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 52 No 3
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INSIDE

FRIENDS IN NEED
BREW VISITS
HUMPA PICNIC
DIE ZEITUNG V1, NUMBER 1

ROUND, ROUND GET A ROUNDEL!

PHOTO BY: PRESTON RAVENELL

DZ

Photo By Bob Morin

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Time flies when you're having fun! We've all heard the expression. When it come to the BMW CCA, it really is true. If you have read the most recent issue of the BIMMER Life magazine, you'll have seen stories from all over the country about all the things our fellow members are involved in. If you are new to the Club and missed the mailed version of that edition, you can see it on- line using this link: ***BIMMERLife Fall/Winter 2024***.

Each month this newsletter is packed with events and experiences that have occurred and those soon to happen. Of course we all have multi-dimensional lives with careers, families, friends and pursuits besides the BMW Car Club. Additionally, for so many of us there are one or more opportunities throughout each year that the CT Valley offers - and many more non-club events we clue you in about - that provide fun experiences to enjoy our BMWs and just as much if not more importantly enjoy meeting other BMW CCA members. So many of the connections made between members become relationships that last a lifetime.

I had been a relatively casual member of CVC for many years before becoming more involved in Club activities. As time went by I found myself enjoying several club events and then even volunteering to help out in various ways. And look at me now! Not everyone wants to be president of course - not even me sometimes. But there sure is a lot of fun and fulfillment to be had!

So take a look at this DZ to see what we've been up to and what is on our calendar for the future. Show up. Volunteer to help out. Consider becoming a board member. Come and get engaged in YOUR club. Chances are you'll be glad you did!

A Special Note: In this DZ you will see a notice about a tragedy that has befallen two dear friends and founding members of our chapter. Please take a few minutes to learn about their current situation and if you are able, offer them some help to recover.

Thank You.

—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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Stephen Anderson
Andre Benoit
Anshupati Biswas
Thomas Broomer
Marianne Buchanan
Joshua Caraballo
Jeanette Cardentey
Ronald Chan
John Chang
Caroline Cohan
Cory Crochetiere
Matt Cummings
Sarah Cuyler
Tony D
Damon DelMonte
Eric Denlinger
Dan Diaz
Leonardo DiMara
Stephen Donahue
William Donofrio
Mike Freedman
Jeremy Freeman
Kate Freeman
Theo Freeman
Richard Frisk
Patricia Gaglione
George Grandolfi
Chris Grogan
Christopher Haar
Lewis Head
John Herens
Mark Heron
Robert Khalil
David Koranyi
JOhn Kougais
Jerry Labriola
Barbara Labriola
Paul Langonigro
Lawrence Losio
Patricio Mato
Shaun Matthews
Craig Megibow
Robin Morrell
Wendy Neil
Daniel O'Neill
James Portley
William Rozmajzl
Umberto Santaniello
Mark Schepis
Craig Spann
Andrew Tata
Paul Tiesler
Vincent Turk
Paul Vandal
Ben Wallace
Matthew Warner
Miles West
Michael Zolciak

CONNECTICUT VALLEY CHAPTER MEMBERS

YOU ARE A PART OF THE CLUB – MAKE THE CLUB A PART OF YOU

Whether you have recently joined the BMW CCA or have been a member of our club for many years or even decades, you are part of a diverse group of individuals who share at least one thing in common – a passion for cars and one brand in particular. Our club engages in all sorts of fun events and activities year-round. There are, of course, car-related activities like:

- **High performance driver training at race tracks and autocross circuits**
- **Road rallies**
- **Scenic drives just for fun**
- **Car shows**
- **Go-kart competitions**
- **Tech sessions at automotive businesses**
- **Our Street Survival program for teaching accident avoidance and car control to young drivers**

But importantly, there are many other occasions when we come together to simply socialize and enjoy the beautiful, bountiful region where we live. We'll meet for:

- **Picnics, Ice cream socials, Dinners**
- **Drive-in movie nights**
- **Visits to Museums and Marinas**
- **Vineyards, Breweries and Distilleries**
- **And many more...**

We find joy not only by doing the things we like to do, but joining with friends both old and new, to share those experiences. So, while you may enjoy 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 and satisfaction you can get for your membership in BMW CCA and the CT Valley Chapter is sharing experiences with fellow club members. You are already a part of this community of enthusiastic people, why not make the most of what it has to offer?

All of this happens because CVC members make it happen. So how about sharing your ideas for places to go, things to do?

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 our social media sites: Facebook, Instagram. Take photos at an event? Tag it @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 part of it!!!

We welcome hearing from you! Reach out at any time to any of our Chapter's Board Members via our **Contacts Page** to share your ideas and volunteer at any event.

And join us at events you find interesting by checking our ever-changing **Events Calendar** frequently! ■

2024 BOARD MEMBERS

President & Chapter Contact
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Curt Downing | **cdowning@ctvalley.org**
Foad Razavi | **frazavi@ctvalley.org**

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

REMINDER

CT VALLEY CHAPTER'S SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE

Our Connecticut Valley Chapter has an active presence in the Facebook / Instagram realm. Our ultimate goal is to utilize the FB / IG platforms as announcement boards and 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 – and experiences you'd like to share. 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 our Social Media Coordinator (SMC) via **e-mail**, **Facebook Messenger** or **Instagram Chat**. We wholeheartedly welcome your contributions so we may continue to grow our great online community and build a stronger networking base beyond our in-person events!

Our "handle" is: **@ctvalleybmwcca** Our SMCs' e-mail address is: **dmucciacciaro@ctvalley.org**

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True Friends, Truly in Need

From the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Valley Chapter of BMW CCA

Hello Everyone,

We felt it necessary to share the heartbreaking situation that our friends, two of the founding members of our chapter – jerri and Willy Wiley, and their beloved dog Suka - are facing after a devastating flood caused severe damage to their forever home on the 18th of August.

Since that life-changing day, jerri and Willy have been struggling to recover from the storm that produced an unprecedented torrent of flood waters wreaking havoc on their house and property. Muddy water flowed through the first floor of their home and damaged or destroyed some out buildings. As it did for portions of nearby Rt. 34, the flood washed away a large section of their driveway, preventing access to their property for some time. Most of their losses are uninsured. Some of their BMW CCA friends and fellow volunteer firefighters have provided hands-on help in the recovery effort but so much more needs to be done by professional services to make their home habitable again.

To help jerri and Willy get back into their home, a GoFundMe site has been established. Every donation, no matter the size, will make a positive impact on their recovery, helping them preserve their cherished memories and rebuild their lives in the home they have shared their entire married life together.

If you're able, please consider clicking the link below to read their story, donate and/or share with others who might help —

Thank You so much for your compassion, kindness and generosity!

Please consider helping this couple who help others - first responders, animal rescue, BMW Club and more!

BMW CCA FOUNDATION NEWS

BY BOB MORIN

If you are a fan of the original Mini, or even the BMW-owned MINI, then this year's Ultimate Driving Museum exhibit, MINIS TO THE MAX: 65 Years of Spirited Adventures is a must see. But, for some a trip to Greer, SC may not be in the cards. If that's you, you can get a glimpse of what is on display by visiting the online gallery page on the Museum's website:

Mini Gallery

Clicking on any of the 27 individual cars on that page you can learn a bit more about them. Additionally, there is a brief 4:08 narrated video tour available here:

Mini's to the Max Video

And since you're already checking things on the museum website, take a minute to check out his page:

Awards

We might not be the largest car museum in the U.S., but we definitely punch above our weight. NAAM (National Association of Automobile Museums) has given us 18 NAAMY Awards and 18 NAAM Awards of Excellence Certificates since 2015, for our exhibits, our educational programs, our events and public promotions, our newsletter, our books and exhibit catalogs, our collateral materials, film and video, social media, and online communications. And, just a few weeks ago, the Ultimate Driving Museum was picked for a Best of South Carolina Award in the Museum category.

2024 Best of South Carolina

As BMW CCA members, I think that we can all be proud of our little museum in South Carolina.

BMW CCA CVC HPDE – SRO

BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS
PHOTOS BY SPENCER BRISCOE AND RAI BLANCHETTE

Bavarian Motor Works Car Club of America Connecticut Valley Chapter
High Performance Driving Education
Standing Room Only

Lots of acronyms define this event and so did lots of enthusiastic students, instructor/coaches, volunteers, delighted spectators and sunshine! For some time now the HPDE universe has been expanding with an ever-growing number of groups offering programs to people who want to learn how to safely and smartly explore their cars' and their own capabilities. We seem to have reached a point where the supply of available HPDE seats exceeds the number of participants willing to pony up the money to saddle up and drive. It is a competitive marketplace, so prospective participants have a lot of choices. As a result, over the last few years, CVC has struggled to fill available slots for our schools which meant it was becoming financially difficult to maintain our HPDE program. But, like the weather at our most recent school on September 14th, things are looking sunnier.

Beginning at this school, new HPDE registrar and marketing expert, Dan Polagruto and experienced HPDE junkie but new to us coordinator, Al Harper, joined forces with veteran CVC Chief Instructor, Michael Menatian to re-energize our HPDE program. With help from several members of the CVC board of directors, communications and advertising were increased to reach out to prospective participants, incentives were offered to new members joining our program for the first time, a focused recruitment effort was made to enroll new CVC members as HPDE participants, run groups were adjusted to best fit the mix of students and adjustments made for handling on-track traffic to avoid "training" to create a better flow for all participants. The net result of all of this was we enrolled a full capacity set of students who each received fully two-hours of track time over four sessions and were guided by capable and experienced coaches as needed. Once people understood the value we offer in terms of the quality of the coaching available, the strong safety record we strive to maintain, our level of organization and our post-event hospitality, the response was strong and we even had a waiting list of people wanting to enroll. Were there a few hiccups that occurred throughout the day? Sure, there inevitably are. But we worked through them and are taking actions to do better going forward.

And speaking of going forward, we are striving to return to a three event HPDE season in 2025 – Spring, Summer and Fall schools – pending our ability to negotiate agreeable dates at reasonable rates at Lime Rock and perhaps a return to Palmer Motorsports Park as there has been continuous improve made at that facility over the years since we were last there as a Club. Of all the enthusiasts that make up our Club and Chapter, some of the most enthusiastic are those of us who engage in the HPDE program – students, instructors and volunteers alike. And judging by the large number of friends and family who joined us as spectators at the most recent school – some of whom even took the opportunity to ride along with instructors for some hot laps - we are looking forward to maintaining the excellent value proposition we offer and thus keeping the CVC HPDE program going strong in the years to come. SRO – Standing Room Only is a good problem to have! ■

BIMMERS & BREWS

From Setbacks to Success

(Pouring Precipitation Precedes Pizza Party. Patrons Pleased)

STORY AND PHOTO BY BOB MORIN

The forecast for the whole week leading up to and including Sunday, August 4th (the day of our event), was loaded with rain and thunderstorm warnings. The morning of the event, Sheila looked up South Deerfield, MA on our weather app and saw the four-letter word that any car enthusiast hates to see: HAIL, possible "dime-sized" hail. Oh swell!

We had advertised 12:30 to 3:30, so Sheila and I wanted to be sure to arrive first, as we hoped to be able to pick out the CVC folks from among the MANY other patrons that day. As we got within about five minutes of our destination it began to rain, but not hard. We had never been to any Tree House Brewing Company locations ourselves, but heard many stories of how popular they were. I have to admit, we were still totally unprepared for what we saw. Approaching from the south, you can't help but notice the huge outside area, including a full concert stage with seating for hundreds, plus an outdoor beer garden with strings of twinkle lights and canopies overhead. Soon you realize the enormity of the building and the entire facility. Approaching the entrance, we realized literally every car coming from the opposite direction is turning left into the parking lot, as are the cars on the road ahead, coming from the south.

Tree House opens at 12:00 on Sundays. We arrive at about 12:10 but the parking lot is already about 80% full. There was a parade of arriving guests heading towards the entrance and once inside we found ourselves in sort of a store/gift shop area. We take advantage of a small seating area, thinking other Club members might notice us and we could form a group before going in to get tables. It started to rain harder just before the first two members arrived, but then it started to pour as though you were standing under Niagara Falls, just before Roger & Jackie Chartier arrived. We could see their car from our seating spot, but there was no way they were leaving the safety of their car to walk through that deluge – not to mention the lightning. Other patrons were arriving, looking like they had just been swimming with their clothes on. It finally let up just enough that Roger & Jackie decided to give it a go.

At that point we only numbered six but decided it was almost 1:00 and perhaps no one else was coming so we walked towards the tasting room. Remember, the place is huge so it's a few minutes just to get to the tasting room, which is downstairs. Sheila had scoped out that there was an elevator in case anyone had a problem with stairs, EXCEPT that as we arrived there was an employee just finishing roping off the area and placing a sign saying that the elevator was closed because of flooding at the lower level. Okaaayyy then! Fortunately, there was a good-sized room on the upper floor that guests were being herded to, so we grabbed a long table there.

The Tree House website stated that you could bring in your own food, but it also showed that they had pizza made on the premises that looked pretty good, so everyone in our group, which by now had grown to 14, had planned to just go with the pizza. Several of us headed downstairs to order beers and some pizza. Weeelll, that was until we got downstairs and saw the sign stating the kitchen had now flooded too, and they were no longer taking pizza orders. That was a real shame as we could see how many people were already enjoying pizza from among those very early arrivals. After about an hour of some great conversation and camaraderie, folks were starting to get hungry. We reasoned, as long as Treehouse allowed outside food, we'd find some. Gualter Pereira and Brian Candido started Googling and located a nearby pizza place where we ordered two party-sized pizzas. Then they, along with Vic Waryas, braved the elements to fetch the pizza and deliver it to the hungry group thus saving the day!

We were a convivial group, including newcomers Ruben and Sandy Roberts, who were attending their first ever CVC event. Everyone had a fun visit. The beer was great, even if trying to decide from the extensive list of offerings was almost overwhelming! All and all, in spite of a few – okay several – setbacks early in the day, we all left the event happy. ■

The Patroon Chapter of BMW CCA presents the

2024 Vintage at Saratoga

Sponsored by: Highline Motorsports

Organized by the Patroon Chapter of BMW CCA, the 12th Annual Vintage at Saratoga will once again be held on the grounds of the Saratoga Automobile Museum. Vintage at Saratoga is open to all BMWs built in or before 1999 and also invites all E 36 generation cars to join.

The weekend begins with a dinner in downtown Saratoga, New York on Friday night with the lawn show on Saturday. We will also plan drives on Friday and Sunday. Saturday's activities will once again include a silent auction to benefit the BMW Foundation's Street Survival program and its work to improve the skills of young drivers.

Register Now!

October 11,12,13 2024

All BMWs 1999 and earlier including all E36s

At the Saratoga Auto Museum - Saratoga Springs, NY

More info at vintageatsaratoga.com

THE 51ST ANNUAL JOHN BISSET MEMORIAL HUMPA PICNIC – EXPLAINED

BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS
PHOTOS BY PRESTON RAVENELL

The 8th of September was a perfect day for weather and a lovely day for the 51st annual Humpa Picnic held again at the pavilion at JB Williams Park in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Nearly 70 folks came together to enjoy the 'wurst' variety of meat products and share delicious snacks, sides and desserts. This is a well-attended event because it has such an easy-going, relaxed vibe where old friends come to catch up year after year, and many new CVC members make it their first club outing. It's a perfect place to mix and mingle, sip a beer and admire the diverse collection of cars

that transported them there on their Sunday drive, this year ranging from a lovely red round-taillight 2002 to the current M2 – a revolutionary evolution!

In case you didn't already know, the Humpa is recognized as the longest continually running annual event in all of BMW CCA. It began its German-themed life just after the Connecticut Valley Chapter was founded as a break-away group from the Boston Chapter by a dozen people who had decided a more locally-focused chapter could better attract and serve people living a respectable distance from Beantown. One of those founding members, Hal Mandly, was in attendance – as he often is – accompanied by his wife, Rose. The first Humpa picnic took place in Hal and Rose's backyard in Granby.

People still ask, "What is the meaning of "Humpa"? Thankfully, Hal was the perfect person to fill us in. First, keep in mind, In German, Humpa is pronounced Oompa. Hal explains, "The Humpa Humpa Te Ta Re (October Fest) picnic we started 50 years ago was inspired by my time in the military in Vilseck, Germany. Specifically 'Humpa, Humpa , Humpa Te Ta Re...Te Ta Re...Te Ta Re' is the beginning refrain of a famous German beer drinking song. We recently got back from a two week visit to old friends in Germany which cemented in my mind the notion that Germans don't need much encouragement to get together sing and drink beer... and not just in October!" So there you have it, from the founder of this excellent event. The current full name of the event is the John Bisset Memorial Humpa Picnic, named in honor of our past president and in whose name a $367 donation was contributed by picnickers to the Lewy Body Dementia Association. Thanks to all for your generosity.

We are also grateful to Tony's Import Auto Services for sponsoring the beer once again at this year's event. Also, as is our custom, a door prize drawing was held with items supplied by CVC and our friends at BMW of North Haven.

Humpa, Humpa , Humpa Te Ta Re...Te Ta Re...Te Ta Re!!! ■

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

CAFFEINE AND CARBURETORS

Oh yeah, It's ON again! Well as long as it doesn't rain heavily for days on end as it did last year causing a postponement. And once again there will be a BMW Corral set aside for our favorite marque. Though not a BMW CCA event, as is often said, "Variety is the spice of life." And what variety you will encounter at this show!

Come early, there will be so much to see!

Follow instructions below for further details and to register in advance for the event.

Registration for Waveny Park on October 20th is live and can be accessed **here**.

All exhibitor vehicles MUST register in advance for entry to the park. This year, vehicle registration includes a $20 charitable donation to the **Waveny Park Conservancy**. Learn more about their great work below!

Please note the following:

- **Vehicles registered for the event are encouraged to arrive by 7:00 am and are required to stay for the duration of the event, until 11:00 am**
- **In the event of cancellation due to weather, 75% of the registration cost will be refunded**
- **Only exhibitor vehicles are permitted to park inside Waveny Park for C&C**
- **Spectator parking is available in surrounding area lots; please access the Waveny Park Event Map for specific information on where to park**

For questions related to event details or logistics, please contact Claire at **claire@caffeineandcarburetors.com**.

For questions or issues regarding event registration, please contact Kim at **kherr@newcanaancf.org**.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing everyone on October 20th!

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

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

BIMMERS AND BREWS

and other things too

BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS
PHOTOS BY DAVE MUCCIACCIARO

There is no formal relationship between the Connecticut Valley Chapter of BMW CCA and the **Connecticut Valley Brewing Company**, despite the similar names. But on August 26th of this year, we established at least an informal one. CT Valley Brewing is a large and inviting facility located at 765 Sullivan Avenue (AKA Rt. 194) in South Windsor, CT. Their calendar is packed with all sorts of events like cars & coffee and concerts, plus more esoteric activities like yoga, candlemaking, pumpkin painting as well as the to be expected brewery tours. Themed Cruise Nights are a frequent and popular excuse to gather there and enjoy some of their locally produced suds, so our BMW CCA Chapter showed up on German car Cruise Night. The folks at CT Valley Brewing designated part of their parking lot for our Club – an area which quickly filled with BMWs and soon spilled over into the general population of every German marque there is (and a few non-Germanic interlopers as well).

The vibe was a very convivial mix and mingle, lubricated by some delicious brews enjoyed with food from their adjacent restaurant, the Birdhouse Coffee Bar and Kitchen. Lots of CVC members were on hand, some attending their first meet-up with us, and we even recruited some new members too. This is the kind of place to which we will happily return, and well worth stopping by anytime for a bite and a brew or two. Chances are you'll see something interesting in the parking lot and who knows, perhaps you'll learn how to make a candle. ■

STREET SURVIVAL HIGHER EDUCATION FOR NEW DRIVERS

An Eye-opening Experience from a Student's Point of View

BY DAVID TROEGER
PHOTOS BY FRED ORTOLI

Although I'm newer to driving, I've always been a motorsport enthusiast, so you can probably imagine my excitement when asked if I wanted to take my car to the Consumer Reports test track to tackle a course and hit the skid pad. Tire Rack Street Survival was established for new drivers, such as myself, to learn and practice what they don't teach you in Drivers Ed., namely accident avoidance and car control.

I arrived with my parents, around 9 in the morning, parked my car in the inspection line and headed into the Consumer Reports garage. After checking in, we inspected my car to make sure it was safe for the exercises to come. Tire pressures were checked and any loose items in the interior were removed. I grabbed a bagel and socialized for a little while, meeting guys from all over the Northeast, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and even a few fellow New Yorkers. After a while, I was reacquainted with my instructor (and editor), BMW CCA Connecticut Valley Chapter President Paul Frickenhaus. We chatted a while about the race season, cars, insurance and the like before the program kicked off.

After a brief introduction and discussion of the objectives of the program, we split up into two groups to alternate between the classroom and the track. My group started off in the classroom, where we discussed the basic principles of our first section of training and how it would be implemented into daily driving. After some time, the groups switched, meaning my group headed out to the track. Now to the fun part where the real learning takes place.

Paul and I climbed into my car, a 2014 Kia Sportage, and got into line on the access road to the track. Around the corner, we saw our first course: a set of three challenges marked out with orange cones to help us get acquainted with the limits of the car, mirrored to the left and right. The first of the tests was a bit hard to wrap my head around: stomp on the gas, accelerate to about 60 then hit the brakes as hard as I could at a spot marked by at a set of very specifically placed cones and bring the car to a full stop. My first couple runs, I didn't quite get to 60, either not accelerating heavily enough or braking too early. Eventually, though, I was able to get it, and my last few runs went smoothly. Each time the car's ABS (anti-lock braking system) engaged - the first time I had ever experienced that. The next challenge was a little more difficult. Accelerate to 45, then brake hard while turning to the left or right, stopping in a small area not much larger than the car marked by some cones. It was meant to simulate avoiding an obstruction on the road, braking quickly and heavily before swerving and stopping. Finally, a slalom; quick, back-and-forth turns to help you get a feel for how the car responds to steering while avoiding running over obstacles – more cones in this case.

The groups then flipped again, each going through both sections a second time before lunch. I continued improving and felt like I had a pretty good feel for the car by the break.

After some pizza with my parents and a couple of group photos, we split off again, beginning with a classroom session before we went back out to the track for the fun part: the skid pad.

We were told that we would be going in circles on a wet skid pad. When we pulled out, we discovered this was indeed the case, with sprinklers and fountains dousing the ground in a surprising amount of standing water, to the disappointment of the guy in the convertible. We put to use what we had learned in the classroom; that while circling tightly at a fixed angle, accelerating pushed you farther out while easing off the throttle pulls you closer in. it dramatically proved how reduced speeds result in much better ability to control the car in turns. After around a dozen circles, we went off to the second part of the course: accident avoidance - an upgraded version of the previous course's acceleration into braking turn, this time your instructor doesn't tell you which way you'll need to turn until the last split second. Done correctly, this requires an immediate swerve either left or right and coming to an abrupt stop without hitting any of the cones marking the lanes. Whew! This one, as you can imagine, had a bit of a learning curve too. Finally, it was back to the slalom, although this time the cones were moved closer together and staggered to the left or right making the turning motions more varied. The changes made it more difficult but also more fun, forcing you to get out of your rhythm a bit to make some of the fluctuating turns.

Following the track section, my group went to a mind opening demonstration of how little you can see from the inside of an 18 wheeler with a standard rearview mirror package, followed up by a ride-on crash simulator and an exercise where we donned Blood Alcohol Content goggles that distort vision as the State Police performed a sobriety test on us. We all failed!

There was even an airbag demonstration where one was triggered as we stood back at a safe distance. Sounding like a gunshot, the bag inflated and deflated in a fraction of a second producing a cloud of powder. Most dramatic!

Finally, we got ready to hop in and drive for the 4th and final time. The instructors told us that our families could hop in for our final track session, so my mom and dad got into the backseat and we rolled out. There may not have been a minute my dad took his hand off the pull handle, but they both enjoyed it nonetheless.

Then, after all the tire screeching and brake smell subsided, we met one last time in the main building. After some final words to sum up the day the certificates were awarded. We talked for a while among ourselves and with some of the program directors before heading out and back home to New York.

The Street Survival program absolutely blew away my expectations. The classroom learning was helpful and enlightening to quite a few road issues I had previously ignored, and the track section was one of the most fun things I've done in a while. To any new drivers out there looking to improve their skills on the road, I would highly recommend. You'll love it and it may help you avoid a real-world crash!

A footnote from the organizers of the CVC's Street Survival program:

Do you have a teenage driver? Would you like them to become a safer, more confident, more aware driver? If so, sign them up for our Tire Rack Street Survival school, where they will learn how to handle emergency situations that may arise in everyday driving. They will do this with an experienced coach next to them all day, and will learn how their vehicle reacts in the situations. The class runs from 8:30 am to about 4:30 pm, and is held at the Consumer Reports Auto Test Facility in Colchester, CT. The cost is $125 per student. More information can be found at www.streetsurvival.org Students do not have to be BMW CCA members (nor do the parents), and all vehicles are welcome! Classes are filled for the 2024 season, but we will be conducting two in 2025, one each in the Spring and Fall.

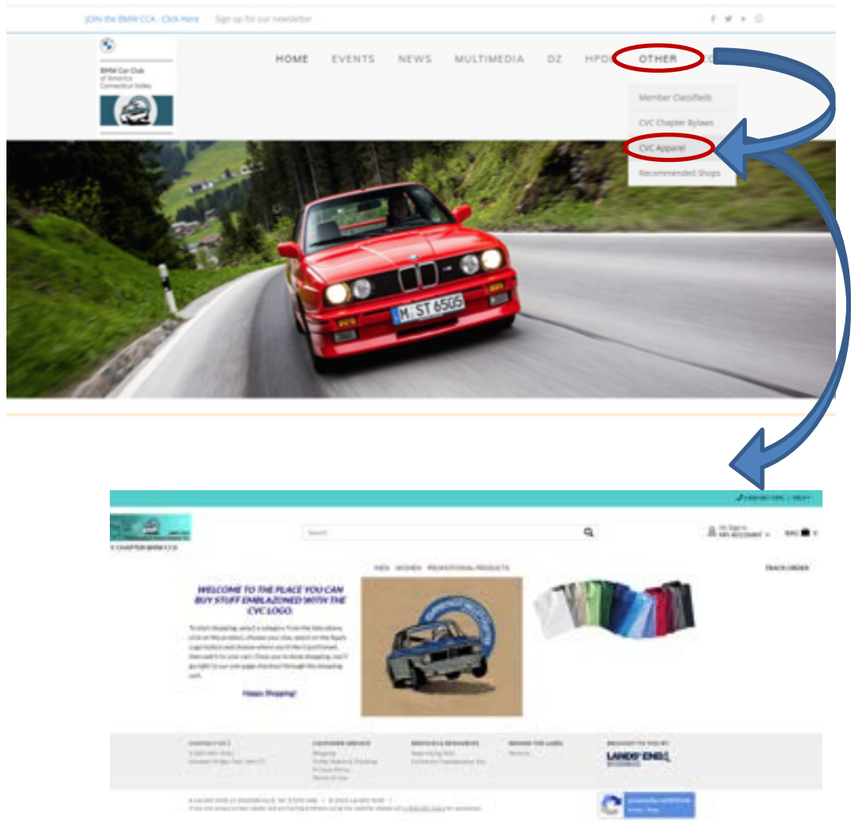
DID YOU KNOW?

Have you seen some of your fellow Bimmerheads wearing some nifty logo wear and wondering where they got it, you are about to find out.

If you are looking for some attire or other items carrying the logo of your favorite car club, the Connecticut Valley Chapter of BMW CCA, all you need to do is click on the OTHER tab on the CVC home page and select CVC Apparel. You will be instantly transported to the Lands' End Business website. Once there, you'll find lots of clothing, accessories and all sorts of products which can be emblazoned with the original CVC logo. Perfect to have when hanging out with all your BMW CCA friends and sure to make non-members envious!

If you want to start shopping right away, here's a handy link:

Shop!



DIE ZEITUNG VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

Die Zeitung

NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY CHAPTER, BMWCCA

VOL.I - No.1

CONGRATULATIONS...TO US!

As of this writing we are an officially chartered chapter of BMWCCA. We will be known as The Connecticut Valley Chapter. This will come as somewhat of a surprise to those people who attended the last meeting. Much discussion ensued and a belabored decision was made to call the chapter the Pioneer Valley Chapter.

However, when I asked a couple of dozen people where the Pioneer Valley was and they replied with such gems as Oregon, North Dakota, and West Virginia, the pro-tem officers and the national organization all agreed to go ahead with our second choice. I sincerely hope this won't offend too many of you. --- Hal Mandly

WE NEED YOU !!

This is our first edition of our very own rag. It exists for you, the member of BMWCCA, the driver and owner of a BMW automobile. Its existence also depends on YOU. We need inputs, no matter how insignificant you may think they are. Don't keep your feelings and tidbits all pent up inside you. Share them with the rest of the gang. The most effective way is through the newsletter.

Do you know of something that we don't?? If so, tell us about it!

(In consideration to the poor slob who has to type this newsletter and paste it together, please have your tidbits, articles, what-have-you typed, if possible; or very legible. Decyphering your squiggles is no fun, besides I don't want to hurt the impact of what you have to share with us. Thanks.)

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Friday, June 8, 1973 at 8:00pm.
Our next meeting, and hopefully last business session. Election of permanent officers, wrap-up of unfinished business. We will meet in the Community Room of the Great Meadow Towers at 1800 Silas Deane Hwy, in Rocky Hill, Conn. Take Exit 24 on I-91, head south for 300 yds. look for BMWCCA signs on left.

Wednesday, June 27, 1973 at 7:30pm.
Hal Mandly is planning a comprehensive classroom session on autocrossing. The class will be held in the Community Room of the Great Meadow Towers.

You will learn everything you've always wanted to know about autocrossing but felt like a dummy asking. Autocross dates and places will be available at the class so that you can try out your new-found skills. Anyone can do it, and BMWs are certainly very competitive. Capri drivers shudder when the BMWs show up at an event.

C L A S S I F I E D S

Sell-1968 BMW 4-dr. 2000 TILUX. 4-sp. Abarth, Ziebart, 185x13 Michelins, new paint, recent engine and transmission work. Very sharp. If the '8 grand' for a Bavaria is too much, try this. Al Moulton 50 Dwight Road Spfld, Mass. 01108 413-734-4529.

OUR ADDRESS

It is now official, we have a chapter address for mailing. It is as follows:
BMWCCA Connecticut Valley Chapter
Box 432
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

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