

# THE LEGENDARY SWITCH

## *I Suck*

Besides my happiness at spring's arrival comes the clearing of the mountain roads and the opportunity to find out what's been lost over the winter. It's great to be able to ride all year, but the colder it gets the more straight, flat roads populate the calendar. It's best not to dive back into the switchbacks *too* fast.

My seat of the pants judgement is that I need a *lot* of practice. I admit it, I suck. Last year I spent a lot of time on Sandia Peak's switchbacks getting used to the new bike, getting an idea of what it can do. On recent runs to the top I find that not only can I not touch the bike's potential, but that the winter has left me with a lot of rust that needs to be sanded off of my riding skills.

I find myself going slow into the corners, not setting up the turns properly, and not following a clean line once I'm in it. I tap the brakes at the wrong time, try to correct the turn in mid-corner, and modulate the throttle when it should be clean acceleration through the switchback. I lean the bike over but don't trust it enough to really stick, even though it has never given a hint of breaking loose, regardless of the corner or the conditions. Sometimes I think the bike is running out of patience with me.

So I'm counting on some German restraint while I burnish my technique and try to catch up with my quest to find out how much this bike can do. What I've discovered so far is that I haven't even scratched the surface.

I can feel it when I lean it over – that

there's a lot of air where there could be motorcycle carving the curve instead. I haven't touched the speed issue – in fact I don't know if I'll ever approach that limit of this machine. The bottom line is that the motorcycle is far more capable than I am at this point, and it will take many miles and a lot of thinking before I feel competent on it.

Luckily, I already feel totally confident: the only times it has gotten at all out of control is when I've done something fundamentally dumb, like brake into a hot corner and let go of the lever half way through. But no matter what clumsy stunt

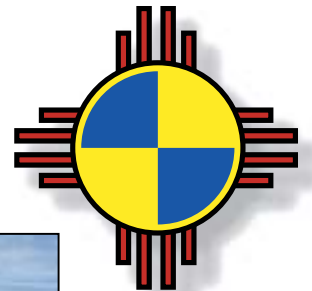


I attempt the bike just corrects it and keep on going. If only my table manners were as good as the bike's riding manners...

I hope you've been out practicing too. Riding a bicycle may come right back to you, but a motorcycle requires more time.

*David Wilson, editor*

News from  
the Land of  
Enchantment  
BMW Riders



*Checking out my riding skills in the Jemez is more scenic than Sandia Peak – the roads are straighter so you can look around a bit more – and is better for endurance than the Sandia sprint.*

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

BMW MOA Charter #123

BMW RA Charter #81

# NINETEEN YEARS OF SIPAPU

by RJ Mirabal

(with help from John Desko and Gary Oleson)



*Memories of Sipapus past: making the chili, riding the mountain roads, the camaraderie. Our Bavarian Mountain Weekend has all the ingredients to make it a world-class bike rally, and its well deserved reputation brings BMW riders from all over the country to our little shindig every year. And it's been getting better every year, for 19 years! Mark the date in ink on your calendar.*



The Bavarian Mountain Weekend Rally (or the BMW, as cleverly named by the original rally committee back in 1985) has changed drastically in some detailed ways over the last nineteen years, meaning it hasn't changed hardly at all in its original conception. According to Gary Oleson, "the rally feels the same since the first time I attended in 1990. I just felt at ease. It's great fun and I haven't missed a rally since then." (That is until last year, when a brother's milestone birthday and anniversary forced Gary and Shelly to attend during Sipapu weekend).

When John Desko proposed the idea of a LOEBMW sponsored rally then-President Michael Kober quickly appointed John (with a lot of help from his wife, Peggy) to head the First Annual BMW. It seems that John had wanted to return the favor of sponsoring a rally for fellow BMW clubs in Colorado and Arizona who had sponsored their own rallies that drew many LOE BMW R members. On a business trip (John was selling Homelite chain saws at the time) through Taos, an inquiry about where in Northern New Mexico would be a good rally site prompted a Harley rider (who worked in a Taos camping supply shop) to recommend Sipapu not only because of its beautiful location, but because Bruce Bolander, the owner/operator of the Sipapu Ski Lodge, is a BMW rider.

So with President Kober's blessing, the first rally committee got organized. Besides John, there was Pat Lauffenburger in charge of registration; George Blandfor and Bill Philo doing publicity and signs; Charles Dodd and George Immerwahr, entertainment; Michael and Nancy Kober took care of door prizes and awards; Lyle Elliott arranged for the food; Dave Woods organized the tours; and Kent Christainson was in charge of grounds and security.

The weekend after Labor Day was selected to avoid heavy traffic and take advantage of the late summer weather in Northern New Mexico, and has become the regular time for the BMW. As the years passed, Sipapu has proved to be

such a good location, it has continued to host the rally. In fact, today we speak of the rally as "Sipapu," not the BMW.

In spite of rainy weather contributing to power failures the first two years of the rally, the great reputation for Sipapu started to grow. The first year saw 150 riders attending, no accidents, and in spite of hoping to break even at best, the rally ended up \$500 in the black.

The basic format of the rally today was established back in 1985 and has varied little through the years. Part of the rally's success was due to a lot of buttonholing Colorado, Arizona, and Texas riders about what made a great rally.

Gary Oleson, who chaired and co-chaired the rally a few times in the 90's, appreciated the way the format of the rally allowed him to become casually involved in the rally one year and rally chairman the next year. (another fine tradition of recruiting chairpersons including me, three times! So David Tynan, watch out!)

Good food, morning coffee, a loose schedule allowing time for establishing comradeship among fellow riders, plenty of camping and dorm space (for those not interested in camping or as a bad weather option), add up to be the recipe for success of the BMW.

And it's never been a BMW motorcycles-only affair. Over the years, riders of all brands European, American, Indian, and Japanese have made appearances

Sometimes, it hasn't been ALL fun. John reminisces with some chagrin, "All those coffee pots that had been on timers went cold when the electricity went off and around 5 am we had several caffeine deficient people who got rather annoyed!"

So what else is new?

Four years ago, an early morning drop in water pressure created a problem – how do you make coffee without water?? And how about a nice cold shower on a nippy September morning???

So it is in the Sipapu tradition that Robert Keen, 2002's chairperson, arranged for a storm and power outage Friday night so we could all share in the "vintage" rally experience! But Robert's



brother-in-law came through with a power generator (a Honda, I believe) to keep some coffee going although the caffeine challenged were still pretty cranky.

And then there's the Famous Friday Night Chile.

According to John, "Since the Sipapu restaurant was closed on Friday nights and a lot of riders were expected to arrive Friday after dark, we didn't want to send them back into the night to Taos for dinner, so we came up with the idea of providing a 'snack' to warm them up (haven't we already mentioned how cool it can get in those mountains) and satisfy their hunger."

It worked and a great rally tradition was established carried on today with outstanding skill by Shelly and Gary Oleson assisted by any other LOE BMW riders who show up for duty on Labor Day for the big chile cooking fest. After a number of years of two to four people doing all the chile, it evolved into one of the great club get-togethers of the year.

Now, to their credit, many of our club members pitch in and brown hamburger, peel and cut potatoes, and chop onions to prepare the basic ingredients for the Famous Chile Snack. Gary and Shelly's math expertise is put to use as the crew then calculates how many giant cans of Ranch Style beans, potatoes, green chile, etc. it takes to put together that just-right-tasting stew. In the end several gallons of chile are created for the enjoyment of all rally attendees.

Door prizes were presented that first year after the rally committee did the rather tough job of soliciting several skeptical dealers and vendors. In recent years, I have found that task has become much easier as many dealers and vendors vie to outdo each other to demonstrate their generosity to the BMW. In the last few years we have had an unprecedented array of prizes awarded to better than one out of every four rally goers!

No official rally T-shirt was offered the first year, but an enterprising vendor showed up with his own rally T-shirt design and did a brisk business. The next year began a long series of interesting designs for the official and somewhat unique long sleeve rally shirt. The last six years have seen the introduction many innovations and options to the point that each massive order of shirts has sold out

by rally's end (unless you have the occasional national rally in Red River a couple of weeks before and massive media coverage of forest fires).

The first rally pin was a non-dated design that was supposed to have a bar added each additional year a rider attended. That idea didn't go over well and so the yearly change of designs to match the T-shirts started with the second rally. And the designs! Even in some of the earlier modest designs, our shirts and pins have easily out-classed national and other regional rallies. Much of this is due to striking designs in recent years by Dave Wilson (including this year's home-run design), Gino Pakluda, Joe Conte, and others.

Field events such as a poker run, etc. have not been a Sipapu tradition mainly because no one was interested in running such events and, after all, it just seemed the casual friendliness of attendees (kicking tires, telling lies) more than made up the "lack" of something to do.

The rally started out small and still remains relatively small although it has been growing the last several years. Rally chairs Gary Oleson, Mark Smith, Ken Good, Bill Koup, Tim Stone, Robert Keen, and I have seen attendance grow to over 500, once thought to be beyond the limit of the Sipapu facility!

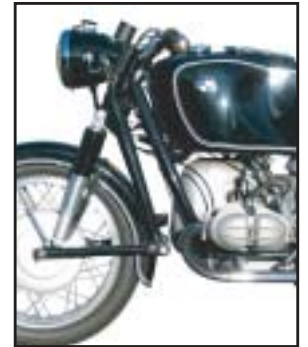
Every year brings a little something new. One time during the Bill Koup-Tim Stone years, we had a few explosions set off by some definitely uncool folks who should have known better. Bill and Tim clearly informed those responsible that this rally is laid back, not a "blow out." Let the Great Blue Whales (*the Sipapu band with great dancing and toe tapping variety music*) raise the roof, not some rowdies that might fit in better at other rallies we won't name.

For a few years, the club-members-only Friday night dinner has had Don Cameron filling club members' tummies with wonderful slow cooked brisket, Ken and Dianne Good have host a number of tasty full course meals, and this year, Dave Tynan will be the master of festivities, so come hungry.

In fact, just come on down. If you've never made it to Sipapu, or it's been awhile, or if you've never missed one, don't stay away this year! Let's outnumber the guests and put Sipapu 19 in the history books.

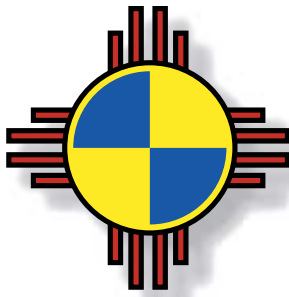
# SIPAPU 19

LAND OF ENCHANTMENT  
BMW RIDERS, NEW MEXICO



B A V A R I A N  
M O U N T A I N  
W E E K E N D  
2 0 0 3





## Join the LOE BMW Riders

Yearly dues are \$15.  
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or to pay:

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Albuquerque, NM  
87199-2095

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

or call Terry  
Tombaugh at  
(505) 821-0063.

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# LOE BMW R On the Road

## JUNE

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SATURDAY
1	2 Americade, NY	3	4	5	6 Navajo Lake	7
8 Navajo Lake cont'd	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Chick's to Brazos	23	24	25	26	27	28 Ride the Jemez
29	30					

### Wednesday, June 4

#### *Rally Committee Meeting*

At O'Niell's Uptown at 5:30pm. This meeting should wrap things up until the last-minute planning. Come make Sipapu happen. And have dinner and a brewski, too.

### Friday-Sunday, June 6-8

#### *Navajo Lake Ride*

Camp 'N Ride to Navajo Lake with day road rides to Durango, Mesa Verde, Chama, etc. and lots of GS opportunities in the lake area. Also, a NW Corner ride is possible. Contact Bryan Lally at (505) 662-4083 or [bryan@lally.org](mailto:bryan@lally.org) for details.

### Saturday, June 28

#### *Jemez Ride*

Can't find enough time to do a circumference of the state? Ride to Utah? Mow the lawn? Well, neither can I. But there's always time to see the Jemez. Come on along! Contact Dave Wilson for details at 232-0266 or [mrmtv@aol.com](mailto:mrmtv@aol.com).

### Saturday-Sunday, July 19-20

#### *Coyote Creek Camp 'n Ride*

Don't miss this one! Two days on some of the best roads New Mexico has to offer, and camping at the most picturesque camp ground in northern New Mexico. Meet Saturday morning at the Tramway Philips 66 off I-25 at 8am. If you can't ride up with us on Saturday morning, join us for dinner Saturday evening; green chile stew by Doug & Kathryn plus whatever you bring. We have the shelter reserved (electricity, fire place, a roof in case it rains, space for at least 30) so bring your family. Kathryn will take the SUV and can take some extra gear. Doug Guinn, 831-5238, is the contact person.

## JULY

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Chick's Ride to Telluride	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 BMW MOA National Rally	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Paonia!	18	19
20 Coyote Camping	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## & Beyond...

### Friday-Sunday, August 1-3

#### *Club Birthday Party!*

Saturday, August the 3rd is the big day with a brief business meeting before we get too hungry for the cook-out for lunch. This has also been the traditional time to get additional volunteers to help run the rally at Sipapu. Come, set up your tent, and enjoy the campfire fun Friday afternoon and night, and/or stay Saturday for more evening camaraderie. If not, at least head on out Saturday morning and spend the day with the LOE BMW Riders at the Manzano State Park off south 14 near the village of Manzano. Contact persons: Robert, 883-4813, or RJ, 299-4916.

### Sunday, August 17

#### *Abiquiu/Cuba Loop*

This is a scenic tour of Northwestern New Mexico. Plan on leaving about 8 am heading for Cuba's El Bruno Cafe for breakfast at about 9:30 am and then continue on Highway 96 through Gallina and Abiquiu. Get in touch with Steve Mounce, 275-3811.

### Monday, September 1

#### *Labor Day Chile Cookout*

This is when Gary and Shelly Oleson host our club's successful effort to cook the best rally chile in America for Sipapu the following weekend. Join your friends in LOE BMW R for good hard work "building the chile" (and great sandwiches for lunch) starting at 10 am. Contact Gary Oleson, 898-8320.

### Friday-Sunday, September 5-7

#### *Sipapu 19!*

This is the big one of the year as LOE

BMW R puts on the best laid-back rally in the country at beautiful Sipapu Lodge. Get involved, be there. RJ is chairperson, 299-4916, David Tynan, 869-3645 is co-chairperson.

### **Saturday, September 20**

#### ***Breakfast in San Marcos***

Remember those short rides up north 14 to the San Marcos Cafe for breakfast? Well, whether we still go to the same restaurant or one of the other newer ones in the area just south of the State Prison, it'll make a nice short (2-3 hours) fall ride. Contact RJ, 299-4916.

### **Sunday, September 28**

#### ***Chama/Antonito, CO***

Yep, here's another favorite LOE BMW R ride north to check out the fall colors in the mountains of Northern New Mexico. Colorful Lynn Coburn, 266-4449, is the one to contact for this full day ride.

### **Friday-Sunday, October 3-5**

#### ***Datil and Route 666!***

We will keep having this ride until *no one* comes anymore! You know the place, the accommodations, and the great twists and scenery of Arizona's famous "Route 666." If you don't, it's about time you make plans to do this camp n' ride. For those who only camp in motels in October in the high country, let RJ know he could have a potential roommate in Magdalena, otherwise bring your tent and warmest sleeping bag! We need a volunteer contact person for this one (let RJ know if you're interested).

### **Sunday, October 19**

#### ***Mountainair/Willard***

More nostalgia as we recreate a favorite ride from a few years back. We head south down 14 to Mountainair, then east to a little cantina in Willard for some tasty hamburgers. Dave Wilson, 232-0266, will be the one to call for this half day ride.

### **Saturday, November 1**

#### ***Business Meeting and Tech Session***

Location and time to be announced, but we need ideas and/or proposals for tech session topics. Contact either Robert, 883-4813, or RJ, 299-4916.

### **Saturday, November 15**

#### ***Breakfast, Birds, and the Bosque Ride***

This proved to be a popular ride last year. This time, however, we'll have breakfast at the famous Henrietta's in Los Lunas, then ride south to check out North America's most interesting birds as they make a stop-over at world famous Bosque del Apache on their way to sunnier climes for the winter. Head birdman is Bill Olsson, 821-8348.

### **Saturday, December 13**

#### ***Christmas Party!***

This year's party will start with a "Polar Bear Ride" to the North Pole...well, no, just kidding! Actually, you can come in your "cages," bring the wife/husband/girlfriend/boyfriend or just yourself and enjoy the comradeship and great food at O'Niell's Uptown. Contact Robert, 883-4813, or RJ, 299-4916.

## **National Events**

### **Monday-Saturday, June 2-7**

#### ***Americade, Lake George, NY***

The largest touring rally in the world. Join 30,000 other mileage hogs in a beautiful town in the "mountains" of New York. Call (518) 798-7888 or go to [www.tourexpo.com](http://www.tourexpo.com) for details.

### **Friday-Sunday, June 20-22**

#### ***Red Rock Rendezvous, Panguitch, UT***

Day rides to Zion, Bryce, Cedar Breaks, Grand Canyon, Capitol Reef, Kodachrome and Grand Staircase Escalante. Saturday night dinner, camping... what more do you need? Contact Vik at (801) 712-5775, [vik@dea.org](mailto:vik@dea.org) or [rallymaster@beehive-beemers.org](mailto:rallymaster@beehive-beemers.org) for details.

### **Thursday-Saturday, July 10-12**

#### ***BMW MOA National Rally, Charleston, WV***

Expect to find BMW demo rides, excellent vendor area, seminars, vintage displays, and an honest-to-goodness beer garden. Many rallygoers camp. You know, "total immersion" and all that. For more information go to [www.bmwmoa.org/rally03/index.html](http://www.bmwmoa.org/rally03/index.html)

### **Thursday-Sunday, July 17-20**

#### ***Top O'The Rockies Rally, Paonia, CO***

30th Anniversary rally with a '73 R75/5 being given away! Door prizes, ven-

# SIPAPU 19

LAND OF ENCHANTMENT  
BMW RIDERS, NEW MEXICO



BAVARIAN  
MOUNTAIN  
WEEKEND  
2003





Go to [http://www.infernalmachineshop.com/Keg\\_Rack\\_1.htm](http://www.infernalmachineshop.com/Keg_Rack_1.htm) (no hyphen) for details on this... interesting machine.



### Keg Rack

The objective of this project was to produce a safe and sturdy carrier for two 5 gallon kegs. The motorcycle is an '84 BMW R65.

## LOE BMW R

### President:

Robert Keen,  
883-4813  
motorkeen@aol.com

### Vice President:

RJ Mirabal,  
299-4916  
rjmirabal@centralpets.com

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Terry Tombaugh,  
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ttombaugh1@comcast.net

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### Newsletter Delivery:

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### Rally Chairs:

RJ Mirabal,  
299-4916  
rjmirabal@centralpets.com  
David Tynan,  
869-3645  
david.tynan@ae.ge.com

dors, free camping, hot showers, music, Saturday dinner, field events, and some of the best roads in the wild west. There's always a big club contingent there, hook up and head out. Contact Deb Lower at [deblower@attglobal.net](mailto:deblower@attglobal.net) or (303) 778-8617 for details.

### Saturday, August 2

**100,000 Foot Colorado Pass Ride**  
480 miles over 10 mountain passes beginning and ending in Denver. You'll get a pin, patch, continental breakfast, catered lunch and dinner, and more. \$40 entry fee, pre-registration required. Contact Foothills BMW at [coloradobeemers.com](http://coloradobeemers.com) or (303) 202-1400 for details.

### Wednesday-Saturday, August 13-16

**Sierracade, Cody, WY**  
Vendor show, demo rides, rodeo, poker run, bike show, door prizes. Call (800) 600-8969 for a brochure and registration.

### Thursday-Saturday, August 14-17

**Best of Colorado Gypsy Ride, CO**  
4 days and 3 nights covering 1,000-1,500 of Colorado's best roads. Starts in Denver and ends in Estes Park, including 20 mountain passes, 3 National Parks and 1 National Monument. Pre-registration required, but no entry fee. Contact [coloradobeemers.com](http://coloradobeemers.com) or (303) 283-3690 for details.

### Thursday-Sunday, August 21-24

**Beartooth Rendezvous, Red Lodge, MT**  
Acres of camping, cabins, rec hall, showers, dining hall, amphitheater, and more. 3 meals included, as well as gourmet coffee, pins, door prizes, and great Big Sky riding. Contact [btbeemers@montana.com](mailto:btbeemers@montana.com),

[treasurestate.com/btbeemers](http://treasurestate.com/btbeemers) or (406) 587-5075 for details.

### Thursday-Saturday, October 23-25

**VII BMW Int'l Rally, Cuernavaca, MX**  
Rides and activities, gifts, official photo, shows, sight-seeing, trophies, and a raffle for a new BMW or a trip to the fatherland, Deutschland. Go to [moclubmorelos.com.mx](http://moclubmorelos.com.mx) for info.

## Chick's Rides

Chick's Harley-Davidson rides are open to all brands. BMW Cruisers especially (only kidding).

### Sunday, June 22

**Breakfast Run to Brazos Cliffs Overlook**  
To Tres Piedras, 135 miles. Leave Chick's at 8am. Breakfast is \$5.

### Thursday-Sunday, July 3-6

**Fireworks Ride in Telluride**  
Telluride, CO, 320 miles. Leave Chick's at 7am Thursday. Call (800) 525-3455 for reservations.

### Friday, August 22

**100th Anniversary Ride Home**  
Amarillo, 293 miles. Join the H-D 100th Anniversary ride to Amarillo (or Milwaukee). Leave Chick's at 9am.

### Thursday-Sunday, September 11-14

**Lake City/Telluride Overnight**  
Lake City, CO, 320 miles. Leave Chick's at 8am Thursday. Lake City Thursday night, Telluride Friday and Saturday night. Visit the Blues & Brew Festival on Saturday.

### Sunday, September 21

**Raspberry Run**  
Salmon Raspberry Ranch, 140 miles. Bikes, berries and buffet! Leave Chick's at 10am. Lunch is \$5.

### Sunday, October 12

**Stanley Fire Station Benefit Ride**  
Stanley, 45 miles. Pancake brunch served. Leave Chick's at noon. Brunch \$5.

### Sunday, November 21

**Buford's Steakhouse**  
Moriarty, 56 miles. Leave Chick's at noon. Lunch at Buford's.

## LOE Marketplace

**1977 R100**, Parabellum windshield, hard bags, unleaded conversion. \$2500 obo.  
Call Anthony at (505) 445-3259.

**1978 R100RS 65k**. New Metzlers, battery. Bagster bag, cover, two seats, heated grips, hard bags. Dual Plugs, flowed, DYNA. Progressive springs, fork brace, billet top clamp. Swingarm brace, KONIs.  
Call Tom for photos and more info, 776-8615, or email maelder@taosnet.com.

**1986 BMW R80**, 53+K miles, excellent condition, red with S fairing, Corbin saddle, hard bags, Koni, etc., new tires, fresh oil, ready to go! \$3900.00  
Call Gordon at (505) 466-6142 or email gbunk@rt66.com for photos.

**2000 Concours**, exc. condn always garaged. 18,500 miles. \$5495 negotiable.  
Call Joel at 505-792-8408 or email jlw@nm.net.

**2001 Suzuki SV650**. Red. 4500 miles. Center stand, Remus muffler, Givi wind-screen, MEZ 4's. Excellent condition. \$4000.  
Call Terry Tombaugh at 821-0063 or email ttombaugh1@comcast.net

**Instrument cluster** for 1976 R90/6 for 32/10 rear end. New overhaul on tach & speedo with receipts. \$200.  
Call Dick Cochran at (505) 287-8403.

**RCU Designs rear rack with passenger backrest**, fits R1100(50?)R. New price was \$300, asking \$90.  
Call Jim at 672-2863.

**Even more Stuff!** BMW folding key blank, \$5;

BMW flat key blank, \$3. BMW Battery, 19.6 amp (small size), from my K12, guaranteed for 1 year, \$25. Kryptonite Disc Lock, brand new, never used, with lighted key (key needs new battery), \$20. Lense hood for R100GS, \$5. 10' heavy duty tow chain \$10. 5 quarts of 10W-30 Mobil 1, \$15. Gas cap from K75, "refurbished" (that means it should work, but would at least be good for parts) with new gaskets, \$5. Shoei RF-200 (white) or RJ-101V (white) helmets, all size medium, all used, your choice \$10 each.  
Call Dave Wilson at 232-0266 or email mrmtv@aol.com

**Note:** Classified ads run for 3 months, then are deleted unless I'm told to keep them running.

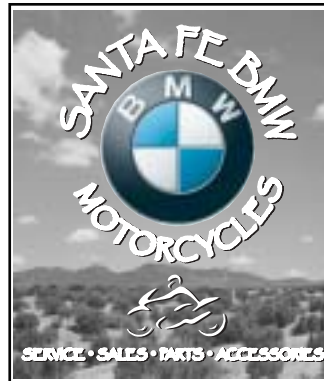
### Write!

Send in your stories, opinions, pictures, gripes... we publish anything! Send your contributions to:

David Wilson  
5700 Copper NE  
#B34  
Albuquerque, NM  
87108

(505) 232-0266  
mrmtv@aol.com

Computer files are easiest for me, sent as the body of your email or an attachment saved as ascii (text). Or you can fax it, or scribble on a piece of paper and mail it. I don't care! And don't forget lots and lots of pictures.



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## THE REAR VIEW



There's nothing like a spin through the Jemez to brush up on rusty riding skills. I'm the first to admit I've spent too much time sitting and not riding over the winter, so I need some twisty roads to get back in summer trim. Come along with me this month and I'll show you some of my favorite roads (maybe they're yours, too). *Photo by David Wilson*