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# DIE ZUGSPITZE

NEW YORK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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André Noël

# 2008-2009 NEW YORK CHAPTER EVENTS CALENDAR

## December

20th Annual President's Dinner and Holiday Party

## 2009

## February

28th Annual Beach Party

## April

17th Pocono North

## September

28th O'Fest at Road Atlanta (Sept 28th - Oct 4th)

**On The Cover:** An E30 M3 and a race-spec E30 (in the reflection) at the Oktoberfest Concours at Logan Winery.  
Photo by Mike Allen



O'Fest Envy

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## Announcing the 2009 New York Chapter Board of the BMW Car Club of America

André Noël, President  
Mike Allen, Vice President  
RoseAnn Burke, Treasurer  
James Siegel, Secretary  
GJ Dixon, Member at Large

The Board of the New York Chapter requests members to join us to help steer the Board and drive the direction of the chapter in 2009. Join us at our monthly dinner Board Meeting the second Wednesday of every month.



# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

**André Noël**

Hello BMW Fans!

The days are becoming shorter and the nights longer. The temperature is cooler and the leaves are off the trees. Old Man Winter is almost here and it is time for some reflection. 2008 was an historic year for most of us. Gas prices went to their highest levels in our lifetime. The stock market has been worse than any rollercoaster I have ever ridden. This year has many of us rethinking the way we drive. The great American pastime of cruising on a Friday night or on the weekend has become more of a "drive and park" than a long drive on the open highway. Miles per gallon is a hot subject. When the conversation turns to what one is driving, if you are not averaging at least 25 miles per gallon you are viewed as being out of touch with today's standards.

This year has been particularly bad for some car manufacturers. Rows and rows of the big SUVs are sitting on dealership lots with few interested in purchasing them. You may be wondering where I'm going with all this. Maybe in the next few years we will see cars that perform and get great gas mileage. Let's see – how about a 120is (4-cyl.) with a twin turbo putting out 280hp and 30 mpg city and 38 mpg highway. OK, maybe I'm dreaming, but if we demand cars that have better gas mileage perhaps they will build them. The theme for the Presidential Election was all about change. Well maybe the struggling auto manufacturers will listen to our voices and change as well. Best of luck to everybody in 2009, because we will all need it!

O'fest was in September in the Fingerlakes Region of Upstate New York. In addition to diehards like myself, several Chapter members came out to the event this year. I hope everybody had a good time. There were several events where trophies were awarded to members for driving skill, knowledge about BMWs and photography of BMWs. Congratulations to all the New York Chapter members. We won a total of twelve trophies – nine in the autocross events alone. This was a very impressive feat.

Winter approaching also means it is time for the Chapter's Annual Holiday Party and President's Dinner at the prestigious Seawane Country Club in Hewlett Harbor, Long Island. If you have never visited Seawane, it is definitely worth the trip. This year it is on December 20, 2008. Santa and I are looking forward to seeing everybody at the event. So come on out for some good food, shake a leg or two to some good music and see some old friends.

Finally, I would like to take this time to thank all the members of the NY Chapter Board for all their hard work this year. Without their dedication, we would not be able to put on as many events as we do each year. Also to the Chapter volunteers who come out to different events and help in running them, thanks very much for your help.

Drive Safely and Happy Holidays!

*André Noël*

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# NY BMW CCA CHAPTER

# Annual Holiday Party



# & President's Dinner

**Date: Saturday, December 20th 2008**

**Time: Cocktails: 7PM / Dinner: 8PM**

Please RSVP no later than Dec. 5th, 2008 with check, name and age of children attending.  
Cash or money order only accepted at the door. Seating is limited.

Icela Fischthal 914 Hewlett Drive, North Woodmere, N.Y. 11581 / icela@optonline.net

**Price: Adults \$70/person / \$30 children, under 7 free (by deadline)**

**Santa will be giving gifts to the children!**

(Children must be registered in ADVANCE to assure that Santa will bring them a gift.)

**Please visit the NY BMW CCA website for the exquisite menu**

**Location: Seawane Country Club**

**Club Drive**

**Hewlett Harbor, Long Island NY 11557 (516) 374-1110**

### Directions

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Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge onto Cross Island Parkway Southbound. Proceed to Southern State Parkway Eastbound to Exit 13. South on Central Avenue. Central Avenue changes to Mill Road after crossing Sunrise Highway Proceed to end of Mill Road, and then make left on West Broadway. Left on Broadway for 2 traffic lights. Then make right on East Rockaway Road. Proceed 7/10 mile and make right turn on Schenck Lane. Right turn on Club Drive directly to Seawane.

#### FROM NORTH SHORE. LONG ISLAND

Cross Island Parkway Southbound then follow above directions.

#### FROM MANHATTAN

Queens Midtown Tunnel or 59th Street Bridge to LIE Eastbound. Proceed to Van Wyck Expressway Southbound to Belt Parkway East. Exit at Sunrise Highway and proceed East past Green Acres Shopping Center to Mill Road. Right turn on Mill Road then follow Westchester directions above.

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## The Vineyard Series – The Second Annual NY BMW CCA Wine & Shine

By Steve Geraci

Last October, I promoted a new NY Chapter event – a combination winery tour to the North Fork of Long Island along with a Clean Car Show. We called it “The Vineyard Series – The First Annual Wine & Shine”. The wineries of the North Fork of Long Island are under appreciated jewels. The idea of the event was to expose the Chapter members to the diverse wineries of Long Island, as well as to offer another convenient excuse to enjoy our BMWs. Our first destination was Vineyard 48 in Cutchogue, where a modest gathering of members and their cars spent an afternoon in the sun at a picturesque vineyard tasting wines while admiring each other’s BMWs.

This fall’s event, The Second Annual Wine & Shine, proved how much every one loved the idea. Members from our Chapter, as well as a few members from the New England area who crossed the Long Island Sound by ferry, made the trip to the famous Pindar Vineyards in Peconic, NY for Round Two. The weather started out gloomy that morning, but eventually brightened as cars rolled into



Photo by Mike Allen

Is that your wine on my bumper? ON MY BUMPER?

“The wineries of the North Fork of Long Island are under appreciated jewels.”



Photo by Mike Allen

John and Barbara Sullivan, Tony Howell and Aaron Cook, Icela and Alec Fischthal.

the vineyard parking lot. By the time we had all the cars lined up in front of the pavilion, the sun had already peeked out from behind the clouds.

Joann Orlando, Tasting Room Manager at Pindar Vineyards, made us feel right at home. She provided exclusive access to their large pavilion overlooking the vast expanse of the vineyard. In addition, they provided us with live music, a dedicated parking area for BMWs, free wine tasting to BMW CCA Chapter members and their families, and a substantial discount on their entire selection of wines. The wine tasting was so popular that some members spent more time judging wines over BMWs! Who could blame them?

Courtesy of the Chapter, we awarded some very nice bottles of wine to all the Class winners in the Clean Car show. For the People’s Choice prize, we awarded a bottle of Pindar’s best vintage, Jason’s Vineyard Meritage 2000, to our very own André Noël for his Brilliant Rot 1988 M3. For those who didn’t bring a picnic lunch, the Chapter also provided a complimentary selection of cheeses and crackers, as well as fruits and vegetables, to delight their palate while drinking wine.

John Sullivan, BMW CCA National Board North Atlantic Regional Vice President and his wife Barbara made the trip by ferry



Photo by Steve Geraci.

Beautiful cars outside the Pavilion.



Photo by Mike Allen

Former Presidents Howell and Fischthal discuss policy over wine and cigars.

arriving on Saturday to enjoy everything the North Fork had to offer – antiquing, pumpkin picking, fine dining, and just hanging out with BMW folks. That night, they stayed at a charming bed & breakfast in Southold. Sunday they met up with us at the vineyard for the Wine & Shine, and got to experience some New York Chapter hospitality first hand.

— continued on p8

“The wine tasting was so popular that some members spent more time judging wines over BMWs!”



# The Vineyard Series – The Second Annual NY BMW CCA Wine & Shine

— continued from p7

This event was a great success, and we were very pleased that so many Chapter members from all over the New York region made the trip to the North Fork. We are working on securing a date and setting for the Third Annual Wine & Shine event next fall. There



Event Organizer Steve Geraci announces the winners of the Wine & Shine.

Photo by Jerry Goldstein.

are still many great wineries of Long Island to uncover and explore. We are always looking for the right combination of fine wine, ambience, and a scenic location for our BMWs. Thanks to all our Chapter members as well as those from neighboring Chapters for coming to experience the North Fork of Long Island. See you next October. ❖



Photo by Steve Geraci.

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## Technology Insights [www.bimmernav.com](http://www.bimmernav.com)

The audio system of a six-year-old BMW seems archaic, especially when compared to the Logic 7 digital audio system in the new BMW body style. The new BMWs also offer features such as auxiliary audio input (AUX), MP3 playback, and Sirius Satellite Radio. If you spend much time driving a car, you might wonder how you ever lived without these great features. Armed with the right information, you can correctly upgrade AUX, MP3, and Sirius support in your older BMW and have it operate exactly as it would in a new BMW.

To demonstrate these technology upgrades, we will focus on a 2001 5 Series E39 with navigation. The 2001 model was selected because it was manufactured just prior to when BMW switched from the Alpine trunk-mounted navigation radio to the Becker version, which has a slightly different radio connector. Despite this difference, it is still quite simple to retrofit a 2001 E39 with AUX, MP3 support, and BMW Sirius Satellite Radio. Initially, it requires upgrading the trunk-mounted radio for the AUX and Sirius Satellite support as well as upgrading the trunk-mounted navigation computer to the DVD MKIV for proper display of the MP3 and Sirius audio text on the navigation screen.

You can address the connector difference between the older Alpine and newer Becker radio by purchasing adapter harnesses from your BMW dealer. There are a few tricks for getting the wiring correct that are detailed on [www.bimmernav.com/sirius.html](http://www.bimmernav.com/sirius.html), but overall, it is a simple and quick task in the E39. The navigation radio model year is the crucial component, with the newer radios supporting the most features. Look for a 2006 X5 or E46 replacement radio for the most features. Once you upgrade the radio, you can easily add the other components to your E39 just by plugging them in. Now that your radio has additional modes, displaying this information properly requires upgrading the navigation computer.

Upgrading the navigation computer is a simple plug and play. In the 2001 E39 equipped with the CD navigation computer, you can simply remove the older and slower CD-based system and replace it with the newer and faster DVD-based MKIV navigation computer. Upgrading the navigation computer provides you with a new 3D Map viewing, DVD map of all US and Canada, and it will also display the information on your navigation screen correctly for Sirius, MP3, and AUX.

Starting in 2006, BMW introduced a new CD changer that plays MP3s and can support MP3 ID3 Audiotext on the navigation display. Upgrading to the new CD changer with MP3 support is a simple plug and play. The CD Changer will play MP3s correctly using the old radio and navigation computer, but in order to display ID3 Audiotext, you need the upgraded radio and nav components.

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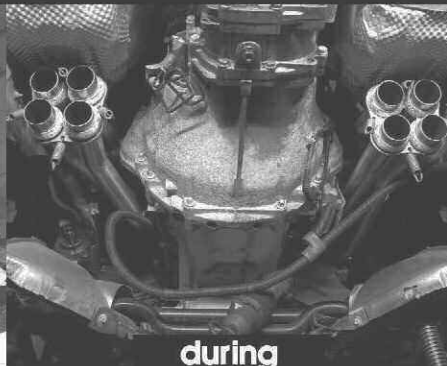
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# O'Fest Endy

by Mike Allen

The BMW Event of the Year in Watkins Glen NY



Photo by Mike Allen

A sea of gorgeous 2002s. Are we in heaven?

When one hears the work "Oktoberfest", what generally comes to mind is a multi-day festive celebration with intoxication brought on by beer and other savory liquid refreshments. The BMW CCA's definition of "Oktoberfest" also revolves around intoxication – intoxication brought on by a passion for BMWs! In all my years as a member of the BMW CCA, this year's Oktoberfest extravaganza was my first. All indications are that it will not be my last as the variety of activities offered and camaraderie and enthusiasm shown by attending members was truly amazing. With over 1000 members in attendance at Watkins Glen in the Fingerlakes region of upstate New York, including folks driving in from distant states such as Florida and California, one had to witness the event to appreciate the level of excitement we all felt.

At no point could anyone complain of boredom as the weeklong get-together was jam packed with activities to satisfy the track rats and the Concours groupies, not to mention the "Where the heck are we?" rally buffs.

The performance-seeking attendees were

kept fully occupied with High Performance Drivers' Schools at the famous Watkins Glen racetrack. As well, many participated in a challenging autocross in one of the track parking lots. Hardcore speed enthusiasts had the opportunity to register for a Club Racing school followed by a Club Race at the same track venue.

More traditional BMW enthusiasts spent their time cleaning and grooming their pristine cars (a.k.a. the Q-tip Crowd) in preparation for the Concours at the scenic Logan Winery. Others sharpened their pencils and checked their calculators for the ultra-competitive TSD (time, speed, and distance) Rally, a TSD Night Rally (based on a successful winter rally held by the Finger Lakes Region SCCA for over 20 years), and traditional Fun Rally. Yes, they sponsored three separate rallies!

Everyone else spent their days enjoying wine tasting tours, deciding what pictures to use for the Photo Contest [just you, Mike .ed.], ogling beautiful cars, scouring the Internet for answers to the Trivia Contest, acting extremely silly at the Gymkhana [again, just you, Mike .ed.], spending money



Photo by Mike Allen

A beautiful Isetta surrounded by E30s

“ With over 1000 members in attendance... one had to witness the event to appreciate the level of excitement we all felt. ”



Photo by Mike Allen

Jim Siegel, Barry Howell, André Noël, RoseAnn Burke, Tony Howell, Mike Washington (from Tennessee), and Mike Allen pose with a large inflatable cow at the Gymkhana.

at the wide variety of vendor booths, grinning broadly test driving a few of the latest offerings (X6, 335, 135, M3) compliments of BMW NA, and taking in the beauty of the gorgeous Seneca Lakes region in order to savor the entire Oktoberfest experience.

From a spectator's point of view, all of these wonderful events were very well organized, with a level of professionalism and enthusiasm fitting for the BMW CCA. In particular, the Concours at Logan Winery took my breath away with an impeccable showing of classic machinery. This year's showing had cars ranging in lineage from a couple of diminutive 600s, a historic 502, a slew of drop dead gorgeous 2002s, a handful of original and replica race cars, and examples of every Motorsport car produced, including a trio of like-new M1s. For me, the most impressive sight was the large showing of E30 M3s, the most predominant model on the grass. Given their superb condition, it is amazing to consider that some of these cars are still daily drivers!

Finally, on the Winners' Podium, our New York Chapter was extremely well represented and garnered 12 trophies, with many New Yorkers taking home bragging rights. The results of the 2008 Oktoberfest in Watkins Glen New York are in. ❖

André Noël - Second Place – Autocross – Class 4B

Mike Allen - First Place – Autocross – Class 4B  
- Second Place – Photography – “BMW's in Action”

Anthony Howell - First Place – Autocross – Class 4A  
- Third Place – Gymkhana

Rose Ann Burke - Second Place - Autocross – Class 4A

Tom Wansor - First Place – Autocross – Class 5A

Greg Robbins - First Place – Autocross – Class 3B

Joseph Fuchs - Third Place – Autocross – Class 5B

Victor Yim - Second Place – Autocross – Class 7A

Eileen Wong - Third Place – Autocross – Class 7A

Sherrie Crawford - Second Place – Trivia Contest

#### 40th Anniversary Oktoberfest in 2009:

Next year's 40th Anniversary BMW CCA Oktoberfest will be held at Road Atlanta in Georgia. One way or the other, I will find a way to be there! According to the BMW CCA, the dates for O'Fest 2009 will be Monday, September 28th through Sunday, October 4th, 2009. The Awards Banquet will be Friday evening with additional driver's schools and a Club Race on the weekend. They are also planning “BimmerMeet” at Road Atlanta on Saturday 10/3. The host hotel for O'Fest 2009 will be on Lake Lanier Island, GA, thirty minutes from Road Atlanta. Reservation and event schedule information will be made available at <http://www.bmwccafest.org>.

The perfect venue for ogling BMWs.



Photo by Mike Allen

“ ...the Concours at Logan Winery took my breath away with an impeccable showing of classic machinery. ”

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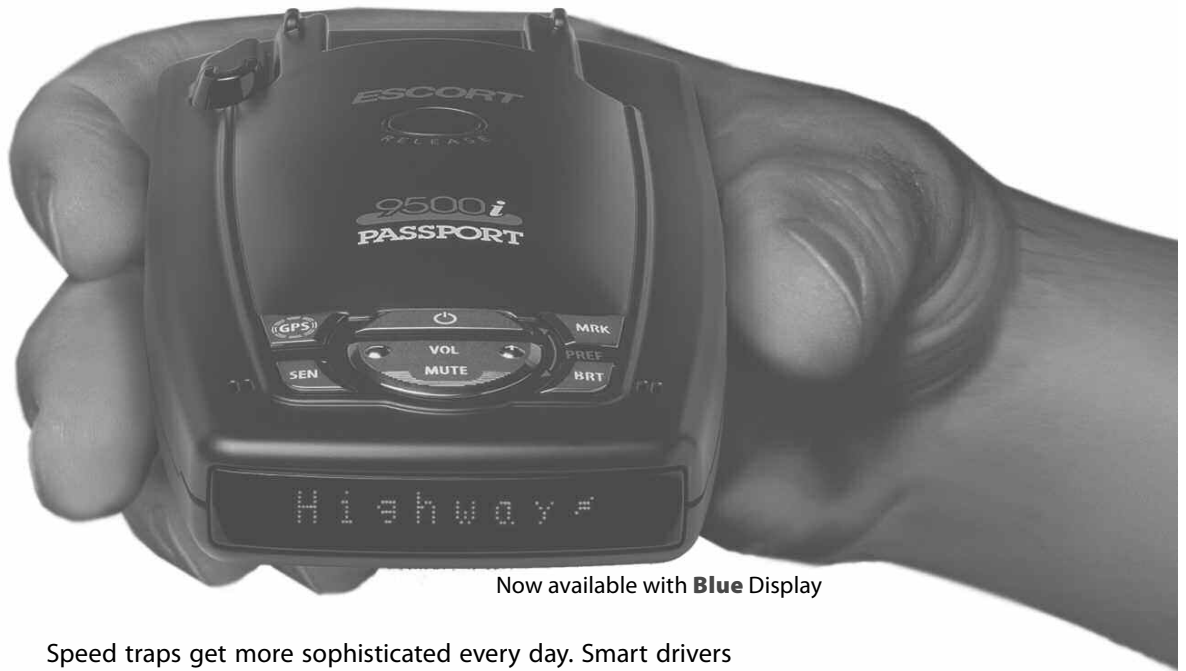


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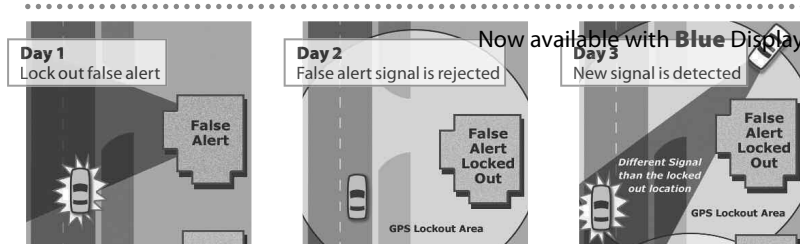
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# Dreams Can Come True...

...a new set of race tracks within 3 hours of NYC

By Matt Brod

The dream of a new racing complex in New Jersey was the topic of anticipation for years in the tri-state area. Speculation of new racetrack openings is the stuff of Internet fodder.

Thread after thread popped up on various Internet forums about this new track complex being built halfway between Atlantic City and Philadelphia. I saw the threads, looked at the maps and read the background on this place. I was instantly intrigued. For a certified track junkie, this is like finding a new dealer living around the block. As of July 4th 2008, the New Jersey Motorsports Park, including Thunderbolt Raceway and the Lightning Circuit, has become a reality.

Our buddies to the west, a.k.a. the New Jersey and Delaware Valley BMW CCA Chapters, hosted a High Performance Driver's School at the newly opened facility this past August. Back in March when I learned of this, I instantly registered for their 3-day event.

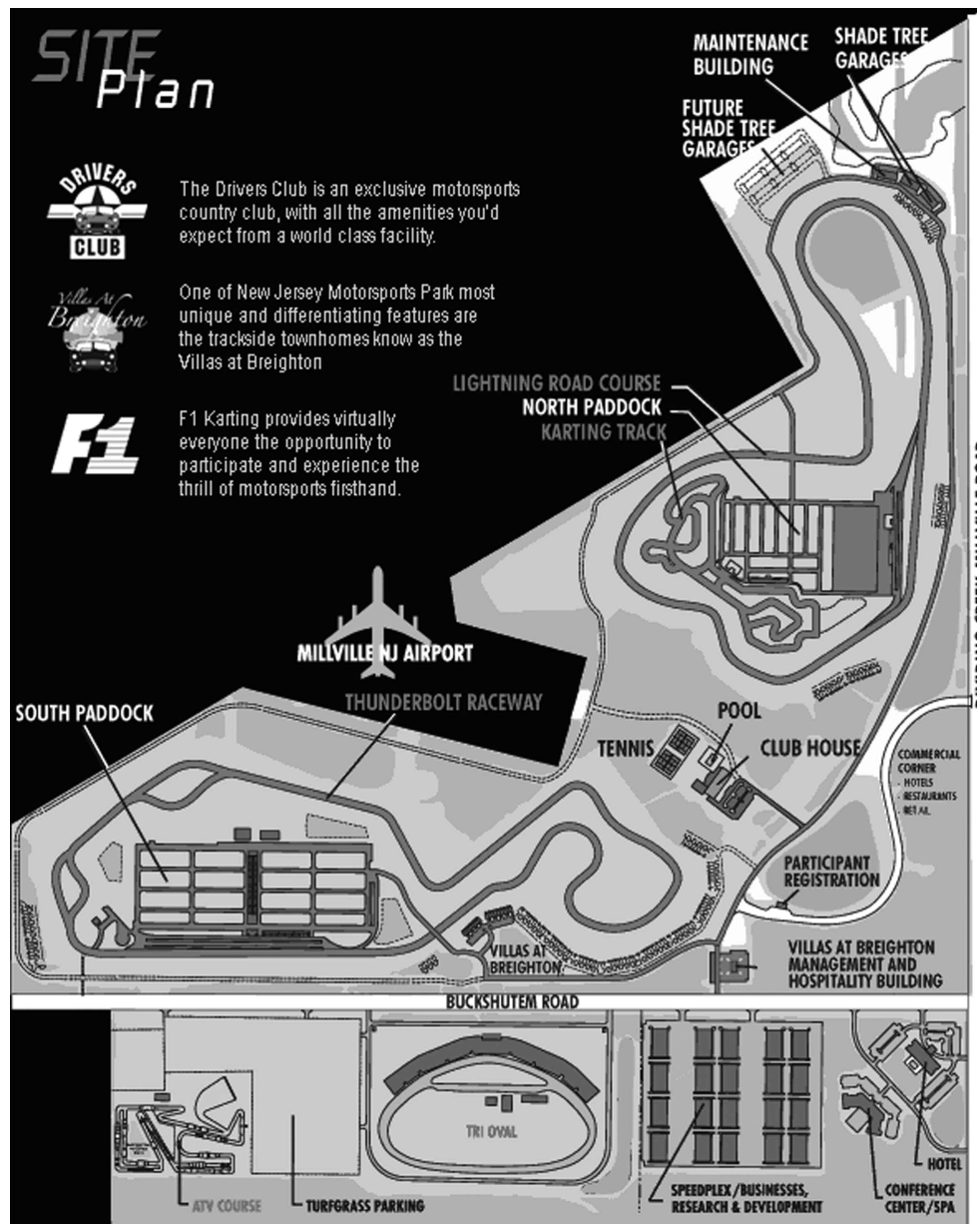
“Speculation of new racetrack openings is the stuff of Internet fodder.”

What can I say about Thunderbolt Raceway? This amazing track is the brainchild of the founders of Virginia International Raceway (VIR). For starters, it blows away any configuration at Pocono. Being longer than Lime Rock or BeaveRun coupled with 14 turns, it is a jam-packed track. It may never be compared to Watkins Glen, but it does have some distinct advantages over all the other tracks in the Northeast. I could ramble on about how Turn 2 on Thunderbolt is a sweet blind cresting turn, or how the track provides enough technical turns to ensure years of thrills, but I'll save you the bench racing and direct you to your nearest com-

puter to witness a hot lap.

*Go to youtube.com and search NJMP Thunderbolt BMWCCA.*

One of the worst aspects of visiting some tracks is the surrounding infrastructure and local population. Samples of the horrors of track towns can be no-name cheap gas, bad food, expensive lodging and the lack of a Big Box or auto parts store for those last minute needs. In addition, sneers and bad looks from the







local Jim-Bobs in their pickups can put you on edge when you're in some of these one-horse towns. Just try asking the attendant to hurry up and turn on the gas pump so you can make grid call at Summit Point in West Virginia.


NJMP is in Millville, New Jersey, which has it all. The main road has convenient fast food places, as well as a number of good restaurants. Did somebody say steak? There's an Advanced Auto Parts and a couple clean, name brand gas stations pumping 93-octane fuel. The biggest thing I found was the locals were happy to see us. "You guys here for the track?" was a common question from the townfolk. Then they'd smile and give us a discount or occasionally a "thank you"! Holy Twilight Zone Batman, friendly locals?! This undoubtedly adds to the enjoyment of this new venue.

Millville officials, who have been struggling to reinvent the depressed city, once driven by glass factories and lumber mills,

expect the park's impact to be transformational. Here's a quote from Millville Vice Mayor Joe Derella: "The New Jersey Motorsports Park project will bring a positive social economic impact on the city and the entire region. A recent economic impact study produced by Rowan University predicted NJMP will generate more than 6,000 jobs and also have a \$200+ million economic impact throughout Cumberland County within five years."

This is particularly important in light of the city having lost nearly 10,000 jobs in a 10 year stretch, starting in the late 1980s with the loss of industry, manufacturing and retail businesses. I look forward to "investing" money in their economy for years to come. In addition, my hat goes off to the New Jersey and Delaware Valley Chapters for hosting a great event at this new venue. See you in the paddock! ❖

“The biggest thing I found was the locals were *happy* to see us. “You guys here for the track?” ...”



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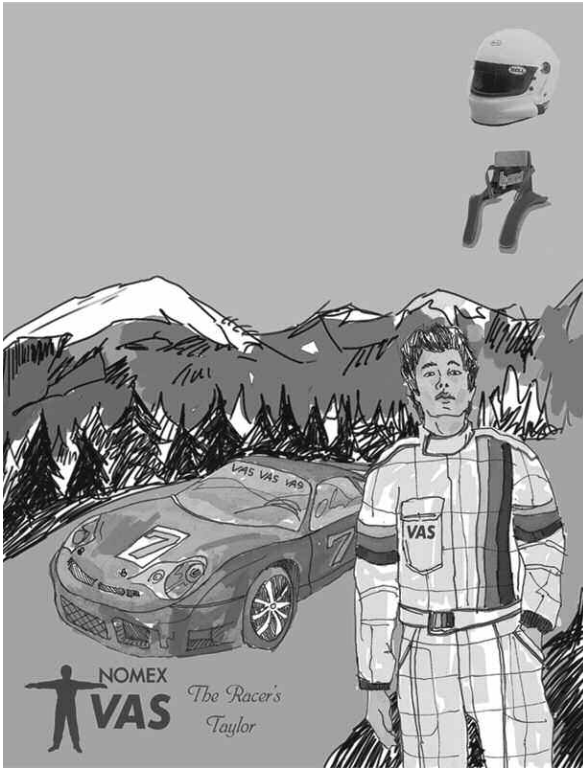
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Odometer Gear's 1980 E12 528i with 315,015 miles on the track during the 2008 Oktoberfest in Watkins Glen, NY. Photo by Kollins, TrackTimePhotos.com

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# Autocross Corner

By André Noël

Hello and congratulations, autocrossers and volunteers! We ended another successful season of the New York Chapter Autocross series at Nassau Coliseum. Congratulations to those who won their class this year. I look forward to seeing everyone next Spring again at Nassau Coliseum for the 2009 Autocross series.

Don't despair over the winter - there are other options available to you if you can't wait until the spring to use your driving gloves. First, the Boston Chapter hosts ice racing only a few hours away in Newfound Lake, New Hampshire. Visit their website at <http://www.boston-bmwcca.org> to keep abreast of their schedule and learn more about what you need to participate in ice racing. It's a great way to keep your driving skills tuned up over the winter. As well, for those that prefer a warmer climate, there is indoor cart racing much closer to home at Grand Prix New York in Mount Kisco (see advertisement on page 22). One of the raffle prizes at the Holiday Party will be



Photo by Mike Allen

DR Class Champion Jim Siegel proudly represents the NY Chapter at the O'fest 2008 Autocross.

coupons to receive a discounted admission to Grand Prix. Watch this newsletter for an upcoming article about their facility, and keep your eyes on the Chapter website for information regarding informal meets over the winter. ❖



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CLASS G	Steve Seguis Brian Carley



Photo by Mike Allen

Drivers staging at the Test & Tune in April 2008.

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