

# RACING LINES

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Allan Lewis and Peter Carroll finished one-two in the Saturday sprint at Winterfest.

## Florida's Winterfest opens 2010 Club Racing season

January's annual PBOC Winterfest at Sebring International Raceway saw fifteen Tire Rack BMW CCA Club racers run in the points races on Saturday and Sunday, with other CR regulars running the six-hour race into the night on Thursday. Many of the racers came down from the Frozen North, some from as far away as Canada. In addition, a few Sebring first-timers joined the fray this year, including Delaware Valley Chapter

members Bob Solomon and Mike Yaskin, who ran an E36 M3 that was new to him. Jean Luc Bergeron, a regular at Winterfest, and Paul Janusauskas brought a former Ron Checca car they had recently bought; Checca ran a car intended for both Club Racing and the ITR class in SCCA.

Fortunately, Florida's cold snap was largely gone by the time Winterfest started, and conditions were excellent for racing,

with temperatures in the 60s and low 70s. Still, Sebring demands a lot from car and driver, with its extremely bumpy sections, heavy braking sections, and periods of long, hard acceleration. On this fast, wide track—with some tight corners—a fast lap demands precision, and there are some sections with very few visual cues to help. While good power is a must, good handling is critical, too.

PBOC split the race groups on Saturday



Randy Mueller won two races at Winterfest in his E46 M3.

BMW CCA Club Racing is supported by The Tire Rack (title sponsor); HMS (official supplier of safety gear); Yokohama Tire (sponsor Spec E36 Series); Evosport, motorsportcoverage.com, Summit Mortgage, UUC Motorwerks, and VAC Motorsports, (primary sponsors); and Grassroots Motorsports magazine, The National Motorists Association, and VT Motorsport (associate sponsors).



Jean Luc Bergeron and Paul Janusauskas broke in their E30 M3 at Winterfest.

and Sunday, putting BMW Club racers in Group Two with the slower classes. This allowed all the BMWs to be in the same group, though according to the PBOC class structure, many of the C-Modified cars would normally be put into Group One. As a result, BMW racers dominated the front of the grid, with Randy Mueller and his very quick E46 M3 C-Mod car on the pole ahead of three more C-M racers; Allan Lewis (E36 325i) shared the front row, and Peter Carroll (E36 M3) and John Dimoff (E36 M3) took the second row.

At the start, Lewis pulled ahead of Mueller, but the preferred inside line allowed Mueller to take the lead in Turn One, with Carroll in tow in second. Mueller immediately set about building a commanding lead, though he was experiencing an electrical problem that caused the car to shut off when going over bumps. Lewis and Carroll had a great battle going, resigning themselves to finishing behind Mueller as his lead quickly became insurmountable. But on the last lap, Mueller's car shut off for good, and he rolled to a stop. Lewis finished first, while Carroll, concerned about running out of gas near the end, had to back off and settle for second. Doug Wilson (C-M E46 M3) finished third, having passed John Dimoff on the start and never being seriously challenged after that. Dimoff, who encountered brake problems throughout the weekend, lost a number of positions on the start, but took back all but one of them.

Mueller was running again on Sunday, having fixed the electrical problem. But since Sunday's starting position was determined by Saturday's finish, he started deep in the field, while Lewis, Carroll, Wilson, and Dimoff started at the front. Once again Lewis pulled ahead at the start, but this time he led through Turn One, as he had the preferred line, commencing a terrific race with Carroll; the pair swapped the lead many times during the race. Meanwhile, Mueller was patiently making his way through traffic; before long, Lewis and Carroll could see him in their mirrors. With Carroll in front and Lewis running second,

Lewis successfully defended Turn Ten from Mueller, but succumbed in the Tower Turn. On the next lap, Mueller passed Carroll into Ten after getting a good run coming out of the hairpin. After that, it was clear sailing for Mueller, with Carroll second and Lewis third. Dimoff and Wilson finished fourth and fifth, quite a distance behind.

While few other BMW drivers had close racing with fellow Club racers, there was still plenty of opportunity for racing with the other PBOC competitors. Bob Solomon (C-M E36 325is), Scott Collins (I-P E36 M3), Isi Papadopoulos (C-M E36 325is), and Scott Hughes (I-P E36 M3 LTW) all finished within a second of another car competing for position.

Once again the BMW Club Racing group received congratulations for putting on an excellent show of good, clean driving and close racing, impressing the organizers, spectators, and other PBOC participants. Everyone had a lot of fun, including the first-timers who found the track exciting and challenging. And for those from the North, the trip is a great mid-winter break from the cold—Allan Lewis with Randy Mueller

TIRE RACK CCA Club Race at Sebring International Raceway				
1/10 Distance: 13 Laps				
Pos.	Class	Driver	Car	Best Lap
1	1 CM	Allan Lewis	E36 325i	02:19.4
2	2 CM	Peter Carroll	E36 M3	02:19.5
3	3 CM	Douglas Wilson	E46 M3	02:21.0
4	4 CM	John Dimoff	E36 M3	02:21.8
5	5 CM	Robert Solomon	E36 325is	02:26.0
6	6 CM	Isi Papadopoulos	E36 325is	02:26.9
7	1 P	Scott Collins	E36 M3	02:36.9
8	7 CM	Randy Mueller	E46 M3	02:16.4
9	1 JP	Dick Hunter	E36 325e	02:36.2
10	1 CM	Jean Luc Bergeron	E30 M3	02:34.5
11	8 CM	Michael Yeakin	E36 M3	02:33.0
12	2 JP	Ryn Chessa	E30 M3	02:46.3
13	1 KP	Nicole Back	E30 325i	02:46.4

  

1/17 Distance: 12 Laps				
Pos.	Class	Driver	Car	Best Lap
1	1 CM	Randy Mueller	E46 M3	02:17.6
2	2 CM	Peter Carroll	E36 M3	02:19.6
3	3 CM	Allan Lewis	E36 325i	02:19.7
4	4 CM	John Dimoff	E36 M3	02:21.4
5	5 CM	Douglas Wilson	E46 M3	02:22.5
6	6 CM	Robert Solomon	E36 325is	02:25.9
7	1 P	Scott Collins	E36 M3	02:26.0
8	7 CM	Isi Papadopoulos	E36 325is	02:27.1
9	1 JP	Dick Hunter	E36 325e	02:26.7
10	2 P	Scott Hughes	E36 M3 LTW	02:31.6
11	8 CM	Michael Yeakin	E36 M3	02:33.4
12	2 JP	Ryn Chessa	E30 M3	02:40.6
13	1 KP	Nicole Back	E30 325i	02:45.2
DNF	DM	Paul Janusauskas	E30 M3	02:42.7

## RACING BRIEFS

**BMW-Rahal Letterman Racing changes paint:** The BMW-Rahal Letterman Racing M3s arrived at the late-February American Le Mans Series winter test at Sebring with new livery reflecting BMW NA's "Story Of Joy" marketing campaign. The team also announced new driver pairings for the season: Joey Hand and Dirk Müller will drive #90 this season, while Bill Auberlen—Hand's teammate last season—will join Tommy Milner in car #92. In the season opener at Sebring in March, Andy Priaulx was to join Hand and Müller in #90 and Dirk Werner was to join Auberlen and Milner in #92.

**BMW announces driver lineup for Nürburgring:** The Nürburgring 24-hour race in May is the first of three European 24-hour endurance that BMW Motorsport will contest in 2010 with the M3 GT2; the others are Le Mans and Spa. The driver lineup for the Ring will include Dirk Müller from BMW's ALMS team; Andy Priaulx and Augusto Farfus, BMW's 2010 World Touring Car Championship drivers; German racers Jörg Müller, Dirk Wornat, Uwe Alzen, and Dirk Adorf; and Pedro Lamy of Portugal. Lamy co-drove the winning M3 GTR at the Nürburgring in both 2004 and 2005, teaming with Dirk Müller, Jörg Müller, and Hans Stuck in 2004, and with Boris Said, Duncan Huisman, and Andy Priaulx in 2005. Lamy also co-drove the Nürburgring-winning Zakspeed Viper in 2001 and 2002.

**Two Z4s, one Mini join Continental Challenge field:** Classic BMW Motorsports of Texas returns to the Continental Challenge with two Z4s after sitting out the 2009 season. Classic's Z4s were to run at the March Homestead race, with Kayla Graham, Toby Grahovec, and Andre Serra as drivers. RSR was to add a third Mini to its Homestead lineup for Craig Conway and BJ Zacharias, joining the two Minis—one run by Sarah Cattaneo and VJ Mirzayan, the other by Randy Smalley and Owen Trinkler—at Daytona. A week before the race, 74 cars were entered at Homestead, compared to the 76-car pack in the Daytona season opener.

**BMW history goes on the block:** The BMW 328 Mille Miglia "Bugeliate" roadster is to be offered for sale at the May RM auction in Monaco. The roadster was nicknamed *Bugeliate* (pressed crease) because the sharp ridges on its fender lines were said to resemble the creases in a pair of pants. It was one of five factory BMWs entered in the 1940 Mille Miglia, run over nine laps of a triangular course between Brescia, Mantua, and Cremona. It finished sixth, with Hans Wencher and Rudolf Scholz driving. The win went to the 328 Touring coupe of Fritz Huschke von Hanstein and Walter Baumer.