

# Under The Hood

**BMW Car Club  
of America  
Oregon Chapter**



**Volume VIII, Issue 1**

**Winter 2017**



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**COVER PHOTO** - At the BMW Velt in Munich by Dan Hones

**CLUB WEBSITE:**  
[www.bmworegoncca.com](http://www.bmworegoncca.com)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**President,** Buck Bailey  
[clubpresident@bmworegoncca.com](mailto:clubpresident@bmworegoncca.com)

**Vice President,** Janette Teevan  
[vicepresident@bmworegoncca.com](mailto:vicepresident@bmworegoncca.com)

**Secretary,** Nancy Piazzese  
[clubsecretary@bmworegoncca.com](mailto:clubsecretary@bmworegoncca.com)

**Treasurer,** Trayson Harmon  
[treasurer@bmworegoncca.com](mailto:treasurer@bmworegoncca.com)

**Communications Director,** Alex Casey  
[communications@bmworegoncca.com](mailto:communications@bmworegoncca.com)

**Membership Coordinator,** Cory Piazzese  
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**Editor,** Scott Welch  
[clubeditor@bmworegoncca.com](mailto:clubeditor@bmworegoncca.com)

President's Message

Buck Bailey, President

Happy New Year to everyone! I am very excited to take over as President from Dan Hones, who did an amazing job for our club over the last two years. Indeed, the entire board and all our hard-working volunteers have expanded the vision set forth by our club's original board and officers. We are dedicated to pushing that vision even further over the next two-year term to grow our club, offer exciting and rewarding event experiences, and position our club among the best in the country.

The 2017 event lineup consists of perennial driving favorites such as the Covered Bridges Tour, Maryhill Loops, and the Fall Colors Tour through the Gorge. We're moving Motorfest, the club's signature event, to the cooler month of September and hosting it on a luxurious grass venue, similar to the best concourse events. Recent events such as the Wine Country Tour, Classic Garage Tours, and the West Hills Ramble are back by popular demand.

We're reaching out to our neighboring CCA Chapter, to coordinate a new meet-up event with them. We're continuing our community outreach with another Boy Scout Merit Badge event and the annual Toy Run to Randall Children's Hospital. Of course no event lineup would be complete without supporting our awesome vendors and shops with in-house events at their locations.



For the first time, we're expanding our reach beyond Portland vicinities by adding Regional Event Coordinators for our membership in other areas. Look for exciting new events near Bend and other areas in our Central Oregon Region. We're seeking REC's for Southern Oregon and Eastern Oregon as well. If you live in an area not being served and have ideas for events, please contact us! We'd love to help you start planning events and provide full support from the club.

I wish I had the space in this message to describe all the ways we've made this year's event lineup the best ever. Be sure to read your club emails, pick events, and attend! I can't tell you how many times I've had folks exclaim to me "That was awesome!" after one of our events. I also often hear "I'm so glad I came to this and will definitely do another event soon!"

Whether you're a new or

renewing member, welcome to another great year in the BMW CCA Oregon Chapter. Please be sure to reach out to any board member, we'd love to hear from you!

Happy ///Motoring !  
Buck Bailey, President

Editor Farewell  
Scott Welch

It's been an honor serving as the Under The Hood Editor for the past two years. Thanks for the opportunity to share this club's incredible events and people with our members.

Sadly, expanded work duties and associated travel no longer allow me the time to continue this role. Thanks to everyone who provided the words, images, and edits. Couldn't have done it without you.

The Media Team is working hard to improve and expand our chapter's media communications. We're excited to roll out new changes to our website, email, facebook, and instagram platforms.



Hope to see you all (on 2 or 4 wheels) at club events this year.



This month's Member Car Spotlight by Dan Hones



## Member Musings

Drew Lagravinese, Photos: Drew Lagravinese

**Random Thought 1** - I drive a lot for business, upwards of 25,000 miles a year in my company car, a Ford Fusion. I drive all Oregon and Washington, and sometimes California. It's an ok car for what I need it for, getting around to see clients.

But let me digress for a moment. I went on the last CCA road tour called the Fall Colors Tour (great tour Tom!) There were twisties, there was fun, and since you all drive BMWs, you know what I mean. The Steptronic got quite a workout and I was a happy camper. It down shifts when you want it to and you almost feel like you have a three pedal car (without the three pedals of course). You push the gearshift to downshift and something actually happens, pushing the tach to the red line if need be. You can count on the car slowing down when you downshift.

A week or so later, I was in southern Oregon on business, driving the aforementioned company car and was going from Klamath Falls to Ashland and was on a road called Dead Indian Memorial Road. (Maybe not a PC name, but I am sure they meant well.) This road has lots of good



twisties and I thought, what the heck, let's put the Fusion in Sport mode and see what happens.

Well, not much. There is a little switch on the side of the gear shift that is used to up and downshift through the gears. Boring! But ok, it does shift. The only problem is that it will not downshift until IT wants to, and let me tell you, it does not want to, and when it does, it does not do it like the BMW. After three or four harrowing corners with no downshifting, I was done. Back into Drive it went. So much for the twisties on Dead Indian Memorial Road. They are right, BMWs are the Ultimate Driving Machine.



**Random thought 2** – Again, I drive a lot for business on all kinds of roads. Highways, back roads, dirt roads, secondary roads, etc.

I see all kinds of drivers. I see “normal” cars driven hell bent for leather (and being driven quite well I might add) and I see nice (German, Italian, Japanese, American, obviously nice handling/fast cars) cars being driven like they have nothing better to do than poke along at 10 MPH under the speed limit, braking at every corner, looking like the driver is scared to be behind the wheel.

I don't understand it, but maybe I do. Part of it is about skills and about knowing what your car is capable of. Had a discussion with my spouse last night and she said that ever since she took the Car Control Clinic at Oktoberfest, she feels much more confident behind the wheel of her E91.

She knows what the car can do and she knows what she can do behind the wheel, and not feel scared. “I now have SKILLS”, she says. I wish all drivers would take a course like this. It would make driving behind them so much more fun.

**Random Thought 3** – Went to Oktoberfest and did Car Control Clinic. Dan Hones took a picture of me on the skid pad, right nose of the E46 almost buried in the tarmac. He says

you need bigger, beefier sway bars.

I call Boyd Motor Werks, and Gary says “Oh, about \$1,000 for front and rear, with adjustable end links, installed”. I talk to the spouse (after I tell Gary to order the parts!), and she says, well you can imagine what she said. “But the car will handle much better with these new sway bars”, I tell her.

Long story short, new sway bars are installed and you can feel the difference in every corner. Car runs flat and like a little go cart. Wife has yet to drive it with the new sway bars (cuz its winter and there are no more driving tours, and the roads are wet and there are leaves on the ground, and she really likes her E91 X Drive, etc.). But when she does, she is going to thank me, because she now has SKILLS!



**Random Thought 4** – Why haven't they fixed the elevator in Sheldon's and Leonard's apartment after 10 years?

## New/Renewing Members

Ambrose, Wade  
Bailey, Buck  
Barrett, Forrest  
Bethge, Robert  
Brown, Thomas  
Buck, Nicholas  
Campbell, Bryan  
Cobb, Michael  
Cohen, Robert  
Cotrell, Scott  
Davis, Mark

Nastiuk, Keith  
Odell, Brian M.  
Phipps, Yvonne  
Reynolds, Evan  
Sides, Daniel R.  
Silbert, Amy  
Smith, Dan  
Somayajula, Gopi  
Sundin, Brian  
Tikka, Howard Sr.  
Vitro, Anthony



de Claire, Natalie  
Fischer, Wolf  
Furseth, Dustin D.  
Halligan, William  
Hass, Ryan A.  
Holmstrand, Phillip  
Hormel, Eric  
Huynh, Michael  
Johnston, Ian  
Jones, Brian  
Ledgerwood, Gary  
Marshall, Jason  
McRae, Sean  
Middlecoff, Whit  
Minchin, Jason  
Mosley, James

Vrooman, Michael  
Weber, David  
White, Marshall N.  
Wieselman, Jacob  
Williams, Dale



## 2017 Club Events

Make your plans now to participate in the variety of incredible events for club members this year. The following is just a sample of the events planned for 2017. Dates for popular events such as the Covered Bridge Tour, Maryhill Loops, Boy Scouts Automotive Merit Badge, Fall Colors Tour, Motorfest, Wine Country Tour and West Hills Ramble are still to come. [Log on to the club website for the latest information on all club events.](#)

### 3/25/17: Finn's Auto Restorations

Denny Finn's shop specializes in the restoration of classic cars. His work includes engine, suspension, and body restoration plus customization projects. Our touring event will start in Beaverton with a lunch stop in Woodburn, then we will head over to Denny's shop to look at his current set of projects. This



is a great chance to see what types of work they perform and perhaps give you some ideas on how to restore or modify your car.

### 5/20/17: Skamania Lodge Tour

Our Spring drive is a wonderful way to enjoy the beautiful Columbia River Gorge. Departing from Wood Village, we will drive on the Old Columbia River Highway. Our first stop is at the Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint, then to the Vista House on Crown Point. The final stop before lunch is at Bridal Veil Falls State Park where we can walk on the trails overlooking the Gorge or the waterfall. Besides great food, lunch at Skamania Lodge is special as we will have a nice view of the Gorge.

### 6/17/17: Mt. St. Helens Volcano Run

Join us for a back country run to Mount St. Helens! Our guests will be members of the Puget Sound Chapter. We'll meet at Golden Valley Brewery in Beaverton for our Drivers' Orientation and to form groups. We'll depart GVB and wind our way through the twisty back roads on the Oregon side of the Columbia River, avoiding Hwy 30 as much as possible. We'll cross the river at Longview and begin a leisurely cruise through beautiful countryside heading north to Castle Rock. There we'll meet up with members of the Puget Sound chapter for lunch. After "filling our tanks" we'll form up again and head up Hwy 504 to Johnston Ridge Observatory.



The panoramic scenery of this drive is amazing, and gliding along the big sweepers is pure bliss to any auto enthusiast. We'll form up for a group photo at the Observatory parking area, and then enjoy the awesome display of nature's power at the volcano interpretive center.

### 6/25/17: E30 Picnic

The E30 picnic, run by the Puget Sound BMW CCA Chapter, is the world's largest gathering of E30 BMW's. Over 200 cars attend this annual event held at the LeMay Marymount Museum in Spanaway, WA. It is much more than a car show, this event is a celebration of the iconic E30 and is a gathering of passionate enthusiasts. All kinds of E30's attend, even wagons. This is a great way to make connections with other E30 owners so that you can find advice and spare

parts. If you own another type of BMW, you can still go up and join this fun event. On Saturday, 6/24/17, Griot's Garage is sponsoring a tech session at their headquarters.

### 7/16/17: Forest Grove Concours d' Elegance

The Forest Grove Concours is a full scale event, with many classes of classic cars, both judged and non-judged on display in the Pacific University campus. The venue is beautiful with cars parked on the grass under oak trees surrounded by old brick buildings. The Concours has branched out during the last few years to include modern European cars. BMW's were included in last year's featured category: "Allure of the Autobahn – Speed and Style". Our BMW CCA Oregon

Chapter sponsored judged and non-judged BMW corrals which included many very rare and unique cars. Class winner was Peter Gleeson's stunning dark blue 1981 M1. We are looking forward to participating in this year's event again.

### 9/16/17: Oregon Festival of Cars

Located on the driving range of the Broken Top Golf Club in Bend, the Oregon Festival of Cars is a fun and exciting event. With over 150 cars, ranging from '50's and '60's classic cars to European sports and exotics, this event has something for all car enthusiasts. Our BMW Club had a display last year and a great selection of cars. This is an opportunity to meet many interesting enthusiasts in an informal and friendly environment.





## Member Car Spotlight - M2

Photos: Dan Hones

**UTH:** So, obvious questions, why the M2? How long was your wait?

**Dan:** Initial reports on the M2 said the car was to be the next evolution of M car performance, possibly a 100 year BMW anniversary edition, maybe even a limited edition like the 1M. Having owned an e46 M3, and an e82 135i, I thought the M2 might be a combination of the two; ferocious power with insane agility.

My wait was 20 months. I was the fourth person on Kuni BMW's wait list. I was kept informed by BMW during the entire process, which turned out to be about 6 months longer than the gestation period of an Orca. But to be fair, I ordered the car before it went into production, there were no guarantees, so no fault of BMW on the 20 month M2 gestation period. I think both the Orca and the M2 weigh about the same, by the way.

**UTH:** Fascinating. Has the M2 delivered on your expectations? Does it possess both of those qualities?

**Dan:** I'm working on finding that out. I picked up the car on October 4. There is a 1,200 mile break in period on these, so the first few weeks were cautious (don't exceed 100 mph, no revs over 5,000 rpm. Sure.).

However, I did do the Fall Colors Tour pre-drive and the Fall Colors Tour with the M2, and even in 'Timid Mode' it was perfection. Now that I am

out of the break in period purgatory, I'm exploring the boundaries a little more, even in this wonderful wet and icy December.

It's hard for me to get too much more technical about the car, as so much has been written about the M2. For me it's more of that butt-in-seat feel, the sound, the g-force pull in corners and during acceleration. And there's the soundtrack. Got to have a good soundtrack.

**UTH:** Alright, if we went out and started your car right now, what song would be playing?

**Dan:** You'd hear a little Joe Bonamassa as today's soundtrack. My friends Satch and Drew regard Joe as possibly the best and ultimate driving music soundtrack for any road trip.

**UTH:** Any plans to track the car? Are you considering any modifications with the BMW Performance line of equipment?

**Dan:** Yep, track for sure. That was a driving force for me to get the car in the first place. I've had the 135i and the M3 on the

Continued on Page 10





## Member Car Spotlight - M2

Continued



track about 30 times combined, the 135i twice at Laguna Seca. I'd like to take the M2 on the track in "street mode", giving me the chance to see how it would perform in factory conditions before I would consider any performance upgrades. Give myself a little baseline comparison. But I think I'll probably skip the carbon fiber mirror caps, those seem a little over the top.

I am also looking forward to this year's club drives with the M2. We have quite a calendar of drives planned and are still in the works on some new drives to keep the interest high with the membership.

**UTH: What are you going to do with the 135i?**

**Dan:** That's a tough question. I have really enjoyed that car for the last 5 years. It feels very

familiar and comfortable. I'd like to keep it and start to amass my BMW collection, but I'd also love to see someone else enjoy it the way I have. There are a few people interested in it, so maybe it will end up going to a good home.

But the M2 is way different and feels much more refined than the 135i. It should, it's 8 years newer and is full of technology that I haven't even started to get into yet. The M2 has three mode settings, Comfort, Sport, and Sport Plus. I have only dabbled in Sport Plus a couple of times as that mode turns off all the traction and stability controls, and the weather lately (at time of writing) has been a little sketchy, but, I will master the art of the drift here at some point.

**UTH: Very cool. Let me know if you need a navigator for any of the club drives. Thanks for talking with**

**us about your ride.**

**Dan:** You are on the list of substitute navigators for sure. The list gets longer every day!



## Making a Difference: Teen Street Survival Program

Dan Hones

For years, Tire Rack and the BMW CCA Foundation have been supporting the Teen Street Survival Program. The program teaches young drivers basic skills needed to be safer, more alert drivers in everyday situations. This year, our chapter will be providing volunteers to help as instructors and ground support crew on March 12, at Portland International Raceway. If you have ever wanted to give back just a little to help make our streets just a little safer, please consider spending a day at PIR with the Tire Rack Street Survival team and members of our own chapter.

For event information, and information on becoming an instructor, email Dan Hones at [dan@cv2020.com](mailto:dan@cv2020.com).

From the Tire Rack Street Survival website:

When your teen driver attends a Street Survival school, we teach them to control your car in unpredictable situations based on its handling limits. They master the application of driving physics using their car. They learn how to make good driving decisions and react more quickly. They become more aware and learn how to begin anticipating the actions of other drivers.

Teen crashes and teen-driving fatalities have long plagued American families. We at the BMW CCA Foundation applaud the Tire Rack, BMW



North America, Michelin, and Enterprise's sponsorship of Tire Rack Street Survival Teen Driver Safety Program, a course that we know helps significantly reduce these tragic accidents.

We are proud of our ongoing work to raise critical awareness of the importance of responsible driving among U.S. teens and their parents. Specifically, for the eighth consecutive year, the BMW CCA Foundation will commit more than \$200,000 to Tire Rack Street Survival and events that are dedicated to encouraging safe and smart driving by teens.

The primary emphasis of the Tire Rack Street Survival® is a



"hands-on" driving experience in real-world situations! We use your own car to teach you about its handling limits and how you can control them. The students will become more observant of the traffic situation they find themselves in. They will learn to look far enough ahead to anticipate unwise actions of other drivers. As the students master the application of physics to drive their cars, they will make fewer unwise driving actions themselves. They will understand why they should always wear their own seatbelts, and why they should insist that their passengers wear seatbelts, too. It's about more than driving - it's about LIVING!

Every school needs a set of extra hands – whether you have in-car coaching skills or are willing to set up and tear-down the site – we can always use more volunteers for Street Survival.



# Munich: Center of the BMW World

Brian Cone, Photos: Brian Cone, Dan Hones

We had to arrive in Munich two days early before departing on the Viking River Cruise down the Danube River. After all, Munich is where the BMW headquarters, museum, group factory, and Welt are located all in the same area. It's the center of the BMW World!

Munich is a very pleasant city, clean, picturesque, friendly people, and home of the famous Hofbräuhaus München. This legendary beer hall is the best of them all. Very traditional, with lockers where regulars store their beer stein between visits. One gentleman showed us his stein that he had used for over 40 years. Someday, he will give it and the locker to his son.

Go ahead and use the underground train system. Very efficient and fast, it is a good way to reach the BMW complex. No signs in English, so look carefully



at the map. Train arrival times are updated on the monitor.

First stop: the BMW Museum. Plan to spend at least 4 hours in the museum. Please note that it is closed on Monday's. Spread

over four levels, the museum is set up in groups covering the world of BMW. They cover Art Cars, engines, motorcycles, aerodynamics, interior design, racing history, M Cars, and special exhibits, among others.



A walkway goes up to the top level with information displays that discusses the history of BMW, including when they were almost sold to Mercedes. Horror of horrors! Listen for announcements about special

presentations. Visit the museum store, which has lots of rare books and BMW/Mini model cars (although you can find some of the books on Amazon).

Also, for a break, visit the M1

Café for lunch. We sat next to an airline pilot who had recently bought a Cadillac CTS-V performance car. He was very upset because his car was stuck in the dealer's shop for a month with engine problems that they couldn't diagnose. He should have bought a M5 of course!

Next stop: the BMW Welt. What a beautiful place! Breathtaking design, very modern looking interior, and a very fun place to visit for BMW enthusiasts. Basically, it is a huge showroom, gift store, and new car pick up depot. But it is much more than that, it is an automotive art gallery! It includes beautifully staged examples of all types of BMW's, with motorcycles, MINI's and Rolls Royce's as well. The exhibits shows the i cars, a racing MINI, and a M Car section.

The gift shop is fabulous! I found tons of very cool and very rare





Munich: Center of the BMW World

Continued

model cars, including a E34 M5 (at €95!). I'm telling you, bring an empty suitcase! The employees are very friendly and everyone speaks English.

The Welt has two cafés, one on the main level, and one upstairs next to the Motorrad display. From upstairs, you can see people taking delivery of their new cars. Sigh.....

My favorite section was, of course, The Double Cone! It is used for special presentations and events. We visited the Welt three times, the last visit was with our Viking tour group where I became the unofficial tour leader.

Most impressive: the BMW Group Factory Tour. Plan to reserve your tour at least three months before arriving to insure a time that works with your schedule. This tour is super cool! In comes flat sheet metal and out drives a new 3-series car every 58 seconds. Amazing! No pictures allowed, which is fine as it would take time away from looking at all of the amazing manufacturing processes and robots.

The continuous theme throughout the tour was “quality” and “precision”, with quality control the mantra. For example, when the windshield is ready for installation, a robot arm checks the four corners of the windshield opening with lasers



to check for accuracy of the opening size. If it passes, in goes the windshield. In the rare exception where the opening does not meet specifications, the body is removed from the production line.

Expect lots of walking, climbing stairs, and a somewhat noisy environment so keep close to the tour guide. Finding the registration desk for the tour is tricky. Go into the Welt and walk to the left of the Cooper S Café. A registration desk has no sign but will have a couple of people who will issue tickets for you. They will direct you down a hallway next to the gift shop to a conference room where the tour guide will issue a radio receiver and headphones and give instructions. Walk down the street and enter at one of the employee entrances and you are ready to go!

This is the highlight of any trip to Germany. You will thoroughly enjoy the BMW experience. Oh, by the way, look out for bicyclists; they are almost as assertive as in Portland!!

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## Club Calendar

More Information at [www.bmworegoncca.com](http://www.bmworegoncca.com)

Date	Event	Location
March 15	Board Meeting	Otto and Anita's Schnitzel Haus, Portland, OR
March 25	Finn's Auto Restoration	Hubbard, OR
May 20	Skamania Lodge Tour	Wood Village, OR
June 17	Mt. St. Helens Volcano Run	Golden Valley Brewery, Beaverton, OR
June 25	E30 Picnic	Spanaway, WA
July 11	48th Annual BMW CCA Oktoberfest	New Orleans, LA
July 16	Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance	Forest Grove, OR



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