

DieZugSpitze



January-February 2004



New York Chapter Vineyard Tour



Photos courtesy Steve Fischthal and Jeff James



New York Chapter Board Elections

NY Chapter Holiday Party & Autocross Awards Ceremony

Come see the new BMW X3 SAV



"AAA" Drivers Improvement Class



11th Annual Beach Party @ Euromeccanica

BMW Car Club - New York Chapter
www.nybmwcca.org

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New York Chapter Annual Holiday Party and Autocross Awards Dinner



January 10th, 2004 -

7:00pm-11:00pm

**Come see the new 2004 BMW X3 SAV
Courtesy of Habberstad BMW**

*Cocktail Hour begins at 7pm sharp - **Jackets Required***

- **Holiday Party**
- **President's Dinner**
- **Autocross Series Awards Dinner**

\$25.00 per person

Marriott Hotel of Uniondale

101 James Doolittle Boulevard, Uniondale, NY 516-794-3800

**If you are attending, please RSVP to e-mail to: events@nybmwcca.org
no later January 5th, 2004. PayPal accepted add \$3.50**

events@nybmwcca.org - Send checks to:

BMW CCA NY Chapter PO Box 920576 Arverne, NY 11692

Please note: RSVP's will not be acknowledged without payment. Confirmation will be provided once payment is received.

Additional information call the Chapter Hotline 516-792-2002 or send e-mail to:

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Contact Telephone: _____

BMW CCA # _____

Enclosed Payment Amount: \$ _____

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Fisch-Tales

Steven Fischthal - Chapter President
email: smf328@optonline.net

President's Farewell Message

It is with mixed feelings that I am writing my last message to the chapter as President. I have chosen not to seek re-election. I have no plans to leave the chapter and I will continue to work with and for the chapter. It is time to pass the torch on to other members. I am confident that the candidates that have been nominated are all capable of leading the chapter forward. They all have all been actively involved with the chapter over the last several years. They have made it possible for the NY chapter to provide the numerous outstanding events for our members. I am a member of other car clubs. I know that few if any other clubs provide the number and diverse types of events that we have. In review of our accomplishments, I am including a list of our events for the past year. They have been fun, but they all required a serious amount of time and hard work from those involved in setting up, running and coordinating these events.

- *No Black Tie Dinner*
- *Beach Party at Euromeccanica*
- *Autocross Awards Dinner*
- *NY and Patroon Chapter at Watkins Glen*
- *AAA Drivers Improvement Course*
- *Indoor Go-kart Racing at Strike Long Island*
- *Free Tickets to the Greater New York Auto Show*
- *Open board meeting at Recondition USA*
- *New York Chapter License Plates*
- *2003 Autocross Series - 10 sessions*
- *Advanced Autocross Schools*
- *Great Marques at Old Westbury*
- *SummerFest at Habberstad*
- *BimmerFest East*
- *Tech Inspection Session at Lynmor Motors, Inc.*
- *Winery Tour - Road Rally*
- *Street Survivor - Coming Soon*
- *New and improved chapter merchandise*
- *Full color newsletter*
- *Newsletter downloadable from the website*

The candidates for leadership of the NY Chapter have all contributed to our success over the last two years. I am confident that they will continue the tradition of service to our members. Please vote for these people.

Steve Fischthal

President - NY Chapter BMW CCA

Newsletter Update

Many of you contacted me concerning the missing newsletter, which is the last one in 2003. After the Sept - Oct 2003 issue, the board decided not to produce the last issue due to the lack of events and the holidays. We believe it was a fiscally prudent decision, which allows the chapter to save money which will be channeled into other events in 2004. The national chapter requires each chapter to produce at least (4) newsletters annually. The New York Chapter has consistently exceeded those requirements by sending (6) issues every year. To our advertisers, we will extend your insertions one additional issue to compensate for the missing issue.

Philip E. Clark

Editor - Die Zugspitze - editor@nybmwcca.org

Congrats to Matthew and Jacki



The New York Chapter BMW CCA wishes to extend our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Brod. Matt currently serves as the Secretary of the New York Chapter BMW CCA

If his wife looks familiar, she should, she was our merchandise model for a year!

Congratulations !



BMW CCA NY Chapter offers an AAA Drivers Improvement Program March 27, 2004 9:00am-4:00pm



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Additional Information 516-792-2002

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Anthony Howell - 516-523-8972 - email: unclebimmer@hotmail.com

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Coming soon to the NY Chapter!

Formed in April 2002 in conjunction with the BMW Car Club of America (BMW CCA), the Street Survival™ safe teen driving program is designed to go beyond drivers ed to give teens across the U.S. the tools and hands-on experience to be safer, smarter drivers.

Street Survival provides:

- *A hands-on, educational driving experience in real-world situations to teach teens car safety and control in their own cars.*
- *Training about handling limits and car control in the cars teens drive everyday.*
- *Trained and qualified driving instructors in the car with the students.*
- *A wet course to allow students to experience mistakes at a very slow speed. In this class, mistakes are learning experiences.*
- *Challenging driving courses on closed parking lots that allow students to experience abnormal car behavior and learn how to handle emergency situations.*

The BMW CCA Foundation's Role

The BMW CCA Foundation is helping BMW CCA chapters to bring their driving expertise to teen drivers. The ultimate goal is for the Foundation to provide teens with tools to make them safer drivers for the rest of their lives.

The BMW CCA Foundation provides the BMW CCA chapters with lesson plans, organizer plans and instructor plans. The Foundation also provides a portion of the expenses associated with the schools and handles all registration and money collections.

Street Survival Programs - 2003-2004 - Dates/Locations TBD

- *St. Louis, Missouri • Westfield, New Jersey • Chicago, Illinois • Upton, New York*
- *West Columbia, South Carolina • San Francisco, California • Spokane, Washington*
- *Sacramento, California • Lincoln, Nebraska • Washington, D.C. • Louisville, Kentucky*
- *Memphis, Tennessee • Los Angeles, California*

FAQ's: How do I sign up for a school in my area?

You can check out schools in your area and register for Street Survival electronically by visiting **www.bmwccafoundation.org**, and clicking on "Street Survival."

How long does each class run?

Each school lasts a single day, approximately from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. It involves one hour of classroom time for orientation and explanation of the day's activities. We also teach the student the new language they will be using all day. The remainder of the day, the students enjoy a hands-on driving experience with a trained instructor in the car at all times, on a controlled, wet-down driving course.



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Special Thanks to

Chet Marfatia

The New York Chapter Board

wishes to extend a Special Thank You
to Chet Marfatia for all his time, effort,
energy and passion he contributed to
the members of the New York Chapter
in dealing with the NYS DMW in mak-
ing the Chapter plates possible!

Nice Job Chet !



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11th Annual BMW CCA NY Chapter Beach Party at Euromeccanica



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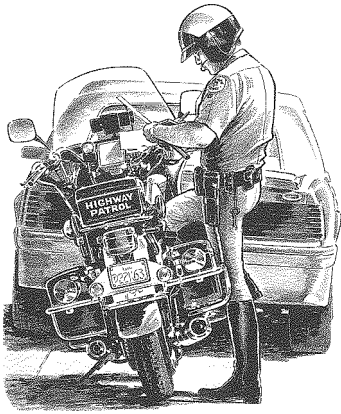
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THAT'S THE LAST TIME I GO TO GERMANY WITHOUT MY ILLEGAL RADAR DETECTOR!

by Garageboy

I have visited Germany so many times now that I maintain a standard list of what to bring. I always fly into the same city, and I always rent a nice car, usually a BMW but occasionally a Mercedes. One of the rental car agents at the airport even knows my face (long story). On a trip in September 2003 to revisit the Nürburgring and the Frankfurt Auto Show, I was considering venturing into one of the eastern European countries for a few days. Since the rental contracts explicitly forbid travel into the east with a fancy German rental car, it made sense to pack a little lighter in case I had to travel for part of my trip by train with my luggage. One item that was intentionally left off the usual "Must Have" list was my radar detector. You never need to bring your Valentine One - they don't use laser in Europe. But a compact, rock-solid 15+ year old Passport - the REAL Passport - the original Passport - works just fine there. Unfortunately, radar detectors are illegal in most countries in Western Europe. Fortunately, the likelihood of getting caught and risking having it confiscated is pretty minimal. So, like the funny guy on TV says: Don't leave home without it!

Getting a speeding ticket in Germany is way more civilized than the fear-ridden "process" we've all grown accustomed to on the left side of the pond. In Germany, you'll never be pulled over for properly passing a police car on the autobahn (highway), but don't pass them on the right or camp out in the passing lane when you're not passing, or else the Polizei

will enjoy making an example of you and pull you over on the spot. However, speeding is treated differently. Since they don't have legal requirements to be "faced by one's accuser", getting a speeding ticket is a rather sophisticated affair on the autobahn.

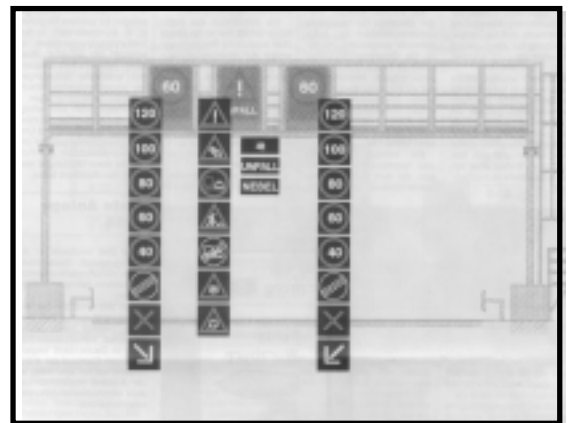
After all these years, I finally got my first speeding ticket in Germany! And unlike all the other tickets I have ever received, this speeding ticket was totally justified! The electronic roadsign spoke to me "Smile, goofball, you shouldn't have ignored the three HUGE 100kph speed limit signs and blown past at 140mph as if there were still no speed limits in Germany." This particular electronic roadsign had both a radar unit and automated camera installed. As my car approached, that indelible *FLASH* of the camera recorded the event, and it was immediately clear what had just happened.

While there are many sections of the autobahn for which there is only a "suggested" limit of 130kph (around 82mph), one has to pay attention to all roadsigns because speed limits are now mandatory in many places. Due to increased traffic densities, more sections have speed restrictions than in the past. Many of the roadsigns are now electronic, so they can be changed by the authorities at a moment's notice due to bad weather, traffic, proximity to populated areas, not to mention construction zones, which the Germans take VERY seriously. It's always interesting to watch a German in an S-class

Mercedes driving one moment like the Autobahnmeister at 240k+kph only to slow down to 60kph when he encounters a construction zone. This may sound very restrictive but fear not - driving on the autobahn is still the most fun you can have on the highway with your clothes on!

I've lived in and visited Europe enough times over the past 2 decades to have known better - my first electronic speeding ticket in Belgium was issued back in 1986. I have no doubt the German Polizei now have my mugshot (clothed) and I can't wait to receive my little souvenir in the mail... with that same German efficiency I've grown to love over the years... There is a valuable lesson here. Pack the Passport every time - it works as well as it did 15 years ago when it was new and it is good to give the electrons inside it a workout on occasion. It won't take up much room, and rental cars in Europe always have cigarette lighters so installation is never a problem.

By the way, I had so much fun in Germany, Holland, and Belgium that I used my rental car the entire time and never made it to eastern Europe on that trip. D'oh!



Drawing of an electronic highway sign in Germany with programmable options (unfall=accident, nebel=fog) from autobahn-online.de

New York Chapter

Vineyard Tour

By Jeff James



When I woke up I realized my bedroom window was open, and it was warm outside – and the sun was shining without a cloud in the sky—what a nice early September morning. But wait! It's November 1st! What a great bonus weather day for the Vineyard Tour.

About 10:00 my wife and I got into my 325iC to drive out east. I had hopes of putting the top down, but my wife had other ideas. Well, maybe later on it will warm up even more and I will be able to talk her into it.

As we got onto the Long Island Expressway at Exit 36 I noticed traffic was very light. Great! Our trip out to Exit 71 was going to be a real treat! Oops! Sunday and sun is also the favorite of the Highway Patrol. OK, stay in the middle lane and just do the speed limit — well, sort of do the speed limit. Good thing I didn't "put the pedal to the metal." From Exit 36 to Exit 71 we saw a total of 12 police cars and mo-

torcycles. Do the math – about one every 5 miles! Ouch!

Shortly after 11:00 we pulled into Martha Clara Vineyards. Franz, who I had corralled into being the



event's registrar, was already there and set up. I met with my friend Christine, the event planner, at the vineyard who told me to use a side area as a line up parking lot for our BMW's. She also had a wonderful surprise for us. She gave me a stack of cards good for a 20% discount on wine purchases at the vineyard's store.

found it quite satisfying that this event brought out many members who had never attended a Chapter event before. At first many people went into the tasting room, but then most everyone took advantage of the other activities available. Some people visited the gallery of African art, while others took a ride on a buggy pulled by a team of Clydesdale horses. Most people stopped for a moment (or more) to watch the cute little pigs that were behind the parking lot. Almost everyone wound up on the outdoor patio, taking in the sun, and listening to the live music.



Many of the members who had never met each other until today wound up talking with each other and having a great time. And of course, there was the usual “show and tell” in the parking area – with members checking out other members’ cars.



It took a lot of effort to leave the sun and the music at Martha Clara, but this is a tour, so off we went. We stopped at a farm stand where delicious homemade pies and other baked



goods, and jams and jelly were sold. They also had some farm fresh produce. I bought a head of broccoli that was huge, and a head of purple cauliflower. Yes, purple— that was not a typo. After we left the farm stand, people went many different places. Some of us had the good fortune to wind up following Don Spates in his Dinan M5 over some incredible back roads. There was one road

which twisted and turned and had elevation changes like on a roller coaster. (Maybe I’ll use that road for a rally one day.)

We all met up at Galluccio Vineyards. After tasting and buying wine here, we hung out on their patio, just talking. It was quite an experience, with so many members who had never met each other before. Hopefully this will lead to more people attending more events. And perhaps some of the people who attended will get more active, and perhaps consider setting up or helping to set up future events. Then we all got in our cars and headed back to Riverhead, for dinner at Jerry and the Mermaid. Chris Judd had arranged a great price fixed meal for us — \$25 per person, choice of five different main courses, soup to nuts, tip and tax in-

cluded — a great deal—and the food was very good also. We sat family style at dinner, talking, but by now we were all old friends. We didn’t want to leave, but we must as home was 75 miles away, and the next day was Monday, back to work.

When word gets out about what a great everyone had, we may need to limit the number of



cars next year. Who wants to sign up now?



Photos courtesy Steve Fischthal and Jeff James

BMW NY Chapter Gear



NY Chapter caps have arrived !!

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New York Chapter Candidacy Statements

Anthony Howell - President

Hello, my name is Tony Howell AKA UNCLEBIMMER. I am running for President of the New York Chapter and I am asking for your support.

I have been a BMW CCA member for 9 years. For the past 2 years I served as the Vice-president and prior to that I held the Member At large position. My love for motor sports and BMW's has kept me very involved with the chapter. As an active volunteer, I am the tech session coordinator, new membership coordinator, toolmaster, on the drivers school committee, autocross committee and AAA Drivers program coordinator. The New York chapter offers a variety of events and if elected I will continue to be supportive of the existing chair person for each event. I will do my best to ensure they have the proper tools they need to run their events smoothly and effectively. I will continue to try and determine what type of additional events the members would like the chapter to host. I will also pursue those that wish to become more actively involved with the club. We need volunteers with new and fresh ideas to make these events come to fruition.

Thank you for your support
Tony Howell aka- UNCLEBIMMER

Matt Brod - Vice President

As a member in good standing with the BMWCCA and a current board member I would like to pursue the position of Vice-President. The knowledge of the inner workings of the New York Chapter which I have gathered over the past two years as Secretary will allow me to serve the NY Chapter in this new role.

As Vice-President I will encourage the executive board to always look for ways to improve the Chapter. Using my skills in public relations I will also start a recruitment program to bring in new members. I will also be looking into alternative events in new locations so that more non-competitive, leisurely drives will become available for the members. This club has diversity of members, it is time for increased diversity of events.

I feel that my past service record with the New York Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America speaks for itself, and with your votes I will be able to continue to serve you, the general membership of the best Chapter in the BMWCCA.

Andre Noel - Vice President

I have been a member since 1989. Having been an active member in the NY Chapter for several years. I am now running for the position of Vice President and asking you to vote for me. I've held the position of Member-at-Large for the last two years. During this time I have helped my fellow Board Members create new events for all the members to attend.

I am currently serving as the Autocross Chairman for the last two years. In the last two years, the Autocross has been one of the most attended event by members and they get more runs per event than most other clubs. I also assist with the novice and advanced autocross school for our members. The schools provide new autocrossers the skills to safely have more fun with their cars. If elected, I will continue to help to make the NY Chapter an even better club for all members.

Thank you

Andre B. Noel

New York Chapter Election Ballot

The New York Chapter has received the following nominations and candidacy statements by the December 1st, 2003 deadline.

New York Chapter Elections - Ballot

Please cast your vote for the following Board positions:

- President - Anthony Howell**
- Vice-President - Matt Brod**
- Vice-President - Andre Noel**
- Treasurer - RoseAnn Burke****

**** Indicates incumbent**

Please cut out this ballot and place in an envelope with your mailing label located on the back of this issue. Mail completed ballot to:

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NY Chapter - Calendar Of Events

- January 10, 2004 - Autocross Awards and Holiday Party Dinner
- February 14, 2004 - 11th Annual Beach Party
- March 27, 2004 - AAA Driver Improvement Class
- June 21 & 22nd Drivers School w/Patrol Chapter @ Watkins Glen

The New York Chapter wishes to thank it's advertisers, volunteers and the members for their support of the chapter and for making 2003 another great year.

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