



DAS RAD

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAPTER BMW CCA

April - June 2015

VOLUME XXIX No.2



Front and back views
of the 2015 LOTA

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

From the Editor

This is a 'time-warp' issue...!

Due to circumstances beyond my control (life, work, Legends of the Autobahn... I have taken artistic and editorial license during the creation of this issue of Das Rad...

There are included in this issue some BL (before legends) and AL (after legends) stuff and so something will appear 'out-of-synch'.

Bear with me as I will be offering complete AL coverage in the next issue. I will be publishing THAT issue in September sometime.

Some easy reads here...

Stay tuned.

Wayne

Calendar of Events

Sept 2 **Monthly Meeting**
Mother Mary's Italian Kitchen
 1345 N Willow Ave, Clovis
 Social Hour 5:30—Meet and Greet 6:30

Oct 4 **Autocross ! ! All day!**
Visalia Airport

Oct 7 **Monthly Meeting**
Location TBA

On the cover...

You may have noticed that the cover pics are from the 2015 LOTA event. Hence the 'time-warp' annotation. This is meant as teaser for all y'all. The next issue will be dedicated to complete LOTA and Monterey Car Week coverage, Look for it in late September!

SIX HOURS OF RIVERSIDE



Desperate, part 2...(by Jeff Willers)

In part 1, the Slipshod Corvette had miraculously managed to make the start of the 1975 Camel GT Challenge IMSA race at Riverside International Raceway and was working its way forward from last place on the grid.

Before the first hour had elapsed we made our second pit stop. The crew replaced another flat with our last spare and sloshed 15 gallons of fuel in the tank and five gallons on the ground. As the Corvette charged off to do battle again, the crew was amazed at the new negative camber the car's right rear wheel had assumed and we knew to expect another pit stop on the next go-around. This time we had real trouble on our hands as we discovered a broken heim joint on the lower suspension link. At the same time, as luck would have it, a Chevrolet parts man happened to arrive in our pit and offered Chevy parts for sale. PJ jumped out of the driver's seat, pulled his wallet from his Nomex and paid for the needed part on the spot. Only then did PJ admit to coming together with a Porsche on the backside of the course thereby explaining the true cause of the last two pit stops.

We managed to get the beast going again for an amazing two hours, steadily improving our position. Then things started to fall apart again. One of the nighttime driving lights decided to separate from car in turn one, giving fits to the following Porsche as the lens flew 30 feet into the air and narrowly missed everything important. With the race three-and-a-half

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hours old, we pitted again for a driver change, only to discover our co-driver was nowhere to be found. Probably hiding. PJ was sent out again as we sought out, sweet talked and then strong-armed the co-driver back to the pits. A few laps later, we strapped the Pinto driver in and sent him on his way, all of us waving and wishing him well.

As evening approached, we changed drivers again, refueled the car only to find the car unwilling to restart. We had expected this as we never did get the regulator repaired. So we switched batteries (we did have a spare, Ha!) only to find out that the replacement battery was deadier than the first. Quickly we rounded up battery cables from someone and sent the Pinto driver's wife off to the parking lot to fetch her station wagon so she could drive it into the pits and give the race car a jump start. Shortly, the race car was off and running again. As twilight became darkness, PJ pitted and requested that we turn the driving light on for him as there was no internal switch. All we could say was, "Sorry, PJ, it is on!", to which he replied, "Well, at least give me a flashlight so I can read the gauges."

If people had flocked to our car before, they now crowded around our pit, with cameras clicking and flashes flashing to watch our amateur antics. We had now apparently become the underdog choice of the event and was referred to as the "Miracle of Riverside" should we proceed into the sixth and final hour. As the one-eyed racer motored into the night, and the only driving light getting dimmer and dimmer with each lap, we began to reflect on the events of the day. Some of us had honestly hoped to fail tech so we could kick back and enjoy the races. After installing the last remaining spare tire, we thought our tires would soon be in shreds, or maybe we'd fling a rod, but no such luck. Here we were, still running at the beginning of the sixth hour.

Could we possibly finish? We should have been black flagged in the first hour, but they waited until five hours and fifteen minutes into the race before the dreaded flag fell. "You can't go back out there until you get brake lights," said the officials. At this point We had given it our all. There was no miracle finish. Out of money and out of time, which is always the case with desperate racers.

The number 69 Slipshod Corvette completed 93 laps and finished in 31st place out of 40 starters. The winning car was the number 25 BMW 3.0 CSL of Hans Joachim Stuck and Dieter Quester completing 188 laps, followed closely by the number 24 CSL of Brian Redman and Sam Posey. The desperate racers were close to greatness indeed.



Central Cal Chapter Hosts Local Auto-cross

Dodging a heat bullet, members of our chapter hosted its first auto-cross of the year at the Visalia airport.

About a dozen and a half cars of all types had fun flinging various combinations of horsepower and torque ultimately have loads of fun on a beautiful Spring day in the Valley.

Join us on Oct 4 for our next Auto-x in Visalia.



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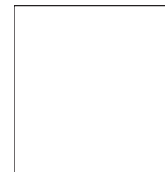




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Newsletter for Central California Chapter
BMW Car Club of America

Central Calif. Chapter
BMW Car Club of America
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A Spectacular day at
Pebble Beach...



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

Just got back from the Monterey Weekend which is actually four days of cars, people, and food. If you have never gone, try to make it (or part of it). You can make it a one day trip (up and back the same day) or multiple days depending on how much time you have and of course your budget. After all of these years of going it seems to me like the movie Groundhog Day, where every year is the same, except different and better!. Next year will be our year. BMW will be at center stage. It will be fun!

I just got word recently that one of our (BMW) competitors will start "set price" selling of their new cars. This will be like the old Saturn dealerships where the cars have set prices and the customer does not "haggle" over prices with the salesman. Tesla already does this. Is this going to be a trend? I have mixed feelings on this. I know that study after study shows that an overwhelming segment of the population does not enjoy the experience of buying an automobile. They would actually rather go to a dentist appointment! I have always enjoyed the process of shopping and buying our cars. The give and take of "making the deal" is fun for me. Oh well, the marketplace will decide if this is a good idea or not.

Every year at this time I buy a ticket for a raffle. The prize is a Shelby Cobra (Continuation Series) and it is for a good cause. Every year I just know that I am going to win and I start planning on moving cars around so that I have a place for it. Now, I am not that crazy! I know the odds are slim to none....but never-the-less I do spend some time thinking about this. Ah! If this was my only car fixation! The funny thing is, these cars are almost not drivable under most circumstances. I guess I just like to plan.

We are doomed! Doomed! Ok....Take a car, any cool car. Porsche. Go on the computer and check the listings for new Porsche anything and see how many manual transmission cars there are. Very few. I know different strokes for different folks, but to me the manual is just more fun. It is almost trite to say but I do feel more connected to the driving experience with a manual than even with the best automatic/dual clutch transmissions. Yes, the autos are faster, but then robots might be faster yet (Odd thing is, thirty years from now it might be Robots!) AAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!! I'm ok now. I do get excited now and then. You see, I like to drive.

See you on the road!