

New Jersey Chapter of BMW CCA Board Meeting February 13, 2019

Board members present: Neil Gambony, Paul Ngai, Ron Gemeinhardt, Dave Allaway, Jeff White, Colin Vozeh, Ross Karlin, Jamie Kavalieros, Mark Hulbrock. Board members absent: Bob Isbitski, Jerry Faber. Others present: Bill Van Ocker, Stan Mayer, Larry Engel, Kevin Sheehy.

President

Neil Gambony called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM at Alfonso's in Somerville. Ross Karlin motioned to approve the January minutes as distributed and Jamie Kavalieros seconded (approved unanimously). Neil reported that the new insurance rates and dues-sharing reduction are in effect as of February 1st. Insurance premiums now need to be pre-paid on an event basis. No payment is required for non-driving events, but notification must be provided a minimum of 48 hours prior to the event. The Pacific Region is implementing the first regional newsletter. Larry Engel has the 1099 from Motorsport Reg for Ron Gemeinhardt. There was a general discussion on the proposed national term limits change, and national board elections, for which voting ends Friday. On request, Neil can obtain an online voting link for associate members.

Vice President

Paul Ngai reported that there will be a launch party next Monday (2/18 at 5pm) at BMW of Bridgewater. We are invited. Paul will forward the link for RSVP. Our 2019 meeting lineup is as follows: 2/20 (Wednesday) at Shade Tree Garage in Morristown, 3/21 (Thursday) at Deutscher Club of Clark (DCC) with an "Ask the Experts" panel, 3/30 (Saturday) Spring Social Event at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 4/6 (Saturday) BMW Vehicle Distribution Center tour (registration has been open for about a week), 4/27 (Saturday) special talk by Erik Wensberg in Somerset, 6/7 (Friday) Biergarten at the DCC. The planned tour of the Oscar Davis Collection, possibly April or May, is awaiting word from Brian Morgan.

Driving Events

Jeff White reported that the Instructor Seminar is coming up in March. We have two speakers lined up. Our Instructor Training School (ITS) is on 4/12-13. We have five ITS candidates so far. There was a general discussion on driver school attendance, competition among organizations for attendees, and methods to attract and retain new attendees. Jamie Kavalieros reported that the Driving Events Committee has met, and that our 2019 tiered pricing has been set. All driver schools are now open on MotorsportReg. Ross Karlin reported that our June NJMP race is being considered for Premier Event status. This will be a charity event, with the students from the Westlake School in attendance on Friday. Ross noted that the Westlake School donation check presentation is scheduled for 3/6, and that the new school principal would also love to schedule a tour for us. Larry Engel reported that Ross is scheduling the Tire Rack Street Survival dates with Bergen County.

Autocross

Neil reported, on Elihu Savad's behalf, that we have the following autocross dates scheduled: 5/19, 6/23, 7/7 [note change], 8/18, 9/15 and 10/20. We are waiting on proof-of-insurance to complete our NJSP license application.

Treasurer

Ron Gemeinhardt distributed the year-to-date financial report. Ron requested to be on distribution for all driving events requiring pre-paid insurance premiums, so that he can submit the funds electronically. Ron noted that our 2018 charitable contributions to NORWESCAP, Westlake School, and BMW Foundation have been paid, and the charitable contributions form has been submitted to National. Deposits for all 2019 driving events, and our NJSP license fee, have been paid. Neil noted that we are in need of a Business Manager to take over from Matt Baratz.

Newsletter

The next newsletter deadline is 2/15. Jerry Faber previously sent an e-mail detailing his requirements.

Website

Colin Vozeh asked that all requests for website updates be sent as separate e-mails so they are not overlooked. Colin passed around a prototype of the new website layout, which was very favorably received. Colin will distribute via e-mail. Among the objectives of the new layout are getting all sponsors on the front page, keeping the forums on the front page, and having only one calendar on the front page. Kevin Sheehy suggested using Google Analytics to get accurate web hit stats. Colin noted that open registration has been turned off due to the number of spurious off-shore registrations. In regard to sponsors, Colin asked for standardized offerings so that he does not need to customize each one. Mark Hulbrock has been posting photos to our Facebook page twice per week, to generate ongoing interest.

Old Business

Kevin Sheehy will share his revised new member welcome e-mail via e-mail.

New Business

Neil circulated copies of the new brochure from National, on “Engaging BMW Centers” that can serve as a leave-behind when meeting with dealerships.

The next board meeting was set for Wednesday 3/13 at 7:30 PM at Alfonso’s. Ross motioned to adjourn at 9:05 PM and Ron seconded (carried unanimously).

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Allaway, Secretary