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Yellowstone Trip was a Great Success!



AUSPUFF ANLAGE

BMW CAR CLUB OF AMERICA,
INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER



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General Information

Please send address changes to the National Office or email them to bmwclub@aol.com.

Monthly Member Meeting

2nd Tuesday of the month, 6pm, at Northern Lights Brewery. Members are encouraged to attend. A short business meeting will also be conducted. Occasionally a meeting may be skipped or location changed. Please contact a board member before each meeting.

Inland Empire Chapter Website

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Calendar of Events

President's Corner

What a great season 2011

Busy with activities this year such as. Sovern races and car corral, the tech session, the river dance drive and the Yellowstone tour were all outstanding for the participants. But my highlight in Spokane was the return of the driving school. We were able to get 5 volunteers out on the tack by redeeming their earned credits thus enabling them to take a school. The paying students helped balance out the four run groups and all had smiles on their faces at the end of the two day event. Unfortunately, the school was a financial hit to the club and we are strategizing now to come up with better ways to put together schools in the future that are fun, educational and financially solvent. The Inland Empire driving school is the most economical way to get out on the track and learn from some of the best instructors in the northwest. We thank Scott Adare and Steve Cassel for making it happen. Several of us under Ken and Elwanda Groves tutelage had a great time in the volunteer program participating directly to facilitate the school. All in all, with fair weather over our heads, it was a great day to be an IE BMW club Member.



We will be having meetings in the next few months organizing next years events, if you have ideas and / or time to participate and want to get involved-Lets here from you.

As always,

Stay warm, get your winter tires on and take care.

Chris Brown

President IE BMW CCA

Yellowstone Tour

Bonnie and I struck out on our expedition September 7th toward that very special northwest corner of Wyoming. October 8th, our first day in Red Lodge, MT, we had some pre-tour reconnaissance of our motel and the local eateries, all of which checked out AAA. We joined forces with two other hardy members representing Inland Empire Chapter on this tour. The next day was spent on a "little tour detour," driving over the incredible Chief Joseph Highway, where we found a breath-taking view with each turn of the wheel, and photo ops galore (check out our website for them). The entire group amassed October 9th to nearly 40 people for the event, hailing from five different chapters. It was going to be a great weekend, I knew, from our Meet-&- Greet meeting at the Red Lodge Ale House. What a fun and spirited bunch, ready for fun. The weather could have not been any sweeter-warm, but not hot, beautiful and bright with no hint of rain. The Northwest Mini Club, our invited guests, happily provided smiles and bright color spots for the ensuing photos. Cameras were busy as we enjoyed the alpine country roads, narrow canyons and nature settings and scenery. The next morning the entire group was up early and ready as scheduled. The group began the ascent to over 10,000 feet on the Beartooth pass, and again we were taken aback by the awesome beauty of this magical place. The mountain goats, alpine lakes, edgy colorful cliffs, Disney-esque friendly chipmunks, and mountain valleys were indeed memories made for a life time. We spent some time at the "top of the world" souvenir store then back on the winding road to Yellowstone, entering through the Silver Gate near Cook City. This is bison territory and we saw plenty of them. Rolling in the dirt, calves near their mothers in golden fields divided by a serpentine river cutting the valley's floor. Entering the park for two days, our group from Wasatch (Salt Lake City) really helped out with directional tips as we sought out amazing sights. We visited the Upper and Lower Yellowstone Falls, Dunravin Pass, and Morris Geyser Basin. At Old Faithful, we marveled at boiling pots of mud. Next stop Lake Yellowstone and beautiful pools in a brilliant blue and green spectrum. We found Fishing Bridge in a rain shower. All the sites were beautiful, including the meandering rivers, waterfalls and wildlife. Try as we did, we never saw a bear. so we will have to go back willingly to find that bear. The Puget Sound Chapter and the Rattlesnake Chapters were also well represented, as well as Wasatch. Together we were quite a colorful conga line poking through all of Yellowstone's sights to behold. Everyone enjoyed the evening meals, albeit hectic in the small venues of West Yellowstone. I truly am thankful to all my new friends for making this over-niter a sensational event. We came away on Monday morning wondering when we will get back, but happy and full of great life-long memories. Where are all the bears?

Thanks to all who participated!

Chris Brown



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Car of the Quarter

Fall is hunting season, Bimmer Hunting that is... Hunting for that special car, my wife and I always liked Nancy Adare's E-46 xi and we have had a casual eye out for a nice one like Nancy's. Here's the rub, when we got more serious we realized a few things, Initially I thought -no problem, I will just do a craigslist search and find our "new" car. Now the prerequisites are a little tougher, and WHY does BMW make so many silver cars? We want the 330 for the little extra oomph, Xi option for snow, I want the sport package with heated seats, premium package? didn't matter. I like the E46 over the newer model stylings and the lower cost doesn't hurt our feelings either. So how hard could it be? Oh yeah... one other thing --NO silver cars! It's ok that a lot of bimmers are silver, we just did not want one of them. Well we found gray, platinum, pewter, silver blue, gray silver, mat silver, silver silver, "change in the light" silver, all with exotic paint names stamped on the right strut tower. We found a blue one, but it did not have the sport option, Most of the owners we talked with said their car's had the "sport option", but the car then turned out not to possess it. A white one did not have the seat warmer -burrr. Drove to Seattle to view an early black model, and it was misrepresented and leaking strange stuff under there. Found one that was a "blue silver" which was a reluctant possibility. After we trotted it over to European Autohaus for a check up, the master mechanic took me on a frightful tour under the car. He pointed out a long laundry list of objections and the estimate to put the car back in order was over 4 grand. Stating "Zero maintenance has been done to this car!" that was enough to put that car on the No Sale list. At this point we had basically given up, then we saw a craigslist ad for a car on the lot of a local new car dealer in Spokane valley, the car dealer had taken this 330 xi in on trade for a truck. It had low miles for its age and had evidence of some basic maintenance. The color? Graugruen metalli, gray green silver, mostly light green. Bonnie liked the color, we drove it, Auto Haus gave it thumbs up, then we made an offer and we were promptly turned away. We waited 2 months and made the same offer again and the dealer, now worn out and could not justify a hefty gouge in these economic times, bid accepted. We purchased the car and my wife loved it on her first solo drive to her office. We took the car on the Beartooth / Yellowstone tour and here's a picture to prove it. Now I have to be looking for a nice set of winter wheels and tires. This new addition should last us a long, long time.

Editors note: We would like to congratulate Wendy Davis way up north in Alaska on her brilliant catch, her "new" Xi featured in last quarters News letter.

