



Die ZugSpitze

BMW Car Club - New York Chapter - www.nybmwcca.org
January-February 2005

In this issue

Winter Driving Tips

Collision Repair - Know the deal

"Attention to Detail" - Questioning BMW Paint

Got an E39 5 Series?.

2004 Autocross Series Winners

Upcoming Events

Holiday Party & Autocross Awards Dinner

12th Annual Beach Party

AAA Driver Improvement Course

NY Chapter Officers

President

Anthony Howell 516-524-6123
e-mail: unclbimmer@hotmail.com

Vice President

Andre Noel 917-885-3107
e-mail: noelsm3@verizon.net

Treasurer

Rose Ann Burke 917-561-8051
e-mail:msnybmw@aol.com

Secretary

Steven Fischthal 917-686-0284
e-mail: smf328@optonline.net

Member-at-Large

Sherwin DeShong 917-576-2453
e-mail: srde28@hotmail.com

DieZugspitze Editor

Philip E. Clark 516-792-2002
e-mail: editor@nybmwcca.org

Webmaster

Charles Karnati 718.422.0414
e-mail: webmaster@nybmwcca.org

Advertising

James Siegel 917-841-2841
e-mail: james.siegel@db.com
Sherwin DeShong 917-576-2453
e-mail: srde28@hotmail.com

Event Chairs

Concour Committee Co-Chairs

Steven Fischthal:smf328@optonline.net
Steve Geraci: stevegeraci@reflexphoto.com.

Drivers School Chairperson

Frantz Lilavois:franzou@aol.com

Drivers School Registrar

Frantz Lilavois:franzou@aol.com

Winery Tour - Road Rally

Jeff James:rallymaster@nybmwcca.org

Street Survivor Chair

Matt Brod:onrails3@hotmail.com

Membership Chair

Steven Fischthal:smf328@optonline.net

Social Events Director

Icela Fischthal:icela@optonline.net

Greater New York Auto Show

Charles Karnati:webmaster@nybmwcca.org

Autocross Chair

Andre Noel:noelsm3@verizon.net

AAA Driver Improvement Program

Anthony Howell:unclbimmer@hotmail.com
Sherwin DeShong:srde28@hotmail.com

Beach Party

Anthony Howell:unclbimmer@hotmail.com

Technical Advisors

Mike Schiffer - Euromeccanica
Office 914.668.1300

Chapter Hotline 516-792-2002

Can't Wait for Your Next Issue ?



THEN DON'T !

Log on to www.nybmwcca.org
and download Die Zugspitze
before it hits your mailbox !

Mark S. Jones

Exclusive Agent



Allstate
You're in good hands

Allstate Insurance Company

1109 Hallock Ave. (Rte. 25A)
Pt. Jefferson Sta., NY 11776-1228

T 631.928.8222

F 631.331.1490

Email: a062152@allstate.com

M 9-6 / T-F 9-5 / S 10-1

DieZugspitze is published by and for the members of the BMW CCA New York Chapter Inc. ("The Club"). All of its contents shall remain the property of the club. The Club assumes no liability for any information contained herein or provided by its member/volunteer consultants. None of said information bears the status of factory approval unless so indicated. Modifications within the warranty period may void your warranty. The Club is not connected in any manner with BMW AG or BMW NA. "Unless otherwise stated, maintenance and modification procedures herein are not "Factory Approved" and their use may void your BMW warranty. Ideas and opinions are those of the writers and no authentication or approval is implied by editors or publishers, who assume no liability for information contained herein.

Featuring Phil Parlato



12th Annual NY Chapter Beach Party at *Euromeccanica*

114 Pearl Street Mt. Vernon, NY 10550

Saturday, Feb. 19th, 2005

Rain, Shine or Snow

Time: 11:00 AM

Featured Speakers

- **Phil Parlato from Phil's Auto Body Racing**
(SCCA PRO RACING SPEED WORLD CHALLENGE TOURING CAR)
- **Mike Schiffer of Euromeccanica**
- **Armor Glove - Product Demonstration**
- **Door Prizes are provided by BMW NA, New York Chapter and guest speakers**

Don't forget to bring your Beach Chairs.

If you have questions please contact

Tony Howell (516)524-6123

e-mail: unclebimmer@hotmail.com



Do you wish to restore your own car?

Don't have the tools, space or expertise? Euromeccanica has a repair/restoration shop in Westchester, NY and I am looking for people who want to restore their cars in a well-equipped shop with the help of experienced mechanics.

Servicing BMW and Other European Cars
Older Car Service & Restoration
Race Car Services

EUROMECCANICA



114 Pearl Street

Mt. Vernon, New York 10550

(914) 668-1300

Nearly all aspects of mechanical and electrical work can be done here (no bodywork). The cost to you will be determined on an individual basis.

I'm offering this because I love teaching and know a lot about older cars. After fixing and restoring them professionally for almost thirty years, I want to make instruction and mentoring a larger part of my work.

- Mike Schiffer



**From the Chapter
President
Anthony Howell**

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and got what they wanted. I did ! Ho... Ho... Ho. By now the bills should be rolling in and I am sure you are exhausted from all the holiday partying. While we say goodbye to 2004 and hello to 2005 (less taxes more money!), I am looking forward to a great year.

What are we going to do over the winter? How about attending the 12th Annual Beach Party on February 19th, or the AAA Driver's Improvement Program on March 12th? Needless to say, reading the Roundel and watching the Speed Channel is a must. Track drivers - start ordering your track tires or any parts you may need avoid those back- orders.

RPM Racing Inc. opened their doors to the NY chapter last November 20th for a tech session. They did a demo on wheel alignment, taught things you should know about BMW suspension, and also showed off their modification skills. RPM Racing is a clean shop and the owners are great people. The chapter thanks you for the door prizes.

As always, the NY Chapter appreciates our advertisers and event sponsors for their continuous support. This was demonstrated in July 2004 at our Chillin' and Grillin' BBQ event, so please show your support for them by patronizing their businesses in 2005.

Regards,
Anthony Howell

NY Chapter Holiday Party & Autocross Awards Dinner

**Jan 22, 2005 - 7pm
Marriott Hotel at La Guardia Airport
The New York LaGuardia Airport Marriott
102-05 Ditmars Blvd, East Elmhurst, NY
718-565-8900**

**Open Bar - Gifts for the children
Door Prizes - Raffles - Gift Certificates
Live Mariachi Band and DJ
Fabulous food and great company**

**Please RSVP no later than
Jan. 15th, 2005
Icela (917) 406-0090**

**\$30 per person by deadline/ \$35 at door
Children 12 or younger No Charge
All children must be registered in ADVANCE to
assure that Santa will bring them a gift.**

**Make checks to made payable to
"BMW CCA NY Chapter" and send to:
Icela Fischthal,
914 Hewlett Dr., No. Woodmere, NY 11581.
Include the names of all people
coming to the party and for the children include
their names, age and gender.**





Exclusive Retailer for Dinan

DESIRE it DEMAND it DINAN it

Dinan's warranty is extended to match BMW's,
year-to-year, mile-to-mile & bumper-to-bumper!



SPECIAL OFFER
M3 DINAN PACKAGE
Stage 2 Software &
Free Flow
Exhaust
System

Only \$1978
+ tax & 1.6 hours
labor (\$176)

Experience reliable increases of up to 122HP & better throttle response. Raises rev-limits for greater road speed in each gear to improve acceleration. Top speed governor is removed.

**UNLEASH THE
AWESOME
POWER OF
YOUR BMW**

E-46 M3 UPGRADES

- Cold Air Intake
- Air Flow Meter
- Throttle Bodies
- Exhaust
- Lower Gear Ratio
- Front & Rear Strut Braces
- Engine Software
- Suspension Options

Complete Dinan 'S' Packages Available

Serving: Southern New York State, Long Island & the 5 Boroughs
www.habberstadbmw.com 945 E. Jericho Tpke., Huntington Station, NY

Demetrios Mirassis, Director of Motorsports demetri@habberstadbmw.com

631-418-3260 • 24-Hour Fax: 631-271-7179

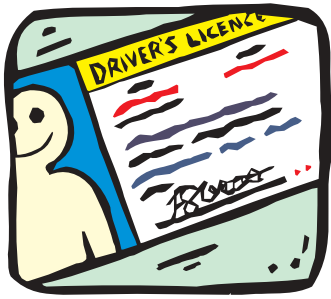
Tony Palmieri, Service: 631-418-3277 Barry Singer, Parts: 631-418-3271

LOW FINANCING & GREAT LEASING!
HABBERSTAD MINI



CALL TODAY TOLL FREE
866-623-9322

MC-40's IN STOCK! 5 TO CHOOSE - SKYVIEW SUNROOF! IMMEDIATE DELIVERY - CALL FOR SPECIAL!
ORDER YOUR 2005 MINI CONVERTIBLE TODAY
PLUS GREAT SELECTION OF COOPER's & COOPER S' - NEW & PRE-OWNED!



AAA Driver's Improvement Program Class

AAA – Co-Sponsored by NY Chapter BMW CCA

Date: March 12th, 2005 Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Place: AAA Office located at 229 7th St. Lower level

(Between Franklin & Stewart Ave).

Save.... on your car insurance! (10% insurance discount, over 3 years, on collision and liability for the principal driver). Reduce.... up to 4 points off your license. Refresh.... your driving techniques and learn preventative techniques for collision avoidance...great for drivers of all ages. The six-hour course approved by NYS Department of Motor Vehicles.

\$25.00 per-person for Chapter members/ \$30.00 non-members

Make check payable to BMW CCA New York Chapter Please include CCA membership number. Bring your New York State driver's license and a pen. Register early, as we are limited to 40 people. There is free parking directly across the street from the building. [To avoid getting a parking ticket make sure that you read the signs carefully as there are some spots only allow 2 hour parking and this is a 6 hour class.] Please R.S.V.P- by 2/26/2005

New York Chapter Contacts:

Sherwin Deshong (917) 576-2453 - srde28@hotmail.com

Anthony Howell (516) 524-6123 unclebimmer@hotmail.com

*Please complete the application below and send it with payment to:
NYBMW CCA PO Box 920576 Arverne, NY 11692*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Contact Telephone: _____

BMW CCA# _____

Enclosed Payment Amount: \$ _____

Got an E39 5 Series?

The Yahoo

BMW E39 Message Group

- By Don Eilenberger

You might be asking what a "Yahoo Group" is. It is usually a group of people with a common interest who have found a home on the Internet for the interest. Yahoo provides the mechanism to create and publicize a "group" to anyone who has a free Yahoo account. If you want a group on Giant Yams - there is probably a Yahoo group for it. If not, you can easily form one.

The BMW E39 Group is currently the most successful E39 group on Yahoo. There are several others that basically are dead - this group is anything but dead. The E39 Yahoo group averages 10-20 very "on-topic" messages per day. Strangely a lot of the messages seem to be generated during working hours, but no one is questioning why this is.

The founder/moderator is Don Eilenberger, a bimmer/beemer enthusiast from New Jersey who has been active in a lot of network based interest groups in the past 15 years or so. He first found "groups" on Arpanet - the network before the Internet. The group was started in 2001 as a reaction to other groups that Don felt drifted off topic too frequently, allowed "flame wars" to start (flames = tossing insults), or were taken over by "spammers" with commercial interests.

When Don got his first E39 (his 4th 5 series - he is now on his 5th, also an E39) he looked for useful groups where he could ask a question and get an intelligent answer. It turns out there weren't any. The "popular" groups were dominated by young men with excess testosterone who seemed to find it necessary to "flame" each other to boost their egos.

The E39 Yahoo Group can be found at: <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/bmwe39>

Visit it and you'll know what the comment about Giant Yam is all about.

Some of the groups were infiltrated by commercial interests (selling things like ultra-blue bulbs and electronic "superchargers" made from old computer fans) - making them less than useful. The other problem Don saw was harvesting of email addresses from these groups - where spammers could access the group and harvest email addresses. He did a few tests and found that all the groups he tried were being harvested.

Therefore, Don decided on an experiment. He wondered if a group could survive and grow if some basic rules were put in place to eliminate the flaws he saw in other groups (and fatal flaws he'd seen eventually destroy any number of groups.)

The rules are fairly simple:

To combat flames - he requires each person sending a message to the group to identify themselves with their real name, where they are from, and hopefully the model(s) E39 they own. His thought was - when people see there is a person behind a message they are much less likely to insult that person.

To combat spammers and being added to spammer's email lists - ALL members to the group must be approved before they can even read messages from the group. They must apply to join with a brief message - and Don or one of the co-moderators must identify them as being a real person and not a robot trying to join a group to harvest emails. Only after they've proven they are real people are they allowed to join the group.

To combat commercial postings - ALL members must post an introductory message to the group

before they are allowed to post freely to the group. The message usually tells a bit about the person and their BMW history. Once the person posts this message - they are given permission to post freely. While there are members who have commercial BMW interests - they've become valuable members who add information without posting advertisements for what they have to sell - and Don has only had to suggest to one poster that he keep the commercial postings off the group.

Did the experiment work?

The group has been around since June 2001, and has grown to a sizeable number of enthusiastic members. There has been no advertising of the group on other sites or in magazines - it has grown by word of mouth to over 1,000 members. It has become the ultimate group of BMW enthusiasts - who are free to discuss, ask questions and answer questions about their favorite car in a club-like atmosphere. They know their email addresses won't be harvested for spam. Members have gotten together face-to-face and performed testing/shootouts of products such as the "short-shifters" for the E39. Most important, they have helped each other out with problems with their BMW's.

Footnote: Don has just gotten his 9th vehicle with a Roundel on it - a 1998 E36 M3 5-speed convertible. Since he has found no spam-free groups for the E36/M3, he is giving thought to starting yet another group worshipping the Giant Yam.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

“Questioning the BMW Paint”

by **Matt Zakarian of
Detailing Dynamics, Inc.**

With the introduction of the new Bimmer models, more and more people are buying "The Ultimate Driving Machine". With this surge, more owners-to-be should be asking questions regarding whether the BMW they are considering purchasing is completely original... or whether part of it or the entire car for that matter been repainted. Just because some part of a pre-owned car has been refinished, it's not the end of the world. A door may have been keyed and re-finished, that is not a big deal. But in a worst case scenario, the car may have been in an accident.

Determining whether any repainting was done is a good start in establishing a car's history. However, don't assume that only used cars get repainted. I've seen more than my share of brand new cars that have had panels repainted directly from the factory. It's a long trip from the factory (whether it's in Germany or South Carolina) to the showroom, and accidents do happen. However, if you are paying for a brand new car, I believe you deserve one; and if any part of it has been repainted, you should be given some sort of consideration for it.

Now that we know why, cars may be repainted, let's discuss how we can determine if a car has had aftermarket paintwork. Although I've seen a few repaints that were close to indiscernible from the original, in most cases, there are certain visual clues to look for:

Color Mismatch

Most noticeable on reds and colors

with pearl effect in them. It's very challenging to match the right amount of pearl/metallic flake to add to paint and have it lay down right. The lights that provide the toughest visual test for this are metal-halides (usually at gas stations and hospital parking lots).

Orange Peel Mismatch

This is a mottled look on a paint's surface, like the texture of the skin of an orange. Remember that there is orange peel in the OEM paint. Look for a difference in the orange peel between adjacent panels.

Overspray

The most common giveaway of a repaint is caused by the improper masking of adjacent panels and back-taping of crevices. A surface of overspray will feel rough. Especially check doorjamb, glass, tires, wheel wells and other crevices. If the overspray is clearcoat, there is going to be no color but just a rough finish. So don't be afraid to feel the paint with your palm (just make sure the car is clean).

Trim, Emblems and Handles

This is the second most common clue to repainting. It occurs when rubber trim and emblems are not removed, but rather taped. Another sign of a possible repaint is misalignment or mislocation of the emblem(s).

Paint Thickness

Unless all paint was removed prior to repainting (which it seldom is), paint thickness is obviously going to increase. You need a paint thickness gauge to check (this will also detect any body filler). The thickness of OEM primer, plus paint, plus clearcoat is usually four to five mils (0.004 to 0.005 inches). If you're unsure what thickness your car should be, check on another car of your model. You can also check in a difference in the thickness between adjacent panels.

Wet Sanding & Buffing Marks

Body shops may have to sand out dirt specs or runs in the paint; then use a high speed buffer and usually wool pads to buff out their work. These marks should especially set off an alarm if they are observed on one panel on a brand new car.

Improper Taping

This is usually evident when the painter just wanted to paint the top of the panel for the sake of laziness. Let's say he painted the door, in that case he wouldn't paint the portion of the door in the doorjamb. Always run your fingers around the edge of a suspect panel. It should be smooth.

These characteristics are only as evident as the expertise of the person looking for them. If possible, put the car in question on a lift and look at the car from the bottom or just lay on the ground. If you haven't developed an eye for seeing these imperfections, invite along someone who has. Even if you have to compensate a professional for the trip, it's worth it. It may save you a LOT more in the long run. Just because you didn't see a repainted panel doesn't mean the future buyer of your car also won't.

A customer who leased a new Mercedes with the bumper already repainted and was willing to live with it. However, when he returned the car at the end of the lease the dealership wanted to charge him for the repainted bumper. Obviously, he didn't lease another car from them.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (516) 747-4114 or email at matt@detailingdynamics.com. May the wind be always at your back and may you achieve your pursuit of detailing perfection!

LOW COST, SAME DAY, PAINT-FREE
DENT REPAIR



DOOR DINGS  **MINOR DENTS**  **HAIL DAMAGE**

Complete Auto Appearance Services:
 1995 Orinoco Drive
 West Islip, NY 11795



Chris Turchiano
 (866) 705-1524

DETAILING ■ DYNAMICS

FOR THOSE WHO EXPECT THE BEST!



- Hand Wash • Polishing & Hand Waxing
- Scratch Removal • Interior Detailing/Restoration
 - Convertible Window Polishing
 - Concours Preparation
- Paintless Ding Removal • 3M™ Paint Protection Film
 - Window Tinting • Metal Polishing
- Custom Exotic Wood/Carbon Fiber Interior Kits
- Detailing Chemicals & Tools • Headlight Upgrades
 - Radar Detectors & Electronics

(516) 747-4114

66 Windsor Ave., Mineola
 MATT ZAKARIAN - PROPRIETOR
WWW.DETAILINGDYNAMICS.COM

VISIT US ON THE WEB 

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

TURNERMOTORSPORT.COM



**TURNER MOTORSPORT,
THE LEADING BMW TUNER,
IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**

- New full service 7,000 sq. ft. facility
- Inspection I and II service
- Routine maintenance now available
- Conforti software upgrade center
- New on-site state-of-the-art Dynapack Chassis Dyno
- Driving school preparation and inspection
- Race preparation - Club and Pro
- Indoor car storage
- Outdoor trailer and car storage
- Technicians have over 22 years of experience
- One stop shopping, i.e. service, parts, etc.
- Located at the intersection of I-95 & 495 off Route 1
- Less than one hour from Boston

WE OFFER THE LOWEST PRICES ON:

- HBR Springs/Coil-overs
- Bilstein Shocks
- Borke Exhausts
- UUC Products
- Shark Injectors/Conforti Chips
- Sway Bar Kits
- Schrick Performance Coils
- Cross-drilled Rotors
- Cool Willy Borke Profs
- Conforti Cold Air Intakes
- Lightweight Flywheels


TURNER motorsport
Knowledgeable Staff • Fast Service • Lowest Prices • Daily Shipping • McLaren Service

Elm Street, Amherst, MA 01013
978-388-7769



Got Plates?
Get your personalized
BMW CCA License plate
Order on-line..yes from the DMV
<http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/org.htm>
Available NOW to all members

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT:
E-MAIL: nysplates@nybmwcca.org TO
INDICATE YOUR INTEREST IN THE PLATES
PROVIDE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: MEMBER #,
NAME, E-MAIL, AND NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS



BIMMERS ONLY

Factory Trained
Service
on all models

Graham Lawson

52B Babbitt Rd. • Bedford Hills, N.Y. 10507 • (914) 241-1084



**ALLOY WHEEL REPAIR SPECIALISTS
OF NASSAU CO., INC.**
COMMERCIAL & RETAIL SERVICES

George Diaz
Authorized Tech
516-662-3314
e-mail: into002@aol.com

On-site. We come to you.

Repairs to:

- Curb Damaged
- Flat Bead or Standard Wheels
- Wheel Faces
- Polished or Painted Aluminum



Phil's AUTO BODY INC.
EXPERT COLLISION
& REFINISHING

Insurance Claims Handled Promptly

140 BROOK AVENUE
DEER PARK, NY 11729
Specializing in BMW's

TEL: 631-242-7439
TEL: 631-543-3096
Discount To Club Members



RPM Racing Inc. is a full service facility specializing in beyond-dealer quality service. We employ extremely competitive pricing. We use the highest quality OEM and OE German parts. Our level of craftsmanship and quality of repair is unparalleled. Come in or call us for an appointment to experience the difference!

Fall / Winter Specials

* FREE - Maintenance Inspection through the months of November & December *

Brake Services: (Includes system bleed)

- * 4 Wheel Pads + Sensors w/ installation, E36 3-Series (92-99 323, 325, 328) - \$320
- * 4 Wheel Pads + Sensors w/ installation, E39 5-Series (95-03 525, 528, 540) - \$360
- * 4 Wheel Pads + Sensors w/ installation, E38 7-Series (94-01 740, 750i, iL) - \$365

- * 4 Wheel Pads, Rotors + Sensors w/ installation, E36 3-Series (92-99 323, 325, 328) - \$550
- * 4 Wheel Pads, Rotors + Sensors w/ installation, E39 5-Series (95-03 525, 528, 540) - \$725
- * 4 Wheel Pads, Rotors + Sensors w/ installation, E38 7-Series (94-01 740, 750i, iL) - \$755

4 Wheel 3-D Alignments:

- * E36 3-Series (92-99 323, 325, 328) - \$115
- * E46 3-Series (99-up 323, 325, 328, 330) - \$125
- * E39 5-Series (95-03 525, 528, 540) - \$130
- * E38 7-Series (94-01 740, 745i, iL) - \$135

Clutch Services: (Includes: New clutch kit, throwout bearing, pilot bushing + installation)

- * E36 3-Series (92-99 323, 325, 328) - \$750
- * E46 3-Series (99-up 323, 325, 328) - \$760
- * E39 5-Series (95-03 525, 528, 540) - \$800

Call for winter tire packages - mounted & balanced!

> All prices do not include tax

www.RPMRacingInc.com

130 Railroad St. Huntington Station, NY 11746 - (631) 423 0275

Open Monday-Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm

LIRR Customer Pick up and Drop off

Driving Tip of the Moment: Winter Driving, Part II By Garageboy

Only about an inch of snow had fallen, but it was the first snowfall in the New York City Tri-State area in December 2004, and it wreaked havoc with the highways that Monday morning. Among the many accidents, there was a report of a Ford Explorer that had run off the Long Island Expressway and plowed into a wall. The driver was pretty shook up, but he was otherwise OK. The reporter asked him how it happened. His answer: "I guess there was some ice. I don't really know what happened..."

And the day before, there was a 70-car/truck pileup on the interstate in Pennsylvania near the Ohio border. It was a snowy Sunday, in low visibility, and an 18-wheeler had jackknifed causing a dangerous chain reaction of three more crashed jackknifed trucks intertwined with dozens of cars, bringing the highway to a halt for the entire day while rescue teams worked tirelessly to get accident victims to the hospital. Miraculously, no one died. Note the car squished in the photo with the hood open is an E46.

These are typical stories for the first snowfall of the season. Every winter, we face the real possibility of getting into a car accident due to inclement weather. More than any other season, we are at the highest risk in the winter. Ironically, some BMW owners still believe the hype that "BMW's are bad in the snow" and store their beloved cars in their garage



until springtime. Others drive their cars, with their all-season tires, holding onto their steering wheel with a nervous death-grip, praying for the springtime. They are thankful for such computers like ABS, DSC+T, and ASC, all working in concert to keep us going in the right direction. With such inadequate tires, the computers are working overtime to maintain our BMW's stability, cutting power to the engine and applying brakes more efficiently than our human brains can possibly manage. But the computers can only do so much. The rest is up to us and our tires.

If you have to drive all winter, tires are everything. Anyone who tells you that you don't need snow tires, even in the New York City area, doesn't know what they're talking about. I suppose you can take a chance that we'll have a mild winter, and simply not drive on the days that it snows. But if



you recall the first snowstorm in

New York in December 2003, dumping 12 inches of snow on the entire region that lasted for weeks, that's a pretty unlikely strategy. The good news is that there are currently so many competent snow tires on the market that handle well and wear well that it is inexcusable to drive around for those 3 months of the year on summer tires. The question is: what type of tires should you use? Well, like all tire questions, it's often a matter of personal preference, particularly when considering brands. But certain things are clear and indisputable:

- * use four snow tires, not two; this is not your parents' Oldsmobile.
- * make sure the size you use is the narrowest available for your car; check your owner's manual for recommended sizes.
- * don't mix tread patterns or tread widths; all four tires should be the same brand, model, and size.
- * in regions south of New York City, like in southern New Jersey, Virginia, and North Carolina, where they experience frequent ice storms, winter tires that are specifically sold as "ice tires" may be preferred.
- * since the predominant weather in our area is snow, not ice, a deep-tread snow tire is highly recommended.

* it's best to use one set of wheels for your winter tires and one set of wheels for your summer tires; if you're not sure you can justify the cost, consider the cost of replacing your car if you get into an accident this winter. And don't be fooled into thinking that SUV's are better in the snow than cars. Driving your 3, 5, or 7-series (M-cars not included) in the

winter allows you to take full advantage of that nearly perfect 50-50 weight distribution and low center of gravity. When you put snow tires on a car with these characteristics, you create a car that can get through virtually any snow, and that car will be balanced enough to stop safely and competently, which is a life-saving characteristic no SUVs can share.

I tend to trust the Scandinavians when it comes to snow tires.* Color me simple, but I find that people that have to live in cold climates much of the year tend to know way more than me about living, driving, and surviving in snow and ice. I have found that Nokian Tires serve my purposes the best. Yes, Nokia, the mobile phone manufacturer from Finland, got its start by making tires, which they still do



today. Their snow tire brand is called Hakkapeliitta, and I have driven and raced on these tires for many years. They are the de facto standard for those in the know. You can learn more about their tires at their website: <http://www.nokian.com>. In fact, if you visit their website, you'll learn about a very clever mechanism that will alert your mobile phone (presumably Nokia) if the air pressure in any of your tires drops below a

certain level. Pressure-monitoring systems are becoming more readily available on today's high-end cars - I don't know if I'd want to be interrupted by a call on my mobile phone while I'm zipping down the highway at 100 telling me one of my tires is low on air... or would I?

Those of us that aren't satisfied to read the Roundel and watch the Speed Channel all winter long can race our BMWs on frozen lakes instead. There are plenty of venues within a few hours of New York City, not much further than places like Lime Rock or Summit Point, but they're all north of the city, of course. And you'll be surprised at how much car-control you will learn while having fun maintaining your racing skills over the winter months.

And finally, just a tip about how to hold the steering wheel when driving in snow and ice: Hold it with both hands, but don't hold it with a death-grip. Hold it with enough dexterity to keep your fingers in contact with the steering wheel, but not too tightly. This way, you will not be inclined to make abrupt steering changes that can disrupt the stability of the car. You will be better able to anticipate when the road becomes icy and the car starts to slip; it will help you maneuver through these conditions without over-reacting. Good luck and safe driving!

I am not a crook. I am not a vendor or seller of tires or automotive parts; I do not benefit financially whether you buy snow tires or not; do not get a kickback if you buy Nokian Tires; I buy my Nokian tires from Pat Greer of Greer Enterprises in Madison Wisconsin (+1 800 325 2598) and he's always been great to deal with! Disclaimer: DONE!

2004 NY Chapter Autocross Season Championship Results

AAA Class

- #1 Andrea Cairone
- #2 Joe Menichino
- #3 Tim Keller

AA Class

- #1 Stefano Gaudio
- #2 Jesse Pelikan
- #3 Tony Howell
- *Andrew Laoutas
- HONORABLE MENTION

A Class

- #1 Andre Noel
- #2 Mike Allen
- #3 Matthew Arnold

B Class

- #1 Ethan Bregman
- #2 Boris Piskoun

C Class

- #1 David Sanchez - Tied
- #1 Chip Pittard
- #2 Tony Degrasse

E Class

- #1 Jeff Hurst
- #2 Ken Kong
- #3 Edgar Cabrera

F Class

- #1 Kevin Lau
- #2 Rich Wayne
- #3 Lee Shelton

H Class

- #1 Aaron Shea

The NY Chapter BMW CCA wishes to congratulate all the winners and participants. We appreciate your participation in our autocross program making it another successful year.

Protect your investment!

By John Ryder
Small Cars, Inc.

An insurance company's first priority is loss control. This comes before customer satisfaction and sometimes before safety. Claims Adjustors (CAs) spend more time and money on this issue than you could imagine. While checks and balance are a needed part of the service they provide, 9 out of 10 insurance companies go way too far at the expense of the insured party. Here are some of the methods that are used to cut down on how much is paid out on a claim:

1) Aftermarket and Junkyard parts

Their usage is tracked on every estimate, for every Claims Adjustor. The CA has to keep the percentage of these parts up to a certain standard that the company deems acceptable. If preset goals are not met, it jeopardizes the CA's job. Typically, the insurance company wants the ratio of aftermarket and junkyard parts vs. OEM parts to equal at least 30-40% of all parts allowed.

2) Repair vs. Replace

The judgment of whether a part or panel on a car should be replaced or repaired is a constant question any CA

has to ask themselves. Consequently, this judgment becomes clouded when the percentages are down. The CA may consider repairing a panel when it should be replaced. This is an area that could jeopardize the safety of a car. An example of this would be the repair of a frame rail or apron assembly that is improperly repaired and is not crash-worthy anymore. Insurance companies feel that at least 50% of estimates written should include the repair of items. If this goal is not met by the CA they will be called into the office to find out why they are deficient in this area.

3) Claims Severity

The CA maintains a "batting average", just as a baseball player does. Their average is equal to the total amount of damage written on all claims divided by the number of claims. The result is that CAs are hesitant to allow what is needed for a claim or in the extreme to declare a vehicle a total loss. A total loss is not included in most cases into the adjuster severity.

4) Where to Repair

Almost every insurance company has a list of shops that they have picked to be "their" shops. Different names are used such as PRO SHOP, DRP SHOP, SERVICE FIRST SHOP AND SELECT REPAIR SHOP. The result is that you would be bringing your car to a place that is in your insurance company's pocket and have agreed to all of their

goals as mentioned in this article. If goals are not met shops are routinely thrown off of the company's "list"

5) "Bring Your Vehicle To Our Drive-In Location"

When you have your vehicle inspected at the insurance company's location four birds are killed with one stone. Everything that I have mentioned above will take place. It is a fact that the average severity in a claim inspected at an insurance location is 30-50% less than if it is inspected at a shop of your choice. The allure of having your car inspected the same day the loss occurred and getting a check on the spot is not worth it. Having a check in your hand does not help if it is not enough to cover the repairs. A quick inspection does not necessarily get you back driving your vehicle if a re-inspection is needed because the estimate was not realistic.

The only way to take charge of your situation and protect your investment is to have your vehicle inspected at the shop of your choice. Your repair shop has your interests in mind when they negotiates your claim on your behalf. New York State Law Regulation 64 states that you have the right to have your car inspected and repaired wherever you want.



BMW Factory Recognized - Collision Repair Facility

Ask someone who knows...

(718)445.0070
(718)463.4926
info@smallcarinc.com

Small Car, Inc.
154-02 41st Ave. Flushing, NY 11354

BMW NY Chapter Gear

- NY Chapter Caps - \$18.00
- NY Chapter Fleece Pullovers - \$48.00
Colors available
- NY Chapter - L/S T-Shirts - \$16.00
- NY Chapter - S/S T-shirts - \$12.00
- Logo Titanium Key Ring - \$10
- Logo Pens - \$ 8
- Ponchos - \$10

Got questions? PayPal Payment or e-mail
send to: info@nybmwcca.org
Voice: 516-792-2002

Mail To: NY BMW CCA
PO Box 920576 Arverne, NY 11692

Shipping \$3.50 per item
* Certain Sizes and Colors
May Require Special Ordering
Please contact us! Special Orders taken

Name: _____

Checks • Money Orders • PayPal

Address: _____

City _____

State _____

Zip: _____

Tel _____

No: _____

Email: _____



Add \$3.50 Paypal Fee

Enter Color/Qty:

Poncho _____

Fleece _____

Long Sleeve Tee _____

Short Sleeve Tee _____

Titanium Key Ring _____

Cap _____

Pens _____

Total \$ _____

Buy your BMW parts online.

Introducing the smartest BMW store on the worldwide web. Simply enter your Bimmer's year and model; we'll show you only those parts that fit your car (plus universal stuff such as Zymöl). You'll get exactly what you need, even if you don't know the BMW part number. Log on and give it a try. It's just like driving your BMW – fast, safe and fun.

bavauto.com

Same-day Shipping • Best Price Guarantee



Phone 800.535.2002 • Fax 800.507.2002

GrafikDezine.com

CUSTOM VINYL GRAPHICS
WINDOW TINTING

Grafik Dezine
786-A Grand Blvd
Deer Park, NY
631.274.9723
phil@grafikdezine.com
grafikdezine.com

NY Chapter Calendar Of Events

- Holiday Party - 01.22.05
- Beach Party - 02.19.05
- AAA Class - 03.12.05

New York Chapter Election Ballot

The New York Chapter has received the following nominations and candidacy statements by the December 1st, 2004 deadline.

New York Chapter Elections - Ballot

Please cast your vote for the following Board positions:

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



**** Indicates incumbent**

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

BMW CCA NY Chapter PO Box Arverne, NY 11692

BMW CCA NY Chapter
PO Box 920576
Arverne, NY 11692

**Pre-Sorted
First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Westbury,
New York
Permit No. 10**