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April 2013



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chapter Summer Part

JUNE 22











Mark your calendars and get set for some fun in the sun!

- Lush setting at an incredible private home in Los Altos!
- Feast on BBQ and make-your-own hot fudge sundaes!
- Play in the pool... or dine in the pool!

Bring the whole family it's always the best gathering of the year! See the calendar listing at GGC website for online registration. Cost TBD.

1969–2013: Celebrating 44 years of BMW enthusiasm in the Golden Gate region.



Volume 42, No. 2 April 2013

The Whispering Bomb' The Official Magazine of the Golden Gate Chapter, BMW CCA







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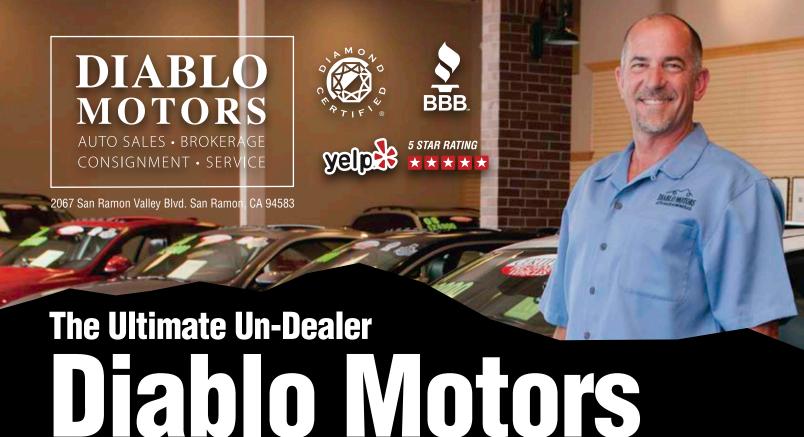
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ON THE COVER

As crazy as it may sound, twenty-year-old Tristan Littlehale and his E36 M3 won the 2012 SCCA Solo National Autocross Championship in the STU class as a rookie!

Photo by Paul Tran



(925) 830-8747

What began 19 years ago as a love of cars for owner Greg Meier has grown into a plush showroom of over 50 luxury cars from BMW, Jaguar, Land Rover, Mercedes, and Lexus. Greg personally hand picks the cars he sells to assure the best quality pre-owned car value for you. When you walk into the showroom, you will most likely be met by Greg himself!

WHAT KIND OF CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED EXPERIENCE SHOULD I EXPECT FROM DIABLO MOTORS?

Diablo Motors currently holds the distinction of being an Honor Roll Member of the Better Business Bureau (18 years in a row), is the only Diamond Certified car dealer in the entire Bay Area (8 years in a row), and holds a five-star rating on Yelp. These are no small feats for any business, let alone used cars!

When asked how in the world Greg can keep up that level of service, he replies, "It's pretty simple really. I sell my cars in the way that I would like to buy them...honest and straightforward, without the shell game. I want a friendly, professional, and hassle-free experience. We do that here. As a customer, I would want to be assured that my car will keep on running after I buy it so at Diablo Motors, we perform a 200-point inspection, a CarFax vehicle history report, and include a FREE 90-day warranty. If the customer prefers more coverage, we have some great extended warranty partners also. And we do all of this at a discount... about the same as KBB 'Private Party" pricing"

DOES DIABLO MOTORS OFFER FINANCING? WHO DOES THE DMV PAPERWORK?

"We deal directly with banks and credit unions to offer you the best finance rates, currently as low as 1.99%. We can also work with your existing bank/credit institution if you prefer. And we do some in-house loans too. As far as DMV paperwork, we handle all of that. We will make this your easiest car purchase ever."

AND WHAT ABOUT MAINTENANCE & REPAIR?

"We also operate a full service department right here on site, fully insured and licensed by the Bureau Of Automotive Repair. We can do everything from routine maintenance like oil changes and inspections, all the way up to complete engine or transmission replacement. So if you loved how you were treated while buying one of our cars, that same caring, professional, and courteous attitude goes into our service."

WHAT IF I DON'T SEE THE CAR I WANT ON THE WEBSITE OR LOT?

"I attend the dealer-only lease return auctions every week. So if a customer has a certain type of car in mind, just let me know what that is, and I can get it for you at no extra charge. I'm there anyway! We can save you thousands on a nice clean certified car, and without all the running around. We've picked up everything

Rovers, but our specialty is BMW."

from Civics to Range

Diablo Motors is located right on San Ramon Valley Boulevard, near In-N-Out Burger and Costco.



www.diablomotors.com

Big changes are in the air

ell, folks, it's the end of an era. Putting on my hat as your chapter communications manager, it's my job to break the news: Our newsletter editor, Kelly Kirkland, is stepping down after more than twelve years in this role. This issue of Die Flüsternde Bombe will be her last.

It has been a great run. Her edits made all of us sound polished and professional in our columns and articles, taking our writing from very-rough drafts [the talented Jonathan Bush is an exception!-kk] to final product in a matter of days. She filled our pages with all sorts of newsy tidbits from the Mother Ship, and made



this chapter's newsletter the gold standard by which all other chapter newsletters are measured. Kelly will be greatly missed!

She goes out on a high note for sure: Our Membership Guide (Jan/Feb 2013) received heaps of praise from across our membership ranks in the form of personal emails to the board and posts on our Facebook page. It was extremely time-consuming for Kelly to pull that off, but it sure looked great! We hope that all of you enjoyed it—and that it inspired you to attend more events with us and get involved in this great chapter!

With Kelly's departure comes the end of another era as well: paper! Die Flusternde Bombe will be moving to an all-digital format in the very near future. We're going green and saving trees. With so many ways to reach you, our members, we've decided to take advantage of the ease and cost savings of going digital. (See the announcements page to read about your option to receive a printed newsletter.)

As we break new ground with a paperless format, we're changing the frequency of our newsletters to once per quarter. But rest assured, our chapter's ongoing monthly upcoming-events email blast will continue to ensure that you never miss any news or fun events that we have planned for you!

When the quarterly digital newsletter is available for download, you will be notified by email, and we will post notifications in our event calendar on our chapter website and Facebook page. Hell, we might even tweet about it!

Amazingly, less than ten percent of our membership does not have an email address on file with the BMW CCA. Our latest membership report shows that approximately 330 members lack an email address where we can reach you. We kindly ask that you update your membership profile with the National Office to include an email address—we don't want you to be left out of the loop!

As it's our utmost goal to keep every one of you informed about your chapter's activities—and interested in participating—here's my action-item list for you:

- 1. Update your profile information on the national website (www.bmwcca.org) by logging in and visiting the Manage Account section. Be sure that there is a current email address on file for you. You'll then be assured of receiving the quarterly digital newsletter.
- 2. To guarantee that we're keeping you up-to-date with the many monthly activities available to you, subscribe to our upcoming-event emails at www.tiny.cc/ggcbmwcca_subscribe or via the link is at the bottom of our website's home page.
- 3. Our Facebook page will help you to see what's happening at our events, and hear about future events as they're announced. This will be the daily pulse of the chapter, so put your fingers on your mouse and click "like!"



Car-Control Clinic

Driving Apr 6, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Org: GG Chpt Cost: \$130 Registration:Yes

This event is sold out, but you can still register to be on the wait list.

Car-control skills are learned techniques that are fundamental to high-performance driving-and they enhance your ability to be a safer driver

in everyday situations. Learn the basics of performance-car control by participating in slalom, skid-pad, and emergency-avoidance exercises with a personal instructor. Imagine knowing what to do when your car begins to slide, or being in control during that panic stop! Even if you think you know what you are doing, come out and explore the limits of your car in a controlled setting. Great for teenagers and beginning drivers! For more information, see the CCC Overview.

Contact: CCC Team, carcontrol@ggcbmwcca.org Location: Candlestick Park, 490 Jamestown Avenue, San Francisco **URL:** ggcbmwcca.org

Autocross

Driving Apr 7, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Org: GG Chpt Cost: \$65 (+\$5 lunch) Registration:Yes

Join us at Candlestick Park Airport for a fun-run practice autocross event. This event will be held in conjunction with our Car-Control Clinic on Saturday, April 6, so you can learn new car-control skills on Saturday and put

them to the test on Sunday! Autocross events are low-to-mediumspeed auto-racing events, often run in parking lots and on airport runways. Generally, a course will be defined using traffic cones; drivers—one at a time—negotiate a route laid out with the cones or pylons, testing their skills against the clock. Time penalties are charged for disturbing cones, with a penalty of 1 second per cone. Generally, each driver takes six or seven runs at an event, and prizes are based on the fastest time. It's fun! Want to read more? Check out our Autocross Primer or visit www.bmwautocross.com. Note: GGC does allow non-BMWs to participate in our autocross events, but all participants must be BMW CCA members.

Contact: Jeff Roberts, autocross@ggcbmwcca.org

Location: Candlestick Park, 491 Jamestown Avenue, San Francisco

URL: ggcbmwcca.org

Future dates: (all at Marina Municipal Airport) Apr-7, Apr 20, May 25, Jun 15, Jul 13, Aug 10, Sep 14, Oct 12

Cars-'n'-Coffee: South Bay

Social Apr 13, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Org: GG Chpt Cost: \$0 Registration: No

Please join your fellow BMW CCA members for some quality Cars-'n'-Coffee time! Take in a leisurely morning with a warm beverage and some great conversations about BMWs-or whatever ever else happens to come

up! This event is held at the Starbucks on Homestead and Lawrence Expressway—the Super Kyo-Po plaza—in Santa Clara.

Contact: Eric Ries, SocialDirector@ggcbmwcca.org Location: Starbucks, 3551 Homestead Road, Santa Clara

URL: ggcbmwcca.org

Future dates: April 13, May 1, June 8, August 17, September 21, October 5, November 9, December 14

Basic Maintenance

Technical Apr 13, 11:00 a.m. Org: GG Chpt Cost: \$0 Registration: No

Want to learn more about your car and its basic maintenance? Come join the Golden Gate Chapter at Zentrum Motors for a free tech session on basic car maintenance. The talented technicians at Zentrum Motors will cover

the following topics: checking fluid levels, checking tire pressures, describing what the lights on your instrument cluster mean, and other basic car-maintenance knowledge. At the end of the tech session, there will also be a question-and-answer session.

Contact: Ryan Rich, techsessions@ggcbmwcca.org Location: Zentrum Motors, 1225 7th Street, Oakland

URL: ggcbmwcca.org

New-Member Meet-'n'-Greet

Social Apr 18, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Org: GG Chpt Cost: \$0 Registration: No

Join us for a new-member Meet-and-Greet at Scott's Seafood in Palo Alto, where we will gather for light appetizers, refreshments, and great conversations about all things GGC and BMW. The event is open to all members, but

it's an especially great opportunity for new members to meet others in their local area. It's a great ice-breaker; if you have never attended a GGC event, jump in for your first one! More details coming soon.

Contact: Jeff Cowan, PeninsulaAreaRep@ggcbmwcca.org Location: Scott's Seafood, Town & Country Village, Palo Alto **URL:** ggcbmwcca.org

Cars-'n'-Coffee: East Bay

Social Apr 27, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Org: GG Chpt Cost: \$0 Registration: No

We're starting a regular Cars-'n'-Coffee morning on the East Bay in sleepy Moraga. Come on out to enjoy a casual morning with some coffee and good conversation. It's a fun way to meet new and old friends while

enjoying our wonderful weather. This event will be held at the Starbucks at the Moraga Starbucks.

Contact: Athena Brekke eastarearep@ggcbmwcca.org

Location: Starbucks, **URL:** ggcbmwcca.org

Future dates: June 29 October 12, December 21



Advanced Car-Control Clinic

Driving
May 4, 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Org: GG Chpt
Cost: \$160
Registration:Yes

Our advanced car-control clinic (CCC) program builds upon the street-safety skills taught in the regular CCC, and introduces high-performance driving skills and techniques. This program is targeted at anyone

interested in high-performance driving, including novice HPDE and autocross participants, as well as intermediate participants 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. The day's schedule for the advanced CCC is somewhat different than the regular CCC program, with registration and tech inspection starting earlier to provide more driving time.

A student/driver meeting is held first thing in the morning, followed by driving drills in dynamic weight transfer and basic turns. In the afternoon, students rotate among a number of small driving circuits to apply the skills learned in the morning to more complicated turns, as well as turn combinations. During the driving exercises, students will be split into two groups, half driving the exercise while the other half will manage flags and reset cones, as we do at an autocross. Registration opens March 2. Event cost is \$160.

Requirements: Previous attendance at a regular CCC or other high-performance driving event is a pre-requisite. Helmets ARE required for the advanced CCC (a limited number of club loaner helmets may be available). Sorry, only cars are allowed, no SUVs or high-center-of-gravity vehicles.

Contact: CCC Team, carcontrol@ggcbmwcca.org **Location:** Candlestick Park, 490 Jamestown Ave, San Francisco **URL:** ggcbmwcca.org

BMW Corral at Monterey ALMS Races

Social May 10–12, Org: SV Chpt Cost: TBA Registration: Yes Join your fellow BMW Club members to park at the tent between Turn Four and Turn Five to watch the ALMS races! A BMW Team RLL tech session will be held just for our Club.

Contact: Pat deWitt,

Location: Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway, , Monterey

URL: svbmwcca.org



Bay Area 02 Swap & Show

ocial

May 18, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Org: Bay Area 2 Cost: \$0/\$20 Registration: No The event will be held at Brisbane Marina (Sierra Point Parkway, just South of Candlestick Park). No preregistration required; \$20 to show your car or swap parts; walk-ins are free!

Contact: Larry Ayers, larryayers2002@gmail.com

Location: Brisbane Marina, 400 Sierra Point Pkwy, Brisbane

URL: bayarea02.com

GG Chapter Summer Pool Party!

Social June 22 Org: GG Chpt Cost:TBD Registration:Yes

Mark your calendars; we've set a date for our annual chapter party! We'll start the day with a great touring drive (optional) over some fantastic mountain roads. The party starts in the afternoon at an incredible private resi-

dence, where you'll be treated to a feast and a pool party. Bring the whole family to this one—it's always the best gathering of the year!

Contact: Mike Zampiceni, tours@ggcbmwcca.org **Location:** Private residence, Los Altos Hills **URL:** ggcbmwcca.org

Legends Of The Autobahn Concours

Social Aug 16, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Org: BMW CCA

Org: BMVV CCA
Cost: \$30-\$60, food extra
Registration:Yes

Join the Central California Chapter's concours of the German marques. Socialize with fellow members as you enjoy viewing the displayed and judged cars of Germany: BMW, Audi, Mercedes-Benz, and Porsche.

Registration is now open!

Contact: Jacqueline Bechek, jbechek@bmwcca.org
Location: Pasadera Country Club, 100 Pasadera Drive, Monterey
URL: LegendsOfTheAutobahn.org

BMW Festorics at Laguna Seca

Social
Aug 17–18,
Org: BMW CCA
Cost: \$65, food/race tix extra
Registration: Yes

The legendary BMW CCA Festorics at the Monterey historic-car races—now called the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion—is an annual event celebrating the mystique of BMW and our appreciation for the marque. The

Festorics features a two-day parking corral with hospitality tents over-looking Laguna Seca's Turn Five during the vintage races.

Registration is now open!

Contact: Jacqueline Bechek, jbechek@bmwcca.org **Location:** Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway, , Monterey

URL: Festorics.org

BMW CCA Oktoberfest at Monterey

Mixed Aug 19-24, 8:00 a.m. Org: BMW CCA Cost:Varies Registration: Yes

Join your fellow national club members for our celebration of Oktoberfest 2013! We will enjoy driving Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, as well as experience several social events such as Concours, wine tours, and Casino Night.

Register now and make sure to reserve your hotel accomodations from our block of special-rate rooms.

Contact: Jacqueline Bechek, jbechek@bmwcca.org **Location:** Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway, , Monterey

URL: bmwccaofest.org

BMW Corral at the Sports Car Festival

Social Sep 6-8, Org: SV Chpt Cost:TBA Registration: Yes Take advantage of the special BMWonly parking by our tent between Laguna Seca's Turn Four and Turn Five. The views of the race from the hospitality area are first-class. We'll also have a guided paddock tour.

Contact: Pat deWitt,

Location: Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway, , Monterey

URL: svbmwcca.org

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Left Coast 8-Fest

Social Oct 4-7, 8:00 a.m. Org: Left Coast 8-Fest Cost:TBA Registration: Yes

The first Left Coast 8-Fest was held in September 2003, when 87 E31 8 Series cars were present from Canada and the United States. This year marks the tenth anniversary of that momentous event. Our celebra-

tion is being held at the Benbow Inn in Garberville. If you own an 8 Series, please register with us-and also make your reservations at the Humboldt River Inn (the Benbow Inn is sold out).

Contact: Steve Cohen, steve@8-fest.org

Location: Benbow Inn, 445 Lake Benbow Drive, Garberville

URL: 8-fest.org

Autocross Top Driver Shootout

Driving Nov 2, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Org: GG Chpt Cost: \$65 (+\$5 lunch) Registration:Yes

The Top Driver Shootout is an invitation-only event for drivers who have attended at least three autocross events in our 2013 season. The event is limited to 60 participants; if we cannot fill the event with drivers who

have run three events, then we will invite others to participate. The Top Driver will be awarded the Fechner Cup.

Contact: leff Roberts, autocross@ggcbmwcca.org Location: Marina Municipal Airport, 733 Neeson Rd, Marina **URL:** ggcbmwcca.org

November Thunderhill Driving School

Nov 9-10, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Org: GG Chpt Cost:TBA Registration:Yes

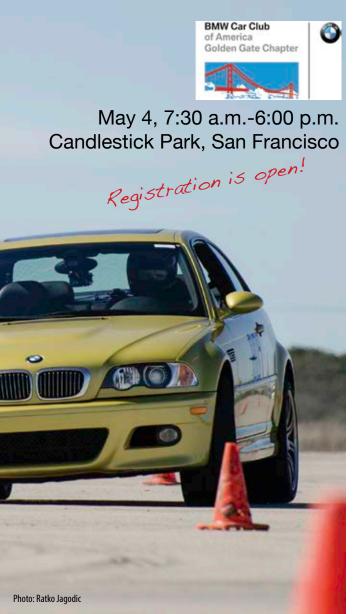
The focus of our high-performance driving schools is on safety and education; every student is assigned an instructor until they are signed off at the event. Our dedicated team of experienced instructors will help

you learn at a comfortable and enjoyable pace. Your vehicle must undergo a technical inspection by a qualified mechanic within 30 days of the event. Self-techs are not allowed, and tech-inspection forms other than GGC's will not be accepted. Bring the completed, stamped, and signed GGC Tech Inspection Form with you to registration.

Contact: Kelly Collins, trackschools@ggcbmwcca.org

Location: Thunderhill Raceway Park, 5250 State Highway 162, Willows

URL: ggcbmwcca.org



Get Advanced Driving Skills

Go beyond the regular car-control clinic! This advanced school is targeted at anyone who is interested in performance driving, including novice HPDE and autocross participants, as well as intermediate participants looking to refine their performance-driving skills. Learn the more in-depth topics of cornering theory, driving lines, advanced-braking techniques (like trail-braking), dynamic weight transfer, and heel-and-toe shifting.

Things to know:

- Prior attendance at a regular CCC
 Additional required reading or other high-performance-driving event is required.
- Must be a member of BMW CCA
- Must have a valid driver's license (no learner's permits)
- Notarized Minor Release Waiver required if you are under 18 (see the GGC website, clinic overview)
- Two students can share one car (each must register separately).
- Convertibles allowed. No SUV/ high-center-of-gravity cars allowed

What's Different:

- (distributed prior to event)
- Instruction geared toward performance driving
- More technical exercises
- Expanded schedule to give you more driving time
- Helmet required: Snell M2010 or SA2010 (M2005/SA2005 okay) limited loaners available.
- Wear comfortable shoes for shagging cones.

Car-Control Clinic

- Registration is first come, first served and online only: www.ggcBMWcca.org/Calendar
- Approved pre-requisite for on-track high-performance-driving school
- Only \$160 per student (\$208 for non-club members; includes one-year membership in the BMW Car Club of America)





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**** Please read this—it affects all GGC members! ****

♦ The e-Bombe, Coming Soon To An Inbox Near You

With the just-announced demise of the printed version of Die Flüsternde Bombe (see page 5), you'll need to make sure that you're ready to receive your future quarterly e-newsletters.

Be aware that you do have the option to request a printed newsletter. According to the newest newsletter guidelines approved by the BMW CCA Board of Directors: The operations manual was updated in June 2012 to reflect a change to the chapter newsletter-format policy. Previously, all newsletters were to be printed and mailed, unless a member proactively notified their chapter that they would accept an electronic copy. Now the default method of newsletter delivery is electronic; however, if a member requests a hard copy, his or her chapter must deliver it in that format. Also, if a member does not have an email address on file, the chapter is required to deliver a printed newsletter to that member.

In order for you to receive your electronic newsletter, please check that your correct email address is on file at the BMW CCA website. For those of you who haven't already accessed your online Club membership profile, the following instructions should help you.

Log on to the Club website at www.bmwcca.org. Once you're logged in, you should see a blue hyperlink centered at the top of the webpage for "Manage Account" (if not, go to the Home page). Click on the "Manage Account" link. The subsequent page will have links in the left-side column; choose "My Profile." That will take you to a page where you can enter or verify your email address. The Email Preferences & Demographics section is where you can choose your preference for newsletter delivery—electronic or printed. It's worth perusing all the various links in the profile page to see what other things you may want to update or add.

Currently, Roundel is still mail-only—but then, it's such a beautiful magazine you obviously want to leave it on your coffee table to impress your friends with your good taste in cars!

at least one every six months—and provides feedback to the Board regarding member concerns or ideas. It's a great way to meet new people who have your same interest in BMWs—and in enjoying life.

If you are the least bit curious about this position and think it may be just the thing to tap into your bubbling creative juices, please contact Eric Ries at MembershipChair@ggcbmwcca.org to learn more!

*Roundel On Your iPad

The long-awaited Roundel Magazine app has officially launched at the Apple iTunes app store, and it's loaded with each available issue from 2013. (Yes, development is already underway for an Android version—and the Club plans to add back issues to both versions of the application.) The app is available to anyone with an iPad and contains the sample issue of Roundel, available for free download. This gives potential



members a preview of one of our biggest member benefits. To access monthly Roundel Magazine issues, you must be a Club member with current website-login credentials. To learn more about the iPad app, visit www.tiny.cc/Roundel_iPad_app.

♦ SLO Area Rep Needed!

We need someone to step up to be the area representative for the San Luis Obispo region of our chapter! Dennis Harrold has done a great job of generating an active group in the southernmost region of our chapter for the last five years. However, he's moved on to other things in his life—and this budding BMW community is in need of new representative!

One of the largest chapters in the BMW CCA, the Golden Gate Chapter has most of its 4,200 members spread out over a 4,000-square-mile area. The position of area representative was created in order to provide local contacts and connections for our members. Each area representative helps develop a sense of community and foster camaraderie for the chapter members in their region.

What is involved with this position? The area rep assists members with questions, organizes social events for the area-

♦ GGC Facebook Page/Twitter

Our Facebook page will now be the most active way to stay up to date on the latest chapter happenings: news, social events, and driving events. Thank you to everyone who "likes" the Golden Gate Chapter BMW CCA on Facebook! At this point, there are 1,688 of you—and the numbers keep growing!

Not on board yet, but want to be? Find us at www.tinyurl. com/GGC-BMW-CCA-fan.

You can also follow us on Twitter @ggcbmwcca. We'll tweet the latest info from our various events and keep you posted on all things GGC!

♦ Chapter Merchandise

It's time to stock up on eco-friendly hoodies, shirts, and caps with the GGC logo to show everyone your chapter pride! Our two stores also have chapter stickers, mugs, mouse pads, license-plate frames, and bags. Don't forget to pick up the latest edition of the Cars Of GGC calendar, too! Visit our merchandise and apparel stores at www.cafepress.com/ggcbmwcca and www.ces.landsend.com/BMWCCA-GoldenGate.



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Dublin

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A chapter member wins at the SCCA Nationals in a BMW.

By Brad Vaughan

Photos by Paul Tran and Rupert Berrington Action Photography

ne night last September, I got word that Tristan Littlehale had landed a win the Street Touring Ultra (STU) class at the SCCA Solo Nationals in Lincoln, Nebraska. Curious about the details, I fired up a search on my web browser and found the highest ranked result on bimmerforums.com. The lead read, "As crazy as it sounds, it looks like a M3 won STU yesterday."

I asked myself, "Why 'crazy as it sounds'?"

There were 28 drivers in STU class, 26 of whom drove Subaru WRX STi's or Mitsubishi Lancer Evolutions-and there were two BMWs. One-an E46 M3—was driven by Mike Kenney of Illinois, and the other was Littlehale's E36 M3. It was obvious that all-wheel-drive turbo cars were the weapon-of-choice for this particular class; however, even though Littlehale was an obvious underdog, he won the class by a handy margin.

Further investigation into the archives for the STU class revealed just how remarkable this achievement is. Since the STU rules changed in 2005, a rearwheel-drive car had never won the class. In the early years, a few BMWs came close, but recently no roundels have even appeared in the top ten or fifteen. Littlehale's achievement was indeed a monumental feat of driving skill and car setup!

Littlehale had been a regular competitor at the Golden Gate Chapter autocross events, and recently moved to Southern California for school (but he has continued with his GGC membership). He's a great driver, always laying down fastest times for the GGC autocross. So I wondered how he's made the jump to SCCA. I organized a Skype call find out more about him-and the events leading his championship victory.

Brad Vaughnan: When did you start autocrossing, and who got you started?

Tristan Littlehale: When I first got my driver's license at the age of sixteen, my parents made me attend the BMW CCA Foundation Tire Rack Street Survival School run by the Golden Gate Chapter. My parents might be rethinking that decision! Since that first moment, I was hooked, and became an avid autocrosser with the GGC. I've been autocrossing for four years now. As the addiction set in and I looked for more, Hal Dorton

and Eric Lam introduced me to SCCA Solo autocrossing as a place for some extra seat time.

BV: How long have you been autocrossing a BMW?

TL: I first started in my dad's Lexus SC300, and soon realized that I wanted something faster and easier to modify. So my search for an E36 M3 started. With a lot of aftermarket goods available, it's the perfect base car. In the summer of my junior year of high school, I found my M3. It's been autocrossing—or on the track—ever since.

BV: What are your thoughts on the GGC autocross program?

TL: The events put on by the GGC are top-notch, and I always enjoy myself. Their autocross program is one of the best I've seen; it is very well organized, and it's a great group of people. I love the people involved with the chapter—I call them family! It's a friendly atmosphere;



Tristan Littlehale

Age: 21

Occupation: Student in mechanical engineering at University of California, Riverside

Home town: Saratoga, CA

Tidbit: Burdened with dyslexia, he escaped the pressure of school through his first set of wheels—a bicycle. At age sixteen, he got his driver's license, and his love for the two-wheeled sport disappeared—to be replaced with a love for four wheels.

Car: 1997 BMW M3 in Dakar Yellow

Current Mileage: 183,000 (bought with 132,000 miles in 2010 years ago)

Engine: Replaced with a salvage engine with only 68,000 miles, custom-tuned by Brett Strom at Bullet Performance

Suspension: MCS double-adjustable dampers, UUC front sway bar, stock rear bar

Intake: K&N air filter

Exhaust: BimmerWorld 3" race exhaust with a 100-cell race cat

Seats: Sparco Pro 2000

Brakes: Performance Friction brake

pads

Wheels: Two sets of APEX ARC-8 17"x 9" wheels

Tires: 255/40/17 Dunlop Z1 Star Specs (dry conditions), 235/45/17 Continental DW (wet)

people support each other, but almost everyone is challenging to win. The GGC chapter autocrossers are the most competitive I've come across!

BV: How often do you autocross?

TL: In the Bay Area, I used to autocross once a month. But during the last year, living in SoCal, it's been more like every two weeks. With events in LA and San Diego, I'm easily able to compete more often. I also autocross with other clubs like the SCCA and the PCA, depending on my goal of the day and which venue I want to race at.

BV: Do you like track driving and other forms of racing?

TL: Yes! I also attend road courses—Sears Point, Laguna Seca, Thunderhill—as often as I can. I call it cross-training for autocross. Autocross uses quick-but-smooth inputs, and on the track you need to be smooth, but with slower inputs.

BV: What's important to you in car setup?

TL: The focus of modifying is to improve every aspect of the car within the regulations of the class you're running. Increasing power—no cams, though—and reducing weight were my first important steps, but reliability was also a key focus.

Probably the most important modification, though, is the change in suspension. This changes from course to course and day to day. The role of suspension in autocross is to manage the weight transfer and ensure that the rubber is on the road—a very important part of staying smooth and going fast in autocross.

Some aftermarket mods aren't allowed for STU class. Under my bed is a \$500 aftermarket radiator that I install when not competing in SCCA events. The standard radiator has some well-known lim-

itations—and outside of SCCA events, I don't want to risk my engine.

BV: Who has supported your efforts for a national title?

TL: Of course, I could have never gotten as far as I have without the support of my parents! On the intrinsic side, many GGC and SCCA friends have supported and helped me develop as an autocrosser. Jonathon Lugod, a SoCal racer, was the one who encouraged me to go to the Nationals; he also helped with setup of the car and driving pointers.

In looking for sponsorship, I emailed about ten aftermarket companies. James Clay of BimmerWorld was the only one to respond. He's been there for me since the start, always receptive to my questions and advising me on the right parts to order. He's the reason I purchased my amazing MCS suspension. The guys at Bimmer-World provide me with a one-stop shop for parts, advice, and anything I need. Our relationship has grown over the years, and I look forward to the future!

BV: Why the SCCA Nationals?

Going to the SCCA Nationals wasn't even a thought in my head until March or April of 2012. A few past national champions who had raced with me in the Cal Club SCCA over the last two years suggested that I should go, because they thought I could successfully compete on that level.

BV: Why the STU class?

TL: I bought the wrong car! If I had bought a 325is, I could have run in the lower STX class. However, I bought the M3 before SCCA racing ever entered the picture. So I ran what I had, and decided to make the most of it. I never expected to win STU, but with the support of my friends and mentors, I was encouraged that I could at least trophy, and I hoped for a top-ten finish. It worked out pretty well in the end!

BV: What's the cost of running at the Nationals?

TL: Shipping the car was about \$1,000. Then there are the flights, and accommodations for six nights. To be pre-



pared, you need two sets of tires, for wet and dry conditions.

BV: How did your weekend go?

TL: I arrived in Lincoln, Nebraska, three days before the main event started so I could watch Pro Solo, where some of my competitors would also be running. It also gave me time to decompress and make sure that the car was 100% good to go. The day before my two-day competition, I walked the west course five times to make sure I could visualize the course in my head. I've never walked a course so many times in my life!

Day One arrived, and I felt ready. On my first run, I found that I loved the course, but I thought the car was a little loose. I came back to the pits and made some adjustments to the suspension. At the end of the process, I went over to ask how I had done on my first run. When they said I was in first place, I thought they were joking! It was only my first run, and it hadn't felt like my best drive.

My second run turned out to be a couple of tenths slower, so decided I liked the previous suspension setting. While I still couldn't improve on my time with my third run, it didn't matter; I was still in the lead by a couple of tenths at the end of Day One.

That evening, the rumors started about how my car must have some illegal modifications. Fortunately, some of my fellow competitors and friends told me that this is a typical ploy—they were playing mind games with me.

Day Two dawned, and I was the guy to beat. Again, I laid down a killer faster first run, which wound up being my fastest run. It kept me in first place for the rest of the day.

At the end of competition, the cars are all impounded, and fellow competitors are able to inspect each others' cars. They can protest any illegal modifications to the SCCA officials. Since my car was the main attraction, this was a stressful period for me. Although I'd paid close attention to the rule book and had other racers look over my car previously, I was worried that people might find something to protest and disqualify my

But most of the fastest guys in the class didn't bother doing inspections. Some of the other competitors were more curious about how the speed was achieved rather than seriously protesting.

The car passed, and I was named STU National Champion—as a rookie! I had won STU by a little over five-tenths of a second.

BV: What does the future hold?

TL: My passion is equal parts driving and engineering, so I will pursue any chance that offers the opportunity to do both. My ultimate dream is to race and win in a car that features some of the components I've designed.

BV: What's your final advice to all autocrossers to improve?

TL: Get behind the wheel as much as possible to get a feel for your car. The SCCA gives you some serious competition, but other club events offer more runs in a day-more time for the money. My biggest strength is a feeling for the car and levels of traction, probably developed from years of off-road mountain-bike racing. As Top Gear's Jeremy Clarkson says, "Your butt is your biggest tool for driving quickly."

As for advice on technique, I would also say be smooth—and open to suggestions for change. Put experienced drivers in the passenger seat and get their feedback.

In getting to know Littlehale better, I found him to be levelheaded beyond his years, with an infectious mix of an analytical engineering mind and a contagious passion for driving. Whether it's with two wheels-at sixteen, he was a top-ten nationally ranked cross-country mountain biker—or with four, he's got a strong competitive spirit and the mental resolve of a winner. I'd say that's a recipe for a future as a professional racer!



By Mike Zampiceni

o say that the 2013 iteration of the Canepa Design tour was an unqualified success would be an understatement. By the time participants made their way through the double doors of the facility, we had about 80 members and their guests or family members in attendance—possibly a record turnout for a GGC event of this type. The large attendance even required Canepa Design to add an additional docent to guide us through the numerous rooms of the facility. Additionally, I counted 49 Bimmers gracing the parking lot—more than enough to start our own car show!

Unlike the last two times I organized a Canepa tour, this time I decided to include a group driving tour to the facility. Ultimately, we had about 30 cars on the tour, which was a bit unwieldy. Nevertheless, with the assistance of accurate route instructions, the group successfully traversed Santa Cruz Mountains' secondary roads, eventually descending into the charming town of Scotts Valley to Canepa's parking lot.

Canepa Design specializes in worldclass automotive restorations, including sheet-metal forming, fiberglass fabrication, concours body repair and paint applications, and extensive mechanical work. Their restoration efforts have garnered many first-place awards at prestigious auto shows, such as Pebble Beach, Hillsborough, and Beverly Hills.

A few of the elements that impressed first-timers at this facility were the value and quality of the cars, the upscale appearance of the facility, and the cleanliness of the place. It's a common cliché, but it's probably not an exaggeration to state that you could safely eat off of the floor. It doesn't take much time inside the building to realize that Canepa Design definitely caters to the one-percenters who can afford this high-caliber restoration work-but at least the 99% of us get to browse!

To see how the financially elevated enthusiasts among us spend their dollars, Canepa marketing director John Ficarra

> and sales director Sean Chambers ably led us in two groups to view the sales floor, the race-car museum, the repair and restoration shop, and dry storage. I elected to join Ficarra's group, which started on the showroom floor, while Chambers' group went upstairs to view the racing museum.

> Close inspection revealed that nearly all of the vehicles for sale in the showroom appeared to be

in concours condition, or at least very show-worthy. Notable among these were not one, but two Mercedes Gullwings, a pristine black Jaguar XK-E roadster, a Shelby 289 Cobra, and a Mercury woody wagon.

Ficarra explained that he is personally involved in every vehicle acquired by the facility for sale, ranging from five-figure vehicles to high-six-figure vehicles. Part of his job consists of providing descriptions and histories of the cars; these appear beside each car for sale. I was impressed with the thorough and detailed descriptions. As a matter of fact, the descriptions were more detailed than any I'd ever seen at various auto museums or car shows. After listening to Ficarra, I wasn't surprised; he demonstrated an encyclopedic knowledge of not only these particular specimens, but of historic automobiles in generalfrom race cars to vintage cars to muscle cars. This is even more astounding considering how young he is; he appears to be only 30-something. Incidentally, the descriptions did not include the price of the cars, nor are the prices published on their website. I guess if you have to ask, you can't afford it.







Concluding our showroom tour, we climbed the stairs to the second-floor Canepa Motorsports Museum, which presented an eclectic assemblage of historically noteworthy race cars and motorcycles, ranging from Can-Am to NASCAR veterans, and Sprint Cars to Le Mans winners. Several cars had been driven to victory by such track luminaries as Richard Petty, Mark Donohue, Dale Earnhardt, Parnelli Jones, and Steve McQueen.

After the shutterbugs snapped their last pictures, on the way to the dry storage room we walked over a catwalk with an aerial view of the spacious and intriguing shop area. When we arrived at the storage room, the far end was completely filled with what appeared to be a utility shelf for Paul Bunyan. If you've seen the old Hollywood Squares TV show, you'll have an idea of the configuration for the multi-level parking stacker: four levels high, six levels wide, and two levels deep!

When we strolled into the shop area, I noted a few curiosities, including what one member called a "rotisserie restoration" of a Jaguar XK 120. I never knew what that phrase meant, until he explained that the stripped body shell was sitting upon a frame with a shaft through the middle that extended the entire length of the car. The shaft had a crank, enabling the restorer to rotate the car 360 degrees for access to all body areas.

The story of one Duesenberg undergoing restoration captivated our group. Fortuitously, the restorer was on hand to describe the lengthy, laborious restoration process. This very upright, boxy 1921 Model A sedan wasn't just any Duesy; it was the very first Duesenberg to leave the factory! This particular example was indicative of the rarity of many of the cars that Canepa either acquires or restores for owners, who obviously regard Canepa's services highly. The owner of this vehicle plans to enter it in this year's Pebble Beach Concours.

Noting Bruce Canepa's sometimes outrageous taste in vehicles, Ficarra pointed out an early VW bus that was receiving a Porsche 911 Turbo engine transplant. Anyone wanna ride around the block for a few wheelies?

After feasting on automotive delights and thanking our gracious guides, about twenty of us decided to head over to the Yamamori Sushi Boat for tasty bites and engaging conversation. Following lunch, I made an announcement, suggesting that members check our chapter website and newsletter periodically to keep apprised of upcoming tours and other social events. My plan is to probably host another tour in May, followed by our annual summer party in June or July.

As for Canepa Design, shall I aim for 100 attendees next time? ■







By Eric Ries

ur first attempt at synching one Golden Gate Chapter event with another was our February Eat-and-Greet event with Moveable Feast's weekly San Jose event (www.mvblfeast.com). Billed as the Bay Area's largest Monday-night street-food market, Moveable Feast allowed us to create a way to gather with our members at one of the best one-stop spots to get a wide selection of delicious foods from gourmet food trucks. The bonus for us, with our car-centric perspective, was the great parking lot to corral our cars together as part of the package. It was a win-win for us and for Moveable Feast as well!

Even though our weather had turned fairly seriously cold, word about the gathering spread quickly, resulting in a great turnout. The night was filled with terrific examples of some of BMW's best cars. The invincible E30 3 Series Bimmers were in full force! We also had a couple of stunning classic Alpina-badged BMWs that attracted a lot of interest.

Club camaraderie is one of my favorite parts of attending any of our events. It's the conversations with our new and old friends that are the centerpiece of our social events. I enjoyed chatting with our members, as well as the folks who just happen to be BMW owners who stop to see what's going on. One person turned out to be a nineteen-year member who thought this was an appealing opportunity to make his very first foray to a Club social gathering! There were also a few local service-shop owners-also members—who saw this as a good chance to stop by and say hello.

As I mentioned in my last Across The Board column, we're trying to have several types of events that are open, free, and less of a time commitment. This one certainly fit the bill perfectly! I think I can speak for the entire group when I say that we really enjoyed our first time at Moveable Feast.

And don't worry: These kinds of gatherings won't only be limited to the South Bay. Our East Bay, North Bay, and Peninsula reps are revving up to take care of their regions, too! It's my intent as membership chair to initiate more events with Moveable Feast. The great thing is that these food-truck parties are popping up all over the place, and most have great parking.

And as an added plus, there's a cupcake truck!

Connecting With Our Members

Of course, we'd love for every member to join us and enjoy the full benefits of BMW CCA membership. We keep looking for new ways to help coax the "outliers" into our social world. We are continually thinking about how to reach our current members, as well as new folks. One of our best avenues for contact is the Internet, using Facebook and online BMW forums. Case in point: Most of the E30s that joined us at the Eatand-Greet heard about the event on a locally-based E30 forum.

Facebook is another favorite connection with our members. It's the easiest way for you to talk to us, and for us to talk to you. We happily post awesome pictures from our events even while they're happening. Facebook is also our best option for getting out those last-minute updates about our events and goings-on. So if you haven't "liked" our Facebook page yet, I'd encourage you to search for Golden Gate Chapter, BMW CCA, on Facebook; join in to see what we've been up to!—Eric Ries

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EXPERIENCE



By Jeff Roberts Photos by Mark Mervich and Ryan Rich



inters in the Bay Area can be horrific, and they last for weeks and weeks. With a rainy day now and then, and temperatures sometimes dipping deep into the 30s, what's an autocrosser to do, hibernate? Historically, the chapter has wrapped up the autocross season with the November Top Driver Shootout—and then we lie low until the season starts up again in April.

For many of us, enduring those four long, fallow months is sheer torture. So for 2013, we took a gamble and scheduled three pre-season just-for-fun autocross events early in the year! The gamble paid off, and the weather gods treated us to a couple of pretty spectacular winter days for the first two events so far at the Marina airport (the final pre-season event is April 7).

In January, we had our first-ever Course Rewind event at Marina; for this one, you vote on your favorite course from the previous season, and we run it again just for fun. This event sold out, with a long waitlist. For those who couldn't make it, you really missed another day in California paradise: There wasn't a cloud in the sky, and the temperatures swung up to a balmy 75° in the afternoon. (We did have to scrape frost from the windows of the GGC truck before heading down to Marina that morning, though. Someone could have gotten frostbite!) Everyone got nine runs on the course we had used in October 2012. It was simply an outstanding day for autocrossing!

Since most gamblers can't quit while they're ahead, I threw caution to the wind again and scheduled a date in February for a Test-And-Tune day. Once more, we were treated to unseasonable fine weather, and a sold-out roster of excited autocrossers savored their good fortune.

The T&T event offers two exercises that give drivers a chance to test and tune their cars and practice their driving skills. The skidpad exercise had three ways to run it: either as a figure eight, as a circle (using half of the figure eight), or as an oval (using the entire perimeter of the figure eight). This is of great value to drivers working on suspension tuning, because it provides a consistent and repetitive environment for testing even minute handling changes, like shock valving, sway-bar settings, and tire pressures.

For newbies and those looking for a chance to practice their driving techniques, the figure eight is an excellent car-control test. The transition out of a curve through the crossover and back into an opposite corner is a great way to work on steering and throttle smoothness. It's an effective method to scrub









in new tires, too, as Jeff Cowan, former Pacific Region vice president, can attest; he gave many demo rides in his E90 M3, shod in brand-new race-compound tires.

The second exercise was a 50-second-plus autocross course. Once your car's handling is dialed in from the figure-eight loop, the autocross course can show how your changes will help or hinder your times. This exercise is run as informally as possible: Two queues of cars line up and wait for their turn on the timed course, one car at a time. It's interesting how smoothly things run without the threat of competition! There's minimal cone carnage, minimal spins, minimal timing-system issues, and maximum seat time. The course was very challenging and fun to drive, and provided lots of practice.

In the true spirit of the event, lots of car-swapping and demo rides took place-great opportunities for a different perspective. Mark Mervich shared his Formula Ford open-wheel racer with several autocrossers. Typically, his

skills-and the car!-put him eight or more seconds faster than everyone else at our regular events.

After a ride with Des Toups in his 2013 Scion FR-S, a wide-eyed and animated Skip Saunders—a seasonal transplant from the Connecticut Valley Chapter—couldn't find enough words to describe the experience. But then, he didn't have to; the expression on his face told the whole story!

As usual, we had several first-timers join us, and many of the more experienced autocrossers spent quite a bit of time coaching them and giving demo rides. We were all first-timers at some point, and that sea of cones can be a daunting view. Quality coaching helps people to overcome that fear. From the registrations for our next event in April, I see that we succeeded in hooking quite a few newbies to join us again. Mission accomplished!

The entertainment didn't apply just to the tarmac, either. Our own DJ Zed"Thanks again for yesterday, I had a blast, and it was fun seeing so many coupes!"—Ronan O'Mahony, Z3 M coupe owner

"We had a lot of fun: the format of the event was invaluable. We learned a lot on the figure-eight [exercise]. The main course was also fun. Very nice BMW crowd as well."— Alex Muresan, SCCA racer

Drei, Daniella Crownover, treated us to colorful commentary and announced run times, all the while taking requests for songs she played over the PA system. Meanwhile, her Z3, Zena, had a hard day of abuse from boyfriend Ryan Rich, as he shredded the little roadster's tires run after run.

The day wound down, but we kept things going right up until 5:00 p.m., when the small remaining crowd got busy tearing down the exercises and packing the trailer.

A hearty thanks goes out to Ryan Rich, Eric Ries, Dave Sparks, Matt Visser, and Jack Yu for working so hard to make this event run so smoothly. This thing we've got going with the autocross group is really special—I'm reminded of that month after month. There is real love for the sport of autocrossing with the GGC, and it shows in how much people give of themselves to help.

The 2013 autocross season officially opens April 20. Are you ready?!





Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Golden Gate Chapter BMW CCA,

Board Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2012

By Jared Petrie

Board members in attendance: Kelly Collins, Vice President; Jared Petrie, Secretary; Ian Dunn, Membership Chair; Canyon Chan, Member-At-Large; Rodger Ball, Member-At-Large; Jeff Roberts, Member-At-Large; Tamara Hull, Treasurer (via phone)

Board members not in attendance: Donna Seeley, President

Guests: Jeff Cowan, Pacific Region VP; Ryan Rich, tech-session coordinator; Mike Zampiceni, driving-tour coordinator; Mark Mervich, Dave Sparks, Sunny Virk

Meeting called to order at 7:28 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. December 11 at Gau Poang, San Mateo.

Secretary's report: Petrie

Where are the minutes? Petrie to release minutes

Board candidate statements are all in; online voting to come soon

Driving-events report: Hull

Autocross: Roberts

- »Season over
- »Top Driver Shootout a success, with a clear winner
- »Scheduling for next year to start soon

Car-control clinic: Chan

- »October event successful
- »Introduced new wired lights for braking exercise
- »Planning next event at Candlestick for February
- »Finalizing program for advanced-car-control clinic

Driving schools: Collins

- »Thunderhill had great weather, but not a great turnout.
- »Discussion of track schools in general

O'Fest 2013: Collins

Event starts in Monterey the Monday following the "Classic Car Weekend" (Legends Of The Autobahn on Friday, Festorics at Laguna Seca vintage races Saturday and Sunday, etc.).

Will have four days of driving schools at Laguna Seca,

Wednesday through Saturday

Discussed parking issues

Photographers will be needed (everywhere)

GGC's responsibilities so far:

- »Driving school
- »Autocross (first right of refusal)
- »Driving tours
- »The "BMW CCA Monterey Experience"
- »Call for volunteers

Registration opening in March

Discussed autocross issues—safety. Sparks to create a fun, safe, short course.

Treasurer's report: Hull

We have some money! Not sure how much.

Communications and Vice President's report: Collins

Membership guide discussion. Articles due December 9.

Membership report: Dunn

4,300 members and associates

Social events: Dunn

Zampiceni discussed successful Santa Cruz Mountain driving tour.

Zampiceni planning tours for next year.

Technical events: Rich

Zentrum Motors (Berkeley): April 13.

Detail Day with Meguiar's scheduled for March 23 at Protect-It in San Jose

Dyno Day at Dietsch Werks on January 26, already met minimum attendance!

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.



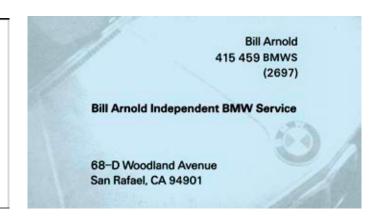
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Golden Gate Chapter BMW CCA,

Board Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2012

By Jared Petrie

Board members in attendance: Donna Seeley, President; Kelly Collins, Vice President; Tamara Hull, Treasurer; Jared Petrie, Secretary; Canyon Chan, Member-At-Large; Rodger Ball, Member-At-Large; Jeff Roberts, Member-At-Large

Board members not in attendance: Ian Dunn, Membership Chair

Guests: Eric Ries, Social Director; John Kim, Sunny Virk

Meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m.

No regular board meeting scheduled for January. It will be replaced with a long-form meeting at Ries' house January 5.

Driving-events report: Hull

Autocross: Roberts

- »2013 schedule set
- »First event January 19 at Marina (Course Rewind, just for fun!)
- »Upcoming open meeting in February to discuss the future of autocross

Car-control clinic: Chan

»Plan for 2013 is to hold two regular clinics, one advanced clinic, and one teen clinic

Driving schools: Collins

»Thunderhill scheduled for November 2013

»Laguna Seca in August (part of O'Fest) Still no Club Racing

Treasurer's report: Hull

It's been a not-pretty year, but we still have money!

Time to shake our money-makers!

Communications and Vice President's report: Collins

Newsletter discussion

Website discussion—photos

Membership report: Dunn

We have members!

Technical events: Ries

Tech sessions: Dyno day on January 26 nearly sold out.

President's report: Seeley

Facebook discussion

Discussion of O'Fest 2012 write-up in Roundel

Discussion of O'Fest 2013

Regional conference February 1–3 at Crowne Plaza SFO

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.





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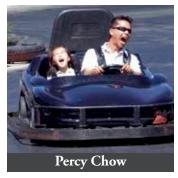


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TerraClean: one solution for de-carbonizing an engine?

ike most car guys, I watch car shows on TV: *Motor Trend, Jay Leno's Garage*, etc. But there's one new show on the Velocity Network that I tend to watch more than others: *Wheeler Dealers*. It's about a couple of blokes—that's English for "guys"—from the UK. One guy buys a car, the other guy fixes it, and then they sell the car. It's an odd comedy-reality TV thing. My wife likes it, so it must be okay.

Recently, the Wheeler Dealer guys came across a newer-model Jaguar with emission issues. Their solution was to replace some emission parts and run a decarbonizing treatment from TerraClean. Basically, the fuel lines are disconnected from the car and



plugged into a TerraClean Fuel-System Decarbonizer machine. With the car running for about an hour, the machine feeds the engine a patented cleaning solution that supposedly cleans your injectors, valves, combustion chamber, and catalytic convertor—essentially everything in the combustion process and afterward.

The results from the Wheeler Dealer Jaguar refurbishment showed hydrocarbon levels—also known as HC, it's mostly unburned fuel—significantly lower than when the car first rolled in. I did a Google UK search and found a group of Jaguar Club guys (also fans of the show) trying TerraClean, and their posted emission read-outs confirmed that the service does indeed result in lower HC levels.

Since my 1995 M3 constantly has difficulty passing the California emissions test, I decided to put TerraClean to the test. The first thing to do was to create a base from which to analyze the effects of the service, so I made an appointment for a smog test. But before going in for the appointment, I took the route suggested on bimmerforums.com: Change the oil and air filter, put in new spark plugs, and then drive the snot out of the car before bringing it in for a smog test.

The result of the test was quite familiar to me: My M3 failed. The HC levels were twenty points too high, and my nitrous-oxide (NO) levels were almost twice the maximum allowed.

Two days later I had the car at European Auto Service to have the \$188 Terraclean treatment performed. The service took about two hours. A week later, I was back at the smog shop. This time I hadn't gone through the oil-filter/spark-plugchange routine prior to my visit, but I did warm up the engine with the all-important spirited pre-drive. My M3 was hooked up to the smog machine—and failed again. Rats!

But what about those levels? That's what I found interesting. With no mechanical changes, the numbers improved across the

board, and I actually failed only the 15-mph NO test. Original 15-mph numbers for HC and NO had been pretty dismal; after TerraClean, those numbers passed for the HC, but just missed the NO by 50. The car had passed on all the 25-mph levels both times, but after the TerraClean service, the numbers dropped by a good margin—up to nearly 60%! (Note: The 15-mph rpm may be off, as the smog shop used an inductive rpm pickup, but it was still 15 mph at the wheels.)

Improvement of emissions numbers as a percentage after TerraClean					
Speed	НС	co	NO		
15 mph:	55.88%	62.50%	59.84%		
25 mph:	40.00%	29.41%	52.56%		

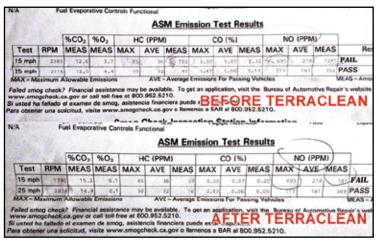
(See photo for actual results.)

The end result was that the second emission failure sent my M3 back to the shop for a new catalytic converter. However, that's not the end of TerraClean, as far as I'm concerned; the emissions numbers were reduced, so something good is happening inside the motor.

I could even hear the difference. After the treatment, the engine was quieter and smoother. Previously, my M3 had a noisy vibration. It was rpm-related and became a bit more apparent as the revs rose. It wasn't a bad noise, but it was always there. After the TerraClean treatment, the engine was smooth and quiet all the way up to 6,500 rpm. The motor felt like new to me.

My conclusion is that for \$188, I just may do it again on another car that I suspect has some carbon build-up.

Disclaimer: Emission discussions are always heated. People either proclaim emissions products "a miracle" or "snake oil." This review is based purely my experience, and I don't represent Terra-Clean, nor the shop that did the work.





BMW CCA DISCOUNTS

One of the many member benefits of BMW CCA is a members-only discount at various participating services and dealers. Here 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.vmwerks.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 Motors Collision Ctr	San Francisco	\$100 off repairs over \$1,000	415 551-2639	www.sfgermanmotors.com
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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
Heynneman European	San Rafael	\$50 off service	415 499-1234	www.heynnemaneuropean.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.diablomotors.com
Bavarian Enterprises	Santa Clara	Various Parts	408 737-6100	www.bavarian-enterprise.com
German Auto Body	Santa Clara	\$100 off repairs over \$1,000	408 727-3368	www. germanautobody.com
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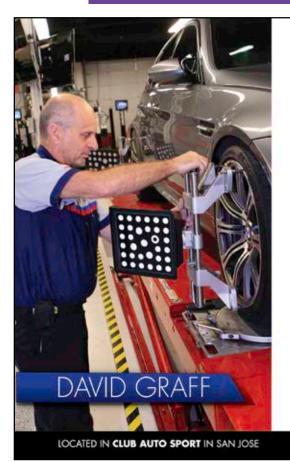
LOCAL BMW DEALERS

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 show your membership card 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.bmwofhumboldtbay.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.bmwsf.com
Mini of San Francisco	San Francisco	20% Parts/labor, free inspection	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.hanselbmwofsantarosa.com
BMW of Monterey	Seaside	10% Parts	831 899-5555	www.bmwmonterey.com

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Karen	Do	Santa Clara			
Glenn	Ellingson	San Jose			<u> </u>
Emily	Fountain	Montara		-	
Courtenay	Garcia	San Francisco	i i	- 1	
John	Gilbert	Novato	- 1	•	<u> </u>
0m	Gupta	San Jose			
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Curt Mark	Huber Jacobson	Saratoga	-	-	Chamban M. Las
		Santa Čruz			Stephen M. Lee Eric Kalman Sondel
Max	Kamal	Lafayette	-	,	Eric Kalman Sondel
Winny	Ke	Fremont			0 1 6 111
Eddie	Kessler	Los Gatos			Quenton Smith
Andrea	Kirjassoff	San Mateo			David Eric Kirjassoff
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Sylvia	Lan	, Santa Člara			
Michael	Lee	Sunnyvale			
Jerry	Meek	Montara			
Nikhil	Mitra	Milpitas			William Bloom
Stephen	Moore	San Francisco			
Tiberiu	Muresan	San Jose			
Sarah	Nabai	, Palo Alto			
Sean	OBoyle	San Francisco			Justin Tsang
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Tonia	Rubin	Greenbrae			
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Greg	Sambor	Fremont			
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Charlene	Sum	San Francisco	Í		
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