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 54 No 3
Q3 | 2026

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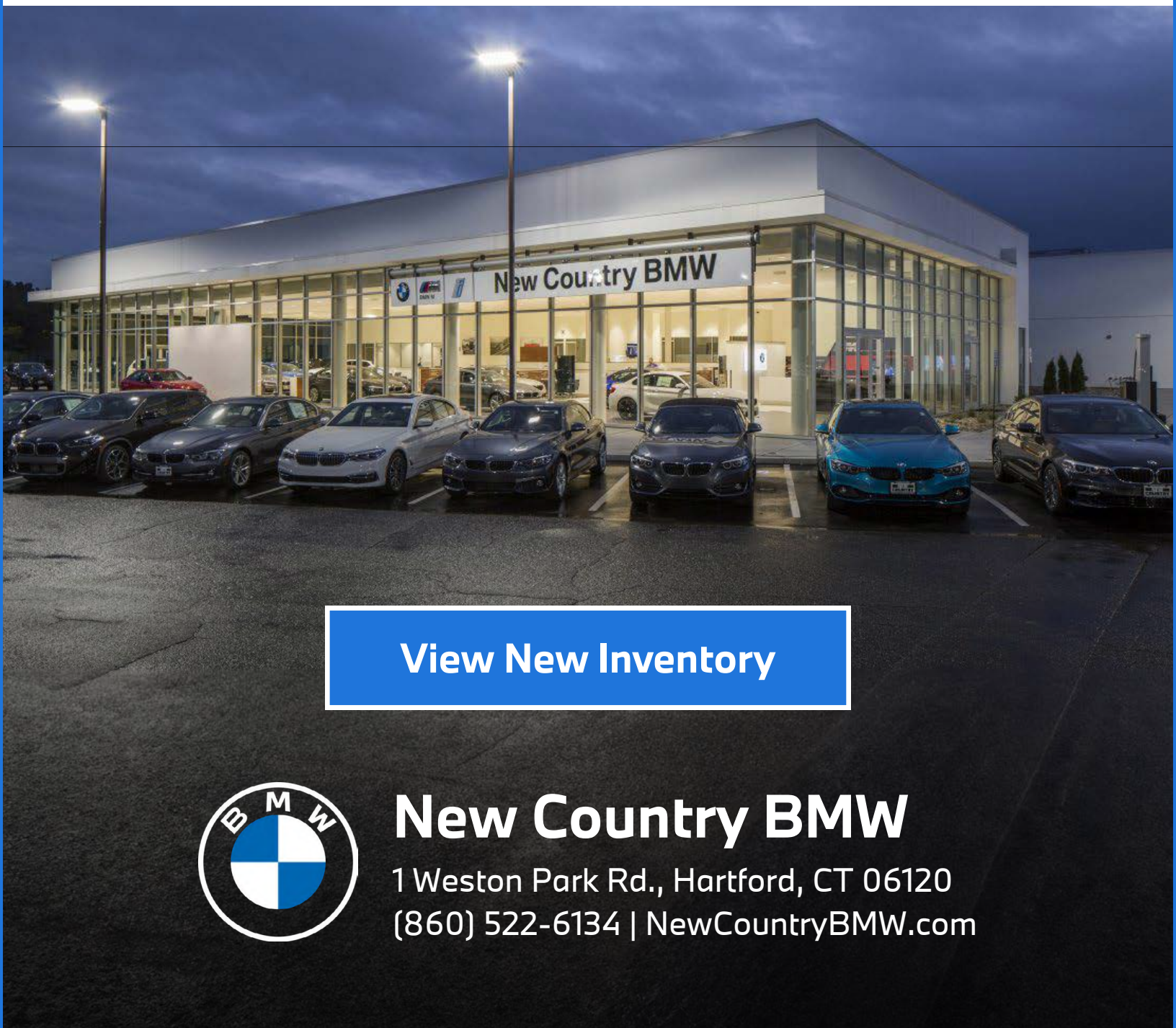


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# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This edition is themed *At the Center of the Action* for a reason. As a club, we have been especially active this year. Our chapter produced a variety of events and participated in many more that were offered by other venues and organizations. We've had social events like Cars & Coffee, a brunch, scenic tours, winery and brewery visits, and on-track events both moving and at car shows as you can see on the cover. So many opportunities to see places and meet people, both new and familiar, and have fun together! Now nearly 2,100 members strong and growing, we are delighted to see new faces showing up to join folks who have been active club participants for many years, some for many decades. I am celebrating my 40th year of BMW CCA membership this year.

On the subject of People and Places, with this edition of DZ we are staring a new feature that focuses precisely on that. We'd love to hear from any and all of you who know someone, some place or both that you find interesting and feel other CVC members would enjoy as well. Drop a note to me at **pfrickenhaus@ctvalley.org** and we'll share it with the rest of the chapter.

Along with our growing roster of members, there is a commensurate wealth of talent, skills and energy amongst us. We heartily invite you to consider contributing a bit of what you have to offer to our club. Social media expertise, membership outreach, organizational skills, photography, writing – you name it we would love it if you could come join us as a volunteer, consultant, guide or even a member of the operating board. Drop us a line and let's get started!

In the meantime, stay tuned to the Chapter calendar for more fun places to go and people to meet!

No need to tell you, our summer weather has been up and down – either the sun was up and out, or the rain was pouring down. It just seemed as though there was little middle ground. Through it all, we carried on and will continue to do so with your enthusiastic interest and perhaps a bit of help along the way.

*—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 and BimmerLife, 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

The 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

Francis Aitken
Matt Austin
Steven Austin
Lynn Austin
William Austin
Mark Baker
Stephen Barrow
Dana Beaupre
Sam Belsito
Stanley Bernold
Robert Bishop
Chris Blackstock
Grady Bolden
Robert Bonafide
Chris Bonn
Don Braman
Mary Broas
Gail Bushell
Cynthia Cardona Ramirez
Donna Cardonita
Anthony Carlo

Aidan Casey
Antonio Caxide
Alison Caxide
Tom Ceconi
Christopher Cerrito
Robert Chiavon
Dilipkumar Chiprakrishnan
Nicholas Christofer
Brad Cohen
Shiela Companie
Liza Cook
Manuel Correa
John Cosgrove
Harlie Cox
Sean Curran
Jeremy Davis
Sam Davis
Thomas Davis
Michael Davis
Nick Davis
Deborah Deliyannides

Anthony Delucco
Joe DeMartino
Richard Dennis
Joseph Derr
Stephanie Derr
Jennifer Diamond
Maria Diaz
Lori DiBartholomeo
Joseph Dilling
Gregory Dolan
Steven Doyle
Mark Doyle
Susan Drozdenko
Paul Drozdenko
Michael Engstrom
Cheryl Everest
Rayna Fedorczyk
William Flower
William Gambrill
David Garcia
Sean Griffin

Ryan Guevara
Taylor Guidon
Charles Hammond
John Hansell
Timothy Hawkes
John Hayden
Michelle Helitzer
Walter Herrmann
Susan Hoffnagle
Erik Holmberg
George Hwang
Brooke Jackson
Reed Jarvis
Jackson Johnson
Balazs Keskeny
Earl Kideckel
Robert Koch
Krzysztof Kuzara
Daniel Kwarteng
John LaCerva
Loren Laine

***Welcome to each of you new members who have joined the Connecticut Valley Chapter of BMW CCA! We are so glad you have chosen to become part of our community and look forward to seeing you in person at any of the dozens of events and activities we participate in throughout the year. Your family and friends are welcome to join us too! Be sure to check the listings in our Events Calendar frequently to find the ones that get your motor running!***

Jashar Lajqi
Alexander Leach
James Liu
Louis Lostumbo
Carol Lowe
Michael Lukaszewicz
B MacDonlad
Damiano Mazzone
Diane Mazzone
Thatcher Meili
Michael Mignano
Terence Mollica
John Montrone
Jeffrey Morgan
Chase Muller
Richard Nardone
Paul Neves
Ryan Nowosielski

David Owens
Moon Bina Park
Thomas Pastor
Caroline Pfrommer
Todd Pinter
Wanda Popescu
Diego Puleo
Damon Querim
Edward Rae
Edward Raleigh
David Renken
Laura Ricci
Christopher Riker
Gloria Rodhouse
Rajin Roophnath
Daniel Roy
Irma Roy
Angelo Roy

Glenn Ruhl
Timothy Ryan
Christopher Salvato
Debbie Savvaides
John Senior
John Shafer
Julien Shafer
Rohit Sharma
Andrew Shufelt
Tristram Siek
Gregory Simpson
Michael Skibo
Ava Skibo
Ileana Smotesco
Jeffry Smrek
Brian Solomon
Ilya Stephano
Mary Ann Steuernagel

Euton Stewart
Palmer Stolly
Erin Sullivan
Arundathi Tayjasanant
Philip Turano
Britton Van Dalen
Daniel Van Epps
Nitin Kumar Vohra
Benjamin Welch
Logan Wheeler
Ethan Wilburn
Kimberley Wilson
Kenneth Witkin
Thomas Witschi
Judie Yu
Derek Yuen
Taylor Yurgalevicz
Jesse Zimmerman

# 2026 BOARD MEMBERS

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Dan Polagruto | **dpolagruto@ctvalley.org**

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**Socia Media Coordinator**
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**Vice President, North Atlantic Zone**
Larry Engel | **northatlanticcrvp@bmwcca.org** | **908-230-9818**

# 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: **socialmedia@ctvalley.org**

***Beginning with this edition of Die Zeitung, is this new section of our newsletter where we invite any and all of our members to introduce the rest of us to a Person or Place you find interesting, amusing, inspiring, helpful or in some way brings you joy. The subject need not be automotive in nature, but simply someone or someplace you find notable and you feel others might appreciate as well. No long essays needed. Just a brief introduction and any photos or links you care to share.***
***Please send your submissions to PFrickenhaus@CTValley.org and we'll make sure to turn the rest of our members on to whomever or whatever turns you on. And thanks for sharing!***

# PEOPLE AND PLACES
## *Recommended by You*

**RevvedUp Designs** is the brainchild of Kevin Sweeney, a Connecticut-based artist who creates amazing artwork capturing the essence, emotion and speed of motorsports in a style that catapults any car off the page. His secret is a unique, mixed media digital process that he is continuously pushing to the limits to create dynamic artworks that transform any auto, from classics to the most sophisticated racing machines, into breathtaking portraits. As technology advances, Kevin stays on the cutting-edge of innovative tools as they emerge. Utilizing bold textured color, layered painting and cinematic lighting, each piece is truly an individual statement. You can feel the speed, spirit and motion which translates into emotion. Unique backgrounds and visual effects are personalized for each painting.

His love for automotive excitement came from growing up in a motorsport family. He nurtured his love for speed and automotive beauty at legendary tracks like Lime Rock Park, Watkin's Glen, Montreal and Mosport that still inspire his work today.

You may have seen his exhibits at major motorsport events and venues like the Lime Rock Historic Festival and several other racetracks and auto shows. His work is collected by racecar owners, drivers and auto aficionados from all over the world.

If you are looking for a dynamic addition to your home, office, bar or garage, Kevin has several finished works of art representing a cross section of automotive styles. Or, if you desire a personalized portrait of your beloved ride, Kevin can do custom work in sizes from 24 x 16 inches, up to 6 x 8 feet. Just reach out to him to share your thoughts.

For more information and to contact **Kevin**, and checkout his **website**.

# KARTING

***BMWs are not all we drive...***

*WORDS AND PHOTOS BY DAVE MUCCIACCIARO*

Few recreational activities provide the same combination of speed, concentration, and competition as go-karting. One of the biggest attractions of go-karting is its accessibility. You don't need years of racing experience to get behind the wheel. Most recreational tracks provide the kart and safety equipment, give drivers a short briefing and then allow them to get straight onto the track.

Go-karting is also a fantastic social activity. Friends, families, coworkers, and racing fans can compete against one another while enjoying an exciting experience. For many people, the friendly competition is just as enjoyable as the driving itself. That's what makes go-karting so appealing. Finding the right balance between speed, control, strategy, and precision is what karting is all about. That's why it is the starting point for so many racing drivers, amateur and professional alike.

For the second year, Housatonic Racing Development (HRD) has partnered with Lime Rock to offer their "Kart the Park" series up at the proving grounds on the historic property of Lime Rock Park. Based on the success of last year's introduction of the series, HRD has introduced 25% more available time slots to allow for more participation. I wouldn't be surprised if they offered even more for next year. The CVC will be watching the dates and times closely for next year to organize more driving with the club.

Keep an eye on your email for notices and our chapter calendar for notices of karting activities throughout the year. ■

# Did You Know?

*WORDS AND PHOTOS BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS*

**Many, many years ago Lime Rock Park launched a campaign to plant new trees on the large hillside that is prime viewing area for spectators of the Big Bend and Left-Hander turns of the track. The Park solicited donations from friends and families of Lime Rock. Our chapter of BMW CCA is a donor of one of those trees. It is the only Paper Birch on the hillside and has grown substantially over the years. It has twin trunks and is marked with a plaque denoting our club's donation. Enjoy its shade the next time you are there!**

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# 2026 HPDE SEASON WRAP-UP

*WORDS: PAUL FRICKENHAUS PHOTOS: STEVE KLUCIK, JAMIY BUREY, PAUL FRICKENHAUS*

Wow, what a season 2026 turned out to be! After our season opener on April 25, when partner chapters Patroon and New York joined us at Lime Rock Park, we went on to Palmer Motorsports Park on July 11 in partnership with the Boston chapter and then back to Lime Rock on August 29 where CVC partnered once again with the folks from Patroon. The BMW CCA HPDE program has had difficulties filling schools for several years, due in great part by the large number of other HPDE providers creating strong pressure to keep tuition prices low while competing for available dates at tracks – especially Lime Rock. I am delighted to report that enrollment at the two Lime Rock schools was at or near capacity and we did fairly well at Palmer too.

The BMW CCA HPDE program is generally regarded by most participants – students and instructors alike – as a safe and well organized operation. This year we offered improved classroom training led by experienced HPDE instructors Dave Gelardi (also our Chief Instructor), Christo Tinkoff, Mike Bonasera, Steve Dweck (also served as a CI), Ray Chung and Dave Woodward. The Boston crew provided the classroom training at Palmer where their "Independent Study Group" was also offered. At all events we tried to price the tuition competitively and even offered some discounts to those who registered early.

One additional factor that sets the CVC's HPDE program apart from the rest is the extraordinary support provided by HPDE Season Sponsor, **BMW of Ridgefield**. They not only provide vital monetary support for our HPDE program but just as importantly bring a service team to each event along with tools, parts and supplies, and (if all else fails) a transporter to bring a broken car to a service facility when more extensive work is called for. This team has saved the day for several participants throughout the past year. Our other HPDE sponsor, **Bimmerworld**, provides discounts on parts and supplies to all of our HPDE participants

in addition to providing direct financial support to CVC.

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to the many volunteers that help prepare for the events and keep the wheels turning throughout the season. And special recognition is due to Al Harper who took over the position of Driving Events Coordinator during the past two years as we transitioned into our partnership format with revamped instruction. Al will be handing over the DEC reins to Adriana Lee who looks forward to continuing to build on the growing success of our program.

Planning is already underway for the 2027 season which we enter with renewed energy and enthusiasm for our HPDE program. We plan to continue offering opportunities for chapter members to Ride Along with HPDE Instructors to feel what it's like to be on track at speed as well as giving folks a Taste of the Track by getting out there for a few reconnaissance laps in their own cars. Keep an eye on your inbox for notice of our next season! ■

## A Special Message Regarding Helmets for HPDE Participants

If you are in the process of purchasing a new Snell 2025 helmet take care ***not to buy an M2025***.

**They will not be accepted for HPDE use beginning in 2027.**

**Helmets rated for HPDE use must be rated to the following Snell or FIA standards:**

- Snell-Rated Helmets. Snell helmets must be rated to the current or prior Snell SA standard. Snell SA2020 and SA2025 are allowed beginning 1/1/2027

  SPECIAL NOTE: Snell Motorcycle (M) Helmets.

  "M"-rated helmets will no longer be allowed beyond 12/31/2026.

- 2.2.10.2 FIA-Rated Helmets. FIA standards are generally updated every 8 to 10 years.
- FIA 8860-2010 helmets are accepted until 12/31/2028
- FIA 8860-2018 and 8860-2018APB helmets currently do not have an expiration date.
- FIA 8859-2015 helmets currently do not have an expiration date.
- FIA 8859-2024 helmets currently do not have an expiration date.

# BONUS BENEFIT OF THE BMW CCA HPDE PROGRAM

*"A picture is worth a thousand words" – some are priceless*

**We were fortunate to once again have two excellent photographers on hand at our HPDE event in August, capturing shots of you in action on the track. Jamiy Burey and Steve Klucik make their photos available to you, documenting your action on track as well as capturing scenes in the paddock. These make excellent lasting mementos of your experience and would look great in your garage, on your office or den wall, or as illustrations for your essay on what you did on your summer vacation!**

**Here are links to each of their Galleries:**

**Jamiy Burey Photos - August 29, 2026 BMW CCA HPDE**

**Steve Klucik Photos - August 29, 2026 BMW CCA HPDE**

*—Enjoy*

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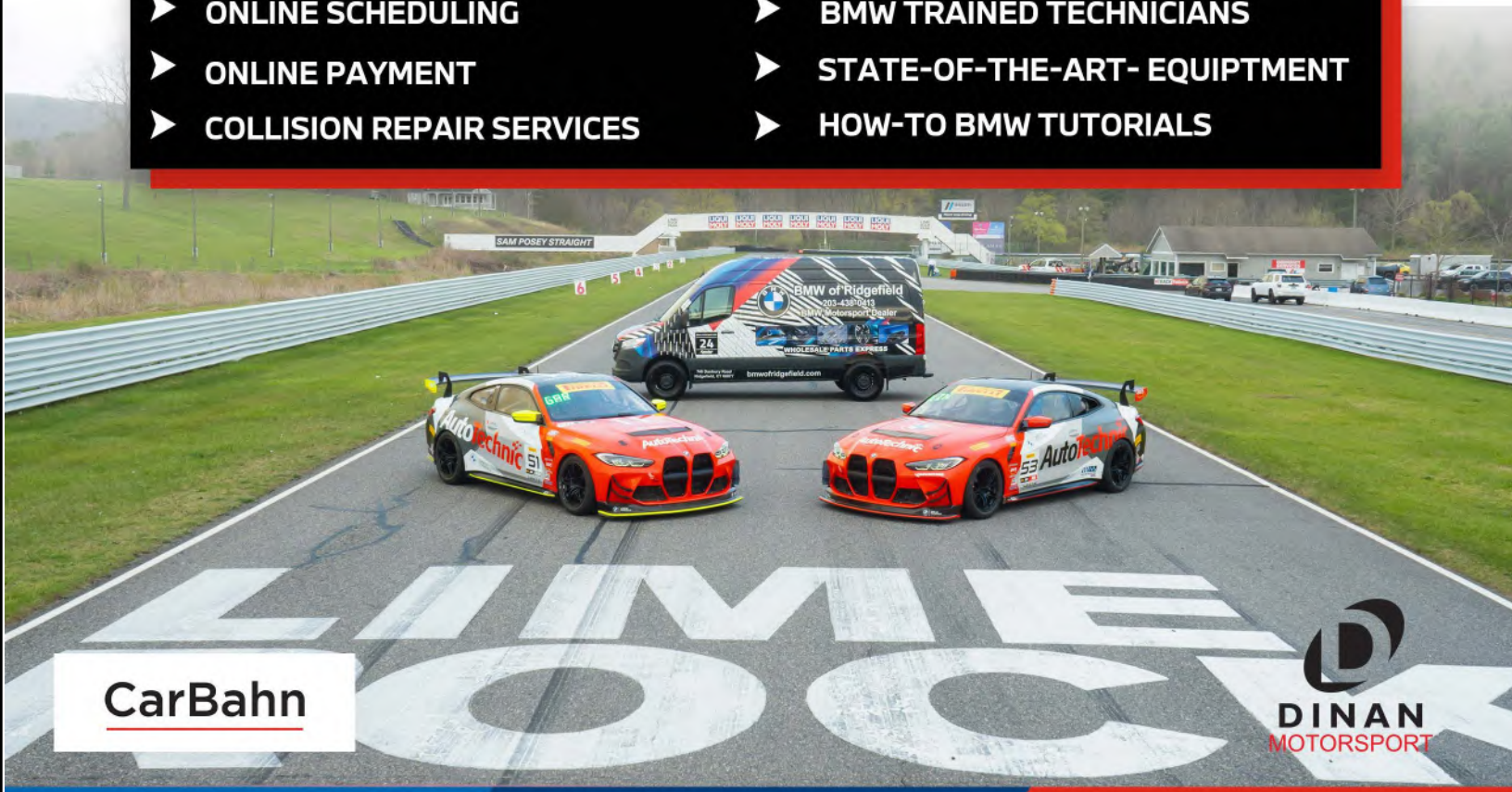


CarBahn

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Keeler

On Saturday, October 17th, we will be hosting a Scenic Fall Tour. The tour will begin in Winsted, CT and end in North Granby, CT with about 60 miles of amazingly beautiful scenery and wonderful driving roads in between.

The day will begin at 9:45 AM so that we can have time for people to arrive and then we will sign waivers, the guest book, have a brief driver's meeting and distribute route directions, and hopefully depart by 10:30 AM. The meeting point that morning will be the parking lot of the Stop & Shop at 200 New Hartford Road, (Rt. 44), Winsted, CT. The store will be open, there is a gas station on the property and a Shell Station 1/2 mile away. Once we leave to start the tour, there will be no opportunities for fuel or rest stops, so as Sheila noted, full gas tanks and empty bladders are recommended.

The tour will end at Lost Acres Vineyard, where you can enjoy some of their wines on offer, however no outside alcoholic beverages are allowed to be brought in. The winery does allow patrons to bring food with them, whether it's brought from home or selected from the deli department at Stop & Shop. Lost Acres does have a cheese platter available for purchase there.

The winery offers tastings, flights of five wines, or whole bottles. There is ample seating both inside and out, so the event is rain or shine. Additionally, if you are unable to make it for the tour (you don't know what you're missing!), but would like to join us just for the winery, we should arrive there at approximately 12:30 PM.

***October 17th, 2026***

# CVC FALL TOUR

**I will need the following RSVPs for the event by Thursday, October 15th:**

-I plan to attend the tour and the winery with the names and total number in your party

- I plan to attend the tour only with the names and total number in your party

- I plan to attend the winery only with names total number in your party

**This will allow us to plan for the number of route instructions to print and the number of guests to notify the winery.**

**What:** Fall Tour and Winery Visit

**When:** Saturday, October 17, 2026, Rain or Shine

**Where:** Stop & Shop (for the tour)

200 New Hartford Road, (Rt. 44), Winsted, CT.

**Time:** **9:45 AM**

(we will park in front of the Stop & Shop, but out towards the gas station)

**or:** **Lost Acres Vineyards** (for the winery only)

80 Lost Acres Road

North Granby, CT 06060

**Time:** **12:30 PM**

RSVP: by Thursday, October 15th to **Bob Morin** with one of three above

**Hope you can join us!**

Bob & Sheila Morin

# Tire Rack
# STREET SURVIVAL SCHOOL

*Registration is now open!*

The Tire Rack Street Survival School is a teen-safe driving program designed to go beyond driver's education and give teens the hands-on experience and tools to become safer, smarter drivers.

**Registration Fee:** **$175.00**

Students drive their own car with an instructor in a variety of controlled exercises to learn to deal with unexpected driving situations in a safe environment.

**SCAN TO REGISTER**

**Saturday, November 7, 2026**

**Consumer Reports Auto Test Facility**

**3 Hall Kilbourne Rd, Colchester, CT 06415**

**To register, go to:** www.streetsurvival.org

# Bring More Wine

*WORDS AND PHOTOS BY DAVE ORTOLI AND BOB MORIN*

## *The obvious answer to the question, "Why Wine on Wednesday?" is, Why Not!?*

Wednesday is traditionally known as "Hump Day" to working people, as in we made it past the halfway point of the workweek. So why not celebrate it with a little wine. Of course, for those of us lucky enough to be retired, it really doesn't matter what day it is!

CVC began doing wine socials a few years ago and decided that Wednesday was a good night to hold these events. We usually try to have a few during the summer season, spread around to different wineries in different areas of the state. They have proven to be popular events, with our members interested in visiting new wineries but also returning to some old favorite ones.

For 2026, the season kicked off as it has for the last few years with a visit to **Paradise Hills Vineyards** in Wallingford in early June.

*PARADISE HILLS VINEYARDS*

With the Tuscan style tasting room and patio, the grape vines growing only a few yards away from the seating area, and the quietness of the area, it is easy to imagine yourself sitting in the countryside of Tuscany enjoying a bottle of locally made wine. Twelve CVC members arrived in late afternoon to sip some wine, nibble on goodies that they had brought and have conversations on both car-related and non-automotive topics. The cars were as varied as the people, ranging from Malachi's 1985 735i to the Morins' 2024 230i. As seems to happen at this event, we ended up being the last people to leave before the winery closed for the night.

For July, we moved to **Worthington Vineyards & Winery** in Somers.

The setting here is completely different, but spectacular in its own way. The tasting room overlooks the beautifully manicured ponds, lawns, and gardens, which have a variety of seating spots scattered throughout. Although the threat of bad weather kept attendance very low, the sun came out as we arrived and another night of enjoyable conversation resulted along with a sampling of different wines of course.

*WORTHINGTON VINEYARDS AND WINERY*

## *Looking Forward...*

At this writing, there are no more wine socials scheduled, but our Scenic Fall Tour set for October 17th will conclude at **Lost Acres Vineyard** in North Granby, CT, a favored spot for our chapter.

*LOST ACRES VINEYARD*

***Most all wineries have cozy closed-in areas, so these happenings can continue during the cooler months.***

***If you know of a good or interesting winery or vineyard, let one of the CVC board members know. We'll be happy to help organize an event at a place of your choosing.***

# ICE CREAM SOCIALS

## *Cool Treats, Hot Cars, Warm Conversation*

*WORDS BY DAVE MUCCIACCIARO; PHOTOS BY HEATHER MUCCIACCIARO*

Throughout the summer of 2026, a series of ice cream socials brought together BMW enthusiasts for evenings of cool treats, great cars, and even better conversation. The events gave BMW owners and fans relaxed places to show off their vehicles, check out different models, and connect with others who share their enthusiasm for cars. From classic BMWs to newer models, there was always something interesting in the parking lot and plenty to talk about over a scoop of ice cream.

More than just a casual car meet, the ice cream socials became a place for enthusiasts to exchange stories, discuss modifications, compare models, and share their knowledge and appreciation of BMWs. Whether someone arrived with a carefully maintained classic, a customized daily driver, or simply an interest in cars, everyone was welcome to join the conversation. The summer series proved that a shared passion for BMWs, good conversation, and a little ice cream makes for an enjoyable summer evening.

These ice cream socials were strategically selected around the state to give members a chance to attend at a venue local to them.  Stay tuned for a few more to be offered this year, and then starting again next year when the temperature warms up. ■

# JOIN US AT WAVENY PARK!

## OCTOBER 18, 2026
## 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
## New Canaan, CT

Come join BMW CCA at the C&C in Waveny Park for one of the most anticipated car events of the year! Enjoy an incredible morning surrounded by a spectacular mix of automobiles. From rare vintage classics and collector cars to modern supercars and everything in between, this is a morning you won't want to miss...

**Once again, there will be a BMW Corral where we are welcome to meet and park. Plan to arrive at or before 7AM to secure a good parking spot. To join us there you *MUST register in advance* of the event. See the following for instructions>>>**

# SHOW VEHICLE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All show vehicles MUST have a physical registration tag to enter Waveny Park event — **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

Tags will be strictly checked at the gate. Vehicles without a physical tag will not be permitted to enter the show and will be redirected out of Waveny Park. Digital registration confirmations will not be accepted.

**How to get your tag:**

**-Register here by EOD October 7th:** We'll mail your tag to the address provided during registration; please double-check your mailing address for accuracy!

**-Register after October 7th:** Pick up tag at Zumbach's Gourmet Coffee at 77 Pine Street, New Canaan, CT before the event.

•Event-day pickup is available on October 18th only until 7:30 AM; after that, vehicles without a tag must park in a spectator lot.

***Find spectator lot info here.***

## REGISTER HERE

# CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

## *by the Boston Chapter*

*CLEAN MACHINES*

*WORDS AND PHOTOS BY DAVE BOONE*

*DAVE'S NEARLY CLEAN MACHINE*

On June 27th I was joined by a good friend Bob Maher from the CT Valley Chapter for a drive up to Canton, MA just south of Boston for the Boston Chapter's annual Concours d' Elegance, to be held the next day, Sun. the 28th.

I am a 2nd year attendee with my 2003 325i Touring. Last year I entered it in the "Clean" class for its year, and model – and it Won! What a surprise and honor, for sure! One of the judges that year, a California guy who is a Pebble Beach judge with contacts, friends, and relatives in the Boston area, said, "Yours is that blue Touring? I Love that car!" Pretty much brought tears to my eyes! He said, "You're in the wrong class and should be in Super Clean!" So, this year I registered in "Super Clean"...

What a mistake! The good folks that do the judging really know their stuff and, when you move up to a higher level of judging, you'd better know what's happening! I sorta did, but, not really! The attention to detail by my class competitors was, really awesome. Engine bays you could eat off of...! No worries, It was a learning experience for me that I have no regrets over.

It was a great day, made even better when I shook hands with BMW CCA Member #4!

Yep, it was Joe Chamberlain, writer of many years-worth of columns in the club magazine, Roundel. I told

*LARRY ENGEL GETTING BUSY*

him I drive a manual wagon and, was not, "a brain dead booger-head" - a term he had likely coined. He laughed and said, ok, we can talk!

Joe quizzed my BMWCCA (no hyphen) knowledge and asked, "Who was the first Chapter after Boston?" I got lucky and answered, CT Valley! "Right, you are!" he said and we had a great time talking about the fantastic BMW's in the show as well as the dozens of spectator cars that showed up!

I also ran into our BMW CCA North Atlantic Region Vice President, Larry Engel! He drove his beautiful M3 up from NJ, in the rain, and spent hours in a hotel parking garage, cleaning it up for the show on Sunday!

Yep, we all got a little sweaty Sunday morning at the event venue, Prowse Farm, before the call for "Rags Down!" at 11 AM!

After having endured last year's rain, we were blessed with a beautiful day of weather and, I can't wait to go back next year for another amazing BMW car show. It is well worth the drive, to connect with a bunch of really dedicated and fun Boston Chapter Bimmer people!

Mark your calendar now for next year's event: **Sunday, August 22, 2027 at a new location in Wrentham, MA** – a bit closer to Connecticut. Keep an eye on our **Events Calendar** for more details of next year's Concours. Hope you will join us! ■

*BMW CCA MEMBER NUMBER 000007*

# AMAZING AMAZON FULFILLMENT CENTER TOUR

*WORDS AND PHOTO BY BOB MORIN*

## *Have you ever wondered how products in your online shopping cart get from Amazon to you?*

Before July 17th that's what 19 CVC members were wondering as we came together to tour the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Windsor Locks, CT. After some orientation and a brief description of what we'd see, our Tour Leader answered some questions about the facility. How big is the building? 3.8 million sq. ft. It can hold 66 football fields inside and has more structural steel than the Eiffel Tower. It also has 34 miles of conveyor system and was considered the most technologically advanced building in the world at the time of its completion. It employs about 3,000 people alongside thousands of robots. Workers come and go in ten hour shifts, working four days a week. They begin each day with stretching exercises and are also reminded to stretch some more each hour. Starting salaries are in the mid-$23/hour range and benefits begin on day one including very reasonable healthcare, as well as free counseling (if needed) for everything from mental health, to financial, family, marriage and more, plus a college tuition plan for those seeking a degree. Each employee gets a free pair of work shoes a year, and there are vending machines that provide all the safety gear, such as goggles, work gloves, etc., with the scan of their employee I.D. badge.

After the orientation, Amazon Tour Leaders walked us through the fulfillment center as they introduced the people, technology, and processes that help prepare each customer order selected from the millions of items available. Things move quickly, as you can imagine if you have ever received your items the morning after placing an order. It's truly amazing to see how it all comes together in a carefully choreographed dance between robots and humans. Our group all commented how fascinating they found the approximately 90 minute tour.

If you'd like to see it for yourself, you can sign up for a tour here: **Amazon Facility Tour**

# BMW CCA FOUNDATION NEWS

## *The Ultimate Driving Museum*

As mentioned last issue, this year's exhibit, BMW M3: 40 Years of Evolution opened in mid-May, and attendance has been great so far.

## *The Best of South Carolina Awards*

For the third successive year, the Ultimate Driving Museum received recognition in the Best of South Carolina Awards in the Museum Category, under Arts & Entertainment. Congratulations to all the staff and volunteers who make our small, but mighty museum a success.

## *The NAAMYs*

Each year, the National Association of Automobile Museums (NAAM) holds a gathering at one of its member museums and as part of the festivities has awards in various categories. The Ultimate Driving Museum has again been punching above its weight and racking up awards since 2015. This year once again, we took home 6 Award of Excellence Trophies and 2 Award of Excellence Certificates, bringing us a total of 28 Trophies and 21 Certificates over the years!

BMW Car Club of America FOUNDATION
Saving Lives, Saving History®

# BRUNCH BUNCH

## *A Gathering of CVC Members, Guests and a Fascinating Speaker*

*WORDS BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS*
*PHOTOS BY PAUL, TRAVIS OKULSKI, BOB MORIN AND ADRIANA LEE*

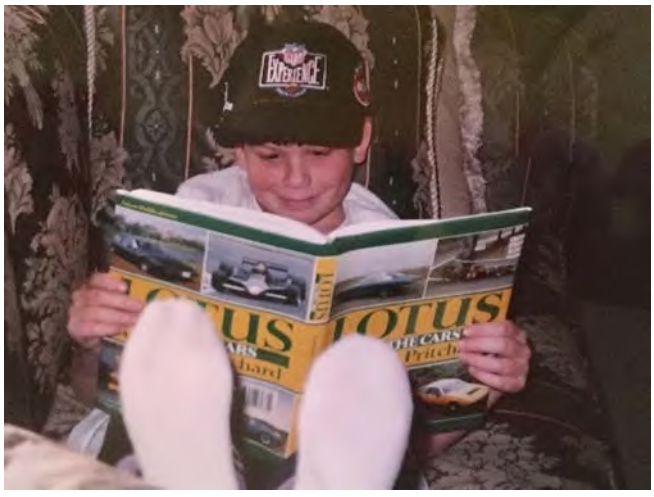
On Sunday July 19th, our good friend, New Country BMW General Manager Brandon Small, and his team in Hartford opened their doors to host a casual CVC brunch featuring an exceptional guest speaker, Travis Okulski, now BMW CCA's editor of both BimmerLife and Roundel.

CVC has a long history of gala dinners featuring raffles, door prizes, drinks, dining, a brief business meeting and a guest speaker. The vibe is "guys in ties and lasses in dresses." Not to worry, that tradition will continue. For a change of pace however, we offered an opportunity for our members to experience a streamlined alternative. We kept the price low and skipped the raffles and business meeting. The fashion was casual, the food was a wide array of hot and cold brunch-appropriate fare and Mimosas were just some of the beverages.

New Country left a few vehicles in their showroom as eye candy, but a portion of the area was set up with high-top tables so guests could mix and mingle as they enjoyed repeat visits to the copious selection of goodies provided by Maneeley's of South Windsor.

All participants were gifted with pocket-sized Bluetooth speakers inscribed with the CVC logo that make a BIG sound for their diminutive size.

Capping off the event was an engaging visit by Travis Okulski who recounted how he was bitten by the car bug as a youngster.



By the age of 12, he was karting - eventually with a young Marco Andretti as a teammate. He fell in love with BMW in the late 1990s/early 2000s golden era and decided if he had the chance, he'd buy a BMW over any direct competitor. Over the years he has owned several but (lucky guy) Travis arrived at our brunch in a new M2 on loan from BMW NA's press fleet.

And speaking of the press, Travis eventually turned to journalism as a way to stay close to racing. So close in fact that he has had opportunities to drive several racing BMWs over the years – once in competition against McLaren CEO Zak Brown – and he's been tutored by renowned BMW pilot Bill Auberlen. Travis even had the honor of chauffeuring Sam Posey in an M4 around the course that has its main straight named after the Lime Rock legend.

Travis's career in automotive journalism took wing when he started Business Insider's transportation section in 2011, moved to Jalopnik in 2012, and rose to editor-in-chief. He joined Road & Track in 2015 to run everything digital, eventually becoming editor in chief of both digital and print from 2019 to 2021. After that, he did a stint at Motorsport

Network as global editorial director for all automotive properties. And now, we have the good fortune of welcoming Travis to our club as Editor-in-Chief of BMW CCA publications. Travis informed us that there is another change in store for BMW CCA's national publications. While there will still be six magazine issues next year, BimmerLife will become a member-focused section of Roundel. These "insider" magazines are a great example of the benefits of being a BMW CCA member. Be sure to peruse them cover to cover.

Travis answered questions from the bunch of brunchers and, if you were paying attention, he dropped a little "Easter Egg" along the way. Whether you were present at the brunch or not, look in the box below to see Travis in action – literally!

So next time you are invited to brunch or dinner by our chapter, sign up and show up. You'll be sure to meet someone interesting! ■

***During his time at Jalopnik, Travis was kidnapped by Jeff Gordon for a viral (and totally real) Pepsi ad.***
***Take look and listen here.***

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