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BMW Car Club
of America
Central California Chapter



A VERY chilly Street Survival School....

... and a VERY foggy Autocross



See inside for details

CHAPTER INFORMATION /// Website: www.cencalbmwcca.org /// National Website: www.bmwcca.org

Mailing Address: Central California Chapter BMW CCA , P O Box 2587, Visalia, CA 93279

Chapter Officers

Unless there is an emergency, please contact chapter personnel only between the hours of 6 to 9 PM. You may send emails at any time. Thank you.

President:
Wayne Wundram bmwayne@aol.com 559 280 8336

Vice President:
George Aguilar georgeag@omcast.net 559 284 8818

Secretary:
Richard Nielsen rchniel@comcast.net 559 259 3287

Treasurer:
Richard Koch rjkoch65@yahoo.com 559 469 6791

Board of Directors:

Greg Belemjian	beemian@icloud.com	559 301 6557
Christian Chavez-Mejia	christianchavez333@yahoo.com	
Terry Eidson	wteidson@comcast.net	559 940 0551
Eddy Funahashi	funa@sbcglobal.net	559 707 0521
Roger Gong	bmwhigh@aol.com	
Frank Reed	frank.reed@comcast.net	559 635 9449
Ken Robertson	raketer@olypen.com	
Jeff Willers	sailbmw@sbcglobal.net	559 731 7668
Marilyn Willers	moremsw@sbcglobal.net	559 731 0018

Past President:
Frank Vasquez frank@achillesmotorsports.com 559 970 2507

Newsletter Editor:
Wayne Wundram bmwayne@aol.com 559 734 3298

Web Masters

Frank Vasquez/ Frank Reed

Associate Editor:
Richard Koch rkoch65@yahoo.com 559 469 6791

Chapter Technician:
Larry Huber larlar635@netzero.net 559 222 1031

Statement of Purpose

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Presidents message:

Well here we are starting off the New Year with a 'flurry' of local activities. And we have another big event scheduled in April.

Starting off the year in January we all had a great banquet at Brian Blain's estate with 60 guests sharing in the good times. In February our chapter co-hosted a high performance driving event at Buttonwillow race track that included a driving school, a race school and several club racing events. Although very cold (a switch from the blazing heat) thing really heated up on the track! And just a week ago Central Cal hosted a very successful and well attended auto-cross at the Visalia airport. We generated a lot of interest and gleaned a bunch of new members.

On that note, please mark your calendars for April 30 when we will have our second auto-cross of the year. Again at the Visalia airport. Please plan on attending as we always need workers to help or you can come and watch. We are also planning on having at least 2 more autocrosses in he Fall... stay tuned!

Oh... I almost forgot.. We also had a VERY successful Street Survival School in January!!

We will be planning additional local events so watch out for announcements via email. We should be sending monthly eblasts with important information.

Also its not to early to make plans for the 2017 Legends event in Monterey. Get you rooms if you haven't done so already. Plans are to honor the 30th anniversary of the e30 M3!

We are considering several different places for our monthly meetings. Will let you know as soon as we secure an appropriate location.

Enjoy your Spring! Wayne

An important note...

As many of you are aware, we have been using electronic media (email) to inform you of important notifications... deadlines, meeting location etc. PLEASE make sure that your BMW CCA 'profile' is up to date as we use that database for which to send out e-messages. If you have changed you email address, please make sure you change it via the BMW CCA website. Otherwise you will not get current notifications. Thanks

Calendar of Events (tentatively speaking!)

April 2 **Chapter Board meeting Visalia Marriott**

April 5 **Monthly Meeting (location TBA)**

April 30 **Autocross at Visalia airport**

May 3 **Monthly Meeting (location TBA)**

July **Oktoberfest in New Orleans**

August 18-21 **Legends of the Autobahn and Festorics**

**Come to the meetings!
Add to the fun!**

Street Survival School

Central Cal Chapter host's mid-Winter event!

We want to thank all the volunteers and coaches from the bottom of our hearts for all the work you put into a very long day! Seems a little silly to say it, but that day truly could not happen without you. Special thanks to Terry Eidson, Gary McDaniel and Ron Cortopassi (and wife) and ALL the coaches. We even had a couple of extra very helpful helpers drop in: Rich Nielsen, Lauren Reed, and the Cortopassi's granddaughter! Thank you!

Deb and I feel the Street Survival School is the most rewarding thing we do all year, and we know you all feel the same way. This year was no different. Watching the students' surly faces as they arrive, seeing them come alive after the first braking session, watching their expressions (and their parent's expressions) as they drive their parents around the combined exercise – watching the students individually grow during the day as more aware, more confident, and more capable drivers – we know we're making a big difference in some of their lives. Sometime soon, one or more of those students is going to avoid an accident because of the things they learned yesterday – and that's what it's all about.

A special thank you to Dean Benz for the time and effort he puts into the Tire Rack Street Survival program – he's a volunteer just like us, and I believe that the enhanced program he introduced us to was a great evolution of the Street Survival program.

Thanks again! Dave and Deb Warner

(cover photo and photo above right by Roger Gong)



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Central Cal co-hosts a 'tri-fecta' of driving events...

Doubling down on the opportunity after a successful Fall HPDE event last year, Central Cal once again joined forces with the San Diego Chapter and co-hosted a busy weekend of driving events at Buttonwillow,

Although it was a frigid weekend, especially Saturday, things heated up very quickly on both days with a 'tri-fecta' (of sorts) of driving events. These included a HPDE school for all levels of expertise, a club racing school for advanced drivers wishing to race (for real...) and several club racing events.

In spite of the so to speak, 'artic' conditions Saturday morning, the collaborative interests of the Central Cal and San Diego led to a very successful event. Event organizers from both chapters, Terry Eidson from Central Cal and Ann Littrell from San Diego are to be congratulated for their efforts.



Our collective thoughts are looking to the future perhaps next year to have another co-hosted event. We are pursuing discussions with Buttonwillow to secure another date in the future. As Buttonwillow continues to be a very popular venue for these types of schools as well as providing testing opportunities for private racing and development the free weekends for our types of events are few and far between.

We will continue to secure available weekends.

This was my first opportunity to be in the start finish tower and start a race. It was a great experience... Ahhh the feeling of power in your hands!

I couldn't resist the opportunity to take a selfie and share the moment!

It was cold!!!!



Autocrossing we will go!

Central Cal hosted its first of a series of Autocrosses at the Visalia airport. With the opportunities afforded by current social media, we were blessed with lots of attendees and those in attendance had plenty of 'track time'.

We have had many different kinds of weather, from blistering heat, to wet conditions but I don't think we have ever had a fog delay! We had to delay the start at least an hour before we could even see half way across the site!

We had 2 dozen drivers who each got 5 practice runs in the morning and then 5 runs that counted after lunch.

We are having another Spring autocross on April 30 again, at the Visalia airport site. We encourage all Central Cal members to either come and participate or help set up the site. So mark your calendars for April 30.

We are also using the autocross event to generate and recruit new members. 17 participants signed up as new members as well as 3 associate members.

Our future plans includes at least 2 more autocross events in the fall. Likely during October or November. Will let you know.

I want to thank Terry Eidson, Gary McDaniel for their help in setting up and course design. Also a big thank you to Dave Warner and Richard Nielsen for their help.

And another thank you to our event sponsor BMW of Visalia for their support. They brought out a new M3 for us to drool over and gave out Mugs and hats.

Monterey 2017

Its not too early to make plans for the 2017 Monterey weekend. This of course included the Legends of the Autobahn event and Festorics at Laguna Seca.

Legends will be honoring the 30th anniversary of the iconic e30 M3 and I'm sure there will be a great gathering of those.

Registration is now open for both those events.

If you have not yet reserved your lodging for that weekend, August 18-21, please don't waste any more time. There is a block of rooms reserved for club members at the Lighthouse Inn in Pacific Grove. Contact the national office if interested.

If you are considering helping out the Legends or Festorics 'teams' please contact either Eddy Funahashi or Wayne Wundram for additional information.

See you in August!





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Newsletter for Central California Chapter
BMW Car Club of America

Central Calif. Chapter
BMW Car Club of America
PO Box 2587
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Rick's Ramblings by Rick Kapheim

We use numbers to indicate things both important and useless. I was just thinking: I have been married almost 40 years, been a dad for almost 30, a graduate of Dinuba High School for.....well...you get the point. Numbers. Like 0-60 times, cubic inches (I am dating myself), lap times around a famous racetrack, g-forces, and other assorted references. Like all numbers, they are important for some, not so important for most of us. Still.....fun to have around. Problem is that cars are getting at the upper limit of their physical abilities. Who would have thought some years ago that anyone (ok....many) could go to their local ford dealer and buy a Mustang that will go 0-60 in 4.5 sec.! Bragging rights are now measured in the tenths of a second. Oh well, when we get those thermal-biotronic rocket thrusters that make our cars truly fly (on purpose, not by accident-like now) it will be an all new numbers race. I can see it now: Car and Flyer reports that the new 2037 BMW M 7000 can go sub-warp 8, but has good landing thrusters that truly gives you a feel of the landing pad.

Just got back from a vacation where 80.8 percent of the rental cars were Mustang convertibles. It was like a Ford dream (or nightmare-depending on your point of view). Now I have nothing against Mustangs, actually I have a soft spot for them, but it was obvious that many of the people driving them have never had or driven a convertible. The drivers were surprised that there was not enough space for their luggage. They were surprised that they had a burned face and neck (and other parts) after driving all day with the top down. I could have told them. As a past and current convertible driver I can only say.....it is not for everyone. My family drove a Dodge Charger with lots of space for passengers and cargo. Yes, it had a Hemi!

BMW has had some overall bad press the last couple of years, but I sense things are turning around. The M-2 has had praise all over the car magazine map, the new five series is getting good reviews, and there is a Z-5 in the wings. I am hopeful. As a NBA basketball watcher, I know that teams can turn things around. I also know that the other teams are relentless and just waiting to pounce on miss-steps. May BMW be true to what caught our attention in the first place. Begging to be driven.

Drive safe and drive often.

Local BMW Car Club Hosting Autocross!

Sponsored by BMW of Visalia
Visalia Airport
Sunday, April 30, 2017



\$30 for BMW CCA members
\$50 for non-members
Includes BMW CCA membership fee!!!

Registration at 8:00 AM. Practice begins at 9:00 AM. Timed runs start after lunch. Event ends at approximately 3:00 PM.

Non members who join the CCA will be allowed to participate in this event. The membership will then allow those new members to participate in any BMW/CCA event at the member rate. Our next autocross will be held on Sunday April 30. More in the Fall!!!

An autocross is a driving event, timed against the clock on a closed course with short straight sections and slalom-type curves that tests the car's handling and the driver's cornering skills. The event is open to all cars and drivers with a valid driver's license. Although any street legal or race car may enter, the following requirements will pertain. Seatbelts (factory or race type) and helmets are required. There will be loaner helmets available. Cars will be inspected for safety before they run. Convertibles with factory installed or race application roll-over protection are acceptable.

For information visit
www.cencalbmwcca.org

Or contact:

Terry Eidson
terryeidson@comcast.net
559.940.0551

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