

# *der* **Bayerische**



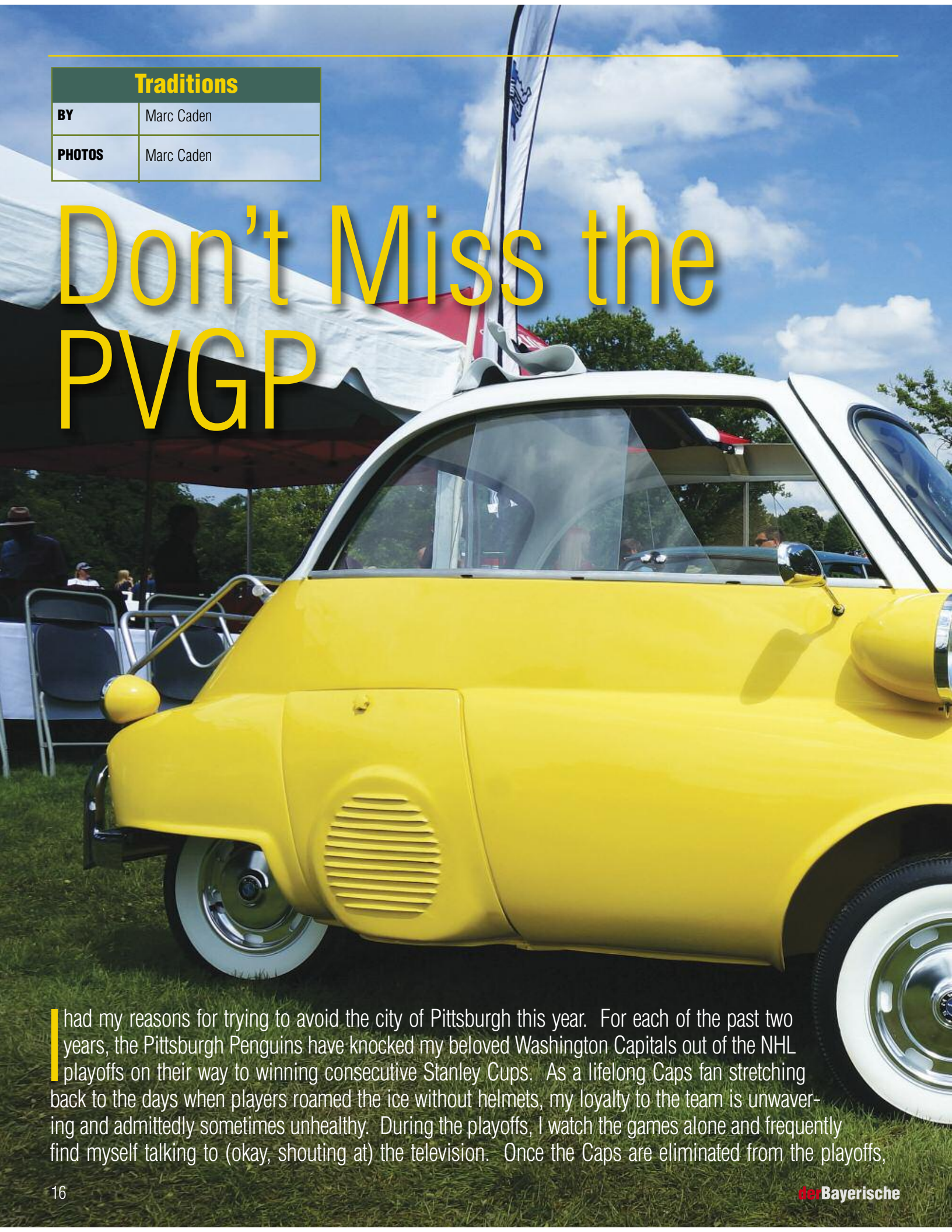


## Traditions

**BY** Marc Caden

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# Don't Miss the PVGP



I had my reasons for trying to avoid the city of Pittsburgh this year. For each of the past two years, the Pittsburgh Penguins have knocked my beloved Washington Capitals out of the NHL playoffs on their way to winning consecutive Stanley Cups. As a lifelong Caps fan stretching back to the days when players roamed the ice without helmets, my loyalty to the team is unwavering and admittedly sometimes unhealthy. During the playoffs, I watch the games alone and frequently find myself talking to (okay, shouting at) the television. Once the Caps are eliminated from the playoffs,



## THE PITTSBURGH VINTAGE GRAND PRIX



(Above) The parachute on the back of this Yas Marina Blue BMW M4 was not just for show! TPG Tuning's BMW M4 is said to be the quickest in the world and the first to achieve a sub-10 second quarter-mile pass.



I sulk for a while, then grouse, ultimately accept, and then start dreaming about the upcoming season. Am I troubled? Yes, I am, at least for the much too short amount of time each spring the Caps are in the playoff hunt before they are eliminated – all too frequently at the hands of the Penguins.

So, the thought of visiting Pittsburgh this summer and seeing images of the Stanley Cup plastered all over billboards and the backs of t-shirts caused me a great deal of consternation. Would a trip to the city cause me to relapse into my post-playoff malaise and despair? Fortunately, my genuine love for the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (PVGP) made the decision to divorce it from my home team's rivalry with the Penguins quite easy.



# THE PITTSBURGH VINTAGE GRAND PRIX



(From Left) The all-new McLaren 720S has large headlight sockets that include functional air intakes allowing air to reach its heat exchangers for cooling. George and Johna Snyder displayed their limited-run Jahre Edition BMW M3 in Macao Blue. One of the very best cars on the field to see was the almost half-million dollar Ford GT supercar.

The PVGP is a celebration of vintage automobile racing (held each July) with a full week of events, including car shows, parades, tours, rallies, and races. This year marked the 35th consecutive running of the PVGP, a one of a kind event where vintage racecars battle it out on a street circuit. The purely street racing presents some challenging hazards to its participants like concrete curbs, traffic poles, jagged stone walls, and very little margin for error. That the event coordinators somehow convinced the city of Pittsburgh to close over two miles of public roads and an adjacent municipal golf course for the weekend is an amazing feat. But maybe it shouldn't be too surprising since all the proceeds from the PVGP go to help the Allegheny Valley School and Autism Society of Pittsburgh, two local charities that benefit people with developmental disabilities and autism.

As has become our annual tradition, my son and I made the four-hour trip to Pittsburgh to attend the vintage races and car show occurring on the weekend of July 15-16. Our gracious hosts for the weekend are the Allegheny Chapter of the BMW CCA, whose tent and parking area are high atop "German Hill," which is among the very best spots to view the races. This year the Allegheny Chapter selected the 5 Series as its honorary BMW and all generations of that model were provided special parking adjacent to the race circuit.

Once again, the head instructor from the BMW Performance Center, Mike Renner, was on hand to give people hot laps around the circuit for a charitable donation. Mike brought the 2017 BMW M3 Competition Package that had recently won its class and finished

10th place overall in this year's One Lap of America race. Mike drove us on the first two-thirds of the circuit flat out along a normal racing line. On the half mile straight after turn two, Mike hit 116 mph (faster than the racecars) before braking hard to wiggle through a hay barrel chicane. The real fun began at Turn 13 when Mike started drifting the M3 on every corner that followed and smoking the tires as the crowd cheered on. Mike also very generously raffled off a two-day M School, valued at \$3999, with all the proceeds going to charity. Wanna experience Mike Renner's hot lap of the PVGP circuit for yourself? See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fp04hrt0R-Q&t=10s>

There are very few races that also include a concomitant car show with over 2000 automobiles, but the PVGP has that too – with show cars displayed along the neatly manicured fairways of the Bob O'Connor Golf Course. There were so many classics, sports cars, supercars, and even hypercars. For example, it was my first time seeing the new Ford GT supercar. The nearly half-million dollar car didn't disappoint and it truly appears to be a racecar built for street use. However, even more impressive than the new supercar was the original (located less than fifty feet away) Ford GT 40 MkIV that A.J. Foyt and Dan Guernsey won LeMans in 1967.

My son Andrew spotted a new McLaren 720S, and like the Ford GT, it is the first one I have seen outside of

*Photo by Fraser Dachille.*





# THE PITTSBURGH VINTAGE GRAND PRIX



Photo by Jaclyn Heck.

(Above) Wayne Watkins' BMW 2000CS begins a row of E9 coupes designed by Giovanni Michelotti. Tents for Griot's Garage and the BMW CCA flanked a large central tent where food and drinks were served for club members. (Left) Mike Renner brought the Competition Package M3 that recently won its class at this year's One Lap of America event. Mike gave some tire-smoking hot laps around the circuit between races for a charitable donation.

a magazine or video review. A direct competitor of the new Ford GT and Ferrari 488, the car has fifty horsepower more than either of them produced by a twin-turbo 4.0 V8 engine that pumps out 710 hp. The new design of the 720S is very different from nearly every other mid-engine supercar on the market because it has no side intakes, giving it a much sleeker and sinuous look. The side engine air intakes from the previous generation have been deleted and replaced by a mostly invisible air channel intake located near the rear windows. McLaren even admits that the new 720S is faster around many tracks than its big brother the P1 (with 903 hp) and yet its opening price of \$288k is over \$150k less than the new Ford GT. Quite an enticing package if you have couple of hundred thousand bucks lying around the house.

There were also some impressive cars in the BMW car corral. When I first saw a Yas Marina Blue BMW M4 pull into the lot with a parachute attached the rear bumper, I assumed it was just a poseur. A BMW with a parachute to assist with braking, c'mon are you kidding me? Boy, was I wrong! I met its

owner, Jason Slater, whose team at TPG Tuning created the first F82 BMW M4 to hit a nine-second quarter mile pass using an S55 engine. Making a dyno verified 745 horsepower and 801 Nm of torque, it is said to be the fastest BMW M4 in world, and I have no reason to doubt that. Although the engine has been modified internally and the stock turbos have been replaced, the M4 is running all stock bodywork, suspension, transmission, and differential. Indeed, so many stock parts handling an engine with nearly double its original output helps to demonstrate the robust build quality of the M4!

Allegheny Chapter President, George Snyder, handed me the keys to check out his recently delivered Jahre Edition BMW M3. The Jahre is a limited edition run intended to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the M3. George's car was painted Macao Blue, a color first seen on the E30 M3 Sport Evo. The interior wore two-tone leather seats in black with blue center sections. There were many carbon fiber accents in the interior and just above the glove box was a placard stating that the car was 1 of 500 produced. The Jahre produces

an extra nineteen horsepower and it wears twenty-inch competition package wheels. I really didn't want to give George the key fob back, but he finally extracted it from my tightly clutched claw.

The big news for next year is that the PVGP will coincide with the BMW CCA's Oktoberfest with Pittsburgh serving as the host city. While nearly 400 BMWs were on display this year, expect over 1000 next year. You can also expect Oktoberfest to include gymkhana, HPDEs, racing, rally drives, T/S/D events, and a concours d'elegance at Point State Park right along the river. The PVGP has named BMW the "marque of the year" for 2018, which means our cars will enjoy special privileges, such as registered vehicles participating in a parade lap. Next year is also the fiftieth anniversary of the iconic BMW 2002, and they hope to set a Guinness world record for the largest ever gathering of 2002s.

There were at least forty members from our chapter in attendance at this

year's PVGP including President Paul Seto, Doug Verner, Tom Baruch, Doug Dolan, Fraser Dachtile, Jaclyn Heck, Doug Dowling, Seth Koch, Wayne Watkins, and Kamran Bahktian. There was a special surprise celebration on Saturday night at the Hofbrough House in downtown Pittsburgh for dB contributor, hot shoe, and all-around good guy Steve Tenney in honor of his 70th birthday.

Back to the Penguins—I did in fact see way too much Penguins memorabilia over the course of the weekend, rubbing salt in the wounds inflicted during the playoffs. However, the City of Pittsburgh, the people I met, and especially the volunteers from the Allegheny Chapter are all first-class and make this an event that even the most diehard Capitals fan must attend. With Oktoberfest set to coincide with the 2018 PVGP, mark your calendars for next July and plan to wear your Caps 2018 Stanley Cup winning t-shirts all weekend long! See you next year in Pittsburgh.



# Surprise

## BIRTHDAY PARTY AT THE PVGP

As a long time BMW fan, Steve Tenney has experienced more than most. His love for the marque and motorsports intersect a lot. So when it was time to head north for Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix weekend, he was ready to see some cool cars, watch the races, and catch up with friends and family. What he didn't know was that his daughter, Kristen, wanted to mark this as a milestone weekend to celebrate his 70th birthday. And with social media today, it's pretty difficult to throw a surprise party for someone without them finding out.

Kristen made all the

arrangements at the Hofbrauhaus, a very cool German beer hall in downtown Pittsburgh, and another long-time NCC member, Doug Verner, helped rally the troops. Throughout the day at PVGP, we all said 'Happy Birthday' to Steve and recruited folks behind his back to join us for the evening celebration. Somehow it all worked out as he was pretty surprised when he walked in and saw all his family and friends there to wish him well.

It was an honor to share this big moment with him and his family. So here's to Steve and another 70 years!

