

Photo: R&F Photo

Tenth Annual Bluegrass Bimmers Drivings School and Club Race is Coming!!

By Bill Wade

What: Drivers School at Putnam Park Road Course

School Description: This is the **10th** annual Driving School Event sponsored by the Bluegrass Bimmers. Students undergo a mixture of classroom and behind-the-wheel education, under the supervision of trained instructors. The course of study includes vehicle dynamics, driving line and track safety. Exercises are performed at speeds that are appropriate to the experience of the student. Cars must undergo technical and safety inspections prior to coming to the event. Helmets are required (Snell 95 or better) with some loaners available. This weekend is also a BMW CCA Club Race with practice and qualifying and a sprint race on Saturday and the 'endurance' race on Sunday. The School and the Club Race are *totally* separate events. If additional time is required to be taken for a race related incident we will try to see that no time will be lost from the School. No racers are allowed to instruct in this school.

Where: Putnam Park Race Course, Mt. Meridian, IN

Located approximately 40 miles west of Indianapolis, Putnam Park is a 1.8 mile, 10 turn, internationally known teaching and testing facility. The track is tight and technical with some interesting elevation changes and off-camber turns. It rewards skill, not horsepower. School headquarters will be the Holiday Inn Express in Mt. Meridian. Rooms have been blocked out at the Holiday Inn Express, Days Inn and Quality Inn. Please mention the BMW CCA Bluegrass Bimmers

Drivers School to receive a special rate.

Why: You've heard about it. You've read about. Why not do it?

You've bought the car that's the best mix of style, engineering and performance. Now learn what it and you can do together in the safest environment possible, with as many like minded people as you can fit in a small Indiana cornfield as possible without raising the suspicion of Homeland Security. There will be classrooms to fill your head with the technical information for you to apply on the track and a course that is suited as much for the beginner as the experienced driver. Twice during the weekend you'll see the fastest of our BMW brethren circle the same course in a quest for the most inexpensive trophies you can image. Saturday night you will be treated to a Bourbon and BBQ diner that is earning a reputation as a world class event among track junkies everywhere.

How: Download the application at

www.bluegrassbimmers.org or send an e-mail to me at willy@bluegrassbimmers.org to get signed up. We sold out last year and there's no reason why we won't again!

Join us!

Bill Wade

Bluegrass Bimmers Driving Events Coordinator

A Trip Down Memory Lane—Putnam Park, 2002

By John Ackerman

When I got home on Sunday evening, I wanted to write down everything that I had experienced over the weekend. Unfortunately, after reeling with excitement over the past 3 days, I was lost in swirls of ink and spots of drool on my yellow tablet. How can one describe an experience as ethereal as a driving school, especially one put on by the Bluegrass Bimmers? Seeking greater wisdom, I sought Webster's time-honored dictionary for help. I searched for "Bill Wade", "Mike Burch", "Bluegrass Bimmers", and "Driving School", but nothing turned up. Damn dictionary. There has to be a word that can describe an event like this, and after much deliberation this is what I found:

Fantastic: *adj.* 1: extraordinarily good; 2: exceedingly or unbelievably great (*WordNet*® 1.6, © 1997 Princeton University).

Perfect. In a nutshell, the weekend of the driver's school was "extraordinarily good." The weather was unbelievable (it rained only when Bill attempted to get in track time), the hospitality at the track was superb as usual, the club races were exciting (a great showing of 2002's in 2002!), and the camaraderie was high.

For those of you who have never been to a Driver's School, you simply must attend. You see, track time in your car is only one small part of what the event is all about. Sure it's exciting to go around a track and flex all of the muscles those Bavarian's gave your wonderful car, but the best part of a Driver's School is what happens off the track.

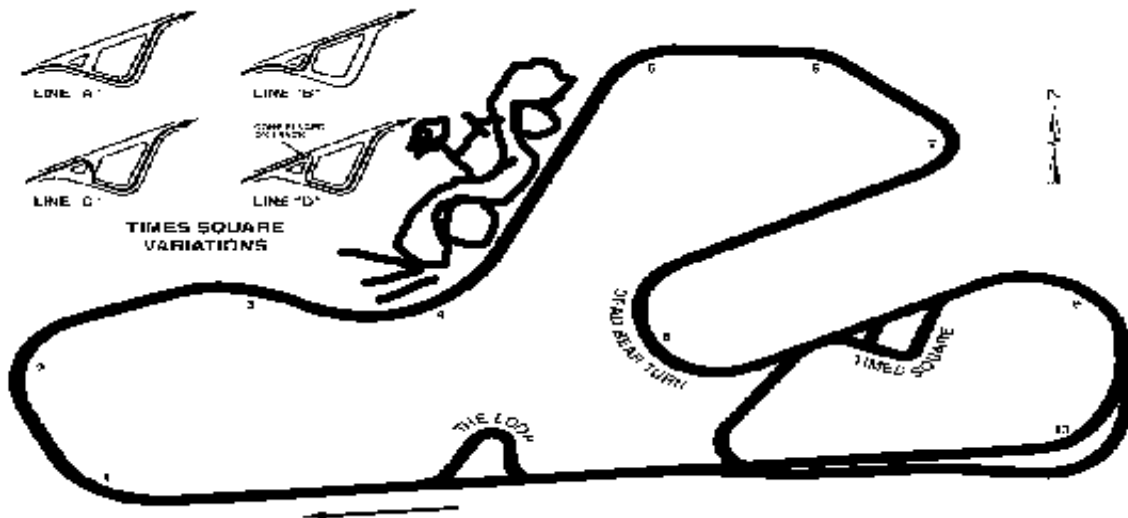
From talking over what you are doing wrong on the track, to helping out someone with checking their brake pads, there is a strong feeling of brother-/sisterhood. Come time for the track to close, everyone packs up and heads back to the hotel for food, drink, and lots of "bench-racing." This year we had an excellent Saturday night dinner catered by "Charlie Brown's Barbeque" as part of "Bill's Bar-B-Q and Bourbon" dinner. The club raffled off some mighty fine looking bottles of bourbon, and a good time was had by all! Thanks Bill Wade!

As part of the weekend, those in attendance had the opportunity to see 2 exciting BMW CCA Club races. The Bluegrass chapter had a strong contingency (as always) with the likes of Henry Burt, Charlie Scholtz, Ken Party-miller, Mike Burch, Don Black in his gorgeous 2002, and Steve Belt in the ever-faithful "Spot." Many thanks go to Mike Burch for his great work as Race Coordinator for the weekend.

Thanks everyone for the "exceedingly great" weekend. It was awesome. I am sure I speak for everyone when I say that I would love to see the number of attendees grow every year. The experience is one that you likely will not forget.

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



Bill Wade exits turn 4 at Putnam Park - Artist's Interpretation

Schedule of Events

Maifest: May 8, 12:00 Noon, Bluegrass Brewing Company in Louisville - check website for details

May Meeting: May 11, 7:00pm, Lexington, TGI Fridays, I-75 at Man-O-War

Welding Class: May 21, Fisher-Klosterman in Louisville—contact Dave Arnold for RSVP and details

June Meeting: June 8, 7:00pm, Louisville

Driving School and Club Race at Putnam Park: June 26 and 27, Mt Meridian, IN—see page 1 for details

Chip and Dent Fest: **CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS**

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502-964-8830

President's Column

Schöne frühlings Grüße!

As we head out of the first full month of Spring, flowers are blossoming, trees are budding, and Bimmers are revving up! If you have not had the chance to attend a meeting this year, I am sorry!

We've been having a blast and coming up with some great new events. For instance, on May 8th, we will be having our first ever *Maifest* to be held at the Bluegrass Brewing Company in Louisville. This event is a long-held tradition of the Bluegrass Bimmers similar to the May Motorhead Madness car show in Lexington – but with a twist! We have been able to secure the Bluegrass Brewing Company's parking lot in the heart of St. Matthews – *and* – the brewery has reserved the last of the traditional *Maibock* beer. We hope to see a minimum of 25 cars, so please bring your Bimmer out and show it off!

Another event coming up in May is the welding class being held at Fisher-Klosterman, Inc. in Louisville on May 21st. For a mere \$50 (compare that to \$150+ at a local community college), you will have the chance to fuse metal at heats over 1000 degrees, all the while learning the techniques and science that is MIG-welding! Space is very limited and you must reserve a spot with Dave Arnold by visiting the www.bluegrassbimmers.org website soon!

June will be an exciting month with the Chip and Dent fest at Don Jacobs in Lexington. If the winter has been harsh to your Bavarian friend, come on out and get your chips and dents fixed for a great deal! If your car looks like Mike Rohrbaugh's after the Zaino treatment, you should come out anyway!

Last, but not least, the 10th Bluegrass Bimmers Driver's School and Club Race will be held at Putnam Park on the weekend of June 25-27. If you've been dying to drive your BMW the way it was intended to be driven don't hesitate – sign up today for the school! You will *not* be disappointed!

Hope to see you soon, but until then,

Fahr Wohl
John "Hans" Ackerman



"The Essence of Ackerman," by Len Mueller

The Battle of Lawrenceburg

By John Ackerman

A Buckeye is a Nut – and a funny looking one at that. Well folks, history remained unchanged as the Bluegrass Chapter from Kentucky attempted to alter the past and defeat our Northern rivals – the appropriately named group of jovial miscreants from the Buckeye Chapter in Southern Ohio. In truth, both chapters were well heeled for battle and fought with valor, but it was the magnificent driving of Indiana’s David “Spider Man” Nihiser that would seal the victory of the 2004 Bluegrass vs. Buckeye Battle of Lawrenceburg go-karting event.

Despite somewhat late advertisement due to logistics concerns, the turn out for the event was tremendous. In all there were about 35 people from both chapters in attendance for the first ever go-kart challenge between the Kentucky and Ohio chapters. A family friendly event, it was exciting to see spouses and children in attendance, even though you must be over 16 to drive one of the 8HP, Honda powered go-karts that Competition Racing in Lawrenceburg, IN operates. Going into it’s 3rd year, Competition Racing is an indoor karting facility much like those in Europe. In fact, the track layout, timing equipment, and go-karts all have Belgian heritage, while Doug and Suzi Bergman and the staff provide the hospitality that can be expected of a Hoosier Facility.

As the experience levels varied across the attendees, we quickly sorted out “run-groups” and started after a quick “dos and don’ts” speech by Suzi Bergman. After providing each run-group three 5-minute runs, we broke down the finishing times into yet another three groups for the “feature race” or finale race. Len Mueller, governor of the Cincinnati Area of the Buckeye Chapter, was the champion of the C Feature Race, while John Gadberry, proprietor of Just B.M.W. in Cincinnati, brought home the trophy for the B Feature Race. The A Feature Race was chock-full of talent with the likes of Anna Bates, Greg Karnes, Rich Evans, and Bill Heumann, but it would be Dave “Spider Man” Nihiser who would take overall driving the number 8 kart. To quote C.L. Burk, a new member from Louisville, “This event was one of the most fun we’ve had – I can’t wait to do it again!”

Of course, it would be silly to think that the Bluegrass Chapter could plan an event and ultimately lose – so in the spirit of friendly sportsmanship, I ask that all of you take a look at the victors posted on the Bluegrass Bimmers website (www.bluegrassbimmers.org) under the Events header... those nuts are a good-looking bunch wouldn’t-cha say?!



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