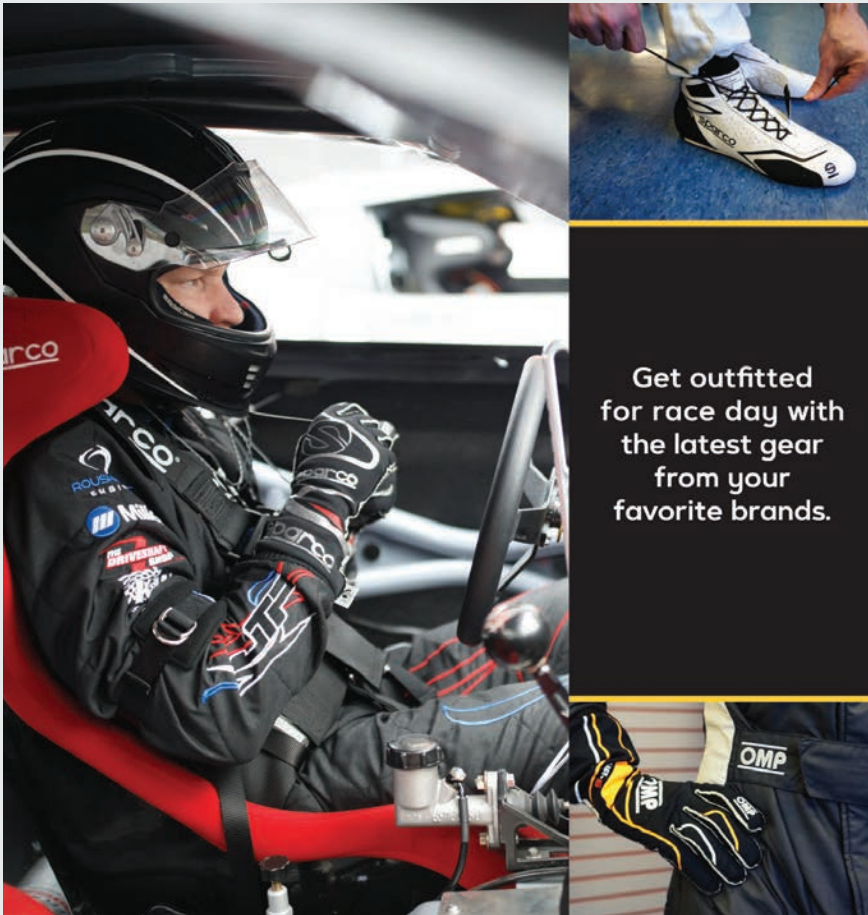


Magazine of the National Capital Chapter BMW Car Club of America

March/April 2025

der Bayerische





Get outfitted for race day with the latest gear from your favorite brands.



**GO FAST.
STAY SAFE.**

Supporting the BMW Racing Community for over 25 Years

ogracing.com
1.800.934.9112



Sterling VA

**Please make sure we have your correct email address.
It can be checked and updated at the www.bmwcca.org website.**

COMING EVENTS

BMW Car Club of America National Capital Chapter

2025 NCC Tour Schedule
(Schedules are preliminary. Check the website calendar for any updates.)

3/22 Dustoff Tour	9/13 Gettysburg Tour
4/19 Baltimore Backroads Tour	10/18 Front Royal Tour
5/17 Drive and Vine Tour	11/22 Annual Thanksgiving Pie Run
6/21 Summer Creamery Tour	
7/19 Wild West Virginia Tour	

BMW Car Club of America National Capital Chapter

2025 NCC Autocross Schedule
(Schedules are preliminary. Check the website calendar for any updates.)

3/22 Novice School	8/2 Test and Tune #2
3/23 Test and Tune #1	9/6 Points #4
4/12 Points event #1	10/4 Points #5
5/17 Points #2	11/2 Points #6
6/21 Points #3	



der Bayerische

Cover: James Chew test drives the new Z4 M40i and describes it as The American German and a product of BMW's Technology Office in California. Read the article on page 14. Photo by James Chew.

VOLUME 55 | NUMBER 2

President's Message	2
The Steering Column	3
Calendar of Events	4
New Members List	35

ADVERTISERS

BMW of Silver Spring	C4
J&F Motors, Ltd.	34
Liqui Moly	36
London Auto Services, Ltd.	34
Matt Curry's Craftsman Auto Care	34
OG Racing	C2
Passport BMW	C3
Reflections Auto Salon	29
Road Race Technologies	29
Sigy's Service Center	29
Tier Car Care	34



6 NCC Volunteer Spotlight: Brian Hunt
BY DB



8 Third Time's A Charm – NCC Fall Golf Outing
BY DAVID COSTANZA



11 Lights on the Bay Drive & Dine
BY BRIAN HUNT

14 2025 BMW Z4 M40 Handschalter:
The American German
BY JAMES CHEW



20 2024 Pie Run to the Bavarian Inn
BY ANNA MARIPUU

24 2025 BMW iX 5.0: Die Reise
BY JAMES CHEW



30 Monterey Car Week 2024
BY PAUL SETO



**BMW Car Club
of America
National Capital Chapter**



Chapter Officers (Please call between 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.)

- President** Paul Seto president@nccbmwcca.org 301.908.1928
- VP** Jack Raymond vice-president@nccbmwcca.org
- Treasurer** John Walker treasurer@nccbmwcca.org
- Secretary** Devin Moreno secretary@nccbmwcca.org
- Membership** Afshawn Towfighi vice-president@nccbmwcca.org 954.445.0173
- Autocross** Fraser Dachtile & Eli Gadd axchair@nccautocross.com
- Concours** John McWilliams concours-chair@nccbmwcca.org
- DIY** Chris Wootten diy-chair@nccbmwcca.org
- Ladies DIY** Mary Snyder ldiychair@nccbmwcca.org
- HPDE Chair** Jamey Basham dsscchair@nccbmwcca.org
- HPDE Coordinator** Fraser Dachtile dscoordinator@nccbmwcca.org
- HPDE Registrar** Dean Thuline hpdereg@nccbmwcca.org
- Karting** Steven Tenney steve.tenney@mindspring.com
- M Club Day** Doug Verner EstorilMCoupe@nccbmwcca.org
- Tours** Brian Hunt brian.hunt@nccbmwcca.org
- Tours** Devin Moreno devin.moreno@nccbmwcca.org
- Socials** Paul Seto social-chair@nccbmwcca.org 301.908.1928
- Street Survival** Afshawn Towfighi nccstreetsurvival@gmail.com
- Webmaster** Steven Schlossman webmaster@nccbmwcca.org

der Bayerische Staff

Co-Editors

- Anna Maripuu editor@nccbmwcca.org
- Todd Bacastow editor@nccbmwcca.org

Social Media Content Editor

- Shabaka Pierre editor@nccbmwcca.org

Production/Layout

- Raine Mantysalo db-production@nccbmwcca.org

Club Address

NCC BMW CCA, P.O. Box 685, Arlington, VA 22216

National Membership Toll-Free Number 800.878.9292

der Bayerische is the official publication of the National Capital Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America, Inc., and is not in any way connected with the Bayerische Motoren Werke AG or BMW of North America, Inc. It is provided by and for the Club membership only. The Club assumes no liability for any of the information, opinions or suggestions contained herein. No factory approval is implied unless specifically stated. Modifications within the warranty period of a vehicle may void the warranty. All articles to be considered for publishing must be received by the 14th of odd-numbered months (January, March, ...) and are subject to editing. Please send all submissions to the *dB* editors at editor@nccbmwcca.org. Send all photos and all links to photos to the Production Manager at db-production@nccbmwcca.org. For placement of commercial advertisements, contact the Advertising Manager at db-advertising@nccbmwcca.org. Contents may not be reproduced without permission in writing except by the BMW CCA and its Chapters.

© 2025 NCC BMW CCA

President's Message

It's cold and snowy here in the DMV this week with more snow expected, but that doesn't stop our fun. I just came back from our first NoVa Saturday social at Caboose Commons in Fairfax, VA and had an incredible time. Sure, the cars were dirty from weeks of salt and grime, but it's great to hang out with club members and talk about cars and upcoming events. As probably one of the most active members, I am reminded that meeting new members for the first time and having the opportunity to regularly get together with longstanding friends is what this club is all about. During the offseason when we're planning our upcoming season of events it's amazing to see it all come together. Whether it's the new [HPDE](#) or [Tour](#) season, annual pilgrimages down to the [BMW Performance Center](#), or national events like our [Daytona IMSA corral](#) or [Oktoberfest at Road America](#), each year brings new adventures that I can't wait to get immersed in.

Speaking of Daytona, the Rolex 24 continues to get bigger every year. The experience is so different now than it was just a few years ago, pre-Covid. The Netflix F1 series really kick-started so many new fans to motorsports and IMSA continues to grow their series with prototypes and GT cars and more classes than ever before. Daytona is by far one of my favorite trips of the year; it is the only 24-hour race in the US and is unlike any other race and I've been to many F1 races. We had some coverage of Daytona on various social media platforms since NCC always has several groups that make the trip down ever year.

Not into racing? Well, no problem, we have other car programs going on all year round. We're expecting another year of 120+ event days, and which averages to about one event every three days. No other chapter comes close to what we do, and you're welcome to join us for any of the open house events that we have planned. Our [Spring NCC Open House](#) will kick things off virtually, so no need to show up anywhere other than on Zoom on your computer or tablet. Also, check out the latest [Calendar of Events](#), as we are going to schedule face-to-face Open Houses in both MD and NoVA in the Spring. This will be your opportunity to see the event run down for the year, from track days, autocross, do-it-yourself events, driving tours, and everything in between. As the biggest and most active CCA chapter in the US, we wouldn't deliver anything less.

While the above only outlines what we do locally, we're also incredibly lucky to be situated a short drive from the BMW mecca in Greer, SC. Not only is this where BMW Manufacturing produces SAVs all day long, but it is also the home of our BMW CCA headquarters and [Foundation museum](#). It's where our [BimmerLife Mix Enthusiast Weekend](#) takes place: an annual celebration of all things BMW for CCA members. This extended weekend centers around driving events at the [BMW Performance Center](#), the place long known for telling you 'you're not driving fast enough!' We've scheduled a full-day M School, a half-day performance driving session, and a full-day skid pad experience at the Michelin Proving Grounds. With a bunch of social activities to fill out the rest of the weekend, [Mix](#) brings out the best that this club has to offer at pricing you CANNOT get outside of the CCA. For us in the DMV, we will have a caravan that starts in this area and ends with a cool group pic at the [Zentrum](#). This extended weekend fills up quickly, so schedule your PTO, register ASAP, and get ready to cross this one off your bucket list.

Finally, as a totally volunteer-run organization, we're always looking for BMW enthusiasts to help run our programs and lead the future of the club. None of us get paid to do what we do; it's the passion for this club and the many friends we've made throughout the years that drives us. You won't find a better group of co-workers working to run fun events and/or create an incredible member experience. Interested in getting involved? Please reach out to paul.seto@nccbmwcca.org. I'm always happy to discuss open positions and how you can easily fit in. As we embark on another awesome car season, you can be an integral part of continuing NCC's reputation as the leading CCA chapter. We do it the best, so don't you want to be a part of the winning team?

Paul Seto

TheSteeringColumn

This is our quiet season. Garage queens are nestled in for the winter hibernation. The rest of us are driving our daily drivers with the heated seats on and trying to make sure the salt from the roads doesn't stay on our cars for too long by washing them regularly.

I personally had a holiday in the north of Sweden at the beginning of January that involved airplanes, buses, snowmobiles, reindeer sleighs, and dog sleds. No cars were involved whatsoever, but many other interesting modes of transportation. Can we talk about reindeer power and dog power instead of horsepower? Being pulled across the Arctic landscape by twelve powerful and enthusiastic Alaskan Huskies is not something I will soon forget. And my reindeer decided that he would go tearing down the track at full speed because he wanted to race with another reindeer, with me hanging on for dear life to a rustic wooden sled. The snowmobile I could control, to some extent. If you've ever driven a snowmobile, you will know that you just have to kind of go with it and not steer too tightly. After four hours of driving in minus 22 Fahrenheit temperatures, I felt like a pro. Oh, and we did see the aurora borealis, so that was a major item to check off the old bucket list.

But getting back to our club, I want you all to have a look at the calendar of events. So many great activities are planned in the coming months. By the time

this issue is published, the HPDE and Autocross seasons will be just about upon us. We have DIYs, Socials, Tours, and a new member event coming up, the annual Deutsche Marque Concours to look forward to, and don't forget the annual MiX weekend in April down in Greer, South Carolina.

I, for one, am so happy that Paul Seto, our President, who has so very much on his plate, took the time to write about his adventures in Monterey, California, during the annual car week. I had such a great time attending the O'fest that was held there in 2016, so I know exactly how much fun he and a couple of other club members who attended, had. This year was quite special with the unveiling of the G90 M5 Sedan and the G99 M5 Touring. Plus, Paul and Co got to see and even drive a whole array of incredible BMW models. It would have been cool to see all the exotic cars, as well as the BMWs; the Lambos and Koenigseggs and Paganis and Ferraris. I can say I also wish I'd been there, so I'm glad to be able to live vicariously through the pages of Paul's article here in the *dB*.

Whatever your mode of transportation, I hope it gives you joy. As I hope the articles in the pages of this issue of the *dB* will give you. Happy Reading, and Happy Driving, especially with spring just around the corner.

Anna Maripuu, Co-Editor

Addendum: The photo of Doug Verner's M4 CSL on page 32 of the January-February 2025 in the article entitled "The BMW Performance Center: A 23-Year Journey..." was incorrectly labeled as an 'M3 Competition' in the photo captions. The photo credit belongs to Mike Bevels.

The *dB* staff is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to fill the shoes of a co-editor. This is great a opportunity to get your hands on the production of the magazine of the largest and most active BMW CCA chapter in the US. For further information and job description, please contact Anna Maripuu at editor@ncbwmcca.org.

COMING EVENT

18th Annual Golf Outing

**Saturday, April 19, 2025 - 11:30 a.m.
Raspberry Falls Golf Club - Leesburg, VA**

Sponsored by  BMW OF SILVER SPRING

Join the National Capital Chapter
of the BMW Car Club of America for a day on the links
Space is limited to 32 players - Shotgun Start • Competitive and Social Flights
Skill Prizes - Closest to the Pin - Longest Drive



BMW Car Club
of America
National Capital Chapter



<http://msreg.com/NCCGolf2025>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See <https://www.nccbmwcca.org/event/> for an up-to-date, month-by-month calendar, including information on cancellations and postponements.

March 2025

- 1 **[Spring 2025 NCC Virtual Open House](#)**
Whether you've joined in the past few months, have never come out to an event, or just trying to find out what we do, this meeting is specifically for you! We will have our program heads present, so this is the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow BMW enthusiasts, get your questions answered, and give you a taste of all the events you can participate in.
- 11 **[NoVA Social - Caboose Commons - Fairfax, VA](#)**
Come join your fellow NCC members for the March NoVa Social!
- 13 **[Columbia Social - BJ's Brewhouse - Columbia, MD](#)**
Come join your fellow NCC members for the March Columbia Social!
- 20 **[MoCo Social - Dogfish Head Alehouse - Gaithersburg, MD](#)**
Come join your fellow NCC members for the March MoCo Social!
- 22 **[Autocross Novice School](#)**
- 22 **[Dustoff Tour](#)**
- 27 **[Annapolis Social - Glory Days Grill - Edgewater, MD](#)**
Come join your fellow NCC members for the March Annapolis Social!
- 29 **[Dent Group Clinic and Open House](#)**
Richie & Courtney Powell have invited us to their new shop at 10 AM. Richie will explain Paintless Dent Repair and the benefits. He will demonstrate how PDR techniques can solve problems from parking lot dings, hail damage and accident damage. He will perform demos & have a hood set up for anyone who wants to try it.

April 2025

- 5 **[DIY @Bimmerwerks](#)**
Work on your own cars at a professional service facility. Our sponsors can provide technical guidance and there are always NCC members who can assist you and provide their expertise. Most events usually start at 8 am and finish at 2 pm. Morning coffee and lunch will be provided.
- 8 **[NoVA Social - Caboose Commons - Fairfax, VA](#)**
- 10 **[Columbia Social - BJ's Brewhouse - Columbia, MD](#)**
- 12 **[Autocross Test and Tune #1](#)**
- 12 **[Hunt Valley Horsepower Cars and Coffee](#)**
Every second Saturday of the month from 8:00 - 10:00 am at Hunt Valley Towne Center (50 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21030) in the parking lot between Iron Rooster and Burlington / Marshalls.
- 17 **[MoCo Social - Dogfish Head Alehouse - Gaithersburg, MD](#)**
- 19 **[Baltimore Backroads Tour](#)**
- 24 **[Annapolis Social - Glory Days Grill - Edgewater, MD](#)**
- 24-27 **[MiX 2025](#)**
This represents the 5th anniversary of our incredible event, **[MiX Enthusiast Weekend](#)**, held in Greer, SC. For further details see page 5.

May 2025

- 3 **[DIY @Scandinavian Import Servicenter](#)**
- 4 **[Deutsche Marque Concours](#)**
The Deutsche Marque Concours d'Elegance is an automotive party featuring fine German collector vintage and modern examples.
- 8 **[Columbia Social - BJ's Brewhouse - Columbia, MD](#)**
- 10 **[New Member Welcome @Passport BMW](#)**
- 10 **[Hunt Valley Horsepower Cars and Coffee](#)**
- 13 **[NoVA Social - Caboose Commons - Fairfax, VA](#)**
- 15 **[MoCo Social - Dogfish Head Alehouse - Gaithersburg, MD](#)**
- 17 **[Drive and Vine Tour](#)**
- 17 **[Autocross Points Event #1](#)**
- 22 **[Annapolis Social - Glory Days Grill - Edgewater, MD](#)**

June 2025

- 8 **[DIY / Dyno Session at RevTech Performance](#)**
In conjunction with our club DIY session, RevTech will open up their Dyno center for members who are interested in the true power output of their ultimate driving machine. Reservations for a Dyno session must be made separately by contacting Revtech directly at 571-313-8949 or **service@revtechperformance.com**.
- 10 **[NoVA Social - Caboose Commons - Fairfax, VA](#)**
- 12 **[Columbia Social - BJ's Brewhouse - Columbia, MD](#)**
- 19 **[MoCo Social - Dogfish Head Alehouse - Gaithersburg, MD](#)**
- 21 **[Autocross Points Event #2](#)**
- 21 **[Summer Creamery Tour](#)**
- 26 **[Annapolis Social - Glory Days Grill - Edgewater, MD](#)**

July 2025

- 8 **[NoVA Social - Caboose Commons - Fairfax, VA](#)**
- 10 **[Columbia Social - BJ's Brewhouse - Columbia, MD](#)**
- 17 **[MoCo Social - Dogfish Head Alehouse - Gaithersburg, MD](#)**
- 19 **[Wild West Virginia Tour](#)**
- 24 **[Annapolis Social - Glory Days Grill - Edgewater, MD](#)**

August 2025

- 2 **[Autocross Test and Tune #2](#)**
- 12 **[NoVA Social - Caboose Commons - Fairfax, VA](#)**
- 14 **[Columbia Social - BJ's Brewhouse - Columbia, MD](#)**
- 21 **[MoCo Social - Dogfish Head Alehouse - Gaithersburg, MD](#)**
- 28 **[Annapolis Social - Glory Days Grill - Edgewater, MD](#)**

September 2025

- 6 **[Autocross Test and Tune #3](#)**
- 9 **[NoVA Social - Caboose Commons - Fairfax, VA](#)**
- 11 **[Columbia Social - BJ's Brewhouse - Columbia, MD](#)**
- 13 **[Gettysburg Tour](#)**
- 18 **[MoCo Social - Dogfish Head Alehouse - Gaithersburg, MD](#)**
- 25 **[Annapolis Social - Glory Days Grill - Edgewater, MD](#)**
- 28 **[Street Survival](#)**
The primary emphasis of the Tire Rack Street Survival is a "hands-on" driving experience in real-world situations! We use your own car to teach teens about its handling limits and how you can control the car.

October 2025

- 4 **[Autocross Points Event #4](#)**
- 9 **[Columbia Social - BJ's Brewhouse - Columbia, MD](#)**
- 14 **[NoVA Social - Caboose Commons - Fairfax, VA](#)**
- 18 **[Front Royal Tour](#)**
- 23 **[MoCo Social - Dogfish Head Alehouse - Gaithersburg, MD](#)**
- 30 **[Annapolis Social - Glory Days Grill - Edgewater, MD](#)**

November 2025

- 2 **[Autocross Points Event #5](#)**
- 11 **[NoVA Social - Caboose Commons - Fairfax, VA](#)**
- 13 **[Columbia Social - BJ's Brewhouse - Columbia, MD](#)**
- 20 **[MoCo Social - Dogfish Head Alehouse - Gaithersburg, MD](#)**
- 22 **[Annual Thanksgiving Pie Run](#)**
- 27 **[Annapolis Social - Glory Days Grill - Edgewater, MD](#)**



BimmerLife MiX Enthusiast Weekend

The 5th anniversary of our incredible Spring event, [MiX Enthusiast Weekend](#), will be held at our CCA headquarters in Greer, SC with an awesome line up for all our CCA members.

Thursday: Multiple caravans from across the country descend onto Greer, SC

Friday: Full Day M Club Day at [BMW Performance Center](#), BMW test drives courtesy of BMW NA

Saturday: CCA Caffeine & Gasoline, Half-Day Driving Program at [BMW Performance Center](#), Driving Tours, BMW test drives courtesy of BMW NA

April 24 - 27, 2025



Sunday: Full & Half-Day Ultimate Skid Pad Experience at Michelin Proving Grounds

In addition, we'll have several daily social events throughout the weekend to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of MiX!

[MiX](#) registration is currently open, so make sure you sign up now to guarantee your spot.

BimmerLife Mix Enthusiast Weekend - Celebrating BMW M, i, and X vehicles. All BMWs are welcomed.

mix.bmwcca.org

Spring 2025 NCC New Member Open House

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Tentative Schedule:

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. New Member Welcome

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Tour of Do-It-Yourself (DIY) event • 12:00 p.m.- 01:00 p.m. Lunch

Our 2025 NCC New Member Open House will take place on Saturday, May 10th at the newly renovated Passport BMW!

Registration is required for the New Member event, so whether you've recently joined BMW CCA, have never come out to an event, or just trying to find out what we do, this event is specifically for you!

We'll have a few cool prizes to giveaway and lunch is included for confirmed, registered members.

This event is limited and will fill up.



<http://msreg.com/2025PassportOpenHouse>



NCC Volunteer Spotlight

Brian Hunt

dB: How did you first become involved in NCC BMW CCA?

Brian: Participating in Autocross, a few years ago.

dB: Tell us about your participation in NCC's various programs.

Brian: Driving Tours, New Member Orientation, Annual Picnic support, Annapolis Social, and a *dB* articles author.

dB: What do you like best about your involvement with NCC?

Brian: Being around highly motivated volunteers.

dB: How would you suggest that members become involved in NCC?

By *dB* | Photos by Brian Hut



■ (Top) Brian poses with his 2011 135i Convertible. (Above) Brian with some spooky friends.

Brian: Participate in a Driving Tour in your own BMW.

dB: Tell us about your current (or previous) cars.

Brian: 2021 X3 M40i and a 2011 135i Convertible.

dB: What's your favorite movie in the car, car-chase, heist, or racing-related genres?

Brian: *The Blues Brothers* final chase scene.

dB: What else would you like to convey to our readers?

Brian: Volunteer! The chapter always needs more help to maintain the programs!



■ (Above) Twinning!!

dB: *Tell us about your volunteer role(s) within NCC.*

Brian: Co-Chair, 2024 Driving Tours Program, Ambassador/Host,

Annapolis Monthly Social. Author of a few articles and video content creator.

should be commended and admired for the amazing way he spearheaded the North Carolina hurricane relief efforts on behalf of the club, raising an extraordinary amount of money for victims and first responders via the Salvation Army, in a short period of time. I also know the Driving Tour committee and Social committee will miss him greatly, as he is a proactive and effective Driving Tour program head and initiator of the Annapolis monthly social. Brian, we will all miss you and we wish you well.

■ (Below) Brian's 2021 X3 M40i out in its natural habitat.



dB: *What, pertaining to cars, are you most passionate about? And/or why are you passionate about BMWs, in particular?*

Brian: I want the Ultimate Driving Experience every time I drive.

Editor's Note: Brian is leaving the chapter as part of a life change/move. Anyone who had the good fortune of meeting and befriending Brian will attest to his effusive character, his enthusiasm for life and the car club, and his utmost commitment to everything he does. As editor of the dB I will miss his articles and his collaborative willingness to contribute to this publication. As a friend and fellow club member, I will really miss his wit, his phone calls, and his sunny nature. As a human being, he



■ (Above) Brian's credo.

Third Time's A Charm – NCC Fall Golf Outing

By David Costanza | Photos by Afshawn and Kristin Towfighi



The annual NCC Golf Outing was scheduled for a beautiful day in June. As has been the case for the past decade or so, the event was to be held at Raspberry Falls Golf and Hunt Club just outside of Leesburg, VA and hosted by longtime NCC member and Director of Golf Operations Willy Lutz. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate and the high temperature on the day of the outing was nearly 100 degrees with a heat index of 105+. Nonetheless, more than three dozen intrepid BMW owners and aficionados soldiered on through the heat, temperatures be damned. The heat took its toll and a number of bedraggled players came back to the clubhouse staggering like Ken Venturi after the 1964 US Open (coincidentally held at nearby Congressional Country Club when it was almost 100 degrees too).



■ (Top) Shouldn't these guys be putting? (Above) Hole #10 is tough to putt.

Just kidding. NCC Chapter President and door prize "vacuum" Paul Seto, in consultation with Willy, decided to postpone the event lest they end up with a bunch of heat-stroked Ken Venturis scattered across the Loudon county countryside. Instead, the event was rescheduled for September when the weather was sure to be nicer. On the appointed day, nearly three dozen club members gathered to play the lovely Raspberry Falls course. Unfortunately, "someone" had double-booked the course, meaning that there were two groups expecting a shotgun start tournament at 1 p.m. Paul and the leader of the other group agreed on a driving competition to settle things – who would play and who would leave - but while the excited (and distracted) NCC

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM – NCC FALL GOLF OUTING

members set up a temporary autocross circuit in the club's parking lot, the other group headed out onto the course leaving Paul and his crew to fume at the loss of both playing golf and driving fast in a parking lot.

Just kidding. After being informed of the unfortunate double-booking, Paul and Willy rescheduled us one more time for late October when the weather was sure to be colder and darker. The start time was moved up an hour to account for decreasing afternoon sun and Paul crossed his fingers in hopes of avoiding an early snowfall. Turns out the weather that day was clear and cool, but perfectly lovely for golf and so the outing finally happened (really).

Because of attrition due to the reschedules, 29 golfers teed up in two groups, Competitive and Social. Before the event started, everyone got an excellent bag filled with Liqui-Moly swag, golf balls, and lots of Kirkland Signature

snacks and water. As in previous years, there were several individual contest holes for Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin.

Last year's runners up, Alex Chelikowsky, Nick Lee, Laith Layous, and new fourth Bobby Ward, posted an identical 13-under 59 and this year that was good enough for first place. Paul, Jeff Voit, and I coincidentally also carded the same number as last year: a 5-under 67 which this year was good for 5th place. Closest to the pin went to Jim Hoss (9'5"), while longest Drive went to Jeff Taylor.

After the round, all the golfers enjoyed a delicious BBQ dinner and then Paul and Willy conducted a drawing for door prizes. As usual, Paul Seto did an amazing job getting fantastic prizes from BMW of Silver Spring, so many that everyone received a prize and there were some items remaining. Further, Willy, perhaps feeling guilty about that whole double-



(Above) Willy Lutz congratulates the winning team with Paul Seto standing by.

(Below) Raspberry Falls GM & NCC member Willy Lutz addressing the awards banquet.



(Below) It's always great when the snack cart arrives!





■ (Above) A happy foursome!

booking thing, contributed a Bushnell rangefinder and a special edition black Vokey wedge (won by yours truly!). It is worth noting that BMW of Silver Spring is by far our biggest supporter and without them, many of our events could not happen.

■ (Below) Sometimes a car show breaks out at the golf course.



■ (Above) David Costanza, Paul Seto, Jeff Voit.

The outing, though twice-delayed, was, as always, a terrific event. Thanks to Willy for hosting, Paul for organizing, and Raspberry Falls for a great round of golf. The third time was the charm.

■ (Below) Tons of prizes courtesy of BMW of Silver Spring.



Lights on the Bay Drive & Dine

Finishing the 2024 Driving Tours Season on a High Note

Article and photos by Brian Hunt

When I was asked to write an article about our “Lights on the Bay Drive & Dine”, I envisioned that it would be a relatively straightforward and simple undertaking. I have written a few articles about our other driving tour events this past year, and thought

that this one should be pretty easy. Nothing could be further from the truth though, as so much has transpired in just a few short months. So, this article is going to be about more than our final drive of 2024, so buckle-up, here we go!

First, some metrics about the

just-completed 2024 Driving Tours season. The NCC Driving Tours Committee planned, resourced, and safely executed 13 separate tours in 2024. 448 NCC members and guests participated in these drives, which showcased some of the best scenery and winding roads in the

greater MD-VA-PA-WV areas. Many hundreds of miles were navigated and driven with perfection, guided by the steady hands of our all-volunteer “TOURMEISTER” committee. Chris Torin, Devin Moreno and I were honored to Co-Chair this committee of dedicated



BMW's line up outside Sandy Point State Park to enter the Christmas light display.

LIGHTS ON THE BAY DRIVE & DINE



and professional volunteers. They are worthy of recognition here, and in the future, when they again add great value to your NCC membership:

- Thompson Miller
- Greg Gilleland
- Debbie Diamond
- Roger Lie
- Tom Setz
- Fabian Manan
- Karla Yeakle
- Chris Pippin
- Michael Alvarez
- Dave & Lisa Minter
- Gerhardt Ervin
- Devante Harden
- Bernardo Roschske
- Tom Craca
- Gerhardt Ervin

As the holidays approached, and the spirit of thankfulness filled our hearts, the chapter recognized a very special organization that has supported our monthly Annapolis Social since its inception in March 2024. That organization is BMW of Annapolis. Every month, they

■ (Top and Left) The lights tour was really festive.

donated a very nice bag of accessories and clothing from their in-house boutique, which we raffled off at the social. They would usually send a fantastic Client Advisor in a new BMW for us to see and learn about the car. For these significant contributions, we presented a formal Certificate of Appreciation to them on December 20th. The photo shows this special moment in NCC history and has become the model for chapter-dealer relationships.

Where were you, and what were you doing when you first saw the news about Hurricane Helene, and the total destruction it caused in North Carolina? I was at home, looking over our upcoming "Pie Run" driving tour, and the menu for the post-tour lunch at the Bavarian Inn, in Shepherdstown, WV. And that is when it hit me - there were thousands of people who lost literally everything, and had no home, no food, and no hope. I had an idea...why not do a fundraiser, and leverage the NCC's large number of members to raise some money for relief efforts. A quick phone call to the Salvation Army was all it took, and we were up and running in short-order. The donations started coming in...

In November we held the Pie Run, and a few weeks later in December, we held the Lights on the Bay Drive & Dine. This was a slow drive through Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis, MD, to view the incredible light displays. The photos speak for themselves. Add this to your list of holiday activities next year! Our group of 35 then motored over to the Glory Days Grill, in Edgewater, MD, for the social and meal portion of the event. This restaurant is also the location of our monthly Annapolis Social, so we were able to use their private room. Tourmeisters Karla Yeakle, Debbie

■ (Left) Brian Hunt presents a certificate of appreciation to BMW of Annapolis for their support of the club.



Diamond and Roger Lee tastefully decorated it with holiday-themed items. As you look over the photos, you will see a very happy group of NCC members, guests, and lots of holiday cheer. Our good friends and social-sponsor, BMW of Annapolis, provided a bag of accessories for us to raffle off. But there was one very special surprise forthcoming, from a very special guest. . .

I previously mentioned the Hurricane Relief fundraiser that we started back in October. As the donations continued to grow, we saw a need to include some recognition through the presentation of a very large check which represented the total amount donated. The date was December 14th, 2024 and the amount was \$6,759. Let that sink in for a moment...and know that the Salvation Army did not charge an "overhead/admin" fee for this, so every dollar went directly to support and feed people in dire need. The Salvation Army's cost to provide a hot meal in a disaster area is \$1.67, so the donations the NCC raised "fed" about 4,047 people! Ms. Michelle Wolfe, my contact at the Salvation Army DC Headquarters office, was our guest-of-honor. She is seen in the photo receiving the check. The remarks she then made stunned many of us, since we have never been in a massive disaster zone before. She described that in addition to feeding the victims, they also feed the first-responders, as there are no grocery stores or restaurants left in the areas that were wiped out. The money donated is also used to provide essential supplies for babies

and children such as diapers and baby food. We were all visibly moved by the enormity of the situation, but our hearts were warmed by the knowledge that the NCC made a big contribution to the recovery efforts. This memory will be with us for the rest of our lives. If you were a donor, know that you made a difference and fed the hungry.

The story would end there, except that this was December 14th, and the website for donations remained active until Dec 31st. On December 31st, I was driving down to Florida in my X3 when a call came in - Ms. Wolfe said she had some news for me, and that I might want to pull over and stop. What she then told me made my day, and continues to inspire me. The final donation total was \$12,287!!! Unbelievable!! Outstanding!! If all of these funds all went to meals, then the NCC provided about 7,357 meals to people impacted by this disaster. Our friends, our citizens, perhaps even some cousins - were fed, given shelter, and provided baby supplies, etc. THANK YOU, NCC members who donated, and also for the outreach to organizations and individuals outside the club that donated. Together, we made a big difference, and with that our 2024 NCC season ended on a high-note!

Click the link below to see a short video of our club presenting BMW of Annapolis with a first-ever Certificate of Appreciation for their fantastic support.



■ (Top) The private room at Glory Days Grill was filled to capacity by club members. (Above) Brian Hunt, Paul Seto, Devin Moreno, and Afshawn Towfighi present an initial check to the Salvation Army representative.

Youtube link to presenting the Certificate of Appreciation to BMW of Annapolis: <https://youtu.be/32W2-H8TCeo?si=Sy4YUoZSC4NTyVSY>

Endnote -

I will greatly miss the fine NCC members who I have come to know as close-friends, colleagues, and fantastic volunteers. To all of you with whom I have served, let me just say that you are all extraordinary, talented and dedicated volunteers, and your enthusiasm, professionalism and "can-do" attitude reflects great credit upon yourselves and upon the National Capital Chapter. And to you, the reader who is now considering getting more involved in the club, please do so! This club needs your help to support and continue all of the great programs to come. Contact the NCC President, Paul Seto directly at president@nccbmwcca.org if you are interested.

With warmest Regards and Appreciation
 Brian Hunt / TOURMEISTER / Ambassador, Annapolis Monthly Social

2025 BMW Z4 M40 Handschalter



The *American* German

Article and pictures by James Chew

Twenty-five years ago, BMW opened a Technology Office in Palo Alto California. The idea was simple – use this office as a rotational assignment for “high potential” BMW engineers, immersing them in the world’s center of innovation to investigate, assess, and transition leading edge technologies to be used in the development of future BMWs.

Establishing this office was not without internal controversy. There were some within “the Cylinders” who thought this would be nothing more than a “surfing” assignment – the assigned engineers would surf the Pacific Ocean in the morning, then surf the web in the afternoon.

While one of the engineers with whom we worked was a surfer, these young Ph.D. engineers brought back a treasure trove of technologies that have been integrated into today’s BMW products, keeping them on the bleeding edge. Features that we take for granted, such as hybrid-electric powertrains, fuel-cells, digital backbone architecture, electric drivetrains, head-up displays, over-the-air software upgrades, and autonomous-driving technologies – all have Silicon Valley roots.

One of the “side effects” was that these engineers were immersed in the American car culture - specifically the unique California car culture. Some may have attended events hosted by both the Golden Gate Chapter and the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the BMW CCA. No doubt, they also enjoyed the annual Monterey “car week”, the historic car race at Laguna Seca, and the Pebble Beach concours.

And it would not surprise us to learn that the hazing ritual for the newly assigned engineers was for the “veterans” to take them to a fast-food restaurant drive-through – and have them eat their meal in the car.

After all these years, there is



■ (Opposite Page) The car for the driven executive. (Above) Wonder if they serve breakfast.

no doubt that some of the engineers who spent time in California are now in BMW senior leadership positions. In fact, some may follow the BMW CCA activities. So, when Dr. Klaus Frohlich announced the launch of the G29 Z4 at the 2018 Los Angeles Auto Show, the

■ (Below) End of the Trail.



“American German” BMW leaders were thinking, “We’ll need a manual-transmission version”.

To the German OEMs, the American love for manual transmissions makes as much sense as cupholders. As many a German OEM engineer has asked, “Why do

you guys like it so much when you can’t even drive it properly”?

And that is a good question. When I was involved with NASCAR, I often wondered why those “good old boys” wanted manual shifters when a vast majority of their races were held on high-speed oval tracks. And watching just one NASCAR road race makes it immediately obvious that those same “good old boys” have not a clue as to how to properly shift.

But we all know that this is a classic left-brain, right-brain argument. We’re Americans. When we’re emotionally attached to something, logic goes out the window.

The “American German” BMW leadership understands this. But a positive business case had to be developed, and then approved.

It took four years, but that mission was accomplished. These true “American German” believers managed to approve a business case for a little over 800 cars to be assembled at the Graz, Austria



■ (Above) A handsomely aggressive profile.

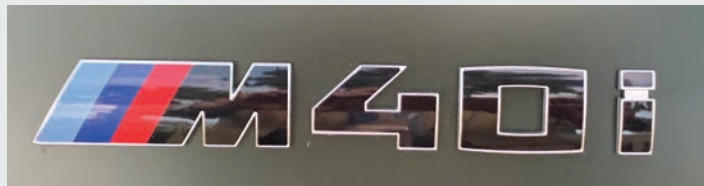
plant. And the result is the wonderful Z4 M40i “hand switch” model. For one wonderful week in California, we rediscovered the romance of driving a manual transmission “Ultimate Driving” roadster.

This was not without a price – and that price being a \$3,500 option available only in the top-of-the-line Z4 M40i. Our test vehicle retailed for \$77,740. Were we to order one, we would skip the “Frozen” paint job (we still don’t understand the popularity of this paint color) which would result in a \$2,950 saving. And while that price does sound a little steep, it’s much less than the “equivalent” Porsche. There is no Mercedes competitor – the VERY expensive SL roadster does not offer manual transmission!

By the way, the Z4 M40i Handschalter is REAR-WHEEL DRIVE. If a manual-transmission, rear-wheel-drive BMW roadster with a 382-horsepower, 369-foot pound of torque TwinPower turbocharged in-line six-cylinder engine doesn’t stir your BMW

enthusiast soul, then maybe you should stick to watching flowers grow.

When you approach the M4 Handschalter, you know that you’re about to have a very special driving



■ (Above Right) You’re gonna want one. (Below) A seriously fun engine for a seriously fun BMW.





■ (Above from Left) What was once lost has again been found. If this doesn't make you want to hop in and drive, check your pulse.



■ (Above) The ideal instrument panel configuration for this Z4. (Below from Left) Even the passenger seat is a treat. THREE pedals!



■ (Above) The romance of the roadster has returned. (Below) Well, at least it DOES have cupholders.



experience. The staggered tires (255/35R19 in the front, 285/30R20 in the rear) enhance the aggressive exterior design. Whether the top is up or down, the red brake calipers and the aggressive rear wheel bulges connote a serious ultimate driving machine.

This Z4 has perhaps the most taut BMW exterior design since the E46-Series. It gives the impression that the BMW engineers started with the chassis, installed an aggressive front and rear suspension that would yield outstanding handling, placed the famous B58 engine as low as possible,

designed in a comfortable and cozy interior, and added an appropriate sized trunk before stretching on an exterior skin. This skin reveals both the athleticism and the beauty of this vehicle. To give it a human analogy – think of a combination of Steffi Graf and Heidi Klum – an outstanding combination of timeless athleticism and timeless beauty.

Opening the hood reinforces the “taut” vibe. The B58 engine appears to have been “shoehorned” into the vehicle. But oddly enough, it looks “right”.



■ (Above) Oh what a beautiful morning.

And while every BMW interior design makes one want to hop in and drive, when one sees the three pedals, the true enthusiast can't help but smile.

The execution and refinement of the Z4's interior design is clearly best in class. It is both cozy and comfortable. The fit and finish, as well as the quality of the interior materials are outstanding.

Thankfully, most of the controls and operations are similar to those on my 2020 M240i convertible, so we weren't fumbling through buttons and dials to configure the Z4 instrument panel and infotainment screen to our liking.

The standard logical BMW seat, steering wheel, and mirror controls allowed us to quickly find “the” comfortable driving position. And with a top that goes down in less than 10 seconds (as opposed to the seemingly forever 22 seconds on the M240i convertible) we were off.

As a reminder that the German auto engineers believe we Americans don't know how to properly drive manual-transmission cars, the instrument panel will not only show when to shift, but to which gear. And while initially a bit annoying, we did learn that these “suggestions” provide a more

■ (Below from Left) Kind of like red shoes. Room to spare.



pleasant driving experience.

There is only one complaint – and ironically, it's with the placement of the cupholders. Located in the center console, the open cover interfered with operation of the manual shifter. The placement was anything but convenient. But perhaps that was a not-so-subtle hint from the BMW designers that this car was made for driving, and not for stowing cups.

And drive we did.

Stepping on BOTH the brake and the clutch pedals, then pressing the center console mounted start button results in a satisfying engine ignition “snort”. Keeping the clutch pedal depressed, we go through the ritual of shifting through the gears. Returning to first gear, we left the clutch pedal while slightly depressing the accelerator pedal.

We engaged.

And we were off.

This car is simply a blast to drive. Usually when we drive a manual transmission car, we're reminded of everything we love and hate about manual transmissions. Not so with the Z4 – driving this car is pure joy. The driver's cockpit seems to be designed ideally for manual

shifting – with the seat, steering wheel, pedals, and shifter all in ergonomically ideal positions. The 2025 Z4 M40i Handschalter brings back the romance of driving a manual transmission convertible. Frankly, it would surprise us if all these Z4's were not already pre-sold!

On this Northern California to Southern California and back trek, we tried to imagine the first time the newly assigned BMW engineers from Germany experienced the wonderful California roads and the interesting California driving conditions. Having driven throughout Germany, we're certain that traveling on the Golden State Freeway and on State Highway 99 throughout Central California and seeing all the working farmland and ranches had to be an eye-opening experience.

Driving through the Napa, Sonoma, Paso Robles, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Temecula wine countries, may have given the Germans the impression that California fuels the global wine economy.

Driving to the James Dean memorial on Highway 46 as well as visiting the James Dean memorial at the Griffith Park observatory may have inspired them to watch classic James Dean movies. Learning that James Dean died while driving a Porsche to Laguna Seca to participate in a race may have had the feel of his spirit.

The part of the Golden State Freeway that connects Orange County to San Diego through Camp Pendleton may have given them the impression

that this section of freeway had no posted speed limit.

Of course, driving the California coast on U.S Highway 101 and California Highway 1 may have made them appreciate why some at BMW may think that all they do is surf!

And driving along the Northern and Southern California freeways during rush hour may have had them wondering HOW such horrendous traffic congestion can occur, especially on freeways that have ten lanes on either side.

After a while, they may have begun to understand and appreciate the unique California car culture. With its mild coastal weather conditions, every California day is a “top down” convertible day. Long drives on the backroads to Laguna Seca, Sears Point, Willow Springs, and Buttonwillow and attending races there as well as going to the Winter Nationals NHRA meet at the Pomona Fairgrounds may have made them understand why Americans equate horsepower and mobility with freedom.

Attending the frequent local BMW Car Club of America chapter “cars and

coffees” and car meets, the frequent classic car “cruise ins”, the Pomona classic car swap meets, the weekly Huntington Beach “Donut Derelicts” car meet and visiting the Petersen Automotive Museum may have made them understand WHY the American car enthusiast want their manual transmissions.

And at the end of their assignment, these German engineers who came to work in America returned to Germany as American Germans.

The 2025 BMW Z4 M40i Handschalter is the American German roadster that's made for the BMW Car Club of America enthusiast. It's an outstanding Ultimate Driving Machine that's also an outstanding daily driver. When purchasing, one should seriously consider the extended maintenance package. You'll be surprised how this car makes you want to drive for the sake of driving, with no destination in mind.

Incidentally, twenty-two years ago, the first engineer we met at the BMW Technology Office drove an E85 manual transmission Z4!

If the Z4 M40i Handschalter is as successful as we anticipate, it will be interesting to see how the “American Germans” influence future BMW and MINI product designs.

One more thing, while the “Frozen Green Metallic” exterior color attracts a younger clientele, a majority of them asked the same question:

“What's that third pedal for?”



■ (Above) Getting my kicks on Route 66.

A COOL RIDE TO A WARM RECEPTION:

2024 PIE RUN TO THE

Bavarian Inn

Article by Anna Maripuu | Photos by Paul Seto and Anna Maripuu

The National Capital Chapter Driving Tours program, composed of co-chairs Chris Torin, Brian Hunt, and Devin Moreno, along with a large and capable team of committee members, outdid themselves planning this year's annual Thanksgiving Pie Run. On a cool and blustery mid-November day, over 50 cars showed up at 8

am with their drivers and passengers at the Catoctin Mountain Orchard Store in Thurmont, Maryland. Maybe because of climate change, the leaves still clung stubbornly to most of the trees. All manner of BMWs showed up for the run, from older M3s to tricked out SUVs and growly new M2s, M3s and M5s.



Devin Moreno's beautiful E46 M3 sits in front of a pumpkin pyramid at the staging area.

Participants checked in with the tourmeisters at the traffic control point upon arrival and parked in one of four designated areas based on the four different run groups. Those registered for lunch were given blue wristbands. Next on the agenda was purchasing either fresh or frozen pies and all manner of goodies, such as apples, donuts, jams and jellies, and other snacks at the orchard store when it opened for business at 8.30 a.m. (thirty minutes earlier than the usual opening time, especially for us).

At around 8.50 a.m., after participants had filled their trunks with their wares and secured their pies in coolers, the drivers met for the Drivers Meeting to be briefed about the upcoming tour. By 9.10 a.m. Group 1 was ready to move to the launch line and start driving. Groups 2 through 4 followed suit. It was all incredibly well-organized.

Drivers were provided turn-by-turn directions of the tour either as a .pdf file or they could download the navigational GPX files for use with mobile phone apps 'Scenic' and 'OSM and Maps.' If you brought your walkie talkie, it was helpful to listen in on the run group lead communicating with the designated mid and sweep about hazards along the way and any delays caused by slow moving vehicles or traffic lights.



■ (Above) Winding our way through the mountains near Thurmont, Maryland.

The tour was divided into two stages, with stage 1 taking each run group on a scenic ride through rolling western Maryland farmland from Thurmont to Utica Park, which served as a restroom stop. The sun even came out and the temperatures became much milder. I lost count of how many historic one-lane covered bridges we passed over, but surely these beautiful bridges are one of the most unique and interesting features in this part of the country.

Stage 2 took us on a twisty and more mountainous route through the Catoctin mountains and Gambrills State Park to eventually cross the border into West Virginia. We crossed over the Potomac River on Shepherdstown Pike, and wound up in Shepherdstown, West Virginia at our destination, the beautiful Bavarian Inn, just in time for lunch.

The Driving Tours committee had organized that the Bavarian Inn designate a private room for our group, and we all enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch. By this time, it was downright warm outside. From blustery and cold, it had ended up becoming a sunny and clement day.

After we enjoyed a great lunch spread complete with dessert,

■ (Below) Cars parked in a neat row at the staging area at the Catoctin Mountain Orchard store.



the chapter recognized the efforts of the entire Driving Tours committee, composed of the following individuals: Thompson Miller, Greg Gilleland, Debbie Diamond, Roger Lie, Tom Setz, Fabian Manan, Karla Yeakle, Chris Pippin, Michael Alvarez, Dave and Lisa Minter, Gerhardt Ervin, Devante Harden, Bernardo Roschske, Tom Craca, Gerhardt Ervin, and not least of all, the committee chairs: Chris Torin, Devin Moreno and Brian Hunt. It is a testament to the co-chairs that they have garnered such interest in the Driving Tours program that it has grown to include so many capable and engaged individuals.

Lastly, co-chair Brian Hunt presented us

with an initiative he started to donate to the North Carolina hurricane relief through the Salvation Army. You can read about Brian's efforts in these pages in his article about the Holiday Lights tour to Sandy State Park and the social that followed at Glory Days in Edgewater, MD. Most impressive is that Brian and the Driving Tour committee's initiative raised a total of over \$12,000 for hurricane relief. There is certainly more to this committee than tours, and I have to say, they do tours and fund raising exceedingly well!



■ (Above) Participants gathered at the drivers' meeting before the tour commenced.

■ (Below) Twelve of the total 20 Driving Tour committee members turned out for the Pie Run.



2024 PIE RUN TO THE BAVARIAN INN



■ (Above from Left) Brian Hunt and Chris Torin share a laugh at the staging area. Just follow the leader (and your navigation directions)! Karla Yeakle and Debbie Diamond assist with checking in participants and giving them lunch wristbands.

■ (Below from Left) An assortment of pies greeted the participants. The tour took us through the picturesque farmland of Frederick County. Yum, so many apples...





Die Reise

Article and photos by James Chew

In my high school German class we watched a silent movie called “Die Reise”. The plot was about several strangers on a train, and every time the train went through a tunnel, one of the passengers disappeared. The film ended with the two remaining passengers fighting each other before the train entered the last tunnel. Our assignment was to write an essay, in German, on our interpretation of the film. Oddly enough, later that school year, my high school English class teacher showed us the same movie, assigning the same task (this time in English).

We hope you have enjoyed our many reviews of the BMW EVs. Clearly, they are the Tesla alternative for those BMW enthusiasts who would like to try the EV ownership experience.

Having experienced range anxiety during each review, we have tried to play it safe. The number of EV urban and suburban fast charging stations is growing. While maintenance continues to be an issue, being held hostage to a single operating charger is starting to abate.

So, when we were given the opportunity to again evaluate an iX, we thought we’d try something different. This time, we would take a realistic BMW enthusiast “road trip”. This would involve driving from

Northern to Southern California using the Golden State freeway, then driving back on California’s famous Highway 101. And because a picture is worth a thousand words, this article is a captioned pictorial – allowing you all to interpret whether you’d like to try the same.

Before we start, we can’t help but be surprised that this wonderful iX has been around since 2021. Our previous iX, which attracted crowds wherever we went, featured a “natural” leather interior. This one features the Adrian Von Hooydonk inspired environmentally friendly cloth interior. We came to appreciate this upscale, tastefully designed roomy interior during the 1000-mile trek.

With that, off we go!



■ (Opposite Page) Looks right at home in San Francisco Chinatown. (Above) Charging in the rain - What can go wrong. (Below Clockwise) Hello Laguna Beach! Hello Santa Barbara! As with all BMW SAVs, the iX has a large and practical-size cargo area.

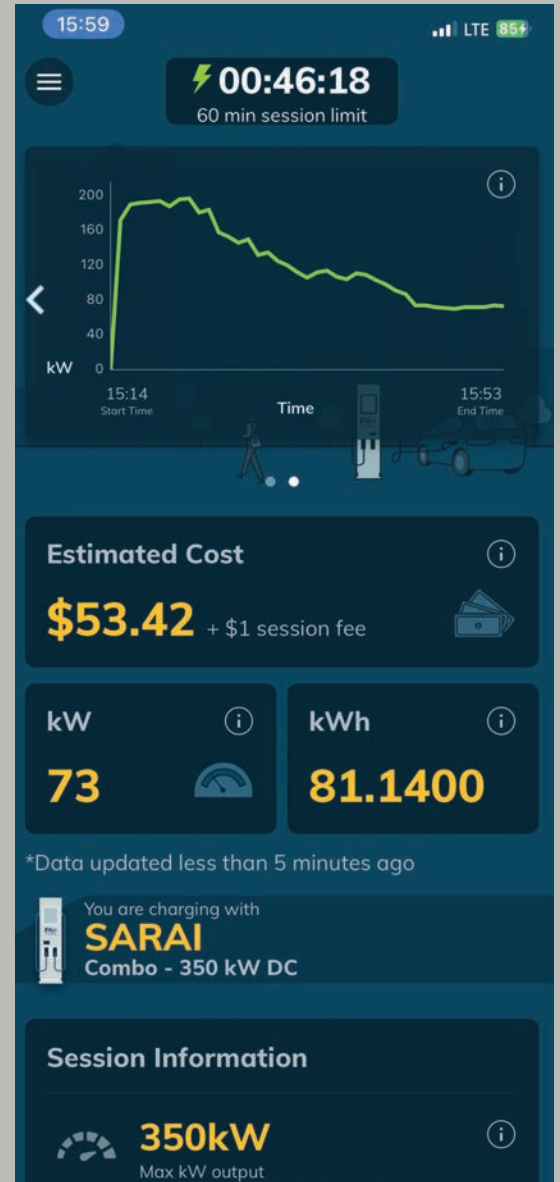




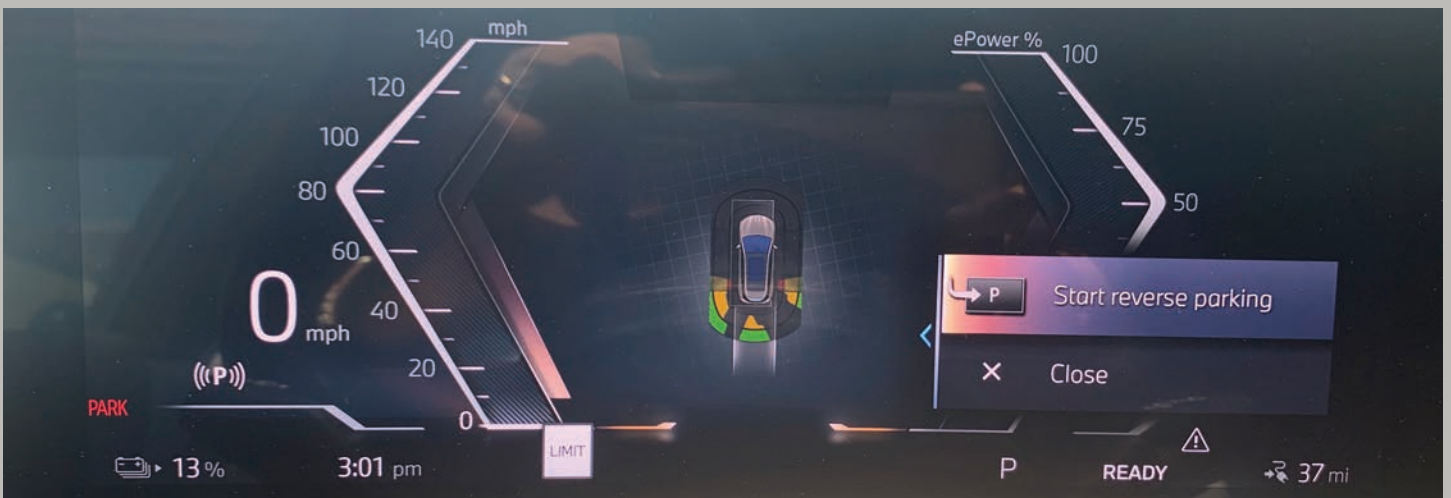
■ (Above) HERE'S a charging station location that makes sense!



■ (Above) It's 5 a.m. in Sacramento, I have to be in Pomona by noon, I'll have to stop for charging twice, and I'm wearing sunglasses. (Below) JUST made it!



■ (Above) Higher power charger means higher charging prices.



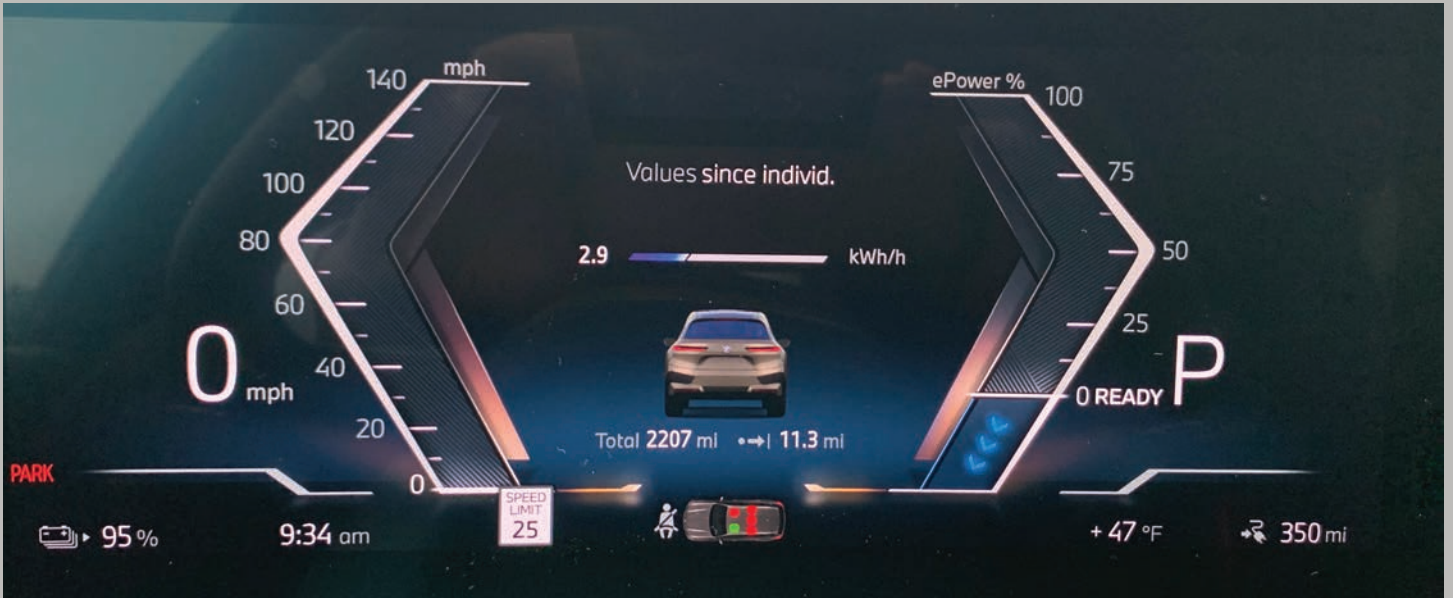


■ (Left) The iX showing its SAV creds.



■ (Above) Oh what a beautiful morning. (Below from Left) So much for FAST charging. Saw this WAY too many times.





(Above) That number on the bottom right is VERY IMPORTANT.



(Above from Left) WHERE are those chargers? The Grapevine - the official Northern border of Southern California.



So, what did we learn? First and foremost, our range anxiety decreased significantly. The navigation system provided a precise “end state of charge” indicator for each destination. And while it’s no surprise that the more powerful the charger, the faster the recharge time, it also costs more to use those

chargers. And pricing is based on local demand – which is why charging at night is so popular. The charging process is both straightforward and awkward. Straightforward because it’s “plug and charge”. Awkward because the cable and charger plug are quite heavy, and EV charging ports are located

relatively high with the plug connectors angled. The bottom line is that long road trips with an EV are possible. But not without anxiety, hazards, and added time. Unlike on other road trips, careful planning is a “must” with an EV. While there are a number of fast charging apps, it is very

nice to use the internet to check on the condition of public fast charger stations – the EV owner community is quite vocal about the conditions and locations. Most importantly, you will need to budget in some extra time. You’ll get there, but it will take longer than you’re accustomed to.

Northern Virginia's premier BMW service, performance & racing facility

Rental cars available
Road Force™ balancer
Touchless tire mounting
Factory level diagnostics
A.S.E. certified technicians
Premium performance upgrades
Complimentary Wifi & Refreshments
Minimum 12 month/12k mile warranty



RRTAutomotive.com

703-661-4222

SUPERIOR

AUTO DETAILING
CONVENIENTLY DONE AT YOUR
HOME OR OFFICE.



REFLECTIONS
AUTO SALON

571-233-7984

www.ReflectionsAutoSalon.com

@reflectionsautosalon

Sigy's Service Center



- Providing Specialized Independent BMW Service And Repair For Over 33 Years
- All Factory Recommended Services And Maintenance Including Software Diagnosis And Updates
- We Service All BMWs From Vintage To Current Model Years
- Convenient To Rockville Metro Station & Rockville Town Center

110 Crabb Ave., Rockville, MD 20850

Call 301.881.6725 For Appointment

Open Monday - Friday: 8am - 6pm

Saturdays: 9am - Noon By Appointment

Please make sure we have your
correct email address.
It can be checked and updated at the
www.bmwcca.org website.

Monterey Car Week 2024:



It's Not Your Typical Cars & Coffee

Sometimes you get lucky, and when I had the chance to attend Monterey Car Week this past year, I cleared my calendar. The invite came in the form of cryptic code from our BMW NA contacts, Tom Plucinsky and Alex Schmuck, earlier in the year. They kept strongly hinting that something special was going to be revealed and that someone from M Chapter should be there. It's been a few years since I've attended Monterey, 2016 to be exact for the 100th anniversary of BMW, which was also one of my favorite BMW CCA's Oktoberfest (BTW O'Fest is being revived this year at Road America so everyone please mark your calendar and join us!).

I used to think that the DMV had a great car culture, and it absolutely does; but California is a different animal. Katie's Cars & Coffee or Hunt Valley Horsepower are great places around here to see some cool cars. You'll get a ton of Ferraris, Lambos, McLarens, and of course, some great BMWs, but Monterey Car Week is extravagant beyond belief. There may be \$1 billion dollars worth of cars in the DMV, but it's tenfold for the annual August gathering on the Bay.

Article and photos by Paul Seto



■ (Top) M1 Pro Car prepping for track duty. (Above) Perfect BMW CCA logo placement.

Unfortunately, I couldn't attend the entire event, so I focused on the end of the last weekend. Monterey isn't especially easy to get to, and it's even more difficult to find a place to stay. In fact, as soon as I knew I was headed West, I booked an Airbnb and this was five months in advance. I would have booked it sooner but had to convince some friends to go too. No way was I going to experience this myself, so luckily recruiting Afshawn Towfighi and Greg Mondeau didn't require much arm twisting. We all complained about how expensive it would be, and we still needed to rent a car, get a flight, and eat; but I can be pretty convincing.

As we got closer to the event, we had to figure out our schedule. There were several events I wanted to make sure to attend, such as Legends of the Autobahn and the Rolex Motorsport Reunion at Laguna Seca. Both

required tickets so getting those booked was easy, and there were also a bunch of great free events to fill out our day.

Due to the long flight out, we couldn't make the CCA driving tour that the Golden Gate chapter put together, so we ended up at The Little Car Show in

Pacific Grove. An annual, free to spectators' event, the city shuts down several blocks along the downtown area, and cars are lined up anywhere they can find a spot. There were so many cool vintage cars to see of all makes and models; but, of course, we focused on a few BMWs that showed up. Cross country travel can tire you out, and we knew that the next day, Thursday, was going to be a big day.

After a great breakfast with friends, we made our way to the Lodge at Pebble Beach. I knew this was the 50th anniversary of the M5, but I didn't really know exactly what to expect. I heard all the rumors and hints from many but quickly found out this was the BMW North America reveal of the new G90 M5 Sedan and the G99 M5 Touring! Overlooking the famed 18th hole at Pebble Beach, guest emcee Derek Bell, introduced all seven M5 chassis ever produced: E28, E34, E60, F10, F90, and the new G90. It was a very special display to see the ocean backdrop at Pebble Beach with each immaculate sedan shining brightly on a mostly overcast morning. As we watched BMW M CEO Frank Van Meel drive the G90 M5 and Connor De Phillippi pilot the G99 M5 Touring onto the stage, you could feel the crowd getting excited. Derek Bell and several celebrities wanted to grab the keys to take the cars for a spin, as the worldwide press started to converge on both cars for video and pictures.

We were also in a time crunch. Legends of the Autobahn started early, and we were hoping to get there by lunchtime. Then we learned that all seven generations of the M5 would be displayed at the show. Upon arrival, we noticed heads turning as this convoy of



■ (Top) Eye candy at the BMW Villa. (Above) Controversial design?

■ (Below from Left) Welcome to the BMW Villa! Did you know that Alpina started out making typewriters?



cars made its way into the middle of the show field. For any oundel fan, Legends is a must see; there are several hundred pristine BMWs from Isettas to E30 M3 Sport Evos to cool builds like E46 M3 wagons. As the sun burned off the morning fog, it was amazing to see all the CCA member cars. To hear the stories, time, and effort they put into their cars, the passion truly comes through. Whether it's their daily driver or one of a collection, it was all smiles, all day. This continued throughout the night, during our M Chapter dinner at the Chart House at Cannery Row overlooking the seals, sea lions, and Monterey Bay. After an extremely busy day, all I wanted to do was crash as we finally headed back to our Airbnb.

A week before I left for Monterey, I received an invitation to a special, private event at the BMW Villa. It was a free event hosted by BMW NA, which had rented someone's \$10-million-dollar home on Poppy Hills golf course, one of several golf courses located in the Pebble Beach area. This 6,500-square-foot house was unbelievable and equipped with a huge garage, where they stored the new M5 sedan, M5 Touring, and several other display cars. This event was to entice people to buy new cars, as they showcased all BMWs that cost six figures and up: M8, X5M, X7, XM, Alpina B8 and XB7. We were able to take a few of them for a spirited drive around the peninsula; 600+ horsepower never felt so good! While we also stuffed our faces with breakfast and snacks, we truly felt like there was no need to leave. Not only was this heaven, but it was free. By the way, here's a helpful tip: if you ever get to fill out a BMW survey, make sure to say that

you're looking to buy a new car within the next 12 months. This is how you get added to their database of potential new customers. It's also who they invite people for special, private events like this. There's no guarantee you'll get invited, but I get my fair share of invites specifically because I complete the surveys.

My favorite part of the trip was attending the Rolex Motorsport Reunion at Laguna Seca, one of the most famous racetracks in the world. With this being the 50th anniversary of the M5, BMW NA brought out some special toys in their BMW Classic Motorsport trailer: M1 Pro Car, E92 M3 GT2, 3.0 CSL Batmobile, and McLaren F1 with the incredible BMW V12 under the hood. Seeing and hearing these vintage race cars is worth the trip by itself. Tom Plucinsky gave us a dedicated run down of each car in their collection and then it was time to see all the



(Above) The McLaren F1 powered by BMW's V12.

cool cars on track. Tom piloted the 2011 E92 M3 GT (ALMS championship car) in one class, as Zak Brown, CEO of McLaren Racing, and face of their F1 team, drove his personal 1978 BMW 320i Turbo Group 5 race car in another class.

Tom was driving against racing legends with title winning cars, so it was good to see the E92 keep up. Zak Brown, however, wiped the floor clean in his class which included several Corvettes and Porsches. We headed to the M5 Garage where BMW M CEO, Frank Van Meel, gave us a detailed summary of the new M5 Touring which included why this may be the last ever wagon to come stateside. The short story is that people need to open their wallets and purchase this M5 Touring, and just maybe, the next generation M3 wagon may be homologated for the US. Just like with

(Below from Left) No one jumped into the pool. What a cool Isetta! The Little Car Show at Pacific Grove.



(Below from Left) Connor De Phillippi posing with the new G99 M5 Touring. Generations apart.



manual transmissions, wagons will only be available IF there is quantifiable demand. If you want an M3 wagon, go to your dealer and put down a deposit. No letter-writing campaign or chicken-or-egg dilemma is necessary; speak with your wallet and BMW will answer.

Spending the day at Laguna Seca was therapeutic, and we had a home base to grab food, drinks, shade, and friendship throughout the day thanks to the CCA Festorics. A cool member car show broke out at our Turn 5 hospitality tent and BMW parked the M5 Sedan and Touring in our tent for an in-depth look and to drool over. This is another absolute must when coming out to Monterey Car Week but sadly our extended weekend was coming to an end.

Our last car show was close to our Airbnb and while I enjoyed getting my BMW fix, I was eager to check out some other makes. Exotics on Broadway has grown so large over the years that they had to move it. What started in a Cannery Row parking lot expanded to shutting down 10+ blocks of public streets to witness the largest gathering of hypercars I've ever seen. Sure there are a few great looking exotics like Ferraris and Lambos, but 100+ Paganis and Koenigseggs make you think you've been transported to their Italian/Swedish factories. It also makes you think that

you've made some bad decisions in life because I'm just as deserving of a five-million-dollar car, right?

You know that saying, I need a vacation from my vacation? This couldn't have been more true.; After walking several miles a day and hitting event after event, we couldn't have packed anything else into our schedule. I would have loved to just sit outside the Pebble Beach golf

My favorite part of the trip was attending the Rolex Motorsport Reunion at Laguna Seca, one of the most famous racetracks in the world.

course entrance and watch all the cars drive in (another freebie), but time didn't allow for this. I had to make the trip home on the same day as the Pebble Beach Concours. Luckily, I attended it in 2016 and now I didn't want to spend \$495 for one hour which is all the time I had before making the trek to the airport. If I had more time, I sure would have loved to go to the Quail on Friday and Pebble on Sunday, but it's tough to pick and choose. As a lifelong East Coaster, Monterey Car Week is a true bucket list trip. The memories will last forever and to experience it with great friends and fellow CCA members, makes it all the more special. We had some incredible meals, a few unforgettable moments, and a lifetime of experiences to reminisce about later. Spending these several days doing cool car things is what this club is about: I'm the luckiest guy alive.

(Below from Left) Bright colors for a bright day. Festorics hospitality tent overlooking Laguna Seca. Zak Brown's 320i Turbo down the Corkscrew.



(Below from Left) Very rare E30 M3 Sport Evo. E28, E34, and E39 M5s overlooking the Pacific Ocean.



TIER CAR CARE

Endorsed by James Clay / Bimmerworld: "Tommy is a friend, customer, and enthusiast. He pours his passion into his customers' projects and is uncompromising with the results."

Recommended by Anna. And Bob. And Caitlin. And Fraser. And George. And Ivy. And Jack. And Michael. And Scott. And Steve. And the rest of the track-day and autocross crowd.

Tier specializes in BMW, Porsche, and Mercedes, but Dr. Tommy, DJ, and Chris will work their magic on anything, even MINI Coopers.

7230 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, MD 21244

(410) 486-2622 • tiercarcare@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tiercarcare>



J&F Motors Ltd.

Service Phone 703-671-7757

Machine Shop 703-671-8507 Fax 703-671-0361

E-mail: JandFMotors1@aol.com

Our hours are
7:30AM to 6PM
Monday through
Friday.



We specialize in BMW
automotive service,
repairs and parts.
We also do general
service and repairs
on Mercedes-Benz
and Volvo.

4064 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington, VA 22206-2307

**London
Auto Services
Ltd** 7718 LEE HIGHWAY FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042
ALFA ROMEO AUDI BMW FIAT HONDA JAGUAR
londonautoservices@verizon.net

MORGAN
NISSAN

FOREIGN CAR SPECIALISTS
(703) 560-6975

LANCIA LAND ROVER MG MINI

SAAB SUBARU TOYOTA TRIUMPH VW VOLVO

ELEVATE YOUR PERFORMANCE

Trust your performance vehicle with our team of proven experts with **600+ hours** of competition track time!

- ⚙️ Motor Sport Services
- ⚙️ Track Preparation
- ⚙️ Tires, Rims & Roadforce Balancing
- ⚙️ Upgrades for brakes, suspension, engine - whatever you need!

7 Locations in Northern VA!



SCAN
FOR EXCLUSIVE
CLUB OFFERS!

From the team that assembled a winning P1 car,
we're here to help you reach your performance goals!



CraftsmanAutoCare.com | (833)-CRAFTS1



BMW Car Club
of America
National Capital Chapter



Welcome to Our New Members!

The National Capital Chapter of the BMW CCA now has 3,991 members. We continue to be the largest chapter in the U.S.

Do you know someone who owns a BMW, but is missing out on the rewards of belonging to the BMW CCA? They probably don't even realize what great benefits they are missing, including parts discounts at local BMW dealerships and select

independent service centers, the *Roundel*, the club's award-winning national, monthly publication, the Membership Rewards Program sponsored by BMW NA, and all our local chapter activities. Please do them a favor and share this with them – after all, the more the merrier!

To our newest members listed below, you joined the club, now join the fun! Check out our

website for the latest event details.

Note: If your name is spelled incorrectly, please use the address change form found under the “Join and Renew” menu item at www.bmwcca.org to correct it. And, for those whose memberships are about to expire, it's easy to renew online at this website as well.



Ron Ackermann	Megan Gordon	Melina Petasis	Stephen Tyrer
Randy Allen	Tracey Huff	Todd Petrocelli	Sanjay Vanguri
Roman Atai	Kurt Lamprecht	Zachary Ray	Allan Wigfield
James Biser	Andres Lara	Robert Rockwell	Jason Zorn
Norman Black	Wesley Lowe	Charlotte Shrewsbury	
John Brown	Caldwell McMillan	Martin Stanley	
James Cornwell	Christopher Newman	Doug Stark	
Tim Gentry	Garrett O'Day	Scott Thompson	



Photo by Paul Seto.

www.liqui-moly.com



LIQUI MOLY MOTOR OILS & ADDITIVES MADE IN GERMANY

LIQUI MOLY is the aftermarket's leading supplier of German motor oils **providing all the latest generation of BMW approvals** so you won't lose your warranty!

Used by the Turner Motorsport Race Team in their Championship winning BMWs!

With LIQUI MOLY, these same products that provide us a racing advantage are the exact same products used daily in servicing our customers' cars.

  Will Turner, Turner Motorsport



Find the right oil!



MEMBERS ONLY: SAVE ON GENUINE BMW PARTS



UP
TO **30% OFF**

CCA Members Save 30% on the following OEM BMW Parts purchased over the counter at Passport BMW:

- OIL FILTERS
- AIR & CABIN FILTERS
- BRAKE PADS, SENSORS, & ROTORS
- WIPERS
- DRIVE BELTS
- SPARK PLUGS

CCA Members save up to 20% Off on all other BMW parts, accessories, and lifestyle products!



Passport BMW

PASSPORTBMW.COM

(301) 423-2700 • 4730 AUTH PLACE, SUITLAND, MD

Some Genuine M and M performance items may not apply. Discounts not available when vehicle is being serviced. Excludes all oils and chemicals. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Must present CCA membership and present coupon at time of write-up. Offer good only at Passport BMW retail parts counter. Offer expires 1/31/2025.



The **Ultimate**
Driving Machine®

WE'RE ON YOUR TEAM.

Proud Supporter of the
National Capital Chapter of BMW CCA.



Original BMW Parts and Accessories
BMW of Silver Spring

3211 Automobile Blvd., Silver Spring, MD 20904 • BMWofSilverSpring.com

Parts Direct: 301.890.3010

Email Us: BMWCCA@mileone.com