



Photo: Mike Rohbaugh

## The Ultimate Driving Experience

By David Wise

What an ultimate driving school experience! I signed Janeen, my wife, and myself up for the BMW Iowa Chapter M-Driving School at the BMW Performance Center in Spartanburg, SC. We drove to SC on Friday and back home on Sunday (one way 420 miles). To top it off, we drove our new '03 M3. The drive down was awesome with the views, weather and driving through the mountains with the M. What a great car! It sure likes those mountain curves!

Saturday morning at 8 a.m. sharp, we met at the Performance Center and were greeted by the sole Iowa Chapter member Jim. The Iowa Chapter sponsors the event, but there were BMW Car Club Members from all over the eastern U.S. They divided the students into four groups of eight with four cars per group, and two drivers per car. The Iowa M-School is an all-day event with almost all of the time spent on the track. We were introduced to the instructors and told to be prepared for a fun day. We would be driving new M3's, M5's and 330's; after a quick briefing, we headed out on the track to get some track time and the ultimate driving experience. The instructors have a variety of experience, including SCCA club, Pro racing and NASCAR. These guys can drive!

The emphasis was on providing as much seat time as possible on challenging courses set up on the Center's various tracks to teach vehicle dynamics. Janeen was the sole female in the group of 32. This may have been due to the fact that I signed her up. We were the only husband and wife team, and we are still married. That tells you we had fun!

Our quick orientation class covered seating position, shuffle steering, and car control basics. The morning session was broken into four different exercises, each under the direction of one particular instructor. The instructors show you proper entry and exit points as well as the line. The road course was laid out with color specific cones showing turn-in, apex, and the track-out points. Except for skid pad exercises, where the instructors rode in the passenger's seat, in-car instruction is handled through two-way radios tuned to the instructor for that group. This proved to be efficient as four instructors could teach the school of 32 students. It also helped facilitate learning within your group, since you could hear the comments from each student's run.

The day was very fast paced. The first thing our group did was a short road course in a M3 6-speed, next was an accident avoidance lane change maneuver in a 330i automatic, then a constant radius 'wet' skid pad in an M5 demonstrating understeer and oversteer including big 360-degree spins. Then finally, for the first part of the day's session, a long slalom with 360-degree hairpin at the end in a M3 SMG. Although helmets were not required, the cars were continually pushed to red line and to the limits of braking and cornering.

After a fix-your-own deli lunch, we rotated through a tight road course that was timed, a wet/dry slalom called the rat maze chase, an additional classroom instruction and a figure eight "wet" skid pad. The tight road course was our overall favorite with the event timed. I drove first in our team then Janeen took her turn. She was amazing! She can really hustle an M3 6-speed around a track. Her time was only 2.5 seconds slower than mine. My time was high 59 seconds and hers was low 1:02. The best time of the day was 57 seconds, which was by a BMW instructor, Brian, who has taught at the Bluegrass and Hoosier Schools. To think of all the money I have invested in driving schools and drivers training for myself, and for my sweet wife to be only 2.5 seconds slower is amazing! It must have been all the coaching that I provided her! In addition, she was the first of the group to apex correctly in the autocross course (first exercise of the day) and the only one to brake and steer correctly in the accident avoidance lane change maneuver.

Matt Mullins, Larry Parmele and Ben Burrell from the Performance Center put on a fantastic program that was more than expected and definitely a bargain. We owe a big thank you to BMW and the rest of the instructors. Matt was very helpful to Janeen and me on the skid pads. He wanted to give you just one more try to drift the rear end around on the powerful M5. I think they wanted us to "get it right" as much as we did. Ben was very patient and gave crisp feedback to help you improve your times on the tight road course.

At the end of the day, we said our goodbyes and climbed in our M3 and headed out. The open road lie ahead just begging for that M3 to make its engine sing for it.

## Giving Thanks...A Boy and His Dream

By Betty Wegner

**Lee and Betty Wegner were the winners of the grand prize at the 2003 Holiday Party; they won a \$500 gift certificate towards the purchase of a new or CPO car from Don Jacobs. Below is a letter from Betty Wegner explaining how the gift certificate was used.**

I am happy to say that the \$500.00 gift certificate towards purchasing a BMW at Don Jacobs has been realized. When I received the certificate I knew we most likely would not use it ourselves, but the thought about my nephew using it seemed the best chance.

Christoph Weber was born in Germany, came here when he was seven years old, and is now twenty-two and graduating in May from Indiana U with straight A's and a triple major in Business, Computer Science, and German. He has been very disciplined about his education and his finances. He has been going to school full time five years. This includes two full summer internships at a firm in Heidelberg, Germany, and a four month internship last spring in Silicon Valley, California. Chris has been a member of the BMW Club since he was fourteen years old and spent a summer with us working in our business. He went to Don Jacobs many times with Uncle Lee just to look and dream.

He came home for Christmas and told his parents that he didn't want to put any more money into his current car, and wanted to get something a little newer. He has already accepted a position with Lily Pharmaceuticals in Indianapolis which he will start in June as soon as he graduates. When Uncle Lee heard this, he convinced my sister and her husband that this is the time for Chris

to get his dream car. Over the four day Christmas weekend Uncle Lee and Chris worked with Larry Cartwright at Don Jacobs to secure a CPO 1999 323i four door/red with camel interior for Chris. The prize certificate as well as the \$500.00 Chris will get for being a club member, and the persuasive influence of Uncle Lee all worked to bring the deal together.

An ecstatically happy and deserving Chris left here late Saturday afternoon in his own BMW. He could hardly wait to get home and call his Uncles Werner and Gunter in Germany to tell them the good news. If everything goes well he plans to join Uncle Lee in his first Club Driver School at Putnam this summer.

We are thrilled that we could help him get his dream car. Don Jacobs was very accommodating and really worked with us. We did get Chris to finance through Don Jacobs too, so that was a perk for them. We are pretty convinced that we have started another lifelong BMW owner on his way!

Thank you all for helping to make this possible. All the best to everyone in 2004!

### **SPOT NEEDS A GOOD HOME!!**

1968 1600 BMW E-mod club race car (vintage eligible) (2002 motor +/- 200 hp), 4 slide carbs, full cage, welded doors, exterior, not a beauty queen, but runs well and cheap fun! Many spares, no trailer \$9,000.00 Steve Belt 859-509-5013 oh2sb@aol.com



Revelers enjoy the holiday atmosphere...good cheer, good food, and good friends

Bluegrass Bimmers, Inc.  
2003 Financial Statement

	Year Ending 12/31/02	Year Ending 12/31/03
Beginning Balance	17,585.48	20,508.49
<b>INCOME</b>		
Advertising	1,000.00	1,600.00
Club Race Fees	8,370.00	11,225.00
Driving School Fees	14,915.00	19,650.00
Event Income	517.00	764.00
Interest	440.70	240.51
Membership Dues	6,262.91	6,544.14
National Rebates	501.67	305.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>32,007.28</b>	<b>40,329.15</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising	195.00	2,099.70
Charity	517.00	964.00
Club Race	5,119.23	7,823.82
Driving School	16,288.76	16,686.21
Event Expenses	2,293.02	4,048.12
Event Insurance	100.00	324.00
Meetings	1,912.63	2,031.03
Miscellaneous	454.00	474.00
Newsletter & Web	909.62	1,330.69
Postage	1,295.01	2,003.85
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>29,084.27</b>	<b>37,785.42</b>
Net Income (Loss)	2,923.01	2,543.73
Ending Balance	20,508.49	23,052.22

**Club Officers**

John Ackerman  
PRESIDENT  
ackermanj@hotmail.com

Mike Rohrbaugh  
NEWSLETTER  
513-677-9415  
rohrbamw@hotmail.com

Dan Lowe  
VICE PRESIDENT  
dlowe@mvcusa.com

John Ackerman  
WEBMASTER  
ackermanj@hotmail.com

Mike Burch  
TREASURER  
mikeb@bluegrassbimmers.org

Dan Lowe  
Resource Development  
dlowe@mvcusa.com

Steve Cullen  
SECRETARY

**MEMBERS AT  
LARGE:**  
Henry Burt  
Charlie Sholtz  
Gretchen Ackerman  
Ken Partymiller  
Jim Herman  
Mike Rohrbaugh  
Steve Wingate

Bill Wade  
DRIVING EVENTS  
502-458-4885  
billw488@bellsouth.net

**Corporate Sponsor**

**Don Jacobs BMW**  
2689 Nicholasville Road,  
Lexington, KY  
606-276-3546 + 800-356-5366  
www.donjacobs.com

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**President's Column**

Schön Gruß! I wanted to use this column this month to briefly introduce myself. I am your new President, John "Hans" Ackerman. I fell in love with the BMW marque when I was quite young (9 actually), and I have been active in the club going on 7 years, now. Thanks to the club I have forged many great friendships, and the reality is - if we took the cars out of the scenario, we'd all still be great friends.

Thanks to former Prez Jim Herman, we have some new traditions, as well as a host of new members. While we generally focus on events of a driving nature, we would like to incorporate some events that appeal to the whole family. We have put together a full schedule this year in hopes of bringing more members to the events, and while some of the dates are tentative, we feel that the calendar is pretty accurate. If there is an event you would like to see on the calendar, please email me at [hans@bluegrassbimmer.org](mailto:hans@bluegrassbimmer.org).

If you haven't visited yet, check out the website at [www.bluegrassbimmers.org](http://www.bluegrassbimmers.org). Here you can find pictures, event updates, and general information regarding *your* BMW CCA chapter. 2004 is shaping up to be exciting, so please join us!

Together with the rest of the Officers, we welcome you back to yet another wonderful year of things BMW!

Fahr wohl,  
John Ackerman  
Bluegrass Bimmers President



President John Ackerman is all concentration as he clips the apex in Turn 1 at Sebring in his E30 race car. Photo by Mike Rohrbaugh

## 2004 Bluegrass Bimmers Preliminary Events Calendar

Many of the events listed below still need volunteers to make them happen...we are looking for your feedback and involvement to make this year another huge success!! Please contact John Ackerman with your thoughts!!

### March

March 6, 2004—Club Planning Meeting—details to be determined, check the website for updates

March 9, 2004—Monthly Meeting—Lexington, meeting location TBD, check website for updates

March 20, 2004—Sebring Race at Bill Heumann's, Potluck Dinner, BYOB, 6-9 PM

March 27, 2004—Go-Karting vs. the Buckeye Chapter, 1-3 PM, \$50/ person, check website for updates

### April

April 10, 2004—Street Survival School—contact Bill Wade or John Ackerman for details

April 13, 2004—Monthly Meeting—Louisville—O'Charley's, 10641 Fischer Park Road, Louisville (502) 339-2264

April 24, 2004—Movie Night at Don Jacob's BMW

### May

May 8, 2004—Maifest—a new concept where we work with BBC, use their parking lot, and see if they are doing a Maibock Beer

May 11, 2004—Monthly Meeting—Lexington, meeting location TBD, check website for updates

May 22, 2004—Chip and Dent Fest at Don Jacobs

### June

June 12, 2004—Tech Day at Don Black's—Tech Inspection for the Upcoming Driving School

June 19, 2004—Formula 1 Race at Indianapolis—The Bluegrass Bimmers caravan to Indy, and invade the Hoosier Corral!!

June 25-27, 2004—Driving School and Club Race at Putnam Park, Mount Meridian, IN

### July

July 17, 2004—Trip to the Strip—A night at the Drag Strip in Louisville— how fast can you run the 1/4 mile?

July 31, 2004—Road Trip to the Hofbrauhaus in Newport, KY

### August

August 13-15, 2004—Backroads to Somewhere, Location and details to be determined— check website for updates

August 28, 2004—Keeneland Car Show— who will be the club representative?

### September

September 11, 2004—Movie Night at Don Jacobs BMW

### October

October 9, 2004—Fall Drive

### November

November 7, 2004—Chili Cookoff?

### December

December 11, 2004—Holiday Party in Louisville



Kentuckiana Region BMW CCA  
P.O. Box 4575  
Louisville, KY 40204