

THE HEART OF
DIXIE CHAPTER
BMW
CAR CLUB
OF AMERICA
NEWSLETTER

BMW IM HERZEN DES SÜDENS



2019, Issue 4 • October 2019

High Performance Driver's Education at Barber Motorsports Park

Read more about the HPDE and the
dates for 2020 on Page 2 in the President's Letter



HPDE photos courtesy of Albert Hicks. Be sure to check our Facebook page for more event photos.

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Century BMW DIY Tech Day

Story and Photos by Sam Fara

On a sunny July Saturday, the Heart of Dixie (HoD) chapter met for its second Technical Session of 2019 at Century BMW in Huntsville. For this session, we were introduced to the Integrated Service Technical Application (ISTA) that helps our BMW technicians get us back on the road.

The first lesson was a reminder to always connect the positive terminal before the negative when connecting an external power supply to your BMW. Without it, the car's communications protocols and sensors might not work correctly and could generate false error codes. The Century technicians then went through the steps to diagnose a N54 engine, including showing the engine fault codes, ISTA diagnostic flowcharts, and the corresponding repair recommendations. By the end of the demonstration, it was very evident that this ad-



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President's Letter

Welcome to Fall! Or, as it seems, Summer 2.0. Throughout the last quarter, we had a great set of events that continued to have tremendous participation! While we were hopeful with our September HPDE that cooler weather would prevail, like last year, Mother Nature foiled our plan. Despite the sweltering heat, we had a record attendance and just as importantly, a record number of first timers attend. We welcomed members from other chapters from as far away as the Allegheny Chapter in Pennsylvania! We had the luck to be the first car track event on the newly paved surface at Barber Motorsports Park. Most of us had never been on a surface that fresh. Really amazing - very smooth and a lot of grip.

On Saturday night, for the second year in a row, we hosted our BBQ & Beer dinner with about 130 of our participants and guests attending. A highlight of the evening was our raffle prizes - free DE slot for 2020, BimmerWorld and Shell gift cards, an Apex Pro and track photo package. It's an event that everyone enjoyed and we'll continue in the future.

Speaking of the future, our 2020 HPDE is moving to a different month. Those of you who have participated for many years will remember we consistently held our event in late May. In 2020, we're moving back to May, so mark your calendars for May 30 - 31, 2020. Special thanks to our sponsors who help support our Chapter's events - BimmerWorld, Bimmer Motor Works, Century BMW of Huntsville, Corsa Crew, Hagerty Insurance and Mota Autohaus. Last but not least, a huge thanks to the HoD team who dedicated a tremendous amount of time planning the event and making sure it ran smoothly! Well done.

As we start to wrap up 2019, planning for our 2020 events will begin around mid-November. We're always looking for new ideas for events, so please email any suggestions you have to me. Our Tiffin Motorhomes visit sponsored by our own member and Tiffin General Manager, **Andy Baer**, sparked ideas about other interesting places we all work. Where do you work? Lots of interesting places in Alabama, so if you think you might like to show off what you do, let us know. We're also working on a couple of new and unique ideas for next year with some big support. While it's too early to share the details, I think you'll be excited by what we're hopeful to accomplish.

We need your help. In each of the last two years,

we have identified a couple of key projects we work on that we believe will improve how we serve the Chapter's membership. Whether it's hosting events that are more spread out across the State or making some significant changes to event formats, we're always looking to evolve. In 2020, our efforts will focus on a complete overhaul of our aging website. Are you creative? Do you have website development skills? We need some help to identify best practices and work with the team to build a modern web presence. Please let me know if you can volunteer some time to help us in this area.

Thinking of other communications changes, in 2020, we will likely focus only on electronic delivery of our newsletter, moving away from mailing printed copies. If you haven't provided us a current email address, I encourage you to do so. You'll find the email address we have for you by logging into your BMW CCA account, <https://www.bmwcca.org>, clicking on Manage Account, then Update Your Information. Please update your information by the end of December so we can be sure to have your current details when we load our membership roster in early January.

Finally, the 50th Oktoberfest is just around the corner. Are you going? The dates are October 15 - 19 in Greenville, SC. As of our last regional call, it looks to be the largest attendance yet. I'm planning to attend as are several other members. While we won't have an organized trip over, I'll be glad to organize a HoD get together for those interested. Sign up today to go. <https://ofest.bmwcca.org>

As always, please share your ideas on the types of events you would like to see us host or how we can improve what we're already doing.

All the best,
Todd



Photo courtesy of Sam Fara. See Tiffin Motorhome story and photos on Page 6.



SAVE THE DATE: BMW Oktoberfest in Greenville, SC
October 15-19, 2019—Register: ofest.bmwcca.org



**Vote
Today!**

2020-2021 Officer Election Ballot

The Heart of Dixie Chapter elections are held every two years (even when candidates are running unopposed). Below are the nominations for the posts and their candidacy statements. Ballot postmark deadline is **November 30, 2019**. Show your support for our club and send in your ballot!

Name: _____

Membership Number: _____

Print this page, fill in your name and membership number, make selections, and mail by November 30, 2019 to:

HOD BMW CCA
c/o Sitton & Hard, CPAs
2870 Old Rocky Ridge Road, Suite 110
Birmingham, AL 35243

SELECT ONE FOR PRESIDENT:

PRESIDENT: TODD LATTANZI

For the last two years as our chapter's President, I've enjoyed meeting many of you for the first time and building new friendships. Throughout the past couple of years, we've looked for ways to be more inclusive of a broader set of members by hosting events across the State closer to where many of you live. With your support, over the next two years, we will continue to work to find new and different ways for us to get together to share our common passion.



SELECT ONE FOR VICE PRESIDENT:

VICE PRESIDENT: CHRIS JONES

For the last ten years I've been an active member with the Heart of Dixie chapter of the BMW CCA. For the last four years it's been my privilege to serve as your Vice President. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with my fellow officers and chapter members planning and organizing the various types of events we offer each year. I would appreciate your support as it would be my honor to continue to serve as your Vice President.



SELECT ONE FOR TREASURER:

TREASURER: DALE SITTON

It has been a privilege to serve the Heart of Dixie Chapter of BMW CCA as Treasurer for the past 15 years. I have owned BMWs almost continually since 1979, joining BMW CCA in 1992. I have been part of the Heart of Dixie Chapter from its very beginning, having attended the first informational gathering in 1998. I consider it a distinct honor to be an Officer of this Chapter.



SELECT ONE FOR SECRETARY:

SECRETARY: CHRIS KNISELEY

I've loved cars and anything that could go fast since before I knew what fast really was. My first track day ever was at Barber with BMWCCA in 2006. Ever since then, it's been a game of finding ways to spend more time in a car on the track, driving fast on the autocross course, or watching the light go off when teaching teens at street survival. I've met most, if not all of my life long friends through the BMWCCA events I've attended over the years. Now, I am looking to help contribute to our chapter by seeking your vote as club secretary. Thanks for your consideration and hopefully your vote!



We are also looking for new volunteers to help with the club. Please contact the President with your willingness to lead or support one of these many positions:

Activities / Event Coordinator: Plans the yearly calendar of events and coordinates each activity;

Driving Event Coordinator: Plans and organizes all track or autocross driving events;

New Member Chair: Contacts all new members monthly with welcome letter, club information and phone contact if required;

Newsletter Editor: Assembles, edits, publishes and distributes quarterly club newsletter per club guidelines;

Sponsorship Chair: Contacts all current and potential sponsors of the club—collects all sponsor contributions and insures correct implementation of the program;

Web Master: Responsible for all website content remaining current on a weekly basis.

We are also looking for members to help plan and lead club events including our **Fun Runs**.

BMW Car Club
Of America
Heart of Dixie Chapter



Thanks for taking the time to vote and volunteer for your club!

Driving a Trabant in Dresden, Germany

Story and Photos by Troy Wesson

What could be more fun than driving a BMW? How about a 26hp 2-cylinder 2-stroke engine, 4 on the tree manual transmission, 4 wheel drum brakes all around and dual-port air conditioning? Who needs hill hold assist from an uphill stop or the ability to downshift on a grade? Never ride the clutch, put it in neutral whenever you stop and don't forget to freewheel in 4th gear going downhill and pray that your brakes don't overheat. Oh and don't forget 0-60 in: wait for it... 21 seconds!



This summer I had the pleasure of going on a Trabant Safari in Dresden, Germany with www.trabi-safari.de. With the choice of two different drives, of course I chose the XL version – a 2.5 hour driving tour of Dresden and the surrounding area.

Staying downtown in Dresden on a cool summer day, I first had to walk to Trabi World in a small industrial area on the outskirts of town. There I met my guide and fellow drivers where we quickly were familiarized with this outstanding piece of East German engineering and went through simulations of how to shift for those that have never driven a column shifter. Once we were



ready, we were given the choice of colorfully re-painted Trabants to tour town with. Once ready, our instructor got each of us in our car, pulled the choke and helped us get the engines started. With radios, he was able to keep in touch and provide information about the local sights.



The Trabant was manufactured from 1957 to 1990 and once plentiful in this East German city, they are now rare as Western engineering has taken over. So of course, we started our tour through the heart of the city. That means learning to drive without hitting other cars or pedestrians while trying to all stay together. Every stop required putting the car in neutral, but still giving it enough gas to keep it from stalling out. Unfortunately, I had to get a quick refresher on that thing called the choke when mine failed to idle.

After motoring through the heart of town which has been mostly rebuilt after the fire bombings of WWII and subsequent communist architectural influences, we made it to the residential areas that survived with their grand homes. We stopped along the Elbe River to take in the sights and pictures before taking our skills up the hill to the castles that overlook the city. We got to try our many skills at shifting uphill and starting from a dead stop – daring even for those skilled at driving a mod-



ern manual transmission. After a break for lemonade at one of the castle terraces, we freewheeled our way down the mountain for more sights.



Having been to East Berlin before the wall came down and subsequent trips where I have seen Trabants, it has always been a desire of mine to take one for a spin. This was a highlight of my summer vacation and a big ol' check off the bucket list. If you ever go to Dresden or Berlin, make sure you check out Trabi World for this once in a lifetime opportunity.



Century BMW DIY Tech Day

(Continued from page 1)
 vanced SWV was an important aid; but technician knowhow and experience was even more important.

Also during the demonstration, we were given the chance to check out the all new X7, three-row, SUV with all the luxury bells and whistles you would expect from BMW. After the technical session, Century BMW provided us with lunch, a raffle for BMW themed gifts, employee pricing on parts, discussed their internet OEM parts price matching policy, and provided a prize for the person who bought the most parts. All in all, it was enjoyable day for HoD. Thanks to Century BMW for the continued support.



Save the Date:

Leiper's Fork Distillery Tour

Saturday, November 9



Photos courtesy of Sam Fara



Heart of Dixie BMW CCA wishes our newsletter editor, **Troy Wesson**, a fond farewell. Troy has been a member of our local club since 2004 and our newsletter editor since 2015. Over the past 5 years, Troy has published 20 issues of the *BMW im Herzen des Südens*. In addition to club communication, timely publishing of a quality quarterly newsletter is key for our chapter to maintain its funding from National and allows us to put on the numerous events for our members throughout the year. Troy's first BMW was a 2004 330xi that he brought home from Germany and his current daily driver is a 2014 MINI Cooper Roadster S. Troy will continue to be an active member of club and we look forward to seeing him at many of our events to come. Stay tuned next quarter as we announce our new editor in chief.



Tiffin Motorhomes Fun Run

Story by Chris Jones and Photos by Sam Fara



On Saturday August 17th, the Heart of Dixie CCA chapter had a fantastic turnout for our Fun Run and tour of Tiffin Motorhomes in Red Bay, AL. Forty two members and guests met on a warm and sunny day in Cullman, AL and made the drive to Red Bay.

Upon our arrival we were greeted by Tiffin General Manager, and longtime CCA member, Andy Baer. Andy, his wife Gail, and several Tiffin team members made us comfortable in the Welcome Center and gave us a brief overview of the company's history. A family owned business since 1972, Tiffin Motorhomes builds several different types of Class A and Class C RVs.

Our walking tour started in the cabinet shop where raw sheets of wood are transformed into beautiful cabinets for the RVs. Our tours were led by Harold Entrekin and Jeanette Pearson and they did a great job explaining the production process throughout the tour.

Our next stop was the chassis assembly area. While RVs and BMW's are at opposite ends of the automotive spectrum, it was easy for us enthusiasts to relate the two when

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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, work-space, 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.

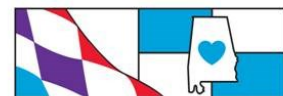
Join our Facebook page to stay current on all our activities and interact with other members.

www.facebook.com/HeartOfDixieBmwCca

Join the club today at bmwcca.org.

Membership is only \$48 per year.

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NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE AT: albmwcca.org/news

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 you see a RV in this state. Engine, steering, frame rails, transmissions, and wheels. Just like a BMW! The amazing thing is that the RVs are driven in this stripped down form to final assembly which was our next stop.



In final assembly we saw the RVs in the various states of drivetrain and chassis to practically finished. As I walked through final assembly it occurred to me that the RV assembly had progressed from an automobile to a house. We could see flooring, cabinetry, plumbing, electrical (miles of electrical), and furnishing all being added to the chassis. This is when I really began to appreciate the spectrum of talent it takes to design and build a quality and luxurious RV. All of us we were given the opportunity to walk through two finished RVs to see and experience the luxury and quality firsthand.

We concluded our tour with a stop at Tiffin's new Engineering Center. All of our members got to see this brand new modern office facility. While we all appreciated the air conditioning I'm sure the employees who will eventually occupy this wonderful space with appreciate it even more.

Lastly, all of us were treated to a catered lunch compliments of Tiffin. This was truly going above and beyond and all of us were very thankful to have a fantastic meal and enjoy some social time together.



On behalf of the Heart of Dixie BMW CCA chapter, we are so grateful to Andy, Gail, Jeannette, Harold and the entire Tiffin Motorhome team for their hospitality to us. They truly went above and beyond to make us feel welcome, share the Tiffin story, and share their passion for the product they build.



2019 Calendar of Events:

- Oct 5 Guntersville Honeycomb Natural Bridge
- Oct 15-19 BMW O'fest in Greenville, SC
- 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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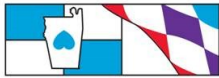
Please join us for our next Fun Run on **Saturday, October 5th**, to **Honeycomb Natural Bridge** followed by lunch at Rock House Eatery in Guntersville, AL. We will meet in Dodge City and take some twisty and scenic backroads to Honeycomb Natural Bridge in Guntersville. After our drive and stop at Honeycomb we'll make the short drive to Rock House Eatery for some lunch and social time.

Photo courtesy of Sam Fara
Full story about the DIY Clinic on Page 1.



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Do you have an idea for a club activity or fun run for 2020? If so, please reach out to the President (page 2) by November 15th. We will be planning next year in Mid-November and are always looking for new ideas and/or volunteers.



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