

BMW Car Club  
of America  
Wasatch Chapter



# The Switchback

APRIL 2015  
VOLUME 15  
ISSUE 1

## X6 M



### THE 2015 BMW X6 M

An Answer To A Question No One Asked

*BMW invited a few international motoring journalist to the Circuit of the Americas to check out the new 2016 X6 M. Patrick George was one of those lucky few. Here's a excerpt from an article he wrote for [Jalopnik](#) about his exciting test drive experience.*

"Why does BMW make the X6? Why is it called a "Sports Activity Coupe" when it has four doors? Why would anyone think that a sloping roof looks good on an SUV? Why would buyers want a vehicle with SUV ride height but far less practicality?

Further, why would they make an M version of such a vehicle? Why would they give it the twin-turbo V8 engine from the M5, with 567 horsepower and 553 pound-feet of torque? Why would they make it go from a stop to 60 mph in just four seconds? Why would BMW make it, as they like to say, fit for a run on the Nordschleife?

After driving it, I have decided this is the wrong way to think about the X6 M. When you talk about this unusual car, the question isn't "Why?," it's "Why not?"

Now on its second generation, the X6 M is brand new for this year, and it's as perplexing as ever.

The tough thing about the X6 M is that it defies categorization, so it's hard for us to know what to expect from it. You drive a Nissan Versa, it's a subcompact sedan; you expect it to be slow and cheap. You drive a Corvette, it's a sports car, so you know it's going to be fast at the expense of normality. You drive a Ford Escape, it's a crossover, so it should be roomy and better on road than off.



It's very hard to fit the X6 in to all these categories we have, let alone its hopped-up M version. Its sibling, the X5 M, is much easier to figure out. It's big, it's practical, it can haul stuff and it can haul ass, because it has the same mighty engine.

I do get why they launched the X6 M here. It's the most Texan car in BMW's lineup. It's big, it's brash, it's powerful, it's expensive — the base price is \$102,100! — and it makes a grand statement. Specifically, it's very Dallas.

The only way it could be more Texan is if it had a bed, a tailgate and a trim level called King Ranch Edition.

Technically, the X6 M is a car Jalops should dig, because it's weird and also very fast, two things we like. Probably the reasons we don't are the polarizing looks,

the price tag, and the fact that an X6 buyer is probably insufferable to at least some degree.

Or you're just not convinced the X6 M is special. What if I told you it has an oil sump system that allows it to hit hit up to 1.2 g without creating a problem for the engine's oil supply? That it has mixed-size Pirelli P Zero tires front and rear to create the ideal combo of steering feel and traction? That its radiators are designed for track duty? That it has launch control?

You still probably don't care. Which is fine, because it's not my job to sell you this car, merely to tell you it's better than you realize.

It's almost certainly a visual improvement over its predecessor, which looked like an X5 that had been in an unfortunate rollover accident. With its wide haunches and sleek, swooping lines, this new X6 looks like what the designers were probably going for all along. Each of our testers in Austin came in a bright, ostentatious color called Long Beach Blue. It's quite striking in that shade; good or bad, it's definitely a car you stare at for a while.

Inside the X6 M, there is leather. All the leather, I think. So many cows died to make this happen. Our cars' brown Merino leather had an almost orange shade that makes it stand out just as much as the exterior does. Befitting its price tag, it's vastly more premium-feeling than the 228i I drove later that day.

At the same time, the X6 doesn't have an interior where everything is easy to work and figure out; no one will get inside and say "Oh yeah, this makes total sense." Between the iDrive knob, the limited selection of center panel buttons, and the fact that the wonky gear selector



doesn't even have a park button or position, the learning curve is a steep one.

So what's it like to drive? Damn quick. Acceleration from the M5-sourced, twin-turbo V8 is abundant, even downright violent when you mash the throttle. We may be jaded in the Era of Hellcat, but I still think it's incredibly impressive when a 5,185-pound car moves from a stop to 60 mph in just four seconds..."

[Click here](#) for rest of Patrick George's full article.

Patrick wasn't the only review of this new monster - Chris Wright was also on hand at the Circuit of the Americas. His review is in the March 2015 edition of Roundel Magazine. If you haven't read it yet - do. You won't be disappointed.

Chris Wright continues Patrick's love/hate sentiment when he summarizes his mixed emotions about the overwhelming list of engineering goodies packed into this beast by stating:

"...a package whose very existence used to annoy me, but which is now something I desire - very powerful indeed"

I think you can see where this is going...

His thoughts and doubts about the X6 M are quickly shoved out of his head as he takes his first lap...by the end, he is sold on the endless engineering achievements shoved into this 5,000 pound package. [Click here](#) for Chris' full review.

Brian Morgan, who also has an [article in the latest Roundel](#), has a bit more of a love-at-first-sight feel when got his hands on a Fabspeed's tuned-up version of the X6 M. However unorthodox some of the outrageous stylings might feel, this trim-blackened and greatly detailed option could easily change any of your fence-sitting "Can I see myself behind the wheel of this?" thoughts that you might still be struggling with. Brian puts it best by saying...

"Over the top but understated,...subtle as it is potent."

Be sure to read Brian's write up, too. I think between these three, the question of why BMW would build this in-between SUV/car niche market machine is quite clearly answered - because they can.

# 2015



# X6 M

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Hello fellow Wasatch BMW CCA members and BMW Enthusiasts!*

*I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself! My name is Daniel Archer. I am the new president of the Wasatch Chapter of the BMW CCA. I have been an avid BMW enthusiast since before I could drive really, and in the past 12 years since I received my drivers license, I have owned about 18 different BMW's! Old and new! I am a lover of just about all things BMW and that is why I have such a passion for this club and want it to be the greatest it can be! I cant wait to really dig into this coming car season and make it special!*

*I would also like to thank Craig Hawe for his time as President of this chapter. He filled the position for many years and did a fantastic job of sharing his passion for the brand as well as welcoming new members to the club! Thank you Craig for your contribution to the club!*

*I'd also like to thank some of our other departing board members, Lee Wagstaff and Tom Oesleby. You both did a fantastic job in both your positions and will be missed on the board, but we thank you both for your years of contribution to the chapter!*

*With the departure of these board members, I would like to welcome the following new board members to fill their positions. Konrad Chen is our new Secretary, Rick Gelhart is our new VP, and Jamie Airmet is our new Newsletter editor! Dave Egelston has technically left the official board but has decided to stay on as our chapter web administrator and i'm happy that he has decided to do so!*

*We all are in the works of bringing lots of great ideas to life to make this season a great one! Everything from Scenic drives, Meets, Shows and BBQ's, Exclusive dealership events, and hopefully even some track time.*

*With these events and this fantastic team by my side and amazing members like yourself, I hope to make this coming season one of the best that has ever taken place in this chapters history!*

Daniel Archer

## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Sachith Abayakoon	Anna Ernst	Gordan Rodgers
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## BOARD MEMBERS

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**Newsletter Editor - Jamie Airmet**  
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### Newsletter Submissions

We welcome your stories, suggestions, technical tips, photos, questions or comments that would be of interest to your fellow club members. All reasonable submissions are considered and are needed. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, quality and good taste. Please include your contact information so we may contact you if significant editing is necessary. Please send your submissions to the Editor through email, phone or the Wasatch Chapter address.

### How to Join BMW-CCA

Call 1-800-878-9292 for credit card orders. Membership cost is \$48/year which includes a subscription to the Roundel and Switchback as well as all other Club Benefits. You may add another person in your household for \$10 so they can enjoy full Club benefits as well, except they won't get their own Roundel. Send your change of address to BMW CCA, Inc., 640 South Main St, Suite 201, Greenville, SC 29601 or fax 864-250-0038 or [www.bmwcca.org](http://www.bmwcca.org). (864-250-0022).

### BMW CCA Benefits

Discounts on parts, supplies, free advertising in the Roundel and BMW CCA website, library and video services, help from technical and maintenance experts, a Value Information Coordinator to help with insurance claims, purchases or sale of your BMW, Ombudsmen to assist you with BMW dealers and suppliers, Special Interest Groups listed in the Roundel.

### Legal Disclaimers

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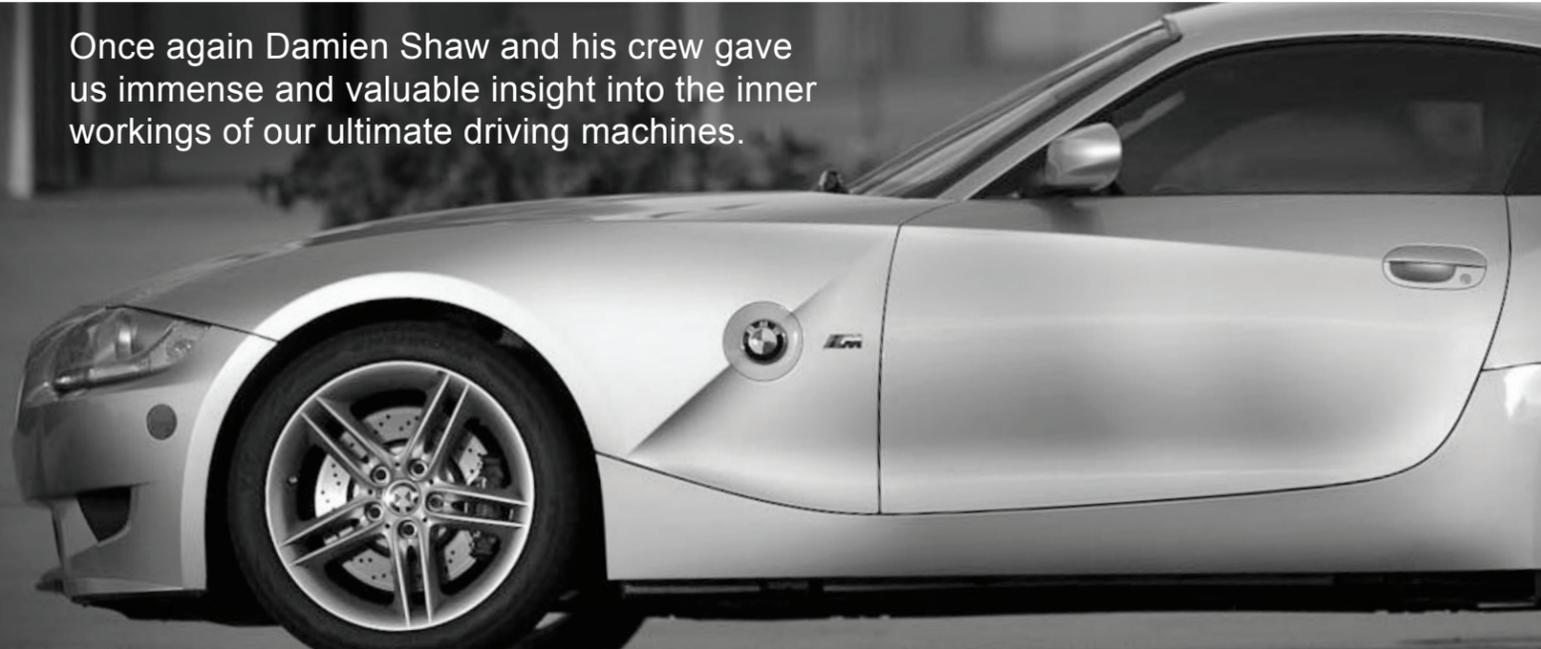
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## TECH SESSION AT INTEGRITY FIRST AUTOMOTIVE

Once again Damien Shaw and his crew gave us immense and valuable insight into the inner workings of our ultimate driving machines.



This time the focus was on the cooling systems of the V8s, especially the M62 and M62TU Motors. Damien had multiple motors opened up in various stages of repair, perfect for a close-up visual of each feature and function on the cooling systems. As the generations get newer, the advancements in technology have added to the sophistication of these systems. The Integrity First Automotive team clearly understands these differences and nuances related to each generation. I think everyone attending would agree that this Tech Session was interesting and informative from start to finish. If you missed it, make sure you get to the next one, a great way to raise your car IQ without getting your hands dirty and your head spinning. *—it was definitely a better way to learn than in my garage!*



## BRUNCH AT MARKET STREET

Starting the season off right, we had our first get together at Market Street for a fine meal and great service. It was a small turnout, but quality over quantity is always appreciated. It was great catching up with old friends and getting to meet some new ones.



With the weather being so un-seasonally pleasant we continued our visit out to the parking lot where we got a quick glance at BMW's new X1. Rick Gelhart had a loaner from BMW of Pleasant Grove while his wife's daily driver was in for some scheduled service. This little TwinPower Turbo four-banger has plenty of pick-up packed into its 2.0 liter engine (we will surely be seeing more of these 240hp powerful yet efficient sporty SUVs on the road).



It was a perfect way to start the morning and get motivated for the fun filled year ahead.



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2002 owners, join us for the inaugural 02 Fest.

The weekend will consist of drives through the Sierra Mountains, photo ops near Lake Tahoe, and of course a car show. Visit [www.bmw2002faq.com](http://www.bmw2002faq.com) in the events for a full description of the activities, including a BBQ, Tech Session, mountain drive and tee shirts for registering participants.

Reservations are due by August 1st. Contact Ed Black for details at [adirtnerd@frontier.com](mailto:adirtnerd@frontier.com).

A block of rooms at the Carson Valley Inn have been reserved, \$85 a night, double occupancy. Please call 800-321-6983 ext. 1 and mention group number 504254 for the special price.



## A CELEBRATION OF GERMAN AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING

Now in its sixth year, the Legends Of The Autobahn® concourse has become a local and regional sensation. In 2011, with the North American debut of the BMW 328 Hommage concept car, the event gained international recognition. In 2012 we saw the debut of BMW's Zagato Z4 Roadster concept, and there are always many rare models to be seen.

For 2015, the Legends of the Autobahn Concourse is returning to the prestigious Nicklaus Club-Monterey in Monterey, California, during the famed Pebble Beach Concourse week. This rich venue provides the growing event with the continued room to expand—and it's so close to Laguna Seca that you can hear the historic cars warming up!

visit [www.legendsoftheautobahn.org](http://www.legendsoftheautobahn.org) for more information.  
Check out this Legends of the Autobahn 2014 video of here.

## Discounts Given to Club Members

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# The Switchback

Do you have an event that supports BMW lovers?  
Let us know and we can add it to this calendar.

wasatchbmwcca@gmail.com.

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Salt Lake City, UT 84171

www.wasatchbmwcca.org

## Wasatch Chapter Events

Event	Date	Time	Location	Description	More Information
CCA Cars and Coffee	April 18	10:00 am	Pierre's Bakery 3229 East 3300 South	A casual get together for coffee and a pastry.	
Spring Tour	April 26	10:00-noon	Meet at Skyline High School	Drive up to summit county, down to Utah county	Look for an email to come with exact route.
CCA Cars and coffee	May 2	10:00 am	Pierre's Bakery 3229 East 3300 South	Get get together for coffee and a pastry.	
Show and Shine	May TBA	TBA	BMW of Pleasant Grove	Car Show, Dealer Leader Cars, Great Food	More to come - FUN, FUN, FUN
CCA Cars and coffee	May 16	10:00 am	Pierre's Bakery 3229 East 3300 South	Get together for coffee and a pastry.	
CCA Cars and coffee	May 30	10:00 am	Pierre's Bakery 3229 East 3300 South	Get together for coffee and a pastry.	
CCA Cars and coffee	June 6	10:00 am	Pierre's Bakery 3229 East 3300 South	Get together for coffee and a pastry.	
Summer BBQ	June 14	12 noon	Meet at Skyline High, drive to Mountain Dell	Cruise up as a group for Food and Fun.	<a href="#">Upper Washington Park</a>
CCA Cars and coffee	June 20	10:00 am	Pierre's Bakery 3229 East 3300 South	Get together for coffee and a pastry.	
Movie Night	July TBA	8:00 pm	Snowbird ski resort	Outdoor movie under the stars	<a href="#">Snowbird Movie Schedule</a>

## Other BMW Events

Event	Date	Time	Location	Description	More Information
SLRS Cruise for Paul	April 11	8:00 am	Sears 754 S. State	Cruise honoring Paul Walker	<a href="#">facebook.com/slrs-forpaul</a>
UBE Olympus Hills Park	April 12	11:00 am	Olympus Hills Park, 4500 So 3131 East	Utah BMW Enthusiasts – bring a lunch	<a href="#">facebook.com/UBE</a>
MFEST	April 17-19		Las Vegas, NV	Car show based around the Motorsport division	<a href="#">www.mfest.com</a>
Import Spring Showoff	April 19	1-4 pm	Maverick Center 3200 Decker Lake Drive	Imports and Euros. Eat, music, raffle, cars & more	<a href="#">facebook.com/importspringshow</a>
Car Doctor's BBQ and Fund Raiser & Car Show	April 25	11 - 4 pm	Car Doctor's, 2158 No Redwood Rd., Saratoga	Burgers and drinks and prizes and more. Money raised goes toward youth baseball uniforms!	<a href="#">facebook.com/cardoctorsshow</a>
Utah Association of Euros – IKEA Meetballs	May 6	7:00 pm	Ikea parking lot	Meet other Euro enthusiasts –Eat IKEA meatballs	<a href="#">www.facebook.com/UAEmeatballs</a>
WUSTE European Car Festival	May 29-31		Las Vegas, NV	See website for details	<a href="#">wuste.com</a>
BMW Drive 4 corners	Aug 7-10		Pagosa Springs, Colorado	Check the website for all the details	<a href="#">drive4corners.com</a>
Legends of the Autobahn	Aug 14		Monterey, California	Classics Bimmers and much more	<a href="#">legendsoftheautobahn.org</a>
BMW 2002 High Sierra fest	Sep 11-13		Minden, Nevada	Days of fun for vintage 2002 fans.	<a href="#">.bmw2002faq.com/calendar/event</a>