



The Rio Grande Redline



BMW CCA New Mexico Chapter

www.nmbmwcca.org

BMW VIN Shopping Tips:

Know Your VIN & Get Exactly The Right BMW Repair Parts Every Time

This article taken from the www.autohausz.com website reveals the wealth of information contained in the that laboriously long identification number associated with almost every vehicle on the road today

Vehicle identification numbers (also called VINs) are critical pieces of information for identifying the exact BMW you have and the engine that was put into it when it was built. A car's vehicle identification number (VIN) is the automotive equivalent of human DNA.

History of the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

In the mid 1950s, American automobile manufacturers began stamping and casting identifying numbers on cars and their parts. The obvious purpose was to give an accurate description of the vehicle as mass production numbers were starting to climb to very significant numbers. Research has shown that early VINs came in all sorts of variations, depending on the car manufacturer.

In the early 1980s, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began requiring that all road vehicles contain a 17-character VIN. This established the fixed VIN system for major vehicle manufacturers as it is known today and thus, created a unique "DNA" style number for each unique vehicle that rolled off the assembly line.

The Vehicle Identification Number was "officially" described in ISO Standard 3779 in February 1977 and last revised in 1983.

Explanation of Unique Identifiers Within Your BMW's VIN

Vehicle identification numbers are standardized - all contain 17 characters. VIN characters may be capital letters A through Z and numbers 1 through 0; however, the letters I, O and Q are never used in order to avoid mistakes of misreading. No signs or spaces are allowed in the VIN.

The position of each letter or number in the VIN code reveals important information about where and when your BMW was made, the type of engine it has, the model or series of the car, various equipment/attributes and its production sequence. Each character or digit has a particular purpose as follows:

1st Character: The 1st character of your BMW's vehicle identification number identifies the country where it was manufactured.

2nd Character: The 2nd character in your BMW's VIN specifies the manufacturer.

3rd Character: The 3rd character in your BMW's vehicle identification number indicates the vehicle type or manufacturing division. This varies among car makes and models.

Continued on Page 3 **VIN**

VIN Character 1 - Manufacturing Country Codes

2	3	J	K	S	W	Z
Canada	Mexico	Japan	Korea	England	Germany	Italy

VIN Character 2 - Car Manufacturer Codes

B	H	A	D	N	T	V	V
BMW	Honda	Jaguar	Mercedes	Nissan	Toyota	Volvo	VW

UNDER THE HOOD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2	ON THE DOCKET	5
NEW MEMBERS	3	CLASSIFIEDS	5
VIN NUMBERS	1	WEB LINKS	6
TECH TALK	5	OFFICERS AND CONTACTS	6

Remember to check our web site for periodic updates: www.nmbmwcca.org

President's Message

by Jon van Arsdel
Oct 2008

Fall is here, and so far, it has been absolutely delightful; not too hot, not too cold, not too rainy, not too windy, etc. I am hoping this great weather will continue for our upcoming fall tour.

Tech tip #345: now is a good time to check your antifreeze protection in advance of winter. Also, if you have an M50, M52, or M54 engine, you may wish to replace your water pump and thermostat preventatively at 60,000 mile intervals.

This past quarter, we had two membership meetings and the BMW/Porsche Challenge.

The membership meetings (and dinners) were on July 17 and September 25. we had a good turnout at both. People came out to socialize, and talk about things BMW and automotive.

The BMW/Porsche Challenge was on August 31, at Sandia Motorsports track west of Albuquerque. It was a rainy, cool, and cloudy Sunday, but a few brave souls brought out their BMWs for some actual track time.

Upcoming events include the fall tour, a membership meeting, and a tech session.

The Annual Karl H. Fox Memorial Fall Tour will be on Sunday, October 12, 2008. This year's tourmeister will be Jon van Arsdel (i.e. me). The purpose of the tour is to see the splendor of the fall colors in the New Mexico mountains. As I write this, the time and route are not yet set in stone, but we will explore scenic areas in the Jemez Mountains. We will have photo opportunities, and convertibles are encouraged. Please bring a jacket, since we will be crossing some very high terrain. As in years past, this is mostly a fair-weather event. We are trying to make this a "fuel-friendly event", so the route will not be too long.

Our next chapter membership meeting will be on Thursday, November 13. Watch our website for details.

The December 16th tech session will be at The Tint and Trim Factory. This proved to be a very popular event a few years ago. Shawn Windecker and his

crew will demonstrate window tinting and clear front-end protection.

Our normal tech sessions for November and December have been moved. The Sandia BMW tech session is now scheduled for January 2009, and the Southwest Collision Craftsmen tech session is scheduled for February. More details will be available as these events get closer.

As is our normal custom, food is included in club events.

Tech tip #346: Top Tier gasoline will reduce fuel-injection system problems. It is BMW recommended. See www.toptiergas.com.

At the September 25th meeting, the membership voted to move officer elections from December 2008 to January 2009. This will make the elections continue to coincide with the Sandia tech session.

Steve Nowaczek was badly injured in an accident last spring, and broke his leg in eight places. He continues to make great progress, and is now even working part time. Please continue to keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Tech tip #347: driving style can reduce fuel consumption by 30% or more. Start and stop driving can increase consumption dramatically. We need more traffic signals to be synchronized; this could really reduce our fuel use.

The New Mexico 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 www.nmbmwcca.org for additional information.

I hope to see each of you soon!

Jon van Arsdel
el Presidente
BMW CCA of NM

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NMBMWCCA.ORG

Back Seat Driving

If any of you ever find a worthwhile or interesting BMW or auto-enthusiast related article while you are surfing the web, please take a moment to send a link to me. We are always on the lookout for material to include in our next issue. Your participation will help ensure this remains your newsletter! I look forward to hearing from you.

Bill Kurey

editor@nmbmwcca.org

VIN—Continued From Front Page

4th - 8th Character: The 4th through 8th characters in your BMW's VIN reveals its features/attributes, such as body style, engine type, model, series, etc. Again, this varies widely among car makes, models and equipment.

9th Character: The 9th character in your BMW's vehicle identification number is a VIN accuracy check digit, verifying the previous numbers within the VIN. This check digit is a single number or letter "X" used to verify the accuracy of the transcription of the vehicle identification number.

There is a precise method for obtaining the check digit; however, it is not relevant to our discussion here. Suffice to say that after all other characters in the VIN have been determined by the manufacturer, the check digit is calculated by carrying out a mathematical computation. The correct numeric remainder - zero through nine (0-9) will appear. However, if the remainder is 10 the letter "X" is used to designate the check digit value.

10th Character: The 10th character in your BMW's VIN tells you the model year. (This varies somewhat among car manufacturers - see the list in the "Here's How to Find Your Car's VIN" section below for specific locations by car make.)

Welcome New Members!!

Alan Berry	318i	1991
Thomas Kwan	335i	2008
Frederick Leonhardt	328Ci	2000
Ronald Ross	635CSi	1988
Howard Rubin	335xi	2008
Ben Sherman	328 - M3	1997

Here's How to Find Your BMW's VIN

The table below will help you locate your BMW's unique DNA - its unique vehicle identification number. VINs are normally located in several locations on a car, but the most common places are:

- On the door frame/door post of the front doors (usually driver's but sometimes passenger's)
 - On the dash near the windshield
 - On the engine itself (machined pad on front of engine)
 - On the car's firewall
 - In the left-hand inner wheel arch
 - On the steering wheel/steering column
 - On the radiator support bracket
 - On your car's title, registration, guarantee/maintenance book or on the declarations page of your auto insurance policy
- The following chart gives further information (by car line) on both the location of the VIN plate and which character in your VIN represents your year of production and specific engine.

VIN Character - Model Year Codes

1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A
1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L
1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
M	N	P	R	S	T	V	W	X	Y
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A

Continued on Next Page—See Table “Car Make”....

Redline

<i>Car Make</i>	<i>Models</i>	<i>Location of VIN Plate</i>	<i>Year* Code</i>	<i>Engine Code</i>
Acura	All	Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th	See Note A
Audi	All	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Top center of firewall	10th	See Note B
BMW	All	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Right inner fender	10th	See Note A
Daihatsu	All	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Firewall	10th	8th
Honda	All	Left windshield post (thru windshield) Top right of firewall	10th	See Note A
Hyundai	All	Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th	8th
Infiniti	All	Left side of dash (thru windshield) firewall	10th	4th
Isuzu	Pickup All others excl. above	Left door post Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th 10th	8th 8th
Jaguar	All (thru '84)	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Firewall, Left door post	10th	5th
	All ('85-On)	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Firewall, Left door post	10th	8th
Lexus	All	Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th	4th
Mazda	All	Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th	See Note A
Mercedes Benz	All (thru '85)	Left windshield post (thru windshield)	See Note D	See Note A
	All ('86-On)	Left windshield post (thru windshield)	10th	See Note A
Mitsubishi	All	Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th	8th
Nissan	Axxess, Van	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Front left floor panel	10th	See Note C
	Pickup, Pathfinder	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Right inner fender	10th	See Note C
	280Z, ZX	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Right strut housing	10th	See Note C
	All others excl. above	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Firewall	10th	See Note C
Porsche	All	Left windshield post (thru windshield)	10th	See Note A
Saab	All (thru '83)	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Left door post, Right inner fender	10th	7th
	All ('84-On)	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Left door post, Right inner fender	10th	8th
Subaru	All	Left windshield post (thru windshield)	10th	6th
Suzuki	'86-88 Samurai	Left door post	10th	6th
	All others excl. above	Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th	6th
Toyota	All	Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th	4th
VW	Vanagon	Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th	See Note B
	Dasher, Quantum	Right door post Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th	See Note B
	Fox, Passat, Golf, Jetta, Rabbit, Scirocco	Right inner fender Left side of dash (thru windshield)	10th	See Note B
Volvo	240, 260	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Right inner fender	10th	6th, 7th
	All others excl. above	Left side of dash (thru windshield) Right radiator fender	10th	6th, 7th

Note A Cannot determine the engine through the VIN code.

Note B Cannot determine the engine through the VIN code. On certain models for certain years the engine may be determined by the 5th digit.

Note C Cannot determine the engine through the VIN code. On certain models for certain years the engine may be determined by the 2nd digit.

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: webmaster@nmbmwcca.org subject: *Classifieds*. Ads may be edited due to space limitations. There is also the free classifieds section on the chapter website for you to use.

CARS FOR SALE

The following cars were listed on the Club's website as of Oct 5, 2008:

2005 M5—Alpine White, 1999 M3 Convertible, 2000 M Roadster, 1999 Z3 M Roadster, 2003 745Li

Check the Club's Website at: www.nmbmwcca.org for current availability

TechTalk – The effects of altitude on your car's power

You might have noticed that your bimmer is a bit slower up here in the Rockies than it down low, where the air was too thick to see through. Here's a way to find out how much of your car's power is available at our altitude.

Get the altitude of an airport near you: <http://www.airnav.com/airports/us> (note the altitude above sea level in feet)

Get the current weather near you: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/forecasts> (note the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, barometer in inches of mercury, dew point in degrees Fahrenheit)

Enter the current conditions: http://wahiduddin.net/calc/calc_hp_dp.htm (altimeter setting means current barometer reading)

You'll get the relative horsepower your engine is making, expressed as a percentage of its book sea-level output

<http://www.rmcbmwcca.org/> taken from their Tech Tips web page

On the Docket—Calendar of Events

October 12 (Sunday). The Annual Karl H. Fox Memorial Fall Tour. Come take a tour through the gorgeous Jemez Mountains and the Valles Caldera. This will be a photo-op tour to see the changing fall colors. Convertibles encouraged! Lunch will be included at a nice restaurant enroute.

November 13 (Thursday). Membership meeting.

December 16 (Tuesday) 6:00 p.m. Tech session. The Tint and Trim Factory, Jefferson at McLeod, in Albuquerque.

January 2009. Tech session at Sandia BMW. Chapter officer elections.

February 2009. Tech session at Southwest Collision Craftsmen.

March 2009. Membership meeting.

April 2009. The annual spring tour.

May 2009. The Annual Clean Car Show.

On the Docket



Redline

WEB LINKS FOR THIS ISSUE

<http://www.rmcbmwcca.org/>

<http://www.autohausaz.com/bmw-auto-parts/bmw-vehicle-identification-numbers.html>



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