

VOLUME 2013 • ISSUE 1

Winter 2013

dieZündkerze

BMW Car Club of America Sonora Chapter



**Our annual post-holidays dinner this year will be January 26th, 2013 around 6pm
at the wonderful Hilton El Conquistador Resort 10000 N. Oracle Road Tucson, Arizona 85737
The election results (you did vote, didn't you?) will be announced then;
more details inside this issue on page 7**



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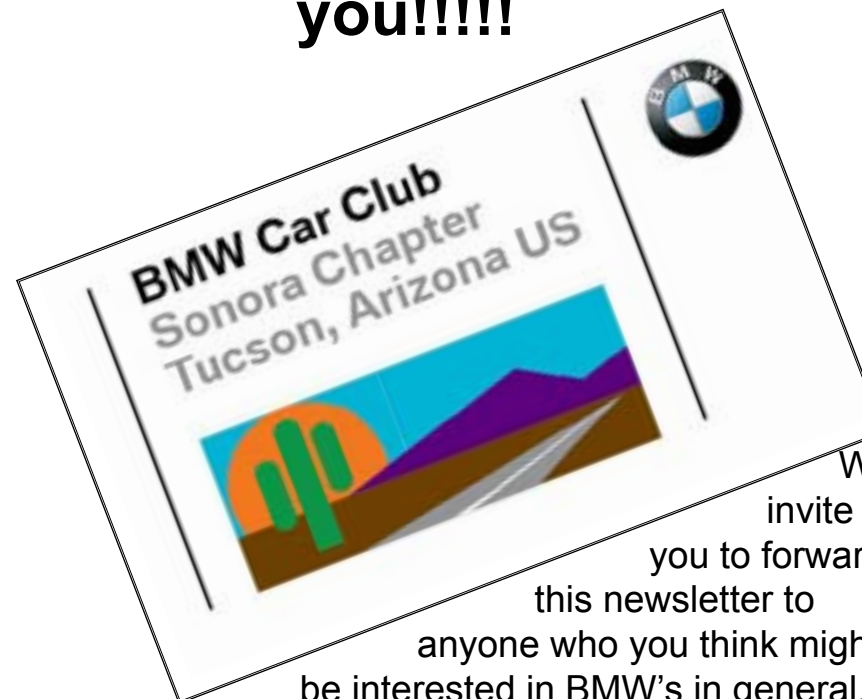


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Interactive format newsletter: it's all about you!!!!



We invite you to forward this newsletter to anyone who you think might be interested in BMW's in general, and our BMW CCA Sonora Chapter activity in particular.

Your contributions to the newsletter are invited and are welcome. Contact Quentin Peterson @ bimmermanusa@netscape.net to get published

You can take advantage of the interactive format by clicking on any page number/title in the "content" section to the right. In-text links are in red, and clicking linked advertisements will take you to their business website.

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- 3 Content
- 4 President's Page
- 6 Local Chapter News
- 7 Upcoming Events
- 8 Driving Event story
- 9 Featured Member
- 11 The Road to Monterey
- 12 Monterey (continued)
- 13 Board of Directors
- 13 Membership Information
- 14 Want Ads
- 14 Chapter Toolbox
- 15 Computer 42
- 16 Back Page

Editor: Quentin Peterson
Webmistress: Julia Olsen-Peterson

The FINE PRINT: Information is correct at press time (as far as the discerning eye can tell...)

BMW Roadside Assistance, now currently ranked #1 by JD Power & Associates, is available to all BMW CCA members for an upgrade fee to membership - and it has lots of extras to make it worthwhile! For membership benefits see

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If you would like to get email reminders of chapter activities, please notify us by sending a message to:
webmistress@bmwccasonora.com

As the calendar turns to a new year, no thanks to those pesky Mayans, we take a look at the great year that just ended and the great things to come. This past year we started the year with a great Holiday party and added several new events that were very well attended. This coming 2013 will give all of us the chance to continue on from 2012 with great new events on a local and this year a national level. The year kicks off with our Holiday Party at the El Conquistador Resort on the 26th of the month. This year we will be changing the food to a buffet that will bring great food choices to all of our members coming out to enjoy the evening. Some of the other events we are looking into having this year is a women's tech session with a guest host, Boggy from the Velocity TV show "All Girls Garage", an overnight trip to Las Vegas, and a Dyno day. These will be in addition to some of the club's traditional events that we all have enjoyed.

Now on to our National event, I am very excited that our 2013 Oktoberfest is being held this August in Monterrey, CA. If you have never been to a BMW CCA Oktoberfest this one is the one to go to and experience all the great events that take place throughout the week. With Oktoberfest being held in Monterrey this we also get to take part in the events right before such as the Monterrey Historics at Leguna Seca, the Concourse Italiano, Pebble Beach, and the Legends of the Autobahn. The biggest car auctions in the country are there that week as well such as RM and Gooding

and Co. All of these events will be taking place the week/weekend before CCA Oktoberfest, so it would be a great time to check out all these great car events. During Oktoberfest BMW NA brings out all the new models for anyone to test drive, with no salesmen trying to convince you to buy one, just for you to enjoy the experience, how great is that? I hope that the Sonora Chapter can have many of our members attend and take part in all of these great events this year. I wanted to take a chance to thank all of the Sonora Chapter members in giving me the opportunity to serve as your President these past two years and I look forward to serving for one more year. These past two years we have seen many great improvements and I look forward to seeing these through and implementing further changes. I also want to thank the rest of your board for all their tireless hard work that truly makes this club great. Next time you run into one of our members take a second to thank them as this club is only as strong as we all make it.

I hope to see you all soon at an event this coming year and as always feel free to contact me at anytime for any comment or concern. As always keep the shinny side up and enjoy your Ultimate Driving Machine...

Lenny Napier
President

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The BMW Car Club of America has set up a forum on the national site for each individual club. Ours is located at <http://www.bmwcca.org/node/2380>

At this time, there are some national events listed as well as national news. I am planning to move the blog there in the near future, and also you will find the newsletter archive there within the next couple months.

By starting with the main site <http://www.bmwcca.org/> you can see events for the whole country as well as news, forums, the Roundel, locate chapters around the country, and visit the Online Forum.

Newsletters will continue to be email blasted in color and linked to our local website: <http://bmwccasonora.org>

Our own chapter member **Sonia Lloyd-Wallace** is
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Celebrate the Season



Celebrate the Season features five of Solstice's very talented authors, including Sabrina Conrad, spinning holiday tales just for you. Celebrate the season with us.



Here are some of the photos taken by Julia Olsen-Peterson at the chapter's November picnic at La Madera Park. We had a nice ramada and great weather for it. A good job was done by Beth Ritterbusch getting the location reserved, and plenty of people showed up for this event. Mike Hornisher was our grill-meister, and the burgers and brats were indeed superb! The chapter also had a turnout for a rented trolley ride through Winterhaven this holiday season, but we don't have any photos of that event to share with you. So we have been busy having fun! Our election results won't be announced until our annual party!!!

Our annual post-holiday dinner is January 26th: no-host bar and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30pm, a buffet style dinner that will feature a salad bar, a pasta bar, roasted chicken, flat iron steak (with mushrooms and onions) and a dessert bar. It's a great time to catch up with friends of BMW and make new acquaintances. Our Board of Directors 2013 election results will be announced, and there will be the trivia contest that asks the identity of unusual BMW parts, a BMW trivia contest on paper, raffles and silent auctions of BMW lifestyle products that were bought by our chapter or donated by BMW CCA national and European Auto Tech. **We will have a one-night stay package at the Hilton offered as one of the silent auction items.** Make your plans for the Hilton El Conquistador dinner rsvp to Lenny Napier:lennynapier@hotmail.com & by sending a check for \$30 per person (made to Sonora Chapter BMW CCA, Inc.) to our PO Box 42166 Tucson, Arizona 85733. Checks must be received by January 22, 2013.

For the most recent updates to events, see the [online calendar](http://www.bmwccasonora.com/calendar.html)
<http://www.bmwccasonora.com/calendar.html>

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We send a newsletter every 3 months, and send about 1-3 email announcement of chapter activities per month.

If you aren't getting email from us, send a message to Julia Olsen-Peterson
webmistress@bmwccasonora.com

February 14th- 2nd Thursday dinner ***(to be announced)**
February 16th Sweetheart Tech Session with more details to be announced via email blast Lenny Napier contact (520)342-8446 or lennynapier@hotmail.com

**Look for more email blasts about:
our 2nd Thursday of the month dinners***

March 14th- 2nd Thursday dinner ***(to be announced)**
April 11th- 2nd Thursday dinner ***(to be announced)**
April 12th- 13th Relay for Life (details in March)
April 20th - We have a tour to Sierra Vista and Bisbee. Our contact for this event is Ross Lampert, and he can be reached best via email: rblampert@cox.net

More information will be in the March Newsletter, due in your email slots the first week of March, 2013!!!

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FEATURED MEMBER: MICHAEL HORNISHER

FASTER IS BETTER. . . By Michael Hornisher

With real estate it's all about location, location, location! With cars it's all about "the total package". If all the components don't look and work well together, you just won't buy that brand's package. BMW, Porsche, Ferrari and Lamborghini know this, and they each package their cars very carefully for their respective target markets.

Trying to evaluate these cars based only on statistics such as 0 to 60mph, curb weight or horsepower, tells you surprisingly little about each brand's total package. During a recent high performance driving event (HPDE), I got the opportunity to drive several of these cars on the Firebird East road course.

While precision timing was not possible without transponders, from my unofficial stopwatch lap times alone, it was apparent to me that variations in lap times had more to do with the driver's familiarity with the track and with the car's capabilities, than it did with the horsepower or torque ratings of the cars. I found that after ten laps in my familiar BMW e46, I could put up very comparable lap times to those I drove in a Lamborghini LP560, or a Ferrari F430 that I only drove for three or four laps!

So what is the cheapest way to set faster lap times? Drive more laps! It's as simple as that.



Editor's note: The Firebird racetracks (there are a few) have, through the years, been sites for our chapter's events, including a Bob Bondurant one-day training session at their training circuit, organized by then Chapter President Larry Peth. All these tracks are on Gila Indian Reservation land, and the lease with Firebird won't be renewed. To learn more, click on the links listed below:

<http://www.azfamily.com/sports/Firebird-Raceway-Closing--185527242.html>

<http://www.kpho.com/story/20489300/owner-firebird-international-raceway-to-close>

Come to any Sonora Chapter event and you are likely to see Mike Hornisher and his wife, Mary. They met while attending the University of Arizona, married soon after graduation and now have two grown kids. Mike's Dad served the Army as a doctor during World War II, the subsequent cold war and then retired at Ft. Huachuca. Mike grew up in Germany and here in Southern Arizona, and he has been an avid BMW owner for decades.

Mike Hornisher has served our local chapter for six terms as President from 2001 to 2006. Our chapter is indebted to him for making the job of President look so easy. Those years were mighty smooth ones for our chapter. The events during his terms were held regularly, were well-planned and they went off well. You could count on Mike to show up on time with event details well in hand, answer any questions people might have and also have something extra on hand to distribute to the people. Mike also has provided the newsletter with more than a few tech tips about modifications he has made to his cars. He currently is assembling a Cobra kit car with his son Dave and he is also our driving events contact.

Mike and Mary enjoy traveling and have had their passports stamped more than a few times through the years. They've enjoyed other continents like Australia, Africa, and India, to name a few, as well as visiting neat places in our own country such as Napa Valley and Alaska. Here's a photo of our 'burger and brat meister' at our November picnic (Mike's in the straw hat).



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Oktoberfest 2013: Monterey, CA... Quentin Peterson

Last newsletter I went over how much goes into Oktoberfest each year and how important it is to prepare for this event. You can read the article at your leisure by the link to our chapter website (go to page 8): <http://www.bmwccasonora.com/newsletters/2012fall.pdf>

BMW CCA National has not yet opened registration for the event. Registration will begin in March, and once registered for Oktoberfest, you can reserve the hotel's group rate. A block of rooms has been reserved, as the club wanted to be sure that only those attending the event got the special rate. It's wise to reserve your room early in this case because they will probably fill up and then the alternative hotel sites simply aren't going to be as good a value as this one.

This summer will be the third straight that Julia and I have spent in Monterey. The first year, she drove her '07 MRoadster out and back. Last year, I drove out and back and picked her up at the San Francisco airport in my e30 M3. I have not grown tired of it, and I'm really looking forward to the drive out and back again this summer.

What is it about this location that calls to me? Especially in late July to mid-August, after two really hot months here in the Old Pueblo, I'm more than just a little ready to drive out of the desert, smell the ocean breezes, hear the surf roll in and travel with the sunroof open or the top down as the case may be. I think it's true for a number of reasons that, for most of us, 'getting there' is **NOT** 'half the fun'. Travel can be a task or it can be a simple pleasure, and my inner child isn't constantly carping "are we there yet?" while I'm motoring along certain sections of Pacific Coast Highway 1. I have to admit it, I'm more than a little smug to be driving or riding in something that can perform, down roads that were meant to be driven. And so, for me, having fun in a performance car, I really like to stretch out my time getting there.

There are a variety of ways to get to Monterey and back from Tucson. If it's a matter of time, the inland Interstate 101 between the California towns of Paso Robles and Monterey will allow you to get out and get back, quickly!!! The coastal highways are less travelled (with the exception of the interstate, at certain times, between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara), and they are great fun, if you like to drive on roads that are challenging. If I've got the time, I'm taking the Pacific Coast Highway 1 between Morro Bay and Monterey. On this stretch of road, there's an opportunity to stop and enjoy the ocean views at various spots, tour Hearst Castle at San Simeon, have some chili and cornbread at Big Sur, etc., before rolling in, in a relaxed frame of mind, to Monterey. I consider this stretch of roadway, taken at a leisurely pace (so I say now, at my leisure), to be one of the best times I've had on four wheels. And you will still get to Monterey in plenty of time. Last year, I packed up early morning from Morro Bay, travelled to the San Francisco Airport and picked up Julia mid-day, and from there, we drove to Monterey in plenty of time to check in mid-afternoon at The Portola Inn near Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey.

So once you are on Pacific Coast Highway 1 at Morro Bay, you're within a day's drive of Monterey and can take your time getting there. If you really have to beat it up or back quickly, you probably want to pick up the 101 that begins/ends at Paso Robles/Monterey. That's a pretty simple choice and it really is, for me, just a matter of how much time I have. Getting to Morro Bay from Tucson is more of a chore, and it can also be a case of poor timing and bad luck, but as with anything involving luck, there are ways to

improve your odds. The year before last I drove to Los Angeles via Phoenix on I-10, then stopped to rest in Santa Monica, but there's typically a lot of traffic to sort out, depending on the day and time of day, in just getting to Santa Monica from downtown LA, and that's on the interstate! Last year, I looked for an alternate route and I found an interesting two-lane highway up to and through a town called Julian, California. My plan worked because I got out of Tucson late in the day, my last-minute preparations being what they were. I made Yuma around 10pm and overnighted there (taking Interstate 8 west, like I'm going to San Diego). At the Descanso, California/Japatul Valley Road Exit 40, I took California Highway 79 to Julian, found gas and refilled the tank, had a great lunch and enjoyed the rest of the highway to the top of Mount Palomar, where I spent the night. Coming down the mountain the next morning, a line-up of M5 owners with a renegade Porsche owner were getting ready to take the road to the observatory gate. Had I been five minutes or more earlier or later, I would have missed them and been none the wiser. It was a really spirited ride to the top of the mountain! A great eye-opener, before I had my morning coffee. On the other side of the mountain there are casinos, hotels and bed and breakfasts, so this route is worth considering. But my getting through LA to Santa Barbara was more of a slog, because it was a mid-morning Saturday, and everyone else (it sure seemed like everyone else) was going to the beaches. That's just not fun, and a little bit of advance planning on my part would have avoided the lumbering, not-quite gridlock, *grind* of travelling slowly in the fast lane. Getting out to Monterey again this year will require some preparation, a fair amount of free time and some luck, as always. There's been some talk about getting a caravan together, but so far, it's just been talk...



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The website of the
BMW Car Club of America, Inc. is
www.bmwcca.org and it has links to this
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By the way, take a look at our chapter's
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Most of us have smartphones and an iPad or other tablet. For Apple products, my "BMW" search in the iOS App Store brought up no less than 284 iPad search results. There are LOTS of racing games here (drive your favorite virtual BMW). You can even be your favorite F1 driver for just 99 cents!!! One of the games that caught my eye is a puzzle game called "Unblock my car for BMW" and you can't beat the price (it's free). The iOS Developers have also come up with lots of wallpaper apps and news magazines as well. BTW, Mini has not been left out and there are even BMW and Mini TV apps! And if you are planning a trip to Germany, German Talk Pad provides essential German phrases on one screen. And there are apps that will link you with various forums and even some dealerships. For iPhone, you can locate your newer vehicle (should you lose it in a parking lot) with "My BMW Remote". If you want to share your favorite drives, you can with "The Ultimate Drive". My personal favorite, however, is the "BMW M Power Meter", with which you can record the performance data for your driving. If you have an Apple Device, you want to be sure to look for the specific device you intend to use it on. I can tell you that iPhone apps look terrible on an iPad. The spacing and dimensions just don't come out right, if you mix up the device applications.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| iPhone apps | http://www.apple.com/iphone/from-the-app-store/ |
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On the other hand, if you are using an Android device, you've got even more available apps – just now, I have brought up no less than 2291 results on an Android tablet. As it is for iOS, many of these are wallpapers and games. Most noteworthy seem to be "BMW Warning Lamps", which for \$2.99 will tell you what that indicator light means, "BMW Encyclopedia", a free app that provides a photo and video gallery along with every model made by BMW from the Series 1 – Z8 (according to the developer), and there's a "BMW Fault Codes" app which provides DTC Codes from 1996 and newer models. I should mention that there are several apps which perform similar functions, in addition to these Android apps I have mentioned. One of the cooler ones is "Send to Car" which lets you send an address from Google Maps directly to your car's navigation system (if you have one). Since I don't, I haven't been able to test it out. And if you have a teenager in the house, don't overlook "Learn to Park" (a free app), which puts you at the wheel of a Mini Cooper!

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Android apps | http://www.android.com/apps/ |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Last, and certainly least at this point in time, a few developers have apps in the Microsoft apps stores for Windows Mobile (32 apps only) and for Windows 8 tablets (1). All the apps are either themes or links to BMW related sites or blogs. Dismal. But not wanting to leave on a negative note, unless you have Windows, you have lots to choose from!

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Windows 8 apps | http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-8/apps |
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BACK PAGE

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