



New Jersey Bulletin

BMW CAR CLUB OF AMERICA
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER
August 2007

<http://www.njbmwcca.org>

Volume 38 Number 8

Morgan and Schnitzer to speak at August meeting



The Berlin-Rome 328 Touring was one of the cars that Brian Morgan and Klaus Schnitzer drove on their excursion in Italy and Switzerland. They will share stories and photos from the trip at the August 15th monthly meeting.

Newsletter of the NJ Chapter
BMW Car Club of America
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President's Line

The oil companies have lured me in to a false sense of thinking that gas at \$2.65 9/10 (regular) is a bargain. Now I'm not going to go on about how the cost of gasoline is affecting my life, I just wish that they would do away with the 9/10 of a cent. Has anyone ever received 1/10 of a cent in change from buying a gallon of gasoline?

July had quite a few events that that took place Club wise. There were two Autocrosses, a Rally, the Picnic, and the combined Driving School and Club Race that took place at Summit Point Raceway in West Virginia.

July also had delivered us some news for those of us who have been enjoying the use of Lime Rock Park (LRP) in Connecticut for either our driving schools or just as a spectator for some of the sports car racing they have had there over the years. LRP has been in existence since 1957 and is now in its 50th year. Skip Barber, who runs the track, would like to see the track flourish for another 50 years by turning the track into a private club. He currently is offering memberships good for 50 years at \$100, 000 apiece, limited to 300.

Now we don't exactly know how it's going to affect us; the word from Skip was that the car clubs that are using it would suffer the most. Another consideration of using (or not using) LRP in the future will be the cost; it may be prohibitive for us. For those of you who are unaware, the New Jersey Chapter of the BMW CCA was the first chapter of the CCA to hold a driving school, and it was held at LRP. It was even before I had my license, 30 plus years ago.

If that can be considered the bad news, some good news is that Thunderbolt Raceway has finally broken ground and is currently under construction in Millville NJ. They are anticipating being open in 2008. The same owners of Virginia International Raceway (VIR) in Alton, Virginia are building Thunderbolt. We are currently under negotiations with the management of the track for some dates for next year and hoping their construction schedule stays on course. We are planning on having Joe Volpe from Thunderbolt Raceway speak with us some time in September at the Deutscher Club.

Getting back to some of the events of July, I need to thank David and Peggy Finch for hosting the picnic at their farm. It was a hot and sunny July day with a good breeze going all day. As has been in the past, the picnic was the ending of place of the Summer Rally, one of the events of our Championship Series. Rallymasters for the third year in a row were Jon Trudel and Doug Humphrey. JMK BMW, UUC Motorwerks, and VAC Motorsports donated prizes for the Rally. Congratulations to E21 fanatic JT Burkard and Sandy Wolak for taking first place.

The Driving School/ Club Race was a fabulous event at the Summit Point Raceway. It was the first event for Dennis Krug as our Driving School Registrar. We were happy to have Dennis on board as Registrar for our driving schools. There were some new members in attendance at the school as well as some old members who haven't been to one of our schools in a while. Although rain had been in the forecast, it only rained on Saturday night, leaving it hot and sticky both days.

I thought I would be able to be a spectator for Sunday's one-hour race enduro when my services were required to assist former Club president Andy Korinis as radioman for the pace car. The field needed to be paced while several cars were retrieved from the gravel trap and the track was cleaned-up from the motor oil on it

that caused the cars to end up in the gravel trap. Andy did a great job and I look forward to working with him in the future.

NJ Bulletin columnist Thom Rossi now has a new competitor in his class of K-Prepared, NJ member Scott Reiman. It was Scott's second Club Race, his first at Summit Point. Scott had made the transition to Club Racing after attending our driving schools for several years.

We will be back at Summit Point to use the Shenandoah Circuit on September 22-23. The Shenandoah Circuit is a technical course and features a replica of the famed Carrousel turn of the Nurburgring Track in Germany. Registration for the school is now done through the Club's website. I have reserved a block of rooms at the Comfort Suites in Martinsburg WV. \$65 plus tax per night. You can reach them at 304-263-8888. Be sure to mention you are with the NJ BMW Club.

Some upcoming events if you are adventuresome. On the National Club level is the Oktoberfest, this year in Ft. Worth, Texas. Sept 30-Oct 5, with the E30 M3 being the featured model. Former BMW driver Steve Soper will also be on hand. For more info, go to www.bmwcca.org/oktoberfest.

If you would like to stay closer to home, you could try attending the Vermont Chapter's OktoberFAST, October 5-7 being held in Stowe VT. It is a German car gathering not limited to BMWs. Also planned for the weekend are tours of Vermont to take in the fall foliage. You can check it out at www.vtoktoberfast.com.

The one event that I have been looking forward to all summer is the U.S. Zippo Grand Prix being held at Watkins Glen NY on September 7-9. This event is for vintage racecars and the featured marquee for 2007 is BMW. A highlight of the event is bringing the racecars from the track to the village of Watkins Glen for a tour of the original Grand Prix Circuit of 1948. That's on Friday afternoon then it's back to the track for 2 days of races for the 550 plus cars that show up for the event.

Now I just need to figure out how far my truck will go on 1/10 of a cent's worth of gasoline at \$2.65 9/10/gal while getting 12 mpg.

Neil Gambony





This is about more than Driving – It is about Living

June 30, 2007

David Finch
New Jersey Chapter

Dear Hero,

On behalf of the Trustees of the BMW CCA Foundation, Michael Mitchel and myself, I want to thank you for all your efforts and hard work on facilitating your recent Tire Rack Street Survival School. I know it was hard work and you ended up spending much more time on it than you expected, but I hope you think it was worth it.

Because of your tireless labor, you have taught another group of teenagers how to be better drivers and better citizens of our roadways, making it safer for all of us to travel. These skills will pay off immediately and for the rest of their lives.

With your help we are well on the way to meeting our goal of hosting 50 schools this year.

Thank you again for all that you have done.
Please pass on our thanks to all your crew.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Wade".

Bill Wade
National Program Manager
Tire Rack Street Survival®

New Jersey Chapter of the BMW CCA Board Meeting June 13, 2007

Board members present: Neil Gambony, Ross Karlin, David Hirschhorn, Barry Stevens, David Finch, Jeff White, Warren Brown, Al Drugos, Bob Conway and Deborah Kolar. Board member absent: Jerry Faber. Others present: Dave Allaway, Blake Smith, Penny Galossi and Bob Isbitski. Neil Gambony called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM at Café Cucina. Al Drugos waived the reading of the minutes and Jeff White seconded - motion passed.

President

Neil reported that National needs notification within 10 business days of any officer changes.

Vice President

The yearly meeting at BMW NA is scheduled for June 15th at 6 pm. The July meeting is the 25th at Paul Miller BMW. Klaus and Brian will present August 15th at the Deutscher Club. Barry will announce these meetings at the BMW NA meeting this Friday. Barry will also take care of getting new Deutscher Club members. Barry is investigating an event at a local winery during August.

Treasurer

Warren submitted the financial statement. He received the checks from the LRP Drivers School and Club Race at the meeting, so financials are not yet available. Warren will get a check stamp for the Registrar so that, in the future, checks can be deposited weekly. David Finch requested that any checks that cannot be cashed be forwarded to Brian Corrigan. Warren asked for any outstanding LRP expenses. This year, the matching gift of approximately \$750 will be sent directly to the Westlake School. In the past it was sent to Ross and included in one check given to Westlake. Ross will attend the June Westlake graduation and take the photo collage created by Penny for display. Warren reported that we did not transfer any monies from the LRP event to the Bulletin account to cover the cost of the extra pages that are race-related. Ross stated that getting sponsorship is becoming more difficult because the return on investment is not apparent. It is vital that our members mention sponsorship when they patronize dealerships. Members should also let the dealerships know when they make referrals.

Bulletin

Ross will ask David McIntyre to write an article for the Bulletin on the LRP Drivers School and Club Race.

Social Events

The Finch's will host the picnic (and rally-end) Sunday July 15th. Al will write a notice for the website and Bulletin. Prices will be the same as last year. Jon Trudel will be Rally Master. Penny is in charge of obtaining prizes for the rally.

Driving Events

The Teen Street Survival School is set for June 17th. Art Hance will be the classroom instructor. Highpoint Insurance representatives plan to be at the event.

Jeff requested a rebate from LRP based on failure to meet the terms of the contract. We have approximately 32 paying students signed up for Summit Point. Jeff will send out an email to past students. David Hirschhorn will promote the event on the National Capital website and look into running an ad in their newsletter. Jeff will investigate the barbeque. Ross will open Summit Point racer registration.

New Jersey Motorsports Park has started construction and hopes to open by May 2008.

Elihu sent a message thanking Ross for finding an EMT to attend the last autocross and reported that the EMT will also attend the next event.

There are a small number of problems with the online registration system. There appear to be some lost m-driver numbers and histories, drivers need to be able to enter their histories, and a way to find m-driver numbers is required. Bob will address these with Greg.

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Member-at-Large

David Hirschhorn tried to spearhead a convoy to LRP for the race, banquet and possible laps with an instructor. He received no responses. David will provide a survey to Bob for inclusion on the website as a means of finding out what types of events are desired by our members.

Dealer Liaison

Penny Galossi is assembling a dealer discount chart.

New Members

Bob has been communicating with a group that has posted their rally on our forum and will inform their members of our July rally.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, July 18th at 7:30pm at Café Cucina.

David Finch motioned to adjourn at 9:15 PM, Jeff White seconded. Respectfully submitted, Deborah Kolar (Secretary)



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**Italy and Switzerland by Vintage BMW:
 Morgan and Schnitzer's Excellent Adventure**

Brian Morgan and Klaus Schnitzer traveled to Italy for the Concorso Villa d'Este on the shores of Lake Como, and then participated in a two-day drive from Como to Zurich in vintage BMWs. Brian's stories on the events will appear in Roundel and Klaus' will appear in Bimmer. They will share stories and photos from the trip with the New Jersey Chapter at the August monthly meeting. Please join us for the program at the Deutscher Club in Clark on August 15 at 8:00pm.

Driver School Schedule

| Venue | Dates | Cost |
|------------|-----------|-------|
| Shenandoah | Sep 22-23 | \$350 |

Details for each event and instructions for registering are on the website. For returning students, please verify that the information in your Profile is correct. **Please be certain that your e-mail address is current since all communication will be electronic.** For new or interested students, we have added a "What is a Driver School?" page on the website to introduce you to our goals in conducting schools and what to expect.

Autocross Schedule

| Dates | Location |
|--------|--|
| Aug 19 | At Commerce Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater |

Additional dates: Sept 9th, Oct 7th, and Oct 28th



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A Driver's Montage

By Thom Rossi

My mind is awash in a tsunami of images from the past few week's driving events. After my disastrous initial event at Lime Rock this Spring, followed by some quick work by Steve Vicari to repair the Swamp Thing, I was fortunate to quickly get back on the track for two events in July. First there was the mid-July 2-day driver's school at Watkins Glen, New York, sponsored by the Del Val chapter. Then, in the last weekend of July, the joint club race and driver's school sponsored by our own chapter at Summit Point, West Virginia. I have a montage of images to share with you from both of these events.

But first, let me point out that before participating in an event, you have to get there. That is why the slippery slope of becoming a track addict eventually leads all of us to needing a tow vehicle. Over time, I've watched many of my friends descend into fiscal madness by progressively modifying their track cars until they are not only unsuitable as daily drivers, but also downright illegal to drive on public roads. Once reached, this tipping point demands the purchase of two additional vehicles: a tow vehicle and a trailer. At first, most of us were content to have open trailers and to utilize whatever SUV the family happened to already own for towing. But we are alpha males (and females), so I suppose it was inevitable that over time the ante would creep up, demanding ever more strenuous use of the imagination to justify the cost of our hobby. Some examples with names (barely) changed to protect the (hardly) innocent are as follows. My friend "B--" drove his almost-street-legal track car to events for many years, but a season or two ago, decided to start towing. Because he is a smart shopper and generally frugal, he found a good deal on an open trailer and decided to use his aging family Suburban to pull it. Because I am a lazy copy cat, I bought the same trailer. But instead of towing it with a wheezing old piece of Detroit iron, as likely as not to blow a head gasket, I started using the family Lexus LX470. Ever since my first use of the Lexus for its God-intended-purpose as a true Utility Vehicle, two things have happened. Mrs. R. has stubbornly insisted that there is an indelible stench of old tires and gasoline in the truck, and "B--" has secretly lusted after an upgrade of his hauler. The consequence of Mrs. R's obsession with untainted air is that a replacement vehicle had to be purchased for her use as a daily driver. Ka-ching. The consequence of "B-'s" alpha tendencies is that he recently out-did me in the tow-vehicle department by purchasing a dedicated F-350 diesel dually. Ka-ching, Ka-ching.

Tempting me further into bold reaction is the fact that the previously bullet-proof Lexus has started to develop a few annoying habits, and Mrs. R is right... it is starting to smell like tires and gasoline in there! Friday morning, the second I hooked it up to my trailer, one of the ignition coil packs fizzled out. Not the best time for a break down. A frantic call to the James Toyota dealership in Flemington resulted in their taking me into their service department with only one-hour's notice. That was good of them, but what they did next was nothing short of great. They didn't have any coil packs in stock for the Lexus truck, but since they knew I needed to get on the road in a few hours, instead of waiting a day for the part to be delivered to them they figured out that one of the 2007 Toyota truck V8s uses the same replacement part number as the Lexus. So they pulled one out of a truck they had on the show-room floor and got me back on the road lickity-split! WOW! They just got me as a customer for life.

This season, "Cigar Bill" upped the ante even further. He used to use a big Ford diesel pick up truck for towing, but has now

upgraded to a CAMPER! What a treat it was to have some air-conditioned space close on hand during the Summit point event. How far into the future is the day when we all start buying campers and tandem trailers?

Meanwhile, back at the track, here are a few highlights from this past month's events. First and foremost, my hat is off to Barry Stevens. Against all odds, this man actually talked Mrs. R. into getting into a track car with him and going for a fast lap around Watkins Glen. I don't know how he did it, but next time I have something to sell, I sure hope Barry can be my agent. It may have been a life altering experience for Mrs. R. I noticed she had a distinctly zen-like serenity for many days afterward. I think it came from the simple joy of survival. My message to any reader who hasn't yet tried a driving event with our club is: if she can do it, so can you. Get out there!

I once heard it said that the secret to winning races is to drive as slow as you can and still win. I took that philosophy to heart at Summit Point because I wanted to win, but I also wanted to have a super clean race with no off-track excursions (a reaction to my recent experience at Lime Rock). Note to "Bisket": I'm trying to learn how to "be a smart driver". The field of KP cars was rather thin, with only one other entrant, Scott Reimen, besides me. During practice we sized each other up, and I realized that I had Scott at a rather substantial disadvantage because he was not all that familiar with the track. My strategy paid off, and I was fortunate to take first place in KP class during Sunday's enduro race. I can't say enough about the fine level of camaraderie amongst most of the KP drivers I've met. Scott and I exchanged lots of helpful information with each other, and even helped each other optimize our set ups by exchanging information on tire temps and pressures. I know I'll see Scott again this Fall at Watkins Glen. Then the tables will be turned because I am not that familiar with that track and Scott has spent many days on it. It should make for a very fun time, as we are also expecting a larger field of KP cars in that race. Congratulations to Scott are owed on two counts: he completed his last rookie-status race and will now be a fully licensed racer and; he has a very cool tow vehicle, too!

Rounding out my montage of memories from a great race weekend are... the guy who redefined "splitter" by hitting a ground hog on the front straight away and, well, you can imagine the result...the poor soul who blew all the oil out of his motor as he was running through turn three, and the other poor soul who didn't see the oil in time to keep his car on the track...my friends Alfredo Galossi and Phil Eiseman doing so well (first and second in their respective classes)...new friends made...many kind words from people who took the time to mention that they enjoy reading my monthly column...and a safe tow home.

Tom can be reached at: ThomRossi@gmail.com





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NJ Chapter Calendar

August 2007

August 15th

Monthly meeting at Deutscher Club in Clark. Brian Morgan and Klaus Schnitzer share their stories and photos from their trip to Italy and Switzerland.

September 2007

September TBD

Monthly meeting at Deutscher Club in Clark. We are planning on having Joe Volpe, manger from Thunderbolt Raceway in Millville, NJ speak to us.

October 2007

October TBD

Monthly meeting at Deutscher Club in Clark.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING INFORMATION and LOCATION

The New Jersey Chapter's monthly membership meetings begin at 8pm and are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Deutscher Club of Clark. However, special topics often force a different date; please check the calendar of upcoming events (or the website) carefully.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All membership applications, renewals and address changes can be done via the BMW CCA National website: www.bmwcca.org or can be sent to:
BMW CCA National Office, 640 South Main Street, Suite 201, Greenville, SC 29601
800-878-9292 (Mastercard or Visa)

Annual BMW CCA and New Jersey Chapter dues: \$40.00.

New Jersey Chapter Dues and Bulletin Subscription ("dual citizenship" for primary members of other chapters): \$15.30.

Please do not send applications, renewals and address changes to the newsletter, the PO Box or any of the club's officers; contact the national office! Members of other BMW CCA local chapters may additionally join the NJ Chapter by sending \$15.30 to the National BMW CCA Office.

July Autocross

July was a big month for autocrossing.

The July 1 autocross at the PNC Bank Arts Center had 92 entries, and the overworked NJ Chapter volunteers worked mightily to provide 5 runs each. The July 22 autocross at the Commerce Bank Ballpark had 78 entries, and chapter volunteers ran a smooth, efficient event on a challenging technical course, with 7 runs. There were many entries new to autocrossing, and chapter volunteer instructors were on hand to provide guidance. It was observed that a good time was had by all.

X class was graced by the presence of various exotica, including a Aston Martin Vantage, a couple of Lotuses, and a Viking, which looked like a prop from a Mad Max movie, collected FTD at the July 1 autocross.

Our next event will be August 19 at the ballpark.

The NJ Chapter champ series is shaping up, with 4 autocrosses and one rally, so we have a list of the top 10 contenders:

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| James Kavalieros | 48 points |
| Jon Trudel | 46 |
| Mike Marvuglio | 40 |
| Chris Leckenby | 38 |
| Mark Mallory | 27 |
| Walt Baliko | 25 |
| Brent Jerolomic | 24 |
| Elihu Savad | 23 |
| Tim Meritzis | 22 |
| Chris Faust | 22 |

Complete results are on the website - Elihu Savad



Welcome New Members

Egils Abolins
Mohammed Alladin
John Armenti
Avent Beck
Nathan Beck
Jeffrey Bellagamba
Lawrence Bodenstein
Jeffrey Caldwell
Sharon Caldwell
Christopher Cammarata
Don Cardone
Zoran Cegar
Ray Dauria

Ronnie Duberry
Christine Dunn
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