

2004  
Oct / Nov / Dec



# The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

[www.nmbmwcca.org](http://www.nmbmwcca.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy fall to everyone! Summer turned out to be milder this year than the previous several years. The trees are now beginning to change colors, and Balloon Fiesta is in the air. The scenery is truly spectacular on the mountains and in the valleys.

July Tech Session. The Chapter had a Tech Session at Maloy Racing. Thanks to event organizer David Penasa, we had a wonderful orientation and tour of the Maloy Racing facility. It is a very nice facility, complete with a very well equipped machine shop. See the review later in this issue.

BMW/Porsche challenge. The challenge sponsored by BMW CCA and PCA was held at Sandía Motorsports on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Doug Brosveen at the PCA was the organizer for the well-attended event. Drivers of both BMW's and Porsches had the opportunity to test the handling of their cars at the limit. A bit of sad news, Sandía Motorsports park is reportedly up for sale.

During the coming quarter, the chapter is planning a membership meeting and two tech sessions. The membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 14. Watch your email for details.

The November Tech Session will be at Southwest Collision Craftsmen, hosted by Manny Córdova. Manny always has a great display of body restoration techniques at his well-equipped shop. He will also talk about design features in your BMW that keep you safe.

The December Tech Session will be at Sandía BMW, hosted by Jim Johnson. Jim is a true expert on BMW's, old and new. Jim will discuss new BMW's, but is also happy to answer questions on older ones. Construction at the new Sandía Mini (next door) should be mostly finished, so we may get to see the new facility.

BMW CCA member Peter Limone sent me a couple of emails regarding quality of gasoline. I forwarded these to the membership. The "Top Tier" gasoline standard is being promoted by BMW, Honda, Toyota, and General Motors. If you did not get a copy but are interested, please contact me. Those of you who have had problems with gummed-up fuel injectors or fuel-sending units may find this very relevant. The club is not in the business of endorsing or not endorsing any particular gasoline, but it is now clear that not all is created equal.

As always, please watch your e-mail, or check the website for details and updates. I hope to see all of you at one of our upcoming events!

*Jon van Arsdel*  
President  
BMW CCA of NM

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October 14. General Membership Meeting.** Location to be announced—watch your email.

**October 17. Karl H. Fox Memorial Fall Tour.** Due to the last minute change, watch your email for details.

**November 18, 6:00 pm. Tech session.** Southwest Collision Craftsmen with Manny Córdova.

**December 9, 6:00 pm. Tech session.** Sandía BMW with Jim Johnson.

**January 2005. General Membership Meeting.** Location to be announced.

**February 2005. Tech Session.** Details and location to be announced.

**March 2005. Spring Tour.** Details and location to be announced.

Remember to check our web site for periodic updates: [www.nmbmwcca.org](http://www.nmbmwcca.org)

## UNDER THE HOOD

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# Redline

## Tech Tips

### BMW Fuel Filter Replacement

By Wayne R. Dempsey

One of the basic maintenance projects that you should perform on your BMW is the replacement of the fuel filter. I recommend that you replace your fuel filter about once a year, or every 10,000 miles. Clogged injectors seem to be more common these days. I don't think quality control with gasoline stations is really what it used to be.

Changing the fuel filter is not a job that I relish. You're almost guaranteed to spill at least some fuel on the ground and yourself as you swap out the fuel filter. Perform the replacement in a well-ventilated area. That means outdoors or in your garage with a few large fans blowing air both in and out. Have a fire extinguisher handy, wear rubber gloves, eye protection, and have a few rolls of paper towels handy.

The fuel tank should be as empty as possible. This will minimize problems if something should happen to go wrong.

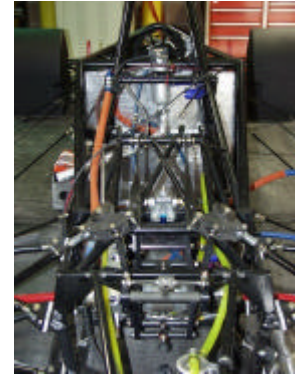
The first step is to jack the car up. See our Pelican Technical Article on Jacking Up for more information. I recommend that you only jack up the front of the car, and leave the rear on the ground. This will minimize any fuel flowing forward to the front of the car from the tank. The E36 3-Series BMWs have a semi-intelligent design when it comes to fuel flow. The fuel pump is located in the top of the tank, and pumps fuel out the top as well. Why is this good? Well, when you go to change the fuel filter, you can pull out the fuel pump relay, crank the car a few times, and be assured that fuel isn't going to flow everywhere if you make a mistake. Some cars have a gravity-fed system that takes fuel out of the bottom of the tank. With these systems, you have to disconnect the line, and clamp it very quickly, otherwise the entire tank of gas will empty out!

Next, pull out the fuse for the fuel pump (Figure 1), and crank the engine a few times. In general, this is fuse #9 on the E30 cars, and fuse #18 on the E36 cars - check your individual model first, prior to pulling the fuse. Removing this fuse and turning over the car will help to reduce some of the fuel in the system. Unfortunately, you can't get most of it out, and some will spill when you disconnect the fuel filter. In addition, the filter itself will be full of fuel too.

Now, crawl underneath the car. The fuel filter is generally in the same location for all of the cars - located on the left side of the car, somewhat underneath the engine (Figure 2, Figure 3, and Figure 4). Also see Figure 5 for a photo of what a brand new fuel filter should look like. You now want to disconnect the line. I typically like to clamp the fuel line before disconnecting it as this will minimize the amount of fuel that will leak out. However, you have to be very careful clamping the line, otherwise you may dam-

## Recent Tech Session Info

The July 15 session was hosted by Don McCandless at Merloy Racing in Albuquerque. Don graciously served as tour guide to 40+ attendees, showing us an amazing multi-building development and fabrication facility and explaining details on a new car that was under construction. For anyone interested in affordable racing, you may want to check out [www.merloy.com](http://www.merloy.com).



age it. A large c-clamp works well, or you can use Vice-Grips, but only if you cover the jaws with several layers of duct tape - this will minimize the amount of damage you will do to the line. It's okay to squeeze the line closed tight, but you don't want to score, rip, or crack it with your clamping tools.

With both the inlet and the outlet to the fuel filter clamped, release the hose clamps on either side. Have a small pail or bucket handy to catch the excess fuel when you release the line. Sometimes the line will slip off, but some times it will require some coaxing. I recommend using a small crescent wrench that fits nicely around the fuel pump inlet, but is too small to fit around the fuel line. Wedge the wrench against the filter housing, and you should be able to pry off any stubborn fuel line. If all else fails, and you simply cannot pull the line off of the filter, then make a small 1/4" cut along the length of the line and try again. Continue making cuts until you can remove the line. This will minimize the amount of line that you will have to cut in order to get the filter off.

When the line is released, expect quite a few ounces of gasoline to be coming your way. Be prepared (gloves, eye protection, paper towels, bucket, and a well-ventilated area). Take the filter out (it's held in with a hose clamp), put it in your bucket and take it, and any left over or spilled gasoline outside of your garage immediately. Let the garage sit empty for about 15-20 minutes before you re-enter - it will take about that long for the fumes to clear. Then, simply reattach the new filter in place of the old one. Tighten the clamps, being careful not to strip the clamps.

*Thanks to Pelican Parts for this article.*

**Redline**

## Mini MINI blurb

Many of you have noticed the construction project for the new MINI dealership. Sandía BMW owner Mike Houx sends along this information. The new MINI dealership is planned to open sometime in November 2004. They are planning a grand opening ceremony in January or February 2005. The MINI facility will be 10,000 square feet, including sales, parts, and service. As of this writing (September), the building structure is up, and the roof is being installed. Underground lifts are being installed, and the plumbing and electrical work is mostly finished. Sandía MINI will be among the largest exclusive MINI dealerships in the country. The total BMW/MINICertified Pre-Owned facilities ("campus") will be 61,000 square feet on six acres of land. If you are considering buying a MINI Cooper or Cooper S out of town, you may wish to wait just a bit longer and get it locally.

Jon van Arsdel

This article is the one in a series that will be released in conjunction with Wayne's upcoming book, **101 Projects for Your BMW 3-Series**, due out in December 2004. The book will be 256 pages of full color projects detailing everything from performance mods to timing the camshafts. With more than 350+ full-color glossy photos accompanying extensive step-by-step procedures, this book should be a staple in any 3-Series owner's collection.

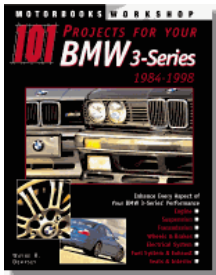


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

For larger pictures visit <http://www.pelicanparts.com/bmw/techarticles/E36-Fuel-Filter/E36-Fuel-Filter.htm>

## WELCOME TO THE CLUB

Fagerquist	Ed	7/ 7/ 04
Martinez	Dominic	7/ 9/ 04
Miller	Jim	7/ 12/ 04
Bunker	Gordon	7/ 13/ 04
Harwood	Kyle	7/ 20/ 04
Anderson	Dallas	7/ 22/ 04
Romero	Leo	7/ 23/ 04
Adams	Pete	7/ 27/ 04
Selander	Finn	8/ 16/ 04
Opadwala	Porus	8/ 17/ 04
Mather	Geoffrey	8/ 24/ 04
Suber	Kevin	9/ 7/ 04
Yoshimura	Richard	9/ 7/ 04
Wilburn	Dianne	9/ 14/ 04
Buldain	Paul	9/ 14/ 04
Cecchi	Joseph	9/ 14/ 04
Raducan	Morel	9/ 20/ 04

## Karl H Fox Memorial Tour Rescheduled

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, October 17 for the KHF annual Fall tour. Details are still in the works, so keep an eye on your email.



Jon presents Don McCandless with the bill for the pizza.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Porsche/BMW Challenge Results

Submitted by Doug Brosveen

This year's event represented our tenth consecutive year, and the first time we used the entire road course track at Sandia Motorsports Park. The course was one and seven tenths miles long and included all fourteen corners and a short slalom. Driving times were in the area of two minutes. We had a total of 31 drivers with 20 Porsches, 8 BMW's, a TR-6, Mini Cooper S, and Rick Rutledge's Large, Large, Large American Car. (He ended up within 5 seconds of my best time --- my nose is still out-of-joint).

The weather cooperated nicely and the limited number of cars allowed each driver to have up to six trips around the track and a total of five timed runs. The best times for individual drivers are as follows:

### Porsches

Joe Almers	1:47.70
Carl Eckelman	1:39.85
Pat Furr	1:52.51
Doug Brosveen	1:52.73
Jim Edison	1:56.94
Scott Wilburn	1:58.50
Don Vichick	1:45.36
Art Shanks	1:46.21
Randy Bartell	1:49.57
Sean Cridland	1:46.46
Bob Blackwell	1:47.78
Jeff Sweers	1:40.75
Paul Dodd	1:42.32
Kerry Brock	1:48.03
Howard Voges	1:54.75
Bill Oaks	1:44.79
Neil Alessio	1:40.55
Michael Galaviz	1:47.37
Russ Kelso	1:30.92
Bob Mccabe	1:52.10
Margret Griego	2:14.81

### BMW's

David Seybold	1:40.24
Eric Emberson	1:49.28
Peter Limone	1:49.82
Bill Schifani	1:50.10
Kevin Kerns	2:05.40
Mike Adair	1:53.38
Dianne Wilburn	2:08.63

### TR 6

Walter Hollowell	1:50.14
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### Mini Cooper

Michael Golden	1:52.99
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### Large, large, large American car

Rick Rutledge	1:57.31
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Fastest Porsches were Russ Kelso and Carl Eckelman.  
Fastest BMW's were David Seybold and Eric Emberson.  
The top ladies in each group were Margret Griego and Dianne Wilburn.

**Redline**

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER BMWCCA OKTOBERFEST**

October 1-3 in Winter Park, CO Show/Shine-Concours, Gymkhana, great food, fall Drive, fun and games. Details at [www.RMCBMWCCA.org](http://www.RMCBMWCCA.org). This will be a charity fund raising event to benefit the education and safety programs of the Colorado State Patrol Family Foundation. Info: [www.cspff.net/cspff\\_education.cfm](http://www.cspff.net/cspff_education.cfm)

**SHARKFEST WEST** is being held the weekend of October 15-17 at the Starsphere hotel and casino in Las Vegas, NV. This is an E24 event, and they'd love to have some cars from NM come up to join them. Sign up will be available at: [www.sharkfestwest.com](http://www.sharkfestwest.com).

**WALLACE BOW'S OPEN TRACK DAY** October 31 (scary costume optional) Gates open at 8:00 am. Entry fee is \$70, paid at the gate. Gates close at 9:00 (after that, you must find me or a track official to get in!) Bring your helmet, but leave your lead foot with the binary throttle control at home. Contact Wallace at [wallacebow@wallacebow.com](mailto:wallacebow@wallacebow.com).

More information on these and other events is available on the club's website calendar: [www.nmbmwcca.org](http://www.nmbmwcca.org).



Photos courtesy Steve Nowaczek

## 2004 Pacific Region Driving Schools

For those of you who may be interested in combining a little fun with your vacation this year, you may think about attending a driving school at another chapter.

Oct 9-10 Phoenix: Phoenix International-Roadrunner Chapter  
Oct 17 Seattle: Bremerton Raceway-Novice-Puget Sound  
Oct 23-24 Spokane Raceway Park-Inland Empire Chapter  
Oct 30 Portland: Portland International Raceway-Puget Sound  
Nov 6-7 Bay Area: Infineon-Golden Gate Chapter



Steve's never-ending quest for the latest and greatest accessories took him to the 5erFest in San Diego, where he found this really bitchin' roof fin.



The penalty box can be a cold and lonely place....



Overheard at the Tech Session: "So how accurate are those EPA ratings?"



It was hot, *really* hot, right before that big black cloud dumped on us.

## CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are free for NMBMWCCA Chapter members. Only BMW cars, parts, aftermarket add-ons will be published. All ads will run in one issue and will be removed unless a request is made to run the ad again. Member number must be included in all submissions. Please submit all ads to [editor@nmbmwcca.org](mailto:editor@nmbmwcca.org) / *subject:Classifieds*.

### Cars For Sale

#### 2003 BMW 540i M Sport

This is a premium condition 2003 BMW M Sport 540i, with only 11,513 miles. Last model year of the attractive E39 5-Series. Balance of 4 year/50K Factory Warranty. Non-smoker. FULLY LOADED. M Sport package includes M5 front spoiler, rear valance and side skirts, special BMW factory tailpipe and 18-inch M Parallel wheels. Sport, Premium, and Cold Weather packages. Retractable rear sunshades. Moonroof, Xenons, Premium Sound, in-dash CD AND CD changer, Dual Zone Climate Control, Heated Comfort Seats with all power adjustments plus lumbar. The Sterling Gray Metallic exterior with M Sport trim and Black Nappa Leather interior make a stunning combination. This is by far one of the most beautiful 540i's on the road. Pre-buy inspections are welcome. Please feel free to call Aaron with any questions- 505-379-2484 (Albuquerque).

#### 1994 325i

Blue with gray leather. 96k miles. 2 owner, AT, alloys, moonroof, trip computer, 6-disc changer, new tires. Locally serviced. \$9500. Call Chris Eagan 761-1900.

#### 1994 BMW 540i

BWM 540i, 113,300 miles - 16,000 on new short block; very nice vehicle - CD changer, traction control, sun roof, auto, air, leather -- everything works! navy blue body, light grey interior. call 888-1833 in Albuquerque.

### Parts For Sale

#### E46 M3 Wheels and Winter Tires

I have a set of 18" OEM M3 wheels ('02) and Dunlop M3 Winter Tires with less than 5k miles on them. The wheels have a little road rash, but are very serviceable. The tires look like new.

If you have tried driving your M3 (or any 3 series) in the snow, you know how useless the summer tires are. These winter tires give up little in overall feel, but add a lot in the snow.

I lost my M3 to an accident and these were my winter wheels and tires. As you know, these wheels are around \$600 each over the counter and the tires average right at \$200. A used \$3200 value for \$1350 OBO. Santa Fe.

Bruce Cunningham (505) 577-2132

**Sonic  
Bimmer Burger Night**



*Not a NMBMWCCA event.  
Everyone welcome.*

**Join fellow enthusiasts for  
Burgers and Chat!!  
3rd Sunday of every month  
4 - 6pm.**

**Sonic Drive In  
5000 San Mateo NE  
(between Montgomery and  
McLeod on the east side of San  
Mateo)  
Albuquerque, NM 87109.**

***You never call, you never write...***

As the Chapter continues to grow and evolve, some changes need to be made. With over 330 members plus associates, getting current information about upcoming events to members is crucial. The email list has about 200 addresses on it. Please send an email with your current email address to:

webmaster@nmbmwcca.org  
Subject: Email Address Update

I can make the changes as needed, but if you change internet providers or email addresses, please let the chapter know. This way our database stays as current as possible. Thanks.

Your NM Chapter Webmaster, Steve Nowaczek

The *Rio Grande Redline* is the official publication of the New Mexico Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America, Inc. (BMW CCA of NM), and is not in any way affiliated with the Bayerische Motoren Werke AB of North America, Inc. It is published quarterly, and provided by and for the members of the BMW CCA of NM. Unless otherwise stated, maintenance and modification procedures herein are not "factory approved", and their use may void your BMW warranty. Ideas and opinions are those of the writer, and the editors or publishers, who assume no liability for information contained herein, imply no authentication or approval. Articles submitted are subjected to editing. Only the BMW CCA and its chapters may reproduce these contents without permission in writing.

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