

BMW IM HERZEN DES SUDENS

2015, Issue 1 • January 2015

Dicken's Christmas Fun Run—Page 3



Photo courtesy of
Margaret Phillips

Inside this issue:

Kick-Off Party	1
President's Letter	2
Dicken's Christmas Fun Run	3
Troy Wesson, Newsletter Editor	4
Jack Joyner, National Driving Events Chairman	4
Special Offer from Tom Williams BMW	6
Winery Fun Run Recap	7
Membership Benefits	8

Heart of Dixie 2015 Kick-off Party!

Join us for our annual Heart of Dixie Kick-off Party:

**Sunday, February 8, 2015
from noon to 4PM**

Tom Williams BMW
1000 Tom Williams Way
Irondale, AL 35210

Lunch \$10
i Series Presentation
Games and Door prizes!
2015 Calendar Announced

Special presentation on the "i" series and their technology, advances and new demo program.



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President's Letter**2014 put to bed and time to get ready for 2015...**

My Bimmer Friends,

The year 2014 has been put to bed with the club ending the year with a great run to Franklin, Tn. back on December 13th (page 3). The club had around 38 people travel the back roads of Tennessee to Franklin for their annual Dickens' Christmas weekend. (See Jagir's article and Margaret's pictures)

I hope you get a chance to bring your BMW out to one of our upcoming events in 2015.

With that in mind, you are cordially invited to our 2015 Kick-Off Party on Sunday, February 8th, 2015 (page 1). Yes, it's that time of the year for you to get out of the house for a few hours and see some old friends and meet some new ones. The officers of your chapter are putting together another gathering for you. We will be sending out an announcement with details and how to register very shortly.

It should be fun and I really hope you can spare some time to come out to Tom Williams BMW and say "Hey".

I would also like to take a moment to recognize a few of your fellow chapter members.

Lisa Drenning has recently stepped



down as our newsletter editor after countless years of doing this vitally important task for our chapter. Lisa has done a remarkable job of taking us from the days of mailing a black and white copy of our quarterly newsletter to moving us to the

digital age of color and email.

THANK YOU SO MUCH LISA!

In her place, **Troy Wesson** (page 4) has agreed to assume the role of newsletter editor for the Heart of Dixie chapter going into 2015. Troy, we can't thank you enough for stepping up to the plate and we know you'll provide as much fantastic work as the members have come to expect from our newsletter.

I would also like to ask everyone to join me in congratulating our very own **Jack Joyner** (pages 4-5) in being named the National Driving Events Chairman for BMW CCA. This is such a well-deserved appointment for Jack and I commend the National Board members of BMW CCA for selecting such a worthy person. It's also quite a compliment to the Chapter to have a National position filled by one of our very own.

Lots of great stuff going...come on out to the party February 8th and see what's planned for 2015.

Don't forget...Check out the website for the latest pictures on Facebook or at <http://albmwcca.org/>,

Jonathan Holly



www.facebook.com/HeartOfDixieBmwCca

Dicken's Christmas Fun Run

Story by Jagir Jhaveri and Photos by Margaret Phillips

It was a cold Saturday morning and we were couldn't wait for it to get warmer. We met at the Shell gas station in Athens at about 9 am, grabbed coffee and snacks and used the bathrooms as well. We hit the interstate at 9:30 am.

I was thrilled as it was my first time on the Christmas fun run. We were going to Franklin Street Festival and drove through the back roads like always. The driving was more enjoyable than anticipated. The temperature in Franklin was mid 50's.

We made it to the Puckett's Boat House for lunch at noon. As we got there, we had the entire second floor booked to ourselves with over 30 people. We started ordering drinks and chatted with all the new folks that were motivated to come out that day. We ordered food and it was out



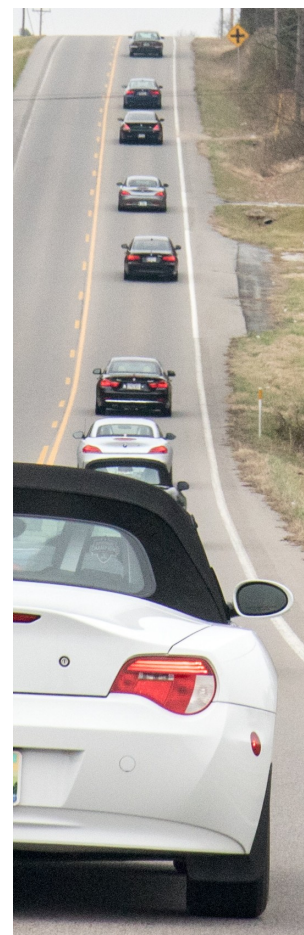
shortly. The food was delicious and the service was great. When we were done with lunch, we took some group photos and everyone walked over to the festival.

The festival crowds were busy and it was a great turnout. Everyone took pictures and I was surprised to see

the number of people. As we walked along the street, all we could see was heads. We visited all kinds of booths. I first grabbed some hot chocolate. We saw natural honey, natural soap, chocolates, pies, nuts and more. The festival was crowded and they say over 50,000 people turn out (over the two day period).

It was my first time to a street festival and I was in for a treat. If you have never been out there, it is definitely worth a visit and you will enjoy all the natural items. It was a very diversified group of people visiting. If you missed it this time, make sure you come out next time. It would even be worth visiting in the rain or cold.

"I was thrilled as it was my first time on the Christmas fun run."



Troy Wesson, Newsletter Editor

Heart of Dixie welcomes Troy Wesson as our 2015 Newsletter Editor. Troy takes over for **Lisa Drenning** who has done an incredible job with the club in this position for over 10 years. Troy has been a member of CCA since 2003 with his first purchase of a 2004 330xi. Troy joined Heart of Dixie as an active member in 2004 after moving to Madison from Germany. Troy has since traded in his 330xi and recently purchased a 2014 MINI Cooper S Roadster. Look for Troy at the next club event!



Photo courtesy of Kevin Stephenson

Jack Joyner, National Driving Events Chairman

It's not always about the destination.

Since most of us are "Car People", we have an appreciation for the tools that get us where we want to go. I tend to look at my journeys and think "how did I get here", as best sung by The Talking Heads. As many of you know my journey started

with a car, not just any car but one of the best BMW's ever built and raced, the E30 M3. I had purchased this car after my seven (yes 7) years of college. I enjoyed school, possibly too much, but came out with a desire to do things. I joined BMW CCA and found our nearest Chapter was Peachtree in Georgia. Back in the days of

postal mail, I would get a post card invite to a driver school or other event and notice it was happening that same day I got the post card. We needed something closer, something us Alabama people could call our own and do our own events. I contacted BMW CCA and asked, what would it take to start a chapter? After a few meetings and some great support, I founded Heart of Dixie BMW CCA. We became a chapter sometime in 1998 and started off with 350 members. After being President, V.P., Secretary and Treasurer over the next 6 or so years, we had a great chapter with lots of great people.

As the journey continued, I started doing driver schools in 1998, racing in 2000 and had racing licenses with 3 different clubs. I at this time I was a BMW addict owning 17 BMWs to date. We started having our own events and finally driver schools (HPDE's) at Barber Motorsports Park in 2003. I was sucked into instructing since I had raced, and we only

Photo courtesy of Jack Joyner



Dickens Christmas Fun Run photos courtesy of Margaret Phillips

Jack Joyner (continued)

had about 3 people in our chapter that could possibly instruct. Scott Montana ran our first event at Barber and it was a blast. The next year I was handed the wheel and have run our events at Barber every year but 2008. Being in charge of a driver school with over 150 people takes a special kind of OCD/ADD, and it seems I have both. Over the years I have met and worked with some great students, instructors, and volunteers that make everything happen correctly. I always get compliments on our driver schools and never really think much about them. But keep in mind someone is always watching, good, bad or ugly.

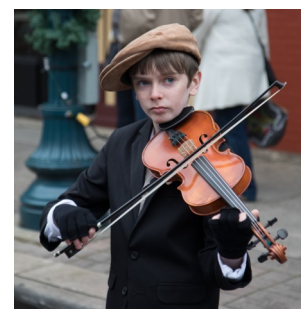
This club was based on a brand of car, but it's the people that keep it together. The people I have met and worked with were watching, and saw something in me that keeps my journey going. Bill Wade and I first met at a Driving Events Congress probably in 2008. We reconnected in 2011 at Oktoberfest here at Barber. We hit

it off and I knew this would be a great friendship. I don't think I even knew it, but Bill had been the BMW CCA Driving Events Chairman for the last 5 or 6 years at that point. Bill and I started hanging out and I did my first Tire Rack Street Survival with him in 2013. Bill is the National Program manager for the Street Survival program and has lots of responsibility and lots of places to be. I was hooked on Street Survival at that point and have started hosting our own schools. I think at this point Bill knew what I was made of and what I could do. With his current job responsibilities he was looking to step down from his BMW CCA National position. He had one candidate in mind and it was me.

This past year was very challenging for the Joyners and I wasn't sure if I needed another volunteer position. I have a disease called volunteerism and don't really know how to say no. Being a part of such a great club on a National level is something I have always

wanted to do, how could I say no? I am now the BMW CCA National Driving Events Chairman and will be filling the boots left by Bill Wade. I will be responsible for keeping all of our regions and chapters in compliance with our standards and keep everything and everyone on track and headed in the right direction, literally. We have the best organization around in which to experience our cars, the tracks, roads and of course all the people that make it work. My journey now has a new road to explore, but I would not be here if it weren't for all the people that also gave their time to help us keep the high standards of such a great organization. Looking back it's been some great roads, great stories, great tracks and most of all great people.

Jack Joyner
BMW CCA National
Driving Events Chairman
Heart of Dixie BMW CCA
Chief Instructor/Driving
Events Coordinator



Dicken's
Christmas in
Franklin, TN



Photos courtesy of Margaret Phillips



Tom Williams
BMW
Authorized
Center



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*Lease offer applies to 2015 320i Sedan. Valid through 2/2/15. Must be financed through BMW Financial Services.



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Receive an extra **\$500.00** *Tom Williams BMW Heart of Dixie Money*, in addition to CCA Money, off any new BMW in stock!

BMW Car Club
of America
Heart of Dixie Chapter



Must bring a copy of this flyer and your BMW CCA Membership card to claim \$500.00

Winery Fun Run Recap Story and Photos by Troy Wesson

Is drinking and driving a good idea? That is the first joke that comes to mind when you mention a fun run of BMWs to wineries. Actually, this is not the club's first trip sampling the various wineries around the state of Alabama. Some of our members are even slowly working on getting their passports stamped at each winery. This year's wine run focused on two well-established wineries around Albertville, located between Guntersville and Gadsden. And don't worry. We were all sober.

No destination is worthwhile unless there is an adventure getting there. For this run we had almost a dozen cars gather up early on Saturday, August 23 at a convenient exit near Cullman. We had a number of old timers as well as some new members join the club for their first run. I have been an active member of the club for over 10 years and had the pleasure of showing up in my new MINI Cooper S Roadster (a BMW, both in spirit and corporate ownership). We all spent a half-hour socializing and checking out each other's rides before receiving route instructions. Our trip was led by club president, Jonathan Holly, in his Z4, while Steve Lowery volunteered to sweep up the rear in his M3.

Our BMW convoy left Cullman for an hour long run to our first destination at the

Jules Berta Vineyard (julesbertavineyards.com) in Albertville atop Sand Mountain. This small 5-acre vineyard is just on the outskirts of the town. We received an extensive wine tasting including an explanation of new efforts by University of California Davis to develop vines for the Alabama climate that have already proven fruitful. Most of wines are made from their own grapes with some of the grapes sourced from local famers. Besides selling their own wines, the vineyard has a cute gift shop that sells tons of wine related knick-knacks. After our tasting and purchases, we moved on to our second destination.

About a half-hour away to the south west in Attalla/Duck Springs was the Wills Creek Winery (willscreekwinery.com). This winery is worth visiting just to drive the twisty roads in and out of the place. (It is near Tigers for Tomorrow – for those that have done that run with us in the past.) Like most wineries in the state, this winery too imported many of its grapes. Their specialty is their own locally grown Muscadine grapes and wines. We had plenty of opportunities for a tour of the winery as well as tasting the various offerings. We wrapped up the visit with a stop on their back porch overlooking a lake and sampled various frozen concoctions made with their signa-

ture Muscadine wines.

After some more curvy roads and a quick jaunt down I-59, our final stop was for some lunch and fellowship at Old Mexico Cantina in Gadsden. Thanks to our leader, we had some fun autocross through various parking lots to get to the right entrance. The temperature crept towards the high 90's, making this run where most convertible owners put their top up by the end of the day to escape the sun and heat. Even though it was hot outside, we wrapped up the day with some cold drinks and tasty Tex-Mex cuisine. It is trips like these that make me want to come back for another adventure with my fellow club members. I can't wait for our next trip.



"Is drinking and driving a good idea?"



**THE HEART OF
DIXIE CHAPTER
BMW CCA
NEWSLETTER**

Heart of Dixie
BMW CCA
P. O. Box 361645
Birmingham, Alabama
35236-1645

www.albmwcca.org

The Benefits of a BMW Club Membership

- **Vehicle Rebate:** BMW CCA members in good standing (membership for 12 months prior to the purchase) may be eligible for substantial rebates up to \$1,500 on the purchase or lease of a new or Certified Pre-Owned BMW from any authorized U.S. BMW Center. See bmwcca.org for details.
- Outstanding national events including BMW CCA's premier annual gathering, Oktoberfest.
- 12-month subscription to the Club magazine, The Roundel.
- Driving schools, autocrosses, safety schools, fun runs and Club Racing.
- Regional club-sponsored car corrals at major road races, like the Indy and Grand Am Series at Barber Motorsports Park.
- Free classified ads on the website and in Roundel magazine.
- Access to our Technical Service Advisors for personalized advice.
- Ombudsmen to help with dealer issues.
- Friends of BMW A roster of fellow BMW CCA members who can offer coffee and conversation, repair tools, workspace, sometimes even help when you're out on the road.
- Club library and video services. Borrow BMW-related books and videos.
- Availability of a BMW CCA affinity credit card.
- Free BMW CCA decals available from the club office.
- Access to all areas of the growing online community at www.bmwcca.org.



Photo courtesy of
Troy Wesson

**BMW Car Club
of America
Heart of Dixie Chapter**



You can also find your local chapter on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/HeartOfDixieBmwCca