

BMW Car Club
of America
Sierra Chapter



Coming Events

- Oct 29, [Fun Rally](#)
- Nov 10, [Meeting/Social](#), Bill Pearce BMW/TBD 6pm
- Dec 8, [Christmas/Holiday Party](#)

Sierra Scene

July-September 2016 Issue



From the President's Desk

The **third quarter of 2016** is generally the busiest quarter for events and it did not disappoint! There were a total of seven events in a span of three months which could be a record. Following is a summary of all the fun times we had over the summer:

We had our third **Annual Picnic** on Sunday July 10th at Bower's Mansion again this year. Andy and Sharon Goodrich arranged the picnic and Andy was our cook extraordinaire again. There were plenty of burgers, hotdogs and sausage to go around as well as pizza to fill up on. The wind was blowing hard that day so some of the food was flying around but the 39 members and their families were troopers and toughed out the conditions. Next year we will have to secure a facility that has indoor capabilities.

Cheri and Russ Huntoon put together a night out at the **Aces Ball Game** on Thursday July 14th. We had first class seats right on the field in left field. The Coors area provided some great food and beer.

Our annual **Sierra Buttes Tour and Poker Run** went off without a hitch on July 30th. There were 15 cars that made the trek into the Sierra Foothills and ended up at the Longboard Bar & Grill for lunch. James Russell was the lucky winner of the Poker Run. This event is a keeper. Thanks again to Sharon and Andy Goodrich for sponsoring this event each year.

The annual **Hot August Nights Potluck** was held again at our house on August 11th. We had 36 members show up with some great food and beverages. It was very impressive to have all those BMW's parked out on the driveway. Come to the meeting in October to check out the [video](#) that Fred Watson put together with the help of our wonderful webmaster Carol Villar.

The **2016 Oktoberfest in Monterey** was held from August 23rd thru the 28th. We had 8 members attending from the Sierra Chapter. Russ Huntoon brought down his RV and parked it on the Laguna Seca track. I hosted a wine tasting tour of the Carmel Valley on the Wednesday of the event. We did that two years ago when the Oktoberfest was also in Monterey. It was a great time! I did get a chance to do a Hot Lap in the BMW M4 GTS. A mere \$134,000 will get you a race ready BMW to drive on the track and it still is considered a production car. WOW!!

The **Sky Tavern Kars for Kids Show** and Shine was cancelled this year due to construction on the facility. If you remember last year, the Club won the event and we received a check for \$1000. We will have to wait until next year to try again.

The very popular **Sierra Foothills Wine Tour** took place on September 24th & 25th. De Sharp and Ron Rachow did a great job of leading the group of 18 cars thru the windy roads off Rt. 88 on our way to Plymouth, CA. We visited four wineries and Amador Cellars was new this year. A small winery with some great wines. It will be hard to beat the fun we had for next year's tour but we have some surprises for next year so stay tuned!

Election of new Board members will be in December and we are looking for people to fill some of those positions. Ron Nicasio will become the new President for 2017-2018. We will list the current and continuing members at the October meeting. If you are interested in being a Board member, let me know what you would like to do to help the Club.

Happy Motoring,
Pat McGoff

3rd Annual Family Picnic

[Click here to view the video slideshow](#) or [view the video gallery](#).

Once again, the annual family picnic was held at picturesque Bowers Mansion outside of Reno City Limits. We had approximately 35 attendees with some new attendees which was great to see. The chapter once again provided the entrees, but this year we added a new addition - [Linguica](#) which seemed to be a hit! As usual there was a wide variety of side dishes so no one should've left hungry. The weather was a bit fickle, as it's been quite a windy July, but it was warm when it was calm! The hoola-hoops stayed home this year, as did the pie eating contests, but we had two children who proved to be good golfers and artists with each of them leaving with a stuffed animal!

About Bowers Mansion Park

Bowers Mansion Park is on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. Expansive sunny lawn areas and lots of tall shade trees make this a perfect spot for picnics. We have reserved the Washoe Pagoda. The pool will be open from noon to 5:00 pm for public swim, (weather permitting). For more information about the pool, swimming lessons or renting the pool for an event, please call 849-0644

The recently restored [Bowers Mansion](#) is located in the center of the park and offers a rare glimpse into Nevadan life of the 1860's. L.S. "Sandy" Bowers and his psychic wife, Eilley Oram, earned a fortune in their silver mine near Gold Hill, Nevada. They were Nevada's first Comstock Lode millionaires. With their wealth they built a mansion in 1864 and then traveled the world to furnish it. It is now one of the most impressive restored homes in Nevada. Tours are available on weekends during the summer. Adults: \$8/person and Child & Seniors \$5/person.

The Visitors Center is located directly behind the Mansion. The mansion is open for guided tours. Call (775) 849-0201 to schedule a tour.

- Sharon Goodrich



Take Me Out to the Ball Game

[Click here to view the video slideshow](#) or [view the picture gallery](#)

The July 14th meeting of the Sierra Chapter was held at the Greater Nevada Field in Reno. This the home field for the farm team of the Arizona Diamondbacks, our own Reno Aces. On this hot evening, the club met in the reserved section of the Coors Party Zone. We had 34 members and guests in attendance, including our new member Ben Potts and his family. Included with admission to the game was a catered Bar-B-Que dinner which included all of the traditional food items. And, there was plenty of \$2.00 Coors or Coors Lite beer. This was the first game of a series with the Oklahoma City Dodgers, the farm team for LA Dodgers. The game went on for eight and a half innings with our home team winning 4 to 2. It was an evening of food, fun and fans--rooting for the home team---and they won!

- Cheri Huntoon



Sierra Buttes Tour & Poker Run

[Click here to view the video slideshow](#) or [view the picture gallery](#).

The Third Annual Sierra Buttes Poker Drive had its largest turnout yet with 32-attendees and 16-cars in attendance! Once again, we headed up Mt Rose Hwy through Incline Village to Truckee as we made our way to Graeagle, CA for our final destination for lunch at Longboards Bar & Grill at Plumas Pines Golf Course. The weather was perfect although a bit of smoke was around due to the fires in CA. We had a nice display of Ferrari's pass us in Sierraville, CA but they quickly headed the opposite direction when our caravan of 16- beautiful cars passed thru town. As usual we had our regular stops along the way so that we could draw cards for the best poker hand with the final draw commencing at Longboards Bar & Grill. This year's winner was the one and only (drum roll please)...James Russell! Yes, James is a repeat attendee and past winner, winning this year's themed prize of BMW goodies! We hope James enjoys the BMW tumbler, BMW USB drive, magazines and wine! Again the lunch and service at Longboards proved to be spectacular as they always take good care of our club members. Cannot wait to return next year!

- Sharon Goodrich





Legends of the Autobahn, Festorics and Oktoberfest 2016

[Click here to view the video slideshow](#) or [view the picture gallery](#).

Can there be such a thing as too many BMWs? Spending 10 days in Monterey for the 2016 Legends of the Autobahn, Festorics and Oktoberfest is a real question was about how many BMW's would cause overload and lust. The hotel parking lots and surrounding streets were full of BMWs. Monterey was a BMW parking lot. New, old, relics, classics, and racing machine BMW's were everywhere. Note: the activities during the week were not exclusive to BMW. Many other companies were also represented. The week was full of several activities and displays. These included factory representations and displays from Festorics, Dinan, Michelin, Griot, plus many more. Activities included Historics, Dinan factory tour, Concours, Track School and TSD (time, speed, distance) Rally, and Autocross.

At Festorics, on Friday, BMW was the featured marquee. Of the hundreds of cars displayed, 80% of the cars were BMW's. The factory brought all sorts of interesting street cars, race cars and classics. One of the favorites was the E53 X5 that they stuffed a McLaren prepared race V-12 with 700hp. Besides the cars, there was a special area set aside for classic BMW motorcycles. With the displays, there were various talks and lectures with open discussions. One of the most inspiring was on the BMW Alpina.

The Historics event brought all sort of antique race cars. The display was constantly changing as cars left and returned to the paddock from the race track. BMW was well represented and had a huge tent set up in the paddock. This was pre-Oktoberfest event and many other manufacturers were represented.

The Dinan factory tour had a main focus on exhaust systems because they are now owned by Flowmaster. They are also very involved with computer mapping changes. They are still doing suspension modifications as well.

Oktoberfest officially started mid-week. Besides registration, the day was filled with tech talks and displays from the automotive industry giants. These included Michelin, Griot, and Dinan.

Occurring at the same time as Oktoberfest was the 66th Annual Pebble Beach "Concours d'Elegance" which is an annual charitable event. The exhibits included prewar and postwar cars along with the latest in concept car designs. Car enthusiasts and lovers of vintage automobiles revel in their glory. The Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance is where the world's collectors of cars meet and compete. This is considered the most prestigious event of its kind. The crème-de-la-crème was a pair of rare BMW 507's as well as many more vintage BMW's.

Besides the displays at the Oktoberfest event, there was a track school and TDS Rally. Everyone had the opportunity to experience firsthand the thrill of driving a BMW modified for racing on the race track. Several competed in the Autocross which is a timed competition where drivers navigate one at a time through a defined course on either a sealed or an unsealed surface. Most of the rest of week was filled with much of the same; technical training, test driving, lectures and exhibits. This was a truly an exceptional BMW event. All of the Sierra Chapter members who were there had a great time and will cherish the memories of the week for many years.

We started this article with the question, "Can there be such a thing as too many BMWs?" Well after a brief survey of the members in attendance, "never enough – ready for more!"

- Mart Jaama

Click [here](#) to view Rich Tsai pictures. Rich is a club member and photographer from Sacramento Chapter.

2016 Wine Tour

[Click here to view the video slideshow](#) or [click here to view the picture gallery](#).

The 2016 Amador Wine Tour held Saturday, September 24, and Sunday, September 25, was blessed with excellent weather and a large turnout. We had 18 cars signed up. Unfortunately, 2 canceled at the last minute which left us with 16 cars which equaled 31 club members. Everyone, except 1 (more about that later), woke up early to a beautiful day and appeared on time at our meeting place at the Sierra Summit parking lot so we were able to leave on schedule at 7:45 a.m. Steve and Anne Marie Polimeni did not appear because Steve woke up feeling ill. Steve sent me a text message which, of course, I did not read so I did not know why they did not appear.

The drive to our first stop went very smoothly, and we arrived at Carson Pass ahead of schedule where we met Bob and Linda Sanfilippo having linked up with James Russell on the way.

However, between Carson Pass and Cooper Vineyards things got exciting. There was road construction on Highway 88 which at one point reduced travel to one lane. The lead group of cars of 8 or so was cut off from the balance of the group at one of the flag stops. Unfortunately, the lead car of the second group did not know we were taking the Mormon Emigrant Trail exit on Highway 88.



Fortunately, the cutoff group was highly motivated to find Cooper Vineyards on their own and all except one showed up in time for the Cooper winetasting. Cooper treated us very well and in addition to their fine wine (especially Barbara) provided light snacks. Dick Cooper, the patriarch of the Cooper Family and the founder of the vineyard, stopped by to say hello. You can see his picture posted on the [website](#).

From Cooper we traveled the short distance to Karmere Vineyards for lunch. The box lunches were delivered to those who purchased in advance and others brought their own lunch. Following lunch there was ample time to enjoy the Karmere wines, including barrel tasting. From Karmere we went to Amador Cellars which is a first-time stop for the club. This is a small family-run winery showcasing Mediterranean wines and Tuscan architecture. It produces estate grown zinfandel, sauvignon blanc, and Rhone valley varietals. They grow their own sauvignon blanc which is unusual in that area. Linda Long, one of the owner/proprietors set up a tasting area for the club outside of their tasting room which is inside of their barrel aging warehouse. There were several vats of grapes fermenting in the tasting area fortunately we were not called on to help punch them down (hard work) before tasting.

Following Amador Cellars we went to a favorite from last year's tour, VINO Noceto. They have a new area outside, covered area for groups that was just completed. They were able to set up a private tasting for the club. One of the owners came by to pick up some wine visited with our group and provided us with some history of the vineyard, including a story of how he and his wife traveled to Tuscany and brought home Sangiovese cuttings that are foundation of current Sangiovese production. We also received another surprise when Steve and Anne Marie Polimeni joined us, Steve having made a quick recovery.

After Noceto, the fourth and final winery, people moved on to the Shenandoah Inn where they enjoyed the pool and prepared for the evening soiree. At 6 o'clock we all assembled at the picnic area at the Shenandoah. Everyone brought a bottle of wine, the club had arranged for Amador Vintage Market to deliver party platters which quickly consumed. The evening was topped off with gourmet pizza from the Pokerville Market complemented by the outstanding wines from Amador County.

On Sunday all but four of the group who had to leave early showed up at Marlene and Glen's Dead Fly Diner for breakfast which has become the Sunday tradition.

Following breakfast everyone went their own way and visited the Amador Flower Farms, other wineries or Pokerville Market to buy wine (10% case discount) before traveling home.

The weekend was enjoyed by all, the weather was great, the people were great, and the wine spectacular. Thanks to Ron, Sharon, Pat, JoAnn and Joyce for all the help in arranging the tour. We look forward to doing it again next year and have already scouted out one new winery to visit. If anyone has any suggestions of a winery they would like to visit, please provide it to DeArmond, Pat, or Ron together with any other suggestions to improve the event.

- DeArmond Sharp

Who's Who

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