



# BMW Clubs' **World** 4/14

BMW Clubs International Council Newsletter

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN TOKYO.

ツインリンクもてぎ



TWIN RING MOTEGI



**50<sup>TH</sup> BMW CLUBS  
EUROPA MEETING  
IN SWITZERLAND**

**BMW CLUB PUTS  
A SPARKLE IN  
CHILDREN'S EYES**

**“WHO'S WHO” OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL**

## GOOD DAY BMW CLUB MEMBERS,

Being part of the modern world and its communication methods, we are bombarded with concepts like globalisation and sharing. This has huge advantages for all of us and it is evident in being able to have the same BMW experience in the vehicles built around the world.

But then I came to realise again that “one world” is very far from reality. And rather than creating the impression of one huge melting pot of “one people” or “one nation” we should be celebrating our different cultures and the different ways of life of people as manifested in their behaviours, beliefs, values and symbols, and that are passed along from one generation to the next.

Indeed, one of the aspects which I truly enjoy while travelling is the diversity between people and nations. We were very privileged to add some extra days before the Council meeting in Japan to explore. This was planned in great detail – not without lots of anxiety and apprehension as it such a different culture: we were travelling in a country where none of us have been before, nobody could speak the language nor read the road signs. Nevertheless, to get the real experience away from the big cities we included a visit to the Kamikochi area in central Japan – a popular local tourist destination which is in the Japanese Alps and has among its many attractions excellent hiking trails and natural hot spas. It is a pristine and tranquil nature reserve zealously protected as it is one of the water sources for large parts of Japan. For example, no private vehicles are allowed into the area and you literally have to park your car outside in public parkinglots and make use of public transport to get to your accommodation. Not to mention that almost all the signage is in Japanese. The hospitality we received was astonishing – arriving at the hotel, we were asked to remove our shoes and place them in a special area demarcated for BMW Clubs. We were then made comfortable in the lounge area and introduced to the hotel and its services, as well as the things to do in the area. For dinner we were assigned a special hostess who fluently explained all the tasty dishes served to us – sometimes requiring a quick Internet translator visit to ensure we got all the answers.

One of the highlights of this stay for me – to celebrate the last evening of the tour – was that we all agreed to wear kimonos to dinner, which were provided for use when going to the spa. After dinner, while savouring some excellent Japanese single-malt whisky in the lounge area, we were approached by an elderly Japanese gentleman who couldn't stop giggling and laughing, but we just couldn't understand why. That is until his wife arrived – and she explained that he just wanted a photograph with us as for the first time in his life he had seen a group of foreigners wearing Japanese traditional dress! This resulted in many photos being taken and many “Kanpai!”s (“Cheers!”) shared.

### **Thank you, Japan, for the generosity and hospitality experienced.**

And I again need to express our gratitude to BMW Club Japan for including us in your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations – you showed us true camaraderie and we are proud to wear our BMW Club Japan shirts. It was a great privilege!

As we continue to build our own traditions and culture within BMW Clubs - please join us in congratulating the 2014 award winners who are honoured by the BMW Group and BMW Clubs International Council for the contribution they make to BMW Clubs' world:

- Ian Branston, Jos Hellenbrand, Karol Patzer, Leo Newland and Will Guyan were each accepted unanimously as Friend of the Marque, a title given to extraordinary individuals for their achievements and exceptional commitment.
- Goetz Pfafflin received the “Prof. Dr. Gerhard Knöchlein BMW Classic Award”, which honours persons from the international spectrum of BMW Clubs who make an outstanding contribution to promoting the BMW heritage through optimal care of their historic BMWs and making them accessible to the public by active participation in events.
- BMW Motorrad Club Malaysia was voted the BMW Club of the Year 2014, nominated by BMW Clubs Asia for the dedication and hard work of the club members.

**David de Bruyn**

Chairman

BMW Clubs International Council



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## IMPRINT

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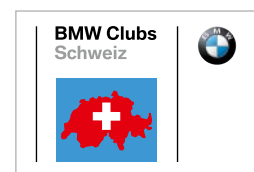
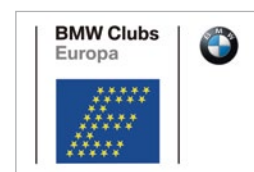
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01–07 JUNE 2015

50<sup>TH</sup>**BMW CLUBS  
EUROPA MEETING.****WELCOME TO THE MOUNTAINS!**

The BMW Clubs Schweiz are proud to be organising the 50<sup>th</sup> BMW Clubs Europa Meeting in the coming year, set to take place on 01–07 June 2015 in Davos, the highest city in Europe. Five hotels of various categories will be available exclusively to BMW friends, and we will also be guests in the famous modern congress centre. Of course we do not wish to reveal everything at this point, and we will be keeping a few surprises up our sleeves until nearer the time! Even the preliminary programme from Monday to Wednesday offers several highlights, giving guests a chance to rest and relax after the long journey. Come with us on a visit to the Monstein brewery or on a trip with the Rhaetian Railway through Engadin to St. Moritz and back to Davos. The agenda even includes a visit to the Swiss Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, along with a trip on a horse-drawn carriage into one of the most scenic valley in the Alps.

Naturally, fans of Alpine bends will also find what they are looking for! Some of the most beautiful Alpine passes are located right by your hotel door. Our experienced club members will be happy to be your tour guides. Of course you are also free to discover the surrounding region on your own if you so prefer. One thing that you should not forget to get hold of is the Davos Inklusive Card. This visitors' card grants you free use of all mountain railways and local buses that are operating! The official programme kicks off on the evening of 04 June with a welcome aperitif followed by dinner. On the Friday we will set out on a three-country picnic tour. In the evening you are then invited to a pleasant get-together.

On Saturday, the Concours d'Elégance on the site of the Davos Congress Centre directly by the spa gardens is sure to be an impressive sight. A small trip is also planned as an alternative. The grand finale of the week will take place on Saturday evening, with an unforgettable programme of excellent food and fantastic music to get you on your feet. We will be rocking the hall!

The official 2015 BCE membership card will give you a discount of 20 euros off the entry fee! To view all the important information about the meeting, go to [www.bcemeeting2015.com](http://www.bcemeeting2015.com)

We look forward to seeing you there!  
BMW Clubs Schweiz



**SAVE THE DATE.**  
**01–07 JUNE 2015.**

# TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND OF THE MARQUE.

**Howard Walker,**

former secretary of BMW Clubs European Federation (BCEF)

Peter Rust worked for many years for BMW Clubs in the UK and abroad. During his life he was involved with setting up BMW Clubs Europa, was a chairman of the BMW Car Club GB, and treasurer of the BMW Clubs European Federation (BCEF) for the last eight years of his life. The last time I met Peter was at the BMW Festival at Gaydon in 2012, where he proudly showed me the BMW E46 convertible that he had recently purchased as a complement to the 5 Series Touring in which we had driven to the 2012 Motorrad Festival in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. We both knew that this would likely be our last meeting, and sadly that is how it turned out. Later in the year, the terminal illness from which Peter had suffered for some time finally took him away. It had long been the intention of the BCEF board to put Peter forward as a Friend of the Marque, but the suddenness of his death caught us out. This was solved by asking the BMW Clubs International Council to make the award posthumously, something that had never been done before. They agreed immediately, and this was confirmed at their AGM in 2013.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014, we finally managed to meet with Peter's family and make the presentation. Peter's brother lived south of London and his sister in America, and so was unable to attend. The venue was the Birch Restaurant, which was the restaurant that we had used when arranging the celebration of the BMW Car Club's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2002. It seemed apt for the occasion. My wife Jacqueline and I collected Peter's brother Jon and his wife Linda, and drove them on the 150-mile journey to Woburn, where we met up with Peter's lady friend of many years, Avril, and the Vice President of the BMW Car Club GB, John Safe, a very close friend of Peter, who was also a Vice President of the car club when he died. The restaurant provided us with a superb and leisurely lunch, after which the presentation was made to Jon. Avril and Linda were also presented with a bouquet of flowers each. After the presentation, a toast was made to Peter, and John Safe thanked the board of BCEF for a good day and excellent meal. It would have been great to have been able to present the award to Peter during his lifetime, but his family were proud to accept it on his behalf. Peter was indeed a Friend of the Marque!



**PETER RUST**  
**\*1933 † 2013**

## ABOUT THE "FRIEND OF THE MARQUE" AWARD.

Information about this award and the nomination procedure can be found in Guideline no. 6 available on [bmw-clubs-international.com](http://bmw-clubs-international.com)  
**Submissions must be received by 31 January 2015!**

# MEMORIES OF BOB ROEMER.



**Ilka Huss,** BMW Clubs International Office

Keeping a tradition alive successfully is to a large extent due to the efforts of outstanding personalities working in many different areas of the BMW Club world. This commitment and enthusiasm for the brand is appropriately recognised with the Friend of the Marque award, which remains valid even after the individual's death.

In July of this year we heard from our longstanding colleague Martine Rapp from BMW Welt that someone very special was coming to visit – Janet Roemer. Her husband Bob Roemer, who died in 2013, was once editor of the CCA magazine "Roundel" and is one of the prominent figures to have been honoured with the Friend of the Marque award.

Former President of the International Council Ian Branston said this of him: "Bob

Roemer was not just a noted member of the Club in the United States, but through the Roundel he reached members around the globe with his passion, knowledge and insight. Among the BMW fans who make up the international Club movement, Bob was truly exceptional. His outstanding contributions were recognised in 1996 when he was awarded the precious Friend of the Marque award, the Council's highest honour."

Janet Roemer was travelling from the US especially to collect her very smart new BMW M3 Convertible at BMW Welt. We did not want to miss this opportunity to meet her in person and arranged a meeting through Ms Rapp.

Rather appropriately, the President of the BMW Clubs International Council David de Bruyn happened to be on a brief visit to Munich that very day. It was a great honour for us to meet the wife of a Friend of the Marque. Over a cup of coffee we once again expressed our appreciation of her husband's dedication and told her about current issues in international BMW club life. We very much hope she enjoys driving her new BMW under the Californian sun.





# THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL VISITING TOKYO. 東京都

## Matz Rosenquist,

Vice-Chair Motorcycles, BMW Clubs International Council

This year, the 2014 Annual General Meeting of BMW Clubs International Council was hosted by BMW Club Japan. The club is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and is also one of the founding members of the International Council. It was also with great pleasure that we were able to meet the new management of BMW Classic. Mr Ulrich Knieps is now in charge of BMW Classic and Mrs Gabrielle Fink is, among other tasks, responsible for the BMW Club scene.

A big reorganisation of BMW Classic is under way and it certainly looks promising! Clearly BMW Classic and the club world will be more exposed from now on, and that can only be of benefit.

As usual a major programme had been prepared, including a visit to BMW Japan, sightseeing in Tokyo and a most memorable visit to Motegi Raceway, where we were all able to try out various cars in BMW M livery.

There were attendees from all over the world, reflecting the widespread presence of the brand, and a great mix of car and motorcycle enthusiasts. Most of us had a long flight to Tokyo. As for myself, the trip took 17 hours from door to door. I was really looking forward to this meeting as it would be my first one as Vice-Chair Motorcycles.

Saturday, 27 September was the main arrival day and the only activity was a welcome dinner. It was great to meet old friends and also see new faces. It felt as if we had last met just yesterday, even though it was a year ago, and it was good to see the new delegates being welcomed and made feel at home.

On Sunday, sightseeing and a trip to the Imperial Palace Asakus in Tokyo was scheduled. We never got close to the palace but we were “educated” in the history of the Japanese emperors and shoguns. It is actually quite recently that the emperor moved to Tokyo from Kyoto, which is in fact the authentic imperial town.

One reflection was how modern Japan “connects” with ancient Japan! From a visitor’s point of view it was fantastic to see this “connection”.

This visit took place in the morning and afterwards we were transferred to Motegi Raceway – a real highlight for most of us. We had the opportunity to try out the various BMW M cars from the M1 to the M6. The BMW M4 became my favourite! What a car! We never got “a free lap” to really try out the cars, but they were certainly all very powerful cars. A ceremony was held upon our arrival at Motegi.





ありがとう!  
THANK YOU!



As BMW Club Japan is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a huge cake was brought up onto the stage and duly cut! In all, a most memorable day!

Monday meant work. The AGM was held at the Tokyo Prince Hotel, just around the corner from the famous Tokyo Tower. The tower looks like the Eiffel Tower, but is taller by 8.6 metres. The first day of the AGM included a rather full agenda. The discussions were very positive and there were no difficult issues. A proper overview can only be provided by the minutes of the meeting, but here I will just mention a few of the items.

In 2016, BMW is celebrating its centenary. Work on the events to mark 100 years of the company's existence is well under way, and a major aspect is the purchase of the premises where BMW started manufacturing aircraft engines. The buildings will be renovated and modernised to suit the needs of BMW Classic.

All sorts of celebrations are planned for 2016: a special exhibition at Techno Classica, BMW Motorrad Days, club events in Munich and so on – so do look out for all the activities on offer in 2016!

A huge issue is the question of geographical boundaries. Originally, the International Council world club map was based on BMW sales regions. The world has certainly changed since then and the map may need revision. Possibly the voting allocation may need to be revised with regard to this issue. All these questions were assigned to working groups, although no changes are being recommended for the time being. It will surely be brought up in

the future. All clubs present were given time to present what has been done the past year and what is on the agenda for the next. Obviously there's a huge dedication among club people all over the world. The economy is of course one of the crucial items on the agenda and one of the positive issues is that a fixed amount has been allocated for special club/umbrella events. Clubs and umbrellas will be able to apply for financial support by filing an application.

The budget for 2015 is more or less unchanged. It's divided among events, club visits, Newsletter BMW Clubs' World, Council meetings and club office. The board has been present at meetings of the Asian umbrella, the Latin America Federation and at BMW Motorrad Days among others.

One important issue is how to raise interest and how to engage BMW owners in club life. And perhaps more important, how do we lower the average age of the club members? Not an easy task as the competition from social media etc. is tough, it's fast, unorganised and run without a board and traditional club structure. Dr Bernhard Knöchlein was nominated and re-elected as Vice-Chair Classic. The rest of the board remains unchanged until next year.

The whole meeting ended with a great farewell dinner in lovely premises. We enjoyed wonderful food and the most beautiful view overlooking night-time Tokyo. It was a splendid occasion all round. The next day, the journey home was another 17 hours – but it was certainly worth it!

A big **THANK YOU** to Mr Masakuni Hosobuchi for organising this most memorable event. Thank you Buchi-San!





# THE BMW V&CCCA'S COLORADO CLUB HOLIDAY.

## Goetz E. Pfäfflin,

President, BMW Vintage & Classic Car Club of America

Experiencing the grandeur of the Colorado Rockies with a group of BMW friends in mid-June is as good as it gets. Building on the tradition of past club rallies and holidays, 40 members of the BMW V&CCCA gathered in Colorado Springs on June 10 to launch the Club's main 2014 event, a one-week outing through some of Colorado's most scenic byways. Members came from as far away as Oregon, California, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Florida, South Carolina and Texas, from 12 states in all, plus the Reicherts from Germany and Miro Stromar from Alberta, a wonderful group of wonderful people for what turned out to be a very happy event. Colorado's summer really doesn't begin until the 4th of July; June temperatures are often still quite chilly, the serious snow melt of the winter's precipitation has only just begun, and some of the higher mountain passes, while generally open for Memorial Day weekend, are sometimes delayed. An example was Kebler Pass, which had experienced a significantly higher than normal snowfall during the 2013/14 winter and was reopened for traffic on June 12, the day before we were scheduled to take this road west from Crested Butte! However, we were very lucky: the weather was good, the roads were clear, even Pikes Peak with an elevation of 14,110 ft (4,302 m) at the top was dry, and we were able to avoid the hordes who had congregated in Salida for the annual mid-June rafting festival, which was in full swing just when our route took us from Colorado Springs to Crested Butte – via Salida. And because of the very atypical late-spring precipitation, the hillsides and pastures we passed presented themselves in luscious green, providing for wonderful views throughout our week's travels. What drove the timing for

our 2014 Club Holiday was the schedule of the BMW CCA's Oktoberfest, organized to start on Monday, June 16 in Beaver Creek, CO. Our plan was to end our Club Holiday in Beaver Creek on June 16 and to join the CCA's welcome reception that evening, so that those of our members who wanted to participate in the CCA's O'fest activities during the week of June 16 could easily do so.

Back to Colorado Springs, where we met at the Garden of the Gods Club on **Tuesday, June 10**, where local club member Rick Meinig had organized an afternoon parade through the Garden of the Gods, with a stop for a royal tea at the legendary Glen Eyrie Castle, a wonderful beginning for our week's drives.

**Wednesday, June 11** was a busy day, with a morning drive to the top of Pikes Peak followed by an afternoon visit to the U.S. Air Force Academy. The drive on the newly all-paved road to Pikes Peak, with remnants of the winter's snow alongside the road near the top, and breathtaking views from the peak were early highlights of the week's agenda. The afternoon visit to the Air Force Academy provided for an opportunity for our photographer friend Elliott Schnackenberg to capture a couple of very special images of most of the holiday cars grouped around a Vietnam-era B52 bomber near the north entrance into the Academy grounds.

**Thursday, June 12** was our first timed driving day, taking us from Colorado Springs via Salida and over Monarch Pass (11,312ft/3,449m) to Crested Butte, where we stayed at the very friendly Nordic Inn located near the area's ski slopes. As the World Cup



had begun in Brazil, several of our teams elected to disregard the specified time-window for arrival, and headed into the Nordic Inn to catch as much of the televised World Cup games as possible. After the games and a marvelous cocktail reception in the Inn's lobby we all headed to Maxwell's Steakhouse in downtown Crested Butte for dinner.

The next day, **Friday, June 13**, we followed a very scenic route, a 256-mile drive, including about 30 miles of just freshly opened and newly graded but unpaved Kebler Pass, thence to the town of Montrose and south through Ouray, along the "Million Dollar Highway" across Red Mountain Pass (11,075ft/3,377 m), Molass Pass (10,899ft/3,323 m) and Coal Bank Pass (10,640ft / 3,244 m) to Durango, our destination for this second timed driving day.

On **Saturday, June 14**, our third and final timed driving day, we first headed west to visit the Mesa Verde National Park to view the incredible cliff dwellings of the Ancestral Pueblo people, and after lunch continued north to the resort town of Telluride for our overnight stop. The day's total distance was about 115 miles, an easy day after the two previous days with over 200 miles each.

The next day, **Sunday, June 15**, was our shortest driving day, just over 100 miles, taking us from Telluride to the Gateway Canyons Resort, where our members had free time to enjoy the pool, and where we met for a cocktail reception and guided tour through the phenomenal Gateway Colorado Auto Museum, the John Hendrix collection celebrating 100 years of automotive history in America. John Hendrix, the founder of the Discovery Channel, had discovered "this most amazing and little known location" with its "red rocks, impossibly blue skies – truly the scenic driving experience of a lifetime" some years ago, built himself a personal retreat and then developed the resort and as a part of that created the Gateway Auto Museum, where we could admire the one-of-a-kind 1954 Oldsmobile

F88 Concept Car, the "Mona Lisa" of this collection. As this was our final day before joining the BMW CCA's Oktoberfest in Beaver Creek we made this evening our awards banquet, with every participant receiving a medal for successfully surviving the three days of timed drives, most winning gold, some winning silver and one team winning bronze! Five teams ended the Club Holiday without any penalty points, which should have led to a Platinum Medal; however, as we had only Bronze, Silver and Gold the awards for these five teams were characterized a "Super Gold":

- Dirk and Alexandra de Groen
- Scott and Fran Hughes
- Elliott Schnackenberg
- Lonny and Lou Ann Shirk
- Mike and Peg Valentine

Prior to the presentation of the medals I expressed everyone's gratitude and appreciation for the support and special contributions of our sponsors, the BMW CCA Foundation, and Murray BMW of Denver. It was a very friendly and joyous evening in a beautiful setting in the Entrada Restaurant at the Gateway Canyons Resort, at the end of which we said our farewells to our two Oregon teams, Eric Swensson and his wife Edy, and Ralph Harding, who were going to set off on their return trips back home the following morning. Our final full day, Monday, June 16, involved another busy schedule, with 232 miles to Beaver Creek, including a side trip to the magnificent Colorado Monument National Park high above the town of Grand Junction, and a picturesque drive along I-70, including through the Glenwood Canyon. We arrived in Beaver Creek in time to join our friends at the BMW CCA's Welcome Reception at the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek, launching this year's Oktoberfest. This annual celebration, the 45th such extravaganza, "transformed the mountain village of Beaver Creek into the world center of all things BMW for the week of June 16-20", and CCA kindly invited the membership of the BMW V&CCCA to join the party.

**top left:** Some of the teams atop Pikes Peak (14110 ft / 4,302 m), site of the famous Pikes Peak Hill Climb.

**top right:** In front of the Red Rocks nearby Glen Eyrie Castle in the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs.

**bottom:** Nine of the 20 teams in front of a Vietnam era B-52 displayed at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.



# A WHITE AND BLUE STORY FROM BMW 6<sub>ER</sub> CLUB E.V.



**Gerhard Holmer**, Vice President of the BMW 6er Club e.V.

Exceptions prove the rule and they also add a dab of colour to our (club) lives. Which is why we were so pleased when we got the message from Oswald Meier telling us that he was planning to visit the BMW Group headquarters in Munich together with our club on 26 July. In true E24 Freunde style, Oswald organised a casual get-together at the Weyprechtshof in the north of the Bavarian capital, starting the day off with a splendid breakfast of weisswurst beneath a perfect white and blue sky. Situated in the idyllic location of the broken-glass... sorry, I mean precious stone neighbourhood of Milbertshofen, we were pleased to see numerous new faces among the familiar old ones in this typical Munich biergarten, and to talk about our motoring experiences. The fact that some members of the BMW 6er Club had made their way from as far afield as Baden-Württemberg and Zurich for just one day met with great respect. There were also members of the 8 Series Club from Switzerland at the meeting, and thanks to them too for making the effort. Following a general briefing (just before things got going, BMW slapped a number of regulations on us that we had to adhere to) it was finally time for us to make our way in convoy to the famous four-cylinder building and the no-less famous museum.

Radiant and cordial as ever, Ilka Huss from the BMW Clubs International Office welcomed each vehicle in turn and handed out original BMW Club ribbons for the name tags that we for our part had created in diligent late-evening craft activities. After all, VIPs need VIP identification if they are to enjoy “enter all areas” status.

And it was worthwhile. The panorama of the world-famous tower building inaugurated in 1973 together with the museum that opened that same year (referred to lovingly as the “weisswurst-

kessel” or “white sausage pot”) is already extremely impressive. It was a unique thrill to be able to view and photograph this extraordinary architectural ensemble with all of our 6 Series cars parked to the front, and to top it all off, a white and blue sky (at least to start with).

However, it wasn't long before the sky clouded over somewhat and it turned tropically humid, but this also formed a suitable backdrop for the crowds of inquisitive visitors from all over the world (including some quite exotic locations) who made their way in droves from the BMW Welt building to us, visibly impressed by the neatly lined up parade of 50 BMW E24 vehicles.

One after the other, photos were taken and more than one 6 Series owner had to halt the more enthusiastic fans from coming too close, to avoid scratches or other unwanted souvenirs being deposited on the vehicle prior to their exit. Some people even tried to open the doors and get inside.

The best question of the day came from an East European visitor, who enquired in remarkably good German whether the cars had just been sold, since each one of them bore a number plate from a different city. Three-and-a-half hours were more than enough to discover the extensive premises of the adjacent BMW Welt building. Our IDs granted us free entry to the museum, where at that moment Elvis Presley's recently rediscovered, still unrestored BMW 507 was on display, as was the special exhibition “Rolls-Royce – Strive for Perfection”. It was the pre-war Rolls-Royce that displayed the largest dimensions, and the meticulousness of the manual work with which the cars are still built today is no less than astounding. You had the impression that low-price manufacturers could get an entire day's production from the material employed in a single Phantom or Ghost!





Unfortunately, the new Wraith was not available to see, and neither were several earlier highlights from BMW's history. Of course it isn't possible to show absolutely everything, and yet the downward-leading ramp that resembled the Guggenheim Museum in New York appeared strangely sterile and empty. It was easy to think that valuable space was now simply not being used, unlike before, when it was filled with exhibits clinging spectacularly to the inside of the "bowl".

Unfortunately, not everybody was able to stay until the late afternoon and accompany the group back to Weyprechthof to end this wonderful day together.

What remains are wonderful memories of a very special location and a chance to meet new, like-minded people who all share the same hobby. We would be more than happy if our new friends might one day also turn into new club members.

The BMW 6er Club is not only an "official" BMW Club with two major trips per year. Our activities centre on building friendships, supporting each other and organising private trips to other federal states and countries. Since we also maintain contacts with other, official BMW Clubs, we can also benefit from synergies for future meetings with other clubs, which would open up entirely new possibilities that could never be less than extremely worthwhile.

We look forward to seeing you on our website and receiving your messages at the e-mail address provided. We will be happy to respond to all messages from interested persons.





# BMW CLUB LA FAMILIA.

## CHARITY EVENT PUTS A SPARKLE IN CHILDREN'S EYES.

**Anja Schmid,**

Club Office Manager, BMW Club Deutschland e.V.

The Berlin-based BMW Drivers Club La Familia contacted the official umbrella organisation BMW Club Deutschland e.V. at the beginning of 2014. The club was in the process of organising its first major meet-up and wanted to ask President of BMW Club Deutschland e.V. (BCD) Helmut Schmid for support.

As the name suggests, La Familia is particularly family-oriented and aims to include all family members in its activities. The club's philosophy brought it into contact with Sonnenhof Children's Hospice. This institution is dedicated to supporting families with children, teenagers and young adults who suffer from incurable diseases. For many young people it is the last stage of their journey. As the hospice sponsor, the Björn Schulz Foundation has put much loving care into creating a peaceful place where these individuals can take their leave in dignity.

The BMW Drivers Club La Familia had the idea of inviting parents and siblings (so-called "shadow children") from the hospice to take part in the meet-up. The aim in doing so was to inject some pleasure and variety into their difficult

lives. Donations were also to be collected for the hospice. Mr Schmid instantly took to this idea: not only did he offer his support, he also wished to be involved personally. The local BMW dealership Riller & Schnauck GmbH likewise agreed to assist. It not only provided its premises for the event but also organised a free car wash station, test drives in the BMW i3, a BMW i8 for detailed inspection, BMW Lifestyle products at preferential prices and a lavishly filled goody bag for each of the approx. 250 participants.

The time finally came on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Riller & Schnauck GmbH provided four BMW 5 Series Touring models to collect the parents and shadow children from the hospice. One little boy got the chance of a particularly exclusive trip. When he saw the convoy's "little red escort vehicle", he instantly knew it was his "taxi"! He had the special privilege of riding with BCD President Helmut Schmid in the latter's BMW Z3 M Roadster. Could there be anything better than to see a child's eyes sparkling in a BMW? The drive to the event location took the visitors right across Berlin. At the event itself, younger and







older guests from the hospice spent several hours enjoying a diverse range of activities.

While little BMW fans had fun on the bobby-car circuit and playing with remote-controlled vehicles, older fans were happy to subject participant vehicles to close inspection. This was mainly undertaken by the ladies of the organising club with a sober eye for every detail. Winners in the individual categories such as "Best-looking vehicle", "Greatest distance travelled to the event" etc. were able to look forward to a total of 60 cups, prizes and vouchers.

The catering selection included sausages as well as coffee and cake. The event provided a welcome change for the families and a degree of normality for the shadow children in particular. This is often not possible due to the overriding pressure of their siblings' illness.

The families finally took their leave of La Familia with a warm thank-you and were transported back by the shuttle service. This gradually brought the first day of the meet-up to a close, the crowning conclusion being the award ceremony for the vehicle ratings with prizes presented by the board members of BMW Drivers Club La Familia.

Another highlight was planned for this Berlin weekend on the Sunday. The entire club was invited to attend the summer festival at the Sonnenhof Children's Hospice. Our little friend from Saturday – by now an enthusiastic BMW fan – was once again in attendance. We presented him with the cup that the BMW Z3 M Roadster had won the day before. He was clearly bursting with joy and pride. Everyone there was highly impressed by the peaceful atmosphere of the hospice as well as the love,

warmth and cordiality that could be felt there. There was great interest when the BCD President announced the amount raised in donations. Proceeds generated from the meet-up together with private donations from Bavaria to round up the sum came to a total of 1,300 euros. This amount was formally presented as a cheque by members of BMW Drivers Club La Familia to the board of the Björn Schulz Foundation, represented by Mr Götz Lebuhn and Ms Bärbel Mangels-Keil. The collection boxes set up in advance by the club at well-known companies and at the BMW dealership were also abundantly filled. Here an additional sum of 750 euros was raised. There was also an auction of a vehicle belonging to the 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman of BMW Drivers Club La Familia bearing the signatures of all meet-up participants. All in all, the total donation raised by the BMW Drivers Club La Familia meet-up for the Sonnenhof Children's Hospice was 2,500 euros.

The first meet-up of BMW Drivers Club La Familia was thus a resounding success. The club put on an impressive presentation, and both the organisation and implementation of the event were truly excellent. The many hours of voluntary work put in by La Familia club members were also much appreciated. The club has clearly demonstrated its family orientation.

Special thanks go to the expertise and dedication of the staff at Riller & Schnauk GmbH who contributed to the success of the event with their outstanding professionalism, as well as to BMW Classic and the BMW Clubs International Office for support with the prizes.



**top:** The youngest BMW fans on the bobby-car circuit.

**bottom left:** Gathering of parents and shadow children from the hospice.

**bottom right:** Helmut Schmid with Claudia Thomas (Fundraising Hospiz Sonnenhof Berlin) and Ralf Schwarz, (President of BMW Drivers Club La Familia).





# BMW PROMOTION DAY IN THE NETHERLANDS.

**Dick Glaser**, President BMW Club Nederland

If someone should mention the colours blue and white, one immediately thinks of clear blue skies and white beaches... Wrong! During the BMW Promotion Day on 7 September 2014 at Marum in The Netherlands, the whole village of Marum, in the Dutch province of Groningen and far from white beaches and clear blue skies, along with the BMW bikes, cars and classics turned blue and white. Together with what were in fact white clouds in the blue sky, the colours blue and white were strikingly evident in this small village in the north of the Netherlands.

For 14 years already, more than 500 enthusiastic owners (190 motorbikes and 282 cars), dealers, specialists and trading companies) were brought together by a group of motivated volunteers by the initiative of a couple of members of the official Dutch BMW Clubs and all members of the BCNL, the Dutch umbrella organization: BMW Club Nederland (BCN), the BMW Touringclub, the BMW 02-Club and BMW Classic Cars. Mr Gerhard de Vries, Alfred de Vries and André Feunekes were the driving spirits behind the event, at which there was also international recognition thanks to the presence of the German BMW Club E34 IG Ost Friesland.

This Promotion Day, also called the Dutch Annual BMW Meeting, is organised by the official BMW Clubs to bring people together and to exchange technical and touring information in support of the BMW slogan "Sheer Driving Pleasure". In The Netherlands the umbrella organization BMW Clubs Nederland is negotiating with BMW Nederland (importer) for a structural cooperation in their Dutch BMW sales strategy. This enhances benefits for members of the official BMW clubs (merchandise, availability of special parts, discount on various promotion events and possible cooperation in mutual appearances in large car and motorbike shows like RAI and Motorbeurs.

This BMW Promotion Day shows that close cooperation between BMW Nederland, the BMW car and bike dealers and brand-related trading companies leads to a better awareness of the brand. With each member and BMW driver having an individual network of around 150 people, their commitment and enthusiasm are making huge waves.

At these promotion days appointments between individuals and organizations are made, merchandise and parts are traded and cars are sold because all the people there have one thing in common: BMW. So let's be grateful that that we still have volunteers who are working day and night (beside their normal jobs) to get things done. Thanks guys, compliments for your efforts and see you next time!





# “WHO’S WHO” OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL.

## GEORGE NYKTAS.



Name: George Nyktas  
Delegate of: BMW Riders Association  
 International (BMW RA)  
Club member since: 2002  
Residence: Cincinnati, OH, USA  
Home club: BMW Motorcycle Club Greater Cincinnati

**\$ 75,000 (€60,000):** I have spent that much on new motorcycles, associated gear and service from my local BMW motorcycle dealerships over the last 12 years after meeting the members of the Greater Cincinnati BMW Club, a chartered club of the BMW Riders Association.

I could've spent that at Honda, Yamaha or Kawasaki but I didn't. Why? Because I went on my first BMW Club ride 12 years ago and met a great group of BMW motorcycle people who helped me learn about motorcycling, starting with how to counter-steer to how to select proper gear, to how to get the right training. This was all from a local BMW club and was my introduction to motorcycling and to BMW.

Add to that \$32,000 (€25,000) for my Z3 – a gorgeous black Roadster that runs like a scalded dog – and the total is well over \$100,000 (€85,000).

My first real motorcycle was a Ducati 250 Scrambler purchased second or maybe third hand while in college. It was my daily commute to work, rain or shine, winter or summer. I wore hardware store work gloves in the winter. When my hands got too cold I held the gloves over the end of the exhaust pipe to warm them. They were early prototype heated gloves. Quality rider's gear was just beginning to show up but was unknown to me then. The following three decades were devoted to house, family and my business career. Riding was put on hold.

In 2002 I found myself in new circumstances and looked into riding again. My cousin, who was – and still is – a dedicated Harley

rider, advised me to buy a used BMW because of their noted reliability and quality reputation. Said another way, he knew I would not be willing to wrench on it and instead wanted to be able to ride. So I bought a BMW K75, then a Cruiser, then an R1150RT, then an R90/6 sidecar rig, then a GTL – and now I am the delighted owner of a brand-new Water Boxer.

In 2007 I was appointed to fill the then vacant Treasurer's position on the board of the BMW Riders Association. I have a Master's Degree in Accounting, am a CPA (the equivalent of a Chartered Accountant) and have volunteered for many years with my children's schools, my church, and my college fraternity. Volunteering is ingrained in me. So when the opportunity arose to volunteer with a motorcycle club – I jumped on it.

After four years in that role I moved up to President. I am now in my third year as President. I have met many wonderful people from around the world that are BMW motorcycle and car enthusiasts. I am a member of the BMW MOA and CCA as well. So I am a proud member of all three U.S. umbrella clubs.

Hands down, the best ride was in the fall of 2013 as a group of us returned to Bled, Slovenia for the International Council Meeting. Predrag Trkulja, the President of BMW Clubs Europa e.V., led us on an extraordinary ride through Trenta Valley, over Vrsic Pass, lunching near Kobarid at Camp Lazar and on to Kranjska Gora.

Closer to home in southeastern Ohio there are many great places to ride as well as in the nearby Appalachian Mountains. The Blue



Ridge Parkway and the Cherochala Skyway are particular favorites. I have ridden throughout the United States and in Canada – although I have many more places to visit. I have been to Vermont, North Carolina, Alabama, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Northern California, Montana and lots of places in between. Club events have been an opportunity and excuse to see more and more of the country and the

Ironically the BMW Riders Association is in an excellent position to target younger riders for the future. That we are a small organization (102 clubs with 4,150 members) means we are intimate and nimble enough to implement change quickly. We think of riding as a sport, and so have a long and sometimes controversial history of obsession with BMW's newest technology

and internal developments, and especially BMW's racing programs.

BMW RA members, who have already proven themselves independent (or a little eccentric) in choosing a unique brand like BMW to ride in the first place, are perhaps even more so in

## I'VE BEEN EVERYWHERE MAN, I'VE BEEN EVERYWHERE...

(JOHNNY CASH)

world. Outside of North America, I have ridden in Germany, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and a little corner of Switzerland. High on my list of riding adventures in a few years is a trip to Aivali, Turkey, the town where my father was born. Visiting and riding with friends in South Africa is not too far out of reach either.

**What is the key challenge facing us in the future?** BMW Motorrad realized over a decade ago that it needed to appeal to a younger demographic in order to survive and to grow, and the amazing new models we've seen are a reflection of that long-term strategy. Obviously clubs mirror the company's customer base, but clubs are inherently slower to change and adapt. For the clubs to successfully bring new riders into the fold and fully realize the potential of the stunning new models BMW has brought us, they have not just to create new initiatives but to change their very culture.

choosing an iconoclastic group like the RA to associate with.

We're always keen to know the inside story. We want to know the details and the thinking behind the bikes. We want to talk with BMW leaders in Germany and in the U.S. – both within BMW and with key friends of the marque. And we want this because we are fans – in the same way that rock'n' roll bands have fans who know every lyric of every song, or football teams have fans who plaster their walls with posters from ceiling to floor. In short, we think our riders are just a little more fanatical than the average, and as we all know, it's this youthful spirit that translates best to a youthful rider. All of these tendencies are best displayed by the quality and content of our WORLD CLASS magazine – On The Level.

Our challenge is to evangelize among the younger riders that BMW's new offerings are bringing to the brand, and to use OTL as the fulcrum to entice them.



## DECEMBER

BMW Clubs Asia Meeting, Manila, Philippines  
**05–07.12.2014, [kahwong@hotmail.com](mailto:kahwong@hotmail.com)**

## JANUARY

Annual General Meeting of the International BMW Classic and  
Type Clubs Section, Ilshofen, Germany  
**30.01– 01.02.2015, [www.bmw-clubs.org](http://www.bmw-clubs.org)**

## MARCH

Retro Classics, Stuttgart, Germany  
**26–29.03.2015, [www.messe-stuttgart.de/retro](http://www.messe-stuttgart.de/retro)**

## APRIL

Techno Classica, Essen, Germany  
**15–19.04.2015, [www.siha.de](http://www.siha.de)**

## JUNE

50<sup>th</sup> BMW Clubs Europa Meeting, Davos, Switzerland  
**04–07.06.2015, [www.bcemeeting2015.com](http://www.bcemeeting2015.com)**

Annual General Meeting of the BMW Clubs Latin America Federation, Panama City, Panama  
**12–14.06.2015, [www.bmwclubslaf.org](http://www.bmwclubslaf.org)**

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## FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS

BMW Motorrad Days, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany  
**03–05.07.2015, [www.bmw-motorrad.de](http://www.bmw-motorrad.de)**

AvD Oldtimer Grand Prix, Nürburgring, Germany  
**07–09.08.2015, [www.nuerburgring.de](http://www.nuerburgring.de)**

International Council Meeting, Melbourne, Australia  
**26–29.10.2015, [www.bmw-clubs-international.com](http://www.bmw-clubs-international.com)**