

die flüsternde **Bombe**

January February 2013



Golden Gate Chapter, BMW CCA
Membership Guide

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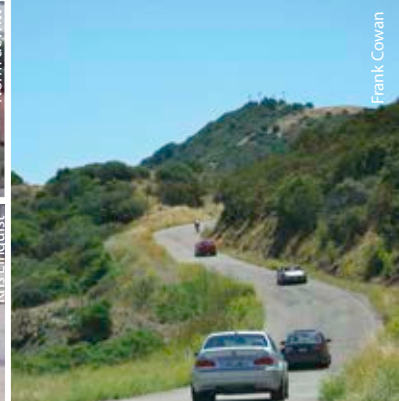
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Norm deWitt



Kris Linquist



Frank Cowan

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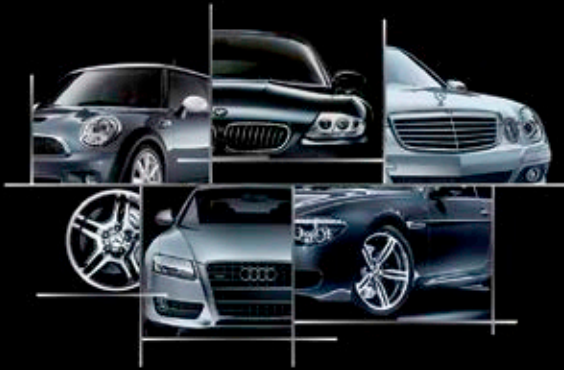
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ON THE COVER

Active volunteer and photographer Kris Linquist captures two icons of the Golden Gate Chapter.



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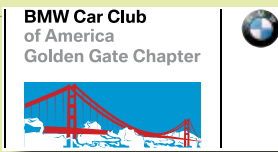
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WHO WE ARE: Chapter Overview

The Golden Gate Chapter of the BMW CCA is one of the largest chapters in the United States, with 4,300 members. It began as the Stanford BMW Club in 1969, growing over the years to cover a vast geography, spanning the region from just north of Santa Barbara to the California-Oregon border, and from the Pacific Ocean to the western edge of the Sacramento Valley.

Our chapter is run entirely by volunteers who donate their time and effort to benefit their fellow members. We organize and sponsor dozens of driving and social events each year, including several high-performance driving schools. These events are held at local tracks such as Sonoma Raceway, Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway, and Thunderhill Raceway Park.

We also have a very active autocross program with its own championship series. Each year the season ends with the Top Driver Shootout and the award of the Fechner Trophy, named for an early GGC member who championed autocross competition.

The Golden Gate Chapter also pioneered street-safety schools—now called car-control clinics—and sponsors several each year. These schools provide basic car-control-skill training for our members. We believe the result of this training has saved many lives over the years.

While we are a car club, not everything we do involves driving—far from it! We have a rich array of social activities, including the annual chapter Summer Party, the BMW Festorics at Monterey, Cars 'n' Coffee get-togethers, local meet-and-greets in various areas within the region, and many more activities. In addition, we organize BMW-Mini-only parking corrals at professional races, and we produce popular local-area driving tours.

If you want to meet like-minded enthusiasts who share your passion for the Ultimate Driving Machine, the Golden Gate Chapter is the place for you! ■

Letter from the President

by Donna Seeley



Welcome to the GGC's first Membership Guide! This special issue of the *Die Flüsternde Bombe*—affectionately called “The Bomb”—will familiarize you with the many benefits of your BMW CCA membership. Our goal is to encourage you to be a part of the Golden Gate Chapter's activities, to make you say, “Hey, that looks like fun!” and “I didn't know that!” and “Yay, Oktoberfest is coming to Monterey this August!”

It's easy to travel a narrow path through a club membership. I joined the BMW CCA only because the previous owner of my first BMW nagged me for two months. It was another year of just leafing through the *Bombe* before an ad for a Thunderhill driving school really caught my attention. When I went to the prerequisite car-control clinic, I realized what I'd been missing: a really fun group of people to hang out with!

That's really what this club is all about: We hang out with other people who like each other and their BMWs. I've heard people say that they didn't think they'd fit in because their BMW is old, or “just a basic 3 Series.” Pshaw! One of my own favorite cars was a 1989 325i, clad in several shades of faded red, and sporting three crumpled fenders (hey, those were acquired before I rescued her!). And one new member came to our monthly board meetings to get more involved, even though he drives a Honda Accord while he saves up for a BMW.

In short, if you like your BMW—or your future BMW, or a previous BMW—you'll fit right in. How about that Mini Cooper? Yes, it, too, has roundels on many of its parts—and the right attitude on the part of many of its owners!

People join the BMW CCA for a variety of reasons. We want you to go beyond that national membership—for some, it's more of a *Roundel* subscription—and inspire you to get involved with the Golden Gate Chapter. Our aim is to make you happy that you made the decision to join the BMW CCA; as you'll see in this issue, our offerings provide you with a lot of enticing choices for where to jump into the fold.

Volunteering is another way our members get involved. GGC is an organization fueled entirely by volunteers; each of our events is planned and staffed by folks who donate their time—and gain the satisfaction of seeing that you have a great time. The easiest way to get involved “behind the camera” is to email the contact for an event you're planning to attend, and ask if they need a hand.

But for the next few minutes, just enjoy looking through this issue at what we have to offer. There are driving events, social events, member-only discounts, BMW rebates, and much more—it's all here. Grab a highlighter and some Post-It flags, and dive in! ■

BMW CCA DISCOUNTS

One of the many member benefits of BMW CCA is a members-only discount at various participating services and dealers. Below you can find the businesses in our area who offer our members a discount. Please note that businesses often require you to show your current BMW CCA membership card in order to receive the discount.

Please contact us with any deletions to the list due to a company being out of business. We ask that additions, changes, or deletions (no longer participating in discount program) are requested by the business owner directly. Updates should be directed to: CommMgr@ggcbmwcca.org.

Independent Service & Supply	City	Discount	Phone	URL
Berkeley Motor Works	Albany	10% Labor	510 528-1214	www.berkeleymotor.com
German Auto Kraft	Belmont	20% Labor on maint/brake rep	650 595-2777	www.germanautokraft.com
Bavarian Professionals	Berkeley	10% Labor	510 524-6000	www.bavpros.com
BTM Motorwerks	Campbell	5% Parts/Labor	408 369-1911	www.btmmotorwerks.com
Dinan Engineering	Campbell	10% Labor	408 866-0606	www.dinancars.com
RennWerks Performance	Campbell	10% Labor/5% Parts	408 370-7480	www.rennwerks.com
Auto Analysts	Castro Valley	10% Labor	510 582-0201	www.autoanalysts.com
Edge Motorworks	Dublin	10% Labor	925 479-0797	www.edgemotorworks.com
Alekshop	Fremont	10% Labor/free tech ilnsp	925 609-4559	www.alekshop.com
Auto Concierge	Fremont	10% off quoted full detail	925 852-1962	www.justwaxed.net
Double 02 Salvage	Hayward	10% Used Parts	510 782-2002	www.002salvage.com
Sound Innovations	Hayward	10% Parts	510 471-9062	www.soundinnovations.com
Bavarian Motorsport	Milpitas	10% Parts	408 956-1662	www.bavarianmotorsport.net
Jam Engineering	Monterey	Various parts	831 372-1787	www.jameng.com
Dinan Engineering	Morgan Hill	10% Labor	408 779-8584	www.dinancars.com
Corporate Auto Works	Mountain View	10% Parts/Labor	650 691-9477	www.corporateautoworks.com
Dinan Engineering	Mountain View	10% Labor	650 962-9401	www.dinancars.com
Track Star Racing	Mountain View	10% Parts/Labor	650 961-2350	www.trackstarracing.com
Performance Technic, Inc.	Pleasanton	10-15% Parts	925 426-1361	www.performancetechnic.com
SAS German Auto	Pleasanton	10% Parts	925 846-4886	www.sasgermanauto.com
Portola Valley Garage	Portola Valley	10% Labor	650 851-7442	www.pvgarage.com
Valley Motorwerks	Rancho Cordova	10% Parts/Labor	916 636-9526	www.vmwwerks.com
Rossi's Tire & Auto Service	Salinas	Various	831 424-0011	www.rossitire.com
Bimmers Independent	San Carlos	Various	650 591-2474	www.bimmersindependent.com
German Motor Collision Ctr	San Francisco	\$100 off repairs over \$1,000	415 551-2639	www.sfgermanmotors.com
John Gardiner Automotive	San Francisco	10% Labor	415 777-2697	www.jgauto.com
Phaedrus	San Francisco	10% Parts	415 567-8000	www.phaedrusmd.com
Vanguard Motors	San Francisco	10% Labor	415 255-8450	www.vanguardmotors.com
Borelli Motor Sports	San Jose	10% Service/Labor	408 770-1220	www.borellimotorsports.com
Extreme Performance	San Jose	10% Parts/Labor	408 923-6404	www.xperformance.com
2002 Haus	San Luis Obispo	5% Parts	805 541-2002	www.2002haus.com
Heyneman European	San Rafael	\$50 off service	415 499-1234	www.heynemaneuropean.com
West Bay Bavarian	San Rafael	10% Parts/Labor/Dinan work	415 457-0820	www.westbaybavarian.com
Diablo Motors	San Ramon	10% Parts/Labor	925 830-4269	www.diablotmotors.com
Bavarian Enterprises	Santa Clara	Various Parts	408 737-6100	www.bavarian-enterprise.com
Catalpa Street Garage	Santa Cruz	10% Parts	831 464-2269	www.catalpastreetgarage.com
Nate Smith's Optimal Auto	Santa Cruz	10% Parts	831 476-1332	www.optimalauto.com
German Auto	Santa Maria	10% Parts	805 922-1262	www.germanautosm.net
Bavarian Tuning	Santa Rosa	10% Parts/Labor	707 575-3757	www.bavarian-tuning.com
GS Tuning	Santa Rosa	10% Sales/Service	707 284-2680	www.gstuningbmw.com
BMW Performance Driving School	Spartanburg, SC	15% off driving programs	BMWusa.com	www.bmwusa.com/performancecenter
Milt's Service Garage	Vallejo	10% Parts/Labor	707 643-7548	www.miltservicegarage.com
M Service	Walnut Creek	10% Parts/Labor, up to \$100	925 932-8744	www.mserviceinc.com
evosport		10% Parts, \$1000 svc=free dyno	888 520-9971	www.evosport.com
Patelco Credit Union		Special Offer	415 442-6200	www.Patelco.org

LOCAL BMW DEALERS

The Golden Gate Chapter covers a vast area and subsequently has several BMW and Mini dealerships for you to choose from. This is the list of dealerships in our area, as well as the discounts they offer to Club members. Do remember to bring your membership card to show in order to receive the discount.

Dealership Discounts	City	Discount	Phone	URL
Weatherford BMW	Berkeley	Various	510 654-8280	www.weatherfordbmw.com
BMW Concord	Concord	10% Parts/15% Accessories	925 682-3577	www.bmwconcord.com
Mini of Concord	Concord	10% Parts/15% Accessories	867 704-9479	www.miniofconcord.com
BMW of Fremont	Fremont	10% Parts/ Labor/15% Accessories	510 360-5900	www.bmwoffremont.com
Mini of Marin	Marin		415 737-0500	www.miniofmarin.com
BMW of Humboldt Bay	McKinleyville	10% Parts	707 839-4269	www.bmwofhumboldtby.com
BMW of Mountain View	Mountain View	10% Parts	650 943-1000	www.bmwofmountainview.com
East Bay BMW	Pleasanton	10% Parts	800 505-4801	www.eastbaybmw.com
East Bay Mini	Pleasanton		866 549-5589	www.eastbaymini.com
BMW of Roseville*	Roseville	10% Parts	916 782-9434	www.bmwofroseville.com
BMW of San Francisco	San Francisco	10% Parts	415 863-9000	www.bmwssf.com
Mini of San Francisco	San Francisco		877 209-9322	www.minisf.com
Coast BMW	San Luis Obispo	10% Parts	805 543-4423	www.coastbmw.com
Peter Pan BMW	San Mateo	10% Parts	650 349-9077	www.peterpanbmw.com
Peter Pan BMW Parts/Svc	San Mateo/ Burlingame	10% Parts	650 204-7600	www.peterpanbmw.com
Sonnen BMW	San Rafael	10% Parts	415 482-2000	www.sonnenbmw.com
Stevens Creek BMW	Santa Clara	10% Parts & Labor	408 249-9070	www.stevenscreekbmw.com
Mini of Stevens Creek	Santa Clara		408 260-4900	www.miniofstevenscreek.com
BMW of Santa Maria	Santa Maria	10% Parts	805 614-0306	www.bmwsm.com
Hansel BMW	Santa Rosa	10% Parts	707 545-6602	www.hanselbmwofantarosa.com
BMW of Monterey	Seaside	10% Parts	831 899-5555	www.bmwmonterey.com

* Sacramento Valley Chapter region



Membership Benefits

By Ian Dunn

Membership Reward Rebate Program

Members in good standing for the past twelve months or more may be eligible for a rebate on the purchase or lease of a new or Certified Pre-Owned (CPO) BMW. The rebates range from \$250 to \$1,500, depending on model. For more information, go to www.bmwcca.org/vehicle_rebate. This benefit alone more than pays for the cost of your BMW CCA membership!

Club Events

Members in good standing have exclusive access to local and national events held throughout the year. These events include social gatherings, tech sessions, car-control clinics (CCC) to sharpen your driving skills, autocrosses, driving tours through local back roads, and high-performance-driving schools (HPDS) at world-renowned race tracks. More information on all these events can be found within this membership guide and on our website, www.ggcbmwcca.org.

Publications

Roundel Magazine:

The BMW Car Club of America's national full-color magazine, published twelve times a year, provides coverage of

Club events around the country, along with feature stories on new BMW models, special models, and adventures—and we have colorful, insightful columnists. With 120-plus pages of articles, reviews, and event coverage, *Roundel* has been called “the best car-club magazine on the planet” by *Car and Driver Magazine*. The current issue can be found here: www.bmwcca.org/roundel_mag.

Die Flüsternde Bombe:

Our Golden Gate Chapter's local magazine is published nine times per year. Your connection to the activities and perks of your chapter membership, it provides news on prior and upcoming events in the Bay Area.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos for each issue. Please contact the editor for further details!

Networks To Help You

One of the reasons to be in a club is to have a place to go when you have questions or issues. Among the perks of BMW CCA membership is access to our Technical Service Advisors for personalized advice, an ombudsman to help with dealer issues, and the book *Friends of BMW: a roster of fellow BMW CCA members who can offer coffee and conversation, repair tools, workspace, or sometimes even help when you're out*

on the road. The national and chapter online forums give you a place to connect with the BMW CCA community.

For members interested in buying and selling BMW-related items, both the national website and the local-chapter websites offer free classified ads on the website and in *Roundel Magazine*. Ads for *Roundel* must be placed at bmwcca.org/classifieds/listings.php.

Product And Service Discounts

Being a member also provides discounts with national corporations offering products and services ranging from hotels, insurance, rental cars, tires, and more. For a full list of participating companies, visit www.bmwcca.org/membershipbenefits/discounts.

Local Shop Discounts

Many local shops offer discounts on parts, labor, and services to BMW CCA members with proof of membership. A list of the shops currently offering discounts in and around the Bay Area can be found on page 6 of this guide. ■

Current membership in the BMW CCA is required for all events listed in this magazine. It's easy to sign up at www.bmwcca.org!



Jeff Cowan



Donovan R. Unks



Don Louv

Social Events

By Eric Ries

Ask any active Golden Gate Chapter member what their favorite part of the Club is, and the answer you'll hear most often is, "It's the people you meet and spend time with." It's our hope that members who might not be as interested in a car-centric event will find the social events appealing. The social element is a huge draw, so our chapter organizers put a lot of effort into putting on a wide variety of events to offer our members. Among those are tech sessions (see page 11), local meet and greets, monthly board meetings (yes, these can be fun!), karting challenges, Habitat for Humanity work days, Cars 'n' Coffee gatherings, the parking corrals at race events, and the chapter summer party.

Cars 'N' Coffee

Cars 'n' Coffee (CnC) events are becoming one of the most popular recurring social events offered by clubs across the nation. It's a morning gathering of cars and their owners that happens once a month at a set location, typically a parking lot near a coffee shop. Simple and informal, it's a great way for members to regularly meet up and interact.

Last year was the start of GGC's CnC events—and the reception was tremendous! The South Bay edition

was our first offering and, after a great turnout, we quickly followed up with East Bay and North Bay events.

We've found that CnC events are a great way for any member to make the most of their membership. It's a simple way to get more involved with people who share your passion for BMWs. Each event sees an amazing number of regulars—and lots of first-timers, too. As the participants come from a wide variety of backgrounds, the conversations are interesting and varied. The GGC autocrossers regularly show up and have lively conversations comparing notes on setups and times. If you're curious about autocrossing, here's your chance to talk to some active participants on what it's like.

The range of cars in the lot runs the gamut from daily drivers to track cars to concours-ready cars. We've also had some of our great local Dinan reps out to the events with their cars, chat with members about Dinan goods.

Check the online GGC calendar for 2013 dates. The event hours are 9:00 a.m. to noon; members can swing by whenever it's convenient for them.

EVENT SEASON: Monthly, year 'round

EVENT HOURS: 09:00 – 12:00

LOCATION: Varies for each region, see online calendar for specifics

COST: Free; attendees buy their own food and drink

CONTACT: SocialDirector@ggcbmwcca.org

CONNECT ON THE FORUM: www.ggcbmwcca.org/forum/misc-social-events ■

Car Corrals

Many of us love to spend a day at the races—like the Monterey Motorsport Reunion Races (see the Festorics write-up for an extensive explanation), ALMS, or WTCC—and it's more fun when you can hang out at the track with your friends, cheering on the race cars. As a service to our members, we set up BMW/Mini group parking corrals and tented hospitality areas at the races, so you can get great views of the action, refreshments, and a shady place to sit with your friends!

Our volunteers put an amazing effort into the corrals for our members. Ask anyone—they will agree that our corrals are the best in the Bay Area!

SEASON: Late spring to early fall

LOCATIONS:

Mazda Laguna Seca

Raceway, Monterey

Sonoma Raceway, Sonoma

PRICE RANGE: Varies (sometimes free, plus price of race ticket)

CONTACT: Varies



Jeff Cowan

The day starts early with an optional drive that winds through the Santa Cruz mountains, which is a terrific adventure all by itself! The driving tour ends at the fabulous home of our hosts, Dave and Bonnie Bell; they welcome us for a fun afternoon of food, refreshments, and socializing. Our gracious hosts' wonderful grounds, pool, and hot tub serve as a great playground for young and old.

This is the event our seasoned members look forward to the most each year. Come on out and see why!

SEASON: July

PRICE: ~\$30

REQUIREMENTS: Advanced registration (plus event fee)

All ages are welcome!

CONTACT:

SocialDirector@ggcbmwcca.org

CONNECT ON THE FORUM:
www.ggcbmwcca.org/forum/misc-social-events ■

CONNECT ON THE FORUM:

www.ggcbmwcca.org/forum/misc-social-events ■

Summer Party

The Golden Gate Chapter summer party is by far the best social event of the year! (Except when we're hosting

BMW CCA's annual Oktoberfest, like this year—keep your eyes peeled for more details on Oktoberfest 2013!)

This is our annual family-friendly chapter party that's a barbecue and pool party—all members are enthusiastically encouraged to join in!



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Frank Cowan



Keith Keller

Driving Tours

By *Mike Zampiceni*

Do you enjoy exploring great roads—especially Bay Area back roads? Do you like socializing with other BMW enthusiasts? Then consider joining one of the many driving tours our chapter offers throughout the year!

There's something about traveling in your BMW with a group of fellow Bimmerphiles that provides an exhilarating experience unlike any other type of Club event. These tours offer a nice blend of driving event and social event, creating a special experience for our members.

Our tours start from various locations throughout the greater Bay Area. Destinations extend north of Clear Lake, and south of the Monterey peninsula. Members in our Central Coast region will be pleased to note that we have an active contingent there, too, with tours on lesser-traveled roads extending from Paso Robles to Santa Barbara.

The destinations often offer an additional interesting activity; whether it's a museum tour, a vintage-train ride, a wine tour, or a beautiful nature area, the participants always enjoy the event.

Before getting back on the road home, we typically have lunch at a nearby reasonably-priced, high-quality restaurant.

Since most of our tours are usually free, they are a great bang for the buck in terms of excitement. You'll never have so much fun for the price of a tank of gas! So the next time you're in need of an entertaining drive, but want to hang out with some good friends at the same time, consider road-testing one of our GGC tours. You'll be pleased that you did! ■

A FEW EXAMPLES OF PAST TOUR ACTIVITIES:

- ★ A visit to the elegant and refined Blackhawk Automotive Museum
- ★ Rides on the Niles Canyon Railway's vintage steam trains
- ★ A visit to the Western Railway Museum and a ride on their electric trains in Rio Vista
- ★ A guided tour of the Canepa Designs motorsports museum and restoration facility in Scotts Valley
- ★ A guided tour of the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos
- ★ Sipping wine and playing bocce ball at Garre Vineyards in Livermore
- ★ A docent-led tour of the spectacular Filoli Gardens in Woodside
- ★ Exploring Pinnacles National Monument, just south of Hollister
- ★ Touring the BMW vehicle-distribution center in Port Hueneme
- ★ Wine-tastings and tours in Napa Valley, Sonoma, and other area wine-country destinations

✦ At a glance:

TOUR SEASON: Year 'round

EVENT HOURS: Half day to all day

LOCATIONS: Scenic byways of the Bay Area and Central Coast

PRICE RANGE: Drive is free; participants are responsible for cost of any food/admission fees

REQUIREMENTS:

- ★ BMW CCA membership
- ★ A car or motorcycle

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: All are welcome!

CONTACT: Tours@ggcbmwcca.org

MORE INFO: www.ggcbmwcca.org/driving-events/tours--group-drives

CONNECT ON THE FORUM:

www.ggcbmwcca.org/forum/tours



Aleksy Kadukin



Frank Cowan

Tech Sessions

By Ryan Rich

Are you interested in learning more about what makes your BMW the Ultimate Driving Machine? Our technical sessions are aimed at providing members with information they can use to make their BMW ownership a first-rate experience. We host several events throughout the year, covering a wide range of categories, including proper maintenance, performance modifications, automotive detailing—even sessions that will teach you what to look for in body repair. Local shops in our area host these sessions, providing an excellent environment in which our members can learn more about their cars.

We've had dyno-day events where you can see how much power your car is really putting out. Shops with these dynamometer facilities are rare, so these are special events. Basically, your car is set up on a dyno to measure the horsepower and torque it produces. This is useful information to see if your car is performing properly, or just for bragging rights! If you want to classify your car for autocross and have engine modifications, this type of event is useful because it provides you with a horsepower estimate. We get a broad range of cars at these events, from a BMW Active E to an X5 M, and everything in between. We

typically finish the day with a barbecue and end up joking with our friends about who has the most horsepower.

Sessions that cover automotive detailing are very useful for learning the correct way to maintain your car's sparkling looks—inside and out. You can learn what products, tools, and techniques work best for keeping your car looking its best. Properly taking care of your car's paint helps it not only look beautiful, but last longer as well. Maintaining a good protective layer of wax helps prevent deterioration issues caused by Mother Nature—and even rock chips!

A day at a shop with a certified BMW-trained mechanic will teach you basics about your vehicle that you may never have known. Some topics that might be covered include checking tire pressures and oil level, what the different indicator lights signify, and how to maintain proper fluid levels. Shop days may also include overviews on how to properly identify problem areas or perform common-maintenance procedures on your vehicle—and it isn't uncommon to hear members exchanging tips

with each other on their techniques for fixing things on their BMWs. These sessions are particularly helpful for new drivers, or as a refresher course for the do-it-yourself types.

Tech sessions are designed to teach you more about your car and make you feel confident driving your BMW whether you're a novice driver, a shade-tree mechanic, or a burgeoning track rat. We love to hear new ideas for tech sessions, so if there is an event you would like to see, please contact us.

Membership in the BMW CCA is your gateway to taking advantage of your amazing car choice, so come on out and learn something useful at our events—while making new friends. I hope to see you at one of our sessions this year! ■

At a glance:

DATES: Event frequency varies; year 'round

PRICE RANGE: Typically free

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: All

CONTACT:

TechSessions@ggcbmwcca.org

CONNECT ON THE FORUM:

www.ggcbmwcca.org/
forum/tech-sessions



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68-D Woodland Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901



Monterey Vintage Week

By Jeff Cowan and Kelly Kirkland

Every automobile fan's mission in life is to attend the legendary Monterey vintage week at least once. It's overwhelming in all the right ways: world-class concours, auctions, vintage races, and automotive camaraderie. It's not uncommon at a stoplight in downtown Monterey to be boxed in by Ferraris, Maseratis, or Lamborghinis—new and old—with a cacophony of sound that only can only be experienced during this August week. It's become a Club tradition—an experience you'll find unique and habit-forming.

Monterey's vintage week has its roots in the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elégance. This famous event began in 1950, paired with a road race through the pine-and-cypress forests of 17 Mile Drive that ended in 1956. The Monterey Historic races (recently renamed the Motorsports Reunion) started in 1974 as an homage to those early races. In the years since, other events have been developed; the week is now considered one of the most amazing automotive spectacles in the world.

The Legends Of The Autobahn

After twelve years of organizing a wildly popular BMW CCA concours within the all-Italian Concorso Italiano, the BMW Club took a brave step: The inaugural Legends Of The Autobahn

became a stand-alone event in 2009 on the greens of Rancho Cañada in Carmel Valley. In 2010, it evolved into Monterey's first-ever all-German show with the addition of the Porsche Club of America and the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. In 2012, we were also joined by the Audi Club North America, resulting in an event which drew hundreds of cars and a swarm of spectators. In the process, Legends has gained national press coverage and attention, as well as being widely considered as the best deal during the otherwise expensive Car Week.

Our one-day concours quickly gained support from BMW NA, who often fly in cars from Germany for display. We've been privileged to see such exclusive cars as the 328 *Hommage*, the one-off carbon-fiber M8, and the American debuts of the BMW F10 M5 and Concept Z4 Zagato Roadster.

The Legends concours awards clean-car prizes to those owners who like to detail their cars into show-stopping condition. There are also some very special models brought out as display-only cars, such as pre-war cars, race cars, and vintage transporters. But it's not only the show cars that stand out; a multitude of interesting cars may be found in the regular parking corrals. The whole event has a pleasant country-club feel, and is not to be missed!

✦ At a glance:

DATES: August, the third weekend of the month, Friday through Sunday

AUGUST 16, 2013: Legends of the Autobahn

AUGUST 17-18, 2013: Festorics at the Monterey Reunion Races

LOCATION: Monterey Peninsula

LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN: Rancho Cañada, Carmel Valley

FESTORICS: Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway, Monterey

REQUIREMENTS:

★ Event fees and registration

EVENT WEBSITES:

www.legendsoftheautobahn.org
www.festorics.org

The BMW Festorics

BMW owners got in on Laguna Seca's Monterey Histories action in 1987 with Coupefest, a gathering of E9 coupes parked above Turn Five to watch the races. In 1992, the BMW CCA got involved, hosting an all-BMW event called BMW Fest. Eventually, that celebration became the BMW Festorics. Our Club corral holds over 200 cars, and the 500 members attending each year enjoy comfortable track-side viewing, hospitality tents, and catered meals.

BMW of North America brings classic BMW Motorsport cars to race during the weekend, including the 1980 IMSA M1, the 1978 Group 5 320 Turbo, and the 1975 IMSA GT 3.0CSL. Famous drivers such as Brian Redmond, Bobby Rahal, and others are regularly invited to pilot these cars. Privateer BMW racers range from prewar to classic '70s race cars—and these race cars occasionally stop by our corral so our members can see them.

The action in Laguna Seca's race paddock is equally breathtaking. Spectators can walk among an incredible array of vintage race cars still warm from their laps on the track—including a few spectacular BMWs! ■



Jon van Woerden

Oktoberfest comes to Monterey in 2013!

By Tammi Hull

While BMW CCA Oktoberfest veterans are excited about the national event coming our way, some of you may have no idea what we're talking about. *What is Oktoberfest, you ask? Why will it be in Monterey? What are the dates again?*

Oktoberfest—commonly abbreviated O'Fest—is the BMW CCA's premier annual national event. It's a week-long party, with members from across the U.S. and special guests from around the BMW world celebrating our love of BMWs, driving BMWs, admiring concours BMWs; there's food, Spaten beer, wine, and BMW lore.

Did I mention the BMWs?

Over its 44-year history O'Fest has evolved into the one event that showcases all of the fun things the Club does, in one place, in one week. You'll meet members who share your passion for BMW, but you'll also find a great diversity of interests among the group. The week offers many opportunities to keep you entertained: enter, judge, or attend a concours; vie for a trophy in a TSD rally; enjoy a scenic drive; compete in a fun rally; participate in high-performance-driving schools at a premier race track; entice your palate on wine tours; compete in an auto-

cross; test your knowledge of BMW trivia; pamper yourself with shopping tours; test-drive new BMWs; learn some new skills at a car-control clinic; pick up some pointers at technical sessions; go on sightseeing tours; enter the photo contest; and more.

Since its inception, O'Fest has been held in a different location each year. The goal is to make it an easy trip for members who live within a day's drive, while also providing a great destination for members who live farther away. For some members, Oktoberfest is a must-attend event every year, regardless of where it's held.

O'Fest was last held in Northern California in 1993, when the Golden Gate chapter hosted it in Rohnert Park (Sonoma County), with Sears Point as our event track. That was twenty years ago, so we're very excited to have O'Fest 2013 in our back yard again—this time in Monterey, with Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca as our event track. (The list of past O'Fest locations can be found here: www.tiny.cc/OFests_past.)

Monterey was selected as the O'Fest site for many reasons. It is a lovely premier vacation destination, and it has world-famous Laguna Seca close by. But I'll leave the beatitudes to the Monte-

rey County Convention and Visitors Bureau (www.seemonterey.com):

"So much to discover. Monterey offers iconic California experiences. Experience the top road trip in the United States as you wind along the breathtaking Big Sur coastline on Highway One. Book a Monterey hotel on the beach, then explore the shops and attractions of iconic Cannery Row. Sip handcrafted wines at tucked-away tasting rooms where the winemaker might just be the person pouring. Take a surfing lesson and catch a glimpse of a barefoot beach wedding as you ride your board to shore. Play 18 holes at legendary golf courses. Monterey County has something special for everyone."

The dates for Oktoberfest are August 19–24, following on the heels of two major BMW CCA regional events during the Monterey Vintage Week (see page 12): the Legends Of The Autobahn and the Festorics corral. Those in the know highly encourage you to plan to be in Monterey for both O'Fest and the Vintage Week. The official O'Fest hotel is the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa on Del Monte Golf Course.

Come out and see what all the talk is about. Register to attend, for one day or five. Volunteer! And definitely check out the official website. ■

At a glance:

DATES: August 19-24, 2013

LOCATION: Monterey Peninsula

TYPE: Social, spectator, driving events, touring, contests

REQUIREMENTS:

★ Event fees and registration

DISCOUNTED HOTEL ROOMS AT:

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa

EVENT WEBSITE:

www.bmwccaofest.org

OFEST PROMO VIDEO:

[//tiny.cc/Ofest2013_promo](http://tiny.cc/Ofest2013_promo)



Kelly Kirkland

Race Tracks In Our Region

By Rodger Ball

Our chapter is blessed by the racing gods of Northern California. Our base in the San Francisco Bay Area lends easy access to three of America's top race tracks: Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway, Sonoma Raceway, and Thunderhill Raceway Park.

Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway, Monterey



Originally constructed in 1957, Laguna Seca is our granddaddy of race-track venues. Nestled in a quiet valley in the California Coastal Range, it has hosted many legendary races, and continues to be a stopping point for many of the top racing series. Each year, on addition to the regular season of spectacular events at Laguna Seca (Spanish for "dry lakebed"), our Club looks forward to a few special dates.

During several major racing weekends, our chapter hosts hospitality

areas and exclusive parking areas, or *club corrals*. These corrals provide our members a rare opportunity to get VIP treatment. Often, we get to meet and talk with professional race drivers and team members. Combine this with an exciting day of watching the races, and members leave with memories they will never forget.

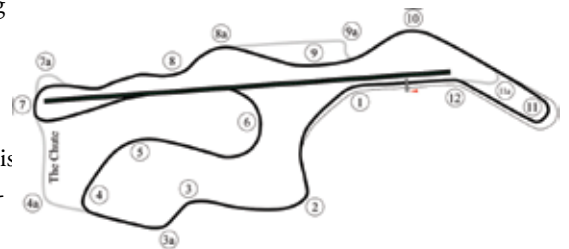
Memories of another kind are born from the rare days our chapter is blessed with a date for a high-performance-driving school (HPDS) track day at Laguna Seca. As a student, you'll get to experience the historic 2.238-mile, eleven-turn track for yourself.

There's the thrill of the long hairpin of Turn Two, the flat and fast Turns Three and Four; then you brake into Turn Five before powering into the uphill section through Turn Six. As you crest the hill at Seven, suddenly you get the sense that you're on a wonderful drive on top of a ridge—but don't daydream, because Turn Eight drops you into the famous Corkscrew.

As you entering the Corkscrew, the world quickly drops out from under you, and gravity now assists acceleration! Brake before Turn Nine, then snake through Turn Ten until you reach the brake-pad-brutal Turn Eleven. A quick acute left turn puts you on the front straight, where you floor the pedal

under the bridge, heading for the slight bend of Turn One. On a typical day you'll leave after four driving sessions and, perhaps, a few instructor rides.

Sonoma Raceway (Sears Point)



At the northern tip of San Francisco Bay, you'll find another track we call home, Sonoma Raceway (formerly known as Sears Point). An easy drive for many of our members, this track offers the ultimate in close-to-home action.

Constructed in 1968, this multipurpose track hosts both a drag strip and a world-class road course. Like Laguna Seca, this track calls many of the top race series to its blacktop. You'll find us there mostly for the road-course events—but there are a few who enjoy trying out their straight-line skills.

When we are there as spectators, you'll typically find our Club corral atop Turn Two. There you'll gather among your fellow marque fans, perched at one of the best places to view the raceway's action. Turn Two never fails

to provide a spectacle, as the cars get light from cresting the hill and storm into this off-camber corner, which leads for a lot of tail-happy racing!

If you'd rather drive than watch, then you're in luck, as our chapter also gets to challenge ourselves on this track with our own cars. On our driving-school days, members get to experience this highly technical course. Love it or hate it, you'll find that there is no down time at Sears Point!

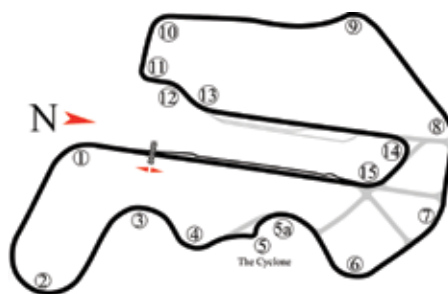
From the moment you enter the twelve-turn, 2.52-mile track at Turn One, it seems this track is all about memory, blind corners, short straights, and remembering to breathe. Your first lesson comes at our favorite hangout, Turn Two: Easy on the gas, or you'll soon find yourself facing the wrong way on a one-way road! Then Turns Three and Three-A come in quick succession; here, you crest a blind hill and—when you do it right—drift out just to the edge of the track.

Nail the right-hander at Four and play with lateral grip as you sweep through Turn Five. Turn Six is the famous Carousel; as you approach, it's another dance over a hill before spiraling down through the long,

sweeping left. Get it right, and you are at full acceleration as you enter the straight chute to Seven. Get a nice trail-brake going into that bobby-pin curve, and life is good!

The slalom of Turns Eight and Eight-A sets you up for Nine and Ten. After Nine, move over to track left, and nail the entry into Ten. Then it's time for some heavy braking for the low-speed hairpin at Eleven; its exit brings you to Turn Twelve, which shoots you into the drag race back to Turn One, and you're on your way around all over again.

Thunderhill Raceway Park



Make your way north past Sacramento on I-5, and you can experience the excitement of a lesser-known hidden gem, Thunderhill Raceway. Unlike our other two tracks, this one doesn't draw big series like NASCAR or IndyCar—which can be a good thing. While you won't find huge grandstands, or miles of vendors, you will find a venue focused on club racing and the weekend warrior crowd, making a more affordable rental fee for clubs. Free trailer-power hookups, too!

Thunderhill is the home of the popular 25 Hours of Thunderhill. Or you can witness one of the 24 Hours of LeMons races—the infamous endurance race series for \$500 cars. Chances are you'll see someone you know, racing or working on a team. But most of the time, the track is used by clubs like the BMW CCA for driving schools or racing.

Owned by the SCCA, this three-mile, fifteen-turn track was conceived and constructed with safety and

education in mind. Its layout has examples of just about every type of corner you'll ever find on a track, and it can be run either clockwise or counter-clockwise. The course has additional configuration choices, and can be run as a nine-turn or fifteen-turn course. With lots of dirt run-off areas, it's a less intimidating place, if ever one of those laps in concentration bites you.

A typical counter-clockwise run goes something like this: Enter on one of the fastest corners of the track. Remember to check your mirrors before merging over into the apex. Then it's a short straight into the sweeping right-hander of Turn Two. Here's where you really practice your throttle steer as you dance around a seemingly endless corner. Then it's into the off-camber right-hand Turn Three, where you set up for the left-hander at Four; swing too wide, and you'll pay for it. Now it's up the hill toward Turn Five, a section called the Cyclone: It was designed to give drivers the experience of the Corkscrew at Laguna Seca. There you make a lighter-than-air left turn before the drop that leads to a right-hand sweeper that sets you up for left-hand Turn Six. After a fast, flat left turn around Seven, you prepare for the "Yes, the tires will hold!" Turn Eight, where you test your conviction and skill. When you nail it, it's a thing of joy as you try to push the throttle past the firewall.

Racing up to crest the hill at Turn Nine, you head down the short straight for the banked left-hander at Ten. Brake hard for the 90-degree left at Eleven before making your way through the capital-S of Turns Twelve and Twelve-A. Work hard to set yourself up for a fast exit and you'll be rewarded.

Now it's time to glance at your gauges, check for anybody who needs to pass you, and get ready for the acute long left U-turn at Fourteen. As you exit, unwind the wheel and set up for the right-hand Turn Fifteen—make that one, and congratulations: You're now one of those people to watch for on the entry to Turn One! ■

✦ At a glance:

CLUB EVENTS:

Car corrals at major races
High-performance-driving schools

TRACK WEBSITES:

www.mazdaraceway.com
www.racesonoma.com
www.thunderhill.com

TURN-BY-TURN DESCRIPTIONS:

(from NorCal Shelby Club)

MAZDA LAGUNA SECA:

norcal-saac.org/ot/laguna.pdf

SONOMA RACEWAY:

norcal-saac.org/ot/sears.pdf

THUNDERHILL:

norcal-saac.org/ot/thillnew.pdf



Jason Martinez



Christina Breton

Car-Control Clinic

By Canyon Chan

Picture yourself in a lurid slide in the rain, or facing a split-second panic stop: Do you instinctively know the steps to safely maneuver your car in these situations? These are not the sorts of encounters that allow more than one chance to get it right! Even if you think you know what to do, it's worth your peace of mind to learn car-control skills from experienced instructors in a controlled, safe setting—and that's what we do at a car-control clinic (CCC).

Most drivers'-education courses teach the rules of driving, but not the hands-on skills you need for negotiating various dangers on road. Car-control skills are techniques learned through practice; they're fundamental to daily driving, as well as high-performance driving. These clinics provide an opportunity for you to learn and practice the basics of car control through various instructor-led exercises. Our clinics are great not only for teenagers and beginning drivers, but also for the seasoned driver. In fact, for first-time high-performance-driving-school (HPDS) students, our car-control clinics are a prerequisite.

All you need to attend is a BMW CCA membership, a valid driver's license—sorry, learner's permits are not accepted—and registration in advance of the event. The registration fee includes lunch. Two drivers can

share one car; this requires two separate paid registrations listing the one car.

What to expect?

You'll spend your day in the driver's seat, exploring vehicle dynamics in a controlled environment. Our goal is to prepare you with a fundamental foundation of skills, from which you can further develop your driving abilities. The level of instruction is tailored to fit the needs of each individual student. The day-long clinic's program consists of a short morning lecture, followed by three separate low-speed exercises.

The exercises include a skid pad, a slalom course, and a braking and accident-avoidance simulation. Each exercise is prefaced with a short talk about concepts specific to that exercise. In these exercises, students learn the proper use of the steering wheel, brakes, and throttle as elements of car control; mastering these skills will better prepare you for situations that may be encountered at speed during everyday driving or on the track.

By strengthening your fundamental car-control skills, and increasing your awareness for what your car is doing under a variety of circumstances, you'll better understand vehicle dynamics, and be a safer and more controlled driver. (Safety is our top priority at this and all Club driving events!)

Registration Information

During the year, we typically conduct three or four clinics. The venue is usually Candlestick Park in San Francisco, or the Marina Airport in the Monterey area. Registration links and clinic dates are posted on the chapter website. Registration for each clinic is on a first-come, first-served basis, and opens about six to eight weeks prior to the event. If you want to be notified about the opening of registration, we recommend that you sign up for GGC's event-announcement email list.

Car-control clinics are one of our chapter's most popular driving programs, and registration often fills very quickly. If you plan to attend a high-performance-driving school and

★ TYPICAL SCHEDULE

- 08:00—Registration and vehicle tech inspections
- 09:00—Morning lecture
- 10:00—Driving exercises commence
- 12:00—Lunch break, lunches provided (instructors may give demonstration rides during this time)
- 13:00—Driving exercises resume
- 17:00—Wrap-up meeting
- 17:30—Program concludes



Donovan R. Unks

need to take the clinic to fulfill the prerequisite, please enroll in a clinic as early as possible to ensure a spot.

Advanced CCC

In addition to our regular car-control clinics, GGC holds advanced car-control clinics from time to time. This program is targeted at novice HPDE

and autocross participants, as well as intermediate participants who are interested in refining their performance-driving skills. The program's exercises entail advanced skills and topics like cornering theory, driving lines, advanced braking techniques (such as trail-braking), dynamic weight transfer, and heel-and-toe shifting. Previous attendance at a regular car-control clinic or other high-performance-driving event is required. ■

✦ At a glance:

DATES: Three to four time per year

EVENT HOURS: 08:00–17:30

LOCATIONS:

Candlestick Park, San Francisco

Marina Airport, Marina

PRICE RANGE: ~\$125-150, depending on venue and type of clinic

REQUIREMENTS:

- ★ Valid driver's license
- ★ Advanced registration and payment

EXPERIENCE NEEDED: None

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: Novice to seasoned driver

CONTACT:

CarControl@ggcbmwcca.org

CCC INFO: www.ggcbmwcca.org/driving-events/car-control-clinics

CONNECT ON THE FORUM:

www.ggcbmwcca.org/forum/car-control-clinics

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Autocross

By Jeff Roberts

You may have seen the autocross photos and results posted in the *Bombe*, and wondered, “Who are these happy people, and what are they doing with their cars every month? What is this autocross thing all about? How do I get involved—and what can I expect?”

The Golden Gate Chapter autocross series is the place for all levels of driving enthusiasts to come and learn about themselves and their cars’ capabilities by exploring limits in a safe and controlled environment. Our program is competitive, but well known as a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, where everyone can come to learn the fine art of autocrossing.

What is an autocross? It’s a form of racing held on a large, paved, and basically flat, open area—generally an airport or open parking lot—where competitors navigate an obstacle course of traffic cones. Participants race against the clock to see who can run the course the fastest without knocking down any cones. Autocross focuses on car control, rather than flat-out speed, and course speeds generally don’t exceed legal freeway speeds.

Why is our program so successful? The people! Our events are fun, social events that fully immerse our members in the experience. From

the moment you park your car in the paddock, you’ll find that you’re among friends who are all willing to help you make the most of your day.

Nervous? Apprehensive? Not sure you can do it? Not to worry! All first-timers and novice drivers will have a trained coach in the passenger seat to help you feel comfortable and navigate you through the course. We use a consistent teaching style to ensure that you will get the most out of your day.

The Season

Our regular season consists of monthly competition from April through October. Each month features a new course design. Members compete against each other to accumulate points toward trophies awarded to the top three finishers in each car class. The season wraps up with a special competition on the first Saturday of November: the Top Driver Shootout (TDS), featuring a catered BBQ lunch.

Who can participate?

Any BMW CCA member is welcome to participate in our autocrosses. No prior experience is necessary to compete; in fact, we specialize in first-timers! Only BMW or Mini drivers are eligible to compete for trophies, but we accept anyone who wants to join the fun in any make or model of car.

Only licensed drivers age 16 or older may drive at our events. If you’re under 18, your parents or guardians must complete and sign a “minor waiver” in order for you to participate. We encourage parents to join their kids—and kids to join their parents—at these family-friendly events.

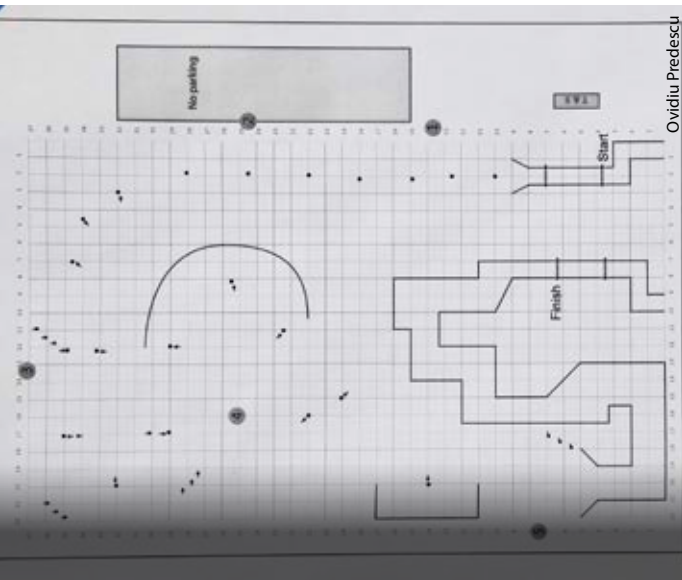
All participants must wear a Snell 2005 or newer helmet to drive or ride. If you don’t own one, we have a limited number of loaners available to you free of charge.

You want in! Now what?

First you need to visit our online-classification system to select a driver number and classify your car. This easy-to-use website presents you with questions about your car’s setup or modifications, which calculates a point total. Based on your points, your car will be classed in one of seven different classes; this ensures that you compete against similarly-capable cars.

Sharing a car? We’ve got you covered! The online system allows you to copy a second driver’s car data as your own.

Once you have your driver number and classification in hand, you’ll sign up for each event at MotorsportReg.com. This is a simple process that gathers a bit more information about you and your experience level, and then takes



take rides with experienced folks. This increases your learning—and it's fun!

Following registration, there is a mandatory meeting where we go over important safety information, the schedule for the day, and announcements about upcoming Club events. You are welcome to ask questions during the meeting. Afterwards, all participants are invited to walk the course and mark the cones. The course designer will provide a guided group walk-through

for anyone who is interested. This is a great opportunity to learn the course and get tips on how to drive it best.

After the course walk, the first run group is instructed to line up their cars and get ready to race. Workers gather at the trailer to don stylish reflective vests and have a brief meeting to cover their roles and responsibilities of working on course.

Once all the workers are in position, the course is hot—and we send out the first car! Each run group typically provides every driver with seven or eight runs through the course. The first run is timed, but considered to be practice-only. Subsequent runs are official times which are recorded in our computer system. Your fastest time is used to calculate the points you'll receive for this event. Every participant receives at least one point just for showing up—how cool is that?

When all three groups have had their official runs, we offer optional fun runs, if time permits. Fun runs are additional timed runs on the course that don't count for the competition. The whole group is split in half, then a flip of a coin determines who heads out on course to work and who drives. Halfway through, the groups swap places. This is

payment information. When registration closes—usually the Wednesday prior to the event—your credit card is billed, and you are confirmed as a participant. A detailed confirmation e-mail is sent to everyone with all the information needed for your day with us. If you still have questions, just fire off an email and we'll get back to you.

Race Day!

It's finally race day! You're up early and ready to go: the car is washed—you want to look good in photos!—and you've studied the course map, which was posted on the forum earlier in the week. Upon arrival at the venue, park in the paddock, then make your way to the registration trailer to sign in and get your run sticker. Here you'll be given your run group and job assignment. There's time to grab a donut, head back to place your numbers on your car, and take it through tech inspection. Usually this still leaves time to socialize a bit.

Our typical autocross has three run groups. Throughout the day, your group will rotate through periods of work, drive, and rest. Every participant under age 65 will work some kind of job: on course as a cone-shagger, in the trailer doing timing, or working the grid, start, or finish line. During your down time, we encourage you to

At a glance:

DATES: monthly, April to November (see forum or GGC online calendar)

EVENT HOURS: 07:00 - 18:00 (or until dusk)

LOCATIONS:

Marina Airport, Marina

Candlestick Park, San Francisco

PRICE: Marina events \$50, optional sandwich \$5; Candlestick events TBD

REQUIREMENTS:

- ★ Snell 2005 or newer helmet (some loaners available)
- ★ Licensed driver, age 16 or older
- ★ Pre-registration at MotorsportReg.com

EXPERIENCE NEEDED: none, but a car-control clinic is very helpful

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: novice to advanced

CONTACT: Autocross@ggcbmwcca.org

AUTOCROSS INFO:

www.ggcbmwcca.org/driving-events/autocross

CONNECT ON THE FORUM:

www.ggcbmwcca.org/forum/autocross

a great opportunity to try out a buddy's car or get more practice in your own.

The day ends with everyone helping to stack cones and pack the equipment into the chapter trailer. Those who stay late usually go to dinner together at a nearby restaurant. This is the time for storytelling and boasting about your mad driving skills, or to fire up the excuse generator to explain why you were so slow. But it's all in good fun!

Come join us!

If you don't have a vivid picture of what our autocross program is all about yet, our chapter forum is active, and we invite you to join up and participate in the dialog. Page through the photo and video threads from past events to get a better feel for the event. We're here to help make your first autocross the best time ever! ■



High-Performance Advanced Driving

By Tammi Hull

What could be better than the ultimate driving school for the ultimate driving machine—with an ultimate driving coach? As you’ve learned by now, your BMW has some pretty amazing performance and handling capabilities. Its prowess might even be encouraging you to push its limits... and yours. But where’s the safest place to do this? We think it’s on a race track. That’s why the Golden Gate Chapter offers high-performance advanced-driving schools at race tracks in our area.

High-performance, advanced driving is an art and a science; that’s why GGC’s schools provide one-on-one instruction and coaching in your car. Why your car? So you can experience the art of driving firsthand in a vehicle you’re familiar with. And our classroom sessions on the physics, theories, and techniques help you better understand the science of driving.

But what does this all mean, really? If you read our recently updated event-preparation guide, the New Performance Driver’s Guide—we call it the Guide—you’ll find:

“You’ll be driving your car at speed on a race track, learning to better control your car and understand how it reacts to your hands and feet. This will help prepare

you for emergencies, both on the track and on the street. While you will explore both your own and your car’s capabilities, you won’t be pushed or encouraged to go any faster than is comfortable for you.

You are not attending a racing school; racing and lap timing are strictly forbidden. This is not practice for any racing or speed contest. Until you have much more experience, you will have a trained instructor with you in your car whenever you are on the track.”

GGC driving schools are very structured and safe. Safety is our number-one goal and we have an excellent track record, with very few incidents in over 25 years of providing high-performance-driving schools.

If you are concerned about possible damage to your car, be aware that recent changes to many automobile policies have limited coverage while at a driving school. However, high-performance-driving event (HPDE) insurance coverage is available through Lockton insurance at a very reasonable price—and they offer a BMW CCA discount. (See sidebar for a link for more information.)

Our instructor corps is very experienced; many have been instructing for over twenty years, and a good number have extensive racing experience. The focus for our instructors is good

communication with their students. To again quote the Guide: “Your instructor will have considerable track-driving experience and will have received special training to help you learn comfortably and quickly. The Golden Gate Chapter, along with the rest of the Pacific Region [of the BMW CCA], has spent over twenty years building a top-notch corps of experienced and talented instructors.”

Many believe that our instruction and coaching are on a par (and some say it’s better!) with professional driving schools like Skip Barber at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca and SimRaceway at Sonoma Raceway at Sears Point (formerly Jim Russell Racing). In fact, several of our instructors and coaches have gone on to become instructors for these companies, and some continue instructing with us at the same time.

Price-wise, we offer the best deal. Compare other schools to ours: SimRaceway offers a one-day school at Sears Point—in your car, not theirs—for \$695. This is their Stage 1 class, comparable to our beginners’ group; more advanced courses escalate in price. Our schools cost less than that for a two-day school!

But what about other organizations who provide track days, lapping days, open track time, and driving schools? We believe that our instruction and



Ingo's Images

✦ At a glance:

DATES: 2-3 times a year

LOCATIONS:

Tracks listed on page 14.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ★ Pre-registration and fee
- ★ Licensed driver, 18 or older (no permits)
- ★ Completion of a Car-Control Clinic
- ★ Snell 2005 or newer helmet (loaners available)
- ★ Tech inspection at your choice of repair shop
- ★ Car in solid, working condition (no convertibles)

DRIVING SCHOOL INFO:

[//tiny.cc/GGC-HPDS](http://tiny.cc/GGC-HPDS)

NEW PERFORMANCE-DRIVER GUIDE PDF:

[//tiny.cc/GGC_HPDS_prep](http://tiny.cc/GGC_HPDS_prep)

HPDE INSURANCE: (optional), BMW CCA discount available

www.motorsportreg.com/index.cfm/event/hpdeinsurance

coaching are a big part of what sets us apart from other track events. You will have the same instructor or coach for the entire day; for two-day events, you have the advantage of different coaches. Even if you've been signed off to drive solo, our instructors are still always available and eager to work with you.

GGC driving schools are different from others in a few other significant ways, too:

Track sessions are four 30-minute sessions, instead of their four 20-minute sessions. That's 120 minutes versus 80 minutes—50% more track time!

The number of students allowed in any GGC run group is limited to 25–30. Others try to get as many cars on the track as they can; the rule of thumb for track management is to allow a maximum of 30 cars per track mile. For Thunderhill—a little over three miles—this translates to a possible 90

cars on track. Sonoma Raceway is 2.52 miles; that's 75.6 cars. And Laguna Seca is 2.238 miles—that's 67 cars.

Our level of instruction and the quality of our events compare impressively to other track opportunities. We are especially proud of our all-volunteer, not-for-profit driving schools, a special and beneficial program for BMW CCA members to enhance their driving experience. We're excited to announce an expansion of our program in 2013 for our more experienced students, with a higher-level advanced form of coaching that includes data acquisition.

Join us—and find out what all the fun and excitement are all about! ■

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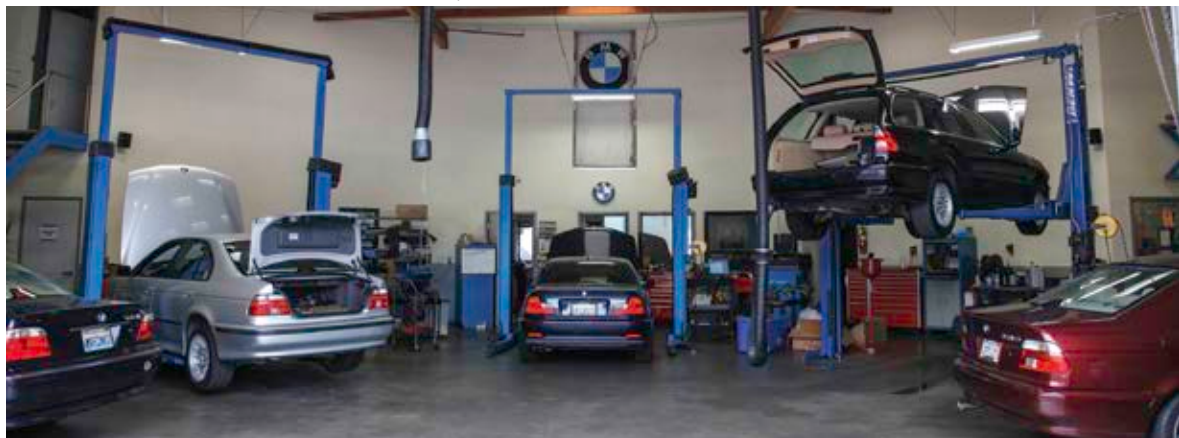
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Bavarian Professionals, Berkeley



Bavarian Professionals, located in West Berkeley, has been one of the Bay Area's premier BMW shops for nearly three decades. Their history began in 1984 when Michael Dennison left his job as a design engineer—he realized that he was more interested in learning to perform the perfect valve job than the latest engineering analysis—to found the business under the name of Two Thousand Two.

At first the focus was on the iconic 2002 and other BMW classic cars, but soon expanded to all BMWs. In 1989, making good use of his UC Berkeley engineering degree, Michael designed and constructed a purpose-built facility on 7th Street in Berkeley for servicing BMWs.

Not long afterwards, Nat Sears became an integral part of the company. Bavarian Professionals has steadily grown over the decades, and has recently occupied a second purpose-built facility next door.

BP's guiding philosophy has never wavered: combine technical expertise with a craftsman's attention to detail, in order to provide BMW owners with exemplary service.

From BP's inception, BMW-specific technical knowhow has been recognized as central to efficient service and repair work. The never-ending accumulation of BMW expert knowledge takes place in many ways; BP team members attend

scores of formal-training seminars held throughout the U.S. and in Germany.

BP's culture of information-sharing often leads to problems being solved through the input of several team members. Bavarian Professionals makes use of its relationships with a large number of the brightest BMW instructors and techs throughout the world.

BP has helped found BMW technical forums, and worked with BMW over the years to lobby for independent shops to have access to factory tech info. After taking part in a BMW tech-panel discussion of shop owners at a BMW CCA Oktoberfest in the mid-'90s, Dennison suggested a forum where BMW techs could meet on a regular basis to exchange ideas on how to better diagnose and service BMWs. This idea led to the creation of Bimmers.org and the annual tech meeting—both resounding successes that have done much to raise the level of BMW independent shops throughout the country. Drawing from this pool of techs, a committee was formed that met with the EPA and BMW North America and successfully lobbied BMW to open up access to tech info and tools.

But all the knowledge in the world is of little value without an equally strong commitment to craftsmanship. At BP, there is no such thing as an adequate job; "Bavarian Professionals work" signifies that the job was done as well as a job can possibly be done. BP

combines an engineer's love of a problem with a passion for craftsmanship, effecting a repair and knowing that it could not be done to a higher standard.

In 1997, BP held the first-ever M Car Day, bringing together over a hundred M cars and their owners to enjoy a catered lunch and a series of educational talks and demonstrations. The head of the BMW NA's Motorsport division, upon learning of the event, called BP to say, "You know, that is exactly the kind of event we should be putting on." The following year, they paid the ultimate compliment by hosting their own M Day USA at the Spartanburg factory in South Carolina.

BP provides BMW owners with comprehensive service, from in-house four-wheel alignments and tire work to troubleshooting the latest models. BMW loaner cars are provided free of charge, as is a local shuttle service. We install factory parts that come with two-year, unlimited-mileage warranties; our labor is warranted forever.

BP has supported the BMW CCA for decades by attending Club events, putting on educational seminars for members, and offering members a 10% discount on all labor. ■

Bavarian Professionals

1218 7th St
Berkeley, CA 94710
510 524-6000
www.bavpros.com

Bill Arnold Independent BMW specialist in San Rafael



“Bill is an amazing mechanic. I’ve known him for 22 years and not once have I been disappointed. BMWs are his passion and it shows in his workmanship, his encyclopedic knowledge, and in the big smile he greets you with. You will be smiling from start to finish knowing you are in good hands with a real person who loves what he does and does it well.”—*Dr. Lynn Marran*

Bill Arnold opened his BMW repair shop in 1990 because he wanted to offer a higher level of quality repair than he saw being provided by others. Arnold quickly became renowned for his special diagnosing talents—he’s often “borrowed” by other shops—and even a dealer or two—when they can’t figure out what’s wrong with a BMW. Some call him “the BMW whisperer.”

As a long-time champion autocross competitor, driving-school instructor, and racer, Bill has supported the Golden Gate Chapter—and the BMW CCA—in many ways. For years, Bill was Billy The Wrench at chapter driving schools, trying to fix whatever affliction had befallen students’ and instructors’ BMWs during the track weekend. Arnold was also the chapter’s technical advisor, available to answer BMW questions by telephone. He currently volunteers as a technical steward for the national BMW CCA Club Racing program, and as a technical steward

for NASA, on the local level and for their national championship races.

Arnold’s technical inspections for driving-school students and racers alike benefit from his firsthand knowledge of what driving a BMW on the race track can do to it. He has built several race cars, and been consulted on several

series’ rules about BMW specifications. His technical abilities have been recognized with special awards and recognition from the Cannonball One Lap of America, the BMW CCA, NASA, La Carrera Panamericana, and the Targa Newfoundland rally—which Arnold won three years in a row.

Arnold has built up a loyal clientele by practicing a simple philosophy: Do the repair right the first time—with no corner-cutting—and charge for the actual time it takes (usually less than what the guidelines say it should be). At Arnold’s shop, you will get quality for the right price. No wonder Bill even has BMW dealership employees as customers!

To experience Bill’s quality workmanship for yourself, call him or visit the shop. ■



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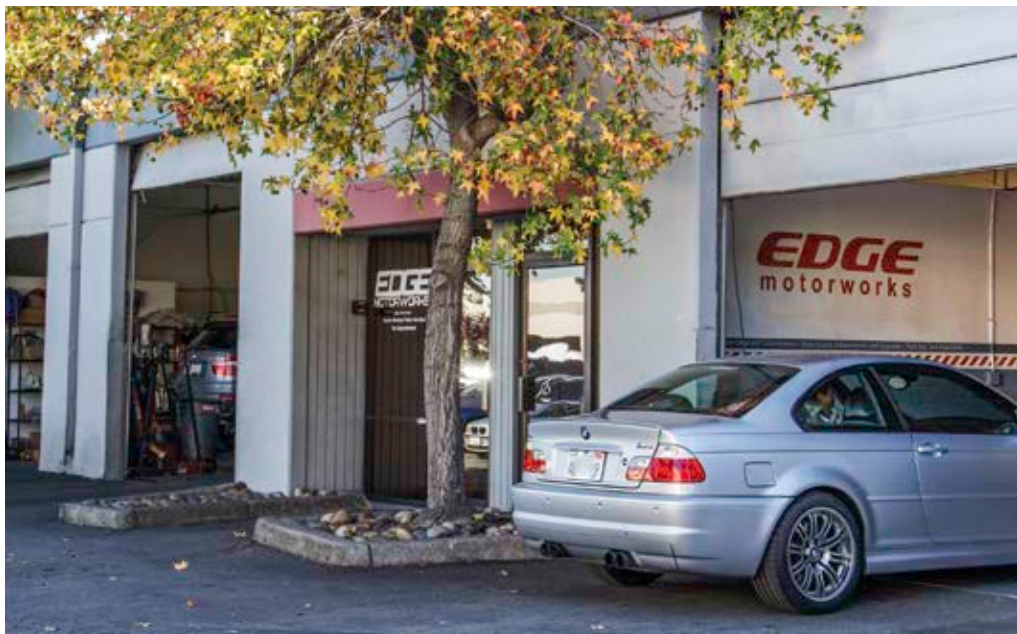
Since it first opened, EDGE Motorworks has been a part of the BMW community. As a BMW CCA supporting shop, we do tech inspections for BMW track events; we also volunteer at the car-control clinics, and always give Club-member discounts on all labor.

How it Began

Erik Lind and Gordon White were busy software executives. Looking for a break from the pressures of life in high tech, they began working with friends on their autocross and track cars whenever they had time—and wherever they had room. The high-tech life was getting old and the writing was on the wall: Sell the software company and open an automotive service center. A little over eight years ago, they incorporated EDGE Motorworks and opened their first single-bay facility in Dublin.

From the moment they opened their doors, EDGE Motorworks only hired technicians from within the racing community. This brought a level of passion for cars and customers that helped EDGE to grow rapidly; soon they opened their second service bay. A third and fourth bay, mounting and balancing equipment, and an alignment bay soon followed.

EDGE Motorworks offers extensive services to their rapidly



growing clientele—from general maintenance to building race cars, they are a full-service shop.

EDGE Motorworks has facilities in Dublin and Mountain View.

EDGE Motorworks offers the following services:

- ▶ Complimentary track-day tech inspections for BMW CCA and NASA members
- ▶ Complimentary under-car inspection
- ▶ Fault-code scanning and clearing
- ▶ Pre-purchase inspections
- ▶ Full-maintenance services on late-model BMW and Mini Cooper vehicles
- ▶ Chassis tuning and track preparation on most makes and models
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- ▶ Wheel-and-tire services with leverless tire mounting and road-force balancing equipment
- ▶ Complete engine and transmission maintenance
- ▶ Cooling-system overhaul
- ▶ Alignment with the state-of-the-art Hunter alignment system

- ▶ Drivetrain and exhaust
- ▶ Electrical
- ▶ Race-car construction, tuning, support, and maintenance

Racing at EDGE

EDGE began with autocross, tracking, and racing—and they haven't stopped. They have raced and won in NASA Spec E30, time trials, and endurance competitions, including two 25 Hours of Thunderhill podium finishes. If you go to the track in Northern California, you are bound to see them there! ■

Dublin

6443 Golden Gate Drive
Dublin, CA 94568
(925) 245-0773

Mountain View

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www.edgemotorworks.com





inc. BMW and Mini Cooper Specialists in Berkeley

By Allen Hardy, founder

Back in 1968, BMW was still a novelty brand, and my new 2002 was an insider's status symbol. It turned out that early BMW owners had to learn how to fix them, right alongside a handful of novice dealers. As I was wrenching my way through grad school, this was not an impossible challenge.

Then the six-cylinder BMWs appeared. These wonderful machines performed far beyond their competition, but they did bring some problems: overheating, quirky carburetors, and more. BMW couldn't print service bulletins fast enough. The rareness of these cars caused enthusiasts to congregate; by 1973, I found myself in a circle of BMW enthusiasts, including the founders of this chapter.

In 1974, I went public with a proper shop on San Pablo Avenue in Berkeley, and took on a partner later that year. As BMW models multiplied, we added a dedicated engine and transmission shop, and expanded our parts department. In 1978, we relocated to larger premises, which allowed us to develop a line of

tuning parts, a full machine shop, and restoration facilities. We even imported a few exotic BMWs like the M1, and federalized them for U.S. owners. Our cars appeared on the cover of *Road & Track* and in other car magazines.

In 1995 we moved to our current 11,000-square-foot building at 2300 4th Street, where we have more room for routine maintenance, the machine shop, and for restoration projects. We also built a new technical library and expanded our computer networks.

Here at H&B, inc., we have worked with BMWs through several generations of technology: from the early carburetors and ignition points; to K-Jetronic and early engine management computers; to Motronic and programmable (and reprogrammable) DMEs; to distributed

processing architectures and multiple data buses on the latest cars. Evolving technologies have kept us on our toes,



and connectivity to BMW shortens our learning curve by delivering the needed information faster than ever.

But an ongoing challenge dating back to 1974 is still with us: how to keep maintenance affordable. There's no going back to the prices of the old days, and newer cars have many more features, of ever-increasing complexity. Our goal now, as always, is to keep these fine cars on the road and running the way they're supposed to—affordably, and for as long as possible.

For more about our services and resources, visit our web site. ■



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Mservice is the reliable alternative to dealer service for maintenance and repair, whether your automobile is fresh out of the showroom or has logged thousands of pleasurable miles. Providing outstanding service and value since 1984, they are the largest independent European automotive-repair service center in Walnut Creek, California. Unlike other independent centers, they can provide factory parts and coding, programming, and software updates.

But what really sets them apart is their people. Helpful and friendly, the Mservice team is dedicated to providing high-quality workmanship and exceptional customer service; 99.3% of their customers say they would refer friends and family. Most employees

have been with the company more than fourteen years. This speaks to the quality of management, but it also rewards customers with consistency of service—the team gets to know you and your car. No one is on commission, so no unnecessary services are ever offered. The staff shares a true passion for cars; most worked their way up through the ranks to become the specialized journeymen technicians they are today.

Owner Dante Paulazzo started working on a BMW race car as a shop boy at age fifteen. From there, he worked his way up to apprentice, and then trained to become a journeyman technician—a position he enjoyed for many years. He was put in the “driver’s seat” as managing partner of Mservice at age 24, and became the sole owner in 1991.

“Great service, as usual. Mservice costs less than the dealer, and doesn’t try to pressure you into having work done that isn’t needed. Overall, a great place to take your car.”—*John*

“We care as much about your car as you do!”

Dante and Mservice have been members of the Golden Gate Chapter of the BMW CCA since 1984. The entire team enjoys being involved with the Club. Dante considers the Club interaction invaluable for networking and referrals, and appreciates what the chapter has done for his business. Also, as an eight-year SCCA racer and winner of the 2012 ITA Championship, Dante credits the Club with giving him his best race training, bar none. In fact, he and three other Mservice technicians serve as driving instructors for BMW CCA’s high-performance-driving schools.

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Chapter mailing address:

Golden Gate Chapter BMW CCA
68 Mitchell Blvd, Suite 240
San Rafael, CA 94903

The BMW Car Club of America, Inc. is a not-for-profit national association of over 70,000 members, dedicated to the enjoyment of driving BMWs. Membership is not limited to BMW owners and aims to provide access to driving and social events, maintenance and technical information, parts discounts, and more. Dues are \$48 per year, with an associate member added for \$10 more. Members receive the monthly *Roundel* magazine and a newsletter from their local chapter, or from a chapter of their choice. The Golden Gate Chapter is one of the largest chapters in the BMW CCA with over 4,300 members.

For a new membership or to renew an existing one, please call toll free 800 878-9292 or visit www.bmwcca.org. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

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- ✦ To help us create content and events most relevant to you.
- ✦ To alert you to updated information and other new services from ggcbmwcca.org using an email announcement list.

GGC BMW CCA does not distribute personal information to any third parties. The information you provide to BMW CCA to be used by the GGC will not be used for any other purpose—we promise.

Publishing: *Die Flüsternde Bombe* is produced monthly (except for combined issues Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb). Article/photo submission deadline is the first day of each month prior to publication. Submissions go to the editor at: Bombe@ggcbmwcca.org.

Trust...V1 earns it one ambush at a time

Bogey Counter

Tells how many: Radar hiding within a false alarm? Two radars working the same road? Reads instantly.

Radar Strength

More LEDs glow as radar strengthens.



Radar Locator

Tracks one or more radars at the same time; points to each.



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V1 sez:
"LONE RANGER ONCOMING."

Hello Mr. Valentine:

Here's how much I trust my V1. Two beeps and I go Condition Red.

I was on 98 through Florida's panhandle. Only a two laner but the swath it cuts through Tyndall AFB is wide enough for a freeway, a broad ribbon of grass without interruption for a dozen miles, flat as the nearby Gulf of Mexico. A car pulled off the pavement is visible for miles, heh, heh, which means the speed nazis have no place to hide. So they adapt.

V1 gave me two beeps, weak ones, arrow pointing ahead. Then silence.

A few more beeps, arrow ahead, a singleton on the Bogey Counter. Then nothing. Traffic was light, only two cars in sight, one a half-mile ahead, another just a red speck in the distance. And a semi oncoming just my side of the speck.

More beeps, getting stronger, arrow still forward. The car ahead looked about even with the semi. A two-beep warning, by itself, isn't much to go on, but V1 tells me more—one Bogey ahead, strengthening as I go, says "lone ranger coming at me." So I locked the cruise on a legal 60 and waited.

Just as I met the 18-wheeler, "Beeeeeeeeeeeeep!" And there he was, a Florida black-and-tan tucked in tight behind the semi trailer where oncoming cars couldn't see him, holding his instant-on till I was too close to defend. It's a wicked trap, but V1 had him every time he zapped the cars ahead.

All I had to do is trust V1. How can you not trust a detector that points to the trap?

Mick D. (identity protected)
Tallahassee, FL

Mike Valentine
Radar Fanatic

RECEIVED BY EMAIL

Hey Mike: V1 sez: "DON'T BELIEVE IT'S JUST A TRAILER!"

I gotta tell you about the Blue-Light Special that V1 found for me. It was Saturday morning and I was in my grins car heading to her house to pick up Danny boy for the day. Heck yes, I took the ridge route.

This road was all fun back before the rock slide. Now it's interrupted by a 25-mph construction zone and a "your speed is" trailer.

No workers today, of course, but the trailer still woke V1 up. As I braked, a string of crotch rockets zoomed large in my rearview, five of them, right on my butt as I passed the trailer.

V1's WARNING OF A NEW BOGEY. "De-deet," said V1. Then "de-deet" again. And another "de-deet." The Counter showed four signals where I normally see one. One arrow pointed behind to the trailer as usual, but that leaves three in the wild. The flashing arrow points ahead.

We'd barely cleared the zone when the rockets blew by me, exhausts shrieking, the bikes laid over for the uphill left hander. They vanished over the crest. Me, I just moseyed, eyes out for three jokers. Just over the hill—Bingo!—a sheriff SUV hidden in the bushes. That's joker no. 1. Two more somewhere.

At that point the view opens as the road sweeps right over the valley. And maybe a half-mile ahead, light bars strobing blue, jokers no. 2 and 3 angled across the road, blocking five bikers still astride their motionless sickles.

V1 really works, except for those who don't have one yet.

Cal R. (identity protected)
State College, PA

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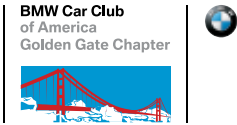
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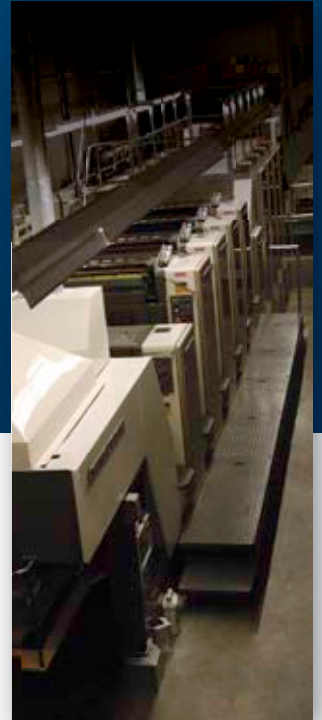


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