

# dieZündkerze

BMW Car Club of America Sonora Chapter



As much fun as it was to see these cars on 'static' display in the pits at Monterey this year, it was even more thrilling to watch them go around the Laguna Seca racetrack at speed and feel their rumbles...

These photos are courtesy of BMW NA Press Group. Our annual After Holidays party details are inside...





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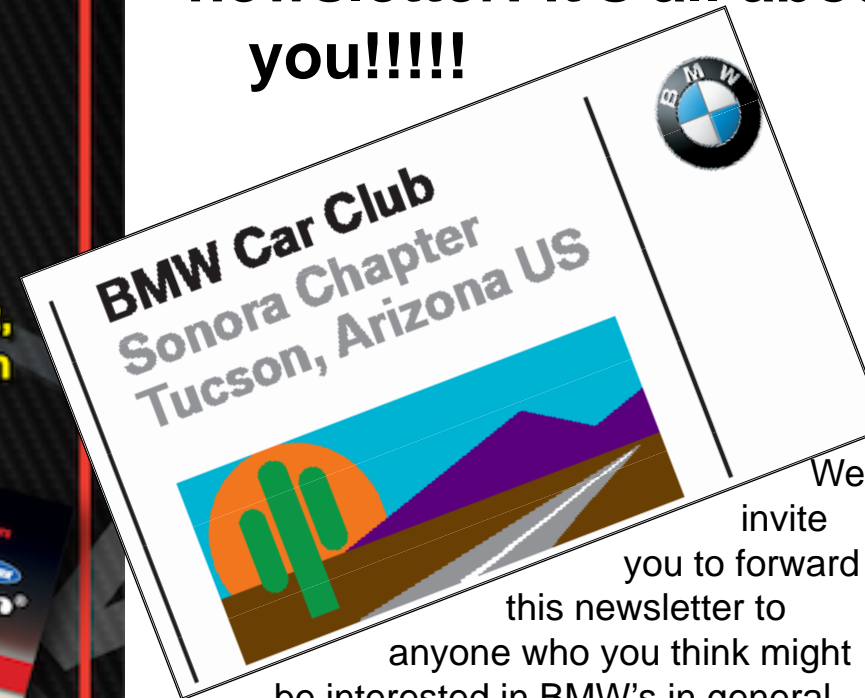
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## WHAT'S NEW

### Interactive format newsletter: it's all about you!!!!



We invite you to forward this newsletter to anyone who you think might be interested in BMW's in general, and our BMW CCA Sonora Chapter activity in particular.

Your contributions to the newsletter are invited and are welcome. Contact Quentin Peterson @ [bimmermanusa@netscape.net](mailto:bimmermanusa@netscape.net) to get published

You can take advantage of the interactive format by clicking on any page number/title in the "content" section to the right. In-text links are in red, and clicking linked advertisements will take you to their business website.

Join us on MEETUP for the latest!

<http://www.meetup.com/BMW-Car-Club-of-America-Sonora-Chapter/>

Don't forget to LIKE our Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/SonoraBMWCCA>

## CONTENT

- 4-6 President's Pages by Charles Davis
- 7 Upcoming Events & members' cards
- 8 Tech tip article by Lenny Napier
- 9 John Washington's ZGT
- 10 Annual After Holiday Party & Car Show
- 13 Board of Directors & Membership Info
- 14 Want Ads & Chapter Toolbox
- 15 Old Pueblo Streets...Quentin Peterson
- 16 Back Page & disclaimer

Editor: Quentin Peterson

Webmistress: Julia Olsen-Peterson

The FINE PRINT: Information is correct at press time (as far as the discerning eye can tell...), but please also note our disclaimer on the back page, and there, we really are compelled to put a fine point on the fine print...

BMW Roadside Assistance, now currently ranked #1 by JD Power & Associates, is available to all BMW CCA members for an upgrade fee to membership - and it has lots of extras to make it worthwhile! For membership benefits see

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[webmistress@bmwccasonora.org](mailto:webmistress@bmwccasonora.org)



## President's Pages by Charles Davis

Lately, my President's Letter has been following a time-tested format: make a quick announcement that most readers will be interested in, followed by the bulk of the article which I find interesting, but others may find less so. And so it goes this time.....

**Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting Dinner**, it will be January 22, 2017 from 2PM to 6PM at Reforma in St. Phillip's Plaza. Once again we will have the courtyard for display of our cars, and this year there could be a prize for "most interesting car". A guest speaker is being lined up and many raffle prizes have been acquired. Watch your e-mail for the formal announcements.

**On to the article.** Back in 1987, when the Stilwells owned the local BMW dealership, they occasionally favored one of their customers with a ticket to the BMW Performance Driving School at Willow Springs. I was so honored in 1987 and found my way to a Rosamond motel during a business trip to Twentynine Palms. This allowed me to take the Skip Barber Course which modified (for the better) my driving skills.

This past Summer, I was pleasantly surprised to receive an invitation from BMWUSA to attend the One-Day PDS at the recently opened BMW West Coast Driving/Delivery Center at Thermal, California. BMW included a two-night stay at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa as part of the complimentary package.

I chose the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November for the course date because it was right next to the Thanksgiving holiday. I figured that fewer people would want to attend then and I would have more individual instruction.

My drive to the Palm Springs area on the 21st was reminiscent of the first part of the drive several of us took in August on the way to the two-week BMW extravaganza at Monterey.

I arrived at the Resort and Spa in good humor and enjoyed a monstrous set of rooms overlooking the lagoons and pool areas with the mountains as backdrop. It seems that the thousand nights I had spent in Marriott properties over the years entitled me to a an upgraded suite with dining room for 12, living room and an extra bathroom or two. And the ample separate bedroom.

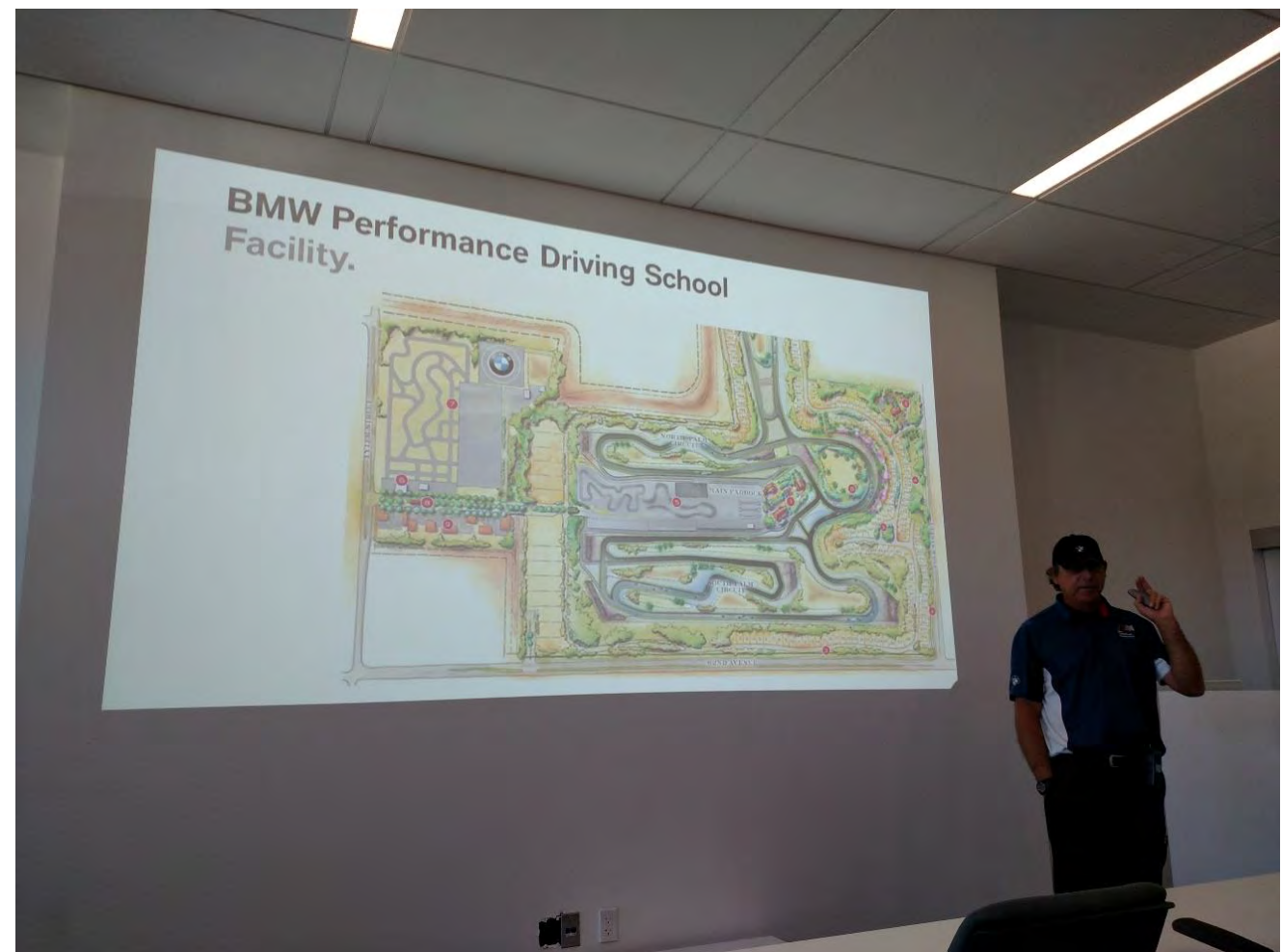
I awoke on the morning of the 22nd with a clear idea of the 30-minute drive to the Thermal Club which proved to be slightly in error. The BMW facility had, just that week, relocated the entry to a different street. Google had not been informed. And there was no signage. I eventually guessed where to go and promptly took a photo so I would not forget (in case I would some day return).

(The President's Page continues on pages 5 & 6...)

## President's Pages continued...



There were eight of us in the class, four women and four men. Four of the eight were around my age, including one of the women. Student rides included a 760, X4, M3, X5, 328i, 325Ci, and there was another 435i M-Sport matching my own. Our two instructors were an "old-timer" and a much younger "California" type. Both were excellent teachers and accomplished drivers in their own right, as they proved when taking us on hot laps at the end of the long and challenging day. The morning began at 0830hrs with the obligatory classroom lessons, as well as teacher and student autobiographies.



We moved on to our cars: M235i and 340i, both examples of 330+HP. All cars were shod with Continental rubber in a new formula that competes with the Michelins many of us had tried out in Monterey last August. Activities included straight line braking, shunts, cone dodging, dry and wet skid pad races a timed autocross and several other handling exercises. The day was halved by a nicely catered lunch in the new facility. The high point of my day was finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Graduation Autocross. Particularly since I was knocked out in the first round of the skid-pad races.





Then, instructor-piloted hot-laps (with students seated front and rear) on the larger race course showed us that we still had a few things to learn. (Congratulatory Note to Self: good choice grabbing the front seat).

Would I recommend this BMW One-Day Performance Driving School to you? Yes. In fact, I am buying the \$775.00 course for my daughter (X3 driver) to take at the Spartanburg Center.

**Timing Sheet**

Car #	Name	Lap 1	Lap 2	Lap 3	Lap 4	Lap 5	Lap 6
1	Terry	34.504	33.214	31.911	31.271	30.190	29.140
2	Charles	30.284	30.001	29.788	30.874	29.087	28.087
3	Jen	22.570	20.918	30.210	30.112	29.360	
4	Charly	42.247	38.730	27.164	26.388	25.193	
1	Scott	33.212	29.418	28.508	27.248	26.658	
2	Ray	33.617	32.389	31.985	31.581	30.263	
3	Jessica	41.572	39.601	38.513	38.654	38.962	
4	Sabrina	31.018	29.473	28.671	28.791	29.114	

1st	Scott	28.508
2nd	Sabrina	28.631
3rd	Charles	29.055

She will need to buy her own hotel, though.

# In Other News...

Our Sonora Chapter picnic in November was on a beautiful day for it, and we were treated to an up close look at Brian Bill's 1958 Isetta. Completely restored by Jenny Morgan in Wisconsin, it won the Best of Foreign trophy at the 2016 Tucson Classics Car Show the month before.

We had a great turnout for the Firebirds 2nd Thursday dinner in November, and Mark Ziska brought the 1st in BMW-class trophy that he won at the Cops and Rodders Car Show earlier that month.

The Roadrunner (Phoenix area) Chapter of BMW CCA is currently planning several events for next year that will go on in the Tucson area, and want to include our participation.

If you have ever considered going to Scottsdale or Phoenix area auctions or car shows, several members have already been there and are currently planning for 2017 while the weather is prime. Chapter contacts who are willing to answer questions and planning to go to several venues in the valley this winter are:

Lynn & Jeff Saylor saylor6@cox.net and Debbi & Fred Knotek fred.knotek@gmail.com

And of course, if you think of a good restaurant that we might include on our 2nd Thursday schedule this year, send an email to one of the Board Members listed on page 13. One of us will be sure to respond. We're always looking for great cuisine and a central location, but great cuisine 1st...

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 22, 2017 2-5pm: After Holiday Party at St. Phillip's Plaza - Reforma Cochina y Cantina**

**You must RSVP: see the details on page 10...**

Display your car on the patio and possibly win one of several prizes, enjoy the videos and slideshow of the 2016 Oktoberfest events near Monterey, California, try to solve the 'What is it?' contest, take in the ZGT presentation and/or enjoy a full-menu, served that way you like it. More to follow, rsvp info is page 10...

**February 9, 2017 6pm: 2nd Thursday Dinner "Feast" Speedway Boulevard, west of Alvernon.**  
**RSVP to Julia:** webmistress@bmwccasonora.org & there will be a follow-up email blast...

**March 9, 2017 6pm: 2nd Thursday Dinner, TBD**

**April, 2017: Pima Air Museum tour with members from the Roadrunner (Phoenix area) Chapter.**  
**More details as they are available...**

For the most recent updates to events, see the **online calendar**  
 bmwccasonora.org/events

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We send a newsletter every 3 months, and send about 1-3 email announcement of chapter activities per month.

If you aren't getting email from us, send a message to Julia Olsen-Peterson  
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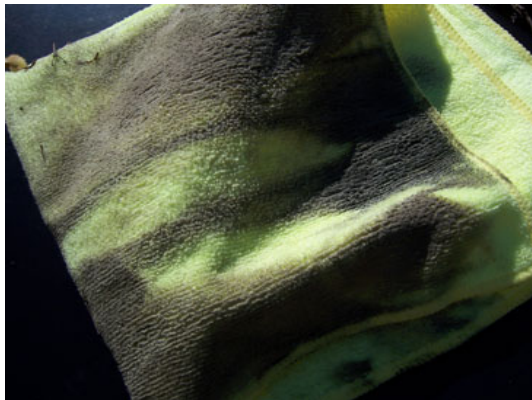
Investing in microfiber towels is the best way to protect your car from swirl marks. Protect your investment by caring for them properly because if done so should last a very long time. Make sure you take the time every once in a while and weed out any towels that need to be replaced. Dirty or old, brittle towels greatly increase the risk of damaging your paint.

Once a towel becomes too soiled with dirt or loaded up with residue from detailing supplies, you'll need to reach for a new towel to fit your needs. Even though you're replacing a "dirty" towel, do not allow any towel to fall carelessly on the ground--that can heavily contaminate your expensive microfiber. I put my dirty towels in one bin after they are used and do not touch them again until after they are washed. This is an easy way to make sure I never use a dirty towel on a clean surface.

In order to keep them in good condition you must wash them carefully. Make sure you separate items that are dirtier from those that are not, so that you do not contaminate the used, but cleaner towels. Shake off as much of the dirt or soil as possible before throwing them into the washer. Some products used in detailing are not meant to be washed away easily, and are impermeable to water, so they can affect the water absorption power of other towels. Using hot water during washing helps this problem. When placing towels in the washer make sure you do not overload them, or they will not be cleaned thoroughly.

Try to avoid washing heavily linting materials such as regular bath towels prior to washing your microfiber towels. Use the highest temperature wash and rinse possible to help break up soil and products. Use "sensitive-skin" type detergent that has no added color or fragrance, or a detergent made for microfiber products to assure no additives get into the towels. Use the Full-Length wash cycle, and the extra rinse cycle. You want to make sure you rinse out soaps and detergents so your towels are completely clear of residues and dirt. NEVER, EVER use softener because it weakens the towel's absorption capabilities.

After properly washing the towels, thoroughly clean the dryer lint trap and ductwork in order to avoid getting lint stuck on your microfiber towels. Set the dryer to NO HEAT. DO NOT use softener sheets as they also affect absorption capabilities of the microfiber towels. In order to reduce static, only dry until they are slightly damp. Fold the towels right out of the dryer as this leads to a lower chance of one falling on the ground or getting contamination from other sources.



Tech article by Lenny Napier, past President of our Sonora Chapter, BMW CCA, Inc.

ZGT is an original "coach built" design, intended to be an evolution of the iconic BMW 507.

At the urging of US BMW importer, Max Hoffman, the company undertook the design of a new car for the American market. From 1957 to 1959, BMW built 252 examples of the 507, arguably the most beautiful BMW of all time. The 507 almost killed the company, as well.

The 507 was originally planned to sell for about \$5000 at a rate of 5000 cars per year. However, production costs far exceeded estimates, pushing the price ultimately to over \$10,000, well beyond the 507's German competitors...even more than the Corvette.

Losing money on every 507 and facing bankruptcy, BMW turned their attentions to more practical--and more profitable--offerings which would evolve into the sporting sedans for which the company ultimately became known.This enabled BMW to secure funding to avoid being liquidated.

As a consequence, the evolutionary next-step for the iconic 507 never happened. BMW wouldn't build another true sports car for almost forty years.

The "ZGT" coachbuild on the Z3 platform is a nod in the direction BMW might have taken if not for financial misfortune; perhaps similar to Ferrari's evolution of their 250GT into the legendary 250GTO.

Coachbuilding is very much a part of BMW's history, with fine (and highly desirable) BMW-powered examples produced by Frua, Ghia, Veritas, Volpini and many other famous automotive design houses.



ZGT integrates styling elements found in several cars of the early 1960s golden age of *gran turismo* sporting cars. Yet it retains the robust, powerful, safe, comfortable, and reliable Z3 platform and mechanicals.

Partly because of the high production numbers of the Z3 and partly because of the design--revolutionary at the time, but seemingly not standing the test of time to become a "classic"-- book value on the Z3 has fallen to the point where even minor body damage often renders the cars "totaled." i.e., repair costs exceed the book value. That's very much a shame, because the Z3 is as good a car as any of its contemporaries. But it's also a good thing for folks who want a unique, daily driver; which they can

build themselves with the ZGT body panels! [Editor's note: We will get another, closer look at a ZGT at our January 22, 2017 Car Display. This article was penned by John Washington, who promises to bring his car and answer your questions at our annual event.]





## Sonora Chapter BMWCCA Annual Dinner, ZGT Presentation and Car Display

### RSVPs Required

Sunday 22 January 2017  
2PM - 5:30PM  
Reforma Cocina y Cantina  
St. Philip's Plaza (SE Corner River & Campbell)

Last year, we had to turn away some folks who waited too long to RSVP. This year we will have a bit more space adjacent to the main room, that doesn't mean you can wait to the last minute. **RSVP Now!**

\*Members are invited to display cars and be eligible for awards.

\*The Club will provide hors d'ouvres from Reforma's revamped menu for on-time arrivals. Order from the regular menu, separate checks, and don't worry, they still have your favorites.

\*Our resident quizmaster, Mike Hornisher will prepare a fresh table of almost-impossible-to-guess-items for the "What-Is-It" contest. Great prizes to the brave guessers.

\*Videos and stills from the BMW 100th Anniversary events in Monterey this year will run on the big screen. Several of our Chapter Members will star.

\*This year's speaker will be John Washington, who will combine a short history of BMW, as it inspired his product line, the ZGT.

\*Our always popular raffle (no purchase required) will distribute to the lucky winners a cornucopia of BMW stuff from our vast hoard.

\*And, again, for those who might say, "Hey, I can't come because I have to watch the NFL Playoffs" we will have large screen TVs.



So, join your fellow enthusiasts, display your car, be entertained and educated, win things and eat well. It's time for the Annual Big Deal Event of the Sonora Chapter BMWCCA.



If you are displaying a car, please RSVP to Quentin Peterson  
[520-331-3778](tel:520-331-3778) or [bimmermanusa@netscape.net](mailto:bimmermanusa@netscape.net)

Event RSVP  
<https://form.jotform.com/BMWCCASonora/RSVP2017>

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The website of the  
BMW Car Club of America, Inc. is  
[www.bmwcca.org](http://www.bmwcca.org) and it has links to this chapter and all others nationwide

By the way, take a look at our chapter's website: [bmwccasonora.org](http://bmwccasonora.org)

### WANT TO JOIN BMW CCA?

It's easy to join, and if you are a BMW enthusiast, it's definitely worth it!

You will receive the monthly Roundel, a 120-page coffee-table magazine, published by BMW CCA, Inc. Other benefits and services that come with National Club membership include:

- Discounts on parts & supplies
- Free advertisements on the BMW CCA website
- Library/video services
- Expert technical & maintenance advice

But wait, there's more...You can also sign up to receive the "Friends of BMW" booklet, listing members across the country who can assist you ... OMBUDSMAN advice to help with BMW DEALERS OR SUPPLIERS Valuable information coordinator to assist with insurance claims, purchase or sale... BMW Special Interest Groups (SIG) listed on the internet...

The newest upgrade is called Membership "Plus" Roadside Assistance and it pays for itself, as well as provides peace of mind!

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AUTOMATICALLY INCLUDES membership in the Sonora Chapter if you live in this area, and as a member, you receive every publication of this newsletter, which features local classifieds, car-related tech-tips & articles, as well as notice on local club events, including driving schools, autocross, car shows & club activities!

### HERE'S HOW

On the web the membership application is located on [bmwcca.org](http://bmwcca.org) and find the 'join' button or call their toll-free phone: ( 800 ) 878-9292 ... have your Visa/ Visa/MC ready...



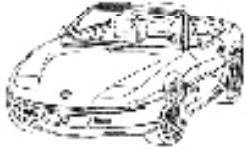
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## Sonora Chapter Toolbox

Availability is subject to reserve: for more information, or if you have additional tool requests or donations, please call Mike Hornisher at 327-4981. For our club members, we have available an assortment of loaner tools, equipment and some factory repair manuals.

Air compressor & Schwaben Coolant Evacuation tool  
Torque wrench (10-75 ft-lbs) M-engine valve tool

Torx drive set	micrometer
Allen drive set	Strut spring compressor
Metric-drive set	Parts catalog (CD-ROM)
Spark-plug socket	G-Analyst
oil-cartridge remover	Dwell/timing light
windshield trim applicator	tie-rod puller
laser-pointer thermometer	O <sub>2</sub> sensor tester
fan clutch tools	2.6mm x 50mmbolts
Service interval reset tool	Haynes & Chilton manuals

Driving is one of those activities that requires, demands even, your attention (at least until Google irons out the ‘bugs’ from its fleet of drones). I find it interesting that insurance actuaries will tell you that accidents happen most often close to home. This could be from a familiarity with the territory, which ‘allows’ the driver to be less vigilant. Or else it may very well be that more miles overall are logged nearby home, and the odds of an incident are greatest where the activity mostly occurs. Whatever the cause, and it may be a combination of those two variables, it is essential to be focused and alert while driving. Any task that is complex (and driving is a complex set of tasks), improves with practice. But I suspect that there is a diminishing return to this, that is, the more you drive a particular path, the easier it can become for you to forgo the modicum of care necessary...

At a certain point, it becomes possible for one to become lackadaisical, and as a consequence, miss crucial events. We all know all too well that it’s really best to stay focused on the road ahead.

All this philosophical rambling illustrates is that it is healthy and helpful for drivers to get out of their grey, beaten-down routes (or maybe they’re even ruts), out of the comfort zones of commuting, and explore newer pathways, maybe something that’s challenging, but definitely new and interesting, maybe a road travelled for the first time. Or maybe it’s a favorite route that you just haven’t been over in awhile, and had forgotten how much fun it is to drive. The Sonora Chapter of BMW CCA plans to do that this new year! Stay focused on your driving in 2017, and look out for one another! And look for more details to come on overnights and day-trips away from and back to our ‘Old Pueblo’! We all have favorites, and after all, this club is all about getting there and back, in style. So, if you have an idea for a road-trip, day-away or overnighter that you have been putting off, please feel free to contact one of the new Board members about it.

# WANT ADS



Our Sonora Chapter logo can be applied to clothing that you supply, and be ready to wear for \$15. email the Webmistress: webmistress@bmwccasonora.net

**For Sale:** Pair of OEM Kidney Grills (\$20) & pair of OEM Tailights (\$75) for a 2006 325i.  
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One such ramble we took last month went out to Three Points, beyond and back, via West Gates Pass Road. I’ve always enjoyed traversing that road up the eastside of the Tucson Mountains and over their ‘backsides’, and once we got to the junction of S. Kinney Road at Ajo Way, we saw a lot of construction preparations. The Ajo Way surface wasn’t **too** bad out to Three Points, but it’s ready to be tended again, and it looked to me that the present two-lane highway will soon become a divided highway, and in the process, the existing road surface oughta be renewed. That’s not the only project that is going to happen soon in Southern Arizona. There are three major projects (in addition to on-going road repairs within the City of Tucson) in Pima County, and they are really going to improve our abilities to get around The Old Pueblo. Perhaps these road improvements will already have tangible progress to report by our next newsletter in March, and I can point your attention to some websites that have more information about new routes and refurbished old ones around town. Until then, enjoy your Ultimate Driving Machine and stay focused on driving it well. I wish you and yours:

a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Quentin Peterson



# BACK PAGE

## Die Zündkerze (translated the sparkplug),

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