

BMW Car Club
of America
Central California Chapter



DAS RAD

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAPTER BMW CCA

July - Oct 2014

VOLUME XXVIII No.3



BMW's were everywhere...



In this issue... Monterey Weekend 2014 Legends of the Autobahn
Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance
Street Survival School Elections Installation Dinner
and much more!

CHAPTER INFORMATION /// Website: www.cccbmwcca.wordpress.com /// 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!

President's message...

We are well on our way into the final few months of 2014!! But don't let that trick you into thinking the fun is over! We still have tons of exciting events coming up that you do not want to miss! The club has done an outstanding job to ensure that we finish out 2014 with a bang! Autocross, Track Days, and a return to the fantastic Blaine Estate for our Officer Installation Dinner. (what a treat)!

That leads me to my next topic. Did you know our club is 100% volunteer based? There is all sorts of work that goes on behind the scenes to bring you each and every event. If you were happy with how things turned out, then we have succeeded. If you are not, let us know! Also, don't hesitate to come out to a meeting and voice your opinion, or just come hang out and have a great time! That's how I ended up here, and the club has done nothing but embraced my opinions, good or bad. Our board members and volunteers are world class and we wish nothing more than for our members to get the best possible experience out of the Central California Chapter of the BMW CCA! We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Regards,

Frank Vasquez

President, Central Calif. Chapter, BMW CCA

From the editor....

Will make this short....

There are many events both past and future covered in this issue.

Most important is the announcement of nominations for the 2015 officers and board members. Nominations will close on Oct 31. Ballots will be mailed out First Class during the first week of November.

If you want a hard paper copy of Das Rad you must opt-in via the national website. The protocol for doing this is outlined later in this issue.

I appreciate all the input from those who contributed to his issue and hope to have additional stories to print in the December issue.

Enjoy! Wayne

Monthly Meet and Greet!
First Wednesday of the month
Logan's Roadhouse
Fresno
(No meeting in December!)

2014 Calendar of Events

Nov. 5 **Monthly meeting.**
Logan's Roadhouse, Fresno

Nov. 9 **Autocross (info over there—>)**

Nov. 21-23 **HPDE Driving School and**
ITS at Willow Springs.

(No chapter Meeting in Dec.!!)

Dec. 7 **Officer Installation Banquet**
(Brian Blain Auto Museum, Visalia)
(details inside this issue)

Jan. 7 **Monthly Chapter Meeting**
Happy New Year!

Autocross !!!

Sunday, Nov 9

Visalia Airport

You are invited to join the Central Calif. Chapter BMW CCA for it Fall autocross. Test your driving skills on a challenging course. This is open to any licensed driver. No club affiliation needed.

Registration 8:00 AM
Practice runs 9:00 AM
Timed runs After Lunch

\$30 for BMW CCA Members
\$40 for non-BMW CCA Members
\$50 to Autocross and join BMW CCA (1 year membership)

For more info visit:
www.cccbwmwcca.wordpress.com

Or, contact Dave Warner, danddwarner@att.net

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2015 Officer Installation Dinner

Sunday, December 7, 2014

Location : The Brian Blain Estate - 3008 S. Burke St, Visalia, CA

Time : Cocktail Hour 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM (No-host bar) - Dinner 6:00 PM
Activities, Guest Speaker, Officer Installation to follow dinner. Door prizes!!

Price : \$39.00 per person Buffet style dinner will be served.

Please mark your calendars today and join the Central California Chapter for a wonderful evening of great food and friends as we celebrate the accomplishments of 2014 as well as welcome the newly elected 2015 officers and board members. We are honored to have Frank Patek, Executive Director of the BMW CCA, Steve Johnson, Executive Vice President of the BMW CCA board and Chris Hennecy, marketing and communications director of the BMW CCA as honored guests. By popular demand we will again dine amongst Brian Blaine's eclectic collection of cars and racing memorabilia. This was so much fun last year. Don't miss this one!



Directions: From Hwy 99 North or South, take the Caldwell Ave. exit and head East @ 5.75 miles (You will cross Sante Fe Ave and RxR tracks), Then, turn Left on Burke Street. 3008 S. Burke will be on your right. Look for the BMW sign! For additional information, please contact Wayne Wundram at bmwayne@aol.com or at 559.280.8336

Tear here

Installation Dinner RSVP - Must be received by November 30th!

Yes! I, (We) plan on attending the December 7, 2014 Officer Installation Dinner.

Name (s) _____

Amount included (\$39.00 per person, checks only, please) \$ _____
(Make check payable to: Central California Chapter BMW CCA)

Please mail this RSVP to: Richard Koch
8101 N Angus St.
Fresno, CA 93720

Street Survival School

When parents hear of this driving school, they tend to get teary eyed, not really believing but hoping a driving school can actually save their child's life. When teenagers hear of a driving school on Saturday, they think of a boring day sitting in a classroom of Drivers Ed! Anyone who has ever volunteered for a day of Street Survival knows boredom is not any part of this amazing school curriculum.

Each year we see different people but the same expectations. Parents show up, hopeful, but dragging their reluctant kids along. You know teenagers hate everything suggested by their lame parents... duh!

That all changes very quickly! After the first braking exercise, the parents are now the apprehensive ones and the teenagers are smiling! (Which some parents say might be the first smile in several years!) As the day progresses, timid drivers become confident and more aware drivers. They are praised for their accomplishments and their accomplishments are many – they learn real-world car handling skills on a skid pad and a slalom, and they learn breaking and accident avoidance skills in multiple breaking exercises. They use their own cars, so they are learning skills that are directly translatable to the real world that these kids face every day!

Each year our day progresses according to schedule, and we know we have done our job when we see faces light up and during the classroom instruction kids actually paying attention, asking questions of the coaches, and listening to the CHP officers during their lunch break. We are confident it will happen, because it happens every year. Parents are pleased and kids are thankful for their new-found auto knowledge.

This is an amazing program and if you have not volunteered, do so! And if you know a teenager between the ages of 16-21 sign them up for next year! Info: www.cccbmwcca.org or www.streetsurvival.org (Deb Warner)



Important Information (time sensitive!)

Please take note:

***Nominations for officers and board members are now open. If you would like to nominate a chapter member for any position please do it now! Nominations will close on Oct. 31. Please call or email any nomination to Jeff Willers 559.731.7668 or sail-bmw@comcast.net by Oct. 31.

Ballots will be sent out during the first week of November and will need to be received by the Officer Installation Banquet on December 7. You may bring the ballot to the banquet.

***Don't forget our autocross on November 9.

***Don't forget the Willow Springs HPDE Nov 21 –23. Please register via Motorsportreg if interested. There is still time.

*** If you wish to receive a paper copy of the DAS RAD you must 'opt in'...
Log in to the BMW CCA website
Click on 'Manage Account'
Click on 'Email Preferences & Demographics'
Select 'Receive Chapter Newsletter via US Mail'
You will still get the email copy.

LEGENDS of the UTOBAHN 2014

Well by now you have probably read or heard all about the 2014 edition of legends of the Autobahn. So I won't go into many details. The aerial pic on the cover really does not do the event justice as it does not show the spectator parking area where some 700 to 800 vehicles were parked throughout the day. Some 400-450 BMW's Mercedes and Audi club members were blessed with great weather, and our new home at the Nicklaus club Monterey golf club left all with pleasant memories. The grounds were spectacular, the food was wonderful and the quality of the cars in the show will be hard to beat next year. Lets all plan on attending next year, and who knows, maybe you can have your picture with the Michelin Man! Stay tuned for information and reserve the date...

August 15, 2015 !!!



This BMW 'Shines' as class winner in the 2014 Pebble Beach Concours

By Wayne Wundram

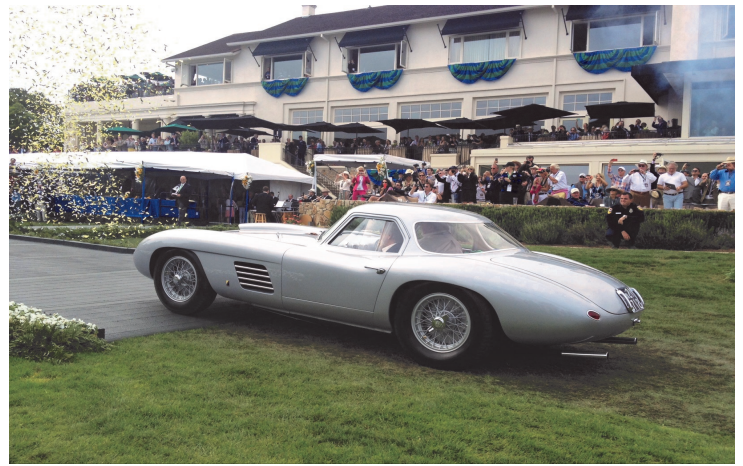
It's not often that one gets to cover a story that has created so much buzz in the BMW world. It's a story in itself that the focal point, a stunning 1958 BMW 503 Series II Cabriolet (one of 139 cabriolets made) owned by Karra Canum of San Jose, CA was invited to the 2014 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. It becomes more of a story that the 503 was selected as one of three potential class winners in Sunday's event. (The three selected cars do not know the outcome as to which car won until the moment the winners are announced during the awards ceremony. Having been in that position in far less significant shows, this reporter can relate to that moment!)

When the awards were announced, in this case it was Karra's 503 that was announced first, it meant that her 503 had won third place. One can imagine a momentary let down and the sinking feeling that a higher place was not achieved. But in a fleeting moment, I'm sure all that disappointment vanished as she drove up to receive her award. After all, she had just won an award in the grand-daddy of all Concours events on the globe, the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance! The smile on her face said it all.



There is still more to this story... that is how Karra's car got to Pebble Beach. A car does not just get invited to participate in the PB Concours without meeting the strictest of criteria. It must be presumed to be perfect. And this quest for perfection becomes the responsibility of skilled craftsmen and restoration technicians who start with a car 'in the rough' and transform it to the polished and finished product. After a three year restoration, hats off to all of those involved in the 503's restoration by The Werk Shop in Libertyville, Illinois.

Karra's 503 and its restorers Mike Marijanovic and Don Dethlefsen of the Werk Shop are also consummate BMW enthusiasts each with a history of decades of BMW CCA involvement. The BMW world could not have had a more proud moment with their achievement at this year's Concours d'Elegance. Congratulations to all!

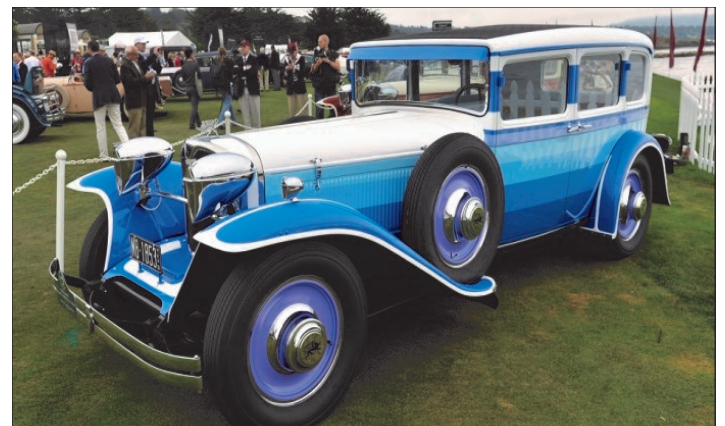


Ferrari Achieves Milestone... Wins Best of Show!

It was an exciting moment when the 1954 Ferrari 375 MM Scaglietti coupe was named Best of Show at Pebble this year. It was the first post-war car to take the top award in nearly five decades. More significant was the fact that the Ferrari, owned by Jon Shirley of Medina, Washington was the first Ferrari to ever win that prestigious award.

Maserati was a featured marque at this year's event marking 100 years of production. The American manufactured Ruxton, the first front-wheel drive made in the US was another honored marque.

A spectacular display of 20 Ferrari Testa Rossas were showcased at the end of the display field. Pebble never ceases to impress!



^1931 Ruxton Baker-Rauling Phaeton.
BMW 1937 328
Wendler Cabriolet >
Ferrari Testa Rossas
(below)

(all photos by Kathy Ezell)



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BMW Car Club of America

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BMW's Well Represented at Motorsports Reunion

It was another glorious weekend in the sun at the 2014 edition of the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion. And if you liked to hear the sounds of BMW racing motors at full tilt you were not disappointed.

Three vintage CSL coupes and an M1 Procar made the rounds at the famous Laguna Seca track and held their own in Group 5A during Saturdays race. Cheers were heard from the club corral at turn five each time the cars flashing Motorsports colors drove by.

I do not recall in all the previous races that I have attended where BMW entries have done so well. BMW's finished 4th, 5th and 8th. Three out of the top eight ? Wow! The race was shortened due to an accident at turn 4 when a Dekon Monza lost a wheel which bounced into the spectator area. The accident was witnessed by most of the BMW faithful gathered at turn 5. Pretty scary moment! Thankfully no injuries were reported.

Results: 4th place Henry Schmitt 1974 CSL
5th place Randy Probst 1980 M1
8th place Steve Walker 1973 CSL (team Luigi !)

