

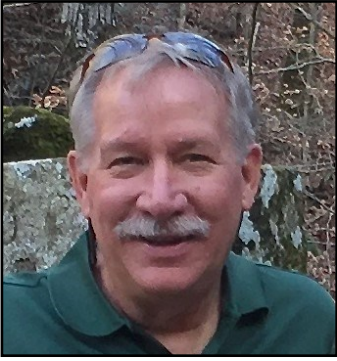
Volume 24 Issue 3

Fall 2018

THE ROADSTER

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





Many of you may know that my other nonpaying job related to BMW is to keep Mike Renner under control at IMSA races where he and Andy VanCleaf drive the Performance Center's new M5s, providing Hot Laps to CCA members, sponsors, and VIPs. I generally keep the cars clean and assist with getting the riders in/out of the cars. Steve Maguire (Peachtree) does the social media stuff and is our videographer. You can catch his Hot Lap videos on Facebook and YouTube, they are great.

My point to all this is that 1) we are a great team and represent BMW, the Performance Center, and the CCA well. We are recognized by IMSA as a professional group providing their customers with a thrilling experience, 2) Mike and Andy do a superior job demonstrating the incredible performance of the M5, and 3) all the people and riders I interact with have a positive impression of BMW and the CCA. And that I see as good for us all. The last race of the season is coming Oct 12 – 13 at Road Atlanta, come see us.

Involvement - I'll probably mention this every quarter. As with most club organizations, there is a small core group of people that make the club work serving as officers and organizing events. The next group participates in meetings and events. Then there's the majority that join for the magazine, discounts, etc. And that is all OK as we realize that with family, work, and other interests there is only so much time and one has to pick what provides the most enjoyment.

On the other hand, if you are reading this you have more than an average interest in the club. So, if there is an activity you would like to see developed, let us know and we'll work on it. Even better, you take charge and organize the event. We will help you.

Coming elections – Every year we have elections for two of the four Board members; odd years for President and Treasurer, even years for VP and Secretary. Therefore, in 2019 we will hold elections for President and Treasurer. The Presidential position is the only one that requires previous experience as a Board member or one of the Regional VP or section positions. If you are interested in a position, please let me know.

The Board recently had an informal lunch meeting. One point of discussion was the Regional VP position. In a way, this position is more important to the membership than the Board as they organize and promote the club on the person to person local level. The Regional VP position has been appointed and there was discussion on making it elected. For the moment we will maintain the appointment category simply due to the hassle of the election process. However, none of us are wedded to the positions we hold. If you have an interest and would like to obtain a position of power, influence, and wealth in the club (just kidding), please let one of us know. We can even create new positions if it serves the interest of club members.



M5 lined up for Hot Lap display at Road America. Andy, Steve, Mike.

Sandlapper Motorsports

By Jack Sugameli



You've all received our emails, so you all should be aware that we are hosting our first in many years HPDE (High Performance Drivers Ed) event in late October. I've received a bunch of emails and phone calls from members looking for more information. For this issue of our newsletter I thought I would share some of the questions and answers.

Q.- Can convertibles participate?

A.- No. The national Driving Events Committee has been discussing this. I hope to discuss this with them when we meet in Dallas in November.

Q.- Do I have to drive a BMW at the event?

A.- No, any modern production car with standard safety equipment is fine. The car must have a passenger seat and matching restraints for driver and instructor.

Q.- What modifications do I have to make to my car for the track?

A.- NONE! Well maybe one. I would recommend having the brake fluid flushed with a high temp fluid. Not just bled, but a full flush. Your BMW, and most modern cars, will be able to do more than a novice student.

Q.- How fast will I be going? I don't want to hurt my car.

A.- I don't want you to hurt your car either! You will drive at the speed you are comfortable with. No one should ever tell you to go faster! (If that happens, come get me). Starting out slow is perfectly OK, and a very smart choice. Pay attention to your instructors, and you will get faster without even trying.

Q.- What do instructors do?

A.- You will have 2 instructors. Chuck Hawks will be teaching classroom. There you will learn about track safety, what happens to your car on track and why, how your car reacts to your inputs, how to properly use steering, braking and the go pedal, vehicle dynamics, and a bunch more. Your in car instructor will talk to you with a two way communicator during the track sessions, explaining how to get around the track using the proper line, helping you with your inputs, and after the session will usually hold a short debrief once you are parked in the paddock.

Q.- What do I need to bring?

A.- You want to be comfortable. We posted a primer on our website at http://sandlapperbmw.org/?page_id=1339. In the word document titled "What to expect", we provide a list of some items that you may want to bring. There is a lot of information there that all new track people should read.

Q.- Are HPDEs safe?

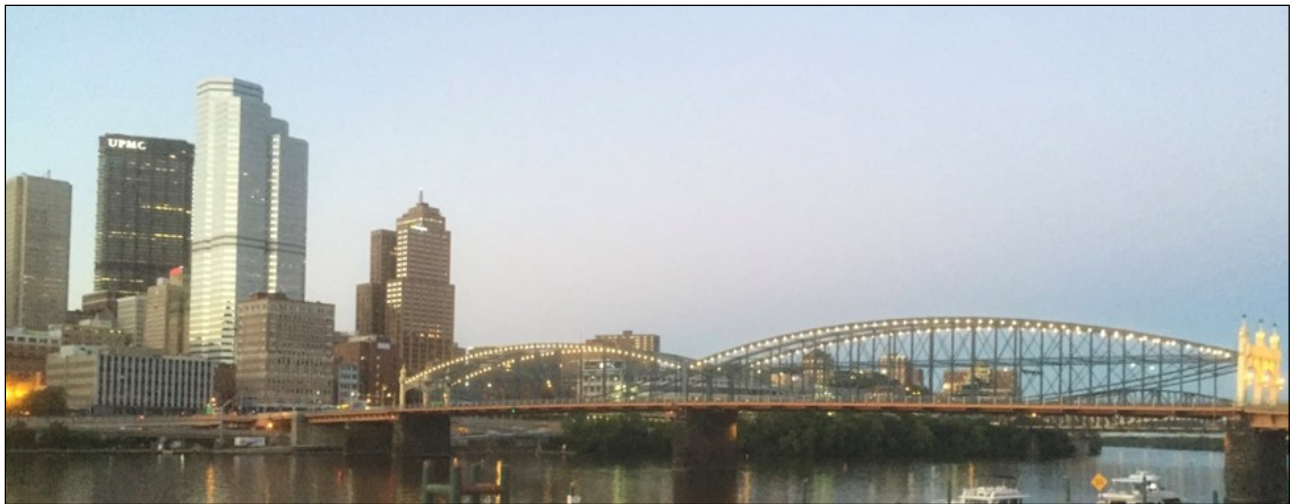
A.- Pretty much yes. I have seen drivers get into trouble and damage their car, but it is rare. Almost always, this is due to the driver exceeding their own limits, not the car's. So, if you want to be safe, and bring your car back home in the same condition as it arrived at the track, don't try to impress anyone with your blazing speed. Instead, learn what we are trying to teach you. Drive at a pace that is comfortable, and realize, you will not be getting any major sponsorships after this event.

Q.- Can I still register?

A.- Maybe. If you go to Motorsportreg.com you can check if we have openings. Or you can email me at motorsports@sandlapperbmw.org. In fact, you can email me about any questions you have regarding Sandlapper Motorsports.

Next Issue - We have everything we need to run an autocross series except places to do them.

O'fest 2018 - The Road Less Traveled Story & Photos by Tom Lappin



I know that dedicating a week for the annual BMW CCA O'fest is not possible for many people. Some members have been attending for decades. I've been to Monterey in '13 and '16, NOLA last year and Pittsburgh this year. I must say I've enjoyed them all, and found them to be very well organized and include something of interest for everyone. Here's a summary of my experience at Pittsburgh.

The road less traveled. Don't know about you, but I am increasingly frustrated driving on the interstate highway system. There's tons of traffic, wrecks, construction, and worst of all the left lane parking lot. It's still generally the fastest way from point A to B, but no fun. So, if I have the time I've started to take secondary roads on my travels. So, for the trip to Pittsburgh I started north on SC14 and went "that a way". In general, the route was on the west of the Appalachian Mountains. The Sunday traffic was relatively light, didn't encounter any seriously slow drivers.



I find it less frustrating to be behind a slower driver but pass in a passing zone than being backed up in a line behind a left lane parker on the interstate. So, it took me 12 hours, but the roads were fun to drive, and I saw some beautiful country.

Social events - The CCA staff picked some great venues for the dinners and social events. A river cruise, dinner at the Science Museum, and my favorite, the old Grand Station which is a former railroad terminal in the grand ornate style, and now a very nice restaurant. Food was great, enjoyed the company.

Driving events - Again, something for everyone. Rallies, Autocross, HPDE, Michelin tire comparison drives, driving tour to Falling Waters.

Pittsburgh International Raceway HPDE was a great event. The facility is first class and I loved the track. Lots of elevation changes and blind corners to learn. It was really a fun track to drive.

I'm a "want to be" architect and the drive to Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Waters was something I was looking forward to. It's not just the home, but also the setting it was built into. This world famous home is not to be missed if you are in SW PA.



Concours - Always a treat to see all the BMWs I cannot afford. This being the 50th birthday of the 2002 there were an abundance present. The setting on the river was beautiful. Enjoyed it all.

2019 O'fest will be here in Greenville. Should be a great event, but we will have to work at it to beat Pittsburgh.



Piedmont Area New Monthly Meet & Greets

Story and Photos by John Meek



The Piedmont Area of Sandlapper Chapter BMW CCA has adopted a new method for hosting monthly area member meetings. After over 10 years of scheduling the meetings on the second Thursday of each month at local restaurants in Rock Hill or Fort Mill, there was an obvious need for some changes. Piedmont area members were surveyed asking for their opinions about Sandlapper Chapter and area events including monthly meeting attendance and suggestions for changes in locations and meeting methods.

Member response was positive with several suggestions. Sandlapper Chapter Motorsports Director & Piedmont Area Co

-VP Jack Sugameli reported on a successful rotating monthly Saturday meet & greet event hosted in the Atlanta Area of Peachtree Chapter. Piedmont Area members voted to stop the then current Thursday evening monthly meetings in favor of changing to a 2nd Saturday morning monthly meet & greet hosted at different locations around the Piedmont area. That new meeting format would better serve the Piedmont members in locations other than just Rock Hill & Fort Mill.

In addition to better serving all various area members, by hosting meet & greets in parking lots next to restaurants or coffee shops that were located near major roads with good traffic patterns we could also reach potential new members. BMW owners driving by our Saturday morning meet & greets would notice the group of BMWs with our BMW CCA Flag and possibly stop to see what was going on in the parking lot.

The original location was held in an empty Savings & Loan Bank lot on Saturday morning near the Bagel Boat Restaurant next to Lake Wylie, SC. In addition to sending out a mass email notice to all Piedmont Area Sandlapper members, a meeting notice was placed in the local Lake Wylie news. The response to this first 2nd Saturday meet & greet was excellent. In addition to some monthly meeting regulars, several Sandlapper Chapter members that had never attended a monthly meeting arrived for this new event, and a few BMW owners driving by also stopped to see what was happening with all of these parked BMWs.

This new meet & greet event format is on the 2nd Saturday mornings of each month at a wide variety of parking lots located throughout the Piedmont area. Locations have ranged from the Bagel Boat to a parking lot at the River Walk area of Rock Hill with the Sandlapper Chapter hosting coffee and donuts. Here are a few photos from those events.



Friend of the Club

By: Tom Lappin

At Oktoberfest in Pittsburgh this July, Mike Renner was awarded the “Friend of the Club” award for his service and promotion of the CCA. Mike is the principle liaison between the Performance Center and the CCA and Sandlapper in particular. He travels the country presenting at CCA events, provides Hot Laps at track events, and in general always adds some “fun” to what we do.

When you see Mike, thank him for his efforts.



Second Annual Tail of the Dragon Run

By: Mary Holcombe

After the success of last year's M3 based Tail of the Dragon run in November (we published an article about it in last year's Q4 newsletter), the organizers decided to make it an annual event. The combination of late-season lack of traffic on the Tail, the beautiful assortment of M3s that converged for a number of photoshoots, and the camaraderie experienced at the meals we all shared ended up being a perfect recipe for a memorable day. Lasting friendships were made before we all parted ways on Sunday afternoon. If you are interested in joining us for



this year's drive, the dates are November 16-18, with the main driving event taking place on Saturday the 17th. Feel free to reach out to me for more info, email is probably the best - maryholcombe1118@gmail.com.

This year, as sponsorship opportunities began to present themselves, it was decided that the event could use this opportunity to throw a raffle with BMW themed prizes so that funds could be raised to contribute to a local/regional non-profit. The non-profit that was selected for this year is the L.O.V.E. Foundation which is based out of Atlanta, details can be found below.

The L.O.V.E. Foundation (Lyn's Outreach for Verbal Expression Foundation) was created in memory of Lyn Lovern, who bravely battled Friedreich's Ataxia. While facing many physical challenges, Lyn maintained one continued strength, communication. Our goal is to help kids speak for themselves by providing augmentative de-



vices and software to children who do not have the resources to unlock their potential. We are a not-for-profit organization giving children the power to communicate and providing the equipment that will allow them to verbalize their wants and needs.

All photos courtesy of Maya Bobic.

Soaring Museum Trip: M5 as a Tow Plane? Story and Photos by Tom Lappin

While we were in Watkins Glen for the IMSA race, Mike, Andy, Steve and I took some time to visit the National Soaring Museum in Elmira, NY. It's really a very good museum on the history of sailplanes from historic times to now. There are several exhibits on sailplanes used for troops during WWII.

Adjacent to the museum on Harris Hill is a sailplane field/club that sells rides to the general public. We watched for a while, and it was a perfect day for flying with a consistent light wind and puffy clouds that provide uplift in their shadow. The M5 got everyone's attention and with very little coaxing, Mike was talked into giving some hot laps and drifting on the runway. The M5 would actually make for a fantastic tow plane, as it is certainly fast enough to get a sail plane airborne. In exchange, they pulled out more sailplanes and all four of us were taken up for a ride. Amazing time, we were up for over an hour. Since we were not your "normal tourist riders" the pilots (all of which were about 1/3 my age) did some formation flying, high speed passes of the tower, and loops that the average 20 minute ride does not include. They were excellent pilots, very precise, talked you though everything they were doing. We had a great time. If you are up in the Glen area, I highly recommend checking them out.





As track season begins to wind down for me, I start to look towards winter maintenance projects that will help keep my E90 M3 happily purring along. I also reflect

back on all of the amazing new tracks, new friends, and awesome road trips that I got to experience this year. It has been an eventful one. Most recently I made the trek to iconic Mid Ohio, and as I write this I am anticipating getting in the car this evening and heading to one of my most favorite tracks of them all – VIR. Although I am a little sad that there are only 2 remaining track events on my schedule this year, I am sure my car (and my bank account) will welcome a short break before I pick back up in February at Sebring. It will also give me a chance to go through and change all fluids, install stainless steel brake lines, swap out cooling system hoses, and replace my transmission mounts, amongst other things. I am also looking at exhaust options. That last one should be fun!



As always, I want to thank my awesome contributors for the fantastic content that is sent my way. I genuinely enjoy reading what all of you have to say, as well as having some great news and updates to pass along to our members. You are appreciated! If anyone out there has something they would like to share, you can reach me at maryholcombe1118@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you!



My beautiful E90 after a fresh wash/wax.

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.

Kimberly Austin - Simpsonville, SC

George Bailey Jr. - Columbia, SC

Michael Barron - Seneca, SC

Preston Boyd - Charleston, SC

Steven Brody - Kiawah Island, SC

David Burns - Greenville, SC

Leonard Byrne - Greenville, SC

Robert Cade - West Columbia, SC

Bradley David Carter - Columbia, SC

E. Ryan Cheek - Black Mountain, NC

John Clarke - Mount Pleasant, SC

John Converse - Greenville, SC

Jacob Dance - Greenville, SC

James Donovan - Columbia, SC

Grant Ellis - Summerville, SC

Sean Michael Facey - Taylors, SC

Charles Fairbairn - Hilton Head Island, SC

Matthew Fowler - Chapin, SC

James Gergen - Charleston, SC

Doug Gutschow - Easley, SC

Kent Hannibal - Aiken, SC

Keith Herreman - Hilton Head, SC

James Hershman - Simpsonville, SC

Brian Hogan - Lancaster, SC

Chad Juby - Greer, SC

Michael Keeshen - Greenville, SC

Rick Lankford - Greenville, SC

Michael Lauth - Lexington, SC

Alfred League - Travelers Rest, SC

Spencer Leonard - Spartanburg, SC

Edifel Macatuno - Spartanburg, SC

Mark Malone - Anderson, SC

Mark McKee - Greer, SC

Matthew McWilliams - Moncks Corner, SC

Ed Miller - Boiling Springs, SC

Frederick Mount - Fletcher, NC

Mel Myers - Duncan, SC

Rod Nielsen - Summerville, SC

Michael Pannier - Greenville, SC

Jeanne Parisek - Bluffton, SC

Jason Parolini - Anderson, SC

Charles Perry - Summerville, SC

Matt Putnam - Greenville, SC

Ryan Rafalski - Greenville, SC

Michael Raynor - Pawleys Island, SC

John Carlton Reid - Chapin, SC

Lewis Rife - Greenville, SC

Scott Rush - Simpsonville, SC

Suhad Sadik - Columbia, SC

Doyle Scott - Elgin, SC

Narayan Shenoy - Lexington, SC

James Shippy - Carlisle, SC

Aunaray Vashon Taylor - Rock Hill, SC

Matthew Ian Tischler - Columbia, SC

Robert Vachon - Mount Pleasant, SC

Robert Charles Waldrop - Greenville, SC

Abney Wallace - Greenwood, SC

Ronald Wanninger - Greenville, SC

Donald Weisman - Columbia, SC

Paul Weisser - Bluffton, SC

Heather Wessinger - Little Mountain, SC

Glen Willis - Fort Mill, SC

Reed Woolfson Jarvis - Greenville, SC

Anniversaries

Congrats to all of you, cheers!

5 Years

Glen Cox

Jane Hardy

Richard Harrington

Gregory Hoch

Corinne Hoch

Matthew Jerabek

Veronica Jurewicz

Clarence Kornegay

David Maiorana

Kraig Miller

Sanjay Rama

Ryan Ray

10 Years

Jacqueline Bechek

John Corvin

David Levin

Linda Levin

Ken Lister

Michael May

Leonard Purwin

Stuart Spisak

Lewis Whitaker

Janice Whitaker

Charles Williams

Erin Williams

15 Years

Sacha Bernstein

Doug Bloomfield

Ryan Gaskin

Matthew Nikravesch

Yousef Nikravesch

20 Years

John Mallett

Florence Polk-Schlossman

25 Years

Don Russell

30 Years

Jeffrey Kramer

Michael Orr

35 Years

Nicholas Primiano



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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

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](#)

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