

TORQUE^{OF} THE TOWN

SUMMER 2016

The Voice of the Houston Chapter BMW Car Club of America





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ON THE COVER:

*Budapest parliament
building at night*





Open Roads

Blake LaGrone
President -
Houston Chapter

Our summer season is in full swing and moving along well, the facility in Galveston is apparently a very interesting place to visit. They allowed 25 visitors and that's how many folks signed up. The Golf Tournament went about as well as can be expected in an economy that is struggling as ours is.



Next up is our **Texas Trifecta** at Circuit of the Americas (COTA) racetrack in Austin. We still have spots for anyone who wish to drive what is the Premier (and only Formula 1 certified) racetrack in America. Having done that myself I can assure any who are wavering that it is worth it!

Even if you don't want to drive the HPDE come on out and participate in the Auto Cross event on Saturday. It will give you a chance to see what the track is like and visit some other exhibits that are happening concurrently. You won't be bored!



I want to welcome our new member who signed up at this past weekend's coffee meet and greet. **Rey Longoria** and **Veronica** attended their first coffee and we were able to get Rey signed up as a new member using my phone. I hope to see them both at the upcoming COTA event!

Nice folks and I think they will be a good addition to our Roster.

For those of you who take the **Houston Chronicle**, you may have seen our own **Art Yee** in an article written by **Jeff Yip** recently. Art is on his way to Greenville South Carolina and the Performance center at the BMW factory to pick up his new BMW M2! He is pictured here in the M2 that was tested by Jeff. I believe Art also got the "Long Beach" blue color. I am so totally jealous! We're happy for you Art, can't wait to see it.

I will be heading to Austin this weekend to Volunteer at the Texas Trifecta event. While I won't be driving the track, I did sign up for the Autocross event on Saturday.

I was offered a chance to travel to Germany and attend the M school at Nurburgring at the end of this month (Thank you Adriana!!!). I had to choose between paying for the Trifecta or the M school at Nurburgring. I hope you will forgive me for choosing a chance to drive the new M2 at the M school in Nurburgring.

I have heard they have lots of **Open Roads** there . . . something called the **Autobahn!**



May was a busy month for our club and one event was the annual **Homes For Our Troops** charity golf tournament. We had wonderful weather for the event and while it was not as well attended as last year it turned out well and all who attended had a great time. The course was in great shape thanks to all the rain we had been having. I had a problem with my phone after this tournament and had to replace it. Unfortunately, when I moved my data to the new phone, all of the pictures I had taken got lost in the Ether! I did manage to salvage a few from our other teams.

Advantage BMW Midtown was our Tournament Sponsor this year and **General Manager David Beer** and his team attended and played very well. They also sent a gorgeous 2016 M6 to the course for display. I tried to talk him into making it a Hole in one prize but that wasn't in the cards.

Many Thanks also to **BMW of North Houston** and to **BMW of West Houston** for the donations that provided our door prizes and the raffle items. Your generosity is much appreciated!

We had a few new wrinkles this year, **"Stik it Golf"** owners Sam and Steve were there again this year and brought out the Golf ball cannon on the first hole. This little gizmo could shoot a golf ball 350-450 yards in a straight line and for \$20 you could use that shot as your drive. Pat Malone on (in green shorts on the right) won the closest to the pin on hole #1 with this. His shot was about 5 feet from the pin. Way to go Pat! We also had Heather from **"Charity Golf Intl"** there to hit the long drive on number 6. This young lady was a real



Ed Solymosy, Michael Anastasio, Yours truly and Pat Malone.



Ed taking his turn at aiming for the flag 350 yards downrange.

artist with a driver in her hand! Then we had Jessica from **"Dixon Golf"** on scene and she set up a closest to the pin contest on number 4 as well as a driving contest on number 14. **David Eberly** won the raffle for the **Aurelius Driver**.

Using the "Golden Ticket" from "Stik it Golf" gave our players some amazing opportunities to score well. Our **Treasurer Bill Krupowicz** won first place for the low net of 51! That's an amazing score and 21 strokes under Par for one round!

the internet and next time you need parts, check out his inventory and prices. Thanks Michael for your help in beating the bushes for Sponsors and donations!

Thanks to Hole Sponsor **Ed Solymosy** and his company **APG LLC**. Ed thanks so much for your help in putting together our tournament! I had a great time playing with you, hope we can do it again soon.

Many thanks to our Hole Sponsor **"Texas-German Autohaus"**, I met with **Hans Richter** at his facility and he is a true enthusiast of the marvelous German engineering that goes into our cars. He also has a really cool supercharged Mercedes that he modified himself. Beautiful work!



Thanks to Hole Sponsor **Michael Anastasio** and his company **"PerformanceStop.com"**. Look him up on

Special thanks to Volunteers **Diane Albrecht** (you saved my bacon on the registration table!) and **Ken Finley** (I didn't need a ladder with you around!) for all your help in the setup prior to the tournament. I really appreciated the help you both provided.

Also back this year is **"Diamonds in the Rough"**. **Jay Willet** brought his sports memorabilia auction to the event. These guys always bring some cool stuff...

We had dinner afterwards which was provided by **"Russo's Italian Grill"**. They have a coal fired oven that they make their bread and Pizza dough in that really gives it a distinctive flavor! IMHO they have the best Caesar salad in Houston.

It was a beautiful day to be on the Golf course and no one went away empty handed thanks to the generosity of our BMW dealerships and the Houston BMWCCA.

"Many thanks to **Debbie** from **"InkDots"** in NW Houston. She graciously donated our "Hole Sponsor" signs and they turned out great!" Our thanks to **"GolfTech"** in the Galleria for their donation of the swing analysis coupons. Thanks to the Men's group from **"Community of Faith"** church in NW Houston for their donation of \$350. Thanks guys, 1st is of "David" getting ready to fire the canon, and the second is of my friends Gary Frick and his wife Kerry.





Blake LaGrone

We held our “Night at the Museum” event a couple of weeks ago and that was a real visual Treat! **The Museum of Fine Art Houston** had contacted us a couple of months before and offered to host our club and provide a guided tour for our groups. We saw some of the best of the hand made “**Sculpted in Steel**” Art Deco automobiles and motorcycles in existence. Our Docent was a very knowledgeable young lady and she did a great job of telling us about these cars. As we entered there was a fine example of a classic **Packard 12** . . . Around the corner was an early **BMW R7** motorcycle on loan from the Museum in Germany. . .

I love the colors they chose on this **Talbot Lago**!

Next is a Ford? This **Edsel Ford Model 40** (see next page for pictures) is one of the first all-aluminum cars ever built and it was intended to be mass produced. Alas, it was too expensive to produce profitably at the time. A lot of the cars of this time followed the current designs of the aircraft of the era.

I have always loved the old **Chord** Autos, here is one that was owned by **Frank Lloyd Wright** the famous Architect. Our Docent said this was his favorite color!

Not too many of these around, the **Delahaye** was the favorite of then burgeoning film industry here in the U.S.A. Many a Starlet was seen exiting these beautiful machines.

The **Hispano Suiza** has a bubble canopy and really looks ready to fly! Even the exhaust is sculpted for aerodynamics!

This **Voison** had the prettiest interior, unfortunately none of the shots turned out well....they wouldn't let me open the door or use a flash.

This was a visual cornucopia for me. Its hard to imagine just how much hard work went into creating every one of these gorgeous machines. Literally most every part was hand made by a metalsmith artisan. These pieces are timeless art. . .



**1934 Packard Model 12
LeBaron Body**



1934 BMW R7



**1938 Talbot Lago T150C-SS
Tear Drop Coupe
Body by Figoni & Falaschi**



1929 Cord L29



1934 Bugatti T50



1934 Voisin Type C-27
Aero Sport Coupe



1936 Delahaye 135M
Competition Coupe
Body by Figoni & Falaschi



1938 Hispano-Suiza H6C
Dubonnet Xenia



1934 Edsel Ford Model 40

EXHIBITION TICKET
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AND MOTORCYCLES, 1929-1940
February 21, 2016 - May 30, 2016
This any day, any time ticket is valid for one entry
during regular Museum hours. Drop in at your convenience.
Entry into the exhibition is available until one hour
before the Museum closes. Ticket will be scanned at entry.



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Volunteers! Jim Iden

What a great event, so many thanks from students and parents appreciating your work, efforts and attitude. One I liked the most was "what a smooth running machine".
Your consistencies in running one event to another is impressive in course set up, registration, PR to the students, parents and instructors; though tear down and clean up, your energies bring smiles on all faces. Not to mention, as our ranks thinned in the afternoon your second wind pulled us through.

No matter, the day was cool with a nice breeze that everyone seemed to enjoy. How can I say thanks enough? This event could not have run so well without you.

From Walt:

I wanted to thank you for the great group of volunteers that helped us make Saturday's TSS so successful. It's not just me saying this, either. I heard from a lot of my instructors that this was the best group of volunteers, ever. They had amazing energy and enthusiasm all day long! The standing ovations from the lane change crew (and the brake-and-turn crew), the thumbs up from slalom and brake and turn crews, the positive words from the group leaders, the speed that cones got reset. All of that worked together to make a great impression on our students as well as making it easier on our instructors. It was really nice to be able to tell that all of the volunteers were so into what was going on. Their efforts meant that our students got extra runs on some of the exercises. Extra runs mean a chance for them to build more confidence in their abilities. Please pass this along to all of the volunteers to make sure to let them know how much their efforts meant and how much we appreciate them!

Regards,

Walt Phillips
Instructor Lead

Hey all,

Once again my sincere thanks for your support in making this fall Street Survival school an outstanding success! I've just been through all the student and parent surveys and wanted to share the results with you.

I'll start with the classroom feedback. Classroom, not surprisingly, is historically always the thing students like least. However this year we not only had just a couple of those type of comments, but many students indicated they actually liked classroom and it was a good compliment to the driving! Way to go Jim and Chris. You guys had to rock with the new material!
30 of 32 parents scores (we had 32 students) rated the day as "Very Good" overall (the choices are Very Good, Good, or Could be better). The other 2 were "Good". One of those thought the classroom was too repetitive as their only negative. The other had trouble finding the class online and wanted the instructor to push their child harder. Go figure.

Ken Finley



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Coffee meetings:

Cedar Creek Cafe Bar & Grill
9am - 12pm
July 16
August 13
September 10

AutoCross:

Houston Police Academy
8:30 - 3:30pm
September 18
October 16
November 20

Board Meeting:

Lyndon's BBQ
11am - 2pm
November 12

Teen Street Survival:

Houston Police Academy
8am - 4pm
October 15

New Members

- Alfredo Garcia - Spring
- Ali Toufaily, Richmond
- Andrew Baird - Cypress
- Asmir Halilagic - Houston
- Ben Mull - Houston
- Callum Watts - Montgomery
- Christopher Laderer - Tomball
- Daniel Aguirre - Cypress
- Daniel Yepes - Houston
- Danielle Meyers - Houston
- David Work - The Woodlands
- Douglas Budai - Cleveland
- Drew Wolfingbarger - Houston
- Fabian Saldana - Houston
- Gerardo Juarez - Houston
- Gytisha Strickland - Houston
- James Greenhalgh - The Woodlands
- Janara Jones - Katy
- Jason McCain - Lake Jackson
- Jeff Anderson-Lester - Kingwood
- Jordan Fein - Houston
- Juan Carbajal - Houston
- Jules Avila - League City
- Lewis Allen - Bellaire
- Matthew Cunningham - Houston
- Meyling Chonhim - Houston
- Michael Ennis - Houston
- Michael Klaybor - Houston
- Michael McDaniel - Houston
- Michael Matheidas - The Woodlands
- Paul Katz - Bellaire
- Paul Hennigan - League City
- Philip Duterme - Bellaire
- Rick Nussle - Richmond
- Roger Kaatz - Bryan
- Samuel Laperna - Houston
- Trevor Yates - Houston
- William Kalkhoff - Spring
- Zachary Snider - Houston

Students ratings followed their parents. 30 of 32 were "Very Good" with two "Goods". The two good students did not provide any feedback on their opinions.

In addition to those basic statistics here are my other takeaways from the comments:

1. You all continue to do an amazing job of engaging students and parents in a way that makes them all feel comfortable. You are approachable, friendly, encouraging etc. Well Done!
2. More student comments this year on how well the instructors did making the lessons real and understandable.
3. Our population is becoming soft and "needy";
 - a. Not enough shade, weather was a little warm....
 - b. Hard to focus for such a long time
 - c. Large time commitment
 - d. Need to offer a chance to select food options at registration
 - e. No vegetarian or gluten free choices
 - f. Smaller groups
4. Todays kids cannot write. Very poor penmanship!
5. Quite a few parents want an adult school

The vast majority of our attendees learned about the school based on word of mouth. That means what you all do results in people telling others to come. Additionally we have multi kid families. One dad there was sitting under a very nice large umbrella. When I commented on how prepared he was for spectating he said it was his 3rd time here so he was prepared.

This type of participation wouldn't be possible if all of you were not as great at your work as you are. Thank you again for the great attitudes and continued support for Street Survival!

You are making an amazing difference 32 kids at a time!!!!

Ken Finley

Editors note:

Teen Street Survival is the most important thing we do as a car club. Teaching driving skills and giving the opportunity of having a place to practice driving in emergency situations builds confidence and provides knowledge and experience found nowhere else. This is not simply Driver's ED. It's an opportunity to get hands on the wheel training from qualified instructors. Simply put; TSS saves lives. Anyone who's driven in Houston traffic knows these driving skills are of paramount importance in keeping people safe. And every volunteer is a part of that. A lot goes into these events. It doesn't happen overnight. There's a lot of preparation. It takes a lot of volunteers to make it a success. Every club member can be proud of the team we put together.



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BMW Museum and Danube River Cruise



Jeff Otten

Last year my brother contacted us and told us they were going to book a Viking river cruise for 2016 and that Tish and I should go. We checked it out, and signed up. The river cruise was combined with notable cities, ours started in Munich. With flights from Houston, we arrived early afternoon at the hotel in Munich. At 6:30pm there was a reception and orientation, but until that we were on "free time". We were in the Le Meridien so pretty close to the historic downtown area. My brother and sister in-law got there much earlier than us, so they had already ventured out to the downtown area. In 1984 I went to the BMW museum and was anxious to go again.

The Viking rep gave us directions on how to get there by subway and bus, the hotel was across the street from the train station, but I was worried we would waste too much time, so said if we all went, just take a cab. So we piled in and €20 later we were there.

The famous four cylinder building looked the same. However now on the other side of the street is the BMW Welt (World) which is where new cars are displayed and also picked up. I should have known this from the Winter TOT 2015 article, "My Trip to the Welt".

It wasn't clear exactly where the museum entrance was so we went in the small building to the left, and found out the three buildings are intended the to represent the present, the future, and the past of BMW. The overhead walkway quickly got us to the entrance of the museum.

The charge for the museum is now €10 for adults, but if you present a BMWCCA car club membership card you get in for €7. The guy hesitated when I said I wanted four (4) tickets at that price, but after we told him we had two (2) club members and two (2) family members he relented and let us all in for 28.

The museum contains many BMW motorcycles as well cars with focus on the early years of BMW and the racing heritage of BMW. I enjoy seeing the motorcycles and believe BMW marketing has long been enhanced from being the only European car manufacturer that also produces motorcycles.



Early BMW Motorcycle

In the racing bike section they had one of my favorite bikes, the R90S (circa 1976).



R90S complete with 2 spark plugs per cylinder



Display of trunk badges

One display I found very interesting was the trunk badge display. While almost every BMW in the US seems to be badged, the majority of the cars I saw in Europe have no badge.



Another interesting display was the clay design car

The formula one cars were also interesting, maybe someday the F1 rule book will get reasonable again and BMW can join back in. Nelson Piquet won the 1983 Championship in the Brabham BT52 with BMW turbo engine making about 800hp.



Brabham BT52 with BMW power

Many race engines are on display, as are regular car engines.



BMW V10 3 liter race engine, 19,000rpm and 925hp

Of course there are plenty of road cars exhibited, with a full line of 3 series cars covering many models. About this time my party was urging me on...but a couple of the classics...



2007 Z3 4-cylinder power



Z8 with V8 power

Next we headed back across the street to the BMW World part. Plenty of new cars, motorcycles, and BMW accessories to look at.

When we got back to the Hotel we found out that evening that on the included Munich city tour we would also stop for about 30 minutes at the BMW Welt. Not enough time to see the museum, so I was glad we were able to go on the first day.

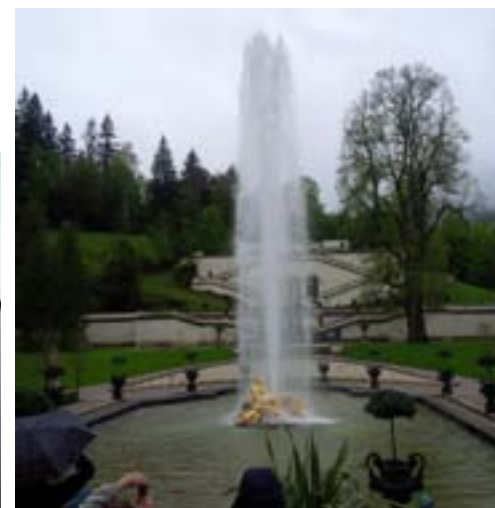
The next day we went to the Neuschwanstein Castle and Linderhof Palace. This took all day as it is a bus ride. All the Viking buses are state of the art, very comfortable, and only about half filled at most.

These are both very interesting and well worth the visit. We learned a lot about Ludwig....he certainly had some issues. The fountain at the Linderhof palace grounds goes off about every 30 minutes. Linderhof Palace fountain

The next day we did the city tour. During the tour they stopped at BMW Welt. The new M2 caught my eye, so I went back to look. The attendants tried to tell me the hood and trunk lid were aluminum, they are not my Blackberry case magnet stuck.



Neuschwanstein Castle



Linderhof Palace fountain



M2

That afternoon we headed to Salzburg for two (2) nights at the Sheraton. Then our agenda took us to Passau and on to the river boat. The Viking ship was very nice, the service and food were great. These boats are nothing like the big ocean cruise boats with 3000+ people on them. Our ship had a capacity of about 180 passengers. It's a simple arrangement with two rows of rooms at one end, and dining room and lounge at the other end. The top deck is open so you can go up there to see the sights whenever you want.

Some sailing is during day and some at night. Our trip made stops in Linz, Melk, Durnstein, and Vienna in Austria. Then we stopped in Bratislava, Slovak Republic.



Our ship the Viking Legend

One of the highlights of our trip was the winery tour to Weinbau Morwald near Durnstein, Austria in the Wachau Valley. They supply the house wine to Viking, and are a small family business. The owner and the tour guide combine to provide an entertaining event.

Our last stop was Budapest, Hungary. They scheduled a night arrival to Budapest so we were able to enjoy the city lights cruising into to town.



Budapest parliament building at night

Our cruise ended in Budapest, but we did the optional two nights in the Budapest Hilton which is in the middle of the historic old part of the city. There is a lot to see in Budapest so the extra days are well worth it.

Overall a memorable experience.



BMW Museum

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BMW CCA RAFFLE 2016



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\$65,318 TOTAL



BONUS: For every ten (10) tickets
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MAIN PRIZES **M235i**

MSRP: **\$45,145**



Raffle starts June 1
Entry deadline: Sept. 15, 2016

We want to offer a special thanks to our Social Events Chairperson **Jean-Michel “Mitch” Beique** socialevents@houston-bmwcca.com for the great job providing interesting and exciting events for our members. “Mitch” is doing a stellar job setting up locations, planning and lining up volunteers to help these events run smoothly. If you’ve attended one of these events send a note of thanks for the effort involved.

All the board members strive to make The **Houston Chapter BMWCCA** a rewarding experience for all our members.

We’d like to hear from you. When you attend an event send us a note telling us about your experience. We’d appreciate pictures and articles written by members for **Torque Of The Town**. Just as the board members volunteer their time to make this chapter one of the best, we’d appreciate our members volunteering your time telling us about your experiences with the events we provide.

Join us on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, sign up for the **eBlast**. Get involved. Let us know what you like or don’t like. We’re here for you.

Jim Robinson
Newsletter Editor
newsletter@houston-bmwcca.com



Stay Informed!! - eBlast Signup

Once a month the Chapter emails an eBlast to all members who have indicated that they want to be kept informed about 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.





the Back-Set product is listed on their web site. For about \$30.00 with shipping, I put a bottle on order. Within a few days the bottle in Figure 2 arrived. Top of the Line provided great service, even refunding part of their standard shipping fees back.

Grout Removal from X5 Hood

Our son was borrowing our X5 to commute to work and stopped at the gym on the way. He parked near a multi-floor building construction site. When he returned, he found what appeared to tile grout dried and bonded to the hood.

This is something not expected but of course he couldn't find anyone to take responsibility. At least that's his story. Figure 1 shows worst spot on the hood.



Figure 1 Dried grout on the hood

By the time I saw the car, it was dried hard and solidly bonded to the hood. We had no idea how to remove it without damaging the paint. It looked like a repaint of the hood would be needed.

Some searching on the internet led me to a company called RoMix (www.romixchem.com). They make products claimed to break down cement products. After calling and talking to them they said their product should work, but they only sell to dealers and industrial sizes. They recommended a company that buys from them, Top of the Line in Arkansas, and packages in smaller quantity. They can be found at www.topoftheline.com and



Figure 2 Back-Set cement remover

The instructions say not to wet the area, just apply the product on the area. The product then breaks the cement down, and the particles can be hosed off. Figures 3 -5 show the progress.



Figure 3 Soaking in

After a few minutes I sprayed some more water, to see if it was working and then spray some more Back-Set.



Figure 4 Breaking down



Figure 5 Almost removed

The instruction say a brush can be used. Using a shop towel I blotted the area and the grit just lifted off. Blotting isn't required, and probably better to just let the chemical work, but gave proof it was working. At this point I was very impressed with this product. There were some smaller areas, so more was applied till all were removed, and hosed the hood a final time. By now it was obvious the finish was saved.

Total time was only about 10 minutes to have the hood completely cleaned with no paint damage.

Next I sprayed with Griot's Spray Wax, which prevents water spots, and wiped with a micro fiber towel. Then I applied my normal wax, Meguiar's High Tech Yellow 26, and buffed. Figure 6 shows the result.



Figure 6 Restored finish

Using quality products provided the desired result. This job only used a few ounces from the bottle.



Figure 7 Products used

I believe the primary use for the RoMix products is breaking down grout for reuse and cleaning cement trucks or other industrial vehicles. This product truly worked as claimed.

Hopefully, you will never need this tip, but if cement ever dries on your car, this should solve it.

Questions or topics of interest for a future Tech Tip article?
E-mail: techadvisor@houston-bmwcca.com

Jeff Otten

2016
Houston Auto
Show



This year, even before I went inside, I took a test drive in the Fiat 500 Abarth. For such a small car I found it surprisingly roomy on the inside and comfortable, at least for the driver. The steering wheel is shaped for maximum grip. The suspension was tight and responsive and engine performance was impressive although the course didn't lend itself to really stretch it out but it was great fun to drive. With the Abarth package the car was priced around \$30,000 from a starting point of around \$22K.

it in Rondel and other publications I can only imagine what it must be like to own one of these beasts.

The M4 was stunning all done up in white. The Blue M2 was also amazing. I can't decide which i liked better.

There were many other offerings from all domestic and foreign brands. But noticably missing was the new Ford GT 40. Most of the other exotics were there.

The after market detailers had some odd paint and wheel offerings; most of them to gaudy to warrant an image here. *Trust me*, I was appalled to see what they'd done to some very expensive cars. I can't help but wonder who these people are that think they can improve a Lambo, Bentley, or a Rolls. But, I had to include a picture of the tracked Hummer offering.



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