



THE GASLINE

Brandywine Motorsport Club, Inc.

www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org

September 2018

BMC Club Meeting

Skipjack Dining Restaurant, 401 Louviers Drive, Newark, DE 19711

<http://skipjacknewark.com>

Tuesday, September 4th – Greet & Eat @ 6:00, Meeting @ 7:00 P.M.

Autocross V, Sept. 8th- Cancelled

Drift VI, Sept. 15th, Dover Speedway, see flyer



Photo courtesy of Daniel Medellin

Chair Chatter – Paul Alderman



Chance of showers in the afternoon...

What an understatement... I thought having a timing problem on two runs was my biggest issue for the last Autocross – it turned out to be the high point. The next thing was rain coming across the track from route 13. It sounded like rice falling on the bleachers. First, we tried to keep the drips from getting between the canopies. Then we were holding onto the canopies to keep them on the ground. One comment made was “If my feet come off the ground, I’m letting go”. Tim Martin put on a helmet to protect from flying debris. Lizzie and Allie Wilford were both hit by a flying table. Heather saw a bright color and felt the impact from a roll of tape that was later found by Miles the Monster. Thanks to all who helped hold down the fort or tent. Thanks to Shawn for bringing the tarp to cover the equipment.

After everything settled down and we started loading up, other issues were realized. I had put the top on the Caterham but had left off the doors. I figured if it started raining, one of us would grab the doors and put them on. However, we were all focused on the equipment, not the car. The driver’s seat had a nice puddle in it, and even the shifter had a small puddle. We got ready for the drive home, and with the sun out we thought it was a good idea to air out the car, so off came the top. We almost made it back, but in the last mile the rains came again as we crept along in traffic. Thus, the circle was complete, and we unloaded in the pouring rain.

This has ended the Autocross season for the year; Duke has a complete report in his Autocross column. We will still have the Drift events, rally, and other social events as they come up. Come on out for the monthly meeting at Skipjack Dining.

*See you there,
Paul*

Autocross Chair – Duke Wilford



Well, last month's column was disheartening, and this one won't be much better. Due to a variety of unfortunate conditions, we are forced to cancel the remainder of the autocross season.

Weather has not been our friend this year! The May event was cancelled by a solid weekend of rain, and although June's event actually went off without a hitch, a forecast of more bad weather kept attendance low and meant we lost money.

So when the weather forecast was iffy – but changeable – for the August date, I opted to proceed with the event and keep my eye on the radar.

Setup and registration went perfectly and we were even ready to roll early. A light breeze kept clouds and patches of blue sky moving through, with just a short, tiny spatter of rain during B Group. The course was dry, temperatures were good, and we got through the morning heat without delays. Pictures and in-car videos show normal conditions. One distant rumble of thunder came from the northeast, downwind, but it was moving away from us, and radar showed skies were clearing to the southwest. We gridded up 'A Group' for the afternoon heat and made the radio checks.

From under the tent, we heard a sudden roar of white noise. Everybody looked at each other in confusion, until we realized it was rain pelting off the aluminum seats of the Turn Four stands. A few seconds later, the skies opened up, with heavy, vertical rain. The crew began battenning down the hatches, covering equipment, and moving stuff to the middle of the tent.

And then it happened...

As quickly as the rain started, the wind went from a 5 mph breeze to a 60 mph gale. I was out on course covering the scoreboard, and literally watched the rain go from vertical to horizontal like turning a dial. I hung onto the scoreboard and braced my feet to keep it from slamming over. The suddenness and localized fury of this squall cannot be overstated. We were like a climbing team caught on the north face of Everest while a storm waited to attack from the south side – the mass of the Speedway totally hid it from us until it was too late.

I carried the scoreboard back to a scene of devastation at the tent. Water was running more than an inch deep across the entire lot. The crew did an amazing job of protecting everything as best they could. Shawn Dewey set sprinting records bringing a tarp to cover the computers. Paul and Heather Alderman were in danger of flying away before they got reinforcements anchoring the tent. Lizzy and Alley Wilford both got hit by a flying table while holding on to other stuff. Phil Kunz got mummified in a side curtain. Tim Martin grabbed a loaner helmet to keep the stinging rain out of his eyes as he hung onto a tent. Everybody on hand deserves an award for protecting the equipment as well as possible.

Ten minutes later, it was done. Fifteen minutes later the sun was out. But the event – and, it turns out, the season – was over.

Considering the intensity of this tiny storm cell, we came through very well. The timing lights all blew away, but were recovered undamaged. The generator and UPS survived, as did the routers, tablets, and 3 smaller laptops. All the electronic equipment was disassembled and dried out for a week before testing, and most of it came through with little or no permanent damage.

Unfortunately, there were 2 fatalities: the main system laptop, and all the paper records of the event. The registration cards and T+S scoring sheets are long gone and probably in the Delaware Bay by now. The laptop and its hard drive were killed in action, and the event data is unfortunately unrecoverable. This means that although all groups got 4 runs in the morning heat, no records of these runs exist. We don't even have the online live results because technical difficulties on their end prevented synchronization during the event. We apologize for not being able to provide results.

We are in the process of replacing the laptop with a more durable unit, and the software is backed up and can be reloaded. Getting this done for the September event would be tough, but doable. The real issue is attendance and the overhead costs of putting on an autocross. I can get the system back online in time, but I do not feel confident that we could get the required 65-70 drivers we need to cover costs. From our history so far this year, the prudent choice is to end the season now, cut our losses, and rebuild for a strong 2019 season.

A number of generous people have volunteered to donate a replacement computer or contribute to a GoFundMe campaign for the equipment costs. I sincerely appreciate those offers and the spirit in which they are given. **The best things you can do to help the autocross program is to drive in our events, and bring friends along to drive with you.** Our location and insurance costs are high at the Dover venue, which is unfortunately our only option at this time. For an autocross-only event, we need a minimum of about 65 drivers to break even, and 75 is a better number. We haven't made that attendance at any of the events this year. We'll do our best to set a solid schedule early for 2019, and promote it well. But we rely on all of you to help us by coming out to the events and spreading the word – thanks to everybody who makes the program a success!

If you are one of the people who showed your support by preregistering for AxIV, we will refund your fees in full. Thanks for your support! It's been a tough year... but next year will be better. We're already working on it.

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at **BMCautox@gmail.com**. Thanks!

-Duke "Maybe Next Year" Wilford



Rally Chair – George Alderman



There are no rallies scheduled for September. We are open to ideas, suggestions, and volunteers.

George

Membership Chair – Anita Steward

Just a reminder that you and your guests are invited to attend our monthly club meeting in Newark at Skipjack Restaurant 401 Louviers Drive on the first Tuesday of the month.

There is no cost for you or your guests. You may arrive at 6 PM for dinner or drinks with friends. The meeting starts at 7 - see you there!

Anita

August Meeting Highlights

The 7th of August, 2018 meeting was held at Skipjack's in Newark, DE. The turnout was 25 members and guests; the Executive Committee had a quorum. The meeting was called to order by Club Chair, Paul Alderman.

Our guests from Coatesville Grand Prix opened: Crosby Ward – Chairman, Dennis Branca – Marketing, Shawn Anderson – Flagger Chair

This will be their 3rd year for the event on 9/22. Go to Coatesville Grand Prix, <http://coatesvillegrandprix.com/> for more information. They need volunteers to run the event, drivers to participate, and guests to view it.

Membership Report (Anita Steward) – We currently have 128 members. Please do not forget to renew your membership, your support is appreciated.

Financial Report (Richard Wortmann) – Checking, \$7655.38/prepaid expenses \$9100 for a total of \$16,755.

Rally Report (George Alderman) – Currently exploring a destination Rally to Eastern Museum of Motor Racing in York Springs, PA.

AutoX Report (Duke Wilford) – We had no events in July and our next AutoX is set for 8/11. We agreed to cancel our October AutoX due to bad weather at that time of the year.

Drift Report (Matt Burris) – Nuri Heckrotte said they have a Nationally known Drifter coming to our next event on 8/18 to conduct workshop on Drifting.

Property Report (Dave Mitchell) – No news.

Editor (Jim Irons) – Articles for the newsletter need to be forwarded to Jim by the last Tuesday of each month.

Adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Jim Martin, BMC Secretary





Brandywine Motorsport Club

www.brandywinemotorsportclub.org

Autocross & First State Drift Events

Dover Speedway South Parking Area

Leipsic Road, Dover Delaware

From Route 13, turn east onto Leipsic Road (Rt 88) south of the Speedway. Follow ~1 mile to Plaza Drive. Left into Speedway near the Monster Mile statue and follow signs.

2018 Schedule

~~Sat. April 14~~ — ~~Autoacross I / Drift II~~

~~Sat. May 19~~ — ~~Autoacross II / Drift III~~

~~Sat. June 23~~ — ~~Autoacross III / Drift IV~~

Sat. Aug. 11 — Autoacross IV

Sat. Aug. 18 — Drift V

Sat. Sept. 8 — Autoacross V - Cancelled

Sat. Sept. 15 — Drift VI

Sat. Nov. 3 — Drift VII

Pre-registration Entry Fees*

AUTOCROSS: BMC members \$40 / Non-members \$45

DRIFT: BMC members \$95 / Non-members \$100

Preregister online at: www.motorsportreg.com

We Accept All Major Credit and Debit Cards

**\$5 late entry fee for walkup registrations day of event*

BMC Membership available at registration

Setup & Registration - 8 A.M.

Drift Drivers' Meeting - 9 A.M.

AutoX Drivers' Meeting - 10 A.M.

NO OPEN EXHAUST at either event – Effective muffler required

Minimum age of 18 years for Drivers.

Comments or Questions:

Autocross: Duke Wilford @ BMCAutoX@gmail.com or 302-528-0612

Drift: Nuri Heckrotte @ n.heckrotte@gmail.com