

Die Zugspitze

New York Chapter Newsletter | Spring 2015

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New York Chapter

2015 Events Calendar

March	7	22nd Annual Beach Party
	21	Dyno Day
April	4	New York International Auto Show
	10	Driving School: NJ Motorsports Park: Lightning
	25	Teen Street Survival
May	2	Autocross
	16	Autocross
	24	Autocross ~ Kart Racing
June	8~9	Driving School: Watkins Glen, NY
September	13	Wine & Shine
	21~27	46th Annual Oktoberfest
	27	Concours d'Elegance
October	~	Kart Racing
December	5	Holiday Party & President's Dinner

For the latest information, see www.nybmwcca.org

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On the Cover: *On the track at Watkins Glen,
Photo by Mike Allen*

To join the BMW Car Club of America, call 1-800-878-9292 or visit www.bmwcca.org. BMW CCA national dues are \$48 per year, \$15 of which is for Roundel.

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BMWCCA NEW YORK CHAPTER PRESENTS THE 22ND ANNUAL BEACH PARTY

Saturday, March 7, 2014
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

at Euromecanica Inc.
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Speakers: Mike Shiffer of Euromecanica, and special guests
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or contact David Flores at davidflrs@aol.com



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President's Page | Mike Bizzarro



I'd like to take a moment to thank the record number of voters who took part in this year's chapter board election. With over three times our usual turnout we were very pleased to see more of you taking an active interest and role in the direction of the chapter. I would also be remiss if I did not thank the prior board members for their outstanding leadership and the mentoring and guidance they have provided over the years. You have all set a high standard of excellence that will be no easy task to replicate. Rest assured if any cabinet has the ability to do so, I have full confidence this new one does.

A new year is upon us and with it come many exciting events. Street Survival trains the next crop of safe drivers in April, the Autocross season roars around the Coliseum in May (see the upcoming e-mail blast for classification updates), the ever popular Wine & Shine returns to the beautiful Pindar vineyards, and our Karting experience expands with additional event dates as we look to host one for the younger crowd as well. For the track-minded crowd, we return to New Jersey Motorsports Park, as well as hold one of the last full-track events of 2015 at Watkins Glen with the Patroon Chapter.

This year also sees a spectacular event in our own backyard: The 46th Annual Oktoberfest, where thousands of club members from around the country will descend on southern New Jersey for a week of everything BMW! This is an event not to be missed and a chance to meet members from every chapter. We will be lending our support to the New Jersey chapter during this tremendous undertaking and wish them every success!

On the horizon look for more social meets from Town Hall and Tech Talks to a Poker Run and Cars & Coffee. If you have any suggestions for events, would like to host one, or have questions about how to get more involved with the chapter or club as a whole, we want to hear from you!

On behalf of your new chapter board (Vice President Mike Allen, Treasurer Megan Yavel, and Secretary Darby Moses) we'd like to thank you all for your support and look forward to serving as your new chapter leadership.

**BMW Car Club
of America
New York Chapter**



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Welcome

to our New Members!

Brian Ach
Derrick Acker
Kahlil Adam
Spencer Anderson
Sy Aryeh
James Bardong
Murat Basaran
Naeem Bawla
Charles Beach
Bob Bender
Paul Biedrzycki
Elina Blat
Mitchell Bloom
Xavier Bogle
Alexandra Boubour
James Bouler
Kristofer Brethower
Jeff Broderick
Robert Bruno
Navendra Budhu
Patrick Callan
Dan Capossela
Eric Cashdan
Mark Castagna
Richard Chanin
Michael Ching
Peter Coppola
Gabrielle Cord-Cruz
Donald Corsale
John Coverdale

Jenny Crocitto
Jake Dateno
Jacquelyn Davi
Michael Davis
David De Vinney
Shane Deehan
Chris Delelice
Brooke DiPietro
G.J. Dixon
Paul Duggal
Richard Dziedziula
Nick Efraim
Daniel Ericson
Anthony Falcone
Michael Ferrara
Darius Filak
Dan Fishkind
Richard Frankfort
Mark Franks
David Frith
Ken Fung
John Giampietro
Dawn Goldstein
Nadira Gooljar
Patrick Gordon
Corey Gresko
Joshua Gruber
John Haponic
Rachel Heide
Joshua Hemmert

Larry Hines
Ben Hirsch
Tim Holmgren
Matt Hrybenko
Byron Hughes
Omair Husain
Joan C Hutcher
Joe Iannucci
Thomas Inserra
Christopher Johnson
Norman Jones
Craig Keen
Sasha Kendall
Robert Klein
Thomas Knychalski
Vlad Kotik
Cassandra Kurtin
Tanner Kurtul
Robert Landon
Frederick Landigan
Steve Lefkowitz
Waiman Leung
Mitchell Leventhal
Sam Li
David Lieberman
Ryan Linkletter
Eddie Lott
Jimmy Ma
Richard Madrigal
Elliot Maestre

Michael Maglio
Tareq Mansour
Kamini Maraj
Kevin Martinez
Colleen McCarthy
Edward Mercado
Jeffrey Milarsky
Laura Milmed
Julie Miner
Nicholas Monte
Sergey Morozov
Nancy Mudd Haponic
Rohit Nair
Arthur Nastre
Romea Noel
Michael Odonnell
Louise Olson
Joshua Ostrowsky
Veronika Paikin
Daniel Pangione
Matt Pappa
Michael Parziale
John Pavacic
Thomas Pawluk
Hope Pierrot
Brian Pincus
Bradley Plant
Brittney Polikoff
Kiamesha Pryor
Mike Psaras
Lauren Pucci
Robin Ratner
Anthony Rescigno
Lawrence Ricciardelli
Joseph Rodriguez
Jason Roldan
Al Rosen

Barbara Rosen
Eli Ruscio
Troy Satoo
Amelia Scaramucci
Matthew Sher
Vladimir Shpuntov
Brian Shulman
Andrew Siebengartner
Harold Steuerwald
Gary Stone
Drew Sussberg
Jackson Tam
Steven Tamayo
Kevin Tangney
Michael Thompson
James Thurber
Gabriella Tsukikawa
Brian Ursino
David VaSecka
Steven Vitale
Peter Vogelsang
Christopher Waldron
Robert Walters
Clayton Warrin
Jessica Wasserman
Seth Weinstein
Caroline Weisstuch
GW Wekony
Phillip Williamston
Hella Winston
Stephen Yablonski
Wei Jun Yan
Yubei Yue
Geng Zhe

And a salute to our long standing members!

Anniversary milestones for members who joined between October and December

5th Anniversary
Lester Berkelhamer
Oliver Buhler
Almyras Ceckauskas
Greg Declemente
Gerhard Dobler
Barry Garfield
S Ghosh-Mazumdar
Jeffrey Giller
Robert Goldberg
Ira Hasson
Erich Hoffmann
Samuel Kramer
Jeffrey Kunstler
Philip Kyriacou
Thomas Langtry
Denise Larocca
Andre Lev

Ross Litman
Calvin Mooney
John Pappalardo
Matthew Polenzani
Gary Raizes
Adam Silvers
Anthony Smith
Jeffrey Spivak
David Stevens
Jacov Zimerbort
Irina Zimerbort
10th Anniversary
Peter Balic
Kathy Brown
Anthony Capetandes
Joe Cicha
James DuBoise
Jerold Epstein

Dale Francisco
Lennox Glen
Jacob Handszer
Louis Lefkowitz
Marc Magid
Andrew Mantis
Debra Parziale
John Small
15 Year Anniversary
Richard Bodrick
Douglas Donofrio
Alan Frieder
Steven Herzog
Koping Hu
Howard Katzman
John Kime
James Levine
James Markarian

Denise McKenzie
Michael Pollock
Glenn Putman
Richard Scalia
Lawrence Schweitzer
20th Anniversary
Philip Alfieri
Michael Boyd
Richard Carey
Shelly Gitelman
Allen Kass
Robert Pearlman
Robert Vanderveer
Andrew Vitez
25th Anniversary
William Blume
Maury Hendlar

David Jones
Robert Spring
Paul Taglieri
Hugh Warren
30th Anniversary
Jack Prince
35th Anniversary
John McDonough

Autocross Corner

2015 Autocross Season

Hello Autocross Fans!

Autocross season is just around the corner. This season will be a little different; as we go to press there are only three Autocross dates for the season (see below). We have no dates scheduled in June or July, and at the moment the Coliseum is not booking any dates after August 1st. Please check the New York Chapter website or Facebook page for the latest news and updates.

Other changes this year include a revamping of classifications for the BMW cars. Everyone needs to look at the new classification guidelines and recheck the points for their cars. Also take note of the new tire rules on the classification sheet. Tires with a treadware rating of 200 and below are considered R-compound (race) tires.

2015 Autocross Dates

Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale NY

April 25 Saturday, Street Survival

May 02 Saturday

May 16 Saturday

May 24 Sunday

André Noël, Autocross Chairman

with photos by Mike Allen





BMW Car Club
of America
New York Chapter



NY BMWCCA High Performance Driving School

NEW JERSEY MOTOSPORTS PARK

Lightning Course

Friday, April 10th 2015

With Spring just around the corner, it's time to dust off those driving cob webs and get ready for an amazing driving season! That being said, the New York Chapter will be hosting a High Performance Driving School at New Jersey Motorsports Lightning track on Friday April 10th to satisfy the needs of all adrenaline junkies. This event will have student run groups from Novice thru Advanced and give you the opportunity to experience the performance capabilities of your car with in car instruction. Advanced Solo drivers are more than welcome to attend!

As in the past, we will be ordering excellent sunny weather for the school!

The 1.9 mile Northern Circuit known as Lightning, is a challenging fast 10 corner circuit featuring some of the most interesting and dramatic corners and elevation changes in the park.

Nobody satisfies the passion and pursuits of those interested in driving their cars on a track like the New York Chapter. We have Instructors ready to guide you through another amazing track session at an exceptional value of **\$240 for BMWCCA members and \$270 for non-members**. Please note that the additional \$30 for non-members will automatically make them club members for one year, commencing the week prior to the event.

Hope to see you at the track!



For additional information please visit our website, www.nybmwcca.org or contact Mike Allen at:
jbmike@aol.com



BMW Car Club
of America
New York Chapter



BMWCCA Patroon & NY Chapters High Performance Driving School

WATKINS GLEN INTERNATIONAL

Monday & Tuesday, June 8th & 9th 2015

Come out and join the BMWCCA & Patroon and New York Chapters at Watkins Glen International for 2 great days on the famous grand prix circuit!

As the track is scheduled for repaving in August, this will be one of your last opportunities to access the full course in 2015. Don't get shut out of this one!

We will be having our traditional student run groups, novice thru advanced, and continue with our Open track run group for Advanced Solo drivers.

The Open Track run group provides maximum track time for Advanced Solo and Open Track participants with hopefully up to 3-4 hrs of track time each day. Please note that references are needed for Open Track if you are not a regular Patroon or NY Participant. **This is an event you don't want to miss.**

Pricing remains the same as last year.

BMWCCA Members Pricing:

\$395.00 Student Registration

\$275.00 One Day Open Track

\$450.00 Open Track

Non-Members Pricing (Includes 1 yr BMWCCA membership):

\$444.00 Student Registration

\$324.00 One Day Open Track

\$499.00 Open Track



For additional information please visit our website, www.nybmwcca.org or contact Mike Allen at:
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Shaun McKenzie

BMW CCA Racing Northeast Racer Advisory Committee
Representative shaunmckenzie839@gmail.com

I'll start with an analogy. Those who are musicians will appreciate this. When students first start to learn music, we start with "Chopsticks." You know, it's the tune Tom Hanks played on the giant piano at FOA Schwarz in the movie Big. Next, we learn to read sheet music. Concertos crafted note by note, carefully timed and precise. Then there's Jazz baby! And this is what it's like to race a BMW. There's no script, and only a few key notes. It's fast, you improvise, you trust the cat playing next to you and when it's done right, you're in a state of mind where nothing else exists, immersed in the singularity of the performance.

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Attend the Bimmerworld BMW CCA Racing School

Sound interesting? It's available for you. You're invited to join the ranks of over 500 fellow BMW CCA members who have taken the next step in their driving experience. And you don't need a race car to get going. Start with attending the Bimmerworld BMW CCA Race School. This two-day experience will give you the confidence to master the most challenging track situations and is intended to bridge the gap to the world of actual wheel-to-wheel competition. You'll experience corner passing, green-flag practice starts, driving three-wide at speed, and a full simulated race exercise all under the watchful eye of the Bimmerworld racing professionals and your fellow BMW CCA Racers.

It's not a fantasy camp. It's the real deal. Many advanced students and instructors attend the school just for the experience. You don't have to get your license. It's an experience all by itself. Here's the current 2015 dates for the Bimmerworld BMW CCA Racing School.

Virginia International Raceway — April 9~10, 2015
Hosted by the BMW CCA Tarheel Chapter. Contact Jason Crist, jchrist.private@gmail.com

Canadian Tire Motorsport Park — April 25~26, 2015
Hosted by the BMW CCA Trillium Chapter. Contact Allan Lewis, allan-lewis@rogers.com

New Jersey Motorsports Park — September 24~25, 2015
Hosted by the BMW CCA New Jersey Chapter. Contact Jeff White, jwhite325ix@gmail.com

Roebling Road — December 10~11, 2015
Hosted by the BMW CCA Tarheel Chapter. Contact Jason Crist, jchrist.private@gmail.com

Photo credit: Benoit Lefebvre Photo
(www.benoitlefebvrephoto.com)

The BMW CCA Racing Experience

BMW CCA racing was started in 1995 as a benefit to BMW CCA members. In that year, five races were run. In 2014, twenty-seven races were offered across the United States and Canada. BMW CCA racers are recognized for their sportsmanship, camaraderie, and shared passion for getting the most out of their BMWs. Adherence to the 13/13 vintage racing car rules, which penalizes avoidable contact between cars, creates a safe experience while maintaining a highly competitive spirit.

There are two types of races, Sprint and Endurance. The Sprint races usually run for 30-40 minutes. Endurance races will last 4 hours! Endurance racing requires multiple drivers, fuel stops and some great teamwork. Typically, you'll see 20-30 race cars on the track. Multiple car classes allow a driver to determine just how much they want to invest and how fast they want to go. The development of affordable, entry level "Spec" cars require minimum modifications to keep cost down.

The BMW CCA races are run in conjunction with the local chapter driver education (DE) events. While attending a DE, come on over and walk the race paddock, ask some questions and watch the race. If you have questions or are interested in attending the Bimmerworld BMW CCA Race School, please visit <http://www.bmwccaclubracing.com> or join us on Facebook - BMW CCA Club Racing.

A reporter said to Roger McCluskey, "I guess it feels good, doesn't it, Roger, to have a race over?" McCluskey turned around and looked at him. He was a long time replying, because the question was so unexpected. He'd never thought about it. "Don't think so," he finally said, "because then all you can do is wait for the next one."
— Gilles Tippette, *The Brave Men*

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- Chassis stiffening and reinforcement: Bolt-on engine modifications, such as cams, cold-air boxes, exhaust systems and larger radiators
- Fuel cell installation
- Two-way radio installation

EuroMeccanica, Inc. was started by Michael Shiffer in 1991. Michael is a tech advisor for NYBMWCCA and EuroMeccanica hosts their annual Beach Party, where dozens of BMW owners and enthusiasts converge to learn more about their cars. The shop's atmosphere is warm and open. Questions and input from our customers are welcome, and we make every effort to explain what we are doing to your car, and why.

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MINI Musings

by Peter Burke

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and a Happy New Year. I can't believe 2015 is here (and my JCW is officially ten years old). As this piece goes to press, the Detroit Auto Show is in full swing, and of course I am watching eyes wide open. The F56 JCW was on display, very nice. But the seventh generation Golf is making some



beneath Mount Washington. In the past MOT has raised money for various charities, such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation and March of Dimes. For more information on MOT, visit their website www.minisontop.org.

Of course, we have a weekly event close to home that both MINI and BMW brethren partake in, the Sunday morning Cars & Coffee at Captree State Park. After Memorial Day the event will move to Oak Beach parking lot (site of the former OBI). From original VW Beetles to Lamborghini Gallardos there is every type of car and motorcycle on display. The diehards arrive before 6AM and folks stay until noon. I hope to see you at one of these upcoming events. Safe motoring to all and remember, save the wave!



serious inroads. I'm hearing rumors that the new JCW will be a serious competitor to the Golf. Can't wait to see it in the flesh and maybe take a test drive, hint hint!

Spring is in the air and the rally/car show scene should be in full swing soon. An event that I have attended for over ten years is the US MINI Club Wine Rally. This event usually takes place at the end of March. Keep an eye on www.usminiclub.us for more information. This run hits several of Long Island's fine wineries with a stop for lunch. MINIs on the Dragon, one of the biggest MINI events on the East coast, is scheduled for April 29th through May 3rd. This has to be one of the best MINI events I have ever been to. The Tail of the Dragon alone, with its 319 turns in an 11 mile stretch, is worth the trip, but to have the company of nearly 700 MINIs from Canada, DC and 35 states plus over 20 vendors onsite makes this something to put on your bucket list. As I write this piece, there are already over 500 registrants for the 2015 MOTD five days into registration. When I attended MOTD several years ago, I drove down to North Carolina with about five other local MINIs, a trip I will never forget.

Another big MINI event coming up is MINIs on Top. This year the event is scheduled for June 19th and 20th. This is an event every MINI driver should attend at least once. MOT is a nice mix of social and driving events. The highlight of MOT is the climb to the top of Mount Washington via the famous (or as some say infamous) Auto Road. This 7.6 mile journey takes drivers to the top of the mountain, an elevation of 6,145 feet. Some years there has been sideways rain and other years attendees were treated to a beautiful sunset. One thing you can be sure of, it will be the ride of your life. For those afraid of heights there is the option of staying at the base camp

MINIs atop Mount Washington ~ Photos by Peter Burke

Attention Attendees of the 2015 New York International Auto Show

Saturday, April 4th 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

In order to participate in this event, members will need to do the following:

- You MUST purchase your tickets in advance from the Jacob Javits Center website www.autoshowny.com (\$16.00 adults, \$7.00 children under 12)
- Email your Name, Club ID number, and your guests' name (limit of three (3) each per member or associate member) to autoshow@nybmwcca.org. Example: Club Member Joe Smith, #123456, guests Bob Smith and Tom Jones. Your name will be on the list at the entrance.
- Arrive at the North Concourse level, upper doorway of the Javits Center (10th Ave between 33rd and 34th Street) by 8:15 a.m. on Saturday April 4th.
- Bring your BMW CCA Club ID; you will need to show it in order to enter the event.
- The event starts at 9:00 a.m. **If you arrive late you will not be able to attend the show.**

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Introducing: The BMW Genius

Dealerships. Everyone loves car shopping, no one anticipates the process. It takes a special someone to come along and make your buying experience as smooth as it possibly can, explain the details and intricacies of the product you're interested in and not bog you down about the least favorite part, the numbers. That's where the BMW Genius Initiative comes in, and makes you, the consumer, even more excited to be purchasing the car of your dreams "The Ultimate Driving Machine".

The BMW Genius Program for North America was initiated in early 2013 after a successful pilot program in the United Kingdom the year before. Dealerships nationwide in North America have begun to use the program not only to create more customer knowledge of the latest and greatest in automotive technology, but also to yield a great return in customer satisfaction.

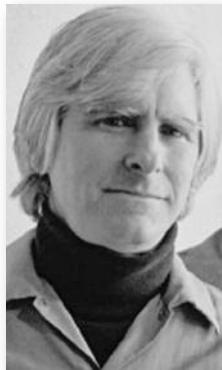
The role of the BMW Genius is as follows: To educate the consumer on the most essential facts about the brand, to create a high quality needs analysis for the consumer, and to be there for the consumer before and after the buying process. Altogether, as the Genius gives an enthusiastic product demonstration, he/she is also ensuring that the consumer falls in love with the product, and most importantly, with a car that exceeds expectations, if it hasn't already.

The Genius Experience is now emerging in BMW Centers worldwide. It features "BMW Genius Everywhere", starting with new technologies like the Virtual Product Presentation (VPP), which creates a realistic but virtual build of a potential customer's new BMW in high (animated) definition with all packages included from the color of the car to the stitching on the seats and everything in between. The BMW Genius will be available during delivery of new and/or used vehicles, with detailed demonstrations of all features and functions. Also, post-sale, the Geniuses will showcase more perks that consumers can take full advantage of, like "BMW Encore" (a full redelivery demonstration of the car if needed after initial purchase), the BMW "Genius Hotline" (available Monday – Saturday from 9am– 9pm), and the installation/utilization of the BMW "Genius App" (available for all Apple and Android devices).

As a certified BMW Genius, it has been nothing short of an honor to be working for such a dynamic company. I speak for my fellow Geniuses here at Rallye BMW in Westbury, New York, when I say that coming to work everyday is a joy and an absolute pleasure in its own right. To be able to create such a great experience for consumers and enthusiasts from all walks of life is such a surreal feeling. To be an enthusiast of the brand as well as a brand ambassador is not a job at all, it's more a dream than anything.

Emmanuel M. Lewis, BMW Product Genius
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Photo: Rallye BMW Genius Staff



Tech Talk with Mike Shiffer

My father drives, for some reason, a 2008 Toyota Avalon. Recently he asked me to take a look at two problems it was having: the steering wheel's in-and-out lock was slipping, and the video display multifunction controller (a miniature I-Drive knob) was too sensitive. Fixing the first meant removing the kick panel above the driver's shins (and an airbag: what's it doing down there?), while the second required removing large chunks of the console. Like every modern automaker, Toyota goes to great lengths to conceal the fasteners that hold their interiors together, so a combination of intuition and research is needed for me to figure out how to take apart unfamiliar cars like this one. The kick panel is simple: two screws and a series of molded-in tabs that engage clips. Take out the screws, pry and yank off the panel, and the column lock is revealed, easy to adjust. The console, not so much. After some tentative poking, prodding and pulling, I realized that the labor involved in liberating the switch panel was too time-consuming given the likelihood I wouldn't be able to repair the problem without replacing the entire controller. The problem wasn't serious enough to justify paying almost \$1000 for the part, and I didn't want to spend hours dismembering dad's car for nothing. There is also the risk of breaking off vital tabs that hold the console together: a consideration whenever I deal with interiors in cars.

This got me thinking about plasticity and elasticity.



Elasticity is the tendency of any material to return to its original shape and size after it is deformed. Stretchy fabric is called elastic not because it can be stretched, but because it recovers from being stretched.

Plasticity is sort of the opposite: the tendency for a material to remain deformed by whatever force acts on it. Plastics (vinyl, PVC, polystyrene, ABS, e.g.) are called this because in their raw form they are so easy to shape into whatever we want them to be. These two qualities aren't really opposites, since some materials have both in varying degrees. There is a third quality, brittleness, which is the tendency to break when deformed. Consider the aptly named peanut brittle, a material which neither bends nor bounces but breaks easily.

It is worth thinking of these qualities as being present in every fastener on a car. Take a bolt. When you tighten it, the bolt actually stretches, and it is the elasticity of the metal which creates the clamping force that is the bolt's purpose in life. If you tighten it too much it stays stretched, reducing the clamping force. This is called exceeding its elastic limit, and since metal has some plasticity, it may elongate but stay in one piece unless you really crank down and bust it good. All fasteners rely on elasticity to hold things together tightly.

Exceeding the elastic limit of any fastener will result in it deforming or breaking or both, none of which is a good idea.

The reason I think about this when confronting the console in a seven year old Toyota is the change that occurs to plastic over time. The tabs which hold the interior parts together lose their elasticity as the plasticizers (chemicals which, ironically, keep the plastic elastic) outgas due to age, heat, ozone and who knows what else, leaving the parts more brittle than they were when new, and much more likely to break when dismantling or reassembling. This is true for all cars, not just Toyotas. I am comfortable taking BMWs to bits since I know how they go together and how much force is needed to get assemblies pried apart. I don't know Toyotas, so I worry about ending up with a pile of expensive, useless Japanese trim and a handful of broken tabs. A mechanic has to know his limitations.



By the way, there is a substance which illustrates plastic, elastic and brittle beautifully. It has no relevance to cars that I know of. It is Silly Putty. Roll it into a ball, throw it at a hard surface and it will bounce with virtually no deformation (elasticity). Pull it slowly and it stretches out into a long string (plasticity). Pull it quick and it snaps in two (brittleness). I have no idea why. Magic, probably.



Michael Shiffer

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A new spin for BMW friends and family

by David Flores

We stepped up the merriment with a different kind of holiday event this year and aimed for a little more relaxed setting. The 2014 Holiday Party was held at AMF Syosset Lanes. Members, friends, and family came out and had a blast bowling at the beautiful, modernized bowling center. Attendees also enjoyed a variety of appetizers and a hot buffet. The 2014 Autocross Awards were presented to the winners. Door prizes were also handed out at the end of the night. Special thanks to Nick Soldo and Rallye BMW who were generous enough to donate a gorgeous wrist watch as the grand raffle prize. There was also a cameo appearance by Santa who dropped off gifts to all the youngsters who were present.



Yes André, you really did a run through that.

Die hard AutoXers storm Coliseum

Mike Bizzarro

Die hard autocrossers storm the Coliseum (pun intended) in an unflinching battle against their competition... and the elements. Driving in conditions like these not only displays dedication to the sport but the true skills these athletes possess.

On a more serious note, for anyone who has never done it, putting your car through the paces like this does indeed make you a safer driver on public roads. What better way to overcome that fear of hydroplaning, learn to regain control of a car that has started to slide or spin, or even find the limits of your vehicle and yourself as a driver? We have skilled instructors ready to help. Check our Events Calendar (pg. 3) and come on in, the water's fine!

Photos by Kwesi Peters



It's not all guts and glory. Only with the support of our participants can we hold successful events. We thank you all!

Guys, I don't think this is what's meant by a driving rain...



Mike Allen's powerful "stock" car in the wet.



Darby's MINI, light enough to float or so fast it glides?



Victor's X5M race car disguised as a truck.



Marusia parts the river, driving deep into the corner.



Megan shows what it's like to drive in a wind tunnel.



Mike Sweeney launches into the slalom.



Austin travels from NJ to prove he's the one to beat.

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**Die Hard
AutoX
19**



Remember when mom told you to come inside from the rain?

Photo by Mike Allen

**Meet us on the track this
season and test your
driving skills; See pages
8 and 9...**