



SoCal 8s Newsletter

October 2012

Issue No. 7

Now Expanded – Short Stories – Marquee Award – 8 World News

Touring Wine Country



Also In This SoCal Euro Gathering

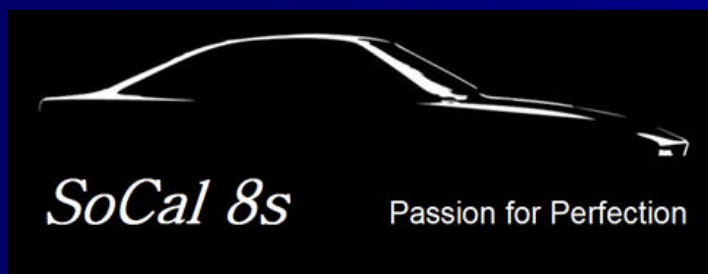


3rd Annual

Central Coast Wine Tour



Inside this month Issue



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Upcoming Issue: SoCal Euro Gathering at Qualcomm Stadium San Diego, CA *November 17th*



One Person's Story

By: Steve Cohen



Caroline Price and Kurt De Palma have organized a Central California wine tasting tour for the last three years. This year was no exception. We missed the first year as the event conflicted with the Reno Air Races.

Eventually, most everyone arrived. The group headed off to dinner at A.J.Spurs. Since we were following a gentleman who knew the way.... we were not paying much attention when he turned off the freeway.

We followed ... and commenced looking around... we were lost. Inputted the address into the GPS and we were on our way to our parking spot close to A.J. Spurs. Oh well..... ☹

The size of some of the libations at A.J's were immense! The food was brought to the tables family style... way too much! Much raucous celebration and reminiscing. We eventually headed back to the motel and collapsed into bed.

After breakfast we each were given a winery from which we were required to buy a bottle of wine to share for either lunch or dinner. Off we went led by the indomitable Kurt and Caroline. The wineries were superb. The Pomar Junction Winery was great. Our hosts were superb. After that we just followed the car in front. Kurt did a great job. Not too fast; nor too slow. We eventually visited all the scheduled wineries and visited the gas station on the way back to the motel.

We assembled in the conference room at 6:00p for a Power Point presentation of the history of the 8 groups on the pacific coast and the introduction of the 10th Anniversary of the 2003 Left Coast 8-Fest to be held next October 2013 at Garberville. www.8-fest.org

Sunday was a repeat of Saturday except there was only one winery ... however there was much excitement by the women as they wanted to visit the men's bathroom to see the statue and play with the clothing.

After lunch we left for our trips back home, via the Salinas air show.

The Annual BMW 8 Series Central Coast Wine Tasting Tour

September 22, 2012



Caroline and I have just completed our 3rd Annual CCWTT. We had a great time with all of our friends and it was great to see everybody and their lovely cars once again (I can't ever stop looking at those beauties).

This year (Sept 22nd, 2012) we had five 850 CSI's- out of 11 cars, which is very impressive! The drives for the weekend were spectacular and the twisty curves were very inviting! About 150 miles of driving in the backwoods of Templeton, Paso Robles, and San Miguel California just on Saturday, and Wow, what beautiful scenery we encountered on desolate roads to nowhere (it seemed). We always try to find the best smaller producing wineries or family wineries as they are much more personable than the larger corporate wineries. The wineries we went to this year were Pomar Junction in Templeton, EOS winery in Paso Robles, Graveyard Cellars in San Miguel (our lunch spot with beautiful views), and our final stop at Barr Estate Winery.

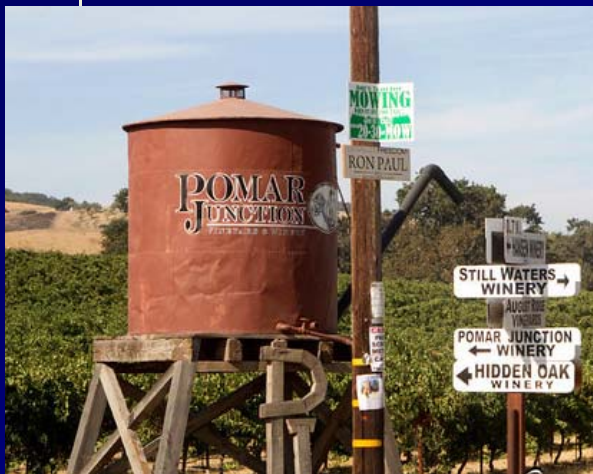
For photographs of this year's event log onto www.markwinklerphotography.com. Click 'Clients', then BMW 2012. The password is '2012'. Also if you want to see the previous year's event, go to same website, go to Galleries and click on BMW Winery.



The Merrill Family



Pomar Junction Winery



Rolling out to the first winery



Mark Winkler Photography



Mark Winkler Photography

The Merrill Family's agricultural heritage and grape growing history dates back at least 8 generations on California's Central Coast. A former family ranch still is home to a grape arbor planted in the 19th century. Today, Dana and Marsha Merrill and son Matthew farm the vineyards, while Matthew's winemaking is complemented by winemaker par excellent, Jim Shumate.

After nearly 30 years of growing grapes for many of the finest wineries in California ranging from ultra premium small producers to the largest international brands, the Merrill's decided to produce their own wines. In addition to the family estate, the finest blocks of grapes from Santa Barbara and Monterey Counties are selected from vineyards managed by a sister firm, Mesa Vineyard Management, Inc. All wines produced are exclusively farmed by the Merrill's who believe that control from planting and pruning through harvest, fermentation and cellaring is critical for success. It also ensures a uniform dedication to sustainability, which led our recent Certification in the SIP program within the Central Coast Vineyard Team.

The family believes in community and industry involvement. Dana Merrill was the first San Luis Obispo County Chair of the California Association of Wine Grape Growers, a charter member of the pioneering vineyard Sustainability group, the Central Coast Vineyard Team and is a past two-term Director of the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance.



The Attendees



They Arrive In Force



850CSi



Peter Svensgaard CSi

Dan Bridges CSi



*Just Another Stop for Some Thirsty
Wine Drinkers*



They found some shade spots to park during the hot day



The End

Mikko Outinen *Pori, Finland*
SoCal's October **Newsletter**



“Marquee Award” ***Finland***



Proud owner of a 1991 850i Brokatrot Metallic #259

Mikko's Story:

My girlfriend likes this car very much. But basically she isn't really a car person and thinks it's a car like any other. She sees it as a hobby and understands it that way. My mother didn't even notice that I was driving an 8 the first time I visited her with the car.



Wheels: 18" M6 Replicas Tires: 245/45/18

She thinks it's beautiful and couldn't believe when told her that it's 20 years old. ☺ But father... it's a shame he didn't get chance to see this car. He passed away two years ago. He was a true car person and when I was younger we use to fix cars together. I have owned almost 10 different cars and he was always with me when I bought a new one.

Questions & Answers



Q: Where and when did you purchase your 8?

I bought my 8er one year ago, fall 2011. I found it from a dealer who deals only with exotics. I gave my '96 SVT Cobra Mustang for trade.

Q: Why did you pick your current 8 over some other?

Here in Finland there isn't very many choices. This one was a good one and well maintained. Full service book and known history. It came from Sweden in 2003. I called the last three owners here in Finland and got the impression of a well kept vehicle.

Q: What made you pick the 8 series over other BMW models?

I'm not actually so much of Bimmer-guy. This is my first BMW. I was looking for a new summer ride, substitute for Mustang. Mustang wasn't really a high end sport car but it sure set the performance requirements high. Other requirements were two door coupe with rear wheel drive and big engine.

Q: What is it about the 8 you enjoy most?

It's a big comfortable coupe. It's nothing like those small ricers. And yes, the look is very beautiful also. This car is at its best when taken on long road trips.

Questions & Answers



Q: What maintenance have you done to your car?

Last winter I made several maintenance works along with some other modifications. After I purchased my 8 I haven't driven it much. I put it in the garage right away for winter. I changed all oils, filters, plugs, etc., and basic stuff like that. A few water hoses, radiator and auxiliary water pump needed replacing. All fuel lines in engine compartment were leaking a bit, so I replaced those. Hardest job was resealing intake manifolds. After that no EML light and rock steady idle. Same time I changed lot of different hoses and ultrasonic washed the injectors. Because this is my summer ride, I installed a cooler 80°C thermostat, colder auxiliary electric fan switch, and external Hayden 8-row oil cooler for the transmission. Then I fabricated my own cat-less front exhaust pipes. Also tested how it sounds when center resonator is deleted. Horrible rattle.



Questions & Answers



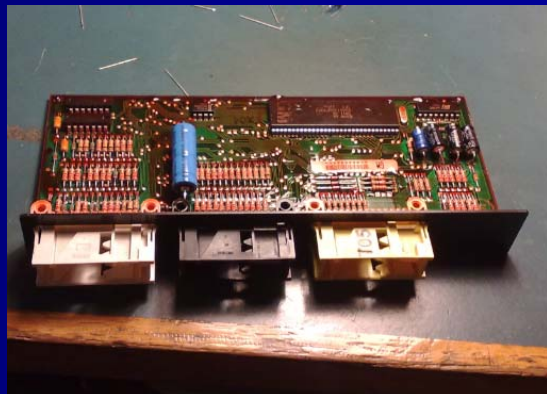
Q: I noticed you modified your FTP . What did you do to them?

Only exterior mods are light related. First thing was to update front headlights. Ripped off those original burnt projectors and fitted new Hella 3" D2S bi-xenon projectors into original housings. Now you can really see at night. After that I took off the FTPs and wondered what I'm going to do with those. I removed the amber lenses behind the front clear lens to get the clear smoked look. Then I added one bulb on the side to get US-spec style touch. I always hated that one odd section the on side without any purpose. All this finished with wired original DLR system to work.

Car drives like a champ. It is so amazing to drive a 20 year old car that does not squeak from suspension or rattle from interior panels. Everything works like it came from factory. The only thing that I need to take care of during summer was those notorious capacitors in GM unit, but in the end it was piece of cake.



It was very exciting to get it out of garage at spring. There was a whole lot of work done but not a single clue how things turn out after. This car is very reliable. But after all the work I did during winter, I have now driven the full summer without any problems.



Other Modifications



http://www.theretrofitsource.com/product_info.php?cPath=25&products_id=92

Installed Halogen Projects

Projectors are Hella EvoX-R from The Retro Fit Source. They perform very good compared to original melted and worn out halogen projectors. Bi-xenon feature is very welcome. Magnet solenoid pulls shield away front of bulb to expose full beam pattern. Installation was quite simple. Only the original leveling system has to go for more room. Other than that, adjusting was the most time consuming task.



**Congratulations
Mikko for making
October's Issue**



**Installed
Wokke
V2.0 Chips**

10th Annual 8-Fest



October UPDATE

10 TH ANNIVERSARY • OCTOBER 4-7, 2013 • GARBERVILLE, CA



Visit: www.8-fest.org

Dear 8 Owners,
Karen and I wanted to bring you up-to-date on behalf of the 10th Anniversary of the 2003 Left Coast 8-Fest gathering. We also wanted you to know that this was a huge sacrifice for us.

A week from last Friday we packed very lightly and wound our way north on HW 101. We stopped in Willets for a stretch, gas (very little) and the required break.

Approximately an hour and a half later we were at 25 mph and winding through the majestic redwoods of Richardson Grove State Park. Both 1st and 2nd growth redwoods that were soaring so tall that the sun was blocked out. As we passed the concessions selling chainsaw carved redwood figures and birds, we knew we were close to our destination. In a few minutes, The Benbow Inn magically appeared.

The Inn was sold out for the weekend; thank goodness we had made our reservation months before.

Our weekend was comprised of driving the routes for the road trips, conferring with Camille Sousa regarding the event, what we required and how the event was going to be handled.

The hospitality at The Benbow Inn was superb as was their food. By the way, they have a outstanding wine cellar.

We were accompanied on our Saturday drive by the editor and photographer of a well known magazine who will be doing an article on the organization of the 2013 event.

We want you to be aware that the groundwork for the event is in place and we are very satisfied so far with the results.

We are looking forward to greeting and meeting you at The Benbow Inn as you arrive for the 2013 event.

Our Best Wishes,
Karen and Steve

Benbow Inn
445 Lake Benbow Drive
Garberville, CA 95542

Phone: (800)355-3301
Fax: (707) 923-2897
Email: info@benbowinn.com
Website: www.benbowinn.com



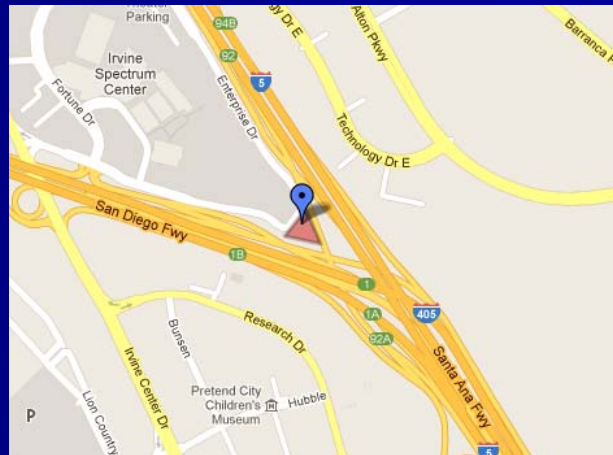
SoCal's Next Upcoming Event



SoCal 8s will be attending this event on Saturday November 17th. We will be forming a caravan on the way leaving at 6:30 AM from the LAX area stopping at the Irvine Spectrum in front of the Cheesecake Factory Entrance at 7:15-7:30 to pick up our OC members, then driving to Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego. We will also pick up 8 owners along the way. We should roll in together between 9:00 to 9:15 AM to park. The event starts at 10:00 AM is over at 3:00 PM.



The Cheesecake Factory
71 Fortune Drive, Irvine, CA
Irvine Spectrum Center



Arrive at the Spectrum 7:15- 7:30
Leave 7:45 Promptly

About the Gathering:

Get ready for Southern California's next installment of European Car Gatherings!

Our last event had over 2000 vehicles. We are expecting even more this year. This event started in 2001 as a small informal gathering of European car owners. Has since grown to be one of the largest West Coast European car event.

Bring your car and your family to participate in an event where the whole parking lot is the show. Where what you bring to the event, is part of the show.

SOCAL EURO



**A wide variety
of Euro Cars
from VW Bugs
to Exotics will
be there**



BIG SoCalEuro



SoCal's Message



- Our Board of Directors met on September 15th and October 20th and has made great progress. The remaining events for this November & December are now in the planning stages.
- 2013 events are also being discussed starting with a Wrenchfest in February 2013.
- We have recently launched our website at www.socaleights.com and I encourage everyone to register once the registration is open.
- SoCal 8s also has a Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/socaleights where you can add pictures of your car or special events once you have been accepted. This is a public Facebook page that any 8 enthusiast can visit who would like to know more about our group.
- Our club has been added to www.8coupe.org and www.e31Club.com websites. You can locate us under the RESOURCES tab.
- **Seb de Latour**, Deputy Editor of BMWCAR Magazine in Europe will also be doing an article on our group in one of next year's publications.

SoCal 8s is getting International recognition and is now a key member in the 8 community. Our Newsletters have been requested from these following countries; Norway, Germany, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Canada, and Mexico.

SoCal 8s T-shirts and Polo shirts have been mailed out to 8, 7, & 3 Series owners who live in these countries that enjoy being part of our group. I have received a great outpouring of thanks for what SoCal 8s is doing to promote interest and keeping our community in the forefront.

Cheers!

Fern

Club President