

BMW IM HERZEN DES SUDENS

The Heart of Dixie BMW Club Newsletter • 2013 | Issue 4

Bill Wade of The Tire Rack's Street Survival teen driving program shows participants the limited sight distance of truck drivers.



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CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jonathan Holly
205.397.1234 (work)
205.240.2459 (cell)
jholly@albmwcca.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Steve Lowery
256.773.1814 (home)
256.464.2147 (work)
slowery@albmwcca.org

SECRETARY

Carol Lowery
256.773.1814 (home)
256.722.7200 (work)
clowery@albmwcca.org

TREASURER

Dale Sitton
205.987.2680 (home)
205.822.0299 (work)
dsitton@albmwcca.org

BOARD MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Paula Holly
membershipchair@
albmwcca.org

EVENT COORDINATOR

Carol Lowery
256.773.1814 (home)
256.722.7200 (work)
clowery@albmwcca.org

DRIVING EVENT COORDINATOR

Jack Joyner
chiefinstructor@albmwcca.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lis a Drenning
205.987.3293
drenning@mindspring.com

CLUB WRAPS UP 2013 AND LOOKS AHEAD TO 2014!

Hello Members and happy Holly-days! (That pun never gets old this time of year) I want to thank each and every one of our members that came out to one of our events, runs or a get together this past year. It's YOU that makes the club what it is and why the officers and I spend so much of our free time brainstorming, planning and running this club every year.

The officers and I recently met to discuss and plan the calendar for 2014... see, we're working hard!



Sorry for the blurry photos... we do take a drink or two as we're planning. :) I think we've come up with a wonderful variety of events this year and based on the feedback you gave to the national car club in last year's surveys we are trying to do more driving oriented activities.

We'll hold another auto cross event in 2014 after the hugely successful one we had in October. We'll have our regular driving school at Barber Motorsports Park and we're trying to plan an event at Little Talladega Speedway for those that want to get a taste of taking your car to the track in an environment that is low key and less stressful than a full High Speed Driving school like Barber or Road Atlanta. We'll also sprinkle our share of fun runs in there and it all kicks off this January with our chapter party. (Details to come soon...it will be different than in years past)

Thank you all again for your participation and feedback and I hope everyone has a super New Year.

Check out the website for the latest pictures at www.albmwcca.org.

Happy Motoring—
Jonathan Holly
President- Heart of Dixie Chapter/BMWCCA





STREET SURVIVAL

DRIVING SCHOOL FOR TEENS

On December 14th our Heart of Dixie Chapter hosted its first Tire Rack Street Survival school.

As car people we sometimes find it hard to believe the rest of the world does not think like us. We are all about the power, handling,

features, and

amazing

engineering

that goes into

our BMW's. But

for non-car

people it's just a

car, four wheels,

A/C, Radio, ok their happy. The Tire Rack Street Survival School helps teenagers really learn how to be safer in a car and handle any surprise or dangerous situations they may encounter.

Having been a part of a Survival school in Tuscaloosa, I saw the benefits and skills these teens took away at the end of the day. I was hooked, we needed to have one of these and start helping the teens in our state become better, safer drivers. Car accidents are the number one killer of teens in the United States, with about 5000 dying last year. The Tire Rack Street Survival school wants to help bring those numbers way down. This was the 101st Survival school this year and was a record for them. We had 24 students and 15 instructors come out and brave the cold rainy weather, but it was a great environment for these teens to practice in.

We started the day doing braking exercises, letting them really find out how hard to push that brake pedal. We transition from the braking to a slalom, then a decreasing radius turn, to an emergency lane change maneuver. The last exercise is a skid pad, which was working well in the morning with all the rain, and I think was the kids favorite. The school provides about 4 hours of classroom and 4 hours of on course exercises. We give them lots of real life scenarios to make them think about situations they might encounter on the streets. It was a joy to see all of these teens taking huge strides in car control, braking and emergency maneuvers. My daughter was a participant and came away from it feeling much more confident in handling a car, but also how to be aware of the things around you.

If you have a teen or know a teen this is the school for them. Almost all of them started off the day not wanting to be there, but by noon they only wanted more. For more information or to request a school go to www.streetsurvival.org. We will be helping the Porsche Club with a school in the spring and we will be doing another in the fall. [View more photos of Street Survival.](#)

—Jack Joyner, Driving Events Coordinator

A demonstration of the power of an airbag when detonated.



A Warning about BMW Battery Problems

By BIMMEX Woodbridge

“My hope is that you’ve found this posting before CAA, or other form of assistance, has come to rescue your BMW with a dead battery. I know you only have one hour to leave work, grab the kids from practice, and pick-up dinner, but stop and just have your BMW towed. DO NOT jump-start the car and DO NOT let any roadside assistance service install a new battery in your BMW. It can be the most expensive battery or jump start of your life”

This is what a colleague of mine from California is telling his customers. I want to publish here all his experiences that may help us understand the most common problem we may face as a BMW owner:

QUOTE: BMW’s built from 1999 through about 2003 do not respond well to a jump start, and pretty much every BMW built after 2004 needs to follow an exact procedure in order to change the battery properly.

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While we’ve been aware of this for quite some time, a recent customer’s troubles has exemplified what can occur if someone tries to change a battery when they are ill informed. My friend got a call from a towing company owner who was having trouble with a 2006 530i. They acted on a AAA call for one of our customers who’s battery had died. They went to the residence and jump-started the car followed by the AAA representative selling the customer a new battery. That is where the trouble started. The AAA rep disconnected the battery (strike one and strike two), and then installed the wrong size battery and re-connected the battery cables (strike three). Much to his surprise, the car would not start, the steering became locked, gear shifter locked, and there were no instrumentation lights. This 5 minute operation just resulted in what will be 3 weeks of the customer not having a car, and AAA coughing up a heap of \$\$.

The BMW electrical system has gotten extremely complex, mainly due to the fact that they aren’t just cars anymore. They are a home computer, entertainment center, home office, and a robotic personal assistant all wrapped in steel with an engine and 4 wheels. This all requires a significant amount of wiring, control modules, and electrical



(continued next page)

... A Warning about BMW Battery Problems

monitoring systems that make everything work. To complicate things, all of these functions rely upon each other for power and reliability. Simply put, they are strung together like old Christmas tree lights – one goes out and the rest of the strand is closed for business. The main difference is that instead of just grabbing that extra bulb that came with the lights, fixing the strand can start with a \$280 module – in this case the Car Access System, or CAS. There's no guarantee that the rest of the lights are going to shine after it is replaced. These support groups are so fragile that any disturbance in power can render the module useless, which hopefully illustrates why changing a battery can become the most expensive little light you've ever tried to replace to get things going again. The second victim of this battery change attempt was the SZL, which is basically the control module that controls things such as wipers, instrumentation, steering wheel buttons, the horn, turn signals, etc, etc. In short, you cannot just change a battery; there is a specific procedure that must be followed in order to do it successfully:

The car must be off and key out of the ignition. The battery should be sonically tested for bad cells, and once tested poorly, should be replaced with a battery of the SAME SIZE and Cold

Cranking Amperage to ensure these complex systems receive the same power input that they would from the factory. When removing the cables one must be very mindful of the delicate positive AND negative terminals, as each connection contains a very sensitive micro-control module on them that monitors power input and output of the battery in addition to communication with the airbag deployment string of modules. Once the battery is replaced, it must be digitally registered with the car's DME (Digital Motor Electronic control computer) so that the alternator 'knows' how to properly charge the battery and prevent premature wear on the alternator itself and the battery. Sometimes, some control modules must be updated when the battery is registered with the car.

OK, enough technical stuff. Let's talk dollars. In this particular case, the car lost several modules and one battery cable. Tons of re-programming and coding was also needed as each step was executed during repair in order to save modules that had yet to be affected. Total? Over \$2300 for one mistake. I'm starting to think there might be a market for battery warning stickers . . .

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OCTOBERFEST AUTOCROSS



The Heart of Dixie Chapter held an autocross-lite for our Octoberfest recently in the Pelham Civic Center parking lot. These events are proving to be popular with our club members for good reason. It's a fun and safe way to find out just how well your BMW can handle, and a chance to talk to other Bimmer enthusiasts. [Visit our website](#) for more photos of this event.



2014 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 deadline is January 15, 2014. *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 send to:

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

PRESIDENT: JONATHAN HOLLY



I am an active member of the Heart of Dixie chapter with over 10 years of membership. I have served as club President from 2005-2007 and 2011-2013. I've enjoyed the opportunity to grow our club, see old friends and meet new BMW enthusiasts. I would like to give back to an organization that has given me lifelong friends, memories and a car that just can't be beat for looks and performance.

VICE PRESIDENT: STEVE LOWERY



It has been an honor serving our club over the last 15 years. I was once told that the BMW CCA is about the people and the cars come second. That sure has been true. Some of the nicest people drive BMWs. Our club has a lot to accomplish yet and I would appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Vice President over the next two years. Thanks for your consideration.

TREASURER: DALE SITTON



It has been a privilege to serve the Heart of Dixie Chapter of BMW CCA as Treasurer for the past 9 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.

SECRETARY: CAROL LOWERY



Hi! I'm Carol Lowery and I am running for the Office of Secretary. I have been a Heart of Dixie Officer since 1998 and would consider it a privilege to continue serving our great Chapter. We have a wonderful membership and I plan to work hard for our continued success. Thank you!

Thank you

TO THE HEART OF DIXIE CHAPTER

To The Heart of Dixie Chapter BMW Car Club,

In the spring of 2013, the BMW Car Club/ Heart of Dixie Chapter sponsored a 3 day/2 night Space Camp field trip for students who would not have been able to attend otherwise. The generosity of the club will be with those students for a life time. They were able to participate in a simulated mission either aboard the ISS, in mission control or in the Space Shuttle. Students were actively engaged in simulators that the astronauts use for training when preparing for space exploration. They were able to stay in the "ISS" style sleeping quarters and actually went through graduation on day three. Word can't express our thanks but their smiles and learning can! You provided a life long learning experience for those students and for that, we at Trace Crossings Elementary and classroom teachers everywhere, are eternally grateful. Best Wishes to the club and its growth!



Thank you again,

Dana Joyner

Fourth Grade Teacher

Trace Crossings Elementary

<http://www.spacecamp.com/mu/groups/pathfinder>

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 BMWCCA.org.