

Holiday Party 2004... Food, Fun and Flying Machines

A new career, new house and changing lifestyle - from single party girl to responsible mother of dog "Bailey" - have, over recent years, aided in my gradual disappearance from the Bluegrass Bimmers scene. This year, however, the prospect of catching up with the Bluegrass Bimmers gang, a chance of winning a driving school (however slim), and, well, I'll admit it - an opportunity to convert my Audi-driving boyfriend, Jan - was too much to ignore, and so I decided to attend the 2004 Holiday Party. Am I glad I did.

The event was hosted at the Heumann's beautiful home in Louisville's east end, and half the fun was getting there. I'd forgotten how exhilarating whipping through the winding curves of Wolf Pen Branch Road could be. After a few enjoyable turns, Jan and I arrived safely, albeit anxiously at the party: while I had plenty to look forward to, I was a bit concerned for Jan in a house full of people and cars he didn't know.

Upon our arrival, however, my concerns quickly subsided, as we found an abundance of German beer (right up his alley) and wine (right up mine), and of course, the big hit of the evening: Don Black's flying machine. Even better, Jan ran into Gary Nakasato, who happens to play in the same soccer league. I was pleased to overhear them "talking shop" (ah, my conversion plan is working!), as I mingled through the crowd, reminiscing about driving schools past.

After a delicious dinner, more beverage consumption and conversation, it was time for the door prizes. It was an

especially great year - with everything from T-Shirts & tools to Inspections & oil changes - nearly everyone walked away with a prize.

My personal dreams of winning the driving school, however, were eventually dashed, when the grand prize was awarded to Edith and Dallas Tidwell. Oh well, the prize of a bottle of Merlot (oh, twist my arm), compliments of Jerry and Judi Clubb, my renewed love of all things BMW and Jan's sudden interest in "looking into" a Touring (alright, alright, we have to start somewhere) were good enough for me.

And so, after a wonderful evening of great conversation, food and fun, it was time to venture through the winding turns of Wolf Pen Branch toward home (although, MUCH slower this time)... As for my driving school, well, I guess I'll have to bite the bullet and pay my own way... hope to see you there!

Special thanks to Bill & Lynn Heumann for graciously hosting this wonderful event, to Dave Arnold for prize organization and to Brenda Berry for coordinating the catering.

Many thanks to: Don Jacobs BMW of Lexington, Curt Richards' Motorsports of Lexington, Bluegrass BMW of Paducah, Don Black's Performance Specialties of Louisville and BMW of North America for their sponsorships, which made this party happen.

A special note: The Holiday Party generated \$490.00 for The Cabbage Patch Settlement House in Louisville, the Bluegrass Bimmers official charity. Thanks to all who donated - your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Laura Burch

Why do you love your BMW?

Although there are days when I could take the Roundels off the hood and trunk, slap a script "H" on it and leave it for dead on the side of the road, 363 days of every year I luuuuuuvvve my BMW. No this is not some sick fetish, rather it is the feeling, nay *das Gefühl*, that my car gives me when I pull it out of the drive onto the back roads that surround my home in Frankfort. Not only is it the driving pleasure that it brings, but the satisfaction of knowing the toolkit in the trunk can be used to repair a laundry list of errant troubles the car may have, as well as the many people and friends that ownership and knowledge of the marque gives.

As many of you know I recently took a position in Lexington and made a transition requiring me to give up my company car. Whilst in the employ of my previous company, I was relegated to driving one of the most "pimp-my-ride-tastic" vehicles on the road today

—the 2004 Chevy Malibu, aka the "Malitruckster" for its ability to be roomy, truck-like, and to make me feel like Chevy Chase when an attractive woman in a Ferrari 308 GTS pulls up



next to me. Don't get me wrong, this is an amazing car in its ability to take America from point A to point B, but there is a big disconnect between the driver and the road – fine for commuting to work, but awful and lumbering through a corner. Thus, when I made the transition I wanted something fun and classic that made me feel alive when I drove it so I started looking for some 16 Valve-lovin' and found it in the form of a gorgeous 1991 *Brilliantrot* 4-Door 318i. The price was right for this car, the 3rd E30 in my 3 E30 stable, so I snatched it up and brought it home for some commuting duty.

Well, with 215K plus miles on this beauty's ticker, one cannot assume that all will be well when rolling circa 1000 miles a week between Louisville and Lexington – and not everything was. After about 3000 or so miles, I got to ring up good friends Don Black and Mike Burch for some engine assistance. Don and Mike came through with a very nice used motor, which I promptly began installing. With further help from Bill Wade, Steve and Jon Cullen, I had this car back on the road with very little effort.

Despite this car not being perfect, it's the feeling that it gives, the friendships that it fortified, and the technical knowledge that it allows me to develop that make me enjoy its presence. Throw in a healthy mix of grins from dancing with its predictable chassis around the roads near my house, and "That's why I love my BMW."

Hans aus Frankf[u]rt a.d. Kentucky

Why do you love your BMW? Send a column and a picture to editor@bluegrassbimmers.org and we will see that it gets space in an upcoming newsletter.

Winter Fun

Bill Heumann, his two wonderful sons Neil, Sean, and I had a blast a few weeks ago at WinterFest in Sebring, Florida. Almost 8 hours of track time!!! And we never put a wheel wrong!!! Even in the rain (one session).

The weather was sunny and in the 70's almost all 4 days!! I don't remember having that much fun in a long time. Very highly recommended event. Worth the 14-hour drive down there.

And even off of the track, the experience was fabulous since the Heumanns are such nice and fun people to hang out with.

I'll share a picture with Bill right on my ass. I could not shake him off!!! (I know, it sounds gay, but I'm talking about the cars). He was passing everybody there, except for the hardcore Vipers, Z06s and GT3's. He got faster and faster with every session. You could actually see the rear end of his car getting very loose under hard braking. Amazing threshold braking. I wish I had a camera. Bill: You're the Man!!



The only mishap of the weekend was a broken exhaust manifold that increased my fuel consumption and robbed me of some power. But it sounded so cool, specially when blipping the throttle under braking when downshifting three times for the slowest turn of the track. Music! But on the street, sounds like a lawn mower.

I bet Bill has even better pics. (See www.bluegrassbimmers.org)

Gary Nakasato

Insanity in Alabama

I've heard great things about the new Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama and have long wanted to find out if they are true. In a moment of insanity I called my buddy and former 3B Racing partner Don Black and said, "You wanna co-drive my car in the Club Race at Barber next month?" Of course, I knew the answer.

I called the Dixie Chapter about running Friday to learn the track. No chance. Half-hour practice, half-hour qualifying and half-hour race Saturday. On Sunday... half-hour practice, one-hour race immediately following. "It's an easy track to learn," he said. I call Don and say, "This is crazy. We can't do this." He says, "You want Saturday or Sunday?"



All the things they say about Barber are true, and then some. Of course, Don and I had one dry session each, and then we raced. "This is crazy to practice in this stuff. I'm not going to wreck my/your car. Keep it in the paddock until race time." The article in the Roundel was WRONG. I'm here to tell you it NEVER stopped raining in either race. It poured and it was DARK.

This afternoon my buddy and former 3B Racing partner Henry Burt called me and said, "There's a Driving School at Barber next week. You wanna instruct?" Oh my gosh, the adrenaline rush! In a rare moment of sanity I said, "I've been on vacation for two weeks and I've got to get caught up at work and at home."

Sometimes it just doesn't pay to be sane.

Mike Burch



www.bluegrassbimmers.org

Elected Officers

President, John Ackerman
hans@bluegrassbimmers.org
Vice President, Bill Heumann
bill-h@bluegrassbimmers.org
Secretary, Steve Cullen
woody@bluegrassbimmers.org
Treasurer, Mike Burch
mikeb@bluegrassbimmers.org

Appointed Officers

Driving Events Coordinator, Bill Wade
willy@bluegrassbimmers.org
Membership Chair, Dave Arnold
dave-a@bluegrassbimmers.org
Newsletter Editor, Open
editor@bluegrassbimmers.org
WebMaster, John Ackerman
webmaster@bluegrassbimmers.org
Resource Development,
Ken Partymiller & Lee Wegner
kenny@bluegrassbimmers.org
lee@bluegrassbimmers.org
Social Events, Ingrid Korgemagi
dangergirl@bluegrassbimmers.org

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Don Jacobs BMW
www.donjacobsbmw.com
2689 Nicholasville Road
Lexington, KY
606-276-3546 • 800-356-5366

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Bluegrass BMW
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Bluegrass Business

President's Column

Happy Ground Hog Day, well, sort of...

As I write this I am listening to the Weather Channel announce that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and that we have 6 more weeks of winter. [In a whiney, nasally tone] "Noooooo, but, but..." Assuming that 90% of our Chapter is like me and is dying to get out of the house and DRIVE I have been watching the Weather Channel more these days than Speed Channel (yes... I know... sacrilege).

One thing that this beautifully horrific weather has allowed your Chapter Officers to do, however, is plan out an awesome calendar jam-packed with wonderful events. Thanks to the hardwork of our Social Committee led by Dave "I'm going to Lemans" Arnold and Ingrid "Dangergirl" Korgemagi, we will be posting a calendar to the website in a format that is printable with some really cool photos by month. This will allow you to stay abreast of all of the latest chapter events, as well as add some of your own.

Our first of many exciting events this year will be another karting event like last year against the ruffians North of the river, the Buck[tooth] Bimmers (they've called us worse!). Yep, on the 19th of March we will be meeting at Competition Racing in Lawrenceburg, IN to avenge our last year's defeat. Following this event we will be heading back to Louisville to the Heumann's to watch the 12 Hours of Sebring, which, like last year, will be a pot-luck style dinner. To avoid multiple dishes, we will ask for RSVPs through the website.

These events will be followed by even more exciting and family friendly events such, so I hope to see many new faces from our burgeoning chapter at as many events as possible! Remember, this is your club, too, and if you would like to chair an event or have an event idea of your own, please let me know. Even though "car" is in our name, we are a great group of people who enjoy spending time together on any occasion... come join us!

Sie sind immer herzlich Willkommen!

*Fahr Wohl,
John "Hans" Ackerman, President*

2004 Financial Statement

Year Ending	12/31/03	12/31/04
Beginning Balance	20,508.49	21,552.22
Advertising	1,600.00	600.00
Club Race	10,887.50	10,580.00
Driving School	18,938.00	19,270.00
Event Income	764.00	871.00
Interest Earned	240.51	90.80
Membership Dues	7,313.64	10,882.59
ZF Public Service Award	0.00	300.00
Total Income	39,743.65	42,594.39
Advertising	2,099.70	90.00
Charities	964.00	1,171.00
Club Race	8,303.82	9,282.46
Driving School	17,426.21	16,929.87
Event Expenses	4,372.12	4,245.12
Meetings	2,031.03	2,681.67
Miscellaneous	474.00	785.80
Newsletter/Web	1,176.09	1,353.73
Postage	1,852.95	1,601.68
Total Expenses	38,699.92	38,141.33
Net Income (Loss)	1,043.73	4,453.06
Ending Balance	21,552.22	26,005.28

2005 Events Calendar

Please go to our web site www.bluegrassbimmers.org for a current listing of events, contact info, directions, etc.

Get official email notices of events by clicking "Get Up to Date on all of the Happenings!" from the home page.

March

- 8 Louisville Meeting – Bluegrass Brewing Company, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 10 a.m. 2nd Annual Bluegrass vs. Buckeye Go-karting – Competition Racing, www.competitionracing.net, \$30/person
- 19 Sebring Race Pot Luck – Heumann's (R.S.V.P. Required)
- 26 First Tech Stammtisch – Corner Weigh Your Car! in Louisville



April

- 10 Meet at Red Star followed by 4th Street Live Tour
- 12 Lexington Meeting – TGI Friday's, 7:00 p.m.
- 16-17 Hoosier Driving School at Putnam Park
- 16 Chip and Dent Fest – Lexington (Tentative)
- 23 Street Survival School – Cincy – leonardmueller@earthlink.net

May

- 10 Louisville Meeting – Bluegrass Brewing Company, 7:00 p.m.
- 14-15 Buckeye School at Putnam Park
- 21 Street Survival School – Louisville – bill.wade@gmail.com
- 28 Tech Stammtisch – Bluegrass Driving School Tech Inspection

June

- 11 Street Survival School – Murray KY University – tochristensen@fs.fed.us
- 14 Lexington Meeting, TGI Friday's, 7:00 p.m.
- 25-26 11th Annual Bluegrass Chapter Driving School
- 25-26 North Central Premiere Club Race at Putnam Park

July

- 12 Louisville Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 30 Tech Stammtisch – Dyno Day in Lexington

August

- 9 Lexington Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 27-28 The Ultimate Drive 2 – Backroads to Cumberland



September

- 13 Louisville Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Tech Stammtisch – Winter Car Prep

Oktober

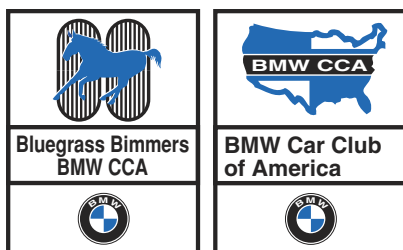
- 8 Pig Roast at the Frank[u]rt BMW Museum
- 11 Lexington Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

November

- 8 Louisville Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 26 Tech Stammtisch – MIG Welding School (Sponsored by FK Inc.)

December

- 10 Holiday Party – Lexington or Georgetown area



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