

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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**BMW Car Club
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New York Chapter**

**BMWCCA NEW YORK CHAPTER
PRESENTS
THE 22ND ANNUAL BEACH PARTY**

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

at Euromeccanica Inc.
114 Pearl Street, Mount Vernon, NY 10550
Tel 914-668-1300

Speakers: Mike Shiffer of Euromeccanica, and special guests
Hot lunch will be provided
Don't forget to bring your beach chairs!

Check the New York Chapter website nybmwcca.org for more details,
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.

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New York Chapter**



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Victor Gagliano, VAS 516-908-2180

Newsletter Design by Industrial Success

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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 Boulter
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 Landrigan
Steve Lefkowitz
Waiman Leung
Mitchell Leventhal
Sam Li
David Lieberman
Corey 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 Hendler

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 treadwear 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 MOTORSPORTS 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



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: jbmike@aol.com



CLUB RACING

Go Further, Go Faster!

BMW Club Racing, music to my ears!

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, jcrist.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

Roebing Road — December 10~11, 2015
Hosted by the BMW CCA Tarheel Chapter. Contact Jason Crist, jcrist.private@gmail.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 Tippet, *The Brave Men*

See you at the track!

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

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 - Land Rover • Rolls Royce
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- Land Rover and others
- Brakes, shock absorbers and mufflers on any car

Services on older cars include:

- Reviving cars that have been in storage
- Engine rebuilding
- Component rebuilding, such as manual transmissions, steering gear
- Maintenance and repair
- Partial and complete restorations, overseeing work which is not done in-house, such as painting, upholstery and rechromin

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.



Michael

Pops

Ron

Race car preparation:

- Installation of roll bars, harnesses, racing seats, fire systems and other safety devices
- Suspension modification, such as coil-over conversions, larger sway bars and urethane bushings
- 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

A Blast from the Past

by Steve Geraci

We thought you might like a glimpse of our Chapter's past with this new column "A Blast from the Past". From time-to-time, we will randomly dust off an old issue of Die Zugspitze and give you a peek into the past. Hope you enjoy...

January 1993, Vol. 19 No. 1.

The caption on page three reads, "One of the famous Art Cars on display December 1986 at the BMW Gallery in New York. Shown here is Frank Stella's interpretation of BMW's 3.0 CSL race car."

Back in the mid-eighties, BMW NA had a gallery on Madison Avenue in New York City. The New York Chapter held its holiday party there that year while the famous Art Cars were on display. As editor, I thought it would make a great newsletter cover.

I still have a copy of the iconic black poster with the famous Art Cars, provided by our hosts to all who attended the party. Many of you will recognize the name of the author of this piece (left), David Haueter, a regular contributor to The Roundel. David got his start right here writing stories like this for Die Zugspitze.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Sebring Automobile High Performance Seminar (see page 5 for details)
- Drivers School @ Bridgehampton (see page 9 for details)
- Alfa Club Autocross (see page 7 for details)
- NY Chapter Gimmick Rally (see page 9 for details)

BRIDGEHAMPTON DRIVERS SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Sat/Sun. April 17 & 18, 1993
 N.Y. Chapter BMW Car Club of America, Inc.

The New York Chapter of the BMW CCA is having a Drivers School at the Historic Bridgehampton Race Circuit. All members of BMW CCA and non-members are invited to attend. Please keep in mind this is not a racing school but rather a high speed driving school on a race circuit under close supervision by instructors. This will be taught how to handle and control your vehicle at speeds not normally attained on the open highway. All Drivers will be instructed on corner flagging techniques and will attend a ground school to teach you the fine art of High-Speed Driving. A Tech Inspection of all Vehicles to insure the safety of you and fellow students will be done prior to the event which could also help you to get better performance from your vehicle. You will be required to bring a Snell 1980 or later Helmet to participate in the Event. Convertible cars must have a SCCA approved roll bar.

Call Or Send For Your Registration Package Today!
 For the most current information call the Chapter Offices: 516-797-2002 or any chapter officer.

Please fill out request form and send for application:
BMW Car Club of America, New York Chapter, Inc., P.O. Box 635, Jerico, NY 11753

Registration Information:

Driver _____
 Address _____ Ave. _____
 Telephone Day _____
 Club Affiliation _____ Year _____ License Plate # _____
 Make/Model _____ Year _____ License Plate # _____
 Driver Experience none 1-3 schools 4 or more schools

REGISTRATION FEES:
 Prices For Bridgehampton: April 17 & 18, 1993

One Day (Sat. or Sun.)		Two Days (Sat. & Sun.)	
Members	Non-Members	Members	Non-Members
pre-reg. - \$135.00	pre-reg. - \$150.00	pre-reg. - \$175.00	pre-reg. - \$200.00
reg. at track - \$175.00	reg. at track - \$200.00	reg. at track - \$225.00	reg. at track - \$250.00

PIPELINE PIECES

Avis & Hertz Discounts Available
 As a member of BMW CCA you can take advantage of discounts on rental cars available through Avis or Hertz.

Friends of BMW
 Production of Friends of BMW will begin shortly and we need member listings. The March issue of the magazine will be the first.

Westchester BMW Leaders In Dealer Advertising

by David Haueter

In today's world, it has become truly rare to walk into a car dealership that is doing innovative and effective marketing on its own. Most dealers simply follow orders from their headquarters, and leave it at that. One exception to this norm is Westchester BMW, located in White Plains, New York. Westchester BMW has the distinction of being a factory store wholly owned by BMW NA. However, they are also a subsidiary of BMW of North America, and are responsible for their own profitability and hiring of employees.



This was advertised in area newspapers, including The New York Times. "When people come into this dealership, we want it to be an enjoyable experience," says Della. "Unfortunately, in our industry today, potential customers feel like asking them comfortable. We need to work very hard at making them comfortable. We need them, and it's our best interest to make them comfortable without pressure."

The people at Westchester have so much faith in BMW cars that they issued another ad that invites prospective buyers to come in and test drive the Lexus LS400, Infiniti Q45, and Acura Legend to compare them to the BMW in the same price range. They have all three cars on site and ready to drive. Della has found that most people prefer BMW after comparing these cars head to head. "It is my belief that a customer can be successfully shown the differences in engineering, safety, build quality, and balanced performance parameters that have secured BMW as the ultimate driving machine," says Della. "There are many approaches to doing this thing called transportation. There are so many good products out there, and there are a lot of companies trying to get a piece of the pie today. There are more and more players, so you have to be real good at what you do. The comparative analysis must be handled respectfully, and by that I mean crediting the competition for their own accomplishments while drawing the customer to a decision that results in the purchase of a BMW." The ad has recently run in such popular periodicals as Road & Track and Sports Illustrated. This is a gutsy move, but it instills confidence in the customer that



AT THIS BMW SERVICE CENTER, THERE'S NOTHING ROUTINE ABOUT ROUTINE MAINTENANCE.

When you bring your BMW to most service centers with a particular problem, that's what they concentrate on. But what if there's another problem? Will they take the trouble to notice it, and to tell you - so you can have it fixed at the same time? If you bring your BMW to The Ultimate Source, we will. If you need a brake job, we'll also check the calipers, the brake hoses and the bearing play. If anything's amiss, the rest you'll find out at our Service Center.



The Ultimate Source replaces indifferent and expensive service with prompt, expert service - at reasonable prices. Our factory trained mechanics handle BMWs exclusively and provide everything from routine maintenance to restoration to cellular phone systems.

All work is fully guaranteed for 9 months, 9,000 miles and basic maintenance and service programs are factory authorized and won't affect your new car warranty.

And for a limited time, you'll receive a free set of Bosch Micro Edge II Windshield Wiper Blades (up to a \$40.00 value serviced or repaired).

Plus free membership in The Ultimate Care Club, entitling you to a 10% discount on all.



The 1992 BMW Car Club Post-Holiday Party

by Steve & Irene Gaudreau
 Photos by Andrew Geraci

The board members decided to try a different kind of celebration for the end of 1992. The decision was to hold a holiday party after the holidays in order to attract a larger response. Attendance was up at 25% of the post-holiday party held at 8:00 PM on Saturday night, January 16, 1993.

The party kicked off by the usual cast of characters from the New York Chapter Board of Directors led by our President, "M.C." (Mike) Zerkowky (no relation to the board members, followed by the door prize raffish Samantha and Rebecca, who attended the party along with their parents. Prizes were donated by BMW North America, BaySide BMW, Juergen Kingenberg, and The Ultimate Source. Photography coverage was provided by Steve Geraci's son, Andy, trusty lap top computer.

The highlights of the evening included tributes to two of our recently "retired" board members, Ray Vonderheith, Executive Vice President, and Rod Lucioini, my predecessor as Vice President of Special Events. A plaque was presented to each of

them as a memento, along with our thanks and a round of applause for their many years of hard work and dedication to the Club. We also want to take this opportunity to say "many thanks" to Ray Sobier, our recently retired Club Treasurer.

The ample buffet consisted of Italian favorites - linguini with white clam sauce, baked ziti, roast beef with gravy and potatoes, vegetable platter with dip, salad and fruit's, and a selection of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres plus your choice of beverage. A surprise event was the birthday cake with candles aglow pronounced to Ray Vonderheith to commemorate his special Birthday to You!

The Club extends its thanks to the Tony Roma's manager, Bill Mayer, his associate, Dineen, and their staff for excellent service and the many delicious drinks and drink selections prepared especially for our Club.

One favor - the Club welcomes your suggestions or requests in any aspect of the celebration to heighten the party's appeal. Just contact any Board Member and let us know what you think!



Joseph Belsch (right), raffish winner of Juergen Kingenberg's original framed artwork of 1972 2002. Mr. Belsch directed Mike Zerkowky, N.Y. Chapter President (left), to donate \$129.00 in raffish proceeds to the KGBay Foundation.

The N.Y. Chapter BMW CCA Presents the: "Re-Tread Road Rally"

Steve Geraci, Rally Master

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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!



MINIs atop Mount Washington ~ Photos by Peter Burke

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 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

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.

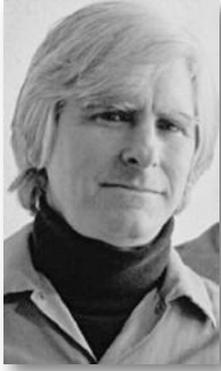
The role of the BMW Genius is as follows: To educate the consumer on the most essential facts about the brand, to create a high quality needs analysis for the consumer, and to be there for the consumer before and after the buying process. Altogether, as the Genius gives an enthusiastic product demonstration, 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
elewis@rallyebmw.com

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

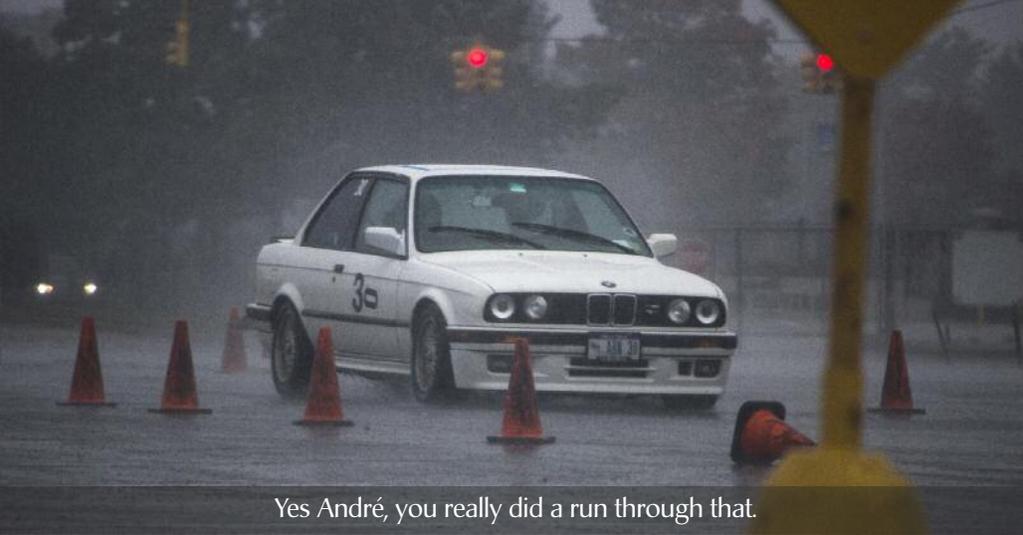
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A new spin for BMW friends and family

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.



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



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

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



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.



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...



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**Die Hard
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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...**