

**BMW Car Club
of America
Central California Chapter**



DAS RAD

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAPTER BMW CCA

April - June 2014

VOLUME XXVIII No.2



**Fun stuff happens at Central Cal...
Spring autocross brings out the speed demons...
Touring some impressive garages / Much more inside!**

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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....

Happy Summer... Gawd its hot... But that what you get this time of year. We dodged a couple of heat waves earlier in may and June, but this one, now in July is upon us and taking its toll...

Be sure you check you BMW's cooling system, hoses, A/C etc. I'm amazed that our BMW's cooling system (and any car's for that matter) can "take the heat" when its upwards of 108!

Anyhow, back to editing... Here is the 2nd Das Rad of the year, albeit a bit late. My sincere thanks to all who contributed content for this issue.

We have a returning advertiser (see over there>>>>) Bavarian Autosport. Thanks you!

And as we are still sorting out the methodology of delivery some of you have opted-in for hard copies of Das Rad and others for electronic delivery. Be patient as we are still working out some bugs.

Anyway... enjoy this one and stay cool! Wayne

Monthly Meet and Greet!
First Wednesday of the month
New meeting place...
Toledo's
Shaw and Fresno St.

2014 Calendar of Events

- Aug 6** **Monthly Meeting
Chapter Board Meeting**
New meeting Place for now
Toledo's Shaw and Fresno St.
- Aug 15** **Legends of the Autobahn**
www.legendsoftheautobahn.org for info.
- Aug 15-17** **Festorics Weekend**
- Sept 3** **Monthly Meeting**
Toledo's, Shaw and Fresno St.
- Sept 13** **Street Survival School
Fresno Fair Grounds**
(details on cccbmwcca.org)

2014

Legends of the Autobahn

Its only a month away... There is still time to register for this 'legendary' event. If you have not heard about this event you must be on another planet.

Join the BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi clubs at the Nicklaus Club Monterey (formerly Pasadera Golf Course) for a gala gathering of fellow enthusiasts. You will be blown away by the variety of vintage, classic and modern examples of German engineering.

Food, vendors and displays of classic race cars will be plentiful as well as food and beer... something for all 'tastes'!

Please go to www.legendsoftheautobahn.org to register if you wish to show or display your BMW. If you are coming as a spectator only, admission is free but there will be a nominal parking fee.

Don't miss this! See you in August.

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2014 CCCBMWCCA Garage Tour

Submitted by Jeff Willers

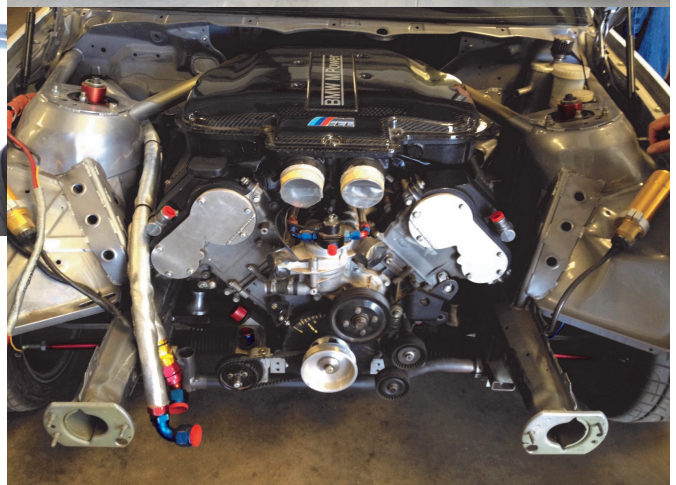
A classic Central Valley mid-80 degree late spring morning greeted the participants of the 2014 CCCBMWCCA garage tour. The tour kicked off at the Willers home with a substantial breakfast of breakfast casseroles, fruit, biscuits, and, of course, the obligatory Starbucks coffee. Most of the tourers were mesmerized by the super 8 film-to-DVD presentation on the big screen and in the garage of the 1976, '77, and '78 Long Beach F1 Grand Prix. They were treated to a feast of fast cars and loose women (after all, it was the 70's). For the trivia buffs, Carroll Shelby (yes, the real one) was a Charter Chili Head and signed Jeff's certificate of membership into the International Chili Society.

The second stop took the group to the Mike Boyd warehouse/garage filled with customized street rods, modified Ford Rancheros and original stock Chevys and Studebakers. He fired up the '65 Ranchero with a Windsor V8 under the bonnet and we were bathed in those heart-pounding sounds that many of us grew up with. One special car of note was the 4-door (suicide style) '34 Nash with original pinstriped wheels and body with enough space in the back seat for.....well, you can finish that thought. Another car of note was the '55 Studebaker President Speedster with its 24 ct. gold hood ornaments, hubcap crests and stylized logos all around and, of course, in the 1950's requisite pink and light grey. (Oh, where have all the good colors gone?) Then, on to a garage like we've never seen on a garage tour before and never will again, unless we want to revisit. Vincent Chan, collector extraordinaire, dazzled with hot wheels models, hot rod memorabilia and Corvettes. A little bit of everything here with a purpose-built second story man cave to house thousands of hot wheels models. Name it (domestic) and it's likely there. But only one BMW....a model of an Issetta 250 (before the Germans passed a law designating anything under 300 cc would be classified as a motorcycle). The real cars were Corvettes: 1958, 1959 and 1968. The all original black '58 convertible with vertical chrome trunk accents, false hood louvers and that classic Corvette sculpted fender cutout behind the front wheels elegantly states, "This, is Corvette!". As we left, John Force waved "goodbye," not Danica Patrick.

On to lunch around the corner to Hamburger Habit aka Mearle's, the landmark 1950s drive-in restaurant. A great photo op, juicy hamburgers, but no car hops....dam! Then we hit the 99 to Achilles Motorsports on Fresno's golden west side. Now this is a "real" garage! There were two race cars in residence, both in various stages of prep. The most interesting, the #88 E46 M3 with an out-of-the-crate S62 V8 engine from an E39 M5. Can't wait to see this one run! The other race car was the #88 E46 4-door sprint race car, the one that holds track records on tracks throughout California. What was so impressive about Achilles was the sophisticated level of innovation in engineering and design of their speed and performance-related parts. An animated Mino was excited to explain, demonstrate and answer questions about the equipment and race operations. Most of the garage tourers could have spent a few more hours absorbing the excitement and knowledge of such a first class operation.

Across town, Richard Koch's garage awaited. Its 39-step epoxy flooring was a masterpiece. I'd like one, but Richard wasn't giving out names nor numbers. After some needed refreshments and eats, the tourers were ready and inspired to take the trivia quiz that included 20 multiple choice questions based on keen observation and pointed questioning of garage owners in the first four garages. And I have a bridge in Nevada I could sell you. It was a cruel trick I played on the exhausted group of tourers, and I apologize. But we did have a super prize, courtesy of BMW of Fresno and Gordon Israelsky. So we headed to the last tour stop.

Larry Huber took over and explained the inner workings of a well-appointed BMW of Fresno service bay, something we rarely see and something some of us think happens by magic. Waiting in the service area was a BMW i3. (Sorry, it's SOLD!) And apparently the next expected seven are sold as well. This is the first one I'd seen in the real. *Kind of like it. H-m-m-m. I could sell my.....maybe not.* Larry has taken the service training for the i3. I'll ask about extension cords later. Oh, and the grand prize for the trivia quiz, the really cool Motorsport bag? ... went to Dave Warner. Congratulations, Dave! Finally, BMW Sauber finished third in 2008 F1 with 135 Constructor points.



Clockwise from above...

A few of Mike Boyd's cars in his stable... Studebakers to Corvairs and a Nash!

Vincent Chan's eclectic garage (and an upstairs Hot wheels 'man cave...)

One of Achilles Motorsports works in progress. An m3 V-8 to die for! (would look really good in my 3.0cs! ed.)



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Rick's Ramblings.....Rick Kapheim

I talk to things. No, I am not like Gary Busey (For reference, check out Youtube). I do not talk to lamps, furniture, or other objects at random. I do not talk to all of my cars. I did not even talk to my first love, my 1966 V-8 Mustang.

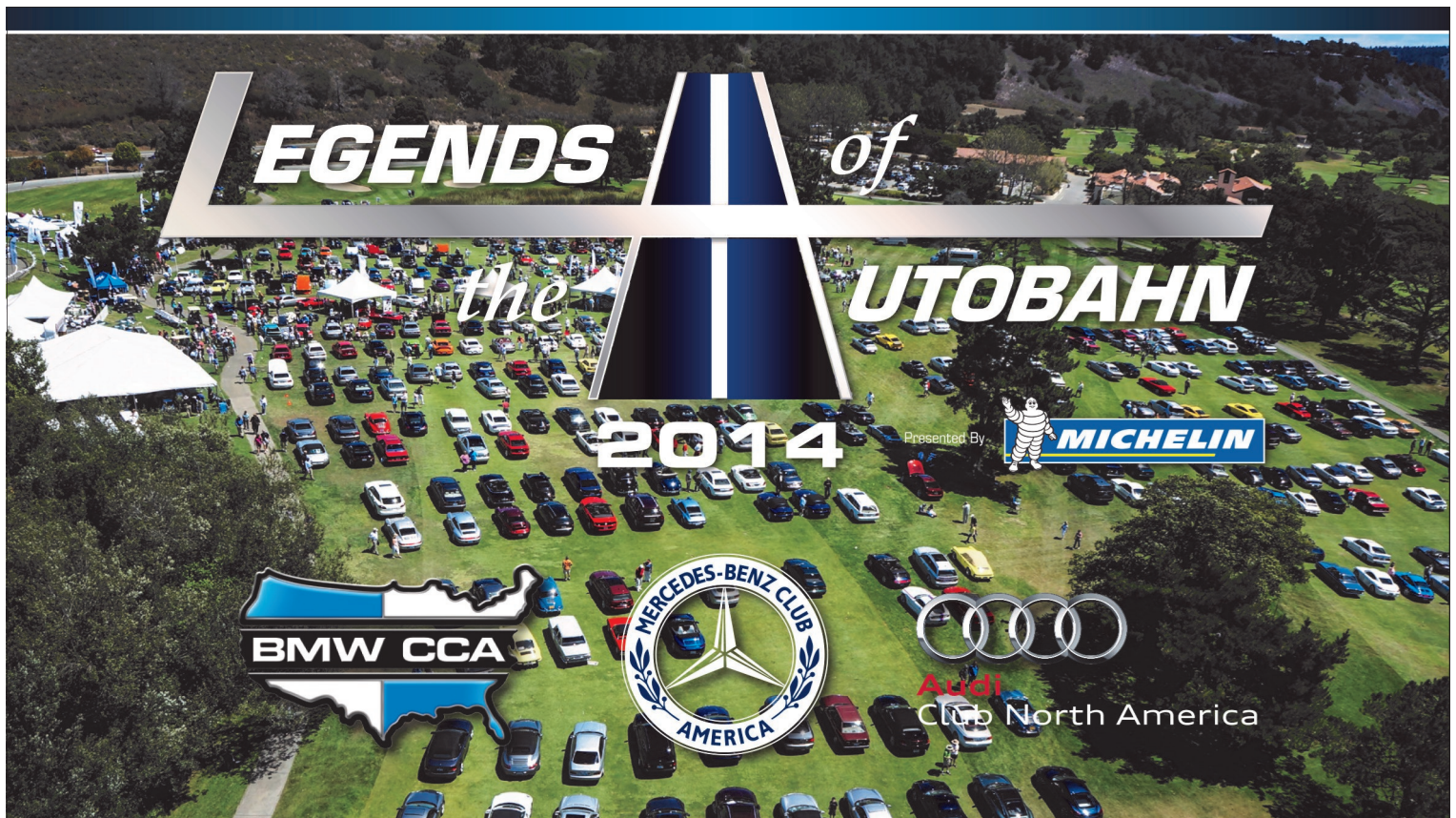
Ok. I sometimes talk to the 318is that slots in the left garage space at the Kapheim home. It is not like I have an actual conversation with it (No, I do not expect it to talk back!). The 318is and I have gone through a lot over the years. I bought it new when I turned forty and I am now almost sixty-three. I joined the club with it, auto crossed it, and have taken trips in it. This car still brings a smile as I row the UUC short-shift kit through the gears as the engine revs. I always know where each corner is and am mindful that the rear wants to come out in the rain.

When my daughter Samantha turned sixteen, she had the choice of the 318is or a three year old sport truck. My wife was surprised (I was not) when Samantha did not hesitate to grab the keys of the BMW. Two years of high school and four years of college and not a scratch! This was the first car that Sam took to the race-track for a driving school. When Sam got her new One-Series the 318is was given a rest in my garage where I tend to it's needs and drive it from time to time. I also talk to it a bit. As I walk through the garage I will sometimes gently touch the aging paint and whisper "How's it going?" or something like that.

Even though the car is in my garage it still belongs to Sam. I do not believe in getting to close to objects, even cars (I never name them). People sometimes express interest in buying the 318is. Sam says she is not interested in selling and I say treat it as an investment if the price is right.

After all, it is just a piece of metal and rubber. It is just a car.

Look who is talking to it. Drive safe, but just drive.



Friday, August 15, 2014 Nicklaus Club, Monterey, California