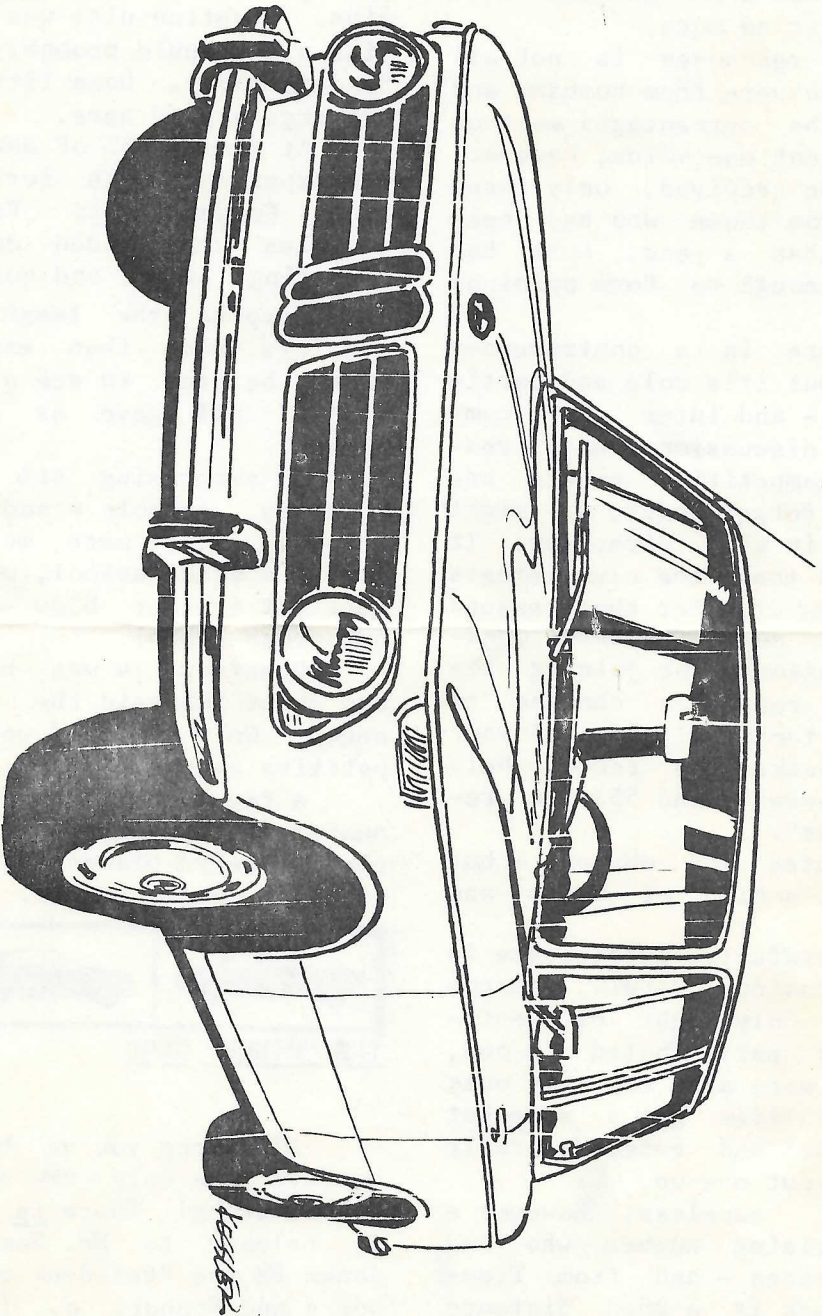


# Das Sommer Erinneret



## POLL RESULTS

By Pete Vack

The December issue of das Kummel, if you'll recall featured a Poll to be filled in by our many enthusiastic members. Then began the wait - we waited, and waited. A few floated in - others dripped in, one or two were rescued from a wastepaper basket. By last month I had gathered 21 - and I decided to wait no more.

Seriously, 21 responses is not all that bad - and seven were from husband and wife members. In the percentages we took each Poll to represent one voice, however.

Of the Polls we received, only three responses were from those who had been members for less than a year. Most had been around long enough to form opinions and voice ideas.

Currently there is a controversey within the club about it's role and participation in intra - and inter club competition. Latest discussions have reasoned that since competitive events are too beneficial to forget about, we might as well get headed in that direction. It has also been noted that the club members did not join the BMW Club for that reason: the Polls bear that out. The third question listed six reasons for joining the club - 80% of the responses checked "to learn more of the technical side of your BMW." 62% again checked "to receive help and parts when needed", and 55% "to receive the newsletter".

It was expected and obvious - but also sad. Are we a club of users and takers?

Can we successfully participate in and sponsor autocrosses? Barely, according to the Polls. Only eight of twenty-one (38%) had ever participated in one, and the same eight were also the only ones to have helped. Rallies got a somewhat bigger response - 62% had entered a rally and 52% had helped put one on.

Can't be all hopeless, however - there was a surprising number who had traveled to the races - and from Tidewater, any racetrack is a good distance away. 57% answered in the affirmative.

Question seven consisted of ten parts - but again, the results were expected. The events our members would most likely participate in was naturally a Tech Session, with a full 90% response. Such an event is a helpful asset to a club member-but hopefully now detuned to help-

ing only active members. However, rallies, parties, and tours were high in favor, and would you believe only the same eight (38%) again opted for autocrossing. Favorite Newsletter features, question eight, did not let us down. 95% wanted the tech tips. Only 33% were interested in what their fellow club members were doing, while 67% wanted more Consumer Comments. Strange, but only a small fraction of that 95% ever contributes any tech tips. Question nine was irrelevant - Tech Tips alone would probably keep das Kummel readers happy. Does little for the literary urge around here.

At least 60% of BMW owners formerly had experience with foriegn cars, ranging from Peogeots to Porches. Domestic vehicles were traded due to lack of engineering, logic, and quality.

Despite the lenght of our Tuesday meetings, more than expected thought it might be nice to see a film once in a while. 90% gave us a yes on number eleven.

A surprising 66% offered to help organize schools - and naturally Tech Schools (90%) were most desirable 76% wanted a skid school, while autocrossing took yet another blow - only 48% checked autocross school.

Question 14 was hard to determine but about 50% said the club was well balanced. Only 28% said we needed more competitive events.

A few suggestions were offered for number 15, but most were for moving the club to weird places like Tazewell, Richmond and the Feninsula. No thanks!



THE "OTHER" CLUB

All along you've been thinking that we have the only BMW club in Tidewater. You're wrong! There is a second BMW club. It belongs to Mr. Samuel G. Jones. Mr. Jones is the President of Berkley Machine Works and Foundry Co., Inc. At last count Mr. Jones and Co. own 10 or 11 (hard to keep track of 'em all) BMWs. That's right, company cars. Sounds like an ideal boss. We'll try to do an article on him in the near future as well as fill out some job applications. Mr. Jones, our collective hats are off to you. You've got style.

## SPRING OFFENSIVE

by Rusty Barton

In conjunction with the BMWCCA's spring membership drive which has been dubbed "SPRING OFFENSIVE", the national club is having a contest both for individuals and chapters.

For members, there will be six, \$25 gift certificates from Universal Tire Co. The first winner will be chosen by a drawing of all signed membership flyers received by National between April 17 and two weeks later. The second winner will be determined by a drawing from the next two weeks receipt of flyers, and so on for six, two week periods.

The chapter contest consists of a prize or a \$100 gift certificate for the chapter gaining the largest percentage increase in membership.

So, all you Tidewater members, get out and find new members - you'll be helping yourself and your club and you may also be fattening your wallet.

By the way, take a look at the May issue of Road and Track. In it you will find a large ad about the "SPRING OFFENSIVE". It's quite an attractive piece of artwork and should go a long way in getting our message across to other BMW owners throughout the country.

## SOME GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS FOR BMW

From April issue of Motor Trend

"BMW is buying out its agents and wholesale distributors in Europe. The idea is to set up its own sales subsidiaries. Higher profits, obviously, better service and improved marketing are the motives. We might look for a similar strategy sometime in the future in the U. S."

"And now some bad news for BMW. In a survey conducted by Germany's Auto Magazin, BMW owners said they loved BMW engines and handling, but were unhappy about the lack of comfort. When asked what was "good" about BMWs, 98% pointed to the engines while 92% appreciated the road-holding qualities. But 87% said the frameless side windows were "bad" (causing wind noise and permitting water inside). Also getting the thumbs down were seats and seating positions (72% complained) as well as lack of interior space (79%)."

## TIRES

For you a deal! Face it, sooner or later your BMW will need new tires. If you live in the Tidewater area you've got your choice of some good tires at really low prices.

C.E.W. on Military Highway in Norfolk has Semperits available at 30% off list if you show your SEVSCO card.

N.T.W. at 5772 Arrowhead Road (just off Newtown Road) in Virginia Beach has Michelin, Pirelli, Bridgestone, Continental, and Semperit at about 30% - 35% off standard list price - no membership requirements or cards to show.

And finally the Uniroyal 180 radial (highly rated in a comprehensive series of European tire tests) is available at cost plus \$5 (approx \$33 each) from Mac at Davenport.

Quite a choice.

Jim Craig



## MISERY IS:

Your silver Bavaria on the driveway (behind your Datsun) with the keys locked inside.

Being locked outside at 1:00 A.M. with the keys inside the house.

Being locked in the kid's bedroom - with the keys outside.

Trying to explain how all this could happen to you in less than a month!

Poor Mary Cottrell!

## THE DRIVE-OUT THAT DIDN'T

The faithful gathered at Janaf Saturday March 10th at 9:00 A.M. It was very cold. It was very foggy. The Rhynes, Vacks, Cottrells, Craigs, and Gene Dovenbarger were there - huddled together saying things like "Jesus, this is really dumb." or "Why am I here?" or "Thanks Rhonda, for the great fog-in."

After stealthily invading the Village Inn (bless their warm pizza ovens) to thaw our chilled bodies, the discussion turned to alternative activities. A group trip to view "Deep Throat" was vetoed - too many kids. There was no enthusiasm for going to the Norfolk Regional Airport and watching the planes sit on the ground. And nobody, but nobody, wanted to go to Sandbridge and watch the beach erode. Even fewer wished to travel the 50 miles to Williamsburg on the foggy Interstate. What! An idea! On to the International House of Gastric Distress for breakfast. Fortunately they were over-crowded and we couldn't even find enough parking places. Then, with only two dissenting votes (those folks in the silver Bavaria), we went to the Cottrell's for brunch.

A quick trip to the A & P for essentials was followed by a positively delightful meal. Waffles, kiebase (Polish links), and Harvey Wallbangers. If you've never had a Harvey Wallbanger for breakfast -- try it, you'll be stoned by lunch time. Even Rusty and Jan came over from Hampton for the festivities. Yes, festivities. What could be more festive than eleven BMW club members sitting around drinking Warvey Hallbangers and bock beer at 10:30 A.M.? A mad-cap poker game got underway with only the women playing, (I'm not sure who won, since my eyesight and coherency were fast-failing by that time.) The living-drinking room survived a super bull session by those who weren't playing cards. But the den didn't fare as well since the six kids were somewhat lacking in supervision (the repairs should be completed soon).

No we didn't get to Williamsburg, but we had a helluva good time. Thanks, Dave and Mary.

WANTED: Advertising Manager for das Kummel. Forward, enterprising individual who has a BMW and time to spare. Glamorous position for the one who qualifies. Contact Pete or Mary Vack, 627-9996.

## THANK YOU, BUD!

By Jim Craig

Bud Simonton of Lynnhaven Motor Co. played host (again!) at the March 25th Tech Session. I would think anyone who normally works at least six days a week wouldn't be all that eager to open up shop on a Sunday afternoon - but not Bud. Eager, cordial, helpful - the perfect host. Thank you.

A lot of work got done easily (2 sets of front Konis installed, several tune ups, oil changes, and on and on) that would have been real chores in the backyard. About fifteen cars were on hand (nobody thought to take an official count) and everyone must have learned something!

Don't forget Bud when your BMW's ailing.

## Minutes

By Mary Vack

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M. by President Rusty Barton. There was a grand number of thirty-two attending.

Jim Craig reported about the Tech Session at Bud's. Fred Andrew reported on the stock parts and the \$5 parts kitty for new members.

About New Business, Rusty Discussed the enforcement of bylaws... "any person who wishes to join the club must attend three meetings in order to become a member". Questions were raised as to how the new policy will be implemented. Discussion was also heard about the active and non active members in the club.

Dave Pritchard reported a balance of \$278.62 in the club's account.

A rally school was held. Teachers were Elmo Edelblute and Jim Rhyne. Following the rally school a film on Oktoberfest was shown.

## CONSUMER TIP

Sears Roebuck and Co. is currently offering (for a limited time), about \$100 worth of Craftsman Metric tools for \$49.95. This deal includes 1/2", 3/8", and 1/4" socket sets with drives. Also a hacksaw and blades, three screwdrivers, more, as well as a tool box. A good buy if you catch it in time.

## President's Column

by Rusty Barton

It finally looks like SEVSCO is going to come into its own this year after all. I had my doubts at first but after our last bylaws committee meeting I'm reasonably confident that SEVSCO will become the binding and organizing force we all hoped it would be. All the clubs' representatives exhibited a genuine willingness to cooperate as we began laying down a good constitution and bylaws that will provide for equal representation of all member clubs. It was agreed that scheduling conflicts have been and will be handled with as much cooperation and respect as possible and that the overriding consideration in all decisions should be: How does it affect the quality of the sport? With every club taking this kind of selfless attitude SEVSCO can be an organization that is a credit to all sports car enthusiasts in the area.

Now that SEVSCO is getting its house in order, we are going to get ours in order also. If you were at our March meeting, you know now that it is no longer imply a "you give us \$15 and you're a member", thing to join the Bey Em Vey Corp. WE want a responsive, active membership, not a nucleus of 10 or so active people with 30 other members who sit back and receive their Das Kummel and then come to Tech sessions with dollar signs in their eyes. From now on I hope to make membership in our club a two way street - you give to, as well as get from the club. The stricter membership procedure is the first step towards our goal. The Board is considering other steps to make membership in our club a more rewarding experience both for the club and the individual.

By all this I don't mean to say that everyone must rally and autocross his car to remain a member of our club. Certainly there is a place for a variety of interests in the club and we want to keep it that way. The fact is, though, that putting on competitive events is one of the main sources of income that allows us to print such a good newsletter and maintain a well stocked parts store. Whether you care to enter our autocrosses or not, you can help us with putting them on. In the future, our members will be expected to donate some of their time and energy to help make the Bey Em Vey Corp. a better,

more active club that benefits its members and the sport to a far greater extent than ever before.

### FRAME IT

By Dave Cottrell

Want to protect your shiny new license that you are going to have hanging on the front of your BMW for the next five or so years? You can do the job (1) few dollars (2) looks good (3) will protect against dirt and bugs. The frame is available from auto parts stores and discount stores. The best I found was at Sears, get the good kind with a sturdy back. Use the cellophane plate cover as a pattern to cut a thin piece of plexiglass. The plexiglass is available from your local hardware store at a nominal price (usually free). Mount according to directions on the box and you are ready for the road. Plexiglass does scratch, but it is also replaceable and looks better than a rusty, bent, bug and dirt covered tag.

### WUNDER WAGEN

If you haven't done it yet, do it soon. Go down to Davenport's and check out the new 3.0 S. That's a super Bavaria (\$11,000 worth) with a leather and rosewood interior, nicer chrome trim, FM-stereo, and 195/70 series radials on 6" alloy rims. It really makes a Bavaria look like a Plain Jane. Unfortunately, I'd have to trade in the house to purchase one. Curses.

And as long as you're there, check out the dealership itself. A lot of people have been staying away thanks to the reputation garnered by the previous ownership. Mr. Davenport and his people have really got the place clean (almost spotless) and freshly painted. The Dark Hole of Brooks-Shorter is no more. The beautiful sun analyzer (the tii owner's salvation) is quite impressive as is the parts inventory and that whole wall full of special BMW tools. We're down to one BMW dealer now (a relief actually), so get to know him. And while you're there, tell somebody you're from "the club"!

# Editor's Column

by Pete Vack

I think I should ask you now to have patience with us. This issue is probably pretty late, the next issue may not be at all, and neither issues will be too super. This issue is small and late because: 1) very few contributions, 2) a rash of rather unavoidable outside activities by the editor. The May issue may not be because: 1) the editor has to go to school for two weeks, 2) the typist is about due for a child, 3) typical lack of material. It would be a far nobler thing to merely tell the truth and say the editor is lazy, but he needs the excuses above to pad his column.

But what is far worse, is that your Editor is guilty of a re-issuance of the original sin. He bought another Alfa Romeo. The 2002 is still number one car, but his former vices continue to haunt him.

This Alfa is something special... a 2600 SZ (Z is for Zagato, of course). Only 27 thousand and two previous owners. It's fast, mean and in overall excellent condition. Aubrey has some work to do on it, and it must be gotten into concour condition - in time. das Kummets version of Helen Gurley Brown, the editor's wife, fell in love with the Alfa at first sight. Then she persuaded her father to let us reconvert his Rec Room back into a garage. Then she bought the editor a new set of Craftsman tools for his birthday. So much for lack of female enthusiasen.

## Activities

By Jim Craig

Yes, the Williamsburg driveout will be rescheduled. Exactly when? How's June? April's nearly gone and the Autocross will be the primary May event.

April 22nd is the all day TSCC Spring Rally. It's sure to be fun - hope you signed up!

Coming up on the 28th of April is a Party. Yes, once again it's time for the BMW Club to gather together so that my neighbors' opinions of my sanity will continue unaltered. This will be sort of a belated Second Birthday Party for the club. We hope to see all of our present

members (expecially you new members), potential members and friends of the club. Time: 8:00 P.M. Saturday April 28 th: Place: 4001 Santa Maria Drive in Chesapeake Dress casually and be prepared for another GREAT punch in the Bey Em Vey tradition.

May 6th should be a special date on your calendar. Suffolk Sports Car Club is putting on an Autocross at Terrapin Point (between Suffolk and Franklin) that promises to be fun. How does an oval dirt track sound? Even if you don't run, it'll be fun to watch. On May 27th Andiamo has an Autocross. Wait! Read on! They have a new (huge) lot at Masons next to Sherwood Mall in Denbigh. It should be fun in the Wickes tradition - try to make it.

And May 13th is our second SEVSCO autocross. This will be a double event with TSCC and we will have to have everyone's help. If you don't come out to run and/or help, we may not have a third event this year, so please help out.

Date	Activity	Club	Location
April 22	Spring Rally	TSCC	Janaf
28	Party	BMW	The Craig's
29	Auto-X	TACH	Wickes
May 6	Auto-X	SSCC	Terrapin Point, Rte 641
13	Double Auto-X	BMW, TSCC	Janaf
15	Meeting	BMW	Janaf
20	Rally	TACH	?
27	Auto-X	AMSC	Mason's at Sherwood Mall in Denbigh





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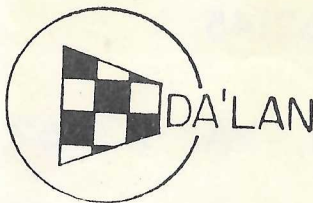


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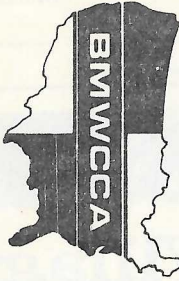
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