

Gemütlichkeit



Winter 2017

BMW Car Club
of America
Old Hickory Chapter





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Spring is fast approaching. As many of you know I have been into BMWs since the late '70s, long before I could afford one. My other automotive mistress is Porsche, and in a sure sign that spring is approaching, I just returned from the L.A. Lit Meet, *the* event for Porsche lovers, held in Los Angeles every year the first weekend of March. If your calendar is like mine, this means you rush home and head the next weekend to Amelia Island, Florida for the Amelia Island Concours. By the time both of these events are over, it's time to start cutting the grass – spring is but a few days away from being officially here.

Lest I forget, Cars & Coffee started back on March 4th. You can now get your fill of both cars and coffee each Saturday morning at this weekly gathering of all things automotive. If you haven't been, you need to check it out. All you need to know is that if you haven't been, go any Saturday other than the first Saturday of the month. If you've been before, but haven't been on a first Saturday, you are in for treat. Either way, you owe it to yourself to get up and get out to our Nashville Cars & Coffee; it's a premier event.

Many of you know that we are lucky enough to have a German Cars & Coffee event in the area as well. This happens three times a year and is a private event that takes place at the Factory in Franklin. Started by our own Mike Gillespie, this event now has been taken over by the Trilateral Commission, that being our Old Hickory BMW CCA Chapter, the Musik Stadt Chapter of the Porsche Club of America, and the Nashville Chapter of the Mercedes-Benz Club. Each of the local clubs will be sponsoring one of the three meetings at the Factory.

This is a great event to attend because it is limited to just German cars and their owners, and is not open to the public. Since you are a club member you are invited to come and display, or just come and look. You will find a great selection of BMWs, Mercedes, Porsches, VWs, and Audis. If you love German cars, or just cars but in a less crowded surroundings, then join us on April 29th, starting at 9:00 for our first of three German Cars and Coffee events. This first one is sponsored by Musik Stadt Porsche Club.

If this isn't enough to keep you busy, don't forget to check out our club website. We have our monthly dinner meeting the second Thursday of each month at 6:30. The website always list the location as it floats around Nashville, and you should be getting reminders, so check your spam folder. Also our monthly driving activities are listed on the website as well as in our reminders.

With spring nearly here, summer is fast approaching too. Time to slow down a bit and enjoy the drive.

-Joe

CHAPTER EVENTS

Check oldhickorybmwcca.org and your email for updates!

Chapter Meetings

Meet members for food and conversation! Meetings begin at 6:30. Second Thursday of the month. Check our website and member emails for updates and locations. Upcoming meetings March 9 (DeSano Pizza Bakery, 115 16th Ave S.), April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13.

Area Car Events

Kars4Kids. April 15, 8-3:30. Kars 4 Kids is a car, motorcycle, and truck show that benefits the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home. All proceeds go to the home. Registration is from 8:00 to noon. Awards to be given out at 3:30. Show is located at 1310 Franklin Rd, Brentwood. See kars4kidsnashville.com for details.

German Cars & Coffee. Saturdays, April 29, July 22, and October 14, 8-11:00 AM. The ongoing showcase of German vehicles, with rotating sponsorship by Nashville's BMW, Porsche, and Mercedes clubs. If you have been in the past, then you know how the scenery looks: with new machines coming each time! A great gathering for the German motorsport enthusiast!

Team Annie Rose Poker Run. May 13, 7:30-1:30. The Team Annie Rose Foundation organizes the Start Driving, Stop Leukemia Charity Poker Run driving event to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Drive a planned route, collect cards for your "hand," and support a worthy cause! Details and registration: eventbrite.com/e/start-driving-stop-leukemia-charity-poker-run-tickets-29496039448

Cars & Coffee. Saturdays at the Carmike Theater parking lot Cool Springs Blvd, 8:00. This has grown into a big C&C, and an especially large turnout, including exotics, shows up the first Saturday of the month. See facebook.com/carsandcoffeeenashville for info.

The Lane Motor Museum. The Bavarian Birthday exhibit ends March 6, but as a reminder, the Museum's permanent collection includes a number of rare, classic BMWs. And be sure to check out the new exhibit: *Macchine Italiane: A Tour of Italy's Motoring Spirit*. Through May 22, not to be missed! See lanemotormuseum.org.

BMW CCA Oktoberfest

BMW CCA Oktoberfest, July 11-15. The 48th annual BMW CCA Oktoberfest is in New Orleans for 2017. See fest.bmwcca.org.

Please welcome our NEW MEMBERS

Jay Conkin, Thompson's Station
Christopher Johnson, Murfreesboro
Cody Justice, Lewisburg
Christopher Lee, Brentwood
Jessica Lee, Brentwood
Olivia Lentchner, Brentwood
Jonathan Mann, Murfreesboro
Bret Meitzler, Thompson's Station
Nathan Morgan, Cookeville
Yvonne Perry, Nashville
Miles Quirk, Nashville
Cliff Retief, Brentwood
Alan Roberts, Jamestown
Jeremy Rogers, Ashland City
Caron Tudor, Nashville
Pat Wright, Brentwood
Belinda Vanatta, Gallatin
Adam Van Driest, Nashville

To all new and current members:

- Be sure to visit oldhickorybmwcca.org, our official website, for news, event updates, and other good stuff.
- If you're not receiving emails about our Chapter activities, contact Tyree at tpeters@oldhickorybmwcca.org. Be sure your email is registered with BMW CCA.
- You can also follow us at twitter.com/OldHickoryBMW and at facebook.com/OldHickoryBMWCCA.

Gemütlichkeit wants to know! Did one of our articles get you thinking? Do you have a sweet car or event photo to share? A good BMW story? A Bimmer for sale? Do you have an idea for an article? Send letters, stories, classifieds, and big photos to msmith@oldhickorybmwcca.org.

Pass Gemütlichkeit on to a friend! You can help us spread the word about BMW CCA activities, discounts, and benefits by keeping Gemütlichkeit in circulation. Forward this issue to another BMW owner or someone interested in cars. Send a link to someone you know. Print interesting articles – or write one! – to show your friends. And join us at our events!

1976 BMW 2002 Needs a New Home!



Fair condition, runs, drivable, contact Bud Willis for inquiries: budwillis409@gmail.com

MURRAY'S MUSINGS

Murray Crow

Long Term Report – 2005 BMW X3

For reasons that I don't remember, we sold our family SUV in the fall of 2010. This left us with two primary vehicles for daily use: a 2003 MINI Cooper S, and a 1991 BMW M5. We also had a couple of others in the driveway, but they weren't suitable for real-world family daily driving. This begat the need to locate and purchase an appropriate family vehicle.

After much discussion on what type of vehicle to look for, Teri and I decided to buy a first-generation X3. At the time, the second generation X3 had just entered its second model year. The second-generation models were above our price range, but there was a significant spread in prices for the first generation that was well within the range we were willing to pay.

After searching online, and actually going and looking at several vehicles, we began to get a feel for the pricing related to mileage, options, and condition. Most of the vehicles we had looked at were for sale by owner, with a couple that were on car lots, none of which met our standards for pricing or condition. While online, I spotted an X3 in Murfreesboro on a car lot that sounded too good to be true, so I drove down to take a look. It was a 2005 with less than 58,000 miles, fully optioned, including Bluetooth and navigation. Bluetooth and navigation was relatively uncommon on the early X3s, and this one would be the first one we had looked at with both of those options.

Another point that caught my eye with this one was that it was priced around \$2,000 less than comparable X3s we had looked at that had more miles and fewer options. Like I said, it sounded too good to be true.

Long story short, I bought it. It was exceptionally clean inside and out, everything worked, name brand tires with more than 50% tread remaining, complete tool kit, original owner's manual, recent documented service, and a clean Carfax. I could find no fault, and neither could Teri. After a test drive and quick inspection under the hood, we sealed the deal, and I drove it home that day.

We've owned the X3 for over five years now and tacked on an additional 107,000 miles, for total current mileage of 165,000. It has the tried and true 3.0L M54 engine with a 5-speed GM automatic transmission. I've kept a pretty good service record, and here are some of the highlights of the good and not so good:

Routine Maintenance Items

- The oil has been changed 22 times, (every 5000 miles). Consumes 1-2 quarts between changes, consistent from when it was originally purchased.
- I've installed 3 different sets of tires, with first set lasting 34,000 miles, second set lasting 43,000 miles, (Falken), and the current set has logged 18,000 miles and counting.
- Brake fluid has been flushed 3 times.

- Coolant has been changed 3 times.
- Battery has been replaced twice, one of which was a full warranty replacement.
- Transmission fluid and filter have been changed twice.
- Front & rear differentials plus transfer case fluid changed twice.
- Accessory belts and tensioners replaced.
- Spark plugs changed with valve cover gasket changed at same time.
- Replacement of all rotors and brake pads. (Currently on just the second set of rotors and pads since new.)

Non-routine Maintenance Items

- Replaced stripped transfer case actuator gear. This gear strips, causing the AWD system not to function. 80,000 miles.
- Replaced leaking oil seal on oil filter housing. This seal dries and cracks, causing a considerable oil leak where the oil filter housing attaches to the block. 101,000 miles.
- Replaced alternator at 104,000 miles with a unit from Autozone. Later had to return this alternator because it didn't function properly and caused unusual engine codes (lesson learned). Purchased a slightly used BMW alternator from a junk yard that has functioned with no issues for over 50,000 miles.
- Replaced cracked intake boot at 107,000 that caused a check engine light. Sounds like a simple job, but it is one big pain in the rear to change.
- Replaced coolant overflow tank. The tank cracked, causing a loss of coolant. 113,000 miles
- Cracked windshield replaced at 139,000 miles.
- Replaced oil level sensor. This engine has a dipstick, but it also has a level sensor, which in this case was causing check engine codes.
- Replaced starter at 149,500 miles. The brushes were totally worn out, causing slow starts and a couple of no-starts that were remedied with a hammer rap to the starter.
- The best way to replace the starter, is to remove the intake, so while the intake was off, the CCV system was replaced, heater pipes under the intake were replaced, a new crankshaft position sensor installed, (preventative), along with various other pipes, hoses and gaskets.

Other Notable Items

- The entire suspension, including upper and lower control arms, are original with no repairs or replacements.
- The entire AWD drivetrain is original with no repairs or replacements.
- The radiator, water pump, and primary hoses are original with no issues to date other than replacement of the coolant reservoir.
- The paint, black sapphire metallic, still looks great, with no fading or peeling even though this vehicle has never been garaged.
- Every accessory, seats, mirrors, windows, locks, Bluetooth, navigation, cruise, etc. still function properly.

- Average mileage for mixed local driving is around 17 mpg. The vehicle is capable of over 25 mpg on highway driving.
- The AC and heat function perfectly.
- With the exception of some routine AC service and tire installation, I've performed all maintenance.

Overall, I can say that we are extremely pleased with the long-term performance of our X3. It has been our workhorse vehicle and it has never let us down. We have considered replacing it, but taking its age and mileage into consideration, we're better off to just keep on driving it. It is still a very dependable mode of transportation. In less than two weeks we'll be driving it to Memphis and back, and in March it'll be taking us to Gulf Shores for a Spring vacation. Someday we'll recognize it will be time to part with it, but that time has not yet come. If anyone is considering owning a first-generation X3, I would highly recommend it.

Happy Motoring – Murray

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GRAF'S GRUMBLINGS

Graf Hilgenhurst

Ten Things I Didn't Know I Couldn't Live Without

Back in the 1970s, cars had just the things they needed, and nothing more. Then a bunch of new features started appearing on luxury-level cars, and thanks to the trickle-down effect, started to find their way into everyday cars. Now I don't mean to go off on a rant here, but how many of these things would you pay for, out of pocket, if you had to buy them right now?

- 1. Rain sensing wipers.** Not sure if it's raining out? Stick your head out the window, you'll find out in about two seconds! Here's a neat trick. Forget you have them set to "automatic" next time you go through the carwash.
- 2. Daytime running lights.** Thanks to this nifty feature, I routinely drive around at night in rental cars with lights on the front, but not in the back. I can never tell which position is "daytime running lights" and which position is "headlights" without walking around to the back of the car, although maybe all the people honking and flashing their lights at me is a hint, I don't know.
- 3. Ventilated seats.** Do you stick to the leather when it's hot out? Don't drive naked.
- 4. Cruise control.** Maybe if you lived in Texas.
- 5. Auto dimming rear view mirrors.** There is a little flip switch on the mirror. Save the \$500.

6. Head-up display. Nice until you need a new windshield. Did they tell you it turns a \$900 windshield into a \$2000 windshield?

7. Remote key fob. When I was a kid, keys were in one of two places: in the ignition, or in a front pocket. Now they can be in myriad locations, including a purse, which is fine unless that purse is in the trunk, which also happens to be locked, which requires having a second key in a known location, which requires coming to the aid of said driver and vehicle. Not that I've ever had to *do* that....

8. Heated steering wheel. OK, it came as part of the "cold weather package," which I absolutely *had* to have, in order to get the heated seats, without which I couldn't venture out in sub-zero weather in my customary jeans and T-shirt. *What's wrong with this picture?*

9. Twenty-four position power-adjustable driver's seat. What I really need is a new back!

10. Air conditioning. Nah, I'm only kidding on this one. Actually, I could live with a car without air conditioning. I just couldn't live *here*.

CAPTION THIS PHOTO!



We're tinkering with the idea of starting a caption contest. We publish an amusing (or alarming) photo, and you send us an amusing caption we publish the results. Examples for this photo might include: "Your tax dollars at work." "Superfluous (super-flo-us). Completely unnecessary, serving no reasonable purpose." "Yep, that's the Brentwood I know." "...and Cylons, and Rosco P. Coltrane, and George Orwell, and the Death Star..." You get the idea.

Send your captions (or your original photos) to Matt, Newsletter@OldHickoryBMWCCA.org.