

“No Black Tie” Dinner

NY Chapter Nominations and Elections - Get out the vote !

F1 Indoor Kart Racing @ Strike

8th Annual Beach Party @ Euromeccanica

AAA Driver Improvement Class

Driving Schools at Watkins Glen and Limerock

(coming soon)



Die Zugspitze

Jan•Feb 2003

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New York Chapter “No Black Tie” Dinner

January 11th, 2003

7:00pm-11:00pm

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

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

\$20.00 per person

Marriott Hotel of Uniondale

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

**If you are attending, please RSVP the chapter hotline 516.792.2002 or
send e-mail to: events@nybmwcca.org no later January 5th, 2003**

Please note:

*RSVP's will not be acknowledged without payment. Confirmation will be
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***Payments will not be accepted at the door and no admittance without
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Send payments to

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

icela@optonline.net



Too much of the spirits?...NY BMWCCA members are entitled to a discount
on rooms and suites and suites the Uniondale Marriott on Jan. 11th, 2003.
Inquire with the front desk or with any BMW CCA board member



Fisch-Tales

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

I would like to wish all our members a most happy and fulfilling New Year. I hope you enjoyed a most wonderful holiday season.

I would like you to know that your board has been working overtime these last two months to put together a program of events for the coming year. I am most happy to announce that we are definitely going to have a two-day driving school at Watkins Glen. The school is being run jointly with the Patroon Chapter and will be scheduled in June. Keep your eyes open for more info. This is going to be one great driving school and the spots are sure to fill rapidly. Get your applications in ASAP, to assure a spot at this event. If you have never been to a driving school, this is the place where you will find out just what your BMW and you are capable of achieving. As of this time we are still hard at work trying to set up another driving school event, later in the year. We would like to hold this event at Lime Rock Park. Without a doubt, our extremely popular Autocross Series will be returning in full force. Gee, I hope you got a new set of R compound tires for Xmas. For the more conservative club members, please rest assured that we will again have our club rally, technical sessions, concour d'elegance, parties, AAA driving program, Summerfest, Beach Party, and the BMW sponsored morning at the NY Auto Show. We would like to introduce an official NY state "NY BMW CCA" license plate. We have a new line of extremely attractive club merchandise on sale.

This past month in December, several of your board members and I tested out a new indoor karting facility, "Strike" in New Hyde Park. We had a great time. This place rocks and definitely provides the opportunity to keep your driving skills honed during the winter. On January 26th we are having our first open invitational kart race. You are all invited to join us for some January track time. If you haven't kartered before this is going to be an eye opening experience. Look for more information in the newsletter and online. Just a final reminder, I would love to meet as many of our members as possible at our "No Black Tie" Dinner at the Marriot on January 11th.

National has not been sleeping either. We have over 71,000 members in our club. National is now selling some pretty good looking club merchandise and has a new roadside emergency program available.

Oktoberfest 2003 will be held in Austin, Texas. Go to their website for more information. I would like to invite all members who wish to participate at the board level to join us at our next meeting. We have a lot of work to do and would appreciate another member willing to help the club. If you would like an invite, please contact either myself, or Tony Howell, VP. The meeting is held in the evening on the second Wednesday of the month. Keep your eyes open for our newly re-designed NY Chapter website. Most important please send in your nominations for the new board members, you'd like to see ! - Steve

It's that time of year ! Send in your nominations

Requests for NY Chapter Board Election Nominations

It is time to nominate the board members of the New York Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America
The following positions are eligible for nominations:

**President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary**

Please submit written nominations
no later than January 31st:
**BMW CCA NY Chapter
Elections
PO Box 920576
Arverne, NY 11692**

New Year's Resolutions- Read it and Weep



Rachel Corey
rachel@z3ers.com

Before the year was out, I was already trying out a resolution to take myself less seriously. I have been really fortunate this year, especially in terms of my writing. March saw my first published feature in a national magazine, the *Roundel*, June brought my second in *BMW Magazine*, I began this column for the New York chapter as well as contributing to the Delaware Valley chapter newsletter. So when the *Wall Street Journal* reporter contacted me about a “funny article about car warranties” I figured it was a good thing. I know I go to great lengths to fact check the accurate and salient information I try to present to readers with humor, and I made the mistake of thinking that a journalistic authority like the *Wall Street Journal* would do the same. I had just read how the *WSJ* had slashed its senior writing staff and moved 60% of its staff to New Jersey, so it didn't totally surprise me that the young woman writing the article knew nothing about cars or warranties, and didn't own a car. Obviously the *WSJ* is trying to save money, like the rest of us in hard times. I assumed that she would do what I do when writing about subjects I know nothing about- research. Her position that excessive warranty claims were damaging auto manufacturers seemed off-base, I was looking for her to produce in the article some empirical data to support her conclusion while I provided some comic relief in the 8 phone calls and half dozen e-mails we exchanged at her request.

I spent a great deal of time teaching her about the issues and sending her links to information on the Internet. When the article came out it was neither funny nor accurate, she mangled everything I explained to her and never got around to producing anything resembling research on the topic. Apparently the square pegs of the facts do not fit in the round holes of her article. I have found, through classes taught by comedians and by my own experience as a standup comic that in order to be funny, a joke has to have a kernel of truth to it. Maybe if Jane Spencer owned a car she would see warranty claims and dealer service as something worth researching before denigrating car owners. I thought of doing the research on the topic myself to see if there was any basis to validate her position, but it would be as much of a waste of time as correcting her spelling. Maybe the proofreaders at the *WSJ* got canned too. I happen to be working on a research project on the cars made in the US from 1907 to 1959. By sheer coincidence I am finding

the sales flyers for cars as far back as 1907- touting “noiseless” cars (Stoddard Dayton), and reading the accounts of authorities who build and rebuild cars who name their cars. Car noise is a real issue in the sales and service of cars, to the point that this week's (it is November 23 as I write this) *Newsweek* magazine reports that cars of the future will have extensive sound systems, wireless headphones so that each passenger- and the driver- will be listening to different music. According to *Newsweek*, “car makers are racing to redecorate with all the comforts of home on the road. Cup holders and a cassette

player just don't cut it anymore.” So much for Jane's supercilious commentary about my complaint about noise and drink holders and her derision of car owners who name their cars. I did not have my drink holders replaced twice under warranty as Jane states.

A dealer replaced a broken lid on mine and I did write a FAQ on how to replace your own cup holder/armrest when I bought a leather-covered one to replace my OEM plastic version. Jane ran fast and loose with the facts on all the warranty work she ascribed to me, and still she made no sense and wasn't funny. “I don't mean to be arrogant about it, but what does a journalist know?” Poor Chris Bangle. The same “journalist” who begins his paragraph about the 745i with “Why am I dishing dirt on this dreamboat” ends the same paragraph with “I don't mean to be arrogant about it, but what does a journalist know?” BMW designer Chris Bangle said to me.” Aside from my own thoughts about the new designs for BMW, it's pretty clear that Keith Naughton used the power of his office and a forum he controls to heap retribution on Chris Bangle for having the audacity to say what was obvious. It's the same thing I just learned from my experience with the *WSJ*. Keith Naughton made a meal of Chris Bangle and the new 7 series to make a name for himself- and succeeded. Because of this one quote, Keith's otherwise redundant observations got quite a lot of attention, repeated on MSNBC's web site for as long as that remains and all over the Internet. Keith laments the 2 hours he says some dealers have to spend to teach people how to use iDrive. Did anyone ask BMW or the other car manufacturers if they want help like this? Did anyone find out how spending 2 hours with a customer who is spending \$70,000.00 benefits or costs the dealers? Did anyone do a comparison of how this supposedly new attention to warranty items compares historically? Did anyone attempt to correlate the effect on sales of stronger warranties? Whatever you think about Chris Bangle's designs, if you have seen your name in the paper misused and attached to nonsense, you have to sympathize. Next the *WSJ* will let Jane test drive a 745i?.



BMW CCA NY Chapter offers an AAA Drivers Improvement Program March 22, 2003 9:00am-4:00pm

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Additional Information 516-792-2002 or

Sherwin Deshong at srde28@hotmail.com • Anthony Howell at unclebimmer@hotmail.com

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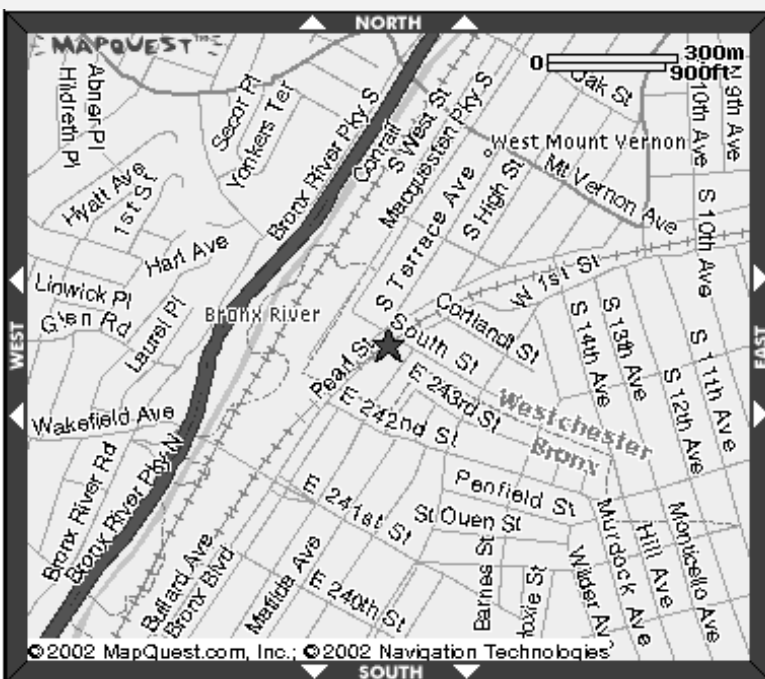
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Contact Stephen Bradley -12/8/2002

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Posted on 12/8/2002

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Contact Steve Fischthal (smf328@optonline.net).
Posted on 12/1/2002

• FS: 1994 325i 5 Spd Black on Black 150K very good condition. Click here for more info: <http://home.mindspring.com/~superben/index.html> 917-9222218
Contact Mr. Tam (superben@mindspring.com).
Posted on 11/24/2002

• MUST SELL BMW 328i, 1999, Exellent Condition, Metallic Green, 5 speed, Certified (100K warranty), Rear Airbags, Fold down seats, Moon roof, Park Distance Control, Heated Front Seats, Harmon Kardon sound, 50K miles, \$21000.
Mile Djuric (mile1111@hotmail.com).
Posted on 11/22/2002

• E36 Wheels & Tires
Original wheels off of my 1994 325is. The wheels are in very good condition. One has some curb rash. They are 15" x 7" rims fitted with Dunlop D60 A2 H rated tires with one quarter inch depth of tread left. I'll take \$125.00 for all. I am located in suffolk county. cvas@optonline.net
Contact Christos Vasakiris (CVAS@OPTONLINE.NET).
Posted on 11/21/2002

• SNOW TIRES--Pirelli 225/60/15 w/ steel wheels from E36
FS: E36 225/60/15 Pirelli 210 Snow tires/rims NYC, NJ area 4 15" steel wheels (5 X 120) and Four Pirelli 210 directional Performance snow tires mounted 225/60/15 for sale. The tire was \$124 each alone at tirerack last season, therefore total was more than \$600/set new. Will let them go for \$300obo. See pics below. Contact bestmotoring@newyork.com <http://home.mindspring.com/~superben/BMW/Dscn4758.jpg>
Contact Mr. Tam (bestmotoring@newyork.com).
Posted on 11/18/2002
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98-01	340i	Stage 2 Software, Cold Air Intake, Free Flow Exhaust	\$1997	\$1997	6 Hours
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