

BMW Car Club
of America
River City Bimmers



Der Fahrersitz

The Newsletter for the River City Bimmers

Fall 2015



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On the Cover - Driving the Tail of the Dragon

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President's Message

Juan Larin

Yes! another year is coming to an end, and what better way to close the year than with a driving tour! Not a local drive through our usual country roads, but a run through the Tail of the Dragon!

We have put together the first multi-chapter regional event, and we are expecting members to join us from several chapters around the region. We are leaving Friday, November the 13th and coming back Sunday the 15th. See more information inside and in our Facebook page.

January is fast approaching, and as many of you know, is election time for River City Bimmers! It's been 2 years for me at the helm of the best car club in America and I've had a blast. All good things do come to an end and it's time for me to step aside and let someone else run the show.

During the past two years, I'm proud to say we've grown in our membership, activities and budget. Thanks to all that have devoted your time and energy to plan, run and come to these events. Now I get to take a back seat for a while and enjoy some of these banner events as just a member...how nice!

If you think you want to have some good times devoting some of your free time to your local chapter...don't hesitate to let me or any other member of the board know and we'll make sure to get you all the information you need on how to get involved! Happy motoring and I hope to see YOU, at our next event.

Juan.

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901.619.6652

Editor's Note

Tom Coughlin

Let me start off by saying thanks to Juan for his work over the past 2 years plus. His efforts, along with those of a new generation of board members, have led to a resurgence in the chapter. I would say he'll be missed but I know he'll be working for the chapter in whatever role he takes on next.

One of the biggest chapter events in recent memory is coming up next month. If you've missed the information on the Tail of the Dragon drive, you're just not paying attention. It will be a great time and a great way for our members to meet and mingle with those from several other states.

There have been 2 events in the past month that make me feel the need to say - Yes, kick that dragon's tail but don't let it kick you!

First, Candida Jagger, Marketing Director and Riding Academy Manager at Bumpus Harley Davidson, had a bad accident during a group ride in North Carolina. She's a very skilled rider but she lost control in a turn, broke her sternum, 6 ribs, 3 vertebrae and punctured both lungs.

Our own Ryan Mills, no slouch when it comes to motorcycle skills, had a similar accident in Tennessee about 2 weeks ago. Blind hill, sharp turn and gravel on the road left Ryan at the bottom of a 20 foot ravine. Luckily Ryan's injuries were very minor.

So when you're driving the dragon's tail, just remember, sometimes you get the dragon and sometimes the dragon gets you. Have a blast but don't let the dragon get you!

Remember to keep in touch with us at:

Website: www.rcbimmers.org

Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rivercitybimmers/>

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Calendar of Events

November 13-15 - Multi-Chapter Tail of the Dragon Driving Tour. See Page 7 and the chapter Facebook page for more information

November 19 - Dinner Meeting, Patrick's East Memphis, Memphis, <http://www.patricksmemphis.com/>

December - No Dinner Meeting

January 28, 2016, 6:30 pm - Annual Election and Membership Meeting. D

Welcome New Members...

Vincent Brown	Memphis TN	Jason Hood	Memphis TN
Susan Brown	Memphis TN	Tony Franklin	Memphis TN
David Dines	Memphis TN	Galen Wenger	Little Rock AR
Richard Sweat	Germantown TN	Jason Pahules	Collierville TN
Mary Sweat	Germantown TN	Royce Joyner	Memphis TN
Andy Autry	Memphis TN	Brant Joyner	Searcy AR
Louis Parvey	Eads TN	Michelle Joyner	Searcy AR
Alfonso Cardenas	Germantown TN	Libby Brown	Olive Branch MS

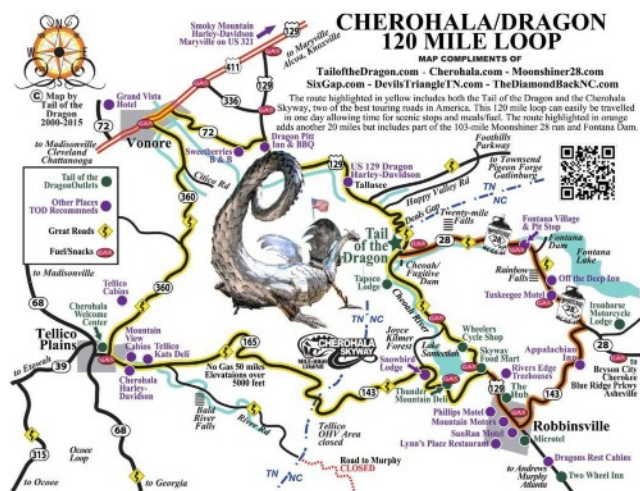
A Visit to the Smokies

By Ryan Mills

In East Tennessee there are many known sites whether you're looking for a drive, hike, or wildlife tour, or family vacation spot.

The Smoky Mountains have a lot to deliver and anyone who hasn't been there is missing out on an amazing area of the South. As a driver of both 2 and 4 wheeled machines I'm always looking for a drive to get away from Memphis.

In the past year I found the secrets of the Smoky Mountains and have been there 3 times in 2 vehicles and loved every minute of it. The first, and most bucket-list item on the list would be the Tail of the Dragon.



This is a simple section of road from Merryville, TN to Robbinsville, NC. After crossing the mouth of the Tabcat creek running south on Rt. 129, the journey begins. A nicely wooded section of what used to be a logging road is now perfectly paved and leads you up the mountain. The beautifully twisting road leads you to the summit with a beautiful overlook on the right. As you pass the summit and get into the mountain, there's a clear sensation that this isn't just another road. The fine switchbacks for the next 11 miles and 318 curves agree. There's a clear realization that you've already had one of the best drives, and there's still half the road left! Right after left bringing more joy than you've felt in years.

Coming down into North Carolina and down the hill there are 2 buildings. On the right, Killboy and on the left a motel and the Deals Gap Resort and gift shop. Killboy has stickers, apparel, and a few small things and is worth a look. The main Deals Gap Resort is a must-stop. The infamous Tree of Shame contains everything from scratched mirrors, parts of fairings, splitters, dented fenders and other parts of any vehicle that may have acquired a DNF on the route. There's also a small gas station – only one in 30 miles – and a gift shop you just have to browse. This is truly a bucket-list road and has to be driven once assuming you can resist the urge to turn around and go back.

Three things to know on the dragon: 1. always ask to get a report on cops on the dragon from someone coming off it. It's a tricky road and the police have great hiding spots. The speed limit is 30 and sometimes strictly enforced. 2. Do NOT cross the center line. The line is there for a reason and the corners are often blind. 3. GO in the morning to have the least traffic.



From here there are a few more roads that require some attention. I'll start by taking the split at the Deals Gap resort to the North East. This route is Highway 28, commonly known as the Moonshine Run. This road is on the way to Fontana Village, a popular driver's resort as well as Maggie Valley, NC. On the moonshine run, there's a more rhythmic feel to the sweeping turns and the usual excellent pavement for the area. This road will also lead you through the Fontana Dam area. If you want to see the Dam from

Drive the Tail

The Dragon is much like driving through a forest once you are in the depth of the beast; trees, ledges, and drop-offs being the only scenery through the twisty mountain-side. The Cherohala is much different views. Many overlooks are available during the trip and some views are just not to be taken for granted. The difference in the road passing up and down the mountains gives much better perspective as to what is around you and lets you take it all in. Overall, this is an excellent get-away and I'd highly recommend this route.



One thing you must keep in mind is that there's no gas between towns, so keep the tank relatively full. Gatlinburg has a little of everything and is only 1.5 hours away, through more twisties of course. Further East down Rt. 28 and a hop North you'll find Maggie Valley. There are many sites

here, so do your research. Once of these, Cherokee, NC, is an Indian-themed small town with many souvenirs and small shopping areas for pottery, gifts, and just a great little town.

For a little more excitement and for those into history, you will find the Wheels through Time Museum. This is quite possibly the best motorcycle-based transportation museum in America. You'll find anything from cars to motorcycles, to Indian snowmobiles to Harley Davidson chainsaws. It's an excellent choice for the gearhead to get out there or the automotive history buff as they specialize in pre-1970 transportation.

Whether your visit is for family fun or for a drive to get away, everything you need is in the Smokey Mountains. Remember that no matter where you're going, the side road leads somewhere. Don't be afraid to see what's there. If it looks curvy on the map go for it. You won't see the true America from the highways. The true depths of America lie far from the highways and byways. Take the extra time to get away from the rush and see what's there. Sometimes, getting your head back into the clouds of the mountains is the best solution.



Join the River City Bimmers for a "leisurely" drive on the dragon's tail.

We will caravan there on Friday, November 13, 2015, with other chapters joining along the way.

Friday night we'll get together for a Welcome Social at the Fontana Villas Resort where we will be staying.

The main run will be Saturday morning. The afternoon will be free to either shop or do some sightseeing in the mountains!

We will be hosting Saturday night's dinner and social at the resort. We will be returning home Sunday.

We encourage you to make reservations for accommodations before October 23, to take advantage of a group rate.

Non-members and non-BMWs are welcome to join us.

For full details and to RSVP go to the River City Bimmers Facebook page, email us at rbc@rcbimmers.org or call 901-619-6652.

Pflege für Bimmer: Shop Etiquette 101

by John Scheidhauer

Having worked in some sort of car repair shop or another since age 14, I have had the opportunity to see some interesting trends in interactions between car owners and repair shop employees. Some of the trends are noteworthy and capable of teaching us a better way of getting things done - as well as letting us laugh at ourselves a bit.

The following is one such situation that I have witnessed in some fashion or another and does not represent any particular shop, customer, or employee.

A vehicle owner is bringing his/her pride and joy into the shop for a bad taillight bulb, or wiper blades, or (fill in blank with a tidbit of your choice). We will refer to this customer as Mr. Smith. Upon arrival this Mr. Smith drives right past the "employees only beyond this point" sign and straight up to the primary shop entrance. Mr. Smith then executes a 24 hours race team driver swap worthy exit and retreat from the vehicle and vanishes in under 5 seconds.

Approximately 30 seconds later, no less than 3 technicians need to move cars in or out of the shop via the primary shop entrance door which Mr. Smith's car, referred to from here on as BWT (might take some of you a minute to get that..) is now completely blocking. A horn honking war begins culminating with the losing tech exiting his vehicle to move BWT to a safe parking space.

The tech quickly realizes the car owner is about 5'2" and there is not sufficient space for his 6'2" body to fit between the steering wheel and seat. Finally he is able to move the driver seat back enough so that he can enter, start, and move BWT. The problem? No key!

The tech searches the likely places inside the vehicle for the key with no success. The tech exits BWT and marches to the dispatch office to retrieve the key from the key storage locker. Several minutes of searching do not yield a key. The tech proceeds to the business office to ask the service advisor if he knows the whereabouts of the missing key. Tech witnesses the customer exiting the front office walking back toward his vehicle and asks the service advisor for info about the key. The service advisor responds that he is unaware of the key's location but that the customer is walking back to his car to get his cell phone.

The tech hurries back to BWT but the customer has already snatched up his phone and is headed back around the shop to the business office again! This ring around the rosey dance continues until finally the key, tech, and BWT are untied, BWT can be moved and normal life can resume. All is quiet in the jungle.

A short time later the same tech that did the entire key dance brings the car to his work area and makes a diagnosis of one bad tail light bulb. He then completes the vehicle check over and hurries to

the parts counter to get a new bulb and get this vehicle out of his workspace and on to the next job. He is informed by the parts counter attendant that while this bulb is very common and the shop usually stocks them by the gross the last bulb was just sold and installed on another car and replacements will not arrive until the following business day. You are kidding right?!!!

Hindsight certainly shows us that there are likely always easier or better ways of getting things done. I suppose I could close with a variation of Murphy's Law but it occurs to me that sometimes you just have to laugh at how silly our lives can be and be thankful that you have a job that can give you such satisfaction and pay your bills at the same time.

John is the owner of Alpine Autoworks and has over 30 years experience as a BMW technician.





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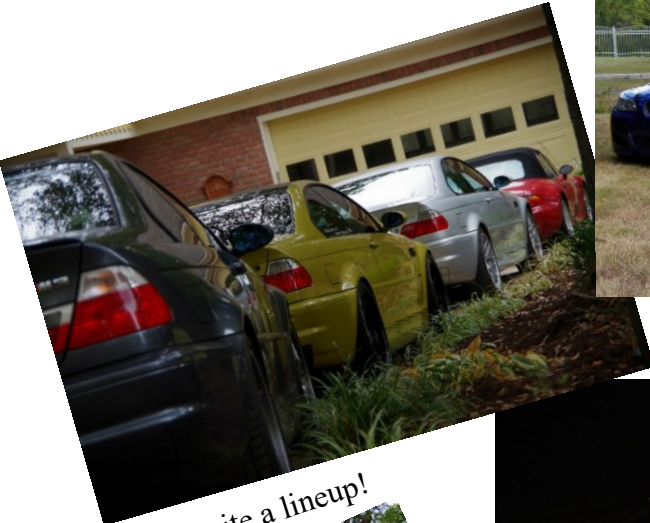
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Fall River City Bimmers Cookout

Photos by Jane Absalom



Quite a lineup!



Blues Brother & Sister



A BMW Club cookout?



The Bride-To-Be holds court



Rachel and Eric's honeymoon yacht



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...and the oldest car there.

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