



The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

www.nmbmwcca.org

2nd Quarter 2012

Notes From the Editor Musings

It's often said that the difference between men and boys, is the price of their toys. In the world of cars, this couldn't be more true. We buy our Ultimate Driving Machines and indulge in the performance, mystique, heritage and the pleasure they bring to our lives. Why else would someone join a car club? Indulgence has been a key ingredient for me in this hobby. We indulge our desire for performance and handling every chance we get. If you're like me, you will find any reason to treat your car or yourself to a bit of motoring pleasure. This could take the form of a drive, wash, detail, or some toy you just have to have. It's an essence in a way; it makes us feel involved.

One of my passions in life is mechanical wrist watches. I'm one of those fellows who has a watch for every situation. Never will you see me with a bare wrist as my passion for these tiny Swiss machines runs very deep indeed. To an outsider it would seem the time is everywhere. I can tell the time on my dashboard, mobile phone, and even on the microwave. People have told me a watch is useless in the modern world and that no one needs a watch. While this might be true i'm almost positive you can relate. I could argue no one needs a BMW, either. Sacrilege, I know. I'd never utter such profanity here. This could be true for any interest but it seems the connection a person has to their watch and car can, and almost certainly does, run much deeper than simple utilitarian need. Recently, I decided it was high-time I added a chronograph to my watch rotation. A chronograph is simply a stopwatch typically paired to a tachymeter. These two elements are used to time speed

over a fixed distance. Being a car guy obviously it was a no-brainer; I had to have one. I settled on an Omega Speedmaster after vetting offerings from the other major Swiss brands. The Omega Speedmaster was issued to the Apollo astronauts and if you read history, you'll remember it got those boys out of a couple of sticky situations. If it was good enough for NASA, it was good enough for me. Certainly good enough to check the accuracy of my speedometer or time the odd lap around the track.

New Members

John Montville	Robert Weinberg
Michael Rothman	Annie Jaques
Michael Dillingham	James Barrett
Alan Graham	Olan Bassett
Christopher Hammer	Edwin Kisiel
Barry Adams	Gabe Campolla
Angel Peralta	Steve Aikens
Victor Maestas	John Poet
Bruce McReynolds	Daniel Graves
Dirk Decker	Bruce Skeels

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President's Message

By Jon van Arsdel

Summer has arrived in New México. It has been a hot, dry, windy, sandy, and dusty spring. This June was the second-hottest June ever recorded for the Albuquerque area, according to the National Weather Service.

Tech tip #475: Very hot weather, as well as very cold weather, seems to kill car batteries. Most car batteries (regardless of brand) tend to last just a bit longer than four years. So, if your battery is over four years old, you may want to start planning its replacement. Preventative replacement of batteries reduces the probability of walking. Or expensive flat bed tow truck rides.

On April 29th (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 Reece was the coordinator. Jeff was also the master chef, and singlehandedly cooked enough food for about 60 hungry people. We had a very large number of people attend this very fine event, especially BMW owners. A brand new F30 3-Series was conveniently parked nearby, for all to see and admire. The barbecue (contributed by Sandía BMW) was excellent.

On May 6th, Brian Sharmer led a destination tour to the Banderier National Monument, near Los Alamos. This was similar to the tour that was canceled last year, due to snow (believe it or not). This time, it was a picture-perfect day, with pleasant temperatures and clear skies. A number of us took the guided walking tour at Banderier. It was a beautiful tour, but the damage from last year's forest fire, and resultant flooding, was very obvious. We had an excellent group lunch at Gabriel's, north of Santa Fé.

June 23rd was the annual tech session at Santa Fé BMW. As usual, Service Manager Andy Caperones put together an excellent event. The new BMW 3-Series (F30) was the topic of the tech session. The new 328i now has a turbocharged four cylinder engine, replacing the traditional inline six cylinder in the previous generations. Andy had a representative from each generation of 3-Series cars. Thank you to all of the owners of the 3er's for bringing their respective cars.

Tech tip #476: As this newsletter was going to press, BMW of North America made a bombshell of an announcement. BMW will be introducing the 320d to the US market in 2013. This will be a four cylinder turbodiesel, and will be similar to the European market offering. Details are very sketchy at this time.

Next quarter we are planning three membership meetings, including a possible indoor kart event. Please refer to the calendar of events in this issue.

We are experimenting with some new meeting venues. The July 19th meeting will be at Los Cuates, on the west side near Cottonwood Mall. This is the newest restaurant in the locally-owned Los Cuates chain. The food and the atmosphere are very nice.

The August 16th meeting will be at Café Delicias (named after the town of Cd. Delicias, in the state of Chihuahua). It is located at the corner of the intersection of San Mateo and

Osuna. The food is similar to that of interior México, and is very good. Café Delicias also has a private dining room, where we will meet.

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
New Mexico BMW CCA



Redline

Musings continued

The watch was in keeping with my interests in engineering, performance, and design. It stirs the same passion and desire my BMW does. A well-built machine is always worth the trouble in the end. Whether we are searching for the perfect car or watch, we do seem to make it personal. So, what did you do for your passions today?

Next quarter I will review the new BMW stand-alone Bluetooth system

Calendar of Events

August 16	Membership Meeting, Café Delicias
September 20	Membership Meeting
October 14	The Annual Karl Fox Memorial Fall Tour. Gorgeous mountains, colorful leaves, great scenery, light winds, clear skies, and perfect temperatures

In Memoriam

By Jon van Arsdel

Kenneth Leone passed away on July 5th, 2012. Ken was a BMW CCA member, and was a regular attendee at club events, such as tours, tech sessions, and car shows. He owned a 750Li and an X5; and was planning to buy a 6-Series this year. Ken was an avid car enthusiast; he did some racing in the 1970's, and was even a fine mechanic.

Ken's widow Terri Leone wrote, "He was rejected most of his life due to physical deformities, but anyone who actually got to know him, loved him for his open mind...his niceness...his generosity...he was a trusting man...very intelligent...thinking beyond the box..."

Ken was also a member of Cars and Coffee, which is a group that raises money for single mothers to get their cars repaired.

In the end, he lost his battle with Pyogenic Arthritis.

Terri called me just a few days before Ken died, explaining that he was terminally ill. He had asked her to inform the BMW Car Club members that he would not be attending any future events, and was sending his final regards. He apparently made this request from his death bed.

So long Ken, From all of your friends at the BMW CCA



Photo by David Penasa



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 BMW 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 author and the editors or publishers, who assume no liability for information contained herein, imply no authentication or approval. Articles submitted are subjected to editing.

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