



# The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

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

## Upcoming Events

### July Event

#### *Member Meeting*

**July 16 6:00 pm**

Join us for a member meeting and dining opportunity.

Email details to follow

### August Events

#### *Drive 4 Corners*

**August 7-9; Pagosa Springs, CO**

Join one of the largest BMW gatherings in the Southwest! Tour meets up at Santa Fe BMW and caravans to Pagosa Springs.

More info at [drive4corners.com](http://drive4corners.com)

#### *Member Meeting*

**August 20 6:00 pm**

Join us for a member meeting and dining opportunity.

Email details to follow

### September Event

#### *To Be Determined*

**Join us for an as yet finalized BMW event!**

Email details to follow



## The Ramblings of an Enthusiast

*James Irick, Newsletter Editor*

What does it mean to be an enthusiast? I would argue that there is a little bit of insanity in an enthusiast. Someone who is passionate about a brand or idea to the point of fanaticism. Someone who spends most of their free time delving into the lesser know traits of a new product or concept of their enthusiasm...for me it means a car geek.

I've spent most of my adult life tinkering with objects ranging from multi-million dollar camera equipment to ten dollar watches. Most of my current free time is spent tinkering on BMW's mainly because I am now an 'enthusiast' of the brand. I find a certain sense of accomplishment in taking something apart and being able to put it back together again without finding 'extra' parts at the end of the task. This mainly stems from my training as an aircraft mechanic (it's hard to put the bolt back in the wing when they're flying already...) but also because I pay attention to the manuals and parts as the task progresses. I'm probably an anomaly in the male world as someone who looks at the directions first, then starts work.

As a club the BMW CCA is filled with enthusiasts. We will be able to tell a total stranger the model code, wheel type and engine model for their BMW even if they don't ask. Most of the members take pride in their vehicles not because they spent a lot of money on it but because it gives them a sense of thrill to drive and we just want to pay that back to the car. We tend to treat our vehicles as living entities and in one way that definitely makes us insane, I mean an enthusiast. We want to meet up with members of our insanity and spend hours talking about the reason why BMW engineering used a particular bolt on the transmission instead of another type. It gives us a sense of pride to find another CCA badge on a BMW in a parking lot that we've never seen before. I often find myself waving to BMW drivers on the road although most do not respond.



Most BMW owners have no idea what happens under the hood of their car. Most do not even wash it other than to run through an automatic car wash when the dirt gets too bad to see. These owners are not enthusiasts because they see the car as a means to get from one place to another; albeit with some style. You could own a Hyundai, Ford or Mercedes and have the same result.

We are encouraged to seek out the enthusiast and recruit them into our ranks if only to gain a new perspective on our insanity. I wonder how many of the thousands of BMW's registered in NM would be included in our list of enthusiast? I want to hope more than the 300-odd members we currently have in the chapter.

On your travels if you meet with someone who seems to have the fanatic attention to detail and desire of the brand like yourself offer them the opportunity to join us in our quest for knowledge, fun and enjoyment of the BMW brand...you might find a new compatriot in the insanity that is our enthusiasm...

Along the lines of fanatic attention to detail we re-convened the Clean Car Judging at this years Spring Fiesta. I worked with the Oktoberfest Judging sheet from 2014 (I was a judge at that event) and made it fit our plans for the show this past May at Sandia BMW. Unfortunately I was called out of town for work but my lovely wife took the reins and led the judges to a good show. I was pleased with the scoring results of all the participants and it made me happy we still care enough to detail the wheel wells and fuel filler doors just as I do after a hand wash. Next year we can expect a similar format so get your vehicle out of winter storage early to give you time to clean.

Some of you may have heard about my recent tinkering project, a 1997 E36 M3 (pictured above). I am happy to inform you all that the mechanical work is completed and the interior is receiving much needed repairs. I am hopeful that by mid July it can return to its rightful owner in San Antonio. It has been a great learning experience for me and I would recommend any of you who are able bodied to tackle some of the minor maintenance on your own vehicle. It gives a great sense of well being and a Zen like relaxation state to finish a project (after all the screaming, cursing and throwing of tools during the project).

Enjoy the summer and wave back at a fellow enthusiast who sees you on the roads.

James Irick

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

## A Note From the President

Summer has arrived in New México. It has been a cooler-than-normal, fairly wet spring. Due to warmer temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, there are projections that El Niño is strengthening. This *could* result in an active monsoon (rainy) season this year. The rains may (or may not) be starting about the time you receive this newsletter. Check the wiper blades on your BMW.

This past quarter, we had the Spring Tour, the Spring Fiesta, and a tech session.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, we had our annual Spring Tour. Tourmeister David Murrell put together an excellent event. The tour was specifically targeted for members from all parts of the region; both north and south. Members from the El Paso area drove up and met members from Albuquerque and Santa Fé. The tour ended with a rendezvous and great lunch in Socorro.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sunday), Sandia BMW (6001 Pan American Fwy. NE in Albuquerque) hosted the annual BMW Spring Fiesta. The event was open to all BMW, Mini, and BMW Motorcycle enthusiasts. Sandía Service Director Jeff Reece was the coordinator. Jeff was also the master chef, and singlehandedly cooked enough food for about 60 hungry people. We had a very large number of people attend this very fine event, especially BMW owners. Several new BMW's were conveniently parked nearby, for all to see and admire. The barbecue (contributed by Sandía BMW) was excellent. Mother Nature mostly cooperated with the weather this year. There were a lot of new people at the event, and I went on a recruiting mission for new members. Thank you to Heather Irick for managing the judging on the Clean Car Show. Also thank you to Len Heinz and Boyd Kleefisch for judging.

June 27<sup>th</sup> was the annual tech session at Santa Fé BMW. As usual, Service Manager Andy Caperones put together an excellent event. The new BMW X1 and the new BMW 7-Series were the topics of the tech session. These cars represent a new direction for the future of BMW. The X1 is the first "front-biased" AWD system available at BMW. The new 7-Series is a pure luxury sedan. The technology in this car is astounding. It is a shift in market for BMW. Andy also had a fabulous new M3 on display. All of us admired the beautiful four-door M sedan.

**Upcoming.** We are planning membership meetings on July 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) and August 20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). A September event is in the works, but not yet finalized. Please watch your email.

The Annual Karl Fox Memorial Fall Tour will be on Sunday, October 11, 2015. We are actively seeking a Tourmeister for this event.

As always, watch your email for changes and updates to the events. You can also check [www.nmbmwcca.org](http://www.nmbmwcca.org) for additional information.

Jon van Arsdel  
el Presidente

BMW CCA of NM



## Tech Tips for your BMW

### Jon van Arsdel

#### DriveGuard by Bridgestone.

One of the frequent topics of discussion on late-model BMW's is the run-flat tires. Opinions surrounding the run-flat tires tend to be strong; people either love them or hate them.

The advantage of run-flat tires is obvious; no changing a flat tire on the side of the road. Corollary advantages are: no tire jack, no mini-spare, more trunk space, no over-torqued lug bolts, and no wheels that are stuck on the hub. The common complaints about the run-flat tires include: harsher ride, more road noise, poorer handling, and high replacement cost.

At the BMW CCA Oktoberfest last year in Colorado, Bridgestone presented its newly-introduced DriveGuard line of run-flat tires. The DriveGuard is specifically designed to address some of the complaints surrounding run-flat tires. It is supposed to ride better, make less noise, handle better, weigh less, and cost less than traditional run-flat tires. The DriveGuard is perhaps a "run-flat tire for people who hate run-flat tires". The DriveGuard is offered in a range of sizes and speed ratings. They are not designed specifically for BMW, so they do not have the star on the sidewall (indicating a BMW-approved tire). But BMW and Mini are obviously one of the target markets for the DriveGuard.

So, a few weeks ago, I decided to experiment. I bought a set of Bridgestone DriveGuard tires for my 2011 E90 328i sedan. They are for my 17 inch diameter factory wheels, and the tires are "W" speed-rated (168 mph). The difference was immediately obvious for me. The tires ride better, and are substantially quieter, than the original equipment run-flat tires that came on my car. The handling seems slightly improved, but I do not typically push my car to the limit. These are just initial impressions. I will see how well the tires perform over the next several months.



Andy Caperones gives a talk on BMW Technology at the recent Tech Session in Santa Fe June 27. This particular topic involved the new laser headlights on the i8 and new M4 Concept. Extraordinary technology goes into the lighting system such that it will automatically go to high beams above a certain speed, block the beam from oncoming traffic and highlight areas of danger or awareness on the side of the road independent of the headlight beams. Unfortunately we will not see these lamps in the US anytime soon. The beams light is too "blue" for our market and goes against the law which would impersonate a law enforcement officer...

Other topics included the new Xi (first front wheel drive BMW...) and the new G12 7-series with more bells and whistles including a scent machine that has 8 different fragrances for the interior of the car. They are planning to market the new 7 to the 'high roller' market with Rolls Royce and Maybach. Hopefully there are enough business moguls to go around.

James Irick, Editor



**Drive 4 Corners Returns to Pagosa Springs, CO  
August 7-9 2015**

Join the Schultz brothers as we again embark on a short tour to Pagosa Springs, CO. There will be a caravan meeting up at Sandia BMW August 7 around 11:30 and headed to Santa Fe BMW for a light lunch provided by the dealership. After the snack we'll head up US-84 through Chama to Pagosa Springs.

The organizers have limited the number of participants this year to 125. As of the end of June there are already 92 registered. After July 1 the costs go up from \$35 to \$50 so it would help if you registered before July 1...

There are events planned for Friday evening, Saturday's hill climb of Wolf Creek Pass and afternoon driving tours. Sunday promises a brunch and general banter before some of us head back home.

To register for the event go to <http://drive4corners.com> and go to the event registration tab. After completing registration you can phone the host hotel (Quality Inn in down town Pagosa Springs) and request a room at the event rate of \$79/night.

Hope to see you all there!



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