



# The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

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

## Upcoming Club Events

### Spring Fiesta

**May 4 2014 - 9:00 am Spring Fiesta** at Sandia BMW. Join Jeff Reece and the club as we clean up our rides to show off while Jeff works his mastery of the barbie.

### June Tech Session

**June 7 2014** - Andy Caperones is opening his garage at Santa Fe BMW to host another technical filled session.

### Oktoberfest 2014

**June 15-21- BMW CCA O'fest**, held at Beaver Creek Resort in Beaver Creek, CO. There is still time to register if you haven't already. See more info in the newsletter.

### July Member Meeting

**Date TBD-** July's Member meeting is still in the works. Check in with our website and email for details as we get closer...

### Drive 4 Corners Meet

**August 1-4** promises to bring summer weather in Pagosa Springs, CO. It also promises to bring together a large collection of BMW's from all over the country. See more details in the newsletter.

Ground Zero with History



## Spring Tour to Trinity Site

*James Irick, Newsletter Editor*

This year's Spring Tour was a trip back in history. For the only time this year the White Sands Missile Range Trinity Site open house was on April 5. It gave those who went an opportunity to witness where history was made in the desert sands on an early morning in July 1945.

Trinity Site is the name given to a place where the US detonated the worlds first atomic weapon. It was not technically a weapon but a "gadget" which was a prototype for a production weapon made of Plutonium. Without the test the scientists of the Manhattan Project were not convinced the weapon would work in war. The successful test took place on a blustery morning July 16, 1945 before dawn.



A few of the willing participants

Trinity Tour Continued:

The club met up at Sandia BMW at 8:00 am. There were about 30 participants in this Spring Tour with about 23 cars in the caravan... 10 percent of the Chapter! We left the dealership and headed south to a pit stop on I-25. It gave us a few minutes to gawk at each others cars and stretch our legs...

We would need the stretch since when we arrived at Stallion Gate at White Sands Missile Range there was a line of traffic waiting to enter for the open house tour. We waited approximately 45 minutes to get through the gate and into the 13 mile drive to the parking area at Trinity Site. Since Ground Zero was the only open area, we headed in to have a look. Mother Nature was quick to join us and a windstorm blew through which left most of us covered in a layer of fine desert hospitality.

After an hour of battering, we headed to Socorro for a lovely lunch at Frank and Lupe's El Sombrero. The food was good but we should probably not have 30 plus guests try to dine there at the same time. They ran out of clean plates trying to serve the group so some of us had to wait for lunch. Still better than McDonald's any day..



### **A Note From the President of the Chapter**

After a very dry La Nina winter, spring has arrived. It looks to be windy and sandy again, maybe more so than last year (2013). The blowing sand will again get into everything. Hint: your BMW will be happier if you keep the sand out of the moving parts under the hood...

This past quarter we had three tech sessions, a membership meeting, and the Spring Tour. The January 16, 2014 tech session was at Sandia BMW. Service Manager Jeff Reece was the host. The main topic was the new 3 and 4 series BMW cars. Jeff had a new 328d on display. It is smooth, quiet, and clean. We also held officer elections for the New Mexico Chapter of the BMW CCA. Jeff Reece hosted our first ever "Tech Session Lite" on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. On very short notice, Jeff found out that a touring group of the new BMW i3 was arriving at Sandia BMW. We hastily called together the tech session for the i3. I went in with modest expectations, and came away very impressed. It is a fully equipped, well developed, and reasonably-sized car. There is a lot of cutting edge technology built into this new electric car.

The February 13<sup>th</sup> tech session was at Southwest Collision Craftsmen. General Manager Don Truesdale was the host at the BMW-certified body shop. Don discussed and demonstrated basic body repair for BMW's. We witnessed their commitment to top-quality repair and body work. Thank you to Rebecca and Sara for helping with the tech session.

March 20<sup>th</sup> was a general membership meeting at Café Delicias.

The Annual Spring Tour (just completed as I write this), was overall a success. The trip to the Trinity Site attracted over 30 participants, including many new faces. The weather leaving Sandia BMW was perfect for convertibles, and even a BMW motorcycle. Unfortunately, the nearly perfect tour was marred by a long wait at the White Sands entrance security gate, part of the exhibit being closed, and by a ferocious dust storm at the Trinity Site. We had an excellent group-lunch at El Sombrero in Socorro after the tour. James has a more complete write-up (with photos) in this issue. Thank you very much to Sandia BMW for hosting our tour group.

Find us Online:  
<http://www.nmbmwcca.org>



## Drive 4 Corners BMW Meet August 1-4, 2014

The weather in August in Pagosa Springs, CO is breathtaking. Especially if you are living in the desert southwest...What a perfect time to take your ride and head to the mountains!

This will be the 4th annual Drive 4 Corners meet in Pagosa Springs August 1-4, 2014.

The host hotel is the Quality Inn in Pagosa Springs. Located next to Pagosa Hot Springs in downtown. Rate is only \$79/night... in peak season! You must register for the event first then call the hotel at (970)264-4173 and mention BMW Meet in August for the rate. Only 80 rooms reserved to the meet so book early!

There are several events during the meet including tech sessions, caravan drive to Wolf Creek Pass and meet and greets. Go to their website: <http://drive4corners.com> for more information and to sign up.

The Drive4Corners group is also looking to set up caravans for drivers to meet up prior to getting to Pagosa. Check out the website for more info and to volunteer as a Tourmeister!

See you there!!

### President's Note Continued:

The annual Spring Fiesta (clean car show and barbecue) will again be held at Sandía BMW. It is scheduled for Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Reece and all the very hard working people at Sandía will host the event. Jeff will try to have an example or two of the new 2-Series, and other interesting models parked at the Fiesta (depending on stock at the dealership). We have submitted a request for nice weather and light winds...

Santa Fe BMW and Andy Caperones will be hosting a tech session on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. The topic for the tech session is planned to be the new 2-Series, and the new M3. This event will be a couple weeks earlier than normal, due to the Oktoberfest trip to Colorado. Watch your email for details.

We are planning a Membership Meeting in July; stay tuned to email for details...

Please come by and join us; we try to have events that appeal to many tastes.

National Chapter Congress. On March 14-16, 2014, two of us attended the Congress. Steve Nowaczek, and I attended the Fort Worth meeting, which emphasized both driving events, and the membership satisfaction surveys. We also talked about liaison activities with the BMW dealerships. It was a very busy and long weekend.

Our current Newsletter Editor, Sonia Martínez has a brand new baby, and asked to take some time off from the BMW CCA of NM chapter newsletter. Thank you to Sonia for helping the chapter, and congratulations on the new baby! James Irick has volunteered to take over the newsletter. So we will transition from Sonia to James over the next few weeks. In fact, he put this newsletter together. Thank you for stepping up, James.

That's all for this time. We really need event leaders for future events...so Please volunteer if you have some spare time to help organize an event.

Jon van Arsdel  
el Presidente  
BMW CCA of NM





### Tech Tips for your BMW

#### How to check your engine oil.

For those of us who open the hood on occasion, checking the engine oil is an act of kindness to our car. We're making sure the engine has enough life blood to keep us on the road and it's not too contaminated.

Around 2006, BMW felt the need to do away with the saving grace of engine management: the oil dipstick. Instead they added a sensor to the engine and we are forced to ask the computer if there's enough oil to drive. Although this will give an estimate of oil in the engine it doesn't let us check the oil to see if it's dirty. I guess BMW figured most of their customers don't open the hood anyway so this let them feel a part of the owner experience...

Anyway, to check your oil in cars produced after 2006 you can select the "OIL" setting on the condition based service (on the turn signal stalk or within iDrive if equipped) while the engine is running.

With the turn signal stalk use the inner switch to cycle through the options until "OIL" is displayed; then press the "BC" button on the end of the turn signal stalk.

On iDrive you can select the "OIL" setting through the Menu and Vehicle Info page.

Note: it can take several minutes for the computer to determine the oil level, much more efficient than opening the hood and pulling out the dipstick...



## Reader's Rides

I'd like to start a new segment showing off some of our members rides and why they chose BMW in the first place.

Since we're just starting off I'll put my first BMW on display. My wife and I got into BMW's in 2001 when we got our 1994 e36 318i "pre owned" with 88000 miles on the clock. We were hooked the moment we drove it. Now it's only got 241000 miles and still running along.

It's interesting that we didn't actually join the BMW CCA until after our 3rd BMW, but that's another story...

James I Newsletter Editor



## BMW Car Club of America Oktoberfest 2014! Beaver Creek, CO!!

Registration is still open for this year's Oktoberfest in Beaver Creek, CO. This will be the closest Oktoberfest to NM for awhile so now is the time to experience the feel of this one of a kind Club Gathering.

Register online at the Website <http://ofest.bmwcca.org/register>.

### Condensed Schedule of Events 16-21 June 2014.

Most of the events take place at the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort (Host Hotel).

### Events Happening All Week

- Fun Rally Monday - Thursday
- Scenic Drives
- Test Drives
- Photo Contest
- iRacing Time Trial Competition

### Concours Competition- Tuesday 17 June

### Kids Camp-

Monday - Friday (6:00 pm - 10:00 pm)  
 Dinner supervision and evening activities  
 \$30/child per day.



#### Chapter Officers and Contacts

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