



Legends of the Autobahn 2018



Legends of the Autobahn 2018 as viewed from above. Another spectacular day in the sun at Nicklaus Club Monterey. This year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the 2002 and there were some 50 examples on site! Other noteworthy models were a dozen 850 types and of course many 3.0cs models. (photo Tip Weiss/Air Cam)



Best of Show...Jeff Wong's classic 1986 190e 2.3-16v



Best of Marque BMW... Gil Ceravantes 1974 2002 Turbo (photos Fred Larimer)



Sights and sounds at the Rolex Motorsports reunion..

<—Several of the 3.0cs types in the paddock waiting their turn on the track...

Sweet music sounds—> One of the two McLarens at this year's event. What a rare treat to hear the sweet sounds of the BMW v-12.

Don't get to hear THAT often!!
More inside...





BMW Places 2nd in Class at Pebble Beach

It was a great treat to return to the "Big Show", the annual Pebble Beach Concours, this year.

I have always waited to see if there were any BMW models at the show. I was quite surprised to see a truly exquisite example of BMW's iconic 507.

This stunning example, a 1957 507 Series II owned by Larry and Jane Solomon of California, deservedly won second place in the Postwar Touring class.

Featured on the fairway this year were 14 examples of the American made Tucker automobile... a postwar car mad with highly modified helicopter engines for power.

An ill-fated attempt by a privateer, the tucker was certainly ahead of its time. It featured an engine in the rear and a center headlight that moved with the steering wheel.

A rear treat indeed to see so many... But where do you get parts...!?



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Statement of Purpose

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An important note...

As many of you are aware, we have been using electronic media (email) to inform you of important notifications... deadlines, meeting location etc. PLEASE make sure that your BMW CCA 'profile' is up to date as we use that database for which to send out e-messages. If you have changed you email address, please make sure you change it via the BMW CCA website. Otherwise you will not get current notifications. Thanks

President's/Editor's message...

I'm sooooo bad... My apologies for such a very late Das Rad. Either a lot has happened or very little has happened (depending on your point of view) regarding the central Calif. Chapter.

We have had several events since the Spring, The Brian Blain picnic, we have had a couple of autocrosses in Madera with the Porsche club and of course we just had another very successful Legends of the Autobahn.

We are still trying to secure a permanent home for our monthly 'meetings' and will hope to secure a permanent spot soon. For now, the plan is to go month to month with or without a monthly location.

It seems that our chapter is not immune from lack of participation from chapter members so we'll keep trying to generate participation. Please make an attempt to come to an activity.

Calendar of Events (tentatively speaking!)

Oct. No Monthly Dinner/Meeting

Oct. 20 Meet and Greet at Visalia BMW Food and Friends.

Oct. 26 Buttonwillow HPDE. One day hi performance training.
Contact Terry Eidson for information.

Nov. ? Monthly dinner/Meeting TBA

Nov. 10 Day trippin' to the Getty Museum
Details to follow. Wayne Wundram for info.

Dec. 8 Tire Rack Street Survival School
Fresno Fairgrounds. Deb Warner for info.

Central Cal Chapter Hosts “Blain’s, Planes and Automobiles”

Having had several annual awards banquets at the estate of local auto enthusiast, historian and restorer Brian Blain, his sprawling complex and museum grounds were an obvious choice for a ‘daytime’ picnic/social event.

Our last visits to his place were held at night and we were not able to grasp the ‘whole picture’ of his facility so we were treated to a whole new aspect of the site.

It has been quite a while since our chapter held a picnic-type event anywhere, so chapter members were eager to participate. Some 50 chapter members and guests were treated to beautiful weather for our picnic/bar-b-que.

Our event included a mini swap meet, a clean-car contest, plenty of food and drawings for door prizes.

Brian opened his doors to his several garages where trained staff are in the process of restoring and maintaining Brian’s collection of vintage race cars, including McLaren Can-Am types, Formula 2 racers, and 100 year old racers from the last century. Not to mention his personal street car collection from T-birds to de-Tomaso’s, and motorcycles.

During the day Brian offered rides in some of his vintage racers (like the National shown in the pic that he regularly races at the vintage races in Monterey). Brian cleverly included a short concrete oval track between his two main buildings and ‘rides’ were quite popular during the day.

We were honored to have Executive Director of the CCA, Frank Patek in attendance and he enjoyed a spirited ride in Wayne Wundram’s 600 Limo. (just before a u-joint failed!)

Also driving a considerable distance were Roger Scilley and Delight Lucas from the Laguna Beach area and Paul Cain, also from down South who graciously offered to judge the Clean Car contest.

Big winners of the day included Maddy Serpa who won a HPDE entry to our Buttonwillow event in October and Wayne Wundram winning the CCC with his 72 3.0cs.

But in the end all in attendance were winners having seen a world class car collection, mingled with fellow BMW enthusiasts, enjoyed great food and had one heck of a good time.

A big THANK YOU to Terry Eidson, Maddy Serpa, Allison Uremovic, Delight Lucas for helping with the cooking, all our chapter members who helped out, and of course to our hosts, Brian and Sandy Blain. Hope to do this again, soon!



Turn 5 does not disappoint!

The BMW club’s traditional place at Laguna Seca’s Turn 5 was a beehive of activity with many near perfect 2002 models on display. As you see above there were also a couple i8 models to drool over.

Race 5A was certainly a highlight for me as the # 25 CSL was flaunted by driver Sam Smith who treated the faithful to several sideways sliding exits out of turn 4. Finally got to see BMW in a respectable finish!

Also since Datsun/Nissan were featured marques for this year it was a treat to meet and talk with the legendary John Morton. (below)



Brian Blain’s estate provides a spectacular outdoor (as well as indoor) venue for club events.

Greg Belemjian enjoys a spirited ride in Brian’s 1916(?) National



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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

Club News...

'Oktoberfest' Meet and Greet at BMW of Visalia.

Saturday October 20, 11AM-3PM Join other club members and show some dealer support at this event. Shine and display your car and enjoy some good eating here. Plaza Drive and Hwy 198, Visalia.

Buttonwillow HPDE, Friday, October 20. Register online at motorsportreg.com. Sign up now. All skill levels are welcome.

Day trip to the Getty Museum, Saturday, Nov 10.

Its been a while since we have had a club tour,,, anywhere. Here is your chance to visit an iconic museum overlooking the LA basin. Details will follow. Contact Wayne Wundram for info.

Tire Rack Street Survival School, Saturday, Dec. 8

Fresno Fairgrounds. Register your teen driver at streetsurvival.org ASAP as there are only a few spaces left. contact Deb Warner for info at danddwarner@att.net. We need instructors and volunteers.

Rick's Ramblings...By Rick Kapheim

THE FUTURE IS COMING!!!!!!

Yes, it is. The question is what kind of future will we have. Robots taking over, zombies on the attack (I have a soft spot for zombies), boring cars that know more than you do (For some of us that bar is not so high), or jet-packs that quickly take us to any destination routed by GPS that is connected to our brain! Whew! I am exhausted just thinking about it.

Well, who knows what is coming. They say anything we can imagine we can build. Ok, but I do not see any flying cars yet so we will take that thought one invention at a time. It seems to be as far as autos are concerned that we are roughly divided up into three groups as far as the new technologies for propelling our vehicles. One group does not want any change. The very thought of quiet cars driving on auto-pilot drives them insane. The 2nd group is all in to the new world order. This group is ready to burn their driver's license and be taken to any and all destinations by the Hall 5000 in their machines ("Good morning Dave. We are going to an alternate destination this morning....."). And the third group is in the wait and see mode. This group likes to drive but is open to new technologies although they are not trusting of the marketing/promises of big tech.

I am mostly in the third group. I like to manually shift my gears and I love the sound of my machines. I love the tactile sensation of automobiles as they take

curves and change direction. Having said that, I do not fear the future. I have driven several all electric cars in the past and was surprised by how much I enjoyed the experience. This last weekend (along with my favorite son-in-law Jim Scantlen) I test drove the new Tesla 3 Performance (With the optional performance pack). The car was very fast (Dual motor-all electric) and fun to drive. I can now see the future more clearly and with anticipation. Jay Leno has said that the quietness of the cars is as exciting as noise was in gas powered cars and I think he is right. I can envision all electric Porsche Boxsters, BMW M-3's, and any other make you want to name. Yes, I will hang on to my machines for as long as I can, but I am excited for the next phase. If there is a market for electric cars that are exciting to drive then the carmakers will make them. Tesla is already on the case and other manufactures coming up fast. Competition will be great (ie.....Tesla vs Porsche Mission E).

Our job is to translate our wishes to the people that make cars. Through our clubs and as individuals we need to make our thoughts heard. The vast unwashed does not understand the M-3, but it is built because enough people buy them. This process will be the same with new technologies. Will we lose something in the transition? Of course. To deny this is absurd. But it is equally absurd to deny that we will gain from this new driving experience.

Our grandchildren will be using those jet-packs. Sounds like fun!

Drive safe in whatever automobile type you are driving. But drive