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WINTER 2014

The Voice of the Houston Chapter BMW Car Club of America



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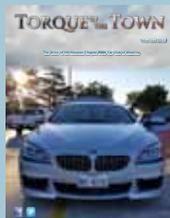
Editor's Corner

Jim Robinson

Thanks to all the contributors and support for this edition and an honorable mention for Texas Barbeque on the road to Fredericksburg

ON THE COVER:

*The Ultimate Driving
Machines take on
Fredricksburg.*



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Dennis Nowak
President - Houston Chapter



very enjoyable with family and friends. If you are traveling by car around the Holidays, please take the time to check the tires, lights, wipers, fluids and other maintenance items before you head out on the road.

The 2015 Texas Trifecta is scheduled for **March 20-23rd** at **Circuit of the Americas** track in Austin. By now most in the Tier groups have already received notice for registration and have already registered for the event. It promises to be better than prior years! Keep your eyes on our event Calendar on our website, as well as our FaceBook page and eBlast notices for the latest in event scheduling.

Elections are just around the corner. The ballots for the candidates are printed in this edition as well as on our website. It is your obligation to vote for the person you want directing your club, if you don't then you can't complain about the outcome. Ballots are to be turned in before the Annual Dinner on January 10th which will again be held at the Houston Racquet Club. We spend quite a bit of money on the Annual Dinner so come on out and enjoy it. As always, I hope to see you at the events, you can find me,

In the Driver's seat!

didn't have enough sun block on. As a course leader, I get to see the dynamic changes the students go through during the day. They start off somewhat timid and most swing to a comfort mode as the day progresses, eager to try the courses again. This time, I even saw some competition between several students trying to outdo the others. It's rewarding to see their skills improve as they learn their limitations controlling the vehicle. Kudos to all the volunteers and instructors who help put these on!

Chris and his team are back in full swing with the **AutoCross** events and the new timing gear has been money well spent. We have the 2015 schedule set so we are ready to roll into the new year. And speaking of the new year Warren has scheduled the **Hair of the Dog Drive** on New Year's day so add that to your calendars. It's always a fun filled day and a great way to start the year with a drive, good food, good cars and good friends.

The Holidays are just around the corner and I hope your Holiday Season is

As I write this, I am freshly back from the Fredericksburg Weekend Event, with a smile still on my face. What a great weekend! Adriana knocked it out of the park with the Halloween party, where did those eyeball races come from? And Neil put together some of the best drives in West Texas adding a wine tour for those who wanted a more relaxing day instead of the Saturday drive. Great job to everyone who planned this event, or helped out with it. I heard nothing but "I loved it" reviews. It was so great, we even gave it a new name, since this event usually happens over Halloween, it is now called **The Fredericksburg Freak-end!** Come out next year and get your Freak ON!

We held another packed **Teen Street Survival** school on October 18th. The weather started off with a chilly morning, but there was plenty of sun in the afternoon, too much, as most of us

WELCOME! NEW MEMBERS:

Alec McCrory	Cary McNair	Ian Lanier	Kelsea Auguilla	Raghavan Bala
Alec Waller	Ciprian-Ionut Sirbu	Jade Tran	Kevin Landers	Rami Touma
Alex Miller	Clint Middleton	Jeff Kirk	Kevin Schmidt	Randy Crider
Alexander Kabot	Cody Walker	Jeff Measamer	Lance Lau	Raymond Castro
Alfredo Garcia	Dalton Gunter	Jeffrey Lewis	Leela Rao	Ricardo Lopez
Ali Durvesh	Delaney Ramirez	Jere' Tate	Logan Beszterda	Robert Hanke
Anthony Marshall	Dual Scott	Jeremiah Pleitez	Lori Van Rooyen	Ron Nelson
Antonio Martinez	Dylan Forbes	Jerry Vega	Marlon Ceron	Ronald Gentry
Arsalan Shahzad	Eddie Mullins	Jing Lu	Matt Givens	Samuel LaPerna
Aurora Van Uchelen	Elie Ezzie	John Regnier	Matthew Ballard	Sarah Wuerker
Bella Pereyra	Elisa Arango	Johncarlo Morales	Megan Kilpatrick	Scott Edwards
Bernardo Jaramillo	Emmett Blomberg	Jonathan Ploughman	Michael Gonser	Serina Davis
Bill Graham	Eric South	Jordan Sarette	Mikaela Kaczynski	Shannon Powers
Brian Waligura	Gary Abrahamzon	Jorge Montes	Nancy Cameron	Sher Yang
Brook Gehle	George Garza	Jose Valdez	Nick Nafsinger	Stephanie Wilson
Bruce Mowry	Guy Grantham	Juan Villalba	Patrick O'Hara	Taylor Netherly
Bud Van Rooyen	Hank Miller	Justin Estes	Patrick Eng	Todd Carlson
Calvin Henry	Harold Mignola	Kai Stratmann	Philip Robertson	Victoria Cohen
Carlos Torres-Banchs	Hetal Patel	Kaloni Lau	Prasanth Boyareddigari	Zoha Alam

Stay Informed!! - eBlast Signup

Once a month the Chapter emails an eBlast to all members who have indicated that they want to be kept informed about Chapter activities and events, as well as news and information involving the Chapter.

If you wish to receive this information and are not already signed up you may do so on the website at www.houston-bmwcca.com.

The eBlast request is located at the lower left on the front page.



What a value add service TSS provides.

It is because of your commitment and energy that assures the students, parents and instructors have a proper course set up and maintained, along



Wow, what a day!

Great turnout of students, parents, volunteers and instructors, along with beautiful weather to enjoy the even's activities. And, how about that 2,000 mile F-550 fire truck for water delivery to the course, awesome.

Only one mechanical issue on the 70's Mustang that I saw or heard of,



Be sure to send any suggestions or questions you may have to improve our service delivery.



with answering their questions and addressing any concerns that allows the program to flow smoothly and safely. It's an honor to work and be with you, so give yourselves a hand for a job well done. I'm clapping for you now.



which seemed to be a transmission fluid service over fill issue. Unless one would count Dennis Nowak's experiencing a faulty sugar/cream hold when leaving the counter at Starbuck's while picking up the coffee for our morning job....."clean up on counter top and floor".

Thank you for turning out for the TSS event, it's terrific watching the skill and attitude improvements of the students and hearing the parents comment on how glad they came and the importance of the driving school being more than they thought.



Till next time, here's to seeing you at one of the Club's upcoming events.

Best, Jim Iden

Pictures provided by **LaRita Godbey**





The Hair of the Dog Drive

By WarCamp

The Hair of the Dog is a drive on New Year's Day. It all started about 1999 when some of us worked out a route through some twisty country roads north of Houston. We didn't know if anyone would come after partying the night before, but it was a big hit and continues to grow every year.

It's nothing fancy or complicated. No list of rules to follow. Just show up with a tank of gas and lunch money and off we go on some scenic roads that are fun to drive, talk with some old friends and meet some new ones. We always stop for a while in mid morning then again for lunch. After that, we drive back towards home. Simple.

Drives like this are a really good way to get started in the club. If you are new or if you have never been to one of our events, you'll quickly learn that we are a great group of people from quite a diverse background with an equally diverse set of interest. But for some unknown reason, we always mix well together. You will be a stranger for about half a minute, and then someone will say 'hi' and then you'll find that you have a group of new friends. We're a bunch of nice folks that enjoy being together.

I'm thinking about doing a retro-run this year. So, let's meet at the Burger King on SH242 in The Woodlands. From there we'll scoot out of town to some twisty roads. Maybe we can again spot the gorillas and exotic deer then go through that low area where the road was under water on one Hair of the Dog.

We will go through Apolonia, Anderson, Plantersville, Dobbin, Montgomery, Moslen, Ventura, Hufsmith and Oklahoma then finish at a Starbucks in Spring. It's like, 'How could you spend New Year's Day without passing through Dobbin?'

Basics:

Meet at the Burger King on SH242 in the Woodlands at 8:45am
New Year's Day
With a full tank of gas and lunch money
Finish in Spring about 2:00pm

Check the web page for current info
RSVP to WarCamp@swbell.net

Details:

Bring your FSR radio if you have one
Ask Santa for one if required
Don't worry about if Santa has other ideas
For those that come straight from their party, aspirin will be available before the safety meeting.

Board Member Elections

Houston Chapter – BMW CCA 2015 Executive Committee Ballot

Please note there are 3 ways you may cast your ballot for the 2015 Chapter Elections:

1. Bring your ballot to the Annual Banquet
2. Or mail your ballot to:

Houston Chapter
BMW Car Club of America
Post Office Box 56763
Houston, Texas 77256-6763

3. Or email your ballot to:
nominations@houston-bmwcca.com

BMW CCA Membership Number

Chapter Treasurer:

OPEN NOMINATION*

Chapter Secretary:

Diane Albrecht

ALL BALLOTS WILL BE COMPILED AND TALLIED WITH RESULTS ANNOUNCED AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET.

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 10, 2015 TO BE CONSIDERED.

* We have no member nominations for the chapter Treasurer. We will lose our current Treasurer the end of January 2015. If we do not have a Treasurer by then, other chapter activities may suffer. We need your help to keep this from happening. Without members stepping up to help out, this club doesn't function very well. If you have bookkeeping skills and a little time to dedicate, please consider volunteering for this position. Use the write-in ballot before January 10th, 2015 or send an email to president@houston-bmwcca.com to get the process started.

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BMW Car Club of America
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Houston, Texas 77256-6763

3. Or email your ballot to:
nominations@houston-bmwcca.com

BMW CCA Membership Number

Treasurer:

Nominee's Name (PRINT)

Nominee's Signature and Membership No.

Signature: Nominated By/Membership No.

Secretary:

Nominee's Name (PRINT)

Nominee's Signature and Membership No.

Signature: Nominated By/Membership No.

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 10, 2015 TO BE CONSIDERED.

My 4000 Mile Journey . . .



Pam Johnson

Being retired and having no responsibilities other than myself, I deemed October to be my “month off” from my day-to-day life in Houston. I was feeling restless, a bit confused about what I want to be when I grow up, and I just wanted/needed to get away.

I had just had my car serviced and being very optimistic and enthusiastic about my travels, I left my home on Tuesday morning, September 30. About ½ mile from my home, I decided to put the convertible top down. The top made it partway then stopped. While I’m

reading the owners manual to learn how to put the top down manually, the top bumped it’s way down enough so that I could get back home. I discovered that the tools to lower/raise the top are in the section of my back seat that comes out to accommodate skis (in my case, golf clubs). That section of the seat is, at this point, in my trunk, which I can’t get open because the top isn’t locked in the up or down position.

My first stop on my 4000-mile journey was Momentum on the Southwest Freeway approximately 5 miles from my home.

They got me on my way after a bit of wrangling with the top, but I didn’t want to waste much time in the repair shop. It was going to rain anyway, so they got the top up for me and I was on my way.

Second stop was the Fairview Inn in Jackson MS. The inn is an historical 1908 Colonial Revival mansion and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There were beautiful

gardens to enjoy, the restaurant was way better than expected, and the room was more than comfortable. This stop proved to be a wonderful end to a rough start on my first day of travel.

On Wednesday, I drove to Meridian, MS. It’s not fun for me to have great weather and lovely scenery, driving a convertible that won’t “convert”! Another day, another dealership.

This time, a wonderful tech named Mark worked through his lunch-time to discover a wire in the mechanics of the top was pinched, which was causing the problem. While he worked on the car, I found out from his manger that his favorite lunch was a spicy shrimp Po-Boy. I felt it was the least I could do for him, so I tracked one down with the benefit of a loaner car.

Mark was happy, and so was I.

Top down, music up loud. I’m on my way to Chattanooga TN. Arrived there later than planned, but it was still a lovely evening. I stayed at the Bluff View Inn, which is in the Bluff View Art District of Chattanooga overlooking the Tennessee River. The Inn is comprised of three homes: the Maclellan House which is a 1889 English Tudor, the Martin House which is an elegantly restored 1927 Colonial Revival, and the Thompson House which is a 1908 Victorian-style home. This area is great for walks along the river, strolls through the museums and shops, or having an adult beverage at an outdoor café.

Winchester VA was my next stop



where I visited with newly retired friends. They moved to VA after retirement because Steve is a Civil War buff. It didn't hurt that their only grandchild, who just turned one year old, lives in DC. Several days there gave me an opportunity review my American History and realize that I surely slept through many of those classes when I was in school. Steve proved to be a far more interesting tutor than Coach Whatever-his-name-was at Columbia High School.

Have I mentioned that the turning of the leaves was in full splendor! I found myself in the "beginnings" of the leaf season around Chattanooga. By the time I reached Virginia, I was surrounded with the most magnificent display I have ever seen! The experience was made all the better by having a fully functioning convertible top. "Glorious" is the only way to describe the attack on the visual senses.

After a few days in Winchester, I proceeded to Princeton NJ where my eldest son and his family reside. This son is the one who can't sit still, so there were full days for me. He always has a "to do" list on the fridge, and he knows that, like him, I would rather be busy than not. He always rewards me with a grand lunch at my favorite eatery, The Tigers Tale. The Tale is a sports bar at it's finest. It's one of those places where, if you walk in a stranger, you won't be when you leave. After years of frequenting the place, I feel I know everyone's family history and the bartenders know just how I like my martini. Life is good in Princeton.



After a few days in Princeton, I begrudgingly left my car with Rusty and flew to Phoenix. (If I could have found a way to drive there and back in four days, I would have.) A dear friend was celebrating her 70th birthday and I wasn't about to miss it. I considered this a wonderful reason to have a blip in my driving plans.

Back to Princeton for a couple of days, then I was on my way again. This time, my destination was Kentucky via the Pennsylvania Dutch country. I was moved by the slow pace of life in the area. The simplicity of the farms, the neatness of the crops growing right up to the fence lines, the buggies (and horse poop everywhere) made me stop and think about the hectic pace of my life . . . the reason I wanted/needed to get away from Houston for a bit.

In Kentucky, I stayed at Rosecrest Farm, which is a horse farm where one of the grandsons of Secretariat holds court. The B&B is the old farmhouse, which has been comfortably restored. I met an English couple there that come to the States each year and do a driving tour of a different part of the country.

As a result of my Road Monkey status, I was able to pass along ideas for parts of the country they had yet to visit. (Thank you Bakers and Finleys.)

One night at the farm, then it was on to Hot Springs AR to connect with golfing friends who were arriving from Houston. I don't know if I enjoyed the golf more or the drives along the great "spirited drive" roads of Arkansas. Both were much fun.

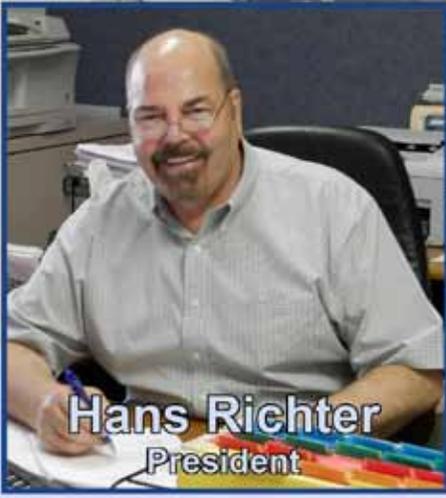
But, it was time to head home. After one month on the road, homecoming was bittersweet. I had four weeks to relax, meander, visit with friends and family, reconnect with self, and explore to my heart's content. I love Houston; I love my home; I love my friends here. But I also love being on the road in my car with the top down and the music loud. The freedom this offers my soul can't be expressed in words. It doesn't do a darn thing to help me decide what to be when I grow up, but it was a 4000-mile journey that was worth every second.

I can't wait for the next opportunity!



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Hans Richter
President

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Hump Day Happy Hours



Who doesn't like a happy hour after a long day's work to help wind down the day? Houston Chapter members got together on September 10th and again on October 15th for happy hour meet-ups at Memorial Wine Cellar. Proprietors Dwayne & Mary Harrison, along with their staff, treated us with great service and suggestions on wine selections. It's a cozy place with plenty of seating both inside and out, plus there is plenty of parking in the front. The smaller groups at these happy hours turn out to be quite enjoyable and relaxing with plenty of smiles and laughs with long time members as well as new faces. I have even struck up engaging conversations with potential new members, most of whom didn't even know a BMW club existed! How is that possible?

Our appreciation goes out to Priscilla Saynay who set-up and hosted these happy hours.

These are fun events. And for those of you who are keeping up with the points system, guess who just scored a lot of points for setting up and hosting these happy hours? The competition just ramped up! Get in on it and you can win cash prizes.

Keep your eyes on the website calendar and eBlast for the next happy hour. Come out and enjoy the fun! We need your participation to help spread the word about the club and continue the laughs and friendships throughout the club. See ya at the next event!

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Naming Your Car



Carl M. Oland

I have always been a little bewildered by the fact that I have never given any one of my cars a name. Ever since being severely infected with “the car bug,” which was unavoidably transmitted to me from my father and my older brother long before I could even drive, I have loved cars. I still do, but I never got the car-naming strain of that disease, which makes me feel a little guilty. After all, they were, for the most part, special cars that I owned at special times of my life of which I have special memories that deserved to be given special names. People

give names to boats, ships, and even airplanes. Pets have names, of course, be they birds, or fish, or dogs, or horses – you get the idea. But what kind of person gives names to their cars? Well, according to a recent survey of more than 1,000 U.S. car owners by Nationwide Insurance Company, nearly 25 percent give special names to their cars.

According to Nationwide’s chief marketing officer, Matt Jauchius, “U.S. consumers have an emotional connection to their cars. The memories car owners experience with their automobiles are very special to them. Discovering the number of people who nickname their cars is a true demonstration of this connection.” While it appears that the survey didn’t get into the psychology behind naming cars, it did provide some interesting statistics nonetheless:

- Of the almost 25 percent of car owner who give special names to their cars, fully 36 percent of them are between 18 to-34 years of age.
- 31 percent of respondents were inspired by the color and appearance of their car.

- 27 percent of the women surveyed give nicknames to their cars while only 17 percent of men do.
 - 26 percent of respondents think of their cars as females.
 - 10 percent of men name their cars after a character in a movie versus 4 percent of women. It occurs to me now that my daughter, Kristen, who, as a preteen and already afflicted with the car bug, duly christened our beige ’67 VW “Herbie” after seeing “The Love Bug.”
 - 9 percent of men named their cars after a famous person/historical figure, while only 4 percent of women did.
- Statistical analysis aside, it occurs to me now that there must be at least two strains of the car bug that, in one form or another, afflicts all of us in the Houston Chapter of the BMW CCA, one of which is the car-naming variety. Let’s hope that the car bug is one ailment that continues to be incurable.

<http://www.nationwide.com/about-us/093013-jtn-baby.jsp>

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Parts Specialist





Mini Cooper Drain Plug Problem

After completing college and with a full time job pending, my daughter planned to get a new car. Problem was she had her heart set on a Mini Cooper and the new ones in her words just “don’t look cute”. No problem, I suggested to look for a used one. I found one that I thought might work, but it was not available by the time we got there.

However in the meantime she really gave a lot of thought the cost difference, and after searching found a couple other cars to look at. A Cooper S 6 speed from a local dealer fit the bill, and the deal was done. Some work was done to the car by a mini dealer as part of the deal, and the oil was reported changed. After another 6k on the car, I suggested it was time to really check the car out and change oil and filters. The car now had about 60k.

Since the history of the car really isn’t known to us, I suggested the following:

- Oil change with high end synthetic oil and new filter
- Air filter
- Transmission oil change
- Power steering fluid change
- Supercharger belt change
- Remove all wheels and inspect brakes
- Brake fluid flush
- Coolant change (done by dealer)
- Check all the lights and fuses
- Inspect the front and rear bumpers for evidence of crash damage and or missing clips and fasteners.

The oil change I thought would be easy. However I found that a special socket is need to remove the oil filter.

I look on Ebay had a Lisle low 36mm socket on its way for about \$9. Also after searching on the internet and reading in Bentley book, a special tool

is needed to pry the belt tensioner and remove the belt. Searching on Amazon, sent me back to Ebay and I found the Baum Tools W11 tool for about \$40.

So far, not too bad, but with other BMW’s I have never needed so many special tools for basic maintenance.

Sources I checked said the drain plug is a 13mm hex. The old drain plug looked a little twisted, but I put a socket on it. It wouldn’t budge, so switched to an extended ½” ratchet with a 6 point 3/8” drive socket. **Never** use a 12 point socket or wrench, these plugs are too soft. If felt like the hex was twisting. A little more torque and the socket broke.

Usually Craftsman sockets are decent quality, but this was a concern. As the afternoon was almost gone, it was decided to leave the oil for another week and get better prepared.



Figure 1 Worn hex and large rubber molded seal on factory plug

A new plug was purchased in the aftermarket, mostly so I could see exactly what the seal, thread and hex looked like. Also a 14mm x 1.5 tap was ordered, in the event the threads were damaged. Some aftermarket drain plugs were also purchased at Autozone. Some reading on internet forums revealed that a stuck drain plug is actually common on these cars, so many that some people just suck the oil out from the dipstick and never remove the plug. I prefer draining as more contaminates and more of the old oil is removed.

The drain plug on the mini uses a molded gasket bonded to the plug. The gasket is also much larger than a normal BMW drain plug gasket. Search-

ing in my AN aluminum gaskets, I found a 14mm ID x 22mm OD x 1.5mm thick gasket that fit the aftermarket plug well.

The aftermarket plug came with a fiber washer, but I felt more comfortable with an aluminum crush washer.



Figure 2 Premium 652306 plug, with fiber and AN washer and factory plug

With the new plug I checked the hex size with several sockets, and guess what? A ½” socket fits much better.



Figure 3 New plug 1/2” drive 1/2” 6 point socket

Why does the ½” socket fit? It’s because of the tolerances on the hex and the tolerance of the wrench. A 13mm hex is .512” nominal size, and also maximum size, and the minimum size is about .501”. A ½” American Standard wrench opening is .504 to .510” so if the hex is at the middle to the bottom of the tolerance range, the ½” wrench will fit. The new plug measured .504” so is within 13mm tolerance. The ½” drive 6 point socket measures .509, so easily fits the new plug with .005” clearance. Note however at the extremes of the tolerance a ½” socket might not fit.

After some more forum searches I was concluding that the problem is not necessarily that the plug was over torqued at installation, but that the rubber gasket develops a strong bite to the aluminum pan. Complicated by the large diameter, weak hex, and a poor fit with 13mm sockets or wrenches. One of the removal techniques I found in forums was to weld a nut from the ID to the old plug, then put a larger socket on it. This was reported to work every time.

I got to thinking, was it the bigger hex or the heat that allowed the removal? Rubber is an unusual material that typically has what is called Negative Thermal Expansion (NTE). That means when you heat it, the material shrinks instead of expanding as steel and aluminum do. Also I knew that molded rubber bonds can be broken in most cases by heating above about 350F. When you combine these two effects, I was pretty sure that putting a propane torch on the rubber gasket for a few seconds would significantly reduce the removal torque.

Inspecting the plug showed some damage to the hex, but a little filing allowed the 1/2" 6 point to seat tightly and fully down with a few taps of a ball peen hammer. Next I removed the cooling fan for more access. While under the car I wiped off leaked oil and checked for obvious leaks.

Safety Tips

Be particularly careful that no fuel leaks exist. Have a fire extinguisher close at hand. When under the car, safety glasses or goggles should be worn. When using the propane torch leather gloves should also be worn.



Figure 4 Lighter, propane torch, and fire extinguisher

Heating on the lower half of the rubber for only about 10 seconds, my normal long ratchet easily took the plug out. Focus the tip of the flame directly on the rubber. So the heat theory is validated.



Figure 5 Plug out with no thread damage

Note that the thread depth of some Honda plugs (also 14mm x 1.5mm thread) is very short, don't use them, many Honda's have stripped thread problems.



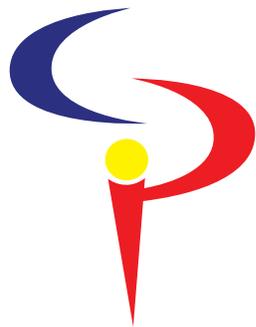
Figure 6 Plug with Aluminum washer

In going over the car I found a few things to fix, fender liner clip missing, brake sensor not installed correctly, fog light cover not installed, and unfortunately a bent rim. It can be fixed, but the white wheels aren't our favorites, so maybe a new set with tires will be the best solution.

I used Redline oil for the change this time. Redline is an ester based oil so likely a different base stock than what was used previously. This may help clean deposits from the engine with the next change.

We plan to run the oil about 8k and then change it again. Also I am looking into changing the supercharger oil, so that may get done next time as well. But with the oils changed and brakes checked we are more confident in the car now.





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2015 Houston Chapter BMW CCA Annual Dinner

Saturday January 10, 2015

Houston Racquet Club

10709 Memorial Drive

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Please join us for the Annual Houston Chapter BMW CCA Dinner

Attire: Festive

6:00pm-7:00pm

Registration social Hour (Cash-Bar)

7:00pm-8:30pm

Dinner

8:30-10:00pm

Officer Elections

Year in review slideshow

Autocross Awards

Raffle Prizes (can you say tires?)

For payments received on or before January 1, 2015 tickets will be \$50.00 per person for members, associate members and 1 guest

(2 guests or more-\$60 per person)

\$60.00 per person-If payment is received after January 1, 2015

Additional raffle tickets may be purchased at the dinner

(Sorry, raffle tickets are for Club Members and Associate Members only)

RSVP by mailing your check (**payable to Houston BMWCCA**) and this completed form to:

Dennis Nowak

c/o Houston BMW CCA

4811 Harris Woods Trace

Fulshear, Texas 77441

Or bring check to Hair of the Dog Drive January 1st, 2015

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I caught this picture the other day. This is the first sighting I've had of an i3 on the road in Houston.

Jim Robinson

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Observations from Fredericksburg



Neil Baer



Since becoming the chapter social events person, I've been trying to learn the ropes on how things get done and what needs to happen to successfully execute a social event. After the Fredericksburg drive last weekend, I think it's getting clearer.

This is just a highlight of things: Pre Drive – I received routes from five years ago. Even if they were almost new, I was advised to drive the route to check road conditions, verify instructions, etc. This has to be the best thing ever! I drove the routes, all right. At whatever speed I wanted because there was NOBODY around! Not in front. Not in back. Perfect, beautiful roads with nobody else - except an occasional suicidal deer running in front of me. AWESOME! And there were several corrections or simplifications to those routes, so it was worth it.

The Town – Fredericksburg is just a very neat place. It has been years since the last visit and it's grown in all the good ways. More places to eat, drink and shop. Still, it has a great vibe. We could have easily spent another couple of days.

The Halloween Party – Adriana is the queen of this party. She took it and ran with it. Killer job. (We did contribute the squishy eyeballs, which were a big hit).



But she and Elizabeth Rubio plus a host of other contributors helped to decorate and take everything down. "My husband and I attended the BMW club event last weekend and we had a blast! It's always fun to get together with people who love cars as much as we do."

OCT/31/2014



The group was stellar! We couldn't have asked to find people who were more fun, welcoming, and enthusiastic. Everything from the party on Halloween night to the parting at breakfast was perfect." Cindi and Kevin Andress

Serious car geeks – I thought I was a car nerd. Not in this group. Just an average guy. Watching people dust off their car before a run, wiping off the morning dew, and shooting movies with Go Pro cameras



Support – several folks were very generous with their time and knowledge. It was all appreciated. If I forget to mention someone I'll be in trouble. You know who you are...
 The Folks – I got to meet so many nice people – and I wish I had more time to talk to everyone. I appreciated every moment and look forward to more.
 The Cars – M's,

– I have met my match, and then some. To be able to talk to someone about technical stuff and get a look like I'm from another planet – priceless!

older models, brand new, diesels – it's Carnacopia. Love them all
 So – looking forward to next year. Hope we have everybody return and add more to the mix, because the more the merrier.



Editor's Corner

Jim Robinson

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. It's been an all too rare occurrence when I have too much material for publication.

On this happy occasion I could not leave out this important part of the Fredericksburg weekend provided by our chapter's former fearless leader David R. Dalton.

Fredericksburg 2014

Another Fredericksburg weekend in the beautiful Hillcountry, eventful, and well-orchestrated. The sauce at Black's BBQ is worth the trip up to Lockhart if you're wanting an afternoon drive. If not you can order it online at blacksbbq.com. Good Texas BBQ sauce, spicy and not sweet. A great choice for lunch. The drive got interesting from there, which was a good thing as it kept you alert after just pigging-out.

The party Friday night was a lot of fun. Adriana did a really nice job



putting it all together. She put a twist on the BMW Trivia game which was a huge success. Every table was entertained, engaged and glued to the screen for the next clue. Just a lot of fun.

Saturday there was a preference, (1) our usual drive through the Hillcountry, or (2) a tour of one of the local wineries. Those that choose the winery tour got a look at what the Hillcountry also has to offer. And those that elected to go on the drive were nothing but grins.

We had several new faces join us

this year and this was the first time they'd had the opportunity to see what a BMW is all about.

After dinner most of us gathered at the Lincoln St. Wine Bar and rehashed the experience. It was really cool to listen to them and watch the expression on their faces, as we have all been there. Again this year we closed the place down and were the last ones out.

Sunday we drove over to Lake Travis for lunch at The Oasis, and then home. What a fun weekend. It really feels good to see new members that stepped up to continue the tradi-

tion so well. Thanks to all that contributed.

David R. Dalton

Neil,

Peggy and I had a blast. As first timers on this trip we had fun at the party, the rides and the fellowship. Especially at the meals. All in all a fun group to be with. Only suggestion for newbies at initial party/gathering would be name tags,

Loved the sound of those turbos in action. Even my 428i's.

Regards, Bill and Peggy Bramblett.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Hair of Dog Drive January 1, 2015
(see page 6)

Annual Dinner January 10, 2015
Houston Racquet Club
10709 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024
(see page 16)

Coffee meetings:
Cedar Creek Cafe Bar & Grill
1034 W 20th St, Houston, TX 77008
January 17, 2015
February 14, 2015
March 14, 2015

AutoCross:
Houston Police Academy
17000 Aldine Westfield Rd,
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January 18, 2015
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March 8, 2015

Texas Trifecta at COTA

March 21, 2015

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