



The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

www.nmbmwcca.org

Upcoming Events

October Event

Member Meeting and Dinner

October 18, 6:00 pm

Join us for a Member Meeting and Dinner! Check your email for details.

November Event

Member Meeting and Tech Session

November 15, 2018

Join us for a Member Meeting and Possible Tech Session. Check email...

December Event

Holiday Dinner Extravaganza

December 8, 6:00 pm

Join us for our Holiday Dinner at Mimi's Cafe in ABQ!

Email details to follow

First Saturday of Each Month

Mimi's Cafe ABQ, 8:30 am

Breakfast at Mimi's Cafe in ABQ!

Dutch Treat



Musings from our President

Jon van Arsdel, President NM Chapter

Autumn has arrived; so far the weather has been very pleasant. The mornings are cool but not cold. We have had some heavy rains, and even some hail, but less than last year. The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is just around the corner. The smell is in the air of roasted chiles verdes. The days are getting shorter and the afternoons are not as hot. The leaves on the trees should begin to change color over the next few weeks.

This past quarter, we had three tours including the Fall Tour.

On July 14th we had a great trivia tour, arranged and led by NM BMW CCA Vice President James Irick. The tour ended at the Scottish Rite Temple in Santa Fé.

On August 11th, we had a tour of the Unser Racing Museum, in Albuquerque. The Unsers are a legendary family in the world of automobile racing. This was a great guided tour, with a group lunch afterwards. Thank you to NM BMW CCA Webmaster Jack Lovell for being the Tourmeister for this event.

Many BMW CCA members went to the BMW Drive 4 Corners event in Durango, Colorado. This year, it ran from August 24-27. It was hosted by the Purgatory Ski Resort. I had the privilege of attending, and had a great time. Thank you to Tom and Tim Schultz for putting together a great event. The Durango area experienced great devastation due to fires this spring. We all wish them the best of luck moving forward.

The Annual Fall Tour was held early this year, on Saturday, September 22, 2018. The tour was a bit different from previous years. Although the tour was very scenic, the emphasis was more historical. We all traveled to Las Vegas, New México, where we were able to tour the massive renovation project at the Hotel Castañeda. BMW CCA member Matt DiGregory (CEO of the Range Café) guided us through this magnificent 1898 building, which was a part of the Harvey Hotel chain. It served the Santa Fé railroad passengers for many years, and faces the railroad tracks. We then had a great group lunch at the Range Café, located in the historic Plaza Hotel (1882). The weather was absolute perfection. Las Vegas, NM is a fascinating historical town that has recently started to experience a renaissance with its historical buildings. Jon van Arsdel was the Tourmeister.

Next quarter we are planning three events, a membership meeting, a tech session, and a holiday dinner. We are also planning great tech sessions in February and March of 2019. Please see the calendar of events in this issue. Details are still being worked out for all of the tech sessions; so please watch your email for updates on those.

We are planning a membership meeting and dinner on October 18, 2018.

We are planning a tech session on November 15th.

The annual chapter holiday party and dinner will be December 8th at Mimi's Café. Watch for details in your email.

The New México Chapter Board of Directors decided to start having a regular breakfast meeting, every month. We will meet the first Saturday in October, November and December, at 8:30 a.m., at Mimi's Café, in Albuquerque. Please see the dates posted in this newsletter, or on our website. This will be an informal social meeting, and will be "Dutch Treat" (Deutsch Treat?). Additionally, we will be able to park a bunch of German cars in front of a French restaurant.

Sandía BMW continues hosting "Wheels and Coffee". It is open to all car enthusiasts, and is the third Saturday of every month. It is strictly a social event, with an opportunity to display our cars. They usually have coffee and donuts, and sometimes they even have live music. Thank you to Barry Bolio (Sales Manager), and all of the great people at Sandía BMW for hosting this event.

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.

I hope to see each of you soon!

Jon van Arsdel
el Presidente
BMW CCA of NM



Tech Tips: Electric Avenue

James Irick

My wife Heather was driving the E84 X1 last month when the dreaded “Service Engine Soon” light lit up the dashboard. As usual I was out of town on business so I told her to park it and drive another BMW instead until I could get to it...which wasn’t until the end of the month.

As I plugged in my Carly diagnostic tool it had a chat with the computer on the car and quickly told me my MAP Controlled Thermostat was kaput. Since I didn’t know what a MAP Controlled Thermostat was I quickly turned to the latest resource for technicians...Google. I am proud of the fact that the E84 is the last BMW made with hydraulic assist power steering. The cooling system on BMWs has been replaced a while ago with an electric water pump and hoses running all over the engine bay to keep the engine running at peak efficiency. This system is not new but ties in with the trend of removing parasitic drag from the engine (hydraulic steering) and replacing with an electrically powered alternative. In fact a similar system exists on my 2008 E92 coupe.

The MAP Controlled Thermostat works just like a regular thermostat on a cooling system for a car but has an electric heater to cheat the thermostat when the car needs to warm up quickly (like at initial start up). This allows the coolant to cycle through the engine instead of the radiator and heats up the engine faster to maintain emissions standards. When the heater goes out on the thermostat, you get the warning light on the dash. Easy enough fix once you figure out what the thing is. I only had to disassemble most of the front of the engine bay and remove the underbody panels to get to it. Then I could not find a drain plug for the radiator so I had to use the next best thing and clamp a hose, remove it and allow coolant to spray all over my garage floor and not into the catch pan I’d placed underneath...

With the onset of future fuel economy standard increases and emissions still a big issue to control, the future powertrains moving BMWs down the road will increasingly have more electric fiddly bits to keep the efficiency at peak performance at the cost of possibly being able to fix the car at home. As a mechanic I am aware that the reality of fixing my new BMW (whatever that may be) will be increasingly difficult if not impossible without the required software to talk to the car’s computers to tell me what it thinks is wrong. Though repair at a dealership can be pricey it may well be the only way to effectively repair and keep new BMWs on the road past their 3 year lease agreement.

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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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