



# The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

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

## BMW Unveils New Z4 Coupe

By Andy Sencak Photos courtesy BMW NA

Ok, so maybe it's not the freshest news, but as an owner of an M Coupe, I'm pretty excited. Not that I'm about to trade mine in for a newer model (for a while anyway) but there's been a hole in the lineup without a two-seat coupe.

The styling is a bit sleeker than the Z3 Coupe, so it's probably less likely to be compared to a Gremlin, as I've heard mine. I've never let the opinion of a Cretin bother me much. I thought about inviting him to race his Ford pick-em-up against my Gremlin, then I thought better of that idea. I guess *Easy Rider* left an impression on me. But I digress.



The base Coupe will be powered by the 255 hp 3.0 magnesium/aluminum inline 6. There's also word that the Coupe will be offered in an M version, which as you know has never made the lineup in the Z4 roadster. The M will carry the 3.2 liter S54 engine, pumped up to 343 hp, which

will make it quite a bit more powerful than the Porsche Cayman. You can bet there will be comparison tests in the automotive media. I'll be putting in my requests for test vehicles straight away.



I've always felt a sporting car should have a real roof, and I've never been fond of the styling on the Z4 (it just looks a little dismembered to me), so I'm doubly glad to see the new Coupe.



Unfortunately, we won't get to see the new Coupe in the steel until June. The M Coupe should bow about the same time as the 3.0 liter "standard" Coupe. Prices are speculated to be \$35k and \$45k. Sandia BMW may have more information by the time you read this.

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

## **Behind the Wheel**

This will probably be the shortest President's Message I have ever written. As many of you know, I have been gone to Oklahoma City for major career retraining nearly the entire period from October through December. So I have been unable to attend any of the BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter events.

I am now back in Albuquerque (late December). I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the Board of Directors (Skip, David, Bob, Steve, and Andy) for helping with the additional workload during my absence.

The fall tour and the tech sessions were top notch. Thank you to all members who attended.

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.

I hope to see each of you soon!

*Jon van Arsdel*



Catching a little fresh air on the Karl H. Fox Memorial Tour 2005.

# **Redline**

## WELCOME TO THE CLUB

Gary & Erlinda Apodaca	'06 530i
Eddie & Pam Bell	
Erika Carrara	
James Harrison	'04 M3, '89 325i
Kevin Powers	'03 745 li, '05 X4
John Rigatti	'05 M3
William Simpson	'06 325i
Jim Witt	
L. Vince Yegge	'03 745i

## **Back Seat Driving**

### *Tech Session Bonanza*

As has become customary, we held our November tech session at Southwest Collision Craftsmen, hosted by Manny Cordova, and the December session was hosted by Jim Johnson at Sandia BMW. Thanks to both gentlemen for their longtime service to the club. Manny provided dessert and door prizes in November, and Sandia BMW and BMW NA came through with door prizes for the December session.

Manny may soon need to build a new wall to display his plaques, and Jim may have given up. Jim will be moving from overseeing Bimmer service to managing Beemer sales at Sandia's new motorcycle dealership. On a related note, don't forget your parts discount at Sandia as a club member.

David Penasa has been hard at work lining up more tech sessions, including the January session at Lobo Motorsports. We will meet at 6:00 in the 2nd floor lounge in the Mechanical Engineering Building (#122), near the NE corner of University and Central. Steve has posted a link to a campus map on the chapter Website. The closest parking is on Redondo Drive (the loop drive around the inside of campus), or on the other side of University Blvd in the large parking lot immediately north of UNM Parking Services, Bldg #125. After we eat, the UNM student project team will give us a presentation and a tour of their automotive engineering lab/machine shop, including projects from the last couple of year. This is the first chapter event hosted by UNM's Engineering Department, so come out and see what they have to offer!

It looks like David has also landed Chet's Alignment for the February meeting. That's why we pay him the big bucks. We'll send out postcards when we get the details finalized.

Don't forget, the CCA membership drive is still under way. See last month's *Redline* for info.

*Andy Sencak with info from Steve Nowaczek and David Penasa*

## When Good Parts Go Bad

Our tech session on December 8, held at Sandia BMW, started off with a demonstration by Peter Limones of some failed parts and a discussion of some of the recent technological features finding their way on to new BMWs. One of the interesting items is the electronic thermostat. And of course there was a discussion on the pros and cons of run-flat tires.

Our tech advisor, Jim Johnson, then covered some general issues before diving into his main topic for the evening. Jim touched on the fuel issue again (ethanol bad, Top Tier good) and warned everyone to keep their air pressure over 30 pounds. Low profile tires and low air pressure can spell disaster for rims. Remember, colder air temperatures will decrease a tire's air pressure.

Jim presented a lot of points to look at when buying a previously owned BMW. This is an important enough topic that I felt it would be beneficial to recap his presentation for those members who can't make the drive to Albuquerque from the far reaches of the state. Before I get into that, we do need to thank BMW NA and Sandia BMW for the bounty of door prizes. And now, on to the good stuff:

1. Check for wreck damage—cracked and/or bent panels and parts, shock towers punched upward with the bolts pointing in different directions.
2. Look at the tires, not just for uneven wear, but make sure they're the proper size.
3. Check under the front bumper for missing or damaged panels.
4. Look for a power steering line leak.
5. Check for a coolant leak at the radiator base.
6. Check the rubber suspension bushings for cracks.
7. Check the tie rod ends. Have someone turn the steering wheel and see if the tire moves. If there's a lot of slop, you've got worn ends.
8. Drive the car and check for steering wheel shake, and thumping while braking.

9. Look for rust. Body rust isn't the issue it once was, especially in the Southwest, but look for rusty bolts and brake lines.
10. Open the oil filler cap and make sure there isn't a lot of sludge under the cap and on the valvetrain.
11. Check the VIN tags on the fenders. Of course they should match the VIN on the dash, but they shouldn't be painted.
12. Make sure the air conditioning works. A retrofit from R12 to R34 could be a red flag.
13. The radiators tend to break at the upper mount. Make sure the hose isn't clamped all the way at the end—it could be a tipoff.
14. Make sure the battery is vented outside the car, and check for corrosion underneath.
15. Look for the BMW logo on the windshield.
16. Body seams should be straight and tight.
17. Look for cracked paint, especially on plastic bumpers.
18. Start the car when it's cold, and listen for squeaky belts and noisy lifters.
19. Look at the alternator light when you start the car; it should be bright and go out right after the engine fires up.
20. Also check the oil light; it should also go out shortly after the engine is running.
21. Breather/ventilation system: On a V8, try to open the oil filler cap while the engine is running. A bad breather will create big suction. On the I-6, you'll hear a "honking" noise while the engine is running.

The easy way to do it if you're not comfortable with your mechanical savvy, is to take it to Sandia and have them do an inspection. For less than \$100, it will be money well spent.

I've attempted to cover the important points, but obviously I can't cover the entire two hour session on this one page. Although Jim will be moving from the service area to manage the new motorcycle dealership, he is still serving as our technical advisor, and is a very approachable guy. I'm sure he'll still be willing to answer your technical questions.

*Andy Sencak*



## On the Docket

**January 19** Thursday 6pm. Tech Session. Lobo Motorsports, at the Mechanical Engineering Building on the UNM campus.

**February** Tech Session (tentative), Chet's Alignment date and time TBA.

**March 9** Thursday 6pm. General meeting. Date and location TBA.

**April 2** Sunday all day. Spring Tour. Date TBA.

**April 30** Clean Car Show and election. Time and location TBA.

**June** Tech Session. Santa Fe BMW. Date TBA.



Getting' straight at Manny's

### Open track days just not enough of a rush?

Maybe you should check out the club racing scene. You've undoubtedly heard of SCCA racing, and maybe seen the occasional coverage on the Speed Channel. If you look toward the end of your *Roundel*, you'll notice information about the BMWCCA club races held around the country. If you'd like to find out more about the club racing program, go to [www.bmwccaclubracing.com](http://www.bmwccaclubracing.com). They've got great info on how to get started.

Skip, not realizing the pizza is free, tries to sneak a slice while Manny is looking away.



Treasurer David Penasa presents Jim Johnson with his 39th (or so) plaque thanking him for his contribution to the club meetings, at the December tech session at Sandia BMW.

Penasa



The scenery on the KHF tour was spectacular, but the roads were sometimes a little iffy.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**January 21** Rocky Mountain Chapter Annual Ice Gymkhana. This event provides you the chance to learn and refine winter driving techniques. We will set up a winter skid pad, which will let you test the limits of your vehicle and allow you to remain in control. Contact Darlene Doran at 303 758-4200.

**March 23-26** Gateway Tech 25th Anniversary. Gateway Tech returns to St. Louis of a 25th anniversary blow-out at the St. Charles, MO Convention Center. Host Hotel - Embassy Suites, St. Charles. Watch Roundel for details.

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

## ***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**

2001 M3 Convertible, 13,700 miles, titanium/gray leather, 6-speed, navigation, cold, telephone, Xeon, HK, 6CD, cover, wind blocker. No snow, heated garage. \$43,500 OBO. Bill Jensen 505 -758-7451.

2001 325i, white automatic, 68,500 miles, clean, one owner, all maintenance records. \$16,300. Las Cruces. 505-522-2624 Vern Risser

2000 Roadster Imola Blue, ISR3. Was a concept car by Dinan, only 5 built has mechanics signature plate. "Everything Dinan has to offer is on this car." Moving and building necessitates sale. Only 39,545 miles, BMW serviced. You're stealing it at \$55,000. Contact David Seybold at 505-753-5414 or e-mail at [fastfossil@cybermesa.com](mailto:fastfossil@cybermesa.com).

1995 540i 91K mi, rare 6-spd w/M-Technic sport package, oxford green w/tan leather, burlled walnut trim, built-in radar, air bags, abs, traction control, tint, p/ heated seats w/ driver memory, p/heated door locks and ext mirrors, p/sunroof, cruise, new Yokohama AVS Db 2 tires, all records and Bentley manual, completely stock, Excellent condition, Very fast, \$11,900 OBO. Renzo at 505-243-7166.

Rare 1985 M635CSi, VIN WBAEE3106010450; official EPA and DOT certificates on this gray-market classic with 68000+ 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. Has 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 with mounted but worn Michelin TRX tires. This is NOT a beginner's BMW. Asking price \$16,500. Serious about a fun car? Phone Roger @ 505-332-9273.

### **PARTS FOR SALE**

Continental tires. Set of seven OEM style, size 205/55 HR 16. One has never been on the road, the other six have over one-half tread. Stored in plastic bags. I need to get them out of the garage. \$70 for all five. Jon van Arsdel 505-867-4135 home.



The ever-entertaining Manny Cordova pontificates at the November tech session held at his shop, Southwest Collision Craftsmen, during the November tech session.



Them NASCAR boys with their checkered flags ain't got nothin' on Steve!

## 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? And don't forget to send your new email address to Steve Nowaczek at [webmaster@nmbmwcca.org](mailto:webmaster@nmbmwcca.org) with "Email Address Update" in the subject line.

### *Don't forget to vote...*

The South Central Vice President position will be on the ballot. Our current VP, Fred Iacino, will be running for reelection, and J. R. Schneider will be running for the same position, so your vote will make a difference. Details will be in the January issue of *Roundel*. When your issue arrives, **do not throw your mailing label away**. You will need it to vote. Besides the VP position, you will also be voting on a proposed by-law change. Do your civic duty and vote. You don't even have to go out to the polls.

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