

The Roadster

BMW Car Club
of America
Sandlapper



The official newsletter of the Sandlapper Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America

Volume 23 Issue 3



Euro Delivery and Fun at the Ring

President's Corner



Tim Dennison has been President for the past several years, but his company has relocated to Charlotte and that resulted in a move and new home for his family. He's still a Sandlapper living in Rock Hill, but was concerned that with all that new activity he would not have sufficient time to devote to the club. However, Tim has taken on the role of Webmaster so he's still connected.

I am happy to serve as club President and hope to continue to make Sandlapper an organization that provides value to its members. However, I'm not in this for a second career. I encourage others to be active in the club, bring your enthusiasm, bring your ideas, make a difference. I will be more than happy to turn over my scepter to someone else in 2 years.

Speaking of participation, I welcome our new Secretary Mike Radecki to the Sandlapper Board. It is positive to note that we had three candidates in the running for Secretary. Next year elections will be held for Vice President and Treasurer (elections alternate, Pres and Secretary one year, VP and Treasurer the next). John Anderson, Treasurer, has announced that he will not run for that position again so if you have an interest, please contact myself or John on what is involved in being Treasurer. We also have openings for a Regional Vice President for the Coastal/Myrtle Beach and Augusta/Aiken areas. If you want to develop a more active local group, this is your opportunity. I am also serving as Upstate Regional VP and would be happy to turn that over to someone. It's a great way to learn club operation and prepare for a Board position. Contact me and we'll hook you up.

I recently published a survey to the membership in an effort to gauge membership interest in various activities. My view of what is of interest is formed from those of you who attend the Upstate Region meetings for the most part so that can tend to be somewhat narrow. So, the survey is one tool to widen that view. I also intend to attend the other Regional monthly meetings during the year to meet more of you.

My electronic door is always open, if you need something or have something to contribute; tomlappin088@gmail.com

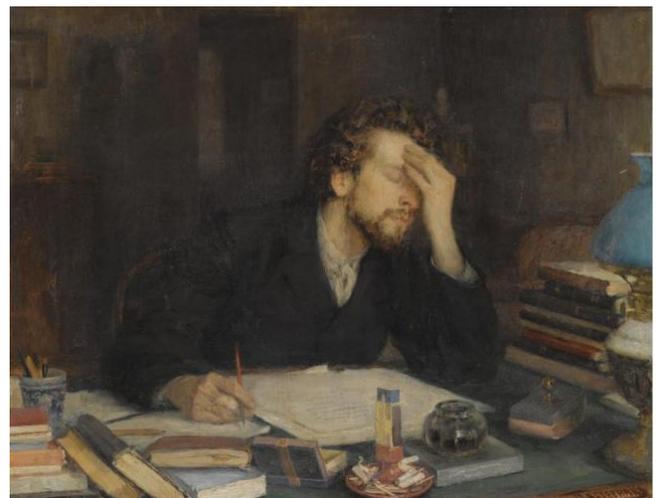
Tom Lappin

Stop Fake News - Become the Roadster's Editor

As you may be able to tell from this issue, I am playing Editor for this issue. Creative Writing, Journalism was not my major in college. The Chapter is looking for someone to serve as Editor of the quarterly newsletter. The position involves soliciting articles from members, beg, borrow, steal (with permission) articles of interest, add your own creative narrative and edit it all into a MS Publisher format quarterly publication. The newsletter is sent via an email list to membership and snail mailed to approximately 250 people that wish a paper version.

This could be your entry to a publishing empire. If you are interested, contact me:

Tom Lappin



Tom Lappin

A few months ago I sent out a survey with the objective to point the Board in a direction aligned with interests of the membership. We received 125 responses to the 10 basic questions and 33 general comments. That's about a 10% response rate which I understand is fairly good for surveys.

I've forwarded this to the Board and each Regional VP for development of an action plan for improvement.

There really were no surprises in my mind nor any dominant area of interest. Below are the

Area of Interest	Rating Score
Dinner drives (afternoon / evening)	3.2
Driving Tours (weekend)	3.6
Technical, maintenance, demos	4.0
High Performance Driving events	3.8
Autocross	3.6
Rallies (fun & TSD)	3.3
Social events, dinners	3.5
Driver Training	3.7
Go-Karting	3.3
Car Shows	3.8

European Delivery—Chris Joos Peachtree member

Sammy Hagar wrote “I Can’t Drive 55” after being pulled over for going 62 mph in a rental car outside of Albany, NY on his way to his cabin in Lake Placid. He was frustrated that the cop pulled him over for such a minor overage when he was on a four-lane road with no one else in sight, that he wrote a song about it.

I have to agree with Sammy – I can’t drive 55 either, but I can drive 155 mph (and sometimes faster), though it requires a plane ride over the pond to do it unless you’re on a racetrack! If you’ve ever wanted to legally fly past a cop going well over a hundred miles an hour, then Autobahns in Germany are the place to do it.

I’ve purchased many BMW’s over the years and I’ve found the best way to get one is through the BMW European Delivery Program. I’ve enjoyed the process so much that I have purchased nine BMW’s through the program and will hopefully soon be planning my tenth delivery.

So what is the European Delivery Program and how does it work? There are a lot of great resources that explain the European Delivery program including a section on the BMWUSA.com website and a dedicated forum thread on Bimmerfest.com, but here’s the “Readers Digest” version:

Pricing is 5% off U.S. MSRP (down from 7% off previously), but you can negotiate from there. The best pricing I have been able to get was 13% off MSRP.

The program includes the following (you get the discount plus all of this):

- Complimentary Munich Airport Shuttle
- 14 days of free insurance and registration
- Munich Factory Tour and BMW Museum Visit
- European Inland Transportation
- Marine Insurance
- Customs Duty and Clearance
- U.S. Port Processing
- Wharf and Handling Fees

You configure and purchase your new BMW from a BMW dealer here in the states indicating you want to take delivery in Munich. Note that the “X” vehicles except the X1 are produced in Spartanburg, SC and aren’t eligible for European Delivery, nor are the i3 or i8.

You submit a copy of your passport and three proposed dates in priority order of when you would like to pick up your car.

The dealer works with BMW N.A. to schedule the production to align with the agreed upon pick up date.

You arrive at the BMW Welt (world) in Munich to pick up your car and begin your European adventure.

When your adventure is over, you drop the car off at one of 12 locations throughout Europe and BMW will ship the car back to the states. It takes 6-8 painful weeks waiting for your car to make the journey.

You can have the car shipped to the dealer you purchased from, or do what I do and request a Performance Center re-delivery in Spartanburg, SC where you get to drive a similar model car on BMW’s track and do some fun exercises to show the capabilities of the car before you pick up your car and head home or up into the mountains for some spirited driving.

There are so many great places in Europe that you can take your new car. I’ve explored Switzerland, Italy, Austria, France, Liechtenstein, Czech Republic, Belgium, the Netherlands and of course much of Germany in my many travels.

This year I picked up my new M2 and drove down to the town of Oberammergau, Germany and through the Alps to get a few miles (kilometers) on her before heading back to Munich and then on to the Nürburgring the next day.

I was fortunate to be part of a group that did a two-day BMW training in M2’s (BMW’s Cars, not mine) on the Nürburgring’s Nordschleife (North loop) which at 12.9 miles is known as the most difficult race track in the world – also named the “Green Hell” by race car driver Jackie Stewart. The training was amazing fun and very challenging. It was so cool to experience the performance of the M2 on the track where the suspension was tuned while charging through the 154 (according to Wikipedia) corners of the Ring.

The Nordschleife is also open to the public on certain nights and weekends, so I was able to take my own M2 out and get in 10 laps over a few days. It is very different being out in public laps compared to our training where BMW rents the entire track so you its just BMW (and Mini) groups on the track. Public laps are a bit of a free-for-all with all sorts of different vehicles on the track: one time a couple of years ago, I came up on a tour bus and a 911 on a straightaway. It was easy to pass the bus, but the 911 wasn’t too happy about letting an X1 past him – but I eventually got him in the corners.

On my way back to Munich with the car broken in, it was time for some Autobahning! There are long sections of German Autobahn’s that have “unrestricted” speed limits – so put the pedal down and experience the fine roads of Germany at speeds as fast as you are comfortable going and your car will allow. Most BMW’s are electronically speed limited (the M cars to 155 mph), which is very fast if you’re not used to driving like this. The Germans are very good drivers and are very disciplined, only using the left lane to pass and moving out of the way when faster cars approach. Oh how I wish we had this discipline here in the states!

After dropping my car off at the drop location at the Munich airport, I boarded my flight back to Atlanta and started thinking how long it would be before I could return and do it all over again. Fortunately my wife’s BMW lease is ending in 2017, so I plan on doing another European Delivery next

and are very disciplined, only using the left lane to pass and moving out of the way when faster cars approach. Oh how I wish we had this discipline here in the states!

After dropping my car off at the drop location at the Munich airport, I boarded my flight back to Atlanta and started thinking how long it would be before I could return and do it all over again. Fortunately my wife's BMW lease is ending in 2017, so I plan on doing another European Delivery next year.

If anyone would like to discuss the European Delivery program, get a recommendation on places to visit or just talk about BMW's, please feel free to reach out to me.

Chris Joos



The Vintage

Tom Lappin

The Vintage is a yearly event held the last couple of years in Hot Springs just northwest of Asheville on May 20. They max'd out at 650 vintage BMWs. The setting is a really nice grassy park in the center of town. My wife, Maria, headed up to Hendersonville Friday night and met up with John Howard's tour group from Charleston. Saturday morning was a relaxing drive through the mountains, beautiful day! Then we just wandered around looking at the beautiful cars. I'm sure there were more, but I know Scott & Fran Hughes displayed cars as did Benji & Stella Walvoord. There were some absolutely amazing cars and a few that needed some "restoration".

Hot Springs is a picturesque little mountain town, a river runs through it and is close to the Appalachian trail. There are several great restaurants, we ate at the Iron House, recommended.

If you've never been, put The Vintage on your calendar for next year. Makes for a relaxing enjoyable weekend.





MOTORSPORTS NEWS

It was an honor to be appointed Motorsports Director for the Sandlapper Chapter at the annual Board meeting. I hope to continue providing the services that Ronn has for the past many years, and would like to provide some catalyst to increase our Motorsports opportunities and participation in coming years.

I have spoken to a bunch of members who are interested in many different activities. I am now going to ask all of you, if you have an activity you would really like to see occur, let me know. Call me, email, whatever, but it takes volunteers to organize and make these things successful. Among the events people have approached me about;

A state wide autocross series. We could hold autocross events in each of our Sandlapper regions, and have a points system for those who participate in multiple events. There are sponsors out there that would provide prizes to class champions each year.

A state wide road trip to the Vintage. The folks from the coast go up to Asheville each year for this event, other regions could meet up with them.

More events at the Performance Center. These events are really dependent on when the guys there have time to have us.

Road Rallies. Tim Dennison organized a great scavenger hunt a few years ago. Other people have suggested a time/ distance rally. I think either could be a highly successful thing to do.

Again, it take volunteers to pull any of these off. And a lot of up front planning. The organizing group does not need to be from one region, with today's technology we can easily communicate.

Several of us have been trying to organize a High Performance Driving event at Carolina Motorsports Park in the last few years. At this year's Board meeting, we received approval to move forward on this. Right now we are trying to pin down a date in 2018 that will not coincide with other BMWCCA events or Holidays. As soon as we have a date nailed down, we will let everybody know. BMW Club Racing has expressed interest in joining us for the weekend, so not only will we have the HPDE folks there, we may also have a good group of our club racers. I will need a bunch of help putting this on, please let me know if you'll help out. We can arrange a meeting/ conference call as soon as we get a date locked in.

Again, please feel free to contact me about any event you'd like to see happen, if we can get the support, it can.

Jack Sugameli

803-389-8176

jack@bdmlc.com



Sandlapper Monthly Meeting

Michael Mitchell

As a Sandlapper member, we have the privilege of having BMW mecca in our backyard. The only BMW Manufacturing in the U.S., the first BMW Performance Center, as well as the national office for the BMW CCA and the museum of the BMW CCA Foundation.

Back in May, the Foundation launched their first exhibit – Heroes of Bavaria: 75 Years of BMW Motorsport. If you were lucky enough to go to Monterey in 2016 for the Festoric Races and/or Oktoberfest, you had the privilege of seeing dozens of BMW race cars from the 328 Roaster up through the Z4 GTLM. For those that couldn't make it to Monterey, well here is your chance to see some of these cars on the East Coast.

We assembled 25 cars and 4 motorcycles to display here in Greer, SC. This is scheduled to go through August 31, 2017. However, we are working to extend this exhibit through the end of the year. This is an exhibit you don't want to miss. The Foundation is located next door to the BMW Performance Center and across Highway 101 from BMW Manufacturing.

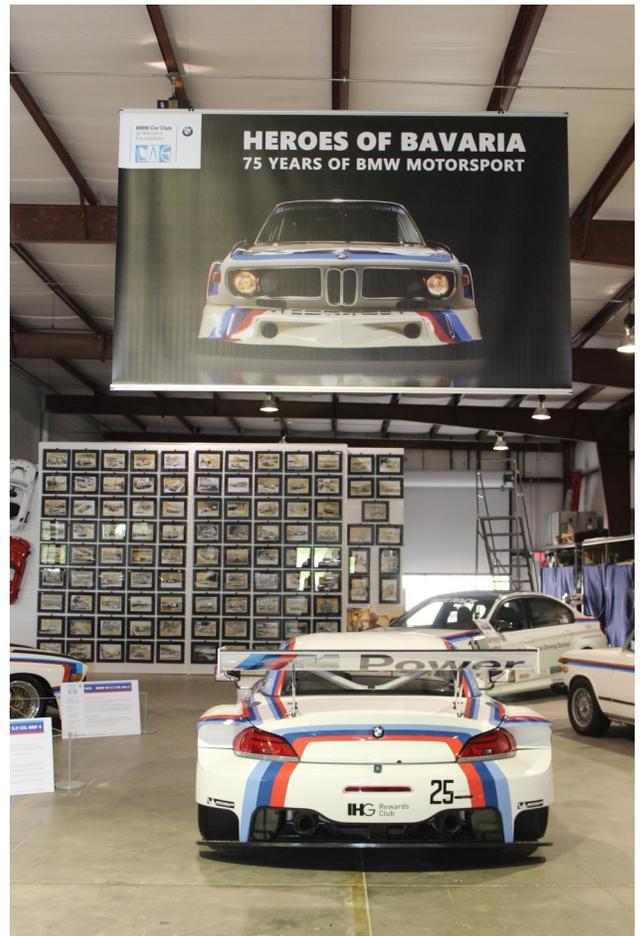
For the month of June, the Upstate chapter meeting was held at the BMW CCA Foundation. Mike Radecki, the newly elected chapter Secretary, ran this meeting. Seventy-nine members from around the state attended the meeting. A local food truck was on site for those that wanted to have dinner here. Members had plenty of time to view all the cool cars we have on display. Century BMW brought out a new M550i for all to view. At the end of the meeting, door prizes were handed out.

We would like to thank all the members that could attend the meeting. Thank you to Century BMW for loaning the Foundation the tables and chairs as well as Tom Lappin for transporting these items to and from the Foundation. Finally, we can't forget the many volunteers that helped set up before the meeting and cleaned up after it was over.

The Foundation is normally open Monday – Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. Located at 190 Manatee Court, Greer, SC 29651. We realize some can't make it during the week. We currently have two Saturday's scheduled that we will be open for surrounding chapters to visit.

For Saturday, July 22 or Saturday, August 5, go to Eventbrite.com to register for the event. We hope to see the rest of you before the exhibit closes later this year.





Highlands Motoring Festival

Tom Lappin

After The Vintage comes the Highlands Motoring Festival, another first class exhibition of a variety of classic car makes. To start it off, at the last minute, we put out an invitation to organize a drive up to Highlands. So, Saturday morning Dwayne Mosley in his Porsche, Jesus Thiele in his Honda S2000, Mark & Julie Cothran in a beautiful classic Alfa, and myself in the only BMW of the group (we welcome anyone in anything !) headed north. Great drive through some beautiful country. Came up on a couple of very considerate drivers that pulled to the side to let us pass, but by in large drivers have no idea what is behind them or appear to care.

Arrived in Highlands, many thanks to Steve Ham for reserving prime parking for us. The show is in a small park pretty much in the center of town. Really nice town, a little more "high end" than Hot Springs, but they both have their charms. We joined Mike Renner for lunch. He brought the One Lap of America M3 to show and provided an entertaining talk on the One Lap experience to the crowd. Scott & Fran Hughes appear to never miss an opportunity to display cars from their amazing collection. It's all good !

Overall, the Festival is not as large as the Vintage, but has a varied array of makes represented, some truly beautiful cars. This is certainly an attractive show, close by and makes a great day to take a mountain drive, eat well, see some beautiful cars.



New Members

We welcome our new members and invite them to attend a monthly club meeting. Please see the last page of this newsletter for the meeting location that works best for you.

William	Allen	Greenville	SC
Stephen	Cabinum	Clover	SC
Ryan	Compton	Murrells Inlet	SC
Gabe	Della-fera	Greenville	SC
Mark	Dillon	Hanahan	SC
Peter	Fieldhouse	Greenville	SC
Felipe	Garzon	Taylors	SC
Sean	Haskell	Summerville	SC
Phil	Hughes	Greenville	SC
Mark	Martin	Hanahan	SC
Michael	May	Gaffney	SC
John	McKiernan	Simpsonville	SC
Kurtrs	Moore	Rock Hill	SC
Matthew	Phillips	Simpsonville	SC
Patsy	Plemmons	Surfside Beach	SC
Eric	Reed	Spartanburg	SC
James	Rohrer	Greer	SC
Paul	Watt	Fort Mill	SC
Paula	Watt	Fort Mill	SC
James	Whitney	Greer	SC
Raymond	Wilson	Clover	SC
Jerry	Wolcoveick	Westminster	SC

Anniversaries -

I apologize for the Anniversaries section. I'm learning this and did not complete it by publishing deadline. Promise it will be back next issue. Tom

Chapter Officers

President: Tom Lappin
tomlappin088@gmail.com

Vice President: John Howard
johnroberthoward@gmail.com

Treasurer John Anderson
treasurer@sandlapperbmw.org

Secretary: Mike Radecki
Mike.radecki@charter.net

Motorsports Director: Jack Sugameli
jack@bdmllc.com

Webmaster: Tim Dennison
upstatesandlapperbmw@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator:
Michael Mitchell
michael.mitchell@bmwccafoundation.org

Events Coordinator: Neil Baer
nbaer111@gmail.com

Member at Large: Dwayne Mosley
dwaynemosley@sandlapperbmw.org

Newsletter Editor: Open

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Upstate/Greenville:
Tom Lappin
lappint@bellsouth.net

Midlands/Columbia:
Larry Gilbertson:
lgilbertson@sc.rr.com

Lowlands/Charleston:
John Howard:
johnroberthoward@gmail.com

Piedmont/Rock Hill:
John Meek
jmeek911@gmail.com

Jack Sugameli:
bimmere12@gmail.com

Coastal/Myrtle Beach:
Currently Open

Hilton Head:
Wally Higginbotham
whigginbotham@hiltonheadbmw.com

Augusta/Aiken:
Currently Open

The Sandlapper Chapter Newsletter is the publication of the BMW Car Club of America and is emailed to all Sandlapper Chapter members in good standing.

Legal Notice

All of the contents of this newsletter are reprinted under license to the club and their rightful owners. All information herein is provided by and for BMW CCA members and BMW enthusiasts. The club is not associated with the importer or any agent of the factory. Suggestions, ideas and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors, and no authentication is implied by the editors or publishers. The club assumes no liability for any of the information contained herein.

Note: Modifications to vehicles within the warranty period may void the warranty.

© 2016 Sandlapper Chapter BMW CCA

www.sandlapperbmw.org



Facebook Discussion Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SandlapperBMW/>

General Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/sandlapperbmw>



[@SandlapperCCA](https://twitter.com/SandlapperCCA)

Monthly Meetings:

Upstate: 3rd Monday of each month
[Quaker Steak & Lube, Greenville, SC](#)

Lowcountry: 2nd Thursday of each month
[West Ashley Crab Shack, Charleston, SC](#)

Midlands: 1st Tuesday of each month
[Grecian Gardens, West Columbia, SC](#)

Piedmont: 2nd Thursday of each month
[Fish Market, Baxter Village, Fort Mill, SC](#)

Sandlapper Chapter BMW CCA

PO Box 26418
Greenville, SC 29616