



## *E31 Chapter BMW Car Club of America*

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### Regional Facilitators

<b>Pacific Northwest</b>	Tom "Wuffer" Carter	604-530-6609
<b>Southeast US</b>	Roger Wray	352-223-2932

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**[newsletter@bmwccae31.com](mailto:newsletter@bmwccae31.com)**

### **Club Address:**

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**BMWCCAE31.com**

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## *2020 Upcoming Spring Events*

With the current COVID situation, spring events are currently on hold. As soon as events are planned, we will send out emails to release information.

Additionally, you may email the following groups to see if-and-when schedules are opened up:

### **BMWCCA E31 Chapter**

[Bmwccae31.com](http://Bmwccae31.com)

### **SoCalEights**

[socaleights@gmail.com](mailto:socaleights@gmail.com)

### **BC 8's**

[hchristoff850@telus.net](mailto:hchristoff850@telus.net)



**On The Cover:** The Editor's B12 Staying at home, social distancing, and wearing a mask!

**By Steffen Staiger**  
**President, E31 Chapter**



Spring is here?

While many 8ers were anxiously awaiting the arrival of Spring to finally be able to get their cars out of winter mode, the current events have put quite the damper on most of us. While we can all clean and polish our cars to the point of almost removing paint, we unfortunately cannot get together with our fellow aficionados to share our passion. I did think of an interesting concept of

maybe having a virtual car show but have not figured out any of the logistics as of now – maybe someone will have a solution for that. On a good note, our 8's seem to be appreciating in value, even during these times, so that is some good news, especially when I see CSi's going for near or even over 6 figures.

I would like to take a moment to remind everyone to practice social distancing, even though it might

mean you can't take anyone with you on a solo drive, unless your significant other has an 8 too.

Seriously though, I hope all of you are doing well and staying safe and hopefully we can put together another meet sometime in the near future.

Until then, peace out.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steffen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.





## E31 Member Spotlight – Thurston Pope

*By Thurston Pope*

I hadn't planned on purchasing a car. I was bored online, and decided to search for a unique vehicle that I heard was in a museum a few hours away from me: a Dodge Viper that was Grammy winner LeAnn Rimes' first car. Growing up car obsessed, I was particularly fond of BMW's and oddly enough, the Dodge Viper. Being a huge Rimes fan (I was 12 when she shot to stardom at age 14 with the country hit Blue) I was floored to learn she'd owned a Viper: at age 15. She reported driving it once because it scared her too much.



Upon searching "LeAnn Rimes first car", the results did not reveal what I anticipated. My mouth hit the floor, and stayed there. I was inundated with pictures of a sleek black 1997 840ci. I literally couldn't believe what I saw. With BMW's topping my list of car brand obsessions and the elusive E31 being the pinnacle, my mind was blown. To see that my favorite singer had owned my favorite car, I questioned reality. To compound my astonishment, it was listed for sale. At least, it had previously been listed for sale.

I contacted the seller to see if this black beauty was still available since



*Thurston and his new 840*

repeated auction listings had ended but none resulted in a sell. My heart skipped a beat when the seller responded that not only was it available, but they'd be happy to re-list it for me. The chase was on. I informed the seller upfront to brace for a barrage of questions, as I wanted to ensure against stepping into a nest of electronic and mechanical nightmares. I received extensive scanned records of this 8's history documenting all 93,000 miles, including the title application receipt with LeAnn Rimes and her father listed as owners. The car had been a gift from Curb Records soon after she won her Grammy, of which she remains the youngest recipient in history.

The listing stated that the current owner had purchased this E31 directly from Rimes. Naturally, I Googled the name on the service records. The owner was none other than mother of veteran Hollywood film and TV actor Andrew Keegan (Ten Things I Hate About You). Rimes had dated Keegan for years after moving to Hollywood to continue her entertainment career. His mother had bought this car from Rimes around 2002 and meticulously cared for it, storing it always and driving it sparingly. I received videos of the car, and even more detailed information. I

spoke with Keegan over the phone who reported that this 8 was extra special because it was one of the last off the assembly line. (Build date was 6/2/97, and production for North America stopped in August of '97.) By now, I knew I had to bid. And win.

I won the bid and coordinated closed-container shipping from Hollywood, CA to Wilmington, NC, complete opposite ends of the American coasts. I took delivery at my trusted foreign mechanic who provided me relief with a clean diagnostic review, give or take a few repairs. With service complete, I had her thoroughly detailed and CeramicPro coating applied inside and out. I soon after was in L.A. and met with Keegan and his mother.



*Thurston and actor Andrew Keegan holding the original license plates in L.A.*

She had found the original license plates and more service records, and Andrew had found the original wheels in his storage unit. (I can't confirm, but I feel confident that the worn-down tires still on the wheels are the originals.) I learned more about this 840ci's fascinating history, including numerous unsuccessful purchase offers over the years from hopeful buyers.



helped define the 90's. Seemingly stuck in time, the customized additions by Rimes remain: tinted windows, chrome 18" style 32 wheels and a subwoofer/amp installed in the trunk. I may be partial, but I think one particular voice sounds especially amazing when cruising, a multi-platinum record selling voice that belonged to arguable the world's youngest owner of an E31 when new. Now, it's all mine, and my inner 13 year old self is smiling.



This rare find is a tangible remnant of an automotive and musical icon that



For many more pictures, check out [@E31.Lucille](#) on Instagram





*By Fern Mora  
President – SoCalEights*

SoCalEight held their first Wrenchfest of the year on February 1st at EF1 Motorsports in Signal Hill. Saturday's weather was perfect clear and in the mid 70's. Unlike last year when we were forced to delay one week due to rain. Shocking for SoCal.



Historically in February our first Wrenchfest of the year has been very successful. This year was no exception. We had 24 cars and over 30 attendees. In the morning our members were greeted with coffee, donuts, juice, and water which we provide for those who attend. In the afternoon it's hot pizza, chips, and several types of drinks. Not as healthy as a sit down wholesome lunch but when you're busy wrenching who cares.



As usual Fabrizio, the owner of EF1 Motorsports, had 2 lifts available for our group and we took full advantage of them. We even had a waiting list for the lifts. We performed suspension work on 2 cars, replaced rear shocks, brake inspection, and a few under carriage inspections. On the shop floor many members were working on various issues including sunroof repair, headlight bucket rebuilt, engine computer diagnostics, and seats repair - the normal 8 issues.



One of our members took advantage of the new dyno test system that had just been installed.



Before lunch we gathered to announce the events we have planned for the year and thanked everyone for their attending.



We were very honored to have Jim Comforti (green t-shirt) of Comforti Chips attend our event. He had just flown in from Utah to join our Wrenchfest. He presented a brief story on how he started and the cars he has created performance chips for. He has accomplished a great deal over the years. Later he spent time discussing and answering questions from the group. His story was very interesting and was well received.

Alec Cartio also announced that he will be making a promotional video for the sale of the late Steve Cohen's 860i car for his daughter. It will be featured on Bring the Trailer. He announced that it he will be producing the video presentation and pictures very soon.



As has been the case, Bruce Papp from Adams Polishes was also in attendance. He gave us a brief rundown of the new ceramic coating product and the benefits it provides. Last February he demonstrated the ceramic coated on Gary Corcoran's black CSI which still looks great. He also presented other Adam's products he had in stock. Bruce has been a big supporter of SoCalEights for the last 5 years he has attended our Wrenchfest and always offers a great discount on all of his products to our members.



We would like give special thanks to Fabrizio Aldrette owner of EF1 Motorsports for the 7 years of dedicated support by opening his shop twice a year on his day off for SoCalEights Wrenchfest.



## E31 New Product for the Ash Tray Space

*By Johannes Zahn  
Courtesy of [www.8er.info](http://www.8er.info)*

The ashtray in the 8s must have (hopefully) run out of us all, hardly anyone will want to light a cigarette in this cherished car. For some, it has already broken or broken over the years, or is no longer particularly attractive visually affected by the ashes.

The space in the center console, however, is by position of one of the most valuable places in the 8-seat era, since very easy to reach. So it would be a pity not to use this place for something else.

This led me to design a mission that can be used in the shaft there without any modification. The insert is now available in the "variant 1" as a slot and this is what it looks like:



Variant 1

In addition, it is equipped with the original "BMW insert mat" and thus fits perfectly to the large storage compartment center which has the same inlay.

Furthermore, the insert can now be used wonderfully for the storage of the radio.

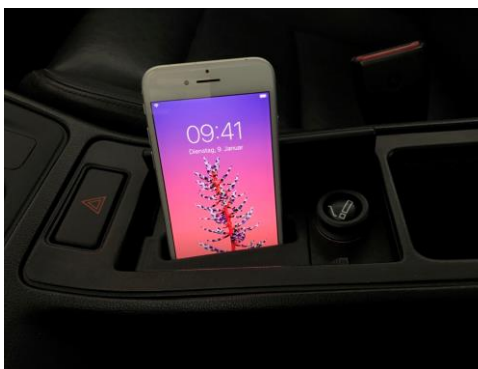
The internal dimensions are:

51 x 77mm top

45 x 77mm bottom



In the "variant 2" this is available as a mobile phone storage as a stand, the mobile phone remains well stored and always at hand:



Variant 2

The internal dimensions of the slot for the mobile phone are:

16 x 75mm with circindierising radius R3

And here is variant 3 for the multimedia friends among us.

This combines 3 functions in one:

Display of on-board voltage in the car, also while driving, e.g. for checking the charging voltage and alternator, 2 USB high-speed charging sockets for mobile phone, sat nav, etc. in high-quality and colour-colored anodized aluminium housing. Tailor-made built-in bay for example AUX-IN, video-IN, USB data socket or other sockets and switches of the BMW product line

I have deliberately left some structure on the surface, it simply fits visually better to the "scarring" of the interior than completely smooth polished elements. Unfortunately, the photos don't look as good as it looks in reality.

AUX-IN with voltage indicator:



or switched off, it looks like this:



AUX-IN with additional data USB port:



AV / Video IN and OUT:



... or TV function who needs or wants it:





And here another Photoshop montage, i created this from the red and replaced the color as best as it could, so only serves for rough orientation. Please refer to the manufacturer's photos for the exact color:



The voltage indicator incl. the USB charging sockets is available in the colors red, blue or black:

#### Multiple Safety Protection



There is a splash-proof cover, which protects against dust and weathering.



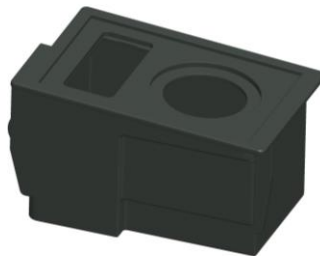
For example, e.g. ebay under article number 153394165709

All common BMW bushings and switches with the standard dimensions 18 x 41mm fit into the built-in shaft.

... what ever you want or need:



And here are 2 more taps of the CAD model:



The pictured AUX-IN, for example, is cheap to have on Ebay:



Part number AUX socket:  
61316930561

Part number Connection cable:  
61316940237

This is what the part looks like completely including the cable set:



Finally, a supplementary information on the voltage display: The charging voltage on the 8-series is 13.9 - 14.2V when the alternator is intact.

The USB version in conjunction with the AUX-IN adapter would now be my choice for my Samsung S9. How about the newer smartphones that no longer have a jack connection? So at Apple I know that there is an adapter from Lightning to jack/AUX, I have it, works great:



For the Galaxy S9, this one should fit here:



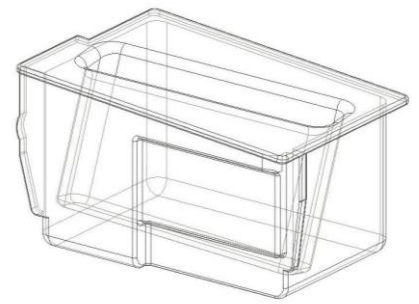
Available for a few euros each.

The new insert, no matter in which variant, can be removed at any time as usual by the original release function, it is therefore fully compatible with the vehicle. I worked the surface by



grinding and also refined it with glass ball beams in order to produce the best possible haptics suitable for the interior.

For those who are technically interested, here are a few screen taps of the CAD models.



Mobile phone storage:



If you are interested please contact me: [kontakt@8er.info](mailto:kontakt@8er.info)

Website: <https://www.8er.info/>

Johannes



2020 marks the election of President and Secretary. Our E31 Chapter by-laws outline the process, and geographic representation for our chapter. This year, the Chapter will elect the positions of President and Secretary. As the by-laws mandate, for continuity the President is to be elected from a current sitting board member. The Term of office for the President and Secretary are set forth in the by-laws section 12.3 below, and will run through 2023. Nominees must have been a BMWCCA E31 Chapter member for 12 months to run for office.

If you are interested in running for the E31 Chapter Board of Directors positions of President or Secretary, please notify our Secretary, Henry Christoff by email **NO LATER THAN APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**. His email contact address is: SEC@bmwccae31.com

Please include the following:

1. Name
2. BMWCCA number
3. Position Running for: Vice President or Secretary
4. Include the details of the nominee (name, short CV, BMW CCA E31 Chapter Membership Number),
5. Name of the BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter member nominating and seconding the nomination, and acceptance of the nomination by the nominee.
6. The statement of acceptance by the nominee should also include a short (1 PAGE) letter stating to the membership why they would like to be elected for the position, and qualifications for the position.

Once nominations have been received and the nomination date closed (April 30<sup>th</sup>), elections will proceed as outlined in our by-laws. Below are sections taken directly from our by-law governing elections.

Please send your notifications to Henry no later than April 30, 2020.

Sincerely,  
Steffen Staiger  
President, BMWCCA E31 Chapter

## **6. Geographic Representation on the Board of Directors**

6.1. As a Non-geographic chapter, the E31 Chapter represents all areas of the United States as well as other locations. It is comprised of representatives from both the United States and Canada. As such, it is essential that members of the Board of Directors maintain a diverse geographic representation of E31 owners. As such, no more than two of the six board of director's members shall hold office at the same time from any one of the following geographic regions:

6.1.1. **Northeast:** (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Islands)

6.1.2. **East Coast:** (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Washington D.C.)

6.1.3. **South East:** (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama)

6.1.4. **North Central:** (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

6.1.5. **Central:** (Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana)

6.1.6. **North West:** (Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah)

6.1.7. **South West:** (California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico)

6.1.8. **Canada:** (all provinces)

## **7. Election of Board of Director Officers**

### **7.1. President**

7.1.1. Election of the President will be by vote of the BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter Members. Election will be by simple majority

vote of BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter members.

7.1.2. For continuity of governance, persons nominated for President will be limited to persons currently sitting on the BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter board of directors.

7.1.3. Term of office will be three years. The only exception will be the initial term which will run until 2017. First elections for President will be held in 2017 as outlined below in section 8 below.

### **7.3. Secretary**

7.3.1. Election of the Secretary will be taken from nominations by active BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter members and sitting board members. The nominations (based on nomination numbers) will be presented to the membership for election. Election will be by simple majority vote by active BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter

7.3.2. Persons nominated for Secretary will be current active members of the BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter.

7.3.3. Term of office will be three years. The only exception will be the initial term which will run until 2017. First elections for Secretary will be held in 2017 as outlined below in section 8 below.

## **8. Nomination/Election Process**

8.1. The process of nomination for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Brand Manager and Event Coordinator positions is set out as follows:

8.1.1 Nominations will be held in April 2016, and every year thereafter as outlined in Section 7.

8.1.2. BMW CCA E31 Chapter Members nominated for board positions must have at least 12 months continuous membership in the BMW



CCA E31 Chapter directly prior to nomination to qualify for elections.

8.1.3. In April prior to the August Board meeting, active BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter members and board members will be asked to provide nominations to the BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter board of directors Secretary for any positions that fall due at the forthcoming Board meeting.

8.1.3.1. Nominees for President will come from current sitting board members as outlined in section 7.1.2.

8.1.3.2. Nominees for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Brand Manager and Event Coordinator will come from current sitting board members and general E31 Chapter members.

8.1.4. The nomination period closes April 30th prior to the forthcoming August Board meeting.

8.1.5. The nomination should be lodged via email to the BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter Secretary, and include the details of the nominee (name, short CV, BMW CCA E31 Chapter Membership Number), name of the BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter member nominating and seconding the nomination, and acceptance of the nomination by the nominee. The statement of acceptance by the nominee should also include a short (1 PAGE) letter stating to the membership why they would like to be

elected for the position, and qualifications for the position.

8.1.6. Once the nomination period has closed (April 30th), all nominations received by the deadline will be reconciled by the Secretary.

8.1.7. By May 15th prior to the August Board meeting, the Secretary will provide details of all nominations received to members of the BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter and board members by posting nominations on the Chapter website. Active members will be notified of voting instructions and the two week open period of voting.

8.1.8. Voting will be conducted via email or regular mail (as directed by the board) by BMW Car Club of America E31 Chapter active members. Voting will occur over a posted two week period. At the end of that period, votes postmarked by the posted end date and received will be tallied by the secretary (or treasurer in the case where the secretary position is up for election), and verified by both the President and Vice President. The President (or Vice President in the case of election of the President) will notify nominees of the outcome of the election, and request a written acceptance of the position from the elected member.

8.1.9. Newly elected board members will be installed at the August board meeting.

## **12. Special Election to fill board member vacancies**

In the event of an unforeseen vacancy on the board of directors, a special election may be called by the President, or Vice President (senior board member of the board if the vacancy involves the President).

12.1. The senior board member of the board will notify the Executive Vice President of BMW CCA that there is an unforeseen vacancy on the BMW CCA E31 Chapter Board of Directors.

12.2. The Senior Board Member will notify active BMW CCA E31 Chapter members either by email, or regular mail, that a special election will be conducted to fill the unforeseen vacancy.

12.3. The election process will be the same as that for regular elections. The only exception of the special election is the timeline, which may be adjusted to fit the circumstances.

12.4. If the vacancy is that of the President, then nominees will be taken from the current board of directors. If the vacancy is for all other board members, then nominees will be taken from the chapter membership. The newly elected board member's term will be the remaining term of the position. Follow-on elections will remain on schedule.



# E31 Product Review

## E31 Ace It – Snake Oil or Great Polish?

By Roger Wray

We've all been there before. You go to a car show, and there are a bunch of booths with guys selling all sorts of stuff – polish, oil, and the entire gamut of things. There is even the guy setting the hood or car door on fire to tout his brand of sealant or polish. To be honest, I have never paid much attention to any of them. Sure – the demonstration looks nice, but would you really want to set your car on fire???

So, fast forward. Two years ago, I had a guy touching up a set of wheels I have and he gave me a bottle of Ace-It, and said "Here – Try this stuff. You will be amazed!" I thought, Yeah, right, but I am not going to set my car on fire. So I took the bottle home, and did a Google Search. You, know...Google...that thing that is always right? What the search revealed was a bunch of bikers that absolutely loved the stuff! There were some testimonials of car owners too. The Bikers said that they use it on everything – windshields, paint, chrome – just about anything and were crazy about it. So I continued my search to see what was in the stuff. Nada. Nothing....so memories of burning hoods and snake oil came to mind.



But I thought, hay – the bottle was free, so I'll try it out on the daily driver. The guy who gave it to me promised it was an easy on and easy off application. The bottle said you could apply it in shade and in sunshine. Ok I thought – can't beat the price so I will give it a go.

My initial impression – DAMN – that stuff is shiny and slick! But – the proof is in the pudding so to speak, so how long will it last? We've all seen this before, but in a week it is gone! The Wolfgang Concours-Series Deep Gloss Pain Sealant V3.0 on the daily driver had been on a while, and was about ready for reapplication, so I thought what better way to evaluate it than on the daily driver, which is exposed to the hot Florida sun and what ever storms hit while I am at work and the car outside.

So, on it went. It took about 30 minutes to do the entire car. When I say entire car – I mean paint, trim, glass, and headlights. It is recommended for all surfaces! The stuff is pink and has a pleasant smell. The spray bottle is easy to use and spreads with a microfiber towel. Buffing it off was also easy. I even applied 2 coats to the hood and nose cap due to those nasty Florida Love Bugs. After finishing, I stepped back, and said WOW! At least it shined as good as any product I have used in the past. And I have used a lot.

The next day driving to work it rained – of course. One of those fast moving Florida showers. But – again I was impressed. Any water that hit the windshield simply flew over and off. I hardly had to use my wipers. And the beading on the paint – again very impressed. The rain just beaded up when I got to work and rolled off the paint. I thought...off to a good start, but I did just polish the thing yesterday.

Then the Love Bugs hit. For those of you who have never experienced Florida Love Bugs – just hope you never do. The things are nasty. Plus, the Love Bug Juice – that stuff that splatters on the car when you hit them – usually 2 at a time because ... you know...they are doing that "Love" bug thing – well – it is very acidic and will destroy clear coats in a few days. Ace-it states that bugs wipe off easily. But had it ever enjoyed getting acquainted with Love Bugs? So out came the spray bottle, and with a quick mist and some very light rubbing, they came off. It was not like they just fell off, but they came off easily and did not leave any trace behind. So I thought – maybe these Biker Dudes have caught on to something.





But then, as I said when I first started trying this stuff out – the proof is in the pudding, or better put – long term performance. After my first application 2 years ago, I have to say that I continue to be impressed. Does the stuff last forever – no. But, sometimes it has been longer than I intended, but the stuff still shined. I would say that I prefer to use it every 3 – 4 months. They say it can be used more often without buildup, and I have also experienced no issues with this. Another thing that is good is that it does not leave a white film on black trim. In other words, you can just about spray it everywhere, spread it with a microfiber towel, then buff it off with a

second microfiber towel with no worry of overspray.

I now use it on both our Daily Drivers, and have now for 2 years. It is not on the 8, but the primary reason is that I have been a die-hard Zaino user on the 8 for years, and love the Z8 Grand Finale Spray. But, I would have no issues placing on a good sealant on the 8, then using Ace-It.

In my hands, Ace-it has a great and long lasting shine. It is easily good for 3 – 4 months, and sometimes more. It does not suffer from hazing after buildup, and leaves a smooth, slick, and shiny finish. There is no white residue on black trim, and you can use it on paint, plastic, acrylic and glass.

The easiest way I have found to order it is on line, and most recently I splurged for a gallon of the stuff, which will last me quite a while. One of the negatives when reading online ordering reviews was that in the gallon size sometimes the top comes loose making a mess when shipped. That happened to me, but the guys at Ace-it gladly took care of it.

They also make a metal polish and plastic buffing compound, but I have no firsthand knowledge of either of them.

For anyone interested for more information, here is the website: <https://www.aceitpolish.com/shop/>



With the current environment,  
Texas member Greg Habel has declared his garage a  
“Corona Free Zone”, with only Molelo allowed!

## **E31** The E31 Chapter Apparel Store

BMWCCA E31 Chapter is proud to announce the E31 Chapter Swag Apparel Store. We have teamed up with the team at Queensboro Apparel so members may purchase E31 Apparel. Ordering is easy. Simply choose the item you want in what color you wish and place the order. The great people at Queensboro will fill the order, and ship it to you. It is that easy!



Be sure to visit our Chapter Apparel Website:

<https://bmwccae31.qbstores.com>  
for chapter apparel.

# <https://bmwccae31.qbstores.com>



*By Roger Wray  
Editor, E31 News*



Wuffer and I were recently texting back and forth while I was working in the garage on the car. We were discussing the current situation worldwide, and Tom said: "The world as we know it has changed..." No truer words have been spoken. Sunday I was reading the paper and came across an article interviewing Bobby Bowden, the retired legendary Florida State Football Coach. For those of you that don't know Bobby, he has a cut-to-the-chase southern downhome way about him. He said: "I don't think there is a man or a woman in the United States of America that could invision something like this happening.

An invisible germ...if it was visible maybe we could handle it. We can't even see the darn thing. And then we knew nothing about it. No history on it. No background on it". Again, a direct reflection on how times have changed.

The current situation has impacted our ability to gather in groups and enjoy our cars, but it has not impacted the enthusiasm all of us possess for our E31's, and fellow 8 owners. Although we are passionate about our cars, times like this help us to remember things most important to us. Be sure to let those you love know it. As many are not

as busy as we previously were due to the slowdown, it is an excellent time to reach out to those old friends and check on them.

The future for us will hold what it does, and hopefully that will include being able to gather again and enjoy our mutual enthusiasm for our 8's together. In the mean time always remember, it is the cars that bring us together, but it's the people that make us who we are.

Please be safe!

*Roger*

**MORE SMILES PER HOUR.**



**BMW Car Club  
of America  
E31 Chapter**



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P.O. Box 8324  
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