

BMW Car Club  
of America  
Tejas Chapter



# TEJAS TRAX

Newsletter for the Tejas Chapter, BMW CCA



## ZFEST 2015



Zs at ZFEST 2015  
Photos by Jonna Clark

BMW Car Club  
of America




September  
October  
2015

What's Inside

ZFEST 2015  
Upcoming Events  
Shakespeare Review  
Boats and Wetlands Review


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<p>Per year rates are based on a 5 issue price, giving one free issue per year when paid in full.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Full Page</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Per Year - \$350 Per Month - \$70</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Half Page</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Per Year - \$225 Per Month - \$45</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Quarter Page</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Per Year - \$150 Per Month - \$30</p>
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Visit the Tejas Chapter Web Site at <http://www.tejaschapter.org/tejas.html>

The Tejas Trax is printed bi-monthly by Enthusiast Media Group, the Roundel publishers.

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**From  
The  
President**

**On Following Instructions .....**

A bum comes up to the front door of a very expensive house and raps gently on the door. When the rich owner answers, the bum asks him, "Please, sir, could you give me something to eat? I haven't had a good meal in several days."

The owner says, "I have made a fortune in my lifetime by supplying goods for people. I've never given anything away for nothing. However, if you go around the back, you will see a gallon of paint and a

clean paint brush. If you will paint my porch, I will give you a good meal."

So the bum goes around back and a while later he again knocks on the door. The owner says, "Finished already? Good. Come on in. Sit down. The cook will bring your meal right in."

The bum says, "Thank you very much. But there's something that I think you should know. It's not a porch you got there. It's a BMW." ☺

The instructions for the Fun Rally this month will clearer and following them will be much more fun. Join us for the Fun Rally - you will be happy that you did.

**Until next time ....**

**Glenn McConnell**

**\*\* Correction \*\***

In the July/August issue of the Tejas Trax, the "Smoother is Better" article was credited to Jerry Helffrich, but was actually contributed by Bob Ashenbrenner. Many apologies to Bob. An interesting note is that neither Bob nor Jerry seemed to notice - maybe no one reads this thing!

**Welcome New Members**

**Austin**

- Jose Barandiaran*
- Todd Bisang*
- Kevin Bollinger*
- Sean Chovanetz*
- Clay Collins*
- Cybele Diamandopoulos*
- Brendan Dragann*
- Drew Duncan*
- Michael Gray*
- Robert Harris*
- Rachel Krylov*
- Victor Krylov*

- Manish Kumar*
- Mokhtar Maamar*
- Mustapha Maamar*
- Romeo Manzanilla*
- Frazier Newlin*
- Sharon Obaya*
- James Rudnicki*

- Ian Schoen*
- Ed Tinsley*
- Dave Trzeciak*
- Rod Vernon*

**Round Rock**

- Paul Cole*
- Corky Matney*

**Rockport**

- Bob Estruck*

**San Antonio**

- Frank Benjamin*
- Todd Vasilu*

**Kyle**

- Edward Munoz*

**BMW Car Club  
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**Killeen**

- Joe Sylvester*

**Pflugerville**

- Robin De Miranda*
- Naqi Syed*

**Cedar Park**

- Philip Dakas*
- Christian Hansen*
- Vasudevan Nandrambakkam*
- Jeremy Ngo*

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vehicle/trade-in or to research the finance/lease options on your next BMW.



## Tejas Chapter Fun Rally

Saturday, September 19,  
2015

planned by Sandy & Brenda  
McConnell

**Meeting Location:** Carino's, San Marcos, east parking lot. From Austin - Take IH35 Exit 204A, cross under IH 35 to the east side. From San Antonio - Take IH35 Exit 204

The rally will take about two hours to run and end up at a restaurant for lunch.



**Who:** YOU and your navigator (solo at your own risk)

**What:** Tejas Chapter 2015 Fun Rally

**When:** Registration - 10:00 - 10:30 am; Driver briefing - 10:30am; First car out - 11:00am

**Where:** Texas Hill Country  
Cost: Whatever you spend on lunch

**Prizes:** 1st - 3rd Place and Dead Last .. But Finished

Helpful items to consider:

1. Start the rally - full, full, empty
  - **full** stomach - Near by Carino's is a Burger King and a What A Burger; a McDonalds isn't far away either, so you can get breakfast.
  - **full** tank of gas - there are gas stations near our starting location.
  - **empty** bladder - you get the idea.....
2. Bring a camera.

RSVP by filling out the RSVP form on the website at  
<http://www.tejaschapter.org/tejas.html>



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## **Annual Utopia Weekend October 16 - 18, 2015**

Planned by Josh Butts

**Dates:** Friday October 16th - Sunday October 18th

For the 2015 Annual Utopia Weekend event, we'll be switching things up slightly from the past few years. We'll return to Kerrville as our home base for the weekend to allow us time to reach further out onto the 3 sisters. If you've never had the pleasure of driving these roads west of San Antonio, we can tell you they are the best you'll find in Texas. We'd be happy to have you join us for any or all parts of the weekend!

### **Friday Night**

Will be a casual social gathering in a come and go as you please fashion. Restaurant TBD.

### **Saturday**

Drive will depart Kerrville early with a stop for lunch, and a shorter drive after lunch. We'll arrive back in Kerrville in time for a short nap and relaxation before a group dinner.



### **Sunday**

Drive will start from Kerrville and conclude at lunch, with easy navigation back to Austin and San Antonio areas.

**Watch the Tejas Chapter website  
for complete details!!**

**RSVP by filling out the RSVP form on the website at  
<http://www.tejaschapter.org/tejas.html>**



## Z-Fest 2015

by Jonna Clark

Z-Fest 2015 was our 3<sup>rd</sup> long Z trip, with the first being the final homecoming in 2008, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> being Z-Fest 2011 in Spartanburg. We've taken several other shorter trips, but to embark on a 4,000+ mile journey was something we really thought long & hard about. However, friends Bill & Pam Elwell, who have a house in PA toward Philly, were going, so we took the opportunity to travel with them & see their house too.

We took off early Sunday morning, July 26<sup>th</sup> with 60,565 miles on the M-ster. By July 28<sup>th</sup> we'd crossed the 62,000 mile mark. On August 7<sup>th</sup> we pulled into the driveway 8 miles short of 65,000 miles on the M-ster, with a grand total for the trip of 4, 427 miles. WOW!

First real stop of interest was Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, south of Lexington, Kentucky on our 2<sup>nd</sup> day on the road. It is a former Shaker village of 3,000



acres that has been restored with several buildings turned into accommodations. Many Shaker traditions are still used there, and much of the food is either grown or processed there.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> day took us to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater in Pennsylvania. Fallingwater is Frank Lloyd Wright's main masterpiece of architectural design.



Designed & built as a weekend home for the family that owned the Kaufman Department store in Pittsburgh, it was completed in 1937. Its cantilevered construction seemingly floating above the



river & the falls has remarkably stood the test of time.

Mid-afternoon on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> we rolled into State College & the Penn Stater Hotel. There were already quite a number of Z's there, including Roger, who had just rolled in about an hour before us. We later met up with another Austin couple, Warren & Lisa Kodosky. Warren and Lisa were in the midst of their own remarkable journey. They put a tow bar on their Z, towed their vintage Alpha Romeo to Michigan for a antique auto tour around Lake Michigan before towing the Alpha to Pennsylvania for Z-Fest and then back home to Austin.

This year's Z-Fest had lots & lots of activities scheduled. All the fun activities began on Thursday, but so did the rain. But we all knew that once this short-lived system passed would come much cooler & drier air – a VERY welcome thing after some very oppressive humidity levels on our trip across the country. Problem was, we'd all washed our cars the night before. And we were signed up for the Wine & Chocolate Tour on Thursday. Oh well... the cars will get washed again later.

On the Wine & Chocolate tour we visited 2 wineries and received a personal tour of Asher's Chocolate Company in



Lewistown, PA. Despite my initial thoughts of the wine being what I was most interested in, the highlight turned out to be the chocolate factory tour. The wine

slushies were great, but as we were driving, we couldn't partake too much in them. But ahhhh the chocolate. We got a full in-depth tour of the workings of the factory. We learned that Asher's Chocolates is the official chocolate supplier to Disney. We witnessed pretzels being coated with chocolate, and almond butter crunch being



made. They also had huge 1,500 pound boxes of 10 pound bars that are melted for production, and we saw 25 pound molded Santas. The best part was that we got samples along the way, as well as at the end of the tour. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, some of us particularly more than others Roger.

On Thursday evening a very nice welcome reception was held at Letterman's Grill. We were served great pulled pork and many enjoyed \$2 pounders (a 16 oz beer). It was an absolutely beautiful evening, the rain was long gone, so off to the carwash... again, to get our Z's looking pretty for the rest of the weekend.

Friday we participated in the Zedkhana. Like the O'Fest Gymkhana, you must drive your car as fast & controlled as possible around little cones like an autocross, not hit any cones, perform tasks at designated locations all while following very specific exit & entry procedures from your car. This year's tasks were to remove 2 steaks from a grill to separate plates; pour "beer" into 3 beer glasses; and change the wheels on a wooden roadster from winter

continued on page 10

# Z-Fest 2015

continued from page 9

to summer (or visa versa) and change the top from soft to hardtop (or visa versa). And all this is timed. Best time gets the



prize. Warren had the lead for much of the morning, but then the experienced folks hit the “track”. In the end Bill Elwell tied for 4<sup>th</sup>! I didn’t do too bad for a first-timer.



Poor Brad had issues with his seatbelt locking up when he tried to pull it too hard to put it back on. I crushed a cone I absolutely could not see, yet Bill, who was riding with me, and as most of you know is quite tall, warned me of – yet I ignored him. Hey! I would’ve hit it anyway as I couldn’t even see it! Note to self – next time get something to sit on! It was loads of fun and I definitely learned some things for next time.

After the Zedkhana, a small group of us took in a drive. There were numerous drives that had been mapped out for the attendees. The roads & scenery around

central Pennsylvania are just lovely. It was corn season, so all over the place are farms and corn fields, for miles and miles. It’s also in Amish country, so occasionally we’d see a buggy on the road, or in one case 2 men working the field with their horse-drawn equipment. On this drive we visited a car museum – Swigart Antique Auto Museum. Although a small museum, it has quite a wonderful collection of



vintage cars, and an enormous display of vintage model cars as well.

On an absolutely beautiful Pennsylvania Saturday morning about 150 Z’s lined up for that famous panoramic photo. Jay Best, the original Homecoming panoramic photographer still takes the photo and does so with a vintage camera



that uses extremely large roll film that is no longer available. But now he also does a digital back up just in case!

After another afternoon drive, the final event was the Saturday night closing and awards banquet. There are some really great honors bestowed on the hard working

volunteers that make Z-Fest happen.

On Sunday we left for Bill & Pam's place in eastern PA. They have a 1700's era farm house that they visit as often as they



can. BBQ & spaghetti dinners, a bonfire, drives around the PA Amish countryside, and more ice cream at a local creamery topped off the 2 night stay there.

Brad & I watch lots of car shows on Velocity, on one of which we learned about the Simeone Foundation Auto Museum in Philadelphia. The Simeone houses some of the most historically significant vintage race cars in the world. Since we were so close,



we decided we had to go. Disappointed we were not! Despite the horrendous Philly traffic getting to & from, we thoroughly enjoyed the museum. It's laid out essentially by race track, so grouped together are the cars that raced at those tracks.

Our next goal was to see the New River Gorge Bridge in West Virginia. At the time of completion in 1977, it was the longest single-span arch bridge in the world, as well as the highest vehicular

bridge in the world. Now it's 4<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. None-the-less, it's a sight to behold. The New River below is a magnet



for rafter & kayakers. But it's so far down that the full size, 8+ man rafts look like kayaks. And the kayakers are virtually impossible to see without binoculars or a good zoom lens. It's still a mystery to this day why the river is called the 'New River', as it's a very old river.

The remainder of the trip was dedicated to heading home. That is until our A/C went out before we hit Tennessee. This resulted in an early stop in Knoxville and a 'come in at 8 and we'll see what we can do' appointment at the local BMW dealer the next morning. However, I decided I'd also put a post on the ZSCCA's Facebook page if by chance there was a reputable independent shop in the area, and someone responded that there was! Turns out the shop was approximately 2 miles from the BMW dealer, which we had purposefully stayed close to for our visit the next morning. European Auto Garage (EAG) was great! Our car was back with a technician before our "appointed" time with the dealer, and we were out of there and back on the road by 11 am! What a great network there is out there!

Next year's Z-Fest is planned for Asheville, North Carolina. Start your engines, check those tires, and plan on some great drives in the NC mountains! Not to mention the wonderful drives, such as the Cherohala Skyway, Nantahala Byway and the infamous Dragon, just to name a few on the way there.

# Tejas Chapter Incentive Points Challenge for 2015

To encourage participation, the successful Incentive Points Challenge began in 1998. The members who earn the highest number of points by the end of the year (up to 10th place) receive valuable prizes at the Post-Holiday Party in January 2016. The Rookie of the Year award is for the member that joined in the current year and earns Rookie Points based on points earned divided by the time as a member

Activity	Points
Return Survey Form (form available on request or at website)	50
Attend a meeting or event	30
Organize a monthly event, (social/technical etc.)	100
Assist with a monthly event (credited by organizer)	50
Each new member recruited (credited by CCA)	30
Original photo(s) published in the Trax (30 pts max/issue)	10
Original photo(s) published on the website (30 pts max/event)	10
Original Tech Tip published in the Trax	15
Original Article published in the Trax (500 words or more)	60
Original Article published in the Trax (less than 500 words)	30
Recruitment of a commercial ad for Trax	20% of ad cost

## 2015 Incentive Points Challenge Leader Board As of August 27, 2015

<b>540 Pts</b> Jonna Clark	<b>Roger Williams</b> 170 Pts	<b>Nick Papanikolaou</b> Hector Sanchez	<b>50 Pts</b> Ron Buchalski	<b>Romeo Manzanilla</b> Bruce Mason
<b>460 Pts</b> Ken Carson	<b>Paul Goldfine</b> Don Yule	<b>Jean Sevel</b> Doug Soltau	<b>Cas Wheeler</b> 40 Pts	<b>Vaughn McVey</b> Kendra Mills
<b>450 Pts</b> Josh Butts	<b>160 Pts</b> Connie Stried	<b>April Terrazas</b> Jay West	<b>Timothy Lohman</b> 30 Pts	<b>Johnny Mitchell</b> Shearon Mitchell
<b>410 Pts</b> John Hughan	<b>150 Pts</b> David Francis	<b>Susan Yule</b> 80 Pts	<b>Mohammed Abusalih</b> Jason Aitken	<b>Constance Perry</b> James Perry
<b>Herb Looney</b> 390 Pts	<b>Brad Mitchell</b> Vince Robles	<b>John Beneat</b> Michael Gray	<b>Daniel Briggs</b> Lisa Brown	<b>Brian Peterson</b> Andy Rose
<b>Scott Bowman</b> 360 Pts	<b>130 Pts</b> Brian McKinney	<b>James Humberson</b> Jane Ireland	<b>Kathryn Butts</b> Robert Chandler	<b>Diana Salzman</b> Bob Salzman
<b>Raquel Robles</b> 320 Pts	<b>120 Pts</b> Mike Anderson	<b>70 Pts</b> Wayne Eltringham	<b>Ann Cleator</b> Jeff Conner	<b>Bob Salzman</b> Andrew Seelye
<b>Marco Cordon</b> 240 Pts	<b>Terry Jones</b> Steve Richmond	<b>60 Pts</b> Bob Ashenbrenner	<b>Tim Cook</b> Jerry Cuderman	<b>Will Shipp</b> Benjamin Short
<b>Carl Nybro</b> 230 Pts	<b>110 Pts</b> Fred Brinkley	<b>Joaquin Aviles</b> Tom Brown	<b>Tim Ehrhart</b> Chris Farmer	<b>Randy Stalnakar</b> Ronald Stearns
<b>Tom Dawson</b> 210 Pts	<b>Gene Janulis</b> 100 Pts	<b>Helen Dorrance</b> Harris Katchen	<b>Rafael Garcia</b> James Garten	<b>Greg Talley</b> Larry Targosh
<b>Linda Cavazos</b> Sridhar Kamma	<b>Sean Briggs</b> Arif Mondal	<b>Mary Lou Katchen</b> David Lucia	<b>Mark Gindin</b> John Grey	<b>Sean Teeffey</b> John Thurston
<b>200 Pts</b> David Brown	<b>90 Pts</b> Don Bishop	<b>Dan McLaughlin</b> David Nhan	<b>John Grey</b> Bob Heimann	<b>Javier Torres</b> Daniel Vu
<b>180 Pts</b> Jeff Gifford	<b>Linda Cook</b> Greg Donsbach	<b>David Nhan</b> Al Ridgley	<b>Bob Heimann</b> Jerry Helffrich	<b>Daniel Vu</b> Daniel White
<b>Gloria Anderson</b> Mary Beth Cordon	<b>Fred Egloff</b> Molly Francis	<b>Huver Rivera</b> David Schieck	<b>Lemuel Johnson</b> Jeff Kirk	<b>Daniel White</b> Philip White
<b>Phil Nybro</b>	<b>Kelsee McVey</b>	<b>Paul Wilson</b>	<b>Ray Landry</b> Bob Lewandowski	<b>Louis Wiler</b> 10 Pts
			<b>Alena Lightfeather</b> Rosa Long	<b>Kun Lee</b> Alan Wolfe



**2015 Incentive Points Challenge Rookies Leader Board  
As of August 27, 2015**

<u>16.85 Pts</u> Gloria Anderson	<u>10.91 Pts</u> James Humberson	<u>5.67 Pts</u> David Nhan	<u>2.68 Pts</u> Andy Rose
<u>13.11 Pts</u> Sean Briggs	<u>8.17 Pts</u> Jean Sevel	<u>5.60 Pts</u> Huver Rivera	<u>2.64 Pts</u> Kendra Mills
<u>12.31 Pts</u> Arif Mondal	<u>7.26 Pts</u> Michael Gray	<u>5.16 Pts</u> Romeo Manzanilla	





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# STREET SURVIVAL<sup>®</sup>

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The Teen Street Survival Program is supported and organized by the BMWCCA to provide defensive driving techniques and actual experience for teenagers with a driving permit or license.

The Tejas Chapter would like to have its 1<sup>st</sup> event. A small team of Tejas Chapter members had been putting the plans together for a 2011 event, then a 2012 event, then a 2013 event, then a 2014 event, but have run into a roadblock, “the location.” The location has to be a large parking lot with minimal obstructions, such as light poles. Several locations have been contacted with no success. Due to this roadblock, the new target to hold an event will be in 2015.

Please let the Driving Events Coordinator, Scott Bowman at [brglotus@fastmail.fm](mailto:brglotus@fastmail.fm), if you have a contact for a location in the Central Texas area.



## well at least a small part of it.

The Library, Archives, and Museum Program (LAM) has created a repository for BMW-related historical documents, literature, and paraphernalia, providing the public with access to rare and interesting BMW artifacts while ensuring their continued existence. This archive is housed in Greenville, South Carolina near the BMW CCA National Office and BMW Manufacturing.

Our growing Archives, Library, and Museum needs your tax-deductible donations.

See our website for more info.

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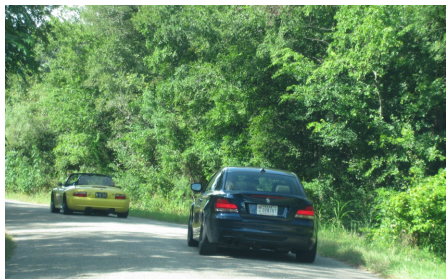
# Shakespeare at Winedale

by Ken Carson



What better way to beat the July heat than to spend the middle of the afternoon in an old barn without benefit of air conditioning. Wait a minute! What? That is exactly what was prescribed for our July event which included a leisurely morning drive, lunch at a wonderful central Texas bistro, and a rarely-performed Shakespeare play that we were all curious to see.

Our morning drive began in San Marcos and led us east out of town through Lockhart and past its beautiful county courthouse and then north on



gently winding Texas rural roads through Red Rock and Rockne (which really was named for famed Notre Dame football coach, Knute Rockne), where we enjoyed a rest stop. We turned south and east from there,

passing through the sleepy townships of Rosanky, Jeddo, and Cistern on our way to lunch in LaGrange.



Bistro 108's owners Mike and Chef Susan have created one of the finest eateries in central Texas in downtown LaGrange. Chef Susan's vision for Bistro 108 is to provide



exciting twists on Texas favorites  
continued on page 18



**Shakespeare**  
**July 1**  
**Many thanks to Ken C**  
**Many more great photos are a**







at Windale  
s, 2015  
arson & Connie Stried  
available on the chapter website



## Shakespeare at Winedale

continued from page 15

using fresh farm-to-table produce and meats, all procured locally. And does she ever deliver! Everyone enjoyed any and all that was ordered from the varied menu on our visit. Fish, steak, pasta, burgers, wraps, soups and sandwiches were all ordered, as was homemade pies and cakes for dessert. And Glenn McConnell enjoyed an additional birthday surprise treat ordered by an unknown conspirator. I think I saw Glenn blush when everyone sang Happy Birthday to him. After lunch, everyone had an opportunity to stroll the town's square that boasted many shops that were happy to cater to our group. I saw many returning to their cars with shopping bags in hand.

The day had been such a success, and we still had the premier event of our day's journey to come! A short drive through Rutersville, Warrenton, and Round Top led us to our final destination. The University of Texas' Department of English has been



continuously performing Shakespeare's works at the Winedale Historical Center for 46 years. We were fortunate to see a

play that is seldom staged, *Pericles*. I wondered if it might not be performed often simply because it was a lesser work, but that was definitely not the case. It offered a little bit of everything, including a miraculous and happy ending. We had excellent seats; our group had reserved seats in the center section on the second



and third rows. The cast was excellent and kept the audience thoroughly entertained, watching *Pericles* roam the Mediterranean Sea searching for love and family. Pirates, bawds, assassins, shipwrecks, and goddesses were determined that *Pericles'* journey would be in vain. True to



Shakespearean form, coincidence, luck, and twists of fate played major roles in the protagonist's destiny. Several chapter members thought it was the most entertaining Shakespearean play they had ever seen. The plot definitely had more twists and turns than our morning drive

through the rural Texas landscape had offered! But the pastoral beauty of that very same landscape made up for the lack of twisties encountered.

I know all of you have been worried since the beginning of this article about the fate of our members in that barn on a hot July afternoon. Well, the barn where the productions are held has plenty of fans overhead and evaporative coolers on all sides to help the audience remain comfortable. And real air conditioning is pumped in from behind the stage to help cool the actors down,

as well. If you missed this Shakespeare at Winedale event, I feel sure that it won't be another five years before we head to Winedale Historical Center again. It really is a refreshing way to spend a hot summer afternoon.



Calendar of Tejas Chapter and Related Events



2015

Date	Event	Meet Location
September 19, 2015	Fun Rally see page 5	San Marcos
October 16-18 2015	Annual Utopia Weekend see page 7	Kerrville
November 15, 2015	BMW of Austin event	Austin
December 2015	Annual Charity Event	TBD

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# Glass-Bottom Boat and Wetlands Recap

By John Hughan

During the stretch of seemingly relentless triple-digit heat we endured in late July and early August, I began to fear that I would prove to have been overly optimistic in scheduling an event on and around water, with the resulting high humidity, in mid-August. But in the week leading up to the event, the heat mercifully began to drop, and RSVPs began to rise. We gathered at Cabela's in San Marcos greeted with a sunny, pleasant 85 F day, perfect for this type



of event, and after members had all found each other (not everyone had parked in the same area of that Texas-sized parking lot), we had a short and sweet drivers meeting and then set off, bound for the Meadows Center.

As I discovered when planning the route, options for getting to the Meadows Center from Buda on the Hill Country roads west of I-35 that I enjoy so much were few and less than ideal due to traffic and/or travel time. So instead, we crossed over I-35 exiting Cabela's and took easterly roads, primarily segments of FM 2001 and TX-21, with detours onto smaller roads throughout – including, in an unintended boost to the auto detailing industry, a brief stint on an unpaved dusty road! Toward end of

the route, we crossed over the Blanco River and worked our way back to the west side of I-35, pulling into the Meadows Center right on schedule,



where we purchased our tickets and were divided into three groups.

Corey and I were in a group that began with the glass-bottom boat tour on Spring Lake. Since the day was sunny and the ¼" glass of the boat lies below the surface of the water that is often disrupted by ripples, we were treated to crystal clear views straight to the bottom, even at its deepest point of 30 feet. Our tour guide opened with



some history of the area, explaining that it used to be the site of the first theme park in Texas, which was home to such attractions as Ralph the Swimming Pig (there were in fact many Ralphs over the lifetime of the theme park), chickens that played tic-tac-toe, and underwater mermaid and water dancing

performances that audiences viewed from submarines! Unfortunately, a flood eventually damaged the area too extensively for it to continue as the site of a theme park, so in 1996 it was sold to Texas State University, which now uses it primarily as a base for academic research and educating the public. Prospective researchers can take required scuba diving lessons right at Spring Lake, and recent underwater excavations have uncovered artifacts dating back 12,000 years, with no gaps, indicating that inhabitants never left the area for any appreciable period of time, likely due to the constant supply of fresh water. This makes Spring Lake the



longest continuously inhabited area in what we now know as Texas. The area does still serves some purely recreational purposes, however, including serving as the starting point for the Texas Water Safari, billed as the world's toughest canoe race. In this absolutely grueling challenge, teams of competitors paddle to the shrimping village of Seadrift on the Gulf of Mexico, 260 miles away – in just 100 hours. What a feat!

Spring Lake is fed from springs that rise up out of the sand at the bottom of the lake, and indeed we saw several such areas where sand was bubbling up. The pressure at certain inlets is strong

enough to push an adult human back several feet, a discovery made by Johnny Wisemiller (the original Tarzan) when he swam down to try to drink from one!



This pressure combined with the sheer quantity of inlets means that the water in Spring Lake “turns over” (i.e. is completely replaced) three to five times per day! It enters Spring Lake at a constant 72 degrees year-round due to geothermal warming, and the rapid turnover means that the entire lake itself remains at a constant 72 degrees year-



round since no single sample of water remains in the lake long enough for its temperature to be influenced significantly by the ambient air temperature. Spring Lake also lies atop a fault line, which is currently dormant but which long ago was responsible for forming the Edwards Aquifer and Texas Hill Country!

Following the thoroughly interesting  
continued on page 22

# Glass-Bottom Boat and Wetlands Recap

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and informative boat tour, our guide took us through the wetlands. The



composition of wetlands soil is completely different from that found on dry land, and consequently different species of plant life are found there. The water level varies throughout the year, which causes some of the wildlife at the Meadows Center to migrate between Spring Lake and the wetlands accordingly. Our particularly memorable such species is the spotted gar, a fish that can not only breathe by gulping air from the surface when the water level drops too low, but can sneak up on smaller fish and swallow them whole thanks to its very long snout that



brandishes a whopping 700 teeth! In addition to serving as a source of food

and shelter for wildlife that live in and around the water, the wetlands control erosion and flooding, recharge underground water supplies, and clean polluted water. It is worrisome, then, that wetlands throughout North America are endangered, having been drained by humans for farming, housing development, and mining, or otherwise damaged by chemical pollution and introduction of foreign predatory species. This in turn threatens the species indigenous to the wetlands, and indeed many species living in the Edwards Aquifer and San Marcos River appear on the threatened or even endangered species lists.

We left the Meadows Center with a renewed appreciation for the beautiful and fascinating nature we are so lucky to have close to home, as well as the importance of preserving it for generations to come. Having worked up a healthy appetite by this time, after a drive of just a few blocks we descended on Mamacita's, where a private dining area had been prepared for



us. Before long, we were enjoying a delicious and filling meal of fajitas served banquet style, naturally with a side of wonderful company and conversation. Many thanks to all who attended and made it such a successful event, and for those who were unable to attend, we hope to see you next month at our Fun Rally!



# Drive 4 Corners

By Carl Nybro & Phil Nybro

For various reasons we didn't have family vacations planned this summer, and because we're always looking for free t-shirts that actually have a high hidden cost, Carl and I searched for road trips. We quickly discovered the Drive 4 Corners event.

Self described as the premier summer event by the Denver chapter of our BMW CCA, it's based in Pagosa Springs Colorado and this year was held on Friday August 7 to Sunday August 9. The dates were good for us, our wives were amenable (that's a big deal), and I had never been to Colorado, so off we go.

## Thursday, Day One

The straightest route there from Austin is Lampasas, Abilene, Lubbock, Clovis, Santa Fe, Pagosa Springs, just under 900 miles. Hitting the road around 0930, we made good time on our West Texas roads with favorable weather conditions. We stopped for the night after about 650 miles at a motel in Moriarity New Mexico on Route 66. The Republican presidential debate was held that night and with our acute sense of civic duty (possibly misapplied in this case), we stopped early to catch it on TV. Carl swears he saw some roadkill that resembled The Donald's comb over. The only other noteworthy event of the day is that the road from Clovis to Santa Rosa NM is really good, really empty and, if you want, really fast. Ask us about the pick-up truck we followed (some things perhaps shouldn't be in writing).

## Friday, Day Two

After a somewhat leisurely start, we were in Pagosa Springs by lunchtime. Lunch at

a local microbrewery and then motel check-in, where they were kind enough to



have a car wash station available. Ludwig, my beloved 2007 E90 328i (we semi-seriously and semi-accurately call it a 330is due to some performance enhancements) had performed wonderfully and was rewarded with a good bath. Of course it rained overnight so some of our work was undone, but one does what one can. We then explored the town. Set in a high mountain valley at about 7,200 feet of elevation, the San Juan River goes right through the middle of town. Tubers of all ages were happily floating on a lazy summer day. Back to



the motel to check out some of the 125 BMWs on hand, more on this later.

## Saturday, Day Three

Drivers meeting a 1000, first group of 30 cars out at 1020. Our initial destination was at a ski resort in Wolf Creek. It was a



“spirited” drive up winding mountain roads with beautiful scenery. One of the high notes was being passed by a quartet of modified M5’s with superchargers and free flowing exhaust emitting orchestral sounds that would make Mahler proud. It was bellissimo. The resort was closed for the season, leaving the large parking lot available for a group photo shot. It’s not easy to get 125 cars organized so parking coordinators were there early to get us lined up well. Some favorite cars:

· 1937 327/8: what more can I say? Carl volunteered to help the owner, Rick, wax a piece of history. When would such an opportunity present itself again?



· 1991 Z1: wait, there’s a Z1? Turns out it’s E30 based mechanically with the



2.5 liter inline 6 and 5 speed. The doors slide up and down (seriously) and this particular car also had a hardtop. It was sold only in Europe for a few years and the owner says there are only a few dozen in the US. Who knew?

· An E30 with a turbocharged S50 putting 500 hp to the wheels at 8 lbs of



boost. His license plate read “V8 LOL”. I believe it.

· An E28 533i that was completely restored with an engine bay that looked better than new.

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## Drive 4 Corners

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Tie between the red 2002 with turbo or the blue 2002tii that is really nicely



restored complete with a powder-coated suspension.

After the photo shot most of us went on the extended drive that generally



headed north. Lunch was at a small restaurant in Creede, another beautiful mountain valley, a little higher up at 9,500 feet according to my GPS. We followed a well-driven X3, got passed by a few well-driven M3s and M5s (this can happen). After lunch we continued north to Lake City, crossing the Continental Divide, and maxed out at 11,558 feet of elevation according to my GPS. Ludwig was a little slower in this thin air, and candidly so was



I. I now better understand why some elite athletes train at altitude.

Back to our motel, where most of us stayed. Dinner was well attended, held there under a tent specially set up for us



with BBQ pork, baked beans and coleslaw. We had a local band playing, with more cars to inspect, and lots of raffle items after that. I for one slept well that night.

Sunday, Day 4

With no driving events scheduled, Carl and I strayed off the reservation. First we did 18 holes at the only golf course in town. It's well maintained and I'm guessing it has a short season. Gorgeous day with a high temperature around 80 and not a cloud in sight.

It turns out that Pagosa Springs is a geothermal hot spot. Hot springs bubble up at 170 degrees and need to be cooled before we can use it. There are three resorts there that specialize in hot baths/spa/massage, etc. We choose The Overlook, a short block from our hotel. They have a hot tub on the roof, in the



shade, with a view that can't be beat. After three hours and several adult beverages, we were ready for dinner.

Happily, there were quite a few Bimmerheads still at our motel, so we stayed up late sipping Scotch and trading war stories. Tough day, but someone has to do this, right?

### Monday, Day Five

An early start, beginning at the local car parts store that opened at 0800. The warning light for a burned out left front low beam headlight popped up on Sunday. We would have preferred to address this right away but the two car part stores in Pagosa Springs were both closed on Sunday. Normally replacing a head light bulb is an easy task, however BMW, in typical German manner, has managed to over-engineer this. Carl The Mechanic eagerly approached the job. My job was to stay out of the way. The executive summary is that you start in the engine bay, move to the wheel well, and then back to the engine bay. An hour and \$16.02 later, we're on the road. We belatedly thank our parents for his electrical engineering education.

Just to be different, we chose an alternative route home that was slightly longer. 160 miles south to Santa Fe and



then we picked up US 285. This highway runs pretty much straight south through Roswell, Carlsbad, Pecos, and Fort Stockton. It's four lanes most of the time, straight (we could see to the horizon on several occasions) and mostly flat. We drove through Area 51 north of Roswell, looking for UFOs. Alas, we spotted none, although we did occasionally spot a cow

or oilrig. I think we saw a tree, once. Empty road, we turned on the cruise control and settled in with the radar detector keeping us protected. A Valentine One is an indispensable piece of road trip hardware. Somewhere on this stretch, we hit a swarm (flock, herd, group, passel?) of really large grasshoppers. I don't think



I've ever seen a car with more bugs plastered to the front. At the next gas stop it took us a solid 20 minutes to get debugged.

South of Carlsbad the oil patch begins, traffic increases with mostly oversized pick-ups and road conditions decrease. I now have a rock chip in the windshield to prove it. Deep sigh.

Continuing southeast, we pass through Pecos and pick up I-10 in Fort Stockton. This is pretty much the only Interstate highway we use the entire trip. The speed limit is 80, the road is in good condition, with very light traffic. Suffice it to say that modern BMWs are marvelous high-speed long distance cars. After 219 miles we leave I-10 west of Fredericksburg for Highway 290 and a straight shot to Austin.

After dropping Carl at home, I'm at my place at 0139, about 950 miles from where we started the day in Pagosa Springs. Interestingly, it was 48 degrees when we woke up in Colorado, peaked at 106 degrees in West Texas.

Misc. thoughts in no particular order of importance:

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## Drive 4 Corners

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- We had always heard there were a lot of Texans who summer in Colorado. It's true.

- Deeply envious of the lack of traffic in Abilene, Lubbock and Santa Fe. We remember when Austin and San Antonio were like this.

- Road quality was generally better in New Mexico and Colorado than Texas.

- Check out [www.drive4corners.com](http://www.drive4corners.com) to learn more about the event and view pics.

- BMW owners are almost universally interesting people from all walks of life.

- Rural New Mexico and West Texas are not for everyone. We found it to be

beautiful country.

- Most people were from Colorado or New Mexico. Texas was well represented, with other folks from as far away as Montana, Chicago and North Carolina.

Cumulative Vital Stats:

- 27.6 miles per gallon. Not bad, all things considered. We had it as high as 28.0 but I-10 speed was a factor.

- 66.3 average miles per hour. This might seem slow but it's all-inclusive, garage door down to garage door up. Again, some things shouldn't be in writing. Talk to us at our next chapter meeting and details will be forthcoming.

- 2,060.4 miles total driven, Thursday to Monday.



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## 2006 650i

Asking \$22,000 (new \$78,940). Only 39,595 mi! Dinan exhaust at 29,461 mi. great sound yet quiet when appropriate. Black Sapphire Metallic ext. Black Dakota Leather int. 6+1 CD, Sirius XM ready, Navigation, K40 Custom Radar Detector front & rear incl. jammer. New battery. Current Service Package. Extended warranty transferrable. Dealer Maintained w/ all records. Clean Carfax. Non smoker, no pets, garaged. Includes BMW car cover, Colgan bra. Pilot Sports @ 23,969 mi. I get lots of thumbs ups and smiles. Front row parking from the valets. Only selling because a friend is selling me his X5. No room for 4 vehicles. Contact Larry Shumake at 512-422-0007 or email to lshumake@austin.rr.com.



## 2011 M3

2011.75 E92 M3 (3/2011 production, includes Combox for Bluetooth Audio streaming and USB audio without Y-cable), ~39K miles,

clean title in-hand. FACTORY SPEC: Le Mans Blue, black leather interior w/ aluminum trim, 6-speed manual transmission, 19" 220M wheels, Premium Pkg, Convenience Pkg, EDC, Enhanced Sound, BMW Apps, Moonroof, SiriusXM. MODS: StopTech ST-60 BBK, Vorshlag Camber Plates, ModMyNav rear camera. CURRENT STATE: No active warranty, prepaid maintenance, BMW Assist, or SiriusXM subscription. New StopTech rotors. Maintained at or above Mike Miller's BMW Lifetime Maintenance schedule. Dings on right rear quarter panel. Asking \$43,000. Contact John Hughan at 415-706-7973 or send email to john.hughan@gmail.com.

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## Wheels for sale

I have [ 2 ] nearly new X3 wheels 36-11-7-844-251 M Double Spoke 369 [MSRP \$694.36 each] 9.5 JX 19 ET48 [standard fit production wheel] with new BFG g-force sport comp 2 tires using BMW OEM Hufberu sensors. Have \$1000 invested in each wheel/tire/sensor and will accept \$250 each or make offer. Traded 2013 X3 for Porsche Macan. I also have a mix of 10 new and slightly used Apex AERO-7 rotary

## Classified Ads

forged 18x8 ET45 [Paid \$310 plus shipping] and 18x9 ET50 [\$300] [std fit 1 series] Hyper silver wheels with 8 New and used Michelin pilot super sport 255/35ZR18 [Cost\$ 420 each], 225/40ZR18 [\$280 each] and 225/40 Michelin super sport cup tires. Wheels with tires cost up to \$900 each. Make a honest low bid offer with or without tires. Need to clean out garage. These are a steal. I plan on selling/trading my 2013 135IS. Larry Targosh, 512-528-9357 or xyzm3bmw@hotmail.com

### Magazines

I no longer have space for my collection of Roundel and Bimmer magazines. I have copies of Roundel dating back to around '80 and copies of Bimmer from the first issue. Free to anyone. Contact Hugh Fisher at 210-493-8766 or send email to oldsfgyu@hotmail.com



### 2008 Z4,

3.0Si Coupe, 49,300 miles, jet black with black leather interior. Premium pkg, Sport pkg, Steptronic w/ paddle shifters, dark poplar wood trim, heated seats, premium sound w/ installed Ipod cable. The vehicle was a BMW CPO when I purchased

it from Apple Imports in March 2012 and has been serviced by BMW of Austin since I purchased it. New non run flats 4k ago and has a compact spare and a jack. New rear brakes 1k ago. Non smoker and garaged by me. Selling because I have a new car on order. Asking \$18,900. Contact Terry Jones at 830-693-1803 (Marble Falls) or email to terryjane1967@yahoo.com.



### Steering Wheel for sale

Selling my E36 MOMO Italia gotham steering wheel and matching shift knob. Used it for 4 months then my car was totalled while parked. You can use the MOMO adapter for other models and the wheel bolts right on. The adapter I have is for the e36 model. Asking \$300 or best offer. Wheel retails for \$275 and knob for \$99. In perfect condition. Contact Joe Sylvester at 904-525-3180 or send email to Joseph.Sylvester80@yahoo.com .

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# Classified Ads



## Wheels for sale

(4) anthracite Rota Formula Mesh, 8x18ET38, 72.6 mm center bore wheels mounted with 235/40-18 Dunlop Direzza DZ102 tires. Wheels were purchased in January 2008, and tires purchased in March 2015. The wheels have no curb rash, but do have some rock chips. The original Rota center caps have an OEM roundel on top of them. The tires have about 500 miles on them. I sold my E36 M3 with the original 17 inch wheels in April, so these were taken off the car and have been stored since. More pictures are available. Contact Tim Chong at (703) 598-7305 or send e-mail to [Tim0272@aol.com](mailto:Tim0272@aol.com).



## Wheels for sale

Selling a new set of four staggered M wheels, 18x8 and 18x9 that are for the e36. Offset for the front and rears are ET37. Will fit other models but check with fitment guide for your vehicle. They are powder coated mat black and bolt pattern is 120x5. Never been used and no need for them anymore, \$600 for set. Also have a set of four 5 spoke chrome beyern 18x8 wheels with tires two new BFGoodrich(1200 miles) and two old tires that need replaced. Asking \$200 for that set. Contact Joe Sylvester at 904-525-3180 or email [Joseph.Sylvester80@yahoo.com](mailto:Joseph.Sylvester80@yahoo.com).



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