



The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

www.nmbmwcca.org

Upcoming Events

April Event

Spring Tour

April 11- 08:30 North 09:00 South

Join our Tourmeister David Murrell at Route 66 Casino for our Spring Tour. Southern NM Members meet up at McDonald's in Alamogordo and all head to Socorro on a 'scenic' route.

May Event

Spring Fiesta

May 3- 9:00 am Sandia BMW, Albuquerque

Join Jeff Reece for a barbecue lunch and clean car show judged by BMW CCA Concours Judges!

Email details to follow

June Event

Tech Session Santa Fe BMW

June 27- 9:00 am Santa Fe BMW

Join Andy Caperones, Santa Fe BMW Service Manager for a Tech Session on BMW's latest engineering and technology.

Email details to follow



The Road Less Travelled

James Irick, Newsletter Editor

As we settle into the spring it's time to get out the car wash, wax and rags and prepare our steeds for the drive ahead. Often we take for granted the beautiful driving weather we possess in NM and it's hard for others to realize why we can spend as much time touring our state as we do. Usually our biggest concern during the spring is the winds which kick up the dust on our newly washed BMW...Len Heinz will help us with sorting that out later in this edition.

I have driven most of the paved roads in NM and many of the unpaved ones as well...just not in a BMW. There seems to be so much diversity in our landscape which is begging to be seen and driven. I have never been bored on any run I drive but there are a few places where the road seems to call out for a BMW and goads us into testing our limits and those of the car (usually in that order). The Turquoise Trail, The Enchanted Circle, The Black Range, The Big I interchange...ok maybe that's just because I drive it to work every day and need some corners to open the mind. All of these roads and many more offer the driver a unique view into our state's vistas and let the passengers hang on to the hand grip a little tighter as our right foot exercises the throttle.

Not that long ago most of the roads in our state were not paved or even marked. The wary traveler had to judge correctly the turn off to US 66 or make the mistake of wandering several miles into an Indian reservation before realizing the error and turning around. Gas stations were spaced about 20 miles apart and many of the small towns and villages relied on our tourist travelers to help supplement their income. Now we travel at much higher speeds, don't have to stop as often and miss out on the small towns that breeze by on the interstate.



This Spring Tour allows the members of the Chapter to experience at least in a small way some of those forgotten towns and roads. Most of the towns that you will pass through have been boarded up and are just relics of a bygone era. The history stored in each of those empty buildings must be fascinating. How or why did someone build up in this part of the state when there is literally no one or thing for miles in any direction? The desolation is striking on this trip and you can get a glimpse of what life may have been like in this part of the world in the late 1940's or early 1950's when these roads were the only thing linking this small village with the outside world. After you travel on for 20 miles or so you witness almost the same thing again in another small village, now a sign post in the highway. It helps put into perspective the vast expanse of our state and keeps us grounded in why we chose to follow in these pioneers footsteps to live in the Land of Enchantment in the first place.

At some point the road less travelled has to give way to the dual carriageway. You signal to merge with traffic moving along at 75 mph and head back to your starting point. Most of the weary travelers on the highway have no idea or interest in the things you have just witnessed while driving at a more leisurely pace. Maybe they just want to get home to their families, back to 'civilization' where ever that is. I found out a long time ago that while going fast is fun, slowing down to smell the yucca has many benefits as well. Gaining knowledge and experience of your surroundings while feeling the warm sunshine on your face with the sunroof open or convertible down helps to focus your mind on the task at hand.

For a long time BMW would not put a cup holder in their cars. Driving is the purpose of driving, why should you have a drink while doing it? Radios were probably verboten as well since that takes away from the driving experience. Hearing the engine rev, the transmission singing in time with the drivetrain and the road whir by underneath you is the main joy of driving a BMW. Those of us who are enthusiasts still take that joy in our hearts when we start the engine, wait for the temperature to warm up so we can exercise the mechanical parts while relaxing our minds and letting the joy of driving consume us.

Each of you has driven somewhere that took your breath away. Many of you may be surprised at how many times that happens when you drive around New Mexico.

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

A Note From the President

Happy spring to everyone! I hope all of you had a splendid winter. And I hope spring turns out to be pleasant for automotive activities.

This past quarter, we had two tech sessions, and a membership meeting.

The January 22, 2015 tech session was at Sandía BMW. Service Manager Jeff Reece was the host. The main topic was the new M4 series BMW cars. We also held officer elections for the New México Chapter of the BMW CCA.

The February 12th tech session was at Southwest Collision Craftsmen. Owner Manny Córdova was the host, at the BMW-specialty body shop. Manny discussed and demonstrated basic body repair for BMW's. He talked about changes in the auto body business. We witnessed their commitment to top-quality repair and body work. Thank you to Rebecca and Sara for helping with the tech session.

March 26th was a general membership meeting at The Range Café. Thank you to Café owner, and BMW CCA member, Matt DiGregory. The dinner and the location were both great.

During the second quarter of 2015, we have scheduled the Spring Tour, The Spring Fiesta, and a tech session.

The Annual Spring Tour is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2015. David Murrell has volunteered to be the Tourmeister.

The annual Spring Fiesta (clean car show and barbeque) will again be held at Sandía BMW. It is scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd. 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 BMW models parked at the Fiesta (depending on stock at the dealership). We have submitted a request for nice weather, moderate temperatures, and light winds.

Santa Fé BMW and Andy Caperones will be hosting a tech session on Saturday, June 27th. Watch your email for details.

We are planning a membership meeting in July. Please come and join us; we try to have events that appeal to many tastes.

National Chapter Congress. On March 13-15, 2014, two of us attended the Congress. David Penasa and I attended the Fort Worth meeting, which emphasized both driving events, and membership recruitment. We also talked about liaison activities with the BMW dealerships, and we talked about the club's financial outlook. It was a very busy and long weekend.

That is all for this time. We really need event leaders for future events. So please volunteer, if you have some spare time to help organize.

This has been a shorter than normal article this quarter, due to a death in my immediate family. Thank you for understanding.

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 Len Heinz

Car Care -- The Outside Parts

BMW CCA has recently formed a relationship Griot's Garage, a maker of a wide range of car care products. I have used a variety of Griot's products for the past few years, and have been impressed by the quality that I have found in the Griot's product line. Like most makers of car care products, Griot's offers a full range of things to keep your car looking good.

Washing your car

I used to use anything that came to hand to wash my car. Laundry detergent, dishwashing soap -- if it made suds, it was fair game. No more. Harsh detergents can strip wax from a car in just one washing, which is great if you are ready to re-wax your car but not so good if you wanted the wax protection to last. Companies like Griot's typically make two car washing products: a detergent for use with water and a spray-on wipe-off product that allows you to go waterless. Griot's car wash soap has good cleaning properties and leaves a smooth finish after rinsing. But my favorite car washing product is Griot's "Spray-on Car Wash." Because it works without water, it eliminates water spotting problems from hard well or city water. It has a very effective cleaning component plus a protective coating that stays on the car after it is clean. And it allows you to wash your car in the shade, so that you do not have to worry about soap drying on the car before you have a chance to wipe or rinse it off.

Going Deeper

Washing your car is an obvious basic step to car care, but there is more to it than that. Ideally, you will have protected your paint with a wax or sealant. Before putting the wax or sealant on, you will have made sure that you were not applying it over a layer of gunk that you do not want on your paint. And before you remove the gunk, you may want to deal with surface scratches and other imperfections on your paint. Let's look at these steps from the bottom up.

Paint and Polishing

All car paint acquires scratches, swirls, and other imperfections over time. Griot's makes a full range of polishes to deal with these. The concept of polishing is a bit scary -- you will be removing the upper

layer of the paint to eliminate the imperfections -- but the amount removed is microscopic. The key to polishing safely is to use a random orbital. These look like grinders or circular sanders but with a crucial difference: the head does not rotate around a fixed axis. By getting the head to wobble a bit as it rotates, a random orbital minimizes the chances that you will remove too much paint by pressing too hard or hovering too long in one location. Random orbitals are used with foam pads and a variety of polishes. My favorite is Griot's "Complete Compound," which I use to buff cone marks out of my autocross car's paint.

Clay Barring

In addition to picking up scratches and imperfections over time, your car's paint will also become contaminated with small particles that imbed themselves in the paint's surface. These can be more easily felt than seen. Just rub your hand across the paint to see if it feels smooth or rough. Putting a wax or sealant over these particles just traps them against the paint. Clay barring removes them. As the name suggests, clay barring uses a bar of soft clay to remove the offending particles. The clay is used with a lubricant that helps it slide over the paint. You can use a random orbital for this, but I do it by hand. That helps me feel where the clay is catching on rough areas in the paint. Once the clay is gliding smoothly, it's time to move to the next area. Griot's sells both clay and lubricant. They are good stuff.

Waxes and Sealants

Waxes and sealants do more than just keep paint shiny -- they protect it. Purists like waxes, because waxes can impart a deep lustrous shine to paint. This comes at a price, as the wax coating will only last for a few weeks or, at most, a couple of months. Sealants are formulated to last much longer -- from six months to a year, but purists will sniff that the shine they give is a surface shine without the deep luster of a wax. I have used waxes in the past, but I am a convert to paint sealants. They deliver the best level of protection for the longest time. I have been using Griot's "Paint Sealant" and using a random orbital to apply it. You can also put it on by hand, but I find that the orbital can apply a very even coat and in a short time. I have found that the paint sealant lasts for a year even on our daily driver.





Random Photo of a 1997 M3 3.2L S52 US spec engine during a recent clean up and maintenance event in my garage. It took about a month but all the mechanicals are working closer to original. Most of the cooling system was replaced after the upper radiator hose let go during the trip home from San Antonio...enough of the hose bib left to get the hose back on, coolant replaced and headed back on the road. Of course I was halfway between Ft Stockton and Ozona or the middle of nowhere, TX...definitely glad I was driving a BMW and not a Hyundai. I 'stole' this one from a coworker in TX to finally get it back to fighting status. Only been hounding them for a couple of years now...

James Irick, Editor and Mechanic

Chapter Officers and Contacts

President	Jon van Arsdel	president@nmbmwcca.org 505.867.4135
Vice President	James Irick	vicepresident@nmbmwcca.org 505.792.9073
Treasurer	David Penasa	treasurer@nmbmwcca.org 505.275.2480
Secretary	Len Heinz	secretary@nmbmwcca.org
Editor	James Irick	editor@nmbmwcca.org
Webmaster	Steve Nowaczek	webmaster@nmbmwcca.org 505.249.8718
Driving Events Coordinator	Steve Nowaczek	dec@nmbmwcca.org
Tech Advisor	Jeff Reece	505.884.0066
Chapter Contact	Jon van Arsdel	president@nmbmwcca.org 505.867.4135
Colorado Liaisons	Tom & Donna Berg	505.455-2380
SCCA Liaison	Steve Nelson	revenelson@comcast.net
South Central VP	Dan Baker	southcentralvp@bmwcca.org

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PO Box 14430, Albuquerque, NM 87191-4430 / www.nmbmwcca.org

