

# Under The Hood



**BMW Car Club  
of America  
Oregon Chapter**



Volume VIII, Issue 2 Spring 2017



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Spring Garage Tour



Wine Country Tour



COVER PHOTOS  
 Spring Garage Tour  
 BMW Eugene Covered Bridges Tour  
 Wine Country Tour

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# President's Message

Buck Bailey, President

Wow! We have had some amazing turnout for events so far this year! As Spring turns into Summer, I am looking back on an exciting event season and eagerly anticipating our upcoming Summer events.

Spring 17 got underway with a short-n-sweet drive down to Finn's Auto Restoration, where we were treated to a very interesting shop tour by Denny Finn. It's so cool to see how talented people work with their hands and a few tools to create automotive art. Thanks to Brian Cone for coordinating.

Bruce Feller organized our chapter's return visit to Pro-Tek. We love this shop, and their love and passion for automobiles proves itself every time I've been there. Mike and Bob do amazing work with just about anything you can think of. Seems there's always an Alpina or Euro Bimmer or two in the shop, plus all-out custom American iron and muscle cars.

It seems like our Covered Bridges Tour gets better every year, and this year's tour was no exception. Mark Koepping set out to explore the hinterlands around Eugene to discover a trove of beautiful roads and historic bridges. We had a big turnout and BMW Eugene graciously hosted our starting venue. The route took us along the banks of the Willamette and through green misty mountains. I can't wait to return to this area and repeat the tour!

The Spring Garage Tour blew out all attendance expectations! Since its inception two years ago it has more than doubled in size. In fact, we had to scramble to handle the huge turnout. Somehow chaos becomes art, and everyone had a great time. I love this event, it's a rare peek into a car guy's private domain. Thanks to Dave MacIntyre, Vince & Missy Manley, and Nick & Melody Caron for hosting our crowd at their homes.

I guess I'm not alone in loving two things that seem to be a perfect match: wine tasting and BMW's. Planning the Wine Country Tour is a real pleasure for me, and I am never not amazed at the beauty of the Willamette Valley and its amazing vineyards. Our hosts this year were Durant, Bryn Mawr, and Youngberg Hill. Thanks to our hosts for making our tour and picnic so memorable.

Scott Gallagher opened the doors to the new location of Gallagher Auto Spa, where our members were made welcome and educated on the fine points of auto detailing. Scott is a strong supporter of our club, and we appreciate his hospitality. If you've got moss growing on your car, you need to 1) take it to Scott, and 2) join us for upcoming events!

Brian once again brought his experience and connections with tour planning together for a fun day running through the Columbia gorge to Skamania Lodge. The natural wonders of the gorge make for great automobile touring, and a trip to the Lodge is always delightful. The Mercedes club was there at the same time, and I was hoping for a 50's style rumble, but everyone was friendly. It's hard to get feisty after a great tour and filling lunch.

See our upcoming events in this newsletter and attend! I can't say enough about how great a job our coordinators do, so if you've not attended an event yet this year pick one and go! I can assure you you'll enjoy it.

Happy ///Motoring !

Buck Bailey, President



Well, that was fun!

A few months ago, my cousin Will, who is the vice president of the Northwest Ferrari Club (NWFC) said he was arranging a tour to the Walla Walla wine country.

“Do you and the spouse (he actually said her name but I am not allowed to use it in print) want to go with us?”

“Uh, no. My little 2003 325 ci convertible chasing after those nice Italian stallions? Don’t think so.”

“Aw, come on, it will be fun”, he said.

“Ok, fine, you talked me into it”, I said (with much trepidation)



So, much like our club, they meet up early in the morning and stand around, drink coffee, and talk about this and that, sign waivers and get the pretrip instructions and warnings. I liked the one about closing speed when passing another car. “Try not to pass anyone going 120 MPH! Ok – I was thinking about doing that but now, since I have been warned, I will not. Then, you get your route instructions and “we will see you at the first rally point”. Later guys, and off they go. Loud (and nice sounding) Italian exhaust, shifting through the gears, to get on the freeway. Me, I put Francesca (thanks to Buck, that is her name and I like it!) in Drive and mosey (comparatively speaking) up the on ramp, never to see the Ferraris again until the first rally point. I am always, it seems, about 5 – 10 minutes behind them.

Time to leave and this scenario repeats itself again, as we head off to the first winery, Cooper, in Benton City, WA. As my cousin had collected \$195 a head, weeks before the tour, all the tasting fees were paid for in advance and a tasting we started (and socializing). Nice wines and a nice talk by the wine maker and we bought a bottle of something (I will figure out what we bought later, when I get it all sorted out). And, we’re off to the next winery (again, we show up 10 minutes behind the rest of them). Next stop, Long Shadows Winery, where again, we taste wines, buy wines and do more socializing.



Finally, off to the Marcus Whitman hotel we scramble, one by one on Highway 12 East. Loud exhaust, gears shifting and then.....we stop. Construction zone. Proceed at 10 miles an hour or so. “Oh, didn’t we tell you, we are going to CHIP SEAL 3 miles of Highway 12 on Friday afternoon? Oh, sorry \$200,000 + cars, hope you don’t mind a rock chip or three.” Well, let me tell you, we got to the hotel (for the first time, together!) and those Ferrari guys were all over their cars, checking the paint and the windows. “That chip was not there before” was a common phrase heard for about 30 minutes. Me, ah, what’s another rock chip on 14-year-old paint, I’ll get over it. Some guys even hand washed their cars before they went up to their rooms!

The next morning, we got up, ate the free buffet breakfast at the hotel (very good by the way), and we boarded a luxury bus for the next phase of our trip, three more wineries). Pepper Bridge, Woodward Canyon (where they prepared wood fired pizza for us in their own pizza oven!), and finally Spring Valley Ranch. Will saved the best for last. The bus company will not drive down a gravel road, so he rented a 15-passenger van to shuttle us from the bus to the winery (Plan B). Oh, nobody at the huge Walla Walla airport to give use the keys to the van. Plan C - call a taxi service to meet us at the bus and they will shuttle us to the winery and then back to the bus 90 minutes later. And Spring Valley Ranch is about 20 minutes from downtown Walla Walla. Necessity is the mother of invention.

Later that night a catered dinner at a local wine tasting shop in Walla Walla and then some live blues at the hotel (a lucky coincidence!). Sunday morning, another free buffet breakfast and home you go at your own pace.



So, what did I learn from this trip? Well, car clubs seem to be the same no matter what kind of car you have. Guys talk about the cars and the ladies talk about the guys talking about their cars, and whatever else ladies talk about when they get tired about talking about the guys talking about their cars. We all obsess about our cars and what it costs to have them repaired (Stop your bitching BMW peeps, you don’t want to know what things cost to repair a Ferrari). We like to do the same things, drive our cars, drink wine, eat good food and socialize.

We met some of the nicest people on this trip, who accepted us with no questions asked, who socialized with us, asked about our club, our cars and our families and what we did for a living. (It’s amazing how many of those guys started out with a BMW or still owned one.) Not once did anyone say “What took you so long to get here?” Or “Doesn’t your car go any faster than that?” In some way, I was surprised by this as I was somewhat expecting that people who owned Ferrari’s would be snobbish and standoffish. I could not have been more wrong, and happily so.

These were the nicest people in every way shape manner and form, and I could not be happier that we went on the trip. The lesson here is that car people are car people, no matter what they drive, and they recognize other car people and have an instant chemistry. To this point, we saw a guy with a really cool old truck driving down the street in Walla Walla Saturday night and one of the guys yelled out (ok, it was me) “Nice truck” and one of the wives said (ok, it was my wife), said “Don’t yell at him like that, he does not care”. The guys all said “Yes he does”.

Nuff said.



## July 7-9 Rose Cup Races

The famous Rose Cup Races return to Portland International Raceway (PIR) on July 7 – 9. The BMW CCA will once again take part in this great race weekend with our BMW Corral located right alongside the front straightway. We invite all BMW owners, member or not, to join us for this festive weekend.

Watching race cars close up battle for first place is a thrilling experience. If you have been to this event before then I am sure you have your own personal favorites to watch. Whether it is the Big Bore ground pounders or the Spec Miata race cars, there is a race for you to enjoy.

Since we are the BMW club we find a special love for the Pro3 Race. These are BMW's known as E-30's, or better known as BMW 325i's from the years 1984 to 1991. This is also a spec race group, meaning there are limits set to the type of modifications that are allowed. All cars generally have the same horse power. This makes for a very competitive race. These are not slow cars, and the drivers wring every bit of available horse power out of them for a very exciting race.

For more information visit <http://rosecup.com>

To join the BMW corral and participate in the parade ride on the track, buy your Car Corral pass directly from the Rose Cup website at

<https://impactflow.com/event/3002/checkout/tickets>

Scroll the menu down to "Car Corral" (last menu selection). The cost is \$40 for all three days.



## July 15 Astoria Coast Tour

July 15th might be a good day for a drive to our cool and breezy coast, don't ya think? We do, so why not come along? The club will offer one of our favorites, the Astoria Tour.

We'll meet at the Golden Valley Brewery in Beaverton (see address below) for a drivers' meeting at 8:30am. We'll form into groups and depart starting around 9:00am. The trip features some amazing roads in Columbia county. Alternating between tight forested twisties, broad sweepers, and long fast straights, our route takes us through less-travelled backroads, farmlands, and coastal hills.

Upon arrival in Astoria, we'll enjoy a delicious lunch at a favorite local restaurant. After lunch you might enjoy visiting attractions in the area, shopping in downtown Astoria, or strolling around the historic district. Perhaps you might start a coast adventure for the weekend and head out on Hwy 101 for more beautiful scenery along the coast.

We may also offer a group drive home for those who just can't seem to get enough.



## July 16 Forest Grove Concours

Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance, July 16, 2017

The Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance is the most prestigious concours event in the Pacific Northwest. Held on the campus of Pacific University, it is a wonderful event in a beautiful setting. Cars are parked according to category on the lawns surrounding the historic university buildings. Staged by the Rotary Club of Forest Grove, the event provides funds used to sponsor scholarships and community service projects. Classes include a wide range of over 300 cars, including antique classics, American cars from the '50's and '60's, hot rods, European sports cars, Porsche and Mercedes cars, and of course BMW's. A new corral this year includes Modern Supercars. This year, Oregon Chapter member Keith Martin is the Presenter and MC.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year that our chapter has participated in the Concours. Our purpose is to show spectators the innovative engineering and performance history of BMW's, along with the beauty and style that makes BMW's unique. We will have both judged and display corrals again this year.

Members, if you wish to enter your car, please send a message to Brian Cone at [briancone3@gmail.com](mailto:briancone3@gmail.com). With your car on display, you will stand "behind the ropes", answering questions and receiving admiring comments from the thousands of people who come to this great event.

If you want to come as a spectator, arrive after 8:30 AM, enjoy all of the cars, and give support to your fellow members who have their BMW's on display.

Check out the event website: <http://forestgroveconcours.org/> Looking forward to seeing you on July 16<sup>th</sup>!

## Commercial Advertising

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To place an ad, please contact: Bruce Feller, Sponsorship Director [bruce@bmworegoncca.com](mailto:bruce@bmworegoncca.com)

## Upcoming 2017 Club Events

continued



### July 29-30 Portland Vintage Racing Festival

One of our club's favorite events is the Portland Vintage Racing Festival. Taking place a little later in July this year, join us from July 29-30, 2017. The BMW CCA Oregon Chapter will once again occupy its full-size corral inside the PIR infield. We want to host as many BMW's from the past to the present as possible.

On Saturday and Sunday we will have a free BBQ for our members. Jaguar is the title sponsor again this year and they will have test drives on the autocross course. This is a thrill not to be missed.

Sign up for the parade lap once you arrive. We have 25 spots for driving a parade lap around the race track. New this year is the Mazda Miata Heritage Cup Series.

The whole weekend for one car, two people, and parking pass in our corral is still just \$45. Children 12 & under are free. Tickets may be purchased by SVRA or Tickettomato. A direct link to the SVRA car show registration is on our website. If you prefer Tickettomato, you can purchase on their website too.

We look forward to seeing you at the SIGNature event of the year!



### August 19-20

### Maryhill Loops

Have you ever dreamed of owning your own private road? Would it be something that climbs uphill with more twists and turns than you can count? If that is your dream, the BMW Oregon CCA has made it come true. Each year we rent the private Maryhill Loops Road for the exclusive use of our Club participants.

The road stretches 2 miles climbing 850 feet with 25 turns along the way. The event will be limited to 25 participants per day, and drivers will be staggered so that they can experience all the enjoyment of this road for themselves. This event is one of a kind and sells out almost every year.

This year we will be offering a limited number of discounted registrations to members that sign up to work as a volunteer on their non-driving day. This event couldn't happen without volunteers and we want to reward them for this year's event.

The Big Question every year is when will registration open? June 26 is the day you can get your golden ticket – watch the website for the registration link to go live on the event page. Please note, due to limited space availability, this event is for current, active BMW CCA members only! If you're not a member and wish to attend, join at <https://www.bmwcca.org/>

Check out the video from our 2016 event under the Videos tab on our website or <http://bmworegoncca.com/2016/11/have-you-been-to-maryhill-loops/>

Thanks to our coordinators, Trayson and Cindy Harmon, and to all the volunteers it takes to produce this great event. If you have any questions about the event, please email [treasurer@bmworegoncca.com](mailto:treasurer@bmworegoncca.com)



### September 9

### ///MotorFest

Make plans now to join the BMW Car Club of America Oregon Chapter's signature event of the year, MotorFest 8. This year's MotorFest will be held on a green grass venue, along the shores of beautiful Mint Lake in Amboy Washington, a short drive north of Vancouver.

There will be another epic road tour from the Portland area to the MotorFest site, with a stop along the way to join up with our Southwest Washington members before arriving at the event venue.

MotorFest is our chapter's annual fund raising event for charity, and this year we will be giving to the Oregon Food Bank, serving the Portland and Southwest Washington region. A \$15.00 per car entry fee will get you into the lakeside BMW car show, where you will be able to enjoy a no host food and beverage purchase option brought to you by KOI Fusion. We'll enjoy music by Pro DJs, and once again bring you our world class BMW CCA Oregon Chapter raffle with fabulous prizes.

Registration will open mid-July on [Motorsportreg.com](http://Motorsportreg.com), giving you the choice of attending the Drive to Mint Lake, entry to the venue, the option to purchase food and adult beverage tickets, and raffle tickets. The event site will open at 11:30 for those not participating in the Drive to the Lake, and directions will be emailed to registrants prior to the event.

MotorFest 8 promises to be our best yet. Don't miss out on our annual signature event!

## New/Renewing Members

John Able	Trevor Humes
Ziad Aldahhan	Phil Johnston
David Allen	Jason Joy
Mauricio Ascencio	Alisha Joy
Curtis Bagnall	Tommy Khon
Troy Barney	Kristopher Kitz
John Beaulieu	James Leiman
Brandon Beehler	Gary Martin
Mike Butler	Jacob Mexican
Lori Butler	Doug Mitchell
Brad Chambers	Miles Morgan
Andrew Collier	Man Nguyen
James Cook	Keary Ortiz
Nolan Cory	Robert Pinedo
Carl Curtz	William Raglione
Jeni Davenport	Bernd Reumann
Chuong Doan	Madeline Rhodes
Thomas Douglas	Curt Rice
Amr Elzagh	Derek Rostock
Ken Fehringer	Alan Ruger
David Florey	Bruce Russell
Tony Fong	Ryan Scarbery
Rich Geisler	Jeff Seirer
Ken Gollubier	Stephany Seirer
Jon Goodwin	Tim Sekerak
Barbara Goodwin	Taylor Smith
Richard Gorman	Brenden Sotelo
Daniel Gunther	Jack Steiger
Trayson Harmon	Martine Wedlake
Richard Hastings	Ralph Weiner
Steve Hertzberg	Chang Weiner
LaShawnta Horton	Todd Wylie

**Welcome! We look forward to meeting you!**





**Finn's Auto Restoration**

**March 25**

**Brian Cone**

Through our connection with the Oregon Festival of Cars, our members were able to attend a tour of Finn's Auto Restoration in Woodburn. After departing from Beaverton and enjoying lunch at Abby's Pizza, we drove the short distance to Denny Finn's shop.

Incredible! That's the best way to describe the work that Denny's crew performs in his restoration shop. Denny was a great host for our members, taking us on a tour of his shop and discussing the challenges associated with restoration and custom modifications of a wide range of cars.

His tour took us thru the restoration process from beginning to end. First, he discusses the project with his customer to determine what they want to do with their car. They may have a dream or vision of a conversion to a totally custom design, or they may want to upgrade a classic car with modern components and leave the body stock. For example, he showed us a 1957 Thunderbird where the owner wanted disc brakes and modern suspension components installed. Otherwise, the car was restored to look stock on the outside.

One example was a DeTomaso Pantera where the owner wanted custom body modifications to include indented hood air inlets and wider fenders. Another customer wanted to convert his late '40's 4-door sedan into a 2-door. He also wanted a custom dashboard and interior. This car will look fantastic when completed! A beautiful classic Ford Mustang fastback was in the shop along with a drawing made by his staff using ideas supplied by the customer. When completed, this will be a stunningly beautiful car, capable of display at any roadster or custom car show.

Denny reminded us that he will also perform a full-body repaint with body repairs of your car in its original or a custom color. Most body shops shy away from this type of work. He also has extensive connections with manufacturers and is a certified dealer for many of them. With his connections, you will have many options to enhance your car's performance.

With our new connection, you now have a resource for restoration or customization of your car. Please keep Denny in mind. One of my favorite sayings is: "It's good to have connections!" And it's true!



**BMW Salem / Covered Bridges Tour**

**April 22**

**Mark Koepping**

This year's Covered Bridges Tour was all new. We wanted to see bridges we hadn't seen before, and Lane County has a nice grouping southeast of Eugene. I enlisted the help of BMW of Eugene to serve as the start. Stan Mayhew, the General Manager, graciously opened his doors for us and made us feel welcome. We also wanted a drive that would appeal to the people who live in central and southern Oregon. Registration stats said 39 cars and 45 people, but the weather forecast called for rain. In fact it poured buckets from Salem to Brownsville on my drive down from Portland!

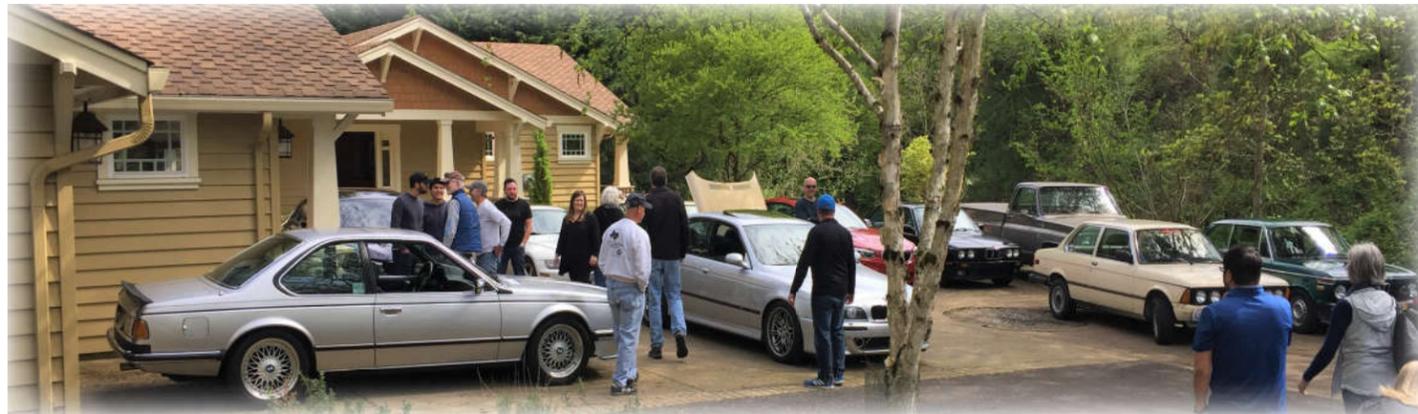
When I got to Eugene, Abu Reynolds cleared a large area in front for our group to line up. It was impressive, and it was not wet in Eugene! People came from all over. Steve & Natalie came up from Ashland in their 2017 750i. Arthur & Judy came down from Yacolt WA in their 1995 840ci. We had a great mix of BMW history represented. I received help leading groups from Cory and Brian. We each ended up having about 11 cars. We had a quick drivers meeting and headed out.

From BMW of Eugene, we drove southeast out to Parvin & Lowell Bridges. Out on Dexter Lake rowers were getting ready for the Regatta competition later that day. Then we drove out to Westfir. The Middle Fork of the Willamette River was our guide. There were sun breaks and no rain all morning. Office Bridge is one of the grandest covered bridges I have seen. When we all drove over the red bridge, there was a surprise waiting for us. Smokey the Bear was there passing out cookies! We lucked out by arriving when the forest rangers were giving a talk about healthy forests. Dan Hones shot a great video of us coming back out of the bridge – see it on our Facebook page.

Driving back on OR-58 I thought they should call this the Willamette River Gorge! It's so beautiful. The drive to Unity and then to Pengra Bridge features curvy two lane country roads we all love to drive so much. Then we ate a delicious lunch at Hole-In-The-Wall BBQ. People were impressed with the food even if it took a little longer to get.

After lunch we said goodbye to those that had to go. It was nice meeting so many new people. About 15 cars remained to do the three bridges left going North. This was a rain soaked section but it didn't matter. This was another successful Covered Bridges Drive.





**Spring Garage Tour**

**April 29**

**Dave MacIntyre**

Thanks to everyone who attended or hosted the Garage Tour on 4/29. The weather cooperated for the tour, it was a well earned day of sunshine. We were a bit overwhelmed by the attendance. We had over 40 people register for the event, which is a new record! This definitely created some logistic challenges getting cars into driveways, and coordinating the drive, but everyone was patient and helped us through it.

It was great to see Vince and Missy's new garage and all of their BMWs. Vince has started placing wall art on the walls, and is getting moved into their new home in Wilsonville. The Fjord Blue e9 and 2002 looked great together in the garage. The driveway looked super cool with all of the CCA member's cars filling it up. Thanks Missy for providing refreshments!

For the people that were able to follow the special route out to Nick and Melody's, I'm sure everyone enjoyed it. We drove some awesome twisty roads that went out past Pete's Mountain, and up into Oregon City. It was a beautiful drive.

Nick and Melody must have a good relationship with their neighbors (or at least they did before we showed up!), because they provided lots of parking in their driveways. We concluded the tour with a delicious BBQ in the backyard. We enjoyed seeing their new home, and e34 and e36 ///M cars tucked away in the garage.



**Wine Country Tour**

**May 6**

**Buck Bailey**

This year's Wine Country Tour started at our favorite winery from last year's tour, Durant Vineyards at Red Ridge Farm. The grounds at Durant overlook the Willamette Valley, and is a relaxing casual atmosphere. It was also busy hosting a farmer's market and we had many curious onlookers and question-askers.

Self-guide maps and rally directions (especially for Drew, our Chief Wine Taster) were provided, and groups set out for the second destination. Immediately Alex and I noticed something was amiss, as several cars in front of me headed north on Hwy 99 instead of heading south.

After a spirited thirty-minute drive through beautiful farmland, we turned west to land at Bryn Mawr Vineyards in the Amity / Eola Hills a.v.a. region. I thought it odd that we were among the first to arrive. It wasn't long before a huge group came rolling in, and everyone had fun poking at me about printing the wrong turn on the directions. AAAAAGHGHG!!

After LOTS of tastings and conversation at Bryn Mawr, hunger for lunch prompted us to move on to our final destination, Youngberg Hill Inn and Winery near McMinnville. Another spirited half-hour heading west through more scenic wonders led us up the long private drive in grand procession. Numerous "directors" helped all the cars get parked for a photo shoot with the dramatic McMinnville a.v.a mountains in the background.

We enjoyed a gourmet sandwich picnic inside the brand-new events facility. It's a large open building wrapped with glass garage doors. With enough room for a good-sized car collection, it would make the perfect showroom for any car nut.

After lunch we assembled on the terrace for a group photo. Then many lingered to finish their wines and conversations as others departed for home. We were pleased that everyone had a good time, and look forward to putting on next year's Wine Country Tour.





## Skamania Lodge Tour

May 20

Brian Cone

It was a short drive, but a great one! Interest and anticipation for this event was very high. We even had a waiting list for participants as only 28 cars were allowed due to parking restrictions at Crown Point.

Under partly cloudy skies, we departed from Wood Village and arrived at the Portland Women's Forum Park off of the Historic Columbia River Highway. We had an absolutely stunning view of the Gorge, which included our next destination of the Vista House. While our BMW's were parked, a visitor from Germany approached me and asked about our large group of BMW's. He loves BMW's and was pleasantly surprised that we had a BMW enthusiast club in America! Well, yes! We love our cars.

The tricky part of our tour was parking at Crown Point. With only 59 parking spaces, arriving on a Saturday was risky. However, because of the partly cloudy skies, plenty of parking spots were available. The first group enjoyed visiting Vista House and taking pictures of the Gorge. When we were ready to depart, I radioed Judy (who was leading the 2<sup>nd</sup> run group), that it was time to depart for the short 5 minute drive to take our parking spots. They arrived and enjoyed Crown Point as well.

We drove down the remainder of the Columbia River Historic Highway and arrived at Skamania Lodge for lunch. There, we met the Mercedes Club who had an event that ended at Skamania Lodge for lunch at about the same time as our tour. Who would have thought about that?!

After enjoying lunch, we parked our cars behind the lodge among the Mercedes Club cars and put on a great car show for the lodge guests. I could hear their appreciative comments about our cars.

It was a great example that you never know what is going to happen on one of our tours! Unexpected situations add to the fun. Our members really had a great time on this tour. Please sign up for another tour this season. I'm sure you will have a memorable and wonderful time!



After my daily-driver 1968 2002 was involved in a frontal accident, the question wasn't whether or not I would have it fixed, rather to what extent. The accident had done a number on the nose, the driver's side grille and fender. The bumper was a total loss, and the belt-line trim pieces had chain-reacted into each other down the driver's side of the car. Prior to the accident the '02 had had the usual gnatty '02 ailments: rust bubbles, oxidized belt-line trim, tired paint, etc. However, as it was a mechanically sound daily-driver, I had been content to live with these blemishes. But then one dreary January day a Ford Ranger came sailing through a stop sign directly into my path...

Once the car was unloaded at Burnside Collision, I was told that after it was pounded back into shape, the '02 would then be painted well beyond the damaged area to properly blend new paint into old. This set my mind going, (I mean, who among us would only *half* paint a car?) So naturally I was now in for a complete repaint, and while I was at it, I opted for a beltline trim delete, which not only shortened the list of replacement parts, but also (in my opinion) freshened the car's look.

The hunt for parts proved an adventure in itself! I sourced new fenders from Restoration Design out of Canada. A Euro-spec chrome bumper set was found on Ebay, via Vietnam. The aluminum grille was finally found in the UK, after many a month of being told it was NLA. All of the necessary new window and door seals were located at Maxmillian Importing Co., right here, stateside.

But the gathering of parts is only a fraction of the work required for a project such as this, and though I have owned the '02 for nine years and had felt I had known all its secrets, once it was sanded down to bare metal it became apparent the '02 had been hiding all sorts of other scars: One particular accident to the rear had been cobbled together in what looked like a rush job. (Amazing how apparent things are once the paint is removed!) This botched repair, and other smaller discoveries naturally could not go ignored.

And so, with the scope of the project finally understood, it became clear I had better find an alternate source of transportation. Evolutionarily speaking, I didn't stray too far from my comfort zone, having settled on a '91 318i, which, (and I'm sure is a surprise to no one reading this,) had grown on me. Two cams! Fuel injection! AC! This begs the question once the '02 returns, what happens to the 318? Do I sell it, like I had initially planned, or dare I dabble in multi-car ownership?



# At The Vintage

by Buck Bailey

**Dateline Saturday, May 20. Hot Springs, North Carolina.**

I've heard that **The Vintage** is an amazing gathering of classic Bimmers, so Alex and I set out to find out at this year's event in the tiny hamlet of Hot Springs, North Carolina. Nestled in the Appalachian Mountains on the banks of the French Broad River, the town is home to historic Hot Springs Resort. The town is very historic and has a scruffy charm to it. The Appalachian Trail passes through here, and on this weekend a swarm of Bimmerheads mixed company with hikers, nature lovers, and hot springers.

The Vintage website (atthevintage.com) indicated that all 650 spaces were sold out. Wait – what? 650 spaces sold out? I couldn't wait to immerse myself and my willing accomplice into a sea of classic bmw's.

Saturday morning dawned with blue skies and warm weather. We set out from our base in Maryville, Tennessee along lazy sweeping roads through the farmlands and foothills. Mandy, our stahlgrau e46 330ci, purred contentedly as she climbed into the mountains. The road then narrowed and twisted along the French Broad River. We picked up the pace, and Mandy's agile suspension handled the curves with assured control. I asked Alex how the river was named. He answered dryly "It's named after some French broad".

I couldn't blame Alex for his lack of enthusiasm for natural wonders, as we were headed for a cornucopia of automotive wonders. We rounded a bend and descended into a pretty valley, the rooftops and railroad water tower of Hot Springs peeking above the leafy trees. We didn't need directions, we just followed the numerous bmw's headed to the venue. After parking in a field, we walked across the highway and beheld a glorious sight: hundreds of classic bmw's in a park-like setting, all chrome and shiny paint gleaming in the Southern sun.

The website indicated that "vintage" included all bmw automobiles through e34 and Z1 chassis, and motorcycles through 1985. The cars to the left side were grouped in broad arcs under huge shady oaks, so we decided to tackle our trek clockwise. We started with 8 series cars, and drooled over a particularly lovely calypso red coupe.

We passed through the e21 / e30 group, and my heart was longing to have my '90 325is on display. We stopped to admire an S-package 320i with ventilated recaros and 3-spoke wheel. Then we fawned over an incredible black-over-black M-technic 325i convertible.

When we approached the next group I stood with my jaw agape like a teenage boy at the Playboy mansion. Before us were a lineup of e28's: euro M535's, M5's, and the mac-daddy of them all, a gen-u-ine e28 Alpina. Words cannot describe the joy I felt at beholding these amazing machines. How can a sedan be that ... awesome? At a time when Detroit was hawking their 80's luxu-barges, our German cousins were producing the venerable e28. Even by today's standards, one of the best cars ever made.

I thought the e28's were the highlight of my day. I was wrong. My project car is a 1985 euro m635 in Hennarot over black leather, and I've not seen another in person since the mid '80's when my parents took my sister and I to Great Britain on vacation. I'll never forget seeing that sleek orange-red beauty, and swore I'd own one when I grew up. Fast forward thirty-three years, and I'm standing right in front of what surely must be one of only a handful left in existence. How I wish my car was finished! Maybe I'll bring it to The Vintage when it's done.

We pushed onward past gorgeous e34 5-series, including a real alpina. A super-rare e12 euro M535, the car that was essentially the first M5, sat smiling at us amongst other beautiful 5's. We turned to go down a row with nothing but e30 M3's, two in Hennarot!. You know you're at an amazing event when the e30 M3's aren't the main attraction. On to the colorful and fun 2002's. Some were bone-stock survivors, while resto-mod customs showed their owner's creative side. Still tons of cars to see – vintage 3.0S sedans, more Alpinas, an e28 745i euro turbo flagship, and on, and on.

Being at The Vintage is serious sensory overload for BMW enthusiasts! As we neared the end of our tour through Teutonic awesomeness, we remarked that we really really want to be a part of the event in the future. Spectating is great, but I want to feel that connection to the other classic enthusiasts, much like I do at our events in Oregon. You just have to be part of it to get that vibe and sense of camaraderie. One day e46's will be Vintage, and our trusty Mandy can be entered. Until that time we'll keep enjoying our e30 in Oregon, and perhaps one day soon will finish the m635 and debut it at **The Vintage**.





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## Club Calendar

More Information at [www.bmworegoncca.com](http://www.bmworegoncca.com)

Date	Event	Starting Location / Event Venue
July 7-9	Rose Cup Races	Portland Int'l Raceway 1940 N Victory Blvd Portland, OR 97217
July 15	Astoria Coast Tour	Golden Valley Brewery 1520 NW Bethany Blvd Beaverton, OR 97006
July 16	Forest Grove Concours	Pacific University 2043 College Way Forest Grove, OR 97116
July 29-30	Vintage Racing Festival	Portland International Raceway 1940 N Victory Blvd Portland, OR 97217
August 19-20	Maryhill Loops	Maryhill Loops Road Goldendale, WA 98620
September 9	Motorfest 8	Mint Lake NE 379th Street Amboy (Yacolt), WA 98675