

# Die Zugspitze



- Is it really worth trying to outrun him?

## BMW CCA | New York Chapter | Mar • Apr 2003

Free Tickets for the Greater NY Autoshow Pre-Show  
BMW Chapter Meeting

Driver's School at Watkins Glen

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New York Chapter BMW CCA - Chapter Plates

"No Black Tie Dinner"

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2003 NY Chapter Autocross Schedule



Yoda is Gone !  
Farewell to our Founder  
Michel Potheau

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# 2003 Greater New York Autoshow at the Javits Center - New York City

**Free Tickets for Chapter Members - Read the New Rules !**

We once again expect BMW North America to host a breakfast meeting for BMW CCA members at the 2003 International Auto Show at Javits center. The special and ever popular event will be held on **Saturday, April 19th 2003 from 9:30am to 11am at the BMW Booth**. BMW will provide snacks and have a special presentation for BMW CCA club members. BMW NA product managers are also available to answer any questions you may have.

This is a great opportunity to see the BMW display with BMW NA representatives and other club members before the general public arrives at 11am.

You need special tickets to be allowed into the BMW booth at 9:30am.

These tickets are only for the special event - they are not a free ticket to be used on any day. If you cannot attend the Saturday breakfast, please do not request these tickets.

Please Note: If you want to attend the BMW breakfast please read the following important notes:

- Check your calendar and make sure that you can attend the BMW event at 9:30am on Saturday, April 19th 2003
- Every chapter member can reserve up to 2 tickets first served basis.
- You must sign up after April 1st, 2003 11 am at the NY Chapter website at [www.nybmwcca.org/autoshow](http://www.nybmwcca.org/autoshow) and provide your Name, phone number, e-mail address and BMW CCA membership number. Note this website link will NOT be available before 11am on April 1st 2003



- Tickets availability is limited and we will check the date and timestamp of your submission to determine cutoff.
  - TICKETS WILL NOT BE MAILED TO MEMBERS THIS YEAR (no exceptions).
- You will receive confirmation and instructions via e-mail and tickets will be held for you at the Autoshow entrance.

If you have any questions, please e-mail [ckarnati@nybmwcca.org](mailto:ckarnati@nybmwcca.org) or the chapter hotline 516-792-2002

# Yoda is Gone Farewell to Michel

Rachel Corey:

rachel@nybmwcca.org

*If this is the first time you have heard that our club lost its founder and current President to a head injury January 6, 2003, I apologize for what must be a shock to many. Maybe you never knew the man who made it possible for you to get your parts cheaper at dealerships, nationwide driving events and local parties from clam bakes to hoe downs and everything in between, the man who got the name of his club printed in the driver's manual of every BMW in America- your driver's manual. That's so like Michel, he got the name of the Club in every car, not his own name, just like he took membership number 2 instead of 1. More likely you did know him but didn't realize who he was while he was standing next to you at the model show or the BMW CCA meeting. He was a regular guy who brought more than 70,000 people together because they love BMWs.*

*As Roundel Magazine and every part of the structure of the Club was alternately struck dumb or mobilized to handle the crisis I wrote some thoughts on the passing of Michel Potheau. Roundel was kind enough to reprint an excerpt, the New York Chapter has given me this opportunity to present the original to you in it's entirety.*

## January 6, 2003

Michel Potheau is a stunning example of how the love of one thing - even as superficial as a car marque- lead to the love of more important things-like people. From the moment there ever was a BMW, Michel Potheau adored it. His background as a mechanic gave him X-ray vision, when he looked at a BMW, he saw it's insides. I thought I had a lot of time to learn from him, he knew so much, every bit of BMW history, every player from corporate to aftermarket and not just BMW.



Michel would trip lightly from discussing flora to guns, kitties to politics always prepared to substantiate his views with facts from a wealth of knowledge that bordered on picayune. It was infuriating. For a guy who seemed to live in the world of the inappropriate- he was still the one whose judgment I sought. How does that work?

I argued with him constantly, I did not fully appreciate how this bickering sharpened my wit and challenged me to do better. I ended up seeking his approval and confiding in him completely. I want him to proofread this after I write it. Michel was someone you could trust. Even his enemies would have to concede that there was a self-imposed limit of honorable behavior Michel would not cross for love or money.

I expected the President of the BMW Club to be a stuck up self important prig driving the latest and greatest model having some kind of "in" with BMW to cut himself a deal. One of Michel's rules was never to sit at the "head table". If you were at an event and looking for him on the dais, making a speech or accepting an award then you would miss him- but if you had a problem with your car and turned to the fellow next to you, it would be Michel.

Another thing to learn from Michel is that whatever you love can be used to hurt you.. He may have felt like Don Quixote but when it came election time, he was leading hundreds of believers and thousands of new friends like Peter Pan. He earned each any every one of those votes by helping people. It was truly his concept that any club member could get help from the club and other club members, whether it

was a place to stay in a strange town if your car broke down or meeting new people. No suit and tie needed. No BMW needed.

I asked him which is the truer enthusiast, the owner who consistently trades in their BMW for the newest model or the owner who keeps working on their old model. Without a beat he answered "the owner who keeps working on their old model is the true BMW enthusiast". Oh, did I mention he drove an old but modified E30 M3 with rust showing on it? When he came to visit me in New York- he showed me how he never locked his car- even on Third Avenue in downtown Manhattan. He said, "...If someone were to smash a window the trip home would not be much fun with a makeshift plastic window, would it? What is the worst thing that could happen? Coming back to a vacant parking space? Well, that's what insurance is for..."

Unbelievably, this actually worked. We got back from dinner, his car was still there.

"...In the thirty years plus of driving and owning BMWs I still remember what a pain it was to have a window smashed on a locked car in front of my home to have some fool steal the eight track. "

When he came to visit last year in Florida, some twist of fate later that night caused the M3 automatic locking to engage. He was so ticked off because he never locks the car or uses an alarm. He wrote in his first column as re-President "I always leave my car keys in my car, that way I can always find them...." So, his keys were in the car and he was trying to gain access

with a bent hanger in the dark. Come daylight he had opened the door so fast and easy it was scary. Reminding me as he slipped the wire casually through the gap in the window how many decades he spent as a BMW emergency repair technician and how this was all child's play.

In one of the last conversations I had with him, he mentioned in Key West he had a deal with his letter carrier, if he wasn't in she was to leave any packages in his unlocked M3.

He was still creating clubs for enthusiasts to the end, the BMW Model Collectors on yahoogroups (bmwmodelcollectors-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) had 100 members almost instantly, he was only disappointed that more people were not talking on the list. He had thousands and thousands of model cars, one day he spent waiting at the door for his new display cases to be delivered. In fact, when he stopped in to visit in New York, it was after shopping for models and finding me a Boston Green Z3. (*I later found the guy he was visiting in New York on the model collectors list - "Hey, was that you he was visiting that night?" and made another good friend here in the city You can still see the feedback on mpotheau@aol.com on Ebay, 730 in English and in German.*) This Christmas I had the little green motorized Z3 on a track running around under my tree instead of a train. I thought he was goofy when he got that for me. Man, I enjoy it so much.

I walked into this group as a complete neophyte and basically ignorant of all things BMW. Michel found my Z3 Homecoming Yearbook web site (he did this with some sort of magic he used to manipulate the web from a dial up connection managing to sift the web with a mastery that would be useful to Homeland Security). If you have a BMW web site, Michel found it. Even with 70,000 members in the club plus thousands of friends worldwide from his other interests ( he was signing up Black voters in the South in the 60s and spoke Russian for fun) he still remained completely accessible.

I found him online on AOL in 1998 from

his published address in the "Internet Highway" column and thanked him for mentioning my site that month. I expected him to reply with a curt "You're Welcome" and for him to put me on his blocked list for bothering him or just blow me off altogether. Instead he yakked up a storm with me and made me feel welcome. And so it began. He made a friend of me, he turned me on to the BMW history, and made it affect me personally. I ended up starting the iZ3 Club SIG and making another couple hundred friends because of him. Like any great BMW ride, there were lots of side trips and adventures with Michel that had nothing to do with cars. The man picked key limes off the trees in his yard and baked the best and freshest Key Lime Pie. I'd call him to ask how to cook corn.

He drove 7 hours to visit me in Florida, Key West to Naples, full of stories about alligators and gun shows, arriving down the street with a distinctive decrescendo engine roar. If his keys hadn't been locked in his car I probably couldn't have convinced him to stay the night before he drove the 7 hours back home. He found a great restaurant for all of us to go to and drove my Z3 there to help ascertain the cause of an acceleration problem, while trying out the unique Becker Traffic Pro unit he encouraged me to write about for Roundel.

Any Z3 owner who ever gave him a chance found him to be the biggest Z3 admirer, the strongest supporter of Z3 Homecoming, the greatest friend a BMW owner could possibly find. You just had to see him driving my car top down on a perfect Florida evening. When he was my passenger he didn't even stamp the passenger brake or clutch the hand grip like everyone else does when I drive- I am a stinko driver but it didn't matter to Michel. He was in a BMW with a friend he made through the club he built. He knit our friendship from threads of air, like the magical thick Florida night. He wrote about these adventures in his column, saying his "M3 was turned on by being parked near a sexy Boston Green Z3 and decided it did not want to go home. "

He took the name "Yoda" on our mes-  
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sage board and that is how he saw himself. Little guy with a big mind, a powerful force of intelligence and kindness, old and wise. He didn't have to spend a fleck of time on me. I was just a new kid around here but Michel thought I was a "keeper". He said people read what I write and pushed me to write professionally. I did but I passed every single thing I wrote past Michel before I submitted it to editors for accuracy. He corrected and enhanced the technical points, spelling, vocabulary, verb tense and even reminded me to use "Please" and "Thank You" on letters to editors. Then we'd have a big argument about what I said and I would tell him to bug off.

I thought he had so much wrong. Now I see he had his priorities right all along. He said it all the time. "It's not the cars, it's the people, idiot."  
How'd I do Michel? Is this OK?  
"Enjoy your BMW."  
00xx00  
Michel"

### February 18, 2003

As I write this, my article about Z3 Fixit Day 2002 is in Road and Track on the stands (March). Michel did not get to see the issue, but at least he knew before he died that it would appear. Forty cars are already signed up for Z3/Z4/Z8 Fixit Day 2003, April 5 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, (www.z3fixitday.com) some driving in from as far as Chicago. I bought some parts at the dealer the other day and took advantage of the BMW CCA discount after reading Roundel in their waiting room. With the cash in my hand I said, "Thanks Michel".

Today the election results for the national board were posted on the web site. As Michel wrote in his January column, he was disappointed that there were only two contested positions on the national board. The New York chapter board had no nominations from members for our annual elections, forcing our local board members to nominate each other and run themselves unopposed.

So I am to making it my mission in this

***continued on next page***

## Yoda is Gone continued

column this year to find enough people who want to participate in making this what Michel called "The Best Damn Car Club on the Planet". By November of this year, let's have lots of nominations- *you are already qualified to run by virtue of being a member of the Chapter, you do not even need to own a BMW, new members are welcome to run.* Think on this: the posted *National* elections show that approximately as many total votes were cast as the total number of members from the New York Chapter *alone*. That means we could control the National elections as a chapter, if only we would nominate, run and vote. We can do it.

**The NY Chapter is looking for a few good men** and women- ladies and gents we need your help. We have a great club Here in New York -where Michel grew up and learned to drive,... (in Queens, which explains a lot)- we have a chance to make it even better, to get much more than your \$35 worth back in friends and fun and help when you need it. If you can help out in any way, write articles, work on the web site, make new events-let's expand to fill our geographic area so that everyone can make it to an event in their borough. If you know facilities where we can meet, (from a farmhouse to a dealership to a parking lot or a bar-doesn't matter), if you want to attend meetings or want to run for office at the end of this year or have any ideas I haven't thought of, please speak up! Let's do it. Let's do it for ourselves and for Michel and for New York and for friends you didn't know you had the friends you will make and for the friends we lost. Thank you again to the current board for staying on to keep the chapter alive. Thank you also to Margo Potheau, member #36, for your help in writing this column.

Here are the contact details for EVERYONE- if you try and don't get an answer, please email me and I will follow through. write or call me or any board member, our contact info is on the masthead on page 2, or you can email the board at

info@nybmwcca.org, join the chapter email list for updates between newsletters at:: nybmwcca

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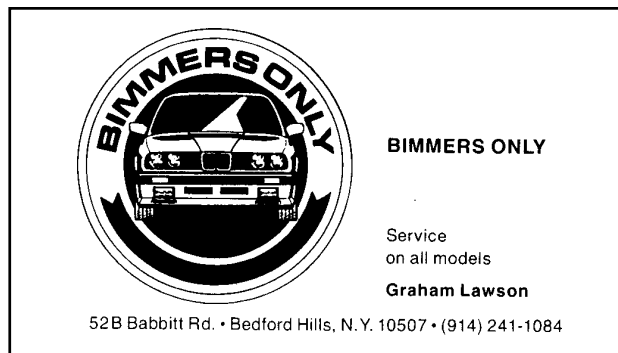
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# **Watkins Glen Driver's School Application**

## ***SELLING YOUR PAMPERED BABY: NOT THE TYPICAL EBAY WAY***



*- Karen O'Brien*

Several years ago when I had to part with my beloved 1987 M6 concours winner, I wanted to find the perfect new home for it – a home that would baby it as much as I did if not more. This car could not be sold to just anyone, you know? After all, it was 13 years old at the time and had only 13,000 original miles on it with several show wins under its belt. The target market could not be the average buyer.

I listed the car in the Roundel, which is where I originally found the car for sale in 1997 and purchased it. I also placed free classified ads on several web sites, but I was getting average inquiries that didn't understand the high asking price for the car compared to others of the same age. At the time, I was a fairly new eBay user and had only purchased a few items using the site. I had never sold anything on eBay and didn't really want to go through the hassle, especially with such a large item as a car!

One day while surfing eBay for 6-series items and accessories for sale, I came across an original M6 magazine ad from the late 1980s. There were a few bids on the item and the high bid was up to around \$25. "Wow," I thought, "someone must

be a serious 6-series enthusiast if they are willing to pay \$25 for that magazine ad." Then my creative marketing light bulb went on! I quickly emailed the top bidder and introduced myself, telling him that I noticed his interest in the ad and that I was also an enthusiast. I mentioned that I had this awesome M6 for sale and asked him to spread the word in case he knew anyone that might be interested in it. I never tried to direct sell him in any way.

Lo and behold, the next day I got an email back from him saying that HE was interested himself in the car! After doing his due diligence with me, which included an inspection and reference check from a local independent BMW shop, he purchased the car at my asking price and I shipped it off to Seattle from Texas.

My pampered baby could not be in better hands or in better company. It turned out that the buyer was an actual 6-series collector. In his stable, he had an 89 L6, 88 M6 and now my 87 M6 that happens to be the same colors as his 88. And don't even think about it – I already have first right of refusal whenever he decides to sell the 87!



Habberstad



## 2003 NY Chapter Autocross Series Schedule

Sponsored by Habberstad BMW

Director of Motorsports: Demetrios Mirissis (631) 418-3260

- Autocross I: Saturday, March 29th, 2003
  - Autocross II: Saturday, April 26th, 2003 (Novice School)
  - Autocross III: Saturday, May 10th, 2003
  - Autocross IV: Saturday, May 24th, 2003
  - Autocross V: Sunday, June 28th, 2003
  - Autocross VI: Saturday, July 19th, 2003 (Advanced School)\*\*
  - Autocross VII: Sunday, July 20th, 2003
  - Autocross VIII: Saturday, Aug 9th, 2003
  - Autocross IX: Saturday, Oct 25th, 2003
- All events at the Nassau Coliseum parking lot #8

Novice School: Apply if you have been to two events or less or if you recently got a driver's license.

School focuses on proper driving techniques, car control and handling emergency situations.

- We only have 20 openings for the school.
- **School runs from 8am to 4pm on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2002**
- Cost is \$40 and lunch is included.
- Please apply via e-mail to Charles Karnati at CKARNATI@NYBMWCCA.ORG
- Hurry the school fills up very quickly.
- Highly recommended for new drivers – if you have a teenage driver in your family, sign them up for this school.

\*\* Advanced School: Will be open to experienced autocrosses who want to fine tune their skills. Look for details in May issue of Die ZugSpitze.

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'98-'00	M-Roadster & Coupe	Stage 4 Software, Cold Air Intake, Air Flowmeter, Throttle Body		\$2191 4.5 Hours
'99-'00	323i/ci & 328i/ci	Stage 2 Software, Cold Air Intake, Free-Flow Exhaust		\$1597 5 Hours
'96-'01	540i	Stage 2 Software, Cold Air Intake, Free-Flow Exhaust		\$1997 6 Hours
'00-'01	M-5	Stage 1 Software, Free-Flow Exhaust, Cold Air Intake		\$3796 7.5 Hours

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*Additional Information 516-792-2002 or*

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# "No Black Tie" Dinner – Icela Fischthal

WOW! This one word really sums up our feelings about this annual dinner. It was held Saturday evening January 11th at the Marriott Hotel, in Uniondale. Over 90 of our chapter members and their guests arrived for an evening of music, dancing, good food, numerous awards and the presence of the guest of honor, a new Z4 convertible.

The evening began at 7PM with our arrival at the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott to find a beautiful Z4 convertible inside the ballroom for our perusal. This car was brought to the event courtesy of Habberstad BMW and Demetri Mirissis. Too bad the keys were not readily available. Parking lot #8 of the Nassau Coliseum was across the street. It would have been fun tossing the new Z4 around those orange cones. May I be so bold to suggest that we raffle off this beauty at next year's dinner?

During this first hour, cocktails were being served and we had plenty of opportunity to talk to old friends and make new acquaintances. Some of our members spotted BMWNA's "M Brand" manager, Tom Salkowsky at our party. Tom was a guest at our party for he most graciously accepted our invitation. Members being members and Tom being Tom, we all tried hard to pry corporate secrets out of Tom and of course Tom told us only what was cleared for public consumption. We had a good time trying.

During dinner, many awards were presented. Plaques of appreciation were given to Mary-Faith Healy and Frantz Lilavois for their years of devoted ser-

vice to the chapter. Andre Noel, AutoX Chairman, presented beautiful trophies to the winners and runner-ups of this past season Autocross Series. Winner of AAA class – Andrea Cairone, winner of AA class – Carlos Gomez, winner of A class – Andre Noel, winner of B class – GJ Dixon, and winner of C class David Sanchez.

Demetri Mirissis, Habberstad BMW, gave us a rundown of upcoming cars and new features that we will be seeing at BMW. He then concluded by testing our knowledge of BMW history and trivia. The winner received a free oil and filter for their BMW at Habberstad BMW.

Charles Karnati had a special challenge for us, to determine who arrived at the dinner with the most vintage of BMW's (read oldest with the highest mileage). Charles presented the winner Chris Papadatos with a splendid BMW Calendar flown in from Germany.

To conclude the dinner we raffled off several chapter shirts and pens. We also raffled off three pairs of tickets to the upcoming NY Auto Show. The winners were, Maxime Roy, Danielle Lazard and Steve Musolino. We hope you enjoy the show. The Grand Prize for the evening was a years pass to the 2003 Autocross Series. As luck would have it, non-other than Andrea Cairone, this years autocross champion won this prize.

We had a great time at the dinner and are planning to attend next year's party. Please won't you join us next year!

*Editor's Note: The "No Black Tie" was a wonderful event and the attendance was beyond expectations. I took many photographs of many of you in attendance. Regrettably, I wish to inform you that due to a computer failure, all photos of this event were not recovered.*

*- Philip E. Clark - Editor*

## **New York Chapter Elections - Ballot**

**Please cast your vote for the following Board positions:**

**President - Steven Fischthal**

**Vice-President - Anthony Howell**

**Treasurer - RoseAnn Burke**

**Secretary - Matt Brod**

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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## Classifieds • Classifieds • Classifieds • Classifieds • Classifieds

Trade: Climate control Dials for Automatic Climate control Anybody want to trade my E46 for 2001-2003 models Alex (nob90@hotmail.com). Posted on 2/20/2003

1980 320is-Black/black interior, 5 spd, 3.90 limited slip, 151k with motor rebuild at 145k, sunroof, A/C, Black Recaros, CD, Volante Race Steering Wheel, Yokohama Touring tires, Basket Weave Alloys, new master cyl., calipers, rear brake cyl., and much more. Rare factory "s" package. Asking \$2500/obo. Andrew 631-758 6123. andrewgeraci1@hotmail.com Posted on 2/17/2003

Wanted: decent used 17" tires one Yokohama AVS (old Style) 235/40/17 I can Use 1 michelin pilot Sport 245/40/17 I can use any brand, 2 pieces of 225/40/17 or 215/40/17 ARI D KAYSERIAN (arinuts@yahoo.com). Posted on 2/16/2003

WANTED: EXTERIOR DOOR TRIM FOR 1989 325i E30 - the exterior trim that spans from the windsheild and over the top of the doors on the passenger side. It connects to the gutter. I need this piece in chrome but if you have all of the trim for both sides in black then i will switch them all over. Greg (bmwbub@hotmail.com). Posted on 2/14/2003

BMW OEM 5 star split spoke rims 4 original 16" X 7" BMW alloy rims from a '95 325is. AKA the sport package rims. Will fit E36, E46 and Z3. Great condition with minor scratches. Free 5th "bottle cap" style wheel with tire, used as a spare. Email for pictures. \$400 obo. Aniel Sukhram (asukhram3@hotmail.com). Posted on 2/14/2003

For sale: 733i interior & seats original burgundy front & rear seats from E23 733i and all 4 door panels and trim in very good condition ; no honest offer refused ; Thomas (h) 914-967-9301 TBDrex@aol.com Contact Thomas Drexler Posted on 2/13/2003

MANY MANY PARTS FOR SALE E28, E23, E30, E24 Hello All, I have a garage full of parts, let me know what you need, I'll see if I have it. Some things off the top of my head: Contact Ari D. Kayserian(arinuts@yahoo.com). Posted on 2/12/2003

X Brace Wanted for '98 E36 M3.(Stefano.gaudio@nera.com). Posted on 2/11/2003

WANTED: Driver Sport Seat for E30 Need to replace driver seat... Color: Pearl Beige email when available Contact Glenn (gef62@hotmail.com). Posted on 2/9/2003

1985 E30 323i VIN WBAAA810607544005 Silver/charcoal cloth 92K Auto, pwr sunroof, A/C Weds/ Pirellis, all power options, all records, lots new, 2nd owner, excellent condition \$4000 obo Rod: 516 681-0008; karzit@aol.com Contact Rod (Luccioni). Posted on 2/7/2003 E30 Engine & 5 speed E30 210hp engine built by

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