BMW Car Club of America Connecticut Valley

DZ is *Die Zeitung*, the newsletter of the Connecticut Valley Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America.

DZ

Vol 50 No 4
Q4 | 2022

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

50 YEARS OF M AND 50 YEARS OF CVC

Cover Photo By STEVE KLUCIK

INSIDE

O'FEST
BRASS CITY KARTING
CAFFEINE & CARBURETORS
MUNICH MOTORSPORTS
OCTOBER HPDE
AND MORE!

DZ

Photo By PAUL FRICKENHAUS Vol 50 No 4

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HEY! WE'RE LOOKING AT YOU!

Congratulations!
You are part of a diverse group of people who share at least one thing in common a passion for cars and one brand of car in particular.

Beyond reading DZ, BimmerLife and the Roundel magazines to learn about what's going on in the world of BMWs and those who drive them, the most value you can get for your membership in BMW CCA and the CT Valley Chapter is sharing experiences with fellow club members.

All the activities our club engages in – special events, drives, schools, dinners, picnics, show & shines, tech sessions, VIP hospitality at races and visits to entertaining places in our area – are what the CVC is all about.

This all happens because members make it happen. So how about sharing your ideas for places to go, things to do? We welcome hearing from you. Reach out at any time to any of our Chapter's Board Members via our Contacts Page.

Here are some things you may consider:

· Offer an idea for an event for members to participate in whether it's automotive-related or not. Board members will happily help to get these going
· Volunteer to help out at events like Street Survival, High Performance Driving Schools or the Hospitality Compound at Lime Rock Park. We always welcome enthusiastic helpers – no experience necessary
· Share on the Chapter's social media sites: Facebook, Instagram. The handle is @ctvalleybmwcca
· Write an article for the DZ or one of the national magazines. We'll get you published!
· Join a committee to work with board members on specific areas like advertising, sponsorship, publishing, event planning and more.
· Let your interests and imagination be your guide!

It's Easy and Fun!!! Come be a real part of it!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Tomas Angaramo
John Bares
John Bellmore
Seth Blattman
Graham Coates
Nicole Coates
Jeremy Deitz
Joseph Esposito

Justin Fudge
Shaun Gordon
Elivan Goulart
Jonathan Hertz
Christopher Hocevar
Stephen Kassay
Jamie Kassay
Kevin Kulak

Elizabth Lane
Minh Le
Michael Martin
Thomas McMarrow
David Melnick
Marco Pace
Tiffany Pagan
Blase Picone

Mian Qadru-Din
Brian Saline
Vanessa Saline
Chris Savino
Dina Spaidal
Jeffrey Spinner
Mauricio Suarez
Elizabeth Zobel

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This year we have celebrated the 50th anniversary of M, BMW's Motorsports Division. Establishment of this entity - devoted to development, production and support of racing machinery - has been an important ingredient in the make-up of the BMWs we drive today. There, of course, are now M branded models in nearly every line of the company's products – including SAVs and cars powered by electric motors instead of fossil fueled engines. Happily, even those models where the only place the letter M appears on their badging is between the letters B and W, all benefit from the DNA established in Motorsports. The feel behind the wheel is an important differentiator between BMW and competing brands who's designers and engineers, let's face it, often use BMW as a benchmark for their own products. The importance of M in BMW's success is undeniable. In this newsletter, you'll find an article about a special event born in our CT Valley Chapter to celebrate 50 Years of M that resulted in the Cover Article in the December 2022 issue of Roundel. Check it out!

Next year, we will celebrate another important milestone, the 50th anniversary of the founding of our Connecticut Valley Chapter of BMW CCA. Back in 1972, BMWs were still a fairly rare sight in America. But the brand quickly earned the respect and admiration of automotive enthusiasts thanks to a now iconic car, the model 2002. You can still see the 2002 leaping across our Chapter's logo, just as it leapt across the Atlantic from an until-then relatively obscure company. That little-known company had created a unique product, the original sport sedan, and made it available and affordable to a wider market here in the US of A. A star had been born. And my, how the star has risen!

To commemorate our half century of automotive enthusiasm, we have created a new logo - not to replace our existing one, but rather to mark this moment in our Chapter's history. But our celebration will encompass much more than just a logo. In the true spirit of CARmradery (OK, maybe I made that word up) we are planning events throughout all four corners of Connecticut with the goal of bringing more Chapter members, their families and friends, together. And in addition, O'Fest ∞ Forever, the annual National Convention will be held in Rhode Island in 2023 – about as close as it could be to us all. CVC will be organizing and running an HPDE driving school at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in conjunction with O'Fest during the last week in September. If you have never been to an O'Fest, now's your chance!

This has been a tumultuous half-century, capped by a year of infections and inflation. Informed by the past, let's keep a keen eye on the future and make the most of it, in 2023 and beyond.

—Paul

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DZ INFORMATION

Die Zeitung is published quarterly by the BMW CCA Connecticut Valley Chapter, P.O.Box 432, Hartford, CT 06141

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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Membership in the BMW Car Club of America is $58.00 yearly and includes a one year subscription to Roundel, the national publication of the club and to Die Zeitung, the publication of the Connecticut Valley Chapter. Associate membership is available for $10.00 per year and does not receive publications.

Join Membership Now

Articles and other materials intended for inclusion in Die Zeitung should be sent to **DZ@CTValley.org**. Copyright information must be included with all items submitted for publication.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

InformationThe DZ is published in full color and distributed electronically to our members and the public. It reaches approximately 1,700 enthusiastic BMW Club members and receives views from all over the world. We provide URL links to our advertisers websites directly from the eZine.

ANNUAL RATES

Full page - $1,295
Half page - $795
Quarter page - $475
Business card - $285

Full color camera ready art should be emailed to Roger Chartier at ***RChartier@CTValley.org***

USE OF IMAGES STATEMENT

Chapter events may be photographed or recorded and subsequent images published in the Chapter newsletter or other BMW CCA publications. Attendance at Chapter events constitutes permission by all participants for public release of images from the event.

GOT AN IDEA FOR AN EVENT?

WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!

One of the most common criticisms voices by members of the BMW CCA is the lack of events for members, aside from active driving events. The CT Valley Chapter Board of Directors is always looking for new and interesting ideas for events to increase camaraderie amongst the club. If you have any ideas for an event that the club could sponsor in some way, feel free to reach out to any of the board members. These events can range fron go-karting, skiing, ice skating, brewery tours, bowling or even just an informal get-together at a local restaurant or pub. Contact information can be found on the CT Valley Chapter website or on the "Elections" article found within this DZ edition.

Contact any of our members at our website! Click here.

CT VALLEY CHAPTER'S SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE

We are very excited to now have an active presence in the Facebook / Instagram realm. Our ultimate goal is to utilize the FB / IG platforms as memory banks to help nurture our community through BMW-related posts of life events, not just CVC sanctioned events.

We invite your submissions for both CCA and non-CCA event-related photos - not limited to any particular culture. We request BMW themed subjects such as family photos (road trips, birthdays, camping trips, sports, picnics, rallyes, etc.), enthusiast builds, car care, photoshoot images and the like. The idea is for these shared photos to be posted periodically (as received), allowing our large community to coexist vicariously through them.

Please send anything you would like shared / posted to any of our Social Media Coordinators via e-mail, **Facebook Messenger** or **Instagram Chat.**

We wholeheartedly welcome your contributions so we may continue to grow our great online community, building stronger networking at our in-person events!

Our "handle" is: **@ctvalleybmwcca**

Our SMCs' e-mail addresses are:

RBlanchette@CTValley.org
CFoote@CTValley.org
NSartwell@CTValley.org

COMING SOON!

2023 Connecticut Valley Chapter Election of Board Members

How time flies! The annual Election of CVC Officers and Board Members is coming in January. The ballot this year contains two new nominees for member-at-large positions in addition to the four officers and eight members-at-large who are returning for another year of service to the Chapter. Here is the list of candidates along with a bio statement from the new board member nominees.

President:	**Paul Frickenhaus**
Vice-President:	**Dave Mucciacciaro**
Secretary:	**Bob Morin**
Treasurer:	**Dave Ortoli**

Members-at-Large:
John Bate
Rai Blanchette
Heather Centrella
Patrick Delany
Chris Foote
Nathan Sartwell
jerri Wiley
Willy Wiley

Bob Maher (new nominee)

My name is Bob Maher and I am nominated for a Member-At-Large position on the CVC Board. I am originally from Australia and migrated to the US in 2006. My interest in all things automotive started at a very young age when my parents took me to my first motor race in the late 60s. From that point on I was hooked. Coming from Australia, most motorsport revolved around touring car racing however I also have a keen interest in F1. I raced at the club level in the late 70's and early 80's. I purchased my first BMW when I moved to the US in 2006 and have owned one or more BMWs ever since. I currently own a 2006 Z4M Roadster and a 2016 435i GranCoupe as well as a 2004 Pontiac GTO (my piece of Australia). I have been an active member of the Connecticut Valley Chapter since 2006 and have participated in HPDE events both as a driver and as a volunteer and attend non track club events on a regular basis. As an avid believer in young driver training, I am an instructor for the club's Street Survival Program.

2022 BOARD MEMBERS

President
Paul Frickenhaus, Editor | **pfrickenhaus@ctvalley.org**

Vice President
Dave Mucciacciaro, Activities | **dmucciacciaro@ctvalley.org**

Secretary
Bob Morin, Foundation Liaison | **bmorin@ctvalley.org**

Treasurer
Dave Ortoli, Street Survival | **dortoli@ctvalley.org**

Members-At-Large
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Rai Blanchette, Social Media | **rblanchette@ctvalley.org**
Heather Centrella, Communcations | **hcentrella@ctvalley.org**
Roger Chartier, Advertising | **rchartier@ctvalley.org**
Patrick Delany, Driving Events | **cvc-dec@comcast.net**
Chris Foote, Social Media | **cfoote@ctvalley.org**
Nathan Sartwell, Membership, Social | **nsartwell@ctvalley.org**
Jerri Wiley | **jwiley@ctvalley.org**
Willy Wiley | **wwiley@ctvalley.org**

Foad Razavi (new nominee)

Hello my name is Foad Razavi. I have been nominated for a Member at Large position on the CVC board. I have been an avid car enthusiast since childhood, and got my first BMW (E46 M3) in 2005. That year I also became a master BMW technician, and have worked at numerous BMW dealerships in MA, CT, & FL. I was a CCA member in FL and now CT. The love of Motorsports brought me out to Colorado, where I helped a shop branch off into the BMW brand. There I was offered a race technician position for a team in the Pirelli World Challenge, allowing me to see all the different race tracks across the country. From there I became a crew chief for a Lamborghini Super Trofeo team in IMSA. With that knowledge and experience I decided to come back to CT to run a Motorsports shop, that I now own. I currently race an E46 M3 in the German Touring Series, and am also an instructor for the CVC and other clubs in the area. My current BMW collection includes my E46 M3 wide body race car, an Individual G80 M3 Comp, and an E92 Lime Rock Park edition M3 (manual). I look forward to continuing my involvement and support of the CVC.

When the polls open, all current CT Valley Chapter members will receive an electronic ballot via email. Please watch for it and submit your vote right away. The results of the election will be reported at the 2023 Annual Meeting at a date to be determined.

THE MAKING OF THE MEETING OF THE M3S

STORY BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS
PHOTOS BY STEVE KLUCIK AND PAUL FRICKENHAUS

Everything starts with an idea. Fifty years ago, BMW's *M* division was established because the idea was to concentrate the company's expertise and energy into improving its cars' performance in motorsports. Earlier this year, CVC Chapter member Rai Blanchette had the idea to gather each of the generations of M3s together to photograph them amongst their siblings. So, in tribute to Fifty Years of ***///M*** the idea became a reality at Simsbury Airport. If this seems strangely familiar to you, perhaps it's because you have seen the cover story of the current edition of Roundel, titled M3 Celebration. Here is how that came to be.

During 2022, the year when we are marking 50 years of ***M***, this Meeting of the M3s is dedicated to celebrating the model that carries on that sporting tradition and literally carries the drivers who love them. Unsurprisingly, enthusiasm for BMWs runs deep in a club like ours. No more so than the zeal of Connecticut Valley Chapter Board Member, Rai Blanchette, who along with Simsbury Airport Operations Director, Brad Griswold, cooperated to provide the subjects and setting of this photo shoot. The principal photographer for the day was Steven Klucik, a great friend of our Chapter and an avid motorsports enthusiast.

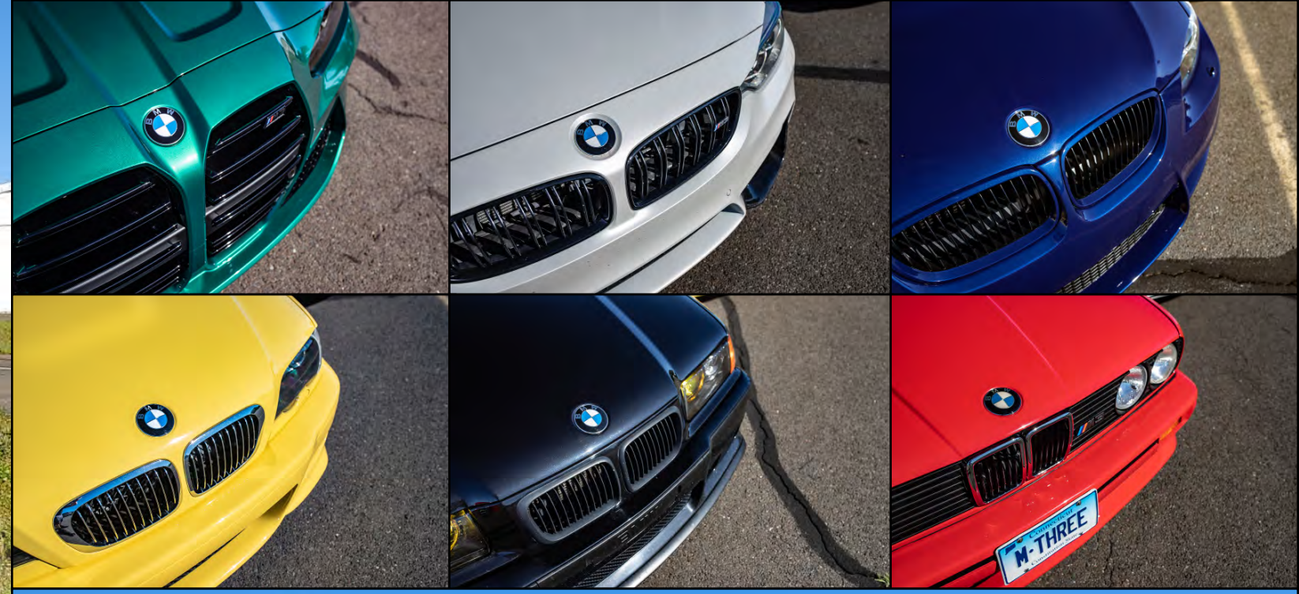
IIIM3 Celebration Photos

Before our coordinated takeover of the airfield on Sunday, July 3rd, many of the co-conspirators met at Sheila and Bob Morin's home nearby for a delightful picnic lunch. As you can imagine, the mood was as bright as the sunshine on that lovely July day as we anticipated the (slightly) subversive hours to come.

At the appointed time, Rai led the owners of their M3s to the airport. Once the runway was officially closed to aircraft it was opened to our group of low-flying vehicles. First there were some ground level and elevated group photos taken of our M3s posing smack dab in the middle of the runway. Next, the Bimmers' owner/jockeys took turns trotting (dare we say galloping?) back and forth along the runway, accompanied by a chase car and a drone. Finally, after relinquishing the airstrip to its usual clientele, our models posed for their close-ups.

Once we saw the photos, we knew we wanted to share them with a wider audience. After some back and forth with Roundel Editor, Satch Carlson, it was agreed we'd not only have an article about the M3 published in the December 2022 edition, we'd snagged the cover as well!

M3 owner or not, we hope you enjoy the photos of the M3s that helped propel our club to where we are today. And as a special Holiday gift to all fellow CVC members, we are offering you a deeper dive into the ocean of photos taken by Steve Klucik. So while the weather outside turns frightful, go ahead and enjoy a delightful plunge into a fuller gallery of photographs taken that lovely July day! ■



CVC KARTING

at Brass City Raceway

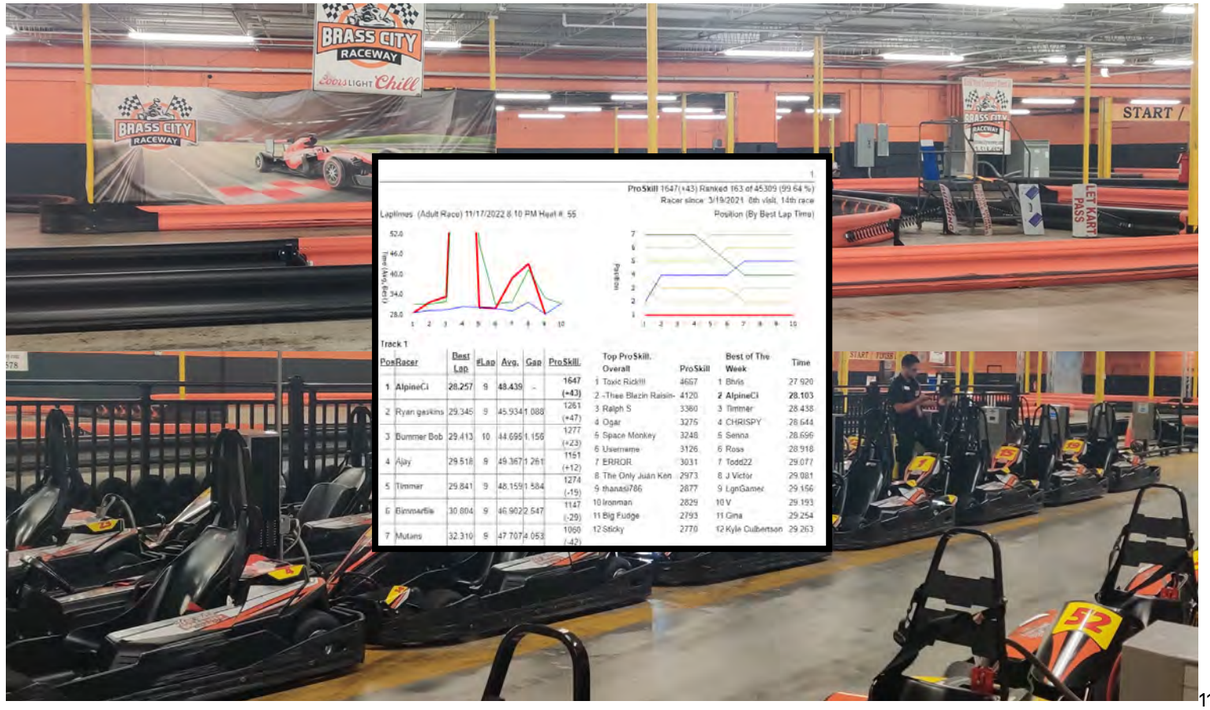
STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVE MUCCIACCIARO

On Thursday night, November 17th, a few BMW enthusiasts gathered at the Brass City Raceway in Waterbury for a fun night of go-karting. BCR is an upscale indoor kart racing facility featuring electric OTL Storm Karts, which are surprisingly capable. While business at BCR was rather slow this particular evening, the racing certainly was anything but! The facility also offers other activities including an arcade, indoor batting cages and ax throwing. Their "Arrive & Drive" online system for signup was quick and easy and had us registered to race in no time. BCR offers various package deals that include more of the facility options, but we all opted to get the 3-race package deal. No ax throwing. The BCR staff was friendly and very accommodating to our group. After a "warm-up" heat to get everyone familiar with the track layout, the track marshal turned up the power on our karts to really let us experience the tight, technical turns and long straightaways that BCR had to offer.

We even had fun watching some of the younger kids go out in their run group during our breaks. The excessive bumping (even in pit lane, LOL), the waving, the swerving, and the smiles were extremely entertaining to watch. As the kids drove down the front straight, they would look and wave to their parents. However, as the karts don't offer self-driving software – honestly, what would be the point in that? – there were many wall taps from distracted drivers, even with no other karts in sight. I always get a kick out of the antics of young kids in karts.

Between our racing heats, we would gather outside of pit lane to discuss the best ways to take certain turns. In reading some of our racer's track nicknames, I got a big laugh from Bob Morin's. During registration, he meant to type in his race name as Bimmer Bob, but he fat-fingered it and ended up calling himself Bummer Bob!

We enjoyed a great time, not a bummer at all! We will most likely plan more events at Brass City in the coming year, so stay tuned for announcements of future dates. ■



CARS CARS CARS!

Fall Caffeine and Carburetors

STORY BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS
PHOTOS BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS AND KAYLA HUSHIN

For nearly two decades, local car enthusiasts have been meeting at Doug Zumbach's eponymous coffee shop in New Canaan, CT on Sunday mornings for a sip of java followed by drives in their coveted cars of all shapes, sizes, brands and vintages throughout the toney region of Fairfield and Westchester Counties. As word spread about these casual yet habitual get-togethers, their popularity grew to the point where Doug expanded the scope of those ad hoc comings together of cars and drivers at his coffee shop near the train station to encompass a much larger portion of the downtown area. The phenomenon that is now Caffeine and Carburetors was born.

For many years, this series of "gatherings" has continued to attract an ever-growing number of people and their vehicles to descend en masse upon sleepy New Canaan - typically three times a year downtown and once at the sprawling Waveny Park. The vibe is at once casual – as there is no judging process or prizes to be won – yet at the same time enervating – as the variety and sheer number of vehicles on display is overwhelming. Participants will see everything from Chevy Cosworth Vegas to multi-million dollar super cars like Bugatti, Pagani and the occasional Glickenhaus; low slung sports cars to jacked-up overlanders; vintage European and American cars to the newest electric vehicles that you may heretofore never have seen other than in print or on line. It is automotive overload!

While this is not a BMW CCA Connecticut Valley Chapter event, beginning last year a BMW corral was established at each of the venues, down town and in the park, so that those of us who are owners and fans of this Bavarian brand can congregate a bit more intimately amongst the otherwise haphazard sprawl of automotive diversity.

If you've been to any of these gatherings, you are familiar with its innate awesomeness. If you have not yet had the pleasure, you owe it to yourself to come and take it all in. An important tip: arrive early, as the popularity of these events means encountering traffic jams for those arriving late. Oh, and remember the caffeine part of the equation? Well that is available there too for those of us who get up early on a Sunday morning to snag a good parking spot and watch the steady stream of automotive diversity streaming by.

Here are a few photos to whet your appetite from the events held on September 18th in the center of New Canaan and October 23rd in Waveny Park this year. Much more can be seen at the Caffeine and Carburetors website and on social media platforms. The 2023 schedule has not yet been announced, but keep an eye out for notifications when it is on their website and the CVC Events calendar.

This family-friendly outing *needs* to be on your calendar! ■

An elegant classic

Lawrence Charlemagne, RestoWizard, with the author

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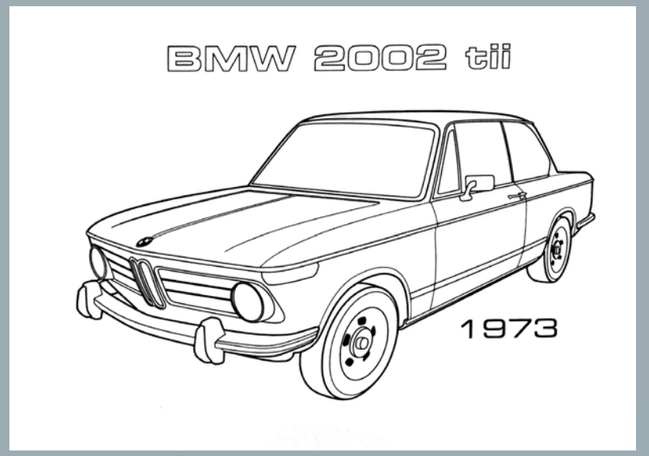
EVENTS CALENDAR

Check out our website for upcoming events and happenings organized by the CT Valley Chapter.

KIDS KOLORING KORNER

COURTESY OF NATE SARTWELL

Instructions: ***Print out a copy of the 2002 below. Color it however you'd like. Take a picture of your finished work and send it to any of our Social Media Coordinators via e-mail, Facebook Messenger or Instagram Chat. We won't tell if it's really the "kids" coloring or not.***



Our "handle" is: @ctvalleybmwcca
Our SMCs' e-mail addresses are:
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CFoote@CTValley.org
NSartwell@CTValley.org

STORY BY CHRIS FOOTE
PHOTOS BY CHRIS FOOTE AND DAVE MUCCIACCIARO

MUNICH MOTORSPORTS

Fall is a great season for so many things in New England – the heat and humidity have waned, so activities are able to resume during the day without the feeling of heat exhaustion from the summer sun. The Fall foliage sets a nice backdrop for cruises and social gatherings before the colder weather sets in.

One of those gatherings this past September 24th was at Munich Motorsports in East Windsor, just north of Hartford. Munich is an active CCA business and the owners, Foad and Dana Razavi, wanted to host a Cars and Coffee event after the summer heat had passed. There was a great turnout of enthusiasts and their cars that Saturday morning, from new M cars to some older classics that we all love. Over 35 cars showed up to the event throughout the morning, with reserved BMW CCA parking available for all Club members.

Those in attendance got a great inside glimpse of the shop which included Munich's full line of customer-owned race cars, including our very own Pat Delaney's E92 M3! We even got to see a restored E36 328 from Japan (right-hand drive). Various vehicles in for service ranging from a simple oil change to a suspension change to a full-blown engine swap were on display for visitors to see. Munich's staff even brought their own cars out for us to see. They answered questions from enthusiasts about their personal vehicles, ranging from simple maintenance to big modifications. Everyone walked away having learned a little bit more about the brand we all enjoy so much.

Munich Motorsports was very gracious in providing all sorts of snacks including bagels, donuts, Danishes and coffee to start the morning off right. As cars rolled into the parking lot, they were treated to a surprise by Liqui Moly which consisted of a bag with many handy "goodies" which even included some Liqui Moly lip balm for the upcoming winter!

A raffle table was set up offering numerous car-related memorabilia with all proceeds going to the Simon Foundation, an animal rescue organization which helps hundreds of pets every year. The event ended a little bit after lunchtime, allowing all visitors to enjoy their afternoon drives to their next destination on a great Fall weekend.

Many thanks to Munich Motorsports for hosting the CT Valley Chapter. Munich has invited us to return next year, so keep an eye out for announcements of the next date. The Club hopes you will consider participating. ■

STORY BY DAVE BOONE – AMBASSADOR, BMW CCA FOUNDATION

THE JOY OF VOLUNTEERING

Remember that BMW marketing slogan emblazoned on the flanks of race cars? Yeah, me neither! But it should be. Besides the joy of driving a BMW, volunteering with our Club is another joyful experience. Here's why I say that.

I got that feeling by getting involved with the BMW CCA Connecticut Valley Chapter back in 2010 after joining the club, and attending my first HPDE at Lime Rock Park. I had such an amazing day driving on track with a great instructor that I decided to get more involved.

That led to volunteering for our Street Survival schools. After "kicking cones" on the tarmac a few times, I took the on-line course to become an in-car coach. I've never looked back. A most rewarding "give back" is, as a Street Survival coach, being able to teach new drivers to hone their skills in accident avoidance techniques – the stuff that isn't taught in high school Drivers Ed.

This then led to participating in other club activities such as, driving tours around our state, informal get-togethers at different car shows, ice cream parlors, picnics, etc. We have many to choose from, all year-round!

As a diehard race fan, I jumped at the invitation to volunteer at the BMW Hospitality Tent at Lime Rock Park for the Summer IMSA race weekend a number of years ago. This is a great way to get prime viewing, seating, and great food and drink, provided by LRP catering, sponsored by New Country BMW, and staffed by us volunteers.

Over the years we have been honored by visits from the drivers and team members from the likes of Turner Motorsports, (Factory supported) Team Rahal-Letterman-Lanigan, Bimmerworld, and other independent BMW race teams! My personal volunteering reward has been to meet and chat a bit with not only my early racing TransAm hero but also with the current record holder of the most wins in IMSA history! Here's how.

On a Friday afternoon during qualifying for the next day's race, a wicked rain storm popped up and brought out the red flag. I was fortunate enough to be inside our tent watching the closed circuit television feed when suddenly, a scramble ensued to move a table out of the way, so a golf cart could pull in out of the downpour. Who's riding in it? None other than my TransAm hero, Sam Posey! Yes, That Sam Posey for whom, the Lime Rock Front Straight has been named! I couldn't believe it! I walked over and told him I thought his architectural design of the main straight tower was "some of his best work!" He laughed, shook my hand and said "Thanks, I'm proud of it too!" I then asked him, "OK, the yellow flag comes out for rain just starting to wet the track. Do you come in for wets or stay out?" Before I could finish the question, Sam looked me in the eye with that racer's gleam and said, "Stay Out!" We both cracked up laughing, and I just shook my head, knowing the answer I was gonna get. Once a racer, always the ultimate competitor!

During this year's July IMSA race, I finally got to meet, and chat with Will Turner and "The Man," Bill Auberlen, currently the driver with the most wins in IMSA history (mostly in BMWs!) We had a great conversation about his time with BMW and he was gracious enough to sign my helmet! I now have almost all of the greatest BMW Driver's signatures on my autograph helmet (Looking at you, Hans Stuck!). But, that is a story for another time...

So you see, the opportunities of volunteering can lead you to events and, friendships you wouldn't dream of – meeting like-minded car enthusiasts, imparting life-saving skills on new drivers and coming face-to-face with motorsports heroes!

My message is: Get involved with your club chapter. Offer your talents, energy, skills and ideas for events and find your own "Joy" – volunteering! ■

Marilyn, Sammy, Dean, Frank pose with Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire and two unknown O'Fest guests

O'FEST ∞ FOREVER

Palm Springs, CA

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BOB MORIN

The first-ever O'Fest ∞ Forever was supposed to be in 2020, in Palm Springs, CA, but as we all know, 2020 was the lost year of COVID-19 and the event was canceled. But by then, plans had already begun to hold the 2021 O'Fest ∞ Forever in Hilton Head, so it was decided that 2022 would be the year to finally get to Palm Springs.

If most participants were asked to describe this year's event in one word, I think the reply most would give was "HOT." If you like it when it's really hot, this was the event for you. The day we arrived it was 114º It did get all the way down to 99ºby the end of the week, but most of the week it was between 104º and 109º. Oh, and forget that "dry heat" desert nonsense. Even the locals were saying it was unusually humid. But hey, at least we didn't have events impacted by flooding, like last year.

The O'Festivities began with the opening of registration on Tuesday for those who booked the entire package. Sheila and I always enjoy volunteering to work the start of registration because it's our first chance to say hello to friends and acquaintances from past events. That evening, there was a Welcome Dinner on the Main Lawn at the LaQuinta Inn and Resort, this year's site resort. Because the following weekend was the IMSA Petit LeMans at Michelin Road Atlanta, BMW NA who usually sponsors the closing dinner, took over the opening this year and provided what turned out to be a very interesting speaker, as well. Usual emcee Tom Plucinsky interviewed Michael Scully, the Global Director, Automotive, at BMW Group Designworks. Topics ranged from Mr. Scully's education and early racing career, to designing a plywood-bodied trailer to haul his race car, to how he came to work for BMW and Designworks, and along the way, the projects with which he was involved, including the new IMSA GTP race car set to debut at Daytona in January 2023. Sheila and I found the presentation both interesting and entertaining.

The next morning, there was a Cars & Coffee (more like a Cars & Breakfast, truth be told) at the resort, that included a vendor reception inside if you grew tired (or hot) from looking at the cars out front. At 11:00, there was a TSD Rally meeting for the BBS sponsored event that afternoon, which began by declaring that we were all wrong when we thought that TSD stood for Time Speed Distance. In fact, we were told, it stood for That Scorching Desert Rally. The rally route itself was awesome! From the resort, the odo leg got you to Palm Desert where you joined the Palms to Pines Scenic Byway (Rt. 74 to Rt. 243) and climbed from the desert floor to an altitude of 6000 ft. in Idyllwild, CA. The loop continued back to Palm Springs on the Banning-Idyllwild Panoramic Hwy, with all the turns and switchbacks of driving in the Alps, while climbing and then descending the other side of the mountain. The scenery was incredible, at least for the navigator. The driver needed to remain focused on the road ahead. At least we didn't have to worry about looking for the next street on which to turn, as pretty much any turns off the main route would either be into the side of the mountain or over the edge to the desert floor below.

Idyllwild is a very cute town to visit. Fortunately, we didn't realize the rally route would take us there and thought the route looked awesome, so we had already done the exact same drive before O'Fest began, only that day, there was time to take on the sites in Idyllwild. If you ever find yourself in the Palm Springs area, make it a point to take this drive. Even in our Dodge Challenger rental, it was a blast, and getting to do it twice was double the fun.

Wednesday evening there was no dinner on the program, so Chicago Windy City BMW friends Barbara Adams and Larry Schettel hosted nearly a dozen friends for dinner and socializing in their condo. It was a great chance to visit with folks and share stories.

Thursday was the bargain of the event for anyone who signed up for the optional BMW Performance Center West Half-Day Driving Program at Thermal. There were four different exercises available: Lead-Follow laps on one of the Thermal race tracks in new M3s and M4s, a Drag Race, a Rat Race, and an Autocross. The lead-follow is pretty self-explanatory with each of three cars in your group taking a turn as the first, second and third car behind the Performance Center Instructor. The Drag Race was done in either an M5 or an M2C, and when they indicated GO, it was a straight blast up the track, with heavy braking for a tight U-turn and then halfway back ABS braking within a stop box, all while trying to get there before the competitor in the next lane. The Rat Race is essentially a big wet skid pad and two cars start on opposite sides of the track. With traction control disabled, both cars start at the same time and attempt to complete three laps. Whoever arrives back at their start cone first, wins. And finally, the Autocross was timed, and each competitor got several runs, usually 3-4 for each turn in a car, but you could circle back around and try again.

Great fun was had, followed by a provided lunch and a few gifts, plus the BMW CCA discount in their gift shop, which got quite busy when everyone was finished.

Friday morning turned out to be one of the most fun events. Called Smart Hunt, it was sort of a scavenger hunt type event on the resort grounds, but it was a combination of trivia questions, locating things and documenting them with a photo, and completing different quests, all as quickly as possible. The organizer used a novel approach to forming teams, and everyone ran around trying to complete as many tasks as possible in the allotted time. It was terrific fun and we even got to make some new friends in the process.

Friday evening was a Car Show at a very picturesque location on the fairways of a nearby golf course, with a beautiful mountainous backdrop. Dinner was via a wood-fired pizza oven and/or a slider station, with drinks, music, and a cool light show as part of the entertainment.

On Saturday, there were some driving tours for those wishing to partake, and a second opportunity at the Half-Day Performance Center Driver's School, but the main event was the final dinner which had an Old Hollywood Glam theme. Many wore costumes, some quite creative, and entertainment included an appearance by The Rat Pack, with Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Marilyn Monroe.

And with that, another year is in the BMW CCA history books. We look forward to next year, which will be in and around Newport, RI, so for those that have been wondering what O'Fest ∞ Forever is like, this may be your best opportunity for a while. I know we plan to attend. Hope that you will join us. ■

One of the more unusual cars on display

Vintage style is tough to beat!

CVC SCENIC FALL TOUR 2022

By DAVID MUCCIACCIARO
PHOTOS BY DAVE AND HEATHER MUCCIACCIARO

The leaf peeping season seemed to sneak up on me this year for our CVC Scenic Fall Tour. After going back and forth about where to go, I decided to resurrect my old route that I did in 2020, but with a twist. I really enjoyed the route that I had planned back then, but I wanted to do something a little different. I changed up a few roads in the beginning of the trip, but I knew I wanted to keep the Rt109 and Rt7 sections. I finally came up with the idea of having our tour end at Lime Rock Park.

I knew I wanted it to be a nice day, because who wants to go for a ride on a dreary rainy or cloudy day, so as I watched the weather, I saw an opening for Saturday, Oct 15. After nailing down the day, I contacted Lime Rock to see if they could accommodate us. Not only were they able to, they allowed us access to their outfield even with three other organizations renting their facility on that same day.

With a few days until the tour, we published the event on our social media platforms and emailed CVC members. The turnout wasn't as great as I'd hoped it would be, but it was such a nice fall day, I'm sure a lot of people were getting caught up on some yard work as the leaves had already begun to fall. The day turned out to be beautiful with clear skies and leaves falling on our cars as we twisted and carved down some back roads. Lime Rock was a treat as well with all of the racing on the main track, as well as the tire squealing up at the new skid-pad. It was great chatting with everyone at different times of the day. I appreciate everyone making the trip out.

Had I been the only one who showed up, I would have had a great time. But great friends and acquaintances made the trip that much better! The CVC would like to give a huge shout out to Jen Murphy and her team for letting us stop by Lime Rock for a few hours. I'd like to make this an annual event, even if we switch up the route. Happy fall y'all. ■

HPDE News

2023 Schedule

The 2022 CVC HPDE season wrapped up with an event at Lime Rock on a picture perfect autumn day in October. But we are already looking forward to 2023 when we will be offering more schools including a new venue for us. So you can start planning now, here's the schedule for next year:

Friday, April 28

Car Control Clinic on the

FCP Euro Proving Grounds at Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, CT

Saturday, April 29

Full Day HPDE Joint Venture with Patroon

Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, CT

Saturday, June 10

Car Control Clinic lead by the Boston Chapter

FCP Euro Proving Grounds at Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, CT

Friday, July 14

Half Day HPDE

Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, CT

Friday, September 29

Full Day HPDE for O'Fest

Thompson Speedway in Thompson, CT

Friday, October 20

Half Day HPDE

Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, CT

We look forward to seeing you at the track!

THIS SCHOOL IS OPEN ONLY TO BMW CCA MEMBERS

Not a member? Join Now

BMW Car Club
of America
Connecticut Valley

Stay updated on current events at our website! Click here.

SWEET RIDES AND SWEET TOOTHS

STORY BY JOHN BATE
PHOTOS BY JOHN BATE AND HEATHER AND DAVE MUCCIACCIARO

Even with chilly weather approaching, David Mucciacciaro invited us to munch on Popey's Ice Cream Shoppe's delights in Morris, CT along with ten fellow BMW / ice cream aficionados. Tasty discussions on both subjects ensued, living up to Popey's motto, "A nice ride to a nice place!" The final nice surprise, a late arrival, was to be found in the parking lot - a late production 2002, pilot of which hadn't seen our gathering in the patio hidden-by-a trees! Our new BMW blade flags will make us easier to find going forward!

On a Sunday forecast to be rainy AND chilly but turned out to be clear and warm (in the sun), our September 25th inaugural "BMW flagged" ice cream social took place at Sweet Claude's in Cheshire, CT.

Their motto is: "Glad that you're joining us," and that we were! Sweet Claude's is the inaugural tenant at Ball & Socket Arts in Cheshire which "will present curated art exhibits with a focus on contemporary art, foster arts-related community organizations and provide a venue for music, theater and the humanities." Sweet Claude's practices the art of frozen treats, offering 25 regular flavors, a "Banana Corner" with an ever-changing selection of flavors, plus "Flash Flavor" cream-based choices and 3 non-fat/sugar free, 3 sorbets/ ice, 3 non-dairy, and 4 yogurt options. There was something for everyone! All were wowed not only by Philip Johns' 2008 M5, but also by a rare sighting of Scott Simchock's M2CS! Perhaps the nicest random occurrence was that CVC member Ray Bergueron ran into an old friend, Regina Thornton, the Ball & Socket's Treasurer, who remembered him from his days at the bank across the street!

And a special shout out to Elle Salon, who graciously allowed us to gather in their parking lot!

Come join us next year for more "Friends and Flavors"! ■

CARS AND COFFEE

@Mauro Motors I BMW of North Haven

STORY BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS
PHOTOS BY DAVE ORTOLI

This well-attended event took place on Sunday October 9th in support of the North Haven Police K9-Unit A live DJ was on hand to amp up the energy accompanied with freshly brewed coffee from local sponsor Yellow King Brews. Mauro Motors had extended an invitation to our club to participate, joining an extensive showing from the broader car community. The pictures you see here from Dave Ortoli give a glimpse of what was on display there that day. Keep an eye on the CVC Events Calendar and watch your inbox for notices from us for future events like this. They are always a feast for the eyes and a way to meet fellow car enthusiasts – BMW and beyond! ■

DZ

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PHOTO BY DAVE MUCCIACCIARO