

THE HEART OF
DIXIE CHAPTER
BMW
CAR CLUB
OF AMERICA
NEWSLETTER

BMW IM HERZEN DES SÜDENS



2019, Issue 1 • January 2019

Annual **Kick-Off Party** on **Saturday, January 26** at Century BMW. Watch your e-mail for details and registration.



Nürburgring
Story and Photos
by Todd Lattanzi

A few years ago after driving in a number of HPDE events, I decided to try the BMW Performance Center's 2-day M school. Hard to imagine a better time than driving someone else's M3, M5 and M6 for 2 days with some great coaching from the Performance Center instructors. Little did I know, that was the prerequisite for what would become the next adventure with a couple of the PC's instructors a few years later.

For those that may know some of the Performance Center instructors, Donnie Isley and Laura Hayes for quite a few years have taken 24 people from the U.S. to drive the Nürburgring in Germany for 2 days of intensive interval training. While anyone can drive anything you like during the tourist lap time, when you go with the Per-

formance Center team, BMW AG has rented the 'ring for the 24 of us, plus about another 30 from around the rest of the world – no one else on the circuit for two days except us. It all starts by watching for Donnie's email early in the year. In 2017, I decided 2018 was going to be the year I signed up to go. Early in February, Donnie sent his email out announcing the dates and strongly recommending signing up right away. I responded within about 45 minutes and almost missed a getting in. To say the 24 slots filled quickly is an understatement. A few days later, Donnie sent instructions for payment along with some details of the event. From that point, October seemed like a long time away.

As the event approached, Donnie would periodically send email with details along with suggestions for thing to do in the area. We were to arrive in Nürburg on a Saturday at our leisure for dinner, then some leisure time on Sunday. The real fun would begin on Monday.

Prior to my arrival in Nürburg, I took the opportunity to check off a bucket list item. I flew into Frankfurt earlier in the week, spent the night, then drove to Munich in proper Autobahn car. It's true what you hear about the roads in Germany and how people drive. The road quality is great and you don't see very many slow drivers

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Join Us On Our Next Adventure

Group Photo from our Fall Cook-Out. See Page 7 for the rest of the story. Photo courtesy of Sam Fara.



/HeartOfDixieBmwCca

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President's Letter

It's hard to believe 2019 is here. About this time last year, I was starting to write my first letter. I had been a participating member for a number of years, but didn't really know what to expect moving into the role to lead the chapter. Looking back over the first year as chapter President, the time has been exceptionally fun, busy and filled with the fortune of meeting many of you for the first time. I'm looking forward to 2019!

Without a great team surrounding me, none of what we accomplished would have been possible. I want to say a special thanks to the entire Heart of Dixie Board. I appreciate all of the work each of you has put into working for the chapter.

Thank you!

In recent weeks, the Board has spent time working on the 2019 event calendar. Your feedback from the membership survey was key in guiding the activities for the coming year. We have a few repeats that received overwhelmingly positive feedback in 2018 as well as quite a number of new events.

We've added another driving event this year as we work towards a goal of hosting one driving event per quarter in addition to our other activities. And, as in 2018, we've balanced event venues across the State so all of our members have multiple opportunities to participate in events close to home.

Throughout 2018, our event attendance was fantastic, some wildly exceeding our expectations. Thank you for choosing to spend time with us participating in activities! Looking back over our last quarter's activities, we had a great turnout at our Oak Mountain cookout. Beautiful park if you haven't been. BMW of Birmingham brought out a new G05 X5 to taunt us into buying something new. Lots of new tech in the G05!

We continue to fill up our Tire Rack Street Survival classes every time we teach them. It's a

fantastic program to give teen drivers some instruction on how to handle their car in emergency situations. Of course, every one of us hopes none of our new teen drivers encounters those kinds of situations, but in the event they do, we hope these drivers will remember some of the skills they learned. It's as much fun for our group of coaches as it is for the teens without a doubt. Since the chapter started hosting the program several years ago, we've trained over 350 teen drivers! Special thanks to Jack Joyner for leading the effort and all the coaches who so strongly believe in the program and consistently volunteer their time to help! At every TRSS event, we always have parents ask about a similar class for adults. For the first time, we hosted an adult version. We adapted a few of the exercises for the adult class and had a great time with the group.

As I wrote in my last letter, I was headed to Germany for some training on the Nürburgring hosted by BMW AG and maybe a beer or two at Oktoberfest. Having survived both, I highly recommend each! Check out the details in the article on page 1 in the newsletter.

As 2018 draws to a close, thanks to all of you who help make the chapter successful by planning and participating in events. If your schedule didn't allow you to join us in 2018, I hope you will be able to join us in 2019! Mark your calendar for the weekend of January 26th for the kickoff meeting. Watch your email for the details of the event as we finalize the location and agenda.

Our BMW Performance Center event is already posted on Motorsportreg.com with open registration. The event is on March 16, 2019. Sign up today - only 32 slots are available. We filled it last year and every single participant will tell you how much fun it was. I hope to see you there!

Happy New Year!
Todd



High Performance Driver's Education at Barber Motorsport Park. Photo courtesy of Sam Fara. See page 6 and 7 for more pictures.

///M is for March... HoD at the Performance Center in 2019!

Thinking about a gift for yourself or your favorite BMW enthusiast? Well, this is it! Due to the overwhelming feedback after our first ///M Club day, the Heart of Dixie chapter has reserved the Performance Center in Greer, SC again! Make plans to join us on **March 16, 2019!**

Pair up with a buddy, spouse or meet new friend and spend the day driving the latest ///M cars on BMW's track. The Performance Center provides the cars, instructors, gas, tires, lunch and a world class facility for a fun-filled day at the track. Just show up ready to drive!

Throughout the day you'll improve your driving skills while having a ton of fun through a combination of driving exercises, classroom instruction and competitive events. You do not need any previous track experience. All skill levels are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The day is specifically designed for the

Heart of Dixie chapter. We'll have instruction on proper driving position, vehicle dynamics, car-control skills, weight transfer and oversteer/understeer. The day is divided into morning and afternoon sessions mixing skill exercises and competitive events, including skid pad wet/dry courses, braking and handling practice, autocross and more.

Our event hotel is the Greenville Marriott. A special BMW rate includes the breakfast buffet for up to two people plus Internet service. To make a reservation at the hotel, enter <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/gspap-greenville-marriott/> and enter **BMW** as the Corporate code.

The Marriott has a great lobby bar for getting together after the driving and dinner events. Remember, no food service is available for breakfast Saturday morning at the Performance Center.

Plan to arrive in Greenville, SC on Fri-



Link to Register for this amazing opportunity: <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/bmw-cca-hod-m-club-day-performance-center-greer-sc-heart-of-dixie-256639>

Tentative Schedule for Friday, March 15:
Travel to Greenville, SC
Late afternoon - BMW Museum Tour
6:30 PM EDT - Group Dinner at Barley's in Greenville
(See web-site for details including meet-up locations and times.)

Saturday, March 16, 2019:
8:00 AM EDT - Check in at the Performance Center
8:15 AM EDT - Drive Day begins
5:00 PM EDT - Drive Day ends
Schedule to be finalized 1-2 weeks prior.

day at your leisure. Due to the distance and varied staging locations, we will not have an organized drive to Greenville. Feel free to self-organize if you would like to caravan with friends. Please remember that Greenville is in the Eastern Time Zone.

For those interested, we have reserved a location in downtown Greenville for a group dinner Friday night. All are welcome. Our chapter President will also organize dinner for Saturday night for anyone interested. Our tentative event schedule is below. Non-participant guests are welcome to attend, but will not be able to drive or ride in the cars at the Performance Center.

The Fine Print. Please read carefully!!!

- All drivers must be at least 18 years old and have a valid driver's license.
- The cost of **\$765.00** per day per driver and includes driving Performance Center ///M cars, tires, gas, instructors and lunch at the Performance Center.
- Travel expenses, meals and lodging costs are the responsibility of the attendees and not included in the \$765.00 event registration fee.
- The Heart of Dixie event coordinators will accept applicants into the event through the MotorsportReg.com registration site.
- Each BMW CCA member can bring one or more non-member(s) under their membership/registration/payment.
- Successful registration does not constitute acceptance into this event. It places you in the registration queue and on the wait list.
- Acceptance into this event will be made on or about February 1, 2019 by the event coordinators.
- A BMW CCA member of any chapter is welcome to register to participate.
- Heart of Dixie chapter members have priority until January 19, 2019 after which registration will be accepted based on registration date.
- You do not have to own a BMW to attend this event. (However, be prepared to purchase one when you return home after the event.)
- No cancellation or refunds after February 9, 2019.



(Continued from page 1)

sitting in the left lane! So, the M4 was a lot of fun on the Autobahn in the unlimited speed sections. Filling up at the gas station however, not so much. Super expensive! Arriving in Munich later in the evening, I checked into my hotel, grabbed some dinner, then headed off to sleep. Friday, I spent much of the morning and early afternoon at the BMW Welt and Museum in the northern part of Munich. Welt is filled with the latest models of BMWs, MINIs, Rolls-Royces and BMW Motorcycles. It's also where your European delivery begins. The Museum is well worth the time – some great exhibits from early 1900s and forward BMWs and a large exhibit of the future of electric vehicle technology. As interesting and fun as that was, the main event in Munich was coming later in the day. After a quick stop to drop the car at my hotel, I headed to Oktoberfest!



A good friend was about a week ahead of me visiting, so with a few tips in hand, I made my way into the event and started looking at some of the beer “tents.” There are tents scattered around a large open area in central Munich. To call these tents is really a euphemism for a semi-permanent building that seats north of 5000 people. Keep in mind

there are at least a dozen of them, they are all full at night and at least as many people walking through the rest of the fairgrounds. Augustiner was my first stop for a late lunch and of course, beer.

You'll want to pace yourself when you go. That's a one-liter glass and is the only size in all of the tents. The local German brew also tends to have a higher ABV than what we're accustomed to. After lunch, I spent the next few hours



walking around the fair grounds and in and out of a couple of more tents. It's a carnival like atmosphere that's a lot of fun and people of all ages.

Back in the M4 Saturday morning to leave Munich to head for Nürburg. I took a southern route with a couple of stops along the way at Schloss Lichtenstein and in Stuttgart at the Porsche Museum. The castle is unique in that it's built right on the side of the mountain.



It's worth a trip in you are near Stuttgart. I arrived in Nürburg in time to meet the group for dinner hosted by Donnie and Laura. Diverse group of people with varying performance driving experience – several with a few M schools under their belts to three or four who have additional experience with HPDEs. Sunday started with a tour of the Nürburgring, time to buy as much Nürburgring swag as you wanted and free time to explore the area for the rest of the afternoon. The official part of the instruction began Sunday night with an hour of classroom discussion covering the basics – the correct line, apex, braking and so forth.

The circuit time began Monday morning with each of us pairing up with a partner whom we would remain with for the two days. The agenda for each day consisted of training on multiple sectors followed by full lapping at the end of the day. Our group of 24 was split into 3 groups of eight, each group being paired with an instructor. Each team of two was assigned a new M4 Competition we'd drive for the 2 days in a lead follow arrangement with our instructor, switching drivers half way through each training session. In addition to the group of M4s, there was a small group of Minis as well as a group of M5s.

The Nürburgring actually consists of two parts – the historic Nordschleife and the new Grand Prix track. All our time was spent on the 20km, 73-turn Nordschleife. To get us warmed up we took a lap around the 'ring and ended up on the front straight to get some heat in the tires and brakes through a combination of a slalom course and emergency braking exercise. Once we



all had our turn for a few runs, we headed to the first sector. Radios in each car kept us in touch with our instructor in the lead car. For each sector, the group followed the instructor for a warm up “lap”, then we turned around and drove the sector backwards to return to the start. Hard to imagine driving the Nürburgring backwards! Throughout the morning we worked through several sectors until we broke for lunch. We all converged on the Devil’s Diner for lunch – the restaurant at the Nordschleife BMW had reserved just for us. After lunch, we picked up where we left off with another sector and a new twist – some rain, and at times, heavy! The rain made for a new challenge on the dry line – so polished that it was exceptionally slick, so finding the rain line was key. We wrapped up the day with a couple of full laps, then headed back to the hotel for a group dinner.

Tuesday was another set of sectors, but were faced not only with rain all day, but much lower temperature. The surface of



the track never exceeded 40 degrees while the ambient temperature was a few degrees lower. Consistent grip was hard to come by. The combination of cold and rain made an already challenging circuit much more so. We were lucky to have a few very short breaks in the rain, but for the most part, cold and wet all day.

The day wrapped up with more full laps around the Nordschleife, but am sad to say, we set no circuit records. BMW hosted a reception at the end of the day with each of us being presented a certificate to mark our successful completion of the training. We also found out we are now eligible for two additional



courses – one two-day course of full lapping and another of interval training in the new M5. Turns out BMW won’t let you on the ‘ring in their M5s without having completed a course in the “slow” M4 first. Probably wise.



As is typical of all of BMW’s Performance Center events, this one was fantastic. Donnie and Laura were great hosts. We all left with ear-to-ear grins anxious to do it again!

If walking up and driving someone else’s M car like you stole it sounds like fun to you, make plans to join us for our second trip to the BMW Performance Center on March 16, 2019. We had a fantastic time on our 2018 trip and the next one promises no less fun! You can sign up today at motorsportreg.com – search for Heart of Dixie. (Details on Page 3)



High Performance Driver's Education at Barber Motorsport Park. Photo courtesy of Sam Fara.



A WEEKEND WITH ICONS

CLOSING CELEBRATION
JANUARY 18-19, 2019 GREENVILLE SC

MUSEUM PARTY WITH TALKS FROM:

Andreas Bovensiepen, CEO of ALPINA BMW's Tom Plucinsky
BMW Author Jackie Jouret Hack Mechanic Rob Siegel

PERFORMANCE CENTER EXPERIENCE PLANT TOURS

ONLY 200 TICKETS AVAILABLE

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/weekend-with-icons-closing-celebration-tickets-53602641945>



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.

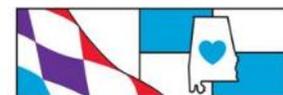
Join our Facebook page to stay current on all our activities and interact with other members.

www.facebook.com/HeartOfDixieBmwCca

Join the club today at bmwcca.org.

Membership is only \$48 per year.

BMW Car Club
Of America
Heart of Dixie Chapter



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Fall Cookout Pictures and Story by Sam Fara

After the Street Survival School and the High Performance Drivers Education at Barber Motorsports Park, the Heart of Dixie got a bit laid back and rented out the Dogwood Pavilion at Oak Mountain State Park to enjoy some delicious BBQ and shiny BMWs.

It was a crisp fall day with the trees just starting to show some color. **BMW of Birmingham** brought out a brand new 2019 G05 X5 for us to enjoy. The club raffled off a copy of the book *The Icon: 50 Years of the 2002*, some 2002 posters, and 25 dollar Shell gas certificates.

Rusty's Bar-B-Q, which won the 2015 "Best Mom 'n Pops" category in the Alabama Tourism Department's Alabama Barbecue Battle, supplied the BBQ. Lastly, but not least, we got to enjoy the membership's eclectic selection of BMWs.



High Performance Driver's Education. Photo courtesy of Sam Fara.



2019 Heart of Dixie BMW CCA Calendar of Events:

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jan 26 | Kick-off Party | Century BMW (Huntsville) |
| Feb 23 | DIY Clinic | BMW of Birmingham |
| Mar 16 | ///M Day | Performance Center (Greer, SC) |
| Mar 23 | Welbourne Muscle Car Museum | Alexander City |
| Apr 13 | Scavenger Hunt/Campus 805 | Huntsville |
| May 11 | Autocross | Barber Proving Grounds |
| Jun 22 | Dinan Tour | Opelika |
| Jun 23 | Tire Rack Street Survival School | Hoover Met |
| Jul 20 | DIY Clinic | Century BMW (Huntsville) |
| Aug 11 | Tire Rack Street Survival School | Hoover Met |
| Aug 17 | Tiffin Motorhome Plant Tour | Red Bay |
| Sep 14-15 | High Performance Driver's Ed. | Barber Motorsports Park |
| Oct 5 | Honeycomb Natural Bridge | Guntersville |
| Oct 27 | Tire Rack Street Survival School | Hoover Met |
| Nov 9 | Leiper's Fork Distillery Tour | near Franklin, TN |
| Dec 7 | Orbix Hot Glass | Ft. Payne |

X5 background photo courtesy of Sam Fara, see page 7 for the rest of the story



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SAVE THE DATE: September 14-15 for our annual High Performance Driver's Education at Barber Motorsports Park. Pictures on pages 2, 6 & 7.



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