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2020 SUMMER EDITION



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# TORQUE OF THE TOWN

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The last time I saw most of the club member faces, I could buy Shiner Cheer in the grocery store. I am definitely ready to reconnect and share stories of how everyone spent their spring and summer. Hopefully you spent some time in your Bavarian machine on some open roads.

Thanks to the creativity of the chapters leadership the club has hosted an autocross, karting event and our first HPDE in a while. All of these events ran smoothly and safely. A huge thanks to the board members efforts that made these events possible. Members definitely need to keep their eye on the website for future events and updates on guidelines.

Happy Oktoberfest! Prost!

Katie Otten

**BMW Car Club  
of America  
Houston Chapter**



## 2020 BOARD MEMBERS

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## SUMMER EDITION

**7** TIRE  
SIDE CHAT

**9** SOCIAL  
STOP BOX

**12** TECH ARTICLE

**18** OFEST RETIRES AT 50  
One final weekend of comradery  
and roundels.



### PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE ROUNDEL

*TOP: The new X5 M spends some time out in the dessert.*

*MIDDLE: During the quarantine BMW hosts a virtual vintage e30 e-race.*

*BOTTOM: Following in Hemmingway's footsteps, the electric Mini Cooper takes a road trip to Key West. Conquering all 42 bridges that link the Florida Keys, the electric powered mini completes the journey from Miami to Key West on one charge.*

## TORQUE OF THE TOWN STAFF

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SENIOR REPORTER

The Torque of the Town is the quarterly publication, mailed to all members in good standing of the HOUSTON BMW CCA (the club), a chapter of the BMW CCA and is not connected with BMW Na or BMW AG.

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# 2020 NEW MEMBERS

Misty Danielle White  
Jennifer Plummer  
Stuart Arouty  
Jonathan Luquette  
Andre Illick  
Omar Luna  
Nocair Bensalah  
Craig Popp  
Tim Stine  
Nicole Cant  
Daniel Cara'  
Kaitlin Chang  
Katrina Chang  
Corbin Collins  
Michael DeMoor  
Madilyn Donawa  
Timothy Dore  
Lauren Dumesnil  
Russell Farinha  
Brandon Fischer  
Lauren Gomulka  
Anthony Herger  
Harrison Hester  
Cameron Hutchison  
Ashton Karp  
John Marchitti  
Paul Marchitti

Trinity McAdams  
Amy Mendiola  
Kenan Oldham  
Ariel Ramos  
Parker Rapley  
Joshua Raymond  
Charlotte Seago  
Reece Tiras  
Christie Tsao  
Lyn Zamora  
Andy Scamardo  
Will Lamkin  
Christi Lamkin  
Gabriel Salazar  
Benjamin Jenkins  
Juan Juarez  
Modesta Juarez  
Neil G Eagerton  
Dwayne Benn  
Bert Guynes  
rami koifi  
David Anthony  
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Mickey Thompson  
Tak M Makino  
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Neil Raguthu  
George Hugh Edgar  
Paul Connell  
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Jine Jine Li  
JP Hoyeck  
David Crabtree  
Peter Doyle  
Shariq Zaidi  
Michael Colby  
Caleb Colby  
Jessica Karolyn  
Ramon  
Janine Mazabob  
Lindrel Thompson  
John Dennis Milton  
Bullington  
James Shepard  
Misha Mitrofanov  
Gennadiy Mitrofanov  
Jarrod B. Mosley  
Jarrod B. Mosley

Greg Young  
Tom Jarlock  
Eddie White  
Edwin Curtis Owens  
Charles Eugene Becht  
Henry Algermissen  
Eduardo Parada  
Jessica Trevino  
Lauren Michaud

Our purpose is to provide members with an opportunity to meet other BMW owners, to promote the enjoyment of ownership of the BMW automobiles, to establish and maintain mutually beneficial relations with organizations with similar objectives, such as manufacturers, dealers and other car clubs, and to promote activities which are in keeping with the above objectives and non-profit nature of the club. But most of all we have fun!

Your participation in the club's various monthly events is the best way to fully appreciate

your membership. There are several membership drives each year which we encourage you to invite friends to the following: autocross events, monthly coffee meet ups, tech sessions, and driving schools. As a member of the Houston Chapter you will receive this magazine quarterly and will find reviews of past events, details about upcoming events, and editorial articles from members. All members are encouraged to submit articles to the editor that relate to the BMW brand, ownership, and personal experiences.

The Torque of the Month is our monthly e-blast. Check this for updates on upcoming events and additional content for members. As always all information is posted on the club website: [www.houston-bmwcca.com](http://www.houston-bmwcca.com) and the BMW CCA Houston Chapter facebook page.

If you have any suggestions, story submissions or questions please contact the Houston Chapter Board at [board@houston-bmwcca.com](mailto:board@houston-bmwcca.com).



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## The Board Prepares for Post Shutdown Events

### PREVIOUS BOARD BUSINESS

The Board approved the minutes from the previous board meeting, with an amendment for spelling corrections.

Ball (P) purchased storage boxes for club materials and belongings. The board approved reimbursement.

### NEW BUSINESS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Board voted to approve the newly elected board and retained all persons to their appointed board positions. The board would like to thank Chris Stokes for his service to the club. Levi Ball accepts the position of President and Michael Anastasio accepts the position of Vice President. Board unanimously approves the election results.

The Board decided to distribute the 2020 Ballot for New Board Members in September/October. Members will be able to view the ballot in the Fall Newsletter, the Club Website, and Facebook page and group. A link will also be included in the eblast. The Board will also allow for write ins on the electronic ballot, which was not made available this on the 2019 Ballot. The Houston Chapter Members will be able to vote electronically on the club website, securely with member number. The board is still discussing continuing with in person voting at the Annual Banquet. At this time the Houston Chapter will no longer accept mail in ballots for club voting.

Ball (P) requested in accordance with the bylaws: all board members print, sign, and submit a signed copy of the Code of Conduct. Normally, all board mem-

bers would sign a copy in person but this method is unavailable to the board at this time.

>Otten (N) lead a discussion on having some of the board meetings at the Car and Coffee meet ups to try and get additional members involved.

>The board discussed updating the operations manual and agreed to table the discussion until the next board meeting.

### TREASURE REPORT VOTES:

>The Board voted to approve the tax return for 2019. Unanimous approval.

>The clubs fiscal year has been changed to follow the calendar year moving forwards. The clubs fiscal year will now start in January and end in December instead of in July.

### ACTIONS:

>Compton (T) will reach out to Paypal to find out if the club qualifies for a non-profit discount for fees.

>Compton (T) and Augustine (AX) will work together on resolving past due Autocross invoices and report back at the next meeting.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

>Compton (T) reported the cost of the annual banquet came in under budget and the Banquet Committee submitted all invoices on time and were paid.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

#### ACTIONS:

>Hilton (M) received all of the membership materials from previous membership chair, Jim Moffitt and the board thanks Jim for his service on the board.

>Hilton (M) will partner with the social committee to host membership drives once the club is able to meet socially

### DISCUSSION:

>Membership continues to have a downwards trend.

>Setting up a booth at events related to cars and German culture, examples: Eurofest and Tomball Germanfest. Currently progress is on hold until organizations resume holding events. When events resume, Hilton (M) will be looking for additional club members to volunteer at the event. Please contact Chris Hilton if interested.

### AUTOCROSS REPORT

#### ACTION:

An updated budget will be presented at the next board meeting.

### DISCUSSION:

Augustine (AX) updated the board on the autocross shutdown. At this time, the Autocross Committee does not know when the Houston Police Academy will be available for use.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

#### ACTION ITEM

>Fred Samuels nominated and unanimously approved as 2020 Social Event Chair. Samuels (SC) will take over for Michael Anastasio, the board thanks Michael for his service in 2019.

>BALL (P) recommended reserving the 2nd or 3rd Saturday in March 2021 for the Annual Blue Bonnet Drive, Katie Otten and Fred Samuels will chair this event Otten (N) and Samuels (SC) will reach out to College Station BMW dealership for sponsorship. >Ball (P) updated the board on a potential social drive in June. This event would be a joint event with the Lone Star Chapter (Dallas). The drive would be through East Texas. Update is expected at next board meeting.

### DISCUSSION

Board discussed the potential for a social drive to Fredricksburg in the Fall.

>Anastasio (VP) reported back the Concours event made a profit and plans another event in the fall and is looking for volunteers. BMW of the Woodlands expressed interest in hosting again.

### ANNUAL DINNER COMMITTEE

#### VOTES:

Otten (N) made a motion for the 2021 banquet to be held on January 23, 2021 and to use January 30 as a back up date. Passed unanimously.

### ACTION ITEMS:

Dinner Committee agreed to report back to the board in 45 days with a list of venues and recommendations for the 2021 banquet.

>Thompson (WM) made a motion for the banquet committee to consider alternative registration software due to the lack of flexibility in the current model. He will look for alternatives and report back to the board. He will also leverage the club's nonprofit status for better pricing.

### DISCUSSION:

The Dinner Committee provided feedback on the 2020 banquet at the Aquarium and discussed the board preliminary plans for the 2021 Annual Banquet.

The board members suggested additional locations for the dinner committee to consider.

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 30. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35

## GET INVOLVED

LOOKING FOR SOME ENTHUSIASTIC CLUB MEMBERS TO JOIN THE TEAM

### Looking for a SECRETARY

The board is looking for nominations for the elected board position of Secretary. If you are interested please contact the nominating committee.

### Looking for a TREASURER

The board is looking for nominations for the elected board position of Treasurer. If you are interested please contact the nominating committee.

### Looking for a HAIR OF THE DOG CHAIR

The Social Event Team is looking for chairperson for the Hair of the Dog Drive in January 2021. The chair will need to be responsible for a route, predriving the route and securing a location for lunch. Please contact socialevents@gmail.com with interest.

**EVENT DATE**  
**January 1, 2021**

### Looking for a CONCOURS EVENT CHAIR

After hosting our first concours in February, the social events team is looking to make this event a permanent addition to the chapter calendar. Please contact socialevents@gmail.com with interest.

**EVENT DATE**  
**TO BE ANNOUNCED**

## VOLUNTEER AT AN EVENT

TEEN STREET SURVIVAL - October

Help make the streets safer for everyone by coming out to the autocross track to help teach young drivers safe driving habits.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS contact the Houston Chapter Board  
board@houston-bmwcca.com

INTERESTED IN HOSTING contact social-chair@houston-bmwcca.com





## UPCOMING Club Events

### October

- 10.10 Cars & Coffee
- 10.17 Teen Street CANCELED
- 10.25 Autocross #8
- 10.30-31 Schnell Fest

### November

- 11.14 Cars and Coffee
- 11.15 Autocross #9
- 11.20-21 Schnell Fest

### December

- 12.12 Cars and Coffee
- 12.20 Autocross #10

### January

- 1.30 Annual Meeting & Dinner

**All information published was current at the time of printing.**

**Due to the changing conditions confirm dates and times on the club website or through communications from the board via e-blast.**



# Tire Side Chat

albert levi ball

**president**

Hello everyone thank you for voting me in as president for the next two years. One of the first things I would like to do is thank the outgoing President Christopher Stokes for his work over the past two years for the club. Chris has contributed both his time and effort to the club for many years. His tireless work and willingness to hold different offices and chairs over the years, such as Autocross Chair, Treasurer, and Vice President have helped the club see positive growth.

I would also like to thank our members for voting in Michael Anastasio as vice president for this term. Right now, as I see it, our executive board is a capable group of people to lead our club for the next two years. That said, I would like to remind everyone that we will soon be voting in both a new treasurer and a new secretary. You will start to see info about volunteering for these posts later this summer.

Our current challenge is providing social events and activities that are safe during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to continue with events as allowed by city and state. As a reminder, please take the time to review the guidelines for each event. Guidelines will vary according to location

and other factors. One event affected by the pandemic is Autocross. We are currently working with the City of Houston about the opening of the Police Academy. Just as with our coffee meets, we are looking for locations that meet safety requirements.

The social chair will be reaching out to other areas within the Houston chapter that have BMW dealerships or independent shops for club events. If you live near Brenham or Baytown, look for future club events near you. Events that have been rescheduled due to COVID-19 will be the German Car Club Bowling Championship, the coffee meet at Alara Garage, and the Teen Street Survival School.

As you may know, we are always looking for event ideas or venue contacts. If you have an idea for an event or suitable venue, please contact a member of the board. We will be glad to hear from you and make the event happen.

Email: [president@houston-bmwcca.com](mailto:president@houston-bmwcca.com).





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## FROM THE SOCIAL DESK

### The Houston Chapter's Covid Policies Working towards safely hosting events

The Houston Chapter board met at the end of May and with the guidance of the National Organization the Board has adopted a set of guidelines for the club to operate under during the pandemic.

- The board would like to request all members sign up on the website for all future social events.
- All event information will be updated on the club website
- The club is working to stay updated on local guidelines and rules

The full set of guidelines can be download from the club website.

The board looks forward to resuming club activities in the fall. Upcoming events will include a HPDE, Karting events and resuming Cars and Coffee when venues can accommodate members.

As the Social Chair I look forward to seeing everyone very soon!

Fred Samuels





## TAKATA AIR BAG RECALL

## EVERY OWNER MATTERS

It doesn't matter if you are the first owner or the next owner, the Houston Chapter wants every owner to be safe while enjoying the open roads around town in their Bavarian Machine. Older vehicles, operated in high humidity areas make up the highest risk BMW models for potential air bag failure.

If you or a friend own an older model BMW (2000-2006) please visit [bmwusa.com/safety-recall.html](http://bmwusa.com/safety-recall.html) or call **844-468-4752** to check if your vehicle is in need of repair. The repair takes only a few hours and dealers will work with owners to make the trip as convenient as possible. If repairs are needed, contact one of the local Houston BMW dealers to schedule an appointment for the FREE repair.

### *Have an idea for an article?*

**All club members are highly encouraged to submit articles, stories, tech articles, and even ideas with or without photographs to the newsletter.**

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# Soapy Bubbles and Socket Wrenches

**BMW North opens its garage for a nag free cleaning and service environment**

david stanley

*chapter member*

I returned from BMWCCA Wash Wax and Tech event held at BMW Houston North in Houston, Texas. This was my first time to attend this event and also my first time to visit this dealership. At this event, the dealership opens up their service bays and brings in some of their certified technicians. We were able to talk to the technicians, as well as clean up our Ultimate Driving machines in a cool, clean, comfortable environment! There was even a representative from Griots Garage that brought samples and provided demos of their products.

I have been a member of the BMW CCA off and on for the past 15 years. Every CCA event I've attended, I am totally impressed with the quality of the event and the commitment of the attendees to ensure everyone is taken care of. As for this particular event, you may find some other professional and/or commercial events far more impressive but in terms of detailed instruction and dedicated information for detailers, this event to me is far superior. I attended this event because I knew the Houston Chapter would do one heck of a job getting us introduced to the latest Griots products and I was really interested in how well Houston North would help us with the BMW tech side of the house. Of course, I was also looking to score some swag! I wanted to join this event to meet up with like-minded people, hanging out for the day, learning more about each other, the new cleaning products out there and to get an opportunity to have helpful discussions with real BMW technicians.

A few months ago, I purchased a lightly used G11 750i and I really wanted to get some time with a technician to do a thorough overview of the car. I had the Certified review sheet but there's nothing like getting live and unbiased feedback on the condition. This was the perfect opportunity to actually talk to a certified BMW technician about my car. The first thing he looked at were the gas lines and he was pleasantly surprised to see that my car had been updated to the non-faulty versions. After looking it over from head-to-toe the technician was able to provide me with the correct dos and don'ts, as well as give me the best points-of-contact for servicing my car at the dealership close to my home (30 miles away from where we were for the event).

One other main attraction for this event was getting to see the newest and greatest paint care products on the market. My wife and I both love to keep our cars looking and smelling new, and of course Griots Garage never disappoints with their cutting-edge products. It had been quite a few years since we last looked



**Roundels for everyone:** A big thank you to Mike Williams for his continued support of the club and for having raffle prizes for everyone. Raffle items included a highly coveted motorcycle styled jacket, BMW model cars and assorted gift cards. BMW North provided an excellent space for the Houston Members to work on their cars.



into updating our methods and products. The Griots rep provided us with some really great products to try out, and showed us the best way to use them on a demo car.

The paint care demonstration was extremely beneficial and helpful. Brian Lothrop, the Griots representative that the Houston chapter organizers brought in for the event, asked for a volunteer vehicle to take the entire group through the steps required to recover a neglected paint surface. As you might imagine, most were uncomfortable letting someone else work over their paint work, but luckily one car there had a damaged hood that was already going to be replaced under insurance in the near future (just in case!). The neglected paint on the volunteer car was just what was needed for the demo as it had very visible clear coat marks all over and paint chips that the Griots representative could use to show us all proper paint care. It was amazing to watch and

ask questions as he went through the entire process, from cleaning to repair to polishing and protecting. By the end of the demonstration, the donor car hood looked amazing, at least the half that had been work on. That was also a negative as you can imagine, half of a good-looking hood makes the blemishes on the other half stand out more. I couldn't wait to get home and try some of the new techniques and products that Griots has to offer. BMW of Houston North then ended the event with an incredible raffle where they gave out gift cards, clothing, sunglasses, and car cleaning products. Everyone went home with something. Our winnings included a pair of BMW sunglasses and a \$50 gift card to the service department that will be used very soon!

The BMWCCA Houston Chapter does a great job of bringing people together, and we're very happy with our membership and involvement.







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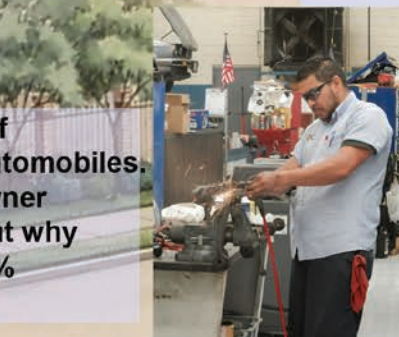
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Icons for Instagram, a red flower-like logo, and Facebook.



#### ADVERTISERS INDEX

BAVARIAN AUTOSPORT-----	19
BAVARIAN MACHINE-----	6
BIMMER WORKSHOP-----	22
BMW OF HOUSTON NORTH-----	2
COLLISION PLUS INC.-----	9
CONSIGNMENT GARAGE-----	8
MOMENTUM BMW SOUTHWEST-----	28
MOMENTUM BMW WEST-----	5
NORTH HOUSTON BEEMER-----	18
PRO AM PARTS & ACCESSORIES-----	5
PERFORMANCESTOP.COM-----	8
TEXAS-GERMAN AUTOHAUS, L. P.-----	23
TMJ BIMMERS-----	19

# OKTOBERFEST *Retires at 50!*

Story and Photographs by Jeff Otten & Katie Otten

Greenville, America's fourth-largest growing city, nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, was chosen for BMW CCA's 50th Oktoberfest. It is a city with a small-town charm named after Captain Nathaniel Greene. The host hotel, Hyatt Regency Greenville, was perfectly positioned to give Oktoberfest attendees access to nearby restaurants, breweries, and shops. This provided a colorful backdrop for the Concours, one of the best events at Oktoberfest. The Concours brought a wide variety of models spanning early to late years. The rain that morning didn't stop members from making their votes for "people's choice". Dan and Valerie Baker won that award for their red e36 318. Greenville's "walkabout" vibe made viewing the cars after walking through the farmers market for coffee, pastries, and trinkets a highlight of the weekend.

Houston chapter members continued the "Road Monkey Road Trip" tradition of traveling to the Ofest Host location. This year's Road Monkey caravan was the largest to date with 35 people including the roadmonkeys from Texas, California, and Louisiana. The Road Monkey's overnight stops included El Dorado, AK, Joe Wheeler State Park in Alabama, and Ducktown, Tennessee.

Of the lunch stops, the favorites include Monkey Brewing and Train Car Café. The Blue Ridge Mountains provided many twisting roads so the drive was never boring. The last day of the caravan was the best! We were able to take US 129, better known as the "tail of the dragon." The road sign states that the road has 318 curves within eleven miles. This was a seriously twisting road. It is heavily frequented by motorcycles and sports cars so if you drive quickly, use a radar detector or watch for motorcyclists tapping their helmets (signaling police are nearby). This was the monkeys' second time to conquer the dragon (the first being O'fest 46) which I had the chance to drive. So for this time, my co-driver had the opportunity to navigate the twisty road. Notable is the parking area with a souvenir shop and a good view of the road and any unusual cars driving it. The twisting back roads were an excellent primer for the upcoming ladies driving school at the Performance Center.

Many of the Houston chapter members won awards throughout the weekend. Ky Exezedis and "Austin" Dan won first place in Time Speed Distance rally. At the performance school autocross, Chris Stokes won first place and Albert Ball won third. Jeff Thompson took second place at the O'fest autocross. The photo contest had several categories and Katie Samuels won a first-place award, Leann Stokes won first place, and Albert Ball won third place.









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