

das Kummeret

The Newsletter of the Tidewater Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America



Q3 | 23



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------|---|
| 07 08 | INDEPENDENCE DRIVE
Food Lion Parking Lot
13478 Carrollton Blvd, Carrollton, VA 23314 | 09 27 | SEPTEMBER BIMMER BRUNCH
Civil Libation Bistro
2135 General Booth Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23454 |
| 07 15 | BIMMER DINNER - CANTINA LAREDO
Cantina Laredo
4505 Commerce St, Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | 09 30 | 2023 CHAPTER BANQUET
Greenbriar Country Club |
| 08 19 | AUGUST BREAKFAST
Simple Eats
3152 Shore Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 | 10 6-9 | DRAGON DRIVE - WYTHEVILLE, VA
Suffolk Shell/Pilot Gas Station
2400 Holland Rd, Suffolk, VA 23434 |
| 08 26-27 | TIDEWATER BMW CCA STREET SURVIVAL DAY 1/2
NCCAR 310 Technology Drive
Garysburg, NC 27831 | 10 21 | CHAPTER DINNER
Park Lane Tavern, Hampton
4200 Kilgore Ave, Hampton, VA 23666 |
| 09 09 | PENINSULA BREAKFAST
Tommy's in Hampton
3406 Mercury Blvd, Hampton, VA 23666 | 11 04 | FALL FOLIAGE DRIVE
TBD |

**To be announced. Please check your email, our website, and MSReg for updates. RSVP and details for all events at www.motorsportreg.com Questions: send email to events@twbmwcca.org

KEY PEOPLE

PRESIDENT

Shawn Halsey (614) 596-7709
president@twbmwcca.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Patrick Morrissey (857) 383-8223
vicepresident@twbmwcca.org

SECRETARY

Al Resnick (757) 577-2718
secretary@twbmwcca.org

TREASURER

OPEN
treasurer@twbmwcca.org

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

OPEN
events@twbmwcca.org

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Amy Finney
membership@twbmwcca.org

SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIRPERSON

Paige Evans (717) 557-4834
social@twbmwcca.org

WEBMEISTER

Judy Semo (757) 456-9923
webmeister@twbmwcca.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Andy McCulley (757) 630-5145
editor@twbmwcca.org

CHAPTER AMBASSADOR BMW CCA FOUNDATION

Brad Purvis (757) 869-1459
foundation@twbmwcca.org

BMW CLASSICS CHAIRPERSON

OPEN
classics@twbmwcca.org

FOODBANK CHAIRPERSON

Avril Purvis

STREET SURVIVAL COORDINATOR

Anke Hacker
streetsurvival@twbmwcca.org

PENINSULA REP

OPEN: peninsula@twbmwcca.org

OUTER BANKS N.C. REP

Linda Matthews
obx@twbmwcca.org

DRAGON DRIVE COORDINATOR

Nate Collins
Dragon@twbmwcca.org

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Melissa Peppenhorst
merchandise@twbmwcca.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

4 | President's Corner

5 | Road Trip Prep

6 | New Members

10 | Detailing with Mr. Q

12 | Heartfelt Thank You

13 | Did You Know?

14 | Summerwind

16 | Classifieds

16 | Look in Rearview Mirror

MEMBERSHIP

Tidewater Chapter: 526 as of Oct, 2023

ADDRESS CHANGES

Address changes can be made on the BMWCCA National website (www.bmwcca.org) by hitting 'Login' and following instructions on site. From there, click on the 'Manage Account' link on the top of the page; then click on the 'Change Addresses' link.

Or write to: ROUNDEL BMW CCA, 640 South Main St., Ste 201, Greenville, SC 29601

All changes done through the National office will update both your National and Tidewater Chapter address information.

NEWSLETTER and PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS:

We welcome your articles and photos. To be included in an issue, the materials must be received by the 1st of the month preceding the date of the issue. To spice up the newsletter, we always need photos of chapter events. We may also use them on the chapter website. Send your contributions to Editor@twbmwcca.org. Thanks!

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Chapter web site:

www.twbmwcca.org

Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/twbmwcca/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/tidewaterbmwcca/>

Subscribe to our email lists: <http://www.twbmwcca.org/lists/>

FINE PRINT NOTICE: Das Kummert is published quarterly and remains the property of the Tidewater Chapter BMW CCA, P.O. Box 62145, Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2145. All information is for members and advertisers only. Ideas, suggestions, writings, and opinions are those of the contributing authors without authentication by or liability to the BMW CCA, the Editors, or Officers of the Tidewater BMW CCA chapter. No information in Das Kummert bears the status of "Factory Approved" unless so stated and implies no endorsement or guarantees expressed. The Tidewater Chapter of the BMW CCA is completely independent of and in no way connected with BMW NA or BMW AG. The contents of this publication remains the property of the chapter. All BMW CCA chapters, with permission, may quote or copy from the publication provided full credit is given to the author and the Tidewater Chapter unless noted as "Copyrighted" and is not used for commercial purposes.



THE BOLDLY REDESIGNED BMW X7.

The bar for luxury has been raised. With advanced technology and an exquisite interior, the redesigned BMW X7 offers an elegant and memorable driving experience.

Take charge of the journey with up to 523 horsepower at your disposal, and arrive at your destination with unmistakable presence. The latest model includes unique features such as split headlights and BMW's latest iDrive 8 operating system. Enjoy one of three rows of plush leather seats that guarantee a luxurious ride, no matter where you sit.

With the latest finishing touches, packaged in its grand silhouette, the 2023 BMW X7 demands to be noticed. This is the Ultimate Driving Machine.®

Contact a Client Advisor at bmw.checkeredflag.com to learn more about the BMW X7 today.

Checkered Flag BMW

5225 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
(757) 260-5960
bmw.checkeredflag.com



President's Corner

With another successful Street Survival in the books and a limited number of events remaining for calendar year 2023, I find myself reflecting on my years of service. Several have suggested, and even encouraged, that I continue on as President. While I am flattered, I do think it is time for someone else at the helm. I genuinely believe only positive things will arise as a result of a new President. We have a proud and storied Chapter. Step up and make your mark on the *BEYEM VEY*!

Events this year have at times been behind schedule. Or at least, behind the timeframe we have often grown accustomed to. Such is the way things go sometimes though, I see no issue. If change is the only constant, it could be argued that we are being consistent. Though our annual banquet is a bit later this year than we have grown accustomed, I could not be more proud to be a part of the 52nd *BEYEM VEY* Annual Banquet! Following the banquet, we will have quite the packed itinerary. Including but not limited to our annual Dragon Drive, monthly meal, annual bbq, peninsula meal and a combined Fall Foliage/Pumpkin Fun Run! I encourage you to attend as many of those as you can as they will be great fun!

Admittedly there is not a significant update on the 2002 restoration project at this time. That said, the car has not been forgotten. The singular hold up has been debating the best way forward. We've known from the beginning that we would need to weld in new floor panels. The question is how. We want to access the undercarriage and perform a careful rust reduction via a blasting process. The best way to do this is to put the car on a rotisserie (which we are prepared to purchase) and rotate. Our concern and reason for hesitation is if the vehicle will support the stress of rotation with limited underbody panels. I am of the mindset that she will remain strong, but we do want to be certain. Fortunately, we have identified a welder who has agreed to investigate and render judgment. If the frame is not solid enough to sustain rotation, we will see about adding internal support to add strength. Though an extra step, from there it should be smooth sailing. Yes much work remains, I remain confident that we will have our very own Club car driving on the streets of Hampton Road!

I will make another plea for help, though in a different way. We still have a few vacant positions that need to be filled. My ask is that you not think it a massive undertaking, rather a singular project or task. Help us with one event. Perhaps the annual Valentine's Day Drive. Or the annual Photo Ops drive. Maybe our annual banquet. By assisting us with a singular event, you can make a meaningful impact in Club operations without committing an abundance of time. If that's not how you want to support our Chapter at this time, there is another way. Please visit our online store <https://www.twbmwcca.org/store/> and make a purchase. All proceeds directly support your local chapter in all of our many wonderful events.

Wohin auch immer die Straße führt
Shawn Halsey

Road Trip Prep

By Brad Purvis

You're getting ready for that long Fall Foliage Drive or a visit to the Back of the Dragon. Your special Bimmer has been used sparingly during the August heat and storms, so what do you have to do to ensure your version of Munich's finest is ready to go?

First and most obvious should be the tires. Do they look okay? Are they inflated properly? Are the sidewalls cracked? Is there suitable tread left? What is the magic number for tread depth? The U.S. Department of Transportation recommends tires should be replaced when the remaining tread reaches 2/32". The Commonwealth of Virginia law states:

§ 46.2-1043. Tire tread depth.

A. No person shall operate a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer on any highway in the Commonwealth if it is equipped with one or more tires which:

1. When measured in any two adjacent major tread grooves where the tread is thinnest, at three equally spaced intervals around the circumference of the tire and exclusive of "tiebars" by a tread depth gauge calibrated in thirty-seconds of an inch, are found to have tread depth of less than two thirty-seconds of an inch at such locations; or
2. When equipped with tread wear indicators, are found to have such indicators in contact with pavement at any two adjacent grooves at three equally spaced intervals around the circumference of the tire.

"But Dude, how do I know what 2/32" looks like?" Well, let me tell you Einstein. You can pick up an El Chepo tread depth gauge for less than ten bucks at most auto parts stores or your favorite on-line shopping behemoth, or a more sophisticated digital gauge for around \$15 from the same sources.

"Oh man...", you say. "I ain't got no more money 'cause I just bought a new Dertrautheitsbehagen for my E39." Fear not my Bimmerhead friend, there is a solution if you have at least one penny left to your name. Place said penny with Lincoln facing headfirst into the tread. If you can see the top of the 16th President's cabasa, then it's time for new shoes.



One more cautionary note about tires before we move on. Suppose your tires have adequate tread left and they are inflated to the correct pressure. (I won't insult you by talking about correct tire inflation.) Afterall, we aren't driving Ford Explorers here. So, everything is hunkey-dory, yes? Wrongo moose breath. How old are dem dare Autoschue? Most tire manufacturers

recommend replacing tires after six years regardless of tread depth. Now, there may be a bit of a marketing ploy there, however, even non-affiliated sources such as Consumers Union

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Larell Atkins
Nicholas Biondo
Wesley Burley
Lourdes Burley
Norm Chant

Carter Evers
Robert Holzhauser
William Jeter
Raymond LaMendola
Brian Lawrence

Tom McAuliffe
Tyler McDonnell
Jeff Riddle
Andre Scott
Edward Thompson

BMW CCA is the largest single-marque car club in the world. Membership comes with special benefits such as rebates up to \$1500 on new or certified pre-owned BMW automobiles, rebates up to \$750 on BMW motorcycles, membership only discounts, exclusive club driving events, subscription to the monthly club magazine Roundel, access to club only merchandise, access to technical service advisors and much more.

As a Tidewater Chapter BMW CCA member there are even more benefits and discounts that come with your club membership. For more information please visit www.twbmwcca.org.

Whatever your reason for owning a BMW, you have the opportunity to meet others with common interests, form new friendships and learn more about your "Ultimate Driving Machine". Participation is up to you whether that be face-to-face, virtually, actively or occasionally.

So how do you join? Simply visit the membership signup page on the National BMW CCA website at www.bmwcca.org/join.



HELLO

RACEWERKS

EUROPEAN & DOMESTIC CAR SERVICE AND PERFORMANCE

757-427-0742

RaceWerks is an all service facility specializing in Porsche, BMW, Audi and other performance cars.

WE OFFER:

- Routine service & repair, including parts
- APR tuning
- Mounting & balancing
- Scales for corner balancing
- Suspension tuning & alignment
- Performance upgrades

www.RaceWerks.net

2445 Castleton Commerce Way, Ste #301
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

John Kopp / John@RaceWerks.net
Dan Tiedemann / Dan@RaceWerks.net



ALL ELECTRIC EXECUTIVE

THE 2023 BMW i7 OFFERS ALL-ELECTRIC INNOVATION, VISIONARY DESIGN, AND POWERFUL DRIVING DYNAMICS – SO THAT YOU CAN DRIVE THE WORLD.



ORDER YOURS TODAY!

www.caseybmw.com/build-your-own.htm

Designed with next-level style and substance, the i7 is undeniably alluring from the inside out. The expressive aesthetic and latest technology not only ensure your complete comfort, but transform every drive into an executive lounge.

CASEY

BMW

The Only Name You Need To Know

12861 Jefferson Avenue
Newport News, VA

(757) 989-1300

www.CaseyBMW.com

recommends replacing tires anywhere between six and ten years old. Of course, if there are sidewall bulges, or cracks in the sidewall or tread, then the sooner the better regardless of age.

Moving on. No one wants to be stranded in the cold, wet, darkness of a Tazwell motel parking lot in the morning hoping someone brought a set of jumper cables or waiting for AAA to rescue your sorry butt. So, to prevent that aforementioned calamity there are a few things you can do in the safety of your own garage. First, and this is just my opinion based on personal experience, if your battery is five years old or older, replace it. Today's batteries are not like old soldiers, they don't just fade away. They die suddenly and without warning, just like your GoPro video cam. Trust me on this one. Even if your car has been on a trickle charger for the past six weeks, it is not enough to save a dying battery. It just slightly extends the inevitable, like being in an ICU.

If you're saying Meh? It's fine, at least take a reading with a multimeter to ascertain the battery's immediate health. With the red lead on + and black lead on - it should read 12.6 volts. Anything less and your battery is headed south. Replace it. None of this applies if you drive an i4 or other electronic marvel, including hybrids, of which I have little or no knowledge of, so you're on your own. I suppose you just shout out "Hey BMW" and some angelic voice magically comes on and tells you that you are being connected to the BMW Gods.

Virginia is home to a wide variety of wildlife, many of which can cause significant damage to your vehicle (or vee-hick'-el, since we are south of the Mason-Dixon Line). Most assuredly, the ruminants that roam the highways and byways of our beloved Commonwealth pose a potential of totaling your car, however, we are not going to talk about the deer in the headlights. There are two critters in particular that capitalize on an opportunity to ruin your day, and those are mice and squirrels. Mice love to build nests in the air cleaners, heat ducts, and various other dark places within your BMW, especially when it's tucked inside a cozy garage and left unattended for long periods of time. The urine and poop smell they leave behind is sublime, and they like to use your seat stuffing to build their nests. In addition, they enjoy a habit of chewing on electrical wire casings and even rubber fuel lines with catastrophic results. While you generally don't find squirrels in your garage, if your car is parked outside on a regular basis and left unattended you can expect the same gnawing habits from these vicious little bastards as with mice. So, that's why Avril & I feed them peanuts on our deck every morning.



The author's beloved Dakota after squirrels ravaged the engine compartment.

I'm not here to tell you how to protect against these havoc-wreaking creatures. Numerous useless and ineffective theories abound. I'm simply suggesting you thoroughly inspect your car before so much as turning the key and energizing the fuel pump if it has been left alone for a period. I learned this the hard way a few years ago (see below).

Irrigation. The lifeblood of your car, especially the engine. As you take the initial walk around,

Continued on pg 9

a day or so prior to heading out for that Fall Foliage Tour, peek under the chassis for any obvious signs of fluid. Now, if we were talking about British Motor Works and not Bavarian Motor Werks you would expect to see a puddle, or two, or three, but hallelujah, we are talking about finely engineered and built German werks of automotive genius. Leaks are nicht gut and are verboten! All clear underneath? Ha! Our masters at BMW have devised clever feints to prevent we lay-people from discovering seeping oil pans and leaking powering steering pumps. These deceptive devices are called “underbody panels” and they catch all sorts of drips and drops from above, so they never reach the floor. If you have the means (a lift helps) or at least a jack and some jack stands, it will behoove you to remove the pans in check underneath at regular intervals, like maybe half-way between regular service intervals. Now that you have confirmed there are no leaks it's time to check fluids. When was the last time each was changed? I'm not going to sit here and tell you how often to change your oil or tranny fluid, nor am I going to tell you what brand or viscosity to use. We are all responsible adults here. I think. I'll just say I adhere to Mike Miller's BMW Lifetime Maintenance Schedule (formally the BMW Old School Maintenance Schedule) for all my cars. I'm not being judgmental here, but if you plan on keeping your Bimmer beyond its initial warranty period, and you only follow BMW's maintenance schedule you are a fool. But that's just my opinion and I could be mistaken. Not.

So far, we've covered three areas to help prevent you from having a crappy adventure in Western Virginia during the Dragon Drive. I still have two fingers left on my left hand, so here goes.

Belts and hoses. Modern BMWs have a plethora of hidden or hard to see belts and hoses. If you drive an E21 then this process takes about three minutes. If you are driving a G30, like me, it might take a little longer and require you to remove plastic covers and panels in the engine compartment to see most, if not all the 2000 belts and 15,000 hoses which lie therein. A flashlight and nitrile gloves will not go amiss here. “So, dude, what do I look for?” Good question genius. Hoses with obvious bulges, blisters, and leaking couplings with or without loose or missing clamps need to be attended to. Serpentine belts should be checked for proper routing, signs of slippage, and cracking. If you can, listen at the front of the engine as it is running to hear if any of the cornucopia of pulleys the serpentine belt wraps around are making noise. Loud squeals or a sound like pennies rolling around in a piggy bank are an indication its bearings are on their way out. If you have a simple fan belt, like on a 2002, they by this time you are already sitting on you deck sipping a Doppelbock and listening to Kraftwerk Essentials on Pandora because all you had to check was the belt for cracking and proper tension.

Okay, one finger left. I'll leave you to imagine which one.

Time to drive. A short trip around the neighborhood or back and forth to the store can go a long way towards you driving a long way away without trouble. On your test drive check the available gauges, listen to what the car is saying to you. They do speak. All it takes is for you to learn the language. Unusual noises or smells can indicate something is not quite right and needs exploring. Otherwise, enjoy the ride and know you've done a stand-up job of preparing for the upcoming road trip.

Hals und Beinbruch!



DETAILING WITH MR. Q

UNDERCARRIAGE PROTECTION

As we enter the colder months, it's now time to focus on protection more than aesthetics. Specifically, the often not so pretty, and even neglected part of your car, the undercarriage. You'll notice that Q Branch often overemphasizes undercarriage and suspension cleaning,

but it's for good reason. To be metaphorical, the chassis is your car's skeleton.

To maintain this skeleton, it's important to clean it frequently, and to apply protection to it. The type of protection depends on the age and condition of the vehicle.

Specifically for new vehicles, there are old school rubberized coatings. These remain popular in areas with more continental climates, with high snowfall. The reason it's best to apply these coatings to new vehicles is because they effectively *seal in* whatever is already on the undercarriage. If your car has been driven in a snowy winter, you'll be locking in salt, brine, and other contaminants that can accelerate the ageing of your car's undercarriage.

Another option for newer vehicles, or those that are very well maintained, is a clear spray-on coating. These will prevent salt water and other corrosive substances from infiltrating rust prone surfaces. The main benefit is they provide protection without altering the appearance of the undercarriage - I like these best for this reason. The caveat is that on an older vehicle, it can do just the opposite and *lock in* these contaminants, thus accelerating the corrosion. One product I recommend is Krylon Clear Rust Protector. It comes in an aerosol and dries to a satin finish that is virtually unnoticeable.

For older vehicles, an oil based protectant is optimal to *displace* any moisture that resides on these surfaces. Back in the old days, it was popular to spray the entire undercarriage of your car in automatic transmission fluid (ATF). This technique has merit, as ATF is very good at displacing moisture. The problem is that it's also very good at attracting dirt, which itself can create problems. These days, there are oil based substances that are specifically made to protect your undercarriage. Q Branch recommends Amsoil MP Metal Protector. This comes in an aerosol can with a straw tube to reach in tight areas, frame rails, suspension components, etc.

CLUB TOOLBOX

For those who have always wanted us to put a name with a face, here's a picture of our club tools. They've been relocated to our President, Shawn Halsey's Clubhouse. Feel free to reach out if you need to scratch your shade tree mechanic itch.

- HELMETS for track events
- Service light resetting tools – very useful
- Tie rod separator – pickle forks
- Remote starter switch
- Clutch alignment tool
- Pilot bearing puller
- Fan clutch wrench & bar
- Electric impact wrench
- Lockstrip tool
- 17mm trans. drain socket
- Brake bleed system – very useful
- Coil spring compressors
- PEAKE code/reset tool – all models can be connected under hood or dash
- SRS air bag scanner



Contact borrowequip@twbmwcca.org for your needs.

CLUB MERCHANDISE

We now have online ordering. <https://www.twbmwcca.org/store>

Contact merchandise@twbmwcca.org for availability and questions about the following merchandise:

Apparel (polos, hats, etc.) – various prices at club events

Chapter Logo Decals • BMW CCA Decals: **FREE** at club events

Personalized Club nametags, for club events, can also be ordered.

Contact Melissa Pepperhorst at merchandise@twbmwcca.org



Beer Stein

Metal Coffee Mug



Stemless Wine Glass

A Heartfelt Thank You **to TireRack® Street Survival Volunteers**

In the sphere of road safety education, there are unsung volunteers who dedicate their time, knowledge, and passion to make our streets safer for everyone. These are the volunteers of the *TireRack® Street Survival* program, and today, we want to express our gratitude for their invaluable contributions to the successful completion of our BMW CCA Tidewater Chapter's 6th annual *TireRack® Street Survival* event held on 26 & 27 August 2023, at the North Carolina Center for Automotive Research (NCCAR), in Garysburg, North Carolina.

The *TireRack® Street Survival* program, founded by the BMW Car Club of America Foundation, is a non-profit initiative which focuses on teaching young drivers critical driving skills that are often overlooked in standard driver's education programs. With the goal of reducing the number of accidents involving teen drivers, this program offers hands-on training and real-world scenarios to prepare young motorists for the challenges of the road.

The success of this program relies heavily on the dedication and commitment of volunteer coaches, instructors and staff. These individuals come from all walks of life but share a common passion for improving the skills and safety of teenage drivers. They selflessly give their time and expertise to educate and empower them, and by doing so help them become safer and more responsible behind the wheel.

Here are just a few reasons why we owe our thanks to these generous volunteers:

1. **Saving Lives:** *TireRack® Street Survival* volunteers are actively contributing to saving lives. By teaching young drivers essential skills such as accident avoidance, emergency braking, and skid control, they are equipping new drivers with the tools to make safer decisions on the road.
2. **Building Confidence:** Learning to navigate complex driving situations can be intimidating. Coaches and instructors provide a supportive and educational environment which boosts young drivers' confidence, ensuring they are better prepared for whatever comes their way.
3. **Promoting Responsibility:** Beyond teaching driving skills, volunteer staff instill a sense of responsibility. They emphasize the importance of respecting the rules of the road, avoiding distractions, and making good decisions while driving.

As we recognize the role *TireRack® Street Survival* volunteers play in creating safer roads, it's important to express our gratitude for their support and dedication. We wish to thank the following individuals for turning out and making our 2023 *TireRack® Street Survival* event a resounding success.

John Ancelotti, Erik Apotheker, Jeb & Buddy Blair, Nate Collins, James Condon & Sherry Westfall, Lucas & Nicholas Cousins, Chris Crowley, Cathy D'Auria, Amy & Eric Finney, Erin & Pat Gerbus, Jaysun Cousins & Anke Hacker, Shawn Halsey, Eric Hardcastle, Jason Hickey, Chris & Philip Mason, Andy McCulley, Ann & Ken Powell, Avril & Brad Purvis, Jeremy Reading, Lisa Snipe, Bob Strittmater, Ryan Suydam, Peter Wengel, Austin White.

Continued on pg 16

Did You Know?

BMW coined the term *Efficient Dynamics* in the mid 2000s which represented a new era in fuel efficiency with the advancement of numerous technologies. Prior to that, BMW offered a lower tech solution. In the mid 90s BMW introduced the instantaneous fuel economy gauge. Later it would be upgraded to a digital version. Where's the tech in this you ask, well you can use this to maintain the optimum aerodynamic efficiency based on the distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. In case it is necessary, here is the disclaimer. Please be safe ALWAYS when driving, and when watching the gauge. Keep your eyes on the road on what is ahead of you. When you are able to do so safely, take note of the improved fuel consumption based upon the distance you maintain. HINT: a safe driving distance usually correlates with increased fuel efficiency.



With the advent of *Efficient Dynamics*, BMW dove all in on fuel savings with the notion and understanding that increased electrical consumption results in increased fuel consumption. As the battery powers the various electrical devices in our cars, the alternator has to work harder to replace the lost energy, thus consuming more fuel. Utilizing brake regeneration technology the cars are able to reduce the workload on the alternator, in turn saving fuel.

Additionally, BMW introduced five-automatic settings for the fan speed, thus further lowering electrical consumption. While still AUTOMATIC with the fan speed, the infinitely variable settings went from one auto setting to three, and then to five. True on the lower AUTOMATIC fan speed setting it will take longer for your cabin to reach the desired temperature, you will notice an increase in fuel savings.



With the advent of the iSeries hybrid cars, BMW continued their tradition and added an instantaneous mi/kWh or miles per kilowatt-hour. Why is this relevant? All for the same reasons as the instantaneous MPG readout. As aerodynamic as our BMWs may be, if they have to break wind they need to work substantially harder to propel forward. The current X5e has a rated electric range of 39 miles. A 39 mile range however is predicated on a much lower mi/kWh than pictured at the right. By optimizing your follow behind distance, you can maximize your range on petrol or electric! As you eagerly reach for your keys to test this yourself, keep in mind a few outside factors. Ground surface and type along with your tires will impact fuel economy. Altitude above seal level and windspeed will impact to an extent.

Summerwind

Avril and I set off on our first Chapter event in some time, except for the sparsely attended Peninsula Breakfast two weeks prior, to rendezvous with the Southside caravan at the Summerwind Vineyard in Smithfield. We chose to meet at the event venue instead of making the hour-and-a-half drive to Suffolk, followed by a two more hours behind the wheel via Fearless Leader's route to the final destination. It's not that I mind driving for three plus hours, but her Royal Highness' feelings differ on that account and discretion being the better part of valor I volunteered we could converge upon the winery from a different direction.

I candidly admit I am no fanboy of SUVs. Large, small, or in-between, however, Avril "loves" her X3, so that was our chariot of choice for the drive across the James. Did I fail to mention it is the only operational BMW we have at the moment? There was a time we owned five, however, we divested ourselves of my "airport car," the 535i Touring after I retired, and soon thereafter the 540i Sport as I was going through an uncomfortable two years of prostate cancer treatments, which also led to the M4 departing, and short tenure with a troublesome M5. Now we are down to two Bimmers, Avril's aforementioned X3 and the long-suffering, non-operational 1983 320i that awaits my attention, but I digress.

We left the house plenty early not knowing how the line for the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry would be, as it was a Saturday we hoped for the best but were prepared for the worst. Lo and behold, when we arrived at the embarkation point, we rolled right onto the ferry without stopping. The ship's crew lowered the gate and we were on our way, not a moment wasted.

To our delight the Osprey nests sported fledglings and we were so close as we departed that you could see and hear the babies yacking and watch the parents feed them. Twenty minutes later we were rolling off the boat and headed towards Smithfield, a half-hour ahead of schedule. Much to our surprise the line of cars waiting for the ferry on the Surry side stretched back for over a mile. Timing is everything.

Arriving at the winery early allowed us to get our bearings, control our seating and shade arrangements, and settle in with a glass of wine to await the arrival of the main force. The good people at Summerwind set up a very nice table of charcuterie plates under a canopy and three picnic tables each with an umbrella. The winery sits on a scenic hill above the Pagan River. There is what I assume to be an old farmhouse converted into some indoor tasting tables, a sales room, and a kitchen. They do have a menu with a bevy of items to choose from. All-in-all very nicely done. We were fortunate in that the weather was perfect. It was warm, but not too hot. A slight breeze kept the bugs and heat at bay, especially if one was fortunate to commandeer one of the few umbrellas.

The arrival of the usual suspects spiced things up a bit as the food began to diminish and the wine began to flow. Before we knew it, it was after three and time to make our way back from whence we came. With a fresh bottle of the Summerwind's finest tucked safely away, Avril and I said our goodbyes and hit the road back to the ferry. Recalling the line we saw when we arrived at Scotland Landing on the way over, we were resigned at waiting a bit as one or many two boats cycled through. Much to our delight, as we rolled up to the landing one of the large ferries was unloading and the line was not altogether too long. We stopped only briefly before driving onboard. Twenty minutes later we were back in the real world. Well, we were in Jamestown

Continued on pg 15

anyway, and I supposed it was the real world as it was in 1614. Another thirty minutes later and we were back home sitting on our porch contemplating our latest wine acquisition. I think I may be coming around to the SUV thing, or maybe it's just the wine talking.



Family Owned and Operated for Over 60 Years!

Lee's
UPHOLSTERY

Convertible tops
Headliners
Leather seat repairs

10122 Jefferson Ave, Newport News, VA 23605
(757) 595-1341

Mon-Fri: 08:00 AM - 05:00 PM / Sat-Sun: Closed

MENTION THIS DAS KUMMET NEWSLETTER AD FOR DISCOUNT



We perform all factory services,
State Inspections, and More.

BMW & MINI SPECIALISTS

ASK US IF WE CAN SERVICE OTHER
VEHICLES THAT YOU OWN.

OUR HOURS ARE:
MON - FRI: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
757-466-1269

Call or email us
service@atlanticautowerks.com today.

www.atlanticautowerks.com

5479 VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD., VB 23462

A Look in the Rear View Mirror

Our intent is for you to recall events that you have participated in and remember the good times we shared and the other members. Our 2020 Annual Banquet in Hampton was a great time for all who attended



January 25, 2020 Hampton Marina Inn, Hampton, VA

A Heartfelt Thank You, continued from pg 12

We also wish to thank Sam True and his staff for making the NCCAR facility available to us for the 6th year at absolutely no cost, and the Garysburg Volunteer Fire Department for their continuing support. In addition, we want to thank Bryrant Motorsports Used Auto Parts and Auto Sales (bryantsusedautoparts.com) for supplying the airbags for the instructional airbag demonstration.

Thank you.

.....

Did You Know?, continued from pg 16

Perhaps the biggest difference though is the shape and size of the vehicle you are following. Think of it this way....though cute, a Mini Cooper will not open nearly as much of a wind tunnel as would a semi-truck. Please be safe following larger vehicles, but understand the size and shape of the vehicle you are following will impact your fuel economy.



CLASSIFIEDS

FREE

MISC BMW PARTS

Misc. light bulbs, new and slightly used, new unused brake clip, new and unused e39 cabin air filter, 2 new tire hanger (ECSTuning sent wrong tool to me), and 12 used (used for 30k miles) Delphi ignition coils from my f15 x5 (I do my own tune-ups).

Price: **FREE**

757-510-6996 Chesapeake