

TORQUE OF THE TOWN

WINTER 2016

The Voice of the Houston Chapter BMW Car Club of America





Original BMW Parts

www.bmwusa.com



The Ultimate
Driving Machine®

ORIGINAL BMW PARTS. A MASTERPIECE OF FORM AND FUNCTION.

Ensuring that every BMW continues to live up to its title as the Ultimate Driving Machine®, requires none other than Original BMW Parts. Each part is precisely engineered by BMW for a perfect fit and finish and offers a two-year unlimited mileage warranty.

If you are under the impression that this level of engineering mastery comes with a big price tag – think again. Introducing BMW Value Line, a collection of bundled parts and service kits designed for earlier BMW models and offered at special savings.

BMW of Houston North proudly offers the Houston Chapter BMW CCA a 15% discount on all parts purchases.

ORIGINAL BMW PARTS.

BMW EfficientDynamics
Less consumption. More driving pleasure.

©2011 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name and logo are registered trademarks. All rights reserved.

BMW OF HOUSTON

N O R T H

I-45 North @ FM 1960 • BMWofHoustonNorth.com

281-874-1550



CONTENTS

**4**

OPEN ROADS

BLAKE LAGRONE
RANDOM MUSINGS...
FIXING THE M3
SATCH CARLSON COMES THROUGH!
PHOTOS FROM NOVEMBER COTA EVENT

5

TEEN STREET SURVIVAL

JIM IDEN
A REPORT ON THE 2017 CAR CONTROL CLINIC FOR YOUNG DRIVERS

7

OCTOBERFEST

JEFF & TISH OTTEN
THE ROAD MONKEYS TAKE THE ROADS LESS TRAVELED TO MONTEREY

12

SAIL ON AMERICA

JIM ROBINSON
A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR YACHTING ON AMERICA THE REPLICA OF THE FIRST SHIP TO WIN THE ROYAL YACHT SQUADRONS 100 GUINEA CUP

22

BALLOT INFO

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR ELECTIONS FOR CHAPTER TREASURER AND SECRETARY.

Houston Chapter
BMW Car Club of America
Post Office Box 56763
Houston, TX 77256-6763
www.houston-bmwcca.com

Blake LaGrone
President
281-743-1029
president@houston-bmwcca.com

Chris Stokes
Vice-President
vice-president@houston-bmwcca.com

Bill Krupowicz
Treasurer
treasurer@houston-bmwcca.com

Diane Albrecht
Secretary
secretary@houston-bmwcca.com

Jim Moffitt
Membership Chairperson
membership@houston-bmwcca.com

Christine Hsui
Social Events Chairperson
socialevents@houston-bmwcca.com

Chris Augustine
Autocross Chairperson
autocross-coordinators@houston-bmwcca.com

Richard Lo
Driving Events Coordinator
drivingevents@houston-bmwcca.com

Jeff Thomson
Webmaster / Social Media / eBlast Editor
webmaster@houston-bmwcca.com
socialmedia@houston-bmwcca.com
eblast@houston-bmwcca.com

Jim Robinson
Newsletter Editor
newsletter@houston-bmwcca.com

Priscilla Saynay
Facebook Administrator
facebook@houston-bmwcca.com

Jennifer Ridgeway
Twitter Editor
twitter@houston-bmwcca.com

Jeff Otten
Technical Advisor
techadvisor@houston-bmwcca.com

Tim Jones
303-946-4588
Central Regional VP
southcentralrvp@bmwcca.org

Past Presidents
Dennis Nowak • David Dalton • Vicki Finley •
Dan Baker • Jeff Bailey • James Salazar

Internet Services courtesy of
OpLink
www.oplink.net
281-445-9800

Printing Services
Specialty Bindery & Printing
www.sbpmail.com
713-869-0594

ON THE COVER:

Sailing on the good ship America





Open Roads

Blake LaGrone President - Houston Chapter

It's been a busy few months what with our many club events, personal issues with my family, and of course the national election for our new President. I am back at **COTA** as I write this (working as a Volunteer in Registrations) and am unfortunately not driving this time. It's a bright sunny perfect day for driving, mid 70s (the kind of cool weather that a Supercharger or Turbo LOVE!) and a light north wind, no rain forecast. My last track event was at **O'fest** in **Monterey and Laguna Seca**. Being here and not driving what is one of my favorite tracks is, well, not my favorite thing to do . . . but I am glad I can help out. On the last day of the last lap at Laguna Seca, my M3 suddenly lost all oil pressure! Not sure what happened but no oil ever exited the engine (good thing). I was lucky that it happened at the bottom of the "Corkscrew" (turn 8) and the pit lane is just past turn 9. I was able to get off track and stopped, running the engine only 55 seconds after the oil pressure loss.

I trailered my ailing baby home and drained the oil for a sample to send to a really good lab for analysis. I had done this before I left for O'fest as the car does have 140,000 miles on it and I wanted to have some indicator of how it was wearing. The analysis came back that basically said the engine is in great shape. So, the lab had a before and after sample for comparison. Results from the second sample . . . same as the first! So, now I have a new project, drop the oil pan, check for an oil pump shaft nut or any other evidence as to why the oil pressure would drop like that. It will also give me a chance to check the rod and main bearings and replace a leaking rear main seal. Hopefully the oil analysis is spot on and there is no collateral damage. In any case, my beloved E36 M3 is going to be sidelined for a while. I am tempted to call Ken up and ask if I can use his lift! Just kidding Ken . . .

was any way I could get a copy of it. Much to my surprise Satch answered back quickly with a copy of the picture attached. Satch I don't care what **Dan Baker** says about you, you're the best in my book!

This article is just kind of random musings so forgive me if I wander. We have a new President and this election has been the craziest I can ever remember. The right to Vote as you choose is sacred in this country, one of the most important components to the idea of a Democratic Republic. I may not agree with your choice, but I will passionately defend your right to Vote however you choose. This election was very divisive and what I see on our evening news is simply painful to watch. Our club has a very diverse group of people and I am sure that every one of you will disagree with me in some way. That does not make you wrong and me

The picture below was taken at turn 3 on the Laguna Seca track the day before I had the problem with the oil pressure. I was reading my copy of the latest Roundel when I came across this picture on page 87. **Kyle Van Hoften** (one of Roundels photographers) caught this picture of my car and I. I was totally shocked that it wound up in our **Roundel**. I emailed **Satch Carlson** and asked him if there

right, it just means we think and feel differently about the topic in question. The idea of freedom of speech is based upon peaceful dissension and when that breaks down, everyone suffers. The world looks to America when it comes to the peaceful transition of power. In this crazy and turbulent time, I pray we can still make that transition.

Okay, no more soapbox and back to looking at some truly awesome cars here at COTA. Its been a gorgeous day out here and I snapped a few pictures walking around the garages.(see images on page 18)

All in all it was a good day at the Track and being at the Registration table I got to meet a lot of nice people. Still wish I had been driving though . . .

We have elections coming up for the position of Treasurer and Secretary so if you or someone you know might be interested in those spots please contact Nominations@Houston-BMWCCA.com or myself. The ballots will be counted at the Annual dinner which will be sometime mid to late January.

New folks welcome aboard! **Priscilla Saynay** has taken over the job of **Facebook Editor** and **Christine Hsui** is our new **Social Events** chair. Thank you both for stepping up!

That's all for now, hope to see you all soon at coffee, or just out driving these wonderful cars on the

Open Road!

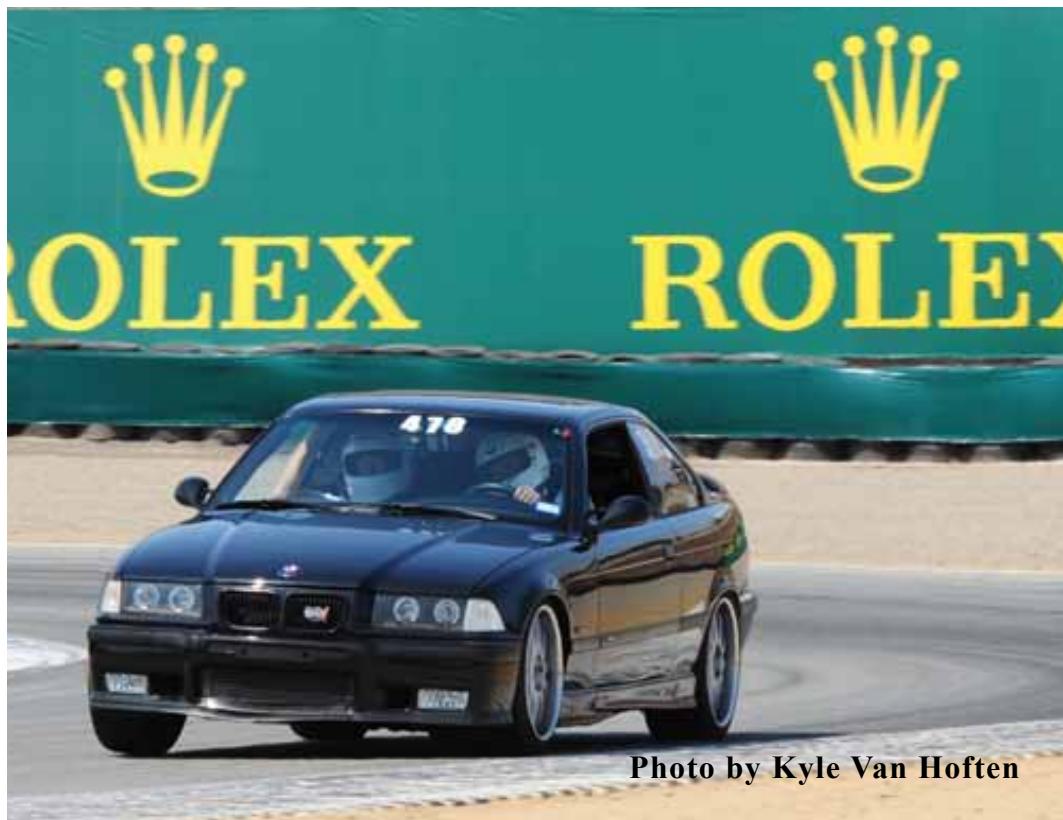


Photo by Kyle Van Hoften



Hello VTS!

Jim Iden

Great turn out, you can bet those on the wait list will be ready to sign up for this coming spring or fall events. From the families in attendance, a number of them mentioned being at previous events with older son's/daughter's, other mentioning they will be back with their children who will be of driving age for the next event or in coming years.

Also, I received an email from a person in Conroe asking for us to come to Conroe, that they had enough students to fill an event. Not advocating additional schools on this end, just letting you know of the popularity and demand for Teen Street Survival's mission in training better drivers and saving lives.

These events could not be held without you coming out setting up, registering, feeding, assisting in the running of the events; and yes, the PR you extend to students/families who see and feel your willingness to serve, driving the confidents on their decision to bring their kids attending the event. CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!

As you know from the email strings, this event came down to the wire having last minute confirmations to have the number of volunteers necessary to continue the success reputation all of you have gained working TSS. You have my "Special Big Thanks" for coming out and all you do.

Those of you who helped recruiting additional volunteers, have you heard back from them of what they thought? If you know of anyone who came out not on the email list, be sure and forward this email letting them know our appreciation and for those interested, to forward me their names and email addresses to add to the VT/volunteer list for updates and information on upcoming sessions. They were great and we would love to have them back out for TSS and other social events.

Okay, below are a few emails from others who attended and were involved FYR:

Well the survey results are in and, wait for it,,,,,, you guys are amazing! Extraordinarily complimentary results from our students and parents as well. And the obvious improvements visible over the course of the day confirm you all do a great job as coaches for these kids. Kudos as well and my special thanks to Brian and Chris for taking on the cushy but somewhat thankless challenge of classroom. Those survey comments were great as well.

Thanks so much for giving your time and knowledge to make a true difference in these kids lives. Not to mention we are all safer on the roads as a result!

Hope to see you all back in the Spring for another round.

Ken

I appreciate the kind words, and I had a great time volunteering at the event. Like we discussed at the tech session, I came to further my involvement with the BMWCCA and meet some interesting figures, and I accomplished both goals. I hope to see you again in the near future, as I will absolutely be volunteering at future events. Hopefully next time I'll remember to bring stronger sunscreen, a lesson I only need to learn once.

Regardless, it was a pleasure meeting both of you. Hopefully we'll cross paths in the near future.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dikdan

I wanted to thank you and your group for the teen driving event at the Houston Police Academy last weekend. My son Nick (driving the 2004 Toyota Corolla) really enjoyed it. He learned some great skills and has talked about it for the past several days. He wants to do it again, whenever it is offered. And, aside from the warm temperatures, I enjoyed helping out in the 60 ft slalom.

John Belbas

Hi, again, all!

Thank you, all, so much for a very successful day! Aside from being a bit on the warm side, we lucked out on the weather. We had a great group of students and you all did a great job of working with them through the day. I kept hearing about how much progress our students made during the course of the day. I also kept seeing the smiles getting bigger as the day went along. Both are very positive indicators of a job well done and students that left at the end of the day with new skills and new confidence in their driving abilities. You really do make a huge difference to the students thanks to your combination of driving ability and communication ability. So, many, many thanks!

Regards,

Walt Phillips

Craftsmanship. Integrity. Curiosity.

Providing service, parts and performance modifications exclusively for BMWs in Houston, Texas since 1980.



No matter how well
a car is manufactured, it's only
as good as the service performed
on it. Our BMW technicians have decades
of experience collectively, and understand what it means to perform stellar workmanship.
For routine maintenance, performance modifications and extended warranty work...
Bavarian Machine Specialties delivers.

Come find out what others already know...

"Experience Matters."

Bavarian Machine Specialties
3117 D'Amico Street | Houston, Texas 77019
Conveniently located 3 minutes from downtown near Waugh
and Allen Parkway. | 8:00 to 5:30 Monday - Friday

713-524-8365 | www.bavarianmachine.com



Octoberfest 2016

Monterrey, California

Jeff and Tish Otten

The BMWCCA Octoberfest 2016 was coordinated for this year to follow two other big annual events: [The Legends of the Autobahn](#) concours and [The Festories](#) historic races at the Laguna Seca race track. It was the 47th BMWCCA Octoberfest event. It also happens to be BMW's 100th anniversary, so even though the 2013 O'fest was held in Monterrey, National decided this should again be the location for O'fest. *BMW had more than a bit of influence on the decision.*

Since Tish and I are former Ventura County residents, it's easy to understand why we would jump in the car and drive to California. Here are some reasons 24 other "[Road Monkeys](#)" would join us.

In the Houston Chapter we are fortunate to enjoy the planning of the now infamous Road Monkeys (established 2006). For those who have gone before us, it was understood this trek would be epic as it would represent a decade of Road Monkey experience in planning and general tom-foolery. Their experience in registration, event selection, trip planning, all the steps required to have a successful experience is available to anyone willing to throw caution to the wind and travel with them.

With that in mind, I followed the Road Monkey lead and signed up early. Signing up for O'fest is done on the dedicated web site, www.ofest.bmwcca.org. When you register for O'fest, you're given an ID number. The number assigned is used for the various events you enter. Seasoned Road Monkeys seem to find out when O'fest registration opens on the national web site which snags them some of the most desirable registration numbers. For show off purposes, the lower the number, the cooler you feel. Early registration also ensures you a room at Road Monkey Mecca aka Host Hotel.

The host hotel is where all the dinners, vendor displays (with swag, lots of swag) and the daily beer fests are held. The Monterrey Hyatt held that privilege in 2013 and 2016. Late sign up means you're stuck in overflow hotels resulting in more driving, parking, Ubering and other minor inconveniences. For Road Monkeys, it's Host Hotel or darn, that's bad luck!

After you register for the event and hotel, you select your events. O'Fest is all about driving and this year and I was determined to drive the Laguna Seca Race Track. I went in a Z3 convertible in 2013 and BMWCCA does not allow track driving in convertibles without full certified competition roll cages. Other driving events include a timed rally, fun rally, Gymkhana, auto cross, and others, take your pick. Once that is done, you're ready to join the Road Monkeys!

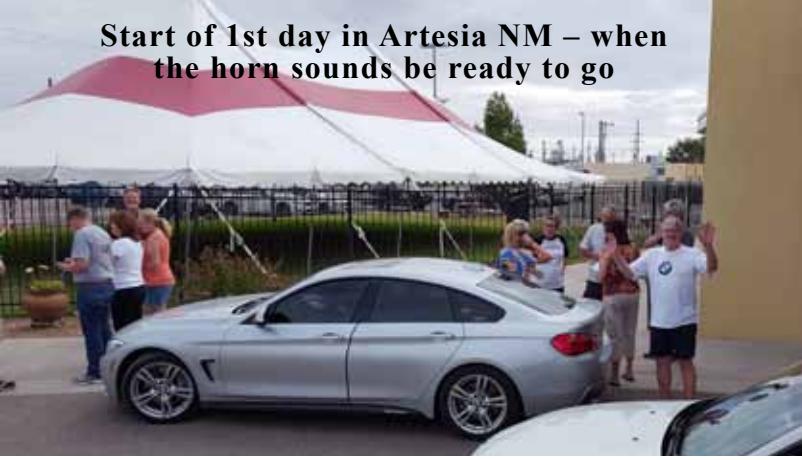
The Road Monkeys map the journey. They source our hotels, lunch and dinner stops, and route. Their only requirements are NO chain hotels, eateries, or interstates for a five night trip from Houston to Monterrey.

I can't thank [Ken, Vikki, Valerie, Dan, LaRita, and Jim](#) (and probably a few others) enough for their efforts to pull off another excellent trip.

The first night was near [Austin, at Canyon of the Eagles State Park](#), kind of the meet up point for Road Monkey's coming from other areas of the state or Louisiana. Unfortunately I was desperately trying to complete my rebuilt S52 swap/restoration of our E34 5 series, and of course it was taking longer than I thought. While I had the engine, transmission, and differential back in the car, I still had wheels off and many small things to finish. So I called the hotel and canceled the first night and planned to leave a day later and catch up to the Road Monkeys on the second night in [Artesia, New Mexico](#).



Start of 1st day in Artesia NM – when the horn sounds be ready to go



We hit the road in the mid afternoon and made it to the Artesia Hotel, NM, before midnight local time. The owner was delighted to let us in when we arrived.

The Road Monkeys are always punctual about leaving in the morning, they have miles to cover and twisty roads to find and explore. It turned out there were about 13 cars and 26 or so people in the group.

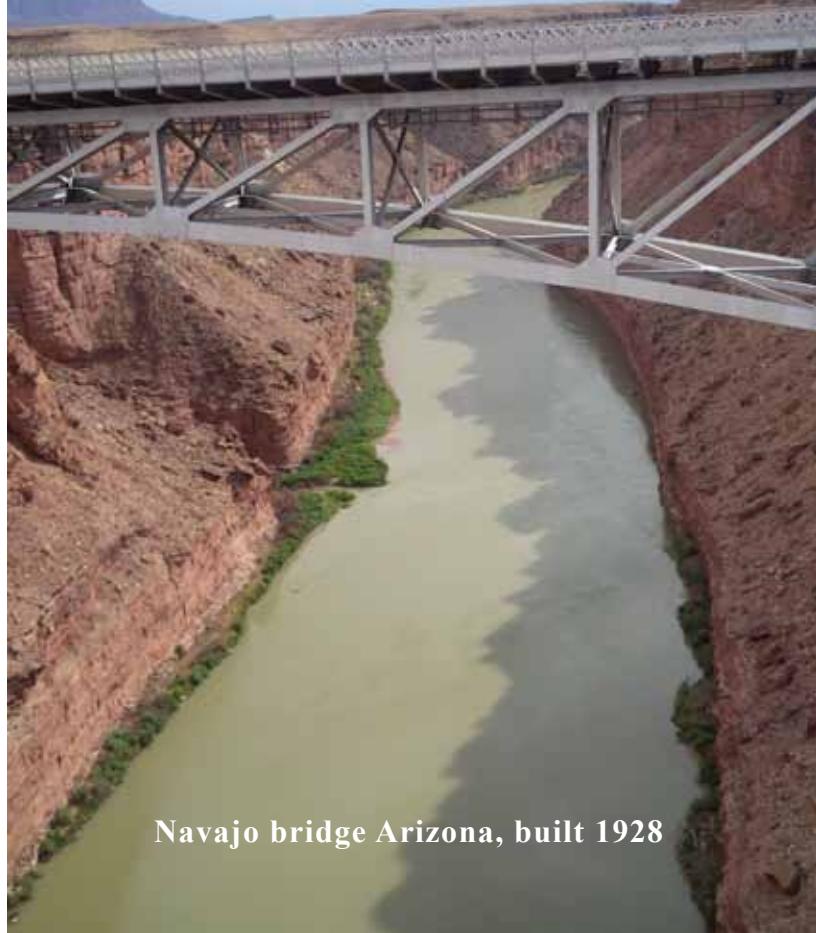
At times the Road Monkeys scoot along pretty quickly. I was trying to keep reasonable rpm while contemplating signs of fuel starvation in my rebuilt engine. This slowed us down a bit but we would typically catch the group before too long. That's the thing when driving the Road Monkey way, keep up or hold back, we'll see you at lunch or dinner or see you at morning check in.

The third night was in Alpine Arizona. Very scenic mountain area with some great roads and good prime rib at the restaurant. The fourth night was Kanab Utah. The Parry Lodge is known for movie catering in the western movie era. The scenery is amazing. Some of the Road Monkeys diverted to the Grand Canyon for dinner with a view!

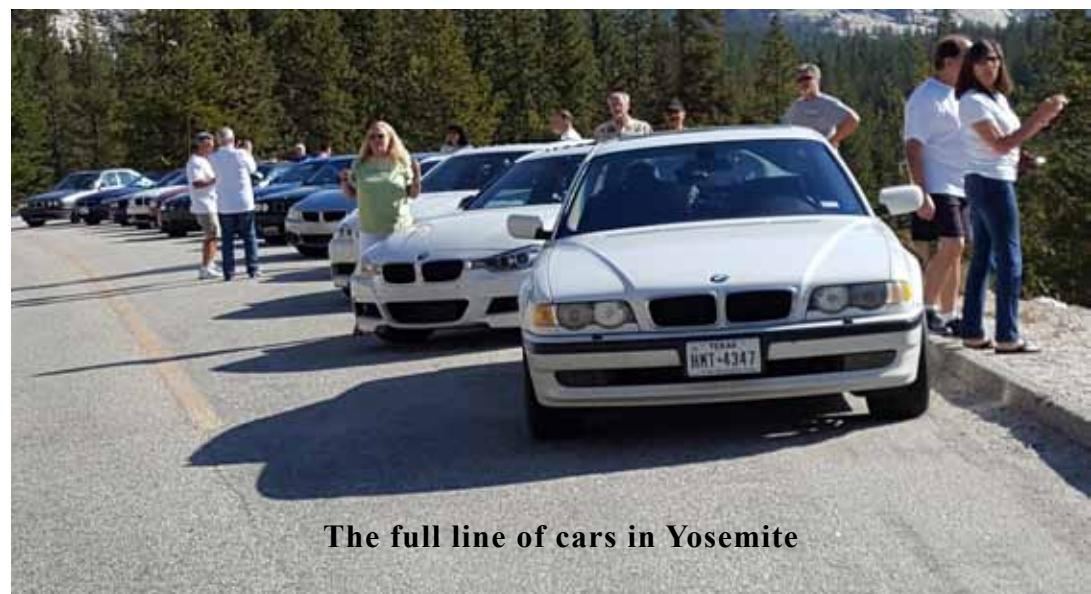
The next lunch stop was Rachel, Nevada. This is not the big middle class subdivision as seen in the X-Files episode, but an entertaining stop, none the less. The road is called The Terrestrial Highway and borders the famous Area 51. We were running behind the group, and saw something...what can I

say . . . *the Truth is Out There.*

The fifth night was Lee Vining, CA. This is the desert side of the mountains that edge Yosemite Park. A beautiful morning drive through the park and down the mountain brought us to our destination, Monterrey and the host hotel.



Navajo bridge Arizona, built 1928



The full line of cars in Yosemite

Event check-in is always attached to the vendor area with good support and plenty of cool swag. Spaten is big sponsor to the BMWCCA and refreshing beverages (FREE BEERS) are available. Shell also sponsored a dinner one night that was at a scenic location in the hills. They had lots of meat, but also a seafood dish with, guess what...scallops.

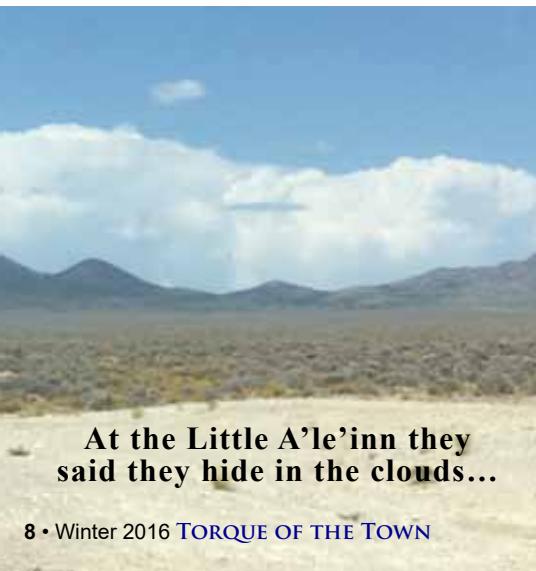
Since I had just re-built the S52 engine, my first priority, after several beers, was an oil change. I thought the local BMW independents would be helpful...NOT! I ended up going to BMW Monterrey and had great service. The service writer was intrigued with my car and had an E30 M3 with S54 swap.

While at the BMW dealer I also got to see their first wrecked I8, still repairable. That car has a lot of airbags (that work).

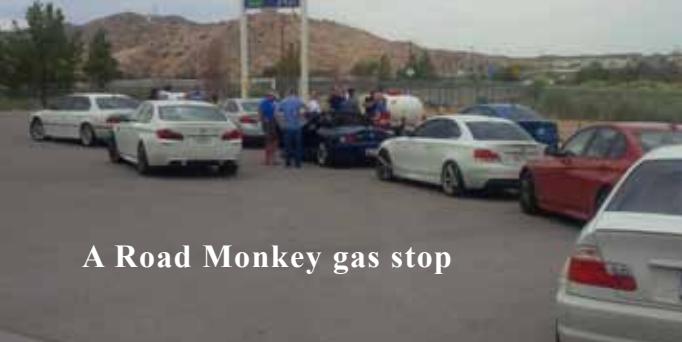
My oil change forced me to miss my first elected event, The Concours, but I was ready for track day on Thursday. Concourse is Road Monkey T-Shirt and Group Photo Day. It's also where you see the cleanest cars, oldest cars, coolest cars and, well, Road Monkeys!

Track Driving is called Driver Education so you attend class and drive with an instructor. The DE was very well run with an interesting presentation style mostly of non-car pictures to stimulate the discussion of driving principles.

At the Little A'le'inn they said they hide in the clouds...



A Road Monkey gas stop



They scheduled three (3) 30 minute driving sessions for my group. It was painful to sit in class knowing I was feet away from the coolest track in the country.

The corkscrew of Laguna Seca is a truly unique track feature that does not exist anywhere else. Definitely worthwhile to experience. I also lucked into a charity ride with Mike Renner (lead Performance Center instructor) in an M3 (thanks Ben).



Renner driving the M3 charity rides



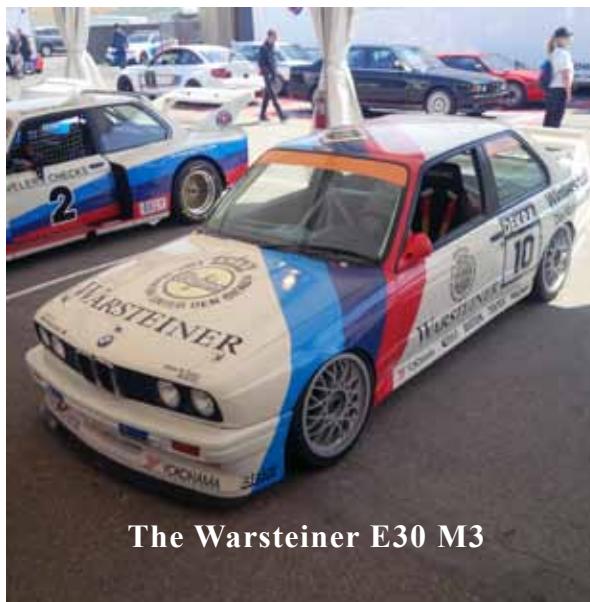
BMW's full tent of race cars to commemorate their 100th anniversary



Classice BMW bikes on display at the Liberty Mutual sponsored lunch on Thursday at Laguna Seca



Tish preparing for an AX run

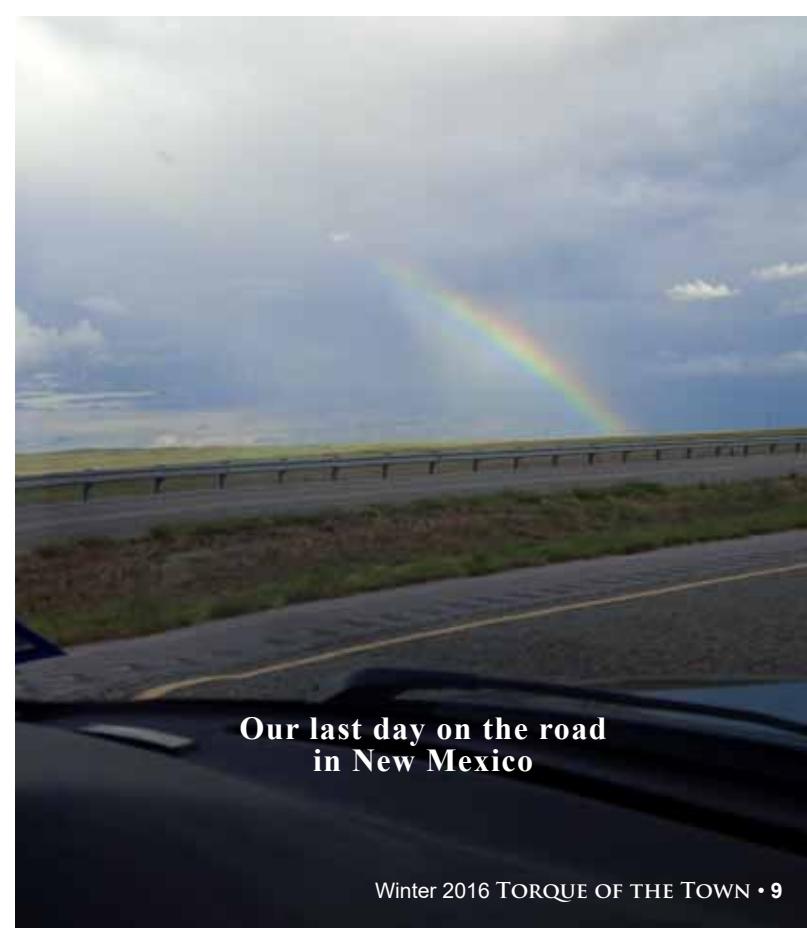


The Warsteiner E30 M3

The next day my wife and I double drove in the auto-cross. Although I didn't get my car setup as complete as I had hoped, we were competitive in class 7. I won and Tish (much to her surprise) also beat half the entries in our class. Jim got a trophy in his class with his 91 M5. This year if you trophied, you were given a ticket for a drawing for a set of Bridgestone tires. Bridgestone sponsors the auto-cross events and gave a set of tires for both Autocross days. We didn't win the drawing, but there is always next year... At the end the O'fest is the final banquet

and Road Monkeys say good bye to each other. Some Monkeys skip the meal to head back earlier. Tish and I planned to take two (2) nights on the way back and did mostly main highways. We spent the first night in Laughlin, NV, and met up with Louisiana Road Monkeys, Ben and Rosemary, for an evening of gambling and a river taxi ride.

If you have not been to O'fest before, definitely give consideration to the 2017 event which will be held in the New Orleans area. As of today it is only about 248 days away. I'm sure the Road Monkeys will plan yet another epic adventure.



Our last day on the road in New Mexico

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Board Meeting
Lyndon's Barbeque
December 3, 2016
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Coffee meeting
Cedar Creek Bar & Grill
December 10
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Autocross
Houston Police Academy
December 11, 2016
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Annual Banquet
Nov. 11 - 13, 2016
All Day

PERFORMANCE STOP.COM

BMW OEM & M Performance Parts

Driver Safety Gear

GPS Lap Timers & Cameras

Brake Pads & Kits

Exhaust Systems

Intake Systems

Suspension Kits

Clutch & Drivetrain Parts

Fluids & Maintenance Items

► BMW M Performance ► KW Suspension ► Motul ► Ohlins ► Bilstein
► Hawk Performance ► Stop Tech ► Pyrotect ► Simpson

FREE SHIPPING on all orders over \$99
(832) 241-5995

6% discount for Houston BMW CCA members Enter Code: 16TORQUE6

Brands you trust.

LEMFÖRDER

MANN FILTER



BILSTEIN

Genuine BMW

brembo

BOSCH

Best price guarantee • No sales tax

BAVARIAN®
autosport

800.535.2002 | BavAuto.com

Advertise in TORQUE OF THE TOWN!

Contact: newsletter@houston-bmwcca.com
for rates and availability.



ADVERTISERS INDEX

BAVARIAN AUTOSPORT-----	10
BAVARIAN MACHINE-----	6
BIMMER WORKSHOP-----	17
BMW OF HOUSTON NORTH-----	2
COLLISION PLUS INC.-----	14
METROPOLITAN COLLISION & SERVICE-----	23
MOMENTUM BMW SOUTHWEST-----	24
MOMENTUM BMW WEST-----	11
NORTH HOUSTON BEEMER-----	15
OPLINK.NET-----	19
PRO AM PARTS & ACCESSORIES-----	11
PERFORMANCESTOP.COM-----	10
TEXAS-GERMAN AUTOHAUS, L. P.-----	19

Houston BMW CCA Points System



BMW Car Club
of America
Houston Chapter



Activity Points

Attend a meeting or event (coffees, socials, autocross, cota, drives, and annual dinner)	30
Organize a monthly event (social/technical/track etc.)	100
Original Article published in the "Torque" (technical, recent trip, member spotlight, etc.)	60
Recruitment of a commercial ad for the "Torque" (Advertising rates available on the website)	20% of ad cost in points

*Board members may win points if not part of regular duties

So come on out to some events, have a great time, and on top of it all add points just for being there! If you want to go that extra mile, chair an event or write an article for our newsletter to earn more points.

Ready to win some great prizes?

All you have to do is participate. That's right! Just by attending events, you earn points, which can earn you valuable prizes.

When you attend an event, make sure to sign the sign-in sheet with the requested information.

Throughout the year, points are added up. We will announce the top 10 winners at the annual dinner.

1st place prize: \$150

2nd place prize: \$100

3rd place prize: \$50

4th-10th place prize:

One year

free membership



ProAm Parts & Accessories

6125 Richmond Ave.
Houston, TX 77057
713-781-7755 800-847-5712
www.proamauto.com



Now for BMWCCA members, ProAm's
"Spend \$100, Get \$100" Contingency Award
Program. Sign Up & Details @ proamauto.com

We offer:

DE Car preparation & Corner Balancing
Suspension & Brake Upgrades
Wheel & Tire packages - Mounting & Balancing
Routine Maintenance - Full Synthetic Oil Changes
Complete Detailing Service & Headlight Restoration



wilwood **RECARO** **APEX**
ProAm is now your source for APEX wheels for BMW's
& Vorshlag suspension parts



Momentum BMW West

Authorized Dealer

Authorized Dealership of BMW N.A.

Address
15865 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77094

Main
832.772.9100

Fax
832.772.9190

Direct
832.772.9019

e-mail
juan.maldonado@bmwwest.com

website
www.bmwwest.com



Authorized Dealership of BMW N.A.

Address
15865 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77094

Main
832.772.9152

Direct
713.907.2396

Fax
832.772.9190

e-mail
john.crispino@bmwwest.com

website
www.bmwwest.com



Momentum BMW West
a Sonic Automotive Dealership

John Crispino
Parts Specialist



October 29, 2016

What an amazing experience! This is the replica of the original yacht that won the first race of what is now called "America's Cup".

In 2006, Next Level Sailing acquired the historic, 139-foot yacht AMERICA and gained prominence as the only venue in the Western Hemisphere where the general public could experience the thrill of hands-on sailing aboard real IACC racing yachts.

"The difference between sailing and yachting is that sailing is work – yachting is fun."

BMW is a proud sponsor of The America's Cup race. Next Level Sailing brought the ship to Galveston docking at the Texas Seaport Museum.

Our Houston Chapter had about twenty members and guests attend this once in a lifetime event along with 55 other sailors. We arrived and corralled our cars around 11am and had a spirited few moments of car talk and spirited conversation about what we were about to do. Time went by pretty fast and we all entered the marina and got our first look at this awesome vessel.

Prior to boarding we received safety instructions and information about the ship. Boarding passes were checked and we took to the gangplank for an afternoon of sailing. Our anticipation rose as the ship cast off and moved away from the dock. After we got some distance away it was time to raise the sails and the crew offered us the opportunity to help. Several of us formed a line with hands on the ropes to lift the sails. This was a spectacular day for sailing. It was warm and there was a good wind to fill the sails. I'd never been on a sailboat of this size and I was amazed at how the ship responded as we glided along in such a regal manner. As we sailed along, many other ships sailed by getting a closer look at America and taking pictures. We sailed past Seawolf Park where the USS Cavalla and USS Stewart are on display. We saw many other working ships, oceangoing cargo ships and tugboats. I was surprised to see so many dolphins but they were really hard to photograph as they surface for only a few seconds for a gulp of air before dipping back underwater.

The original *AMERICA*, designed by James Rich Steers and George Steers and built by William H. Brown, put yachting on the map. It is why the most famous trophy in sailing is called The America's Cup.

In 1851, a boat named '*AMERICA*' won the 'Royal Yacht Squadrons' 100 Guinea Cup given to the winner of a race around the Isle of Wight. It is said...that the margin was so great that watching *AMERICA* sail past the royal yacht, Queen Victoria famously asked "Who came second? Your majesty...there is no second" was the reply. The winners, members of the New York Yacht Club, donated the trophy to the Club, to be held as a 'challenge' trophy. Thus was born the America's Cup, named after the boat, not the country.

Her later career was equally as colorful – conveyor of secret agents, Confederate blockade runner, Union warship, Naval Academy training vessel, and pride and joy of a famous Civil War general and politician. By her end in 1945, she was one of the most honored vessels in the United States. The original was destroyed during World War II.



Without exaggerating, *AMERICA* is the world's most famous racing yacht. This near perfect replica, built in 1995 at a cost of more than \$6 million.

Captain Troy Sears

Crew: Chris Childers, Cragan Smith, Michael Ash, and Mark Stephenson.

Boat Specs:

Length:	139 feet
Weight:	226,000 pounds
Mast Height:	105 feet (main mast)
Sail:	5,900 Square feet
Capacity:	76





As we sailed we had time to walk the deck and take a look below where hull plaques of past America's Cup winners adorn the bulkheads. Most notably is a plaque a contemporary hull with sponsor logos on it.

On a personal note, this event was important to me because I read a lot of books about sailing. Most recently I read "Two Years Before The Mast" by Richard H. Dana, Jr. Published in 1840 it is the journal of Mr. Dana, a Harvard graduate who decided to chuck it all to serve as a common seaman aboard merchant ships sailing from Boston around Cape Horn to San Diego. This book was still in print when the original America was built. Many claim that this book inspired Herman Melville to write "White-Jacket" and "Moby-Dick".

Since ancient time's people have gone to sea for adventure, war and trade. It's always fascinated me to read about pirates and legends of the high seas. Both fiction and real life accounts of those men setting out into the unknown depict our human spirit. From the early days when we thought we'd sail off the edge of the earth to Christopher Columbus, Lord Nelson against the Spanish

Armada and the battles of World Wars I & II and the merchant fleets. Sailing is a testament of man's heart of wonderment and searching for what lay just over the horizon. From Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea" to Clive Cussler's search for sunken historical vessels and high seas adventure tales; we are all linked in some way with the seven seas surrounding the thirty or so percent of land we live on. When you think about it, the Apollo space program was an extension of our naval spirit. And although we haven't ventured into space beyond the Sea of Tranquility we shall and we must do so in the generations to come.

It is our mission and destiny "to go where no man has gone before". Arr, Captain Kirk; where be me phaser!



A special thanks to Diane Albrecht for setting up this event and getting Sunflower Bakery & Café to help out with lunches; we were allowed to have lunch onboard the ship. This was a special treat and enhanced our enjoyment of the yachting experience. Also, Thanks to Pam Johnson and Blake Lagrone for additional pictures.

For more information:

<http://nextlevelsailing.com/yachtamerica/>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/America_\(yacht\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/America_(yacht))
<https://thesunflowerbakeryandcafe.com/>
<https://twitter.com/nxtlevelsailing>



NORTH HOUSTON BEEMER

Exclusive BMW & MINI Specialists

281-288-8200

26015 I-45 N. Spring, TX 77380

Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm Saturdays 8am-1pm • Call or email for an appointment

**WE
MOVED!**



**ATTENTION!! BMW and MINI Owners!
We have your costly dealer alternative!
Your ultimate team for your driving machine!**



Will match any BMW & MINI Dealership or Specialist Coupon.

Valid only when coupon is presented at time of service and it must be valid by date

**A/C Check
FREE**

Additional charge for Freon if needed.
Expires: August 31, 2017

**Alignment Check
FREE**

Includes:
• inspect steering & suspension system, including tire condition & air pressure
• put vehicle on alignment rack, mount & compensate sensors
• print out alignment readings without any adjustments
Expires: August 31, 2017

Referral Coupon

Refer a non existing customer and get \$25 off any repairs.
Specials not included.
Can be combined with other referral coupons.

\$25 OFF

Your total bill of \$300 or more

One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offers.
Expires: August 31, 2017

10% OFF

Labor on any service \$100 max excludes specials.

One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offers.
Expires: August 31, 2017

ONLY \$119.99

Alignments

One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offers.
Expires: August 31, 2017

ONLY \$79.99

Brake Flushes

One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offers.
Expires: August 31, 2017

ONLY \$89.99

Coolant Flushes

One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offers.
Expires: August 31, 2017

15% OFF
parts and labor for any brake service

Brake Service

One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offers.
Expires: August 31, 2017

North Houston Beemer is a family owned independent BMW and MINI automotive repair specialist. We have over 50 years combined BMW and MINI technical experience with Certified Master Technicians from the BMW Step Program. Our staff of Technicians and Service Advisors are dedicated in providing the finest customer service and a unique vehicle repair experience. Our competitive pricing, latest technology, and state of the art facility truly creates THE ULTIMATE TEAM FOR YOUR DRIVING MACHINE!



www.nhbeemer.com



Quality Services:

- Exotic/ Highline Customizations
- Auto paint & body repair
- Framework
- Auto glass
- Window tint
- Auto detailing

Auto Accessories:

- Alarms
- Stereos
- Body Kits, etc.



Collision Plus Inc.
7628 Bellaire Blvd.
Houston, TX 77036
713.988.5489
(fax) 713.988.6451

Collision Plus II
600 Hwy. 6 South
Houston, TX 77079
281.496.5489
281.496.6451 (fax)

www.collisionplusinc.com

THE ULTIMATE BMW SERVICE EXPERIENCE

SERVING HOUSTON SINCE 2002

11 years of
BMW Service

FACTORY-TRAINED TECHNICIANS

ONLY GENUINE BMW PARTS

HONOR MOST EXTENDED WARRANTIES

COMPLIMENTARY SHUTTLE

FREE CAR WASH AFTER SERVICE

BMW CCA MEMBERS RECEIVE 10% DISCOUNT
ON ALL REPAIRS

Celebrating 11 Years
of Exceptional Service!

BIMMER WORKSHOP

3421 FM 1960 WEST ♦ HUMBLE, TX 77338

www.bimmerworkshop.com ♦ 281-233-0111





**One of the few M4
GTS cars that are in
the U.S.A.**



An M235 Racer



**And we had those
Italian guys too!**



And just in case you run into some rocks you need to climb over while you're on the track!



A red fat-tire bicycle with thick black tires, standing upright indoors. The bike has a black seat and handlebars. A black bag is attached to the front of the bike.

Houston Chapter BMWCCA Apparel

<http://houstonbmwcca.tictail.com/>





Texas-German Autohaus, L. P.

3417 Edloe Street

Houston, Texas 77027

(713) 850-8282

www.t-g-a.com



Hans Richter
President



TGA specializes in the repair and service of Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Porsche automobiles. We have served the Houston European car owner since 1994. Please come for a visit and find out why more than 5700 customers are giving **TGA** a 97% customer satisfaction rating!

"We speak your car's language."

Hours: Monday - Friday: 7:30am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - noon (Consultation Only)



oplink.net
Premium Internet Services

Serving Houston since 1999!

- **High-Speed DSL Internet**
- **Server Colocation**
- **Web Site Hosting**
- **IT/Network Consultation**

Visit Our Website Or Call Today

<http://www.oplink.net>

281-445-9800

Oplink.net is a proud sponsor of Houston BMW CCA



ously tried driving the car with it so, knew it did not charge. The new battery had a 3.0 volt charge. The battery is soldered to the board. Note the pin out on this key is 90 degrees, so the battery I bought had to be modified.



Figure 2 replacement battery, with wrong pin out

The diamond shaped key used on many BMW's uses a rechargeable battery that eventually fails. For our 2005 X5 we bought it from BMW North and it only had one key when we looked at it. So a new key was included in the deal. A few years later the used key failed and would not lock or unlock the vehicle.



Figure 1 2005 X5 key

These keys are typical of E46, E39, E38, E53 and probably others. The key for similar years Mini's also is pretty much the same design, just a different shape.

Researching the key battery on the internet, there is some incorrect information out there. This battery is indeed a rechargeable battery. The battery charges via an inductive coil on the steering column, so there are no wires required. BMW says the key will charge in 30 minutes of driving for about 15 lock unlock cycles.

BMW does not sell batteries for these keys you must replace the key. This is simple, you get a new key based on your VIN. The key has to be ordered and BMW will cut it to match their records. The dealer will require to see the title and ID of the owner. They photo copy these and include with the order for security. At the time we bought our car the key listed at about \$285. Once you get the new key you still have to reprogram it. At the price of these keys it seemed reasonable to try and repair it.

I searched for batteries and found them on ebay and Amazon. The battery needed is a VL2020 made by Panasonic. Cost is around \$9.00. Unknown to me at the time there are several pin configurations of these keys. Most adds said the 180 degree configuration would work for the X5, so I bought one.



Figure 3 Clone case, not used

YouTube has several videos of cutting these apart. I got a Stanley hobby knife (Xacto type) and started slowly cutting all around. I strongly suggest leather gloves, as the key has to be held to cut. Gradually cut a little at a time all the way around. Once you get through the key ring eye, a small screwdriver can pry the body to help separate as cuts are made. Cut carefully in the middle, so the circuit board is not cut.



Figure 4 Separated key case

The key will separate as shown. The circuit board then comes out. I checked the battery with a multimeter for voltage and it was dead. We had previ-

Figure 5 Circuit board out, note 90 deg pin out

De-solder the two pins on the old battery. A small screw driver to apply pressure will help to pop them out.



Figure 6 De-solder old battery

Once the battery is out I cut the long lead and soldered it to the lead on the new battery to create the 90 degree configuration. When soldering to the battery don't overheat the battery, pry the tabs up so the heat is focused to the tab. This configuration can be found although the battery is slightly harder to find than the 180.

Next solder the new battery to the board. I use a soldering paste to clean the tip then add rosin core electrical solder only. It easily soldered to the board.



Figure 7 Test fit on circuit board

I test fit the clone case, and it did not fit so well or line up to the buttons so well. So decided to stay with the old one.



Figure 8 Battery installed

To make sure the key worked, a zip tie and some electrical tape tape in the middle held it together. Went to the car and tried it, it didn't work as it had to be programmed. The other key worked.



Figure 9 Temporary zip tie for programming

To program you need all the keys for your car. You cannot add a key, you have to program all the keys at one time. I read the system can support up to four (4) keys, but only have two (2) so cannot confirm this.

The procedure is:

1. Get in car doors shut.
2. Turn key on position 1 then off in less than 5 seconds.
3. Hold key in center of car above console and press lock button (center button) and hold.
4. Immediately press the unlock button (arrow button) three (3) times quickly. This process should be completed in about 20 seconds, 30 seconds maximum.
5. Release both buttons the general module should lock and unlock the doors if the program is successful.
6. Immediately repeat the steps 3 -5 for the next key.
7. Turn ignition on and off. To end the programming.
8. Test all keys.

If the procedure fails, the timing may be too slow. Also you can try starting with other key first. The timing has to be within range so too fast or too slow it will not work. The procedure can also be found on numerous forums, but there are slight variances. If it doesn't work also try starting with the other key first. Also try driving a little with the repaired key to charge.

My second try worked. Now both keys work.

Next bond the key back together. Since we cut the plastic away the key may be too tight, so it has to be built up a little with the glue. Make sure the buttons are not depressed from the case being too tight. The gel type super glue worked well (Figure 12).

The gel glue was applied and allowed to cure. The glue seemed strong enough but the key didn't look too good. I checked it again that it worked and let it cure a full day. Then I applied a bead of black silicone Permatex sealant to the edge. The excess on the key will come off and the sealant makes the key look much better.



Figure 10 Edge of key after silicone

The key is now completely functional. There are key repair businesses on the internet that will do this repair, but then you miss out on the DIY satisfaction.

These batteries can be expected to fail in 8 to 10 years. By rotating your keys or having different drivers use their own key, the life should be maximized.

Next one I do, I will use this battery, ML2020 from Amazon.



Figure 11 90 degree battery option



Figure 12 Tools needed

**If you have any questions?
Contact me at:**

**techadvisor@
houston-bmwcca.com**

Board Member Elections

Houston Chapter – BMW CCA 2017 Executive Committee Ballot

Please note there are 3 ways you may cast your ballot for the 2017 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

Chapter Treasurer:

Bill Krupowicz

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, 2017 TO BE CONSIDERED.

BMW CCA Membership Number

Without members stepping up to help out, this club doesn't function very well. If you have bookkeeping or secretarial skills and a little time to dedicate, please consider volunteering for these positions. Use the write-in ballot before January 10th, 2017 or send an email to president@houston-bmwcca.com to get the process started.

Houston Chapter – BMW CCA 2017 Executive Committee Ballot

Please note there are 3 ways you may cast your ballot for the 2017 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

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.

BMW CCA Membership Number

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 10, 2017 TO BE CONSIDERED.

BACK TO YOU LOOKING LIKE NEW

Metropolitan Collision & Service provides complete collision repair on all makes and models, foreign and domestic. They specialize in the repair of luxury automobiles such as Audi, BMW, Mercedes Benz, Porsche, VW, Lexus, Land Rover, Infinity as well as the more expensive SUVs. Metropolitan gets the collision repair job done right whether it is cosmetic, structural or mechanical and proudly warranties their work for the lifetime of the vehicle. Conveniently located minutes from downtown in the Heights, Metropolitan is easily accessible from any part of the greater Houston area.

With over 80 years of success in the Houston market, Metropolitan Collision is road tested and highly rated by thousands of satisfied customers.

The more you invest in a vehicle, the more important it is to deal with the best in collision repair...you can put your trust in Metropolitan Collision & Service.



METROPOLITAN
COLLISION & SERVICE

818 West 16th Street Houston, TX 77008 P 832.618.1700 F 832.618.1705

Metropolitancollision.com

TORQUE OF THE TOWN



Factory Trained Technicians
State Inspections
Window Tint
Paintless Dent Repair
Interior
Rock chip/Windshield Repair
Wheel and Rim Repair
EZ Car Care Ready
Early Bird/Late Night Drop-off

24hr Roadside Assistance
State of the Art Body Shop
Detail Service Staff on hand
Complimentary Car Wash
Coffee/Latte Machine
Comfortable Waiting Area and Cafe
Shuttle Service (15 mile Radius)
Cab Service and Towing Service
Loaner and Rental Car Service

Wi-Fi
Covered Service Drive
Valet Service
Retail Parts Boutique
Magazine/Newspaper
Online Appointments
Appointment Confirmation
Mobile Technician
Fastlane 2-Hour Service

\$17 Million New/CPO Inventory
Largest Parts Inventory in TX
72 Technicians
14 Service Advisors
Meal Vouchers
Computer Center
Service Clinics
New Car Clinics
BMW Certified Tire Center

**MOMENTUM BMW
SOUTHWEST**

10002 Southwest Fwy Houston, Texas 77074 1-800-731-8114