



Peachtree Pit: Winter 2014

Greetings Peachtree Chapter members,

I hope you're enjoying the holidays! Just a few days ago, the chapter elected three new board members: Simone Harrison as vice president, Gary Beck as secretary, and Erik Corwin as member at large. Scroll down in this message to see brief biographies for them. Per chapter bylaws, Treasurer Chris Lindner and I will remain on the board for another year.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 24, 2015 and join fellow BMW enthusiasts for the Peachtree Chapter's annual holiday party! This year, we will be at The Gallery at the Cobb Galleria Centre. Enjoy dinner, dancing, and a silent auction from which proceeds will benefit our Street Survival program.

The Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel is attached to the venue, and rooms start at \$99 should you want to stay the night. To make reservations, please call [770-953-4500](tel:770-953-4500).

Tickets are \$65 per person and include a dinner buffet and three drink tickets. Register here:
<http://msreg.com/PeachtreeBMW2015AnnualParty>

Please stay tuned to <http://www.peachtreebmwcca.motorsportreg.com> for more information on upcoming events.

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/133687167176/>

Happy Motoring!

Jason Courant President - Peachtree BMW CCA

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Welcome New Board Members!

Simone Harrison, Gary Beck, and Erik Corwin join the board

On December 17 at Meehan's Public House in Sandy Springs, the Club elected Simone Harrison as the new vice president, Gary Beck as secretary, and Erik Corwin as member at large. They will officially take their positions at the beginning of 2015. Now, meet your new board members here!



Simone Harrison has been a BMW CCA member on and off for many years. She started in the National Capital chapter in Washington, D.C., with her first BMW, a 1997 318ti. In 1998, she moved to Georgia and swapped the ti for an E30 M3. After several more BMWs, Simone is back in an E30 M3.

Simone has decided it's her turn to give back to the club and contribute to its future success. She brings value to the chapter with 15+ years of corporate leadership experience in strategic planning and communications. She plans to work closely with President Jason Courant and other board members to further the charter and purpose of the club: learning, fun and togetherness.



Gary Beck has been a BMW CCA member for more than 10 years and has been to Oktoberfest, the national event held once a year, four times. He has helped with two concours events and chaired the most recent one in 2012 - and believes it's time for another!

Gary brings the experience of being an officer and board member of another club for more than 10 years, in which time he has been a board member, a treasurer, and a vice president.

He owns three BMWs, two of which he often brings to Peachtree Chapter events. His black 1988 M5 is show quality, and his new project is a 1972 3.2CS coupe that is a work in project. He rebuilt the coupe's engine in the spring and drove it more than 4,000 miles to Oktoberfest in Colorado to "break it in."



Erik is a longtime member of the BMW CCA, and the Peachtree Chapter has been his home chapter for the last eight years. These days, you can find him cramming track supplies in the back of his tow vehicle as he takes his Boston Green '95 M3 to BMW CCA track events up and down the east coast.

As a project and program manager in the financial services industry and former big four consultant, he has experience organizing, leading, and contributing to projects small and large. He brings these skills to his new role as member at large.

Erik is passionate about the club and would like to see it remain strong and relevant. As a kid, he grew up going to driver's schools, Oktoberfests, and vacations crammed into the back of a 2002 and later a 320i. He wants to see the club continue to put on great events and ensure the next generation has the same wonderful experiences.

Keeping a Clean Ultimate Driving Machine

Winter in Atlanta is coming, and that means the inevitable frost with tons of salt and gravel laid onto the road and never cleaned up--and therefore end up on your car. James Chew of the National Capital Chapter in Washington, D.C., where they know a little more about keeping a car clean from winter grime, shares his reviews and tips.

One of the first BMW TV ads that I remember shows a mud-covered 1987 325is being driven

aggressively on some back roads. When the car stops, a driver steps out, gives the red 3 series a quick, thorough wash, then hops back in for more aggressive driving. I seem to remember the voice-over stating that the only time BMW owners willingly remove their cars from the road is to remove the road from their car.

Here's the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIK3PU3J4E>. I do wonder how many BMW CCA members remember this ad or own a 1987 325is.

All of my BMW friends share a common dislike for the automatic car washes. Scratches are sure to occur, and the car wash employees, try as they might, will not clean our BMWs with the same loving care we show. And, I have firsthand experience that clean, well cared-for BMWs yield more money. When my first BMW, an E32 750iL was totaled, the insurance adjuster made a quick inspection of my vehicle and said, "It's obvious this car was somebody's baby. I'll make sure you get the maximum amount."

Keeping your BMW clean need not cost a lot of money or take much time. Cleaning it on a regular basis, say weekly, would be ideal. I'm offering a few tips to help you show your pride by keeping your BMW clean.

Exterior

After reviewing the Griot's Garage and Bavarian Autosport websites and catalogs, it's no wonder that new BMW owners feel intimidated by cleaning their vehicles. The car care equipment and materials advertised on these websites are wonderful, expensive, and intimidating to the uninitiated. But here's all you need to wash and wax your car's exterior:

- Bucket (two if you can: one for the soapy solution, one for your ShamWow. You can find them at WalMart.)
- Mild Soap - Ivory or a special car wash blend, such as Mothers. Keep in mind that even mild, non-car wash formulation soap will strip away car wax, so you may want to reserve the "soap bucket" for your wheels.
- A car scrub sponge (WalMart), a large sponge (WalMart), and a tire/wheel brush (WalMart)

- A good hose and spray nozzle (WalMart)
- A ShamWow (any auto show or the internet)
- Two towels: one to dry the car AFTER you use the ShamWow and one to remove the wax
- A good wax (I like to use Mothers California Gold.)
- Tire dressing

Then use your common sense (DON'T wash in the heat of the day - you'll be surprised how many people will) and follow the directions for the wax and the tire dressing.

Washing a car is a lot like washing dishes: Once you're in a rhythm, you'll be surprised how quickly you're finished.

When you're first spraying the car to begin your wash, pay special attention to the front wheels. I like to spray the front wheels until I don't see any black brake pad dust coming from them.

Every six months (or when winter is over for my East Coast friends), it's good to use a clay bar on your paint. Mothers pioneered this product, and it is quite easy to use. You'll be surprised how much "stuff" comes off your paint, and the resulting shine will speak for itself.

I am more than disgusted with the damage I see to plastic headlight covers. I'm even more disgusted to see the price some places charge to "fix" it. But there are now several headlight restoration kits offered on the market. I've had great experience with the Mothers kits - don't forget to tape off the body when using it!

Interior

Floor mats do serve a purpose, but even they need to be cleaned on a regular basis. A weekly vacuum with a shop vacuum (your local hardware store will have good ones starting at \$30.00) is a good first step. This weekly vacuuming allows you to pick up the French fries, sesame seeds, mascara pencils, and loose change you dropped while driving your car.

Use a shop vacuum to clean the dash, door panels, instrument panel, air vents, and the gap between the steering column and the instrument panel. It is surprising how much dust these areas collect, especially during pollen season.

On the East Coast, the change of the "bad weather/good weather" floor mats can serve as a time to clean the mats as well as the carpets. Mothers sells a very nice carpet and upholstery cleaner that's fast and effective and doesn't leave a scent. Household cleaners will also work, but keeping a separate supply of these items will reduce the confusion and arguments that may result when your spouse is looking for them to clean the house.

After cleaning the carpets and floor mats, applying some Scotchguard will do wonders to keep them clean. By using Scotchguard, I've kept the carpeted floor mats on all of my BMWs stain-free, despite the expected milkshake/soda/baby formula/ketchup/mustard/secret sauce/taco sauce spills one expects with a family.

While I'm not thrilled with BMW's following the industry trend to offer a leather that's processed to within an inch of vinyl (and finally simply offering vinyl), it's still leather and must be maintained to keep it clean and strong. Many of us who own the older BMWs with real leather use the Lexol cleaner and the conditioner. I've conducted an experiment using the BMW cleaner/conditioner on Dakota leather upholstery in my wife's 2007 X5. It's fast, easy, and effective. On my daughter's 2003 530i, I use both a Mothers leather cleaner/conditioner and Lexol. Both yield good results. And when treating leather, don't forget the steering wheel, shifter and booth, and parking brake. They also need to be cleaned and conditioned, probably moreso than the seats.

Pledge furniture wax does a very nice job of polishing the interior wood trim.

Clean ALL the interior glass, including the sunroof. I like to use the foaming spray glass cleaners. For me, they seem to be more effective.

I'm not a big fan of the vinyl conditioners. Soap, water, scrub sponge, and elbow grease are more

effective and less expensive.

Other

Whether you're on the West or East Coast, you should pay attention to the weather stripping. For the past 30 years, I've had great success keeping the weather stripping looking new by using a white silicon spray. I like using white because it shows where I've sprayed, preventing significant overspray. Even with an adjustable spray nozzle, it will be a bit messy the first time. But practice makes perfect. Treating weather stripping every six months with a silicon spray will keep it supple and looking new. Depending on how you drive, treating your weather stripping with every oil change or tire rotation would be a good schedule.

Summary

As with your chassis, drivetrain, and powertrain, BMW owners should maintain a schedule for cleaning their vehicles' exterior and interior. Adding a weekly cleaning with fluids and tire pressure check will greatly enhance pride of ownership.

Are You Plugged In?

The Peachtree Chapter has several ways of communicating with members. Make sure you're tuned into all of them so you find out about events as soon as possible! Here's a checklist for all of these channels:

- **Join www.motorsportreg.com.** All event registration is done through this site.
- **Get event emails to your inbox.** First, sign into www.motorsportreg.com, then click on "My Account." At the top, click on "Edit My Information." You can manage your club memberships by clicking "Edit Clubs" and then "Add clubs to account." Sign up for all BMW CCA – Peachtree Chapter lists you're interested in, including driving events, autocrosses, and social events.
- **Join the Peachtree BMW CCA Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/133687167176/>** for announcements and member discussions.

- Visit www.peachtreebmwcca.org, the chapter's official website.
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The club assumes no liability for any of the information contained in this newsletter. It should be noted, unless otherwise indicated, that none of the technical information presented in the Pit bears the status of "factory approved." It is noted that any modification performed on a car that is in a warranty period may void said warranty. Peachtree Chapter strongly encourages owners to check the limitations of their car's warranty prior to performing work that may affect their car.

If you would prefer a printed copy of this publication, please contact Jason Courant at jcourant@peachtreebmwcca.org to opt out of the electronic copy.

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