

BAVARIAN BYLINES

September 2008

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What I Did This Summer



Connor Curtain's 1995 BMW M3

In November of 2007, Connor Curtain bought his dream car: a 1995 BMW M3. The vehicle had been modified with a Dinan performance chip, cold air intake and exhaust, and was in good overall condition. But Connor had plans. Big plans. He brought his new baby to Ayer

European Auto Surgeons in Gardiner with a well-researched "wish list". Connor had chosen the car because it had more performance capability than the E30 M3, but was more of a pure sports car and less of a GT than the later models. He wanted a car that could be (cont. pg 4)



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Chapter Officers



President

Sheila Hodgkins

Email: sheilabmw@yahoo.com

Phone: 207 878-0302

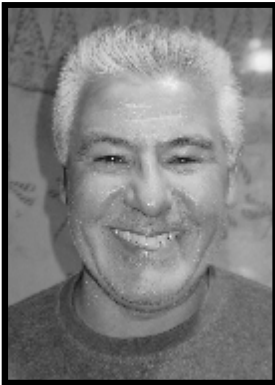


Vice President

Baer Connard

Email: ursabmw@hotmail.com

Phone: 207 807-8300



Treasurer

Peter Sottery

Email: vitro_man@yahoo.com

Phone: 207 773-1044



Secretary

Voit Ritch

Email: autowerkes@roadrunner.com

Phone: 207 835-6600

Newsletter & Website



Newsletter Editor Advertising Manager

Amy Rees

Email: m34amy@yahoo.com

Phone: 207 582-2302



Webmaster

Paula Lungren

Email: paula@brainstormbiz.biz

Phone: 207 329-7938

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Welcome New Members!

Gary Bahlkow 03 BMW M5 No. Yarmouth, ME
Charles Curtain 95 BMW M3 North Haven, ME
Jason Levesque '06 BMW 330xi Auburn, ME
Scott Plummer 08 BMW 328iC Holden, ME
Matthew Thomas 73 BMW 3.0CSI Falmouth, ME
Tom Godsoe No. Yarmouth, ME
Matthew Holland 99 BMW 528i So. Berwick, ME
Lewis Whitaker 02 BMW M3 Falmouth, ME

Breaking Mini News

Thirty-seven miles per gallon is nothing compared to the next trick MINI Cooper has up its sleeve. Starting next year the automaker will offer all-electric Coopers in the United States. Green Fuels Forecast reports that MINI's U.S. VP, Jim McDowell, was taken by surprise when parent company BMW made the announcement, but he went on to confirm that the cars will indeed arrive sometime next summer. Since BMW plans to use lithium ion batteries in its upcoming hybrids, it's probable that



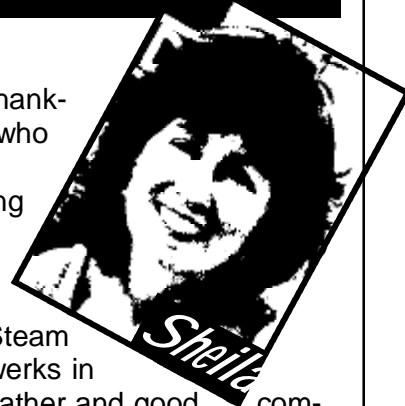
they'll also supply the juice for the factory MINI EV. Published reports put the number of cars planned at 500, with California naturally receiving the lion's share, but apparently that could change. McDowell also told Green Fuels Forecast that the electric MINI could wind up being rolled out nationwide.

Whether the cars will be sold or leased hasn't yet been decided, but either way, the MINI EV should make a huge splash when it lands in the marketplace. We're looking forward to hearing additional details as they become confirmed, but mostly, we just want to try the thing out when it arrives.

President's Letter

Greetings to All,

I'll start this column by thanking the many members who have recently attended their first monthly meeting or event. I hope you keep coming! I also want to thank Voit Ritch for hosting the Annual Steam Cleaning event at Autowerks in June. The gorgeous weather and good company made it a perfect day... In October we'll have a Pine Tree Oktoberfest celebration on Monday the 13th at Amy Rees's house in Gardiner (see page 6). In November, we'll be at Maine Indoor Karting in Scarborough for another favorite annual event to be followed with dinner at the Portland Pie Company in Scarborough.



As a club, we've experienced much growth during the past year in addition to the higher attendance at meetings. It would have been hard to miss the new and improved June newsletter. The credit goes to Amy Rees who has additionally secured new advertising to help pay for the newsletter upgrades. Also, Web Master Paula Lundgren has been working hard on the framework and design for our new Pine Tree Chapter website. I'm very excited about what I've seen thus far, and I'm sure we'll all be impressed with the finished product. The message board will be part of the web site when it is up and running.

During recent meetings we have discussed the issue of charitable donations; specifically how to decide where our Club donates money. A decision was made that members can send donation recommendations to Treasurer, Peter Sottery. Submissions will then be reviewed and voted on 1-2 times a year during monthly meetings.

One last change... In an effort to create more time for other parts of my life, I've decided that the time has come for me to move on from the president position. Although none of the other officers are asking to step down from their positions, we have decided that this would be an appropriate time to put all four officer positions up for re-election. You'll find a nomination form to fill out and send in on page 8.

Happy Driving!

Sheila

Summer of The M3

(cont. from pg 1) affordably tricked-out, yet still usable on the street. A car that could do a combination of amateur autocross and driver's schools and still be used day to day and for occasional travel.

First, some maintenance had to be addressed. The rear shock mounts were replaced, along with a power steering hose, heater core, front lower control arms, crank pulley, radiator, spark pugs and steering rack. The fan clutch, rear trailing arm bushings and fuel filter were replaced.

Then the upgrades began! Over the course of several weeks, European Auto Surgeons installed: an Active Autowerke short shift kit, red Schroth Quick-fit seat harnesses from HMS Motorsports, Shorty Headers from Turner Motor-sports, new Bridgestone tires from Tire Rack, Wilwood Superlite performance brake kit from UUC motorwerks, VDO Gauge Kit, lowering springs, smoke side markers and 18" wheels from Bavarian Autosport. With these upgrades, this M3 screams!



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Annual Go-Karting Event is November 10

The Pine Tree Chapter will once again host a “racing” event at Maine Indoor Karting in Scarborough. This event is for members of all skill levels and has proven to be one of our favorite events. We promise you’ll leave with a big smile on your face! MIK’s karts are real European racing karts with Honda 200cc, 6.5HP engines! Members with the fastest race times will get bragging rights for the next year!

This event is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 10 at 6:30PM. It will take the place of our November Meeting. Maine Indoor Karting will be opening up just for us so we’ll have the track



to ourselves. You **MUST** present a valid driver’s license in order to race. Comfortable clothing and shoes are recommended; open toed shoes are not allowed. Info and directions for Maine Indoor Karting can be found at: maineindoorkarting.com

After the race, we’ll caravan to the Portland Pie Company in Scarborough for dinner. Be sure and mark your calendar for this: our most popular event of the year! **SEE YOU THERE!!!**

BMW For Back Pain Relief *by Dr. Lou Jacobs*

Apart from a speeding ticket or accident, nothing spoils a Sunday drive more than an aching low back. Four out of five Americans suffer from a significant back pain at least once in their lives. Many suffer more frequently than that.

As one who loves to just ride around with the roof open, I began to recognize driving related pain in my patients. The more I saw this problem the more I investigated automobile ergonomics and options and ways to minimize or even help heal back pain while driving.

If you are suffering from back pain you should be examined by a doctor, particularly if it is worsening, persistent or if you have a history of more serious disease. Once behind the wheel, there are things you may do to help your pain, and below is my modified protocol:

If you have a chronic ache turn on your heated seats! Heated seats, just like a heating pad at home, are a great way to relieve tension in the low back. Heated seats may even help you recover quicker by relaxing muscles and alleviating stress.

Acute low back pain? Turn on your air conditioned seats. Cold helps to reduce pain and inflammation and may reduce the time that your back hurts.

Adjust your seat. Your position in relation to the steering wheel, gas pedal and windshield is critical. First, adjust to what is **most** comfortable. Next, analyze your position. Are you sitting very high or low? Do you have to stretch your neck and head to see? How far do you have to reach to touch the pedals? Can you easily reach the controls on the dashboard? The more you have to “work” to drive, the higher the risk of increased discomfort or injury.

Wear your seat belt. Nothing makes a bad back worse than slamming into a steering wheel without a seat belt on at 135 miles per hour, or even 65 for that matter.

Take a break. Drive for an hour or two, get out and stretch. Ask your doctor for helpful stretches depending on your pain and take a little time to work out the kinks. Stretching will not only help you enjoy your ride more, but also contribute to quicker healing.

These five easy tips will keep you up to speed when enjoying your BMW. It is always wise to employ professional help if problems persist, but there is nothing like a cruise behind the leather wheel to reduce stress, ease one’s mind and focus on something other than back discomfort. As we say at the office, “*get behind the wheel to heal*”.

Founder's Day At Paris Hill

On Saturday, July 19th, Bob Rogers, Dennis Pickering, Jeff and Karen Longfellow and I all met in Paris Hill to tour Bob Baher's collection of vintage automobiles. Bob, the former owner of NHIS, opens his collection for public viewing once a year on Founder's Day to benefit the Paris Hill Library. In addition to vintage Packards, Duzenbergs, Stultz Bearcat, Mercedes etc., this year there was a 2006 330xi on display. I had a chance to speak with the curator, and he indicated



that he would be able to include members of the Pine Tree BMW CCA in a group tour next year. As good as it is to tour the collection on your own, there is no substitute for the stories and history that the curator can share on each vehicle in the collection. We'll let you know details on next year's Founder's Day when we have them. **Baer Connard**

OKTOBERFEST in Maine... Monday, October 13

On Monday, October 13 celebrate BMW's heritage with Pine Tree Chapter's **Oktoberfest**. In place of our regular meeting, we'll gather in Gardiner at 7PM, at the old brick school house; home of Amy Rees and her husband Robert Lash. We'll enjoy Bratwurst on the grill, fresh sauerkraut, potato salad and good "German beverage". Bring your BMW(s) and join us for an evening of fun... German style! It would be helpful to get a head count... so please call Amy at 582-2302 if you are planning to attend.

From West, North or South: Take exit 49 off I-295. Travel East toward Gardiner on Route 201. Drive approx. 4.4 miles, and take a sharp Left onto High Holborn St. The schoolhouse is immediately on the Right. **From The East:** Travel into the town of Gardiner, onto Route 201. Follow 201 West toward I-295.

Drive up the steep hill and around the "common" park area. After the common, look for High Holborn Street, the 3rd street on the Right. The schoolhouse is immediately on the Right.



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Baer's Calendar of Club Events



September

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sept 8: Club Meeting, 7PM
Pedro O'Hara's, Freeport

Sept 20: BMW/Komen Drive
for The Cure, Bill Dodge
BMW, Westbrook, ME

Sept 23-28: Oktoberfest
2008, Wakins Glen, New
York

Oct 5: Bavarian Auto Show & Shine, New Hampshire

Oct 12: Foreign Auto Fest & Antique Aeroplane Show at
Owls Head Transportation Museum

Oct 13: Oktoberfest 7PM at Amy Rees's house in
Gardiner. In place of our regular club meeting. See page
6 for details.

October

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Nov 10: Maine Indoor Karting Event at 6:30PM in place
of regular club meeting. See page 5 for details.

November

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Dec 8: Club Meeting, 7PM, Pedro O'Hara's, Freeport

December

			1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
28	29	30	31					

**Questions about events, meetings or other
club activities? You can contact Baer at:**

Phone: 207-807-8300

Email: ursabmw@hotmail.com

Pine Tree Officer Nomination Form

Do you have the desire to take a more active role in the Pine Tree Club? Do you know someone who is? The Pine Tree Chapter of BMW CCA will hold an election for officer positions. Below are the names of each current officer, along with a space to write the name of who you would like to nominate. All positions are on a volunteer basis (unfortunately no cars come with the positions!). You can write in a nomination for one or more positions. Please clip this form and send to: BMW CCA Pine Tree Chapter, PO Box 803, Portland, ME 04104-0803. Nominations must be postmarked by October 31, 2008. Look for an election ballot in the 4th Quarter Newsletter.

Position	Currently held by	Name of person you wish to nominate:
President	Sheila Hodgkins	_____
Vice Pres.	Baer Connard	_____
Treasurer	Peter Sottery	_____
Secretary	Voit Ritch	_____
Your name & address: _____		

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BMW Ultimate Drive to Benefit Komen For The Cure



Join us on Saturday, September 20 for BMW's 12th annual **Ultimate Drive** in the battle against breast cancer with their partner, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Once again, members of the Pine Tree Chapter of BMW CCA have been asked to help drive the event cars from Bill Dodge BMW in Westbrook, to the next dealership on the route. We will then be bused back to Westbrook. If you have participated in the past, you know what

a good time this is. If you have not, you're in for a treat! We'll be driving a grand selection of spanking new BMW's including this year's Signature Vehicle, the new and dynamic X6. For every mile we drive BMW will donate \$1 on our behalf to Komen. Since the program's inception in 1997, the event has raised over \$11 million dollars for breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment programs. This year's goal is to reach the \$12 million mark! Space is filling up, so call Baer at 807-8300 or email him at ursabmw@hotmail.com to reserve your spot. First come, first served!

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The 740 vs. The Prius

In June, one of my customers announced that she had decided to sell her 1998 BMW 740iL and buy a new Prius. You get three guesses why - and the first two don't count. At first blush, some people might think that this makes sense when gas is \$4 a gallon. The 740 gets 20 miles per gallon, and the Prius gets 50. But, being the daughter of a true penny-pinching Yankee—I've learned to question just about everything when it comes to plunking down hard-earned money.

In the case of this example, "Mrs. Smith" owns her BMW free and clear. It has 89,000 miles on it. She drives 12,000 miles per year. If she trades the BMW in on the Prius, she'll get about \$8,000 for it. A new Prius costs \$21,500 (base model) so that leaves \$13,500 difference. If she finances that over 36 months, she'll pay \$16,320 with sales tax and interest. To keep things simple, I am not including the increased cost of insurance, or the depreciation hit she'll take when buying a new car.

At \$4 per gallon, one can purchase 4,080 gallons of gasoline with \$16,320. If the Prius gets 50 miles per gallon (30 miles per gallon better than the BMW) she'll have to drive 122,400 miles (10 years of driving) before it will pay for itself.

So that's 10 years of driving a Prius verses driving around in a luxurious 740, which would have not problem becoming a 250,000 mile car. This is not making a lot of sense to me... and I'm a tree-hugging liberal.

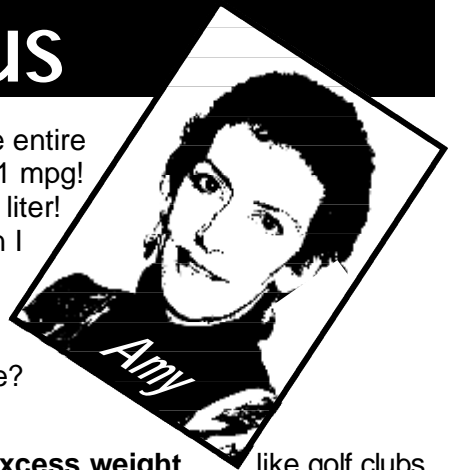
I am a big fan of saving gas... and you can do it without plunking down big bucks for a new hybrid vehicle. Here are the top 5 things you can do to save money on gas with your existing vehicle:

1. **Slow down.** For every mile an hour over 60 you drive, you loose about 1 mile per gallon in fuel efficiency. This was a big lesson for me, the speed freak. In May I drove to New Jersey to visit my daughter. As an experiment, I reset the fuel consumption on my BMW 330xi's computer, and drove

the speed limit the entire way down. I got 31 mpg! In a 6 cylinder 3.3 liter! No kidding! When I drive 75, I get around 24 miles per gallon. Want to save even more? Drive 55.

2. **Remove any excess weight** like golf clubs, or your mother-in-law.

3. **Drive smoothly.** Avoid tailgating and using your brakes continually. Not only does this waste gas, but it makes you look like a really bad driver.



like golf clubs, or your mother-in-law.

4. **Maintain your vehicle.** Properly inflated tires, a clean air filter, and new spark plugs can do wonders for your gas mileage. Regular oil changes with synthetic oil make a real difference too.

5. **Avoid excessive idling.** Today's cars do not take extra gas to start—so there is no reason to leave them running when you are not moving.

Now back to the Prius vs. the 740. It's early August and I just had a different 740 customer come in. Her husband drives a

Prius that he purchased two years ago. Recently, he was rear-ended at 40mph while sitting at a stop light. The impact pushed his vehicle out into traffic, and he was nearly hit by a dump truck. Fortunately he was not injured, other than a stiff neck. The Prius crumpled correctly to dissipate much of the impact, and it was total loss. I asked if he was buying another one. "Heck no!" he said "I'm looking for a BMW like my wife has."

Catch me if you can! *Amy*

**Amy Rees is the General Manager of
Ayer European Auto Surgeons in Gardiner, ME**

THE MATH

Prius	\$21,500
Sale Tax	\$ 675
Trade in	-\$8,000
Interest*	\$1,745
Total:	\$16,320

\$16,320 = 4,080 gallons of gas at \$4 per gallon

4,080 gallons X 30 miles per gallon = 122,400 miles

*36 months @ 7.5%

Monthly Meetings

The Pine Tree Chapter of the BMW CCA meets at Pedro O'Hara's (next door to Gritty McDuff's on Route One 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 discuss various 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!

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

Advertising

Non-commercial Classifieds are FREE to BMW CCA members. Ads are limited to 40 words each, and one B&W photo; 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, publication and deadline information, please contact newsletter editor Amy Rees at 207-582-2302 or m34amy@yahoo.com

Deadlines: Bavarian Bylines is published quarterly and deadlines for all material are as follows:

1st Quarter: Feb 1 2nd Quarter: May 1
3rd Quarter: Aug 1 4th Quarter: Nov 1

Material received after the deadline will be published in the following quarter's newsletter.

Classified

03 BMW 330Xi

\$19,900



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85 BMW 735i

\$500 Firm



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