



JULY 2008

# Zündfolge

Official Publication of the BMW Car Club of America Puget Sound Region



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# ZÜNDFOLGE

July 2008

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## Postal Notice

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## Boilerplate

This magazine is the monthly publication of the BMW CCA, Puget Sound Region, and remains its property. All information furnished herein is provided by the membership for members only. Ideas, suggestions and opinions, technical or otherwise, are those of the authors, without authentication by or liability to the editors or the Club.

*Zündfolge design and layout by  
Paulette Eickman 206.283.1423.*

## Club Activities 3 Motorsports 7

## Live to Drive 13 Classified Marketplace 20

# KALENDER

**Club members are encouraged to submit articles for publication.**

### June 26

**Board Meeting:** starting time is 6:45 p.m. All members are welcome to attend. Contact the Club President to RSVP and for meeting location.

### July 1

**Deadline** for the August 2008 *Zündfolge* issue. All submissions must be received by this date. They may be sent to the *Zündfolge* Editor at [lucettalightfoot@msn.com](mailto:lucettalightfoot@msn.com).

### July 5-6

#### NW Historics at Pacific Raceways.

There are some spots open in the BMW corral as of the publication deadline. Contact Lucetta Lightfoot at [lucettalightfoot@msn.com](mailto:lucettalightfoot@msn.com) or 206-282-2641.

### July 13

**LeMay Car Museum Tour:** join fellow Club members on a tour of the amazing LeMay Car Collection ([www.lemaymuseum.org](http://www.lemaymuseum.org)). A collection of over 300 cars, trucks and motorcycles. Contact Mike Ellis at [ss337@comcast.net](mailto:ss337@comcast.net).

### July 27

**BMC CCA Puget Sound Region Annual Concours d'Elegance.** See article on page eight or contact Ken Hill at 425-785-4080 or [khill178@earthlink.net](mailto:khill178@earthlink.net).

### July 30

**Board Meeting:** starting time is 6:45 p.m. All members are welcome to attend. Contact the Club President to RSVP and for meeting location.

### August 5

**Deadline** for the September 2008 *Zündfolge* issue. All submissions must be received by this date. They may be sent to the *Zündfolge* Editor at [lucettalightfoot@msn.com](mailto:lucettalightfoot@msn.com).

### August 24

**M-Car Day:** 10:30 a.m. at Griot's Garage in Fife. See promo article in this *Zündfolge* issue.

### August 28

**Board Meeting:** starting time is 6:45 p.m. All members are welcome to attend. Contact the Club President to RSVP and for meeting location.

### September 2

**Deadline** for the October 2008 *Zündfolge* issue. All submissions must be received by this date. They may be sent to the *Zündfolge* Editor at [lucettalightfoot@msn.com](mailto:lucettalightfoot@msn.com).

### September 25

**Board Meeting:** starting time is 6:45 p.m. All members are welcome to attend. Contact the Club President to RSVP and for meeting location.

## FROM THE EDITOR

- All contributions and correspondence with the *Zündfolge* staff need to be sent to Lucetta Lightfoot, the *Zündfolge* editor, at [lucettalightfoot@msn.com](mailto:lucettalightfoot@msn.com). Submit all photos as 350dpi tifs at 100% size. Submit text display ads as 800dpi tifs. Items submitted for publication will not be returned.
- Contact Jim Millet at [jimngloriamillet@comcast.net](mailto:jimngloriamillet@comcast.net) for information about display ads.
- Send all address change notices to [bmwcclub@aol.com](mailto:bmwcclub@aol.com).
- The *Zündfolge* staff is always looking for volunteers. If you want to help contact the editor.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** Please limit phone calls to these volunteers to between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

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## M-Car Day

August 24

LAST YEAR'S M CAR DAY was a lot of fun, so we're doing it again! M Car Day will celebrate all of the wonderful BMW M Cars that have thrilled us over the years. Mark Sunday, August 24 for a very special day of camaraderie to celebrate all things rated M. Our hosts will be Griot's Garage in Fife with additional support from BMW Northwest.

Griot's Garage and BMW Northwest are picking up the tab for lunch, which will be a great barbeque! Yes—lunch will be FREE to each M Car owner in attendance and one guest! In order to qualify for the free lunch, we need your RSVP no later than Tuesday, August 19. An RSVP will allow us to provide the BBQ caterer an accurate number of meals to prepare. Additional lunches may be purchased by those that do not RSVP by the deadline or for any additional guests in tow.

When sending your RSVP, please provide me with your name, year and type of M Car, number of guests, and your city. You can RSVP to me at [Lance@Richertnet.com](mailto:Lance@Richertnet.com).

We'll park the M cars by E-chassis type, so owners can compare notes on

common issues and modifications. We'll also have a section for regular chassis that have had M Power engine transplants. Please plan to roll in between 10:30 a.m.–11 a.m. The BBQ lunch will be served around noon time. At 1:30 p.m., we'll have some special presentations and a raffle for some great prizes.

During the day, Griot's Garage will open their facility for special tech sessions on the care and feeding of your M Car. Also, be sure to try your hand at M Car related trivia by taking BMW Northwest's M Trivia Challenge. Highest score will be entitled to fame and fortune!

Griot's Garage will provide a free Car Care Product sample to all those attending plus there will be special discounts in their on-site store. Don't miss this fun and informative day for M Cars!

Club members without an M Car are also welcome to attend the event to enjoy the day. There will be additional parking for non-M BMWs.

This event is free. For planning purposes, please RSVP by email.

*Lance Richert, '88 M3*

*[Lance@Richertnet.com](mailto:Lance@Richertnet.com), 425-443-2188*



Photo by Jason Tang.



### ON THE COVER

This month's cover features the BMW Z4 roadster. See the article starting on page eight for more pictures of BMW convertibles which will be featured at this year's Concours d'Elegance.

Photo by BMW Press.





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## Night at the Drags

August 13

### Your Chance to "See What She'll Run"

THANKS TO CLUB MEMBER Doug Mill and his generous donations at the banquet the past few years, the BMW Club Night at the Drags has become a regular hit. Doug's roller-cammed, stroker small block-powered shoe box is capable of high eleven second quarter-miles with the master behind the wheel.

Come out and bring your BMW and join us for an evening of drag racing Wednesday, August 13. We'll be setting aside some space in the pits for Club members to meet up, hang out in and remove all of their belongings from their cars.

Although going fast in a straight line seems easy, most of the BMW faithful needed a bit of practice before we could achieve a respectable ET as drag racing proved to be harder than it looked. By the end of the night we started to turn in some decent times. (The trick is to leave on the last yellow light.)

The mix of cars keeps getting better and better each year. Last year brought out an E60 M5, an E39 Dinan S3 M5, M Roadsters, M3s, 540s and even BMW motorcycles. What will this year look like? Yours truly will certainly bring out our E90 M3 for a few runs. What will you bring?

Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, sixty-four funny cars (or funny people trying to drag race road cars). RSVP to [jeff@hauryscollision.com](mailto:jeff@hauryscollision.com). See you there.

*Jeff Butler, Tech Events Coordinator*

## Return to Renton July 6

THIS YEAR'S SHOW will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 6 in downtown Renton. All proceeds benefit Renton Police Department Youth Education Programs. The headquarters will be at Piazza Park, on the corner of South 3rd Street and Burnett Avenue South in downtown Renton. There will be car, truck, motorcycle and "fun" trophy categories, vendor displays and sales, activities for kids, a variety of family entertainment and an art show presented by Arts Unlimited. Downtown Renton businesses will be open, and some will be offering car show specials. It will be a great time for a great cause.

We appreciate your support of Youth Education Programs and look forward to seeing you there!

Visit [www.gorenton.com/carshow.htm](http://www.gorenton.com/carshow.htm). If you have questions call 425-430-7589 or email [Return\\_to\\_Renton@yahoo.com](mailto:Return_to_Renton@yahoo.com).

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# Northwest European Autoworks "Sunday at the Depot" Car Show

WE HAD A FANTASTIC TURNOUT last summer at our first annual "Sunday at the Depot" European car show at Bellingham's historic Depot Market Square, and we're continuing the tradition on August 10th this year. We are encouraging as many vintage or unique-car owners to contact the shop by phone or email ASAP in order to reserve a spot for your European car!

We need to add names to our list of exhibitors for the upcoming event so we can send out all the information needed to enter. We would also like to spread the word to European car owners in the area who may not be a member of the BMW CCA but who have a vintage or unique car and would

like to be involved, or maybe even become a BMW CCA member as well! Last year we had eighty cars registered at the event and approximately 2,000 people walk through; it is bound to be an even larger event this year with the level of enthusiasm we received after last year's exhibit.

For photos from last year please visit our website at [www.nweuropeanautoworks.com](http://www.nweuropeanautoworks.com). If you're interested in participating in the event contact us at 360-715-3876 or [info@nweuropeanautoworks.com](mailto:info@nweuropeanautoworks.com). Thanks!

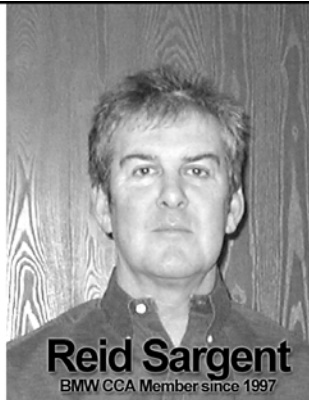
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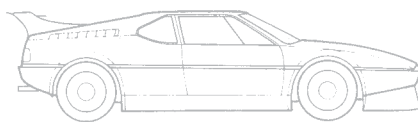
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# MOTOR SPORTS



AFTER A TWO-MONTH HIATUS with no track events, we've got one coming right up on July 11, followed by one on September 25. That will be it for our 2008 season. Make sure you register now for one or both. July 11 is a Friday, exactly a week after Independence Day. Come drive the same track the historic cars ran on the week before. The weather is sure to be great; remember summer starts around here on July 5! September 25 is a Thursday and also likely to be comfortable weather-wise. On both these dates we will have a Car Control Clinic (CCC) on the paved area in the paddock and a High Performance Driving School (HPDS) on the track. Make sure you register for the right event at [www.MotorsportsReg.com](http://www.MotorsportsReg.com).

The CCC is the right event if you've never been at the track before. At the CCC you'll get the basics through a short classroom session. Then you'll do successive in-car drills: slalom, emergency braking, collision avoidance, skid pad and autocross. You'll also have an opportunity to (slowly) drive the big track. At the end of the day, you'll have the opportunity to ride with instructors for not-so-slow laps of the big track. Attending a CCC is a prerequisite to attend a HPDS.

**At the end of the day, you'll have the opportunity to ride with instructors for not-so-slow laps of the big track.**

The HPDS will be our usual format. We'll run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be four run groups: D for the newbies, C for the not so newbies, B for the fairly experienced and A for the lunatics. Chief Driving Instructor Karl Seeger and Registrar Eric Bitte will do the group assignments. Each group will get four sessions, barring unforeseen circumstances.

The fees for these events have gone up. They are still a bargain compared to other parts of the country. But our costs have gone up. CCC is \$95 and HPDS is \$235. Get in while the getting is good. The prices will go up more next year.

## Reminders

Convertibles are allowed for the CCC but not for the HPDS. Certified helmets are not required for the CCC but are mandatory for the HPDS. For riding along with instructors on the big track, you will need a helmet but we have loaners. You must have a tech inspection of your car before coming out to either of these events. The form can be downloaded from the Club website at [www.bmwpugetsound.com](http://www.bmwpugetsound.com).

As a reminder, the only way to register for these events is online at [www.MotorsportsReg.com](http://www.MotorsportsReg.com). You'll need to set up an account to register.

## Bigger Picture

If you haven't tried this sport, why not? Have you gotten the most out of your Ultimate Driving Machine? Really, come on out and have some fun with us.

*David Lightfoot*

*Driving Events Coordinator  
dec@bmwpugetsound.com*



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## 2008 Driving Events Calendar

### BMW CCA PSR Events

#### July

**11** Driving School at Pacific Raceways

#### September

**25** Driving School at Pacific Raceways

### Other Events Open to CCA Drivers

#### July

**10** Corvette Club School at Pacific Raceways

**18** BSCC Lapping Day in Bremerton

**22** BMW CCBC School at Mission

**23** ALFA School at Pacific Raceways

**26** PCA Skills Day in Bremerton

**26-27** Inland Empire Chapter School in Spokane

**31** PCA School at Pacific Raceways

#### August

**21** ALFA Lapping Day in Bremerton

**25** BMW ACA School in Portland

**29** BSCC Lapping Day in Bremerton

**30** PCA Skills Day in Bremerton

#### September

**11** ALFA school at Pacific Raceways

**21** BMW CCBC Car Control Clinic at Pitt Meadows

**22** BMW ACA school in Portland

#### October

**10** BSCC Lapping Day in Bremerton

**10** PCA school at Pacific Raceways

**11-12** Inland Empire Chapter school in Spokane

**13** BMW CCBC school in Portland

**18** PCA Skills Day in Bremerton

**25** ALFA Lapping Day in Bremerton

**26** BMW CCBC car control clinic at Pitt Meadows

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#### BMW Car Club of BC

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#### Bremerton Sports Car Club

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#### NW Alfa Club

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#### Porsche Club

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# Come and Celebrate Summer at the Concours d'Elegance

July 27

*Sunday, July 27, 2008  
Cedar River Park, Renton  
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THIS IS YOUR LAST MAGAZINE NOTICE that on Sunday, July 27 is our annual Concours d'Elegance in cooperation with the IKEA-sponsored Renton River Days. This year the featured car is the convertible, and we will hopefully be taking full advantage of global warming by enjoying the day of unadulterated sunshine in the park. If you live here in the NW and own a BMW cabriolet or roadster, you owe it to yourself and other sun-worshipping optimists to bring it out and show it off!

This is a special day for Club members to come together and enjoy each other's company as well as display their BMWs at their very best. There will be two classes you can choose from for your BMW: a Judged class, with beautiful trophies awarded to the winners, and a non-competitive Display class, where you can roll your BMW out without being judged.

Not sure if you are up for having your BMW judged? We judge only on cleanliness, and not on originality. The judging forms can be reviewed on the Club's web site. You must be a member of the BMW CCA, BMW ACA or Canadian BMW CCBC to participate in the judged classes.

Cars are judged in three major areas: Exterior, Interior (including trunk) and Engine Bay. The underside of the car is not judged. A three-member team judges each class. The judge's individual results are then totaled to determine a score. This process is designed to be as fair and objective as possible. For class competition we have re-instituted bonus points for mileage, which evens out the competition for high versus low mileage cars. The top BMWs from each class are lined up for a final review by a three-judge team to determine Best in Show. Previous scores are not considered as the judges choose the cleanest, most dazzling BMW on the lawn.

Come see the history and beauty that make up BMW's heritage. This event

always is very popular, with 300-400 people in attendance. We anticipate close to 200 BMWs on display, spanning seven decades. Be sure to be part of this exciting day.

Remember, the judged classes are based on car cleanliness, not on originality. And even if you don't want the car judged, bring it out just for display. Let's fill the Renton lawn with top-down beauties! The costs of participating are low, and can be found on the adjoining registration form.

Special thanks go to our sponsors: primary sponsor BMW Seattle for again helping with our trophies and great raffle prizes, and Griot's Garage as the official Car Care Sponsor. Both organizations have a long history of sponsoring this Club and our events. Please take the time to thank them and let them know their support is greatly appreciated.

We are still looking for volunteers as well. If you have judged before, or would like to learn how, contact me and we will get you started. We also need people to help with other activities like

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registration, parking, etc. Even if you can only help for part of the day please let me know and we'll find a task suited to your availability. Call me at 425-785-4080 in the evenings, or by email at [khill178@earthlink.net](mailto:khill178@earthlink.net).

And as previously mentioned, we have 3Bs BBQ coming back and serving lunch again this year. They have a great lunch menu to choose from and will be conveniently located near the event. Other food vendors will be available as well for River Days, and can be found along the other side of I-405. Bring a little cash and come hungry. Additionally there also will be events designed for the kids like a coloring activity and pony rides. Bring the whole family and your sunscreen, there will be something for everyone to do and enjoy! *Ken Hill*

### Children's Activities

We will have a special tent with activities for kids including a coloring table, and we've been told the pony rides will be back this year, and located near by. Renton River Days will have many other activities for kids as well, all within a very short walk or stroller ride.

### Volunteers Needed!

This event requires many volunteers to spend part of the day helping make the event a success. We need people to help judge cars, help with check in, coordinate parking the cars, helping in the children's tent, etc. If you would like to help, contact event coordinator Ken Hill at 425-785-4080 or [khill178@earthlink.net](mailto:khill178@earthlink.net).

## Why Drive a Convertible?

WHAT'S BEHIND THE APPEAL of an automobile with a removable roof? Performance? Style? Adventure?

It can't be based on absolute performance, since an open car usually weighs more and handles worse than the equivalent hardtop coupe.

According to Bill Vance's "The history of the convertible," the open car "was seen as more dashing, adventurous, and sporty, which is why convertibles are more valuable as collectibles."

BMW conducted extensive market research prior to launching the Z3 roadster. They interviewed people from many stages of life, looking for what attracted people to roadsters. What they found in common across these diverse demographic groups was a "lover of life" mindset and a propensity to seek unique expressions of individuality.

Bill Vance goes on to define a convertible as "a car with a folding top and wind-up windows. An open car with side curtains rather than wind-up windows is a roadster or touring." (Of course, the Z3 and Z4 roadsters with wind-up windows make this distinction a little fuzzy.) "Other names have also been applied to convertibles, such as phaeton and cabriolet, the latter being favoured in Europe. But in North America the term convertible is most universally recognized."

BMW convertible, cabriolet and roadster drivers are not only lovers of life, but also lovers of "sheer driving pleasure!"

*Eric Meislahn*

### Schedule

- 9:30 a.m.** Begin check in and parking of Judged and Display BMWs
- 11 a.m.** All Judged and Display BMWs checked in
- 11:30 a.m.** Judging begins, hands off all Judged BMWs  
Activities for children  
Griot's Garage detailing demonstrations
- 2-3 p.m.** Awards and door prizes (time approximate)

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BMW Year/Model: \_\_\_\_\_ License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Features: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer at the BMW tent? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Display Class, nonmember \$30 (\$40 after 7/23)

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**If paying by check make checks payable to BMW CCA Puget Sound Region. Send registration to Ken Hill, Concours, 20303-166th Ave NE, Woodinville, WA 98072.**





# BMW Convertibles

Photo by Cleve Collinsworth.



Photo by Jason Tang.



Photo by Mike Ellis.



Photo by Jason Tang.



Photo by BMW Press.



Photo by Jason Tang.



Photo by Scott Hieronymus.





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Photo by Jason Tang.



# BMW Ultimate Clean Car Contest!

August 15

The new location for Concorso Italiano (CI) will be at the Marina, California airport, just north of Monterey. It will be held on Friday, August 15, 2008. Spokespeople from Seattle-based CI have promised a concours-spec site with all the features and attractions spectators and participants have come to expect. The City of Marina will likely help with the transformation of the site into a world-class stage.

As an additional feature this year, there are plans to include vintage WWII aircraft as static displays amongst the cars. Food vendors and the vast armada of specialty auto accessory 'tents' will be there as before.

Again this year, the BMW CCA Central California Chapter has had the task of parking the many non-Italian

cars attending CI in the non-Italian corral.

On that note, this year's attendees will also include some 45 vintage and classic BMWs, including a number of pre-war models. Many of these will begin a two-week California Marathon tour, using Concorso Italiano and the Monterey weekend as the starting point. Several vintage motorcycles, a half dozen Z1s, pre-war 328s and a mix of 502s and 507s among others will highlight the show.

The BMW corral at Concorso is also the site of our annual Ultimate Clean Car Contest. Cars will be judged in three classes: Clean Class (exterior only), Super-Clean Class (exterior, interior and engine compartment) and Concours Class (everything); plus "Max," our best of show trophy. We also have special

awards for longest owned, highest mileage and furthest driven. There will be special awards and recognition as well for the vintage participants.

There is no charge to enter the clean car contest, however, you must purchase your corral pass from Concorso to gain entry into the non-Italian corral. Go to [www.concorso.com](http://www.concorso.com) to register for the 'non-Italian corral,' then follow the

"Ultimate Clean Car Contest Registration" link ([www.cccbwmcca.org](http://www.cccbwmcca.org)) to enter the clean car contest. Pre-registration is appreciated. For additional information, contact Wayne Wundram at 559-734-3298 or [bmwayne@aol.com](mailto:bmwayne@aol.com).

This event is part of the CCA's regional and Golden Gate Chapter's Festorics weekend. See you there!

Wayne Wundram

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### Good On Ya

RECENTLY I NOTICED an older Nissan in the parking lot of my local stop-and-rob. It had some really nice looking wheels. "Nice wheels," I said to the owner. "Nice car," he replied back, referring to my '87 535is.

This young man was probably nineteen or twenty years old, with questionable taste in cars. We stood in the parking lot just chatting for twenty minutes about BMW issues. The topic of conversation was a friend of his that "owns an '89 E30."

I couldn't believe what I was hearing! This young man just said "E30." He went on to say that he and his friend had removed the manual transmission from a 325e E30 and transplanted it into his friend's 325i E30. They have several issues concerning wiring harnesses and even wiring harnesses catching on fire and have yet to work out all the bugs.

He also said they had identified an M50 motor from an E36 and were contemplating stuffing it into the E30. I heard that, he said it again, he said "E36!" Now why is this significant? This is a young man, a car freak, an enthusiast, admittedly driving a tricked-out Nissan (that he has spent months on), and is now neck-deep in an older BMW. This young man and his friend are taking the time to learn the nuances and even nomenclature of their new-found quarry. Some may say this kind of Frankenstein mechanizer is undercutting pure breed cars, to which I reply, "Claptrap!"

The younger enthusiast crowd is generally into Japanese cars, not that there is anything wrong with that. I like to see people enthusiastic about any automobile although obviously I have a slant towards BMW. I was not always that way. When I was a young man I was a Mopar freak, a complete fool for all things Chrysler. I am sure many older BMW fanatics come from Chevy, Ford and Detroit-iron families of some kind.

So why I am excited and pleased to see young enthusiasts getting into older BMWs? Because they are finding out what we have ultimately found out.

They're finding about the handling and smoothness that comes when you get behind the wheel of any BMW. They're finding out what it is to love and caress their passion. What it's like, to not only have speed and agility, but to also carve canyons and straighten out curves.

These days it seems anyone can trick out a Honda or pimp out an Acura, but some of these guys are really perceptive about creating a machine that not only looks good but also tears up the asphalt with distinction. This is exactly what we need in our clubs, an injection of new blood, young blood. Individuals who will pick up the torch and run with it while keeping their flames lit.

I am sure there were people in the '50s who thought ripping the fenders off old cars and trucks was a bad idea as well, but just look at the Rat Rod industry today. It does this old enthusiasts heart good to see the next generation thinking outside the box and creating, nay, breathing new life into an old design.

I say good on ya! The fusion of old and new is what keeps the old enthusiast young. Always encourage those who are kindling new dreams or embracing old beliefs in new ideas.

Dave Cook

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# Richard Griot's Garage

Wow! WHAT A GARAGE. I am writing about the Club's event on May 3 when fifty Club members were given the opportunity to visit Richard's personal ultimate garage.

What Griot's sells in their retail store and catalogue was present throughout the garage; work benches, storage shelves, cabinets for tools, complete electric grid throughout the garage, plenty of lights from the outside and artificial light at the ceiling. Lighting at the floor under the lift along with task lighting and over 300 foot candles of light above a Mustang being prepared for a new supercharger. Of course the garage was insulated and a climate control system was in place with several ceiling fans to distribute the heat in the winter and in the summer they keep the cool air flowing. The garage also had a central vacuum system with quartz floor

tiles. The floor was over seven years old and looked like it was brand new. In the background you hear the sounds of FI running through its gears on a track most likely somewhere in Europe.

This was a once in a lifetime experience. I hope the few pictures included in the *Zündfolge* explain how well

Richard's garage was planned and laid out.

Thanks again to Richard Griot, Jason Mathews and all the crew from Griot's for being such generous hosts and dedicated BMW Club supporters.

*Rick Gulstrom  
Vice President*



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## BMW Seattle Technical Review

**BMW Seattle Technical review and test drive of the new 135i, M3 Sedan and Coupe and X6 was a great success.**

SUNDAY, MAY 18 was the BMW Seattle exclusive event for the Club. Fifty plus members came out to experience the featured rollout of the 135i, M3 and X6.

BMW Seattle staff made Club members feel welcome. They set aside the entire service department for us to view the new cars and had several BMW factory trained-technicians on hand to discuss the technical aspects of the new cars and answer questions. A large spread of food and beverages graced the show room floor. Service manager Shannon Travis and Parts Manager Dan Hamilton were on hand to help facilitate the event as were a number of staffers. Many big smiles were witnessed as members enjoyed their turn at the wheel of BMW's latest and greatest. Any guesses what the favorite car was?

Izzy with Dinan Engineering discussed Dinan's new upgrades for the 335i as well as some other models. BMW had a Dinan modified 335i on display as well. Software and intercooler upgrades put this car at 398 hp and some 428 lb-ft of torque. All this with a warranty to boot!

Many thanks to BMW Seattle for a great event. To see pictures of their new facility currently under construction, check out the display in their service department. For more information about BMW Seattle, go to [www.bmwseattle.com](http://www.bmwseattle.com).

*Jeff Butler, Tech Events Coordinator*

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# The PRO3 Line

## The Point-by

“How much will a tenth cost *you*?”

Racing is expensive. I sure wish someone had told me that before I started this little endeavor called PRO3! “Affordable,” they said. “Relatively reasonable,” they said. Racing is very similar to boating or flying: the cheapest part is buying the racecar! After that, you have all the extra expenses that go along with it. So why do it? Oh, the reasons are multiple and there is not nearly enough room here to properly describe “why.” Just ask any of our recent Novice racers-turned PRO3 racers. It’s addictive.

**Racing is very similar to boating or flying: the cheapest part is buying the racecar!**

So now that I am past ‘go’ and ‘no u-turn’ here, I have to look far forward—beyond the taillights in front of me and into the next corner. What’s the next step? Finding seconds, of course. Yes sir, it is a veritable scavenger hunt of sorts each race weekend! Every corner, every braking zone, even the shift points hide seconds or portions thereof. (My opinion: there’s little corner Gnomes lurking in the bushes throwing additional time at me.)

At some point though, we reach the car’s maximum ability to go fast (throw more speed parts at it) or we reach the pinnacle of the driver’s ability to push the car faster. In this case, the fix is more complicated than a quick visit to the E30 aftermarket drug ... I mean, “parts” dealer. In order to find those tenths of a second, a driver must look to another source for speed: the driver coach. Sound crazy? Not really when you think about it. Every (and I mean, EVERY) sport has coaching.

Recently, the PRO3 group had the unique opportunity to take part in a private classroom session taught by Ross Bentley using his “Speed Secrets” curriculum. Just prior to the start of the season, about thirty drivers and crew members assembled on Easter Weekend to learn from the teachings of Ross.

**Now that I think about it, if an outsider were to observe the customs of this PRO3 group, I suspect the resulting media attention would be similar to any number of the recent cult investigations.**

Now that I think about it, if an outsider were to observe the customs of this PRO3 group, I suspect the resulting media attention would be similar to any number of the recent cult investigations (mostly in Texas; go figure). We practiced strange exercises including such tools as beads on a string, watching our thumbs, and leaning on our neighbors. Then there was the incident involving two drivers, blind folds, ski gloves and ladies’ nylons. Yep, I still have that image burned into my brain and no amount of therapy is going to help! I will leave it at that.

From the classroom session, the group was given the opportunity to use those skills on-track during a later driving session at Pacific Raceways. A joint coaching session between Ross Bentley and Michael Lord proved to be very beneficial to all who attended—all the more because of the wet conditions. Racing in the rain is a rather intimidating experience: wet pavement, little traction, low to no visibility, and high speeds. It’s a recipe for incidents, collisions, and carnage. The full day of coaching allowed the participants to practice different lines, different corner approaches, and overall different race craft techniques.

I had the misfortune of missing the second of these two sessions and I am afraid that I may have lost whatever slim rain advantage I had in the rain amongst my PRO3 brethren. However I see this as a very good thing. After all, better racers mean safer racers (in general) and one thing that makes PRO3 so great is that as a group, the racers are concerned with their safety and the safety of their competition. It is through the participation (read, “entry fees”)

of these individuals in special coaching sessions that improves not just the individual racer, but the class as a whole.

Believe me, none of this was free. Coaching costs money. Driving the race car on a practice day costs money. Time is money. There are other costs to that tenth of second as well. Just ask Stephanie Richert, fifty-percent of team Grocery-Getter Richert. She paid with flesh—literally! Stephanie suffered second degree burns to her right ankle while on pre-grid waiting for the session start. The heater core inside the car failed (a known weak point in the E30) and dumped 190+ degree water on her. That’s cause for reflection on just how much that tenth is worth.

Well, it must be worth a lot, because I know Steph is right back in the car and ready to hit the track for more practice and racing. (Side note: Steph was more irritated that she missed her session on track than she was about the injury!)

Truthfully, each of us knows the real cost of going faster. We know how much it costs to campaign these cars, and yet, we still strive to find those tenths. That’s the human spirit, there. Guts and glory, my friends! Guts and glory.

**That’s the human spirit, there. Guts and glory, my friends!**

On a business note, our very own Car Tender has once again agreed to be the headline sponsor for the August 2/3 IC-SCC race at Pacific Raceways in Kent. There promises to be a slew of BMWs in attendance, including 24+ PRO3 cars slated to take the green flag. As an additional incentive, come on out Saturday afternoon to watch a special PRO3/Spec Miata combined race. This proves to be a rather interesting event as there are no championship points at stake and that allows this crazy bunch of racer-monkeys to shake things up a bit and do something different. (Hint: one suggestion was to run the course in reverse ...)

We’ll see you at the track!

*Michael Olsen drives the Spirit Halloween Superstores Pro-3 car #130  
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# The 2008 Tri-Cities BMW Wine Tour

THIRTY-FOUR CARS and roughly sixty-five attendees participated in the 2008 Tri-Cities BMW wine tour. The weather cooperated, maybe a bit too much for most, as temperatures reached triple digits on Saturday, with Sunday only a few degrees cooler. Saturday morning started as planned and we left Issaquah right on time. The drive east took us over Snoqualmie Pass due to the massive amount of winter snow preventing other passes from opening until later in the season, but the scenery was intriguing nonetheless. Twenty foot snow banks and a ski resort still open in mid-May was a stark contrast to the desert destination we would find in the Yakima Valley.

After an important stop in Cle Elum for restrooms, gas and socializing, we were back on I-90 until Ellensburg, when a detour through the Yakima River Canyon let us enjoy twists and turns away from the interstate.

Using Scott Heironymus' spot-on driving directions, we successfully arrived at the Silver Lake Winery in Zillah to taste wine and enjoy our picnic lunches on the beautiful winery grounds. Unfortunately the stay was cut short by a freak water



Photo by Doug Hawkins.



Photo by Steve Plusch.

supply issue at the winery which prevented the bathrooms from operating. After a rushed driver's meeting, the cars were broken up into smaller groups to begin an organized winery loop route through the city of Prosser, thirty miles to the east.

As the groups arrived at the Prosser wineries, we quickly noticed that our BMW Club was not the only car club to organize a wine tour to the Yakima Valley on the same weekend. We were met by a horde of Mini

Coopers (one of the Mini drivers said 60+ cars) who had planned a similar event on the same weekend. Not stopping there, the Puget Sound Porsche Club also had a weekend wine tour. It was a combination of fun and frustration as we tried to jointly visit wineries without overburdening the winery staff, something I planned for myself with the smaller groups for our club. Apparently the Mini organizers did not take the same steps.

Fortunately every group was able to find a "Mini free" stop at some point during the day and enjoy the Prosser wines. The other challenge everyone faced was where to store wine purchased throughout the day with car interior temperatures reaching 130+ degrees. Keep this in mind if you ever travel through wine country on a hot day. A cooler is required!

Dinner on Saturday night was an informal event to give attendees a choice between a number of great Richland restaurants. Some groups ate at a local Mexican restaurant, 3 Margaritas, while some of us dined at Katya's Bistro and others at Anthony's Homeport. It was long, hot day for everyone which officially wrapped up after dinner, leaving us to enjoy the beauty of the Columbia River as the sun set.

Sunday morning began for most with a stroll along the river's walking path and breakfast at the hotel or a nearby restaurant. We gathered at 10:15am for another short driver's meeting to get us to our group stop of the day, Goose Ridge Estates. Once there, we met our Goose Ridge host, Steven Womack, who walked us into the vineyards and gave a very informative "Wine 101"

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Photo taken with Steve Plusch's camera.



Photo by Dane Martin.

talk. He focussed on the Goose Ridge vineyards and how Eastern Washington, and specifically Goose Ridge, are in the ideal geography for growing world class grapes. After the tour and a Q&A session, he opened up two tasting rooms to give everyone a chance to try their fantastic wines, including my favorite, the Syrah Reserve. Steven was a wonderful host and I know quite a few people thanked him verbally and indirectly

through wine purchases and wine club memberships.

With so many people on different schedules to return home, the group split up from Goose Ridge with maps in hand, headed for another great wine destination. Benton City, home to the Red Mountain AVA, produces some of the best grapes and wines in the state, and arguably the world. The Benton City wineries also have some pretty amazing facilities. It's almost impossible to not find

a great patio, deck or plush grass lawn at any stop. This is the place to enjoy the wines, the valley scenery and the relaxing atmosphere that Benton City has to offer. I received feedback from attendees about wonderful visits to Fidelitas, Hedges, Kiona, Chandler's Reach, Tapteil, Sandhill and more.

With the afternoon disappearing faster than anyone would've liked, we migrated west (with a few going other directions) with some folks

stopping at wineries not on our tour maps, some eating a mid-afternoon meal and everyone heading home. It was an action packed weekend that I hope everyone enjoyed, and the feedback I've received suggests that it was a successful event. Scott H. provided the idea and the motivation for me to co-organize the weekend with him. I truly enjoyed it and hope to be announcing another wine country tour in 2009.

*Dane Martin*

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## BMWs for Sale

**2003 Z4 Roadster 2.5L:** only 4,000 miles, five-speed stick, metallic bronze with gray-black top, pristine condition, always garaged, only BMW serviced. Asking \$29,000 obo. Email alex@techlaw.com or call Alex Johnson at 503-222-3613 day or 503-297-5414 evening. (Portland, OR)

**1997 Z3 Convertible:** 1.9L 4-cyl eng with five-speed manual transmission. Bright red exterior, black roof, and tan/black leather interior. One owner, always garaged, well maintained, non-smoker. Runs great, looks great. A/C, heated seats/mirrors, cruise control, 16" alloy wheels, airbags, ABS brakes, fog lights, power steering, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, power seats, digital clock, AM-FM Stereo, performance tires, 88,800 miles. \$9,995. Contact Tracy Meyer at zags40@comcast.net or 503-998-4397 (Portland OR).

**1989 535i:** Third Owner. Red ext. Black int. All factory options including leather, power everything, air bags, ABS, separate driver/passenger heater control, am/fm cassette six disc changer, sunroof, trip temp date miles computer. Rare-five speed with limited slip differential. BMW Dealer installed options include: Dinan chip, Dinan exhaust, K&N intake, Dinan & Racing Dynamics suspension, Racing Dynamics strut brace. Other accessories include: cross drilled rotors, MK wheels and new BFG Comp T/A HR4 tires. Synthetic fluids used since new, well cared for. \$6,750. Contact David Antonacci at davidantonacci@comcast.net or 206-235-6013.

**1988 M6 Coupe:** Stunning black with gray leather, 47,000 miles, excellent condition. Upgrades include Dinan chip, K&N filter, BMW 740 wheels & tires, RD Stage 1 suspension, RD strut tower brace, Sony CD, Clifford alarm with remote locking, car cover, seat vests & bra. Major tune-up including new filters, fluids, ignition wires belts & battery. \$32,500. Contact John Walsh at 253-279-1112 or email johnwalsh@nventure.com, pictures available on request. There are not many of these rare beauties left with such low mileage.

**1988 535i:** Five-speed, 216,000 miles, strong engine and transmission, straight body, clean interior, dash has several cracks. \$2,700 obo. Contact Fred at 360-466-4584 or fred633@verizon.net. (La Conner)

**1984 633CSi:** Original Owner. Bahama Beige/Nutria, with manual transmission and 61,500 miles. All factory options including leather interior, sun roof, power brakes, power steering, Blaupunkt Radio/Cassette, original alloys, excellent tires including spare, tool kit, owner's manual, tuned, no accidents, paint, exterior, and interior excellent. Always garaged in humidity controlled atmosphere, originally inland N. CA car, highly maintained. Owner Concours nut in other marques. Driven sparingly to events for last eleven years. \$9,000. Call 206-849-6511 or email pnrisinger@aol.com.

## CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE

### Parts for Sale

**1987 635 csi new parts:** two new tie rod assemblies, center tie rod, two link rods, coolant hose, idler arm, thermostat, coolant value sensor, V-belt, plus original owner's manual. \$175 cash. Please contact Lester at 360-750-8008 or cell 360-253-0528. (Vancouver, WA)

**BMW Windscreen for 3 series convertibles:** Can be used in years 2000 to 2006. Excellent condition, with carrying case. \$450 new; will sell for \$150 obo. Call Bill at 206-842-2832.

**E24/E28 4HP22 automatic transmission:** in excellent condition. Flywheel, torque converter, bellhousing, dipstick tube, new dip stick included. New trans filter, Redline ATF. Cleaned and ready to install. Excellent condition. \$125. Contact Jon Ackermann at 425-829-4175.

**E24/E28 drive line for an automatic:** in excellent condition. New center bearing/rubber mount. All u-joints in excellent condition. \$75. Contact Jon Ackermann at 425-829-4175.

**E24/E28 Black leather automatic shift console:** Excellent condition. \$25. Contact Jon Ackermann at 425-829-4175.

**Wheels and Tires:** Set of four 18" staggered M spoke wheels with brand new Toyo RA-1 tires. Set has ZERO miles and would make a perfect set of track day alternates. Balanced and ready to GO! Asking \$1,850 obo. You save nearly \$1,000! Need them out of the garage. Also have springs, sway bars, struts/shocks, calipers and rotors all with less than 4,100 miles on them for sale. This is NOT off of a wrecked M3. Other misc parts as well. Located in SW Portland. Email at aphambleton@yahoo.com or call 503-452-3104.

**Wheels and Tires:** OZ Superleggera 18x8 & 18x10 anthracite forged wheels with polished lip and Bridgestone RE050A Pole Position tires for E46 M3. Never tracked, less than 10,000 miles and in very good condition. Pictures upon request. \$2,200. Contact Brian at bttip@comcast.net.

**Rubber mats and rear cargo liner:** Black OEM front and rear rubber mats and fitted rear cargo liner to fit 2001-2006 325i wagon. Good condition, new \$180, yours only \$70. Contact seller via email at dave@tech-esq.com.

**Five 17" Staggered Style 32 BMW Wheels:** from a 2001 540ia Sport. Four wheels have been professionally refinished (clear finish) and the fifth wheel (bright finish) is for a spare. The four staggered wheels are in excellent condition and the fifth wheel (spare) is in perfect condition. These wheels have been stored since early 2001. \$700 obo. Please contact Tom at 253-468-6050 or tdfarel@aol.com.

**Four OEM Rotors from (E39) 2001 540ia Sport:** Four OEM rotors from our previous 2001 540ia Sport. All rotors have 7,000 miles of wear and were replaced by cross-drilled rotors. \$300 obo. Please contact Tom at 253-468-6050 or tdfarel@aol.com.

**E28 front seats:** Pearl Beige comfort seats, excellent condition, no rips. Head rest adjustment does not work. \$300 obo. Call 253-653-7998 or email for pictures: dominik@kester.to.

### Miscellaneous

**Puget Sound Region Club logo shirts for sale:** Adult sizes. Short and long sleeve T-shirts in white and light grey, grey sweatshirts, and beautiful embroidered Land's End collared shirts available. Contact Lance Richert for details and pricing at Lance@Richertnet.com.

### DEADLINES

**July 1: August Issue**  
**August 5: September Issue**  
**Sept. 2: October Issue**

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