

President – Ike Neilson: I have been a member of the BMW CCA for over 25 years. Originally from Philadelphia, I did my first Ultimate Driving School at Watkins Glen in 1990. I moved to Rochester in 1999 with my family. I instruct with the Genesee Valley; help to run the Tire Rack Street Survival Teen driving program. I am a mentor with the Instructor Training program and Club Race Schools. I have owned an E21 320i, E30 M3, an E34 525i, an E36 M3 GTR, an E46 M3 and now an E90 M3.

When not doing things automotive, I run a tutoring program at an elementary school in the Rochester City School District and chase my own three kids here and there.

I want to be President of the chapter to foster member involvement in social activities, promote the Street Survival program and broaden the enjoyment of all our members from Jamestown, to Utica, to Binghamton and everywhere in-between. This is a great club with lots of great people in it we can do so much together.

Vice President – Jeff Gabel: Jeff Gabel has been a GVC BMW CCA member for more than a decade. In that time, Jeff has graduated from the BMW Club Racing school, the Instructor Training School, instructed with Street Survival, and has participated in autocross events. He has served as Marketing Director for the club for several years and has contributed to the GVC website redesign, driving events committee, the development of new member outreach through advertising campaigns, and the creation of the “Taste of the Track” new driver program. In addition, Jeff teaches the novice orientation classroom sessions at the track, and helped establish the Drivers Resource Center, which he frequently staffs during driving events and tech at Watkins Glen. His love of BMW extends beyond his track prepared E46 M3, an E92 335i-M, and X3 - to his business. Jeff is the creative co-founder of a 100+ employee advertising agency, who’s clients include The BMW Group - BMW and MINI Financial Services.

Secretary – Steve Lawless: Steve has been involved with the Genesee Valley Chapter since joining the club in 2009. An active participant in autocross for over a decade, he held the position of GVC Autocross Chair from 2013-2016. He has also been a regular volunteer with the Street Survival program. In his 1995 M3, he has been building on-track experience while participating in HPDE events at Watkins Glen. Steve has close to ten years’ worth of experience in the world of engineering. His attention to detail and understanding of the importance of documentation make him a qualified candidate for the Secretary Post.

Treasurer - Andy Blake: Andy joined Genesee Valley Chapter BMW CCA at the end of the year in 2000 and has participated in autocross and driving schools regularly ever since. He was GVC Autocross Chair from 2007 - 2010 and Chapter President from 2011 - 2014. He has been a HPDE instructor since completing the GVC Instructor Training School in May, 2007. His qualifications for Treasurer include performing financial officer duties for a software consulting firm as well as running his own company in the IT software industry for ten years. Andy has been a Member at Large on the GVC Board for the past two years and continues to take an active role in the operations of the chapter. He currently owns two track-prepared BMWs - a 1991 318is and a 1995 M3 that both see active duty at Watkins Glen and other tracks in the northeast.