

Cars...Cars...Cars...and...at Volo Auto Museum

SCHETTEL 507

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#### **BARBARA ADAMS**

607 ELMDALE ROAD, GLENVIEW, IL 60025 E-Mail: ADAMS2002@AOL.COM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 20th of month before publication.

#### www.windycitybmw.org

Friend us on FaceBook-Search Windy City BMW BMW CCA Foundation, 190 Manatee Court, Greer, SC 864-329-1919 http://www.bmwccafoundation.org/ GiGi's Playhouse, 1069 W Golf Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60194 847-885-PLAY www.gigisplayhouse.org/ Northern Illinois Food Bank, 273 Dearborn Ct, Geneva, IL 60134 solvehungertoday.org/

## Lots more event pictures: WindyCityBMW.org



Windy City BMW



MAV

## @windycitybmw

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4	Yokohama Autocross I, Boomers
11	Pairs Championship, Treasure Hunt
17	BMW CCA Foundation - PASSION! - Opens
18-19	HPDE, Autobahn Country Club, Joliet
JUNE.	-
1-2	Challenge 27, South Bend, IN
9	Open House at Timo's Auto Haus, Bloomingdale
15	Car Control Clinic, Saturday, Boomers
JULY	
13	Yokohama Autocross III, Saturday, Sears
	Pairs Championship

## THE **STEERING** WHEEL

By the time you are reading this the snow tires should be neatly tucked away and the performance shoes should be on your Bimmers. We have an action-packed year ahead with plenty of driving and social events! Autocross School will be in the books by this time and our novice autocrossers will be on their way to learning some serious car control skills. The Autobahn Country Club experience happens during the middle of May, so if you want to come out to the big track and play make sure to register now!

There are 'save the dates' for our fall car show and picnic, so see below for more information. The Challenge is also nearing, so book your room and sign up now! It's all for charity and our premier autocross event of the year. Happy Motoring **GRAIG NEVILLE** 

### FALL CAR SHOW



Collectors' Car Garage (CCG) has offered to host their parking lot for the fall car show again this year. Set aside September 14 for this event and look for more information in the months to come.

We are still looking for a good name for the event to replace VintageFest. The goal is to encompass both vintage and modern cars of the BMW brand. Please send your ideas to president@windycitybmw.com and I'll make sure to get the winner a little something special for your great idea!

### PICNIC

On August 24, please set aside 11am - 4pm to visit the Illinois Railway Museum in Union Illinois! The museum hosts a number of antique trains and we may even get a special behind the scenes tour. Adult admission is \$15 (kids less) and we are working on a catered lunch. Mark your calendar.

### NEED CUTE PET PICTURES. . . . . . .

Calling for really cute pet pictures in high resolution. You see them each issue of the Breeze and eBreeze. Have your pet as a cover shot. Please send to adams2002@aol.com Remember-high resolution!



AUGUST

- 3-4 IMSA Corral at Road America
- 17 Yokohama Autocross IV, Saturday, Boomers
- 24 Picnic - Illinois Railway Museum, Union
- 25 Geneva Concours d'Elegance, Geneva

SEPTEMBER.....

- 7 Understated Detailing, Northbrook 8
  - Yokohama Autocross V, Sunday, Sears
- 14 Car Show at CCG, Chicago
- 21-22 HPDE, Putnam, Putnam, IN
- 22 Cartoberfest, Iron Gate, Naperville
- OCTOBER..... Yokohama Autocross VI, Saturday, Boomers 6 2020
- JAN.....
- 11 Annual Dinner, Bobaks Signature Events

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### BERNIE'S BOOK BANK VOLUNTEER DAY. . .

We want to know the interest in doing another Volunteer Day at Bernie's. We are thinking, come and do a shift and then if you want to go over for lunch at The Silo Restaurant,, that is very close by. Please email denmother@ windycitybmw.com and give your name and how many people are coming. If we get enough interest we will pick a date and send out the information to you. Bernie's is an amazing place. The location is in Lake Bluff.

### PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2019. . . . . . . . . . .

The first event is the Treasure Hunt-**SPRING FLING** tour, May 11 Application inside. LAST CHANCE!

### TIMO'S AUTO HAUS OPEN HOUSE . . . . . .

Date: Sunday, June 9

Time: 10:00am-3:00pm

Location: 250 S Gary Ave, Unit 114, Bloomingdale, IL 60108 844-733-5432

Timo's Auto Haus is hosting an open house/car show for the Windy City BMW members. Let's get together and have some fun.

His team will be more than happy to answer any technical questions regarding procedures on repairs and/or upgrades. Please RSVP that you are coming.

Meetings@windycitybmw.com STEPHANIE AUGUSTINE CAR CONTROL CLINIC 2019.....

LAST CHANCE! We have a date of June 15 at Boomers. Application inside.

### Car Control Clinic - June 15

### CHALLENGE #27 .....

### LAST CHANCE!!

Hold the dates June 1 & 2 for the **27th Yokohama/Tire Rack/Windy City BMW Challenge** in South Bend, IN. This is a charity autocross event for BMW CCA Foundation, GiGi's Playhouse and Northern Illinois Food Bank. The application is in this issue and on the website.

### HOTEL INFO FOR THE CHALLENGE. . . . . .

We have two hotel blocks made. One is at the Super 8 and then other is the Americas' Best Value Inn. Ask for the Windy City BMW room block.

Super 8, 574-243-0200

Kings -\$49.45 and Doubles - \$67.45 plus tax. Deadline for the block is May 17th.

Americas' Best Value Inn,

574-277-7700 or bestinnna@gmail.com

2 Doubles or King - \$67.99-one Queen -\$57.99 plus tax. Make your reservation now.

There are many other hotels in the area.

### Yokohama/Tire Rack/Windy City BMW THE CHALLENCE

ANNUAL DINNER 2020. Mark your calendar- JANUARY 11. Bobaks Signature Events

### YOKOHAMA TIRE AUTOCROSS I . . . . . .

When: SUNDAY, May 4, 2019
Where: Schaumburg Boomers, 1999 S Springinsguth Road, Schaumburg, IL 60193
Check In: 7:00 - 8:20
Meeting: Mandatory: 8:30
Maximum participants is 75
Register online, http://www.dlbracing.com/Clubs/ windycitybmw/registera.aspx?LMID=147&EventID=7009

### DEADLINE IS THURSDAY MAY 2 GENERAL MEETING-UNDERSTATED DETAILING.....

The date is Saturday, September 7, at Understated Detailing at 1902 Techny Ct in Northbrook. They will be hosting an open house/car show event and will demonstrate the art of paint correction and explain the importance of proper car washing techniques. FYI a car demonstration of detailing will take place. LOTS more later so mark that date on your calendar.

### CARTOBERFEST AT IRON GATE. . . . . . . .

Sunday September 22 will be Cartoberfest at Iron Gate. We will get entry at 11:00am with dedicated space for parking (size will depend on how many cars show up at this time. There will be donuts! Lots of the garage doors are open so you can see lots of cool cars and garage designs. There will be German food and drink that can be purchased and German music.

### 

The rallye school is Sunday, May 5 and all the information is at: https://windycitybmw.org/event/road-rallye-school/ Rallye dates for 2019:

May 19 June 23 August 4 September 8 October 6. The rallye event information will be on the website: windycitybmw.org

### BUY AND SELL STUFF-WINDY CITY BMW MARKETPLACE.....

Windy City BMW has a Facebook page that is for sales of stuff. It is now separate from our Windy City BMW page. The name is: Windy City BMW Marketplace. So type that in at Facebook and ask to join. Then you can look at all the stuff and put what you want to sell up there too. You should really join both group and keep up on what is going on.

### GERMAN CAR CAMARADERIE

The Mercedes-Benz Club has invited our club to the Gilmore Car Museum for the German Car Camaraderie on July 5-6, 2019. The Gilmore Car Museum is in Hickory Corner, MI. For the information go to:

https://chicagoland.mbca.org/node/7385147

### YOKOHAMA TIRES FOR AUTOCROSS SEASON

You will have a chance to win a set of Yokohama Tires if you participated in at least three of the season autocrosses events. The one catch is that you must come to the dinner as they will be awarded there. So mark your calendar for the Annual Dinner on January 11, 2020.

## SPRING FLING TOUR

Come on out to enjoy some country roads and beautiful scenery, along with searching for the answers to some troublesome questions.

Date: Saturday May 11th

Start Location: Starbucks, 1480 N Orchard Rd, Aurora, IL 60506

End point is TBD but expected to be in a similar area to the start location.

**Registration Opens:** 9am, first car off at 9:30am. **Cost:** per car \$15 for check / \$15.60 for Paypal

A clipboard and pen will be helpful and there will be a requirement to take a few pictures as part of the competition.

This will be the first event in the new "Pairs Competition", but you do not need to participate in the Pairs Competition and can have more (or less than) two people in the car in that case.

### Entry Form- Deadline is Monday, May 6

D	ri	V	e	r			
					_	_	-

Passenger \_\_\_\_\_

Additional team members \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

BMW CCA # \_\_\_\_\_

Enter "Pairs Competition" Yes / No

Send Check for \$15.00 (Made to "Windy City BMW Club") or Paypal for \$15.60 to payments@windycitybmw.com Return Entry form by email to (webmaster@windycitybmw. com) or mail to: Robin & Jackie Blair, 2s840 Shagbark Dr Batavia, IL 60510

\_\_\_\_\_

### The Spring Fling Tour is part of the Pairs Championship, which is 4 events. For all that information go here: https://windycitybmw.org/ourevents/pairschampionship/

## First Annual Windy City BMW Pairs Championship

## THE 2019 HPDE SERIES

Spring has arrived (with hopefully no typical Chicago backsliding). Tire pressures are rising again, roads are warming and it's time to plan your driving schedule.

Your Windy City BMW Driving Events Committee has set up a pair of must attend opportunities to increase your skills, exercise your car and generally have a great time.

On the weekend of May 18-19 we'll return to the south track at Autobahn Country Club. The wide, smooth undulating south track provides a variety of turns to master and lots of open road for passing. The facilities are among the finest in the Midwest and we'll provide two hours a day of track time, with the opportunity to sign up for either Saturday, Sunday or (come on, you know you want this one) both days.

Saturday we'll again be hosting a car show, so even if you don't want to challenge the track, come show off your pride and joy and while you're there, stay for the catered dinner Saturday night. On September 21st and 22nd we'll be returning to one of our favorite tracks, Putnam Park outside Cloverdale, Indiana. This will be a two day event (no one day option—but then if you go that far do you really want to go home?) Putnam is another great natural landscape track, wide, smooth with plenty of runoff. This is also a very well maintained, top notch facility. We have blocks of rooms reserved at local hotels-see SaveTheDate site. Putnam has fifteen one car garages that we will be renting out on a first come first serve basis.

As with our Autobahn event we are scheduling two hours per day of track time. So come join us for both events, you'll learn a lot and have a nearly illegal amount of fun.

Details will be found at Motorsportreg.com. and savethedate@windycitybmw.com or call one of the committee members. DAVE FARNSWORTH

### SaveTheDate.WindyCityBMW.com

## CORRAL AT IMSA AT ROAD AMERICA

Once again Badger Bimmers has invited us to join them at the Corral at corner 14 at the IMSA race at Road America on August 3 & 4. Watch their website: https://badgerbimmers. org/ Registration is required to be included in the lunches each day. The fee for parking in the corral will go to charity. All the info will be on their website soon. You will need to buy the event ticket at Road America to get in. If you want to stay overnight - start looking for housing NOW!

Windy City BMW is a supporter of this event.



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7thgearautorepair.com

### HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR BREEZE DELIVERED ?

If you want to change you preference for the delivery of the Breeze, please go to: https://www.bmwcca.org/login?destination=/user/ chap-newsletter-pref Login and pick US Mail or Electronic. It is that easy. The eBreeze is always digital but the Breeze is paper. You make the choice. If you are not receiving email blasts on the notice that the Breeze or eBreeze is ready, please see the iContact note in this Breeze.



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## THE YOKOHAMA/TIRE RACK CHALLENGE #27

### Yokohama/Tire Rack/Windy City BMW Challenge 2019 Registration

Saturday, June 1 - Sunday, June 2 The most exciting weekend in amateur motorsports returns once again in early June! As they've done for the previous 26 years, the Tire Rack and Yokohama will host a fun weekend of driving, friends, and food in South Bend, IN. For those of you who haven't joined us in the past, this is one event you do NOT want to miss! Not just one, but two days of autocross on the Tire Rack's test track - a small road course that can be configured many ways and requires fewer cones than we use in a parking lot.

We have a casual start on Saturday - while registration opens at 8:00 AM EASTERN time and the first car will be off at 9:00, participants are welcome to arrive later in the morning as well. There will be no drivers meeting on Saturday. All of the runs are just for fun, but we'll have the timer up and running so you can measure your improvement throughout the day. And once again, thanks to our volunteer chefs, Saturday lunch will be grilled up right next to the track. The fun continues into the evening at the Road Kill Grille under the big tent at the Tire Rack. More great food and awesome raffle prizes are just \$12 per person (please make this check payable to Windy City BMW). You may BYOB, and you must be present to win a raffle prize.

Sunday is a competitive autocross much like the five others we hold each year, except once again we're on the Tire Rack's test track. Check-in will begin at 8:00 AM EASTERN time and close at 8:25, with the mandatory drivers meeting to follow. Please be aware of the time change and make sure you're on time; missing the drivers meeting means you won't be participating on Sunday. We aim to wrap up the racing by about 3:00 PM EASTERN time, allowing everyone to get back home by early evening.

And by popular demand, the Wiener Shack and Grill FOOD TRUCK will return on SUNDAY! Their menu features a great selection of gourmet, 100% beef hot dogs along with pesto/parmesan fries and bacon wrapped tater tots. If there is enough demand, they'll include their burger menu too. These are far from your everyday dogs and burgers. Check out their menu at https://www.thewienershack.com/ menu/. To help us plan, on your application please indicate how many people in your group are interested in hot dogs and/or burgers. Of course you are welcome to bring your own food for Sunday or wander over to some of the nearby restaurants during your rest periods. Unlike last year, we will not stop the event for lunch. Please plan appropriately and make sure you are ready to work and drive when it is your turn.

Registration for both days of autocross is \$60 total and thanks to the generosity of Yokohama and the Tire Rack, 100% of the registration fee will go to your choice of charities: BMW CCA Foundation, Gigi's Playhouse, or the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Please make this check payable to your preferred charity.

We look forward to seeing you in South Bend! Chairpeople: BECKY and KEVIN KAZMIERSKI, PAM and TOM IMHOLZ & JOHN SCHWARZ

### TO REGISTER:

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER by mail only (No online registration for this event) DEADLINE: MAY 10, 2019 (to get a t-shirt)

**Event Deadline is Friday, May 24th** limited to the first 100 registrants.

Fill out the entire application including car class and experience.

Name:	
Co-Driver:	
Phone:	
Car Make:	
Model:	Year:
Email:	
Number of entrants	@ \$60 = Total \$

MAKE THIS CHECK PAYABLE TO your choice of: BMW CCA Foundation, GiGi's Playhouse, or Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Autocross rules and classifications are on the	e website:
https://windycitybmw.org/driving/autocross-hom	ne/autocross-
rules/	
	AL.

Are you competing on a	Sund	day -	– cir	cle:	Ye	es	No
Car Class – circle: AA	А	В	С	D	Е	Ι	L

П	Ι,	what	SUCA	class	

Autocross experience: \_\_\_\_

Are you a novice (see rules on website) – circle: Yes No Are you competing on Yokohama tires? – circle: Yes No T-shirt\* size (each paid entrant receives one if registration is received by May 10.)

Circle: S M L XL XXL XXXL Will you be eating lunch on Saturday – circle: Yes No Please Circle:Brats Yes Chicken Yes or Both Yes **Sunday food truck:** How many hot dogs \_\_\_\_ burgers \_\_\_\_ Include total number for all the people with you

See https://www.thewienershack.com/menu/ for prices \*Extra t-shirts: Circle Sizes: S M L XL XXL XXXL

# \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# for Saturday dinner: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount to: Windy City BMW \$

### MAKE THIS CHECK TO OUT "WINDY CITY BMW"

Mail completed registration, charity check and dinner/extra t-shirt check to: Barbara Adams, The Challenge

607 Elmdale Rd. Glenview, IL 60025

Application also available on the Windy City Website

### **REGISTRATION CHECKLIST:**

- 1. Fill out registration form. This is a pre-registration event. First 100 registrants.
- 2. Make out checks: One to charity and one to Windy City BMW (if attending dinner).
- 3. Put checks and application form together.
- 3. Mail checks and form to the address above.
- 4. If you miss the May 10 deadline, no t-shirt will be available.
- 5. Be sure to make your hotel reservations EARLY! Hotel information is on the Announcements page.

## BMW CCA NEW HEADQUARTERS + BOARD MEETING

The last weekend in March, BMW CCA had a volunteer day at the headquarters to do various tasked that needed doing. It was also the weekend of the Board meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Club. Larry and I planned on going to the Board meeting and had our arrangements all set before the announcement of the volunteer day happened. So we did not get to volunteer to work. We got there on Friday afternoon to see club members helping get the building cleaned and pretty. See all the pictures-there are two buildings. 20 acres of land and a good sized pond in the back. There is plenty of space for parking cars and having events onsite.

Inside the building has plenty of space. Lots of space, I mean lots of space. The center circle of the building right now is full of cubicles and they will be removed and that space will be for events. The ceiling is great. All around the center circle are offices. Both floors. It is like a maze. Needed will be signage or something to indicate where everything is.

The building where the club will be (the other will probably be rental space) has at least 5 air conditioning units. Two utility rooms. The communication setup is already there and working. They have already put in a very nice vinyl floor product that should last for a very long time and looks great.

The outside of the building looks very sounds and the

landscaping is mature and very becoming. There will be lots of grass to mow and take care of. The campus looks great. It is the home of BMW CCA and the MOA. Good job.....

Larry and I attended the Board meeting on Saturday. There are changes coming. Probably lots of changes. It could change the way we have to run the club. Good in some respects and not so in other but we will do our best to provide the best experience we can for you, the members. The world today is very different than the world when the club started, 50 years ago. Tinkering in the garage is really a thing of the past and the new cars don't really allow much tinkering either. So the shift from tinkering to more lifestyle things is the future. Lots more on this is coming with the changes. The club is a family and provides to many a group of friends that really don't care what they are doing as long as it is something fun and together. We can do that. It just requires new ideas and our members will have to help us on that. If you have an idea, please get in touch with a board member. Our members will make this club move into the future.

I love this club. It has been a part of my life for 36 years. I have met so many wonderful people. Friends that are family. I hope this will continue for many many more years. BARBARA ADAMS

Photo's by Adams/Schette



## MORE PIX: BMW CCA NEW HEADQUARTERS



Workin' III Mike W. & Jeff G.

Before



Working!







On the way out!





## CAR CONTROL CLINIC 2019 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

### All ages and all (real or imagined) skill levels welcome! Sign up now. Only 40 slots are available...

"...I learned how to not only have more fun driving, but now I feel totally prepared to handle any evasive maneuver that I may need to take. I feel I am more aware and a better driver for the time I spent!" *Melanie* 

"Yesterday I spent the entire day at the CCC with my daughter. I could easily see her confidence and control of her car grow throughout the day." *Mike* 

"It was a perfect maneuver. I am absolutely convinced that we would have either been skating through the grass along the side of the highway or buying a new front end for my car had it not been for the ... training Chris enjoyed earlier in the day." *Tom* 

This will be our 25th year of teaching proactive car control and accident avoidance skills to our members. To see how much fun your day will be, check out earlier CCC pics at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/windycitybmw/albums/ then scroll down.

### YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER

DATE: Saturday, June 15th TIME: 8:30 AM until about 4:00 PM. CHECK-IN: 7:45-8:20

**PLACE**: Boomers Stadium (baseball park) at 1999 S Springinsguth Rd. in Schaumburg (just south of the Elgin O'Hare Expy.). We're the sea of orange cones on the west side of Springinsguth.

www.boomersbaseball.com/stadium/directions **FEE:** \$65.00 per driver, send Randy your check payable to: "Windy City BMW"

**PREREQUISITES:** Must be a BMW CCA member, or spouse or dependent thereof and have a current driver's license or learner's permit. Not 18? Download the 2-page Minor Waiver Release from: https://windycitybmw.org/ resources/forms/ on our website. Fill out and sign the Waiver (both parents and minor must sign the waiver, one parent must attend the event). Bring the original waiver hard-copy to the school. Our insurance says you can drive with just a learner's permit and an on-site parent. If under 18, please check the box below so we can keep count. **STUDENTS:** Limit of 40. We'll confirm your registration by e-mail (we'll develop a wait list as needed).

**LUNCH:** Some fast food nearby; check out Google Maps. You're on your own during the midday break.

**CAR:** Your daily driver in good mechanical condition with seat belts for driver and instructor. Two participants can drive the same car if desired. Parents – have your kids bring the vehicle they normally drive, not necessarily your BMW.



"Parents of driving teens, you missed your opportunity to cram a year or more of REAL WORLD driver's education in one intensive day...the Car Control Clinic has got to be the most valuable event the club has held." *Don* 

"In short, I am plugging the Safety School to all the green teenage drivers out there - this is a chance to both learn more about your car and to have fun doing it." Jordan-17 years old.

"And, in addition, I learned a tremendous amount about my new car and how it handles in different conditions. In fact, I was so impressed that we're sending our 23 year old daughter to the next class!" *Cindi-40 something* 

**REGISTRATION** – mail the info below and your \$65 check to Randy Everson, 1215 Westbury Drive,

Hoffman Estates, IL 60192. Deadline is June 6, 2019. Call me at 847-274-7129 with any questions. NAME(S):\_\_\_\_\_

Check if under 18 \_\_\_

Check if under 18 \_\_

MEMBERSHIP #:\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

CAR(S), MAKE, MODEL, YEAR:

(match the cars to any dual drivers) LIST ANY PREVIOUS: Car Control

Autocross or Track Events



ACC Condos can hold up to 6 cars in the garage! The first floor also has a bathroom with shower, laundry room and a big storage closet under the stairs. Upstairs has 2 bedrooms, kitchen area with island, big bathroom, open living area and a deck looking at the South Circuit. Cathedral ceilings on the second floor 11' high. Skylight option available!

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## **VOLO** AUTO MUSEUM - WOW

Saturday, April 13 was a beautiful but cool day and 29 club members came out to the Volo Auto Museum. We got there at 11:00, had a piece of pizza and then headed into the 33 exhibits that are currently at the museum. The club was at Volo for a picnic many many years ago (2005). OH BOY, the place has changed. New buildings, lots of NEW stuff. It is not only car stuff. It is lots of stuff: Disney, movie stuff, snowmobiles, boat motors, camping and campers, arcade games, kiddie rides, scooter, bikes, tractors, military and some music machines. And when you are done with the museum there are antique malls and stores to visit too.

There is a whole building with cars for sales. Lots of very interesting and pretty cars with some of the cars have history too.

If you are in the area and have a couple of hours to spare, stop and go through this place. It is fun. Sensory overload.





My HERO!



YUM!



Whethere we will be the uter we to

Who's more follicially challenged?



## MORE VOLO: BY BOB



**REAL Ads of Yesterday at VOLO!** 

Photo's by Denholm

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE THE WHEELS MAKE !

Joey the Dog has got some new wheels. Let's back up a bit: the last time you probably read about Joey was in early-ish 2018 when he was still an Illinois dog walking on four legs, albeit with the slowing gait of a fourteen-year-old dog. Nearly a year later, here we are talking about dogs again (I'll get to how it relates to cars eventually...maybe) with Joey now about fifteen and his always-quirky back end having given out over the course of a few weeks during his first winter in Massachusetts. He's doing fine – relatively – and is not in any pain. His fabulous care committee sees to that, and when his slowing walk became increasingly unsteady, they fitted him for a snazzy Help 'Em Up Harness. This was a great solution so I could steady him on his walks, help him get up (as the name indicates) and into my car, and generally keep him mobile despite his weak back legs.

The harness became essential when his back left leg stopped working, with the right leg following a few weeks later. Joey still wanted to get out and about, but I was now carrying the weight of his back end. At which point his dedicated care team recommended a cart by Eddie's Wheels, which makes the best dog carts. And Joey gets the best.

The downside is that they're custom carts and take a couple of weeks to make.

Joey is not small. He's currently about 70 pounds (he's losing weight with the back end atrophy) and while the harness helped, I couldn't take him as far as he wanted to go on his walks, and on icy mornings I was tripping over his dragging feet. Plus, my old shoulder injury was threatening to re-dislocate. There was a middle-of-the-night-dragging-Joey's-back-end-when-I-should-be-sleeping and dang-my-shoulder-really-hurts breakdown that included me crying "I can't do this!" Snapping temper and sobbing ensued, all of this outside on a very cold night. My neighbors didn't really look me in the eye for a few days after. Or maybe that was just my imagination.

Later that same day – at a much more reasonable hour – Joey's PT called to say they'd received a donated cart that might work until his real cart was ready. And it did. Sort of.

Beyond being pink (Joey didn't mind), the loaner cart was a bit challenging. Joey and the cart didn't fit in my car together without something stabbing poor Joey. And it wasn't exactly easy to get him into and secured. He could barely fit through the front door of my apartment; it was too wide to get down the hall into the bedroom or the office, where he used to nap. (The office is Joey's favorite room beyond wherever I am). To get him into the loaner cart, I'd put it out on my patio, then use his harness to carry him outside, where I'd put dog and cart together. And then he'd refuse to walk. So more often than not, I ended up taking



him out of the cart and carrying him around so he could sniff and go to the bathroom.

By the time the new cart was ready, the real cart if you will, we were hardly using the loaner. And what a difference the Eddie's cart makes: it's narrower (he still crashes into doorways and runs over my feet), more sturdy, and easier for me to help him along or steer. Most importantly, Joey seems far more comfortable in it. There's still some lifting involved to get him in, but it is much easier on both of us.

The Eddie's Wheels cart has been fantastic. My shoulder is getting slowly better and Joey actually goes for walks again...when he's in the mood. He can walk down the hallway in my apartment and goes into pretty much any room he wants (with some steering help; like me, he has a habit of turning too soon). He chases his toys down the hallway and the other day, he even trotted across the yard when a dog he likes walked by. It's not perfect, but it's a good life.

One of the really great features of the cart is that you can move the wheels forward or back to change the weight ratio. For a younger dog recovering from back end surgery, you're supposed to move the wheels backwards to slowly increase weight on the healing leg. For Joey, I'm slowly moving the wheels forward to help balance the weight on his front shoulders. This made me think of race teams adjusting their brake bias. (Joey has no brakes, but I really wish he did when he decides to roll backwards into me.)

All of this is a really, really long metaphor for cars. Like my E46 3-series, the Eddie's Wheels cart is clearly wellmade and can be modified as needed. (They actually had to modify ours mid-build to adjust to Joey's worsening condition.) It's sturdy and reliable. And expensive.

If I'd had to make due with the loaner cart, I would have. That model is readily available and – for other dogs in other situations – might work out just fine. It's also far less expensive, so it offers a solution for someone who can't rationalize the custom cart. And if they never try the Eddie's cart, they wouldn't know the difference. And wouldn't know what they're missing, like someone driving a boring car.

Fortunately, I'm in a position where I was able to get Joey his custom cart, just as I'm fortunate that I was in a position to buy my 330i. My car, too, is fifteen years old and just shy of 200,000, but when I get in every morning it doesn't feel that way. It is stable and secure and predictable; that's saying a lot. Joey and I are both lucky enough that we live a life where we get around in a premium method of transportation. And though it's taken some finagling, the cart and the dog both fit in my car (cart in the front seat and Joey in the back). Which is important, because Joey still really enjoys going for drives. **MERI JOHNSTON** 



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