New Jersey Chapter of BMW CCA Board Meeting

August 14, 2024

Board members present: Paul Ngai, Jeff White, Dave Allaway, Ross Karlin, Jamie Kavalieros, Josephine Skwish, Wade Howard. Board members absent: Allison Mack, Matthew Cahn, Mark Hulbrock, Bill Van Ocker. Others present: Elihu Savad*, Brian Morgan*, Neil Gambony, Stan Mayer, Greg Smith, Bob Isbitski*. (* via audio/video teleconference)

President
Paul Ngai called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM at Alfonso's. Jeff White motioned to accept the July minutes as distributed and Ross Karlin seconded (approved unanimously).

Paul noted that we are past the halfway mark on our event season and thanked all the organizers and volunteers for their great job so far. Paul noted two upcoming non-BMW CCA events: MPACT is this weekend at Pocono Raceway. Bob Isbitski will assist the DelVal Chapter with their presence. A Bimmer Invasion event will be held for the first time at NJMP on 10/13. Previous Bimmer Invasion events have been held in Los Angeles and Orlando. DelVal will host a Cars & Bagels the day before. Paul Seto, National Capital Chapter (NCC) president, reached out to us regarding a request to assist with a "roll racing" (rolling-start drag racing) competition at that event. We have insufficient information so far, but based on perceived safety and liability issues, the NJ Chapter is not inclined to assist.

Paul reported that the BMW Vehicle Distribution Center (VDC) tour on 9/7 is sold out.

Vice President
Paul reported, on Allison Mack's behalf, that a get-together at A Buff & Beyond is scheduled for 8/24 (see below). BMW of Bridgewater will be hosting their annual Bimtoberfest on 9/15 at Bridgewater Manor. It was noted that this is the same day as Shenandoah. An event is tentatively planned by Bimmer Service by Tyspeed on 10/26 with a possible Halloween theme.

Driving Events
Jeff White reported our fall rally will be the third weekend in October (exact date tbd) with Ron Gemeinhardt as rallymaster.

Larry Engel reported, via e-mail, that our 9/29 Tire Rack Street Survival school is now open for registration.

Autocross
Elihu Savad reported that our last autocross was held despite a threat of a late-day thunderstorm. There were 62 registered drivers and we organized two run groups with 6 runs each. Our next autocross will be 9/8, with only one registrant so far.

Club Racing
Bill Van Ocker reported on a discussion with Scott Reiman, BMW Club Racing Chair. We have fewer racers but are trying to hold more races, including participation in other organizations' events. It was noted that the Spec E46 racers tend to move as a group. The possibility of doing a joint HPDE with another organization was mentioned. The NJ Chapter currently has 16 out of 125 students at the upcoming NCC (Shenandoah) event. We have been asked to send another blast e-mail request for instructors.

Ross Karlin indicated that we would like to continue with our combined NJ Chapter driver school and club racing events. Our recent lower racer turnout is attributed to a combination of family commitments,

mechanical problems and illness, and therefore just a matter of bad luck and not the result of any event conflict. Ross noted that we may need to institute a late cancellation charge.

Treasurer
Matthew Cahn reported, via e-mail, that the Westlake School donation check has been sent.

Communications
Wade Howard reported that he is working on a long-form press release regarding the Westlake School donation, and a short-form release for posting on social media. Wade is working on a revised chapter brochure with similar content but improved graphics. Wade is working with Mark Hulbrock on a monthly calendar for e-mails covering what's coming up and what you missed. Wade is working with Jeff on an advertising plan for 2025 HPDE's. Wade is looking for a more rural New Jersey venue for a lunch and hand-off for the X Drive America relay.

Social Events
Josephine Skwish reported that our 8/24 get-together has been postponed to a Saturday in September. The August Cars & Coffee was canceled due to bad weather and flooding the day before. Josephine reported that in the 12 months from June 2023 to June 2024 we gained 1,000 social media followers (2,400 to 3,400) and have gained 200 since.

Members-at-Large
Wade Howard reported, on Mark Hulbrock's behalf, that the website is up to date. Mark requested that everyone continue to update the shared communications calendar. There will be no paid social media advertising for Shenandoah as it is already sold out.

Old Business
It was reported that we are still planning a charity drive in memory of Gary Bossert in conjunction with the E30 M3 SIGFest to be held on 10/26 at the Columbia University Lamont Campus in Palisades, NJ.

New Business
The passing of David Finch, past president of the NJ Chapter, was noted with deep regret. A celebration of life will be held on 9/1 in Asbury, NJ. Brian Morgan and Bob Isbitski will look for photos to be provided to Wade for a website and social media posting.

The next board meeting was set for Wednesday September 18th at 7:30 PM at Alfonso's. Jamie Kavalieros motioned to adjourn at 8:21 PM and Jeff White seconded (approved unanimously).

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Allaway, Secretary