



WALTER PIETROWICZ PHOTOS

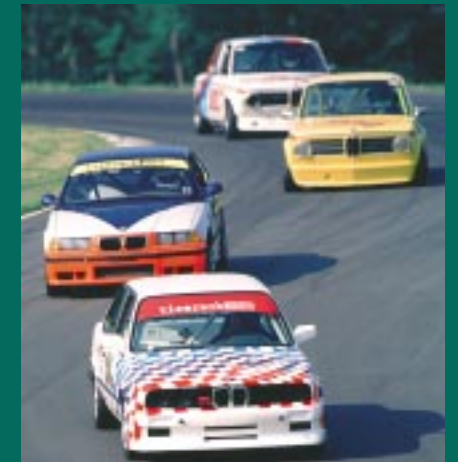
Bob Ball (2002) leads Walter Fields' 3.0CS through a VIR bend.

Stickley, Genova win walking away as Club racers share vintage sun at VIR

Virginia International Raceway (VIR) featured Tire Rack/BMW CCA Club racing as part of May's annual Governor's Cup racing weekend, which also featured several vintage and historic races—a fantastic blend of the old and the new, and a treat for the hundreds of spectators, most of them Club members from the hosting Tarheel and neighboring Blue Ridge chapters. The CCA event was in fact a four-race affair, comprising two races each for two Club Racing run groups, Group 4 including most of the Modifieds and the quicker Prepared cars while Group 2 held all the Stock classes plus K and L Prepared and EM cars. While there were few real surprises at the finish of any of the races, there was plenty of action leading up to the checkered flags. The use of VIR's 2.25-mile North Course, with its uphill turns and downhill esses, ensured that.

On Saturday, after qualifying in the morning, each run group took to the track for a twenty-minute sprint race in the afternoon, with Group 2 going first. The hot weather was matched by the pace set by Tarheel's Perry Genova (E-Mod '71 2002), who quickly jumped ahead of pole-sitter Barry Battle (K-Prepared 325is) and led the rest of the race, finishing three seconds ahead of J-Stock class winner Davis Rieman, Jr. (E30 M3). Other class firsts included Ken Arutunian (I-Stock E36 M3), Bryan Watts (K-Prepared 325), and Andrew Iatridis (L-Prepared 525is).

In the Group 4 sprint, Charles Stickley (B-Modified E36 M3) forged ahead from way back in the pack in the first lap. He gained another three-plus seconds within the next four laps and soon took the lead, finishing more than



E30s rule: Scott McDuffie (325is) leads Ugo Vuotto's '98 M3 and a brace of '02s (Perry Genova and Lance Dunbar) through VIR's esses.

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Frank Massaro's 325is proves you don't need an M to have a gorgeous Club racing car.



Frank Massaro's 325is proves you don't need an M to have a gorgeous Club racing car.

West Coast sets record grid at Buttonwillow

With 45 drivers racing 43 BMWs, April's Tire Rack BMW CCA Club race at Buttonwillow represented the largest gathering of West Coast Club racers to date—and the Bimmer crowd was swelled by eighteen Camaros and Mustangs, bumping the count to 62 cars on the track.

In Saturday's race, the first two overall finishers were D-Modified cars. The checkered flag fell for Bill Bentzen, who brought his Euro M3 from Arizona to completely dominate the race. The next three places, however, were tightly contested, with second overall going to Tino Saloomen in his E30 M3. He had to battle for that slot with Robb Todd—who put his karting championship experience to good use during the weekend, sharing an M3 with his father, Bruce—and Mike Courtney, the three trading positions often before Saloomen took the checker. Todd took third overall and first in B-Modified in his M3, followed by Courtney in his H-Stock M3.

Saturday's race included several rookies along with some experienced newcomers joining us from the ranks of NASA

and SCCA. Dean Mansour had prepared his newly-acquired E30 M3 for J-Stock, but unfortunately its tired motor was not up to the task and it expired in the long sweeper leading into the esses. Rookie Holly Edwards was trailing Dean closely at that point, and her windshield collected a thick coating of Dean's motor oil, forcing her into the pits for a clean-up, a delay which put her a lap down at the final flag.

Veteran west-coast racer Robyn McNutt also wandered into Dean's oil slick and spun, but she recovered quickly and still managed a ninth place in J-Stock with her 325. Donna Seeley had a good first race in "Guido," her E30 M3, finishing second in J-Prepared only a few seconds behind Gary Lencioni. Other first-in-class finishers included Jason Briedis in I-Prepared, Scott Chan in H-Prepared, Brad Otoupalik in J-Stock, Dan Tackett in I-Stock, Bill Clay in E-Modified, Kirk Lachman in K-Stock, Mike Ward in M-Prepared, Dave McDougal in K-Prepared, and Dave Kincade in B-Modified. Only two of the 43 starters did not finish.

TIRE RACK CCA Club Race at Buttonwillow 4/20 Race Distance: 12 laps				
Pos.	Class Pos.	Driver	Car	Best Lap
1	1-DM	Bill Bentzen	E36 M3	02:01.7
2	2-DM	Tino Saloomen	E30 M3	02:05.2
3	1-BM	Robb Todd	E36 M3	02:04.8
4	1-HS	Mike Courtney	E36 M3	02:04.8
5	1-IP	Jason Briedis	E30 M3	02:05.5
6	1-HP	Scott Chan	E36 M3 tw	02:06.0
7	2-HS	Rich Bisevic	E36 M3	02:06.9
8	2-IP	Navid Kahangi	E36 M3	02:05.5
9	1-JS	Brad Otoupalik	E30 M3	02:07.1
10	2-HP	Tim Richmond	E36 M3 tw	02:07.5
11	2-JS	Ralph Warren	E30 M3	02:07.8
12	3-JS	Scott Lang	E30 M3	02:08.0
13	3-HP	Bob Otoupalik	E36 M3 tw	02:04.3
14	1-IS	Dan Tackett	E36 M3	02:10.2
15	4-JS	Tim Aguinaga	E30 M3	02:09.2
16	5-JS	Jon Holder	E30 M3	02:10.0
17	1-EM	Bill Clay	2002	02:10.9
18	2-EM	Jeff Ireland	2002	02:11.5
19	3-DM	Marc Kirberg	E36 328i	02:11.5
20	6-JS	Bill Arnold	E30 M3	02:11.5
21	7-JS	Monty Sidhu	E30 M3	02:11.4
22	8-JS	Maurly Gentile	E30 M3	02:11.4
23	4-DM	Hans Kopecky	E36 M3	02:10.8
24	5-DM	Ralph Conway	E30 M3	02:08.2
25	9-JS	Robyn McNutt	E30 M3	02:09.9
26	10-JS	Louis Goldsman	E30 M3	02:23.9
27	3-IP	Dan Davis	E36 M3	02:14.0
28	3-EM	Dino Papanicolaou	1600	02:10.7
29	1-KS	Kirk Lachman	E30 325is	02:12.7
30	11-JS	Steve Heslov	E30 M3	02:14.0
31	4-EM	Jordan D'Alessio	2002	02:13.2
32	1-JP	Gary Lencioni	E30 M3	02:13.7
33	3-HS	Jim Mercado	E36 M3	02:15.1
34	6-DM	Craig Hillskemper	—	02:14.5
35	1-MP	Mike Ward	2002	02:17.7
36	12-JS	Victor Pineschi	E30 M3	02:18.3
37	2-JP	Donna Sealey	E30 M3	02:19.3
38	4-EM	Ralph Fallant	—	02:19.1
39	1-KP	Dave McDougal	—	02:18.5
40	1-BM	Dave Kincade	E36 328is	02:05.4
41	13-JS	Holly Edwards	E30 M3	02:14.8
42	DNF	Dean Mansour	E30 M3	E30 M3
43	DNF	Bruce Matesso	—	—

TIRE RACK CCA Club Race at Buttonwillow 4/21 Race Distance: 13 laps				
Pos.	Class Pos.	Driver	Car	Best Lap
1	1-DM	Bill Bentzen	E36 M3	02:01.3
2	2-DM	Marc Kirberg	E36 328i	02:02.3
3	1-IP	Jason Briedis	E30 M3	02:04.6
4	3-DM	Tino Saloomen	E30 M3	02:04.7
5	4-DM	Gino Lancelotti	318i	02:04.3
6	1-HP	Scott Chan	E36 M3 tw	02:03.8
7	2-HP	Tim Richmond	E36 M3 tw	02:05.5
8	2-IP	Navid Kahangi	E36 M3	02:06.4
9	1-JS	Blaine McNutt	E30 M3	02:07.1
10	5-DM	Ralph Conway	E30 M3	02:07.1
11	1-HS	Rich Bisevic	E36 M3	02:07.6
12	1-IS	Dan Tackett	E36 M3	02:08.3
13	2-JS	Ralph Warren	E30 M3	02:08.0
14	1-BM	Bruce Todd	E36 M3	02:04.7
15	1-EM	Jeff Ireland	2002	02:09.1
16	3-JS	Tim Aguinaga	E30 M3	02:08.9
17	4-JS	Scott Lang	E30 M3	02:09.3
18	2-EM	Dino Papanicolaou	2002	02:09.3
19	5-JS	Bill Arnold	E30 M3	02:09.0
20	6-JS	Jon Holder	E30 M3	02:07.8
21	7-JS	Monty Sidhu	E30 M3	02:10.8
22	3-HP	Bob Otoupalik	E36 M3 tw	02:09.6
23	8-JS	Victor Pineschi	E30 M3	02:12.7
24	3-IP	Dan Davis	E36 M3	02:12.9
25	9-JS	Maurly Gentile	E30 M3	02:12.9
26	1-KS	Kirk Lachman	E30 325is	02:14.5
27	1-JP	Gary Lencioni	E30 M3	02:14.8
28	10-JS	Steve Heslov	E30 M3	02:14.8
29	6-DM	Craig Hillskemper	—	02:15.1
30	11-JS	Holly Edwards	E30 M3	02:13.8
31	2-JP	Donna Sealey	E30 M3	02:24.0
32	1-MP	Mike Ward	2002	02:27.0
33	1-LP	Eric Higgins	—	02:13.9
34	3-EM	Steve Walsh	—	02:18.7
35	4-EM	Jordan D'Alessio	2002	02:16.6
36	DNF-JS	Brad Otoupalik	E30 M3	02:07.1
37	DNF-KP	Dave McDougal	—	02:18.5
38	DNF-BM	Dave Kincade	E36 328is	02:05.4

Sunday featured another sprint race dominated by Bill Bentzen, while second went to Marc Kirberg, also in a D-Modified E36 M3. Jason Briedis made the podium steps in third place overall and first in I-Prepared in his E30 M3. Scott Chan had a disappointing qualifying run and started fourteenth, but he redeemed himself during the race with a seventh overall and first in H-Prepared. Tim Richmond had taken the early H-Prepared class lead with his M3 Lightweight, but he hesitated momentarily approaching a back-marker Mustang, and Chan blasted by to take the class lead.

Navid Kahangi had a strange problem at the start of the race: The first time he turned the steering wheel, he found it floating in his hands, as he had neglected to lock down the quick release! He managed to get it back onto the steering column and lock it down without hitting anything, and fin-

ished second in I-Prepared behind Jason. Brad Otoupalik started out leading the H-Prepared group with Ralph Warren and Blaine close on his bumper, but in the fourth lap he lost a throttle cable, allowing McNutt and H-Stock pilot Rich Bisevic to blow by and take the lead for their classes. Mike Ward led the M-P class with his 2002, and Jeff Ireland took first in E-M with his. Donna Seeley again battled with Gary Lencioni for the rights to J-Prepared and brought Guido home for a second in class. Other first-in-class finishers were Dan Tackett (I-Stock), Bruce Todd (B-Modified), and Eric Higgins (L-Prepared).

Along with the Tire Rack BMW CCA series national sponsors, SSF Import Auto Parts sponsored the weekend festivities with generous prizes and gift certificates. —Steve Albrecht