



### *Coming Events:*

- Sep 9, Meeting/Social, Bill Pearce BMW 6 PM
- Oct 9-10, Sierra Foothills Wine Tour
- Oct 14, Meeting/Social, Bill Pearce BMW 6 PM
- Nov 11, Meeting/Social, Bill Pearce BMW 6 PM
- Dec 9, Holiday Party, location TBD
- Jan 13, Meeting/Social, Bill Pearce BMW, 6 PM

## *Sierra Scene*

### ***A Bavarian Experience in Apple Hill***

July is a wonderful time to be out and about in your BMW. And this July provided us with a fun “drive and dine” over in the Sierra Foothills area called Apple Hill.

On Saturday, July 31, sixteen Sierra Club members drove over Highways 88, 89 and 50 to meet up with members of the Sacramento Valley club for lunch at the Bavarian Hills Café and Bake Shop in Camino. In total, 52 BMW enthusiasts enjoyed some typical German food and great socializing. As the pictures will attest, we enjoyed ourselves!

One of the most enjoyable parts of events such as these is looking at all the different BMWs and talking with their owners about their cars. This day we got to see a number of great old cars and some spiffy new ones as well. BMW roadsters, coupes, sedans, convertibles and SAVs were all represented. It really illustrated how many ways there are to enjoy the “ultimate driving machine!”

A special thanks to Vivian Sumner from Sacramento Valley for organizing the event and inviting us!



#### ***Performance Driving Experience at Reno-Fernley with SCCA***

Sat, Oct 30, 7:30 AM

Cost: \$175

Contact: Jeff Warner – 745-6962

Previous training and experience and a Snell 2005 helmet needed. This is NOT a BMW sponsored event. No speeding tickets issued. Fun guaranteed!

## ***From President Jeff...***

Like other BMW owners, I love the raw power and the excellent handling ability of my car. This past Sunday morning I was reminded that there is more to these cars than muscle and steel... that integrity, loyalty and foresight are what made the auto maker the giant it is.

If you happened to watch CBS Sunday Morning recently you may have seen a segment regarding how BMW is dealing with an aging workforce. After viewing this segment one is reminded how BMW continues to be a leader in innovation.

Production manager Helmut Mauermann was facing a race against time, the same race most of Europe is confronting – what demographers call the "Silver Tsunami" - the rising tide of grey hair. Germany is aging fast! More than a fifth of the country (21.6%) will be over 65 by the year 2020.

Confronted with this fact, BMW could force its aging workers to retire or even fire them. That may have been a simpler solution, but Germany (as most of the EU) functions under "social contract" with employees. Further, BMW would not have been able to replace the level of experience of its aging workforce by simply hiring younger staff

Faced with an aging but highly skilled and loyal workforce, the Dingolfing plant management chose to keep that skill and loyalty and their 18,000 factory workers.

It is no surprise that older workers have more patience and skill that comes from experience, along with reduced flexibility, strength and vision – real liabilities on a production line that depends on precision engineering and a lot of hard work to turn out more than 1,200 cars a day.

In what the *Harvard Business Review* called "an experiment defusing its demographic time bomb," BMW decided to look ahead by tinkering with one assembly line in one division of a huge auto plant and turned it older overnight. They staffed it so that the average age of workers would be 47 – exactly what it's projected to be seven years from now – and asked those workers to propose changes to the plant to help them work more effectively. So, BMW gave their workers special shoes, put in wooden floors (easier on the knees) provided modified hairdresser's chairs for some, improved a number of tools and installed larger computer screens.

In all, the company says it made 70 small changes in the workplace, to cut the chance of errors and reduce physical strain at a cost of about \$50,000 including lost time.

Other things also changed: productivity went up seven percent, while absenteeism fell below the plant's average. And most impressive of all, this assembly line's defect rate dropped to zero!

While this was the story of a German auto plant, the US may want to take notice. Americans over 65 will make up more than 16 percent of the population within 10 years. Not all of auto manufacturing can be re-engineered for an older workforce. But it was inspiring to see a new way to look at an "old" problem...

So now as you drive down your favorite road in your great German machine, you will know that there is a happy and well cared for workforce behind every bolt of your favorite ride.

Be safe, buckle up and don't forget to have fun!

*Jeff*

### ***Know someone who has a BMW...***

...who's not in the club? Let them know about the fun we have and encourage them to join in. Bring them to an event and they'll see for themselves. Share the Sierra Club experience!

## **Who's Who**

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For details on all club events and more pictures, visit our web site:

[sierrabmwclub.org](http://sierrabmwclub.org)

Visit the BMW CCA web site at:

[bmwcca.org](http://bmwcca.org)

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# ***A visit with the exceptional BMW M1***

*By Jim Goodfellow*

Here is another advantage of belonging to the Sierra Chapter. At the dinner after the meeting on July 8 I was fortunate to sit next to one of our members who is restoring his BMW 501 cabriolet. That was an interesting conversation. And across the table Mike Dietel joined in and described how he had imported a number of M1s from Germany in the 1979/80s and federalized them to the U.S. specs. He casually mentioned his friend in California still owned one of the M1s he had imported and he was coming to Reno very soon to register his M1 in Nevada because it had never been registered in California in all those years and California was giving him a hard time about the paperwork.

I have always wanted to see an M1 “in the flesh” so I asked Mike to please call me when his friend arrived so I could actually see it. He promised to do that and said if I brought my 850Ci he would bring his 850Ci and we could take some photos.

Mike called me late Friday and said his friend would arrive the next day. So Saturday, July 10 I got Mike’s call again. His friend had arrived from SoCal and would be completing a SMOG check at the NV Auto Diagnostics shop owned by Mike’s friend Reza.

When I got to the Auto Diagnostics shop, Reza had his red 850Ci, Mike had his white 850Ci and I brought my silver 850CSi. And there was an empty trailer pulled by a Toyota van parked – but no M1! Very soon a white M1 pulled in – and there was Mike driving with a BIG grin. Mike and the owner had taken it for a spin in Washoe Valley to warm it up before getting the SMOG check.

Then before they started the SMOG test we lined up the M1, the three 850s and an E39 M5 belonging to another of Mike’s friends who had driven in after Mike invited him to “COME SEE”!

## **About the M1**

Here are some stats according to the UK BMW club and the CCA M1 Register. There were 453 M1s made from 1979 to 1981. That includes 56 racers. There have been some lost so the remaining total is anyone’s guess. Most of those left are kept like they are the jewels they really are! The M1 had the first of the big block racing 6-cylinder engines that we all have come to know and love. And it has those louvers at the front of the hood! Wow!!!

This car has an interesting story. Mike imported it in 1979 as a grey market vehicle. After conversion he delivered it to a BMW dealer in SoCal. So over

the next 15 years it sat in the dealer’s showroom. When the dealer sold out he kept the M1 and seldom drove it. Today, 31 years after being built, it only has 15,xxx miles on the clock. It has an E9 530 smog system installed and new M3 wheels. The original wheels are carefully stored away. When they ran the SMOG check it passed with “flying colors.”. NOT BAD FOR A 30 YEAR OLD CR!

My only personal envious comments are ... how low and how small it is! And what a beautiful and marvelous supercar BMW made. I tried to trade him my M5 for the M1 but for some reason the owner wasn’t interested.



## ***The new 5-Series at Bill Pearce BMW***



One of the benefits of our relationship with Bill Pearce BMW is being invited to fun events at the dealership involving BMWs. One such event was the ***BMW 5-Series Launch*** on Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the new 535 and 550, including the GT. A special bonus was having a new 7-series there too! And it was fun to get to compare them to the Mercedes-Benz 350.

While the M-B was nice, I could hardly find a thing that matched up well with the new 5. From the styling, to the interior, to the driving experience, it's safe to say that *"There simply is no comparison!"*

Thanks for the opportunity!

*John Strom*

### **We're looking for some folks to "step up"...**

Our BMW club provides all of us with some great times getting together to enjoy our cars and common interests – driving events, tours and dining opportunities, technical sessions and socials. They're *fun*...and *fun* to put on. We're asking our members to "step up" and volunteer to host an event or work with others who are hosting events. If you enjoy participating, please also enjoy hosting! If you have an idea for an event and are willing please "step up!"

**Sierra Chapter BMW CCA**

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