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The Heart of Dixie BMW Club Newsletter • 2014 | Issue 1

Barber Motorsports Park is the setting for the Club's Driver Education (DE) event which will take place over the Memorial Day weekend. It's fun for both novice and experienced track drivers. Register soon!
Photo: Albert Hicks



DRIVER'S EDUCATION

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SPRING IS IN THE AIR—DRIVING TIME!

Hello Members,

I thought I'd do something a little different in my article this month and just offer some meanderings on what's going on in your car club.

- The club did a great brewery run last month to Gadsden and Birmingham and my thanks to those that joined in the run. We had several new faces in attendance such as John McPhillips, Matt Wilson and Joel Rhode. Thanks so much for coming out!

- Jack Joyner, your driving events coordinator, and I just returned from the National BMW CCA chapter congress in Dallas. Some of the topics discussed over the two days were the health of the club locally and nationally, becoming more of a partner with the local BMW dealers in our areas, covering the results from the recent survey many of you filled out last year and the success of the BMW foundation's teen driving program called Street Survival. We had some very productive meetings and some great times in the evening. Jack and I organized some friends from the Peachtree chapter in Georgia and some Lone Star friends in Texas to blow off some steam. We went go-kart racing... boys and their toys!



- We have our Autocross event on April 5th and I'm hoping for good weather and lots of our members enjoying some time playing with their cars and enjoying some food and friends for the day

- We have our annual Driving School at Barber Motorsports Park on Memorial Day weekend and we still have openings for those that want to take their driving skills to the next level with a qualified instructor at the premier race track in the United States...sign up NOW...

<http://www.motorsportreg.com/events/2014-bmw-heart-of-dixie-de-at-barber-motorsports-park-cca-288612>

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President's Letter

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We still have a wonderful variety of events this year and my hope, as it is every year, is that you can find time to choose at least one event to join us on this year. I promise you'll make some memories and friends.

Check out the website for the latest pictures at <http://albmwcca.org/>

Happy Motoring—

Jonathan Holly

President- Heart of Dixie Chapter/BMWCCA





Time to dust off those brakes at

THE APRIL AUTOCROSS!

Autocross emphasizes driver skill and vehicle handling rather than just speed. The corners are tight, so the driving is exciting and challenging, but you won't reach higher speeds like you do on a track. A day of autocrossing is far safer for both car and driver than most people's daily commute to work.

Autocross is usually a competitive sport, but our Heart of Dixie autocross is for fun and education. The skills you will learn and practice here like smooth transitions, enhanced braking, and skid correction are skills you will use out on the road. Before starting our autocross, we'll walk the course. This will help drivers to follow the layout and avoid getting lost among the cones. When your group is up, you can run the course as many times as you can fit into the group run time. At the end of the day, we'll do one timed run—that's the extent of our competition.

The course may seem "busy" at first, because it's tighter than what you see on the street, and you're trying to attack it faster than you could in traffic. You'll have fun learning to keep the car in control as you get faster and better with more seat-time.

Autocross is also a social sport. The camaraderie of the drivers is a part of autocrossing that is very satisfying. The goal is to have fun—that's why everyone is here. Bring your car and a helmet if you own one (motorcycle helmets are fine). If you don't own a helmet, we have some loaners. You might want to also bring sunscreen, a folding chair, a blanket, snacks, drinks, and rain gear.

We've had a great showing the last couple of times with over 80 folks signed up. The vast majority of them had never done anything like this before and HAD A BLAST! We hope to see you there!

Details

Date: Saturday, April 5

Time: 9 am - 4 pm

Place: Oak Mountain Amphitheater
1000 Amphitheater Rd in Pelham, Alabama

Cost: \$10

Lunch from Firehouse subs is included.

[**CLICK HERE to sign up!**](#)



For a memorable Memorial Day weekend, sign up for the

DRIVER'S EDUCATION EVENT

The Driver's Education Event is the Club's most exciting and popular yearly event.

The annual Heart of Dixie Driver's Education Event (DE) will happen on Memorial Day weekend as usual, so if you're planning to attend, it's time to sign up. Birmingham is home to Barber's Motorsports Park, one of

the most interesting tracks in the country, with 15 challenging turns within 2.3 miles.

The Driver's Event is the Club's most exciting and popular yearly event, so if you're a new member and have an interest in finding out what your BMW can do, then this may be the event for you. The Heart of Dixie chapter has been putting on a DE since Barber Motorsports Park opened in 2003 and at \$430.00, it's one of the more affordable DEs.

If you're new to the HOD DE, then the weekend goes like this: show up at the track Friday evening for registration, pick up your student or instructor packet including car numbers and schedule. You will be required to turn in all of the registration forms and have your helmet checked. Saturday morning the day starts at 7:30 in the Media Room, where driving instructors will be assigned and students given

an overview of the Barber track. Driving groups are broken up into novice, intermediate, and advanced/solo. If you're new to performance driving or to the Heart of Dixie school, you will be put into the novice group at least in the beginning. Your track schedule will tell you what time to show up at the entrance to the track where you'll meet up with your instructor. There are usually 4 scheduled 25 minute runs per group per day and several classroom sessions. 25 minutes on the track at a time doesn't sound like a lot, but you will find that it's more than enough time.

If you want to give performance driving a try, visit our website (albmwcca.org) and click on the Driver's Education link. There, you can find out the requirements and read about what you can expect the first time on the track. Sign up today! We hope to see you at the track!



Preparing for the DE Getting your brakes ready for the track

If the DE sounds interesting to you and you've never participated in a DE the one thing you need to do is check over your brakes. Track time is a blast but with it comes new demands on your car that easily exceed any normal stresses associated with everyday grocery-getting. Not to worry—the Bimmer is built to take it—but you have to do your part as an owner too.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, make sure your brake pads have plenty of thickness so you don't end up with metal-to-metal contact between pads and rotors. If you really think you're going to push as hard as you can, might want to get track pads for your DE experience as they will last a lot longer and will not tend to fade nearly as fast as street pads.

SECOND, AND VERY IMPORTANT! Have your brake fluid flushed (or do it yourself) so it has the maximum boiling point possible. For some reason brake fluid is hydroscopic (absorbs water) and that is bad news when your brakes start getting hot from repeated hard braking on the track. The water will boil and starts filling your brakes with steam and that will not stop your car. Be sure to use the same DOT rating as your current fluid, mixing results is a real mess that will require rebuilding the entire brake system.



These few steps will make your track day fun—**BIG TIME!**

Of course there are a lot of other things you can do but just get through this first DE and we'll talk about the additional equipment and modifications in future newsletters.

Good luck on your track event, it's worth every penny of it.

The Benefits of a BMW Membership

- **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 for details.
- **OUTSTANDING NATIONAL EVENTS** including BMW CCA's premier annual gathering, Oktoberfest, which will be held for the first time in Birmingham in October 2011.
- **12-MONTH SUBSCRIPTION** to the Club magazine, *The Roundel*.
- **DRIVING SCHOOLS**, autocrosses, safety schools, fun runs and Club Racing.
- **REGIONAL CLUB-SPONSORED CAR CORRALS** at major road races, like the Indy and Grand Am Series at Barber Motorsports Park.
- **FREE CLASSIFIED ADS** on the website and in *Roundel magazine*.
- **ACCESS TO OUR TECHNICAL SERVICE ADVISORS** for personalized advice.
- **OMBUDSMEN** to help with dealer issues.
- **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.
- **AVAILABILITY** of a BMW CCA affinity credit card.
- **FREE BMW CCA DECALS** available from the club office.
- **ACCESS** to all areas of the growing online community at www.bmwcca.org.