

BAVARIAN BYLINES

March 2008

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Pine Tree Chapter Officers

President

Sheila Hodgkins
(207) 878-0302
sheilabmw@yahoo.com

Vice President

Baer Connard
(207) 807-8300
ursabmw@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Peter Sottery
773-1044
vitro_man@yahoo.com

Secretary

Voit Ritch
(207) 865-6600
autowerkes@roadrunner.com

Editor

Amy Rees
582-2302
m34amy@yahoo.com

Party Review



Pine Tree Chapter's Officers at the Post Holiday Party: (left to right) Voit Ritch, Baer Connard, Peter Sottery, Sheila Hodgkins, and Amy Rees

For more pictures from the party, turn to page 7.

Many thanks to Andrew and Cindy Wilson for hosting our "Post Holiday" Party at their home in Brunswick on January 26. We had a good turn out of club members and their guests, with loads of delicious appetizers, entrees and desserts. Door prizes were awarded, and everyone walked away with something. Amy received a pink Susan Komen / BMW "Ultimate Drive for the Cure" coffee mug from the club to celebrate her successful battle against breast cancer.

The highlight of the evening was touring Cindy and Andrew's 1789 Federal style farm house. They've done many renovations to the home, while keeping its age appropriate character intact. Most impressive was the incredible two story post and beam barn (built in 2007)

which houses their 2004 X3, 1997 M3 (with Dinan Stage 1 chip, Dinan stainless exhaust, UUC short shift and clutch stop) as well as a 1914 KisselKar 4-40 Touring (the only complete example remaining) and a 1933 Packard Twelve Convertible Coupe Roaster (pictures on pg 4).

It was great to see several new members attend the gathering, and we all had an opportunity to meet Sheila's new friend, Jim (he's a Porsche guy—but we like him just the same). Jim made sure we didn't elect Sheila "President for Life" while she was in the lady's room!

Andrew & Cindy thank everyone who attended the party and made it such a success. They enjoyed hosting everyone, and on Sunday, Andrew remembered where he put the corkscrew, so they are set for next year!

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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 : for current rates deadline information, please contact newsletter editor Amy Rees at 207-582-2302 or m34amy@yahoo.com

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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:

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Welcome New Members

Thomas Church, Georgetown: 1996 328i

Barry Kinner, Peaks Island: 2006 330

Aaron Murphy, Gardiner: 1992 525i

Roger Piasio, Cumberland: 2004 745iL

David Snow, Falmouth

President's Letter

Greetings Pine Tree Members,

I like to begin each New Year reminding myself of all that I have to be grateful for and what really matters most in my life. Family and friends always take a high priority on this list. While attending this year's Pine Tree holiday party it was clear to me that so many club members are not only valued friends, but have over the years truly come to feel like family. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the impact that you have on my life and for entrusting me in the President's position for the past year.

Special thanks go out to Cindy and Andrew Wilson for hosting a spectacular holiday party for Pine Tree Chapter members. The luminaries lighting up their driveway and the BMW sign out front are just a few examples of their thoughtfulness in preparing for our special event. Thanks also to Bill Dodge, Autowerkes Maine, and Toby Rosenberg for door prize donations, and to Don who sent us all home with delicious homemade chutney.

Our February monthly meeting was held at Autowerkes in Freeport, where owner and Pine Tree member Voit Ritch treated us to a tech talk on the technological advances that BMW has made (with the assistance of a stunning X3), and we dined on pizza and desserts. It was a great evening and members attending decided to do a similar monthly meeting during the summer. Thanks to Voit for sharing his expertise and shop.

The next Club event will be our Annual Spring Steam Cleaning at Autowerkes on Sunday, June 1st. This is a great way to pamper yourself and your car after a long hard winter. Bring your car, guests, and appetite. Steam cleaning supplies and food will be provided.

As always, I encourage members (new and old) to contact any of the listed officers with suggestions for upcoming meetings or events. We'd love to hear from you!

Safe Driving, *Sheila*

Following is a list of commonly used "E" designations for BMW models. This is not a complete listing and year refers only to U.S. production by title year.

E3 2500-3.3Li	E52 Z8 roadster
E9 2500CS-3.0CSi	E53 X5 up to 06
E12 5 series up to 81	E60 5 series from 04
E21 3 series up to 83	E63 6 series from 04
E23 7 series up to 87	E64 6 series conv.
E24 6 series 77 yo 89	E65 7 series from 02
E28 5 series from 82	E66 7 series long whlbas
E30 3 series from 84	E70 X5 from 07
E31 8 series	E83 X3 from 04
E32 7 series 88-94	E85 Z4 roadster from 03
E34 5 series 89-95	E86 Z4 coupe / M coupe
E36 3 series from 92	E90 3 series from 06
Z3 & M	E91 3 series wagon from 06
E38 7 series from 95	E92 3 series coupe from 07
E39 5 series from 97	E93 3 series conv. From 07
E46 3 series from 99	

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.

March 10, April 14 & May 12 @ 7 pm:
Monthly Meeting at Pedro O'Hara's, Freeport

June 1, 10am - 2pm: Spring Steam Clean at Autowerkes Maine, 353 US Route 1 in Freeport

June 28 11A-2P: Open House & Car Show at Ayer European Auto Service & Restoration, Gardiner, ME

July: Bob Baher's open house at Paris Hills (date and time to be announced)

See you there!

Save \$\$ on Driving

The average cost of owning and driving a car 15,000 miles a year is \$7,830 according to AAA. SUVs are even more costly a \$9,990 per year. This includes all costs of ownership (gas, insurance, maintenance, registration, depreciation and financing). Here are three tips to help you cut your vehicle costs:

BUY USED. Because cars lose most of their value in the first few years, buying used allows you to drive a vehicle you may not have been able to afford when it was new. Recent used models, those that are less than 5 years old, can be a real value because you get a nearly new car in good working order for a fraction of the new-car price. You'll pay less for insurance and taxes too.

BUY A SIPPER. You don't have to go with a hybrid vehicle to save money on gas (higher purchase price can cancel out savings on gas anyway). A regular car with good gas mileage can save you hundreds of dollars a year. If you drive 1,200 miles per year and get 18mpg, you'll spend \$200 per month on gas (at \$3 per gallon). Drive a car that gets 25mpg and you'll spend \$144 per month... a savings of \$54 per month and \$648 per year.

SHOP YOUR INSURANCE. Re-shop your car insurance. Using a comparison web site like InsWeb.com can help you determine if you have the best deal. You could save hundreds of dollars. Raising your deductible from \$250 to \$1000 can cut your car insurance by an additional 15%.

The Wilson's Babies



Andrew & Cindy Wilson's 1933 Packard
Twelve Convertible Coupe Roaster



Andrew & Cindy Wilson's 1914 Kissel Kar
440 Touring

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.

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Preventative Water Pump 101

This is a story about “Joe” who recently purchased a 2001 BMW 325Xi with 88K miles. Nice looking car: silver with a black leather interior, 5-speed manual transmission and cold weather package which is so practical for winter driving in Maine. Unfortunately, one of the things the car didn't come with was maintenance records. The Massachusetts used car dealer assured him that it had been well maintained, and the car did seem to run well. It had new tires and a fresh oil sticker on the windshield.

Exactly 2 days after his 30 day warrantee expired, Joe was driving home late one evening after a long day of work, talking with his daughter on the phone. He noticed the battery light illuminated on the dash, but the lights didn't dim, and he was just a few miles from home, so he kept driving. By the time he pulled into his driveway, the car was hard to steer and making a “bad noise”. He had it towed to our shop the following day.

Unfortunately for Joe, the news was not good. The water pump had seized, the engine had overheated and was irreparably damaged. He needs a new engine. When the water pump seized, it threw off the serpentine belt, which also runs the alternator and power steering (thus the battery light coming on and the difficulty steering). Either the notoriously “buffered” BMW's temp gauge, or the distraction of conversation caused the overheating to go undetected .

Joe is certainly not the only E46 owner to learn the water pump lesson that hard way—but hopefully others reading this now can learn from what happened to Joe, and prevent it from happening to them. Here are the three things Joe learned:

First, this is yet another example of why it's not a good idea to talk on your cell phone while your driving. Enough said.

Second, whenever you purchase a used vehicle, have it checked over by an independent service shop that specializes in BMWs. Ask them to give you a complete list of what upcoming maintenance and repairs the car needs.

Third, if your E46 has over 60K miles on it and you don't know if the water pump has been replaced... get it done. BMW manufactures their 6 cylinder vehicles with a water pump that has a plastic impellor. It takes about 60-90 K miles for that impellor to crack and fail. Make sure it's replaced with a water pump that has a metal impellor (we recommend Graf water pumps which are made in Italy). The total price should come to less than \$300; about 2% of the cost of a new engine.

Other important maintenance items that are good to do at the 60K mile mark are all the filters (air, fuel & cabin), serpentine belts, all the fluids (coolant, brake, transfer case and differential), spark plugs and thermostat. This will run you a few hundred more, but all inexpensive maintenance when compared to the cost of long term damage.

Here is a list of BMW chassis *in addition* to the E46 that have the same water pump which should be changed at 60K miles: E34, E36, Z3, & E39 If you're not sure which chassis your car has, see the chart on page 3.

Like Grandma always said “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”.

Catch me if you can! Amy

Amy Rees is the General Manager of Ayer European Auto Service in Gardiner Maine.

Pictures from Post Holiday Party



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