

Bimmer Beat

April / June 2008



roadrunnerbmw.org

Road Runner Chapter Officers

President.....Marty Saltzman
martysaltzman@gmail.com

Executive V P.....Rick Touton
ricktouton@aol.com

Treasurer.....Steve Harris

Secretary.....Jim Edmonds
jedmonds@microsi.com

Driving events Coordinators.....Rick Touton
ricktouton@aol.com
andJoe Cattaneo
joe@aandcproperties.com

VP Meetings and Events.....Roger Ayers

VP Special Activities.....Joe Cattaneo
joe@aandcproperties.com

VP Membership.....Lann Van Noy

Newsletter Editor.....Tom Barnes
bmw@twistedpriorities.com

in this issue.....

Here's Marty....

Remembering Vance Williams

Off the Marque....

A few words from....me.

On the Skidpad

Autocross news with Mark Osier

Seat Time....

The project 320i

Tire Time....what's in a number?

Treadwear numbers...

Bimmer Beat

is online, check out the website.

This newsletter is produced in color and printed in black & white. To see the full color version, go the Roadrunner chapter's website at.....

roadrunnerbmw.org

and click on the link at the left that says newsletters.

Production assistance provided by

Discount Tire

www.tires.com

Submissions?

Send them in.

bmw@twistedpriorities.com

Change of address?

All changes / additions to your contact information for the club must be made through the national club.

Find the national club at:

bmwcca.org or 864-250-0022

the mailing address is:

BMW CCA

640 S Main Street Ste 210

Greenville SC 29601



Cover art for this issue.....

Cheif Driving Instructor Bern lets us know how student Steve (new club treasurer) is doing in turn 6 @ PIR Photographed at Phoenix International Raceway by Tom Barnes - twistedpriorities.com

Here's Marty.....

Remembering Vance Williams 1950-2008

On June 9, 2008, we lost Vance Williams. Vance's passing came after a brief and seemingly minor illness. It was a complete shock. He was only 58 years old.

I can only speak to what I knew of Vance and can only express my personal feelings about him, so forgive me if this is written in the first person.

Vance was one of the founding members of the Roadrunner chapter. He often joked that his first duty as Treasurer was to put \$100 into the account so we wouldn't bounce a check. Vance went on to be an active member of the Club. He served as Treasurer and later webmaster, and was one of four people who started our Driving School. Vance was not only a fan of BMW cars, but of motorcycles as well. He recently told me that he grew his beard to cover the scars of one of his two wheeled indiscretions.

Vance was a great sounding board. Whenever I had doubts about handling something, I turned to Vance. He had an encyclopedic memory for everything that ever happened within the Club and was able to tell me what he had learned over the years. He never had a private agenda, never bore a grudge and was always willing to speak his mind without showing any sign of animosity towards anyone. I trusted him when he told me I was right, but I trusted him even more when he told me I was wrong. He was just that kind of guy.

After a time when we didn't see much of him, Vance recently started coming to meetings and attending events again. He loved talking about his 840i, even if he still got misty eyed when discussing his old 2002. Any time I saw Vance at a meeting, I had a sense of calmness - it was hard to get all worked up about anything when Vance was around. I was thrilled to see him taking a more active role.

This May, after a bit of good natured arm twisting,



Vance volunteered to become a Board member again. I felt that we could all learn a lot from his sense of history and his even tempered style, but I had an ulterior motive - I simply hoped to see him around more. I was looking forward to getting to know this gracious, humble man a little better. Unfortunately, I never got that chance.

A strange thing happened after his untimely passing. I heard from many of you who felt that, even though you didn't know much about Vance, you felt that you had lost a good friend. I know how you felt. I, too, experienced a sense of loss completely disproportionate to the amount of time I spent with Vance. I can't put my finger on exactly why I felt that way - it might have been his ability to use sarcasm without being demeaning, the way he managed to be classy and dignified while remaining approachable, his knack for imparting wisdom without having a hint of preachiness or arrogance, his willingness to give of himself freely; or it might just be the gut feeling we all had that he was, above all else, a very good man.

More Vance on the next page...

Remembering Vance Williams continued...

In the week following his death I was quietly lamenting that fact that I had not taken the time to know more about Vance. Some other longtime members shared with me in private that they were experiencing the same emotion. Then, at a memorial ceremony his friends held for him, I discovered something that I had not expected. These people, who we had never met but who had known Vance his whole life, were using exactly the same language to describe Vance that we had. It was eerie, yet heartening - it seems that we really *did* know Vance after all.

When I first got the phone call from Vance's co-worker telling me that Vance had died, he told me that we were among the first people he informed. He said that he wanted to tell us about Vance's passing right away because he knew that the Club meant a lot to Vance. I can only hope that Vance knew how much *he* meant to *us*.

Vance is survived by his sister, Sharon, his niece and nephew. And of course by all of us.

Marty



More on the project 320i next time.
Graphics and Seats??

Roadrunner Chapter Elections Results

The election was held and the votes counted. All of the hanging chads were analyzed the intent of the voters was to vote these members to the board as listed below.

President.....Marty Saltzman

Executive V P.....Rick Touton

Treasurer.....Steve Harris

Secretary.....Jim Edmonds

Driving events Coordinators.....Rick Touton
andJoe Cattaneo

VP Meetings and Events.....Roger Ayers

VP Special Activities.....Joe Cattaneo

VP Membership.....Lann Van Noy

Congratulations to all of the new and returning board members.



AUTOBAHN AUTOSPORT

Has moved

They will be in the new location, ready for
business on June 16.

Autobahn Autosport can now be found at
125 W Auto Center Drive
Mesa, Arizona 85210

www.autobahnautosport.com



125 W. Auto Center Drive, Mesa AZ 85210

Experienced - Local - Exclusive

BMW - Porsche - Mercedes Benz



Off The Marquee

Gas Prices? (rumor has it they've gone up)

The average commuter travels about 29 miles round trip to work. If we round that up to 30 miles and figure 20 mpg, along with four dollars per gallon, we get a daily expense for gas of six dollars a day. If / when gas gets to five dollars per gallon the daily expense goes to seven fifty. (a small price to pay to spend time with your BMW)

When we do the math the daily gas expense adds up to about \$150 - \$175 per month, depending on the actual number of workdays. If your salary puts you in the, let's say, \$20 per hour range, riding the bus for 2 hours per day puts the 'virtual' expense at \$40 dollars per day and over \$900 per month (in 'lost' wages).

Here is another set of numbers. This example is for the Honda Civic and Civic Hybrid. Based on Honda.com numbers the base price for the Civic is \$15,010 and the Civic Hybrid is \$22,600. Using that starting point and their posted EPA estimated mileage the advantage (lower gas cost) is \$237 after the first one hundred thousand miles (at \$4.50 per gallon) of course as the price of gas goes up,

those numbers start to look a little better.

Word in the news is that oil companies are recording "record profits" but when you look a little deeper you find that "big oil" has a profit level of only about seven percent.

The answer is out there but watch out, the answer is not in punitive taxation. (one candidate would actually tax the gas price to keep it at a minimum of four dollars per gallon.) The answer does not have anything to do with the popular "climate change" which by the way is cyclical. The biggest part of the answer is in the free market. Our reduced driving has already motivated one member of OPEC to increase production and the rise in prices has slowed recently.

But what do I know....

Between work and play I spend only about 21 or 22 hundred dollars on gas a month.

Tom

GERMAN AUTO SERVICE & SALES



**GERMAN
AUTO**

Service and Sales for ALL German Cars!

Located just North of Camelback on 7th Street • 602-274-3747 • Visit our Website at Germanautoservice.com

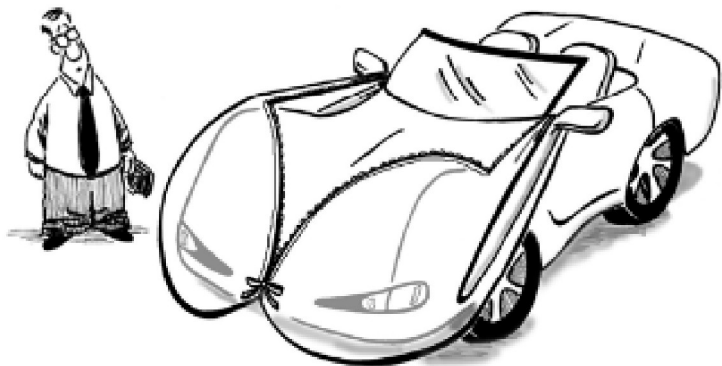


602-274-3747

BRA BUSINESS INCREASING IN SIZE

YOU INSTALL WHAT?

Telling someone he installs "clear bras" (formally known as "paint protection film") has never been a conversation stopper for Ryan Tounsley, president of Protective Film Solutions. Especially at the start of his business, he got a lot of raised eyebrows and stifled giggles...and some unusual responses ranging from "Do you do personal fittings?" (often followed by a wink) to "What the @\$% is that?"



Perhaps the most memorable conversation happened as Ryan was driving along the Loop 202 one morning back in 2003. Because his company name (then known as Ultra shield of Phoenix) and phone number were emblazoned in bright white lettering on his darkly tinted windows, he often got calls from the people who were within eyeshot of his SUV.

"UltraShield of Phoenix, this is Ryan."

"Hi, I'm driving the red sportscar right behind you," said a woman, sounding rather playful. "I see you do something with clear bras. Is it what I hope it is?"

He chuckled. "Well, probably not."

"No? Then what is it?"

"It's a clear film you put on the front of your vehicle to protect the paint from getting damaged from rock chips while you drive. It's known as a bra. But we do free fittings!"

"Well I was hoping it was a woman's bra, because then you could put one on a set of these!" she exclaimed as she sped up next to Ryan's window.

Ryan looked over as the woman thrust out her chest. He burst into laughter. "Sorry I can't help you there!"

"Aww, too bad!" she giggled. She hung up and sped off.

Humbling Beginnings

Ryan first learned about clear bras during a trip to

his parent's winter home in Ft Myers, Florida, in January 2002. They'd just had it installed on the front of their van to keep rock chips and bugs from chewing up the front end - particularly while driving to and from their native South Dakota. Intrigued by the product, Ryan visited the company owners the next day (the national headquarters happened to be only 20 minutes away from his parent's home). Within two months, Ryan got trained and certified as a 3M clear bra installer and set up his own business here in the Valley.

Those early days were trying, to say the least. It was physically grueling work that required a lot of bending, laying on concrete floors, lifting heavy rolls of film and stretching the film around difficult angles on vehicles. It was also humbling work: being in a new industry (he'd been in computer technology for over ten years) forced Ryan into a steep learning curve.

Plus, few dealerships offered clear bras. Getting those dealerships to listen to Ryan talk about the value of the product was like pulling teeth.

"No one had time for me," he said. "Other clear bra installers had come before me offering the same thing, but they earned a bad reputation by not providing a warranty for what turned out to be unsatisfactory work."

IT TAKES A VILLAGE ... OR AT LEAST A CLUB

So after meeting resistance from dealerships, who do you think came to the rescue and kept Ryan's business going? Car clubs.

"So much of our growth since 2002 is due to the support and loyalty of the Arizona car clubs, including the Roadrunner BMW Club," said Ryan. "They have built-in referral systems unlike anything I've seen before."

As members saw the value of investing in a product to protect the front end of a vehicle they spent thousands of dollars on, word spread like an Arizona wildfire. It was those early interactions that finally got the ball rolling with several dealerships and encourage them to offer the clear bra.

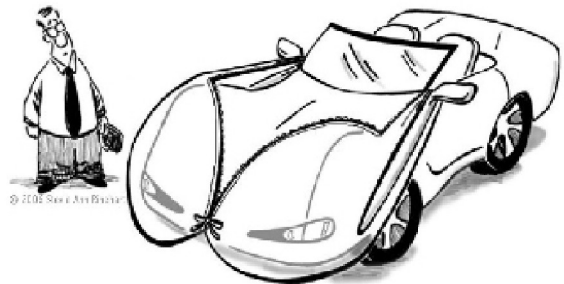
Since 2002, Protective Film Solutions has grown from one person to eight and has expanded its offerings beyond clear bras to include window tint, windshield skins and headlight restoration. This year began with a new retail location in the Scottsdale Airpark, which made many customers happy for its convenience.continued on page 8



GIVE YOUR BMW THE PROTECTION IT DESERVES!

Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film from 3M – a.k.a. "Clear Bra"

- ✓ Protects against rock chips, debris, bugs, etches
- ✓ Durable film adheres directly to the paint
- ✓ No more scrubbing, touch ups, repainting costs



NEW!

3M™ Automotive Window Film

- ✓ Premium automotive window film, featuring 3M™ Crystalline
- ✓ Scratch-resistant coating
- ✓ Guaranteed not to fade or turn purple

** Roadrunner BMW Club members receive a discount on the entire install. **

Protective Film Solutions' new retail location in Scottsdale Airpark:

14825 N. 82nd St., Suite A, Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Between Raintree and Hayden / ** By appointment only **

602 . 694 . 6979

www.ProtectiveFilmSolutions.biz

Tire Time

this issue...Treadwear Number(s)

While treadwear numbers can be a "guideline", there are a few things not always taken into account regarding these numbers. The key is to understand that it is part of a relative comparison system.

One thing that we almost never hear when being directed to look at the treadwear number is the fact that the number is brand specific and not directly related to a specific mileage or compound.

The treadwear rating is a comparative tool when comparing tires within a specific brand and is useless when comparing tires of different brands.

any questions? - yourtireguy@yahoo.com



BMW Autocross in the works?

Rumor has it that there may be an autocross (or two) in the planning stages for the BMW owner/driver. As you have seen in the "On the Skidpad" segment of this newsletter, autocross can be a great low cost introduction to motorsport. Autocross teaches car control is inexpensive and great fun without taking up the entire weekend. (good news for those of you with a lawn)



The Bra Businessfrom page 6

Protective Film Solutions will have a presence deeper in the East Valley by the time football season kicks off and if things go as planned, they'll have a location in sunny Southern California by the end of 2008. This past spring, Protective Film Solutions was designated as a 3M certified Training and Certification Facility to instruct and certify prospective installers. So things are definitely looking up for Ryan and the crew.

"We owe so much of our success to the car clubs," said Ryan. "Without them, we wouldn't be where we are today. I'll always be grateful to them. That's why I like to take special care of club members."



To show our appreciation for your ongoing support, Protective Film Solutions offers Roadrunner BMW Club members a 10% discount on all services.

Call 602.694.6979.

*-- Stevie Ann Rinehart
Vice President, Protective Film Solutions*



Here a BMW Boxer Cup replica and a very special M1 attend an event at Phoenix International Raceway.

On the Skidpad

with Tom Barnes (guest writer) Mark has this issue off

This is the space where we talk about something called autocross. For those of you that don't know what autocross is I thought I would explain some of it for you.

An autocross is a medium speed driving event run in parking lots using traffic cones. One driver at a time runs the course laid out with the cones for time (against the clock) trying not to disturb the cones. Time penalties are assessed for each cone that gets moved (usually 2 seconds per cone).

The fastest of the cars do not usually get over 65-70 miles per hour.

There are usually 3 or 4 timed runs per event with the awards going to those with the fastest times and sometimes there are "fun runs" at the end of the event.

Most of the participants for an autocross use their everyday car for the event. Some people use cars they have set up specifically for these events. Autocross is a great way to learn car control and a great introduction to the world of motorsports.

If you have any interest in attending an autocross, or competing and need more information let us know, email Mark Osier - msixmark@cox.net - or me at bmw@twistedpriorities.com and we will do what we can for you.

Tom



Still a bargain--

Advertising rates for 2008 are the same as 2007.

See the ad rate chart below for the numbers

Bimmer Beat 2007 Advertising rates

(priced per issue)

Full page.....	\$140
Half page.....	\$75
Quarter page.....	\$40
Business card.....	\$20
-NEW SIZE-	
Banner (width of the page)...	\$20

There is a minimum of four issues per year. This year the plan is for six issues. The newsletter goes to about 900 household regionally and about a hundred additional people in other regions nationally

roadrunnerbmw.org



Andrew Sanchez from Bavarian Motors LTD takes to the track in his very well prepared E30 M3.

(Bavarian Motors LTD is on the back cover of this and all of the other Bimmer Beat newsletters)

The Sport Speciale - BMW? or Ferarri ? or Not?

In the early days of the automobile, one way the brand of the car was determined was by the builder of the chassis and engine. In other cases a company may provide a power plant for a car that is otherwise completely built in house. There are a couple of schools of thought on this subject. My thought is that the "brand" of the car is that of the car's builder.

BMW powers some of the most successful cars in racing. These cars are usually referred to as the BMW powered (fill in the name of the chassis builder).

The car presented here is a coach built, one of a kind, Ferarri inspired car powered by a V-12 from a BMW 850ci.

Built by Jason and the crew of The Creative Workshop in Florida this car is truly a work of art.

We have heard that form follows function. This car's form was inspired by the Ferarri Test Rossa (the early one) but is not a replica, it is an original.

hood scoop and the use of Borrani Wheels. The search for a fuel injection system with the right look was a bit of a process but the end result was a perfect fit for the car and the V-12.

This car has received a lot of press, all of it good. Since completion, the Sport Speciale has been admired by thousands. The car has appeared in a long list of publications.

Check out The Creative Workshop's website at www.thecreativeworkshop.com to see more on this car and several of the other projects.

-Tom



The Sport Speciale from any angle is a real beauty and actually reminiscent of several cars of the era.

The function starts with a BMW V-12 that has been balanced, blueprinted and now provides about 450 horse power in this beauty. At just over 2200 pounds the power to weight ratio rivals some of today's super cars.

Attention to detail? Definitely, from the way the latches are made to the choice of gauges, the clear



An original Nardi steering wheel and Veglia gauges give the cockpit an authentic look that ties the whole package together with fit and finish that is first class all the way.



People we like...

Here's a short list of some of the companies that make it a little easier for our club to do it's thing and enjoy our cars a little more.

(in no particular order)

BMW of North Scottsdale

Chapman BMW on Mc Dowell

German Auto

Bavarian Motors

Ultimate Auto Works

Protective Film Solutions

Club Racing Arizona

...and of course all of our employers that give us a day off, a chance to leave early or take an extended lunch to tend to our cars.

***Thank you
from***

The Roadrunner Chapter



What do you think?

As car people, we treat our cars like more that "just a car" and that brings the question...

When you buy a car are you tempted to send the previous owner a note sometime down the road to let them know the car is "doing ok"? or is that a little weird? Let me know what you think...
bmw@twistedpriorities.com



Suggestion please

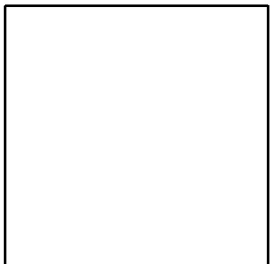
I am looking for a place (restaurant) for a cool, leisurely breakfast. Not looking for a chain restaurant just something different but good.

If you have a favorite, let me know and I probably will write a story about it.

email me your suggestions (please)
ashleygreen@twistedpriorities.com

Classified ads run one issue at a time.
You can have me take the photograph at a function or event or you can submit a photo of your own.
Send the photo and/or information to us at
bmw@twistedpriorities.com
put "ad request" in the subject line and it should run in the next issue.

Roadrunnerbmw.org
1208 W Orange Dr
Phoenix AZ 85013



if you do not get this newsletter let me know so I can send you another one

BAVARIAN MOTORS, LTD.

Telephone 602/254-7380
www.bavmotorsltd.com

Specializing in
BMW/Mini
High Performance
Modifications
Upgrades, Racing
and
Everyday Maintenance

25+ years in
Service and Excellence



2417 N. 16th Street • Phoenix, AZ • 85006