

**BMW Car Club
of America
San Diego Chapter**



Jul-Sep 2020
Volume 43 No.3

Fahren *Affairs*

The Official Newsletter of the San Diego Chapter, BMW CCA



SoCal Distancing

Photo: Greg Uhler



Buttonwillow Driving School

Photo: Seth Hanson



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SCCA Club Racing sdr-scca.com/rr

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The President's Column

I doubt many of us would have initially predicted the extent to which the COVID pandemic shutdowns would affect our lives, and our Chapter activities. What may have originally been expected to be a brief temporary pause, has turned into months. No driving events. No social events. We're certainly in uncharted territory without a clear end in sight.

But we're now seeing local restrictions beginning to ease, and more businesses reopening, and we're hopeful that we can begin scheduling Club activities again in the near future.

One bright spot on the horizon is that this year's BMW CCA national event is scheduled to take place right in our own back yard this fall. The Club's annual Oktoberfest, now dubbed O'Fest Forever, will take place in Palm Springs, September 15-19. It's the perfect opportunity to attend an O'Fest—it's just a couple hours drive away; stay at the beautiful La Quinta Resort & Spa; enjoy traditional O'Fest events including tech talks, receptions, vendor hall, car show, driving tours, TSD rally, driving programs at the BMW Performance Center, and more! Registration has opened so plan to join fellow club members from around the country for an ultimate BMW getaway. Find event details and registration information at ofest.bmwcca.org and sign up! Naturally, the BMW CCA is keeping a close watch on the COVID-19 situation and could cancel the event if necessary, but we're hoping that won't happen and are look forward to seeing many of you there!

Meanwhile, a number of members have been asking about future autocross events. As of this writing, the sale of the SDCCU stadium property continues to move forward, and we don't yet know if we'll have an opportunity to schedule more autocross dates at the site. We hope that we might still get more autocrossing in before all the redevelopment begins, and we'll keep you updated on any developments as information becomes available.

Continue to take care of yourselves, and keep an eye on our website, E-newsletter, and social media for updates and events as we are able to get them scheduled.

Lisa Goehring

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SUBMITTING INFORMATION TO THE EDITOR

Please send us your stories, tech. tips, photos, etc. We welcome and encourage any material you think would be informative or interesting to other members. All information should be submitted to the editor at sd-newsletter@sdbmwcca.com. The deadline for submitting information to the editor is the 10th of March, June, Sept., and Dec.

Calendar

As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, our San Diego chapter looks forward to resuming many exciting activities for our members, including...

Autocrosses

Country Drives

Car Shows

Tech Sessions

Annual Party

Board Meetings

...and more!

New Club Members

Welcome! We look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming club events!

Spencer Capozello

Michael Mendiola

David Drake

Christian Miller

Anthony Gonzalez

Jeff O'Donnell

Paul Hainey

Bob Ottaviano

Amanda Hall

Mitch Oviedo

Kaye Humber

Abozar Sahabi

Christopher Ivey

Kim Strickland

Richard Langley

James Suvanaket

Pat Lee

Brian Webb

Chad McFarlane

Erin Webb

Social Media

Chapter Website:
sdbmwcca.com

 Find us on
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Monthly Meetings

After COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, the San Diego Chapter monthly Board Meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at:

Filippi's Pizza Grotto
5353 Kearny Villa Road

5:45 p.m. – Pizza & soft drinks
6:30 p.m. – Board Meeting

Please join us to meet fellow members, be the first to hear about upcoming events and learn how you can contribute to our chapter.

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Miramar Automotive	20% discount on labor
Oceanside Motorsports	Complimentary detail upgrade

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Buttonwillow High Performance Driving School



Photo: Seth Hanson

BEFORE SHELTER AT HOME ORDERS WERE ISSUED, our San Diego Chapter hosted a fun-filled high performance driving school at Buttonwillow Raceway Park, just north of Los Angeles. This two-day event, with almost 100 participants, also included a BMW CCA Club Racing School, Time Trial group, and Advanced Data Coaching. A huge thank you to our sponsors—BMW/MINI of Escondido & Brecht Motorsports, Independent Motorcars, 5 Point Autospa, and Oceanside Motorsports—as well as our partners in the Central California Chapter and numerous volunteers who worked tirelessly for months to put on this annual event. We look forward to another amazing driving school next year!



Photo: Lisa Goehring



Photo: Seth Hanson

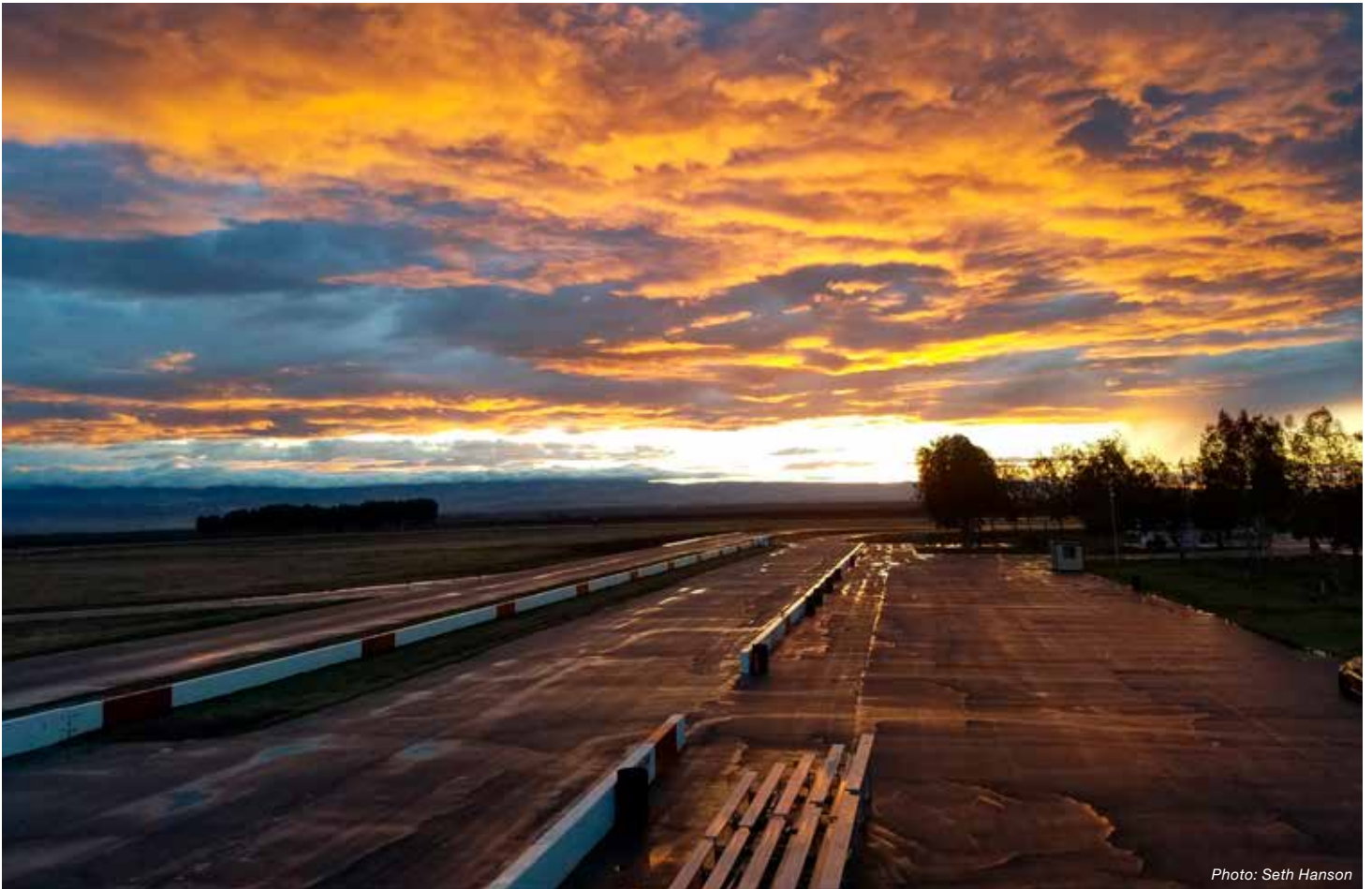


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CHRIS KEEFER

Formerly of La Jolla Independent BMW Service, Chris has been a leading technician in the San Diego BMW community for the last 13 years. Chris started Independent Motorcars in order to continue to deliver a high level of service to his customers and expand those services to the other makes and models his customers have in their garage.



JAY PRZEPADLO

Formerly of La Jolla Independent BMW and Herman Cook VW, Jay has an extensive knowledge of BMW cars and has been factory trained in VW and Audi automobiles during his 15-year career. His main focus is to maintain customer vehicles to a higher-than-factory standard.



ERIK STORER

Formerly of La Jolla Independent BMW, Erik is our resident customer service advocate, in-shop assistant, code enforcer, neat freak and comedian. Erik is the support system of Independent Motorcars in all facets of what we do. Chances are he has picked you up or driven you home without the use of navigation or Google Maps.



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SoCal Distancing

Opening up during the Shutdown



THE WORD “UNPRECEDENTED” IS GETTING a lot of use in 2020, but if ever a year deserved that description, this is the one. At some point, every state issued a “Stay at Home” order to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. Some sooner and some longer, but all of us had to peer out from the wrong side of our windows to follow state orders. Of course, since BMW ownership promotes an active lifestyle, most BMW CCA members find it difficult to stare at the same four walls when roads are empty and fuel is cheap. What to do?

Here in California, while the public was asked to stay at home, exceptions were made to go outdoors for exercise (from a distance) and for walking our dogs, for example. So, applying some creative logic, if we could exercise our pets, would that include our horses? Perhaps including ponies generated by internal combustion (or silent electrons)? And what better place to avoid exposure to other potential virus carriers than being inside your own car? Hmm, we just might be onto a solution here...

San Diego County is fortunate to have a wide variety of topography. We are known for our miles of sparkling beaches. What many from outside the area don't know is that we also have mountain ranges that climb to 5-6,000 feet within just a few miles of the Pacific Ocean. Beyond that, vast desertscapes beckon with their own kind of beauty. We all know that mountain roads are just made for driving BMWs, and the San Diego area has some of the most entertaining pieces of asphalt I've ever experienced. And they sat mostly empty, free of sight-seers and Sunday drivers, begging to be driven “properly.”

We often say that our BMW Club is mostly about the people; the cars really couldn't care less. Many of us have developed close friendships among fellow Club-members. And so it is among the Board of Directors of the San Diego Chapter. In addition to meetings and activities, some of us have traveled together to Europe, to Oktoberfests, raced together, and done long driving tours together. With gatherings such as Chapter events suspended, friends decided to gather “unofficially” when the urge came to row some gears and nail some apexes.



Photo: Dan Tackett



Photo: Dan Tackett



Photo: Dan Tackett

Heading out warily at first, we packed our own picnics and expected to see almost no one and to find nothing open. We were keen to really behave on the road, making sure we wouldn't raise any ire or do anything to risk the overtaxed health care providers. But there were some surprises. First, motorcyclists seemed to have the same idea, making up a much higher percentage of vehicles on the road than usual. Kindred spirits all. And a very pleasant discovery: a remote mountain village, known for its bakery and apple pies made from local pickings, surprised us by being open. We realized that they took a risk to do a lot of fresh baking for patrons who weren't sure to make the drive. They social-distanced the waiting line and blocked off indoor seating, but they were open! We were true breadwinners, feeling obligated to load up on bread and pie to reward their confidence.

After the success of our first foray into the forest, we went back again. And again. About every other weekend, exploring well-loved routes and

rediscovering some old favorites. Mountains, hairpins, sweepers, coastal views. We even ventured into some rare San Diego snow, we posed our cars for photos, we left our newer cars at home and did some "second car" drives. On social media we championed the term "SoCal Distancing" with our cars and ourselves spaced well apart. One of us took the option to bring his motorcycle and electric car for variety on different drives. With the ominous news reports and the monotonous time at home, being behind the wheel with the view of epic curves in the windshield was just what we needed.

Someday, we will all look back on what we did in 2020. With Club events on hiatus, some of us will still have great memories created by mixing asphalt with friendship. Who needs Netflix?

Dan Tackett



Photo: Greg Uhler



Photo: Greg Uhler



Photo: Greg Uhler



Photo: Greg Uhler



Photo: Dan Tackett



Photo: Greg Uhler

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