



DAS RAD

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAPTER BMW CCA

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2014 Officer Installation Party

Our chapter held its 2014 officer installation party at the estate of Brian Blain in Visalia in early January. It was truly a 'gala' event! Some 60 club members dined in the midst of Brian's eclectic museum and collection of vintage racing cars and auto memorabilia. During the evening, Brian gave us all some perspectives about his experiences with vintage racing including Can-Am cars and early 1900's race cars.

The evening's activities also included the installation of the 2014 chapter officers and board members as well as drawings for numerous door prizes.

Truly a night to remember! Thanks to all who made it happen.



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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!

President's message...

Well, here we are I guess and off we go! I'll keep it short and sweet. I have to start off by first thanking everyone who has supported and encouraged me to step into this position. I know I have some very large shoes to fill and I look forward to helping our chapter continue to provide our members with the fun filled social events, exciting driving experiences and benefits that this club was founded on.

We have already kicked this year off with a bang and our awesome members have quite the lineup of great events in the works so make sure you take a look at our upcoming calendar! I encourage all of you to come out to an event and introduce yourselves as we all look forward to meeting more of you and getting to know you better. In the mean time if there is anything we can do to better serve you please don't hesitate to let me know.

Here's to 2014!

Sincerely, Frank Vasquez

President, Central California Chapter BMW CCA

From the editor....

Changes are here.. NOW!

As we are all now aware, the age of electronic media and its delivery is upon us and now entrenched in our everyday lives.

Accordingly, after decades of hard paper issues of Das Rad delivered via snail mail, we will now be sent to you the electronic delivery via 'magnetmail'.

This is the first digital Das Rad!

By now you should have received an email from National addressing this change over.

If you wish to receive your Das Rad as a hard copy please advise me ASAP as we can still mail out via 'the old way'!

This change will not affect the content of this magnificent 'rag' but will likely allow additional content due to less costs involved in paper printing.

We'll see....! Thanks for your patience during this transition. Wayne

Monthly Meet and Greet!
First Wednesday of the month
(except January 2014!)
Logan's Roadhouse
7507 N Blackstone Ave, Fresno

2014 Calendar of Events

- April 2** **Monthly Meet and Greet**
Logan's Roadhouse
7507 N Blackstone, Ave, Fresno
Dinner 5:30 Meeting 6:30
- April 13** **Autocross Visalia Airport**
Registration 8:00 AM
Additional info in this issue
- May 2-4** **Continental Tire
Monterey Grand Prix**
- May 7** **Monthly Meet and Greet**
(see above for info)
- May 16** **High Performance Driving School
Buttonwillow Raceway**
Visit cccbmwcca.org for registration info
- May 31** **Garage Tour**
More info in this issue!
- June 4** **Monthly Meet and Greet**
- June 16-20** **45th Annual BMW CCA
Oktoberfest**
Beaver Creed CO
www.bmwccaofest.org
- Aug 15** **Legends of the Autobahn**
www.legendsoftheautobahn.org for info.
- Aug 15-17** **Festorics Weekend**

It's back....

2014 Legends of the Autobahn LOTA has a new home!

We are proud to announce that the 2014 Legends of the Autobahn will be held at the prestigious Nicklaus Club-Monterey (formally the Pasadera Country Club). The course is located just West of the main entrance to Laguna Seca raceway.

This year's event will feature the BMW, Mercedes-Benz, and Audi clubs with special displays of significant cars from all three marques.

The format and schedule for the event will remain essentially the same as past years. Each club will have their own registration page (via motorsportreg.com) that will be accessible through the LOTA website.

Additionally LOTA is considering adding an open class that will feature non-BMW/Mercedes/Audi cars. Stay tuned for updates on the LOTA website on THAT note.



NOT Just an Ordinary Valentine's Brunch

Several members met at the Old School House Restaurant on Sunday, February 16 for a wonderful meal and good friends for our traditional "Not Just a Valentine's Day Brunch". Seventeen members joined together for a great food experience, prizes and chocolate!

The food was excellent (you really need to try this gem of a restaurant), and the conversation was varied and fun, prompting a lot of laughter. After brunch, many of us took an impromptu and very fun drive through Squaw Valley and Wonder Valley. We were a bit too early to see the wildflowers, but we had a wonderful drive and lots of smiles at the end.

Hope to see you at our next event! Check our calendar at www.cccbmwcca.wordpress.com. If you don't see something that suits your taste, let us know what you'd like to see – maybe we can start a new tradition!



Chapter Enthusiasts...



Keep Smiling...!!!

It's rare to see a smiling driver when his car gets towed. However, that is just what Central Cal Chapter member Greg Phillips is doing in this picture! His 1997 e36 M3 is heading to the shop to get a new engine! He bought this car and drove it to our Auto X last year in April, and shortly after wanted some go fast goodies from Achilles Motorsports, during an oil system overhaul they discovered the timing chain guides had snapped and were residing in the oil pan. Being a single guy with bills and a girlfriend (who is also a Central Cal member), it took a few weeks to get the replacement motor built and schedule the work. The big smile will return when the engine replacement is complete. When you see Greg at the next Auto X in May, be sure to tell him, "nice car!"

Speaking of trailering...

Chapter member Wayne Wundram recently acquired a new project car. So it was necessary to arrange a 'road-trip' to bring it home. Eddy Funahashi and Eric Coyne joined Wayne for the all day adventure hauling the 3.0cs down the mountain from Auburn. Good times!

Now the madness begins...!



Rick's Ramblings.....

Rick Kapheim Greetings from Clovis, California.

Item: Many people (Young and old, but especially the young) do not seem to know how to parallel park an automobile without hitting a solid object and/or scraping their expensive wheels against the cement curbs (aahhhh!)

Item: Many people were did not paying attention to their physics teacher and tend to follow all to close to other vehicles when traveling at a high rate of speed (In LA it is almost a rule that you are never more than seven inches away from the person in front of you!). Basic issues of reaction time, distance traveled when braking, and the fact that if you panic stop the person in back of you doesn't have much time seem to not exist for these people (For reference, just check any last lap for NASCAR's Daytona races).

Item: Many people have no idea where the location of their turn signal is in their automobile.

Item: Many people are checking their playlist, sending a text, checking e-mails, or doing some other activity with one or more electronic devices that may or may not be connected to or integrated into their car while they are driving. Note: Every second that you are not scanning the road ahead you are covering a lot of real-estate at 70 mph!

Summary: Far to many people are not doing a good job at driving. There is a movement to cure much of this bad driving by automating much, if not all of the driving functions. I have a better idea.

A. Driver training. This program should be mandatory and be taken seriously by our school system as just as important as core subjects. You cannot pass Rick's Driver's Training Program if you cannot park your car correctly! Add a large dose of traffic manners also. (Note: This program is not just for teenagers-we should revisit this at certain points in our lives)

B. There would be rules universal to the United States as to what devices auto makers could put into their cars to distract us. Many of the items found in cars today would not work if the wheels were moving. People using hand held devices in moving cars would face severe penalties.

C. Embrace tech that helps us. Blind spot monitors, cameras, sensors, and other such devices do help promote safety and should be more widespread in our vehicles.

Note: This list does not include automatic turn signals that work by a computer that thinks you are turning. Yeah, I am asking a lot. But think of this as the next person cuts you off within three inches without indicating his direction while he is texting and scanning his playlist. I think it is time to take driving seriously. Drive often and drive safe.



BMW Fresno



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BMW Car Club of America

Central Calif. Chapter
BMW Car Club of America
PO Box 2587
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CCCBMWCCA

High Performance Driving School

Buttonwillow Racetrack

Friday, May 16, 2014

We have reserved Friday, May 16, 2014 for our next one-day High Performance Driving School! To register please visit our website for direct links to the Motorsportreg site

BMW CCA Driving Schools are conducted on a closed circuit and supervised by experienced instructors. Holding a school on a closed venue eliminates all outside influences, resulting in a safer learning environment. The primary emphasis of the High Performance Driving School is a "hands-on" driving experience in your own car with a BMW CCA Driving Instructor sitting beside you.

You will learn how to handle and control your car in this secure environment, which will prepare you for emergencies and allow you to discover your limits and your car's capabilities. In addition to one-on-one instruction with your instructor, classroom sessions help teach driving theory which you then get to apply on the track. A driving school is an excellent way to enjoy your car, while building skills and driving proficiency. Our schools are open to students of all skill levels. Novices with no track event experience are welcome! Our schools feature the A+ curriculum for advanced drivers, providing opportunities for even the most experienced HPDE students an opportunity to learn!

Again, for additional information please visit the chapter website for all the necessary forms you will need to submit. Hurry... our schools are known to fill up fast!

2014 CCCBMWCCA Garage Tour Saturday, May 31, 2014

Man-caves, Exotics, Automobilia

Will visit 3 garages in Visalia
2 garages in Fresno

7:00 AM Meet in Fresno for coffee

7:30 AM Caravan to Visalia for first
garage and breakfast

12:30 PM Caravan to Fresno for
lunch (location TBA) and
remaining garage tours.

We will end the tour with a Garage
tour trivia quiz with a prize for the top
score in the quiz. For details contact
Jeff Willers @ sailbmw@comcast.net
Additional details will be posted on
the CCC website.

Local BMW Car Club Hosting Autocross!

BMW Car Club
of America
Central California Chapter



**Visalia Airport
Sunday, April 13, 2014**



(Southwest side of airport, by SPCA.
Drive clockwise around airport)

\$30 entry fee
(\$40 for non-members, or \$50
includes a one-year membership!)
Registration at 8:00 AM
Practice begins at 9:00 AM
Timed runs start after lunch
Event ends approx. 3:00 PM

An autocross is a driving event, timed against the clock on a closed course with short straight sections and slalom-type curves that test the car's handling and the driver's cornering skills. The event is open to all cars and drivers with valid driver's licenses. Although any street legal or race car may enter, certain rules will have to be followed. Seatbelts (factory are ok) and helmets are required. There will be loaner helmets available. Cars will be checked out before they run. Convertibles will be allowed with roll-over protection (factory OK).

For more info,
visit:

www.cccbmwcca.wordpress.com

Or contact
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