

WINTER 2011

BMW Car Club
of America
New York Chapter



www.nybmwcca.org

DIE ZUGSPITZE

NEW YORK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



A pair of vintage Baur Targas, Sasha Lopez's 1984 Henna Red 318 and Bob Wolfson's 1973 Inka Orange 2002 won top honors at this year's Wine & Shine Event at Pindar Winery in Peconic, on Long Island's North Fork.



Photo: Jerry Goldstein

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We are here Monday through Friday 8AM-5PM and on Saturdays 8AM-3PM

**2012 NEW YORK CHAPTER
EVENTS CALENDAR**

FEBRUARY

18... Beach Party @ Euromeccanica Inc.

APRIL

Test-n-Tune... Date TBA

Dine-n-Shine... Date TBA

Autocross... Date TBA

MAY

21... Driving School

New Jersey Motor Sport Park

Autocross... Date TBA

JUNE

11-12... Driving School, Watkins Glen, NY

Autocross... Date TBA

JULY

Autocross... Date TBA

Street Survival... Date TBA

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To Join the BMW Car Club of America,
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BMW CCA national dues are \$48 per year,
of which \$15 is for Roundel.

**19TH ANNUAL BEACH PARTY
@ EUROMECCANICA INC.**

JOIN US SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2012

**TO THE BMW CCA NEW YORK CHAPTER BEACH PARTY/MEMBERS MEETING AT
EUROMECCANICA INC. 114 PEARL ST. MT. VERNON, NY 10550 (914-668-1300)**

TIME: 11AM-3PM

SPEAKERS: MIKE SHIFFER OF EUROMECCANICA AND THE ELECTED BOARD

THEME: CHECK NY CHAPTER WEBSITE... WWW.NYBMWCCA.ORG

Q & A SESSION... LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT...

TONY HOWELL AT UNCLEBIMMER@HOTMAIL.COM



PRESIDENT'S //////////PAGE

André Noël

Hello BMW fans;

The Winter Season is here. As I'm writing this there is talk about a snow storm to arrive on the last weekend in October. Can you believe it, a snow storm in October?! After I finish this article I have to go check the snow tires in the garage and do a quick tire swap on the daily driver, plus I have to have the snow tires for the wife's car ready to change when she gets home from work!

I just came back from a road trip. I drove down to Alabama for the 42nd Annual Oktoberfest. It was nice to take the M3 out on a long drive. Driving the M3 on the highway is always interesting. As I passed a car or SUV some people would look and point at the car. Kids were the best. Some would wave or give a thumbs up. The truckers were funny. Since I mount a CB antenna on my car for long trips, as I passed them some would make comments about the car. The comments ranged from; What kind of car is it? To "Nice BMW." But I'm not sure how many new it was an M3. Of course, some thought that the car had a body kit added to it. What was really funny was that when I passed another BMW they seemed to not even notice the car. One thing I did notice was, when I pulled up behind some cars they would move over kind of quickly. Pull up behind a SUV... forget it. Most did not even know I was behind them. I did have one interesting moment at a McDonald's on the return trip home. I pulled in and parked where I could see the M3 from inside while I ate my meal, and observed how people would walk by and look at it. One kid (about ten years old) walked past the car, stopped and just stared at it. His father did not realize that his son had stopped and when he did he had to stop and call him to come rejoin his family. The little boy complied but kept looking back as he walked away. I finished my meal with a big smile on my face thinking to myself of the first time I saw a car that really made a big impression on me. For me it was back in the late seventies on a Saturday morning when I used to work for Hertz. I was at a rental location picking up some cars to bring back to New York City when this car pulled into the gas station to fill up. All I could do was stare at it. I'd never seen a car like it before. To this day, I still can remember that car in my mind.

I would like to wish everyone HAPPY HOLIDAYS and a PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. I would also like to thank the New York Chapter Board and all of the volunteers throughout the year for their time and effort in making all of the events in 2011 a success, both for the members and the chapter. 2012 is almost here and we are working hard to make it an even better year for the members.

HAVE A SAFE WINTER SEASON AND DRIVE SAFELY.

Oh by the way the car that made a lasting impression on me the first time I saw it at that gas station on Route 9 in New Jersey was a red 1969 Shelby Mustang.

- André Noël

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NY CHAPTER WINE & SHINE

PINDAR WINERY, PECONIC, NY

HOME SWEET HOME

SEPT. 18TH, 2011

Story: Steve Geraci, Photos: Jerry Goldstein



Last year around late spring it was time to start making preparations for the chapter Winery Tour. I realized the event had become larger than most vineyards and wineries could accommodate, and remembered that my wife and I had rented the pavilion adjacent to the tasting room at Martha Clara Vineyard for our son and his fiancée's engagement party. Having found it to be well suited for that event, I decided to investigate Martha Clara's potential for the Wine & Shine. After making some inquiries, I secured a commitment from them to host our event in the fall. The event was well attended (yet another record turn out), and most everyone including myself were happy with the location though there were a few major complaints, too much dust and the distance between the cars and the tent.

Again this spring, I started looking for another venue. As many of our chapter members know, Pindar had been our host winery several years in the past. I finally came to the realization they offered the most suitable place, if not the perfect place for this type of get together, so I have now made it official. Pindar will be our permanent home.

Changes to this year's Wine & Shine included a choice of 5 different wines and a buffet sandwich lunch for a small fee to all members who pre-registered, and live music (provided by Pindar).

This year's collection of almost 50 very cool BMWs included; Bob Wolfson's 1973 Inka Orange 2002 Baur Targa (the winning car in the vintage category), and Sasha Lopez's 1984 Henna Red 318 Baur Targa (winning Best in Show-People's Choice), pictured together on the next page and also featured on this issue's cover!

Aside from the over 100 members that attended the event, also on hand again this year was John Sullivan, BMW CCA Zone Governor and his wife Barbara who ventured down from Massachusetts via Cross Sound Ferry to spend a weekend here on the North Fork.

I would again like to thank Joann Orlando, tasting room manager at Pindar, for making us feel at home at this jewel of a location on the North Fork. We are very grateful for her cooperation, and the help of our volunteers, which once again made this a memorable day on a beautiful early autumn afternoon.

See you back home at Pindar again next year....



BMW Car Club of America New York Chapter



WINE & SHINE CLEAN CAR SHOW RESULTS

BEST IN SHOW

Sasha Lopez
1984 318 Baur Targa

BEST M CAR

Christian Balmaceda
1989 M3

BEST Z CAR

Dan McLaughlin
2003 Z4

BEST X CAR

Carl Cook
2009 X3 3.0i

BEST 1 SERIES

Anton Vazanellis
2009 135i

BEST 3 SERIES

Mike Abriano
1987 325i

BEST 5 SERIES

Linda Eckert
2006 530Xi

BEST 6 SERIES

John Sullivan
1988 635CSi

BEST 7 SERIES

Arkadiy Kitaychik
2008 750iL

BEST HISTORIC

Bob Wolfson
1973 2002 Baur Targa



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Michael

Pops

Ron

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SNOW IN OCTOBER?!

ADULT SAFETY SCHOOL By Garageboy

It was a dark and stormy night. No wait. It was a dark and stormy morning. No that's not good either... Tonight the Great Pumpkin will rise out of the pumpkin patch and fly through the air and bringing toys to all the children of the world... What? He's not coming because it's... snowing? Really? SNOWING? In October? But there is a Great Pumpkin, right?

By the time the National Weather Service had announced their final incorrect weather forecast for the night... 4-6 inches more snow in New York City overnight, I had received over a dozen telephone calls, texts, and emails from nervous students and instructors alike – “Is the event on tomorrow morning?” and “Rain or shine, I got that. You didn't say anything about SNOW?” and “I have 10 inches of snow on the street in front of the house and I don't have my snow tires on yet!” to which I calmly responded, “Don't worry about a thing. It's October. It will all melt by morning. Besides, a little snow will make the course nice and slippery. We're on, but if anything changes, I will surely let you know.” By 2 am, some folks had no choice but to cancel. On the outside, I was calm, cool, collected. But four hours later, I was to be at the Nassau Coliseum, ready to get this event started, not sure if I would be able to get there on my own summer tires! I'm scrambling to reassign students and instructors, hoping that at least the instructors know that if they can't make it, they'll have the good sense to let me know. Moving around students at the last minute isn't easy but not the end of the world either; reassigning instructors at the last minute can be a nightmare. Ever see the look on the face of a 6-foot, 240-pound instructor as they emerge from the passenger seat of a Toyota MR2? Believe it or not, a great deal of thought goes into the assignment of instructors, as there are many variables to consider.

In the end 22 lucky students in 17 cars managed to brave the winter like conditions to face a sea of cones propelling them towards safer driving. Also luckily, 17 instructors were able to attend and make a potentially life-saving difference in the lives of fellow New Yorkers. These instructors are quite capable – many of them have been instructing at the Street Survival schools since they began years ago, not to mention instructing ice racing in the frozen north and high performance driving events at race tracks around the world. It is challenging to teach adults that have years, if not decades of both good and bad habits that impact their driving. Nevertheless, these talented instructors were up for the challenge.

The results were dramatic. Not only did the students absorb their training well, they also realized the difference by the end of the day. Comments such as “overall excellent, very informative and fun” or “He [my instructor] made me feel comfortable in the car and pushed me to the next level” or “He [my instructor] was very patient with a rookie like me” were very common. My favorite was “I learned to safely control my car and not be afraid of it.” The instructors' feedback about their students was equally stellar: “great improvement in confidence and control throughout the day” and “She made my job so easy. It was a pleasure to watch her improve and get excited about those improvements.”

Running an Adult Safety School is one of the best ways for the New York Chapter to give back something to its members and the community at large. A great deal of thanks goes out to the New York Board for having confidence in me to organize my first driving event for the Chapter, particularly on such short notice. They all stepped up and helped out in various ways, exemplifying what this car club is all about.

In the end, while we can teach all sorts of real-world defensive driving techniques, we cannot teach good judgment – we can only influence it. Nevertheless, if we have helped each of them to avoid one accident that might have previously been inevitable, this course was well worth it!



BMW Car Club of America New York Chapter





THE ADULT SAFETY SCHOOL view from behind the wheel.....

A summary from class participant... Wendy J. Wansor

On Saturday, October 30th a bunch of hardy souls, students and instructors, met up at the Nassau Coliseum to participate in the Adult Safety School. Many of us started the morning by having to clear the snow off the windshield or defrosting the layer of ice after a freak snow storm in October! Once everyone arrived at Parking Lot 8 they checked in at registration and noshed on coffee and donuts. The instructor core was hard at work setting up the four different exercises while many of us stayed warm in our cars since it was quite windy and cold!

Steve started the class by giving us a quick overview of the day. We met our instructors and they took us around the course in their cars. They explained each of the four exercises and the purpose of the exercise. They provided real world scenarios on how this would apply to every day driving. The exercises included a Lane Avoidance Maneuver, the Slalom, the Skid Pad, and a Braking exercise. Finally we got to test out our own driving skills and the capabilities of our cars. The Uniondale Fire Department should get a big thumbs up for coming to water down the Skid Pad. The water added to the slick conditions we might face on the road.

In the morning, the students performed each exercise several times with helpful tips from their instructors. Each student was able to stay in their own comfort zone and go at their own speed. At first, many people took it slow, but as they felt more comfortable they kicked it up to the next gear. On a few occasions, we hit a couple of cones on the course. But the purpose of the school was to teach us to be better drivers and heck it is better to hit them than curbs, fenders or anything else!

We broke for a delicious hot lunch. We fueled up on pizza, ziti, sausage and peppers, and salad. Steve led a classroom session to discuss the factors, such as ourselves, the environment, and other drivers, that need to be assessed to assure safe driving. In the afternoon, the instructor core combined all four exercises so we could drive the entire course. Everyone took turns running through the course and putting our new knowledge to the test. Everyone welcomed the challenge! Hopefully the techniques we learned in the "Nassau Coliseum Zone" will be put to good use out on the road.

Personally, I thought the exercises were intimidating when I first arrived and did not think I would be able to drive fast or complete the exercises. But thanks to my instructor Joe, I did. Joe was very knowledgeable about proper driving techniques and patient in sharing his expertise. The more comfortable I felt, Joe encouraged me to go a little faster with less braking since I would not hurt the car. I actually was able to "floor it" and slam on the brakes and not hit the cones! That was pretty cool! One other student told me he had never tried any of these types of things on his two year old car. He thought it was quite fun and interesting to see what the car could do. Another student also thought it was beneficial to learn a variety of techniques to improve his driving.

By the end of the day, everyone had smiles on their faces after pushing themselves and their cars to be better drivers for a safer ride. A big thank you goes out to Steve and all the great instructors who made this a worthwhile and fun day!

BMW Car Club of America New York Chapter



End-Season

2011 Autocross Corner

The 2011 Autocross season has come to a finish. First I would like to thank all of the Autocross Crew for their help through out this past season. Without their help we would not have been able to have a successful season this year.

To all of the Autocross participants who came out to the events this year, I hope you had a great time. Next year should be even better, with the newly repaved parking lot, we'll able to have even more interesting courses to drive.

Everyone have a great winter and see you next year.

Here is the list of the 2011 season winners.
Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!

CLASS B
Tony DeGrasse
David Flores
Jay Rufino

CLASS C
Heidi Ellison
Mike Abriano
Paul Schulman

CLASS D
Bobby Del Bello
Victor Yim
Luboomir Kmec

CLASS H
Deji Abraham

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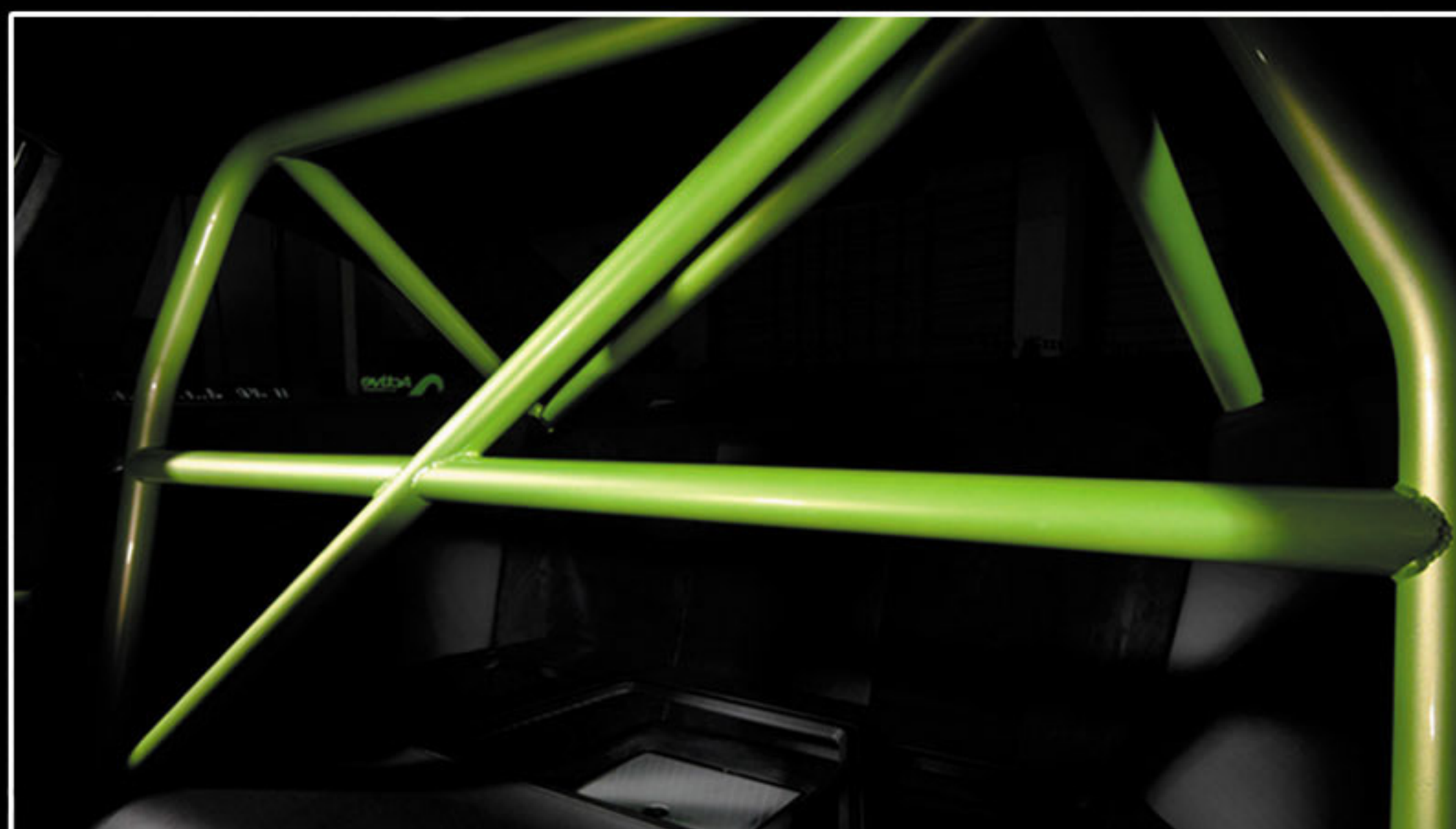
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2012 ELECTION INFO

**2012 NEW YORK CHAPTER BOARD CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING UNOPPOSED
PLEASE VOTE (CHECK) YES OR NO FOR EACH CANDIDATE...**

- **President... James Siegel... Yes No**
- **Vice President... Mike Allen... Yes No**
- **Treasurer... RoseAnn Burke... Yes No**
- **Secretary... Mike Bizzarro... Yes No**

*Please mark your selections & mail this page post marked by January 30, 2012
to BMW CCA New York Chapter, PO Box 920576, Arverne, NY 11692*

JIM SIEGEL 2012 PRESIDENT CANDIDACY STATEMENT

My name is Jim Siegel and I'm running for Chapter President in 2012. This year our president for the past three years Andre Noel is stepping down. In addition to being Andre's friend, I can honestly say that it's been a pleasure serving as Secretary under his watch and I want to personally thank Andre for doing an excellent job during his tenure as President. Luckily Andre will be continuing with his service to the club as an active board member and Auto Cross Chair as well as Newsletter Coordinator.

As Secretary for the past four years as well as Risk Manager and Advertising Manager, I feel I'm uniquely qualified for the position of President. I've worked closely with the chapter President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Members-at-Large as well as all of our non-voting board members, to develop, organize, and participate in interesting and fun chapter events that appeal to the variety of interests our club members have.

As President I will strive to move our club forward by working with our 2012 board members to continue developing both internal and external relationships that further the interests of our membership, as well as ensure that our club maintains the highest level of integrity. I hope you will vote for me as President in 2012 so I am able to pick up where Andre left off, further expanding and improving our club to serve the interests of our membership in the upcoming year. Thank you for your support.

Jim Siegel

MIKE BIZZARRO 2012 SECRETARY CANDIDACY STATEMENT

First, I would like to thank those who nominated me to the position of 'Chapter Secretary of Record'. Your confidence in my abilities is inspiring and I strive to exceed your expectations.

For those who do not know me, I have been an active member of the club for the last five years and have maintained positions on the chapter board as Webmaster and Member-at-Large since 2009 and 2010 respectively. Those who do know me (most likely as the smiling face behind the laptop, greeting you early in the morning at Autocross before anyone has had their first cup of Joe) can attest that I always have the club and it's members' best interests at heart. Besides getting your race results posted quickly, instructing, and building unbreakable timing lights (well tested by some members :)), I do 'behind the scenes' work as well. Some of these responsibilities are assisting the Chapter Board in the planning of major events (like the family BBQ and Holiday Banquet), keeping chapter members informed of upcoming events through e-mail updates and electronic schedules, morning setups of events such as the Adult and Teen Street Survival, campaigning for new club members, and even stepping in to fill the large shoes of Secretary at the Chapter Board Meetings when necessary.

In this position I hope to continue a culture of excellence and support the club in all its endeavors. Thank you for your support.

Mike Bizzarro