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North Star Chapter



# North Star Bavarian July, 2018





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## On The Cover



June 2018

This quarter's cover art was shot through the lens of local photo legend Alex Bellus and contains the #888 Laguna Seca Blue E46 M3 owned by your own personal car addict, the Northstar BMW Newsletter editor!

This photo was taken at the launch of the 2018 Kannonball Fun charity rally in Shakopee.

If you would like to see your car or BMW content on the cover of the next newsletter, feel free to email submission requests to [editor@northstarbmw.org](mailto:editor@northstarbmw.org)!

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**Typical Publication Dates:**  
4/15, 6/15, 9/15, 12/15

## Upcoming Club Events

Road America Adventure  
August 3rd-5th  
See Motorsport Reg for more details!

Tirerack Street Survival  
Saturday, August 18, 2018 8:30am  
Dakota County Technical college, Rosemount, MN

Iron Ranger Brewing  
Wednesday, August 16, 2017  
1085 Grand Ave, St Paul, MN 55105, USA

North Star Social - Capital Sons CD Release Party  
Saturday, August 18, 2018 7:00 PM  
Ziggy's restaurant, Stillwater, MN



Apples and Eagles - Tom's Tours  
Saturday, September 15, 2018  
Kohl's, Cottage Grove, MN

Bimmers 'n' Brats - Bratwurst D'elegance  
September 23, 2017  
Germanic American Institute, St Paul, MN

Fall 3 day trip - Tom's Tours  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Sept 28-30, 2018  
See Motorsport Reg for more details!



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# Buying a car thats 'not for sale'

words and photos by: Erik Berger

Over the last 14 years, I have bought what must amount to about 80 vehicles, 100+ if you count parts vehicles, motorcycles for sure. Often times, when these transactions occur, the process begins with an online ad. Be it Facebook, eBay motors, Auto trader, Car gurus, or even the odd forum, there's usually something that starts the ball rolling for you, when you may or may not have had any intention of buying another car. Truth be told, Most of the time when I buy a car, it is a link that is sent to me by a friend or a client that had overheard me talk wistfully about a certain model, make, year or even color of vehicle at some point in the past. These messages often flood in at night, just before or just after bed via text message, email shares of Craigslist postings, or the odd Google hangouts message.

That all seems pretty normal, find an ad for the car you want, contact the person to arrange a time to see it and drive it – if you like it, do some dickering on price and see if some middle ground can be found before exchanging a sweaty wad of cash or crisp cashiers check for that all too important piece of tamper resistant green paper we know as the Minnesota Certificate of Title and (hopefully) multiple sets of keys before driving off, plotting the cars future. Honestly, that seems pretty normal because it is. For a used car bought and sold between two private parties, at least in this part of the world, that's all it is. The process is very straightforward, and it is an easy to follow path of events.

Car guys though, we don't work the same way. There's no paging through consumer reports to see how people rate the third row space, how residual values look for trim packages, what the towing capacities are, etc. When we see a car we want, whether or not we knew beforehand that we wanted it, the reaction isn't akin to shopping for a nice refrigerator for one's house, it's much more aligned with catching a glimpse of a beautiful woman (or man, if that's what floats your boat) out of the corner of your eye – it's love at first sight. Great! Much easier to get a hold of. Cars don't have feelings, they don't have rights and they don't typically judge too badly. Just hand over the cash and.. oh, wait. The car isn't for sale.



This is something I've encountered just a few times in my endeavors of car buying, and to a lesser extent, selling. What if the owner of the vehicle you desire to buy is not interested in selling it, it's not 'for sale'? Just because the vehicle isn't listed for sale does not mean you can't buy it, but the whole process is completely different. When you find a vehicle like this, there's no well written ad which covers condition, basic specifications, vehicle history or its needs. These are now all questions fielded directly to a person, a person who will likely become overwhelmed quickly and lose interest in considering the idea of naming a price for their prized four wheel transportation vessel.

Starting off, small talk. Making your interest in the car known, and intentions behind the interest. Discussing common interests in and out of the car world.. Leaving the first meeting without discussing the actual act of sale, or pricing. Letting the iron in the fire lose it's red glow, and then touching base yet again, this time more or less asking if they're willing to consider selling to you, a suitable prospective owner that will keep the vehicle in as good or better condition, not ruin it by changing the aesthetic or mechanicals significantly enough, or out of line of how the current owner would have themselves had time, space and money allowed. Sometimes you'll get a no, but more often than not you'll get a yes, and having previously established that trust with the seller means they're much more likely to sell the vehicle at a reasonable price, which might even constitute a loss for the seller because of that trust now in place.

After that agreement, the transaction takes place just like any







## Buying a car that's 'not for sale' (Continued)

other used vehicle transaction. Sometimes there's an open communication line, sellers check in with buyers to see progress on builds, restorations etc. Often times though, the two parties part ways permanently though.

I have bought 3 vehicles that were not listed for sale — all three of them were BMW M3s. Two were E30, one was an E46. Reflecting back on all three of those purchases while writing this, the process is oddly similar. Initially, you'll get a very receptive response. During the chit chat phase while looking over the car and talking through its history, you'll get a retracting seller, likely remembering a slew of bonding moments and memories with the car. I've found it is very important to not discuss price in the first meeting, or even necessarily willingness to sell. That decision is emotional and takes time. Once it has been made though and the second meeting takes place the money in hand is the only real sticking point that makes the transaction take longer than the average car purchase. That final bout of 'once I pick that cash up, that car over there isn't mine anymore'. Hopefully, at that point, if you've become good enough acquaintances and have built up that trust, the barrier will be easier for the seller to break down and quell their own reservations when handing over the keys and title

I know I'll run in to a situation like this again in the future, but probably not before 10+ automotive transactions take place the regular way before hand!





## Crystal Cave Adventure

words and photos by: Tom Lawell

### FUN ON THE ROAD

The 2018 Road Trip Series is off to a great start this summer with two successful trips already completed. The first trip of the year was held on May 19 when club members ventured to Crystal Cave near Spring Valley, WI. The roads to Crystal Cave were narrow, twisty and lightly travelled, just the way we like them. The cave itself was an unexpected delight. The guides were knowledgeable and told interesting stories throughout the hour-long tour that led us 70 feet underground. Crystal Cave is Wisconsin's longest known cave and our group definitely felt it was worth a visit. (Acoolcave.org)

Afterwards we headed for Menomonie to dine at the Lucette Brewing Company. Folklore says Lucette was Paul Bunyan's sweetheart, and the atmosphere of the brewery was sweet indeed. Serving wood-fired pizza and providing a selection of over a dozen beer choices, it was a great wrap up to the day. (Lucettebrewing.com)

But wait, there was more. May 19 was the day of the Royal Wedding in England. One of our drive participants hails from Britain and her daughter just happened to work at a British pub in downtown Menomonie. It was suggested we swing by and say hi and we are glad we did. The Duke and Dagger (dukeanddagger.com) is a worthy stop if you're ever over that direction.

The June 9th trip took club members on an extended trek down the Mississippi River on the Wisconsin side. There were enjoyed the marvelous back roads as we zigzagged our way south to Larry's Lookout and Vino Over The Valley. (Larryslookout.com and vinooverthevalley.



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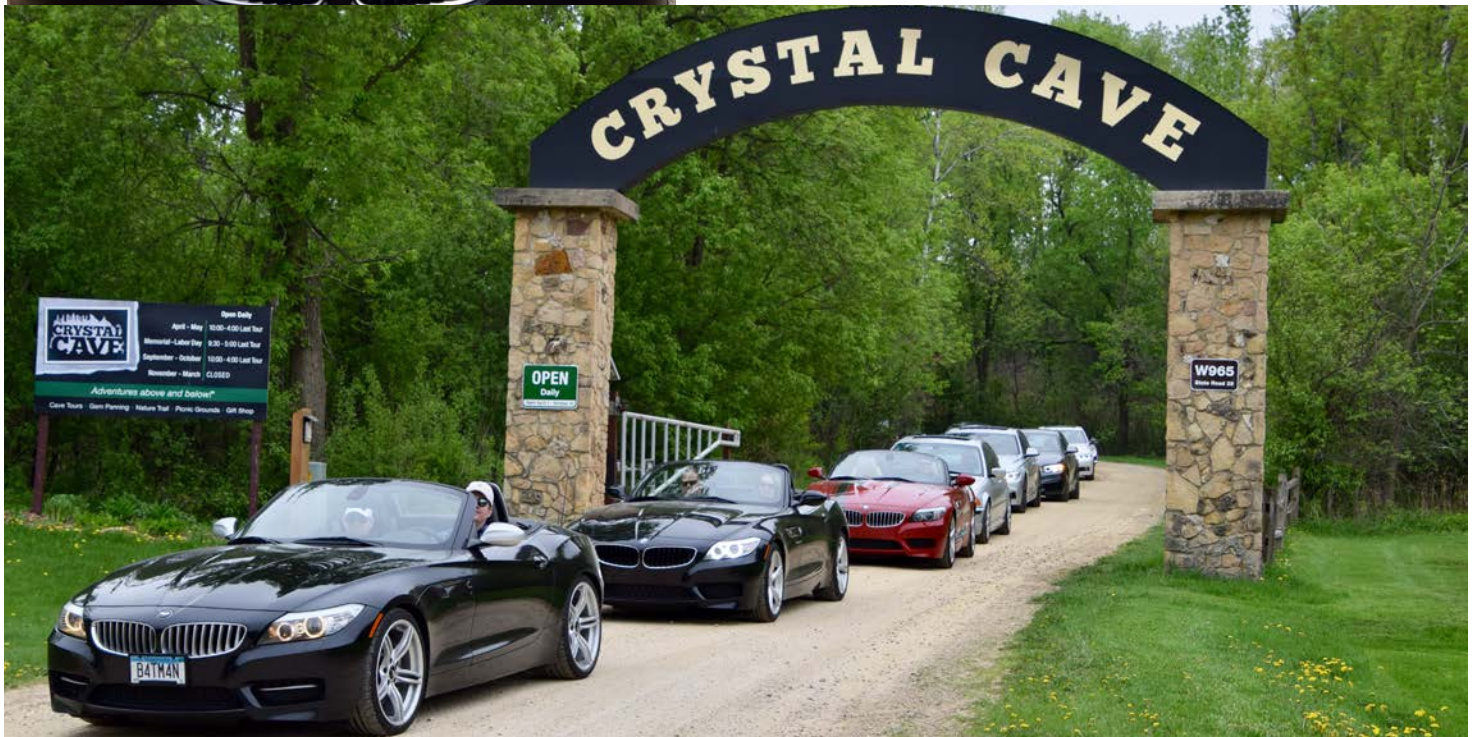




com). If you have travelled in this area in the past you might have stopped at a place called Hansen's Hold-Up. Hansen's is no more as Larry Brenner, the owner of Vino In The Valley purchased Hansen's, turned it into Larry's Lookout and added Vino Over The Valley right next to it. Whether you are looking for tasty bar food or an alfresco Italian dining experience, both are available at this one location. Give it a try, you'll be glad you did.

Larry is always a great host to our car club when we visit his restaurants, and this visit was no exception. He even took the chance to auction off one of our members cars to the other patrons in the restaurant that day! The lucky winner was a young boy who was thrilled to pick out a sweet Z3 as his prize. It was a lot of fun to play along, and Larry rewarded the young lad with free root beer and his parents a few bottles of wine for playing along. To top it off, a few of us even gave the boy and his mother a quick spin around the countryside in the Z3 and a Z4, top down on both. Fair to say we made a few BMW fans that day.

There are several more drives planned for this summer. Check out the club website for more details. Summer will be over before you know it, so be sure to get out and enjoy a few road trips with your fellow club members.





# Cars, Camaraderie and the Crown

words and photos by: Kenny Raway

Fourteen hours and nine minutes, was our total rally drive time. A mere 12 minutes behind the Crown Rally pace car, a Porsche 911. We spent a total of 849 minutes driving between all of the checkpoints trailing the pace car 1.4 hundredths of a second for each minute behind the wheel.

Even a blind squirrel finds a nut once in a while

Fortunately for us, this is a true statement. As much as I would love to claim that our superior navigation skills also known as BMW Connected Drive, or taking performance driving classes set us up for success, I would be lying to you.

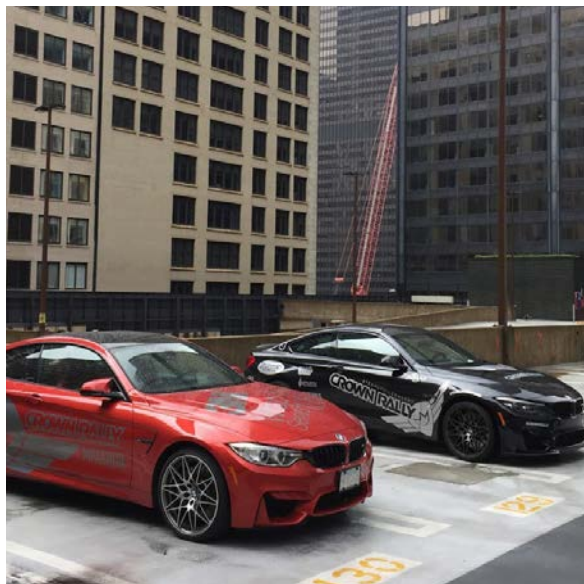
The launch

After two days of washing, clay bar and waxing, it was time to uncover the M4 and pack it up. We had a full car with my wife Emily, co driver Travis and his wife, Katie. All 125 cars in Crown Rally set out that Friday morning headed to Rice Park in St. Paul during a rainstorm to line up for the launch at checkpoint 1. Pulling into the launch area following GT3s and Aventadors was an exhilarating experience; I was about to be running with the big boys. Like a child awaiting Santa, it was torture waiting for the call to start engines. We had an hour and a half to burn and it seemed appropriate to grab a breakfast burrito and check out the competition. Luckily, I have conditioned my stomach to accept bacon, egg, cheese and hot sauce as appropriate fuel on road trips. I would recommend others only try this at home, or at least in close proximity to a restroom, I'm a trained professional.

After the drivers meeting, we sprinted back to the M4, ready to begin the adventure. CTS Vs, Camaro's and Mustang's began to scream their war cries. The naturally aspirated V8's rumbling and rough idling as they began the cold start. Lamborghini's and Ferrari's started next. I could attempt to make a comparison to some Italian symphony, but it was not. Simply stated, it was loud as \_\_\_\_\_ (you can add your own flavoring there). The people passing by on their way to work were sprinting for the doors, and not because the weekend was eight hours away. A man caught off guard on his morning walk was holding and consoling his tiny dog. It was beautiful. The time for me to chime in and add my 200 cents worth of pollution was upon us. The S55 motor gets poor marks in its musical ability, but I find it to be alluring in its own burbling popping way. It was also a great way to show the RS3 behind me what he is missing out on in his obviously superior Quattro setup. I should add, the engine note on my S55 is far better sounding with the M Performance Exhaust. Expensive exhaust system? Yes. However, no one will confuse my M car with a poorly tuned Honda. All that was left was to make a successful launch from Downtown St. Paul. In order to accomplish this, don't make like a Mustang ripping through the crowd on wet cobblestone streets. We were off, screaming down eastbound I-94 headed to checkpoint 2.

The Murder Farm

Your wife knows best may not always ring true, but happy wife happy life certainly does. And as far as my wife was concerned we were going to die. Not because we were trucking along doing 145 mph on the back roads of Illinois, that part comes day 2, and she is a fan of speed. It's because we ran out of gas and rolled into a farm in neutral shortly after leaving checkpoint 5. I would classify it as a working farm, not tidy but functional. Perhaps it was the disorganized nature of the farm, the



fact that she is pregnant, us having no gas and a lack of cell phone reception that made her believe these were the last few precious moments of her life on this earth.

Luckily, as we rolled to a stop in the middle of the farmhouse drive, a young lady came out to greet us. We explained our situation, but she was not certain they had gas and needed to go ask someone. What farm doesn't have gas? I mean come on... I've spent a lot of time working on farms and I can tell you without a doubt there is not one but many fuel storage facilities.

An older woman came out of the farm house and greeted us. She was rather reserved and cautious about our intrusion on her farm. We explained what Crown Rally was and our support of the Epilepsy Foundation. She immediately changed her demeanor, she thought we were Jehovah's Witnesses. I can assure you as we did her, no one in that car should be dispensing the word of any God or passing judgement. I mean, we can not even manage fuel consumption let alone tell someone how to live their life. Off she went to get a can of gas.

50:1 +3

I could almost see the face of an M division engineer shed a single solitary tear. That little equation was the cocktail I was about to feed my beloved M4. The farmer returned with a gas container marked premium, and as she was walking up stated, "I think this is weed-



wacker gas.” My heart sank. As I peered into the back seat and looked into my wife’s nervous eyes I grabbed the gas container. I looked over at my co-driver, Travis, who was currently tending to the farm dog who had jumped all over my car with its overly sharp nails. I asked, “do you think we will be good if we add enough octane booster to it?” Shrugging his shoulders he said something to the effect that it was our only option.

Since we only needed to suck squeeze bang and blow eight miles of this garbage in the tank it was worth the risk. As I was pouring the 50:1 mix in the car I chatted with the farmer, seeing what her plans were for the weekend. She was hosting some of her friends from Madison who were on the way to spend the weekend. After a little small talk, I handed her back the can of gas and offered her \$15 for her troubles and the gas. “Oh that’s crazy” she stated. “I’ll just take five bucks.” We all hopped back in the car and started it up. I am not certain if I was attempting to assure the farmer one last time I was not a Jehovah’s Witness, or perhaps it was just pent up aggression being released from the situation we had just got ourselves into. In typical Kenny fashion I blurted out a string of foul language that Clark W. Griswold would be proud of...we were back out on the road in search of gas and checkpoint 6.

#### Cedar Rapids & Relaxation

It was a day filled with highs and lows, as we ended day one we rolled into the welcome party and it was a rock star quality reception! Cedar Rapids pulled out all the stops, the downtown area was filled with huge crowds spilling onto the streets gawking at the cars. Fathers with their young sons narrating and dispensing knowledge on all things motorsports. It was reminiscent of my youth. Moments like these are how young children begin their quest as car enthusiasts. I remember being a child, going to car shows and other events with my father and uncles. I was in awe of those masterful machines and hoped one day I would join the ranks of cool car owners. Enough reminiscing about my youth, back to the rally. The Nissan GT-R Skyline, wrapped in all of its 8-Bit video game Livery was a hit, especially with the kids. It was difficult to drive on the street with all of the people partying and celebrating the arrival of the ralliers. My nerves were shot, and all I wanted was a beer and a bed. It turned out

to be a fantastic end to a great day, sharing stories and tales of woe from other rally teams. And to top it off, we were not the only ones to run out of gas.

#### Are you Silly? I’m Still Gonna Send It!

Day two was just that, back roads and mashing on the throttle. Or as Larry Enticer would say, “Just Send It.” And so we did, just send it that is. With about the same level of grace as Larry it was sent and we were having fun. If you are unfamiliar with one Larry Enticer, I would ask that you visit YouTube and do a little search, trust me, it’s worth it.

Technology is a beautiful thing, and being able to communicate with all cars on the Rally was a godsend. Many speeding tickets were avoided thanks to this communication and it brought with it levity and a great game of car trivia. We were making good time and making up lost time from the previous day. Listening to 90s music and the chatter on the walkie, everyone was riding high. We were a couple hours out from our last checkpoint and final destination, Chicago.

“I miss going fast!” Someone exclaimed on the walkie. “Why are there so many bad drivers?” another rallier asked. What came across the radio next should be adopted by I-DOT as their agencies motto. “You are in Illinois, we pioneered shitty driving.” I mean, they really did. I have lived, owned and drove cars in Washington DC, Baltimore, as well as NYC and I can assure you, that state-





ment is true. When the parking ramps are filled with signs instructing you to park inside the white lines, as if the lines themselves were not direction enough, something is wrong. The nice part about Chicago driving, doing 100 mph down I-90 means you need to be in the slow lane, that is if you cared about staying in any one lane at a time. As we closed the gap between us and the final checkpoint, we found ourselves at a standstill. Just as the Chicago deep dish pizza is classic, so is the Chicago traffic jam and we were in the thick of it. Rallyers began to erupt on the radio, providing alternate routes; I-90, no I-290, no side streets, or maybe a mix. It was chaos everywhere and we decided to take I-90, weather the storm and crawl into Chicago. Fourteen miles to go, or roughly one hour, it was time to sit back and ponder ones decisions in life.

#### Victory for Team Spoiler Alert

We made our way to the final checkpoint, exhausted and in desperate need of yet another beer and a bed. We parked, made our way down to the W Hotel Chicago and crashed out before a long night of celebration.

We somehow pulled it off, we won Crown Rally 6. As stated previously, there was nothing we did to win other than a desire to have fun. Now our wives will tell you a different tale. Screaming, "Cop!" every time they noticed a broken down farm tractor on the side of the road. Or, threatening to vomit on me because I was making them nauseous doing 85 in a 30 over hilly terrain. According to them, that was the secret ingredient required to slow us down and come in 12 minutes behind the pace car.

If you have ever thought about participating in Crown Rally, I would highly encourage it. This was our first attempt, and a glorious one at that. Thank you to Justin, Tom and Adam of Crown Rally for the wild adventure. Thank you to all of the people who donated to help fight epilepsy as well as support our team and vehicle!

Jim and Grace Sheldon  
Ken and Linde Raway  
Marv and Wendy Raway  
Max and Dory Tedford  
Paul and Sharon Wild  
Alex Johnson  
Bryan Bayerkohler  
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For more information about Crown Rally, or to register for Crown Rally 7 visit [www.crownrally.com](http://www.crownrally.com).





## 2018 Member Appreciation Picnic

Summer in Minnesota would not be complete without the Annual Member Appreciation Picnic. This year's event was held at Brookview Park in Golden Valley on July 14th and attracted over 60 members. Dale and Sheila Olson have coordinated the picnic for many years and once again, they did a fantastic job making sure the event was well planned— thanks Dale and Sheila for another great job!

A few highlights from the picnic include:

### Door Prizes!

Door prizes were given away to several lucky club members. Thanks to Bavarian Auto for their generous donation of \$44 gift certificates. BavAuto is celebrating their 44th anniversary this year so the dollar amount makes sense!

### Detailing Demonstration!

We were fortunate this year to have Derek Haas join us at the picnic. Derek is a professional detailer who owns Direct Reflections Detailing which shares space with Midwest Clearbra in Plymouth. He has a number of years of experience and showed club members some great tips to keep their cars looking awesome. Derek's contact number is 612-655-0354.



### Cars!

The parking lot was looking fine as 60+ members rolled in with some very nice BMWs. The weather was perfect and members enjoyed wandering the parking lot giving them a long look.

### People!

The highlight of any Northstar BMWCCA event is always the people! This is a club filled with wonderful folks who happen to have a thing for the BMW marque. Long-time members mixed with a number of first-timers to help build the relationships that keep our club strong. Not only are the friendships between members strong, we also benefit from the deep knowledge base of all things BMW that is shared amongst members on a regular basis.

To those who attended the event, we are so glad you came! For those who missed it, there is always next year.



2018 Member Appreciation Picnic (continued)



EXCLUSIVE MEMBER REBATE

**NEW! IMMEDIATELY QUALIFY For The BMW CCA Membership Reward Rebate Program!**

Individuals who purchase a club membership of three or more years will now immediately qualify for the Membership Reward Rebate Program and may be eligible to receive a rebate of up to \$1,500. A three-year club membership can be purchased for only \$134.

This is an incredible opportunity that is available exclusively for members of the BMW CCA. To see the full program rules and offer details please visit [bmwcca.org/vehicle\\_rebate](http://bmwcca.org/vehicle_rebate).

**Associate Members Can Get Rebates, Too!**  
Individuals who purchase a primary three-year club membership can also purchase a three-year associate membership for a spouse or child residing in the same household for only \$30. The associate member will also immediately qualify for the Membership Reward Rebate Program.

- Important Program Rules**
- The membership must be purchased within 15 days of the purchase/lease date of the vehicle or any time prior to.
  - Member must apply for the rebate within 60 days of purchase/lease using the form found at [bmwcca.org/vehicle\\_rebate](http://bmwcca.org/vehicle_rebate).
  - The program cannot be combined with USAA, Military, Diplomatic and Corporate Fleet rebate programs.
  - Memberships purchased for the purpose of obtaining a Membership Reward Rebate from BMW NA are non-refundable from date of purchase.

The complete program rules, terms, and conditions are available at [bmwcca.org/vehicle\\_rebate](http://bmwcca.org/vehicle_rebate)

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| 3 Series (all models including M3)                           | \$500   |
| 4 Series (all models including M4)                           | \$500   |
| 5 Series (all models including M5)                           | \$1,000 |
| 6 Series (all models including M6 & ALPINA)                  | \$1,000 |
| 7 Series (all models including ALPINA)                       | \$1,500 |
| Z4 (all models)  | \$500   |
| i3 REX   | \$1,000 |
| i3 BEV   | \$1,000 |
| i8   | \$1,500 |
| NEW SPORTS ACTIVITY VEHICLES (SAV) (Model Years 17, 18 & 19) |         |
| X1, X2, X3, X4 (all models)                                  | \$500   |
| X5, X6 (all models)  | \$1,000 |
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| M models   | \$500   |
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