

2011 ISSUE NO. 1

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BMW IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH

THE HEART *of* DIXIE

BMW CAR CLUB
NEWSLETTER

The Heart of Dixie DE at Barber Motorsports Park in 2010.

SIGN UP SOON FOR THE HEART OF DIXIE DRIVER'S EVENT!

The annual Heart of Dixie Driver's Event will happen on Memorial Day weekend again this year, so if you're planning to burn some rubber on the track, it's time to sign up. Birmingham is home to Barber's Motorsports Park, one of the newest and 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 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, go online to www.heartofdixiede.info. There you will find all the information you need about helmet requirements and tech inspections. There will be a link to motorsports.reg so you can register and pay. We hope to see you at the track!



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mid 2011 is coming soon so here are a few facts about what is going on in the background.

We are working hard to finalize the plans for Oktoberfest 2011. The track is secured; we'll have our autocross event at the Pelham civic center in the same place as SCCA holds their events. We haven't decided on the Gymkhana location but it will be at Barbers or the Pelham Civic Center parking lot. All rooms at Ross Bridge Resort are taken but we do have other blocks of rooms reserved at the Marriott on Hwy 280 plus the Hampton Inn on Rex Lake Road so there will be rooms for everybody who needs one. We expect more than 800 folks to attend!

For all of you who can spare some time during Oktoberfest week we'll need some volunteers to help run the show so keep that in the back of your mind. I'll know how many we need as the time gets closer.

Peachtree Chapter will run the autocross event and River City Bimmers are doing the TSD rally and we handle the Barber Motorsports track events (5 days at Barbers). Linda Axelson at HQ (Greenville SC) is coordinating all this and I have to say she is doing a great job. I had my doubts about our chapter being able to handle an event of this size but Linda made it easy (up to now!). I'm really looking forward to O'fest.

We have some great Fun Runs coming up so check the club website (www.albmwcca.org) for details, click on the highlighted dates on the club calendar to see what we have planned. For those of you who might be new to the club we use www.MotorsportsReg.com as our registration site for all club events. It makes life a whole lot easier for those of us doing the trip and event planning. FYI, when you sign-up at MotorsportsReg.com be sure to give us a cell phone number where we can reach you on the day of an event. Mother Nature isn't always kind to us and sometimes we have to cancel a Fun Run at the last minute so a valid cell phone number is a good thing to have for last minute cancellations.

We're always looking for ideas so feel free to drop a note to any board member (or use the Contact Page) so we can see what you're thinking. It's your club so get involved.

Ron

ARE YOU RECEIVING EMAIL UPDATES FROM THE BMW CLUB?

If not, then we may have an incorrect email address on file for you. We communicate details and updates about our events by email. Many emails bounce back as undeliverable. If your address, phone number, email information has changed, then please update it with BMW CCA National. You can do this online at **www.bmwcca.org** or call **864-250-0022**.

ANNUAL KICK-OFF PARTY AT BARBER

The Club held its annual kick-off party at a favorite location in January, the Barber Motorsports Museum. After lunch, Club president, Ron Drenning addressed a large crowd and introduced Kevin Garner of Tom Williams BMW who talked about his company's contribution to our club through its program of purchasing club memberships for customers. Troy Wesson gave an excellent presentation of the 2010 Oktoberfest in Wisconsin, so we'll know what to expect when it happens in Alabama in October 2011 and Clark Virden of Zoom Motorsports also gave us an update on Oktoberfest. Mike Renner from the Performance School in South Carolina, after a talk and video, presented a One Day M School slot to happy drawing winner, Hank Bowman of Birmingham. The Heart of Dixie Driving School slot went to Ken Stoia of Huntsville, who will enjoy being on the Barber track on Memorial Day Weekend. Afterward, members were free to check out the world class motorcycle museum that is a part of Barber Motorsports. A big thanks to all speakers and volunteers, and to Tom Williams for bringing cars for display and for helping us to increase membership.



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Officer Elections in the Fall

In the fourth quarter of 2011, it will be time for Heart of Dixie board elections which happen every two years. The positions open for election are President, Vice-president, Treasurer, and Secretary. Other appointed board positions include membership chair, events coordinator, driving events coordinator, webmaster, and newsletter editor. If you'd like to get involved through an elected or appointed position, get in touch with one of the current board members (see column at left side of page 2).

GUNTERSVILLE EAGLES FUN RUN

On February 12, the Club set out with 20 members to visit Guntersville State Park to view wintering bald eagles that migrated from northern states and Canada to spend the winter in Alabama enjoying more moderate temperatures and ice-free waters. The eagles were out in force that day and Todd Lattanzi captured a few of them on camera as they rode the thermals (below). The Heart of Dixie Chapter takes group road trips, called Fun Runs to places of interest in north and central Alabama every month or two. A couple of our upcoming trips will be to visit waterfalls in Northeast Alabama and to Dismals Cavern, a nature preserve in northwest Alabama, so come join the caravan! See back cover for details.



The Benefits of a BMW CCA Membership

- **Membership Rewards: Rebates Up to \$1,500 on BMW purchase.**
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 BMWCCA.org.
- **Access** to the BMW CCA social networking tools!

PRE-RACE AT THE PORSCHE 250

BMW club members gathered at Barber Motorsports Park for the Porsche 250 and the Honda Indy Grand Prix Race, held on the weekend of April 8-10. It's an excellent event for track and race fans.



BMWs attract hot chicks for pictures.



Practice run for Turner Motorsports.



BMW Club members took a tour of the race paddock and stopped by several race team tents. Here is the group at the Turner Motorsports Tent after listening to a talk by Will Turner and his race team.



A stop by the Telmex team tent.



Rumbum racing allowed club members inside their trailer where they have most everything they need to make repairs.



BMW Club members were able to park at Barber in the car corral rather than taking a shuttle to and from the park.

Photos: Brian Robertson

BMW INTAKE MANIFOLD REMOVAL

Wayne R. Dempsey, www.pelicanparts.com

The later-model E36 six-cylinder engines have a mechanism that allows for variable advancing of the camshaft timing. The VANOS unit (Variable Onckenwellen Steuerung) is an electromechanical unit that uses a hydraulic piston to advance the camshaft timing at higher rpm. This unit is controlled electronically by a solenoid connected to the engine management system (DME).

The VANOS unit is hydraulically operated using pressurized oil from the engine. As such, the oil line that feeds the VANOS unit often begins to leak from age. It's very common for this line to weep oil and leak it on top of the engine. On some models it will be necessary to remove the intake manifold, so check first. Removal of the line is as easy as disconnecting the two banjo bolts on each end, and removing and replacing the line. Use new aluminum sealing rings when you install the new line.

Also accessible is the VANOS unit solenoid. This unit is responsible for actuating a valve that opens and allows pressurized oil to flow into the VANOS unit. To remove and replace this solenoid, you may need to remove the intake manifold, as the electrical connector for the solenoid is hidden under the manifold on some models. Be sure to use a new O-ring on the VANOS solenoid when you install its replacement. Visit www.pelicanparts.com for more articles like this one.

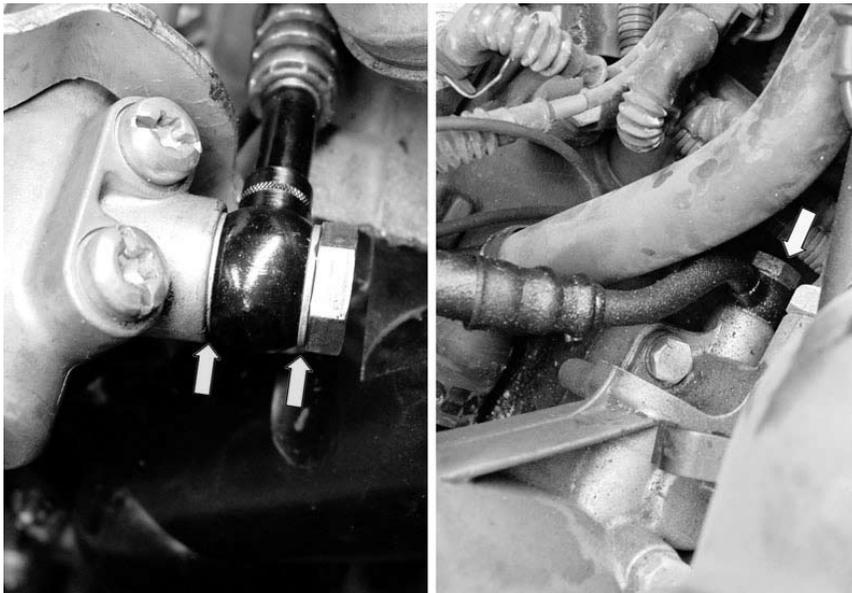


FIGURE 1

This photo shows the two ends of the VANOS oil supply line. On the left, you see the point where it mounts to the VANOS unit. On the right, the line snakes down under the intake manifold and mounts just behind the oil filter housing (see arrow). As you can see, the oil line has been leaking and is wet with oil. When installing the new line, use new sealing rings at both ends (see two arrows). If you reuse the old sealing rings, they may end up leaking.

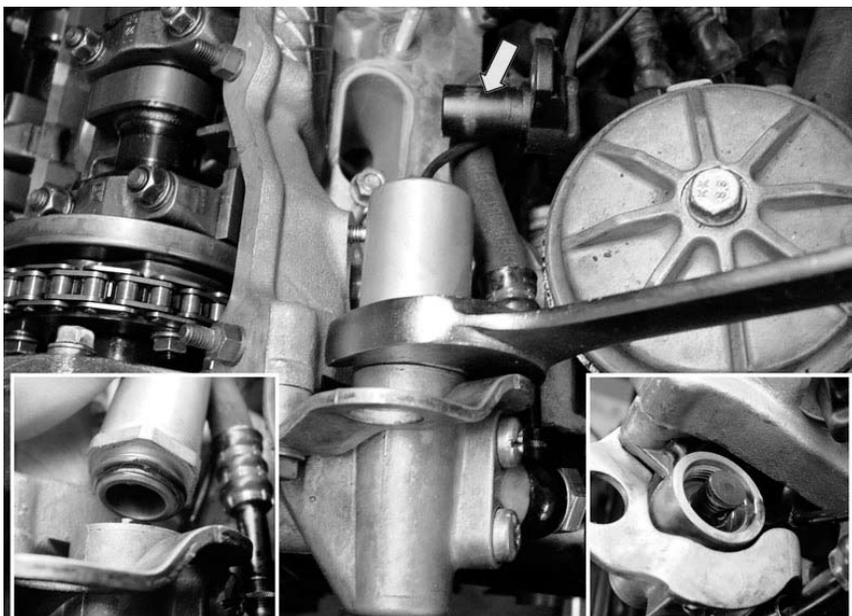


FIGURE 2

This photo shows the removal of the VANOS unit solenoid. The solenoid opens a valve that allows oil into the VANOS unit, which then advances the camshaft timing. Use a 32-millimeter wrench to loosen the solenoid from the VANOS unit housing. The inset on the lower left shows the inside of the solenoid. Use a new O-ring when reinstalling the solenoid. The inset on the lower right shows the valve in the VANOS unit that the solenoid opens.

The arrow at the top shows the camshaft position sensor. The VANOS solenoid must be removed in order to install the camshaft position sensor into the cylinder head.

BMW 2010

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European 535i model shown. The BMW 5 Series achieves up to 22/32 city/highway MPG based on EPA estimates. Actual mileage may vary. For full details on BMW Ultimate Service® visit bmwusa.com/ultimateservice. ©2011 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.

HEART OF DIXIE CHAPTER

BMW CCA

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HEART OF DIXIE BMW CCA UPCOMING EVENTS

LEGENDS OF MOTORSPORTS

Friday, May 20 - Sunday, May 22

Barber Motorsports Park

Racing legend Bobby Rahal, partner in Historic Motorsports Productions, brings his newest venture to the Barber Motorsports Park for its 2nd event. There will be over 15 races, featuring a variety of the most popular historic race cars.

No registration with the club necessary. Purchase your tickets through www.barbermotorsports.com.

THE HEART OF DIXIE DE

Memorial Day weekend

Saturday, May 28 - Sunday, May 29

Barber Motorsports Park

HeartofDixieDE.info

Our annual Driver's Education Event is our club's big event of the year. If you want to know what it's like to drive on a world class track, this is your chance. You will be assigned an instructor who sits in the passenger seat and gives you direction as you're driving. See page 1 for more details.

Check the website for details and register online at www.motorsportsreg.com.

WATERFALL FUN RUN

Saturday, May 14

Decatur area

We'll be starting off from Priceville off I-65, a little south of Decatur and visiting several waterfalls in the area. Lunch will be at DeSoto State Park or in Mentone. *Register online at www.motorsportsreg.com.*

WINERY FUN RUN

Saturday, June 11

Northeast Alabama

We'll be visiting wineries in the north Alabama area. More details to come via email. *Register online at www.motorsportsreg.com.*

DISMALS CAVERNS FUN RUN

Saturday, July 23

Northwest Alabama

Dismals Canyon, located in Northwest Alabama, is an 85 acre privately owned and operated Natural Conservatory. In keeping with its pristine surroundings, the Canyon offers a quiet and unspoiled oasis in Alabama's last secret hiding place, a secluded wilderness filled with natural phenomena deep within the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. *Register online at www.motorsportsreg.com.*