



BMW CCA Central California Chapter Gets Jump On BMW Birthday!

It is public record (at least from my sources) that BMW was officially incorporated on March 7, 1916. Jumping the gun by five days, members of the BMW CCA's Central California Chapter combined their regular monthly meeting with a BMW 100th birthday celebration on March 2 in Fresno, California. The Chapter honored the Ultimate Driving Machine's birthday with fanfare and high-caloric cake, and then treated the partygoers to videos depicting BMW's history as well as the glory days of BMW's racing heritage.



Members of the Central California Chapter are all 'fired-up' to take part in an even bigger BMW celebration in Monterey this August: the Legends of the Autobahn, BMW CCA Festivities, and Oktoberfest 2016. See you there!



Valentine's Sweetheart Brunch

By Jeff Willers

Ten couples made their way to the chapter's annual Valentine's Day brunch held at Visalia's renowned Vintage Press Restaurant. Clearing skies and warming weather were a prelude to a three-course brunch of specialty breads, fresh fruit and entrée choices. The Vintage Press' menu never fails to please. All ladies received a long stem red rose as they arrived.

After pleasant table conversations, the group was lead in a game of Guess Whose BMW whereby members secretly wrote the year and model of their first BMW on a card. Attendees then had to match the car with the owner. Who knew that Mary B's first BMW was a Bavaria or that Carol Neilson's was a 525 or that one member has a '31 Ford pickup stashed in his garage.

Door prizes featured a Vintage Press Gift certificate, Tulare County Symphony tickets, two sets of 6 BMW logo wine glasses, a bottle of Silkwood wine, and a free autocross entry. But the top prize was a necklace donated by Eddy from Tick Tock Jewelers.

Thanks to Marilyn and Mary B for putting this day together. It was a fun celebration. Don't miss it next year.



'Targeting' Diversity...

As shown below, several of our chapter members met at the Firing Line last month to practice their skills .

Jacob Belemjian, proprietor of the Firing Line and son of Chapter member Greg Belemjian kindly arranged a private session for our group. Our chapter is made up of individuals who share many interests that don't necessarily involve cars. One doesn't necessarily have to go to a race track to have a good time! We may do this again!



Feline 'Attractions' !!!

Come join the club for a tour of Project Survival's
Cat Haven in Dunlap

Sunday, June 5, 2016

Will meet in Fresno Sunday morning at Javier's parking lot (corner of Kings Canyon and Clovis Ave.) and drive towards Kings Canyon and take the Cat Haven tour. Then we will drive 'up the hill' and have lunch at one of the restaurants in the area (TBA)

We have had a good response from those interested in going on this excursion. Please contact Wayne Wundram for information and to RSVP. bmwayne@aol.com or 559 280 8336

We will leave Javier's lot @ 9:30 AM. Add' details to follow.

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

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Statement of Purpose

The CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAPTER of the BMW Car Club of America, Inc., is an independent group of BMW owners and is not associated with the manufacture, importer, or dealers of BMW automobiles. Open Board meetings are held as announced in this publication. DAS RAD and DAS KAMMRAD are publications of the Central California Chapter and are provided only for the members of the Central California Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America, Inc. The ideas, opinions and suggestions expressed in these publications are those of the several authors, and no authentication is implied or expressed by the editors or publishers. Any suggested modifications to BMW automobiles within the warranty period may void the warranty. Articles submitted are subject to editing. Contents may not be reproduced without expressed written permission except by the BMW CCA and its chapters.

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

Words from the President...

So here we are... 2016 is about 30% complete and we just got through tax season... arrgh...! So... get over it! We got lots of stuff to do and time to plan for the rest of the year.

We have an autocross in May and invite you to participate either as a driver or to come lend a hand to make it all happen. We also have a tour of the Cat Haven planned for early June. Come on out and join the gang for some driving fun!

Also, don't forget to register for the big 'bash' in Monterey starting on August 19th with Legends, followed by the Festorics at Laguna Seca and then Oktoberfest the following week. Something for everybody!

We will be announcing additional events either in the Das Rad or via e-blasts. We are also on Facebook!

Have fun and drive safe! Wayne Wundram

Calendar of Events

May 4 Monthly Meeting
 Mother Mary's Italian Kitchen

May 15 Autocross Visalia Airport

May 28-29 Bimmerfest
 Fontana, CA

June 1 Monthly Meeting
 Mother Mary's Italian Kitchen

June 5 Cat Haven Tour /
 Lunch in the Park
 Dunlap CA
 Details to follow...stay tuned!

July 6 Monthly Meeting
 Mother Mary's Italian Kitchen

(More in the works...)

Local BMW Car Club Hosting Autocross!

BMW Car Club
of America
Central California Chapter



**Visalia Airport
Sunday, May 15 2016**



\$30 entry fee

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

Southwest side of airport, by Visalia SPCA. Drive clockwise around airport to enter.

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 more info,
visit:
www.cencalbmwcca.org
Or contact:

Terry Eidson
wteidson@comcast.net
559.940.0551

Visit us on Facebook!



Calling ALL Volunteers...

See this...?



We Need your help in May to assist in putting on our Auto-x.

Even though all drivers must help at some point during the day we still need several helpers to assist setting up and to register participants as they arrive.

Please contact:

Terry Eidson 559 940 0551
wteidson@comcast.net

Or

Wayne Wundram 559 280 8336
bmwayne@aol.com

If you would like to help...
Thanks

LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN

August 19

BMW CCA FESTORICS

August 19-21

BMW CCA OKTOBERFEST

August 23-28

EVENTS PRESENTED BY:



MICHELIN

Flash...! BMW USA will showcase 'Monster v-12's' at Legends!

A special grouping of legendary V-12 BMW powered cars will be on display at the 2016 Legends of the Autobahn on Friday, August 19. This group includes the McLaren F1 GTR, the V-12 LMR, and the X5 v12 LM. The e30 M# DTM car and an Alpina E12 B7 turbo will be there as well. Friday's Festorics dinner will feature Alpina CEO Andreas Bovensiepen as guest speaker. And BMW NA boss Ludwig Willisch will speak at the Oktoberfest Dinan welcome dinner the following week. Registration is now open for any or all the above events. Log on to www.legendsoftheautobahn.org and then click the register tab. Don't miss this once in a lifetime 100th birthday celebration.



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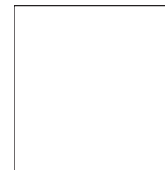




DAS RAD

Newsletter for Central California Chapter
BMW Car Club of America

Central Calif. Chapter
BMW Car Club of America
PO Box 2587
Visalia, CA 93279



A few words about the Das Rad...

As many of you are VERY aware, over the past year or so most of the Central Cal Chapter members have been receiving the Das Rad electronically via email. There was a rather inconvenient manner that a member could 'opt in' to also get hard print copies via traditional mail.

This presented several problems that have ultimately resulted in a quantum change in our delivery method.

We are, for now, going back to the 'old way' and you will be receiving a for real, hard printed copy of the Das Rad in the mail.

There is just something about holding a magazine or newspaper and flipping thru the pages and not having to worry about your batteries going dead halfway through an article.

Yes, we will be still sending out the Das Rad electronically for you 'techies' out there, but at least we won't have to worry about an electro-magnetic pulse from sunspots ruining our read! Enjoy! (ed.)

Come join the fun with your BMW...

May 15 Autocross at the Visalia Airport

June 5 Tour of Cat Haven

Come to the monthly meetings! (1st Wed of the month)

Rick's Ramblings.....by Rick Kapheim

Save the manuals!!!!

I was talking to one of the head guys at a large Porsche dealer in the southern part of the state recently and he indicated that they order 100% PDK's (Dual Clutch Manual-Automatics) for their stock cars for sale. As this man was telling me this the dealership was delivering a striking blue Cayman with a manual trans. to a person who ordered it. Only 15% of Porsche sales are manual as it is. BMW is not doing any better. So is the future bleak for those of us who have a restless left foot? Well I am an optimist my nature. I do not try to forecast the future anymore (This years political circus with both the Democrats and the Republicans has cured me of that!), but I do look for signs of hope. I know that there will be a progression of technological progress that will lead to alt-fuel cars -to antigravity devices (Yea-Flying cars at last)-to transport devices that atomize us and send us who knows where (Kirk to beam up!). In the meantime, I just want to enjoy my cars. Ford has a new high performance Focus that is coming out shortly that uses a manual only. Porsche has had the GT-4 that is manual only and is coming out with a special 911 edition that is manual only. Shelby Mustangs are manual only. Of course many BMW's are available with a manual as are other cars. I was with a person recently driving my car and he noted that I seemed to have fun shifting. This person has never experienced a manual and was intrigued by the process. I explained to my friend the joy I got from actively shifting the gears as I drove. This is all we can do: Buy them, drive them, and educate people along the way. On to other things: I had to let go of one of my cars yesterday. For us cars become part of us that other people do not understand (No: We are not crazy!). I think it is because we spend so much time with them that they become part of our family. This car was not going far, however (Daughter and Son-in-law) so I will be seeing it again and the fact that I have it's replacement in the garage helps my sensitive soul. It constantly amazes me that as I am breaking as I see the yellow light way ahead others are speeding up just so they can wear their breaks sooner! I do not get it. I am always going on about car colors (or lack of them) at dealers and on the streets. I now have two white vehicles as our primary cars in the Kapheim fleet. Ah-so much for my rambling!!!! Can't wait to test drive the new M-2! A manual of course. I will give you a report. The flying cars and the re-atomizing/ transports can wait till another day. Drive safe, but just drive.