

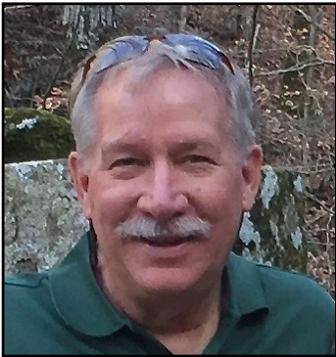
Volume 23 Issue 4

Winter 2017

THE ROADSTER

The Official Newsletter of the Sandlapper Chapter of the
BMW Car Club of America





By Tom Lappin

By the time you read this, we will have completed fall events. John Howard's group in Charleston had their Fall Mountain Run, Brett and his gang conducted two Street Survival events, O'fest in New Orleans, and our Christmas event in the Upstate. For those of you who following racing, there were two car corrals hosted by Tarheel at VIR and Peachtree at Road Atlanta.



In the Upstate, we have had presentations at our meetings on everything from garage remodeling to car care by Groits Garage. The goal in 2018 is to expand our activities. Jack Sugameli's team is organizing the HPDE at CMP and a statewide Autocross series. We are also working on more day drives to area points of interest and more technical presentations. All of this is in response to the survey requests from earlier this year. We aim to please.

All of this requires participation. Not just showing up for an event, but being active in the planning and conducting of events as well. If you have an idea for something you'd like to organize, let us know and we will help make it happen.



To highlight participation, remember we have elections for Sandlapper Vice President and Treasurer in the 1st Qtr of 2018. If you want to get more involved, or volunteer someone to be more involved, this is your opportunity.



Looking forward to 2019, O'fest will be held in Greenville. This is a big deal! 2019 may seem like it's far in the future, but in reality, planning for such an event will start soon. The Sandlapper Chapter will play a key role in the event and it will require a ton of volunteers to make it happen. So, be thinking.



Cover image and all photos on this page taken at O'fest by Chris Lappin.

O'fest 2017 NOLA By Tom Lappin

This was my 3rd O'fest to attend. The previous two were in Monterey, so the bar was set pretty high. I think this O'fest started out with a bad rap due to the earlier July scheduling not being well received. Then the reschedule was welcomed by most, but scorned as a last minute change by others, as it was in conflict with their previous plans. For me it was all good, as our daughter had moved to New Orleans, so it was easy to get my wife to go along. Plus we got my son and his wife down from Seattle, so it became a good family week. New Orleans has never been a favorite destination for me, a little too rough and weird for my taste. But, we do love history and Jazz, so there are attractions. With my daughter living there now, we did venture into more "local", non-tourist sections. The place is starting to grow on me.

My view is that the National staff does an excellent job of putting on these events. The locations were great. I liked the host Hyatt hotel (although it took me several days to get comfortable with the funky elevator system). Everything was on time, there was great food... I enjoyed it all.

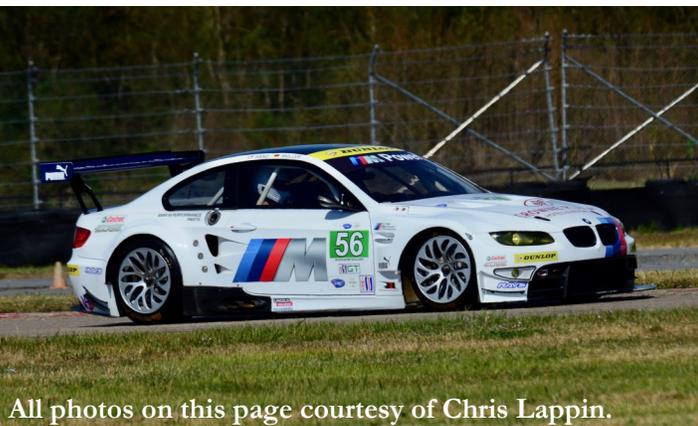
We do have some creative people. The Shell Halloween dinner was interesting. There were some really great costumes. One of the simplest, but one that I liked, was Satch as Ducky from NCIS. He just fit that role perfectly.

Our own Johnny Valencia was there representing Michelin both at the tech sessions and the drive comparison at NOLA. The guy does get around! In addition to Michelin, Shell, Bridgestone and Griots Garage conducted several tech presentations. Thanks to Griots for providing a wash station which I made use of a couple of times.

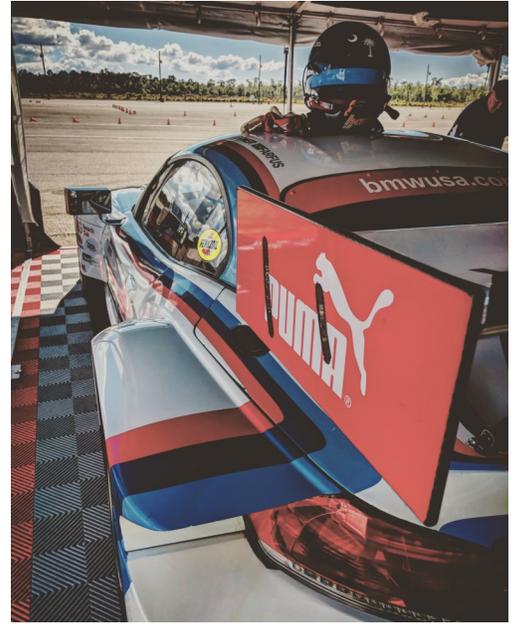
The Concours was lightly attended compared to Monterey, but the setting was great - on a golf course with the water and live oaks as a background was just beautiful. Weather was perfect. In fact the weather was perfect all week.

My track day was Friday. NOLA is a flat track, with a long front straight and some fun S turns sprinkled around. Plenty of runoff if needed. I enjoyed the place. Again, lightly attended which is good and bad. Lots of open track to hone your skills, but not many cars around for a little "competition". But, this is a learning event not competition, right? Classic BMW race cars were on hand for charity rides. As I said, my son was down from Seattle, so I had him involved in the Michelin driving comparison and laps with Renner in the Z4GTLM. Got in some good Dad points with that.

O'fests try to have something for everyone. Out at NOLA the Bridgestone Autocross was happening. Earlier in the week, a TSD Rally was held in the NOLA area. Years ago, when we lived out west, I found a great rally partner from the UK and we always did quite well. However, my wife Maria has this odd opinion that I get too intense and will not participate with me. I must say that when we participated in the Great Mini Race earlier this year SHE was the competitive intense one. Rolls reversed!



All photos on this page courtesy of Chris Lappin.



Certainly a highlight was the ending Gala at the WWII museum under the wings of a B17. Excellent event, good food and entertainment. We had spent most of the day at the museum, which had very well presented displays with great story lines to follow on individual war fighters. Really takes a couple of visits to take in all they have to offer.

I think we only had about 10 Sandlappers in attendance. All I can say is "you should'a been there", it was a great time. Looking forward to Pittsburg next year.

Euro Auto Festival 2017 Greenville, SC

By John Farrall

This 2017 Euro Auto Festival included 33 European marques, ranging from Alfa Romeo to Volkswagen. We had 42 BMW cars and 3 BMW motorcycles registered. Our friends from Zuffenhausen (Porsche) beat us this year for the marque with the highest participation, with 48 cars registered. Let's turn that around in 2018!



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Over 270 European cars and motorcycles registered for the show. Rare marques included Spyker, McLaren, NSU and Bitter. Visitors to the show were able to see some very rare cars including a 1958 VW Rometsch Lawrence Convertible, 1928 Rolls Royce Phantom 1, and a 1965 Meyers Manx Monocoque (The 7th ever built).

Keith Martin, founder of Sports Car Market Magazine, was the show's Master of Ceremonies again this year. He gave out two awards; Plan-First's Best Automotive Investment Award and The Keith Martin Spirit of Motoring Award. Peter Davis in his 1934 MG PA Midget won the Spirit of Motoring Award.

This year's featured marque was Volkswagen. Chris Lewis and Jeff Holt wowed the crowd with their early Bruce Meyers creations, the Meyers Manx and Tow'd dune buggies. They were strategically located in the sand trap on the 18th fairway! There was a 1942 Volkswagen type 82 Kubelwagon, reconstructed for the film, "Saving Private Ryan". There were some amazing VW Beetles including famed VW convertible restorer Chuck Coli's black 1967 Beetle convertible. Graham Adam's 1969 Volkswagen Karmann Ghia won Best VW. Paul Zugg's 1956 Volkswagen Bus and Rene Gallaher's 1958 Rometsch Lawrence Convertible both received Euro Awards.

Super Cars were a featured class again this year. Among the seven entries were a Porsche 918 Spyder, a Mercedes McLaren SLR and the class winner, a 1980 BMW M1 owned by Scott Hughes.

Michelin, BMW Manufacturing and BASF were all major sponsors. Bibendum, the "Michelin Man", was seen walking the show, along with Ronald McDonald. The Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Carolinas was the major charity benefiting from this event.

Bob Barton won the BASF "Best Fit & Finish" Award with his 1965 Porsche 356 Cabriolet. Our own Scott Hughes won the Michelin Choice Award for the best car riding on Michelin tires with his orange 1980 BMW M1.

There were 7 BMW specific classes this year. The oldest BMW entrant was a 1959 BMW 600 owned by David Lowen, who won a Euro Award in his class. First place in BMW1 went to Scott Hughes for his 1973 BMW 3.0 CSL. David Sanders won first place in the BMW 2 Class for his 1983 BMW 320i. A 2004 BMW M3 owned by Francisco Ramos won first place in the BMW 3 Class. The Euro Award in BMW 3 went to Gary Beck for his 2001 M3.

Tyler Cauley's 1988 BMW M535is won first place in BMW 4 and George Whiteley's 1985 M635CSi won the BMW 5 class. Monty King's 2002 BMW M Coupe took home first place in BMW 6, while Tim Burge's 2010 BMW X5M brought him a first place plaque in BMW 7.

In 2017 an automotive movie night replaced the traditional awards banquet. Guy Smith of PopcornOctane provided 2 short films and the featured movie, "Winning, The Racing Career of Paul Newman". This event was held near the hotel at the Clemson University Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR). Zoran Filipi, Director of CU-ICAR, also spoke to the guests about how their program is helping prepare engineers for the next generation of mobility.

Next year's show will be held on Saturday October 20th 2018. The featured automobiles will be "The Cars of Italy". The festival website is www.euroautofestival.com.



All photos on this page ©2017 Guy Smith / Popcorn Octane.

BavSound Audio Upgrade for an E92 335i

By Johnny Valencia

Music. Its timeless way of being therapeutic and memorable is powerful. So powerful that there is audio in all cars. Whether it is soothing to put you in a relaxed mood for a long journey, energetic to prep you for a spirited drive, or nostalgic to take you back to a memory about a special someone or special time, it is always along for the ride.

I spend a lot of time in my car, and that being said, I felt it was time to explore an audio upgrade for my E92 335i coupe. No, I don't mean adding 4 subwoofers to upset the neighbors, I have a loud exhaust for that. Rather, the goal was to improve the overall sound quality with minimal to no modification to my car. BavSound was the way to go per listening to another BMW CCA member's audio system in an F80 M3.

I opted for the full factory replacement of speakers. In my case, it was the 13 speaker kit. The original equipment amplifier stays intact, and the rest is simply plug and play. I had never pulled apart all of the paneling in my car, so was hesitant to DIY until BavSound explained that they provide you all the tools, as well as detailed instructional videos that go step by step to allow a seamless install. Sound deadening material is also included with the tool kit, which includes some standard sockets, wrenches, and plastic pry tools, as well as some fabricated tools specifically for those tight spaces in your BMW. The install took me and a friend roughly 5 hours. Once completed, I now had an audio system that was like a symphony in your living room. The difference in the crispness of the sound quality, especially at higher volumes, was easily noticeable and appreciated compared to the factory Logic7 speakers. The new replacement subwoofers were also thumping just loud enough to compliment the mid ranges and tweeters.

So if the Bee Gees take you back, Taylor Swift helps you through that breakup, Drake gets you ready for a night out, or the Top Gun soundtrack preps you as you drive into the Danger Zone, BavSound audio systems for your BMW can definitely upgrade those therapeutic and memorable moments.



All photos courtesy of Johnny Valencia.

A Tale of the Dragon

By Steve Ham

The silence of a cold and crisp mountain top morning was the stage for a symphony of S65 V8s singing in their high octave. Sixteen E9X M3s and two F80 M3s found themselves on the fabled “Tail of the Dragon” high in the mountains of east Tennessee early on a Sunday morning in November. Having traveled great distance, at a very early hour, these folks were rewarded with sole custody of this unique driving venue.

Most of us had driven this road in the past and found it to be more of a heavily patrolled social gathering, with hundreds of motorcycles and dozens of cars, minivans, and pickup trucks. Enthusiasts go there to witness all the craziness, experience testosterone in the air and check a box on the bucket list. But on this day - too cold for bikers, too early for tourists, too deserted for law enforcement - the whole place was ours. As passengers held on tight, the drivers engaged “318 curves in eleven miles” under full acceleration and braking. And then turned around and did it again in the other direction. Each time the group would stop for a breather, there was pure “joy” in everyone’s eyes. It was a unique fellowship of strangers made possible by the power of the internet.

The story begins on October 2, 2017 on M3Post.com when forum member BOOF-M3 posted a thread saying that he and his family would be staying in the Smoky Mountains for Thanksgiving and he proposed a drive on the nearby “Tail of the Dragon”. The residents of Tampa FL had discovered the area earlier in the year, but were in a rental car and vowed to come back in one of their M3s. Over the next few weeks, twenty-seven forum members had signed up their cars for the November 19th early morning run.

Coming from all directions, the group converged on Deal’s Gap Motorcycle Club which was closed for the season. At eight in morning, the parking lot was the gathering point for eighteen M3s. Additionally, there were: two Nissan 350Zs, a Veloster, and a Ferrari F430. With the addition of passengers our head count was over 25. Following some of the back runs on the actual “Tail of the Dragon”, the group caravanned as we explored some of the other area mountain roads with a lunch break at the HUB in Robbinsville NC. After leisurely enjoying burgers, BBQ, and fellowship, the group started to breakup as some headed home. After looping through the Nantahala Gorge, a few remaining M3s made yet another late afternoon run on the “Dragon.” Both of Deal’s Gap facilities were closed for the season, but the parking lot was used to gather-up before and after the “Dragon” runs. The other traffic that was encountered was very courteous and pulled over. Each member of the group had a walkie-talkie and on-coming traffic was announced by the lead car.



All photos courtesy of Maya Bobic.



At last count, BOOF-M3’s thread had accumulated 318 posts on fifteen pages, making it one of the most popular threads on the forum. In addition to the actual attendees, thirty-four other forum members asked to be official followers and became “honorary drivers”.

Combining “M power” with the power of the internet made a truly memorable gathering of enthusiasts who are no longer strangers. Plans for a 2018 repeat event are already being discussed.

Sandlapper Christmas

By Tom Lappin

The Sandlapper Christmas Day was Saturday 12/9, and me being from the Midwest/North, it's not Christmas without snow. And that is exactly what we had. I tend to be kind of "Press On Regardless", so the event was a Go. I know the weather was an issue for those north of I85, but locally to the Performance Center the roads Saturday morning were simply wet and in fact were much better than my drive home from work Friday afternoon.

Inside the Foundation it was toasty, no problem there and it's a fantastic exhibit of BMW race cars. Scott, Michael and the gang have a beautiful facility and they make the most of it. Lots to see, plenty of places to lounge, all kinds of things to read.

Next up was the track event. Started wet, but I'd say mid-way through the event the track was dry. However, if you ventured off track you'd find Crisco like traction on the still snow covered grass. I was working over in Area 3 and one off track excursion took 2 X5s to pull him back to the black stuff. Jack and his people manned Area 1 and were breaking in our new timing system. It worked as advertised and we have several people now trained on its set-up and usage. Everyone I talked to was nothing but positive about it all.

To cap off the day we had the dinner at the Performance Center. Food was great, a good time was had by all I believe. Renner set up a couple of videos - the CCA "How about You" and the tribute to Bill Auberlen. Finally, Santa and his elf (Neil and Michael) gave away door prizes.

I'll admit to being biased, but I believe all three events came off great and were well received by those that attended. We had something of interest for just about everyone. Many thanks to Neil Baer, Jack Sugameli, Michael Mitchell, Mike Renner and all the volunteers for making it all happen.

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas.



All photos courtesy of Michael Brown.





By Mary Holcombe

Hey fellow Sandlappers! I am pleased to introduce myself as your newsletter editor, and I hope to be here for a while to bring you all the latest BMW news that our region has to offer. Being in South Carolina, we are very fortunate to have some amazing bimmer destinations right in our backyard - BMW Manufacturing and the Zentrum museum, the BMW Foundation, and the national headquarters for the BMW CCA are all located in and around the Greenville area. Lucky us! We are also blessed with miles of world class mountain roads just a stone's throw away in western NC, as well as a beautiful coastline that would make a superb backdrop for a weekend drive. Lots to do for those of you who are as obsessed with their BMWs as I am.

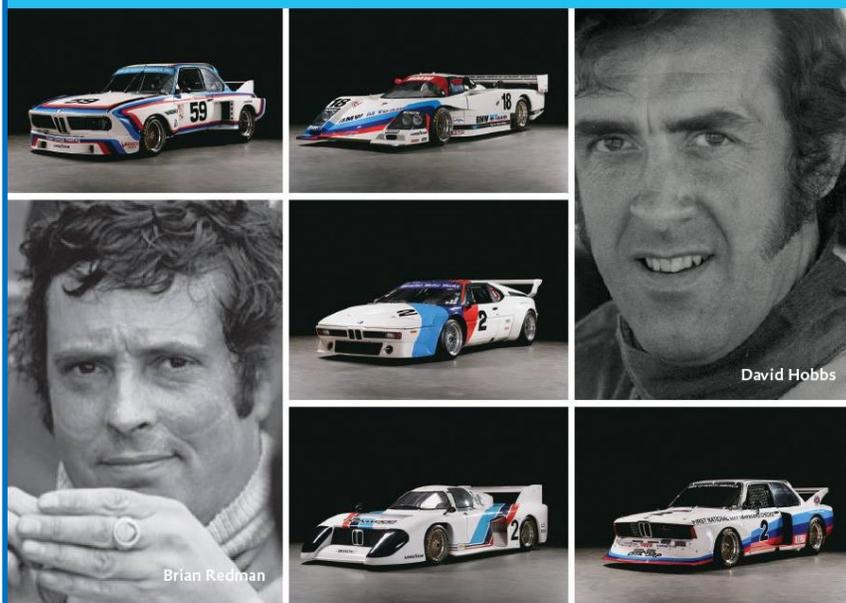
I am fairly new to the world of BMW, but have enjoyed driving my whole life. I have had some fun cars, but, when I was shopping around earlier this year I was looking for something special... a real driver's car. It was truly just a matter of time before I found my perfect match, which happened when I picked up my 2008 E90 M3 6MT. I absolutely fell in love with this car, which has led to a full blown fascination with anything M related, or really anything BMW at all. I also found myself at the track, and was lucky enough to experience Roebing Road, Road Atlanta and VIR all in my first year of HPDEs. I am hooked. If you see me at the track or any other car events, come say hi! I look forward to meeting all of you at BMW CCA gatherings over the coming years.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a HUGE thank you to all of my contributors. You guys probably already know how much I appreciate you, but I want to make sure! You have made my inaugural issue one that I will remember forever, thank you. This is the first newsletter I have ever designed, so I have a little way to go before I work out all the kinks. I have published many articles in regional and even national publications, but this is my first stint as editor. I am excited to be here! Any suggestions or comments are always welcome, as are submissions if anyone out there ever has anything they would like to share. You can reach me at MaryHolcombe1118@gmail.com



Photo taken at VIR by Bob Hartman with ETech Photo.

A WEEKEND WITH HEROES



SAVE THE DATES: JANUARY 12-13

At your CCA Foundation Museum in Greenville, South Carolina

Sandlappers, don't forget this is coming up in just a couple weeks. Don't miss out!

Join DAVID HOBBS & BRIAN REDMAN during a Weekend with Heroes on January 12 and 13 in Greenville, South Carolina. Celebrate the closing weekend of Heroes of Bavaria: 75 Years of BMW Motorsport, and see these 24 historic cars together for the last time. You'll enjoy VIP access to the legendary Hobbs & Redman, and get exclusive collectibles only available here. There will be two events, with admission fees, and all proceeds benefit the Street Survival program.

You can find details and register here:

<https://weekendwithheroes.eventbrite.com>

Ever think about getting more involved with the BMW CCA? Now is the time...

As a reminder, we will soon hold elections for Sandlapper Chapter Vice President and Treasurer. If you are interested in participating directly in the chapter and playing a role forming its direction this is your chance. In 2019 we will elect President and Secretary. If you have an interest in the President position, serving on the Board or Regional executive is a prerequisite. Your participation is desired and needed. The pay is great!

I'd like to have all those wishing to participate submit a short bio that would be published to the membership by January 15, 2018.

Please contact me if you have an interest, I can help answer any questions you may have about responsibilities, time required, etc. lappint@bellsouth.net cell 864-918-4902



Photos by Michael Brown.

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.

Dustin Albertson – Greer, SC
Jeffrey Avins – Manning, SC
Belinda Bailey – Lexington, SC
Kenneth Bedenbaugh – Columbia, SC
Alan Boone – Greer, SC
James Bracken – Columbia, SC
Hughes Clark – Greenville, SC
Jack Conner – Greenville, SC
Davis Cooney – Simpsonville, SC
Kaitlyn Cothran – Pelzer, SC
Will Cothran – Pelzer, SC
Douglas Culclasure – Greenville, SC
Braeden Ford – Piedmont, SC
Alex Fossum – Greer, SC
Caroline Gallman – Simpsonville, SC
Jay Griffin – Greer, SC
Ross Griffith – Charleston, SC

Andrew Hall – Greer, SC
Richard Hernandez – Goose Creek, SC
Kyle Jackson – Greer, SC
Richard Kazior – Pawleys Island, SC
Marius Kronzucker – Simpsonville, SC
Patrick Lackey – North Charleston, SC
Julia Lauterbach – Columbia, SC
John Leatham – Anderson, SC
Julie Mathis – Landrum, SC
Tyler Moore – Simpsonville, SC
Britta Parchois – Charleston, SC
Javid Rasullu – Greenville, SC
Joey Russell – Simpsonville, SC
Terry Vincent – Laurens, SC
Martin Wutsch – Chapin, SC
Olga Wutsch – Chapin, SC
John Andersen – Hilton Head Island, SC
Jay Bass – Greenville, SC
Angela Bise – Simpsonville, SC
Harrison Collier – Fountain Inn, SC
Robert Darnell – Simpsonville, SC
Ian Ebersole – Greer, SC
John Elingburg – Greenwood, SC
Scott Gibson – Pawleys Island, SC
Brian Gray – Woodruff, SC

Nolan Hanus – Greenville, SC
Abby Hodge – Boiling Springs, SC
Robert Hughes – Greenville, SC
Quinn Johnson – Lake Wylie, SC
Kurt Karasch – North Charleston, SC
Dylan King – Easley, SC
Jim LaBrec – York, SC
Richard Mamrick – Greer, SC
Max Miller – Columbia, SC
Zachary Miller – Laurens, SC
Mathew Mundt – Greenville, SC
Luis Prada – Summerville, SC
Mayson Quick – Greenville, SC
Jason Rankin – Greer, SC
Terry Schager – Landrum, SC
Ariel Shepherd – Simpsonville, SC
John Simpson – Hilton Head Island, SC
Carson Smith – Taylors, SC
Darin Spitzer – Simpsonville, SC
Chip Steele – Beaufort, SC
Brice Violette – Simpsonville, SC
Bridget Wensell – Summerville, SC
Lee Witt – Columbia, SC
Carl Zeis – Greer, SC

Anniversaries

Congrats to all of you, cheers!

5 Years

Glenn Foster
Walter Sustek
Carl Hinze
Matthew Schaedler
Jim Hess
Zach Pickering
Elizabeth DeVault
Rich Watson
Andrew Groelinger
Douglas Matre
Stewart Cooke
Casey Hird
Barry Hird
Robert Gard
Tyler Harrell
Bruce Burns
Benjamin Walvoord

10 Years

Jama Nation
Brian Haley
Larry Wardlow
David Arnold
Bradley Gillen
Leigh Nason
Antonio Dimalanta
Michael Nagorzanski

Steven Nagorzanski
Robert Atherton
Sally Atherton

15 Years

Jay Hudson
B. Wells Obrien
Jason O'Dell
Douglas Nickels
Chris Barr
Joel Cook
Mike Sexton

20 Years

Scott Schuett
David Coll
Kurt Hesselink
Sam Carros
Allen Clouse
Scott Allen
Peter Sibley

30 Years

Christopher Tice

40 Years

Roger Labas
Rita Andersen



Photo by Maya Bobic.



Photo by Chris Lappin.

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

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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.

www.sandlapperbmw.org



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<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

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