

ULTIMATE TIMES

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Oktoberfest



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**BMW Car Club
of America
Nittany Bimmers**



O'fest / Pitt Grand Prix

July, 2018



The Ultimate Car Show: Oktoberfest at PVGP 2018
By: Rebecca Madonna

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is an annual event that Devin and I never miss. We have attended this show for the past seven years, however this year, was the first that we attended a BMW CCA Oktoberfest.

Oktoberfest kicked off our week by taking us to 507 heaven. We pulled into our hotel on Wednesday morning and were greeted by a display of three different 507s from across the country. We then parked amongst many other BMWs, including an M2 competition, a rare M3 CS and a brand new M5 competition across two expansive parking lots at the Sheraton on Station Square.

Thursday found us at a track day at the Pittsburgh International Race Complex where we autocrossed two different M3s as part of the Michelin experience comparing tires on wet and dry surfaces. Devin had the ride of his life for two laps around the race track in the BMW factory Z4 LeMan car with the Performance Center's own Mike Renner as he raced Bill Auberlen in the sister factory car. After a catered lunch we then drove high performance go karts around a road course with other attendees from the event.

Friday, we explored the back roads outside the city and enjoyed several hours of fun driving in great weather with the windows down. We ended the night at the Andy Warhol museum and cheering on the Pittsburgh Pirates at a baseball game. The Pirates won against the Milwaukee Brewers 7-3.

The culmination of the week was the PVGP show on the weekend. We were blown away by the extensive and diverse gathering of BMWs in attendance at one venue. There were between six to seven hundred BMWs registered with over 1,100 participants. The marque car this year was the 2002 and they were on show in the hundreds.

The other marques at the show displayed some of their newest technology alongside some of the models that put them on the map. Some examples were about a dozen factory Porsche race cars and the super exotics up on Italian Hill. Ford even had one of their GT supercars in attendance.

Also on display was the M5 that Johan Schwartz drove for the whopping 232.5 miles of unbroken drifting to clinch the new world record. Alongside was the partner M5 with a mock set up of a mannequin out the window showing the mid-drift refueling method.

Saturday ended with a filet mignon dinner at the hotel where we had the opportunity to mingle with members from other chapters across the country. We had the pleasure of meeting Rob Siegel, author of *Memoirs of a Hack Mechanic: How Fixing Broken BMWs Helped Make Me Whole*. Speakers from BMW gave an informative presentation and answered many questions on the production of many different models of cars.

The week proved to be an unforgettable experience. Many great memories made with friends, new and old, in the presence of lots of great cars. We are already looking forward to next year's PVGP and another Oktoberfest.

O'fest / Pitt Grand Prix July, 2018

see more pictures at www.nittanybimmers.org
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