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 53 No 2
Q2 | 2025

FROM ZERO TO 120+ MPH

AND LOTS IN BETWEEN

OUR CONNECTICUT VALLEY CHAPTER HAS IT ALL!

PHOTOS (IN ORDER) BY STEVE KLUCIK, DANTE DIMAURO, PAUL FRICKENHAUS

DZ
PHOTO BY JAMIY BUREY
Vol 53 No 2

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Climate change can describe a lot of conditions. We have endured a Winter drought and a Spring marked by a string of rainy weekends, just now gradually beginning to show signs of a transition to Summer. And then there is the now- perennial Canadian wildfire smoke screen season that has become part of the mix.

So, when we can, let's take advantage of our opportunities to get out and about and enjoy each other's company! Our chapter of BMW CCA has now grown to over 1,600 members and associate members spread all over Connecticut, western Massachusetts and surrounding states. Each year we organize dozens of opportunities to get out in our BMWs to enjoy them and – most importantly – the people who drive them at venues throughout our environs. Some events are casual like visits to wineries and car shows, while others are very active like our highly rated HPDE program and driving tours. You'll find our calendar contains a healthy mix of chapter-organized events and ones created by friends and associates that have become favorites of a great many of our members. Oh, and don't forget to let one of our board members know if there is an event you'd like to propose, or one you know of that you think others may enjoy. Always keep an eye out for our BMW CCA CVC email blasts, Facebook and Instagram postings and check in to our chapter calendar frequently as we are constantly adding new opportunities.

And some additional words about our HPDE program... It's not just for "track rats" looking to exercise themselves and their cars, but it can also be a fun day for casual observers and track-curious folks. Perhaps you are one of them. Lime Rock Park, the venue for all our HPDE events this season, is open for anyone and everyone to stop in and visit virtually any day of the year. There is no admission fee when there are no professional races scheduled. So, stop by during one of our HPDEs (the next ones are to be held on July 26th and September 6th). Bring a picnic lunch or grab a bite at the concession stand, roam around the park, the paddock and simply enjoy the day out. You can also sign up for rides around the circuit, "at speed" with our experienced instructors! Look for details in this issue of DZ and of course on the calendar.

See you later –but not too much later please. Let's make "play" while the sun shines!

—Paul

Vol 53 No 2

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
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*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

Andrew Albright
Sean Anderson
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Joshua Arambulo
Alfred Babo
Justin Baldacci
Katherine Barbera
Joseph Bastone
John Beckmann
Rochelle Bolton
Gerald Boss
Michael Burns
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Nicholas Cardiello
Joseph Cardone
Ian Carow
Susanna Carrillo
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Joseph Hooks
Mark Hurley
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Dan Major
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Luke Mathews
Lisa McMahon
Jerome Mihm
Sachin Modi
Bruce Molinelli
Matthew Mosebrook
Peter Nagykery
Lewis Nedell
Mary OBrien
Katherine O'Connor
Wesley Ogorzalek
Laurie ONeill
Eliza Palmieri
John Palombo
Remsfield Papillon
Victor Pardo
Travis Pauley
Maloyid Perkins
Paul Perreault
Thomas Perry
Ryan Pinney
John Pitegoff
Vicente Placeres
Sharon Plummer
Tatiana Ponder
Paul Portnoy
Nathan Powell
Alyxandra Prinz
Jonathan Pughe
Michael Purdell
Debra Reale
Cristy Rewenko
Nicholas Rickel
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Mark Ross
Michael Roth
Thomas Roybal
Jordan Rudman
Faris Saah
Peter Scalaro
Lawrence Scharf
Fran Scharf
Eric Schneider
Steve Scialabba
Timothy Scully
Adam Sevelowitz
Brian Seward
Damian Shanks
Lawrence Sherman
Tracy Sodergren
Kelly Solomon
Michael Solomonides
Jason Solomonides
Ken Sondo
Allison Soto
Jason Spector
Jeffrey Spector
Inga Stempien
Daniel Stokes
Ray Suydam
Trevor Suydam
Michael Sweeney
Robert Tallaksen
Craig Termotto
Ian Troll
Lenny Tumyol
Annette Velez
Raymond Veronneau
Daniel Wagenberg
Kady Wallington-Nicksa
Mark Weinberg
Stasia Wieber
Robert Wishnick
Richard Yanowitz
Andrej Zdravkovic
Vincent Ziccolella
Daniel Zuchelli

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! ■

2025 BOARD MEMBERS

President, Chapter Contact & DZ Editor
Paul Frickenhaus | **pfrickenhaus@ctvalley.org**

Vice President & Activities Chairman
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Treasurer & Street Survival Chair
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Al Harper | **alharperdeccvc@gmail.com,** Driving Events Coordinator
Adriana Lee | **adriana.bmwctvalley@gmail.com,** Social Media Coordinator, Membership Chairperson, Driving Events Registrar

Lucky You!

You are a BMW CCA Connecticut Valley chapter member!

Now consider becoming part of the leadership team

Our chapter by-laws allow for up to ten members-at-large on the board of directors, but presently only four of those positions are filled. We'd be delighted if you would consider joining the leadership team. If you have been a BMW CCA member for at least six months, you are eligible to become a board member. New people with fresh ideas are always welcomed to help us keep our program offerings varied and growing.

Please contact chapter president, Paul Frickenhaus, to discuss opportunities and see if becoming part of the chapter leadership team is something you would like to pursue.

WE THINK WE'VE GOT IT BAD...

Navigating I-84, I-91, I-95, Merritt and Wilbur Cross Parkways these days is often not an activity conducive to "Happy Motoring" but it used to be worse.

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

CT VALLEY CHAPTER'S SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE

BMW Car Club of America Connecticut Valley

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**

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Here is a reprint of my Letter to the Editor published in the 2025 | Issue 2 of Roundel. I just couldn't resist pointing out the similarity of our chapter's logo to a photo published in the prior edition of that publication.

Paul F.

Your chapter president and DZ editor

THE PAST IS PROLOGUE

Klaus Schnitzer's photos accompanying the cover article of the *Roundel's* first issue of 2025 feature a 2002 being driven in anger at the 2024 Goodwood Festival of Speed. It is amazingly amusing to see the similarities of Klaus' shots to what is perhaps the most enduring of all the BMW CCA logos, that of the Connecticut Valley Chapter.

Goodwood celebrates the past and embraces the contemporary while simultaneously showcasing the future—kind of like us CCAers!

Coincidentally, in that same issue, BMW CCA Member #7 Joe Chamberlain wrote about the Boston birth of the BMW Car Club, and soon thereafter the subsequent spinoff that became the Connecticut Valley Chapter, the first of the more than 60 regional chapters that comprise our club today. The CVC celebrated its own 50th anniversary a couple of years ago. There was much discussion about updating its logo to keep up with the times. Ultimately, it was decided to retain the original logo featuring a leaping 2002, because it embraces the excitement that this model brought to our shores, along with the spirit of exuberance that continues to inspire BMWs and the people who appreciate them today.

Paul Frickenhaus
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

CVC HPDE Registration

Ride-Along and Taste of the Track Registration

PHOTO BY JAMIY BUREY

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HPDE

BY AL HARPER – DRIVING EVENTS COORDINATOR

The Connecticut Valley chapter presented another successful HIGH PERFORMANCE DRIVING EDUCATION event on April 19, 2025. **For those who have never tried HPDE, you can tell your spouse that it is NOT RACING.** This is something I hear every time I go to the track and I say, "No, darling, this is not racing." But yes, it takes place on a racetrack, specifically at the beautiful Lime Rock Park in the western hills of Connecticut. HPDE is a driving school designed to teach you how to handle your car at high speed. **It teaches discipline, it teaches patience, it teaches self-control, it teaches focus, and it teaches how much fun your BMW can be. It is the only legal way you can drive your car at the speeds it was designed to go. Think of it as a quick trip to the Autobahn.**

PHOTO BY STEVE KLUCIK

The CVC has a long history of HPDE events that are well managed and safe affairs. We have an excellent safety record with few on track "incidents" largely because of skilled instructors who ride in the passenger seat with beginning students and have no control over the car except for the words from their mouth. Their patience and experience guide the beginner onto the track, through the turns, and down the straights using only voice commands. Unlike the driver's education you took in high school where the instructor had a passenger foot brake, there is none in your car for the instructor to stomp on should things get hairy. Just words. I like to tell people about my instruction, which consists of three words, brake, BRAKE, and **BRAKE.** It must work because I am still here to tell the tale.

We also have very strict safety rules to prevent "incidents." First, there are limited areas for passing, and all passing must be done with a hand signal from the car being passed. Second, we have rules about watching flag signals from the corner workers which tell the driver what is going on ahead and behind on the track. Third, we have strict rules on making sure the car is safe and track-worthy and that every driver and instructor has an approved safety helmet. Fourth, we have excellent volunteers who manage the safe entry into the pit area, safe passage in the pits, and safe entry onto the track. Fifth, we have mandatory classroom instruction from the Chief Instructor and qualified deputies. Safety is the name of the game.

PHOTO BY STEVE KLUCIK

The Chief Instructor assigns each driver to a run group beforehand. The run groups are determined by driver experience. The most experienced are Instructors, followed by drivers who have enough experience and talent to drive without the assistance of an instructor, followed by the newer drivers who have little or no previous track time. Every group gets the same amount of track time.

For those who have not been to Lime Rock as an HPDE driver, Lime Rock is a world-famous track nestled in the Litchfield Hills. It is a small track with only seven turns, six of them to the right. It is very simple to get the hang of the track, but it takes a lifetime to master. No matter how many times you drive at Lime Rock, it is always a challenge to produce a perfect lap and go fast. It is always entertaining. Occasionally, CVC rents other tracks, but Lime Rock is our home track.

Here's a description of a typical lap around Lime Rock Park. After entering the pits, you drive to the entrance of the track, named Pit Out. The Pit Out manager decides when it is safe to enter the track.

PHOTO BY JAMIY BUREY

· As you come onto the track, there is a blend line where you must stay to the right as other cars already on track are coming into the first turn, the start of Big Bend which is a giant 180 divided into two sections. You accelerate very quickly up to about 60 to 65 mph and enter the beginning of the right hand Turn One, you add some throttle input to balance the car as you start the exit of Big Bend, also named Turn Two.

· This leads into a short straight, called the Short Chute, which ends in the tricky Turn Three known appropriately as the Left Hander.

· Mastering the Left Hander is a job, but almost instantly you are going to make a right hand turn (Turn Four) onto the back straight which, until recently, has been called the "No Name Straight". It has been rebranded the "Paul Newman Straight" and high-powered cars can reach speeds upwards of 100 mph, if one has gotten through turns 3 and 4 collectively known as the Esses smoothly.

PHOTO BY JAMIY BUREY

· Now the fun really begins. At the end of Paul Newman is the sharply vertical Up Hill turn. It is a very technical turn as you are going steeply up the hill and if your wheels are not precisely planted and pointed straight ahead at the crest, you may suddenly find yourself across the track and into the Armco barrier – a terrible way to spoil a good day. Technique matters!

· The Up Hill leads to a short back straight which blends into the high-speed West Bend curve. Out of West Bend you rocket under the bridge and down the hill into the Down Hill turn. The turn itself is really not downhill, but flat. It, too, is highly technical. Enter too early and you will run out of track on the exit. Another way to have a bad day. Done correctly, you are rocketing down the front straight named for Sam Posey (a former professional driver and the architect who designed the Lime Rock Tower).

PHOTO BY JAMIY BUREY

· Your top speed of the lap is a function of your exit speed from the Down Hill onto the Front Straight. This is the fastest part of the track, and after about 1,600 feet you will cross the finish line. On the left side of the track are timing markers, to help you gauge the distance into Big Bend. This is a hard braking zone, which requires braking from 120 mph plus to about 60 mph as you find the Apex of turn one. Whew! All of this takes around one minute. (OK, a little longer if you haven't done it before).

· And then you go again, and again. The last lap of your session is indicated by a 1-lap sign displayed in the tower at the finish line. The next time around you will see the checkered flag which means slow down a bit and prepare to come into the pits as you return to the paddock.

Our rules for getting on the track are simple. First, you must be a member of the BMW CCA. Second, your car *DOES NOT* have to be a BMW, but it may NOT be a convertible lacking approved roll-over protection (sorry, more about that at another time) and it CANNOT be an SUV.

Our second event of 2025 will be July 26th. Then, on September 6th, we will have the track for a full day. Our neighboring New York chapter, Patroon, is co-sponsoring the event, but it will be run by CVC standards. Registration is now open for both of these events and you are cordially invited to come.

CVC HPDE Registration

If you are still uncertain about whether HPDE is for you, we have seats available for "Ride-Alongs" with our instructors both in July and September. In addition to the Ride-Alongs, at the September event we have slots available for a "Taste of the Track" where you can take your car onto the racetrack and do paced laps at a brisk but lower speed. This is a good way to see the track from behind the wheel and decide if you want to try it at speed next season. You can sign up for the Ride-Alongs and/or Taste of the Track at:

Ride-Along and Taste of the Track Registration

PHOTO BY STEVE KLUCIK

One other fun way to get involved with HPDE is to spend your day at the track by volunteering to help with the many jobs we do in order to get cars on the track. No experience necessary!

Continued...

And finally, you could decide to just show up as a spectator on the day to take it all in. ■

If you can't wait to volunteer or have any questions about HPDE, please contact me **alharperdedcvc@gmail.com** or Registrar: Adriana Lee **adriana.bmwctvalley@gmail.com** or Chief Instructor: Michael Menatian **MMenatian@ctvalley.org**

See you at the track!

PHOTO BY JAMIY BUREY

HPDE MAGAZINE

If you are a High Performance Driving Education participant or just want to be better informed about it, you'll want to subscribe to HPDE Magazine. ***It is a*** FREE ***magazine published for automotive enthusiasts curated around track days and the lifestyle, experiences, friends and toys that come with them.***

Produced by Todd Drury, a BMW CCA CT Valley Member, it is a print-only periodical mailed directly to you. Starting a subscription is as easy as capturing the QR code seen here. If you have questions, comments or want more information, you can reach out to Todd directly at tdrury@hpdemag.com or:

HPDE Magazine

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THE VINTAGE 2025

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BOB MORIN

The 2025 Vintage celebrated its 21st year as one of the largest vintage BMW events in the country. Once again, the venue was moved, this time due to the devastation to the Hot Springs, NC area during Hurricane Helene. That area has still not recovered and an alternate site for this year's event was found at Hendersonville Airport, in Hendersonville, NC.

This was also the first time that E36 model BMWs were included in the event, which brought a great number of additional vintage 3 Series to the party.

Although early arrivals trying to set up their vendor area and sponsor areas were greeted by rain, the weather cleared, and it became a lovely blue-sky day. The airport setting made things a bit different this year as the cars and vendor booths were located along a very long runway/taxiway that made for quite a long walk from one end to the other and back, if you wanted to see everything. Due to the addition of the E36 model this year, car count was among the highest of all time, so there was plenty to browse while getting in your steps for the day.

The BMW CCA Foundation and The Tire Rack Street Survival were both represented with booths in the Sponsor/Vendor area as was BMW CCA National. Business was brisk among all the vendors and in the swap meet area as well, with the large number of visitors on hand for the day. Sam Smith was present, signing his new book, *Smithology* at the TRSS booth for those wishing to purchase a copy. ALPINA merchandise was pretty much sold out halfway through the day at the Foundation booth.

All of the vendors had donation boxes on display to aid in the Hot Springs recovery resulting in over $1,300 raised. Stay tuned to see if in 2026 we will be able to return to the Hot Springs location. ■

To keep up with news of The Vintage for 2026, check out:

The Vintage

THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MUSEUM

ALPINA: 60 Years of Excellence

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BOB MORIN

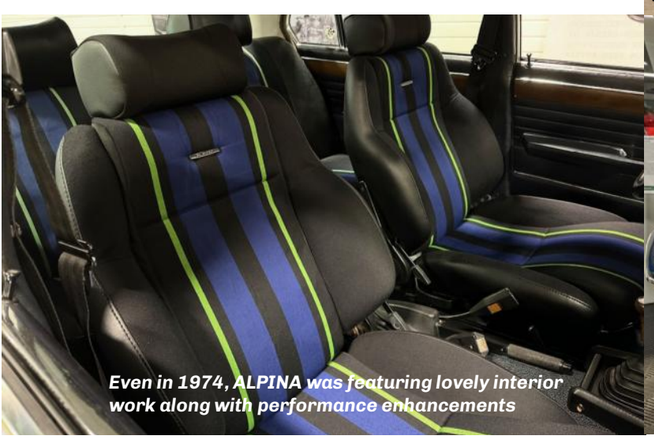
On May 16th, The Ultimate Driving Museum held the Grand Opening for the 2025 Museum Exhibit, ALPINA: 60 Years of Excellence. There was a Gala reception the evening, preceding the Grand Opening, that featured special guests from ALPINA manufacturing in Germany, as well as Carina Bovensiepen representing the Bovensiepens, the founding family of ALPINA, and Matt Russell. Some of you may remember Matt from his days as M Brand Director for BMW NA, but his current position is that of Regional Representative, USA & Canada, ALPINA Experience. As such, Matt will be working together with ALPINA owners and ALPINA Classic. With that in mind, there was a breakfast hosted at the Museum the morning of the Opening designed to be a "focus group" of ALPINA owners to assess their needs in keeping Classic ALPINAs on the road. (HINT: Maybe BMW Classic could benefit from something similar?)

Many BMW enthusiasts will recognize the name ALPINA as a BMW tuner of great acclaim, but perhaps few know much of the company's origin story from six decades ago.

In the 1960s, ALPINA was producing typewriters in Kaufbeuren, Bavaria, when in 1962 Burkard Bovensiepen developed a Weber dual carburetor set-up for installation on the BMW 1500. BMW was so impressed with the quality of this product that it gave a full BMW factory warranty to any vehicles with the system installed. On January 1, 1965, with only eight employees, ALPINA Burkard Bovensiepen KG was established. By 1970, the company had moved to Buchloe, Germany and with seventy employees was working on tuning carburetors as well as revised cylinder heads and crankshafts, all with the aim of creating more powerful BMW engines. They began racing BMWs with their modifications, and in 1970, the team's cars won the European Touring Car Championship, the German Hillclimb Championship, as well as rally and other track racing championships, and the prestigious Spa 24 Hours.

In need of some refurbishment, but this is the VERY FIRST ALPINA ever!

A lovely early ALPINA 3.0S from 1974



Even in 1974, ALPINA was featuring lovely interior work along with performance enhancements

1970 BMW ALPINA 2002.

Since 1983, ALPINA has been recognized by the German Federal Ministry of Transport as an automobile manufacturer, thus ALPINA-built cars are branded and registered as ALPINA instead of BMW, although an ALPINA can be serviced at all BMW dealerships and is fully covered if a warranty issue arises. ALPINA automobiles are also sold at some BMW dealerships.

By that time, ALPINA had expanded to not just tuning the engines, but optimizing the transmissions and installing those gorgeous interiors for which they are rightly famous. The process for all of this required several trips back and forth between BMW and ALPINA before the finished product was ready to be sold. Many of the cars were painted in their signature ALPINA blue or ALPINA green and also sported their signature pin-stripping along their sides.

Yes PLEASE! The interior of a BMW ALPINA B3 S Coupé (E46 330i)

2025 BMW ALPINA XB7 - the 7 Millionth vehicle produced at BMW Plant Spartanburg

The size of the ALPINA wheels may change, but the number of spokes not so much

I won't even begin trying to describe the very confusing model designations of the various offerings over the years. Conversations at the Opening events indicate that even ALPINA experts are sometimes confused about how a model was named, so if you struggle with the BMW E- (and now F and G) codes, don't even try to figure out ALPINA models!

Moving away from the history lesson though, this new exhibit will likely be the most successful in the history of The Ultimate Driving Museum. It boasts twenty-five cars, including six that were sent over from the ALPINA collection in Germany just to be part of the exhibit, and there are some extremely rare examples on display. Attendance at the opening, held in conjunction with The Vintage weekend, already surpassed all previous exhibits with nearly 600 visitors during the first day alone. And as an added attraction, the many ALPINAs congregated in the parking area, though not part of the actual museum exhibit, represented the largest U.S. gathering of ALPINAs to date.

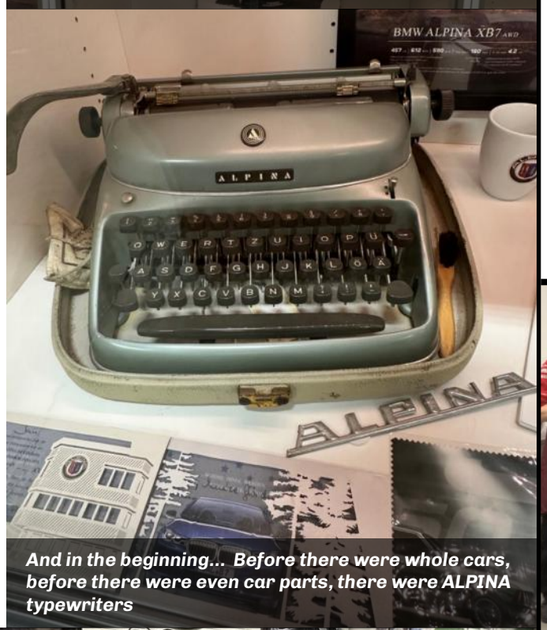
A special highlight of the Opening was the 7 millionth vehicle produced at BMW Plant Spartanburg which appropriately enough was an ALPINA XB7 SAV and was on loan for a short time as part of the display. There was a brief talk about the production and special features of that ALPINA green X7.

ALPINA: 60 Years of Excellence at The Ultimate Driving Museum runs from now until January 17th, 2026. If you'd like more information about the exhibit, visit:

The Ultimate Driving Machine

I hope that you will take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity to see these amazing cars while they are gathered together in one place. ■

A part of every Ultimate Driving Museum exhibit is always a phenomenal selection of theme specific memorabilia



And in the beginning... Before there were whole cars, before there were even car parts, there were ALPINA typewriters

1981 BMW ALPINA B6 2.8 320i (E21) with early signature 20 spoke ALPINA wheels

1971 BMW ALPINA 3.0 CS (E9)

HOT AND STEAMING!

STORY BY DAVE ORTOLI
PHOTOS BY DAVE ORTOLI AND PAUL FRICKENHAUS

Push! Fold! Turn! Those were the directions followed by the group as we turned a variety of ingredients into delicious, crusty golden loaves of fresh baked bread. There were twelve of us in Chef Laura's class at Delavignes Gourmet Food & Gifts, learning how to make hearty Italian bread and soup as the perfect meal to have on a cold, winter day. Chef Laura had pre-made dough balls which we kneaded and shaped, so that they could go into the oven for baking while the class was in progress. We then started mixing the flour, salt, yeast, oil and water to make our own dough to take home and bake another day. After mixing the ingredients, it was on to getting a workout of our arms, kneading the dough to its proper texture before bagging it to take home.

While we were doing that, Chef Laura was working on two soups – a meatball in broth and a roasted vegetable. A few people in the class helped Laura roll out the tiny pork meatballs, which were then dropped into the broth for cooking. A medley of tomatoes, carrots, celery and onion had been previously roasted, these were pureed with some vegetable stock to make the second soup. Those who had brought a bottle of wine with them used it to keep their strength up and then as an accompaniment for the food. Both soups were sampled by everyone at the end of the class. The room where the class was held is part of the production and bottling process for the various oils and vinegars that are made at Delavignes.

As we were exiting the facility, just about everyone took the opportunity to purchase some of the specialty products in the retail store section of the building. This was the second class that CVC had with Chef Laura, and we look forward to returning for more. Individuals can also sign up for her classes on her **website**, where the full schedule of pastas, breads and desserts is available. We had 3 members attending a chapter function for the first time, which is the goal of having varied events like this. Let any board member know which of the classes appeal to you, so that we can plan to re-visit. ■

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A Trip to the Auto Body Repair Shop

We were there because we wanted to be!

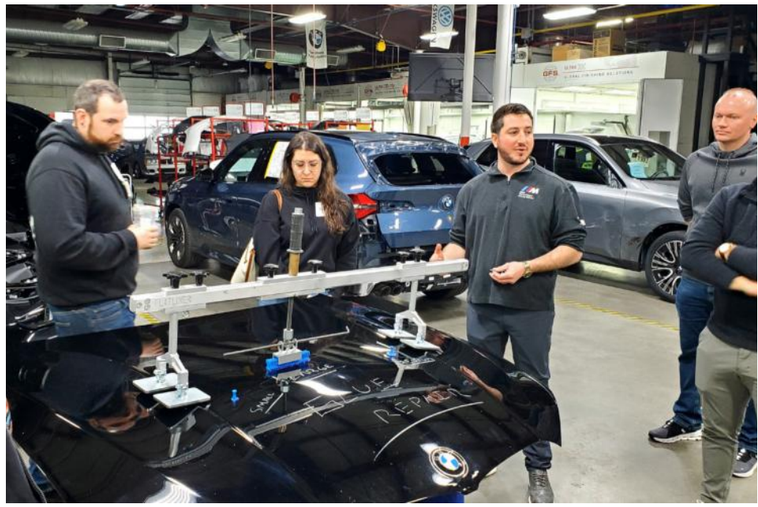
Airport Auto Body Open House Sunday March 30

STORY BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS
PHOTOS BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS AND ADRIANA LEE

On Sunday, March 30th, the Cavallaro family welcomed over two dozen CVC members and friends to their state-of-the art facility located at 75 Locust St., Hartford, CT. Airport Auto Body, established in 1983, are long-time CVC supporters and DZ advertisers. As it turns out, one of our members (who shall remain unidentified for the purposes of this article) happened to be there visiting his car which was undergoing service at the time of our visit. Luckily for the rest of us, we were simply observers of the many processes the certified pros at AAB employ to repair cars to good-as-new conditions. The shop is spotlessly clean, well-organized, and packed with the latest in repair techniques and painting equipment. AAB is a Certified BMW Collision Repair Center, as well as being manufacturer-certified by several other marques.

Our hosts were kind enough to provide some mouth-watering Italian pastries from a local bakery for our enjoyment and gifted each of us with some swag bags too.

Excellent service and hospitality - you can't ask for anything better!



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

A KLEANED START TO THE SUMMER SEASON

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVE MUCCIACCIARO

I can't think of a better start to the Memorial Day weekend than spending time with other car aficionados. So that's exactly what we did! The CT Valley Chapter was cordially invited by the Valley Collector Car Club to participate in a joint event at **Kleaned**, a state-of the art detailing facility in Avon, CT. Of course, there were a few BMWs in the mix, as one would expect at a CT Valley event. However, there was much more than that.

The VCCC brought a mix of some old cars and some new, including a sweet Ford T-bucket truck with what appeared to be a flathead engine, and a beautiful Pontiac LeMans in excellent condition. Owner of Kleaned, John Braverman, had arranged for a few of his customers' cars to be in attendance, including a Lizard Green Porsche GT3RS. The vehicle that stole the show was a fully restored and complete PPF package First Gen Ford Bronco in burnt orange. This truck was something to behold.

John gave us a nice tour of his facility and explained the ins and outs of getting a car ready for a ceramic coat or PPF film application. At the end of the event, the VCCC held a surprise raffle drawing for a few bottles of wine to thank the members for making the trip out. The CVC would like to extend a warm **Thank You** to the VCCC for the opportunity to share some old car stories and make new friends and to John Braverman for making his lovely facility available to us. ■

kleaned

VALLEY COLLECTOR CAR CLUB

The Long roof ZHP

THE MODEL BMW NEVER BUILT *(But I did!)*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVE BOONE – AMBASSADOR, BMW CCA FOUNDATION

When BMW announced the release of the F22, 2 Series, back in 2014, I knew I was in! It promised to be the same size as the long-discontinued E46 3 Series, and it proved to be almost identical dimensionally. Smaller is what I wanted. After a year-long search, I found my dream spec. A 228i, rear wheel drive, 6 speed manual, Trac Pak suspension, with adaptive dampers, M Sport package and, the added bonus of a dealer installed, Dinan Stage 1 engine tuning map, Perfect!

I drove that car for many fantastic miles and years until, the day I realized, "This trunk is too small!" I had to fold the rear seats forward to fit my golf clubs in it, and there was not much room left for road trip luggage!

This started a years-long search for something that checked all boxes:

not too big

lots of cargo space

not an SUV

sufficiently sporty

It all added up to an E46 Wagon!

So, about a year ago, I found one on an auction site, with the added attraction of it having been converted to the coveted, ZHP package! **An E46 ZHP wagon was a model BMW never built!** I jumped in and bid on it until the price exceeded my number. So, I bailed. Rats! Gotta keep on looking...

I waited a few weeks, contacted the seller of the one that got away, and asked if he would be willing to build another one to the same spec.? He replied with a picture of an incomplete car with the statement, "How about a Blue one?!" I jumped out of my chair, and replied, "Yes, Sir!"

We negotiated the contents of the finished car, agreed on a price, and our relationship grew to something I never expected. Truly, in the spirit of the BMW community, I now have a great friend. His name is **Brian Marks, aka "BMW Wagon Guy."** He has built a few of these awesome wagons, including a complete M3 Wagon that was featured in our national magazine, Roundel, a few years ago. The car is absolutely epic!

Here's a link to a **YouTube review**

Back to my car, it started life as a 325i XDrive, automatic. Brian gutted it, and retrofitted all of the donor ZHP drive train components to make it a true 330i ZHP Wagon! Thus, completing the missing link in the ZHP line-up which was made up of only sedans, coupes, and convertibles!

The list of modifications and upgrades is extensive! I will let Brian show you, and narrate the build on his **YouTube channel**:

And here is **another video tour** of the underside if you wish to view that too.

I can't tell you how rewarding this experience has been for me. I now have my "forever car." One that I will road trip to "bucket list" racetracks and golf courses all over this beautiful country, at 36 MPG I might add! Yes, really!

Watch for the M POSTER at your next CVC event!

And here's a link to **BMW Wagon Guy's YouTube channel** if you'd like to explore more. ■

The Goldilocks Touring

The engine room

The creator, Brian, delighted owner, Dave, and the product of their collaboration

Six-speed shift-it-yourself included (of course!).

2025 CVC WINTER KARTING TOUR

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVE MUCCIACCIARO

The end of the 2025 CVC Winter Karting Tour brings us into Spring/Summer for 2025. Over the past few months, we visited four tracks in total with a planned fifth cancelled due to weather. Fifteen racers participated in total, with 5 new racers joining us for this year. The results are in for the 2025 CVC Winter Karting Tour. The three podium spots for this year are as follows:

1st Place - Dave Mucciacciaro (79pts)
2nd Place - Igor Kolupaev (57pts)
3rd Place - Dave Ortoli (27pts)

A big thanks to all who participated this year. I enjoy organizing and competing in this annual series, and look forward to continuing it into the future. We encourage any and all experience levels to come join us in these events, family members included!

In other karting news, **Lime Rock Park has finally teamed up with Housatonic Racing Development (HRD) to organize go-karting up at their FCP Euro proving grounds**, a half-mile track complete with tight turns and elevation changes. Keep your eyes peeled for more details on our website and social media for a CVC meetup this summer. For now, check out **Kart the Park** for more information. ■

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

Neither Rain nor Wind nor Fog Can Stop Our Students from Spinning Around!

BY DAVE ORTOLI
PHOTOS BY DAVE MUCCIACCIARO AND FRED ORTOLI

For our spring Tire Rack Street Survival school in April, Mother Nature decided not to cooperate with us, which is the opposite of the large majority of our schools. It rained pretty much all day, sometimes heavily and sometimes just as an annoyance, with enough wind to make it interesting. And to make the day *really* exciting, we had heavy fog roll in for a period in the afternoon.

We did have 28 students show up to improve their driving skills, and they did receive a good experience because of the wet weather. Although it didn't make life good for the staff working out on the courses, the rain did make the driving exercises more challenging for the students. The rain and wind decided to be at its worst during the morning registration period, but Heather and her crew managed to get everyone through in record time. The only major change was that tire checks and student photos had to be performed in the garage instead of outside and on course as normal.

The American Trucking Association, with Eric as the Captain, showed up again to educate the students and parents about how to safely interact with large trucks on the highway. The Connecticut State Police brought the "Convincer" seatbelt demonstrator, along with the

impaired driving goggles, and had their normal enlightening interaction with the group.

Consumer Reports demonstrated very graphically the effect that speed has on driving and maximum braking by making two runs past the entire group of students and parents with a pickup truck - first at a "legal" speed and then at a VERY illegal velocity. **The results were startling with the speeding truck disappearing into the fog before it could be brought to a halt.**

By the completion of the training exercises, the rain had ended, the group of students were smiling and had better driving skills, and the staff and Consumer Reports crew were happy to go home and dry out!

With the completion of this **27th school**, we have taught 800 teens from all over New England, New York and New Jersey to become better, safer drivers. We have an awesome crew of experienced staff who make the schools run smoothly, no matter what the circumstances. And we have terrific support from Consumer Reports in providing a top-level site and people, along with the American Trucking Association and the Connecticut State Police with their educational demonstrations. We also had four young gentlemen from Xavier High School help us out as part of their community service program, with their youth, agility and stamina being definite strong points on this day as they were simultaneously shagging cones in sloppy conditions while enthusiastically cheering the students on.

We will be holding another school on September 27th at the Consumer Reports facility in Colchester. Student registration is open with about half the available seats filled already. If you know of a teen driver, have them sign up at:

Street Survival

Also, if you have a desire to experience an addictively fulfilling day, we are always looking for staff to work at the schools.

Contact Dave Ortoli at **Dortoli@ctvalley.org** for more information about how you can become a part of this important program. You'll be glad you did! ■

BMW OF NORTH HAVEN

MAURO MOTORS

CONGRATULATIONS, BMW OF NORTH HAVEN!

2025 BMW CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

The annual BMW of North America Center of Excellence awards honor the 32 (of the 350) BMW dealers across the nation who exemplify outstanding performance in customer experience, sales, and service. The Center of Excellence award represents the highest accolade a BMW center can obtain in recognition of excellence in customer satisfaction and operational performance. For 2025, one of the BMW Centers in our chapter's territory, *BMW of North Haven – Mauro Motors,* ***has been awarded that coveted distinction. It should be noted, BMW of North Haven is a generous supporter of the Connecticut Valley Chapter, having this year been a primary sponsor of one of our spring HPDE schools and underwritten the full cost of new HPDE apparel for our team of volunteer Instructors for years to come.***

Let's continue to support the enthusiastic sponsors who support our club!

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

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CREATED BY KAYLA HUSHIN