

**BMW Car Club  
of America  
Central California Chapter**



# DAS RAD

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAPTER BMW CCA

Oct - Dec 2015

VOLUME XXIX No.4



**So-Cal Vintage BMW Show  
Central Cal Chapter Installation Party**

CHAPTER INFORMATION /// Website: [www.cccbmwcca.wordpress.com](http://www.cccbmwcca.wordpress.com) /// National Website: [www.bmwcca.org](http://www.bmwcca.org)

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

## Chapter Officers

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.

<b>President:</b>		
Frank Vasquez	<a href="mailto:frank@achillesmotorsports.com">frank@achillesmotorsports.com</a>	559 970 2507
<b>Vice President:</b>		
George Aguilar	<a href="mailto:georgeag@omcast.net">georgeag@omcast.net</a>	559 284 8818
<b>Secretary:</b>		
Richard Nielsen	<a href="mailto:rchniel@comcast.net">rchniel@comcast.net</a>	559 259 3287
<b>Treasurer:</b>		
Richard Koch	<a href="mailto:rjkoch65@yahoo.com">rjkoch65@yahoo.com</a>	559 469 6791
<b>Board of Directors:</b>		
Greg Belemjian	<a href="mailto:beemian@icloud.com">beemian@icloud.com</a>	
Christian Chavez-Mejia		
Aaron Chong		
Terry Eidson	<a href="mailto:wteidson@comcast.net">wteidson@comcast.net</a>	559 940 0551
Eddy Funahashi	<a href="mailto:funa@sbcglobal.net">funa@sbcglobal.net</a>	559 707 0521
Rick Kapheim	<a href="mailto:bmwrckx@msn.com">bmwrckx@msn.com</a>	559 906 8106
Frank Reed	<a href="mailto:frank.reed@comcast.net">frank.reed@comcast.net</a>	559 635 9449
Jeff Willers	<a href="mailto:sailbmw@sbcglobal.net">sailbmw@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Marilyn Willers		
Wayne Wundram	<a href="mailto:bmwayne@aol.com">bmwayne@aol.com</a>	559 734 3298
<b>Past President:</b>		
Deb Warner	<a href="mailto:danddwarn@comcast.net">danddwarn@comcast.net</a>	559 733 3024
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>		
Wayne Wundram	<a href="mailto:bmwayne@aol.com">bmwayne@aol.com</a>	559 734 3298
<b>Web Masters</b>		
Frank Vasquez		
<b>Associate Editor:</b>		
Richard Koch	<a href="mailto:rkoch65@yahoo.com">rkoch65@yahoo.com</a>	559 469 6791
<b>Chapter Technician:</b>		
Larry Huber	<a href="mailto:lrlar635@netzero.net">lrlar635@netzero.net</a>	559 222 1031

## 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....

Greetings! It seems the time has come for the changing of the guards once again. My oh my how fast the time has whirled by. What's the old saying we all know so well, "time fly's when you're having fun!" I'd say that speaks pretty well to what has gone on the last few years. It makes me very thankful to have been given the opportunity to serve as the president of our chapter for the last two years. But lets be honest, none of it would be possible without You, our loyal members! You are what makes our club possible and we'd love to get to know you more next year! So I challenge you to pick an event you've been dying to attend and make plans to make it happen this year! We'd love to see you again, or even meet you for the first time.

With that being said I'll bid thee adieu but we will meet again soon! I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Frank Vasquez

## Calendar of Events

### No January monthly meeting!!!!

Jan 9 Office Installation Banquet

Brian Blain Estate... details on page 4

Jan 24 Board Meeting

George Aguilar's home. 4863 N Van Ness. All chapter members welcome! Will be planning events for the year and discussing the chapter's role in Legends 2016. Any and all potential 'volunteers' are welcome!

Feb 3 Monthly Meeting

Mother Mary's Restaurant

Feb 14 Sweetheart's Brunch

11:00AM at the Daily Grill, Fresno, Palm & Nees. 3 item brunch. \$33 pp (all inclusive) RSVP by Feb 10. Details later.

Mar 2 Monthly Meeting

Mother Mary's Restautant

## 2016 Chapter Election Results

Results of the 2016 election for Chapter Officers and Board members were announced at the December meeting and shown below...

President: Wayne Wundram  
 Vice President: George Aguilar  
 Secretary: Richard Nielsen  
 Treasurer: Richard Koch

Board members: Greg Belemjian  
 Christian Chavez-Mejia  
 Roger Gong  
 Terry Eidson  
 Eddy Funahashi  
 Rick Kapheim  
 Frank Reed  
 Ken Robertson  
 Jeff Willers  
 Marilyn Willers

Past President Frank Vasquez

Officers will be 'sworn in' during the January banquet in Visalia. Please attend!  
 New officers contact information will be updated in the next D.R.

On the cover...

On October 31, chapter members Eddy Funahashi, George Aguilar, Eric Coyne and Wayne Wundram attended the BMW Vintage Car Club's show in Van Nuys.

It was a glorious day in the sun with great representation from all SIG's including e3, e9, 2002's and e30 models to name a few. I was sadly disappointed there were few, if any, pre-war cars, Isetta types, 1950 models or neue-klasse examples (unless I missed them..)

There were 50-60 2002's, a dozen or so 3.0cs models a good showing of 8 series types a lot of e30's and a few motorcycles to boot.

Awards were given out to winners of each SIG or class and Central Cal's own Eddy Funahashi won Best e30 (M3).

On a personal note, this show was a chance to attend a 'show-type' event as a spectator/participant and not have the worries and responsibilities of an organizer shouting at people and screaming into a walkie-talkie...! It was nice to just kick tires and enjoy the day.

This was just a hint of what is expected to attend the 2016 Legends event, Monterey Motorsport Reunion and Oktoberfest during the 100th birthday celebration of BMW! Don't miss it! Wayne W.

## Brands you trust.



**BILSTEIN**

**Genuine BMW**



**BOSCH**



**LEMFÖRDER**

**BAVARIAN**  
**autosport**

800.535.2002 | BavAuto.com

- Best price guarantee
- Free shipping most orders
- No sales tax

## Reflections . . . By Jeff Willers

It was 1968, the summer of love. I was living in San Francisco where the music was loud and the living was loose. As all hipsters, I was driving around in a Volkswagen. True, it wasn't ratted out nor painted psychedelic colors and wasn't really a chick magnet, but it was a VW. Little did I know that I was about to have that first time, exhilarating, truly sensuous moment that would alter my life. And it wouldn't happen in the Haight-Ashbury.

My parents invited me to travel to Europe as kind of a chaperone as I had had experience traveling there and my younger sister would accompany us. We had distant relatives we needed to visit. And we rented, guess what, to travel around in? Of course it was a Volkswagen. That's all my dad had known for a few years. Volkswagens were it for daily, economical transport. He had purchased his first in 1956 and had owned four or five before our European sojourn.

Once we arrived at our destination northwest of Hamburg, greetings and the appropriate pleasantries were exchanged with our newly found "cousins". We bedded down in their sumptuous feather beds. After a typische German breakfast of cheeses, jam, soft eggs and coarse bread, we prepared for a day of local sightseeing. Hans was all too excited to be our guide.

We piled into his car, a BMW 1600. I was familiar with the Isetta, the 507, the 700 and even the Glas GT, but this was something entirely new to me. Our trip took us through the Luneburger Heide of Lower Saxony. The mist of the early morning was clearing and patches of sun revealed the glistening cobblestones of the roadbed. Hans, like most good German fahrer, did not hold back on the throttle nor the steering wheel. I thought to myself, this is something special.

The 1600 remained in a totally level attitude as we sailed nimbly across the cobblestones and careened around corners of all kinds. In a Volkswagen, the pilot is always half an arms length from the windscreen. But this car with its expansive dash seemingly going on forever and its near 360 degree "greenhouse" was a totally new experience. It was not tail happy like a VW especially on wet roads. It all seemed so effortless. I thought I was falling in love.

This was the moment. The BMW 1600's appearance of speed and competence was exhilarating. Its handling was delicate and sensuous. It was something I had never felt in a rear-engined, air-cooled car. Yes, at the time there were more exotic marques out there, but that 1600 was just the right combination of all things good.

Three years later I had my own 2002 and had a pleasurable 41 years with it. But I've never forgotten that first time.

## 2016 Officer Installation Dinner Saturday, January 9, 2016 RSVP deadline extended to January 5, 2016 !!!

<b>Location</b>	<b>: The Brian Blain Estate - 3008 S. Burke St, Visalia, CA</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>: Cocktail Hour 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM (Wine / Beer Tasting only!) - Dinner 6:00 PM</b> Activities, Guest Speaker, Officer Installation to follow dinner. Door prizes!!
<b>Price</b>	<b>: \$40.00 per person</b> Buffet style dinner will be served.

Time again to celebrate with everyone as we recap 2015 and welcome 2016. The Blains are welcoming us back for an evening of business (installation of officers and Board members), a tour of the Blain collection, great food (catered by Chef Paul Pearson of Fresno), camaraderie, wine tasting, and a raffle!

The theme will be WESTERN, so start early in putting your best foot forward (or getting your feet into some really nice boots!) and creating that great western outfit! There will be a Best- Dressed Award!

**DATE AND TIME: SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016** - Social hour 5-6 pm - Buffet Dinner 6pm

**PLACE: BLAIN RANCH in VISALIA.** Cost - \$40.00 per person. Additional information on line or in the next Das Rad!

**COST: \$40 per person**

### Installation Dinner RSVP - Must be received by ~~December 31, 2015~~ January 5, 2016!!!! RSVP Deadline extended to January 5, 2016!!!!

Yes! I, (We) plan on attending the January 9, 2016 Officer Installation Dinner.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount included (\$40.00 per person, checks only, please) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make check payable to: Central California Chapter BMW CCA)

Please mail this RSVP to: Richard Koch  
8101 N Angus St.  
Fresno, CA 93720

More about BMW

[bmwfresno.com](http://bmwfresno.com)



The Ultimate  
Driving Machine®

# VISIT CENTRAL CALIFORNIA'S BMW HEADQUARTERS

- 17 Factory Certified Technicians
- 5 Factory Certified Service Advisors
- Nearly 200 new and certified pre-owned BMWs to choose from
- 6 Factory Certified Parts Professionals
- 10 Factory Certified Sales Professionals
- Hundreds of thousands of dollars in OEM parts in stock



## BMW Fresno

7171 Palm Ave, Fresno CA

888.849.1977

[bmwfresno.com](http://bmwfresno.com)

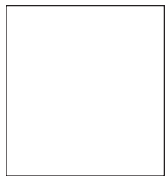


[www.facebook.com/BMWFresno7171](https://www.facebook.com/BMWFresno7171)



@BMWFresno





## 2016 Officer Installation Party

### National Board Officers to Attend!

It is an honor to announce the attendance of a very special group of guests at our Officer Installation party on January 9, 2016. Frank Patek, Executive Director, BMW CCA; Steve Johnson, President, BMW CCA; Eddy Funahashi, Executive Vice-President, BMW CCA; Louis Goldsman, Treasurer, BMW CCA, and Nick Owen, Regional Vice-President, Pacific Region BMW CCA will be at our party. This will be a rare opportunity to for local chapter members to meet this special group of people.

Please plan on attending this gala event. There is an RSVP that you can fill out and send in included in this Das Rad.

The dinner party will again be at the Brian Blain estate in Visalia in his personal automobile museum. Lots of automobile 'eye-candy' to see.

Send in your RSVP today!

## Rick's Ramblings

By Rick Kapheim

X-1 Road-test! I liked the first generation X-1, but I was one of the few. While popular in Europe, where they actually like wagons, it did not catch on here (because it looked like a wagon). Ok I get it. People in the United States who buy a SUV want it to look like one. Makes sense. So....how is it? First of all it looks like a X-3 that has been shrink-wrapped just a little and that is not bad since the X-3 looks fine. Although the exterior is not larger than the first generation X-1, there is more space inside. You can thank the deep-sixing of the six for this. With the turbo-four as the only option there was more space to design....more space! For a small price you can even option a sliding rear seat for even more space. The interior is nicer with better quality materials throughout. BMW got rid of the electronic shifter and put in a conventional one like 99.99% of the people on this planet use. Good move. I only wish that the sport mode was part of the shifting console instead of being yet another button, but that is just me. Ok...you are BMW people....you want to know how it drives. The last generation drove like a car because, in reality it was a car. This new one is a real SUV (I know....BMW wants me to say SAV). I got to take it on some really rough urban roads and it handled them like a charm which is an improvement over the old series. There is more lean in the turns but the engineers have done their magic to make it still make these turns in a crisp manner. The car feels stable at speed and the new higher seating position makes it feel like what it is....a smaller X-3. I got to take some runs from a standing start in all of the transmission modes and the X-1 did well. You should be able to hit 60 in a little over six seconds. All in all I think BMW did a great job with this new X-1. If people were buying the old model that was really a 3 series on a raised suspension, they would still be making it. BMW is in the business of selling vehicles in the American market. This new X-1 is marketed to what people really want. I think it is a wise choice. Special thanks to Frank Acosta at BMW of Visalia for the use of the X-1 in this road test and for any information that I needed. Oh....and one more thing! Snook (Check the last Ramblings) bought one!

Drive safe, but drive!