



# The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

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

## People are talking ...

### The E90 faces the competition

Andy Sencak

The floodgates have opened, and the E90 reviews are pouring out. We know you read *Roundel*, and you really should be reading *Bimmer* if you're a Bimmerhead. Well now the big boys are stepping up with their reviews, and even a comparison of \$35k sport sedans.

Some of the mainstream mags have been complaining that the E46 was getting a little long in the tooth, and that the competition is starting to breathe up its tailpipe. As the most important model in BMW's stable, it's essential to stay ahead of the competition.

Well, after *Road&Track's* First Drive article gave the E90 a thumbs up statement "The benchmark just got raised," the August edition of *R&T* has given the E90 its blessing with a more in-depth review, stating, "We may miss the sensational steering feel of the E36...but that's really about it." They praised the improved handling and ride with the new suspension, and the quieter, more powerful N52 engine and reduced cabin noise.



Interestingly, *Bimmer* thought "the N52 actually sounds a bit cooler than its counterpart from M (the S52), with a deep, aggressive growl that is quite unlike anything you've ever

heard from a stock BMW engine. They also had high praise for the handling prowess of the E90 in the May issue.

Most interesting in my mind was the *Car and Driver* comparison in the October issue, pitting the E90 against some of the best from Germany, Japan, Sweden, and the good old U S of A. Some of the recent darlings have slipped a few steps down the ladder, and the heavy-hitting newcomers have met their match with the E90, calling it "the preferred running shoes for runners." Whatever. The editors gave thumbs up to the car's "BMW-ness" and lack of iDrive, but thumbs down to the interior design and electrical problems they experienced.

It seems BMW will maintain its supremacy in the sport sedan market.

## UNDER THE HOOD

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

## **Behind the Wheel**

Fall is here, and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta should be in full swing by the time you read this. The Fiesta usually swells the population in Albuquerque by a couple hundred thousand. It should be interesting to see if attendance remains the same as past years, in light of current fuel costs.

Speaking of petroleum, I am now paying well over \$3.00 per gallon of premium gasoline as I write this (late September). I am not normally one to stand on the soapbox very much, but this is starting to affect my budget greatly. All of us who enjoy cars are starting to feel the pinch. I have fleetingly looked at hybrids and other ultra-frugal cars, but these are just not designed for the enthusiast. All seem to have skinny tires, sloppy handling, and automatic transmissions. Not in my garage!

This past quarter our chapter had two membership meetings and the BMW/Porsche Challenge. All events were well attended.

During the coming quarter, the chapter is planning a tour and two tech sessions. We will have completed the annual Karl H. Fox Memorial Fall Tour a couple days before you receive this newsletter. We are hoping for great weather and magnificent colors in the mountains. Thank you to Andy Rutkiewicz for being the Tourmeister and setting up a magnificent route.

In November, we are planning a tech session at Southwest Collision Craftsmen. Owner and master craftsman Manny Córdova will be presenting a topic of interest to all BMW owners.

In December, we are planning another tech session, this time at Sandía BMW. Service Manager Jim Johnson is planning to give a presentation on "buying a used BMW". This should be interesting to any of us who are enthusiasts (and who of us isn't? -ed).

The New México chapter of the BMW CCA is always looking for event leaders, and also officers for the board of directors. If you are interested, please notify someone on the current BoD.

As always, watch your email for changes and updates to the events. You can also check <http://www.nmbmwcca.org/> for additional information.

On a personal note, I am currently in the throes of a major career change. My previous job with the FAA has now been privatized. I have taken a job within the technical support division of the agency. This will require massive retraining on my part, so I will be traveling a lot more over the next several months. For this reason, other members of the Board of Directors will pick up many of my normal duties for a while. Thank you for your understanding.

I hope to see each of you soon!

**Jon van Arsdel**  
President

**Redline**

| WELCOME TO THE CLUB |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| T. Crevenna         | '99 M Coupe       |
| Thomas Duncan       | '05 X5, '06 325i  |
| Susan Grab          | '87 325, '01 325i |
| Robbie Griffith     | '91 325ix         |
| Michael Harris      | '06 330i          |
| Jeff Jackson        | '02 X5            |
| Steven Lee          | '01 E46, '87 E30  |
| Angelica Rigales    | '95 325i          |
| Gene Sais           | '04 530i          |
| Paul Seby           | '72 3.0 CSI       |
| David Shoemaker     | '06 330i          |
| Robert Smead        | '87 325es         |
| Doug Velhagen       |                   |
| Betty Wollmann      |                   |

## **Back Seat Driving**

### **Go Out and Spread the Word**

What's a club about? Is it about the card game if you're in a bridge club, or beverages in a beer club? Or even the marques we revere in a car club? No, it's about the people. Sure, the drives are great, but you can go out for a drive anywhere, anytime, with anyone you want. You can go out to a restaurant and eat without belonging to a club. You don't need to be a member of a club to go to an open track day. And there are plenty of auto-centric magazines out there vying for your attention. It's the people that make it the club.

If you're not coming to the meetings, you're missing out on the essence of BMW CCA. If you are, good for you. But in order to keep this club interesting and viable, we need to bring in more people who share our passion for the focus of this organization. More potential friends. New blood. New ideas. Without it we will stagnate, and eventually wither away.

It's your club. I encourage you to get involved, as little or as much as you want. You can just show up for the general meetings and socialize and to the tech sessions to learn something new, or you can help shape and grow the club by forming a committee or serving as an officer. We hold elections every spring, and the positions are open to anyone with an interest. You don't need to be an "insider", you just need to garner enough votes to get elected. Try it, you may like it.

Which brings me back to the subject at hand - membership. BMW CCA is holding a membership drive. You can read about it elsewhere in this issue. If you enjoy the club, spread the word. It can only get better with more of us to enjoy it.

*Andy Sencak*

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ACCELERATES

The BMW CCA Membership Drive is from September 1, 2005 to July 15, 2006.

This membership drive is open to three categories of participants:

1. current BMW CCA members,
2. current BMW CCA members who work for a BMW dealer or independent BMW shop, and
3. BMW CCA chapters.

To be eligible, BMW CCA members must be paid members; (that is, they may not be members by virtue of being "comped" by BMW CCA or a BMW CCA chapter).

The program differentiates between BMW CCA members who work at BMW dealers or independent shops and those who don't. This reason is that those who work at places where BMWs are sold, serviced, or repaired are assumed to have a much greater opportunity to meet BMW owners who may not already be members of BMW CCA. While all BMW CCA members have equal opportunities to receive the membership extension reward, they will only be competing against other members in their own category for the additional prize drawings and grand prizes.

There are three reward categories of this incentive program that correspond to the three categories of participants:

1. rewards for current BMW CCA members who refer new members;
2. rewards for BMW dealer or independent BMW shop employees who refer new members; and
3. rewards for chapters that achieve a designated level of new member activity.

In addition to ongoing incentive rewards for each member referred, BMW CCA members who refer new members, and BMW CCA members who are employed by BMW dealers or independent BMW shops and who refer new members will be eligible for drawings for a variety of additional prizes at the end of the membership drive. These drawings will take place at Oktoberfest 2006. Winners need not be present at Oktoberfest to win. The prize list will be published on the web site as prizes are added.

## Tech Tips

### Playing in the Mud

Well, not exactly mud, but clay. If your baby is a few years old, you've probably even thought about it yourself. That smooth-as-a-baby's-butt finish has become more like a five o'clock shadow. Even a freshly washed and waxed car can feel a little like your mouth the morning after you've had a few too many. The claying process is kind of like brushing your teeth, only it lasts longer. There are products out there from Meguiar's, Mothers, Clay Magic and others.

The first step is to wash and dry the car *well*. By now you know to use an automotive shampoo, NOT dishwashing detergent. And if you've got soft water, use it. You won't believe the difference it makes, especially on your glass.

Next, you *must* spray a clay lubricant on two or three feet of the surface; don't try to use water or you'll damage your paint. Using light pressure and overlapping strokes, rub the clay over the lubricated section of the car. You'll actually hear and feel the grit being removed. And don't skim on the lubricant, especially on the horizontal surfaces where most of the contaminants have taken up residence. After you've felt the area smooth out, thoroughly wipe it down with a clean, dry, soft terry towel. Depending on the condition of your paint, you can expect to spend an hour or more on this process.

Finally, the *coup de grâce*. Finish it off with a coat of high quality wax and you're ready for the show.

*Andy Sencak*

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## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**October 8-9** Peachtree Chapter Driving School at Road Atlanta. Contact Chuck Taylor for information regarding the driving school [chuck@peachtreebmwcca.org](mailto:chuck@peachtreebmwcca.org)

**October 15** - For our members in the southern part of the state, Los Leones de Mesilla is hosting its Second Annual Car Show in conjunction with the town of Mesilla. Contact Greg Lennes at 505-522-5523 for info.

**October 22** - Our neighbors to the north are holding their Fall Performance Driving School which will give you the opportunity to drive your car at speed and to experience more of the potential of the unique combination of car and driver. You will learn to drive this track smoothly and safely. This is NOT a racing school. Anyone 18 and older with a valid driver's license may attend. Darlene Doran; 303 758-4200

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

# **Redline**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2 Sunday 9am. The Annual Karl H. Fox Memorial Fall Tour. A beautiful drive through the northern NM mountains, and a tribute to Karl, whose memory lives on in our chapter. Andy Rutkiewicz will be tourmeister. Meet in Tijeras at Molly's on Hwy. 14.

October 7-9: ! Friday thru Sunday. Silver City Tour redux. Last year's participants complained of sore forearms and motion sick passengers due to the twisty roads. Sounds like Nirvana for a true Bimmerphile.

November 17 Thursday 6pm. Tech session with the irrepressible Manny Córdova at Southwest Collision Craftsmen, 3401 Claremont NE in Albuquerque.

December 8 Thursday 6pm. Jim Johnson's Tech Session at Sandía BMW in Albuquerque.

January 19 Thursday 6pm / General meeting at a location TBA.

February Tech Session, date and location TBA



Nowaczek

Now *this* is what a BMW was made for!

## Silver City "Blast from the Past" October 7-9

*From the ancient fires of the "Dwellings" to the echoed gunshots round the Pinos Altos Historic District*

On October 7-9 2005 the combined chapters of the Sonora and New Mexico chapters of BMW CCA will be touring the charming hills of Silver City. This event in past years has been THE tour not to miss. Home base will be the Holiday Inn Express.

Our group will have an informal arrival on Friday with official tour activities beginning at 10:00am on Saturday morning. From the "Express" we will head out for the Gila Cliff Dwellings on a great and winding road north of Silver City, through historic district of Pinos Altos and along a route of some forty miles of great views and winding roads to challenge our "Ultimate Driving Machines".

We will tour the ancient Gila Cliff Dwellings, so bring your camera and comfortable walking shoes. The group will then return to Silver City and get prepared for an evening in Pinos Altos with dinner at the Buckhorn Saloon and Opera House. This historic district was once the hang out of Billy the Kid and other famous desperados of the wild west.

Sunday morning we will gather at Diane's in the old town district of Silver City for a delicious breakfast. Then you can venture up to the "Catwalks" toward Glenwood or just head home for an early afternoon arrival. In past years, this event has proven to be fun and great touring, with good food and lots of club camaraderie. Don't be surprised by an early snow storm, the echo of gunshots or a wisp of smoke from ancient Indian campfires. The charm of the old district in Silver and the slower pace may be too inviting...be aware that you will want to return.

Contact Larry Peth at [mirpeth@hotmail.com](mailto:mirpeth@hotmail.com) for more information.

Larry Peth  
Sonora Chapter

## Hurricane Relief Just a Click Away

We've all heard of and seen the devastation of the one-two punches from Katrina and Rita. It is tough to view the carnage, even on the small box, and not be moved to help those less fortunate than ourselves in this time of tragedy. Forget about the political finger-pointing, there are a lot of good organizations out there working hard to help, but they need support.

The BMW CCA Foundation is providing the means to take donations for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. You can donate to the charity of your choice via credit card in any amount: <http://www.bmwccafoundation.org>.



Nowaczek

Steve's ready with his flyswatter the next time that pesky Turbo Beetle bothers him...

# Redline



## ***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*. Ads may be edited due to space limitations.

### **BMW's FOR SALE**

2002 540i: superb condition; 6-spd manual w/sport package; 41k mi; includes all BMW options plus Sirius; titanium silver/grey leather; extended maintenance; extended warranty available; \$40,000 (originally \$66,000).  
bdthome@msn.com or 505-662-4688 William (Buck) Thompson Los Alamos

2002 525i auto, premium and nav package black/stone, 36k miles, asking \$28000 Mike DiMonaco 505-821-7277 / 505-239-5719 cell

2002 X5 4.4i Sport, Prem, Cold packages, 19in. wheels, Black w/Sand leather. Showroom condition, 22k. miles. None nicer. Original owner. \$57k. sticker. \$36,900. 505-301-6800 Dave Murphy

2001 M3 Convert, 12,900mi., titanium grey/leather 6-speed, NAV, cold pkg, tel, xenon, HK sound, 6CD, Noah cover, wind shield. No rain/snow, heated garage, BMW battery minder. 2004 NMBMWCCA clean car award. \$43,500 OBO. Bill Jensen 505-758-7451.

2000 M5 WBXDE9343YBZ95467 Carbon black on black, 29,300 miles, fully loaded with navigation, heated seats, new Michelins. Second owner, certified pre-owned John Rowley 505-663-5592 jrowley@lanl.gov

1999 323i automatic. Beautiful condition. White/camel Premium package, leather, sunroof, 80K miles. \$15,700 (KBB private party value) Mike Hall 505-466-0877 or ngoldeheart@netscape.net

1998 M-Roadster, red, less than 20K mi, hard top, warranty, extras, excellent condition, \$23,900. 341-3605 John

1988 325 2 door, white with grey interior. New front end and shocks all around. AC works well. Alpine radio. New trans, new tires. Ding on right tail light. \$3500. Tom 505-539-2109

1986 535i, 195,300 miles, Blue exterior, tan interior, very clean, dealer serviced, all power equip, sunroof, car is currently licensed in NM with current emissions sticker, asking \$2500, call Bruce 505-217-9231 or 715-3842.

1985 M635CSi, VIN WBAAE3106010450, official EPA and DOT certificates on this gray-market classic with 68,000+ miles; third owner. Bronzit paint and tan buffalo leather seats. Engine completely rebuilt in January 1999 at 40,000 miles by J&F, the best BMW shop in Virginia. Added Fahey crankshaft nut lock, dual valve springs, and Autotronics specially tailored performance chip (for that 2800-3500 rpm slump). Refitted with 16-inch wheels and P225/55 R-16 Yokohama AVID V4 tires and complete repaint since relocating the car to Albuquerque in 1999. Ten years of records and original three-piece BBS wheels and mounted but worn Michelin TRX tires. This is NOT a beginner's BMW. Asking price \$20,000. Phone Roger @ 332-9273.

### **PARTS FOR SALE**

Near-new set of 17" performance snows and Fox Sport Edition 6 wheels from Tire Rack for an E36 M3.  
Mike Seligson mseligson1@comcast.net

Z3 Parts - Z3 Rubber Floor Mats (left and right side) in original plastic wrap-\$35. Mesh Windblocker (for roll hoop-equipped roadsters)-\$75. Z Pack from Z3 Solutions (storage unit attaches to roll hoops and hangs between front seats - removable back pack)-\$40. Bentley Z3 Roadster Service Manual for 4-Cylinder & 6-Cylinder 1996, 1997, & 1998 (Paperback) Like New-\$35. Complete sets of Roundel from May of 1982 to current issue and BMW sales brochures for various models beginning with the 320i. For more info call Joe McKinney 505.242.4209 Home 505.263.8646 Cell

### **PARTS WANTED**

Running & reliable engine for 1976 '02. Christopher Quinn icqcq@yahoo.com

## UPDATE YOUR INFO ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE

The new site is up and running, and has many more features than the old site. You may want to make sure all your info is current, especially if you've recently moved or changed your email address. Go to [www.bmwcca.org](http://www.bmwcca.org) and log in using your membership number as your user name, and your password is the first three letters of your last name plus your five-digit zip code. In the Members Only section you can access and change your membership information by clicking on the Edit button. Double check your new info - you don't want your *Roundel* ending up in someone else's mailbox, do you?

### *Stay up to date...*

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 300 addresses on it. Please send an email with your current email address to:

[webmaster@nmbmwcca.org](mailto: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.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

|   |                  |  |
|---|------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>                                | Jon van Arsdel   | <a href="mailto:president@nmbmwcca.org">president@nmbmwcca.org</a><br>(505) 867-4135         |
| <b>Vice President</b>                           | Skip Johansen    | <a href="mailto:vicepresident@nmbmwcca.org">vicepresident@nmbmwcca.org</a><br>(505) 256-3371 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                                | David Penasa     | <a href="mailto:treasurer@nmbmwcca.org">treasurer@nmbmwcca.org</a><br>(505) 275-2480         |
| <b>Secretary</b>                                | Bob Kauffman     | <a href="mailto:secretary@nmbmwcca.org">secretary@nmbmwcca.org</a><br>(505) 710-9083         |
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b>                        | Andy Sencak      | <a href="mailto:editor@nmbmwcca.org">editor@nmbmwcca.org</a><br>(505) 346-3992               |
| <b>Webmaster and Driving Events Coordinator</b> | Steve Nowaczek   | <a href="mailto:webmaster@nmbmwcca.org">webmaster@nmbmwcca.org</a><br>(505) 249-8718         |
| <b>Dealer Liaison</b>                           | Andy Rutkiewicz  | <a href="mailto:rutkieaf@spinn.net">rutkieaf@spinn.net</a><br>(505) 281-7820                 |
| <b>Sandia Motorsports Park Liaison</b>          | Bill Swope       | (505) 345-4565   |
| <b>Tech Advisor</b>                             | Jim Johnson      | (505) 884-0066   |
| <b>Chapter Contact</b>                          | Skip Johansen    | (505) 256-3371   |
| <b>Colorado Liaisons And Tourmeisters</b>       | Tom & Donna Berg | (505) 455-2380   |
| <b>SCCA Liaison</b>                             | Chuck DeMoulin   | (505) 889-9735   |
| <b>South Central Vice President</b>             | Fred Iacino      | <a href="mailto:ccredit@qwest.net">ccredit@qwest.net</a>                                     |

PO Box 81044, Albuquerque, NM 87198-1044 / [www.nmbmwcca.org](http://www.nmbmwcca.org)

