

THE HEART OF
DIXIE CHAPTER
BMW
CAR CLUB
OF AMERICA
NEWSLETTER

BMW IM HERZEN DES SÜDENS

2019, Issue 2 • April 2019

Hack Mechanic, Rob Seigel,
Kicks Off 2019
(story on page 3)



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Join Us On Our
Next Adventure

Group Photo from our trip to the Wellborn Muscle Car Museum. See Page 6 for the rest of the story. Photo courtesy of Sam Fara.

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President's Letter

With the arrival of Spring, our activities are in full swing for the year. Following our January kick off event, our events commenced with encores of two very popular events from 2018 - the first of two DIY clinics and trip to BMW's Performance Center. Chapter members and BMW techs **Matt Thomas** and **Marvin Goetz** spent their Saturday with us showing us how to change our oil and brake fluid. After our catered lunch we raffled off some great prizes. Thanks guys!

If you've never had the opportunity to visit BMW's Performance Center near Greenville, SC, it's well worth a trip. Near the factory, the PC plays host to thousands of guests per year where the opportunity to drive the latest and greatest BMW has to offer is right in front of you. Our second annual M day afforded 30 of us the opportunity to spend a Saturday driving the M2 Competition, M3 and M4 at speed around BMW's track. It's a fantastic experience! Consistent with last year, everyone left with ear-to-ear smiles and asking if we planned to do it again next year. See the article later in the new letter for the details.

While I've never really been a muscle car guy, we took a trip to the Wellborn Car Museum in Alexander City, AL. It was amazing! The cars were fantastic, but what really made the trip special was our host - **Alton Freeman**. As Alton told us, "everyday is a good day" for him having the responsibility to drive and maintain the collection of cars. Alton kept us interested and laughing for 2 hours as we learned the history of each car and why each a was part of the collection. You can really hear his passion when he talks about the cars. If you're even remotely interested in cars from the 60s and 70s, I highly recommend planning a trip to the Wellborn Museum. Big thanks to member **Sam Fara** for organizing another great trip for us!

Coming up in May we have our Autocross at



Barber Motorsport Park's Proving Grounds. In no way shape or form will this event remotely resemble your traditional parking lot coned-off Autocross. The course is really a mini road course. Make plans to join us and have a fun time on the course. You don't need anything special to attend other than a helmet. The chapter has several we can lend should you not have one. At the same time, explore the limits of traction on the wet skidpad. Can you make your car drift? It's harder than it looks!

Lastly, we have an upcoming change to our schedule due to a recent conflict. Our June trip to Dinan is going to be rescheduled to another date in the future. We're working on a replacement event now and would love your suggestions. We have also included our finances for 2018 in this newsletter. Take a moment to review. Our financial state enables us to host many of the events we do that other chapters cannot due to the cost of the events. However, we still look for responsible ways to fund events for the benefit of our chapter's members. As always, we are open to your suggestions.

I hope to see you at our upcoming events.

All the best,
Todd



Check out pages 6 and 8 for more from our latest adventure to the Wellborn Muscle Car Museum

2019 Kick-Off Party



The Heart of Dixie BMW CCA kicked off to a great 2019 start at Century BMW with Roundel's own "Hack Mechanic" **Rob Siegel** as the guest speaker. **Ann Marie Lang** of Century BMW provided details on a great deal on X2 leases. Attendees to the kickoff were also offered aggressive pricing for club members on parts and in-stock lifestyle products. Chris, of Century

BMW, also reminded us to contact Century on parts prices before placing your order on the internet.

After a hearty Italian meal in Century's clean and spacious BMW service area, author, "Hack Mechanic", musician, and Eric Clapton impersonator, Rob Siegel spoke to the group. Rob told us the answers to some of the mysteries in life such as: how you maintain a marriage and many, many BMWs at the same time; how to finish a project car; and what happens to a car in Boston if you leave it on the street without a tag (nothing good.)

After Rob's entertaining talk, Century and HoD raffled off several prizes including a BMW electric cooler that Century donated to the person who bought the most parts that day. Also raffled off was a driving slot to the BMW Performance Center in Greer South Carolina and a High Performance Driving Education slot at Barber. Last, but not least, HoD presented participation awards which included generous certificates to purchase parts and services for your BMW.



Story and photos courtesy of Sam Fara

///M Club Day by Chris Jones



For the second year in a row, the Heart of Dixie CCA Chapter hosted a ///M Club Day at the BMW Performance Center in Greer, South Carolina. On March 16th several Heart of Dixie Members along with other CCA members from different chapters met to have a full day of performance driving instruction from the professionals at the Performance Center and drive BMW's latest M cars.

Several of us met for pizza and drinks on Friday night. It was great seeing fellow HoD members but we also had the pleasure of meeting CCA members from other chapters who joined the event. We spent a couple hours getting to know one another, talking about our favorite subjects (BMW cars), and anticipating all the fun we would have the next day.

On Saturday we met at the Performance Center at 8:00 a.m. and began our day with some brief classroom instruction on basic car control concepts as well as what to expect during the day. Then it was time to break into groups and head to the track! Our exercises consisted of heavy breaking and corner turn in, auto cross, skid pad and

the "rat race." We were using the M3, M4 and the new M2 Competition. As we completed our time at each driving exercise we met at the staging area briefly to change cars and rotate to the next event. Everyone one of us had huge smiles as we exited our car and headed to the next car and exercise.

During our lunch at the Performance Center we had a few minutes to chat with other members and discuss the morning activities. Some of the topics I overheard were "What was your favorite event?" "Did you complete a full drift around the skid pad?" "I wouldn't eat that second cookie, we are about to do figure eights on the skid pad!" I enjoyed all the different morning events but the skid pad and rat race were my favorite. It's so much fun to turn off all the driving aids on a 400hp plus car and attempt to control the car in various oversteer and understeer situations. Or when the instructor pulls the handbrake while you are going in circles on polished, wet concrete, when the car is right on the edge of losing grip!

After lunch we had a brief classroom discussion where our lead instructor, Rafael Torres, told us things were about to ramp up. The afternoon exercises would build on what we had learned that morning, the speeds would be faster and there would also be timed events just to add a competitive element. In addition to a timed autocross, we would also drive the Performance Track with elevation changes, figure eights on the



skid pad and a larger road course track configuration with a long straightaway. My favorite afternoon event was the road course in the M4. I had driven prior M3's and M5's at the Performance Center and currently own a M2 which I have driven on an autocross course. However, I has blown away with the torque on the M4 and it took me a bit to learn how gently you have to apply the initial power. With a good exit onto the straightaway we were reaching speeds close to 110 mph with the M4 just before having to apply the brakes to make a 25 mph left hander. And by the way, the brakes are pretty good too on the M4!!

As the day progressed you could see everyone's confidence growing in their ability and the cars. A few of us were thinking were are pretty good at this performance driving thing. That is until we rode with the instructors during their "Hot Laps" to close out the day. This is when you see the tremendous gap between an amateur (like me) and a professional driver with years of racing and high performance driving experience. Four instructor driven M3's, just a few feet apart, sliding sideways in a haze of tire smoke ended our day in style!



Photos courtesy of Chris Jones

DIY Clinic at BMW of Birmingham



Photos courtesy of Alison Argall



Story and photos by Sam Fara

On a warm sunny Saturday, Heart of Dixie members took a fun trip back in time to the 70s with a visit to the Wellborn Muscle Car Museum. Tim and Pam Wellborn have amassed the nation's largest high-performance Dodge collection.

It has 71 Chargers alone including a 1971 Dodge Charger R/T Hemi that his dad bought new. It has been featured in several car magazines and TV shows and is located in a fully

restored car dealership, which was built in 1944.

Museum curator **Alton Freeman** provided an informative, entertaining and story-filled private tour. We learned how a hemi engine is different than most V8s and why you shouldn't drive a Dodge Challenger SRT Demon at speed in front of law enforcement officers. After buying a few t-shirts, we headed to Big B BBQ for lunch. If



you missed the outing, do yourself a favor and go a little out of your way for a great car museum.



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.

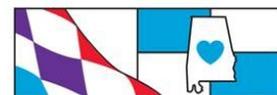
Join our Facebook page to stay current on all our activities and interact with other members.

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



NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE AT: albmwcca.org/news

2018 Heart of Dixie Chapter Financial Statement

Submitted by Dale Sitton on 02/09/2019 05:03 PM

Balance Sheet	
Assets	
Cash In Bank Accounts	\$ 107,219.19
Inventory	\$ 215.00
Equipment	\$ 294.36
Accounts Receivable	\$ 0.00
Prepaid Expenses/Deposits	\$ 0.00
Other Assets	\$ 0.00
Total Assets	\$ 107,728.55
Liabilities & Equity	
Accounts Payable	\$ 63.76
Other Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Equity/Retained Earnings	\$ 103,077.54
Net Income (loss)	\$ 4,587.25
Adjustments to Retained Earnings	\$ 0.00
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 107,728.55

Income Statement	
Income	
Membership Dues	\$ 7,856.59
Rebates from National	\$ 0.00
Advertising Revenue	\$ 2,500.00
Merchandise Sales	\$ 430.00
Interest	\$ 361.59
Driving School Fees	\$ 49,579.77
Autocross Fees	\$ 843.75
Other Event Fees	\$ 24,400.60
Misc./Other Income	\$ 100.00
Total Income	\$ 86,072.30
Expenses	
Newsletter Costs	\$ 842.55
Postage	\$ 37.23
Telephone Expenses	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 2,371.54
Driving School Expenses	\$ 44,916.45
Autocross Expenses	\$ 406.29
Meeting Expenses	\$ 2,868.20
Other Event Expenses	\$ 24,693.53
Misc./Other Expenses	\$ 5,349.26
Total Expenses	\$ 81,485.05
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 4,587.25

2019 Calendar of Events:

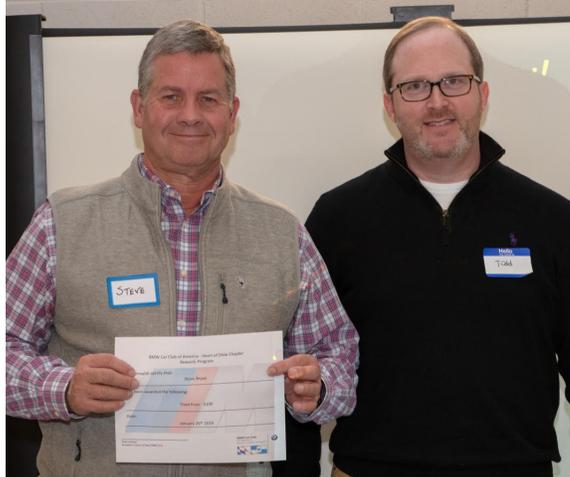
- Apr 13 Scavenger Hunt/Huntsville Campus 805
- May 11 Autocross @ Barber Proving Grounds
- Jun 22 TBD
- Jun 23 Tire Rack Street Survival School
- Jul 20 DIY Clinic @ Century BMW (Huntsville)
- Aug 11 Tire Rack Street Survival School
- Aug 17 Tiffin Motorhome Plant Tour in Red Bay
- Sep 14-15 High Performance Driver's Education
- Oct 5 Guntersville Honeycomb Natural Bridge
- Oct 27 Tire Rack Street Survival School
- Nov 9 Leiper's Fork Distillery Tour
- Dec 7 Orbix Hot Glass near Ft. Payne



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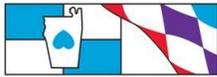
We hope you will join us for our **Scavenger Hunt** on **April 13th, 2019**. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Panera Bread at the Bridge Street Town Centre (Huntsville) where you will be given a list of items to find. These items will be in the general vicinity or they may be right in front of you! You will have an hour and a half to find the items, take pictures, and meet at Campus 805 for lunch where the winner will be determined. Check out our web-site for details and registration.

2019 Kick-Off Party Raffle Winners





SAVE THE DATE: BMW CCA Heart of Dixie Chapter Fun Day at the Barber Motorsports Park Proving Grounds — Saturday, May 11 — only \$125



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