



The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

www.nmbmwcca.org

Upcoming Events

April Event

Spring Tour

April 2, 10:00 am

Join us for our Spring Tour at Sandia BMW!

Email details to follow

May Event

Clean Car Show Sandia BMW

May 21, 9:00 am

Join Jeff Reece at Sandia BMW for our annual Clean Car Show and BBQ!

Email Details to Follow

June Event

Tech Session Santa Fe BMW

June 10, 10:00 am

Join us for a Tech Session at Santa Fe BMW hosted by Andy Caprones!

Email details to follow



The Ultimate Daily Driver

Dan Jones, NM Chapter Member and i3 BEV Owner

What is an i3 other than an odd-looking electric car? We all know it's not the Ultimate Driving Machine for carving two-lanes around Mora on our Fall Tour. However, it did not take me long to "get it" after driving one the first week. It's the Ultimate Daily Driver! While much of our membership drive their BMW's daily, a few protect their garage queens and drive Toyotas, Subarus and such. There is even a cool VW Diesel Pickup performing that function. Both variants of the BMW i3, the all electric BEV and the REX with the two cylinder motor-generator range extender are viable alternative daily drivers.

As a daily driver, the i3 is easy and fun to drive. The batteries are under the floorboard and the roof is lightweight Carbon Fiber Reinforced Plastic, giving it a low center of gravity. It's an urban car with short wheelbase and tight turning circle making it very easy to maneuver and park. It's high (same height as an X1) with excellent visibility. Single-pedal driving is surprisingly entertaining and the instant-on torque is intoxicating! It's fun (but not very smart) to put your foot down and blow the doors off the muscle car sitting next to you at a stoplight. When asked what it's like to drive, I usually say it's a cross between a skinny-tired Mini Cooper and the Washington Metro.

The i3 is economical to own and drive. The current \$7,500 federal tax credit effectively reduces acquisition cost and with a lease, the tax credit is applied up front vastly reducing the monthly lease payment. There is even a \$1,000 rebate on the i3 BEV through BMWCCA! The operational cost is low too. The EPA rates the i3 BEV at 137 MPGe in the city. To put that into perspective, I average about 4.0 miles per kWh (with heavy foot). At PNM's Block 1 Rate (with adjustments) of about 10 cents per kWh, it takes 25 kWh to go 100 miles at a cost of \$2.50. Compare that to the \$10 cost of going 100 miles in a car that gets 25 MPG with gas at \$2.50 a gallon. There are no oil changes in the i3 BEV and the brakes are seldom used with regenerative braking.

It is a very quiet and comfortable car that is easy to get in and out of due to its height. The heat pump in the i3 BEV provides the best climate control I have ever experienced in a vehicle with so much glass area. The car can be programmed to precondition the interior while it is connected to the grid to increase range. However, the i3 phone app allows you to precondition your car off-grid on a hot summer day when you are paying your check at a restaurant or at the end of a Lobo basketball game before you get to your car. Nice!

The i3 is a versatile hatchback with a reasonable trunk and the ability to fold the rear set flat for bulky items. It can comfortably seat four adults and with the rear clam-shell doors and lack of a "B" pillar, it's very easy to access the rear seats. However, the front door must be opened and seat belt disconnected to allow rear seat access, so it should be thought of as a two-door coupe.

The most common question I get concerns range. My i3 BEV gets 85-90 miles Fall and Spring, 80-85 miles in the Summer and 70-75 miles in the Winter. For me, that would cover 3 or 4 trips downtown or to UNM per charge, but I treat it like a cellphone. I plug it in to a Level 1 charger (110 volt) every night in order to have it fully charged for the next day. I would recommend a home Level 2 charger (220 volt) if you anticipate driving more than 30 miles per day due to the time it takes to charge using 110V. There are public Level 2 chargers available and those provided by the City and UNM are free. The car can also be charged with a Level 3 DC-Fast Charger, but these are not widely available in NM yet. (Tesla Super-Chargers are not compatible)

There is the i3 REX that has an on-board range extender two-cylinder BMW scooter engine that automatically comes on to produce electricity when only 2% of battery charge remains. There is a cost and weight penalty involved and some features of the i3 BEV, such as the heat pump, are not available on the i3 REX. Some of our members use their i3 REXs for cross country adventures.

Finally, the i3 is an exceptionally "green" car for its full life cycle. The Carbon Fiber Reinforced Plastic cabin is manufactured in a new Washington State factory that runs purely on hydro-electric power and the car is assembled in a new German factory that is powered by wind turbines. Body panels are thermoplastic and the body structure does not use bolts, rivets or welds. BMW i3 production uses 50% less energy and 70% less water than conventional cars. The dash and door panels are plant-based (hemp) and some trim levels use seat and door fabric made from recycled water bottles. Almost 95% of the car is recyclable. In addition, if you have solar panels on your home, then powering your car on 100% renewable power is possible thereby avoiding a ton or two of CO2 emissions per year.

If you are considering replacing your current daily driver, contemplating retiring your classic BMW from daily use, or simply interested in reducing your carbon footprint, then the i3 Ultimate Daily Driver may be a suitable alternative.



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. Our drier than normal winter has given way to a very warm and dry spring (so far). 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 February 23, 2017 tech session was at Sandía BMW. Service Manager Jeff Reece was the host. The main topic was the new 5-Series (G30) BMW cars. We also held officer elections for the New México Chapter of the BMW CCA, and we formally adopted chapter by-laws.

The March 16th tech session was at Southwest Collision Craftsmen. Owner Manny Córdova was the host, at the BMW-specialty body shop. Manny talked about measurement and diagnostics on unibody cars. Expensive and sophisticated machines are required. Some of the technicians were on-hand to demonstrate all of these new methods. Manny also discussed paint care for the upcoming summer months. We witnessed their commitment to top-quality repair and body work.

During the second quarter of 2017, we have scheduled the Spring Tour, The Spring Fiesta, and a tech session.

The Annual Spring Tour was scheduled for Saturday, April 02, 2017. Dan Jones volunteered to be the Tourmeister. He set up a very innovative tour, that will be our chapter's first to include electric vehicles (i3, i8, etc.) The tour retraced some of the southern portion of old Route 66. It was planned to be a fabulous and beautiful historical tour. James Irick also helped with the Tourmeister responsibilities.

The annual Spring Fiesta (clean car show and barbeque) will again be held at Sandía BMW. It is scheduled for Sunday, May 21st. 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 June 10. Watch your email for details.

We are planning a membership meeting in July.

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

National Conference.

David Penasa and I attended a national BMW CCA meeting near the Dallas/Fort Worth airport in Texas, March 24-26, 2017. It was a meeting specifically targeted to Presidents and Treasurers. Specific topics included recruitment, membership retention, and electronic media. It also included a section on chapter finances. The National Capital Chapter (Washington, DC area) gave an extended presentation on doing business as a very large chapter (approx. 5300 members).

Kyle van Hoften is new at the BMW CCA National Office, and will be in charge of membership. He gave presentations on marketing, and how to attract new members.

Bill Wade and Scott Dishman gave a pitch for the BMW CCA Foundation, and the Street Survival course.

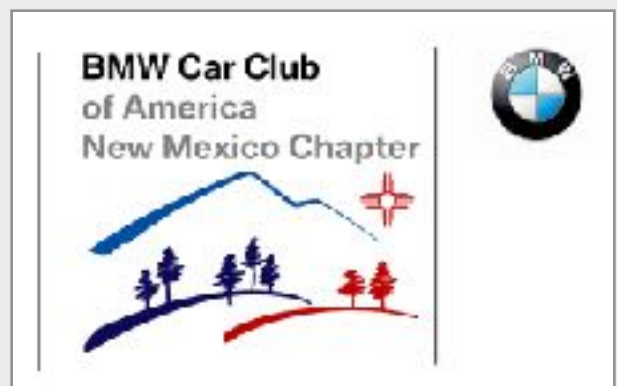
The New México Chapter is considered a small chapter. This refers to membership numbers, not geographical area. David and I attended sessions specifically dedicated to small chapters. Also, Jeff Gomon was appointed the new South Central Regional Vice President.

Thomas Plucinsky, from BMW North America, and Mike Renner, from the BMW Performance Center, gave the keynote addresses at the conference. They talked about the direction of BMW for the future. The customer base is changing, and BMW must maintain its appeal to customers.

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 James Irick Apple Car Play

Many of us have adjusted to life with a smart phone. It tracks our appointments, shows your email, helps you find a restaurant. Those of us with Navigation built into our BMW also have some of these features on the vehicle. Using the Navigation feature in our vehicle is often a lot more difficult than using our smart phone for the same information. Since this action is unsafe and possibly illegal while driving wouldn't it be nice if you could integrate your smart phone functions into your vehicle?

Now you can if you have an iPhone in 2017 BMWs! Apple Car Play is an application that can be ordered with the Navigation system that integrates your iPhone's music, maps and contacts into your vehicle so you can use your phone for these features instead of scrolling through the alphabet with iDrive...and you can also use it to make a phone call.

Many car makers have been working with Apple and other phone manufacturers to integrate the phones features into onboard vehicle systems. It makes sense...let the phone maker develop all the application software and allow them to access your vehicles screen display to use those features in the car. It saves the car maker the hassle of developing software that already exists and usually is much better integrated than what could be developed by BMW or Toyota. Apple Car Play exists on a variety of vehicles and in fact BMW was sort of late into the game with using Car Play. Only available in new BMWs as of 2017 it allows your iPhone to work on the screen in your BMW. The new vehicle also has an upgraded touch screen capability so you can scroll through your apps from your phone on the vehicles screen without using voice commands or the infamous iDrive scroll wheel.

I worked with the Apple Car Play at our February Tech Session at Sandia BMW and it was very intuitive to use. Without any real instruction I was able to access the phone features, go to maps and look at traffic data with ease. You also have access to your Pandora or other internet radio apps so you can stream music through your phone into your Harmon Kardon speaker system in your new 540i (just saying if you had one...)

My 'new' BMW will certainly be equipped with this feature and I will welcome the opportunity to remove some of the lack of intuition from iDrive on my current X1.



Spring Tour 2017 with 3 i8's!



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	Jack Lovell	webmaster@nmbmwcca.org
Driving Events Coordinator	Boyd Kleefisch	dec@nmbmwcca.org
Tech Advisor	Jeff Reece	505.884.0066
Chapter Contact	Jon van Arsdel	president@nmbmwcca.org 505.867.4135
SCCA Liaison	Steve Nelson	revenelson@comcast.net
South Central VP	Jeff Gomon	southcentralvp@bmwcca.org

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

