



# The Rio Grande *Redline*



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

[www.nmbmwcca.org](http://www.nmbmwcca.org)

Oct/Nov/Dec 2013

## Notes From the Editor

Once again Fall has arrived and we are preparing ourselves for the upcoming holiday season. It's easy to get caught up in the hussle and bussle of the holiday spirit, make sure you take time to review your vehicles needs. You will find a couple Tech Tips in this edition that are full of good ideas. If you have any Tech Tips you'd like to share, please send us your ideas to [editor@nmbmwcca.org](mailto:editor@nmbmwcca.org). Thanks and have a happy & safe holiday season!

## President's Letter

Fall is here; so is the Fall Tour, the State Fair, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, and gorgeous weather (with a few exceptions). The days are getting shorter and cooler. Long range weather projections are forecasting another possible La Niña Winter, with less than average snowfall (yes, again). This is despite the plentiful rains we received in September.

**Tech tip #507:** With winter quickly approaching, now may be a good time to check your tires for tread depth and air pressure. Members with X-Drive may want to consider changing the transfer case fluid, if it has been more than about 30,000 miles since the last change.

This past quarter, we had two membership meetings, a Trivia Tour, 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.

On August 16 we had a membership meeting, along with a large group from the Houston Chapter, who were traveling to California for Oktoberfest. BMW CCA Regional Vice President Dan Baker was traveling with the group, and all of us had a fabulous lunch and meeting at The Range Café, in Bernalillo. Thank you very much to Matt DiGregory (Range Café owner) for setting this up.

On September 21, we had our first ever Trivia Tour. Tourmeister Ohio Knox put together a great route through the Sandía and Manzano Mountains. Each car had a driver and a navigator. The object was to follow the route exactly as written in the instruction packet, and answer questions about things seen on the route. It was not a timed event, so several cars stopped along the route for some impromptu photography. All who participated seemed to have a fun time.



***Redline***



The New México Chapter participated in the Río Rancho Oktoberfest and German Car Show on September 28nd. This event had been dormant for several years, and its revival last year had a few rough spots. This year, the event seemed to operate more smoothly. In addition to BMW's, there were Volkswagens, Mercedes, Porsches and even an Opel at the car show. Oktoberfest featured live music, German food, and great German beverages (use your imagination).

The Annual Karl H. Fox Memorial Fall Tour was held on Sunday, October 13th. The route was to El Malpaís and Sky City. Monika Fox was the tourmeister, and put together a truly magnificent and fun tour route. The scenery was excellent, and we were able to tour some of the Malpaís area. Unfortunately, some of the area was closed, due to the Federal Government shutdown. The weather and the temperatures were nearly perfect, and it turned out to again be the sometimes elusive "convertible-friendly" weather. The tour ended with a great brunch at the Acoma restaurant at Sky City. Thank you Monika, for putting together a great event! Also, thank you to Dieter Fox for again sponsoring the tour.



Next quarter we are planning two events, a tech session and a holiday party. We are also planning great tech sessions in January and February. Please see the calendar of events in this issue. Details are still being worked out for the November tech session, so watch your email for updates on that and the holiday dinner.

### **Weed in January.**

BMW CCA Roundel columnist Nikki Weed is planning to visit Albuquerque on January 21, 2014. She has purchased an aging E24 BMW 6-Series in San Diego, California, and is driving it across the country to South Carolina. Yes you read that right, she is driving it. The E24 is in uncertain condition, which always adds to the drama in a 20+ year-old car. She will also be writing an article for Roundel about her travels, and has asked for participation from the various BMW CCA chapters along the route. Incidentally, if anyone has a guest bedroom they could give up for the night of the 21st, she would be really grateful.

Nikki wishes to set up a "Taco Tour" during her stay in Albuquerque.

### **Taco Stops:**

6:00 pm – Papa Nachos, 7648 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

7:00 – Taco Cabana, 8330 Montgomery Blvd, Albuquerque, NM 87111

8:30 – El Patio, 142 Harvard Dr SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

For more information, visit Nikki's website:

[http://nikkiweed.wordpress.com/?page\\_id=298&preview=true](http://nikkiweed.wordpress.com/?page_id=298&preview=true)



Lastly, I'd like to welcome James Irick, our new NM BMW CCA Secretary. Thank you James for volunteering and we look forward to working with you!

I hope to see each of you soon!

Jon van Arsdel  
el Presidente BMW CCA of NM

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**Redline**

Calendar of Events	
Nov 21 (Thu)	Membership meeting at 6pm. Details TBA.
Nov 23 (Sat)	Non-NMBMWCCA event. Slow Speed Road Rallye hosted by Road Runner Region of the Porsche Club of America. \$10 per car. For more information contact, <a href="mailto:rallymaster@roadrunner-region-pca.org">rallymaster@roadrunner-region-pca.org</a> .
Dec14 (Sat)	Holiday party! Come celebrate with us as we wrap up the year with good food & great company at Nicky V's Pizzeria (9780 Coors Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM) at 4:00pm.
Jan 21 (Tue)	Taco Tour de Albuquerque with Nikki Weed. Event will start at Papa Nacho's Mexican Food restaurant located on 7648 Louisiana Blvd NE at 6:00pm and make two more stops.



## Electric Fever

by Dominic Martinez

It seems all-electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles are the main focus of automotive magazines right now. The November issue of Roundel® has two articles on the upcoming i3 and i8 and included an article on Telsa's thoughts on the i3 as a competitor. The November issue of Car and Driver® included two articles, one on the Tesla "Supercharger Stations" and one on the upcoming i8. Auto journalists from Roundel and Car and Driver must have been at the same test track because the photos are nearly identical for the i8. Although I am not a journalists by trade, this article will attempt to summarize the current information as well as information relevant to New Mexicans. The content of this article is based on research from the internet and interviewing a local owner of a Chevy Volt. The content is NOT guaranteed to be 100% accurate nor complete.

BMW intends to release the 2014 i3 in November 2013<sup>1</sup> and may very well be on sale by the time this newsletter is printed. The i8 will be a model year 2015. Federal tax credits are expected to be available for both vehicles, however the credits are currently dependent on battery size. It is expected the i3's 18.5 kWh battery will qualify for the \$7500 credit while the i8's 6 kWh battery will qualify for the \$2500 credit. This information is deduced from the Chevy Volt's 16.5 kWh battery qualifying for the larger credit while the Toyota Prius' 4.4 kWh qualifying for the lesser credit. Some states also have a state level tax credit. Unfortunately NM does not offer a tax incentive, for reference California offers \$2500 for all-electric vehicles. It is important to highlight the challenges of charging the batteries of the Chevy Volt which in simplistic model equates to the i3. A typical household 120 volt 20 amp circuit takes approximately 12 hours to charge a near fully depleted battery. A dedicated 240 volt 15 amp circuit can reduce the charging time to just under 4 hours. Chevy sells the 240 volt charging station for around \$500 and it requires installation by a licensed electrician. I would speculate the BMW charging station to be about double the price based on aftermarket stations found on the internet. As for public charging stations, Albuquerque currently has two downtown on 2nd and Marquette<sup>2</sup>. Tesla's solution to the charging needs of their owners is to install "Supercharger stations" across the United States which can used be free of charge. Tesla claims to be able to charge the Model S' 60 kWh battery 50% in 20 minutes<sup>3</sup> however the station generates roughly 13 times a household 40 amp circuit. Telsa currently has approximately 30 of these stations, with a large percentage along the California coast line.



2014 BMW i3

The daily operating expenses (not including maintenance) of the electric vehicles are much less expensive than that of gas vehicles. An extremely simplistic calculation is as follows: PNM's current rates with taxes and fees are approximately 12.5 cents per kilowatt hour. A typical person drives 12,000 miles a year which equates to 33 miles per day average. BMW estimates the range of the i3 to be 80 to 100 miles. Assuming the low end due to the elevation changes in Albuquerque, this means one would use approximately 41% of the i3 battery on an average day. This works out to 7.6 kWh per day to recharge the battery. At PNM's current price for electricity this equates to 95 cents per day in electricity or \$346 a year. The similarly priced BMW 320i is EPA estimated at 24 mpg city, which equates to 1.38 gallons of fuel for the same 33 miles. My local Phillips 66 has 91 octane (required for turbo engines) for \$3.19 a gallon. This equates to \$4.39 per day or \$1600 a year in gasoline.



2015 BMW i8


It is roughly ¼ the cost to operate an electric vehicle. For those with solar power, the cost is even less. Along the lines of solar, Affordable Solar on Pan American Freeway held an Electric Vehicle Event October 26. I'm sure we'll see many more of these events in the future for this emerging market.

#### References:

- 1 Henny Hemmes, The i3 Launch: No Stone Was Left Unturned, Roundel, November 2013.
- 2 <http://www.cabq.gov/municipaldevelopment/images/ElectricVehicleChargingStations.jpg/view>
- 3 Don Sherman, Tesla Across America, Car and Driver, November 2013.

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