

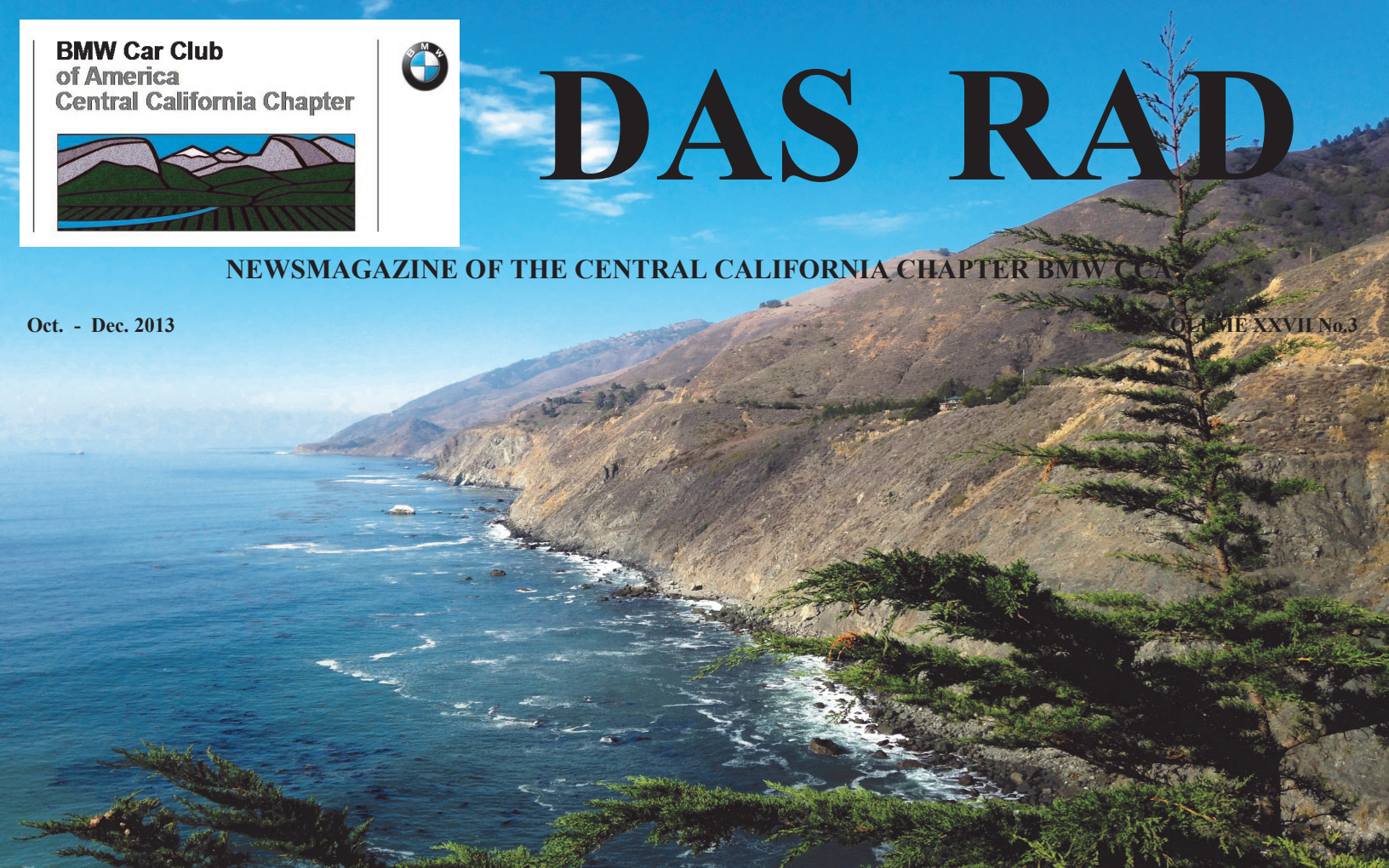


DAS RAD

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAPTER BMW CCA

Oct. - Dec. 2013

OLUME XXVII No. 3



Fall Colors Tour 2013!

It turns out that the central California coastline is pretty spectacular in November! On our recent Central Cal Chapter "Fall Colors Tour" we saw the best weather of the year, the most spectacular scenery to be had, anywhere, and, as important, excellent food at every stop!

The trip started off on the right foot (literally) as we took a favorite shortcut, Hwy 41 from Shandon to Atascadero – what a sweet driving road. After catching our breath, we headed straight for our first culinary experience, Gus's Sandwiches in San Luis Obispo (if you haven't had Gus's, do yourself a favor and try it out – possibly the best sandwich on the coast). We then took a blast over Perfumo Canyon Road to See Canyon Road, where way up on the mountains above SLO you can see Morro Rock off to the north. A half-mile of well-groomed gravel road slowed us down for a bit, but both ends of the road are nicely paved. A stop at one of the apple farms in See Canyon yielded apple-appliquéd dish-towels and jalapeño-stuffed olives – hmmm – OK, not all of the things we did over the weekend were the height of good judgment...

Dinner that evening was at the (New) Old Custom House in Avila Beach, delicious food and patio-dining (under the heater!), looking at the ocean and wondering what the next day would bring.

Actually, it turns out that half of the troops went shopping the next day, while the other half took a drive through Paso Robles wine country (no wine-tasting this time), then through Fort Hunter Liggett, and up and over the coast range, where the road takes a sudden dive down to Hwy 1. If you like to drive on beautiful curvy mountain and canyon roads with few other people around, Nacimiento-Fergusson Road is a great option. The fort has miles of grassland and huge oaks hung with Spanish moss, pristine except for the occasional tank practice area. Yes, "tank", as in turrets, large cannons, and a "don't get in my way" attitude! But don't worry, if they're practicing, the MPs won't let you on the fort.

The Coast Highway was at its beautiful best, and that's pretty damn good. Relatively light traffic and absolutely perfect weather kept the pace lively as we headed south. A little lunch at Ragged Point, a few pictures of beautiful migrating Monarch Butterflies and of an even more beautiful Jaguar F-type convertible. Then back on the road, heading south to Pismo and the wrap-up dinner at Giuseppe's (mmm, great pastas!).

All in all, a nice and very relaxing trip, with enough fun, curvy roads to break up any unnecessary relaxation! We had to look hard for those fall colors, but we did find some. And we had a fantastic time with some great CCC friends – and that's what it's all about. Well, that and three days of 70 degrees and no wind on the Central California Coast.



Ready... set.... Autocross!!!!

Central Cal hosted its second autocross of the year in October and saw upwards of 25 cars do battle against the clock. Our (now, official) autocross site located on the west side of the Visalia airport was put to good use. Designed by Gary McDaniel, the course was a challenge to BMW drivers as well as many non-BMW owners INCLUDING A VERY QUIET TESLA no less!!! (We'll take all comers...!)

For the new member wondering just 'what is an autocross?' here's your answer... An autocross is typically a closed course, set up with pylons or small cones that define where to turn or go straight. There is typically no speed limit as the set pylons will limit your speed forcing you to turn. You are penalized if you hit or knock down any cones. Your time 'on course' is timed electronically as you are 'racing' only 'against the clock'. Many BMW owners like to drive fast... (duh...!)

Central Cal Chapter will be hosting several autocrosses during 2014. We will try to schedule in the Spring and Fall months so we don't 'melt tires' during the summer! Please check online via the chapter website for upcoming dates!

Autocrossing is a great way to improve your driving skills. Join us at the next one!

Mailing Address: Central California Chapter BMW CCA , P O Box 2587, Visalia, CA 93279

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Unless there is an emergency, please contact chapter personnel only between the hours of 6 to 9 PM. You may send emails at any time. Thank you.

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Statement of Purpose

The CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAPTER of the BMW Car Club of America, Inc., is an independent group of BMW owners and is not associated with the manufacture, importer, or dealers of BMW automobiles. Open Board meetings are held as announced in this publication. DAS RAD and DAS KAMMRAD are publications of the Central California Chapter and are provided only for the members of the Central California Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America, Inc. The ideas, opinions and suggestions expressed in these publications are those of the several authors, and no authentication is implied or expressed by the editors or publishers. Any suggested modifications to BMW automobiles within the warranty period may void the warranty. Articles submitted are subject to editing. Contents may not be reproduced without expressed written permission except by the BMW CCA and its chapters.

**Come to the meetings!
Add to the fun!**

President's message...

As I close out my presidency, I want to take the time to thank some people who have gone out of their way to make this club better, and have helped me during my presidency by making it more enjoyable for everyone regardless of their auto interests.

Rich Koch, you have been a great help to me and to the club. Your tight purse-strings have kept money in the bank and everyone in check. Rick Kapheim your monthly "news" keeps everyone laughing, and made newbie's feel like they weren't newbie's. Rich Nielsen who made my life as president easier by keeping up with all the secretary stuff. Wayne Wundram, for listening to my many suggestions and including my articles in the Das Rad. Being Editor of the club newsletter is a very time-consuming job, and most of us take all your extra effort for granted. To my BFF's, ladies, I honestly could not have done it without you guys! (Too many names to mention, you know who you are!) To Peter Kwan, who talked me into running and gave me unlimited information, and support. And finally to Dave Warner, my husband, past president, and best friend, you always, in any situation, keep me grounded and focused on the big picture. You have taught me what "it is only a car club" really means. To accept the things we can't change and to fight for some things we can change and to let go of the silly stuff that's not worth changing.

In closing, thank you to all my lifelong car friends – during my two terms as president we have seen changes and growth and our little car club which continues to be the best! Whether we've only met once or we see you often, we have enjoyed your company. We all joined the club for the same reasons, to meet people who love their BMW's and want to hang out with others who do, too. So next time you see a BMW driver stop and ask them, hey, are you a member of the Central Cal Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America? If not you should be! Come out and play with us!

Deb Warner

Have a Happy Holiday Season

*Merry Christmas
Happy New Year!!!*

Monthly Meet and Greet!
First Wednesday of the month
(except January 2014!)
Logan's Roadhouse
7507 N Blackstone Ave, Fresno

Officer Installation Dinner January 11, 2014

Mark your calendars now! Join the Central California Chapter to welcome the incoming officers and board members and start the new year right. We are honored to have the opportunity to have our dinner at the facility of local collector, historian, and race driver, Visalia's own, Brian Blain. Plan on an evening touring his museum and view his wonderful car collection.

Brian has been an icon in the historic racing scene and many of you will recognize his cars he has been racing in the Monterey Histories for many years as well as at Indy.

Please use the RSVP form below and mail your reservation soon. This will be a well attended event and seating will be somewhat limited, so don't wait! Reservations must be received no later than Dec. 31, 2013.

Also a reminder, since the first Wednesday of January falls on New Year's Day, there will NOT be a general monthly meeting in Fresno. The Officer Installation Dinner will be the first official Central California Chapter event of the year. Don't miss it!

From the editor....

Changes may be a 'comin.....!'

As we are all now aware, the age of electronic media and its delivery is upon us and now entrenched in our everyday lives.

Accordingly, after decades of hard paper issues of Das Rad delivered via snail mail, we will soon be implementing the electronic delivery of Das Rad, possibly as soon as the first issue of 2014.

Here's how it will work... when the 'electronic delivery way' is agreed upon by the Central Cal board, you will be notified officially via a BMW CCA national office email of its implementation. This will then be the 'default' method of delivery and, if that is the way you wish to receive the Das Rad, you will not need to do anything else. However, included in that email will be instructions if you wish to also receive a hard, paper copy of Das Rad. And, after changing your 'delivery preferences' via those instructions you will be sent hard, paper copies of the newsletter. I believe you will also receive the electronic copy as well.

This change will not affect the content of this magnificent 'rag' but will likely allow additional content due to less costs involved in paper printing.

We'll see....! Thanks for you patience during this transition. Wayne

2014 CCCBMWCCA Officer Installation Dinner

Saturday evening, January 11, 2014

The Brian Blain Estate
3008 S. Burke
Visalia, CA

Dinner \$39.00 per person

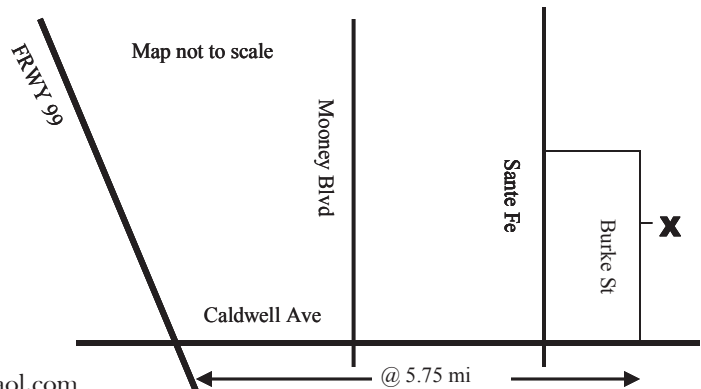
Cocktail hour 6 PM

Dinner Served at 7 PM

No-host bar

Special Activities and Guest Speaker

For additional info contact Wayne Wundram: bmwayne@aol.com



Installation Dinner RSVP

Yes! I plan on attending the January 11, 2014 Officer Installation Dinner.

Name (s) _____

Amount included (\$39.00 per person, checks only, please) # of Vegetarians _____ \$ _____
(Make check payable to: Central California Chapter BMW CCA)

Please mail this RSVP to: Central California Chapter, BMW CCA
PO Box 2587
Visalia, CA 93279

Please note, all reservations must be received no later than December 31, 2013. Thank you.



DAS RAD

Newsletter for Central California Chapter
BMW Car Club of America

Central Calif. Chapter
BMW Car Club of America
PO Box 2587
Visalia, CA 93279

2013 Calendar of Events

- Dec 4** **Monthly 'Meet and Greet'**
- Jan 1** **Happy New Year**
NO MONTHLY MEETING!
- Jan 11** **Officer Installation Party**
Brian Blaine Garage
Details Inside
- Feb 5** **Monthly Meet and Greet**
Monthly Meeting
- Feb 16** **TBA**
Dave and Deb Warner will host.
- Mar 5** **Monthly meet and Greet**

Other Stuff....?????

Don't forget to vote! There is still time. Mail your ballot or bring to the December meeting!

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Rick's Ramblings..... Rick Kapheim

I think that often we take the value of our vehicle's capabilities for granted in our day to day driving (excluding driving events, of course). We drive on straight roads in a numbing routine to work or play without ever even braking a sweat. Well..recently I was asked to take some relatives on a series of hikes in the mountains and decided that the 2011 X-3 would be a good choice. Although the hiking was serious fun (If you have not done so, you must climb to the top of Morro Rock....No not the one at the Coast!) the best part for me was the drive, especially the drive down from Morro Rock to Visalia. My plan was to have fun (This road is fantastic!) and put the X-3 to the test without getting anyone sick. So smoothness of operation at speed was the order of the day. Lessor SUV's and most cars were smart enough to take the turnouts as soon as the twin kidney grill was in their mirror. Clicking through the gears on the in manual mode I was amazed at how composed this SAV was without any drama. One of the passengers noted that I was having the most fun of the day bydriving!!!!!!

I miss the Z-4. Oh I know it is still around and it just could be the best looking Bimmer that is sold here (I will get letters...again!) but it is a little soft, not like the Z-4 that came before it. I don't just mean the M-Roadster of 2006-2008, although this was a great car, but even the "regular" Z-4. It is as if BMW said to itself that it is to much trouble to compete directly with Porsche on their own ground. (Check Youtube for a Fifth Gear episode on the M-Roadster and how it compares with the Porsche.) So now we have a car that is more of a cruiser and does not even include a full blown M Model (How does this make sense in the BMW universe were even the SAV's have M models?). I just think it would be nice to have a two seater that would make Porsche sweat a little.

Ok...while I am ranting.....curbs should be lower to reflect the vehicles that we drive in the 21st century. My parents cars of the 50's thru the 70's could just drive into any curb until the tires came to a rest. Do that with most cars today and you will have expensive damage to fix. Oh I can still do this in my 4-Runner, but when I replace it I will have to be careful as it seems everything has NASCAR type front splinters on the front these days. Just lower the curbs!!!

Ok....I got all of that out of my system. So drive! But drive safe.