

Bimmer Beat

News from National

BMW OPENS world-class conference center.

After a long day of meetings and seminars, there's no better way to relax than behind the wheel of a BMW. That's why the BMW Performance Center now features a world-class conference center. Located in bucolic Spartanburg, South Carolina, this state-of-the art facility can accommodate groups of just a few to as many as 300.

The BMW Conference Center boasts many unique features, such as tours of a \$1.3 billion manufacturing facility, over 75 years of BMW history on display in the Zentrum museum and several driving instruction programs. The conference facility itself offers meeting planning services, super-fast T1 internet connections in every conference room, on-site catering facilities and both indoor and outdoor dining areas.

The BMW Performance Center is the ultimate location for a truly memorable gathering.

The exclusive club for BMW owners. Make the most of your BMW ownership experience with the BMW Owners' circle. Anyone with a 1990 or newer BMW can register at bmwusa.com. Members can even access back issues of *M*Driver magazine online.

BMW 328i is the top performer in IHS crastests. The only car in its class named "best pick". In the latest insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) crash tests, the BMW 328i was the only one to be given a "best pick" rating. According to the Institute, "During the frontal offset crash test the occupant compartment held its shape well, without much intrusion into the compartment, and measures taken from the driver dummy indicated low likelihood of injury." BMW's Fully Integrated Road Safety Technology - F.I.R.S.T. - combines active and passive safety features to make the 328i the safest far in its class

ATTENTION ALL FORMULA ONE FANS!

Chapman BMW and BMWNA are hosting a Formula One Viewing Party on Sunday, September 24, 2000 at 9:30 a.m. at the Chapman Scottsdale Autoplex located at 6601 E. McDowell Rd., Scottsdale, AZ.

Come and view the SAP US Grand Prix live via satellite at Chapman BMW's showroom. Food and drinks will be provided courtesy of Chapman BMW. In addition, there will be the introduction of the *NEW BMW M3*.

All BMW CCA members and guests are invited. We hope to see you there.

TECH TIPS

Keeping you glass crystal clear: Keeping your windshield and windows clean and clear not only improved the appearance of your BMW, but is an important safety factor. Dirty or hazy window are more prone to glare at night and problem fogging. There are a few easy ways to keep your windows clean:

- Remove bug residue with a high quality bug and tar remover.
- Use a glass cleaner and a soft cloth to clean both mirrors and automobile glass.
- On road trips, be sure to clean your windows every time you refuel.
- On hot, smoggy days, leaving your windows open a crack helps to prevent hazing.
- Tobacco smoke leaves a sticky film on windows. Remove it with a 50/50 mixture of ammonia and water.

President's Soap Box

Do you know someone who could use a vacation, but can't afford the time? Do you know someone who should take some quality time off but can't seem to get it together? Know someone who can benefit from a few hours away from the daily grind, but is too busy?

We all know these folks. Maybe it's you or someone you are close to. Maybe a business associate or friend you care about.

Here is a solution which can really help some folks relax and it's just around the corner. Take a drive. Not your normal freeway drive, but a drive on a long winding road where the air is clean and the sky is blue. Open the windows, turn off the air conditioning and try some deep breaths. Cleansing breaths. Slow down and enjoy the scenery. Stop at a roadside stand and buy a local product, maybe a lemonade. Get out and take a walk in the grass, away from the car and road. Smell the air, flowers, trees. Spread out that blanket you keep in the trunk, and watch the clouds float by. Listen to the wind gently rustle the leaves. Follow the birds flying by.

This is your time. Your time to unwind. Your time to think about nothing. Your time for you.

Enjoy.

Kurt

Welcome to our new members!

Wayne Bartels	Phoenix	Bill Monroe	Glendale
Christopher Lank	Scottsdale	Richard Holper	Rio Verde
Donald Crowell	Scottsdale	David Reynolds	Phoenix
Ken Batey	Yuma	Robert M. Soltis	Sun Lakes
Reza Chapman	Cave Creek	Robert Gale	Phoenix
Linda Capcara	Chandler	Cindy & Chris Olson	Avondale
Wayne Collignon	Phoenix		

Roadrunner Chapter Planning Board - 2000

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**O'WEST DRIVING SCHOOL – OUR LAST SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
IF YOU'VE WAITED ALL YEAR, NOW IS YOUR CHANCE.
>SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING<
FIND OUT WHAT MAKES A BMW THE PERFORMANCE CAR**

BMW Roadrunner Chapter

Chapter Activities 2000

Month	Date	Activity	Comments
September	23	Tonto Natural Bridge and Tour de Leaves	CANCELLED
October	14, 15	O'West Driver's School	Firebird Raceway APPLICATION ENCLOSED
	28	Halloween Rally	Fun Road Rally and Dinner (SEE ARTICLE BELOW)
November	11	Antiques Tour and Drive	Prescott Valley, Prescott. Great drive, picnic on the courthouse lawn
December	10	Holiday Gathering	Another event not to be beat

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READY FOR THE HALLOWEEN RALLY?

Here we go. . . an afternoon of fun and driving. . . just follow the directions (better read carefully) and join us for our first rally!

Lets meet at 1pm on Saturday, 10/28.

In next months Bimmer Beat, we'll tell you where.

Heres what you need: a navigator (someone to read and write), a full tank of gas and whatever snacks and water you need.

A clipboard is useful, a compass or GPS may help you, but isn't needed, and common sense and careful driving will pay in the end.

There is no charge for entry to this event;

Be sure you have your current insurance card.

Cars will leave at 10 minute intervals-
you will not be asked to do anything unlawful.

We will meet at a restaurant for prizes and dinner,

Location noted in the route directions.

Don't miss this event!

Prizes will be awarded.

PATRONIZE OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS



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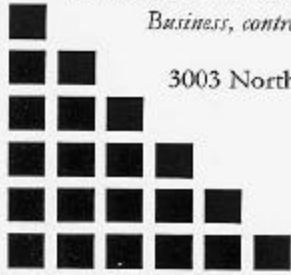
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Do It in the Morning
Drivers School
Participant

The Rally Story continues. . . .

Pro Rallies

At the other end of the competitive scale from Gimmick Rallies is a class of events which is a form of racing.

The route is described by route instructions, but there are sections of the course, known as special stages, where you drive closed roads at maximum speed. Your score is based primarily on your speed on these Special Stages.

Naturally, you cannot jump into a Pro Rally in your stock family cruiser. However, by racing standards, Pro Rally is inexpensive and a very accessible form of racing. The driver and navigator are required to have a helmet and (usually) a fire suit and you can run the cruiser with a roll cage, fire extinguisher, competition seat belts, and other safety equipment installed. This form of Rallying is generally what you hear about when people talk about European Rallying, Stage Rallies, or Safari Rallies.

TSD

In a Time-Speed-Distance Rally, the Route Instructions, in addition to information to keep a team on course, also give assigned speeds. These speeds are always legal, and often are below the posted speed limit. A TSD rally is a competition of precision driving - it is not a race! The goal of a rally team is twofold: to stay on the prescribed course and to drive at exactly the given speed. The perfect team would be on course, on time at any given point along the route. To score teams against this goal, checkpoints are sprinkled throughout the course at unspecified locations. Each team is timed by a crew at the checkpoint (also called the control) and their time is compared against a perfect time (computed from the assigned speeds and exact distances measured before the event). Each team receives a score based on its time for that portion, or leg, of the course. For each fraction of a minute early or late, the team is given points. The team with the lowest total score for all the legs wins. However, each leg is independent: time late or early on one leg cannot be "made up" on subsequent legs. After being timed by a checkpoint crew and receiving a score, the team is assigned an out time to begin driving the next leg. A variation on the TSD theme is called a regularity run. In this event, the team is free to select any speed within a given range. Teams run the same course multiple times with the checkpoints being hidden the first time around. On second and subsequent runs of the course, the team must match its times exactly to the first run.

Why Rally?

TSD rallies have become popular in North America because of the many people who enjoy driving. Most TSD rallies have a Novice Class designed for first-time competitors. The other classes, which allow varying amounts of rally equipment, provide keen competition for experienced rallyists. Many top competitors today began in Novice Class with no more than a speedometer of questionable accuracy, a wristwatch, and a hazy understanding of rally basics. For the driver, there is the opportunity to use a skill which most people spend years developing, but which few ever get to hone or test. But, unlike other motor sports, the skill does not involve outright car performance. More muscle does not necessarily help, so there are no artificial factors of performance to plague the rules of rallying. In fact, the rules which define the rally classes tend to be quite simple and provide a level playing field for competition.

Another thing which sets TSD rallying apart from other sports is its unique team aspect. In no other sport does a pair of people need to work so closely together, yet do fundamentally different things. Of course, when a team first starts rallying, both driver and navigator are simply concentrating on staying on course. Beginning teams do the timing by feel or some very simple calculations. But as a team gains experience, the driver and navigator begin to take on specific tasks. As the team's coordination continues to improve, so do its results. After a while, the team graduates to more difficult events where the course challenges them to their limits, not because of outright speed, but because of the frequency and difficulty of instructions, traps, or density of speed changes and timing problems. It is these events that can give a team a deep sense of satisfaction.

For all competitors, a rally provides a day, weekend, or week get-away, driving a course that often makes use of the most scenic roads of the area, and is usually followed by a social event to round out the weekend. Some say that a road rally is merely an excuse for a party!

The Car

So you want to do a rally but cannot bring yourself to drive the family cruiser in anything close to a competitive event. Why? My car is too slow. Almost any car can keep up the average speeds of most rallies. If the event features brisk speeds or is advertised as a performance rally, you should not consider running it as a first event. I have to drive to work on Monday and I might break it. Not likely, if you go by past history. The fact that (organizer) insurance for these events is relatively inexpensive shows that competitors tend to be quite safe while competing in most TSD events. Consider how alert a team is on a rally compared with driving the same-old-route-home-after-work. In terms of doing mechanical damage to your car, remember that these events don't involve speed driving, but rather precision driving.

It's too ugly. Don't let your car hear that or it might start giving you mechanical trouble! In fact, people rally in almost every conceivable form of automobile, with notable extremes including the "biscuit-tin" sized Mini-Cooper, a "stretch" Porsche Targa elongated to the size of a limousine, and a fire truck built in 1912. The car is only the tool to get you on the adventure, and if you happen to jump into the sport driving something less than "sporty", it will only make for a better story when you become a well-known rallyist.



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