

2015 Golden Gate Chapter

Membership Guide

BMW Car Club
of America
Golden Gate Chapter



YOUR GUIDE TO CLUB
**ACTIVITIES,
DISCOUNTS,
& MORE!**

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Here Are All the Ways to Learn
About Events Throughout the Year »





Sign Up for Club Emails

Email is our primary communication channel. Once a month we send an 'upcoming events' email to all members. If you provided an email address when you registered, we have it on file. If you are not receiving email from us, enter your email here:
www.ggcbmwcca.org/about-ggc/communications/



Visit the Events Calendar

Our website:
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Eric Ries
Letter from the GGC President

Welcome to the Third Annual Membership Guide

I'm writing this after spending my day planning for 2015 with the hard working volunteers who run the programs you'll read about in the coming pages. These folks are GGCers just like you and me who spend countless hours working on some truly incredible events. Without them the GGC wouldn't exist and I am grateful to be able to work and play along side them.

This is your personal guide to all things GGC. The same folks who run the events wrote about them and will give you an inside view about each program and what it's all about. If you have questions reach out to the contact

for that event. They are here to answer your questions and help you get the information you need. Also take a moment to review the discounts section. We have a great group of local shops and dealerships who've graciously offered member-only discounts to you.

Thank you for being a member of the BMW CCA and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Who We Are: Chapter Overview



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

Our chapter is run entirely by volunteers who donate their time and effort to benefit their fellow members.

We organize and sponsor dozens of driving and social events each year, including several high-performance driving schools. These events are held at local tracks such as Sonoma Raceway, Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, and Thunderhill Raceway Park.

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

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

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

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



Athena Brekke

Membership Benefits

Photos by Aleksey Kadukin & Richard Tsai



Membership Reward Rebate Program

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

Club Events

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

Roundel Magazine

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

(e)Bombe Magazine

Our Golden Gate Chapter's local magazine is published electronically each quarter. Your connection to the activities and perks of your chapter membership, it provides news on prior and upcoming events in the Chapter. Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos for each issue. Please contact the editor for further details (bombe@ggcbmwcca.org)! The current issue of the eBombe is always available for download from the home page of our website: www.ggcbmwcca.org.

Networks To Help You

One of the reasons to be in a club is to have a place to go when you have questions or issues. Among the perks of BMW CCA membership is access to our Technical Service Advisors for personalized advice, an ombudsman to help with dealer issues, and the book Friends of BMW: a roster of fellow BMW CCA members who can offer coffee and conversation, repair tools, workspace, or sometimes even help when you're out on the road. The national and chapter online forums give you a place to connect with the BMW CCA community. For members interested in buying and selling BMW-related items, both the national website and the local chapter websites offer free classified ads on the website and in Roundel Magazine. Ads for Roundel must be placed at bmwcca.org/classifieds/listings.php.

Product And Service Discounts

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

Local Shop Discounts

Many local shops offer discounts on parts, labor, and services to BMW CCA members with proof of membership. A list of the shops currently offering discounts in and around the Bay Area can be found on page 50 of this guide.

Find BMW
Club Member Discounts

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Athena Brekke

Social Events

Photo by Gary Gehiere



It's our hope that members who might not be as interested in a car-centric event will find the social events appealing.

The social element is a huge draw, so our chapter organizers put a lot of effort into putting on a wide variety of events to offer our members. Among those are tech sessions (see page 22), local meet and greets, monthly board meetings (yes, these can be fun!), karting challenges, Habitat for Humanity work days, Cars & Coffee gatherings, the parking corrals at race events, the chapter summer party, and more!

CARS & COFFEE

Season: Monthly, year-round

Event Hours: 9:00am – 12:00pm

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

Cost: Free; attendees buy their own food and drink

Contact: MembershipChair@ggcbmwcca.org

Connect: www.ggcbmwcca.org/facebook

Ask any active Golden Gate Chapter member what their favorite part of the Club is, and the answer you'll hear most often is, "It's the people you meet and spend time with."

Cars & Coffee (C&C) events are becoming one of the most popular recurring social events offered by clubs across the nation. It's a morning gathering of cars and their owners that happens once a month at a set location, typically a parking lot near a coffee shop. Simple and informal, it's a great way for members to regularly meet up and interact. The GGC's C&C events have been going on for a couple years now and the reception has been tremendous! The South Bay edition was our first offering and, after a great turnout, we quickly followed up with events throughout the bay area.

We've found that C&C events are a great way for any member to make the most of their membership. It's a simple way to get more involved with people who share your passion for BMWs. Each event sees an amazing number of regulars—and lots of first-timers, too. As the participants come from a wide variety of backgrounds, the conversations are interesting and varied. The GGC autocrossers regularly show up and have lively conversations comparing notes on setups and times. If you're curious about autocrossing, here's your chance to talk to some active participants on what it's like. The range of cars in the lot runs the gamut from daily drivers to track cars to concours-ready cars. We've also had some of our great local Dinan reps out to the events with their cars, chat with members about Dinan goods. Check the online GGC calendar for 2015 dates. The event hours are 9:00 a.m. to noon; members can swing by whenever it's convenient for them.

CAR CORRALS

Season: Late spring to early fall

Location: Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, Monterey and Sonoma Raceway, Sonoma

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

Contact: MembershipChair@ggcbmwcca.org

Connect: <https://www.facebook.com/ggcbmwcca>

Many of us love to spend a day at the races—like the Monterey Motorsport Reunion Races (see the Festorics write-up for an extensive explanation), IMSA, or WTCC—and it's more fun when you can hang out at the track with your friends, cheering on the race cars. As a service to our members, we set up BMW/Mini group parking corrals and tented hospitality areas at the races, so you can get great views of the action, refreshments, and a shaded place to sit with your friends! Our volunteers put an amazing effort into the corrals for our members. Ask anyone—they will agree that our corrals are the best in the Bay Area!

SUMMER PARTY

Season: July

Cost: ~\$30

Requirements: Advanced registration (plus event fee).
All ages are welcome!

Contact: membershipchair@ggcbmwcca.org

Connect: www.ggcbmwcca.org/forum/misc-social-events

The Golden Gate Chapter summer party is by far the best social event of the year! This is our annual family-friendly chapter party—all members are enthusiastically encouraged to join in! The day starts early with an optional drive that winds through the Santa Cruz mountains, which is a terrific adventure all by itself! The drive concludes with a picnic of sorts to be announced early in the summer. This is the event our seasoned members look forward to the most each year. Come on out and see why!

For the latest social events, see
the event calendar online:

www.ggcbmwcca.org

Jeff Cowan & Kelly Kirkland

Monterey Vintage Week

Photos by Robert Beurlein, Aleksey Kadukin & Richard Tsai



Every automobile fan's mission in life is to attend the legendary Monterey vintage week at least once.

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

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

The Legends Of The Autobahn www.legendsoftheautobahn.org

After more than a decade of organizing a wildly popular BMW CCA concours within the Concorso Italiano, BMW CCA took a brave step in 2009 by forming the inaugural Legends Of The Autobahn, Monterey's first-ever all-German show with the addition of other German car clubs joining in on the fun. The result was an event which drew hundreds of cars and a swarm of spectators. Since then, Legends has gained national press coverage and attention, as well as being widely considered as the one of the best deals during the otherwise expensive Car Week.

Our one-day concours quickly gained support from BMW NA, who often fly in cars from Germany for display. We've been privileged to see such exclusive cars as the 328 Hommage, the one-off carbon-fiber M8, the 1972 Turbo Concept, and the American debuts of the BMW F10 M5 and Concept Z4 Zagato Roadster.



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

The BMW Festorics **www.festorics.org**

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

BMW of North America brings classic BMW Motorsport cars to race during the weekend, examples include the



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BMW OF SAN FRANCISCO

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8

GOODYEAR

matter

MAHLE

EAGLE
GOODYEAR

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

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

Should you decide to participate in the Monterey Weekend, here are some tips to make the most out of your weekend.

- Monterey hotels increase in price 2-4x during the week and are often sold out by April. Book early in the year.
- Avoid driving through downtown Monterey on peak nights.
- Allow 3x commute time to travel between Monterey and Carmel if you need to be somewhere.

- Make dinner reservations early in the year.
- During the Festorics, visit the Rolex tent to find out the schedule for free guided pit tours to learn fascinating details of special cars racing that weekend.
- Arrive by 8am for Festorics parking corral to avoid hours of traffic getting in and ensure a close spot to the hospitality area at Turn 5.
- If you visit Pebble Beach on Sunday, also arrive by 8am for closer parking.



Jared Petrie

Driving Tours

Photo by Frank Cowan



Would you like to explore and enjoy our area back roads with other BMW driving enthusiasts, then socialize with them at destinations and events that engender club camaraderie? Then consider participating in the myriad of tours our chapter offers throughout the year. There's something about traveling in your BMW with a group of Bimmerphiles that provides an exhilarating experience unlike any other type of event the club offers. Neither strictly a driving event nor a social event, tours meld the two event types together to provide a rewarding experience for participants.

A loyal participant in tours, Niko Nikitaras, states "The club tours have given me the opportunity to meet great individuals who have the same passion for BMWs as I do. Each tour provides a new adventure for people of all ages to enjoy.

Through the club tours, I have had the chance to explore many of the greater Bay Area's back roads of which I would not otherwise have known about or had the pleasure of driving on.

Even when we tour a familiar road, there is always something new and exciting the organizers add."

Our tours originate from various locations throughout the greater bay area, and destinations extend as far north as Clear Lake, and as far south as the Monterey peninsula. Additionally, an active central coast contingent offers tours on lesser-traveled roads extending from Paso Robles to Santa Barbara. After reaching our destination and participating in an activity, we typically have lunch at a nearby quality, reasonably priced restaurant.

Recent destinations have included:

- Blackhawk Automotive Museum, Danville
- Niles Canyon Railway's steam train
- Wine and bocce ball at Garre Vineyards in Livermore
- Tour of the Filoli Gardens in Woodside.

So the next time you want to participate in a club driving event, but also want to socialize with members in a casual, unhurried setting, consider road testing a tour. You'll be pleased that you did.



Ryan Rich

Tech Sessions

Photo by Frank Cowan & Jeff Cowan



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

Dyno Days

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

from a BMW Active E to an X5 M, and everything in between. We typically finish the day with a barbecue and end up joking with our friends about who has the most horsepower.

Detailing Workshops

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

Vehicle Maintenance

A day at a shop with a certified BMW-trained mechanic will teach you basics about your vehicle that you may never have known. Some topics that might be covered include checking tire pressures and oil level, what the different indicator lights signify, and how to maintain proper fluid levels. Shop days may also include overviews



on how to properly identify problem areas or perform common-maintenance procedures on your vehicle—and it isn't uncommon to hear members exchanging tips with each other on their techniques for fixing things on their BMWs. These sessions are particularly helpful for new drivers, or as a refresher course for the do-it-yourself types.

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

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



DINAN

4S2

TRACOR

SUNOCO

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EARLYS

RED LINE OIL

AUTOBAHN

USA RACING

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Jeff Cowan | Tammi Hull Arnold

Race Tracks in Our Region

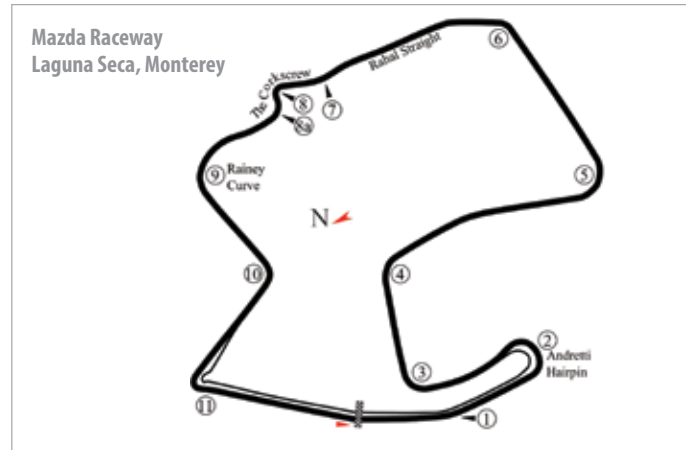
Photo by Richard Tsai



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

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, Monterey

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

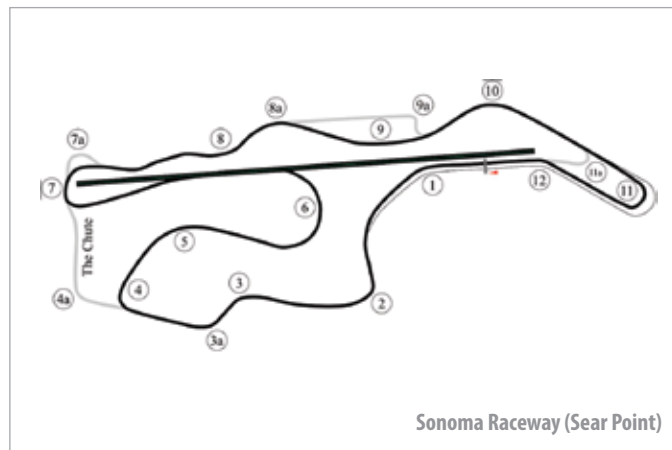


During several major racing weekends, our chapter hosts hospitality areas and exclusive parking areas, or club corrals. These corrals provide our members a rare opportunity to get VIP treatment. Often, we get to meet and talk with professional race drivers and team members. Combine this with an exciting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

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

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

As you enter the Corkscrew, the world quickly drops out from under you, and gravity now assists acceleration! Brake before Turn Nine, then snake through Turn Ten until you reach the brake-pad-brutal Turn Eleven. A quick acute left turn puts you on the front straight, where you floor the pedal under the bridge, heading for the slight bend of Turn One. On a typical day you'll leave after four driving sessions and, perhaps, a few instructor rides.



Sonoma Raceway (Sears Point)

Sonoma Raceway (Sears Point)

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

Constructed in 1968, this multipurpose track hosts both a drag strip and a world-class road course. Like Laguna Seca, this track calls many of the top race series to its

blacktop. You'll find us there mostly for the road-course events—but there are a few who enjoy trying out their straight-line skills.

When we are there as spectators, you'll typically find our Club corral atop Turn Two. There you'll gather among your fellow marque fans, perched at one of the best places to view the raceway's action. Turn Two never fails to provide a spectacle, as the cars get light from cresting the hill and storm into this off-camber corner, which leads for a lot of tail-happy racing!

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

From the moment you enter the twelve-turn, 2.52-mile track at Turn One, it seems this track is all about memory, blind corners, short straights, and remembering to breathe. Your first lesson comes at our favorite hangout, Turn Two: Easy on the gas, or you'll soon find yourself facing the wrong way on a one-way road! Then Turns

Three and Three-A come in quick succession; here, you crest a blind hill and—when you do it right—drift out just to the edge of the track.

Nail the right-hander at Four and play with lateral grip as you sweep through Turn Five. Turn Six is the famous Carousel; as you approach, it's another dance over a hill before spiraling down through the long, sweeping left. Get it right, and you are at full acceleration as you enter the straight chute to Seven. Get a nice trail-brake going into that bobby-pin curve, and life is good!

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



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

Racing up to crest the hill at Turn Nine, you head down the short straight for the banked left-hander at Ten. Brake hard for the 90-degree left at Eleven before making your

way through the capital-S of Turns Twelve and Twelve-A. Work hard to set yourself up for a fast exit and you'll be rewarded.

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

The New West Section

The East section flows entirely different from the West section. East has many sweepers and some elevation changes while flowing nicely with a bit of time to collect your thoughts between turns. It's a wonderful circuit for beginners and advanced drivers for this reason and the fact that there's some arguably comforting dirt run off in the event that something goes pear shaped.

You enter the West section after Turn 8 on the East section via a sharp right and up hill connector interrupted by a zig-zag chicane, a hill crest, followed by a fast, steep

downhill slope. That's pretty busy right there and it's just the connector. Nothing like this exists on the East section.

For the most part the next series of turns are blind. This means you can't see some part of the turn as you are approaching it. In some cases the entrance, apex, or exit of each turn are blind, hidden around hillsides that block vision. It is a series of tight turns that require a lot of speed and steering adjustments before seeing what you're driving into. There is a straight section of the track just like on East but a bit shorter. This is also where the West paddock is for events isolated to the West section. At the end of the straight are more curvy, blind turns that take you up, over, and down to the East circuit. You enter East just before Turn 10, a sharp left-hander.

There is no time to rest in the West! It's a busy section that can be VERY surprising—at first. By the time you can see where you're headed, you're likely late setting the car up for the next turn. Does it sound like I'm describing an autocross?

The West section is very much like a high-speed autocross. While this blind vision thing is the driver's challenge, it is also what makes the circuit SO MUCH FUN to drive! And much like autocross, as you memorize the course you can attack it with more confidence, higher speeds, and heavier braking.

West is very hard on brakes when you reach full attack mode. There are a lot of full-throttle and full-brake transitions throughout, in very much the same way it is in autocross. It's hard to say how this will affect your car prior to your first drive. But it's very advisable to start with new or nearly new pads especially if you have a heavier car or a car with a lot of power. If you are an advanced driver and use high performance pads, expect to burn them off at a similar rate as Laguna Seca, or faster.

GGC has prepared a detailed turn-by-turn student hand out for the new five-mile circuit available for download from our website. Be sure to check it out if you plan to visit!

Thunderhill Guide Link:

http://ggcbmwcca.org/new_html/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Thunderhill-guide-rev1.pdf

Mark Magee

Car Control Clinic

Photos by Canyon Chan



Car Control Clinics Overview

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 you and your car in a controlled setting. Car control skills are learned techniques that are fundamental to performance driving, and can enhance your ability to be a safer driver in normal everyday situations. Learn the basics of car control by participating in slalom, skid pad and emergency avoidance exercises with instruction. Our clinic is great for teenagers and beginning drivers – most drivers education courses teach the “rules” of driving, but in the clinics, we are teaching driving skills.

Our Clinics are open to all BMW Club members who want to enhance their driving skills and understand the capabilities of their cars. If you have been thinking about or planning to attend a high performance driving school, Car Control Clinics are a prerequisite for first time track school students. We explore vehicle dynamics in a controlled environment, with you in

the driver’s seat. The program is structured for people without any formal performance driving instruction.

Our goal is to prepare you with a fundamental foundation of skills from which you can further develop your driving abilities. Each participant receives personalized instruction provided by experienced Club instructors. The level of instruction is tailored to fit the needs of each individual student driver.

All you need to attend is a membership in the BMW Club, a valid driver’s license (learner’s permits are not accepted) and pay the registration fee (which includes lunch). Registration in advance is required by all participants. Two-driver cars are allowed (two separately paid and registered drivers sharing one car).

Program Synopsis

The day long clinic program consists of three separate low speed exercises. Our format consists of a short morning lecture, followed by driving exercises. The exercises include a skid pad, a slalom course, and a braking and accident avoidance simulation. Each



exercise is prefaced with a short talk about concepts specific to the respective exercise. In these exercises, you will learn the proper use of the steering wheel, brakes, and throttle as elements of car control. We want all students to increase their awareness for what their car is doing under a variety of circumstances, and understand why. These exercises are intended to better prepare you for situations that may be encountered when at speed on the track, as well as during every day driving.

Our objective is to improve your awareness to vehicle dynamics, provide you with fundamental car control skills, and produce safe and controlled drivers. Safety and being in control of the car is our top priority at this and all club driving events.

Participants should plan to arrive by 8am for morning registration. The morning lecture begins at 9am, with driving exercises starting at 10am. A wrap-up meeting is held at 5pm, and the program concludes around 5:30pm. Lunch is provided during the break at noon, during which time instructors may also give demonstration rides on the exercises.

Registration Information

We typically hold 3-4 clinics each year, spread out over the year. Registration links and clinic dates are posted on the chapter's website. Registration for each clinic opens about 6-8 weeks before the event. Registration for each clinic is filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

The car control clinics are one of our chapter's most popular driving programs, and registration often fills very quickly. If you are planning to attend a high performance driving school and need to take the clinic as a prerequisite, please enroll as early as possible to ensure a spot. We recommend signing up for the chapter's event announcement email list if you want to get notified about when registration begins.



Advanced Car Control Clinic

Our “regular” car control clinics are focused on safety skills applicable for every day driving. In addition, the Golden Gate Chapter holds “advanced” car control clinics which are more focused on high-performance driving skills that would be appropriate for autocross or high performance driving schools on a race track. This program has more complex exercises than the regular clinic, and covers more advanced skills and topics such as cornering theory, driving lines, advanced braking techniques (such

as trail braking), dynamic weight transfer, and heel-and-toe shifting.

This program is targeted to novice HPDE and autocross participants, as well as intermediate participants who are interested in refining their performance driving skills. Previous attendance at a regular car control clinic or other high performance driving event is required to attend the advanced clinic.

Jeff Roberts

Autocross

Photos by Ratko Jagodic, Drew Stephens & James Tsukamoto



Why is our program so successful? The people! Our events are fun and social and fully immerse our members in the experience. From the moment you park your car in the paddock, you'll be among friends who are all willing to help you make the most of your day.

You've seen the photos and results posted in the Bombe and you've wondered... Who are these happy people and what are they doing with their cars every month? What is this Autocross thing all about? How do I get involved and what can I expect?

The Golden Gate Chapter Autocross Series is the place for all levels of driving enthusiasts to come to learn about themselves and their cars capabilities by exploring limits in a safe and controlled environment. Our program is

competitive, but well known as a welcoming and friendly atmosphere where everyone can come to learn the fine art of autocrossing.

Autocross is a form of racing where competitors navigate an obstacle course of traffic cones laid out on a generally flat surface at an airport or open parking lot. Participants race against the clock to see who can run the course the fastest without knocking down any cones. Autocross focuses on car control over flat-out speed and course speeds generally don't exceed legal freeway speeds.

Nervous? Apprehensive? Not sure you can do it? Not to worry! For folks joining us for their first time, we pair you up a few days before the event with a buddy. Our buddies are your welcoming committee – a group of friendly volunteers who love our program as much as we do. They will answer your questions, meet you at the event and introduce you around, and make sure you are psyched and ready to race!

All first timers and novice drivers will have a trained coach to ride along to help you feel comfortable and guide you

as you navigate the course. We use a consistent teaching style that ensures you will get the most out of your day with us. Anyone can request a coach and we find that nearly 40% of our monthly attendees request coaching. They're awesome!

The Series

Our regular season includes monthly competition events starting in April and ending in October. Each month a new course is designed and members compete against each other to accumulate points towards trophies awarded to the top three finishers in each car class. We wrap the season up on the first Saturday of November with our Top Driver Shootout (TDS) featuring a catered BBQ lunch.

TDS is a special event where everyone has an equal chance at taking home the Fechner Cup! Participants select a random run group during sign-in the morning of the event. A two run group format is used where the course is run in one direction in the morning, then again in the opposite direction for the afternoon. The top five finishers from each group move on to the final shootout

round where the course is reconfigured again to loop back on itself resulting in a course that's almost twice as long as the qualifying rounds. Each of the nine drivers runs the course three times. The winner of this round is Top Driver and earns the honor of holding the coveted Fechner Cup until next year's TDS.

Who can participate?

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

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





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

You want in, now what?

Before you can sign up, you'll visit our online classification system to select a driver number and classify your car. This easy to use website will ask you questions about your car and modifications and calculate a point total. Based on your points, you will be classed in one of seven different

classes so you can compete against similarly capable cars within your determined class.

Sharing a car? We've got you covered! The system will allow you to copy another driver's car data as your own. On race day we'll be ready for you in your assigned run group.

With a driver number in hand, you'll sign up for the event at motorsportreg.com. This is a simple process where you'll tell us a bit more about you, your experience level, and enter your payment information. Our events have been selling out, so be sure to register early!

Once registration closes, usually the Wednesday prior to the event, we'll confirm you as a participant. A detailed confirmation e-mail is sent to everyone with all the

information you need for your day with us. If you still have questions, just fire off an e-mail and we'll get back to you.

Race Day!

It's finally race day and you're up early and ready to go. You've washed your car so it will look good in photos and you've studied the course map posted on the forum earlier in the week. You arrive at the venue, sign waivers at the gate, then park in the paddock and make your way to the registration trailer to sign in and get your run sticker. Here you'll find out which group you'll drive in and what job you'll do. You grab a donut and head back to the paddock to install your numbers and catch up with old friends and make new ones too.

Typically we split drivers into three run groups. You'll drive in one group, work in another, and have the third group as down time. Each participant under 65 will work a job at our events. You may be out on course as a cone shagger,

in the trailer doing timing, or working the grid, start, or finish. When you're not working or driving we encourage you to take rides with experienced folks so you can increase your learning, or just to go out and have more fun as a passenger.

A typical day goes something like this:

7:00am	Staff and equipment trailer arrive on site
7:10am	Donuts are consumed, course setup begins, tech inspections begin
7:30am	Registration opens
8:45am	Registration closes
9:00am	Mandatory Attendee meeting
9:30am	Course walk
10:00am	Run Group 1
11:30am	Lunch
12:15pm	Run Group 2
1:45pm	Run Group 3
3:15pm	Fun Runs?
5:00pm	Site Cleanup and pack equipment trailer
6:00pm	Site closes



Every event starts with a mandatory attendee meeting where we cover important safety information, explain the schedule for the day, field any questions, and make announcements about upcoming Club events. After the close of this meeting, all participants are invited to walk the course and chalk cones. The course designer will provide a personal walk-through for anyone who wants to join. It's a great way to learn the course and get tips on how to drive it best.

After the course walk, drivers in the first run group are instructed to line up and get ready to race. Workers gather at the trailer, put on a stylish reflective vest, and attend a brief meeting to cover their roles and responsibilities while working on course. Once everyone is in position we send the first car!

Typically, each driver will drive the course 6-8 times during their run group. The first run is timed, but considered practice only. All other runs are official and the times are recorded in our computer system. Your fastest

time is used to calculate the points you'll receive for this event. Every participant receives at least one point for showing up. How cool is that?

We rotate through the groups until everyone has had their runs. If time permits, we will offer up the option of fun runs to anyone who wants to participate. Fun runs are just what you think: additional timed runs on the course, just for fun. We split the group in half, flip a coin, and one half heads out on course to work while the other drives. Half way through we swap and do it again. Use this time to try out a buddy's car or get more practice in your own.

The day ends with everyone stacking cones and packing up the equipment for the next event. Those who stay late usually go to dinner together at a restaurant nearby. This is the time for storytelling and boasting about your mad driving skills, or to fire up that excuse generator to explain why you drove so slow. It's all in good fun!

Come join us!

Hopefully at this point you're got a vivid picture of what our Autocross program is all about. Our Club forum is active and we invite you to join up and participate in the dialog. Page through the photo and video threads from past events to pass the time until your first event with us. We're there to help make your first autocross the best time ever!

Learn More About the GGC
Autocross Program

[http://ggcbmwcca.org/
driving-events/autocross/](http://ggcbmwcca.org/driving-events/autocross/)

RACEWAY
LAGUNA SECA

Tamara Hull

High Performance Driving School

*Photos by Chris Henney &
Dito Milian/gotbluemilk.com*



What could be better than the ultimate driving school for the ultimate driving machine—with an ultimate driving coach?

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

What is high performance, advanced driving?

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

But what does this all mean, really? If you read our recently updated event-preparation guide, the New

Performance Driver's Guide—we call it the Guide—you'll find: "You'll be driving your car at speed on a race track, learning to better control your car and understand how it reacts to your hands and feet. This will help prepare you for emergencies, both on the track and on the street. While you will explore both your own and your car's capabilities, you won't be pushed or encouraged to go any faster than is comfortable for you.

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

How are the schools conducted?

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

If you are concerned about possible damage to your car, be aware that recent changes to many automobile



policies have limited coverage while at a driving school. However, high-performance-driving event (HPDE) insurance coverage is available through Lockton insurance at a very reasonable price—and they offer a BMW CCA discount.

Who teaches the schools?

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

Many believe that our instruction and coaching are on a par (and some say it’s better!) with professional driving schools like Skip Barber at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca and SimRaceway at Sonoma Raceway at Sears

Point (formerly Jim Russell Racing). In fact, several of our instructors and coaches have gone on to become instructors for these companies, and some continue instructing with us at the same time.

What are the costs associated with the schools?

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

But what about other organizations who provide track days, lapping days, open track time, and driving schools?

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

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

Track sessions are four 30-minute sessions, instead of their four 20-minute sessions. That's 120 minutes versus 80 minutes with other driving clubs.

The number of students allowed in any GGC run group is limited to 25–30. Others try to get as many cars on the track as they can; the rule of thumb for track management is to allow a maximum of 30 cars per track mile. Limiting the run group size makes it a better driving experience.

Our level of instruction and the quality of our events compare impressively to other track opportunities. We are especially proud of our all-volunteer, not-for-profit driving schools, a special and beneficial program for BMW CCA members to enhance their driving experience.

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

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
Flintworks	Campbell	15% Repairs & Services	408 371-3380	www.flintworksauto.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 insp	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
Life is Good Racing	Livermore	Various	925 243-9270	www.lifeisgoodracing.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

Independent Service & Supply	City	Discount	Phone	URL
Dinan Engineering	Mountain View	10% Labor	650 962-9401	www.dinancars.com
Track Star Racing	Mountain View	10% Parts/Labor	650 961-2350	www.trackstarracing.com
Performance Technic, Inc.	Pleasanton	10-15% Parts	925 426-1361	www.performancetechnic.com
SAS German Auto	Pleasanton	10% Parts	925 846-4886	www.sasgermanauto.com
Portola Valley Garage	Portola Valley	10% Labor	650 851-7442	www.pvgarage.com
Valley Motorwerks	Rancho Cordova	10% Parts/Labor	916 636-9526	www.vmwwerks.com
Rossi's Tire & Auto Service	Salinas	Various	831 424-0011	www.rossitire.com
Bimmers Independent	San Carlos	Various	650 591-2474	www.bimmersindependent.com
German Motors Collision Ctr	San Francisco	\$100 off repairs over \$1,000	415 551-2639	www.sfgermanmotors.com
John Gardiner Automotive	San Francisco	10% Labor	415 777-2697	www.jgauto.com
Phaedrus	San Francisco	10% Parts	415 567-8000	www.phaedrusmd.com
Vanguard Motors	San Francisco	10% Labor	415 255-8450	www.vanguardmotors.com
Borelli Motor Sports	San Jose	10% Service/Labor	408 770-1220	www.borellimotorsports.com
Extreme Performance	San Jose	10% Parts/Labor	408 923-6404	www.xperformance.com
2002 Haus	San Luis Obispo	5% Parts	805 541-2002	www.2002haus.com
Heyneman European	San Rafael	\$50 off service	415 499-1234	www.heynemaneuropean.com
West Bay Bavarian	San Rafael	10% Parts/Labor/Dinan work	415 457-0820	www.westbaybavarian.com
Diablo Motors	San Ramon	10% Parts/Labor	925 830-4269	www.diablotmotors.com
Bavarian Enterprises	Santa Clara	Various Parts	408 737-6100	www.bavarian-enterprise.com
German Auto Body	Santa Clara	\$100 off repairs over \$1,000	408 727-3368	www.germanautobody.com
Catalpa Street Garage	Santa Cruz	10% Parts	831 464-2269	www.catalpastreetgarage.com
Nate Smith's Optimal Auto	Santa Cruz	10% Parts	831 476-1332	www.optimalauto.com
German Auto	Santa Maria	10% Parts	805 922-1262	www.germanautosm.net
Bavarian Tuning	Santa Rosa	10% Parts/Labor	707 575-3757	www.bavarian-tuning.com
GS Tuning	Santa Rosa	10% Sales/Service	707 284-2680	www.gstuningbmw.com
BMW Performance Driving School	Spartanburg, SC	15% off driving programs	BMWusa.com	www.bmwusa.com/performancecenter
Milt's Service Garage	Vallejo	10% Parts/Labor	707 643-7548	www.miltsservicegarage.com
M Service	Walnut Creek	10% Parts/Labor, up to \$100	925 932-8744	www.ms-serviceinc.com
evosport		10% Parts, \$1000 svc=free dyno	888 520-9971	www.evosport.com
Patelco Credit Union		Special Offer	415 442-6200	www.Patelco.org

Local BMW Dealers

The Golden Gate Chapter covers a vast area, and subsequently has several BMW and Mini dealerships for you to choose from. This is the list of dealerships in our area, as well as the discounts they offer to Club members. Do remember to 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.bmwofhumboldtby.com
BMW of Mountain View	Mountain View	10% Parts	650 943-1000	www.bmwofmountainview.com
East Bay BMW	Pleasanton	10% Parts	800 505-4801	www.eastbaybmw.com
East Bay Mini	Pleasanton		866 549-5589	www.eastbaymini.com
BMW of Roseville*	Roseville	10% Parts	916 782-9434	www.bmwofroseville.com
BMW of San Francisco	San Francisco	10% Parts	415 863-9000	www.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.hanselbmwofsanrosas.com
BMW of Monterey	Seaside	10% Parts	831 899-5555	www.bmwmonterey.com

* Sacramento Valley Chapter region

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HAVE YOU MOVED? Please send address changes directly to the BMW CCA National Office at: info@bmwcca.org, or sign in to your account and update your membership record at bmwcca.org.

Calendar of Events

www.ggcbmwcca.org/events

Chapter News

www.facebook.com/ggcbmwcca

Group Discussions

www.facebook.com/groups/ggcbmwcca

Email List Sign Up

www.ggcbmwcca.org/about-ggc/communications/

Legal Items

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

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

BMW CCA mailing address:

640 South Main St., Suite 201, Greenville, SC 29601
Phone: (864) 250-0022, Fax: (864) 250-0038
www.bmwcca.org

Membership updates: Membership address corrections are only accepted at the BMW CCA website or national office.

Privacy: By joining the BMW Car Club of America (BMW CCA), you provided personal information that allows us to contact you. BMW CCA provides this information to the Golden Gate Chapter (GGC), BMW CCA for the following purposes:

- To send the GGC magazine (Die Flüsternde Bombe) by U.S. Mail.
- To help us create content and events most relevant to you.
- To alert you to updated information and other new services from ggcbmwcca.org using an email announcement list.

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



Join the BMW CCA!



Notes

Golden Gate Chapter, BMW CCA

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*1969 - 2015: Celebrating 46 years of
BMW Enthusiasm in the Golden Gate Region*

**BMW Car Club
of America
Golden Gate Chapter**

