



The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

www.nmbmwcca.org

Upcoming Events

January Event

Tech Session Sandia BMW

January 22- 6:00 pm Sandia BMW

Join Jeff Reece, Service Manager at Sandia BMW, for our January Tech Session and Annual Chapter Meeting. Dinner starts at 6:00 with the meeting and technology to follow.

Email details to follow

February Event

Tech Session at SW Collision

February 12- 6:00 pm SW Collision Craftsmen, Albuquerque

Join Manny Cordova, owner of SW Collision Craftsmen, for a tech session relating to structures on BMW's. Dinner at 6:00 and then the event. Always a great session.

Email details to follow

March Event

Membership Meeting

March 26- 6:00 pm

Check your email for details as they are finalized...



Karl Fox Memorial Tour 2014

James Irick, Newsletter Editor

October is my favorite month in New Mexico. The weather starts to settle in to a fall-like pattern with cool mornings and warm afternoons. I get to help out my balloon chase crew during the Balloon Fiesta. As a club we get to drive some of the more majestic scenery during the Fall Tour. Some time ago the chapter decided to remember one of our departed members and named this tour in his honor. Karl was a great asset to this chapter and to the BMW community in New Mexico.

Our Tourmeisters this year, Len and Meg Heinz, looked at a somewhat familiar route with a little twist. Or rather quite a few twists. We got started at Santa Fe BMW where they put out some coffee and muffins to get our energy level up prior to departure. I for one appreciate the extra effort the folks at Santa Fe BMW do for our chapter any time we start out at their dealership. Many Thanks!

Since Heather was unable to join me I was able to "borrow" her E92 328xi coupe for the trip and I am glad I had it. After the standard drive on I-25 to Las Vegas we switched it up a bit and headed north through Mora. Then the fun started...

There is a road...that's how most good stories start. This particular road starts just inside Mora and heads north to Angel Fire. NM 434 is probably one of the better runs I have been on in this state. The only drawback was the 45mph speed limit on most of it and the threat of county constables hiding in the bends. I kept the car calm for most of the route until we got to Coyote Creek State Park. The road narrows to almost one lane and makes the climb up towards Agua Fria Peak. Unfortunately that's when my right foot felt heavy and my left foot was bored. So the gear changes and corners just started to fly by. It didn't help that I had two E30 M3's in front of me...



We made it to Angel Fire without incident and stopped for a break and a stretch. This part of the world is indeed breathtaking and I would suggest all who are able to pay a visit to the Enchanted Circle, if even just to go skiing. After we were stretched and watered we got back on the road. This time US 64 carried us west up the pass and down into Taos. We hung a left and followed NM 68 into the Rio Grande Gorge for another quick stop. That's when the dry roads became less dry as a passing storm finally let go and blessed the parched landscape with some much needed rain.

Mid afternoon found us at Gabriel's Northern New Mexico Restaurant just outside Pojoaque on US 84/285. A wonderful meal was enjoyed by all and the freshly prepared Guacamole at the table was a big hit. I would recommend this place to anyone passing north out of Santa Fe in need of a bite. In fact Heather and I made it our anniversary dinner in December.

Karl's sister Monika was asked to say a few words and we learned quite a lot about Karl's contributions not only to the NM Chapter but to BMW in New Mexico. He was always interested in the electrical side of car maintenance and tuning. He worked with Steve Dinan to start a Dinan authorized center at his father's shop, Dieter's German Car Care. I am always curious as to how people get 'caught with the bug' of BMW's and this story was fascinating. Thanks Monika and Dieter for sharing your family's love of the marque with us.



Now that we were fed and watered, we parted ways and made our own way home. I got home just in time to hear Heather's band playing at a watering hole in Corrales.

Many thanks to Len and Meg for setting up this tour and to Meg especially for keeping us on schedule. We had a great drive and it was inspiring to follow your red M3 through the twists and turns of northern NM. I'll follow you on any road and will hopefully try to keep up.

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

A Note From the President

Winter is here. After a rather mild early December, the weather has become cold and stormy. The forecasters are predicting an El Niño winter, so we may also get more than average snow for the rest of this season. This should be good for skiing enthusiasts. X-Drive may be a welcome feature on your BMW for New México this winter.

This past quarter, we had the Fall Tour, a membership meeting, and a holiday dinner.

The Annual Karl Fox Memorial Tour was a great success. Thank you to Len and Meg Heinz, for being the Tourmeisters. Len and Meg are members-at-large on the Board of Directors. They put a lot of time and effort into planning the tour. It was a splendid route, and covered part of the Enchanted Circle in northern New México. The weather was great for the first $\frac{3}{4}$ of the tour, and then deteriorated into unplanned autumn rain showers. We ended the event with a group lunch in Pojoaque.

The holiday dinner was also very well attended. Thank you to Steve Nowaczek, for arranging the dinner. We celebrated at a new location, El Norteño Restaurante.

For the first quarter of 2015, we have scheduled three tech sessions and a membership meeting.

The January 22, 2015 (Thursday) tech session will be at Sandía BMW. Service Director Jeff Reece will be the host, along with some of his excellent technical staff. Officer elections for the New México Chapter of the BMW CCA will coincide with the Sandía tech session. Please come and vote for (or against) your favorite candidate. Dominic Martínez has announced he will not run again for Vice President, due to a new family member. Thank you to Dominic for his great help in running the New México Chapter for many years. We are now seeking a BMW CCA member to fill the VP office. Please contact anyone on the BoD if you are interested.

The February 12th (Thursday) tech session will be at Southwest Collision Craftsmen. Owner Manny Córdova will be the host, at his BMW body shop.

April 11th (Saturday) will be our annual Spring Tour. This is a week later than normal, in order to avoid having the tour on Easter weekend.

May (TBA), 2014 (Sunday) will be our annual Spring Fiesta at Sandía BMW. Start cleaning and polishing your car now. Watch your email for an announcement on the exact date.

As is our normal custom, food is included in club events.

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.

Jon van Arsdel

el Presidente

BMW CCA of NM



Tech Tips for your BMW

By James Irick

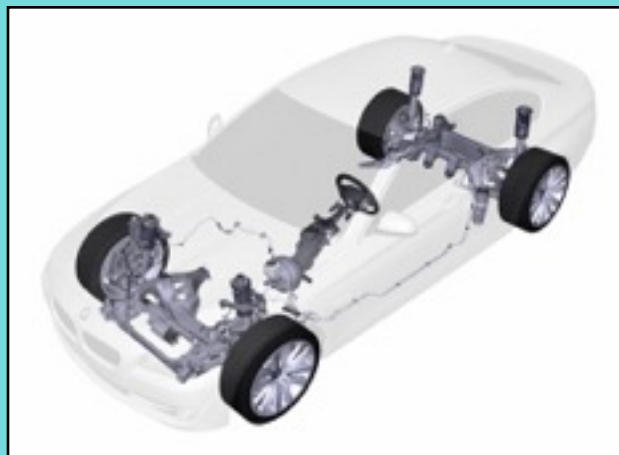
Just like humans, as cars age they tend to get some creaks and squeaks. Most of these squeaks come from the suspension and bushings as shocks or struts wear out. The car tends to wander a bit more on the road and tires may start to wear out faster. As most of us are 'enthusiasts' we tend to get the car checked out right when the squeaks happen. Do you know why the squeaks are there? Let's take a look under the car...

The suspension systems that BMW uses are based on the McPherson strut. The strut is a great engineering feat as it reduces weight and allows the wheel to better track the road in cornering. Tied to an aluminum wishbone and alloy wheels, the unsprung weight of a BMW is one reason why they handle so well. The strut does several things at once; it is a shock absorber, spring and steering aid for the front wheels. It turns with the front wheels to keep the wheel in contact with the road. Rear wheel struts allow each wheel to move independently and to maintain contact with the road. Since BMW's are driven by the rear wheels, this suspension system is all the more important to keep the vital power on the road instead of in the air.

There is a great deal of engineering and technology in the suspension of a BMW. Most of the engineering is now focused on materials and reducing the weight of the suspension while maintaining a strong system to keep the car on the road. The materials used today help reduce the weight of current BMW's by as much as 10% from cars built in the 1980's. Of course BMW then puts the weight back in with our demand for more gadgets inside the car. The purist form of the BMW, the M-series cars, use that weight reduction and carry it further into the body, interior and power train to gain the important "ultimate driving machine" experience.

You can benefit from that engineering and experience even if you don't own a brand new BMW. Many aftermarket suppliers provide upgraded suspension systems to suit your taste. If you want to turn your daily driver into an autocross car, get ahold of adjustable struts and other improved parts to make the car respond the way you want to on the track. You can then dial it back to daily driver mode and go to work with comfort. If racing isn't your style, you can get upgraded suspension parts to make the car handle the way you want. Soft and supple or stiffer and responsive. The choices are almost endless although your wallet may not be.

If your suspension is worn out and squeaking, you can always replace the worn parts with original BMW parts. Even this simple task will restore the feel of your car to when it was young and agile, just like you were.



NM BMW CCA Financial Statement Year Ending December 2014

ASSETS

CASH INVENTORY IN BANK ACCOUNTS	<u>\$6600.48</u>
NO OTHER ASSETS ASSIGNED FOR NM BMW CCA	

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

NO LIABILITIES OR EQUITY FOR NM BMW CCA

INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME

MEMBERSHIP DUES	<u>\$4499.51</u>
REBATES FROM NATIONAL	<u>\$555.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$5024.51</u>

EXPENSES

NEWSLETTER COSTS	<u>\$231.52</u>
POSTAGE	<u>\$649.60</u>
INSURANCE	<u>\$618.84</u>
MEETING EXPENSES	<u>\$2291.01</u>
MISCELLANEOUS	<u>\$476.10</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$4267.07</u>

NET INCOME(LOSS)	<u>\$787.44</u>
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Compiled from the NM Chapter Financial Statement sent to BMW CCA January 4, 2015 by
Treasurer David Penasa

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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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