

**BMW Car Club
of America
Sierra Chapter**



Coming Events:

- Apr 12, Meeting/Social, Bill Pearce BMW 6 PM
- Apr 14, Virginia City Drive 9:30 AM
- May 10, Meeting/Social, Bill Pearce BMW 6 PM
- May 18-20, Coastal Cruise to Cabot Cove
- Jun 14, Meeting/Social, Bill Pearce BMW 6 PM
- Jun 23-24, Embarcadero/Blackhawk Tour

Sierra Scene

Full calendar of events in 2012!

There's a full calendar of events planned for this year – here are some of the highlights:

- **Virginia City Drive on Sat, Apr 14** – meet at 9:15 at the Starbucks/Raleys off Mt. Rose Hwy. Drive to Lake Tahoe, down through Carson City, on to Dayton and up Six Mile Canyon to Virginia City for lunch at The Palace. Contact John English at 790-4205 to sign up.
- **Coastal Cruise to Cabot Cove** – a 2-night trip **May 18-20**. Drive to Larkspur Landing north of San Francisco on Friday and have dinner at a local brew pub. On Saturday drive Cal Hwy 1 north to Mendocino/Ft Bragg, with some interesting stops and lunch along the way. Dinner at a local restaurant. Drive back on Sunday on your own. Limited to 10 cars. Call John Strom at 851-3000.
- **Embarcadero/Blackhawk Tour** – Overnight trip on **June 23-24** to visit Gordon Biersch Brewery & Restaurant on the San Francisco waterfront then on to visit the Blackhawk Museum. Overnight with group dinner planned. Mike Dietel is the host.

- **Kars for Kids Charity Show & Shine on Sat, Sept 8** at Gilson's in Sparks. There will be usual food, raffles, fun and beautiful cars. All proceeds go to a charity to benefit kids. Gilbert Dayao is coordinating.
- **Wine Tour to Eldorado & Amador Counties on Sat-Sun, Sept 29-30**. This annual event

features the usual good roads, nice wines, good food and friends. It's being coordinated by DeArmond Sharp and Pat McGoff.

Of course there are also monthly meetings and socials throughout the year - always on the second Thursday of the month at Bill Pearce BMW beginning at 6 PM. We often have a speaker or other BMW related activity. Come join us!



From the Virginia City Drive last year – Looks like fun!

From President Art...

Greetings BMW Club Members,
With a mild winter for 2012, we should have planned for an additional driving event. But who knew what the weather was going to be like. Even our local weather forecasters have a difficult time predicting our weather. Make the best of it until April 14th – our first driving event for 2012. Details are in this newsletter or visit:

www.sierrabmwclub.org. This is a fun and relaxing event that starts at the Starbucks on Wedge Parkway and ends at **Virginia City** where we will have lunch with our fellow members. New members are encouraged to participate and share ideas with the regular attendees. Please let **John English** know you'd like to participate – we need numbers for planning lunch. If you like this event, then you will love the **Coastal Cruise to Cabot Cove**. The tour can only accommodate 10 cars and there were already seven signed up at the conclusion of the March 8 meeting. Please visit our website above to get more details. Call **Alice** or **John Strom** to sign up.

On another note, **Melissa Nicholas, Pat McGoff, John English** and I went to Dallas in February to attend the BMW CCA Chapter Congress. Each chapter was allowed to invite up to four members to attend the convention. This was a very educational session that will help our club grow while retaining members.

We met and socialized with other club board members to share ideas during the 2-day conference. Quite a few people know about our first president, **Jeff Warner** and member at large, **Mike Dietel**.

This is a tribute to them for their continued commitment to BMW CCA and to our Sierra Chapter. In addition, quite a few people knew about Reno Fernley Raceway. The Golden Gate chapter may want to do a track day at the Reno Fernley Raceway and invite us along since we have don't have BMW CCA event track day anywhere on our calendar. Sierra BMW members who have relationships with the Golden Gate Chapter, please put a bug in their ear.

And finally, thank you **Dan Sokola** for providing a presentation on The United States of Autism in the March 8 meeting. BMW members are encouraged to donate or at least let everyone know about it. If successful, the documentary will be in movie theaters everywhere. Thank you, **Mike Freitas** for the presentation on the new 3-series. I encourage all members to let us know of interesting guest speakers who could speak at our chapter meetings. Let me know so I can schedule them.

Enjoy the club and drive safely. I hope to see you all at a club event or two in the coming months.

Art Ona

Thank you to **Mike Freitas** and **Bill Pearce BMW** for allowing us to use their facilities for our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month. Mike gave us a very thorough review of the new 328i sedan. It has very impressive specs and is a good rival for the Audi A4 and C250 Mercedes-Benz. Of the 27 new 328s they've received they sold all but three so far. Come out and see for yourself how great the new 3 is!

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2-day M-school is the Ultimate!!

By DeArmond Sharp

BMW is the *ultimate* driving machine. The 2 Day M-School is the *ultimate* driving school. Well maybe the *penultimate* if you count the advanced school at VIR. The 2-day M-School features the *ultimate* in hospitality, facilities, staff and M cars.

The BMW Performance Center has it all – a large building housing class rooms, cafeteria and gift shop. The main class room has the latest audio visual equipment including automatic blinds to darken the room for video presentations.

The Center has not one but *two* wet skid pads – one a full flat circle and the other a figure-8 with a slope to test your car handling ability turning, braking and accelerating on a wet downhill and uphill skid pad. There are two tracks – upper and lower, each with multiple curves, elevation changes and configuration. The turns include a double apex sweeper and a blind downhill turn. The track can be set up as an autocross course while others are on a skid pad or learning to corner on a different section of the track.

Did I mention the *ultimate* instructors? Our group was led by Mike Renner and included Allison, Jim Davis, Steve Cook and Clint. They are all very talented, superb drivers in their own right. They are excellent instructors too – patient and encouraging – *go faster you're driving an M car!*

Ultimate hospitality, beginning with the airport pick up, first night dinner at the hotel, wonderful Saturday night dinner at a local and very popular restaurant in downtown Greenville, breakfast buffet and gourmet lunches at the Performance Center – all included in the price.

Finally there was the *ultimate* swag – beginning with a small gift of snacks upon arrival, delivery of the M-school jacket and golf shirt and capped off on Sunday by delivery of a gorgeous helmet painted in BMW race colors. Oh, and at the end of the day – M-school hat and tee-shirt. What cars did we drive? The group was divided into three groups of five drivers. Each day had morning and afternoon sessions. During each session each group participated in three drills in each of the three M cars – 1M, M3 and M5. Each day we drove each car twice.

At the end of second day we all drove the linked upper and lower track configuration in both the M3 and M5. These sessions were recorded on a thumb drive from cameras showing the driver and the track and recording performance data – rpm, speed, etc. Of course the thumb drive is part of the swag.

So, take the next step and sign up for the *ultimate M-School* and get ready for the rat race and other challenging and fun events in the *ultimate driving machines* at the *ultimate Performance Center* with the *ultimate instructors* and *ultimate host*, Jackie Bechek.

Track Day April 22nd at RFR

Interested in seeing how your BMW performs on the race track? Sign up for the Track Day, Saturday, April 22, at Reno Fernley Raceway. This is a non-BMW club event consisting of a car control clinic and a road course event. Cost is \$195. For more information contact Driving Events Chair Jeff Warner at 831-8733 or email him: jefftheskier@sbcglobal.net

Coastal Cruise to Cabot Cove promises good fun!

John and Alice Strom are hosting the Coastal Cruise to Cabot Cove May 18-20.

The 3-day, 2-night tour starts at Noon in Reno Friday with a drive over to Larkspur Landing just across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco. The group assembles for a “social hour” in

the garden before walking to dinner at a nearby brew pub.

After a leisurely breakfast Saturday, the drive is up the Pacific Coast Highway north to Mendocino/Ft Bragg – 150 miles of gorgeous views and great roads. Stops include Point Reyes and lunch at Timber Cove Inn.

Mendocino is the fictional home of Jessica Fletcher called Cabot Cove, ME, in the old TV series “*Murder She Wrote*.” Dinner is at a local restaurant. Breakfast Sunday and the return trip are on your own. Sign up is limited to 10 cars so act now – call John or Alice at 851-3000.

The United States of Autism project

Club member Dan Sokola gave an informative presentation of the United States of Autism at the March 8 monthly meeting at Bill Pearce BMW.

After 40 days on pizzas and traveling 11,000 miles the team created a film showing how families impacted by autism are coping. The movie trailer was released in August 2010. In February 2012, the 93-minute documentary with three songs was "in the can" and the project was progressing. It was submitted to its first film festival on March 5, 2012. Once successful in competition, it will be in movie theaters everywhere.

Dan said donations will support marketing this important film. Reaching their goal ensures their project will succeed in raising awareness of a condition that is affecting so many families throughout the United States. Carol Villar provided the following links if you want to learn more or make a donation:

<http://usofautism.com/>

www.tommyland.org/

www.kickstarter.com/projects/1159849552/the-united-states-of-autism

Dan Sokola talks about the United States of Autism project.



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