

BAVARIAN BYLINES

December 2007

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Holiday Party January 26th



Andrew and Cindy Wilson will be hosting the Holiday Party this year at their home at 11 Adams Road in Brunswick (pictured above), on Saturday, January 26 at 6:00PM. Soft drinks and snacks are provided. Entrees and desserts are pot luck. BYOB. There will be door prizes, food and friends. We hope everyone can make it!
Please RSVP to brunswickfarm@gmail.com with what you'd like to bring.

Directions: From South 295: Exit 28 Brunswick, at third light make left, RT 1 North Bath/Rockland (Gulf/Cumberland Farms gas station) keep to left to get on the RT 1 connector towards Bath. Take the Cooks Corner/NAS at Brunswick exit. Get in 2nd lane from the left at the light to turn left, you will see a Gulf Cumberland Farms Gas Station/Papa Johns/AT&T across the street to your left. Just after the gas station turn right onto Thomas Point Road. House is 1 mile on the left just past Meadow Road on the right, there is a 90 degree bend sign that points to driveway.
From North 295: Exit 31A Topsham/Brunswick Cooks Corner. Continue south on 196 and get on the 1 connector to Bath/Cooks Corner. Take the Cooks Corner/NAS at Brunswick exit. Get in 2nd lane from the left at the light to turn left, you will see a Cumberland Farms Gas Station/Papa Johns/AT&T across the street to your left. Just after the gas station turn right onto Thomas Point Road. House is 1 mile on the left just past Meadow Road on the right, there is a 90 degree bend sign that points to our driveway.
From North RT 1/Bath: Take New Meadows Exit. Turn left follow to stop sign, M.W. Sewal gas on your right. Turn Right onto Bath Road. 1/2 mile or so, turn Left at Skillin's onto Harding Road. House is 2 miles on the right after the Hidden Drive sign and before Meadow Road.

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Monthly Meetings

The Pine Tree Chapter of the BMW CCA meets at Pedro O'Hara's (next door to Gritty McDuff's in Freeport). The meeting is held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00PM.

These are informal gatherings of fellow BMW enthusiasts who swap tales, ask advice, give advice, eat great food and lie about other non-mentionable Bimmer activities. We also occasionally discuss club business issues and upcoming events. This is a great opportunity for members to meet, and find out what's happening in our local chapter. It's also a chance to check out some great Bimmers driven by fellow club members. Mark your calendar and join us for the next meeting!

Advertisements

Non-commercial Classifieds are FREE to BMW CCA members. Ads are limited to 40 words each, and two ads per member per issue. Please include your name, address and phone number. Non-member classified of general BMW interest may be accepted, space permitting.

Commercial Advertising is provided free of charge, but we do request donations for door prizes to be used at events and meetings. Contact Peter Sottery at 773-1044.

Change of Address?

All address and telephone number changes must be made through the National Office in writing. Please do not send change of address information to the local chapter. Send your change via:

Mail: BMW CCA
640 So. Main St., Suite #201
Greenville, SC 29601

Fax: (864) 250-0038

Email: bmwclub@aol.com

Classified

1990 BMW 325iX, 2-door, Red/Tan, 195K. Auto with sun roof. Everything works. Car has been very well maintained. New transfer case at 105K. Probably the best 325iX in the state. Asking \$4,500 OBO. **Call Art at 207-547-3969 or, email: arts@gwi.net.**

Email your classified to Amy at:
m34amy@yahoo.com

Welcome New Members

Wayne Bailey, '93 325i
Richard Baker, '02 325xi
Bill French, '00 323ci
Olin Hale, '96 750il
Stephen Porter, '91 325i
Russ Swift, '98 528i
Cyrus Chilton, '95 325iC
Grace Robinson,
'08 535xi
John Bianchi, '88 325is

Cynthia Connor Self
'08 328 xi

Cynthia Gower, '03 525i
Dan Hourihan, '97 M3
Josephine Maranskis
'04 X3

John Borek
Thomas Allen
Jeffery Harmon
Michael Allen

President's Letter

Greetings Pine Tree Members,

There's no denying that winter has arrived here in Maine. I'm sure we're all thankful for good winter tires and heated seats! Those with xDrive are especially blessed!!

I'm pleased to report that we've accomplished a great deal of "business" at the last few monthly meetings. We've reviewed Club happenings from 2007, and our direction for 2008. We've been tackling everything from planning club events; to how much money we need/want to keep in our account vs. how much to spend. (I'm keeping an eye on our Treasurer who wants a new BMW!) We recognize that many Pine Tree members are interested in enhancing their technical skills. We've therefore slated the February monthly meeting to be at Autowerkes Maine in Freeport, where Voit Ritch will be presenting a tech talk while we have dinner. Please give us your suggestions for new events and other options for monthly meetings. Special thanks to Cindy and Andrew Wilson who have graciously offered to host our January Holiday Party at their newly renovated home.

Help! BMW CCA now includes in it Minimum Standards that each chapter is required to maintain a chapter web site. The web site will be linked to the BMW CCA home page. Please contact one of the Pine Tree officers if you're interested in volunteering to design and/or maintain our chapter web site.

Our November go-karting event was really great! Aside from the thrills of the race and good food afterwards, I especially enjoyed meeting spouses and members that we normally don't see. I look forward to seeing you all again at the Holiday Party! I'll close with a confession that..... Yes, I was the only club member to get pulled off of the track, I swear it was not part of my race strategy, and I promise to be good and pay more attention to the instructional video next year!

Safe Driving and Happy Holidays!

Sheila

PINE TREE BMWCCA UPCOMING EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted,
Monthly Meetings are at
Pedro O'Hara's

175 Lower Main St., Freeport @ 7PM.

A portion of your meal is
paid for by the Club.

January 26, 2008 @ 6 pm: Holiday Party,
11 Adams Road, Brunswick (see front page)

No January Monthly Meeting

February 11, 2008 @ 7 pm: Monthly Meeting at
Autowerkes Maine, 353 US Rte. 1, Freeport

March 10, 2008 @ 7 pm: Monthly Meeting at Pedro
O'Hara's, Freeport

See you there!

Foreign Auto Fest

On Sunday October 8th a small contingent of club members gathered at The Owls Head Transportation Museum for the annual Foreign Auto Festival & Antique Aero Plane Show. It turned out to be a beautiful fall day, and there was a large crowd of foreign car enthusiasts that gathered in Owls Head for the show.

The club was represented by both older and newer BMW's. Former club president, John Stern brought his for sale 1980 735 Euro, and as always it was one of the standouts at the show, and drew many lookers. John assures me that it would make some one a wonderful Christmas gift. Since Rolls Royce is now part of the BMW family, we "voted" to let one into our row of Bimmers.

Porsche was the featured car this year, and two Porsche clubs were well represented with a wide variety of models and years. All and all it was the largest turn out of cars that I had ever seen at the event, and I expect that next year's show will be even bigger. Unfortunately this year's event fell on the same day as the Bavarian Auto Works Show and Shine, and some of our members elected to attend that event.

Mark you calendars for the 2008 festival to be held on Sunday October 12, 2008. Hopefully it will not conflict with any other events, and we can have a large club showing.

Baer Connard

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Message Board Info

Many thanks to Dan Morency who has setup a message board / discussion forum for use by our BMW CCA members. It is located at: <http://pinetreebmwcca.freeforums.org>

If you click on this link you can setup an account; the link to do so is in the upper right hand corner. Once you have set up your account a message will be sent to the administrator (Dan) to activate your account. This delay was desired as the membership wished to have access for club members only. If you know of a member that is from another region who wishes to be able to access the forum, we can also work something out to allow them access.

This medium can be used to improve club communication and post events, items and services for sale etc...Please remember that this is a free service forum so it may be slow.

36% of Maine's foster teens that do not find a loving forever family become homeless.
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A Family for ME
Department of Health & Human Services

1-877-505-0545

BMW & Us

You & me the avid BMW owner are now driving highly technical vehicles. Designed and built by maybe the most advanced car manufacturer today. BMW as a company has long been the industries star for technical and design innovation. As BMW owners we have an appreciation for this advanced level of function. We like to maintain our BMW's to keep all that makes them special working as intended. As technology improves our comfort, safety and overall driving experience, it also complicates the process of diagnosis when a fault arises. Those who you entrust to repair your BMW need an equal level of technology to effectively correct these problems. Information is the key to diagnosing a modern automotive system. As computerization has taken hold, this information includes more than diagrams and specifications. Software is now the key to vehicle operations. To even begin to evaluate a problem, the repair shop must be able to interface the vehicles computer network. Allowing them to view the systems in question.

All this information, software and communication methods are owned by the manufacturer, i.e. BMW. Car manufacturers have resisted allowing use of this needed information. Attempted legislation may even be hindering this ability. As BMW owners we are lucky to have a group of dedicated independent service facilities that has formed a cooperative group. This non-profit group called "BIMRS" has for a number of years been working to develop access to what is needed to fix your BMW. Working with each other, BMW directly and government agencies, this group has fostered a relationship that continues to allow BMW owners competent repair shop options. As a long-time working member of BIMRS, myself and this group will try to assure that any BMW can be kept in proper working order. For more information on this industry leading group visit www.bimrs.org

Voit Ritch



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Back Behind the Wheel

Let me start by shouting “WHOOOO HOOOOO!!!!” because I just finished chemo a month ago and I’m feeling SO much better!! Thanks to the many club members who sent good wishes and healing thoughts my way - it helped more than you know!

I’ve endured my share of hardships since my diagnosis of breast cancer this past July: two surgeries including a bilateral mastectomy, four treatments of brutal chemotherapy, and losing my hair.

Just before my diagnosis, I had purchased a 2002 BMW 330xi: dark green, saddle brown and black leather interior, 5 speed, loaded. One of my “hardships” was not being able to drive it, and trying to sit patiently and quietly in the passenger seat while my wonderful husband drove me around to various doctors appointments. For a while after my surgery I actually rode in the back seat because I was so afraid of crashing. Not that he’s a bad driver - on the contrary -he’s a very good driver. Just not as good as I am...

Okay, so perhaps this points out my slightly controlling personality when it comes to driving. I suspect that many of you reading this share this trait. Nothing drives you battier than sitting in the passenger seat while being driven by someone who drives too fast, too slow, tailgates, doesn’t use blinkers, shifts too soon or corners too late. You bite your tongue till it bleeds, reach for the imaginary brake peddle and white knuckle the door grip.

We BMW drivers choose the cars we drive because we love to drive, and for the most part, we’re darn good at it. Okay, perhaps a few of us drive a wee bit faster than we should... but we do it CAREFULLY! Speed limits were made for incompetent drivers.

My dear mother, who is now 81 years old, never took a driver’s test. She grew up in California, and in her early 20’s was living in San Francisco where she got around town on a little scooter. One summer, when her license was up for renewal, the State accidentally sent her a regular driver’s license for driving cars. Over the next 50 years she totaled more than her share of vehicles.

One of my first childhood memories is of crashing into a telephone pole while my mother took her hands off the wheel of the Jeep station wagon and leaned over to fasten my seat belt (safety first!). Unfortunately the impact happened before the buckle did. She also totaled a Subaru Brat and a VW Dasher... and I’m pretty sure there were others during my childhood and teen years. Interestingly, my father NEVER let her drive when he was in the car (but heck, take the kids to school!).

Mom is not driving any more, but there are plenty of people on the road that remind me of her. Intelligent, well meaning people who just don’t make paying attention to the road a priority when they’re behind the wheel. People who would rather rely on the rumble strip than focus on staying in their lane.

Now that I have been through the scare of cancer, survived the treatment and have an excellent prognosis, I’ve decided to live the remainder of my life a little differently. I’m going to exercise regularly, and eat more organic produce. I’m going to be more tolerant, less judgmental, kinder and more patient... Just don’t ask me to give up the driver’s seat.

Catch me if you can! Amy

3rd Annual Go Karting Event

MIK welcomes the Pine Tree Chapter for their 3rd Annual Karting Event

On November 12th the Pine Tree Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America held its third annual Go Kart Challenge Race (for bragging rights only) at Maine Indoor Karting (MIK) in Scarborough, Maine.

Unlike the previous years events, the night started with racing and then it was on to Ricetta's for Pizza (more on that later).

As usual, MIK had opened especially for us on this night (they are not normally open on Monday nights this time of the year). After checking in and then watching the mandatory 8 minute video on safety and rules, we were ready for racing! All participants are required to wear jump suits, head socks, and helmets and neck braces (provided by MIK).

This year, 14 members signed up for racing and several others were present in the spectator area cheering them on. Due to a larger turnout this year, 2 heats were run.

MIK has changed the layout of the track, so last years strategy for passing was not going to work...hhmmmmmm.

Off we went with lots of bumping, squealing tires and wide grins.

After 8 minutes of racing, spinouts, and pedal to the metal, we all ventured back inside to review our lap times (recorded by MIK's computerized scoring system).

Then it was on to Heat 2!

The MIK computerized results are as follows:

Heat 1 was won by Ian, followed by Dan, Josh, Ed, Voit, Peter, Martin, Christopher, Gary and Karen.

Heat 2 was won by Dan followed by Voit, Ian, Ed, Martin, Josh, Chris, Andrew and Sheila (must have been the shoes – Sheila was sporting the latest fashion in racing footwear – NOT!).

With the racing completed, it was on to Ricetta's in South Portland for pizza and great conversation regarding the evenings events. Good food, good friends, and great conversation, it just does not get any better than that!

Special thanks to Sheila for once again organizing this event and to the Staff of Maine Indoor Karting for making this possible! See you at MIK next November!

Peter Sottery



Members of the Pine Tree Chapter are pictured here at Ricetta's where they enjoyed dinner after Go Kart Racing at MIK.

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**Wishing You & Your
BMW, a Safe &
Happy 2008!**

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