



The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

www.nmbmwcca.org

2010 Spring Tour to the Very Large Array Another Great Turnout!

By Daniel Flegel NM Chapter VP and Driving Events Coordinator

The New Mexico Chapter's Spring tour was held on April 10, 2010, with approximately 17 BMWs attending event. The tour was top-down driving event for those that came out in roadsters and convertibles. Seventeen automobiles, mostly BMWs attended this tour to the Very Large Array (VLA), which is located 50 miles west of Socorro on U.S. Highway 60.



Saddling Up to Find ET!

The VLA is a radio astronomy observatory that was also where Carl Sagan's 1980 documentary *Cosmos: A Personal Voyage* was featured. The Bimmer group consisted mainly of several 3 series (E30, E36, E46), many Z 3s, a 5 series GT, and non-BMWs: an Audi A4 and a Pontiac Solstice - an appropriate car name for the event! We even had several members from the El Paso area participate. The Convoy departed the Sandia dealership under top down weather, driv-

ing south on I-25 and exiting Socorro, NM, where headed west on NM Hwy 60 through the towns of Magdalena and Datil. As our BMW convoy of 17 plus cars approached the VLA, off in the distance it was hard not to notice what appeared to be large white mushrooms poking through the horizon and into the sky.



Passing through the VLA Mushroom Farm

The mushrooms were 27 radio dish antennas aiming at the heavens. Our group pulled into the parking lot of the facility where Judy Stanley our guided provided us with a wonderful introduction and lecture of the facility. The VLA is operated by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) (See Pg 3)

UNDER THE HOOD

Spring Tour to the VLA	1	Rev It Up—Calendar	5
Presidents Message	2	Classifieds	5
New Members	3	Spring Fiesta	5
June Tech Session at Santa Fe BMW	4	Chapter Officers and Contacts	6

Remember to check our web site for periodic updates: www.nmbmwcca.org

President's Message

by Jon van Arsdel
July 2010

Summer has arrived in New México. It is hot, but beautiful. I hope everyone had a good Spring. As some of you may know, I spent a few weeks in Oklahoma City (OKC) on a job assignment. As is sometimes the case in Oklahoma during the Spring, the weather turned violent on several occasions. In May there were three storms within two weeks that produced tornadoes and softball-size hail. In June, OKC had a 500 year flood. Damage was estimated to be in the billions (with a "b") of dollars. I am very glad to live in New México!

Tech tip #390: BMW's do not withstand tornadoes and large hail very well. Take something less valuable when driving to Oklahoma in the spring. (This tip is a repeat from last year.) Find covered parking, or do whatever is possible to protect your car from this type of bad weather.

This past quarter, we had the Spring Tour, the Spring Fiesta, and a tech session.

On April 10th Daniel Flegel led a destination tour to the Very Large Array (VLA), west of Magdalena, NM. We had great participation and a great lunch in Socorro. The VLA is one of New México's "unknown treasures". Please see Daniel's article in this issue.

On April 25th (Sunday), Sandía BMW (6001 Pan American Fwy., NE in Albuquerque) hosted the annual BMW Spring Fiesta. The event was open to all BMW, Mini, and BMW Motorcycle enthusiasts. Sandía Service Director Jeff Cline was the coordinator. We had a huge number of people attend this very fine event. The barbecue (contributed by Sandía BMW) was excellent.

June 26th was the annual tech session at Santa Fé BMW. As usual, Service Manager Andy Caperones put together an excellent event. The new BMW 5-Series (F10) was the featured car at the session. The new car looks stunning, and it seems to be a superb new automobile. About 40 people attended the Tech Session, so it is obvious the F10 has generated a lot of excitement. Other fabulous BMW's were on static display at the session, as were BMW engine and driveline components. Thank you to Dominic Martínez for coordinating this great event.

Driving Out Cancer was an event with multiple local car clubs, held on May 2nd. Janet Quintana-Cook was the

organizer, and New Mexico Cancer Services was the host of this charity event. Unfortunately, the weather was not favorable for this very worthwhile event.

Motoring for Mutts, was held on May 22nd. This is a charity event to benefit the Santa Fé Animal Shelter and Humane Society. Multiple car clubs were invited, and several attended from the BMW CCA. Bruce Papier was the event organizer, and Steve Nowaczek led the BMW group from Albuquerque.

Both Driving Out Cancer and Motoring for Mutts were multiple car club events. We have received guidance from BMW CCA (national) to clarify which events are BMW only, and which are multiple car club events. So we will try to make this distinction more clear in the future.

Next quarter we are planning three membership meetings, and the Porsche/BMW challenge. Please refer to the calendar of events in this issue. Details are a bit sketchy as I write this, since I just returned from OKC a few days ago.

We are planning membership meetings on July 22nd (Thursday), August 18th (Wednesday), and September 16th (Thur.). We will publish details on our website about a week before the event.

Tech tip #391: I really like the M52/M54 series of BMW engines (the fabulous inline 6). It is an exceptionally smooth and powerful engine. The M52/M54 is also very durable, IF it is maintained properly. One of the areas that needs attention is the cooling system. Many technical experts now recommend replacing the water pump, thermostat, and expansion tank preventatively every 60,000 miles.

The New México chapter of the BMW CCA is always looking for event leaders, and also officers for the board of directors. If you are interested, please notify someone on the current BoD.

As always, watch your email for changes and updates to the events. You can also check www.nmbmwcca.org for additional information.

I hope to see each of you soon!

Jon van Arsdel
el Presidente

Redline

NMBMWCCA.ORG

(From Pg 1) and is a facility of the National Science Foundation. NRAO operates several other radio telescopes throughout the United States.



Judy Stanley Provides Chapter Members A Detailed Explanation of VLA Operations Center Happenings

Ms. Stanley provided a 2-hour detailed tour of the VLA and described how the telescopes are used by astronomers to study cosmic objects ranging from the Sun and the planets of our solar system, to distant galaxies and quasars at the edge of the observable universe. These telescopes analyze radio waves in-



stead of light like optical telescopes. The antennas are aimed at celestial objects that emit radio waves and are then recorded as a photographic image. Each antenna dish stands (when pointed straight up) 94' in height, the dish is 82' in diameter and each unit weighs an astronomical 235 tons.

Welcome Our New Members!		
Member Name	Vehicle Year	Model
Henry Ahlfelder	2008	128i
Jim Bruemmer		
Adam Hernandez	2007	335i
Albert Hsu		
James Kinnerup	2008	Mini
Judi Koselka	2008	Z4
Ronald Maes		
Eric Martin	1990	325is
Heather Massoth		
Stanley Montoya		
Carl Mitchell	2007	335i
Gary Modory		
Jerome Pliner	1989	325
Key Sanders		
Russ Schweiger	1995	325i Conv



Redline

Ms. Stanley mentioned that there are 27 antennas that move in sequence and that fighter pilots refer to the VLA as the “Mushroom Farm” as they fly by, practicing their bombing runs at nearby military ranges.



The Spectacular “D” Antenna Configuration

The antennas can be positioned in four configurations and are moved every 4 months on parallel railroad tracks with a specially modified tractor. The resolution allows the astronomer to discern details in

a picture, because different astronomical observations require different resolution. During our visit, the telescopes were what is known as a D-configuration (close configuration), but can be spread far away as 17 miles in diameter. The telescopes repositioned their massive dishes in synchronized fashion several times during our visit providing a truly out-this-world experience. The main operation center for the VLA is located on campus at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro - where astronomers work in concert with other radio antennas located in Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

To sustain members on the return trip, our club President, Jon van Arsdel, made arrangements to meet at a Mexican restaurant in Socorro, NM. A special thank you goes to Ms. Judy Stanley from the Very Large Array, for providing an exceptional informational tour of the facility; also to all the drivers making this tour another successful driving event. If anyone had missed this tour, but wants to witness an out-of-this-world experience, the VLA is open to the public as self-guided tours.

For more information, please visit the VLA’s website at www.vla.nrao.edu

June Tech Session at Santa FE BMW Reveals the Exciting Features of the New 5!

Enjoy this collage of photos from our Tech Session at Santa FE BMW where Service Manager Andy Caperones showed the Chapter members the exciting new features of the 5 series. Pizza from Dion’s capped off the event where over thirty members were in attendance—don’t miss the next tech session!



CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are free for NMBMWCCA Chapter members. Only BMW cars, parts, aftermarket add-ons will be published. All ads will run in one issue and will be removed unless a request is made to run the ad again. Member number must be included in all submissions. Please submit all ads to: webmaster@nmbmwcca.org subject: *Classifieds*. Ads may be edited due to space limitations. There is also the free classifieds section on the chapter website for you to use.

The following items were listed on the Club's website as of July 9, 2010:

2006 BMW M5

Includes all available BMW options such as heads-up display, remote key and access, and leather trim plus new tires, fully serviced, and extended warranty. Indianapolis Red (not fire-engine red). Outstanding condition. 505-988-2378 or bdthome@msn.com

Check www.nmbmwcca.org for current availability!!

Rev it Up!! — Calendar of Events

July 22, 2010, at 6:00 pm. Membership meeting. Fuddrucker's on I-25.

August 2010. The BMW/Porsche/et.al. Challenge. We will post details as soon as they are available from the Porsche Club.

August 18. Membership meeting.

September 16. Membership meeting.

October 10. The Annual Karl Fox Memorial Fall Tour. Gorgeous mountains, colorful leaves, great scenery, light winds, clear skies, and perfect temperatures (We advertise these benefits every year, regardless of truth content.)

Spring Fiesta Best Ever! Over 40 Chapter members entered the clean car competition at the Spring Fiesta at Sandia BMW. It was a gorgeous New Mexico morning that was enjoyed by all in attendance—take a look at what you missed at this year's event! Delicious food as usual!



Santa Fe Concorso - September 24-26, 2010

The Santa Fe Concorso is a premier automotive gathering of exotic and rare cars organized by Santa Fe based car aficionados who collectively have the expertise and know-how to make this a world class car event. Following in the footsteps of such well known shows as Amelia Island, the Quail and Pebble Beach, the Concorso promises to become the major car event of the Southwest. The event will be held on the private grounds of the Legendary [La Mesita](#), an exquisite 140-acre equestrian property just minutes away from downtown Santa Fe. Discount tickets are available if we have a least six members attend. Look for more details in the coming weeks. More information can be found at the Santa Fe Concorso web site: <http://www.santafeconcorso.com/about.html>

Interested in Touring the BMW US Factory?

Chapter member Larry Schneider is looking for members interested in touring the BMW factory in Greenville, SC. He is willing to set up a tour date with the factory for those interested. Contact him at 505-299-5566 for details.

The *Rio Grande Redline* is the official publication of the New Mexico Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America, Inc. (BMW CCA of NM), and is not in any way affiliated with the Bayerische Motoren Werke AB of North America, Inc. It is published quarterly, and provided by and for the members of the BMW CCA of NM. Unless otherwise stated, maintenance and modification procedures herein are not "factory approved", and their use may void your BMW warranty. Ideas and opinions are those of the writer, and the editors or publishers, who assume no liability for information contained herein, imply no authentication or approval. Articles submitted are subjected to editing. Only the BMW CCA and its chapters may reproduce these contents without permission in writing.

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

President	Jon van Arsdel	president@nmbmwcca.org (505) 867-4135
Vice President	Daniel Flegel	vicepresident@nmbmwcca.org (505) 610-1689
Treasurer	David Penasa	treasurer@nmbmwcca.org (505) 275-2480
Secretary	Dominic Martinez	secretary@nmbmwcca.org (505) 294-2929
Newsletter Editor	Bill Kurey	editor@nmbmwcca.org (505) 822-0440
Webmaster and Driving Events Coordinator	Steve Nowaczek	webmaster@nmbmwcca.org (505) 249-8718
Dealer Liaison	Andy Rutkiewicz	rutkieaf@spinn.net (505) 281-7820
Sandia Motorsports Park Liaison	Bill Swope	(505) 345-4565
Tech Advisor	Jeff Cline	(505) 884-0066
Chapter Contact	Jon van Arsdel	president@nmbmwcca.org (505) 867-4135
Colorado Liaisons And Tourmeisters	Tom & Donna Berg	(505) 455-2380
SCCA Liaison	Chuck DeMoulin	(505) 889-9735
South Central Vice President	Mark Doran	markd@rmcbmwcca.org

PO Box 14430, Albuquerque, NM 87191-4430 / www.nmbmwcca.org

BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

