

THE HEART OF  
DIXIE CHAPTER  
BMW  
CAR CLUB  
OF AMERICA  
NEWSLETTER

# BMW IM HERZEN DES SÜDENS



2018, Issue 4 • October 2018

## BMW 2002 Exhibit

Story and Photos by Sam Fara



See more photos of the BMW CCA Foundation's 2002 Exhibit on Page 4

### Inside this issue:

BMW 2002 Exhibit	1
President's Letter	2
Upcoming Calendar of Events	2
DIY Tech Session	3
More from the BMW 2002 Exhibit	4
Dinan Engineering comes to Alabama	5
MINI Takes The States 2018	6
Membership Benefits	8

The BMW CCA Foundation is honoring the 50th anniversary of the 2002 at its museum with the exhibit: *THE ICON: 50 years of the 2002*. Per the foundation website: "This exhibition, presented by The Werk Shop, tells the story of the little car that built the brand, ignited a cult, and launched the BMW Car Club of America ... now the largest single-marque car club in the world."

There are 27 cars in four groups: Stock, Variants, Modified and Race. Also on display is a large collection of 2002-related art, posters and memorabilia. The exhibit runs through January 2019. There is also a ICON book and t-shirt made especially for the exhibition. Admission to the ICON exhibit is \$5 for BMW CCA members and \$10 for non-members.

The BMW CCA Foundation museum is located in Greer, SC, next to the BMW Performance Center. It is the largest BMW museum & archive in North America, with 45,000+ item in preservation and/or display.

When you visit, be sure to buy the book/get the t-shirt. More details can be found at [www.bmwccafoundation.org](http://www.bmwccafoundation.org).



/HeartOfDixieBmwCca

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**President's Letter**

Welcome to fall, although it seems the temperature hasn't quite gotten the message yet that it's time for autumn temps. I'm escaping the heat! As I write, I'm sitting on an airplane bound for Germany and it's cooler temps. But, so as not to create the anticipation that you're about to be subjected to vacation pictures, I'm headed to the Nürburgring with 23 others from the U.S. and two BMW Performance Center instructors. I've been looking forward to the two days of interval training in the M4 for a few months and it's finally here. There might be a stop at Oktoberfest involved along the way. Hundreds of thousands of Germans confined to tents drinking copious amounts of beer. What could go wrong? Stay tuned for next quarter's newsletter for how it went.

Thinking back over all of the years I have participated in our chapter's events, I can't think of a single one I didn't enjoy. However, for me, the events of the last quarter have been some of the most memorable and fun of all! We kicked off the quarter with a DIY event hosted by Century BMW's **Eddie Passeur** and **Dave Wright** showing us how to change brake pads and rotors on three different BMWs. Read member **Sam Fara's** article about the event. Suffice it to say based on the feedback, this kind of event will be on our 2019 calendar without a doubt!

Alabama has the great fortune of having quite a bit of automotive industry in our state - Mercedes, Honda, Hyundai, Toyota, Mazda in near future and the newest, and most fun for our interests, Dinan. Most of us BMW enthusiasts know Dinan as the premier tuner for the marque. What you may not know is earlier this year, Dinan relocated its headquarters from California to Opelika. Eighty of us made the trip to the Auburn area in August where we spent the day with a fantastic group of a Dinan's team. Can you imagine what 80 kids in a candy store is like? The Dinan team absolutely rolled out the red carpet for us, fed us lunch and gave us the VIP tour of their impressive facility. One of the most interesting parts of our tour to me was listening to the team talk about how they use handheld

scanners now to scan new vehicles for component development. Very cool! On top of that, they even 3D print some parts. We all enjoyed the day and appreciate Dinan's staff giving up their Saturday to spend with us. Special thanks to **Dan and Gracie Hatcher** for hosting us at their home after. We look forward to another trip to Opelika next year!



As a HPDE attendee for many years, I've always been the recipient of the hard work that goes into it. A heartfelt thanks to **Carol Lowery, Hank Bowman** and **Andre DeSouza** for all of the hard work this year - I wouldn't want to organize the event without you! In addition to the HPDE, we also hosted a BMW CCA Club Race School. Two intensive days of classroom and on track instruction resulted in fifteen new Club Racing graduates. Congratulations to you all! Saturday night we hosted dinner for everyone paired with the BimmerWorld Beer Garden and raffled off some great prizes. Fantastic to have everyone together to tell stories from the day, meet new friends and enjoy a meal together. It's hard to imagine socializing together at dinner not becoming part of every HoD HPDE going forward. Lastly, thanks very much to all of our sponsors. Check them out on the last page of the newsletter and consider supporting all of the sponsors who support our chapter.

Only a few events remain in 2018. Make one of them the first event you've attended if you haven't been to one of our events before. As a reminder, our HoD Rewards program is in full swing - points for participation leading to financial rewards to support your BMW habit. A couple of members have an early lead! Will you let them win?

Finally, we are going to start our 2019 planning cycle a couple of months earlier than in years past. Our goal is to have our 2019 calendar complete in December. To support that goal, watch your email for a survey from me in the coming weeks to ask for your feedback - what did you like, what should we change, what suggestions do you have? Your feedback is critical to us. The feedback you provided at the beginning of this year directly influenced the types of events we planned for 2018.

As always, we welcome your suggestions and feedback anytime.

All the best, Todd

**Upcoming Calendar of Events**

Sat, Oct 27 - HoD Oktoberfest Cook-Out and BMW Car Show at Oak Mountain 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



## DIY Tech session at Century BMW by Sam Fara

On 21 July 2018, Century BMW of Huntsville hosted 32 members of HoD BMW CCA for our first brake pad and rotor replacement demonstration.

**Mike Lawrence, Mike Katchur, and Patrick O'Donnell** won the drawing for a free brake and pad job by two of BMW's finest technicians. Several other members won certificates for parts and accessories. All of in attendance won a free lunch, discounts on some new 2017 BMWs, and the opportunity to buy BMW parts and accessories at 10% over dealer cost.

During the demonstrations, we learned the right way to replace both the pads and rotors including: proper procedures, what to clean, what to lubricate (and what not to), tools, torque wrench settings, how to remove a rotor that just does not want to come off, parking brakes (drum and electronic), and how to manually reset the service reminders.

Afterwards, there was an informal technical session to answer our BMW maintenance questions. Many thanks to Century BMW and especially **Eddie Passeur** (Service Manager) and **Dave Wright** (Shop Foreman) for hosting us and taking the time to show us the tricks of the trade!



Photo courtesy of Sam Fara



More photos from  
the story on Page 1



Chapter Secretary, **Carol**, and her husband, **Steve Lowery**, recently took delivery of their M2 at the BMW Performance Center in Greer, South Carolina prior to bringing it out on the George Dickel Fun Run. They will also be enjoying an additional \$500 rebate from BMW for their active membership in the club. Check out the latest rebates at [bmwcca.org/vehicle\\_rebate](http://bmwcca.org/vehicle_rebate) and how you can get one even if you are not yet a member.



THE

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Foundation**  
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**50**  
YEARS OF THE  
**2002**  
PRESENTED BY  
THE WERK SHOP  
MAY 2018 - JAN 2019



# Dinan Engineering

Photos and Story  
by Sam Fara



Dinan Engineering, the premier BMW performance tuner and recent Alabama transplant, hosted an open house for 80 HoD members and guests at its Opelika, AL headquarters. On display was a 500+ horsepower 340i S3 and a M5 with horsepower too obscene to print in a family-friendly publication.

Both the Dinan and APR teams, and their President **Mitch Williams** showed HoD their beautiful facility which houses their hardware and software engineering, manufacturing, vehicle testing, sales and technical support. We saw much of the equipment they use for development and testing including: engine test stands, data gathering equipment, computers, dynamometers, 3D printers, and CNC machines. Not to be out done by the advanced technology required to make our cars faster, Mitch verified that he was not a BMW newcomer by showing us the roundel of his first BMW, a 2002.

Afterwards, **Dan & Gracie Hatcher** kindly invited us to their home for a pool side social. They supplied us with great stories, the opportunity for a dip in their pool, and German refreshments. After that, HoD ate at the ZaZu gastropub in downtown Opelika.







## MINI Takes The States by Troy Wesson RALLY TO THE ROCKIES

JULY 14 2018 JULY 22



### MINI Takes The States

is a bi-annual rally put on by MINI USA for the MINI enthusiasts across the country. Owned by BMW since 2000, MINI owners are welcomed members of the BMW CCA and the latest cars often featured in the monthly *Roundel*.

This year, due to its past popularity, MINI returned to a centralized event. The three last previous events were two-week coast-to-coast rallies that grew to such size that they were unmanageable. In 2018, we rallied from two coasts for a weekend celebration of all things MINI in Keystone, Colorado (near Denver and Breckenridge).

Participants can join in at one city, multiple cities or motor all the way, and some even joined just for the flagship event in Keystone. For 2018, there were over 3600 participants and over 1000 cars (from the classics to the latest model) participating on a daily basis.

As with any corporate event of this scale, it is key to identify a charity to support. This year (returning from 2016) was Feeding America. Individuals, clubs and sponsors raised enough money to serve 1.1 million meals for hunger relief.

Coming from both coasts, the event motored over 5030 miles and covered 14 states in 9 days. MINI USA ensured that support vehicles traveled with the rally to



provide emergency services and had sponsored dealerships at each city ready to stay open late to provide emergency services to keep us

moving along.

This year was my third and my daughter's second. **Caitlin** was my co-pilot, navigator and action photographer as we decided to join in at Little Rock. We departed early Monday morning as part of a rally team with **Kevin Houk** and his father, **Paul**. While the main East Coast rally was moving from New Orleans, we made an effort to join up with them that evening. We made a quick stop in Memphis at Corky's BBQ and ventured to the top of the Bass Pro Shop Pyramid for an impressive look at the mighty Mississippi.

That evening in Little Rock, the local club and dealership put on a party on the grounds of the Bill Clinton Library. The library stayed open late and my daughter and I got our picture taken in the Oval Office. On the grounds, there were vendors, a local brewery and live music. Before grabbing dinner nearby, we made sure we stood on the actual iconic "little rock" used as a reference marker for the ideal location to ford the Arkansas River.

The next morning, we met at our first of many Rise and Shine events. This event was on the tarmac of a closed runway at the Little Rock Airport. There, we grabbed our chicken and biscuit breakfast, registered (with an awesome goody bag) and checked out the local and national vendors. We rejoiced in our reunion with many fellow owners that we have known previously from across the southeast.

When it was time, 1000 MINIs motored out of town with a police escort. Each day included a Surprise and Delight. This day included a stop at the tower above Hot Springs, Arkansas. While the parking was a bit crowded, the drive was like a "mini" Tail

of the Dragon with numerous switchbacks to get to the summit.

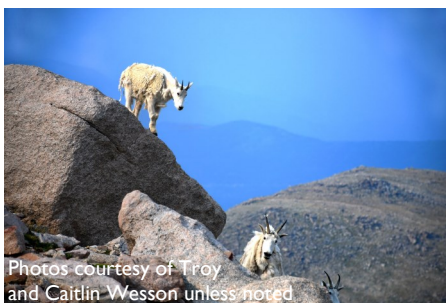
Afterwards, we motored on through the amazing roads of the Ouachita Mountains down to Texarkana where we rejoined the interstate to head into Dallas. The day was not complete without a photo of the thermometer hitting 111 degrees on the asphalt. Our evening festivities included a catered meal at Legal Draft in Arlington with some awesome street tacos and enchiladas from a local food truck. This private event was outstanding with some great music by local talent and a chance to socialize.

The next morning, we met up at the AT&T stadium for some Texas-size burritos. At this time, a group of us easterners made a "rebel" run to the west coast group via Wichita Falls and lunch at the Big Texan in Amarillo and on to Santa Fe. Our run was not complete without a quick stop to paint our names on the cars at Cadillac Ranch and a brief run down Route 66. We rolled in late, but ready for the rewards ahead.

The next morning was a short drive departing a local casino in Santa Fe. We took some beautiful mountain roads for a 4 hour drive to Durango, Colorado. Our Surprise and Delight was at a local lavender farm where we were treated to lavender ice cream, tea, lotions and many other items to purchase. After a quick stop along the way for lunch, we pressed on to Durango to try and get coveted tickets for Mesa Verde.

Arriving at the downtown Welcome Center at 3PM, Caitlin was able to run in and acquire four tickets for the last tour of the Cliff Palace at 5:30PM. We quickly dumped our stuff at the hotel and motored west for 45 minutes to the National Park where we then drove some amazing roads up switchbacks and through tunnels to the top of a mesa to the palace. We made it with 30 minutes to spare and had time for a few pictures along the way.

We then proceeded for the next hour to climb down into the canyon via carved stone



Photos courtesy of Troy and Caitlin Wesson unless noted



stairs and ladders to venture inside the cliff dwellings. These dwellings date back from 500 AD to 1200 AD and pre-date most of modern history, and even the more famous Machu Picchu. What an adventure—with more to come!

After a very late dinner sitting out among the stars in Durango, we awoke ready to tackle the Million Dollar Highway. We gathered at the local fairgrounds and unfortunately had to endure some lengthy traffic getting through a one-way construction zone on our way to Silverton. Once we cleared the back-up, we were ready for our adventure and wow, the Million Dollar Highway was impressive. The narrow road through canyons and passes was an impressive engineering feat for the day. We were greeted with a beautiful view of Ouray as we came down the canyon for a lunch stop.

We elected to visit a local brewery with a rooftop café. From there, we had sweeping views and the joy of waving to other MINIs as they motored through town. With still a long day ahead, we made a mental note to return to this area again some day and pressed on towards Keystone.

Later in the day, we encountered some rain and unfortunately with the construction delays—we did not make the Surprise and Delight at historic South Park. We rolled into Keystone just in time to get checked into our condo and to join the festivities down the street at the slope-side lodge.

In Keystone, there were food stations galore, goodies, games, music and activities that went on until late at night. We finally turned in and awoke ready for the next day.

On Saturday (after a brief run into town to wash the car and to park it back in the garage under the condo), we shuttled down the road to one of the larger ski villages for our breakfast, vendors and activities. With our bellies full and our arms loaded up with “freebies”—including gas cards from Shell, we plotted our afternoon adventure.

Throughout the day, there were many organized runs throughout the mountains. We opted to join up with a group that was making the run up the highest road in Ameri-

ca—Mt. Evans (summit of 14,130ft). The mountain was closed in the morning for an annual bike race, but was promised to be open for cars by our arrival at 3PM.

We joined in and made the scenic drive over Loveland Pass (a continental divide) and down the mountain towards Denver and the cut-off for Mt. Evans. From there we enjoyed the switchbacks and scenic views to the top where we saw marmots, mountain goats and sheep. This was certainly a highlight of our trip.

We made it back down in time for another awesome dinner put on by MINI at the village with numerous food stations. There were bands, photo booths and even a silent disco for those that wanted to party with the help of headphones—indeed an odd experience to watch.

On Sunday, we gathered for our farewell and group photos. Corporate announced success, thanked us for participating and promised that we will rally again in 2020.

Our small group plotted our route home via Colorado Springs. We spent Sunday afternoon leisurely motoring via Manitou Springs



and on to our hotel for some relaxation.

On Monday, we spent the day around the area. Our first stop was the Garden of the Gods. With the threat of rain in the afternoon, we wanted to make sure we made this visit first. The rock formations were amazing and definitely worth the visit.

We then headed to nearby Old Colorado City to find lunch and regroup. We originally wanted to do Pike's Peak, but canceled our plans when we could do Mt. Evans and found out that the cog railroad was closed for maintenance and the road to the top was limited to shuttle buses due to construction on a new visitor center.

After further research and some regrets of not doing Pike's Peak—we decided to try and beat the weather and fingers crossed that when traffic slows down after 2PM that they shut down the shuttle and allow you to drive to the limited parking up top.

And so we went and with great success—



other than the promise of fog and no views, we made it all the way up. The views were disappointing and the weather was frigid—however the claim of motoring victory and promise of some fresh high altitude donuts made it worthwhile.

As we were getting ready to leave, the ranger announced the inclement weather was moving in and it was time to proceed off the mountain. Other than a dense fog that was as dark as night, we made the first third of our trip down uneventfully. At the checkpoint, the SUVs in front of us were pulled over after failing laser temperature checks of their brakes.

As we pulled up to the guard shack, the sky opened up with hail. We bolted down the mountain to be greeted by a sheet of ice. Kevin's summer tires had a bit of a challenge as the ice grew thicker. The pea size hail stopped, but as we proceeded down, the accumulated hail was getting thicker. It was so thick that our cars were dragging bottom. We could see that the storm that preceded us had been bad as there were large rocks on the road, limbs down, and a river of water trying to make its way through the ice. By the time we got down, the road was covered in mud and US 24 had at least 3 inches of hail. The roads heading up the mountain were closed and backed up due to mudslides and we carefully proceeded downhill back to Colorado Springs—after making another detour around dense mud and flooding.

The next day took us to Kansas City and then onward to home. Thankfully, a book on audio CD helped to pass the time.

This trip was incredible and allowed my daughter and I to spend 10 great days together across 11 states and 3800 miles. We grinned ear-to-ear the whole way and can't wait to do it again in 2020. Find out more at [www.minitakesthestates.com](http://www.minitakesthestates.com)

Little Rock photo courtesy of MINI USA

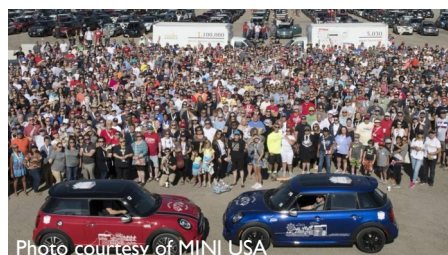


Photo courtesy of MINI USA



Thank you to all of our sponsors for supporting our 2018 High Performance Drivers Education Event and BMW CCA Club Race School. Please consider supporting them for all of your BMW needs.



**CENTURY BMW**  
HUNTSVILLE



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Dinan background photo courtesy of Sam Fara, see page 5 for the rest of the story

## SAVE THE DATE: October 27 (UA/AU Football Bye Week) - Heart of Dixie Oktoberfest Cook-Out and BMW Car Show at Oak Mountain State Park

### 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](http://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](http://ofest.bmwcca.org)
- 128+ pages of all things BMW: [bmwcca.org/roundel\\_mag](http://bmwcca.org/roundel_mag)
- Free classified ads on the website and in *Roundel* magazine. [bmwcca.org/classifieds](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/HeartOfDixieBmwCca)

Join the club today at [bmwcca.org](http://bmwcca.org).

Membership is only \$48 per year.

**BMW Car Club**  
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Heart of Dixie Chapter



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