



THE GASLINE

Brandywine Motorsport Club, Inc.

www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org

July 2020

BMC Autocross I, Saturday July 18, Ripken Stadium - see flyer

BMC / First State Drift Event, Saturday July 25, Dover Downs

Club Chair



Things seem to be returning closely enough to normal that BMC is able to cautiously begin in-person activities again. However, we will be taking health and safety precautions, and we will continue to follow government guidelines for social gatherings. At a very minimum, *properly worn* masks and social distancing will be required at all BMC events.

We are working out arrangements for our first general club meeting since March on Tuesday, 07 July. We are trying to have it face-to-face in 'greet, eat, and meet' format, but safety considerations will determine if that is possible. We will keep everyone posted as soon as details are finalized.

Our twice-postponed Autocross I will be happening on 18 July, returning to Ripken Stadium. Ax Chair Liz Wilford has done a great job coordinating with the various organizations to make sure we have permission to run there. AxI is sold out, but Liz has adjusted the schedule to allow BMC to get all 4 autocrosses in this season.

Our first Drift event of the season is coming up soon, as well, on 25 July at Dover Speedway. Justin and Jimmy have put together detailed plans to run a safe, separated event and are expecting good turn out. Preregistration is open now at www.motorsportreg.com.

Both program chairs will issue requirements and instructions for attendees. However, expect events to feature limited contact, even if that means some traditional elements of our events will not be available. We also discourage bringing spectators in general, in order to reduce group size.

For up-to-the-minute news, check out the Club's Facebook group. We will also use MSR's email blaster to reach a wider audience. If you have specific questions, executive committee email addresses are published in this newsletter and at www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org.

We're eager to see everybody safely on course!

*-Duke "Seriously, Just Wear The Mask" Wilford
BMC Club Chair*

Rally



Hi all! Hope that you all are well and have been keeping your cars in good shape because I have some great news! In lieu of our own summer rally (graduating college left me with little time on my hands for driving), I am inviting you all to attend the Washington D.C. Region SCCA & MG's of Baltimore's 31st Annual *Get The Dust Off Rallye* on Sunday, July 12th!

I apologize for the short notice as I was just informed days ago of this awesome event.

The rally is \$35 per car with a maximum of 2 people per car. It is approx. 60 miles with no timing required, and has the same start and end location. Afterwards there will be live music, awards, and a raffle – bring your own picnic and tailgating supplies but food trucks will be available too. All cars are welcome!

A flyer for the rally with more details is sent with this Gasline. Hope to see you there!

- Hanna Alderman, Rally Chair

Membership

We are active again! Join BMC or Renew your membership at:

<http://msreg.com/BMCMembership2020>

Autocross



I'm very excited to announce that we were able to rearrange some things and secure 4 events with Ripken Stadium this year! This did require rescheduling our August 29 date - here's the final 2020 BMC autocross schedule for your viewing pleasure:

Autox I - July 18

Autox II - August 15

Autox III - September 12

Autox IV - October 10

Autox I is currently sold-out at our event cap of 90 drivers, but preregistration for Autox II is now open! You can sign up here: <http://msreg.com/BMCAXII2020>

Right now, I'm working through reviewing our event day procedures top to bottom and going digital, contactless, and 6 feet apart wherever possible. In the meantime, I'm still taking suggestions for safety measures during the next couple weeks. Feedback on how other clubs have been running their events is especially appreciated, and thank you so much to those who've reached out with advice already!

I'll release the updated COVID autocross guidelines to all registered drivers via email ahead of Autox I, as well as posting them publicly to our Facebook page. Please review them carefully - as always, we reserve the right to bar someone from driving if we have concerns with their conduct, and public health is an important part of safety.

Stay safe, be well, and see you in a couple weeks! Do me a favor and keep your fingers crossed for good weather...we're running out of rain dates.

Liz Wilford, Autocross Chair



Mike's Notes

Fellow BMC'ers,

Another month of minimal car events and gatherings in June. But don't lose hope for future events and meetings. Since there have not been any events to attend, I decided to hold an event of my own during this pandemic. I let the grass grow tall and cut a novice autocross course for my kids to navigate between and around the cones. Yes, that is my youngest daughter making her way through one of the turns in her Cozy Coupe; fastest time of the day got an extra scoop of ice cream. We as a family did pile in one of our vehicles for some fresh air and enjoy a short cruise on some real asphalt once or twice too.

Hope everyone's happy, healthy, and taking one day at a time.

Mike Trzonkowski, BMC Secretary



BMC/First State Drift

Our July 25th drift will be our first event for 2020. We have been awaiting this for a while now and are prepared for a good turnout as always. We will be running the same course as we did previously, which seems to work well for all power level cars. Due to COVID-19, spectators will be kept on a very limited basis and hope for our next event to be able to get them back. Signup at: <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/bmc-fsd-dual-course-3-car-tandem-7-25-dover-intl-speedway-brandywine-280052>

Justin Sieminski

2020 BMC Officers

Club Chair	Duke Wilford BMCchair@gmail.com
Membership	Beto Castelo BMCmembershp@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jim Martin BMCtreasure@gmail.com
Secretary	Mike Trzonkowski BMCsecetry@gmail.com
Property	Dave Mitchell BMCpropert@gmail.com
Gasline	Jim Irons BMCgasline@gmail.com
Autocross	Liz Wilford BMCautox@gmail.com
Rally	Hanna Alderman BMCrallymaster@gmail.com
Past Chair	Paul Alderman BMCatlarge@gmail.com

The following article was written by BMC member Frank Adkins for Cruising Magazine. The text and photos are reprinted here courtesy of Cruising Magazine, LLC.

Beat The Clock

Since 1953, Brandywine Motorsport Club has focused on the thrill of the drive – By Frank Adkins

Most car clubs focus on one manufacturer or model of automobile, while other clubs are centered on a particular genre of cars, such as street rods, muscle cars, rat rods, etc. In either case, the vehicles are at the centerpoint. The Brandywine Motorsport Club is a car club of a different ilk. The focus of the BMC is not the cars themselves. Rather, the emphasis is on driving events.

The cars seen at BMC events are as diverse as their members. Where else would you expect to find a gathering that includes late model BMWs and Corvettes in the same company as Mazda Miatas, classic Austin Healy and MG sports cars, and even a vintage Mustang or Chevy II? While some are clean enough to be show-worthy, they are all “drivers.” The BMC does not host or promote car shows. Instead, it attracts those who enjoy driving their cars, no matter what types of cars they may be. Members come from all walks of life and include college students, middle-aged white collar and blue-collar professionals, and retirees. These folks are simply automotive enthusiasts who enjoy competing against each other by pitting their driving skills against the clock.

The BMC originated in 1953 in Wilmington, DE as a spin-off of the MG Car Club, an international organization of MG automobile owners with its world headquarters in the United Kingdom. While the MG Car Club is currently celebrating its 80th year, at that time, there was not enough support to keep the local chapter of the MG Car Club afloat. By January 13, 1954 the BMC had been formed, and it was ready to stand on its own, separate from the MGCC.

In its early days, BMC members competed in gymkhanas, hill climbs, and rallies. One of the club’s charter members, George Alderman, is still active in the club today. Alderman is the founder of Alderman Automotive Machine in New Castle, Del. He enjoyed a professional racing career spanning nearly five decades, and he is a recent inductee into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame. His son, Paul, now operates the family business. He, too, is a retired professional racer and a regular competitor at BMC events. A handful of other members have been active for 40 years or more.

These days, the BMC hosts several road rallies and auto cross competitions each season. The road rallies lead participants through scenic areas via winding secondary roads. Typically, the routes traverse rural Delaware, Pennsylvania, and/or Maryland. Each team is comprised of a driver and a navigator, and often there are checkpoints along the way. Successful rally participants strive for accuracy. This



George Alderman's Cooper F3 at '63 Yorklyn Hillclimb



Porsche Speedster at '57 Yorklyn Hillclimb

type of rally is sometimes referred to as a time-speed-distance competition. Traveling at a certain speed for a given distance means that you should arrive at the next checkpoint at a specific time. Those with the lowest cumulative error—arriving early or late—win. It sounds simple, but there are many variables. Because the route directions are intentionally vague, it is easy to miss a turn. Realizing the mistake and then compensating for it takes experience, strong math skills, and gut instinct. If traffic dictates that too much time is spent at a stop sign or if a slower vehicle on the road impedes a competitor’s travel, the lost time must be made up as quickly and as accurately as possible without breaking any laws. It is the navigator’s job to account for all of these things and instruct the driver what to do. The driver’s job is to drive the vehicle while obeying the navigator’s commands.

Folks often compete in road rallies in sports cars, antique vehicles, or other special interest cars, but they are just as likely to arrive in their everyday sedans, mini-vans, and SUVs. The vehicle isn’t what is important. What matters is having fun. Some forego the stop watches and go along just for the camaraderie and the scenic drive.

Beat The Clock, cont'd...

BMC's autocrosses are slightly more restrictive concerning vehicle types. Trucks and SUVs are generally not permitted because their high centers of gravity makes them prone to rolling over during tight, high-speed maneuvers on the autocross course. Otherwise, practically any four-wheeled motor vehicle is welcome. Vehicles must pass safety inspections and drivers must have helmets with current SNELL ratings, but the club provides loaner helmets for newcomers who wish to experience the thrill of autocross. before investing in a helmet.

Autocross competitions (formerly known as gymkhanas) are held in large parking lots on courses defined by orange pylons. The objective is to run the course as quickly and as cleanly as possible. Each run is timed to the thousandth of a second, and competitors are often separated by just a few hundredths or thousandths of a second. A two-second penalty is levied for every cone a competitor knocks down.

Cars are assigned into various classes based on the type of car and its anticipated performance level. The classes are similar to those established by the Sports Car Club of America, and they ensure that everyone has a fair chance by competing against the drivers of vehicles similar to their own. For example, the Classic Street Car class is for older vehicles, both foreign and domestic, that are mostly stock. The vehicles competing in this class are mainly 1960s and 1970s models. In recent years they have included early Novas and Chevy IIs, an MG Midget, Corvette Stingrays, an early GTO, Paul Alderman's '66 Mustang, a 1964 Austin Healey, and my own '65 Plymouth Valiant.

Because the course is different each time, there is no way for people to learn the course and remember it from one outing to the next. The objective during the first run or two of the day is to learn the course. Then, on the remaining runs, competitors seek opportunities to trim those precious fractions of a second.

As automobile racing goes, autocross is one of the safest forms. Speeds are relatively low—usually first, second, and sometimes third gears. The course is designed to keep participants as safe as possible and to minimize their risk of colliding with stationary obstacles such as fences and light poles. When things go sideways (pun intended), the worst that usually happens is that a few cones get mowed down. The only injury the driver sustains is a bruised ego. The risk of damage to the vehicle is also minimal.

In the past, the BMC has hosted its autocross events in the back parking lot at Dover International Speedway in Dover, Del. and at Glasgow High School near Newark, Del. For the last couple of years, they have used the parking lot at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen, Md. Typically, they host four to six events each year during the warm weather months.

Although racers are competitive by nature, for the members of the BMC, it's all about being safe while having fun. The atmosphere at any BMC event is warm and inviting, and members support newcomers by offering ride-alongs in which veteran autocrossers offer tips and instruction to those who are new to the sport. Family involvement also plays a significant role in maintaining an active membership. It is not uncommon to see two and even three generations of a family competing and/or helping to run club events. For these reasons, the BMC has thrived for more than 65 years. For more information and to see the event schedule, visit www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org or visit their Facebook page, Brandywine Motorsport Club.



Winners Renee O'Leary (MG) and Tom Lawrence (A-H)
at a 1960 BMC competition



Brandywine Motorsport Club
Autocross I
Saturday, July 18, 2020
Ripken Stadium
873 Long Dr, Aberdeen, MD 21001

Come Autocross in a Friendly, Competitive Environment!

Setup: 8:30 AM

Registration: 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM First Car Off: 10:30 AM

There is a 90 Car Entry Limit - Preregistration is strongly encouraged!

Preregister online at: www.motorsportreg.com

Preregistration closes Wednesday before the event at 6:00p.

Walkups on the event day will incur a \$5 late registration fee.

Autocross Preregistration Fees:

Entry – BMC 2020 Member - \$50

Entry – Non-BMC member - \$55 (*includes 1-day BMC membership*)

Trophies awarded by class!

In addition to typical autocross classes, we offer a CLASSIC STREET CAR class for mostly-stock street cars 1978 and older. Let's give those older cars the exercise they deserve!

- NO OPEN EXHAUST – Effective muffler required. We reserve the right to disqualify a car from competition if it is judged to be too loud.
- Approved helmet (M or SA 2010 or newer) and seatbelts are required. Loaner helmets will be available.
- Drivers must be at least 18 years old and have a valid driver's license.
- All contestants, workers, and guests must sign a release and waiver of liability.
- Parent / guardian signatures required for workers and guests under 18.
- Vehicles must pass safety and technical inspection.
- No loose or unsecured items in any area. Remove floor mats from cabin.
- All cars are welcome to compete except SUVs and other vehicles that present a rollover risk.
- Common Solo rules and classifications will generally be followed. We reserve the right to modify/interpret these rules to suit the spirit of the competition and to promote safety. Please take time to research what class your car will be in prior to registration.

*If you have any questions, please contact the event administrator:
Liz Wilford @ BMCautox@gmail.com or 302-353-7254*