BREEZE

Windy City BMW: February 2025

SCHETTEL 576

The Annual Dinner is always a somber affair ... Thanks to Yara & Sergey

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VOLUME 54 NUMBER 2

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 20th of month before publication.

windycitybmw.org
Friend us on FaceBook-Search Windy City BMW
BMW CCA Foundation, 190 Manatee Court, Greer, SC 864-329-1919 **bmwccafoundation.org**
GiGi's Playhouse, 1069 W Golf Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60194 847-885-PLAY **gigisplayhouse.org**
Northern Illinois Food Bank, 273 Dearborn Ct, Geneva, IL 60134 **solvehungertoday.org**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH
8 Northstar Motorsports Open House
APRIL
26 Bimmers & Beans, Calibre, Barrington
MAY
16-18 HPDE Autobahn Country Club, Joliet
25 Sunday. Autocross Test & Tune, Boomers
JUNE
7 & 8 The Yokohama Experience by Tire Rack
14 Bimmers & Beans, Calibre, Barrington
JULY
5 Saturday, Yokohama Autocross, Boomers
23 Bimmers & Beans, Calibre, Barrington
AUGUST
15 Speed Event at Blackhawk Farms
31 Sunday, Yokohama Autocross, Boomers
SEPTEMBER
14 Sunday, Yokohama Autocross, Boomers
28 Sunday, Yokohama Autocross, Boomers
OCTOBER
5 Sunday, Yokohama Autocross, Boomers
9-12 O'fest at Road America
2026 JANUARY
10 Annual Dinner, Double Clutch Brewing

PLAN AHEAD!

THE STEERING WHEEL

Time waits for no one. After this year's Windy City BMW Annual Awards Dinner I'll be passing the president's reigns over to Kyle Ashpole. No insurrections are expected for this transition as Kyle has done an excellent job on the board as Vice President this last election cycle. Reminiscing a bit, I joined the board as Autocross Chair in 2004 and have been active on the board ever since. 20 years is more than 1/3rd of my lifetime and an impressive milestone for any activity other than eating and breathing. During my time on the board I've have learned so much. I've had great mentors in Pete Aument and Barbara Adams and can't thank them enough for all the guidance over the years.

I expect we will do the same for Kyle as he steps into his new role. Please congratulate him and help him out. I wasn't much older than Kyle when I took over the Autocross Chair position and I had a lot to learn.

Returning elected board members include Albert Velasco as Secretary and Tom Imholz as Treasurer. I believe Tom has expressed that this will be his last stint as treasurer, so if you are good with numbers, please consider joining the board during the next election cycle.

I will continue as Vice President, so I will be around but writing of the Steering Wheel will be Kyle's responsibility moving forward after he transitions at the February board meeting and formally assumes the role then.

The Annual Dinner write up is also in this Breeze. The Two Brothers Roundhouse once again was the venue, but for next year we will be moving in towards the CITY. Kyle has arranged for the 2025 awards dinner to be in Evanston at Double Clutch Brewery. We've had a few events there over the last year or two and it's a great venue.

We have a few more months of winter ahead, but soon enough our 2025 events season will start in earnest with Northstar Motorsports hosting in March. I'm personally excited for the 2025 season. My S50 swapped E30 should be up and running again and hitting the autocross tarmac this season. Fresh rubber has been procured and now I just need to fix a few other naggles and maybe get a new suspension…come on it's a race car – is it ever REALLY finished!? But check out our calendar and attend an event.

Anyway stay warm, mount the snow tires if you haven't already, and most of all.. Happy Motoring **GRAIG NEVILLE**

THE EXPERIENCE - GET READY-JUNE 7 & 8

It's a new year and that means preparation for our upcoming autocross season. The season will ounce again be starting with the Experience at the Tire Rack and we are very excited. Friday will be hosting the dumpster fire dinner at there LaQuinta and invite everyone to join us. Saturday we will be going back to a traditional test day in the morning and early afternoon. Then in the afternoon we are going to be having a special competition (though will say no wheels of doom this year). Stay tuned for more details.
Mark your calendar. The dates are June 7-8 2025 with the Dumpster Dinner being on Friday the 6th at the LaQuinta.
MAKE YOUR RESERVATION at the LaQuinta now:
https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/53760?checkInDate=06/06/2025&checkOutDate=06/09/2025&groupCode=060625WIN|

- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

NORTHSTAR MOTORSPORTS MEETING…

Date: Saturday, March 8, 2025
Time: 1:00 – 3:00pm
Location: Northstar Motorsports -
28144 W. Industrial Ave #108, Barrington, IL 60010
Phone: (800) 356-2080
Cost: Free! We will provide food and drinks as always!
RSVP: meetings@windycitybmw.com

The year is over and racing season is definitely over for us Chicagoans. But that does not mean we cannot stay ahead of the game! As always, we are going to be hosting our safety event at Northstar, but a little earlier next year, on March 8, 2025.

So, what is in store (pun intended) for next year? Well, on the safety side Helmets are always a must, and if you are still rocking a SA2015, it is time for an upgrade. Brakes and fluids are also a must check, and with Northstar stocking smaller sized bottles, no brake fluid needs to go to waste (and as a reminder, the rule of thumb on all cars is to change it out every 2 years). On the fun side, they have had their boutique upstairs open for over a year now, and that collection is strong with racing gifts and gear (wine, maybe a now vintage Merc F1 shirt… or a new F1 red shirt??).

Our members attending this event will have a chance to walk around the shop before and after the discussion and be given a 10% discount (on most items). John and Jeannie will also be around for additional questions you might have.

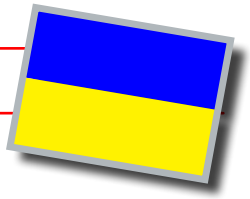
Start marking the 2025 calendars! See you then, and have a great rest of the Holiday's!

BIMMERS & BEANS AT CALIBRE. . . . . .

Date: April 26th
Date: June 14th
Time: 8-10am
Location: Calibrè Coffee, 100 W Higgins Rd Ste H-60,
South Barrington
RSVP: None, but bring your BMW CCA membership card

We are beginning our Cars & Coffee season a little earlier this year (hooray!) and we'll find ourselves at Calibrè Coffee for a Bimmers & Beans in South Barrington from 8-10am on April 26th and June 14th with a TBD date in August as well. BMW CCA members will have the 50-or-so spots in the lot directly east of Calibrè reserved for them. Be sure to bring your BMW CCA membership card to show event workers to get in the member-reserved parking. Non-member spectators are welcome too, but please respect the spots that are reserved. See everyone there!

MAKING FRIENDS



Membership 1476	Referral
David Beech	
Ken Black	Bill Langdon
Patrick Burns	
Todd Darroca	Bob Darroca
Gary Jacobsen	
Kyle Kaminski	Noah Walter Krauter
Randy Micheletti	
Wynter Micheletti	Randy Micheletti
Charlie Moore	Bob Darroca
Al Paoletti	
Richard Perkins	
Peter Preston	Lorne Jay Brown
Henry Stevens	
Torri Suriano	
Matthew Wolff	

BIMMERS & BURGERS AT AUTOBAHN. . . .

YOU MUST RSVP FOR THIS EVENT!
PLEASE TELL THE FRONT GATE THAT YOU ARE WITH WINDY CITY BMW OTHERWISE THEY WILL CHARGE YOU TO ENTER!!!

Date: Saturday, May 17th
Time: 11am – 1pm
Location: Joliet Autobahn Country Club
Cost: Free but bring money for a burger!
RSVP: Send an email to specialevent@windycitybmw.com with your name and what car you are bringing

We are having a Bimmers & Burgers (our "Bavarianified" Cars & Coffee) in conjunction with our High-Performance Driving Event at Joliet's Autobahn Country Club on May 17th from 11am to 1pm. Any make or model is welcome, but there will be lots of BMWs! This event is rain or shine.

By the way, it wouldn't be a Bimmers & Burgers without… a burger! The Autobahn Café has really good burgers, sandwiches, wraps, sides, and soft drinks for sale, so have lunch while you explore our event. Heads up, the café is cards only, no cash. There is no charge to enter the car show, but you'll need to sign waivers at the venue entrance AND tell the front gate that you are a Windy City BMW member. Kids are welcome if accompanied by parents or legal guardians (to sign their waiver) but keep them close by. See you all there!

Sample copies of the waivers in case you want to read them ahead of time are here:
https://windycitybmw.org/resources/forms/

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2025 **YOKOHAMA** AUTOCROSS RULES

For the 2025 Autocross Rules click here:
https://windycitybmw.org/wp-content/uploads/PDFs/Autocross/2025-AUTOCROSS-RULES.pdf
The highlights of the changes are in the January Breeze.
Click here for that Breeze:
https://windycitybmw.org/wp-content/uploads/BREEZES/2025PDFS/Jan-25.pdf

2025 DATES: **YOKOHAMA** AUTOCROSS

Hold these dates for the
2025 Yokohama Autocross Series

Put them in your calendar NOW!
Sunday, May 25 Test & Tune at Boomers
Sat & Sun, June 7 & 8
THE EXPERIENCE
at Tire Rack in South Bend

Saturday, July 5 at Boomers
Sunday, August 31 at Booomers
Sunday, September 14 at Boomers
Sunday, September 28 at Boomers
Sunday, October 5 at Boomers

2025 HPDE's

Valentine's Day is almost here so it's time to give yourself and your ride some love—two days of free range fun at Autobahn Country Club's South Track with Windy City BMW, and with the help of our loyal sponsors, BMW of Schererville, Clearwood Capital Partners and Euroquipe.

No track experience? No problem, we've got the classroom and in car instructors to get you on your way and up to speed. Experienced but knowing there's always more to learn (even the pros have coaches)? We've got you covered there with our highly knowledgeable on and off track coaching corps. Know the track well and just need to work on a few bits and pieces? We've got a group for you too, with coaches available if you want or go it solo.

All groups get four thirty minute sessions per day, with experienced drivers having the option to add Friday, as an open track day.

The dates are May 16th through 18th (a limited number of one day slots are available if you can't commit to the entire weekend). The application is on Motorsportreg.com, so secure your place and come join us.

Oh and Happy Valentine's Day.

DAVE FARNSWORTH

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING 2024

INCOME	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**PrePay**
Membership Dues	14,119	11,998	11,712	
Advertising	2,525	1,563	1,400	
Sponsorship	12,450	12,650	9,500	
Driving School	46,630	40,773	40,284	
Autocross	15,425	12,528	16,146	
Other Events	3,813	6,716	8,406	559
Merchandise	256	986	391	
Interest	49	484	425	
Total	95,267	87,698	88,264	559

EXPENCE	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**PrePay**
Newsletter	3,210	4,101	3,560	
Postage	416	613	873	
Driving School	43,228	63,100	54,731	9,803
Autocross	22,045	26,671	17,676	9,000
Meeeting	5,025	12,130	17,495	3,642
Other Events	3,600	1,695	2,627	
Misc/Other	5,661	6,021	4,627	
Total	83,185	114,331	101,589	22,445
Gain/(Loss)	12,082	26,633	13,325	21,886
Addback Prepaid		15,405	21,886	
Actural Gain/(Loss)	12,082	11,228	8,561	

The Windy City BMW Chapter is doing very well financially. We took steps to make sure that this chapter was acting responsibly by making the Breeze all digital. Our member dues from National were cut almost is half but your board made good decisions so we can continue having lots of fun. If you haven't tried an events with us - do it this year.

2025 O'Fest at ROAD AMERICA !

@windycitybmw

Windy City BMW

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Expert Diagnosis and Repair

501 Morse Ave Suite B
Schaumburg, IL 60193

224.659.3461
7thgearautorepair@gmail.com

Please call, text or email
for an appointment.

7thgearautorepair.com

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The place for you to discover
the amazing automotive history
found across
North America's diverse
Automotive Museums

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@windycitybmw

Windy City BMW

Just think, if every one of our 1,500 members donated just $10.00 each to the BMW CCA Foundation

!WOW!

Save the Date ! - O'FEST at Road America !

There will be an O'Fest at Road America on October 9-12, 2025. New spin on the national event. Lots of events at the track. The **Osthoff Resort** will be our host hotel and host the concours on the back lawn. This event is hosted by the Badger Bimmers Chapter. Saturday night will be the closing banquet.
Put it on your calendar !

Show your Colors!

Lands' End has our Windy City BMW logo that can go on any item that you order. The additional cost for the logo will be $6.95 per item. We now have an E-Store set up so buying at Lands' End couldn't be easier. Go to the website WindyCityBMW.org and click on "show your colors".

Windy City BMW

THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MUSEUM

BMW CCA Foundation

ANNUAL DINNER #54

Our post COVID Annual Dinner attendance continues to rise! We hosted 112 folks, about 8% of our total membership – **AND THEY ALL SHOWED UP!!** Yes, that's right we had 100% attendance with no cancellations. We needed to twist Bill Luxon's arm a bit and he was late to the party, but he made it. A first ever for this event as far as Barbara Adams remembers in the 40 plus years she's been involved.

Our Silent Charity Auction was good this year with a variety of items for bidding. So many folks generously donated some great prizes with a few that ran up the charity numbers pretty good.

Auction items proceeds went to one of our supported charities, chosen by the winner. Our supported charities include Northern Illinois Food Bank, the BMW CCA Foundation, and Gigi's Playhouse.

You can learn more about these great charities at the links below:

Northern Illinois Food Bank:
https://solvehungertoday.org
BMW CCA Foundation:
https://bmwccafoundation.org
GiGi's Playhouse:
https://gigisplayhouse.org

We also had door prizes that were generously donated as well. We randomly raffled those off and overall folks seemed to be pretty happy to get the opportunity to leave with a memento of the evening. Those that generously donated included in no particular order:

WeatherTech, Patrick BMW, Northstar Motorsports, AKG Motorsports, Midwest Performance Cars, Joe Hall, Paul DeHaan, Pinot's Palette (Amy Kumler), Bimmerworld, 2002AD, The WerkShop, Larry Schettel

Our dinner includes recognition awards for those that sponsored and event, contributed as donors or vendors, and event chairpeople. First are our Appreciation Awards for those that hosted an event or were event sponsors. We were happy to have Calibre Coffee attend the dinner. They have been HUGE supporters of our Bimmers & Beans events.

Appreciation Awards go to:

Jeff DeHaan, Clearwater Capital Partners
Bob Karas, Rookies Sports Bar and Grill
Blaine Bontempo, Calibre Coffee
John Connely, Patrick kBMW
Adam Kosela, Euroequipe
Jeannie & John Ruther, Northstar Motorsports
Heather Liautaud, BMW of Crystal Lake
Scott Frank, Double Clutch Brewery
Kirk Cordhill, Schererville BMW
Yokohama Tire
Tire Rack

Our event chairpeople really deserve recognition for dedicating their time and energy to hosting. We had 27 events plus 6 autocrosses in 2024! We are a volunteer run organization and none of us get paid for these efforts, so please make sure to thank the following folks for helping us have a good time.

2024 Event Year was brought to you by:

Autocross Chairpeople: John Schwarz, Ed Graff, Carl Thoemmes & Clint Whiteway
The Experience: John Schwarz, Ed Graff, Clint Whiteway, Carl Thoemmes, Pam & Tom Imholz
Autocross 2: John Schwarz, Clint Whiteway, Carl Thoemmes, Phil Gullett
Autocross 3: Robin Blair, Phil Gullett & Vanya Petrova
Autocross 4: Graig Neville, Ziggy & Christian Hamielec
Autocross 5: John Schwarz, Bill Luxon & Pete Maloy
Autocross 6: Holli Carlson, Phil Gullett & Robin Blair
VinFest - Car Show events - Kyle Ashpole
Movie event - Kyle Ashpole
Cruises - Kyle Ashpole
HPDE- Randy Everson, David Farnsworth, Jim Waldman, John Roeslmeier and Tom Schulty
Fall Tour- Pam Imholz & Tom Imholz
Westmont Crusin' Night - Pete Hanson
IMSA - Barbara Adams
Annual Dinner- Graig Neville, with lots of help from Barbara Adams
Northstar Motorsports Meeting- David Augustine
Euroquipe Tech Session- Kyle Ashpole
Bimmerbrews - Graig Neville & Kyle Ashpole
Smarty Pants Meeting- David Augustine
F1 Party - Brad Elliott ELA
Sim Racing - Kyle Ashpole
Board of Directors- see the Masthead

Thank you, thank you, thank you for you efforts. As great as those folks above are we have two special awards that need to be pointed out here.

First **The Clutch**. Given to a non-board member that goes above and beyond, the Clutch embodies selfless volunteerism and service. This year's winner, and long overdue for the award, was **Bev Everson**. She has been helping the club member for many years and embodies selflessness. Bev prefers to operate quietly behind the scenes and does not like the limelight, but that does not diminish her decades of contributions. The Clutch is well deserved, congratulations Bev.

The second award is more personal. **The Overachiever's Award**, also known as the Toilet Seat Award, was the brainchild of Alex Christensen. Years ago Alex come into the ownership of a plush BMW logo'ed toilet seat. An item of such extreme rarity and frank uniqueness could not be confined to Alex's bathroom and bum. He felt he needed to share such an exquisite artifact of the marque, and thus was the Overachiever's Award created. This award is giving by the prior year's recipient, which makes it a very personal award. Last years winner was Barbara Adams. Barbara passed on the esteemed oval to **Pam and Tom Imholz** for their mad scramble to make sure the Fall Tour went off without drama, despite some behind the scenes drama of making last minute adjustments for a tour that was run three years ago. Sometimes stuff you don't expect rears its ugly head and Tom and Pam made sure the event ran seamlessly regardless.

2025 O'Fest at ROAD AMERICA! - October 9 - 12

ANNUAL DINNER #54 Continues

Changing gears, one of my favorite activities at the dinner is watching the slide show. Thanks to Robin Blair we get snippets throughout the past year of photos taken at the various events. Seeing people, their cars, and cool venues, as well as great photos is part of celebration of the Annual Dinner and brings a smile to my face. I hope it also kindled something in all the attendees as well.

Finally, our autocross program leadership changed a bit this year and became a committee with shared responsibilities: Autocross Chairs, John Schwarz, Ed Graff, Carl Thoemmes, and Clint Whiteway. The shared duties seemed to work well and Ed Graff presented the season autocross winners. Nearly everyone who was a class winner showed up, so it was great to see a core group of our autocross represented at the event. In addition the the class winners, **Yokohama offered up not one, but TWO certificates for a new set of tires.** Andre Sneed won the first certificate. The second set of tires award was a bit more controversial. The Yokohama Tire Whisperer and by far the most tire winniest club member, Tim Head has won his FIFTH!! set of Yokohama tires. The Yokohama celestial gods must be smiling down on Tim for such astounding luck.

Moving on to the folks that actually had to show off talent and not just luck, we have our 2024 Autocross season winners. These are as follows:

Yokohama Season Standings forthe 2024

Class AA
1st Robin Blair
2nd Clint Whiteway
3rd Jeff Kumler

Class A
1st Leo Kneip
2nd Vincent Helou
3rd Joe Kneip

Class B
1st Alexander Kahl
2nd Stephen Gerber
3rd Ilya Povod

Class C
1st Tim McCants

Class E
1st Carl Thoemmes
2nd Brian Wright
3rd Tim Head

Class I
1st Bill Luxon
2nd Jay Steinberg
3rd Jason Diamond

Class L
1st Lisa Dagley
2nd Perry Fioretto
3rd Vanya Petrova

Overall Season FTD: Alexander Kahl
ROOKIE of the YEAR: Christian Hamielec

Special thanks to Larry Schettel and Jim Jelke for all the photos. It sure looks like people had a good time. Click here to enjoy the evening's PhotoStory by Lary and Jim: https://windycitybmw.org/2024-annual-dinner-1-11-25/

And there ends our 2024 Annual Dinner. The food was good, the company better, and we even had a secret guest and his compatriot hanging out in the bar to greet many of us on the way out. Another great event is in the books and thank you all. Happy Motoring **GRAIG NEVILLE**

Tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in the Windy City BMW Breeze.

BMW Car Club of America
Windy City

PO Box 133,
Glenview, IL 60025-0133

PET PHoTozS NEEDED !

Send 3 cute photos of your pet-dog cat or whatever.
With the new digital format
we can devote a little more fun space for the pictures.
Send pictures with pets name in the email to
adams2002@aol.com

It's time 4 Winter Tires from Tire Rack

Windy City BMW Marketplace

Windy City BMW has a Facebook page that is for sales of stuff. It is now separate from our Windy City BMW page. The name is:
Windy City BMW Marketplace
So type that in at Facebook and ask to join.
Then you can look at all the stuff for sale
and put what you want to sell up there too.
You should really join both groups
and keep up on what's going on.

ACHTUNG!!! iCONTACT!

If you have unsubscribed to iContact and if you can find one of the last iContacts, you can click Unsubscribe at the bottom and that will get you to a screen where you can manage your user profile and add yourself back to the list. If you can't find an iContact email, you can send an email from the affected email address to **deliverability@icontact.com** and ask to be added back to Windy City BMW's list. We can also do it for you by sending a note to denmother@windycitybmw.com

@windycitybmw

Windy City BMW

SPEED BOX!

2025

Windy City BMW - ACC May 16-18
Blackhawk Farms - Friday, August 22
Lone Star May, Motor Sport Ranch
NorthStar May 30-June 1, Brainard
Badger June 2, Blackhawk Farms
Buckeye August 2-3, Mid Ohio
Badger Aug 18 Blackhawk Farms
Motor City Sept 13-14, Grattan
Badger O'fest Oct 9-12, Road America