



THE GASLINE

Brandywine Motorsport Club, Inc.

www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org

March 2013

BMC CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, March 5th, 2013

CHARCOAL PIT at PRICE'S CORNER

714 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE

6:00 P.M. greet & eat / 7 P.M. Meeting



Chair Chatter – Paul Alderman

Well, as we move on into spring, I think everyone is waiting for the warmer weather. The salt trucks will be going away (maybe) and we can get out the summer vehicles.

In March, Jim Martin is again organizing a tour of the Simeone Car Museum (info below). Events will be really starting in earnest in April: Dave Teter has been working hard for the past year preparing for this year's March (April?) Lamb Rally; the Braille Rally will get typed in braille for the navigators; Duke Wilford is anxiously waiting to head up his first event as Autocross Chair; and George Alderman has the Spring Fun Rally all ready to go. So get ready to come out and support your club.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, I am still looking for ideas for speakers for the meetings; if you have an idea, invite them out for a meeting and let me know. If you would like to share what you do with the club for a brief talk, let me know.

*Looking for Spring,
Paul*

Simeone Museum Tour

Jim Martin is organizing another trip to the Simeone Museum for their "Best Of Britain" show. Set for Saturday, March 23, this year theme is a tribute to Aston Martin and features 4-seater Saloons. There will also be driving demonstrations hosting:

- 1927 Mercedes-Benz Sportwagen
- 1927 Bentley 3-liter Speed Model
- 1929 Stutz Supercharged
- 1929 DuPont Le Mans Speedster

Jim needs to know who is interested in attending; contact him at: jjpmartymar@aol.com or 610-274-3193.

Is This Your Last Gasline?

BMC 2012 memberships expire on March 1st. You will no longer receive the Gasline if you have not renewed.

An Application/Renewal form can be download from the BMC website.

BMC Rally Chair - George Alderman

The Rally season will be getting underway on the first weekend in April with Dave Teter's BMC/SCCA March Lamb rally on Saturday April 6th. (Flyer sent with this newsletter.)

The next day, Sunday, April 7th, is the BMC/Del-PCA Braille Rally. Scott Clabaugh has lined up many Porsche club members to drive in the Braille rally; Willis and I, with help from some BMCers, will operate check-points, timing and scoring.

The next rally, on Saturday April 27th, will be the Spring Fun Rally (flyer in this newsletter). This will be a good rally for beginners because every turn has the exact mileage noted at the turns, and the route instructions include official times for certain locations. All your navigator will need to do is add the official time to your car number to determine if you are early or late to the location. If you can get to the turns 15 to 30 seconds early then you should be close to on-time at the checkpoints. We will have at least 2 classes depending on rally experience. Call me or email with any other questions galderman32@comcast.net or 302-373-2111.

George

5th of February Meeting Highlights

The February 2013 meeting was held at Charcoal Pit on Kirkwood Highway and was attended by 22 members. It was chaired by Paul Alderman.

The meeting began with Paul thanking Jim Irons for setting up the meeting at the Charcoal Pit.

Treasurer's Report – Willis Weldin: \$7,609.49

• **Membership** = 79 (12/31/12). Don't forget to renew your membership!

Rally Report – George Alderman

- March Lamb XVI Rally – 4/6/13 – Flyer online.
- 42nd Braille Rally – 4/7/13 – Flyer online.
- TBA Fun Rally – 4/27/27

Autocross Report – Duke Wilford

- 2013 Autocross I - 4/14/13
- We have reached out to some other groups like Del Val BMWCCA with positive responses. Discussed looking for other bigger sites and if needed, raising the rates to cover the costs of lot rental. Everyone agreed. Please help us in our search for bigger lots (contact Duke at wil4ds@gmail.net).

Website – Jim Martin: Thanks to Shawn Dewey for the improvements to our website, please visit the events section for coming events. Click events, then go to month and click on Agenda. I have posted all events that may be of interest to Club members.

Gasline – Jim Irons: All articles/pictures need to be forwarded to Jim Irons by 2/26/13.

Secretary Jim Martin

Autocross Update – Duke Wilford



Although we have not yet secured a new venue, potential new sites are still in development and Keene school remains available. As always, if you have leads or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at wil4ds@gmail.com.

During the February meeting, we further discussed the idea of increasing autocross rates. The consensus was to keep fees at their current levels for events held at the Keene lot, with the possibility of a surcharge for events incurring higher costs, should we secure a larger lot that requires rent. The clubs may also pool their resources to subsidize rent if necessary to keep fees reasonable.



We are rolling out a new service shortly: online preregistration through www.motorsportreg.com. This site offers a regional 'one stop shop' for all types of motorsport events. Partnering with them will help BMC promote both our autocross and rally programs to a larger pool of enthusiasts. It also makes preregistering for events more convenient for both drivers and organizers. Signing up is easy and free, so if you do not already have an account, please take a minute to join at www.motorsportreg.com.

I have also been in contact with the Del Val Chapter of the BMW CCA, of which I am a member. They run many HPDEs, but no autocross program. I have invited them to come see what it's all about among the cones, and met with positive response from several members. Maybe we can get a friendly Stuttgart vs. Munich rivalry going.

I'm actively seeking ideas and suggestions on how to improve the already-fun BMC autocross program. Please come out to the next club meeting and share your thoughts.

-Duke "Someone find us an abandoned proving grounds" Wilford, Autocross Chair

The Checkpoint Line - Dave Teter



I've asked our editor to include the flyer for March Lamb XVI with this issue. I urge everyone who plans to enter to do so as soon as possible. We need confirmed entries in order to plan for printing, trophies, etc.

We expect most of the 8-10 teams who travel here each year (some via air) from all around the country to participate in this SCCA points event.

Wayne Elvin, Pat Phalan, and I will be looking at the course a couple of times in the coming weeks. Once again, Dave Laffitte (Footie) will be here for the event to do final pre-check and lead car with Wayne

In the March Lamb flyer, you will note the addition of a GPS Class. We hope this addition might bring out someone who would like to be spared some of the chore of staying 'on time' by just SOP'ing it. SCCA is working on a way to include GPS-based devices into its class structures. This would include stand-alone GPS's and the special purpose smartphone APPs. If a stand-alone class (3 cars) does not develop, the scores will be handicapped to be combined to another class.

The local support of the club is the extra ingredient toward success. Please give your support in a timely fashion.
Dave

Upcoming Events Calendar

A full list of most local area sports car club events for 2013 can be found on the BMC web site at: www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org Click on the Events heading and then Agenda under Month.

- March 23 Simone Car Museum Tour, "Best of Britain" Show, Philadelphia, PA – AHS&T & BCCD
- April 6 March Lamb Rally, Newark, DE – BMC&SCCA**
- April 7 Braille Rally, Northern DE – BMC&PCA**
- April 7 March Lion Rally, Pittman, NJ – SJR/SCCA
- April 14 Autocross I, Glasgow, DE – BMC&PCA**
- April 27 Spring Fun Rally – BMC**
- May 4 Lewes Car Show, Lewes, DE – BCCD
- May 18 Carlisle Import Car Show, Carlisle, PA – AHS&T
- May 19 Northern DE Tour – BCCD
- May 24 3rd Annual Car Show, University & Whist Club, Wilmington, DE – BCCD

AHS&T – Austin Healey Sports & Touring Club

BMC – Brandywine Motorsport Club

BCCD – British Car Club of Delaware

PCA – Delaware Chapter, Porsche Club of America

SJR/SCCA – New Jersey Region/Sports Car Club of America

42nd Running of the Braille Rally

The **42nd** (Yes, 42nd!) running of the annual Braille Rally is on the calendar for Sunday, April 7th, 2013! Together with the Porsche Club of America - Delaware Region, the Brandywine Motorsport Club will be putting on this unique event to benefit the Delaware Association for the Blind (DAB).

It's Simple! We need volunteers to drive their cars or work the course. If you're driving, you'll be listening to the instructions your blind navigator will be reading to you from their Braille instructions. It's as simple as: "Turn right onto Smith Bridge Rd. Maintain the posted speed limit." If you're helping on the course, you'll be keeping track of what time each team hit the checkpoints.

Timeline for the day! We'll meet at 1PM at the Brandywine Springs Park at Faulkland Rd. and Newport Gap Pike. After a brief meeting, course workers will head out to their assignments and drivers will meet their navigators. Precisely at 2:01PM, the first car will be sent on their way; the second car will be off at 2:02PM. You'll spend about 1-1/2 to 2 hours navigating the hills of Chester County, PA, Cecil County, MD, and New Castle County, DE and then end up back at Landis Lodge on Newport Gap Pike, which is the headquarters for the DAB!

Picnic and Awards! After you find your way back to Landis Lodge, we'll have plenty of refreshments, food, and prizes. Each participant gets a T-shirt, generously donated by Porsche of Delaware; they continue to support this event each year. Trophies will be given out to the 1st,

2nd, and 3rd place finishers....and we don't forget about last place either. You get a trophy for last place, which we have named after the race founder, Renee O'Leary. That trophy is called the "Renee O'Leary Best Chance for Improvement" award!

Course Workers and Drivers! George Alderman has resurrected the course we ran in 1982 and he'll need course workers to make this happen. If you'd like to help on the course, please email George Alderman at galderman32@comcast.net.

The DAB already has 15 navigators registered and I'm expecting 20! - so, we'll need 20 drivers, too! Send me an email at braillerally@verizon.net so I can get your name on the list to drive. You don't have to drive a sports car to be in this event, so if your spouse, girlfriend/boyfriend/significant other would like to drive or help out that the picnic, that would be great!! Just drop me an email and let me know. You will have a great time!

Fun! From that last award name, you can tell the Rally is all about having fun. Last place, first place - all that really matters is volunteering a Sunday afternoon to help others in the community that may be less fortunate than ourselves.

Don't be scared! Still apprehensive about driving? The 2011 rally was won by a driver and navigator competing in their first rally! Who will it be this year?

*Thanks,
Scott Clabaugh*

The Hard Drive Garage – By Mark Schroy

Okay gang. This month, I am bringing to you a car I have wanted after seeing one for the first time at a BCCD car show in red, white, and gold. It's George Alderman's fault, honestly.



This beautiful 1972 Lotus Europa Twin Cam was up for auction on eBay. The bidding has ended, with 43 bids, and the winning bid was just over \$10,000. From what the seller has in the description, this car is a great driver with some cosmetic issues to overcome, plus a set of brakes that pull to the right.

I have seen a number of these cars come up for sale since discovering Alderman's car for the first time, but my wife still tells me no. Usually the first comment is, appropriately, "Where would we put it?" My response is "I'll get a lift installed in the garage and store it over the MGB." Obviously, I get stared at, then she just shakes her head. You think she would stop asking that question by now.....

But anyways, here's a little quick back history of these cars. The Europa was first put into production in 1966, starting with Series S1, of which less than 300 were made. Series S1 A & S1 B had over 300 built, with Series 2 at 4,294 and the final iteration being this example, the Twin Cam Series, with just under 5,000 produced. In all, about 9,300 were made. The Europa was designed and built with Colin Chapman's philosophy of "Simply, then add lightness."

Honestly, that still confuses me. How do you ADD something that takes away weight? I can ADD a salad to a meal, but it doesn't make ME lighter.

Anyways, at the time this car was built, because of the Formula One style suspension and the handling it provided, automotive writers called the Europa a F1 car for the road. Aside from the doors, hood, and trunk, the body of the car was molded out of one piece of fiberglass.

The Twin Cam version of the car was built from 1971 until 1975, with a special model started in 1972.



The John Player Special had the Big Valve motor, with upgraded carburetors and a 5 speed gearbox. The paint scheme was all black with gold pin striping matching the scheme of the Grand Prix cars. Dang, that car looks awesome!

I have driven a version of the car on my Gran Turismo video game, and it's a hoot. It sticks everywhere, and is fun to drive. I have tuned up one to a ridiculous amount of horsepower, and it beats almost anything on the virtual tracks-almost...

But, as usual, I can't have one in my garage..... not unless I hit the lottery.

Till next month!

-M

Ye Olde Editor's Note: Back in the early '80s, long-time BMC member Harry Smith autocrossed a black John Player Special Twin-Cam Europa just like the one above. Harry won the 1981 BMC autox series championship in A/Street Prepared. I'm sure that Harry wishes he still had that car, a similar regret that many of us old car guys have.

Jim Irons





Brandywine Motorsport Club
Spring Fun Rally
Saturday, April 27th, 2013



The BMC Spring Fun Rally is about 35 miles long and should take just 1-1/2 hours to complete. It covers roads between Landenberg PA and Centreville DE.

This will be a low-key, fun rally, with time and mileages given in the route instructions, and a few checkpoints along the course. Prizes will be awarded.

The finish at the Charcoal Pit is very close to the start location. The restaurant will have a room setup for our group, with food and drink available from the menu.

Start Location:

Brandywine Springs Park Faulkland Road (Rt 34) and Newport Gap Pike (Rt 41)

Registration Opens:

1 PM in the BSP Parking Lot

Rally Start Time:

2:00 PM plus your car number

Finish location:

Charcoal Pit Sports Bar, Kirkwood Highway at Greenbank Road near Price's Corner

Cost: Just \$10 per car at Registration.

Please R.S.V.P. by April 24th

To galderman32@comcast.net or 302-373-2111, so we can plan with the restaurant and have enough route instructions.