

## Lewis, Vanjonack win at Watkins Glen



Race-winners Will Vanjonack and Allan Lewis lead a pack of cars through the Bus Stop.

Allan Lewis and Will Vanjonack, far and away the fastest racers in the pack, won two races each when the Tire Rack BMW CCA Club Racing series ran its North Atlantic premier event at Watkins Glen International in June. Vanjonack, looking to return to the top step of the podium after a rough weekend at New Jersey Motorsports Park less than two weeks before, set the fastest qualifying time for Race One in his C-Modified E36 M3.

Lewis, in his C-M E46 M3, sat next to Vanjonack on the front row of the Race One grid, with Kevin Ogrodnik, fastest of the twelve-car I-Prepared contingent, starting just behind them in third in his

E36 M3. C-M racer Terry Zappia qualified fourth in the ex-Bryan and Andy Watts E36 M3 that he now shares with Kirk Olsen.

Lewis took the lead at the start with Vanjonack on his tail. The two racers ran away from the rest of the pack, opening a twenty-second gap to Zappia by lap three. Lewis won ahead of Vanjonack, with Zappia third and I-P winner Ogrodnik fourth, ahead of Jerry Kaufman in his I-P E36 M3, which was sporting new livery since its last outing at NJMP. In other contested classes, Asher Hyman won D-Modified in his E36 M3 Lightweight, Steve Fitzgerald took Super-Modified in

his E21 323i, Dan March won the nine-car-strong I-Sport class in his E36 M3, and John Paton took M3T in his E30 M3.

The Saturday-afternoon sprint was the Stan Parker Memorial Feature Race, named for the late Club Racing steward and long-time member of the host Genesee Valley Chapter. Lewis led at the start, but Vanjonack took over just before an early full-course yellow flag came out so that crews could retrieve Ron Checca's E30 M3 after its engine failed. When the track went green again, Vanjonack held onto the lead, with Lewis close behind. C-Mod racers Kirk Olsen and Izzy Papadopoulos (E36 325is) finished third and





Brian Morgan

Kevin Ogrodnik took three I-Production wins and four top-five finishes at the Glen.



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John Paton, with Ron Checca on his tail, swept M3T at Watkins Glen.

fourth, with I-P winner Ogrodnik next to cross the line, again ahead of Kaufman. Repeat winners in other contested classes included Hyman in D-M, Fitzgerald in S-M, March in I-S, and Paton in M3T.

The third of four points races was the Sunday-morning Joel Ajavon Memorial sprint. The Vanjonack/Lewis duel did not materialize, because Lewis locked up his wheels very early and exited the race with badly flat-spotted tires. Vanjonack fended off an early challenge from fellow C-M racer Papadopoulos and held on for the win, with Papadopoulos second and Olsen third. Kaufman edged out Ogrodnik for the I-P win, Hyman and Paton won their classes again, and David LeBlanc won I-S in his E36 M3.

A 50-minute enduro on Sunday morning was the final race of the weekend. Vanjonack elected to sit out the race, and Lewis, on a new set of tires, started from the back of the back. Olsen and Papadopoulos battled for the lead as Lewis charged through the pack, getting up to fourth overall by lap four. He made his mandatory five-minute stop early, while Olsen and Papadopoulos continued their dice; then Papadopoulos pulled off with ignition failure. The car restarted, but the problem took him out of contention for the win. He finished sixth overall at the end.

Olsen handed off to Zappia, who returned to the track ahead of Lewis. But before long Lewis took the lead, and held on for a convincing win—a full 49

seconds ahead of Olsen and Zappia.

Olsen said after the event that he and Zappia had purchased the Watts car in 2014 and replaced the entire drivetrain. The Watkins Glen event marked the first time they raced it together. He said, “It’s about 40 horsepower less to the wheels than what [Bryan and Andy Watts] were running.... We are very happy with second and third place in an E36 car running a stock S54 motor built by the Little Speed Shop and tuned by VAC.”

I-P winner Ogrodnik finished third; crossing the line behind him were I-P E36 M3 racers Scott Reiman and Krista Williams. Williams finished a strong fifth overall and third in class on her first-ever trip to Watkins Glen. Paton completed his sweep of M3T, while LeBlanc scored his second win in I-S.

There were several solo class winners over the course of the weekend in the large pack at the Glen; among them were Tim Rolfsen (E46 M3) in H-P, Robert Thoman (E46 M3) in GTS3, John Sanders (E46 328i) in J-Sport, Mark Eksten (E36 325i) in ITR, Steve Mertz (E36 M3) in H-Sport, Taylor Handwerk (R53 Cooper) in B-Spec, Fred Landwehr (E36 325is) in Super-Modified, and Marshall Papadopoulos (E30 318is) in D-Modified.

Meridith Croucher was the competition steward, Bruce Smith and Steve Cappello were tech stewards, and Roland Nieves was the timing-and-scoring steward.—  
*Brian S. Morgan*

Tire Rack BMW CCA Club Race at Watkins Glen International\*  
6-13-2015 Genesee Valley Chapter Feature sprint 10 laps

Overall Position	Position in Class	Class	Driver	Model	Best time
1	1	CM	William Vanjonack	E36 M3	01:58.4
2	2	CM	Allan Lewis	E46 M3	01:58.7
3	3	CM	Kirk Olsen	E36 M3	02:06.9
4	4	CM	Isidore Papadopoulos	E36 325is	02:08.0
5	1	IP	Kevin Ogrodnik	E36 M3	02:07.9
6	2	IP	Jerry Kaufman	E36 M3	02:08.2
7	1	DM	Asher Hyman	E36 M3 LTW	02:09.3
8	1	SM	Steve Fitzgerald	E21 323i	02:09.0
9	3	IP	Rob Jackowitz	E36 M3	02:09.2
10	4	IP	Steven Fiore	E36 M3	02:10.0
11	5	CM	Shaun McKenzie	E46 M3	02:08.8
12	6	CM	Christopher Peloso	E36 M3	02:09.0
13	5	IP	Scott Reiman	E36 M3	02:11.0
14	6	IP	Mike Cookson	E36 M3 LTW	02:10.4
15	7	IP	Krista Williams	E36 M3	02:10.8
16	1	HP	Tim Rolfsen	E46 M3	02:09.6
17	8	IP	Bob Perritt	E36 M3	02:13.0
18	1	IS	Dan March	E36 M3	02:12.9
19	2	IS	David LeBlanc	E36 M3	02:13.1
20	9	IP	David Seidman	E36 M3	02:14.9
21	1	GTS3	Robert Thoman	E46 M3	02:14.7
22	3	IS	Wayne Dobson	E36 M3	02:14.6
23	4	IS	Dan Feldmann	E36 M3	02:14.0
24	10	IP	Martin Mahoney	E36 M3	02:14.3
25	1	HS	Steve Mertz	E36 M3	02:14.1
26	5	IS	William L Mellott	E36 M3	02:14.0
27	11	IP	Robert Goldlust	E36 M3	02:14.8
28	1	M3T	John G Paton	E30 M3	02:14.9
29	6	IS	Keith Primozic	E36 M3	02:16.4
30	7	IS	Kevin Gelardi	E36 M3	02:14.4
31	8	IS	Rich Schickler	E36 M3	02:14.1
32	1	ITR	Mark Eksten	E36 325i	02:15.2
33	9	IS	Francois Metivier	E36 M3	02:14.4
34	2	M3T	Scott Casagrande	E30 M3	02:17.6
35	3	M3T	Phil Abrami	E30 M3	02:17.4
36	1	JS	John Sanders	E46 328i	02:16.6
37	2	DM	Marshall Papadopoulos	E30 318is	02:19.0
38	4	M3T	Marc Thomaes	E30 M3	02:20.1
39	12	IP	Greg Wharton	E36 M3	02:23.6
40	1	SE30	Rick Dravecky	E30 325is	02:27.2
41	1	B-Spec	Taylor Handwerk	R53 Mini Cooper	02:30.7
DNF	--	M3T	Ron Checca	E30 M3	02:25.7
DNF	--	SM	Fred Landwehr	E36 325is	02:25.9

\* Results for the feature sprint are presented here. Results for all races are posted at [www.bmwccaclubracing.com](http://www.bmwccaclubracing.com)