

BMW Car Club
of America
Houston Chapter



TORQUE ^{OF} THE TOWN

FALL 2012

A Publication of the Houston Chapter BMW Car Club of America



join us on
facebook

Original BMW Parts

www.bmwusa.com



The Ultimate Driving Machine®



ORIGINAL BMW PARTS. A MASTERPIECE OF FORM AND FUNCTION.

Ensuring that every BMW continues to live up to its title as the Ultimate Driving Machine®, requires none other than Original BMW Parts. Each part is precisely engineered by BMW for a perfect fit and finish and offers a two-year unlimited mileage warranty.

If you are under the impression that this level of engineering mastery comes with a big price tag – think again. Introducing BMW Value Line, a collection of bundled parts and service kits designed for earlier BMW models and offered at special savings.

BMW of Houston North proudly offers the Houston Chapter BMW CCA a 15% discount on all parts purchases.

ORIGINAL BMW PARTS.

BMW EfficientDynamics
Less consumption. More driving pleasure.

©2011 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name and logo are registered trademarks. All rights reserved.

BMW OF HOUSTON
N O R T H

I-45 North @ FM 1960 • BMWofHoustonNorth.com

281-874-1550



CONTENTS

FEATURES

My First BMW.....	5
Drive to Freeport.....	7
Still Plays with Cars.....	8
Long Journey North.....	14
Volunteer Spotlight.....	18

DEPARTMENTS

The Road Ahead.....	4
Tech Tip.....	12
Editor's Corner.....	17

The Road Ahead



At last, the Houston weather we all love so much. You just have to reason June, July and August as the dues for the next seven months. It helps you get through it, somewhat anyway. So now it's time to get out in it. Make your ultimate driving machine ready and let's go to The Hill Country. Our annual Fredericksburg Weekend is coming up Oct-26 through Oct-28 which is always a winner, plus those roads... you just can't get enough! For the new members, don't miss this. We look forward to this weekend every year. Come see why.

Welcome to our new chapter sponsor, Metropolitan Collision & Service. They will be placing an advertisement in our winter issue plus they have offered to host the November 17th Coffee Morning at Cedar Creek by picking up the tab for chapter members. They will be on hand to discuss their services and what sets them apart from some of the competition. Furthermore they are hosting an open house for our chapter on Saturday, Dec. 1st. The event will be from 9 am – 12 noon at Metropolitan Collision, 818 West 16th St. in The Heights, offering an opportunity to speak with their staff directly and tour the shop. They have been in Houston since 1930. Their specialty is BMW, Audi, Mercedes Benz, Lamborghini and Porsche, www.metropolitancollision.com. Please check our calendar and look to the eBlast for more information as we get closer to the date.

Our chapter will be hosting the BMW National Challenge Club Race and DE at Texas World Speedway December 15th-16th. This is a new endeavor for the chapter and is receiving very positive responses. There are commitments from Oklahoma, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Michigan and as far away as Canada. This being the last official BMW race of the year and with double points, this event has a lot of significance within the racing community. There will be some Porsches on the track as well. And for the rest of us there is the DE. On the track at TWS with their instructors. How exciting is that? A huge "Thank You" goes out to Steve Amos for making all this possible. Steve is the BMW CCA South Central Race Chairman and a Houston chapter member. Mark your calendars, check your tires and let's burn some rubber.

January 1st marks the date for Warren's infamous Hair of the Dog drive. Warren always takes in account not all of us will be on our game starting off. Consequently if you are a little light-headed, weak-kneed and woozy early in the morning on the 1st... so? No excuse! It'll be interesting to see what course he engineers for us this time. The drive and camaraderie is always enjoyable.

We have the Houston City Club reserved again this year for our Annual Banquet, thank you LaRita and Jim. The date is January 12th, 6 – 10 pm. Even though you may not attend other events throughout the year please make arrangements to come out for this gala. To make this happen we are on the hook for a certain food & beverage minimum and would value your chapter support. Again, check our calendar and look to the eBlast for more information.

It's that time of year to start gathering the names of members interested in running for a board position. If you have leadership skills and some ideas on how we can improve, or merely love what the chapter is about and would like to get more involved, there is no better way than to be a board member. These are critical positions to ensure the chapter runs smoothly. Several times I have heard from members they would like to run but don't feel comfortable running against a friend for the same position. This could not be further from fact. Board members serve because they want the chapter to remain vibrant and involved and not for personal motives; appreciating the more member involvement we have the better, and welcome turnover. An organization such as ours cannot succeed without a sound core of volunteers. As the key to fresh ideas, new members are encouraged to join the board. What do you expect from the chapter, what are you good at? Give this some thought and if you'd like to give back please let Jim Iden know the particular position you have an interest in. Jim Iden: jim@waynerussellsearch.com. For your review each position description is available on our website in the Chapter Ops Manual at www.houston-bmwcca.com under the "About US" tab.

2013 ELIGIBLE BOARD POSITIONS

- Secretary... 2 yr. elected position
- Treasurer... 2 yr. elected position
- Webmaster... 1 yr. appointed position
- Tech Advisor... 1 yr. appointed position
- Autocross Chair... 1 yr. appointed position
- Newsletter Editor... 1 yr. appointed position
- Membership Chair... 1 yr. appointed position
- Social Events Chair... 1 yr. appointed position
- Driving Events Chair... 1 yr. appointed position

As new events are planned and as we get closer to the scheduled dates our website is updated accordingly. Please check the website frequently to stay informed. And if you have not signed up for the monthly eBlasts you can do so directly from the website.

See ya on the back roads.

My First BMW

Alfonso Vanni

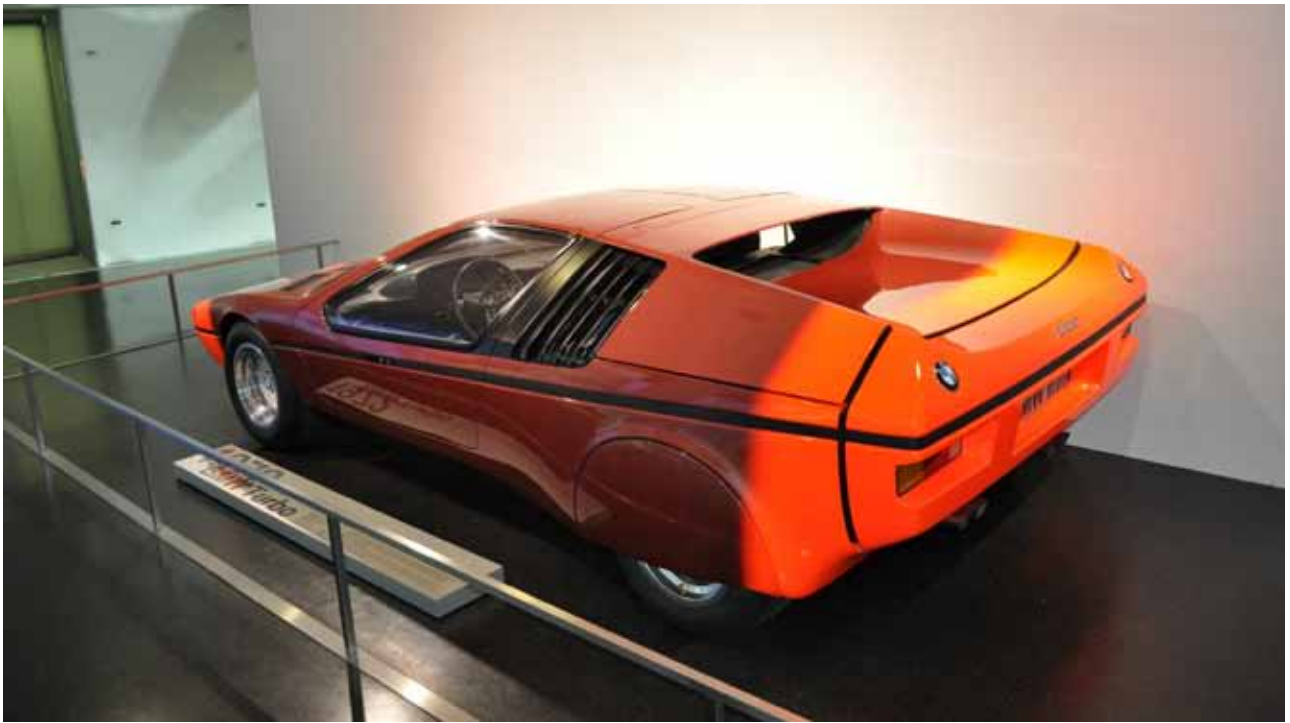
Unreal... that was the very first word that came to my mind when I finally got my BMW. It all started like three years ago when I moved to the states to further my education. I got to meet a great friend of mine who is a BMW lover as I am now. I was only in town a couple of months and she invited me to an autocross hosted by the local BMW Chapter. I thought well why not; let's go have some fun. I had never driven a BMW, but I knew what everybody knows and says "oh yeah Bimmers are awesome" "nice cars" "what a bada.. car" and so on. The point is that those phrases are not even close to what a BMW really is. Owning one goes beyond that; I can tell now for sure! And since I am a mechanical engineer, I notice the difference when I drive my BMW and then switch to a different car, not only because you just feel it but also because I know what is going on under the hood. Anyway, we get to the autocross, fill out some forms and listen to an introductory presentation about Bimmers, (I'm still waiting for the exciting stuff). At the end of the presentation we are told that we are going to drive not only a brand new 5 series with a professional driver but we are also driving the 5 series competitors from Mercedes Benz and a Lexus so we can compare and judge BMW performance on track against these two other cars. At that moment I thought "WOW!..this is serious stuff!!" It turns out the Bimmer kicked them in the seat of the pants with ease. I got to drive the three cars, speed

them up, test brakes, comfort, stability, and so on. Right after that autocross event I realized that I was crazy about BMW and just wanted to have one no matter what. Back home I started telling everyone how awesome Bimmers are now that I got to actually autocross one. Then, the sad part of it... what do I need to do to get one of these? Of course I wanted a 5 series, just like the one I drove, or nothing else. At the time, I owned a Toyota FJ cruiser and was trying to figure out how to make enough money out of this car to get a Bimmer. I finally came up with the idea of shipping my truck out to my home country and resell it over there so I could make the money I needed to finally get my 5 series. Everything turned out as planned; I shipped my truck out, sold it and got the money I was looking for! I was so happy!! I started looking for a 5 series until I found the right one – one just like at the autocross. It was an awesome 535i, low mileage, clean report, no dents, just perfect.



I am enjoying my beamer and having so much fun with it. Especially when I go out with a hot lady next to me and start kickin' asses.





Fredericksburg Weekend Oct-26 through Oct-28



The Inn on Barons Creek is once again pleased to welcome our group, and as usual we will have our own roped-off parking area! You are responsible for making your reservation

directly with the hotel. The Inn has a 48-hour cancellation policy for reservations. All rooms are no smoking and no pets. See website for more information... houston-bmwcca.com.

Hotel Information

Inn on Barons Creek Spa and Resort
308 South Washington
Fredericksburg, TX-78624
Toll free 1-866-990-0202
www.iobc-tx.com



2013 ELIGIBLE BOARD POSITIONS

Secretary... 2 yr. elected position

Treasurer... 2 yr. elected position

Webmaster... 1 yr. appointed position

Tech Advisor... 1 yr. appointed position

Autocross Chair... 1 yr. appointed position

Newsletter Editor... 1 yr. appointed position

Membership Chair... 1 yr. appointed position

Social Events Chair... 1 yr. appointed position

Driving Events Chair... 1 yr. appointed position

Make a difference, get involved, join the Board

Drive to Freeport

Sponsored by Advantage Clear Lake BMW



What a great time! The heat did not stop 25 people from attending the drive. I'd like to thank Randy Stine the General Manager at Advantage BMW Clear Lake for hosting the event and to Reene Bradshaw for coordinating the event with Advantage. Advantage provided, a box lunch from Panera's Bakery, goodie bags which included water for the drive, BMW service coupons and restaurant coupon. The door prize was for a BMW (of your choice) for a weekend.

Congratulations to David Leung , who won the raffle. The dealership had a new Grand Coupe for us to see and Bob and Barbara Inaba arrived in a 74 2002(original) which had many admirers in the parking lot in spite of the heat.

We left Advantage around 2:30 for our drive to Freeport where we had dinner at On the River Restaurant where we had great food and great conversation. We had members who have attended the drive previously as well as first timers. After dinner we drove to Surfside for our photo opportunity, wading in the ocean and more conversation. We then left for the drive home.

Our next drive will be in Fredericksburg, spend a casual and fun weekend in historic Fredericksburg. We will have a drive into the Hill Country for the best sweeping curves in Texas. We will also so meet for a party (costumes optional) and dinner visit our website for more information

www.houston-bmwcca.com





Gerald Anderson

In 2009 my wife signed us up for the 2 day ///M School at the BMW Performance Center in Spartanburg, South Carolina. We spent two glorious days pushing the current ///M cars to their limits and occasionally beyond our own limits. As the instructors said, "Don't worry, N.Y.C., Not Your Car". I learned a few things from this experience. 1st I'm addicted to cars, and BMW in particular; 2nd the BMW Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) and M3 chassis made a believer out of this "manual only" enthusiast; 3rd there is always room to improve the skill of driver and that I'm not nearly as great a driver as I thought I was; and most importantly, 4th

we were going to need an M3 of our own.

In early 2011 it was finally time to start thinking about getting an M3 in earnest. My E86 M Coupe was going out of warranty in the summer, and as a daily driver it was turning out to be less practical than I wanted (originally it was a weekend car), so we agreed that we would sell it (after Barber Ofest '11), and then I'd pick up a late 2012 E92 M3 before it went out of production. As a family of BMW nuts, we knew that if we were going to buy a new car, it should be through European Delivery as we'd read and heard too many stories about it not to experience it firsthand. With a plan to pick up one of the last E92 M3's in early June of 2012, the M Coupe was sadly sold to a fellow enthusiast in California in December of 2011. I started driving my wife's autocross winning E36 M3 as she had staked daily use claims to the E39 M5 when I experimented with daily driving the M Coupe. With rumors of the E92 being in production through MY2013 I started stressing and reconsidering the timing of the purchase. In February of 2012 I got confirmation from Matt Russell (BMW USA ///M Product Manager) himself that the E92 would be produced through June of 2013, so we shifted our plans to get the car in early September as a 2013 model.

With the timing out of the way it was time to work through the options list and get the car ordered. Through BMWCCA club events and autocross events I'd met Sergio Martinez at Advantage BMW Midtown, and he patiently worked with me to get

the best delivery date, as well as help me test the different options on other cars before finalizing my options, and getting me a great price. European Delivery prices are a minimum of 7% off normal delivery MSRP, so it's an easy way to subsidize a vacation to Germany. As a contributor of the annual banquet, autocross events, and helping me get my car, I can't say enough nice things about Sergio. Now back to the trip!

With the car order confirmed for production, the plane tickets booked, and 7 days of vacation approved we were on our way for our week in Germany. After a 15 hour flight through London we arrived in Munich on a Sunday afternoon to pleasant 80 degree weather. We took the U-Bahn (subway) to central Munich and checked into the Four Points Sheraton OlympiaPark hotel, which was directly off the U-Bahn exit, across the street from the BMW Factory, and a 5 minute walk to the Museum and Welt. Perfect location!! Even though it was getting close to dinner we had to go over to the BMW Welt, and to our surprise it was still open. It's an amazing structure, and with the large windows you are able to see the other notable BMW facilities across the street. The full line up of cars and motorcycles are on display with interactive kiosks highlighting some of the technology. From the 2nd floor you can see the area where people get "introduced" to their new BMWs. The theatrics of it are over the top, but hey, we're flying half way across the world to pick up a CAR, it should be an event. After strolling around for an hour or so we caught the U-Bahn and headed to Marienplatz City Center for dinner at one of the cafes and to have our 1st exposure to sausage and beer. Luckily for us, many of the restaurants have English menus so we didn't have to muddle through our lack of German. After using the free Wi-Fi outside the Apple store we headed back to the hotel.

Day 2 (Monday) was a late start as we adapted to Munich time, we went back to the Welt to see some cars being delivered and then do a tour of the factory. We also signed in for our delivery the next





day so that we could get our free factory tour passes and access to the Premium Lounge which serves food and beer to clients picking up cars. Since we weren't picking up until the next day we sampled the pretzels, beer and chocolate mousse desserts. On the Munich factory tour I felt a lot closer to the robots building the cars as you were literally walking across sections of the assembly and parts had to wait for us to cross a section before they would automatically start heading off to their destination. The Munich plant builds the new 3 series sedan and wagon, and 4 and 8 cylinder petrol engines. They make most of the 4 and 8 cylinder BMW engines, and send them off to the other factories around the world. After the tour we headed back down to Marienplatz to walk around the Viktualienmarkt to see the fresh foods and plants for sale by all the vendors, as well as tour the Neues Rathaus (New Town Hall) building and square. We ended the day having dinner and beer at the historic Hofbrauhaus.

Day 3 was delivery day, but before we picked up the car in the afternoon, we had a special treat, as we had been invited to attend the US M5 Launch event at the ///M Studio outside of Munich. On the street outside the studio were about 20 M5 that had just been delivered to US owners over the prior 3 days. Inside the studio they had examples of their "Chrome Bullet" M3, an individual color M5 and M6 as well as an old school individual long wheelbase 7 series with a crazy orange to red paint fade. ///M is currently responsible for ///M car development as well as Individual and Security vehicles, so their scope has grown some. They had a few quick presentations and a few engineers on hand to answer questions about the current M5, but went quiet if you asked about future production cars. They did

have a secret back parking lot that we got to walk through that had their prototype and test mules all wrapped up in the squiggly black and white paint schemes. Walking through the lot we got a glimpse of the new F80 M3 sedan, the nose of the M Grand Coupe, and the M version of the upcoming X5, that had a bassy rumble that restored my faith that the new turbo ///M cars will sound properly menacing. We stayed at the studio for about two hours. The rest of group headed up the mountains for a drive and then on to a restaurant, but we needed to pick up our car, so we went back to the Welt to tour the BMW Museum as time slowly ticked down to our 3:40PM delivery. The museum had a lot of interactive displays detailing history, innovation, motorsports, design, and marketing. While you couldn't touch most of the cars, it still had a warm feel. It was nice to see some of the classics, a real E46 M3 CSL, and a prototype 850i convertible.

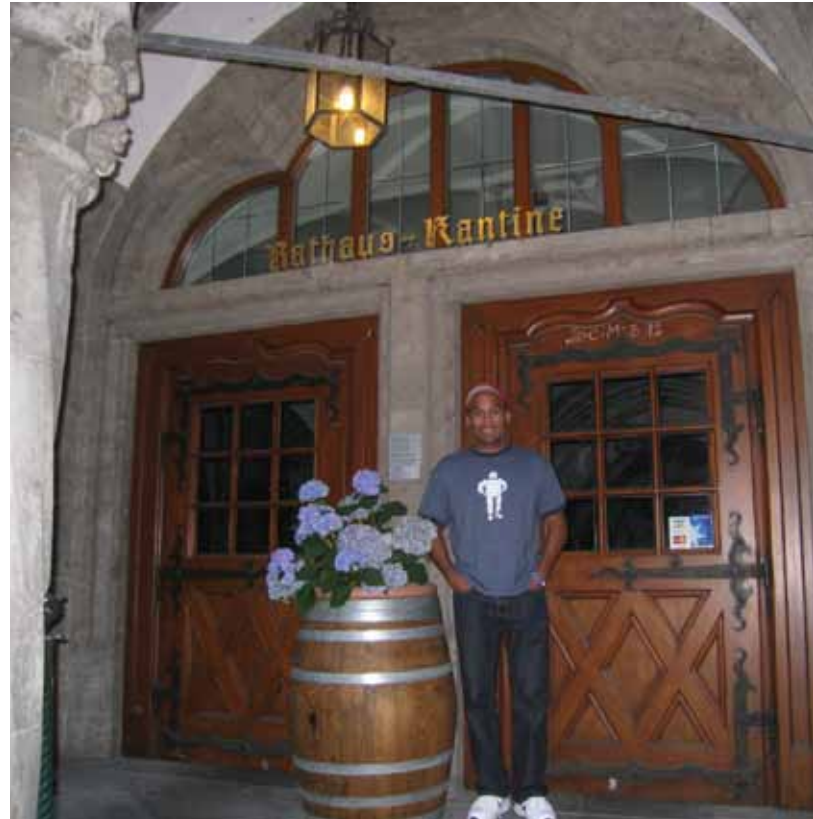
September 4th, 3:20PM. We enter the premium lounge and see our name on the board for a delivery in 20 minutes. Peering out the glass to the delivery area we see a white M3 with fox red interior and competition package wheels on display. As we press our hands and faces against the glass to get a better look, we think, that has to be our car. With that first look I feel emotions swell and blood rushing out of my head, and I can't fathom that after all the anticipation, we are finally seeing our new car. A car we have been dreaming about for over 4 years. We sneak around the lounge to the balcony without glass to get an unobstructed view of the car, and count down the minutes and seconds until we can go see it up close. At 3:40 we meet Judith, our delivery specialist, and she starts giving us details about BMW history and all I can think about is let's

get down to the car!! We slowly make our way down the staircase from the premium lounge on the 3rd floor to the delivery area on the 2nd floor, and as we get to a turning landing on the stairs we see the car at the bottom of the stairs, and then Judith has us pause there and take it all in. She uses this time to activate the turn table, so now the car starts spinning around. As we look at the car at the bottom of the stairs we can also see the BMW headquarters in the shape of 4 cylinders through the top of the Welt glass wall behind the car. It's just a great view, and best expressed by the huge grin on my face as I stare at the car. As we get down to the car, the car stops spinning, and we finally get to put our fingers on the car as Judith walks us through every component of the car over the next hour and a half. She helps us setup our navigation destinations and my iPhone so we'll have music to listen to during our trip. Unfortunately many of the functions such as BMW Assist, the Remote app and BMW ConnectedDrive wouldn't be able to work until I was back in the US. I had a t-shirt on that I had gotten from my wife a few weeks before and everyone around us wanted to see it, and all the delivery specialists wanted to know where you could get it. I figured if you're flying across the world to pick up a car, it was an appropriate shirt to wear "Still plays with CARS". The delivery manager liked it so much he agreed to fire up the M5 Police car they had on display so we could take pictures of the two cars driving around the delivery floor.

So after our intro to the car we headed out of the Welt after one more victory lap, and on to German roads for the 1st time, just in time for rush hour traffic, and a realization that when they say there is only minimal fuel in the car, they mean it. 90 euros

later, I have a full tank of gas and we make our 2nd attempt to get on to a clear road. We found an autobahn and get our first experience of German driving. No billboards for this product or that store, no drivers on cell phones, just signs for exits, signs for speed limits, and signs for passing, and drivers respecting the left lane as the passing lane! What a joy! We went back to the hotel, have some Italian food, and put a close on a very special day. We spend the next four days traveling to Innsbruck, Austria to see Swarovski Crystal world; Fussen, Germany to see Neuschwanstein Castle; Stuttgart, Germany to see the Porsche Museum; and

up Nurburg, Germany to visit the Nurburgring aka the Green Hell. I wish we had two weeks instead of one, as it all went by so quickly and there was so much more to see and do, but I guess that will have to wait until the next trip, and oh yes, there will be another Euro Delivery. I can't see buying a new BMW any other way. The one killer is that the car has been dropped off, and we have about 7 weeks to wait for it to make its way back to us. I guess I'll pass the time looking at aftermarket presents that I can get for the car. An exhaust and tint would be nice, let me start researching that.



Authorized Dealership of BMW N.A. **Momentum BMW West**

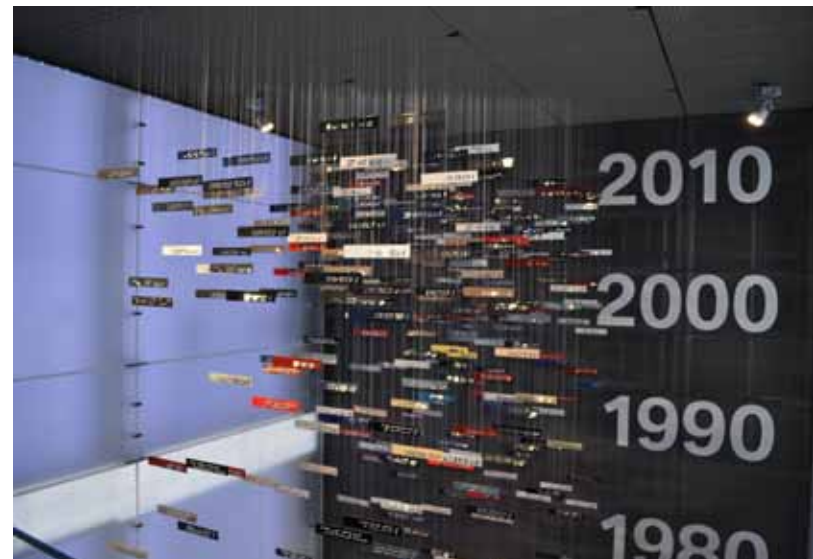
Address **Brad Massey**
 15865 Katy Freeway
 Houston, TX 77094
 Service Advisor

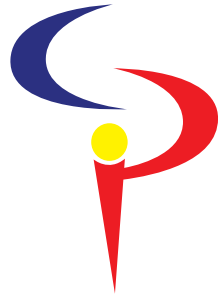
Main
 832.772.9100

Fax
 832.772.9190

Direct
 832.772.9020

e-mail
 brad.massey@bmwwest.com



**COLLISION
PLUS INC.**

Quality Services:

- Exotic/ Highline Customizations
- Auto paint & body repair
- Framework
- Auto glass
- Window tint
- Auto detailing

Auto Accessories:

- Alarms
- Stereos
- Body Kits, etc.



Collision Plus Inc.
7628 Bellaire Blvd.
Houston, TX 77036
713.988.5489
(fax) 713.988.6451

Collision Plus II
600 Hwy. 6 South
Houston, TX 77079
281.496.5489
281.496.6451 (fax)

www.collisionplusinc.com



TECH TIP Mike Miller



Maintenance, or more particularly the lack thereof, is a serious issue for used BMW buyers today or those who keep the car for the long haul.

In his Lifetime Maintenance Schedule, automotive writer and BMW CCA Roundel Technical Editor Mike Miller discusses maintenance for long-term ownership. For Mike, long-term means more than 100,000 miles or without a warranty. Here is an excerpt, printed with permission:

"The BMW Maintenance Program (formerly known as Scheduled Maintenance) means that BMW will perform scheduled maintenance free of charge during the BMW New Vehicle Limited Warranty period. In 1992 BMW made 3/36 scheduled maintenance coverage available for purchase. In 1993 BMW began covering scheduled maintenance for V12 models (750iL and 850i). Three-year/36,000 mile scheduled maintenance became standard across the BMW line-make in 1996.

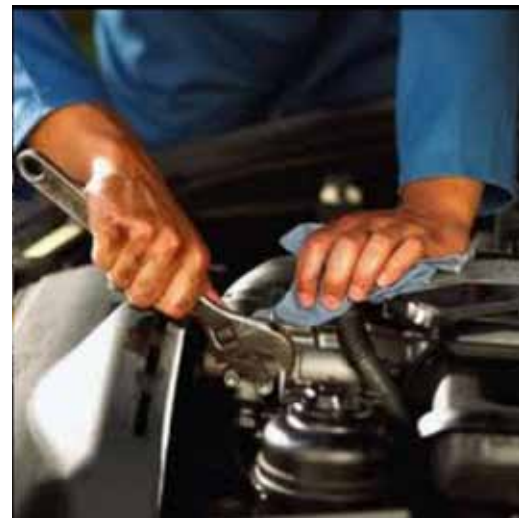
"If you are going to trade, sell, or return your car during the BMW New Vehicle Limited Warranty or even much before 100,000 miles there is no reason to perform extra maintenance other than helping out subsequent owners of the car. If you get rid of the car during the warranty or even much before 100,000 miles, superior maintenance is not likely to affect your

ownership experience with one exception, the manual gearbox – it will shift better if you change its oil at the reasonable intervals discussed here.

"Prior to Scheduled Maintenance, you couldn't change engine oil often enough according to the dealer. And when the car was in the shop it would often be due for this service or that inspection, all at the owner's expense. The operative word here is "scheduled." Once BMW began paying for scheduled maintenance, lo and behold the schedule was continually revised to eliminate maintenance items.

"So, is today's BMW Maintenance Program all about marketing and cost reduction – BMW's costs? Draw your own conclusions. There is no doubt that many buyers view BMWs as high maintenance cars and that can be an impediment to sales – but it is also entirely correct. Nothing can address that more effectively than Free Scheduled Maintenance. In my opinion, extended service intervals and "lifetime fill" came very close on the heels of Free Scheduled Maintenance."

Mike will send a free PDF of his Lifetime Maintenance Schedule to any of his readers via email request sent to auspuf2002@aol.com.



Attention BMW and MINI Cooper Owners! We have your costly dealer alternative!



**NORTH HOUSTON
BEEMER**

22820 I-45 North, Ste 1-A
Spring, TX 77373
(exit Spring Steubner West Road)



nhbeemer@gmail.com

phone: 281-288-8200

fax: 281-288-2804

nhbeemer.com

free shuttle 30 mile radius

Did you know if your wheels are out of alignment, it will cause an increase in fuel consumption?

Let us save you money by providing a FREE Alignment Check in a matter of minutes!

Put your trust in our up to date dealer factory training!

Dealer prices have risen but we are 30% less with the same training!

Monday-Friday 8am - 5pm Saturday 9am-2pm **free wifi**
Call or email for an appointment

North Houston Beemer is family owned by a 13 year BMW Dealership Master Technician and Team Leader. The BMW Step Program is a prestigious training program available only to top performing graduates of the country's best automotive technical schools. This ensures the highest quality BMW Service Technicians. North Houston Beemer has three BMW Master Technicians who have completed the BMW Step program, one has seven years of experience and was a team leader, one has four years of experience, and they all have worked at a BMW dealer before working at North Houston Beemer.

We specialize exclusively in BMW & MINI Coopers. We are not affiliated with any other shops.

Alignment Check FREE
Includes: steering & suspension system, including tie rods, ball joints, control arms & components. We will adjust your vehicle on alignment rack, steers & compensate sensors. We will adjust your alignment readings without any adjustments. This coupon per system. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/12.

A/C Check FREE
Includes checking a/c operation, leaks, a pressure test, and a recharge. Not including making freon. This coupon per system. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/12.

Visual Inspection FREE
Includes checking safety items such as brakes, suspension, power steering & fluid levels. This coupon per system. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/12.

ALIGNMENTS ONLY \$99.99
This coupon per system. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/12.

COOLANT FLUSHES ONLY \$89.99
This coupon per system. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/12.

Get an Oil Change & Coolant Flush
Get a Brake Flush FREE
This coupon per system. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/12.

\$30.00 OFF your total bill of \$300 or more
This coupon per system. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/12.

\$100.00 OFF your total bill of \$600 or more
This coupon per system. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/12.

BRAKE FLUSHES ONLY \$79.99
This coupon per system. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/12.

Loaner cars available for certain repairs
We do Performance Software
Call for Details
This coupon per system. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/12.

We except certain extended warranties

discounted car rental

We do factory accessories such as iPod kits, alarms, cd changers, bike racks, wheels, body kits, x5 running boards, and trailer hitches!

BMW - DINAN Performance Kits - all vehicle models

MINI - John Cooper Works & other Performance Kits

Window tinting, glass repairs and replacement, and wheel repairs.

Seconds away from Hardy Toll Road and minutes away from Woodlands Park and Ride

Long Journey North

James Saynay



There are few things in life more satisfying than reaping the benefits of your efforts. And few things are more tangible than the work we do to keep our BMW's running at top performance. I have experienced this twice - the most recent during my inaugural trip to O'Fest with the Road Monkeys. The effort was over a year in the making. I had purchased a 1985 535i (or E28 for you E-code buffs), and had been doing this and that to not only bring the thing up to snuff but to also improve its reliability. This is no small feat. Finding faith in a 27 year old car that has been looked after nearly all of its' life by a stranger is a daunting task. However, I felt up to the challenge. After base lining the engine, changing suspension components, and doing a little "stance work", not to mention new wheels, interior, pumps, hoses, and blah, blah, blah I felt the ol' beastie was deserving of a formidable road trip.

OH YES – Road Monkeys – well they were definitely involved. I had been hoping to attend O'Fest for the last three years and finally this year

I was committed (probably the only New Year's resolution I had ever kept). I was the "newbie" Road Monkey this year. Afterall, what an honor to haul Vinnie halfway across the States. And even more so, what an honor to join some wonderful people in the quest to never follow the interstate!

So there we were at the initial meet up point – Road Monkey's, me and the ol' beastie. "Don't let me down now" (I thought as I looked at the now vintage 5er), "I've put my heart and soul into you."

During the entire first day from Houston to the Edwardian Inn located in Arkansas, the 5er never let me down. In fact, I was gaining a lot of confidence in its ability to make this trip without a hitch. That night at the Inn, all of the pre-checks I had performed the weekends before ran through my mind. The Inn was built in 1906 and originally housed a large family, and even a funeral parlor before finally being converted into a bed and breakfast. Its' grand style and classical wood-

work somehow played off of my endeavor to run the E28 on this trip and that theme baked in my head all night.

The second day was again uneventful – and turned out to be another great run all the way to the Beaumont Inn located Kentucky – a Plantation style B&B. I was able really test out the suspension mods and feel the essence of the car work it's magic in the curves. I felt like a proud papa for sure as I turned in for the night.

Third day after my morning checks the first few hours came and went, but it was just before lunch on Highway 76 that I realized what I had accomplished. I had (with the help of forums and many good friends) revitalized the car to its original and former glory! Nope this is no //M5, nor is this any special model of sorts, but it was sure one heck of a lot of fun to drive! The more I threw at it the more it seemed to crave for more – one more curve, one more shift, one more chance to prove itself. And prove itself it did all the way to O'Fest!



Stay Informed!! - eBlast Signup

Once a month the Chapter emails an eBlast to all members who have indicated they want to be kept abreast of Chapter activities and events, as well as news and information involving the Chapter. If you wish to receive this information and are not already signed up you may do so on the website at www.houston-bmwcca.com. The eBlast request is located at the lower left on the front page.

AUTHORIZED DEALERSHIP OF
BMW NA

Momentum BMW

TONY SAKKIS
EUROPEAN DELIVERY MANAGER

Office Address
10002 Southwest Freeway
Houston, TX 77074
tesakkis@hotmail.com

Main 713-596-3100
Fax 713-596-3164
Mobile 281-380-3275
Direct 713-596-3178



Would you like to advertise in Torque of the Town?

Contact newsletter@houston-bmwcca.com for rates and availability.

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.



www.BavAuto.com • 800.535.2002

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

ANNUAL BANQUET

Our Annual Banquet is approaching and volunteers are needed to assist with the details and coordination. We have more attendees at this one event than any other throughout the year. Getting all the pieces to come together in a smooth and orderly fashion is crucial.

Your participation to help make this another success will be greatly appreciated. Please send your name and contact info to Kathy Lee at socialevents@houston-bmwcca.com



Quality Bicycles and Accessories Since 1979
Trek - Cannondale - Litespeed and more
2909 Joanel St. Houston 77027

713.850.0250 - www.bikesport.com - 800.472.6830

ON THE COVER:

1934 BMW 315/1 Roadster

1,490cc OHV Straight 6

40 HP @ 4,300 RPM

Weight: 1,653 lb.

MOVING?

Please send address changes directly to:

BMW CCA, INC.
640 South Main St, Suite 201
Greenville, SC 29601
or online at: www.bmwcca.org



Serving Houston since 1999!

- **High-Speed DSL Internet**
- **Server Colocation**
- **Web Site Hosting**
- **IT/Network Consulting**

Visit Our Website Or Call Today!

<http://www.oplink.net>
281-445-9800

Oplink.net is a proud sponsor of Houston BMW CCA.



ProAm Parts & Accessories
 6125 Richmond Ave.
 Houston, TX 77057
 713-781-7755 800-847-5712
 www.proamauto.com



For Houston's BMW Enthusiasts, ProAm offers over 25 years experience with quality performance parts and service.

We offer: DE Car preparation & Corner Balancing
 Suspension & Brake Upgrades
 Wheel & Tire packages - Mounting & Balancing
 Routine Maintenance - Full Synthetic Oil Changes
 Race Car Prep for SCCA, NASA, Lemons, ChumpCar
 Complete Detailing Services & Headlight Restoration



We stock: Redline 10w60 Motor Oil for M cars
 Bilstein & Koni suspensions
 RECARO ergonomic seats
 Simpson, G-Force, & RaceQuip Racing gear
 ESCORT Radar
 Klasse, Connelly,
 P21s car care

Editor's Corner



I have to say that we have one heck of a Chapter. The Houston folks are quite active - more dare I say than most other Chapters. Don't believe me? Think of this - in the last quarter we have organized a Teen Survival School (unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather, but stay tuned for the re-schedule), had 4 of our members take European delivery on new models, the Road Monkeys rode again, one of our own took First Place in his autocross class at O'Fest (Congrats Blake LaGrone!), Chapter organized drives care of Kathy Lee Kehoe, coffee gatherings and on and on and on. Yes, our Chapter is quite active and its the members that make all the difference.

Don't believe me? I can prove it. Let me explain. Over the years there have been several attempts to augment our Houston Chapter through unsanctioned clubs that want to represent BMW. And, over the years each one has met it's demise for one reason or another. Sometimes its the fall off of interest, sometimes its internal turmoil, other times they just fade away for no reason at all. One such club however has stood the test of time. Yes! It's our own BMW CCA Houston Chapter. Why, you might ask? It's quite simply because of our members.

Having attended several board meetings I can say that like a business, our Houston Board works together to make sure they are giving our members what they are looking for in a car club. They work hard with no compensation other than the reward they get for loving the marque. What I can tell you is that if you are reading this and thinking you would like to see something happen in the club then by all means speak up! The board would love to hear suggestions and will make things happen if at all possible.

We have so many fantastic events coming up in the next few months. If you have never been, the annual drive to Fredericksburg is huge fun. There are more autocross opportunities and a driving event coming up to test your ride in a safe and controlled environment.

Finally, there is one group of folks that I have not mentioned - our sponsors. Thank each and every one of them for helping keep our publication alive and supporting our Chapter. Make sure to give them a shot the next time you need equipment or need maintenance.

The cold weather is here so get out and enjoy a back road that leads somewhere you have never been before - you and your car will be richly rewarded.

Until then, keep two hands on the wheel and all four on the ground.

- James

www.BMWofHoustonNorth.com **BMW of Houston North**

Address
 17730 North Freeway (145)
 Houston, TX 77090


Mike Williams
 Parts Director

Direct
 281-874-1551

Mobile
 281-732-8894

Fax
 281-875-4021

e-mail
 WilliamsM@autonation.com



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Member: Priscilla Irawan

Nominated by: James Saynay

Every organization has its bunch of unsung heroes that help keep things moving along. Our Chapter is no different. There are many wheels in the machine that need "lubrication" to help things run smoothly.

One of these heroes (and my personal favorite) is Priscilla Irawan. She always lends a hand soliciting articles for the Torque, helping to drum up advertising and asking nothing in return.

A familiar member at our monthly gathering, Priscilla is there with her signature laugh and smile.

Thanks Priscilla from me especially for all you have done to help out in the Chapter!!

Members - your club needs your help. We need volunteers for Teen Street Survival, finding sponsors for the Torque of the Town and help with social events. Please help our chapter to be more than it could be by volunteering.

Street Survival contact Jim Iden at jiden@sbcglobal.net,

Torque of the Town contact James Saynay, newsletter@houston-bmwcca.com,

Social Committee contact Kathy Kehoe-Lee at socialevents@houston-bmwcca.com

Houston Chapter
BMW Car Club of America
Post Office Box 56763
Houston, TX 77256-6763
www.houston-bmwcca.com

President
David Dalton
713-829-8950
president@houston-bmwcca.com

Vice President
Dennis Nowak
vice-president@houston-bmwcca.com

Secretary
Pam Johnson
secretary@houston-bmwcca.com

Treasurer
Sarah Nowak
treasurer@houston-bmwcca.com

Autocross Chair
Aaraj P Thyagaraj
autocross-coordinators@houston-bmwcca.com

Membership Chair
Pam Johnson
membership@houston-bmwcca.com

Social Events Chair
Kathy Lee
socialevents@houston-bmwcca.com

Driving Events Coordinator
Ken Finley

Newsletter Editor
James Saynay
newsletter@houston-bmwcca.com

Webmaster
Jeff Thomson
webmaster@houston-bmwcca.com

South Central Regional VP
Dan Baker - 832-298-1984
southcentralrvp@bmwcca.org

Technical Advisor
Mike Williams - 281-874-1551
WilliamsM@autonation.com

Past Presidents
Vikki Finley • Dan Baker
Jeff Bailey • James Salazar

Internet Services courtesy of
OpLink
www.oplink.net
281-445-9800

Printing Services
AIM Printing & Publishing
www.ynotprint.com
713-780-0503

WELCOME New Members to the Houston Chapter!

In order to help us keep you informed of last minute changes to event schedules, please send your email address to: membership@houston-bmwcca.com

We will add your name to the e-mail list that goes out on a more frequent basis. Also, be sure and visit our website and forum at www.houston-bmwcca.com

M PERFORMANCE

Specializing in BMW, as well as all High-End Import Cars



MECHANIC SERVICES

- Complete OEM Level Diagnostic Equipment
 - Autologic - Leonardo
- Programming / Encoding
- Performance Software Upgrade
- Scheduled Maintenance
- Suspension Repair
- Computerized 4-Wheel Alignment Using In-Ground Hofmann Laser Align
- Tire/Wheel Mount & Balance Service
- A/C Service & Repair
- Performance Upgrades
- Full Race Car Build, Prep & Maintenance
- Factory Trained BMW Master Technician

BODY & PAINT SERVICES

- Complete Body Shop Services
- Collision Repair
- Show Car Quality Paint Job (PPG Water-Based Paints)
- Frame Repair Using Car-Bench & Celette Frame Machines
- Accepting ALL Insurance Claims
- Super Shield "Clear Bra" Authorized Retailer



Auto Body Excellence.

17545 Kuykendahl Suite-B Spring, TX 77379



281.205.4245

mperformancehouston.com

TORQUE OF THE TOWN

2011 Center of Excellence Award Winner



We Bleed BMW **blue.**
MOMENTUM BMW
SOUTHWEST



10002 SW FWY, Houston, TX 77074 • Tel: 713-596-3100 • www.momentumbmw.net

