

The Roundelian

**Illini Chapter Newsletter
Fourth Quarter, 2008**

Editor: Steve Hyland



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Woody's Word:

Earlier this year BMW Car Club of America Illini Chapter members received a notice from the national headquarters explaining that we were in jeopardy of losing our chapter status. Since then many things have happened and we are very pleased to say that, with the publishing of this newsletter, we are in compliance and are ready to move on with new energy and a common mission that has been adopted to guide us in the future.

Past President Terry Banicki contacted me as the chapter was in the midst of a probationary period, hoping that I might be able to assist in keeping our Illini Chapter in existence. After spending many years with the BMW dealership in Peoria and knowing so many great BMW people, I immediately began to think of names.... names of BMW enthusiasts in the area that would not only want the club to continue but would indeed participate and enjoy what the club could offer. I told Terry that I wanted to try to take a lead on this and began contacting some of my favorite BMW people. Finding quickly that there was support for such an effort, it was time to get together with a common purpose and a group of about 22 club members and interested parties

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Woody's Word (cont.)

gathered on a beautiful Sunday morning for brunch. We talked about events that would be appropriate for the car club and recruited a slate of officers. The chapter was reborn that morning.

Sharing a common desire and joining together with the simple goal of having a vital, active Chapter provided a foundation. We found support from past board members including Greg Brinner and Bruce Huber. The national president and staff worked with us to make the transition a smooth one. Now, after having our first event, The Membership Drive to Princeville, we are ready to move on. We are again a Club. We are the Illini Chapter of BMWCCA. Thanks to everyone that showed support.

**Chris ('Woody') Wood
President, Illini Chapter**



You are invited!!!! Open Illini Chapter Board Mtg.

We will plan activities for next year

1:30 pm, Sunday, November 23, in the Peoria area

Please RSVP to:
Illini Chapter, P.O. Box 9370, Peoria, IL 61614, or
illinibmw@live.com
(More information will be provide upon RSVP)

Meet the new board of directors

Chris ('Woody') Wood, President (309) 385-1843,
dribbledrive@hotmail.com

Woody has extensive experience with automobiles, having sold and/or been Sales Manager for various makes, including Toyota, several GM offerings, Fords and of course, BMW's. His background is further enhanced by his experience as a U.S. Marine.

A native of Chillicothe, Ohio, he has resided in several locations, including Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Santa Ana, California and his present home in Princeville, Illinois. He and wife, Jennifer, have two children, Christopher Taylor and Alice-Rose, in 9th grade and 8th grade, respectively.

Woody's love with Bimmers began with his 1995 525i. He is still excited about his participation in a 'Ride and Drive' event at the Mid-Ohio Speedway in 2004. There, he and others had the opportunity to thrash 530's around the track in a very spirited fashion. Word has it that he even kept them on the track most of the time.

Woody already demonstrated his able leadership of the chapter through his enthusiasm and dedicated effort.



JR England, Vice-President (309) 243-9099, england31@comcast.net

JR is a Bimmer man through and through. To say the least, he's a hands-on enthusiast, who appreciates the marque for its superior engineering. He's happiest when he's taking them apart and putting them back together. He rescued a '91 318iS, rebuilt it into a fine machine and gave it to his college-bound son. J.R. also owns a '95 M540i (one of 135 6-speeds built), an '01 525i and an '04 530i Sport. He is quick to point out that, although he enjoys the cars, he most cherishes the people he's met throughout the country as a result of this hobby.

JR is a 'people person' and a dedicated family man. He resides in Dunlap, Illinois, with Lori, his wife of 25 years, and their twin children, a boy and
(cont.)



Meet the Board (cont.)

a girl. In addition to their son just entering college, they have two daughters already in college, one in Nursing and one in Health Sciences. Both Lori and JR have tested Bimmer integrity by each of them having bagged a deer... sans gun.

He is a Union Sprinklefitter, who designed and installed fire sprinkler systems for over 30 years. This responsibility keeps him plenty busy and takes him all over the state of Illinois, always keeping an eye focused on interesting BMW's he spots along the way.

JR enthusiastically accepted his responsibilities and is excited about re-energizing the chapter.

Steve Hyland, Treasurer/Secretary (309) 693-2568,
meri_steve@comcast.net

Steve was born and raised in Corning, New York, near Watkins Glen, where he spent much of his teenage life at the race track. Lack of finances limited his actual racing to go-karts, but he helped teams load and unload cars at W.G. This provided him with the opportunity to meet many of the premier drivers of the '50's and '60's, such as Sterling Moss and Joakim Bonnier.



Merilynn, his wife of 42 years, is also a BMWCCA member and you seldom see Steve without her. Both are very much enjoying their '08 335i convertible, for which they were lucky enough to take European delivery. They've been transferred in and out of Peoria over the years, and presently reside in Peoria. They have a daughter, who is a graphics designer, a son with Downs Syndrome, and three grandsons. Two grandsons are seniors in high school and the other a college freshman.

Steve graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1966 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering, and he earned a Masters degree from Bradley University. He held various positions at Caterpillar, Inc. and, after 37 years with Cat, retired as the East Peoria Technical Mgr. in 2003. His career afforded him the opportunity to travel much of the world; to places ranging from major economic capitals on various continents to extremely underdeveloped regions, such as the jungles of Borneo. He considers the opportunity to directly experience various cultures as one of the greatest rewards of his career.

Chris Schwarz, Board Member.

Chris is employed by BMW of Peoria. When dealing with him, it becomes obvious he's he's more than just a salesman... he's a true car guy' with a passion for the product. In fact, he was recently promoted to New Car Sales Mgr. after just four years with the company. He just took possession of a new, white M3, and is an active member of the Illini Chapter.

He grew up in Highland, Illinois, received a Marketing degree with an Accounting minor from Illinois State University, and is just 6 credit hours from earning an MBA from Bradley University.

Chris is single and keeps very active playing softball, soccer and skiing in Colorado twice each season. He finds time for more sedentary activities as well, including watching sports and traveling to visit friends in Chicago and Bloomington.

Chris' energy and enthusiasm will make him an effective Illini Chapter board member.



Rick Roudebush, Board Member

Rick demonstrated good judgment, by marrying his wife, Sonja, after her dad finished paying for her college education. Both he and Sonia were born and raised in Canton, Ill., where they attended school together, and still reside. They have one daughter, who, along with her husband, hasn't yet displayed Rick's judgment.... they're Mustang people, with her Mustang convertible and his Cobra. Rick has faith that they'll eventually see the light and become Bimmer-ites.

Rick works as a lineman for a rural electric cooperative, and his many talents include carpentry, metal working and virtually anything involved with construction. He and Sonia designed and built their home. Rick points out that Sonia worked side-by-side with him, performing many of the laborious tasks, Including mixing mortar, carrying cement blocks and putting cap shingles on the roof.

(cont.)



Meet the Board (cont.)

In addition to his sound judgment, Rick also displays good luck, as evidenced by his finding a beautiful '01 Z3 M Roadster with the odometer showing a mere 2,000 miles. He's managed to put another 18,000 miles on it, and plans on driving it until neither he nor Sonia can crawl out of it. While still able to sit up straight, they're enjoying the Z car and cite the Princeville membership drive (page 8) as an extremely enjoyable event for them. Rick is definitely a valuable addition to the board.

Mike DeSignore, Board Member.

Mike's love for Bimmers began with his '01 Sienna Red 330i, manual five-speed. He didn't believe he would like any car better than the 330, until he purchased his present Space Grey Metallic 335i, manual six-speed. He continues to be amazed by his BMW.



He has lived all over the country, from his original home in Glens Falls, New York to San Jose, California. He presently resides in Champaign, Illinois, where he's the Project Mgr. and Vice-President of the Petry-Kuhne Construction Co. He's been with Petry-Kuhne 16 of his 26 years in the construction business.

When not working, Mike keeps busy with several hobbies, including trap & skeet shooting, music (he plays the drums), staying fit, and wine and fine dining. The latter, coupled with his love of his BMW make him a perfect fit for the Illini Chapter board. He would like to see the Illini Chapter hold various types of events, ranging from driving events to social events to technical sessions.

Kathryn is Mike's wife of 21 years, and she and Mike are often seen attending chapter events together. They have one son, nearly 18 years old.



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Membership Drive (with emphasis on 'Drive')

by Steve Hyland

The Sunday brunch got us started (see 'Woody's Word', pp. 1 & 2). Now it was time for the members to get together, have some fun and continue the journey to establishing an active and vibrant club. On another Sunday, August 24th, we met at the same location where we held the brunch: the West Port Marina parking lot in East Peoria. This time, this was just the launching pad for the day, however.

About 30 beautiful Bimmers participated, from a rare '95 540i M to a couple of new 335i hard top convertibles, with a lot in between. This event was further enhanced by the participation of eight of our two-wheel brethren.

The Roundel serves as common ground, no matter the number of rubber torics supporting the machinery. One family brought two vehicles (totaling six wheels) and the head of the family (their beautiful collie). We had a Good mix of regulars and first-timers at club events.



After some socializing, exaggerating our machines' capabilities and inspecting each other's cars, we entered or mounted our vehicles and headed out to enjoy some of the perfect weather and excellent scenery. The drive began with a jaunt up Route 26 on the East side of the Illinois River. This is pretty much a country road, with a lot of eye candy, while smooth and easy to drive.



In the little town of Lacon, we turned west and crossed the river. This was the beginning of a different kind of driving. We criss-crossed the countryside on little roads that most of the people, even long-time residents of the area, didn't know existed. The roads were paved, but barely wide enough for the largest of Bimmers. Most of the participants didn't realize that this was actually the refined course. My Missus and I tried several alternatives prior to the event. These proved to have sections that were either virtually impassable dirt paths or totally impassable because of construction. The final choice seemed a good compromise for a 40 vehicle caravan, though there was a gravel stretch or two along the way. One farmer out in the middle of the boonies seemed perplexed to see the passing of so many kidney shaped grilles at one time. After 52 miles at less than break-neck speed,



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Membership Drive (cont.)

we reached our destination: the Princeville Heritage Museum in Princeville, IL. This museum is relatively new, but contains an impressive display of Memorabilia from the area, as well as Restored tractors and Farm implements.



Bimmer people tend to like any kind of machinery. The museum consists of several buildings, one of which was perfect for the meal, furnished by the Illini Chapter, waiting for the drivers and riders.



After enjoying the marinated grilled London broil, chicken vegetable tortilla roll-ups and many other treats from the 'A Matter of Taste' organization, we got down to some business. The new board was officially elected. Then we got some ideas of where

we wanted to go in the future and the kinds of events people would like to see on our agenda.

The event accomplished what we wanted: re-energizing the organization and putting the leadership group in place to carry the ball. We even got a couple of new members in the process.



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Watkins Glen Vintage Races

by Merilynn Hyland

Watkins Glen, the races. But wait! There's more! Not that I don't enjoy the races, but I just don't get "into" them like my husband, Steve, does. But don't let that keep you away. Watkins is Located in the Finger Lakes District of Upstate New York. Beautiful! Hilly terrain. The long, skinny, picturesque lakes. The wineries! The quaint, charming New England towns. I wish mere words could describe it, a place for all seasons.

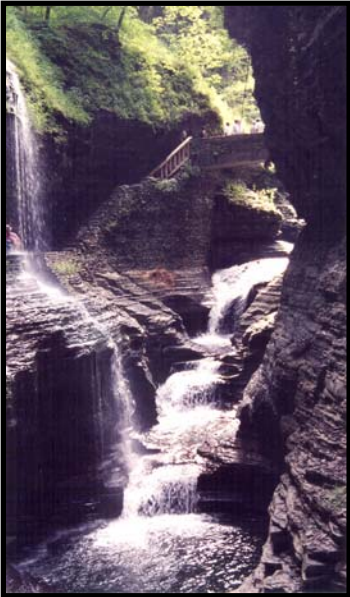
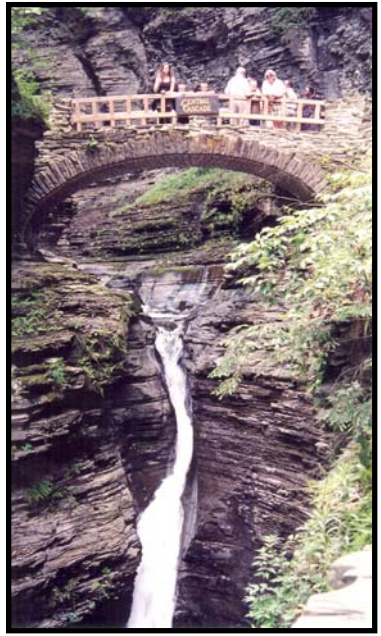
Let me tell you about Watkins Glen, NY, itself. It is nestled at the southern tip of Lake Seneca, sliding right off the hill into it. On the banks in town are charming restaurants and the public boats and private yacht clubs. On the hills rising quickly on each side are the wineries. There is nice shopping in town. On Friday night of the Vintage Race Weekend, the old cars take the old race route up and down the hills and through town. People line the streets to watch and after a couple of laps, the owners park the race cars all along the main street for anyone to see and talk to the owners.

In nearby Corning, you can shop Historic Market Street, tour the Corning Glass Museum to view ancient to modern glass and play with the science of glass and fiber optics. My favorite area is the glass blowing and watching the etching of glass in the wonderful Steuben glass area.

If this is not your interest, try soaring off Harris Hill, home to the National Soaring Site. What a view, up with the hawks! Or continue East to Elmira and "do" some of the Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) sites. Go north (directly East of Watkins) and you'll be in Ithaca, home of Cornell U., and on the southern bank of Cayuga Lake.

Perhaps you'd want to go west over the hill from Watkins and visit the wineries of Keuka Lake. But especially there is a marvelous museum of flight, the Curtiss Museum. I could tell many stories of the origins of flight.

Back in Watkins is the Glen. A beautiful hike along a little stream, going up the shale walkway, behind the water falls, and up, up, up



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Watkins Glen Vintage Races (cont.)

the trail. Once you reach the top (can you say “gift shop?”) you can go back the same way, or take a hiking trail through the woods, past an ancient cemetery. Very pretty. At the foot of the Glen is a large parking lot where many vintage cars are parked.

This is a wonderful trip, fun for the whole family, and a return trip is inevitable. For Steve’s sake, I won’t forget to include just a few of the wonderful vintage race cars at the Glen:



The Economy is Affecting Us All

by 'Woody' Wood

Teaser interest rates and higher lease payments.....

BMW is experiencing it's own difficulties brought on by the global economic downturn. Certainly there are always complicated static situations that impact the world's #1 selling luxury auto manufacturer. Right up front, though, I'll tell you that I wouldn't expect there to be bankruptcy rumors or government bailout packages involving BMW.

In the short term you can't help but have deep concern with world wide slumping sales..... regionally our BMW Centers are down about 43% for the year. There are Central Region Centers, in fact, that have recently experienced months of zero sales. I won't name names but I hope that they sold some used one's at least. We, as car club members, want our Centers to be profitable and happy so that we can have satisfying experiences when we call on them for service. It's nearly impossible for some Centers to do a good job anyway. The

Centers are hurting and I wonder if the X6 and upcoming diesel engines are helping or hurting.

There are some good things going on.

BMW North America is particularly aggressive right now with the teaser interest rates. There is 0.9% on new 08's. BMW hates doing this and wants no part of these potential resale value killers. Their premium branding comes into question. They would much rather have lease specials and favorable lease factors have given BMW a huge boost in the segment. So, the interest rates for conventional finance purchases and those who would otherwise pay cash are sweet indeed. Finance the whole thing and take cash back for your trade value. But, for those wanting that easy low lease payment and the ability to turn the car back in to the dealer in two or three years without concern for resale value, you are looking at higher lease payments because of decreasing residual values. It's tricky but BMW would way rather have you and your trade-in back in two or three years than four, five or even six years.

Wholesale market values can actually be pushed UP by dropping new car sales volume. A lot of BMW shoppers can be shifted to thinking pre-owned in such an environment increasing demand. Sure, there are drivers out there that a year ago, or a few years ago were completely planning on getting a new five or seven that are now shopping for a pre-owned 5 or 3. Some might even make the ultimate sacrifice and buy a VW or Honda, ugh* So, what happens is that this can fuel the wholesale market when at the same time there are less trade-ins available because of slow new car sales. Yes, your trade can be worth more when new car sales are slow.

We're a fickle bunch about when to buy a new BMW but from a practicality position you can surely spend a little dough on a detail, some cool new tires or techno gadget like satellite radio and keep the BMW that you have now. It's highly unlikely that you are going to wear a BMW out and they don't exactly get boring. Ah, so we are winners either way.



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