

THE HEART OF
DIXIE CHAPTER
BMW
CAR CLUB
OF AMERICA
NEWSLETTER

BMW IM HERZEN DES SÜDENS

2019, Issue 3 • July 2019



**Barber
Proving
Grounds**
(story on
page 4)

Photos courtesy
of Sam Fara

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**Join Us On
Our Next
Adventure**
(see page 8)

Magnolia Grove
(story on page 6)



/HeartOfDixieBmwCca

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President's Letter

As we wrap up the second quarter, the season of the warm and humid Alabama summer filled with family vacations is upon us.

During the quarter, we had our second driving event of the year – our Autocross at Barber Motorsport Park's Proving Ground. If you've ever been to an Autocross, most likely you ran a course in a parking lot with a coned off course. The Proving Ground is far from that! It's a mini road course that can be configured with different routes and a high bank section. On the upper part of the Proving Ground, Barber created a wet skid pad to test your car control skill. It's slippery – I mean extremely slippery!! We were fortunate to have pro driver **Andrew Rains** available to right seat with anyone who wanted skid pad instruction. From the looks of it, we kept him busy! This was a very well attended event with almost 60 people. As a result, we've tentatively reserved the same weekend for 2020.



Our third driving event of the year is our annual High Performance Drivers Education event. It's scheduled for September 14-15 at Barber. You should have received a couple of notifications about it already, so sign up before the rate increases in mid-July. If you can't find one of the announcement emails, simply go to motorsport-reg.com and search for Heart of Dixie.

An event that's near and dear to me is our Tire Rack Street Survival class. We had our first of three in late June at the Hoover Met. Thanks to Jack Joyner for his years of leading the events. We've taught car control skills to well over 350 new teen drivers over the years. Also, a big thanks to all of our coaches who consistently volunteer their time to help with in-car coaching of the teens. Without a doubt, it's as much fun for us as coaches as it is for the teens. If you have a new teen driver that has at least 6 months of driving experience with a learner's permit or license, the instruction is well worth the time. We teach car control skills to help keep new drivers safe that they do not learn in a Driver's Ed class. Check out more of the details at <http://www.streetsurvival.org>. Our next event two events are on August 11 and October 27. August



is over half full already, so sign up soon!

We traveled south to Greensboro, AL to Magnolia Grove and Pie Lab for our June fun run. BMW of Tuscaloosa hosted us as the meeting point before we took curvy back roads on the drive to Greensboro. Shout out to **Alison Argall** for organizing the event and to **Sam Fara** for his stellar photography skills and article. Check it out later in the newsletter (page 6).

Almost exactly two years ago at our event in July, I started considering serving as our chapter's President. I've greatly enjoyed the time working for the chapter and getting to meet many of you. I look forward to being able to serve for a second term. Every two years, our chapter officer's term ends. The membership votes for officers to serve for the next two-year term beginning January 2020. In this quarter's newsletter (page 3), you'll find a description of each role. We will print ballots around October 1, 2019, so we ask any interested candidate to submit your information no later than September 15, 2019. If you have questions regarding specifics of the role, expectations, time commitment or anything, please don't hesitate to drop me a note or call. I'll be happy to chat with you.

As always, we welcome your feedback, so please let us know what's on your mind!

Have a safe and happy Independence Day!

All the best, Todd



Photos courtesy of Sam Fara. See Story and more Photos on Page 4.

Upcoming 2020-2021 Officer Elections and Nominations

The officer election ballots will be printed in the 4th Quarter newsletter (on or about October 1, 2019). So if you've considered becoming an officer, now is the time to throw your hat into the ring. Elected and appointed board member positions are listed below.

How to run for an elected office on the Heart of Dixie board of directors:

- **Submit your name, position desired and member number.** Your member number will not be published, but will be utilized to verify that you are an active member in good standing.
- **Submit a short candidacy statement** on why you want to run for office and what qualifies you for that position. Please limit to less than 10 sentences. Samples may be seen on-line in the 4Q 2017 Newsletter at www.albmwcca.org.
- **Include a recent photograph.** Your candidacy statement and photo will be published in the 4th Quarter 2019 Chapter newsletter, which will contain the ballots.
- **Submit by September 15, 2019** (midnight) to the newsletter editor at: twesson@albmwcca.org. (Call Troy Wesson at 256-509-3602 if you do not receive e-mail confirmation of your submission within 48 hours.)

ELECTED OFFICER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- You must be an active member to run for an elected position.
- **President** presides at all Chapter meetings, reports the actions of the Board of Directors to the Chapter, and supervises and coordinates the duties of the other officers. The president will be the chief spokesman for the Chapter in dealings with the public and with BMW CCA, Inc. The president retains ex officio status for six months following election of new officers.
- **Vice president** assists the president in the performance of his/her duties and acts in his/her stead in the event of absence, disability or disqualification. He/she is responsible for overseeing event scheduling and functioning as the liaison between the Board of Directors and event organizers.
- **Secretary** keeps complete minutes of all Chapter meetings. At these meetings, he/she is responsible for ensuring that full compliance with the bylaws is maintained. He/she is responsible for notice to the members of all annual and special meetings. He/she is responsible for all past minutes of the Chapter.
- **Treasurer** has custody of all moneys, debts, obligations, and assets of the Chapter. He/she is authorized to make normal ongoing disbursements as required to operate the Chapter. Extraordinary disbursements in excess of an amount determined by the board and specified in the Operations Manual shall not be made without special authorization by the board. The treasurer keeps the Chapter's books of account on a calendar year basis beginning January 1. Files IRS Form 990 annually. He/she shall give a financial report at each regular meeting of the chapter. The treasurer has custody of the past financial records of the Chapter.
- The officer period is from January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2021. The prior president's ex officio status will continue through June 30, 2020.

APPOINTED OFFICER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

If you would like to contribute to the club in an appointed Coordinator Position, please contact the current President, Todd Lattanzi at todd@albmwcca.org by **December 15, 2019** and submit your name for consideration for one of the appointed positions below. The newly elected 2020 officers will select the members to fill all appointed Coordinator Positions for the 2020-2021 period at their first board meeting. Each member selected to fill a coordinator position has a vote on all decisions concerning their area of responsibility. The Board of Directors has final approval of all activities of the nominated positions listed above.

- **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. Provides copies to Regional and National chapters.
- **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 (minimum).

2019 Proving Grounds Auto-X Track / Wet Skid Pad Day

Story and Photos by Sam Fara



On 11 May, I took the leap and participated in my first autocross. When I arrived at the Barber Proving Grounds and saw all the M3s, Corvettes, Porsches and even Ferraris; I was a bit concerned. But when I saw the non-M BMWs, Minis, Hondas, Mazdas, Fords and even an Alfa Romeo sedan, I felt better. (They were all faster than me, but I did feel better.) Everyone was



very friendly, helpful to newcomers and they wanted you to have fun. There were loaner helmets available, which made it possible to give this a try without a big one-time investment.

After registration, HoD Driving Event Coordinator, **Hank Bowman** led the driver's meeting. He told us what was going to happen and we then walked the



course. The nice thing about the Barber Proving Grounds is that it is actually a mini road course with cones laid out here and there to point the way and to keep the speeds down. As a first timer, it seemed less confusing than a parking lot full of cones. Also at the driver's meeting was Andrew Rains, who is the director of Marketing for APEX Pro. APEX Pro is a motorsports data acquisition device made here in Alabama that you connect to your iPhone or iPad. He was nice enough to demonstrate it and ride with us on the wet skid pad.



The Alabama SCCA region was also there with timing equipment and more importantly, expert advice to those new to the sport. I got Rod to ride with me the first time I drove the course. I was quite relieved when he told me that this circuit would allow me to shift to second and to keep it there. (No heel-toe



worries.) On my last lap, I got him to drive my car to show me what I should have been doing. His pass definitely proved to me that I was the limiting factor — not my 2-series. After my last pass, a session on the wet skidpad was a nice Zen way to relax after a day of doing autocross.



I was not fast at my first autocross during the 2019 BMW CCA HoD Proving Grounds Day at Barber, but I did have fun. You should try it too.





Photos courtesy of Sam Fara



Additional Photos courtesy of Autumn Eldredge



Magnolia Grove Plantation

Story and Photos by Sam Fara



On 22 June, BMW of Tuscaloosa graciously hosted the kick-off of HoD's Plantation and Pies Fun Run to Greensboro in the Alabama Black Belt. Alison Argall, Client Advisor, warmly welcomed HoD and told us about their current offers including: new graduate cash back, finance savings and other incentives. Not long after we left, Tuscaloosa Metro Animal Shelter arrived with a truck full of dogs and cats ready for their forever homes — adoption fees paid by BMW of Tuscaloosa. Todd Lattanzi shepherded the group, including Alison in a new X7, on the Alabama backroads to Magnolia Grove.

Magnolia Grove was built in 1840 as a townhouse for the Croom family. Its most famous resident was Richmond Hobson, naval hero of the Spanish-American war. After leaving

(Continued on page 7)



Alison Argall



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



NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE AT: albmwcca.org/news



(Continued from page 6)
the US Navy, Hobson served 4 terms in the United States House of Representatives, received the Medal of Honor, and earned the nicknames “the most kissed man in America” and later “The father of American Prohibition.” We were shown both the interior, with mostly original furniture, and the exterior, with its African American slave quarters and outdoor kitchen.

After all that history, we were hungry and made a short trip to the Pie Lab for lunch. Per the *New York Times Magazine*, it was founded by a design collective known as Project M, Pie Lab and came to life as a combination pop-up cafe, design studio and civic clubhouse. *Southern Living Magazine* named its apple pie as best in the South. There was even a map showing visitors from all over the world including: New Zealand, China, Fiji, Russia, China and Greenland.

After lunch, we left for home - full of history and pie.

Be sure to check out Page 8 for our next Fun Run to Tiffin Motorhomes.



2019 Calendar of Events:

- 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 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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Join us on **Saturday, August 17th**, for our next Fun Run to **Tiffin Motorhomes**. A family owned business since 1972, Tiffin Motorhomes builds several different types of Class A and Class C RVs. We will meet Saturday morning and take a drive to Red Bay, AL, where we will be given a private tour of the Tiffin Motorhome factory. You will get a close-up look at the complexity of motorhome construction as well as the dedication and care that goes into each model.

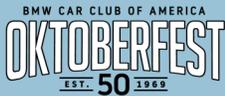
We are very grateful to Tiffin Motorhomes for giving our members this incredible opportunity. Be sure to save the date and look for more details in the upcoming even registration email. <https://tiffinmotorhomes.com/>



Photo courtesy of Autumn Eldredge.
Full story on Page 4.



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



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