



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

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...FAST FORWARD

PHOTO BY STEVE KLUCIK



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hi Car Lovers,

I dare say if you are reading this you likely appreciate cars. Not just for their obvious utility, but for the enjoyment of driving, perhaps their aesthetics and even for the camaraderie of like-minded individuals such as our BMW CCA compatriots. But before the enjoying the gratification of owning and using the car, we must first obtain it. That usually means going to a "dealership" and negotiating with a "salesperson." Now granted, unless we are buying a yacht or private aircraft, other than our homes the largest purchase we typically make is that of a car. That said, why does the process have to be so painful?

Once we have decided which car we'd like to drive home in, the rest should be easy. But then comes the price negotiation, the financing or leasing terms, prep fees, processing fees, registration fees, special paint protection, window etching and extended warranties – not to mention calculating the trade-in value of the car you arrived in. Oops, I just mentioned it. All this means it can be hours, days or even weeks later before we eventually drive away in that car we so desired. Satisfied? Perhaps, but the pain of the experience often tempers the enjoyment of owning the new ride. Ask me how I know after having endured a two-month long ordeal of buying a used car from an out-of-state dealer – not a BMW store I might add. I should have known there would be trouble when the on-line listing showed a "Market Price" an "Internet Price" and an "Instant Price." It went downhill from there with fess, mandatory "optional services" and even obtaining a proper bill of sale and a clear title. The feeling I experienced when, at long last, rolling it into my garage was one of relief more so than joy.

Are all buying experiences so painful? Hopefully not. So much depends upon the entity and representatives selling the car. When speaking of the purchase points of our favorite cars, the dealerships are called "BMW Centers" and the salespersons are called "Client Advisors or Consultants." Admittedly, I have no recent experience buying a new BMW, but I would hope that the process at the reputable BMW Centers in our area is more straightforward and streamlined than what I recently experienced. Ultimately, we do end up enjoying our Ultimate Driving Machines. In the end, the gain is worth the pain, but wouldn't it be nice if there was less of the latter?

—Paul



Vol 54 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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[Join Membership Now](#)

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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.

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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

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!

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Peter Austin
Eneida Bailey
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Nader Bandak
Thomas Barry
Stephen Baskowski
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CT VALLEY CHAPTER'S SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE



BMW Car Club
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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, rallies, 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**

2026 BOARD MEMBERS

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Larry Engel | northatlanticcrvp@bmwcca.org | 908-230-9818

STREET SURVIVAL SPRING SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Where Did All the Students Go? BY DAVE ORTOLI PHOTOS BY FRED ORTOLI

On Saturday, May 9, we held our annual spring Tire Rack Street Survival school, the twenty-ninth since we started in 2007. In spite of threatening rain all day, which finally did hit us just before we finished, the school was another success. However, we had a very unusual situation arise with this school – a sharp drop in the number of students enrolling. The 18 teens who attended constituted one of the smallest classes we have ever had; well below our normal class size of over 30. This was despite one of the biggest publicity pushes we have had, with attempts through multiple channels to try to attract some media coverage either pre-event or on the day of the event.

There has been much reflection among the staff as to the cause or causes of the drop-off – the tuition price increase – the school being held on Mother's Day weekend, etc., but not one reason stands out. We are still grateful for the teens and families that did participate. They left with the tools and skill for being better, safer drivers. At a cost of only \$175 the students get instruction from a dedicated ride-along coach, along with some classroom sessions and extra activities. Everyone, students and parents alike, get breakfast and lunch on-site at the Consumer Reports test track.

We now have a challenge in front of us, a challenge for which we

need help from all of our members. Our fall school is planned for September 26th. There are a few students already signed up for the school. We need our chapter members' assistance in spreading the word about this school to their friends who have teenage drivers, or directly to the teens themselves. If anyone has any connections with any of the media outlets, ask them to contact me to find out more about the program and provide some coverage for us. We can provide a one-page handout for local community news outlets as well. . ■

Here is a direct link to register a student in the school in September:

Street Survival September 26th

Here's a link to some more information about the program:

About Street Survival

Finally if you'd consider joining our staff of dedicated volunteers for a very rewarding day, we are always accepting people.

Thanks for your help,

Dave (DOrtoli@ctvalley.org)



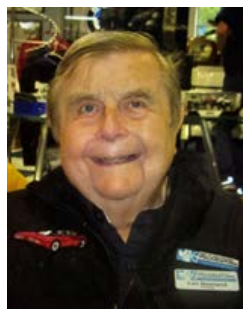


THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MUSEUM

BMW M3: 40 YEARS OF EVOLUTION EXHIBIT OPENING WEEKEND

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BOB MORIN

May 14th kicked off the opening weekend for this year's exhibit at the BMW CCA Foundation's Ultimate Driving Museum. On that Thursday evening, there was a dinner honoring and remembering Dr. Leo Newland, a founding Trustee and a past President of the Board of Trustees who passed away at his Texas home in late January. With Leo's wife Marian in attendance there were many stories about adventures and experiences that attendees had in Leo's



company. It was a lovely tribute to a well-respected and dearly missed gentleman. At the end of the evening, a banner that was created was made available for attendees to sign and write messages with the intention that it would be given to Marian as a memento of the event.

During the day on the 15th, the

Foundation Board of Trustees met in person and among other agenda business items elected the Foundation Board for 2026 with Simone Harrison becoming the new President, Gordon Medenica elected as Vice-President, Scott Blazey as Secretary and Didier Lavion as Treasurer. That evening was the exhibit opening gala for this year's exhibit, BMW M3: 40 Years of Evolution. Erik Wensberg served as the emcee and speakers included Ray Korman, Boris Said, Tom Milner and his daughter Erin of Team PTG and Bill Cobb, BMW NA Press Officer.

On Saturday, there was an early Cars & Coffee on the Foundation grounds prior to the official opening of the exhibit. And what an exhibit it is, too. There are 25 cars on display, representing a street, special edition, and race version of each generation of M3 (or M4 for the more recent generations). The only missing piece is the current generation race car because every one



A Very Rare E30 M3 Cabrio



G80 M3 CS

built is currently racing somewhere, so none were available to exhibit. That's just the beginning however.

The exhibit contains three cars that are the first ever and three cars that are the last ever. Additionally, there are three models that were never sold new in the U.S. Among the rarities, the first E30 M3 in the U.S., raced by Ray Korman in the Firehawk Series, the last U.S. E 30 M3, once purchased by David Hobbs at an auction held at our own Lime Rock Park as part of a fundraiser to "Pave the Park." You also won't see an E36 M3 GT every day, or one of the 50 ever built M4 3.0 CSLs worth in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000!

The cars are awesome, but there's still way more to the exhibit with showcases of miniatures, memorabilia, and other artifacts, and then there's the artwork, banners, posters, wheels (wait until you see the difference between the original E30 M3 wheel, and the wheel from a current model!), driver's suits, and more on display.

The exhibit is currently open and will be running through mid-January 2027. If you will be anywhere in the Greer, SC area while the exhibit is available, you will not be disappointed by making it a point to visit. Can't make it, but want to learn more, you can purchase the [exhibit book here](#).

Or [check here](#) for more information about the exhibit.

Discover more about [The Ultimate Driving Museum](#) . ■



Last E30 M3 Imported to the US



E92 M3 GTS



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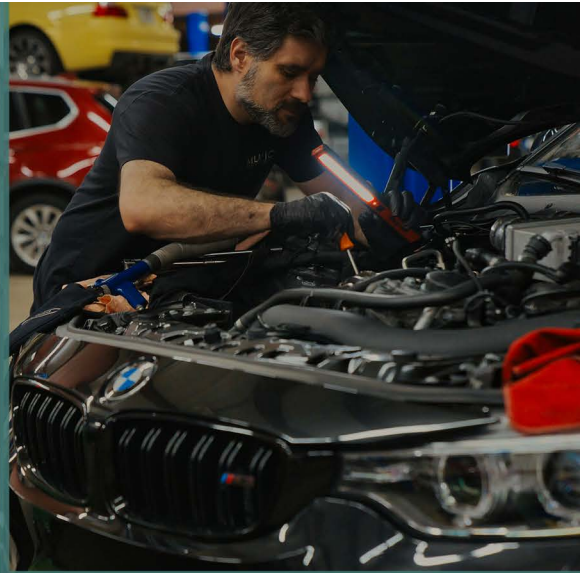
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YOU CAN OWN A BMW M4 GT3 EVO!

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
DAVE ORTOLI

Yes, it's true, and it won't cost you over \$500,000!



For the mere price of about \$65, you can have your own authentic race car. Of course, it is only about 3 inches tall and a foot long – and you have to put it together yourself. Puzzled about what I am talking about? It is the Lego® version of the M4 GT3, part of the Technic™ collection. When the 747 pieces are all assembled, you have a detailed model with steerable front wheels, a working engine and opening doors.

Although once considered as toys for children, Lego realized that adults enjoyed the process of assembling bags of tiny plastic pieces into something recognizable, such as a building or a vehicle. Plus, as a bonus, the adults had a lot more disposable income to spend on ever increasingly complex and costlier sets.

I was introduced to Lego in 2010 by our daughter and son-in-law, who is a lifelong Lego builder. The first model that they gave me was a Lamborghini police car which the Italian federal police used for patrolling on the Autostrada (Interstate). This was followed up by an original Mini Cooper (now retired) and the James Bond Aston Martin DB5. Each Christmas brought a new model, usually a sports or race car.

Lego introduced the Technic series, which brought a much higher level of sophistication and difficulty to the build. However, the vehicles also gained such features as steerable front wheels, working suspensions and “operating” engines. They also entered into partnerships with multiple vehicle manufacturers, bringing out exotic sports cars and race cars, including a set of all of the 2025 Formula 1 cars. Often the books showing the assembly steps also include information about the actual car and the process involved in creating the Lego model.

Of interest to BMW fans are some recent sets I obtained. The first was a set of two small BMW race cars – the M4 GT3 and the M Hybrid V8. The second is the feature of this article, the M4 GT3 Evo. Although it is a Technic model, because of the smaller size it is not quite as detailed as my Porsche 911 RSR or the Ferrari SF24 Formula 1 car. However, it was still fun to build and good to add another BMW to in my collection.

The Lego building has become a fun pastime for me, and allowed me to build up an interesting collection of exotic and race cars worth millions – in real life. There is nothing of interest on the horizon right now, but I am always checking new releases! . ■

The full list of my Lego builds – So Far...

Lamborghini Gallardo LP560-4 police car

Mini Cooper (Classic version)

1964 Aston Martin DB5 from Goldfinger movie

Mercedes Benz AMG Petronas F1 pit area with cars

Scuderia Ferrari F1 car and transporter

Ford Mustang Shelby GT500 friction car

Beatles Yellow Submarine

Trevi Fountain

Porsche 911 RSR

Ferrari/AF Corse 488 GTE

McLaren MCL39 F1 car

Ferrari SF24 F1 car

BMW M4 GT3 & M Hybrid V8 set

BMW M4 GT3 Evo

You Ought to be in Pictures (or at least your car can be)

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To: Connecticut Valley Chapter BMW CCA Members

Hey there! It's Rob Rutledge at USA Movie Cars!

We are a picture car company, providing Cars on screen for TV Shows, Commercials, Movies, Events and more. We have some upcoming productions in the summer and fall of 2026 and need modern and classic cars of all types, and all years from 1900 to modern day in Connecticut. (especially 1920-1995)

We would LOVE to put your cars in TV Shows, Films, Events and more! Our site USA Movie Cars is 100% free. Car owners can place their cars on the site and when TV shows and films are looking for vehicles like yours, we help make that happen!

Cars are ALWAYS insured by the productions, usually parked, and always a memorable experience. ALL gigs are paid, usually \$400/day, sometimes more, never less. Paid same day, usually.

In addition, we make a donation to the car club of their choice (you) for your help and connections.

Our recent gigs include Bruno Mars, Kane Brown videos, TV shows for Apple TV, Fox, and events for the US Navy, NASCAR, and others.

USA MOVIE CARS covers the USA, Canada, Ireland, and UK. The Site is 100% free for car owners.

Thanks for taking time to read this, and we look forward to working with you!

If you have any questions, feel free to reply and we'll answer them as best we can.

***Rob Rutledge
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HPDE – THE 2026 SEASON WHAT IS AND WHAT IS TO BE

STORY BY PAUL FRICKENHAUS
PHOTOS BY STEVE KLUCIK

What is...

The 2026 season kicked off with our season opener at Lime Rock Park on the 25th of April. This year the CVC is working in partnership with sister chapters for all three of our events. We were joined by the Patroon and New York chapters for this event which featured a rejuvenated program led by Chief Instructor Dave Gelardi and much-improved classroom sessions led by Dave along with David Woodward and Christo Tinkov. Each on-track session was followed up with “Download” meetings at the base of the tower where those folks fresh off the track – students and instructors together – talked through what they had just experienced. They shared what worked and where there was room for improvement.

Our Season Sponsor, BMW of Ridgefield (part of the Keeler Auto Group), was on hand with a truck full of spares and supplies, a service vehicle equipped with tools and equipment and a host of service technicians ready and able to come to the rescue for participants needing help during the event. Our gratitude goes out to them as they were pressed into service several times throughout the day. Cheers!!! Look for the Ridgefield crew to be in the paddock at our future events too.

This event was near capacity as we kept the tuition prices as low as possible, including “early bird” discounts, while the partner chapters combined their efforts to promote the event and welcome back instructors and students who we had not seen in the paddock in recent years. Proof that we are on the right track (pun sort of intended) is evidenced by the glowing reviews recorded in Driver Eval.

Bumps in the road? Sure there often are. One instructor’s car suffered an engine failure and one student learned the hard way that cold tires don’t have as much grip as warm ones. Rain, which had threatened most of the day, finally arrived late in the afternoon

April 25 @ LRP

July 11 @ PMP

August 29 @ LRP



LRP	PMP	LRP
04/25	07/11	08/29

giving drivers the choice of honing their skills in a low traction setting or sitting back at the end of a long day of track time already accrued.

At 5 o'clock as the track went "cold" so too were the suds served up to accompany the pizza giving everyone a chance to unwind and reflect on the day.

Whether you were in attendance or not, Steve Klucik, an accomplished track photographer, was there to capture the on-track action with a copious set of photos. Here is a [link](#) to the hundreds of shots he took throughout the day.

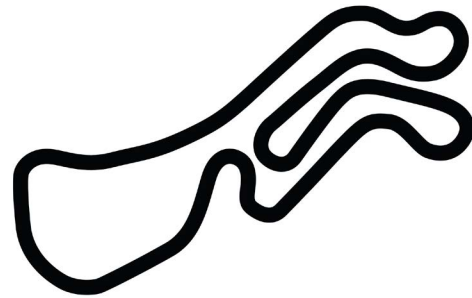
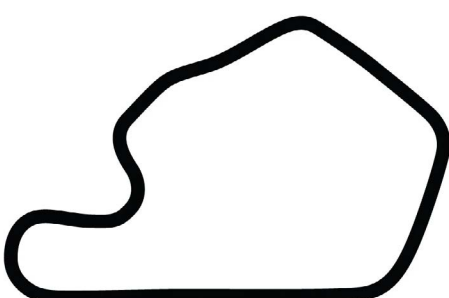
They are all available for purchase, so consider the opportunity to add to the décor of your garage, den or office desk (guaranteeing envious looks from your co-workers who had no idea you were a Track Star).

What is To Be...

As mentioned earlier, CVC has partnered with other chapters in the North Atlantic region of BMW CCA. The next event on our calendar is a partnership with the Boston Chapter on July 11 at the intriguing Palmer Motorsports Park track, also known as Whiskey Hill. This track can be run either clockwise or counterclockwise (but not at the same time!). This time we will be running in the counterclockwise direction. Whereas Lime Rock has a total of precisely one left hand turn, Palmer offers ten accompanied by five right handers in the counterclockwise direction. Oh, and lots of elevation changes too. Exciting, challenging and fun! For more information and to register, click here:

For more information and to register, click here:

Boston and CVC HPDE at Palmer July 11 2026





The third event of our HPDE season has us returning to Lime Rock Park on August 29th where we will once again be partnering with the Patroon Chapter. We invite you to join us at this one too by registering here:

BMW CCA Partners at Lime Rock Park August 29 2026

And if you are still HPDE-curious, at the August 29th event you can sign up for “Ride Alongs” where you can ride “shotgun” with one of our instructors in their car at speed during one of our full speed sessions. You may also register for a “Taste of the Track” session where you can get behind the wheel of your own car on track paced by our instructors. For more information and registration about all of this, click here:

Ride Along and Taste of the Track August 29 2026



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ANNOUNCING A SPECIAL NEW EVENT ...

**CVC's Annual Dinner has gone BRUNCH!
~ CT Valley Chapter 2026 Brunch Celebration ~**

It's been a couple years since CVC has had an Annual Dinner.

You've asked, we listened, and we've missed seeing you all in a room full, enjoying BMW comradery! So, it's back - with a twist, and a mimosa! We're trying something a little different, taking it to the morning. Those who have attended in the past know, when it comes to dinners, we deliver, and this brunch will too! Same fabulous food (just brunchin' munchin's instead of main course), spectacular speaker, and GREAT giveaway! And this time, all fun, no business as we already held the annual business meeting virtually.



And we are delighted to welcome a spectacular guest speaker for this exclusive event, Travis Okulski!

If you recognize the name, he needs no introduction. If you've yet to become acquainted, now's your chance! Travis is now the editor of both Roundel and BimmerLife magazines. He was bitten by the Bimmer Bug as a teenager when he spotted a Le Mans Blue E39 M5 in a BMW showroom. Already obsessed with cars, Travis devoured car magazines, including Roundel which he'd read cover to cover to get his fix! He never would have guessed during days spent lying on the living room floor, that reading those publications would inspire his entire career. It led to opportunities with the online publication Jalopnik and even a stint as editor-in-chief of the venerable, Road & Track. Now taking the reigns from both Satch Carlson and Jackie Jouret, former heads of BMW CCA's excellent journals, Travis is tackling the formidable job of keeping them fresh and relevant now and in the future. So come meet this life-long BMW enthusiast, racer and accomplished journalist. He's got some stories to tell!

Register now as space for this first-of-it's-kind event is limited!

-Cost: \$35 per person (+ MSR processing fee)

-Date: July 19, 2026 11am - 1pm

-Location: BMW New Country

1 Weston Park Road
Hartford, CT 06120

~ FINAL DATE TO REGISTER* is July 17th! ~

*at least one attendee within a registering party must be a BMW CCA Member. [Click here to JOIN BMW CCA NOW.](#)

The Fine Print:

This event is open to chapter members and their guests.

Only chapter and associate members are eligible for door prizes.

**Should the need to cancel arise, please be kind and notify us immediately so those waitlisted can secure their space.*

For questions, email hcentrella@ctvalley.org

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SPACE IS LIMITED to 60 attendees!*



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WINTER WEATHER "WOWS"

CVC Offers Social and Learning Opportunities

A noted Connecticut native, Mark Twain, is often credited with saying, “If you don't like the weather in New England now, just wait a few minutes.” In fact what he said – in a speech at the *ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE NEW-ENGLAND SOCIETY* in 1876 – was, “Gentlemen: I reverently believe that the Maker who made us all, makes everything in New England - but the weather.” He went on to say, “Yes, one of the brightest gems in the New England weather is the dazzling uncertainty of it.”

Part 1 – Story by Al Harper, Photos (and Lego-mobile) by Adriana Lee

The Connecticut Valley Chapter is not just about cars but about getting together as BMW aficionados and enjoying the company of friends who share a variety of interests. Car trips and track days are wonderful but are primarily late spring, summer and fall events. Rather than sitting in your Garage Queen Bimmer during the winter months and wishing that it was nice enough to take your baby out for a drive, the CVC held some winter gatherings to get our members out and enjoying some of the great adventures Connecticut has to offer.

This winter we had an adventure in January at the Connecticut Air Museum located at Bradley international Airport as reported in the last edition of the DZ. The museum has an important connection to the history of aviation in Connecticut in that Igor Sikorsky invented helicopters in Stratford and that Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines were developed in Hartford by Frederick Rentschler. You may recall that BMW started as an airplane engine manufacturer before turning to automobiles and motorcycles.

Our next adventure in 2026 was a trip to the **Connecticut Science Center** in Hartford on March 14th. The goal was to find an activity that families with children could join in with other club members. The Connecticut Science Center offers an exciting and interactive experience where hands-on exhibits and immersive experiences make science fun for all ages!



Only a few members of the club managed to make the trip but what we shared in common was that we were all young at heart. We explored every floor from top to bottom. One highlight was the extensive forensic science section where Dr. Henry Lee led us through crime scene investigation using science. Connecticut has long been one of the leaders in forensic science in the world. Dr. Lee's efforts in developing the finest forensic laboratory have been the model for forensic laboratories around the world.

There was also the opportunity for some of CVC's dinosaurs to pose with their Jurassic era forbearers and a significantly more youthful Adriana Lee.



We even made some Lego cars! Not a Bimmer model, but not bad for a first attempt.

After the visit to the museum we walked over to Bear's Smokehouse BBQ for a hearty lunch. ■

Part 2 – Story and Photos by Bob Lang

Mother Nature treated us to a bright, sunny, early April day for an excursion to the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT. As part of our family-oriented activities, we knew the trip would be fun for both young and old alike. And safe to say, it did not disappoint! We had a good turnout from our BMW CVC members who enjoyed driving their Bimmers to an amazing destination along Connecticut's Long Island Sound shoreline.

We arrived just in time at the Marine Theater for the California sea lion show featuring slippery, talented performers performing tricks dressed as caped crusader super-heroes, tasked with protecting the ocean's ecosystem. It was truly educational and quite entertaining! Wow! The things these amazing creatures are able to do with just a fish as a reward. Mystic Aquarium is the only aquarium in the continental US to care for Steller sea lions.

Following that, our attention turned to the indoor entertainment in the hands-on touch tank area where you can touch a sting ray (not the 4 wheeled type) sharks, crabs and lobster, see an octopus up close, and pet a starfish. The kids especially love this part! A coral reef was duplicated with brilliant tropical fish from around the globe. There was even a terrestrial bearded dragon to observe.

The biggest attraction (literally) was the Beluga whale glass tank showing them up close for nose-to-nose observation where they come right up to the glass and look you straight in the eye. Seeing a one ton baby Beluga tagging along next to its mom is a sight to behold. They're the only Beluga Whales in New England and Mystic is known as the largest outdoor Beluga habitat in the US.

As you might imagine, the outdoor harbor seal pool was very active with seals of all sizes racing around their habitat, swimming, jumping in the air, and entertaining the crowd. The indoor immersive Dino Seas Exhibit Blends marine science with prehistoric, animatronic dinosaur displays that look so life-like. But overall, everyone's favorite is the African penguins

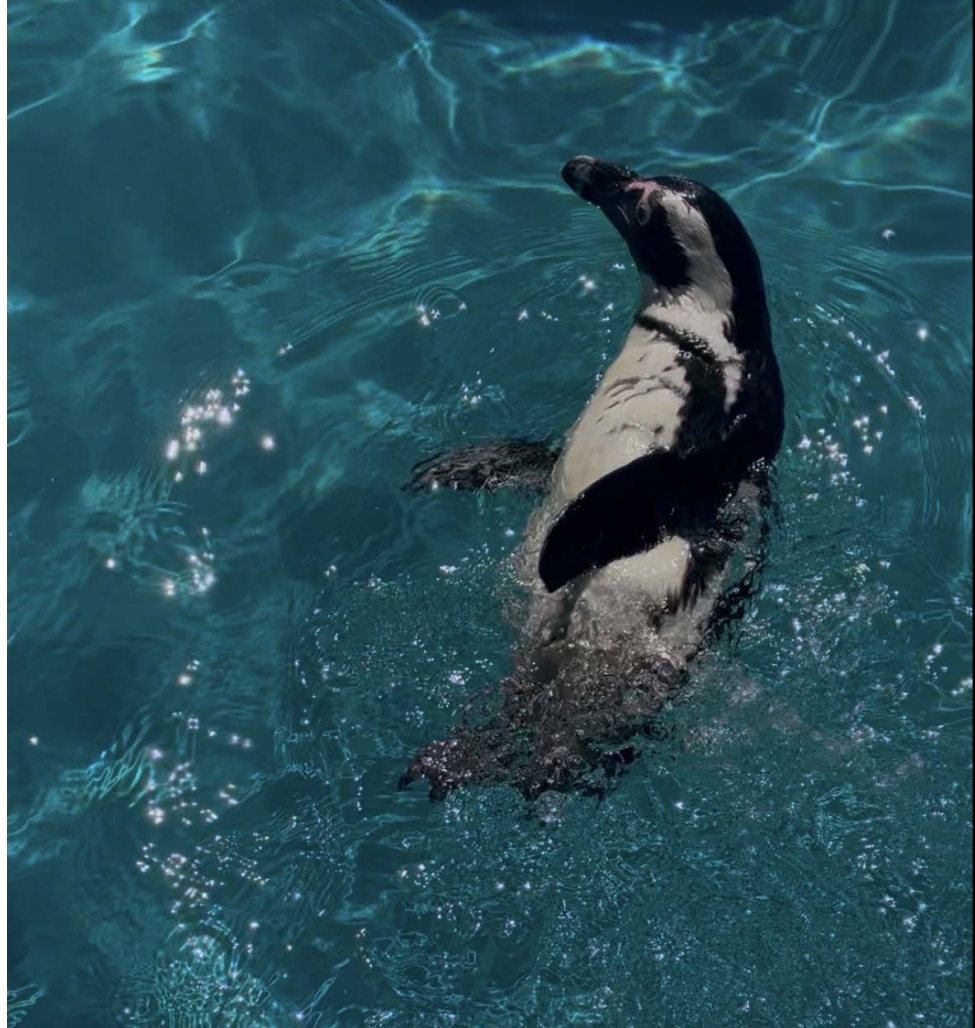
who are just as cute and lovable as can be. Once again, the glass tanks allow for a beautiful view of their underwater antics and swift swimming talents.

Other enhanced experiences such as private sessions with sea lions and penguins can be had for an additional stipend.

Mystic Aquarium is a nonprofit dedicated to marine conservation, scientific research and education. They are known world-wide for their dedication to marine rescue and rehabilitation.

Following our marine life experience our group converged on the adjacent Mystic Village featuring excellent boutiques, bakeries, restaurants and stores. Our final destination for delicious dining was Trattoria Amalfi where we talked about the highlights of the day and of course, our love for Bimmers.

So, if you are looking for a remarkable destination to take a road trip with the family in your BMW, make plans to go and see the amazing Mystic Aquarium. ■





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PHOTO BY STEVE KLUCIK