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# BMW Car Club of America Smoky Mountain Chapter



# The Smoky Bimmer

January  
2019

## BMW European Delivery – The Experience

*By Brian Kaldenbach*

*Part 2 of 2 Parts*

*In the last issue, Brian provided an overview of the European Delivery (EurDel) program along with some tips and items to consider. In this issue, Brian shares his personal EurDel experience. – Ed.*

Our EurDel dream started with an article in Roundel at about the time the E93 335i convertible was first released. However, it was postponed and put on the back burner indefinitely until it fell into place relatively quickly at the beginning of 2018. An inquiry visit to Grayson BMW in January 2018 resulted in identification of a coveted allocation for a week 10 build coupled with a nice January incentive from BMW Financial



Services. We found a good deal on airfare and, the next thing we knew, we were planning a late March ED. Late March did mean that snow tires were 'required' so we rented winter wheels and tires from [www.edwintertires.com](http://www.edwintertires.com). (Air quotes around required because there are people out there that will tell you they are not required). Just be advised that driving without them on snowy roads will result in a fine if you impede traffic and that you will likely be found the cause of any accident you happen to have.

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Based on our research and personal preferences, we started our EurDel trip with a few days in Munich. We were met at the airport by a nice 740Ld (arranged through [BMW-EDPshuttle@sixt.com](mailto:BMW-EDPshuttle@sixt.com), compliments of the EurDel program). With our first autobahn experience in the bag, we arrived at our hotel in city center (Courtyard Munich City Center). Our delivery was scheduled for a Monday, so we took the factory tour on Friday and visited the museum on Saturday. Since these are also included as part of the EurDel program, we checked in with the Welt after arriving on Thursday to pick up tickets and our delivery packet. They welcomed us to use the very nice delivery lounge for our entire stay, and we were happy to oblige.

On the day of our delivery, they took our luggage at the front door of the Welt when we arrived so we could enjoy the experience unencumbered. After a nice breakfast in the lounge, we were met at the appointed time by a pleasant specialist who stepped through the features of the very car we ordered on a large HD screen. She efficiently answered all our questions. Then it was time for our first-look, which took place when we stopped on an elevated landing over the delivery area. Our car was rotating beneath us under spotlights and was already wearing the rented wheels and tires. I have to admit that this wasn't really my first look. I happened to be out on the lounge's balcony when our car pulled out of the elevator. However, it was my first good look.



Our luggage mysteriously reappeared at our car while we were distracted exploring its features. Just one solitary mile was shown on the odometer when we sat in it for the first time. As part of our orientation, our specialist helped us set the car to metric units since we needed to be thinking in those terms while we were driving here. The navigation system came with a thumb drive containing maps of Europe. Our specialist also helped create a 'trip' in the navigation system that included the locations of our lodging, service appointment, rental wheels return, and location of our drop-off. We needed to be sure to remove that thumb drive and any items that are not part of the US spec car (safety vests, warning triangle, personal items, etc.), or they would be removed by customs when the car reached the US. This was another useful tip from mining the Bimmer forums. I found it interesting that the ½ liter of oil left over from the break-in service was still with the car when it cleared customs.

After taking delivery we headed to Berchtesgaden in the German Alps. Our route started on the autobahn. I had read a very informative post on one of the Bimmer forums on what to expect when driving the autobahn. It included tips

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about electronic speed limits that change based on current conditions and a warning that police use unmarked cars. If you do something especially bad, like driving 30 kph over the speed limit, the police car will pull in front of you displaying an electronic sign in the rear window telling you to follow them off the autobahn. They do not pull you to the side of the road.

Within 45 km of the Welt, I was getting a feel for the new car and was especially careful about watching the speed limits as they changed. Out of the blue, a small black car pulled in front of us and started flashing an electronic sign in German and English. “Follow Me” was pretty clear and I immediately started trying to understand what I might have done that was so wrong. They took us to a small parking area just off the exit ramp and approached the car. In plain clothes with badges in hand they asked to see passports and registration. After checking our papers they asked to see inside the trunk and under the hood. I asked if I did something wrong. They said they noticed the car was new and wanted to verify it wasn't stolen and that I wasn't transporting contraband. They were pleasant and it was a short break, which we found humorous.

Back on the road to Berchtesgaden our route included the Tatzelwurmstraße, also referred to as Germany's version of the Tail of the Dragon. It appears to have earned that nickname.



From there, we followed country roads for the remainder of the drive to Berchtesgaden and drove through beautiful countryside in Austria and Germany in the process. We lodged at Berggasthof Oberkälberstein, which is located on the side of a mountain and provided beautiful views of Mount Watzmann when the clouds broke. We enjoyed our first experience getting by with very little English while those around us tried to communicate with us in German. Everyone we encountered was very pleasant, so it wasn't a problem. We enjoyed a few days exploring the local alpine roads and scenery. I must note here that the alpine passes are closed this early in the season, so we didn't



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even attempt driving roads at the highest elevations. We awoke on our last morning with confirmation that winter tires were a good idea, even at the elevations we did visit. Though we weren't prepared and the weather wasn't inviting for us, this area is great for mountain hiking.

Our next stop was in the small town of Schwangau, home of King Ludwig's famous Neuschwanstein Castle. We took another very nice scenic route near a place called Bad Tölz on our way there. You might have guessed -- it was recommended on one of the bimmer forums. We try to live by the philosophy that "happiness is found along the way, not at the end of the road" and added our own detour into Austria.



We lodged at Hotel Waldman, which is within walking distance of Neuschwanstein Castle and King Ludwig's boyhood home, Hohenschwangau Castle. We enjoyed

our time here, especially in the evening and morning when tourist crowds were minimal. We recommend an early tour of the castle(s) if you take one. King Ludwig built multiple castles, so if you would enjoy visiting them you might seek them out on your trip. Also, Schwangau is at the base of the famous Romantic Road, so you may choose to tour it. (My wife suggests multiple days here.)

Next, we were off to Schonach in the Black Forest. On this drive, we mixed scenery with open autobahn where we were able to get accustomed to how well a BMW handles a road with no speed limits. (Of course, we kept our speed within the break-in limit at all times 😊). We stayed in a nice apartment at Haus Winterberg. This is an area filled with great roads for enthusiasts, which is one of the reasons we went there. If you find yourself in Triberg and want to shop for a cuckoo clock, be sure to check out Oli's Schnitzstube where you can watch the master craftsman himself at work and talk to him about his trade. Oli graciously signed and dated the back of our clock with a chisel.



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From there, our plan was to visit the Nurburgring, but the weather was too miserable for such an adventure and we bailed on that stop. Once again, we were happy to have winter tires and someone else's wheels. Instead of sliding around Nurburgring on snowy roads in a new car we managed to find a nice room at a castle on a high bluff in Starzach. Schloss Weitenburg was a really interesting and gorgeous place to stay. It overlooks a town, a golf course, and raptors soaring at our eye level. It's quite old, too; construction started in the 1060s.



Once we got back to our original itinerary, we enjoyed our drive to Kirchheim am Ries (also along the Romantic Road). We had scheduled break-in service in nearby Nordlingen, recommended by a bimmerpost member who had family living there. The service center was within walking distance to the old town, and we explored the city, climbed the bell tower, walked along the city wall, and enjoyed a nice lunch in a city square.



Our final stop was back in Munich where we reacquainted the car with its original wheels. It's possible to have your wheels shipped to another port, but Munich was convenient for us. We had to wait a bit, but they took us into the very first garage bay that opened up even though there were several people waiting before we arrived.

After a car wash near the airport, we gave it a quick blow-dry on the nearby autobahn. Perhaps you recall that the break-in service had been completed



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so you can imagine how much fun this quick ride was. It was a fitting final ride in Germany. We parted company with our new ride at LogInOut at the Munich airport and started making our way back home.

Is European Delivery for you? I think it just might be. Would I do it again? Heck yeah!



See Part 1 in the November, 2018 Smoky Bimmer for Brian's list of European Delivery Resources

## Drive Better, Tennessee

### Quiz: School Bus Loading/Unloading

In Tennessee, is it necessary to stop in a west-bound lane of a five-lane road (two each way plus center turn-lane) when a school bus is loading/unloading on the east-bound curb with its lights flashing? *Yes! The only time traffic traveling the opposite direction of a loading/unloading school bus is not required to stop is when the opposing flows of traffic are separated by a planted island or a Jersey barrier (i.e. a divided highway). Traffic traveling the same direction as the bus must always stop.*



The classroom instruction was very informative and Andy, our instructor, did an excellent job explaining what we would do throughout the day and what we should take away from each exercise.

We started the driving portion with the slalom exercise which was fun trying to get close to the cones without hitting them. Then the autocross course; it was awesome! Weaving through cones and braking in order to avoid a mock accident and then flooring the gas to get to the end of the course. WOW! I could have done this all day.

My heart was pounding with nerves before starting the class -- by the end of the day, my heart was pounding but now it was from the excitement of driving the M240i and the 340i all day! What an experience! I highly recommend this class to everyone, for a learning experience and for also the pure excitement of driving!  
**Shirley Stouder**



## BMW Genius How To: Switching Between Apple CarPlay and the iDrive System

*By Amber Brand, Grayson BMW*



I get a lot of questions about how to use Apple CarPlay and what features are available on the iDrive when Apple CarPlay is being used. Apple CarPlay integrates the Apple iPhone to the iDrive. It allows you to use certain features on your iPhone, including Siri. BMW iDrive system features will be limited when Apple CarPlay is in use.

See the video at the link below for more information on how to use Apple CarPlay and how to get the best use of each system to accommodate your daily routine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wzD9Fk8SfU>

Keep in mind that CarPlay uses your mobile phone's wireless data service and may result in additional costs depending on your data plan and other monthly data use.

I can be reached by phone (888-695-9038) or email ([abrand@graysonbmw.com](mailto:abrand@graysonbmw.com)) if anyone has a question about this feature or other features on their car. If I don't have the answer, I will reach out to our genius community and get the answer.

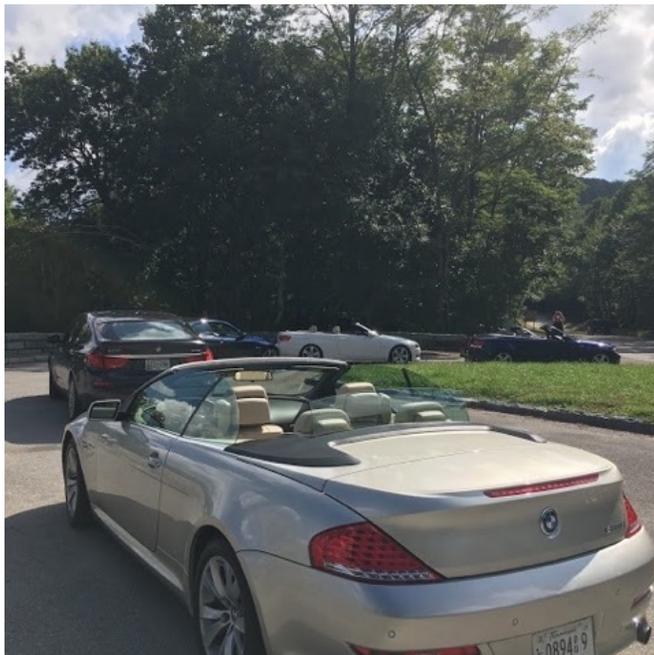
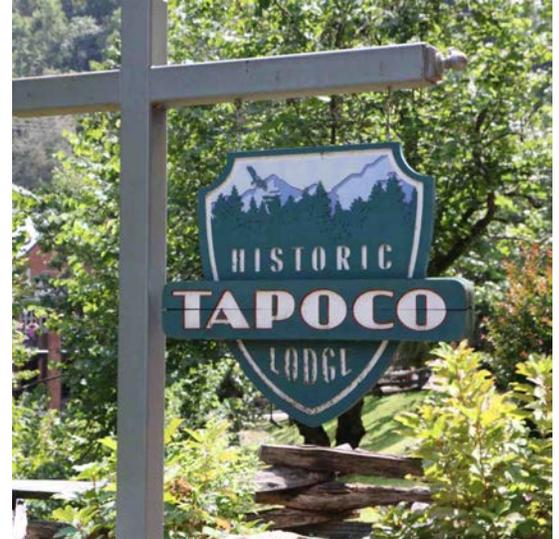
## Drive Out – Tapoco Lodge

*By Chris and Pat Tighe*

A club drive out is one of the easiest ways to meet BMW CCA members and enjoy the ultimate driving machine in its natural habitat – the open road. On the crystal clear morning of October 6, 2018, a group from the Smoky Mountain Chapter gathered at a Shell gas station in Vonore, TN and after greetings and registration



activities, put our convoy of Bimmers on a course that took us along the beautiful Cherohala Skyway, including stops at its visitor center and scenic overlooks, and to the historic Tapoco Lodge, on US HWY 129 near Robbinsville, NC.



The Tapoco Lodge is situated on 120 acres in the lush mountain region of the Nantahala National Forest on the banks of the cascading Cheoah River, just below the towering Cheoah Dam. The lodge was built in 1930 by the Aluminum Company of America as part of hydroelectric efforts in Graham and Swain counties of North Carolina. The name Tapoco comes from the first two letters of the Tallassee Power Company which began construction of the Cheoah Dam in 1916. The lodge is well known for its proximity to adventures like hiking,

rafting, kayaking, fishing and mountain biking, and is also well known for moments of sanctuary with riverside dining, evening fire pits, and many beautiful places to rest.

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Our lunch was on the lodge's large, partially-covered patio where we were able to enjoy the mountain air and watch kayakers navigating the white water of the Cheoah River that runs right next to the patio. The day of our drive out was the only "water-release" day scheduled in the fall of 2018, when TVA releases large volumes of water through its system of



dam spillways to turn the normally serene Cheoah River into a challenging Class IV course (with sections of Class IV+). Heavy vegetation in the middle of the channels had grown during the summer and added to the kayakers' challenge.



After lunch, we got back into our cars and headed out along the curvy mountain roads to visit the majestic 480-foot-tall Fontana Dam, the highest in the Eastern US. At the Fontana Dam Visitors Center, we were able to learn about the history, magnitude and



importance of the TVA hydropower system. We gained an appreciation for the extent of engineering and construction



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work that occurred so long ago and is still relied upon today.



This drive out offered the option of an overnight stay at the Tapoco Lodge so, that afternoon, those of us that had opted to do so, headed back to the lodge along a different but equally scenic route. Those who had opted for a day-trip only headed home, some back along the Skyway, and some choosing to take on the 318 turns of the downhill run of the Tail of the Dragon, which encompasses 11 miles of US HWY 129 as it makes its way from the Tapoco Lodge north to Maryville, TN.



The group that was overnighting at the lodge gathered for pre-dinner beverages on the patio, thankful for the covering that protected us from the chill rain that had arrived. Later, we made our way to the restaurant on the lower level for a fun dinner before retiring for the evening. Lodge accommodations were appropriately styled for the mountain location, but the rooms were well appointed and comfortable. Thanks to TVA closing the spillways as the sun set, the roar of the river was returned to a pleasant burble to help us drift off to sleep in preparation for the next day's hearty breakfast and return trip home.



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Those who chose to return early Sunday morning on the Dragon were able to enjoy a lighter volume of traffic than is typical for a weekend afternoon.

This drive out was a great combination of exhilarating driving, beautiful scenery, good food and relaxing time with friends in an historic setting. Some wanted to do it all again!



We owe a **special thank-you to Beverly Reeves**, the organizer of this drive out. She conceived the trip, convinced the Tapoco Lodge to hold a block of rooms for us, developed the itinerary, planned the routes, and promoted the event with the membership. The club is always in need of good ideas for drive outs and dedicated volunteers like Beverly to organize and lead them. If you have an idea for a drive out or are willing to help organize one, please let us know by speaking to one of the officers or sending an email to [SMCBoard@smokymtnbmwcca.org](mailto:SMCBoard@smokymtnbmwcca.org).





# President's CORNER



Happy 2019 to all of the members of the Smoky Mtn. BMW CCA community. I sincerely hope your families had a nice and relaxing holiday period.

I am so proud of the work our board of directors is doing as we plan for this new year. We are meeting the first Saturday of each month at 11:00 am. Grayson BMW has graciously allowed us to use their conference room. Members are welcome to attend; there is room for 10-12 folks. We go over our financials, review action items from previous meetings, discuss the next newsletter content, discuss upcoming events like Street Survival, Chapter M Day and drive outs.

I hope you have looked at our newsletters that we are sending out every other month. Chris Tighe has done an outstanding job and works very hard to product a first-class product. In this issue, you will read about Michelle and Shirley's great adventure at the BMW Performance Driving Center. Mark and I were there mostly to make sure they didn't chicken out. When we asked them to write an article about their experience they reluctantly agreed. In the end it was fun for them – both the driving and the writing. I know that all of you have adventures or stories relating to your ultimate driving machine. We would really love for you to share those with the membership via our newsletter. I know there are hundreds of stories out there because I hear them every time we get together at one of our events. Please take the time to share.

As you know, we are making an effort to modernize how we communicate with our members. Kyle Swift has already made huge improvements to our Facebook site. I've resisted and resisted getting on Facebook. It's not that I'm a Luddite; it's just that I just didn't see the need. Well I now have a Facebook account for the sole purpose of seeing what is being posted to our site and seeing the pictures and reading the posts about our chapter. Members can get all the latest information about our chapter, sign up to vote in the annual election, sign up for the annual dinner, and soon will be able to sign up for Chapter M Day. All of our monthly socials are also posted. We are making this the "go to" place for all chapter activities. You can find our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-BMWCCA/393282431806>

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The real big event this year will be [BMW CCA Oktoberfest](#) in October in Greenville, SC. Since it is so close you can decide to go for a day to the event(s) of your choice, stay a couple of days or go to all five days. More on this from the BMW CCA website:

**October 15-19, 2019: 50th Annual Oktoberfest Presented by Michelin in Greenville, SC**  
Make sure to mark your calendar now for the 50th Annual BMW CCA Oktoberfest presented by Michelin, which will be held on October 15-19, 2019 in Greenville, South Carolina! Yes, this is the year we have all been waiting for! 50 years of the club and Oktoberfest! This will be an unforgettable event as club members make the journey back "Home" to the Greenville/Spartanburg area from all over the country and the world. We will have exciting social, driving, and exclusive anniversary events taking place at the BMW Performance Center, BMW Plant Spartanburg—where the X3 through the X7 are made, Michelin's Headquarters and Proving Grounds, and the BMW CCA national office. This will be an absolutely amazing event with many great surprises in store for attendees! We hope to see you there!

The new O'Fest website and registration will launch in early 2019.

**Note:** The host hotel is the Hyatt Regency in downtown Greenville, SC and the host driving venue is, of course, the BMW Performance Center!

We will be doing [Street Survival](#) on Saturday 27 April at Pellissippi State Community College. The event is now open on the Street survival website and nine folks have already signed up. If you have kids or grandkids that you want to attend don't delay. We will provide more information as the event gets closer. **If you have questions or would like to volunteer (as a coach, track-aide, or other), please contact Brian Kaldenbach via email at [TRSS@smokymtnbmwcca.org](mailto:TRSS@smokymtnbmwcca.org).**

[Chapter M Day](#) will be Saturday 7 September at the BMW Performance Center in Greer, SC. We have 32 seats available with two of those seats being given away at our annual meeting/dinner. So that leaves 30 – **"Who's In?"** We will have two ways to pay. We will have PayPal links on Facebook and on our webpage. The PayPal cost is \$721. Paying by this means will give you the option to put the fee on your credit card and allow you to pay it off at your discretion, or you can have PayPal debit your bank account. The other way to pay is writing a check for \$700. Details to follow soon.

We are also looking at several other driving events. One is an adult Street Survival and the others include drive outs. I've spoken to several of you that have great ideas for drive outs but we need someone to volunteer to be the leader of the event. It's not a lot of work and we will help you succeed.

**If you have questions about Chapter M Day or any chapter event, or have suggestions for events you would like us to hold, please email us at [4SMCEvents@smokymtnbmwcca.org](mailto:4SMCEvents@smokymtnbmwcca.org).**

## Welcome New Members !

The following members were added to the rolls of Smoky Mountain BMW CCA through Dec 19, 2018. Look for their name badges at our next event and please welcome them to the club

Timothy Ball  
Neeraj Bharadwaj  
Timothy Booher  
Charles Cemy  
Charles Edison  
Addison Grimm  
Jan Henley

Jan Jessee  
Frank Kehren  
Carrie Nidiffer  
William Oneil  
Robert Schmidt  
Marci Stiles  
Alan Strachn

We are happy that you have chosen to come along for the ride!

## Sponsor Appreciation

The following organizations contributed merchandise, memorabilia, and certificates for free services to the Chapter for our annual meeting and dinner that was held on January, 26, 2018. Please show them your appreciation by checking-out the goods and services they offer to help make your ultimate driving experience the best it can be.



## Club Announcements & Upcoming Events

### >>> New Club Email Addresses <<<

Please make note of and begin using the new email addresses for the club and its officers shown on the last page. Please update your contact lists and spam filters to reflect these new addresses.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Can you spare some time to help your club?

We are looking for a volunteer for each of the following:

- **Advertising coordinator** for our newsletter and our website.
- **Social media coordinator** to help us spread the sights, sounds, and stories of the fun we are having.

If you have interest and abilities in these areas and can spare a few hours each month we would love to hear from you at: [SMCBoard@smokymtnbmwcca.org](mailto:SMCBoard@smokymtnbmwcca.org)

### Upcoming Chapter Socials (\* note date change)

*February <b>21</b> – Louis Original Italian	4661 Old Broadway, Knoxville ( <i>North Knoxville</i> )
March <b>14</b> – Smoky Mountain Brewery	11308 Parkside Drive, Knoxville ( <i>Turkey Creek</i> )
April <b>11</b> – Corner 16	1640 Bob Kirby Rd, Knoxville ( <i>Hardin Valley / Cedar Bluff</i> )
May <b>9</b> – Lakeside Tavern	10911 Concord Park Drive, Knoxville ( <i>Farragut</i> )
June <b>13</b> – Calhoun's	100 Melton Lake Peninsula, Oak Ridge ( <i>Oak Ridge</i> )
July <b>11</b> – El Chico's	116 Cedar Lane, Knoxville ( <i>Fountain City</i> )

### Tire Rack Street Survival – Volunteers Needed !!!!

- April 27, 2019 – Pellissippi State Community College
- Fall 2019 -- TBD

The Vintage, featuring a special BMW Foundation exhibit:  
“PASSION, 50 years of BMW Cars and Community”

May 15-17, Hot Springs, NC (<https://www.atthevintage.com/event-schedule/>)

**Next Chapter M-Day**

**September 7, 2019**

[4SMCEvents@smokymtnbmwcca.org](mailto:4SMCEvents@smokymtnbmwcca.org)

**Oktoberfest 2019**

**October 15-19, Greenville, SC**

## Upcoming in a future Smoky Bimmer:

- Annual Meeting & Dinner Highlights
- Autocross w/ Sandlapper Chapter *by Sammy Cheek*
- Experiencing 24 Hours of Daytona *by Mike Washington*
- Michelin Proving Grounds Drifter *by Sammy Cheek*
- *[ Your Story Goes Here ]* – Have an idea for an article? Please email Chris Tighe at [editor@smokymtnbmwcca.org](mailto:editor@smokymtnbmwcca.org) or 301-748-9850

### **We Thank You!!**

*The Smoky Mountain Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America would like to thank Grayson BMW for providing excellent service, quality parts, and discounts to our members.*

**GRAYSON BMW**  
[10671 Parkside Dr](#)  
[Knoxville, TN 37922](#)

Sales: 888-695-9038

Please ask for Marci Stiles ([mstiles@graysonbmw.com](mailto:mstiles@graysonbmw.com)), BMW CCA liaison and new car sales manager for all your needs, new, used or certified pre-owned. He will get you in touch with the right people and ensure you receive CCA benefits and recognition.

Service: 888-841-5706

Parts: 888-697-9126

Members may be eligible to receive an allowance based on the purchase or lease of a new or Certified Pre-Owned BMW through Grayson BMW Authorized Center.



**The Ultimate  
Driving Machine®**

Grayson BMW is a BMWCCA partner in the Membership Reward Program.

## Club Information

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Club Website & Gen'l Info	<a href="http://www.smokymtnbmwcca.org">www.smokymtnbmwcca.org</a> <a href="mailto:info@smokymtnbmwcca.org">info@smokymtnbmwcca.org</a>

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Knoxville, TN 37928

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The Smoky Bimmer is distributed to over 300 chapter members and to over 100 representatives of other chapters and the national organization.

Special rates apply for advertising. Please inquire from a Chapter Officer. We can customize an advertising space to suit your needs.



Visit us on Facebook to see pictures from past chapter events, connect with other fellow club members, learn about upcoming events, and more. If you have suggestions for things you'd like to see on our club Facebook page, please let us know! Search Facebook for Smoky Mountain BMWCCA or visit the link below.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-BMWCCA/393282431806>

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