changes the behavior of the car; Eco-Pro is the efficient one, and sucks the life right out of the car. Throttle response is sluggish, it feels as though you're starting off in third gear, the A/C only runs just enough to keep the cabin cool, etc. But, when in Eco-Pro mode, a 50 mph cruising speed was showing an instant reading of 65 mpg, so it has its benefits. The Comfort setting is what you would expect, a nice balance of ride and handling with a nod to ride, the steering effort is light, and the 8-speed transmission shifts seamlessly from cog to cog. Push the slider to Sport, and shift points are changed, the engine mapping swaps to a more aggressive coding, and the steering and handling get a sharper edge. The test 328i Modern Line still didn't feel like a car with the upgraded suspension, but it was a lot more fun than the normally suspended 328i of

2011. With the sport suspension installed on the Sport Line, the switch should only sweeten the car even more. We'll let you know.

Other packages are available across all three Lines, including Cold Weather (heated front/rear seats and steering wheel, hide-away headlight washers), Premium (moonroof, auto-dimming mirrors, lumbar support, power front seats with driver memory, Comfort Access keyless system, and universal garage door opener), Technology offers a heads up display and navigation, and other packages for parking assist, lane departure and stereo upgrade. Options across the board also include wheel mounted paddle shifters for the \$500 sport transmission, variable sport steering (apparently not included in the Sport Line), and a host of other things to make your 3 your own.

The 2012 328i starts at \$34,900. Our test 328i had the Premium, Comfort Access and Technology packages, bluetooth phone and entertainment integration and xenon headlights on top of the \$2,100 Modern Line additions, bringing the final tally to \$47,500 and change.

The end result is once again the benchmark for all compact sport sedans to target. Styling is fresh and evolutionary, the car is reasonably quick, handles well, and can deliver amazing efficiency if left alone to its own devices. The 2-liter 4 likes to rev, there's no turbo lag to speak of, and is a willing accomplice in pushing the laws of acceleration and lateral grip. If there has to be a criticism of the new engine package, it's that it would so benefit from the manual transmission of which so few of them will be equipped, but that's not the engine's fault.

Coupes, convertibles, and M cars are expected next year, and we will bring you a first hand report when they arrive. In the meantime, the new 3 Series sedan is everything a 3 should be, and they'll most likely sell every one they make.



Street Survival Set for September

A Street Survival Class is set for September 29th, and again we are fortunate enough to hold our event at the Memphis Police Academy and that fabulous expanse of asphalt they have that would be incredible for Autocross. But we digress.

Many hands are needed, both in the final planning stages as well as the day of. We are fortunate to have Ryan Mills and Jared Baker as our Street Survival coordinators, and they need to hear from you about lending a hand. Post to the Facebook page or e-mail Jared at jared@nosoupforyou.net



“Arkansas Bimmers” Facebook Group Turns 1!

The Facebook group of BMW owners in and around Little Rock that started a year ago held a birthday luncheon at the North Little Rock Old Chicago in February. A gorgeous line-up was to be found outside, and a lively group inside. The photo at the bottom is from a drive near Hot Springs in Late March. All Arkansas members are welcome to participate in the activities. For more information, contact Stuart Bennett, our Arkansas Officer at Large. His contact info is on page 11.



M3.
Enough said.

