

■ The new M3 coupe road car made its official U.S. debut at the New York Auto Show in April. More than 150 BMW CCA members were invited to a special preview ceremony.



New M3 Coupe Stars at New York Auto Show

The new M3 coupe was one of the undisputed stars at the New York Auto Show in April. Prior to the show's opening, more than 150 BMW Car Club of America members from the surrounding area attended a special M3 preview, presented by BMW of North America, Inc.

"We listened very carefully to what you told us you wanted in the new M3," said Tom Salkowsky, M Brand Manager, to the group of enthusiasts. "You said you wanted more power, a 6-speed gearbox and a design that is clearly differentiated from the 3 Series coupe. I think you'll find that your wish list has been granted — and more."

The new coupe, the most powerful M3 ever built, is purposely engineered to be driven on a daily basis without sacrifice or compromise. It sets new standards in performance, including a normally aspirated 6-cylinder inline engine that produces more than 100 horsepower per liter. At the same time, it establishes luxury and safety benchmarks in its class. Simply put, the new M3 coupe is another example of M at its finest.

The M3 made its North American debut in March, appropriately as a race car, at the 12 Hours of Sebring in the American Le Mans Series. Since then, BMW Team PTG has entered a second E46 M3 in GT class competition. The team will introduce a third new M3 race car at Sears Point Raceway in Sonoma, Calif., on July 23.

To whet your appetite, here is a preview of some of the features that

Mbriefing

by Tom Salkowsky
M Brand Manager

Ask an M driver for an opinion about his or her favorite cars and you're bound to get a detailed explanation about the car and its positioning. I can attest to this from personal experience and allow me to add, I think it's terrific.

Over the past seven months, I've had the privilege of meeting with groups of M drivers at auto shows, races and BMW Car Club of America meetings across the country.



M3 coupe stars

Mbriefing

make the new M3 coupe the epitome of power, precision and passion:

Performance and efficiency

- 3.2-liter DOHC inline 6-cylinder engine with BMW M Double VANOS steplessly variable intake- and exhaust-valve timing
- 330 horsepower (SAE net) @ 7900 rpm ¹
- 255 lb.-ft. torque @ 4900 rpm ¹

Handling, ride and braking

- Multi-link rear suspension with aluminum components
- Vacuum-assisted 4-wheel disc brakes with ABS, electronic brake proportioning and Dynamic Brake Control
- M Style alloy wheels in Chrome Shadow finish, 18 x 8.0 front /18 x 9.0 rear with 225/45ZR - 18 front/255/40ZR - 18 rear performance tires

Two things stand out in my mind about the discussions we've enjoyed: your passion for M cars and your astute observations about what's needed to keep M the leader in a market that is rapidly becoming crowded with competitors.

When the new M3 coupe arrives at your BMW center later in the year, I think you'll see that

than offset by the car's features and its very nature. The M3 will be elevated into another level of high-performance sports cars without the premium price that usually accompanies such status.

M continues its impressive momentum in the United States. From January through June this year, M drivers took delivery of 1,621

better than expected with our new engines and cars, especially in F1. Our year-old V12 LMR prototype racer is leading the American Le Mans Series championship with two wins in three races. In GT competition, the new M3 coupe is having some of the challenges one might expect with a brand-new race car. However, I can't think of anyone better to sort through these bumps than Tom Milner. He and his very dedicated PTG team and our drivers are tirelessly searching for the right ingredients necessary for victory.

If all this sounds like 2000 is a busy and exciting year at BMW M, you're right. And by all means, some of the best is yet to come. Please join us at one or more of our races, or watch us on television. One of the events you still may want to consider attending is the United States Grand Prix at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on September 24. Information about the Grand Prix is included in this issue of *Mdriver*.

Until then, enjoy your M car!



Exterior and aerodynamics

- Aluminum hood with power dome
- M-designed side mirrors
- Front spoiler with brake and engine-cooling air intakes

Ergonomics, luxury and convenience

- M sport seats
- M leather tilt/telescopic 3-spoke steering wheel with multi-function fingertip controls
- Variable warning tachometer

Safety and security

- Dual-airbag Supplementary Restraint System with 2-stage Smart Airbags
- Front Head Protection System and side-impact airbags
- Battery Safety Terminal

Of course, the new M3 also features the traditional BMW trunk-mounted, drop-down tool kit and, just in case you were wondering, dual cupholders. We will have a more comprehensive list of M3 features in the next edition of *Mdriver*. The new M3 is expected at your BMW center late this year.

we've done a very good job of listening and responding to your desires for this great new car. Some of its features are listed in this issue of *Mdriver* and we'll reveal more details in the next edition. Just as many of you played a role in building its predecessor, your ideas were incorporated in the new car as well.

I've been asked on several occasions if there will be a price increase over the E36 M3. The answer is yes, but I feel confident that you'll see that the increase is more

new M5s, 1,630 M roadsters and 426 M coupes. That was a 3 percent increase for both the M roadster and M coupe over last year. Speaking of the Spartanburg-built M roadsters and coupes, watch *Mdriver* for some exciting plans we have for the 2001 models of these cars.

In motorsport, BMW is active with three different programs: Formula 1, Prototype and GT racing. An update of our racing activities is included in this issue. We are doing

¹ Preliminary data

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Milner".

Automobile Names M5 an "All-Star"

Automobile Magazine selected the M5 as one of its automotive "All-Stars" for 2000. In bestowing the honor on M's latest high-performance four-door sedan in its May 2000 issue, the editors observed, "BMW has always done a better job than anyone of combining crushing performance with carryall capability in the M5, and the new one is simply the latest in a wonderful line of automobiles that began with the original in 1984."

They added, "As long as you don't need to haul huge families or tow trailers around, the M5 is the ideal car for an automotive enthusiast who has a stable of one."

Other "buff books" are also praising the M5. *Car and Driver* summed up its impression, saying it is, "the most desirable sedan in the world at any price." *AutoWeek* weighed in with this assessment in its May 1, 2000 issue,

"If you won't settle for less than the fastest, quickest and meanest stock sports sedan, there is only the M5."

California-based *Road & Track* tested an M5 at The Streets of Willow racetrack and concluded, "On the track, the M5 is hunkered down and grips the asphalt with confidence and composure. The instant-on electronic throttle response and the precise manual gearbox will bring a smile to any driver."

Complementing the M5's stunning performance is a wide variety of

■ The M5 sets standards in performance and personal luxury. The editors of *Automobile* named the M5 one of the magazine's automotive "All-Stars" for 2000.

option packages and individual options that allow you to custom tailor an M5 to match your definition of "the most desirable sedan in the world." For example, two interior options set distinctly unique cabin environments. Sport Trim matches the M5's



■ As with all M cars, BMW fine-tuned the M5 on Germany's famous Nürburgring racetrack.

high-performance personality with standard Nappa Point leather, in Black, Imola Red, Silverstone or Le Mans Blue, complemented by Aluminum trim. Bruyere Club wood trim is available as a no-cost alternative.

Luxury Trim puts the accent on luxury with its ultra-soft Nappa Heritage leather, available in Black or Caramel, combined with Bruyere Club or Burl Walnut trim. The upper and lower dashboard and upper door trim are also covered for a lavish interior finish.

These extensive interior choices are further examples of how M helps drivers make high performance personal.



BMW Motorsport Report

BMW is competing in two championship series in 2000 with three different types of race cars. Returning to Formula 1, the pinnacle of global motorsport, after a 13-year absence, BMW is supplying engines to its partner Williams. The 3.5-liter V10 engines, which can rev to more than 17,000 rpm, are designed, assembled and maintained by BMW in a purpose-built facility adjacent to the company's Engineering and Research Center in Munich. Although the engine's power output is a closely guarded secret, based on its performance observers rate it as one of the most powerful in Formula 1. German Ralf Schumacher, brother of Ferrari driver Michael, and Briton Jenson Button, a 20-year-old in only his third year of automobile racing, drive the Williams BMWs.



■ New cars, new colors: BMW Team PTG races three new M3 coupes in the popular American Le Mans Series GT class. The M3 made its North American debut as a race car at the 12 Hours of Sebring last March. (photo: Gerd Auberlen)

BMW is also fielding two teams in the exciting American Le Mans Series. The BMW V12 LMR races in the Prototype category, the fastest cars in the series. A pair of new M3 coupes competes in the ALMS GT class with a third M3 entering the lineup in July at the Sears Point, race. In fact, the M3 made its North American debut at Sebring, Fla., in March as a race car, recalling the introduction of the legendary BMW 328 in 1937 at Germany's famous Nürburgring circuit.

F1 Season Update

The intense competition in Formula 1 makes for a high-pressure environment unequaled in motorsport. As predicted, Ferrari and McLaren are the two dominant teams so far this season. The new BMW engine has acquitted itself quite well, including a third-place finish in its first race by Ralf Schumacher. Williams and BMW are currently fourth in the manufacturers' point standings. Ralf Schumacher is sixth in the drivers' championship with 14 points and Jenson Button lies 11th with three points.



■ Ralf celebrates 25th birthday in France. His brother made sure the candles could not be blown out.

2000 FIA FORMULA 1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

RACE & DATE	RALF SCHUMACHER (GERMANY)	JENSON BUTTON (GREAT BRITAIN)
Australian Grand Prix March 12	3rd	10th
Brazilian Grand Prix March 26	5th	6th
San Marino Grand Prix April 9	17th	20th
British Grand Prix April 23	4th	5th
Spanish Grand Prix May 7	4th	17th
European Grand Prix May 21	17th	10th
Monaco Grand Prix, June 4	14th	21st
Canadian Grand Prix June 17	14th	11th
French Grand Prix July 2	5th	8th

The United States Grand Prix Formula 1 racing returns to the United States with the United States Grand Prix, September 22-24 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The BMW Williams F1 team will be part of the historic event, run on a purpose-built 2.606-mile, 13-turn road course constructed inside the Speedway using a portion of the famous oval track.

At a recent visit to the legendary Brickyard, Jordan driver Heinz-Herald Frentzen predicted speeds of more than 200 mph on the main straightaway, saying that for Grand Prix drivers the new facility will be "the fastest track we've ever raced on." He estimated lap times in the 1-minute, 12-second range for an average speed of about 130 mph.

Although reserved seating is sold out, general admission tickets are still available for all three days. For information, call the Speedway ticket office at 317-484-6700 or visit the U.S. Grand Prix website at www.usgpindy.com.

2000 AMERICAN LE MANS SERIES RESULTS

RACE & DATE	BMW V12 LMR	BMW V12 LMR	BMW M3	BMW M3
Sebring, Fla. March 18	JJ Lehto Jorg Mueller 3rd	Bill Auberlen Steve Soper Jean-Marc Gounon 4th	Hans Stuck Boris Said J. van Overbeek 13th	Brian Cunningham Peter Cunningham Darren Law 15th
Charlotte, N.C. April 1	JJ Lehto Jorg Mueller 1st	Bill Auberlen Jean-Marc Gounon 4th	Hans Stuck J. van Overbeek 4th	Brian Cunningham Peter Cunningham 2nd
Silverstone, UK May 13	JJ Lehto Jorg Mueller 1st	Bill Auberlen Jean-Marc Gounon 11th	Hans Stuck Boris Said J. van Overbeek 6th	Brian Cunningham Peter Cunningham Niclas Jonsson 10th
Nürburgring, D July 9	JJ Lehto Jorg Mueller 2nd	Bill Auberlen Jean-Marc Gounon 10th	Hans Stuck Boris Said J. van Overbeek 6th	Brian Cunningham Peter Cunningham Niclas Jonsson 4th

American Le Mans Series Update

This is the second year of the popular American Le Mans Series, a championship that mixes three distinctly different categories of race cars on the track. The result is some fascinating racing with exotic, open-top prototype racers and Grand Touring cars based on familiar road-going models. This year the ALMS will conduct its first races outside North America, with venues in England, Germany and Australia.

Despite strong competition from Audi and Lola in the prototype class, the BMW V12 LMR has won two of the first three races and

leads the championship. In the GT category, the Charlotte race in April was a bittersweet event for M3 fans. The previous-generation E36 M3 scored a hard-earned second-place finish in the final race of its successful five-year career. BMW Team PTG now fields a pair of new E46 M3s and is experiencing the start-up challenges common with any new race car. They are competing against some strong teams driving well-developed Porsche 996s.

■ Ralf Schumacher is currently in sixth place in the Formula 1 drivers' championship in his BMW-powered Williams. The United States Grand Prix is September 22-24, 2000 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.



■ Open-top winner: The BMW V12 LMR prototype won two of the first three American Le Mans Series races this year. An LMR won the 24 Hours of Le Mans last year. (photo: Gerd Auberlen)



Mcars



■ The M roadster, with its 240-horsepower, inline 6-cylinder M engine can sprint from 0 to 60 mph in only 5.2 seconds, with handling and braking to match that performance. From January through June 2000, BMW centers in the United States delivered 1,630 M roadsters.



■ Two-color interiors help set M roadsters, and M coupes, apart from the crowd. Seats are power-adjustable and feature two-stage heating.

■ Germany's authoritative *Auto Motor und Sport* magazine rated the M coupe's handling as "breathtaking." *Automobile* concluded, "This is a car that will do almost anything you want it to, except order pizza." This year, through June, 426 M drivers have purchased these unique coupes.



Mcalendar

2000 FIA FORMULA 1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	RACE	LOCATION	TELEVISION COVERAGE
July 16	Austrian Grand Prix	Zeltweg	Speedvision & Fox Sports Net
July 30	German Grand Prix	Hockenheim	Speedvision & Fox Sports Net
August 13	Hungarian Grand Prix	Budapest	Speedvision & Fox Sports Net
August 27	Belgian Grand Prix	Spa-Francorchamps	Speedvision & Fox Sports Net
September 10	Italian Grand Prix	Monza	Speedvision & Fox Sports Net
September 24	United States Grand Prix	Indianapolis	Speedvision & Fox Sports Net
October 8	Japanese Grand Prix	Suzuka	Speedvision & Fox Sports Net
October 22	Malaysian Grand Prix	Sepang	Speedvision & Fox Sports Net

2000 AMERICAN LE MANS SERIES

DATE	LOCATION	TELEVISION COVERAGE
July 23	Sears Point, Calif.	Speedvision
August 6	Mosport Park, Ontario	Fox Sports Net
September 2	Texas Motor Speedway	NBC Sports
September 10	Portland, Ore.	NBC Sports
September 30	Road Atlanta, Ga.	Speedvision
October 15	Laguna Seca, Calif.	Speedvision
October 29	Las Vegas, Nev.	Speedvision
December 31	Adelaide, Australia	Speedvision

BMW CAR CLUB OF AMERICA HIGH-PERFORMANCE DRIVING SCHOOLS

For information about BMW CCA high-performance driving schools conducted throughout the country, contact the club's office at 617-492-2500.

For information on Driver Training conducted at the BMW Performance Center in Spartanburg, S.C., call 864-968-3000.

BMW M OPPORTUNITIES: Contact your BMW center for information about the European Delivery Program and the M Driver Training course conducted near the Munich airport. Or, contact M directly at:

BMW M GmbH, Driver Training, Daimlerstrasse 17-19,

D-85748 Garching, Germany

Phone: 011-49-89-3 29 03 9 69

Fax: 011-49-89-3 29 03 3 62

Internet: www.bmw.de/fahrertraining

EDITOR: Bob Roemer

DESIGN: Queener Design

Westwood, NJ 07675-1227

Fax: 201 307-4099

reproduction of these materials is permitted without the prior written consent of BMW of North America, Inc.

Address correspondence to:
Mdriver, BMW North America, Inc.
P.O. Box 1227,

© Mdriver is published by BMW of North America, Inc. The BMW mark and logo are registered. No

7-M-2000



CLUB RACING