



The Rio Grande *Redline*



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

www.nmbmwcca.org

3rd Quarter 2012

Notes From the Editor

Everyone likes free stuff. Everyone. In the long history of the automotive industry, I'm quite sure no one ever turned down a free option, oil change, or cup of coffee from their dealer. I'd never turn down free coffee that's for sure. However, in the world of recession and global strife, the automotive industry and society in general has cut back substantially on their perks. Sure they package less as more and hope we don't notice but, of course, we do. So it came as quite a surprise when I found a nice, thick envelope from BMW NA. It was like Christmas in July! The size and weight of the envelope reassured me that it wasn't a bill. I opened the package to find a beautiful print of the original concept drawing for my car. The note said it was a gift celebrating my one year anniversary of owning a 1-Series. Sure, they were four months late but who's counting?

The folks at BMW have always made the 1-Series ownership experience feel a bit special. Some of you may remember the Rampfest viral advertising from a few years back. I used the majestic view of the ramp rising out of the crisp Bavarian morning mist as my desktop background for almost a year. For those of you who never saw the Rampfest video, I invite you to have a google 'round the Internet. It surely has to be one of BMW's best films.

Switching gears now I'd like to do a small review. When I purchased my BMW, I specified as few options as possible from the dealer. Sure I wanted real leather, iPod connectivity, and satellite radio. Living without those things is so 2009. I made sure I didn't have electric seats, sunroof, or a blasted automatic transmission. Give me an engine, a proper gearbox, and air conditioning and I'm happy. However, my curmudgeonly approach to the options had a bit of a flaw. One box I wish I'd ticked was Bluetooth connectivity. There is simply no way to answer a call and shift into 6th. So a year in, I decided it was time to rectify my communication issue.



I thought about a wearable Bluetooth headset but I realized I'd simply be perpetuating stereotypes about BMW drivers if I did that. Having the BT module installed from the dealer was pricey and I would have gone that route had I not let my fingers do the walking. Browsing the BMW website in search of stuff I didn't need, I stumbled across the BMW stand-alone BT module. At \$100, I figured I'd give it a go. A C-note later, inclusive of shipping and I had my new toy. Firstly, I have to note the quality feel. It's not heavy but the module feels well-made. The electronic guts are from Alpine and in my experience I've never had a problem with any Alpine product. Things were looking up. I liked the shameless BMW text on the volume control dial and the gunmetal trim. A small clip can be used to attach it to the sun visor and surprisingly it doesn't look out of place. Using it is pretty strait forward. Everyone will have a different connecting experience but it really couldn't be simpler. If any headaches are to be found, it will be with your phone and not the BT unit itself. I use the iPhone with iOS6 but I keep the BT disabled on the phone until I need it to save battery life. This means I have to pair the phone each time but it only a few seconds. I've been told I can't hear so I was a bit worried about the volume this little box could project but let me tell you, I could hear this thing from across the street! Of the five or so volume settings I run mine somewhere in the middle. My next worry was battery life. After a month of use, including a drive to Los Angeles, in standby and many many calls it was still going strong. Eventually I took it in



the house and gave it a good charge but it gave me no hint it needed it.

So if you want a Bluetooth system for your car, especially if a built-in unit wasn't an option, get the stand-alone unit from BMW. It checked all of my boxes.

President's Message

Fall is here. So is the State Fair, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, and (mostly) gorgeous weather. The days are getting shorter and cooler. Long range weather projections are forecasting another possible La Niña Winter, with less than average snowfall. The forecast has an unusually high uncertainty factor this year. According to a release by the National Weather Service, this was the hottest-ever summer in many parts of the USA, for as long as weather has been recorded (about 150 years).

Tech tip #480: The new BMW X1 has just been introduced, and is available with X-Drive (All Wheel Drive). The new N20 turbocharged four cylinder engine is available. There is also a rumor that Diesel models will soon be available.

This past quarter, we had a membership meeting and the Fall Tour. It is great to see a lot of new faces bringing new enthusiasm to our club. We were also invitees at the Río Rancho Oktoberfest.

The Annual Karl H. Fox Memorial Fall Tour was held on Sunday, October 7th. The route was to Cuba, Abiquiú, Española, and Chimayó. Sonia Martínez (formerly Herrera) was the tourmeister, and put together a truly magnificent and fun tour route. The scenery was excellent, and we were able to tour the Abiquiú Dam and the lake area. The weather and the temperatures were nearly perfect, and it turned out to be the sometimes elusive "convertible-friendly" weather. The tour ended with a

Calendar of Events

Nov 14 (Wed)	ABQ Indoor Carting. 5110 Copper NE @6pm David Penasa POC
Dec 14 (Sat)	Holiday Party at Nicky V's 9780 Coors NW Steve Nowaczek POC
Jan 2013	Sandia BMW Tech Session
Feb 2013	Southwest Collision Tech Session

great lunch at Rancho de Chimayó. Thank you Sonia, for putting together a great event. Also, thank you to Dieter Fox for again sponsoring the event.

Tech tip #481: Heated seats are really nice. (I think I repeat this almost every year.)

The New México Chapter participated in the Río Rancho Oktoberfest and German Car Show on September

22nd. This event had been dormant for several years. Mr. Dana Köller, with the backing of the Chamber of Commerce decided to revive the event last year. This was the second year of the revived Oktoberfest. In addition to many BMW's, there were Volkswagens, Mercedes, and Porsches at the car show. Oktoberfest featured live music, German food, and great German beverages. The location of the show had to be changed at the last minute, causing some members to miss the event. Despite the confusion, 25 German cars participated in the show.

Next quarter we are planning two events, an indoor karting meeting, and a holiday party. We are planning great tech sessions in January and February. Please see the calendar of events in this issue.



Tech tip #482: The new BMW 3-Series (F30) is now available with X-Drive (AWD). This was not available at its initial introduction early this year. The N20 turbocharged four cylinder is the standard engine. A SULEV model (low emissions) will also be available with the N26 engine. A four cylinder Diesel model is planned, to compete with Mercedes and Audi.

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
BMW CCA of NM



Photos by Steve Nowaczek and Joe Lavender

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