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 3
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SUMMER HAS PASSED, AUTUMN IS *FAST*

PHOTO BY JACKSON TEXEIRA

DZ
PHOTO BY JACKSON TEXEIRA
Vol 53 No 3

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

CONGRATULATIONS – To US!

You and I are members of the fastest growing chapter of BMW CCA in the North Atlantic region. So far this year the CT Valley Chapter has grown by 364 members. Along with Associate Members, CVC is now over 1,900 members strong. That is a lot of fans of BMWs, a lot of ambassadors of the brand, a lot of buying power and most importantly, a vast group of friends and acquaintances. What a joy it is to be a part of this community!

The CVC board of directors constantly strives to present diverse opportunities for our members to meet and enjoy each other's company. In this issue, you can read about what drives many of us to volunteer in leading this organization as exemplified by the HPDE program. Sure, it takes some time and effort, but the payoff is seeing the smiling faces of our members, their families and friends as they come together at all sorts of venues and events to simply have some fun. Right now, the one thing our chapter could use is having some more of our fellow members step up and join us in developing, presenting or just simply volunteering at the variety of activities that we engage in.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

- Winston Churchill

As you know, each year we hold an election for the leadership team of this club. Our by-laws require this. But there is no nomination or voting process required for any member to step forward at any time to offer whatever time and energy they'd like to share in order to help keep the wheels turning on this vehicle which is dedicated to providing fun and recreation, growth and education.

We cordially invite you to contact any of us board members (our contact information is found on Page 6 of this DZ edition and on our website **CT Valley Contacts**) at any time to discuss what opportunities there are to apply your talents and energy and become an integral part of the engine that powers this club forward.

You are Welcome – Literally!

—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

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

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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

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Susie Anderson
Mallikarjuna Appalaneni
Doug Arndt
Richard Ayer
Veealin Ayer
James Barnett
Lloyd Baroody
Sharon Barrett
Christopher Beauty
Peter Bellon
Deysi Beltre
Lin Bieback
Tom Bieback
Peter Brooks
Betsy Brown
Ethan Brown
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Darcy Buerkle
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Terri Earle
David Elster
John Eremita
Kurt Erickson
Dillon Facini
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Robinson Fernandez
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Eric Festa
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Luis Flores
Stephen Foltz
John Forrest
Mark Foster
Valerie Foster
Teresa Fox
Robert Fressola
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Pilar Gonzalez
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Linda Hamblin
Daniel Heald
Rachel Hedley
Denise Hegan
Cody Heisinger
Stephen Hennessey
Roger Hess
Charles Higgins
Mary Hill
Rabab Hussain
John Hutchins
Bryson Hyte
Aaron Jacobs
Wisam Jamil
Raymond Jansak
Mary Jarmie
Matthew Johnson
Bob Jones
David Jordan
Kristina Jorgensen
Rakesh Kansara
Mehdi Karoum
Michael Kearney
Prakash Khubchandani
Steven Kisling
Xhemil Koliani
Matthew Korenkiewicz
David Kozora
Ralph Kragle
Marlene Lafata
John Landon
James Lane
Carlos Leite Pinto
Timothy Leonard
Shawn Levin
David Lewis
Leon Litvak
Silvia Lobo Lobo
Timothy Locke
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Lambros Loukoumis
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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.

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! ■

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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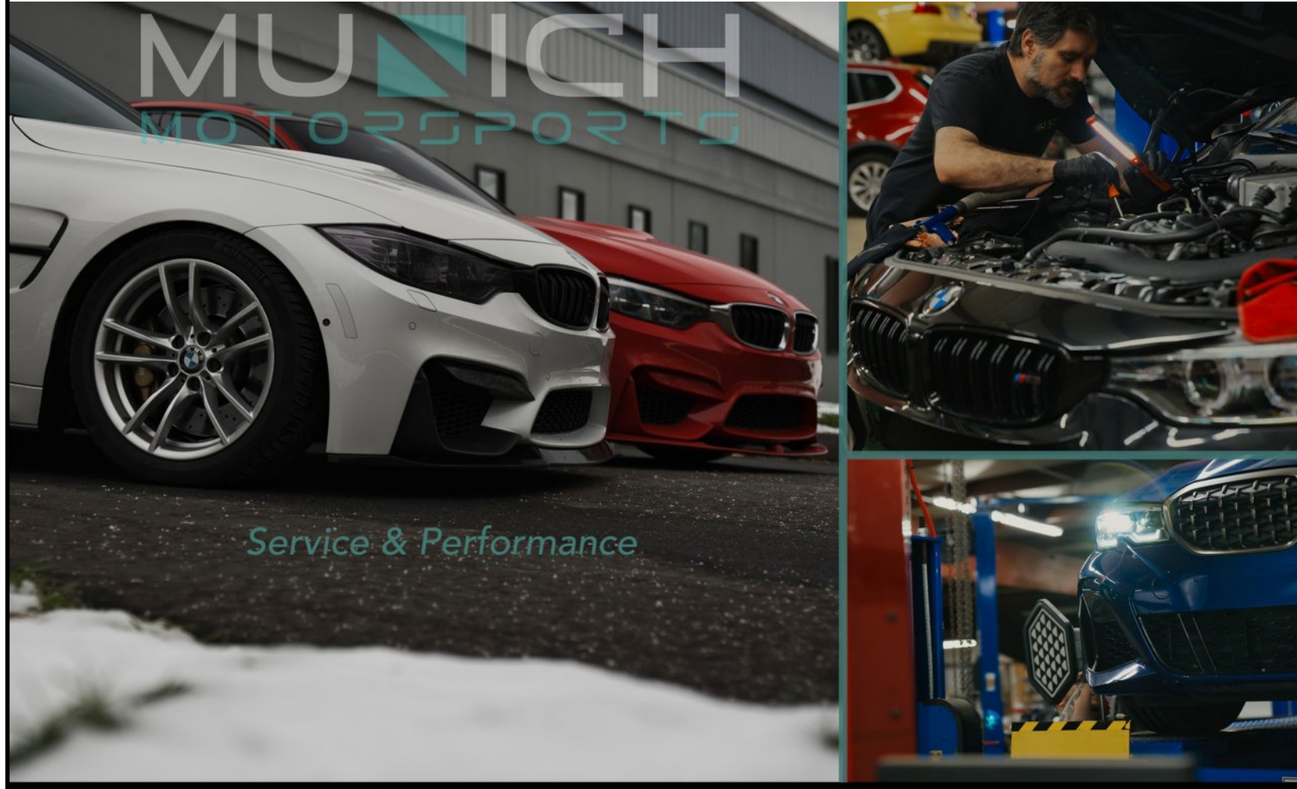

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SIPPIN' AND SOCIALIZIN'

at Paradise Hills Vineyard

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVE ORTOLI

Summer activities for the Connecticut Valley Chapter began during the first week in June, when about a dozen of our members came together at Paradise Hills Vineyards in Wallingford, CT to enjoy an afternoon of sipping and socializing. The days leading up to our visit were not good weather-wise, but our sacrifice of an old Mercedes apparently pleased the weather gods and we enjoyed a beautiful, sunny afternoon. This is now the third year we have visited Paradise Hills, and the second where it was the earliest social event on our summer calendar.

With the Tuscan style tasting building and portico, and the vines literally 50 feet from where we were sitting, it was easy to imagine that you were sitting and sipping in a small Italian village without a care in the world. After parking in our own special area, we headed inside to the Tasting Room to order our favorite bottle, flight or the ever-popular *wine slushies* to sip on while nibbling on whatever goodies we'd brought along or purchased there. The vineyard's shop carries a nice selection of locally produced cheeses.

As the pictures show, we had the usual collection of varied vehicles, from a 1998 328 to a 2024 230i. Being that it was a perfect day to be driving a convertible; the two on hand that day did arrive with the tops down. Before we knew it, the time was approaching the winery's closing hour. We bade our farewells with a fabulous sunset approaching, eagerly looking forward to the next event. *Salute!* ■

SCENIC FALL TOUR

Saturday, September 20th , 2025

On Saturday, September 20th we will be hosting a Scenic Fall Tour. The tour will begin in Southwick, MA and end in North Granby, CT with about 96 miles of amazingly beautiful scenery and wonderful driving roads in between.

The day will begin at 8:45 AM. At around that 80-minute timeframe, we should arrive at another Big Y where we will take a 30-minute break. There are bathrooms and opportunities to grab a grinder at the deli, if you have chosen not to bring your lunch from home.

Back on the road it's approximately another 65 minutes until we arrive at our final destination, Lost Acres Vineyard, where you can enjoy some wine and any food that you brought, or that you purchased along the way. No outside alcoholic beverages are allowed to be brought in,

The winery offers tastings, flights of five wines, and 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.

I will need the following **RSVPs** for the event by **Thursday, September 18th**:

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

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

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

(This will allow us to plan for the number of route instructions and winery guests.)

What: Fall Tour and Winery
When: Saturday, September 20, 2025, Rain or Shine
Where: Big Y/Ocean State Job Lots (for the tour)
195 College Hwy, Rts. 10 & 202, Southwick, MA
(parking in front of Ocean State Job Lot towards the main road) 8:45 AM
or: Lost Acres Vineyards (for the winery only)
80 Lost Acres Road, North Granby, CT 06060
12:30 PM

RSVP: by Thursday, September 18th to Bob Morin with one of three above options at **RMorin@ctvalley.org**

Hope you can join us!

Bob & Sheila Morin

HIGH PERFORMANCE DRIVER EDUCATION

A Mid-Season Report

STORY BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS,
PHOTOS BY JACKSON TEXEIRA AND JAMIY BUREY

Our second HPDE event held this year on July 26th was blessed with ideal weather conditions. A large turnout of D run group students meant that one of our three sessions each hour was dedicated exclusively to them. We are delighted that there are so many drivers who are relatively new to this exciting activity and they trust our organization as a place to get started. We look forward to seeing them progress through the ranks as their competence and confidence grows.

On-hand at this event was the hard-to miss transporter and competition car from the **AutoTechnic Racing Team** that adorned the paddock. The team even brought a sim-racing station where visitors could take some virtual hot laps. **BMW of Ridgefield** , part of Keeler Motor Car Company, is both an ///M Certified and ///M Motorsport Dealer as well as a sponsor of AutoTechnic Racing. Of vital importance to the CT Valley Chapter and our HPDE participants, BMW of Ridgefield supports our program and provides direct services for the folks on the track if needed. For the first time, a fully equipped Servicemobile, plus a van stuffed with spare parts and consumable items to fit most BMWs, and even technicians were in the paddock, standing by to help participants with any mechanical issues or services they might need throughout the day. There was even a flatbed on hand should a car have become disabled. Happily, that was not needed this day! Look for the service crew from Ridgefield to return to our next event in September and hopefully for the entire season next year as well. How wonderful is it to have friends like that?!

We also offered opportunities for those people we call 'HPDE-Curious', to Ride Along with some of our experienced instructors, many in track-prepared cars. It's one thing to witness these cars at speed from the many lovely vantage points Lime Rock is known for, but to be strapped into a car at racing speeds is an entirely different experience. Ride Along are a good first step for anyone to take if they are on the fence about whether to become a full participant in HPDE. At the September school, where CVC has full use of the track the entire day, Ride Along will again be offered as well as a "Taste of the Track" session - an opportunity for drivers to do some laps in their own cars behind a pace car.

As in April at our first event of the season, we had two photographers on hand to capture our intrepid drivers and their cars at speed with some dynamic action shots. Jackson Texeira and Jamiy Burey were out and about throughout the day making sure to document all the fun being had. Some of their photos can be seen in this article and elsewhere in this edition of the DZ. And there are many more to be seen. We recently sent an email blast containing their invitation to view and purchase any of their pictures directly on line. But if you missed it, don't worry; we have repeated the offer elsewhere in this edition of the DZ. We'll again have cameras at the ready at the final event of the season on Saturday, September 6th. Hopefully some of you will appear in those photos. ■

Would You Look at This!!!???

The July 26th HPDE at Lime Rock Park was full of great moments — and now you can enjoy them again through professional event photos.

Our photographers for the day, Jackson Texeira and Jamiy Burey, captured the energy, precision, and fun of the day, featuring plenty of shots of participants and their cars at speed on the track.

Browse the gallery and pick your favorites from Jamiy

Browse the gallery and pick your favorites from Jackson

These make great keepsakes and are perfect for sharing with friends and family who supported your day at the track.
We hope you enjoy reliving the experience — and maybe even finding that perfect photo to frame.

BONUS... BLASTS FROM THE PAST...

Photos from our April 19 HPDE at Lime Rock By Jamiy Burey and Steve Klucik

From Jamiy Burey:

From Steve Klucik:

A team of photographers will be again be capturing the action at our final event of the season on, September 6th. We'll be sure to provide links to you for those photos too!

THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MUSEUM

Foundation & Museum News

STORY BY BOB MORIN, BMW CCA FOUNDATION AMBASSADOR

Since the last issue of the DZ hit your inboxes, a lot has taken place at the BMW CCA Foundation and The Ultimate Driving Museum. In the last issue I wrote about the record breaking attendance for the Opening of this year's exhibit, ***ALPINA: 60 Years of Excellence***. The records continue to be broken as attendance for this year is at a pace that is exceeding all previous exhibits. Classic Motorsports Magazine wrote about the record broken for largest ever gathering of ALPINAs in the U.S. **here**.

Each week the number of museum admissions continues to surpass that of all previous exhibits to date.

Best of South Carolina

In addition to the many accolades The Ultimate Driving Museum receives each year from NAAM (National Association of Automobile Museums), we're proud to announce that in the Guide to South Carolina's Best of South Carolina voting, The Ultimate Driving Museum was chosen as the Best of South Carolina winner in the Museum category of the Arts and Entertainment section. This prompted the Guide to South Carolina to write a great article about the exhibit that you can see **here**.

Birdies for Charity

Each year at the BMW Charity Pro-Am Golf Tournament, Michelin sponsors Birdies for Charity. Any 501(C)(3) charity can participate and donors can make a pledge for each birdie scored in the tournament, or just donate a set amount, and after all the donations are tabulated Michelin adds in a matching donation of 25% up to $100,000. This year, thanks to an incredibly generous offer by one of the Foundation Trustees to match donations made by the Ambassadors and Trustees at 100%, the Foundation total came in at $72,725. This total blew away all of the other charities combined and that is before the 25% match from Michelin. So "well done" to all who donated during this time!

Bring a Trailer Auctions

The first half of August brought a lot of auction activity to the Foundation. BMW AG recently commissioned the 20th BMW Art Car since French racing driver Hervé Poulain came up with the idea of having a racing car designed by an artist in 1975 and the first Art Car was created by Alexander Calder. Nineteen of these commemorative 1:18 scale models have been made and sold through the BMW dealer network. (The 20th, based on the BMW H2R hydrogen powered car, was made of ice, so no scale model was ever made). The Foundation, mostly through donations, owned two complete sets of these highly detailed models and it was decided to package one set with several other duplicate Art Car related items and auction it as package on Bring a Trailer. For those who were watching the auction, it was quite exciting as the end neared. Bidding had stopped at $8,500 with approximately 24 hours remaining, but then with 18 minutes remaining a bid of $8,800 was placed and launched the frenzy of 24 bids with the final result being a bid of $19,750 with all proceeds going directly to the Foundation. If you want to **read more about it.**

Museum Curator Michael Mitchell was also tasked with placing three other items on auction within a few days of the Art Car result. Those who have visited The Ultimate Driving Museum (and if you haven't, you need to) know that space is at a premium and they we using offsite storage at a nearby racing shop. When that shop decided to dramatically increase their storage fees something needed to be done and a 2002 race car plus two full-sized fiberglass replicas that each had been donated to the Foundation became part of that decision. The BMW i8 full-size display model finished at $5,200 **here**.

While the F56 MINI full-size display model closed out at $7,500 **here.**

And finally, the DOHC-Powered 1972 BMW 2002 Race Car Project ended up with a winning bid of $19,250 and can be seen **here**.

For more information about the Foundation, you can always visit:

BMW Car Club of America FOUNDATION
Saving Lives, Saving History

FUELING THE FUTURE

The Piston Foundation Drives Tomorrow's Classic Car Technicians

The collector car world faces a quiet crisis: the skilled technicians who preserve and restore vintage cars are retiring, and too few young craftsmen are stepping in to take their place.

The Piston Foundation is tackling this challenge head-on. Since 2022, Piston has awarded 83 scholarships totaling $300,000, including 30 in 2025 alone. These awards open the door for aspiring technicians who otherwise might not be able to afford trade school.

Beyond tuition support, Piston connects students directly with restoration shops through its Jobs Program. At events like the Lime Rock Historic Festival, students tour paddocks and shadow race car technicians, seeing firsthand what a career in restoration can look like. For many, it's the spark that turns passion into profession.

As car enthusiasts, we all share a responsibility to preserve our automotive heritage. Supporting a student through Piston isn't just charity—it's an investment in the future of car culture.

A Call to Action

To learn more about the Piston Foundation and become a supporter, check this out:

Sponsor a Piston Scholar.

Fuel a career.
Keep the craft alive.

PISTON FOUNDATION™

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR BMW CCA CVC'S HPDE PROGRAM

PHOTOS BY JAMIY BUREY

What we do, Why we Love doing it and How You can too!

Paul Frickenhaus...

As President of the CT Valley Chapter, I am proud to be a part of this all-volunteer team that works continually to plan, organize and execute the various events and activities our club offers to its members. I find it most satisfying to help provide wide-ranging experiences for the enjoyment of our fellow Bimmerphiles. And strangely enough, the folks who volunteer to be on the "inside" of these events often seem to be as much if not more enthusiastically pleased than the attendees! I encourage you to join us as volunteers at HPDEs, our Street Survival program and myriad other events and activities we engage in. You'll be glad you did! Check out **Contact – BMW CCA – Connecticut Valley Chapter** to see all the functions and activities our board members provide for our club. We heartily invite you to join us. I'm confident you will find joy and satisfaction by working hand-in-hand with your fellow BMW enthusiasts.

What follows is a deep dive into how our team of volunteers organizes and executes the HPDE program, the motivation that drives them, and the fulfilment they feel as a result of their involvement. These are prime examples of how one of our most high profile activities comes together and perhaps you'll see an opportunity for you to take part in it too.

Al Harper – Driving Events Coordinator

Have you been to one of Connecticut Valley Chapter's HPDE (High Performance Driver Education) schools at Lime Rock Park? If you were a driver I know you had a blast. Lime Rock is the CVC's home track. It is a beautiful race track, deceptively simple, and very much fun to drive your BMW at Autobahn speeds.

For those who have never been to Lime Rock Park (LRP), come on down! You can be a spectator by simply signing the LRP and CVC waivers and watch the action free of charge. Even better, for a nominal fee, we will find you a helmet and arrange for an on-track ride at speed in an instructor's car. And, at select events, you can get a "Taste of the Track" where you'll bring your own car out on the circuit and run it at a brisk pace behind a pilot car. This is a great way to discover if you want to join the next HPDE and experience the wonders of the track.

Our HPDE events operate like well-oiled BMW machines. But a day at the track is much, much more involved than simply showing up and taking off into Big Bend. A day at the track takes literally months of planning. Your CVC board and non-board volunteers start working in the Fall for the track events season of the following year. Our first task is to negotiate with LRP management to find days that we can rent the track. Once the dates have been chosen, we then negotiate a contract with LRP. This is the business end of the deal handled by the Board, and our **Treasurer, Dave Ortoli**, who also runs our Tire Rack Street Survival program for young drivers.

Then there is a breathing spell, until the spring when we start assembling all the parts that go into the track day. First, supplies are ordered. Then volunteers are lined up for the various duties that must be accomplished at the track. Insurance is obtained from BMW national. Final contract details are ironed out. During this time our **Registrar, Adriana Lee** and our **Communications Coordinator, Heather Centrella** start recruiting students. **Michael Menatian, the Chief Instructor**, starts lining up instructors.

Once registration ends, Michael pairs students with appropriate instructors, based upon his knowledge of the instructors and the history of the student as found in Driving Evaluations. This is why documenting your track history is critical. If you are driving with CVC you will have a driving history. If you have been driving with other clubs your track history may be incomplete, and you will need to supplement it by working with the chief Instructor.

Once the instructor-student pairs are determined, the assembly of the packets of car numbers, run group letter, track map and schedule for both students and instructors can be completed. We are now off to the track!

The gates at LRP open at 7:00am. Yes, it is early but we want to squeeze in every second of track time possible. Starting at 7:15 **students** will make their way to the pit lane where the tech inspection takes place. A team of volunteer inspectors, led by **Dave Mucciacciaro** reviews your completed and certified tech form. The **Tech Team** typically made up of **Dave M., Bob Morin, Dave Boone and Tom Sweeny** checks your car for obvious issues, and if they are satisfied that your car is safe and track-worthy they will issue a tech sticker and sign off on the tech form. Students then proceed to registration.

The **RegistrationTeam**, again led by experienced volunteers, **Heather Centrella, Sheila Morin, Adriana Lee, Susan Young** and others, check you in, verifying your documentation, issue your wrist band designating your run group , and give you your student packet and issue a helmet to you if you have reserved one.

Yes, even the volunteer **Instructors** have to get up early too. The Chief Instructor meets with the Instructors first. Then after registration is over, all students meet to learn the track protocols, the meaning of flags and passing rules

Once the track opens, life on pit lane begins. According to the schedule, drivers report to the False Grid or staging area on the west side of the pit lane. There volunteers will check for your wrist band, your tech sticker and your run group letter to make sure you are in the correct group to be on track and they give your car a quick scan to ensure it is ready to go. These volunteers typically include **Dave Boone, Bob Lang, Adriana Lee, John Bate** (and perhaps you too one day!).

As students pass the false grid inspection, they proceed down the pit road to find **Heather Centrella** or some other highly experienced track marshal who double checks that you are in the right group and ready to enter the track. Should you have an off- track adventure you will be sent into the pits either voluntarily or by black flag to make sure you are OK and that your car is fine too.

Pit out is where you are released onto the track. The **Pit Out Manager** is frequently **Dave Mucciacciaro**, or some other highly experienced track manager who makes sure that it is safe for you to enter the track.

Why do we do this? See what our volunteers have to say about what they do and why they enjoy it so much..

Bob Morin, our club **Secretary, Instructor** and *unofficial historian* writes…

"As a 50 year member of the BMW CCA I did my first HPDE (known as Driver's Schools back then) in 1976 when registration was done with a series of self-addressed envelopes back and forth and a registration fee of *$25* (ah, the good old days) was mailed in to the registrar from the New Jersey Chapter (the first, and only BMW CCA Chapter doing schools at the time). In 1984 I attended my first Oktoberfest in Sturbridge, MA and by 1985 I was invited to run for a Member-at-Large on the CVC Board. Over the years, I've held every position on the Board except Treasurer and including 12 years as President.

I also volunteer on the Tech Inspection Team as Students arrive for the Schools. As a Tech Inspector we check that a Pre-Tech Sheet is properly completed and look at the Students helmet for proper Snell rating as well as inspecting the car, looking for things such as whether the brake lights are operating, that there are no leaks under the hood, no cracks on the windshield, that any Go-Pro type cameras are tethered correctly, seats and seatbelts are the same for driver and passenger, the tires are free of damage and excessive wear, the trunk and interior are free of any loose objects, etc.

I know volunteering sounds like we're asking someone to work for free. But believe it or not, I feel like I get more fun out of the day by working together with our terrific team and get to meet more people as an extra advantage of helping out. I'd encourage anyone to give it a try. I don't think you'll be disappointed. "

Sheila Morin our long time Registration Manager, writes…

"Nowadays at HPDE Events I typically work in Registration. After a Student has gone through Tech Inspection, they come to Registration with their completed and punched Tech Form and show us their driver's license, and sign the waiver if they have not provided a Speed Waiver. We put their wristband on them, designating their run group, give them their Student packet and answer any questions that they might have. We remain available to all the participants throughout the day, in case any questions arise."

Heather Centrella (who does seemingly everything) writes…

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

"As some of you know, I absolutely prefer to remain behind the scenes, mortified by the spotlight, so when Al requested an HPDE bio/position description, admittedly, I cringed. With the need for volunteers being high and the number of times people ask or comment about why I do this - I've opted out of my comfort zone to provide some detail. So, here goes -

I was born with a steering wheel. A Big Wheel and Matchboxes were among my first toys - transforming markers into roads and the footstool of the recliner into a garage. Pictures of hot cars - Porsche, Lamborghini, Ferrari, a Cizeta Moroder V16T - adorned the walls alongside bands and teen heartthrobs. I was driving the second I could get my license, maybe before. Clearly, cars (motorcycles and trucks, too) were a passion from the beginning. BMW specifically came a spell later. I purchased my first, a 2002 330Ci Convertible, in 2007 and began my membership with the club in 2010. What better way to be around amazing vehicles and learn more than to join with like-minded enthusiasts?!

A sucker for being helpful, when volunteers were needed for another of the many events the club puts on, a high-performance driving education (HPDE) school at Lime Rock Park (*a place I also carried long running a passion for*), it seemed equally a gift as a donation.

I quickly understood CVC runs a tight ship with 'safe fun' as the center focus.

To begin, I learned False Grid, shadowing the experts that came before me. This is the initial safety stop point before cars going on track. A role of pivotal importance - assuring the driver and car with numbers & tech sticker adhered, wristband waiving, are in the properly matching run group, instructors in the right seat where applicable, with no loose objects to become a flying weapon!

Shortly after, I jumped in to assist with Registration too. Sheila covered the specifics in her spot, so I'll spare you the redundancy, only adding - conducted in the tower or under, we are always searching for a smoother, faster way. *Students, please be sure to go thru tech before visiting us to pick up your packets!*

I then shadowed Tower (now Pit Middle) with Sheila and the Driving Events Coordinator (DEC) / Chief Instructor (CI) of that time. Years passed learning the ins & outs. One school, the DEC couldn't be there so, with Shelia as my "seat belt", "*helmet, racing shoes, snack supply - basically full life support*" (thanks again, Shelia!) - I was responsible for my first semi-solo Tower stint. That one grew to more - Sheila and I were Team Tower. Eventually I was "adopted" by a couple of other clubs and saw them run Tower from Pit Middle… WHAT!?!!? — this reaction quickly turned fascination into learning. When a CVC HPDE arrived where we were without Shelia and short staffed, I ran Tower from Pit Middle too, which is what is still seen at CVC today … two radios in hand - one for LRP, one for CVC.

So, what is this Tower morphed Pit Middle position anyway? … exactly what it sounds like, and more. This position (currently) stands in the middle of pit lane and is the communications go- between for the club, the track [control], and the driving participants. A little more in the middle of the action than when performed from inside the tower. It is basically the central hub for all on track occurrences throughout the day – monitoring / releasing run groups headed on/off track; double checking cars / people with wristbands, helmets, etc. are correct, addressing any issues; providing traffic control (with the assistance of Pit Out for gapping, of course; unless short volunteers, then Pit Middle *can* do that too!), and triaging any on track incidents to the CI and DEC as necessary. Oh, and all with fun, friendly waves, thumbs up, hi-5s, claps, chats, or other signals among attendees along the way (maybe even a Y-M-C-A😉)!

. . . WHAT is she talking about?! . . .

Come witness us in action.
Drive. Volunteer. Do both.
You're guaranteed to learn and enjoy.
See you in pit lane!

Adriana Lee our newest board member dynamo, who does **Membership, Social Media and HPDE Registration** and all pit lane positions, is a person who generously gives her time to the organization she loves. She is the quintessential Bimmer lover and fast cars in general, having grown up driving on the Autobahn. Part of her heritage is helping others. She has been instrumental in raising CVC membership significantly over the last year and for HPDE she helps students through the registration process as needed to make sure they get on track.

Dave Mucciacciaro, is another super dynamo, in addition to being **Vice President**, Dave is the **Events Coordinator, Karting Master and Pit Lane Honcho** (*OK those last two are informal but fitting titles*). Dave directs the tech line, runs pit out and sometimes pit lane middle when Heather is driving. He does all of that all day long with little time to breathe. Your car gets on the track safely, smoothly and quickly because of his efforts. He also offers his time to organize all club events such as ice cream socials, visits to dealers, and other interesting venues. Why does he do all this? He loves it!

Dave writes...

"I have been volunteering my time at CVC HPDE's for many years now in many capacities, whether it be as a driving participant, pre-registration helper, tech inspector, tech lead, or checking things at false grid, pit middle, and pit out. You name it, I've done it. The worst part of the day is waking up early while the owls are still hooting, but the best part of my day is seeing students come in off the track and drive down pit lane grinning from ear to ear and giving me a small wave, acknowledging to me that they are having a great time. To me, that makes waking up with the owls worth it!"

Bob Lang one of our regular volunteers at different locations on Pit lane says...

"I am happy to volunteer at the HPDE events. Having participated in them twice myself, I enjoy assisting first-time and experienced drivers getting ready for their own thrill ride! Working the tech inspection and false grid gives me the opportunity to interact with fellow Bimmer lovers and see their excitement and anticipation of the great day on track that I know they will learn a lot from, and have fun doing it. It's also pretty cool to see a wide variety of BMW's up close and on the track."

Some Final Words from Al Harper - Driving Events Coordinator

"I volunteered to be part of the HPDE program, because driving a car on a race track has been one of my lifelong dreams since I started driving at age 14. The focus is incredible. At 140 miles per hour, you do not worry about your spouse, your kids, your mortgage, the lawn, your work or anything. It is pure Zen. It has been a long time since I started driving and though I have had finally hung up my helmet, my role as DEC keeps me engaged in HPDE and enabling more and more folks to enjoy this thrilling activity. Many others helped me achieve this goal by volunteering with HPDE programs, I feel that I can give a little back to the sport by helping to create our programs."

Next spring, come by the track, and visit. If you want to volunteer just let us know. I can promise a fun day. You may have heard, "there is no free lunch" but CVC makes sure our volunteer workers are fed. Oh, and volunteering at HPDE earns you credit towards registering for participation in an event as a student for free! How's that for rewarding?

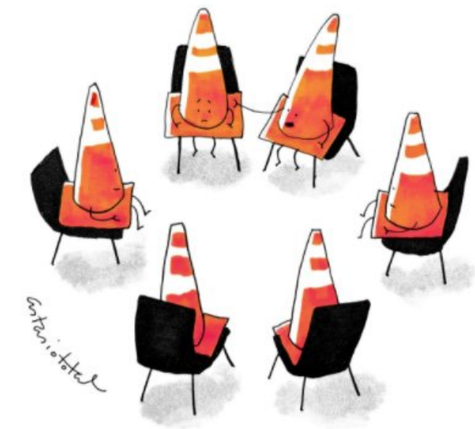
A note to YOU from Chapter President and DZ Editor, Paul Frickenhaus,

"There are many opportunities to volunteer in our club, both large and small. Please contact any of the Chapter Board Members to let us know what you would like to do to become more involved. We are excited and grateful for the time and talent you are willing to share with your fellow club members!"

TIRE RACK STREET SURVIVAL

This program, supported by the BMW CCA Foundation, and staffed and run locally by the CT Valley Chapter of BMW CCA is our primary way to give back to our community. Since we began our involvement, the CVC has completed 27 of these schools, teaching some 800 teens from all over New England, New York and New Jersey to become better, safer drivers. If you know of a teen who could benefit from this training – that includes EVERY teen behind the wheel – you can get them registered here: **TRSS Registration**

Traffic Cone Support Group



"Sure it hurts, but think of the good we do for all those Tire Rack Street Survival students. We give so that they may live."

CREDIT: THE NEW YORKER MAGAZINE CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

Did You Know...

You can purchase Gift Memberships to BMW CCA

The Ultimate Gift Membership in the BMW Car Club of America comes with many benefits

- Roundel BimmerLife magazines
- 69 chapters that provide a range of social, technical, and driving events
- Regional and National Driving schools, rallies, autocrosses, and social events
- Members are eligible for exclusive **discounts** and services—including up to $1,000 in **rebates** on the purchase or lease of a new or CPO BMW!

Purchase a gift membership for another enthusiast in your life and share the excitement that is BMW CCA.

Purchase a gift membership

*For every gift membership purchased by a member, you will receive **$5 in BMW CCA Buck**s which can be applied to your own membership renewal or used to purchase merchandise at the BMW CCA Store.*

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

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