

# Pferdestärke

bluegrassBIMMERS Chapter BMW Car Club of America

Spring 2011



1st Place—Bluegrass  
2nd Place—Buckeye  
3rd Place—Bluegrass

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All drivers had fun!



On February 12, Bluegrass Bimmers once again took on the Buckeye chapter for border bragging rights in the Annual Karting Challenge. Last year Buckeye managed to squeak out a victory, but we were determined not to allow that to happen again. We used an enduro format with 4 drivers per team, and 4 teams per chapter. Our first team consisted of Bill Heumann, Drew Doukas, Brian Morales, and Gary Nakasato.

The race was neck and neck throughout, but we were able to pull it out in the end, thanks to Gary setting the pace with a lap just .06 seconds off the track record! Our resident race car driver, Bill Heumann, had this to say about the race, "It was a really close race. We would not have won without the job the other team drivers did blocking Buckeye and letting our lead kart through quickly. Ohio caught on towards the second half of the race, but one difference was that our guys blocked very cleanly".

Our second team took third place overall to round out the podium with 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes. Congratulations to everyone for some clean and quick racing! - Dan Miller

## Calendar of Events 2011

- May 10th — Monthly Socials— Check Chapter website for locations
- May 14th— Cars & Coffee—Java Brewing Co. Prospect, Ky
- May 14th — Tire Rack Street Survival School — Papa Johns Stadium  
More info: [www.streetsurvival.org](http://www.streetsurvival.org)
- May 15th — Sam Swope Fun Drive — Papa Johns Stadium
- May 28-29th — Northern Ohio HPDE—MidOhio Sports Car Course
- June 11th— Cars & Coffee—Java Brewing Co. Prospect, Ky
- June 14th — Monthly Socials— Check Chapter website for locations
- June 25-26th — [bluegrassbimmers](http://bluegrassbimmers.com) @ [Putman Park](http://PutmanPark.com) HPDE— Putnam Park  
Go to [www.motorsport.reg](http://www.motorsport.reg) to sign up!
- July 9th— Cars & Coffee—Java Brewing Co. Prospect, Ky
- July 10th— [bluegrassbimmers](http://bluegrassbimmers.com) Garage Tour, check website for locations
- July 12th — Monthly Socials— Check Chapter website for locations
- July 14-17th — Keeneland Concour's d'Elegance —Lexington, KY
- August 9th — Monthly Socials— Check Chapter website for locations
- August 13th — Cars & Coffee—Java Brewing Co. Prospect, Ky
- August 27-28th — Buckeye Chapter HPDE— Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course
- September 13th — Monthly Socials— Check Chapter website for locations
- September 17th — Grand Am @ MidOhio Sports Car Course
- October 8th — Tire Rack Street Survival School — Papa Johns Stadium
- October 22-23rd — Buckeye Chapter HPDE— Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course



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Pferdestärke welcomes submissions!  
Send your story, photograph, or comments to:  
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## A View From the Top

### A Bit of Spring Straightening

Spring is in the air and it's time to dust off the cars and hit the roads. Your Bluegrass Officers have been cleaning out the rust as well; over the winter several officers attended a BMW CCA Regional Caucus to meet with other chapters in order to determine best practices to run the club more effectively. We also posted a chapter survey to determine what our members want out of the club.

The result of these efforts, among other things, is the expansion of our events schedule to include more events. We are keeping traditional favorites such as the monthly socials, TireRack Street Survival, the annual High Performance Drivers Education School, Fall Drive and so on, but adding additional activities such as dyno days, garage tours, and tech sessions to appeal to the broader group. So make sure to check the website and the chat groups regularly so you don't miss out!

Many exciting things are happening, but having so many activities can put a strain on our volunteers. We are always looking for more help, and if you'd like to get involved, feel free to email me @ [danmiller@bluegrassbimmers.org](mailto:danmiller@bluegrassbimmers.org). I look forward to meeting all of you throughout the year.—Dan Miller President

## Changing Power Steering Filter and Fluid –

<http://blog.bavauto.com>

The power steering fluid and filter are one of the most overlooked preventive maintenance areas on most BMWs and MINIs. (Think about it – when did you ever change the power steering fluid on any vehicle?) On BMWs, this system provides boost not just for the steering but often for the power brakes and self-leveling suspensions, as well. Time and time again, we'll look at the power steering fluid in a BMW or MINI and it is filthy! (Running on old, degraded fluid will shorten the useful life of the steering rack/gearbox, brake booster, fluid pump, etc.) The fluid should be bright, clear red or, depending on the application, just clean and clear. One of the reasons this system gets overlooked is that there is no direct provision for changing the fluid; therefore the job is a bit more tedious. But it is not so tedious that it should be ignored. We recommend a biennial (every other year) or 50,000-mile fluid change for the power boost system. Additionally, most systems have a fluid filter incorporated into the fluid reservoir. (A lot of mechanics do not even know that this filter exists!) Change the filter when changing the fluid. (This is also a great time to replace any leaking power steering hoses.) There are three different fluids used in BMWs and MINIs; the correct fluid is typically noted on a label on the reservoir cap. We can assist in determining the proper filter and fluid for your BMW or MINI.

There are options in what method you use to flush the power steering fluid. They range from easiest and least messy (while using a bit more fluid) to getting under the car, disconnecting hoses and catching and draining the fluid.

1) No drain "under the hood" method: Remove the fluid in the reservoir using a fluid transfer pump (part #FP 500). Replace the filter or reservoir/filter (whichever is applicable, depending on the model). Note that there may still be a fair amount of fluid in the bottom of the reservoir. (Be prepared to catch the fluid with a Pig Mat.) Replace the filter or reservoir with integral filter (plastic reservoirs). Refill with the appropriate fresh fluid. Start the engine. Keep sucking out old fluid and refilling with fresh, letting the engine run for a few minutes in between each removal/refill. Eventually, the fluid being extracted will be bright and clear indicating that most or all of the old fluid has been removed.

2) Hose drain method: You can disconnect all of the hose connections at the pump, steering rack and reservoir (after first sucking most of the old fluid from the reservoir) and let everything drain. Install the new filter/reservoir. Reassemble all of the hoses and then follow method 1, above, for refilling.

3) Full flush method: Suck the fluid from the reservoir. Install the new filter/reservoir. Remove the return fluid hose from the bottom of the reservoir. Place the hose in a bucket (you may have to attach a double-ended nipple and more hose to get to the bucket). Use a plugged piece of hose to cap the nipple on the reservoir (where the return hose was attached). Be prepared with a few quarts of fresh fluid. Fill the reservoir. Have a helper start the engine and then keep pouring fresh fluid into the reservoir until the fluid coming out of the return hose (in the bucket) is fresh and clear (do not let the reservoir go dry). Turn off the engine. Re-attach the hoses. Fill the reservoir and start the engine; adjust the fluid level as needed.

### Show Your Colors!!!

Get your Bluegrass Bimmers Decals!

Send an Email to our [Decalmeister](mailto:Decalmeister@bluegrassbimmers.org) on the website with name and membership number. Free to members.

### Stay Informed!!

If you're not receiving our emails, send us your updated contact info to make sure you don't miss out on the action.

### [bluegrassbimmers yahoo List](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bgbimmers)

Join this group to receive chapter news and reminders of upcoming events.

Sign up at: [groups.yahoo.com/group/bgbimmers](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bgbimmers)

### [bluegrassbimmers 'Chat' yahoo List](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bgbimmerschat)

Get help with repairs, organize spontaneous get-togethers, or just shoot the breeze.

Sign up at: [groups.yahoo.com/group/bgbimmerschat](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bgbimmerschat)

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