

THE HEART OF
DIXIE CHAPTER
BMW
CAR CLUB
OF AMERICA
NEWSLETTER

BMW IM HERZEN DES SÜDENS



2018, Issue 2 • April 2018

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/HeartOfDixieBmwCca



Photo courtesy
of Troy Wesson

Cooling down on the wet skid pad and driving excitement on page 5
Auto-crossing at the Barber Proving Grounds

2018 Heart of Dixie BMW CCA Calendar of Events

- Sat, Feb 3 - BMW Kick-off Party at Century BMW
- Sat, Feb 24 - "NO TSI" Sports Car Trail Fun Run near Cheaha/Talladega
- Sun, Feb 25 - Tire Rack Street Survival at Hoover Met
- Sat, Mar 17 - BMW Performance Center ///M School in Greer, SC
- Sat, Apr 14 - Spectre Ghost Town Run near Montgomery
- Sat, May 12 - George Dickel Whisky Distillery Fun Run for a tour and tasting, lunch at Bluegill Grill floating restaurant on Tims Ford Lake
- Sat, Jun 23 - Dismals Canyon and Rattlesnake Saloon Fun Run in NW AL
- Sat, Jul 21 - Century BMW DIY Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Clinic
- Sat, Aug 25 - Drive and Tour of Dinan in Opelika
- Sun, Sep 2 - Tire Rack Street Survival School at Hoover Met
- Sep 15-16 - High Performance Driver Education at Barber
- Sat, Sep 29 - Scavenger Hunt and Lunch at Century BMW
- Sat, Oct 27 - HoD Oktoberfest Cook-Out and BMW Car Show at Oak Mountain State Park
- Sun, Oct 28 - Tire Rack Street Survival School at Hoover Met
- Sun, Nov 18 - Adult Vehicle Dynamics Clinic at Hoover Met
- Sat, Dec 8 - Festival of Lessons and Carols at Sewanee, TN

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**President's Letter**

Spring is finally here and the 2018 event calendar is in full swing with a set of new and different types of events spread across the State. We started the year with a fantastic kickoff party hosted at Century BMW in Huntsville. Good friend, professional racer and purveyor of performance parts, **James Clay**, was our featured speaker this year. James regaled us with tales from the race track over the years and ultimately about how what BimmerWorld learns on the race track applies to our street cars. Tune in to the IMSA Continental Tire Sports Car series this year to see James and team field the new BMW M4 GT4.

We raffled off some great prizes including two grand prizes - congratulations to **Matt Thomas** who won a slot at our ///M Club Day at the BMW Performance Center and **Jason Golden** who won a slot for our annual HPDE at Barber Motorsports Park. Attendance was the largest to date of any event; great to see many regular participants as well as a significant number of first timers.

February was a busy month with driving events centered around Birmingham and Clay County. The NO TSI run took a big group through the curvy mountain roads between Birmingham, Cheaha State Park and finally down to Lake Martin for lunch. I



Photos Courtesy of Sam Fara



BimmerWorld's James Clay at our Kick-off Party at Century BMW



Carol Lowery and Todd Lattanzi sign in guests at our annual Kick-off Party

think I only got us on one or two wrong turns! Cheaha is the highest point in Alabama with some amazing views. Take a trip to the park sometime if you haven't.

The very same weekend, we hosted our first Tire Rack Street Survival of the year at the Hoover Met. We spent the day coaching twenty-five teen drivers car control skills in a controlled, safe environment. Our hope is they never find themselves in a situation where they need to use what they learned, but if they do, they have some experience on what ABS braking feels like and how to deal with over- and understeer among other techniques. Big thanks to a great group of coaches for always being willing to give up a weekend day to teach, although, secretly, I think it's as much fun for us as the teenagers. Read **Jack Joyner's** article later in the newsletter for more details (page 7).

For the very first time in our chapter's history, we hosted a ///M Club Day at BMW's Performance Center (page 4). Thirty BMW enthusiasts from our chapter as well as a few members from the Peachtree, Choo-Choo, Bluegrass and Sandlapper chapters all

Letter continued on Page 3

President's Letter continued from Page 2

converged on Greenville, SC for what promised to be a great day. We all had a monumental amount of fun on St. Patrick's Day driving the M2, M3 and M4 through various circuits around the track at the Performance Center. My favorite two were the rat race - think wet oval skidpad, no traction control and trying to catch another driver - and the full track lapping.

I'm certain everyone left Saturday more tired than we all expected, with a huge

smile on our faces and ready to sign up to do it again! Stop by our Facebook page to see some of the great photos member Sam Fara captured from our trip. Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback, we've already begun talking with the Performance Center about potential 2019 dates.

Our next event is just a couple of weeks away. Walk in the footsteps of movie stars in Spectre, AL, a town purposely built for the movie Big Fish. For those of you in the Montgomery area, this event is close to you. Regardless of

where you live, if you have not had an opportunity to participate in one of our events, come join us! We have a ton of fun!

On a personal note, I've enjoyed the opportunity to get to know many of you whom I've only recently met. With that, it's only fitting that I conclude my second letter with a shout out to both new friends and old.

All the best,
Todd

BMW Car Club
Of America
Heart of Dixie Chapter



"NO TSI" TSALAGI Sports Car Trail

February 24, 2018



To hear about our trip, read the details in the President's Letter on Page 2



Heart of Dixie hosted our first ///M Club Day at the BMW Performance Center in mid-March. Our group of BMW fans had the center to ourselves all day. Hard to imagine a better day than burning rubber in someone else's M2, M3 and M4s all day! Big thanks to all who attended and to our instructors - Paul, Clint, Justin, Rick, Allison and Rafael. We had a great day! \$80,000 cars, \$10,000 brakes, \$2,000 tires, 6 mpg, maximum wear and tear, insurance, etc. all for a discounted \$750 for a full day to play with the best of the best - an incredible bargain.

After a brief instruction, we proceeded to our cars for four morning exercises: autocross, wet skid pad drifting, two car rat racing on another skid pad and high speed cornering and breaking exercises. After an extensive catered lunch, we returned to the track for four more exercises: autocross competition, timed figure eights on the skid pad, multiple cars on a road course with elevation changes and an extended high speed track. For our capstone, the instructors took the students out on track for a grand finale at full speed, maximum drift and smoking tires.

What an adrenaline rush. Looking forward to another trip to Greer, SC! Let us know if you are interested in 2019.



Our head instructor, Paul Mazzacane, providing our morning instruction prior to us hitting the track for a full day in our ///M cars.



///M Performance Driving School

Story by Todd Lattanzi and Troy Wesson



Photo courtesy of Troy Wesson



Photos courtesy of Sam Fara unless otherwise noted

Barber Proving Grounds

Story and Photos by Troy Wesson



It was a cool and foggy morning that turned into one of the most beautiful fall days on November 4, 2017 to autocross on the exclusive Barber Proving Grounds. With help from the SCCA, club members in their BMWs and other makes tried to beat the clock on this perfectly manicured road course through the roses. Many thanks to the organizers who kept cars moving and the participants walked away getting their monies worth. We were broken into two hourly run groups that allowed for those on break to help watch the course or take a much needed break. A select few braved the wet skid pad to see how their car safely would handle under the slickest of conditions. Barber is a great environment for first timers, as well as, professionals to test their handling skills in their own automobile. The banked turn is unique to this type of event. Don't miss an opportunity to join us in 2019.



Tail of the Dragon

Story by Cage Williamson



The River City Bimmers chapter hosted their 5th annual fun run at Deal's Gap and the Tail of the Dragon. Steven Bugg and I drove up on Friday morning, October 20th, 2017, from Birmingham where we would rendezvous with Don Bishop and my father, Stephen Williamson. From there, we travelled up through the beautiful hills and valleys of Tennessee until we arrived at the Fontana Dam Resort, where we would join a total of seven BMWCCA chapters: River City, Buckeye, Smokey Mountain, Heart of Dixie, Peachtree, Sandlapper, and Choo Choo. There was a short meet and great that evening, which preceded a well-needed night of rest before we tamed the Dragon the following morning.

On Saturday morning, we left the resort at 8:30 and drove out to the nearby dam to take pictures. Following the pictures, a large group departed for a "spirited" drive up the Dragon. Afterwards, we all met up once again for more pictures before splitting off into driving groups, this time based around driver confidence and skill in order to cater to every individual's comfort zone. To conclude the day, we converged back at the resort to enjoy a nice dinner and discuss the weekend.

Morale was high, and the event was deemed an enormous success. While I certainly need new brake pads and rotors, and over 1000 switchback turns caused a failed axle seal, the weekend was enormous fun. I will definitely make the trip again next year.



Author, Cage Williamson, brought his Cadillac this year to the Dragon event



Photos courtesy of Steven Bugg and Cage Williamson

Heart of Dixie Chapter-BMW CCA

Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Equity-Cash Basis

As of December 31, 2017

	Jan - Dec 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100 - Regions Checking	\$ 8,052
109 - Regions Money Market	83,317
Total Checking/Savings	91,369
Other Current Assets	
200 - Inventory	215
211 - Deposits-Other	11,200
Total Other Current Assets	11,415
Total Current Assets	102,784
Fixed Assets	
300 - Equipment	294
Total Fixed Assets	294
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 103,078
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
500 - Fund Balance	\$ 103,522
Net Income	-444
Total Equity	103,078
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 103,078

Heart of Dixie Chapter-BMW CCA

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements-Cash Basis

	Jan - Dec 17
Income	
600 - Membership dues	\$ 8,094
610 - Sponsor/Advertising Receipts	6,350
615 - Driving School fees	70,724
616 - BMW CCA Club Race fees	7,477
620 - Autocross fees/CCC	9,067
625 - Other event fees	2,609
630 - Merchandise sales	1,975
635 - Interest income	43
650 - Misc./Other	0
Total Income	106,339
Expense	
800 - Newsletter costs	472
801 - Bank Charges	36
810 - Insurance	5,181
815 - Driving school expenses	81,047
820 - CCC/Autocross expenses	11,651
821 - BMW CCA Club Race Expense	739
825 - Meeting expenses	3,888
830 - Merchandise purchases	1,233
835 - Other event expenses	1,354
842 - Travel & incidental expenses	182
851 - Benevolences	1,000
Total Expense	106,783
Net Income	\$ (444)

**Tire Rack Street Survival**

Story by Jack Joyner and Photos by Todd Lattanzi

We all have some sort of calling in life. Some are Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers, and Bankers, plus many more types of trades in the world today. Hopefully we all have a way to give a little more, or do a little something extra. Our Heart of Dixie Chapter has been hosting Tire Rack Teen Street Survival schools since 2013, and has been our way of giving back to the community.

As a host Chapter we find a venue, organize the event, get the students, get the instructors and save lives. If you're not familiar with the Street Survival program, it is by far the best teen driving program around - you can learn much more at www.streetsurvival.org. Car accidents are the number one killer of teenagers in the country. As a licensed driver, you may have passed the test, but do you really know how to stop the car in an emergency, or avoid a dangerous situation? We take teen driving to the next level, teaching the skills and knowledge needed to be a better, safer, smarter driver. In Drivers Ed teens don't get real world driving opportunities on accident avoidance. If you can avoid the accident, and not be in one at all, your survival rates are much better.



Our Chapter has been successfully hosting our events at the Hoover Met in Birmingham and also at Shelton State in Tuscaloosa. Our first school this year was on February 25th where we helped save 25 teen lives. We put them through lots of emergency braking exercise's, emergency lane changes, slalom course, and even a wet skid pad. Our instructors are some of the best people you will meet, all with a passion for driving. They help the kids learn what happens in real world emergency avoidance and how to control the car in any situation. Anyone with a teen driver should find a Tire Rack Street Survival school and sign them up. It not only helps the teen, it gives us parents a better feeling about our driver's skills and knowledge on the roads.

We are hosting two more Teen schools this year both at the Hoover Met on September 2nd and again on October 28th. Registration is open for these and can be found on the www.streetsurvival.org website, listed as the Hoover Met. Our Teen schools are open to anyone ages 15-21 and the adult driving school will be 21 and up. We are also going to do a little something extra for the adults this year. We always get comments from the parents about "my sister could use this" or "my uncle". On November 18th at the Hoover Met, we will host a similar program as a Car control clinic for adults. Our schools fill up quickly, so sign up today. We look forward to seeing you, your teenager, or your uncle at our next events, so we can help everyone learn to be a better safer smarter driver.

If you are interested in helping volunteer for any of these events, we can always use help. Please reach out to me via email at jackjoy@charter.net





Photos courtesy of
Steven Bugg and Cage Williamson



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A Membership That Pays for Itself - BMW CCA

- 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/vehicle_rebate for details.

- Discounts at the dealership on parts and accessories.
- Discounts from many third party companies for travel, insurance, car care and clothing from companies like Hertz, Avis, Nationwide, Griot's and Brooks Brothers.
- 12-month subscription to the Club magazine, *Roundel*.
- Access to our Technical Service Advisors for personalized advice and Ombudsmen to help with dealer issues.
- Outstanding national events including BMW CCA's premier annual gathering, Oktoberfest. ofest.bmwcca.org
- 128+ pages of all things BMW: bmwcca.org/roundel_mag
- Free classified ads on the website and in *Roundel* magazine. bmwcca.org/classifieds
- 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.
- Access to all areas of the growing online community.

Also includes membership to the local **Heart of Dixie** chapter (albmwcca.org), where you have access to:

- Driving schools, autocrosses, rallies, driving safety schools and Club Racing.
- Club and chapter discounts at the Performance Driving School bmwperformancecenter.com
- Regional club-sponsored car corrals at major road races, like the Indy and other professional race series at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama.
- Social events with guest speakers.
- Fun runs on some of the best backroads in the region to enjoy local venues and fellowship over a meal.
- Free BMW CCA decals available from the club office.

Join our Facebook page to stay current on all our activities and interact with other members.

www.facebook.com/HeartOfDixieBmwCca

Join the club today
at bmwcca.org.

Membership is only
\$48 per year.

BMW Car Club
Of America
Heart of Dixie Chapter



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