

Council News

4/04

Newsletter of the International Council of BMW Clubs



Participants at the meeting of the International Council of BMW Clubs in Spartanburg in front of the Stars & Stripes BMW X5. See detailed reports on the following pages and on our website.

Winter highlights:

- **Events:** BMW Vintage Marathon USA 2004 and BMW Z3 Club Meeting
- **Report:** BMW MOA Rally 2004
- **Obituary:** Zsolt Vértessy
- **Portrait:** BMW Club Malaysia
- **Diary:** Key diary dates for next year

The Clubs are online!!!

At www.bmw-clubs-international.com you can now access useful and interesting information on every aspect of the BMW Club Organization. Also available are a worldwide club search, a picture gallery and the latest events calendar.

In the Exclusive section, you as a BMW Club member will be able to take advantage of special offers. Under News & Events you can do

some “follow-up clicking” for additional information and a wide range of photos relating to the articles in this issue of Council News.

The website of the International Council of BMW Clubs is made by clubs for clubs. That is why we welcome your contributions and photos. Happy surfing!
Your International BMW Club Office Team



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Key international events for the club scene and BMW Mobile Tradition

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Further information:
www.bmw-clubs-international.com**Publication details:**

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Dear BMW Club Members,

It's the holiday season and I thought I'd offer you some gift ideas for the family – the extended BMW family, of course. In Canada where I live, work, and play, the months of December through March are cold weather months. I spend a great deal of time sliding and carving turns, including some of the time when I'm skiing. The two prized members of my BMW family – a 1988 E30 M3, which I use for track events and racing, and a 1997 E39 540i, which I use for trips and travel – are slumbering in the garage, with fresh fluids and new coats of wax under their car cover blankets. When they awake in the spring, there will be something new for them, the driver, or the passengers. So what to buy?

Phil Abrami, Vice Chairman
Automobiles

First, think about routine maintenance. Your Ultimate Driving Machine won't be ultimate unless you treat it with the care these vehicles deserve. Here's a new meaning for BMW – Better Maintenance is Worth it. Better maintenance means not only regular maintenance, but also expert service and the right parts. When I started racing a few years ago, I tried cutting corners by using non-OEM parts. Guess what? The failure rates on the cheaper parts were far in excess of the parts supplied by BMW. It turned out to be more costly for me to use cheaper parts in the long run under these extreme service conditions.

Second, think about upgrades. I know many club members who like to personalize their BMWs both in appearance and performance. My usual reaction to enthusiasts who inquire about performance upgrades is to tell them about the performance driving programs offered through some BMW subsidiaries and many of the BMW clubs worldwide. It's amazing how capable BMWs have become, and mastering their abilities to improve performance and safety is worth learning about. Take the money you plan to spend on parts upgrades and spend it on driver training instead. Still not convinced? Talk to an expert before you buy. For example, you might learn those ultra expensive wheels you were planning to buy are not hubcentric or TUV-approved and are actually inferior to the BMW wheels you are thinking about replacing.

Third, think about accessories. No question about it. Your local BMW dealer has a treasure trove of goodies to put a smile on your face and a sparkle on the kidney grille. And don't forget to renew your club membership. It's an accessory which will keep you in tune with enthusiasts including a network of experts to keep your BMW perfect and your passion for the marque high. Finally, check the Mobile Tradition catalog for the world's best and largest collection of BMW accessories. It's truly amazing and it's right at your fingertips.

Happy holidays.

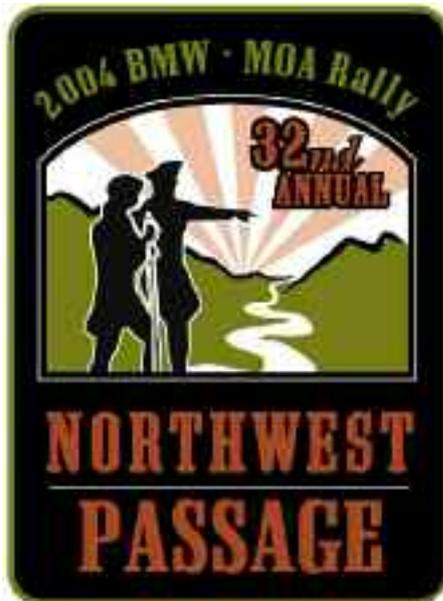
Phil Abrami
Vice Chairman Automobiles

Annual International Rally in Spokane

2004 BMW MOA Rally

The BMW Motorcycle Owners of America held its annual International Rally in Spokane, Washington from July 5th – 18th, 2004. The theme for the Rally was “Northwest Passage” to commemorate the 200-year anniversary of the famous journey made by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The goal of the expedition was to find a water route across the continent. Over 6,000 BMW riders made their own journey from all across the United States, Canada, Mexico and many other locations to include Germany, Japan and Australia.

The BMW MOA, headquartered just outside of St. Louis, Missouri, is a 32-year-old association of BMW motorcycle owners and enthusiasts. The association, officially chartered in 1972, currently has nearly 38,000 members in over 40 countries to include the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, Great Britain and South Africa. Each year the BMW MOA holds its International Rally in various locations throughout North America. Recent sites include Spokane, WA; Charleston, WV; Trenton, Ontario, Canada; Redmond, OR, and Midland, MI.



The Spokane area was nearly perfect to enjoy one's BMW motorcycle to the fullest. Open plains or mountains, the state has many well-maintained roads with an abundant share of “twisties”.

Of the 6,187 registered attendees, 4,188 were male, while 1,352 were female. Of those, 92 were under the age of 16. Of the 4,274 motorcycles ridden to the Rally, 3,669 were BMWs.

The Rally, a favorite venue for BMW motorcyclists, allows riders to get together for camaraderie and friendship. The BMW MOA mission statement is “To foster communication and a sense of family among BMW motorcycle enthusiasts.” This annual Rally certainly supported that goal. The presence of vendors, numbering well over 100, helped to make for an enjoyable time. BMW riders are always looking for that special accessory or item of riding gear. The Spokane Rally also featured dozens of seminars designed to educate rally attendees on a variety of topics. Of course the Rally featured a well-stocked beer garden with great entertainment enjoyed by all.

The 2005 Rally will be held at the Allen County Fairgrounds, in Lima, from July 21st to 24th. The Lima Rally theme will be “Beemerville USA”. It's not too early to start planning. The BMW MOA officers and staff invite all BMW owners and their guests to attend the 2005 event. See you in Ohio!

Ray Zimmerman
Executive Director
BMW Motorcycle Owners of America

Obituary Zsolt Vértessy

BMW Club Europa e.V. and its associated BMW Clubs mourn the death of Zsolt Vértessy, who was fatally injured in a motorcycle accident on 17th October 2004.

As a member and first President of the BMW Motor Club Budapest, he had dedicated himself to the BMW Club scene in Hungary and Europe since the early 1990s. In 1999 he took on the office of Vice-President of BMW Club Europa which, barring a brief interruption in 2003, he held until his untimely death.

Zsolt Vértessy will be remembered by all of us in particular for his commitment as an ambassador of the BMW Club Organization in the up-and-coming eastern European countries.

The Presidium of
BMW Club Europa e.V.



The International Council meets in Spartanburg

At work and on (the) track

By Robert Hellman, Vice-Chairman/Motorcycles

BMW's Mobile Tradition may be an "oldies" operation, but its club involvement is decidedly modern and results-oriented. Thus, the 2004 annual meeting in Spartanburg, South Carolina (US) in September was appropriately "Spartan" on the business end, but happily Epicurean on the other.

Club oldtimers will tell you that there was a time in the distant past when the Council Meeting was one big ongoing party, tied in with a few days of clubs swapping ideas. That was then. In recent years the meetings evolved into being "a party with a purpose", as BMW assessed its club engagement along with other corporate streamlining. Today's agenda is best described as "a purpose with a party". The International BMW Club Organization has become as "lean and mean" as the best BMW subsidiary.

In the past, the schedule had been two days of hard work focused on international issues, followed by a day of fun in the locality. This year some scheduling conflicts required everything to be the other way around.

BMW of North America's Larry Koch had linked the meeting into the tail end of the famed Lime Rock Vintage Festival Tour, allowing the club participants to enjoy all the vehicular eye candy upon arrival. A Saturday banquet served to mingle the drivers with the delegates in shared good spirits. A fine start, with everyone eating good food and ogling beautiful BMW machines parked right in front of the hotel (see Marathon article).

The front-loaded fun continued the next morning with a long interlude at the nearby BMW Performance Center, affording the Council participants extended track time in various new BMW cars. There was expert instruction in three venues, involving off-road, wet and slippery skid pad work, and dry (time trial) conditions. Wide grins were the order of the this glorious Sunday – at least until later when the group adjourned to a very "authentic" South



Dorothee Grau helping Phil Abrami guide an X5 up a giant teeter totter.

Carolina bar where "local atmosphere" was present to an alarming degree. The less said about that, the better.

After its memorable day at the track on Sunday, the Council got down to business on Monday and Tuesday. Timing aside, the 17 voting delegates (along with some observers) faced the usual challenge of emerging club issues in a changing world. As always, some of the issues were solved, others await future resolution. Important topics like the communications cascade, structure for the future and global club issues have been discussed. For detailed information please visit the new Council website.

Its work done at long last, the Council turned its weary eyes to lighter concerns on Tuesday. Delegates and observers scurried about the meeting room exchanging club souvenirs of various kinds. Finally, at the close of these long sessions, as the

BMW motorcycle delegates presented Holger Lapp with a rare tin model of the wartime R75 motorcycle, it was time for a last bit of fun. After a quick lunch, the entire group adjourned for a tour of the BMW Zentrum and a guided factory tour of the Spartanburg plant.

Finally, at a final, cheery dinner in old Greenville, the consensus was reached that this had been a very effective meeting with a number of hard decisions made with useful results. More than that, as Chris Pawlowicz (observer with the BMW Club Canada) noted, the conference is also "an ideal time for the international clubs to meet each other and share information". Holger Lapp and Ian Branston congratulated the Council members for their hard work, and toasted the new award winners in faraway places in the BMW world. It was finally time for BMW's club "ambassadors" to bid each other adieu for another year.

The International Council meets in Spartanburg

International Council of BMW Clubs Meeting 2004

By Chris Pawlowicz, Observer BMW Clubs of Canada

As an observer with the BMW Club Canada, I attended the International Council of BMW Clubs annual meeting in September 2004. This year the meeting was held in Greenville, South Carolina, nearby to the BMW factory in Spartanburg, USA. All BMW X5s and Z4s are made here (all Z3s were also made here).

The four days consisted of a mixture of fun and work. A delegate from every one of the BMW umbrella clubs is invited, with the option of bringing one observer. BMW pays for transportation for all delegates, and all ground costs for delegates and observers during the meeting. There were about 30 people including all delegates, observers, representatives from the International BMW Club Office, BMW Mobile Tradition, and from all the BMW sales regions around the world.

First – the fun!

BMW arranged two great activities for us to participate in, one being a factory tour, the other was spending the day at the BMW Performance Center.

The Performance Center has a small track and skid pad area, as well as an off-road trail set up with various obstacles. After

some classroom orientation, we were divided up into smaller groups of six to eight people and headed outside to the track area. Each group was assigned an instructor and an activity.

The factory tour and visit to the Zentrum museum was a treat for a different reason. It was fascinating to see first-hand how modern BMWs are made, from the body welding and assembly, painting, and mechanicals installation.

Now – the work!

The main purpose of the International Council meetings is to coordinate BMW's goals and ideas with the various BMW clubs around the world. The conference is also an ideal time for the international clubs to meet each other and share information.

Thomas Tischler is relatively new to the job of heading up the International BMW Club Office, and I was impressed with his energy and enthusiasm. I came away from the meetings with a very positive impression that BMW is taking BMW clubs worldwide very seriously and is committed to growing and strengthening our working relationship.

During the three days of meetings, Thomas presented a number of plans and ideas, including an outline of the new IC website (now online!) and an overview of how communication between BMW and the clubs will happen. Mobile Tradition gave a short presentation, and a number of global club issues were discussed, as well as the planned IC budget for 2005 (340,000 euros!). While observers can participate in all discussions, only the official delegates are allowed to vote on decisions. A number of items required votes to be cast, including new umbrella club applications, IC awards, changes in the IC Guidelines, and various other administrative items. Ian Branston (IC chairman) did an excellent job of keeping the meetings on track and on time, letting us cover a lot of ground in a short time.

In summary, the IC meeting was a fantastic way for representatives from umbrella clubs worldwide to get together with BMW, share information, and strengthen an already positive and impressive relationship.



Chris Pawlowicz (right) and Phil Abrami, both of the BMW Club of Canada.

BMW Veteranen-Club Deutschland e.V. on the road in the US

BMW Vintage Marathon USA 2004

By Rüdiger Jopp, President of BMW Veteranen-Club Deutschland e.V.



To mark the “75 Years of BMW Automobiles” anniversary, the BMW Vintage and Classic Car Club of America staged a marathon in the eastern part of the USA: 2,500 miles across 13 states in 14 days, from Woodcliff Lake in New Jersey, where BMW North America is based, all the way to the BMW plant at Spartanburg, South Carolina.

47 BMW cars and motorcycles lined up at the start, 25 of them from Europe. Our members representing the BMW Veteranen-Club Deutschland e. V. came from Switzerland, Holland, Britain and Germany. We brought along a colourful spectrum of our blue-and-white-badged models, from the 326, 327, 328, 502, 2000 CS, 2800 CS, 2002 Turbo, 1600-2 and 3.0 CSi, all the way to the 1973-vintage 520. Four BMW Z1s were on the grid too, sparking great interest wherever they went as these roadsters have never been exported to the USA. An R 42 and an R 90 S completed our team’s lineup.

The rally began at Lime Rock Park, a vintage festival with races and an exhibition including a concours d’elegance involving around 500 historic vehicles.

That was followed by marvellous stages through New Hampshire and Maine and along the Atlantic to the lobster island of Bar Harbor, where we were able to do some whale-watching.

Then it was back on the southbound route, through the states of Vermont and New York. Apart from visiting interesting car and transport museums along the way, we made a stop in Hershey, the USA’s chocolate city.

Crossing the White Mountains, we reached Pennsylvania for a visit at the Gettysburg National Military Park. At PTG Racing in Winchester, BMW North America’s motor sport partner, a tour of the racing and sports car company was on the agenda. After that our journey continued through the dreamscapes of Shenandoah and the Blue Ridge National Park to Spartanburg.

BMW North America provided some real “fireworks” to end our marathon. It began with guided tours of the museum and the plant where the Z4 and X5 are built. The next day, we took the BMW 3, 5 and 7 Series, the Z4 and the Z8 to the very limits on a slalom and skid pad at the

BMW Performance Center. In the X5 we had to negotiate a steep and twisty rock-covered section. Some of us climbed out of the car afterwards with knees feeling like jelly. In the afternoon there were 6 Series Coupés lined up for all of us to take a 200 km ride into the mountains. It was the crowning glory of the visit!

Our friends from Mobile Tradition in Munich turned up for the presentation ceremony, as the meeting of the International Council of BMW Clubs was starting at the same time in Spartanburg. They congratulated us on staying the course with all our vehicles, and specially commended the achievement of Mathies Stüdemann, who completed all the stages in the target times on his 1928 R 42 and was duly acclaimed the “King of the Road” to standing ovations.

We were privileged to experience an event which will remain unforgettable and which is as yet unique in the classic scene. I congratulate all our club friends on their achievement and I am proud that our BMW Veteranen-Club Deutschland e. V. was able to organize and carry through this exceptional drive.

BMW Z1, Z3, Z4, Z8 rally to Andermatt

By René Michel, President of BMW Z3 Club Vierwaldstättersee

On 10th July 2004, the club celebrated its 5th anniversary with a multi-day excursion in the Dolomites. Despite staging this event, which took up a great deal of its capacity, the club once again took on the organization of a BMW Z meeting. After Engelberg in 2002 (311 vehicles) and Altishofen in 2003 (243), the motto for this year was "Drive, drive, drive".

Originally founded as a Z3 club, we very recently expanded our remit to include all BMW Z drivers (Z1, Z3, Z4, Z8) who would like to share their driving pleasure with others.

Rally to Andermatt

The public BMW Z meeting took place on Sunday, 15th August 2004, in Andermatt. In a rally converging on the town from ten fixed starting points, club members led the route along set stretches of road in the direction of the Gotthard Pass. Joining us were also a number of BMW dealers who were driving to Andermatt with their customers. This year for the first time, all BMW Z models (Z1, Z3, Z4, Z8) were invited. In 2003 the focus had been only on the BMW Z3 and Z4 models.

For the benefit of those who had made long journeys, a fringe programme was arranged for the Saturday, which was enjoyed by our friends from Germany, Belgium, Britain and Norway.

"Drive, drive, drive"

The rally began from the various starting points between 8.30 and 9.30 a.m. The first cars began arriving in Andermatt at 10.00 a.m. Within 15 minutes or so, the arrival counter soared from 100 to 200 cars. The marshals faced a major challenge during that time as the aim was to ensure as far as possible that other road users were not inconvenienced. The cars assembled in the signposted area and lined up for mutual appraisal. A buzz of car talk made the lunch break fly past before the raffle for the participation prize was held.



At 1.45 p.m. it was time to set out on a joint ride across the Furka and Grimsel passes to Meiringen. Forming groups of 20 to 30 cars, everyone savoured the mountain scenery, the tight bends and the view through the windscreen as well as in the rear-view mirror. Along the tight, twisty route, BMW Z cars could be seen above, below, in front and behind. Even passers-by at the roadside stopped and stared at this extraordinary spectacle.

Just before Meiringen, the hub for the return journey to the various regions of Switzerland, there was a flying departure. Time and again groups of cars could be seen heading home. Clearly the mountain air had also given the drivers an appetite: individual BMW Z models and small clusters of them could be seen parked outside the various eateries along the way.

Verdict

With attendance figures of 326 BMW Z models, the expectations of the BMW Z3

Club Vierwaldstättersee were entirely fulfilled. Judging by the happy faces and positive comments at the event, by email or letter, one can conclude that all three events so far have been a success.

The fact that this year saw one participant driving more than 1,800 kilometres to take part, and that a group from England turned up for the second time, confirms that the club is on the right path. It is also worth noting that, so far, we have always had the best possible weather. Luckily the weather gods clearly have a soft spot for the BMW Z models as well!

To what extent such an event can be further developed, or indeed repeated at all, depends for one thing on the willingness of the BMW Group to support us, on possible sponsors and on a group of enthusiasts who are prepared to make that personal commitment once again.

Editor's note: A wide selection of pictures from the rally can be seen on the Council website!!!

BMW Clubs: Portrait

BMW CLUB MALAYSIA AGM

By Chester Cheng, President of BMW Club Malaysia

BMW CLUB Malaysia was formed in early 2003 by Chester Cheng to further enhance their ownership experience through the sharing of knowledge and experiences owing to the distinctiveness of the German marque. **Since then, the club's membership has risen to almost 1,300.**

Besides having an online interactive forum, the club has a very diversified and exciting calendar of events and outings to cater to members from all walks of life. This includes motor sports events such as track days at the racing circuits and participation at Formula BMW Asia, car detailing and technical clinics by specialists. Periodically, road trips are organized to various holiday destinations in Malaysia and social events at hip eateries, restaurants and cafés are also regularly held. Recently, the club had their Second Annual General and BMW Malaysia put on display a showcase of the latest offerings such as the X5 and 530d at the venue. This event saw the election of the new Pro-Tem Committee that will lead the initiative to

expand the club's position and range of activities. "It is the club's aspiration to grow in numbers, organize quality events and represent club members as a unified body in the hope of perpetuating all things great about BMW, the Ultimate Driving Machine," said Kelvin Hong, Pro-Tem President of BMW CLUB Malaysia.

"The next 12 months promise to be very exciting as we will be organizing many interesting events. With such passionate committee members and strong back-up from BMW Malaysia, I am sure these events will be successful," added Kevin Kung, Pro-Tem Vice-President.

Further information:

Visit the BMW Club Malaysia on the internet at www.bmwclub.com.my



Highlights of our proposed event calendar 2005:

January 2005 to March 2005

- Convoy and Picnic at Port Dickson – early March 2005
- Car Park Rally 2005 – March 2005

April 2005 to June 2005

- Convoy to JB and meet with BMW Club Singapore – April 2005
- BMW Karnival 2005 – May 2005
- Convoy to Penang and meet with BMW Club Thailand – June 2005

July 2005 to August 2005

- Advanced Driving Course – July 2005
- Bimmerfest 2005 – August 2005
- Annual General Meeting – August or September 2005
- Kiwanis and BMW Club Charity Golf – August 2005

BMW Club Malaysia in brief

Club name:	BMW Club Malaysia
Founded:	2003
Membership:	1,300
Type of Club:	car and motorcycle

Snow northeast of Canberra

Track day at Wakefield Park

By Ian Branston, Chairman

Mention Australia and most people would picture a wide, dry, brown land edged with white sandy beaches and terrific surf. Mention motor sport to club members in Sydney and Canberra and most will imagine Wakefield Park, then think, recall and finally shiver as memories flood back. Wakefield Park, located between Sydney and Canberra, is often used for club motor sport events and the perception is that nasty weather is the norm.

But in July this year the weather showed what it really could be like – downright un-Australian, more like Austrian. With snow, sleet and temperatures hovering around freezing point, getting heat into tyres and brakes proved impossible. Conditions were so treacherous, the day was abandoned due to safety concerns. Few people complained as they thawed out in the comfort of a heated car on their way home to compete another day.



Australia with a difference.

BMW Club Egypt – BMW Cars Display 2004

By Karym Metwally

The BMW Club Egypt organized a BMW Cars Display at the Mena 3 Resort on the northern coast in Alexandria. Our sponsor Mena 3 Resort is beautifully located 76 km along the Alexandria Matrouh Coast, covering an area of 70 acres. We have reserved a location in the Mena 3 Village for the BMW club event on an area of 2,500 square meters and built a wooden stage of 225 square meters directly on the highly visible road to accommodate the BMW cars and motorcycles.

Bavarian Auto (the BMW importer in Egypt) has kindly provided sales and marketing personnel to assist us in this event, as well as the BMW Motorcycle Manager and the BMW Maintenance Supervisor. Bavarian Auto also sent promotion materials like BMW flags, info walls, banners and brochures. Two BMW 3 Series cars and two BMW R 1200 GS motorcycles were displayed as well.

Special thanks to our other sponsors Unilever Group, EgyptAir and MaFra for car care for supporting our event and providing great help. The event began at 8.00 p.m. exactly and the music attracted a few visitors to the stage. The DJ played salsa music for the visitors, some summer drivers came to admire the BMW 3 Series that were displayed and got acquainted with the BMW sales personnel that were present during the event. The visitors were literally fascinated by the BMW motorcycles, which were driven on the stage by the BMW Motorcycle Manager.

The music was great and really made a difference. While the cars were being displayed, BMW enthusiasts got in the cars to get a feeling of the cockpit. The event lasted up to midnight. We look forward to our next event to attract more members to come and admire the BMW cars and motorcycles.

Diary

We have listed the first fixed dates in the calendar for the coming season so that you know what's going on. We should be very pleased to include "your" national event in our Event Calendar. Please send in the relevant details. You can find the updated Event Calendar on our new website www.bmw-clubs-international.com!



End-of-season gathering of the BMW 3 Series Club: legends of the road and air meet.

February	February 03 - 05	3a. Convención Internacional 2005 El Salvador http://www.bmwmotoclub.com.sv
	February 04 - 06	Bremen CLASSIC Motorshow Germany http://www.classicmotorshow.de
March	March 11 - 13	RETRO CLASSICS International Germany http://www.messe-stuttgart.de/Retro/
April	April 02 - 10	AMI Leipzig AUTO MOBIL International Germany http://www.ami-leipzig.de/
	April 07 - 10	16th TECHNO CLASSICA ESSEN Germany http://www.siha.de/
	April 16 - 17	VETERAMA (car + bike) Germany http://www.veterama.de/index1.html
	April 23 - 24	VETERAMA (bike) Germany http://www.veterama.de/index1.html
May	May 19 - 22	Mille Miglia 2005 Italy http://www.millemiglia.it/
July	July 01 - 03	5th International BMW Motorrad Biker Meeting Germany http://www.bmw-motorrad.de/de/de/index.html
	July 01 - 03	RETROMOBILE Düsseldorf Germany http://www.messe-duesseldorf.de/
August	August 24 - 27	43rd BMW Club Europa Meeting Luxembourg http://www.bmw-club-europa.org/deutsch/veranstaltungen/index.html
September	September 15 - 25	IAA Frankfurt Motor Show Germany http://www.iaa.de
	September 18 - 23	BMW CCA Oktoberfest 2005 USA http://www.tarheelbmwcca.org/oktoberfest.htm

Further information:

All websites given in this Newsletter are listed here for quick reference:

Clubs:

- www.bmw-clubs-international.com
- www.bmwclub.com.my

Events:

- <http://www.bmwmotoclub.com.sv>
- <http://www.classicmotorshow.de>
- <http://www.messe-stuttgart.de/Retro>
- <http://www.ami-leipzig.de/>
- <http://www.siha.de/>
- <http://www.veterama.de/index1.html>
- <http://www.millemiglia.it>
- <http://www.bmw-motorrad.de/de/de/index.html>
- <http://www.messe-duesseldorf.de/>
- <http://www.bmw-club-europa.org/deutsch/veranstaltungen/index.html>
- <http://www.iaa.de>
- <http://www.tarheelbmwcca.org/oktoberfest.htm>



Australia 2004: club members proudly present their gems on wheels.