

December 2018

# das Krummet

The Newsletter of the Tidewater Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 12/22 PENINSULA BREAKFAST

Baker's Crust at 9am  
5234 Monticello Ave #115, Williamsburg, VA

### 1/9 BIMMER BREAKFAST

Pop's Diner in Greenbrier at 9am

### 1/26 47TH ANNUAL TIDEWATER BMW CAR CLUB BANQUET

at Greenbrier Country Club - 6pm

### 2/9 VALENTINE'S DAY DRIVE

6732 Mooretown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188 9:30am

### 2/16 BIMMER BREAKFAST

Pop's Diner in Greenbrier at 9am

### 8/4 M-PERFORMANCE SCHOOL

Greer, SC

RSVP and details for all events  
at <https://www.motorsportreg.com/>

Questions: send email to [events@tidewaterbmwcca.org](mailto:events@tidewaterbmwcca.org)



[www.tidewaterbmwcca.org](http://www.tidewaterbmwcca.org)



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## MEMBERSHIP

Tidewater Chapter: 676 as of November 2018

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Address changes can be made on the BMWCCA National website ([www.bmwcca.org](http://www.bmwcca.org)) by hitting 'Login' and following instructions on site. From there, click on the 'Manage Account' link on the top of the page; then click on the 'Change Addresses' link.

Or write to:

ROUNDEL BMW CCA  
640 South Main Street - Suite 201  
Greenville, SC 29601

All changes done through the National office will update both your National and Tidewater Chapter address information.

## NEWSLETTER and PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS:

Your articles and photos are very welcomed by us. To be included in an issue the materials must be received by the 1st of the month preceding the date of the issue. To spice up the newsletter we always need photos of chapter events. We may also use them on the chapter website. Send your contributions to Editor@tidewaterbmwcca.org. Thanks!

## SOCIAL MEDIA:

Chapter web site: [www.tidewaterbmwcca.org](http://www.tidewaterbmwcca.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TWBMWCCA/>  
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/twBMWcca/>  
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## Checkered Flag



# President's Corner

As 2018 draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on all that has happened this year. My goodness, as a Club we have done a lot. We ushered in the New Year with a banquet and a new President. We enjoyed our Valentine's Day Drive with our BMWs and our significant others. The Second Annual Photo-Ops Drive was another success complete with gorgeous weather, and some V-12 7-Series taking center stage. We had our first annual M-Performance School, and smiles graced our exhausted faces at the end of the day. Our Chapter stared down Hurricane Florence, and she blinked first allowing our second annual Street Survival course to be a success; 23 students in our local area are now better equipped to share the road. The Dragon was slain again (if we keep slaying the Dragon perhaps we're not doing it right?), and we all had a blast taking in the beautiful scenery and fresh air.

In addition to bountiful drives and plentiful breakfasts, we have undergone successful changes at a leadership level. We have a new and improved website, now compatible across all device platforms. We have a new Activities Chairman, Tim Iseminger; James, you will be missed, and we wish you the best in South Carolina. We continue to streamline our methods required to organize Club activities. Photos of events are available to view by all members on Shutterfly. We continue to exceed the required number of Newsletters published, and routinely receive praise regarding their quality.

All in all, it has been a busy year for the Club, and in my opinion a very successful year. That being said, there is room for improvement. We have a strategy to continue to improve many aspects, but there is one that continues to elude us. It plagues the BMW CCA at the National level, and it greatly concerns us at a local level. **MEMBERSHIP**. It's in bold for a reason. We need your help. Our total membership has been on the decline and has been declining for some time. I hope that through an increase in quantity and variety of events, our membership and participation will increase. We have experienced a little more involvement, but not a growth in membership. For \$48 per year, I think we can afford to remain members. So the question is, why are losing members? The discounts alone more than make up for the cost of membership. I respectfully submit the joys of bonding with fellow BMW enthusiasts make the annual fee worth it! Regardless, we continue to lose members. Here is how you can help: I ask each and every one of you to talk with a BMW owner or enthusiast (BMW ownership is not a requirement). Share the benefits of being a member with them, and encourage them to join. If every person who reads this does so, I am confident our membership number will increase. Please invite someone to one of our many functions, and share the benefits of being a member.

In conclusion, 2018 has been a great year for our Club. We shared many smiles and miles. We made great memories and enjoyed great food. We learned where our limits are as well as those of our Ultimate Driving Machine. I previously mentioned that I have come to think of the Club as family, those words ring ever more true today than when they were first printed. I do not have blood family in the Tidewater area. I have even lost several members of my family this year. I have also made a new family with the friends and people I have met in our Club. Thank you for your continued support; I look forward to another great year, and I very much hope, to see you **ALL** at our Annual Banquet, January 26, 2019!

Thank you and as always,

Fröhliches Autofahren!

Shawn,

President, Tidewater Chapter BMW CCA

Darin Kwasniewski &  
Shawn Halsey



# Back of the Dragon

By Shawn Halsey

I have the pleasure of sharing my experience from the Back of the Dragon event with you. I can confidently say all would have a blast at this event. We rendezvoused in Suffolk on Friday and embarked on our adventure about 12:30pm.



Although the strictest adherence to the posted speed limit was followed, we managed to have a very enjoyable drive to Marion, VA. Having handheld radios in the cars allowed for great humor, trivial trivia, and notification of the occasional bear sighting! I requested a fuel stop just shy of our final destination, the General Francis Marion Hotel, so that I would have a full tank for the upcoming weekend drive. Proud as I am to be a Fuel Rewards Network member with Shell, I turned into the comedian with my multiple trips between the pump outside and the attendant inside. It took a while, but in the end, worked out quite in my favor :)

Saturday's drive on the Back of the Dragon was an absolute blast. This was my first time, and I could not have had more fun. The roads are surprisingly smooth with ample variety of twists and turns sure to suit all driving styles. Admittedly I was of the mindset to test the limits of DSC, xDrive, and the grip of my tires, but certainly not a requisite. If you take anything away from my experience, please accept this, the road is enjoyable at ALL speeds, and it does not need to be a time-trial. Don't misunderstand, I thoroughly pushed the car to velocities where I did not feel comfortable simultaneously continuing the conversation; I equally enjoyed being behind a slower moving Santa Fe as it allowed me time to take in the gorgeous scenery. The views were breathtaking, and the bends of the road are enjoyable at any speed.

A delightful Amish family served our lunch while we enjoyed the breathtaking views. Lunch was delicious, although I did pass on dessert. It smelled wonderful; I just don't care for Apple Pie (haven't you realized I'm bizarre?!). Saturday's drive concluded mid afternoon giving us time for a much need respite at the very comfortable General



Francis Marion Hotel. I can admit I am a bit picky with my lodging accommodations. All I can say about the hotel and staff is that I will gladly return in a heartbeat!

Unfortunately, not everyone could partake in Sunday's drive, which was absolutely

outstanding! We drove approximately 200 miles and into parts of Kentucky and West Virginia. We stopped at Breaks State Park for lunch and more breathtaking views. At one point when we stopped to take in the sights, the mood was undeniably serene.

At that moment, problems of the world did not exist. We enjoyed each other's company and were grateful for our ability to be there and share the moment with each other. I broke the silence and said the beauty called for a song. With no further discussion and without missing a beat the five of us began singing John Denver's Country Road. After we finished our melody, we recognized that we were still in Virginia, and needed an alternate song...but somehow that just didn't matter. Sunday's route concluded with returning to the hotel via the Back of the Dragon, giving us one more pleasure on that road.



Monday's arrived bittersweet as we ventured east, returning to our daily commitments and obligations. I dubbed the weekend my mini-vacation. In truth, it was so much more. I would not have traded the weekend for anything, and I am happy that I was able to share it with fellow BMW enthusiasts. To all reading this, if you have any inclination to attend next time, do so. You will

not regret it. If the chaos of life prevents you from enjoying four days of adventure, I encourage you to participate for as long as your situation permits. Share in the camaraderie, and enjoy your BMW in an environment, which, although it is not a track, it is also not Hampton Roads.

# OBX Weekend

Linda & Bill Matthews, Bimmer Buddies

Sunday, May 5th, 2018 on the OBX the day started out as a dreary, rainy, misty morning, we thought surely no one will show up for the cruise. Bill and I sat there waiting and wondering and then through the mist a parade of about 15, shiny BMW's approached the Kitty Hawk rest stop. We were over-joyed to see the Tidewater chapter of the BMW Club coming to join us on the OBX. Twenty or so friendly faces got out and greetings were exchanged. We all went to check out the memorial of The Monument to Flight which had recently been constructed at the Kitty Hawk rest stop. Quite an unusual modern art exhibit reflecting many accomplishments of early flight.

We got back in our mighty Bimmer machines and headed out for our cruise. We started out through the woods of Kitty Hawk, not many were aware there were places like that at the OBX. We saw many little back woods ponds and creeks and wooded areas. We stopped at the boat ramp park and took some great photos of the gang. We then pushed on through the woods of Southern Shores, seeing little bridges and canals and lovely residential homes tucked away in the woods. We left the woods behind us and went up a road-paved hill which brought us out into the open and followed along the sandy beaches and an angry ocean, churned up from the windy weather. We ended up back in Kitty Hawk at the Black Pelican Restaurant, right in front of the ocean, our destination. We disembarked from our chariots and went in to have a very tasty seafood lunch and interesting conversation. Low and behold by the time we were done, the sun came out and shined on our BMW's putting a smile on all our faces making the cruise a totally enjoyable experience. As far as Bill and I could tell everyone went home happy including us because the cruise was a big success. It was our pleasure to host this event. Thanks to all of you for your friendship.



## Club TOOLBOX

For those that have always wanted us to put a name with a face, here's a picture of our club tools. They've been relocated to our treasurer Ron Boustedt's house. Feel free to reach out if you need to scratch your shade tree mechanic itch.

- HELMETS for track events
- Service light resetting tools - very useful
- Tie rod separator - pickle forks
- Remote starter switch
- Clutch Alignment tool
- Pilot bearing puller
- Fan clutch wrench & bar
- Electric impact wrench
- Lockstrip tool
- 17mm Trans. drain socket
- Brake bleed system - very useful
- Coil spring compressors
- PEAKE code/reset tool - all models can be connected under hood or dash
- SRS air bag scanner

Contact [borrowequip@tidewaterbmwcca.org](mailto:borrowequip@tidewaterbmwcca.org) for your needs.



## Club MERCHANDISE

Apparel from Land's End with Tidewater Chapter logo is available for purchase. Contact [merch@tidewaterbmwcca.org](mailto:merch@tidewaterbmwcca.org) for availability and questions about the following merchandise:

Apparel (polos, hats, etc.) - various prices at club events  
Chapter Logo Decals • BMW CCA Decals: FREE at club events

Personalized Club nametags, for club events, can be ordered from Tag-Ink for \$20 each.  
Email [orders@tag-ink.com](mailto:orders@tag-ink.com) or call 757-233-6952

Contact [activitiescommittee@tidewaterbmwcca.org](mailto:activitiescommittee@tidewaterbmwcca.org)

Hans Stuck





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# VIR WEEKEND

Brad Purvis

On 17 August I found myself in Barnes & Noble sitting “short call reserve” for my airline, and hoping desperately they would not call me for a trip. You see, I had tickets for the IMSA weekend at Virginia International Raceway (VIR), and I was really looking forward to going. The Tarheel and National Capital Chapters joined forces this year and set up a “Corral” at the track for their members and any other BMW CCA members who wished to join them. As an associate member of the NCC and an avid sports car racing fan I was more than willing to pay the extra price to add this perk to my race experience.

Thankfully, it turned out my company did not need my services therefore, I was “released” at 3:00 pm. I pointed my 428i Roadster to the southwest and since I had no particular place to be that night, except to eventually end up in or near Danville, I eschewed the GPS, deciding to take the back roads as much as possible. The route included SR3, 20, 239, US29 and a few back roads, which I never knew existed and could probably never find again. I passed a number of Civil War battlefields, monuments, and headquarters, along some of the best driving roads Virginia has to offer. I eventually stumbled into Danville around eight o’clock that evening with no place to stay and all my electronic devices showing no hotel availability anywhere north of Raleigh. It turns out the IMSA race at VIR is rather popular. Who knew?

As I was cruising through the northwest side of town I happened upon a rather sad looking motel, which at one time was probably a LaQuinta or Econo Lodge, but had obviously seen better days. The proprietor was standing out front smoking a cigarette, so I stopped and asked if he perchance had a room available? Magically, it turns out, he had one room left, and the pièce de résistance was I would get a discount because I have white hair (or at least what is left of it is white). Really. That’s what the guy told me. White hair = discount. As I was dragging my bag up to the second floor, I encountered an unshaven, mostly toothless and topless geezer (with white hair as well



& male, thank goodness), drinking a beer and smoking a cigarette. Smoking is a favorite pastime here at the No Tell Motel, or so it seems. I wonder if he received the senior discount as well? All I can say is the motel failed to meet most of my meager expectations, but seeing that I would only shower and briefly sleep there, it would have to suffice. Sadly, in the course of my military and airline careers, I stayed in worse places in worse accommodations. But I digress.

The next morning I was up dark and early to head to the track to check-in in time for the BMW CCA “parade lap.” The parade lap was the first event of the day, after which we headed for our own BMW reserved parking area adjacent to the Corral. The Corral is actually a large tent on the hill overlooking turns 3, 4 & 5, one of the best viewing areas at the track. The tent itself was a godsend as the weekend was a mix of rain, stifling heat, and blazing sun. The two chapters provided snacks and drinks throughout the day as well as a catered lunch on Saturday and Sunday. In addition, there were random prize drawings throughout the two days including neat stuff like track experience drives with BMW Performance Center instructors, a Michelin tire draw, swag from vendors like Bimmerworld and Turner Motorsports, and even drawings for chapter HPDEs. Guess who won one of the latter? That’s right, yours truly! So for the meager price of admission to the track and a little extra for the Corral, I walked away with a certificate for an HPDE with the Tarheel Chapter next year at

*Continued on pg 9*



VIR. I was so chuffed to have won when I got home I signed up to be an associate member with their chapter as well.

For those of you not familiar with IMSA (International Motor Sports Association), and the WeatherTech SportsCar Championship (WTSC), I'll just say it is the premier sports car racing series in America. The number of series and types of cars involved with IMSA racing are far too involved to go into here, and anyway, this weekend VIR was all about WTSC and the Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge (CTSC). The Porsche GT3 Cup and Lamborghini Super Trofeo, and the Ferrari Challenge series ran this weekend as well. Meh.

What did not run this weekend were the Prototype Class cars, which was fine with me. All the better to watch the GT LeMans (GTM) and GT Daytona (GTD) cars slug it out on track. GTLM cars are based on production cars but are truly engineered and built from the ground up as racecars with wild aerodynamic aids and outrageous engines, brakes and suspensions. They are the "elite" GT cars of the series "...and are engineered to extract the maximum performance possible." The GTD cars, on the other hand, are also based on production models but are more true to something that rolls off the production line in Munich. While their engines, suspensions, and brakes are rebuilt for racing, they run more of a stock body with far fewer aero aids. BMW Team Rahal, Letterman, Lanigan (RLI) carried the flag for BMW with the M8 GTE, while Turner Motorsport held the pointy end for our marque in the GTD series with their M6 GT3.

As I mentioned above, in addition to the flagship WTSC the weekend included CTSC racing, which consists of three classes; Grad Sport (GS), Touring Car (TCR), and Street Tuner (ST). GS cars start out as stock production cars and race with only minor modifications. Bimmerworld Racing (#82), and



Classic BMW/Vess Energy (#12 & #23), and Stephen Cameron Racing (#19 & #88) field BMW M4 GT4s in this class. BMW does not compete in the TCR class. ST cars are even closer to production cars with the engines tuned to produce between 220 and 280 horsepower. ST is considered

the entry level for most IMSA racing. Bimmerworld (#81) races a 328i in ST, while MINI JCW field three cars in this class.

One of the great aspects of the weekend was our paddock visits to BMW Team RLL and Bimmerworld Racing on Saturday morning, and Turner Motorsport that afternoon. We talked to the team managers, the mechanics, and drivers. I even got up close and personal to one of the most successful sports car racers of all time, Bill Auberlen. Qualifying took place on Saturday afternoon, and while the GTD cars had a dry track, by the time the GTLM cars went out it was raining pretty steadily. At the end of qualifying, Bill Auberlen managed to place the Turner Motorsport M6 GT3 in 3rd place on the grid.



After WeatherTech qualifying finished, the CTSC races began in earnest in the rain. Although some teams chose to press on with slick tires, it was soon apparent wet tires were the order of the day. Bimmerworld Racing's 328i ST car started from pole and held position during most of the race. Eventually, the team lost some positions

*Continued on pg 10*



during the pit stops and ended up fourth, only to be promoted later when two teams were disqualified due to “technical infractions.” Unfortunately, in the GS Class, Bimmerworld Racing’s M4 GT4 did not fare so well. After starting a respectable 3rd on the grid, the car experienced sheared wheel studs and finished up in a somewhat disappointing 33rd position. Stephen Cameron Racing’s M4’s managed both a 7th & 20th place, while BMW Classic’s cars pulled down the 11th & 12th positions. It was all great racing, even if we got a little damp watching the action.



was able to hold off Corvette Racing’s hard-charging Jan Magnussen during his last stint and secure the first win of the season for the BMW Team RLL M8 GTE.

At the end of the day the #24 M8 GTE finished 3rd, so it was two out of three podium positions for BMW. Everyone in and around Victory Circle was over the moon.

Back at the Corral; on the final day we had over 100 cars, and almost 200 people show up despite the hot, humid and wet weather. Artist Bill Patterson painted a picture (literally, not metaphorically), which was then raffled off for charity.

Sunday was the “really big show,” with the GTLM/ GTD race. After a wet qualifying, the rain held off for afternoon start with BMW RLL M8 GTE’s starting 3rd and 5th on the grid. By turn one both RLL cars were in 2nd and 3rd place and held that until pit stops started around lap 28. In GTD, Bill Auberlen started 3rd in class and held that position until the first round of pit stops where he inherited the lead until he finally turned the car over to Robby Foley with just over an hour to go. Unfortunately, Robby rejoined in 6th place, and a broken suspension regulated the Turner Motorsport to a 10th place finish.

from the BMW Performance Center were on-hand to present a gift of a free ///M School, and as I mentioned before, there were hot laps with the Performance Center instructors, some good food and a lot of swag from our generous supporters. Did I mention I won an HPDE at VIR from the Tarheel Chapter? Did I mention BMW won GTLM?

While Turner was struggling, BMW RLL was challenging for the lead. With a fortuitous caution, Alexander Sims took over the lead in the #25 M8 GTE. With a gutsy call, Sims took fuel only during the last pit stop forgoing tires, which placed the BMW at a disadvantage during the final laps. Fortunately, Alex

The drive home was uneventful except for the failure of my 428i’s airconditioning system; however, seeing as it was a roadster, did it really matter?

Many thanks to all the great sponsors and supporters; BMW NA, BMW Performance Center, BMW CCA, Bimmerworld, Blip Shift, Crown BMW, Flow BMW, Griot’s Garage, IMSA, Michelin Tires, National Chapter BMW CCA, Tarheel Chapter BMW CCA, and Turner Motorsports.



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# Fall Colors Drive 2018!

Ray Laffoon



On November 10, Suffolk, Virginia witnessed the gathering of 12 BMWs and 1 MINI Cooper after they figured out how to negotiate the traffic light at the Hardees on Pruden Boulevard. The day was clear, sunny and perfect for our endeavor. After discussing our cars, their heritage, attributes and garage plans, Tim Iseminger and Bill Volz gathered us to explain the route and the rules. Our President, Shawn Halsey, discussed with me the presence of my MINI, the latest addition to my garage. We both agreed that the MINI was ok since it is a product of BMW Group, and that anyone in the Chapter who wanted to bring their Rolls Royce would be allowed to join us as well. With great relief, I grabbed a radio to be the "caboose", and enjoyed watching all 12 BMWs maneuver and position themselves ahead of me as we began the drive. No BMWs or MINIs were damaged in any way!

Once we turned on Murphys Mill Road, the drive began in earnest as we dashed across colorful Suffolk and Isle of Wight County. Bill superbly laid out a route that included roads that followed the contours of the countryside, crossed lakes, and allowed the brilliance of the season to shine forth. We also enjoyed minimal traffic lights, and actually stayed together as a group. However, we all failed to plan on moving chicanes. A chicane is a double bend designed to slow cars or motorcycles on a track. On this day, we encountered moving chicanes covered in brightly colored spandex and riding single track vehicles from Cannondale, Giant, and Huffy, etc. They were out there in all shapes and sizes, and we had to maneuver around them. No bicyclists were hurt or injured due to passing BMWs and a MINI. A few drivers and riders were amused but not injured.

The drive came to a conclusion in Smithfield at the Smithfield Inn. Brad Purvis consulted the tide charts aboard his land yacht to help us determine where to park. Actually, Brad's red 540i is more like a Guided Missile Cruiser rather than land yacht. We all found parking spaces and our dining room. We ordered our meals from customized menus made for this event. In the grand tradition of Chapter drives, this Fall Drive concluded with good food and fellowship.

## MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITS

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.

We are thrilled to have you as part of the BMW-CCA Tidewater Chapter!

- David Banker
- Paul Burchett
- Jose Cardona
- Millard Darden
- Zachary Davis
- Ana Marie Dizon
- Sydney Fancher
- Megan Fehr
- Pat Fulgham
- Alston Harwood
- Randall Jones
- David Jumper
- Jonathan McLawhorn
- Tim Perkins
- Ethan Richardson
- Allison Rubin
- Walter Slugg
- Tamzen Trieschmann
- Matt Vennard
- Lynne Wallace
- Connor Ware

Whatever your reason for owning a BMW, you have the opportunity to meet others with common interests, form new friendships, and learn more about your "Ultimate Driving Machine!" You decide how you want to participate...face-to-face, virtually, actively, occasionally.

#### HOW DO I JOIN?

To join, just visit the membership signup page on the National BMW CCA site at [www.bmwcca.org/join](http://www.bmwcca.org/join). Check out [www.tidewaterbmwcca.org](http://www.tidewaterbmwcca.org) and our Facebook page, or [email membership@tidewaterbmwcca.org](mailto:emailmembership@tidewaterbmwcca.org) for more information about participation and the many membership benefits.

# Join us for our Annual Tidewater BMW Banquet!!



This year the Club annual banquet will be held at Greenbrier Country Club in Chesapeake, VA on January 26, 2019.

We will start the celebration with a cocktail hour at 6 PM. Join us as we catch up with club members while enjoying passed Bacon Wrapped Scallops, Mini Baked Brie with Raspberry in Pastry, and Italian Meatballs. The cash bar will also be open. Dinner will be served starting at 7 PM. You can choose between an entrée of Vegetarian Wild Mushroom Ravioli OR Chicken Marsala. During the banquet the Raffle Prize table will be open – look for gift certificates from your favorite service providers, BMW merchandise and a few others goodies you won't want to miss out on!

We will also have the Annual President's address to recap the previous year's events and a look forward to what is coming up for 2019! You will want to be there! Tickets for this event are \$35 – you can register at [www.motorsportsreg.com](http://www.motorsportsreg.com) - please do so no later than JAN 18, 2019.

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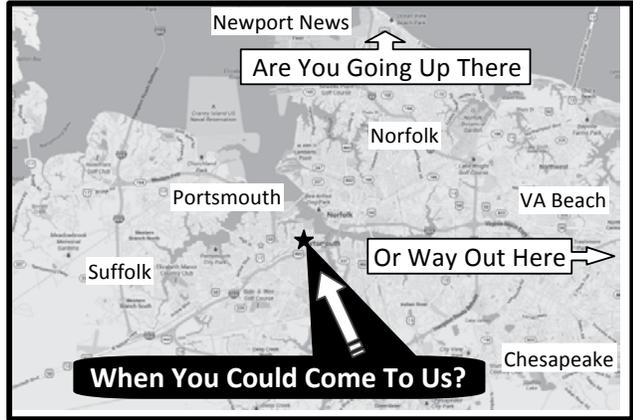
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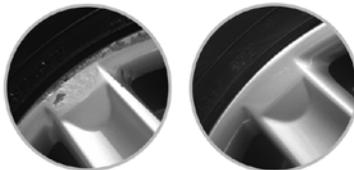
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# The DRAGON was Tamed!

*Accounts from the Back of the Dragon – OCT 5-8, 2018*

Darin and Mary Kwasniewski

“Looping through the Blue Ridge Mountain range for 32 miles with 260 curves, the **Back of the Dragon** is one of the most popular destinations in our area for driving enthusiasts!” On October 5th for the third year in a row our club headed out to tame this beast and it left no one disappointed!

Our weekend festivities began on Friday afternoon with a caravan to Marion, VA, the gateway to Back of the Dragon. Dinner and drinks were found at the restaurant adjacent to the hotel called “27 Lions” known for 27 beers on tap ... on good nights... and a covered patio in back. The venue provided a place for dinner and conversation about BMWs and our driving experiences (or lack of) and offered the opportunity for those who attended the previous year to tell their stories of valor and conquest.

After breakfast at the hotel, Saturday morning, we were briefed on the day’s events, and handed our radios – handing out corresponding call signs might be a good addition for next year’s planners! We were off for the fun by 10 AM, and just a short drive from the hotel we were on Route 16, aka “Back of the Dragon.” Our caravan of 8 BMWs was not an unusual sight for the residents of this small mountain town who are accustomed to seeing all types of motorized hardware adorning the streets. They are very accommodating to the likes of Porsches, Harleys, or any make or model of transportation willing to take on the Dragon.

After a heart-stopping ride on Virginia Route 16, the two-lane ribbon over three mountains between Tazewell and Marion, we arrived at “The Back of The Dragon Welcome Center” on Main Street in Tazewell to acquire some memorabilia, badges of courage, and more photos to prove we actually were there. Then we were off to Mattie’s Place in Burke’s Garden for lunch. Burke’s Garden is an area of Virginia similar to a crater

of a volcano with its own micro climate where you can have snow in July (or so it seems). For lunch we were served homemade goodness – which included BBQ, bread, and salad. For dessert there was homemade baked apple dumpling with an ice cream topper (some of us had a second helping – Thank you Shawn)!!



After lunch we had a quick tour of Burke’s Garden, stopped for more photos, and then we were on the road to retrace our route back to Marion in time for dinner and the

“Song of the Mountains” show at the Lincoln Theater. The Lincoln Theatre is the home of the nationally syndicated bluegrass music television series, “Song of the Mountains.” This year’s show was part of a Marion wide festival celebrating the characters, attitude and simple charms of TV’s Mayberry, as depicted on “The Andy Griffith Show.” The show welcomed Mayberry to the stage - featuring Rodney Dillard and the Dillards (“The Darlings”), Maggie Peterson (Charlene Darling) and the Mayberry Deputy, a Barney Fife-style character portrayed by David Browning of Bristol, Virginia. The belly laughs were plentiful!

*Continued on pg 17*



Sunday morning the weather fully cooperated again and we were off early for a 200 mile loop that would bring us to the best kept secret in Virginia - *Breaks Interstate Park*. The park boasts a 5-mile gorge, plunging to 1650 feet, and is nicknamed the "Grand Canyon of the South" for good reason. Lunch was at the parks Rhododendron Restaurant which offered plenty of variety and breathtaking views of the gorge from the floor-to-ceiling windows. A few photo ops later we continued on the return route via Kentucky and West Virginia before YES once again, taming the Back of the Dragon!!

As another Dragon adventure comes to a close it is worth noting that there is a great feeling of enjoyment brought on when we associate with people who appreciate the adventure of driving great machines!! Until next time... see ya out on the road!



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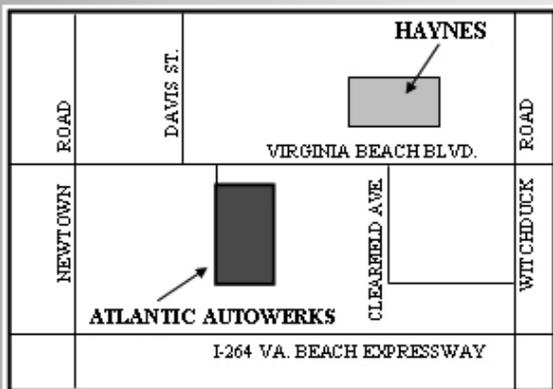


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