

BMW Car Club of America
Smoky Mountain Chapter



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Devil's Triangle Times 2

By Richard Stouder

Smoky Mountain Chapter drove the Devil's Triangle twice in the last several months. Why twice you might ask? One: it is a great road here in East Tennessee and centrally located in our chapter area. The Devil's Triangle is an old coal truck road cut right on the side of a mountain. It follows a river and has a lot of steep drop-offs and great scenery. The road has a lot of very tight curves as one goes up and down from the mountain. And two: one drive was during the "so-called" shutdown and the second drive was to kick off our activities after the official shutdown.

On 9 April one member wanted to get out and drive so he sent a text to another member. They had been cooped up long enough and just wanted to get out into the open air and drive our beautiful country on Saturday the 11th. He suggested the Devil's Triangle because it was known to all driving



enthusiasts in the area and required no outside coordination. The texts went out to a dozen or so BMW drivers and we had seven cars and 10 folks show up on the Saturday morning. After we linked up in the Kroger parking lot in Oak Ridge we headed out north. We stopped for pictures in front of the Brushy Mountain State Prison. We had decided to stop at a church

parking lot along the route and we all brought picnic lunches. We followed Tennessee health protocols and socially distanced as we were comfortable. It was another glorious day in this amazing Spring. Because of the shutdown we had the roads to ourselves and we enjoyed the day immensely.

Our chapter board of directors met to decide on events that we were going to plan for the rest of the year. The first post-shutdown event was the Devil's Triangle, and by the number of people who showed up it was an unqualified success. We had 18 cars and 32 folks who got out on Saturday 13 June for another wonderful day in East Tennessee. We met at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot in Oliver Springs and after the obligatory signings and mugging for pictures we were off heading north. We dodged



a Tennessee State Trooper along the way to another picture session at the Brushy Mountain Prison. After the pictures were all taken we took off on the Devil's Triangle. We again stopped along the route at a church to stretch our legs and to get more pictures. Then back to the road and finally to the city park in Oak Ridge where we parked and found a large tree where we ate our packed lunches. As a testimony to how much we all missed getting together we ended up spending two hours socializing.



It is nice to get our events going again and all were interested on what we are planning for the rest of 2020. I'm excited about what we are going to do this year and, gauging by the interest in this event, we are going to have a great year despite what we have had to endure these last few months.

HPDE during Covid-19

By Cyrus Smith

The airborne spread of COVID-19 and the associated requirements for social distancing and wearing of facial coverings presents some unique challenges for HPDE's (High Performance Driving Events). In June, BMWCCA relaxed their prohibition of such events with the acknowledgement that the conduct of any such event should follow "all local requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19".

The traditional presence of an in-car instructor with each student presents challenges to preventing the spread of COVID-19 because of the occupant's close proximity within a vehicle. Some argue that exposure is mitigated by the large flow of air into the car at speed. However, there is considerable time spent with the instructor and student in the car while waiting in the paddock where there is little or no air flow in the car. While social distancing is impossible in this situation, the alternative of wearing face coverings with a helmet can be done, but may not be particularly comfortable.



This is of special consideration with the student who is often required to utilize most all of their cognitive resources when driving at speed with the addition of a possible major distraction like an uncomfortable and air restricting face covering under their helmet. There is also the concern of the spread of COVID-19 through contact with surfaces in the vehicle and the communication headsets used with in-car instruction.

There is always the overriding question of whether both the student and instructor are comfortable in spending this amount of time in close proximity with each other. To alleviate this, the BMWCCA along with the Motorsport Safety Foundation (MSF) developed procedures for instructing using a lead-follow format. The lead-follow format is routinely used by the BMW Performance Center at Spartanburg, SC and Thermal, CA. However, because of BMWCCA's long standing tradition of in-car instructors and the relative inexperience of BMWCCA instructors in participating in this type instruction, this lead-follow instruction format has not yet received widespread acceptance within the Club.

Another alternative, which is used less frequently, is the “corner observation” instructing technique where instructors stand at corners on the track and provide non-real time feedback to students on their driving of those corners. This is generally accepted as being far less superior to either in-car instructing or lead-follow instructing.

To my knowledge, two BMWCCA chapters have conducted HPDE’s since June; the Motor City Chapter hosted an event at Waterford Hills Road Racing where they used lead-follow instruction in an intermediate run group (allowed by an exception waiver from BMWCCA to the existing HPDE instruction rules) and the Tarheel Chapter hosted an event at Virginia International Raceway where they used traditional in-car instruction. The Motor City Chapter offered a low cost, very well received “Taste of the Track” for novices where lead-follow instruction was used at moderate (maximum 50 mph) speeds with no helmets, no need for pre-event inspection and which ran only in the afternoon. I have heard that both events went well, but there were considerable restrictions:

- No novice students
- All students were required to have prior experience at the track
- Face Coverings were required at all times when one was outside a vehicle
- All Meetings and Registration were either virtual or conducted with social distancing
- All participants’ temperatures are taken each day
- Only participants, no visitors, are allowed at the track
- Instruction, either in-car or lead-follow, is only provided in selected run groups

BMWCCA is working to adapt their HPDE rules and guidelines to address the concerns during the COVID-19 outbreak. Lead-follow may be a viable alternative to in-car instruction during this time and may even become a “normal” part of HPDE education in the future. As more of these events are offered this summer and fall, I would encourage those of you with an interest and who are comfortable that the procedures successfully address your COVID-19 concerns take part in them and enjoy your BMW as it was meant to be driven.



President's Corner

By Richard Stouder

We are certainly in unique and challenging times. However your board is determined to finish the year with a number of events where we can enjoy being with other BMW enthusiasts while driving our ultimate driving machines, all the while keeping with the public health sensibilities associated with this pandemic.

Our most usual and well attended activity is our monthly socials. Since meeting in restaurants is a real challenge we have tried another way for us to get together. We will use various meeting places and food trucks. This was tried very successfully in our July social at Grayson BMW. Look for announcements for other socials and please give it a try.

Our objective has been to have one driving event each month. This is challenging, especially for our events coordinator, Laura Allison. We have a good plan and you can find out about these events on our website www.smokymtnbmwcca.com/ and our Facebook page. Some of these driving events will include an overnight option.

Three of these events are coming together nicely. Our next event is an overnight event to the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY. This will be 12-13 September and the drive will be an exciting 3.5 hours. Laura has already made arrangements for a hotel right across from the museum. The museum is a must see for any car lover. We are also looking at doing a karting adventure Sunday morning. Lunches and dinners for the group are also planned.

The next overnight event is 5-6 December to Helen, GA. We did this last year and had a great time. We have made arrangements at the Valhalla Resort for our overnight stay. It is a great drive to and from Helen.

On 15 August we will host a drive out to Cumberland State Park. We originally had planned this as the "Arrington Adventure" but due to the public health restrictions we have had to adjust this to only go to the falls.

Of course our October 5 Chapter M Day is a go. We will be driving the M2 Competition, the M4, and the M8 competition. We have a full complement of our 32 drivers, so if you missed this exciting event this year, save your dollars for 20121.

The pandemic restrictions have also made our plans for Street Survival and Adult Car Control a real challenge. Pellissippi State will not allow any outside organizations use their facilities for the rest of the year. Our Street Survival director, Brian Kaldenbach, refuses to take this lying down. He is actively trying to find an alternate location. We will make a Go-No Go decision at the next board meeting 1 August.

I want all of you to know that your board is committed to keeping this chapter active and exciting. We are willing to judiciously use our chapter bank account to funds some costs associated with us getting together. An example of this is us funding the meals from the food trucks during our monthly socials. You can help all of us in the chapter by your participation. Join us for a social or a drive or you can also plan a drive to somewhere you always want to go.

Welcome New Members !

We are thrilled you joined the BMW CCA Smoky Mountain Chapter! If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, reach out to any of our board members. See the Chapter Information section in this Newsletter.

Brent Pendergast
Paul Hodge
Fred Rosser

Michael Dyas
Gary Robillard
David Anderson

Blaine Boogersworth
Tanner Holden
Amanda Allison

Richard Hagemann
Matthew Bridges
Kenneth Weaver

Your Club needs you!

Can you spare some time to help your club?
We are looking for a volunteer for each of the following:

Advertising coordinator to secure funding for our club through 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

If you have questions about the club, any chapter event, or have suggestions for events you would like us to hold, please email us at 4SMCEvents@smokymtnbmwcca.org



Events & Announcements

Club Socials

Check our website at <https://www.smokymtnbmwcca.com/> for details about our next social.

Events & Drives

August 15 Cumberland State Park

We've planned an enjoyable drive to the park and a visit to the falls.

Sept 12-13 Corvette Museum Overnight Drive

Join us for an overnight drive to the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY

Oct 5 Chapter ///M Day

A day of track fun at the BMW Performance Center in Greer, SC

Dec 5-6 Helen, Georgia Overnight Drive

We're stoked for some great mountain roads and our overnight at the fantastic Valhalla Resort.

For more information about these or other events drop an email to
Laura Allison 4SMCEvents@smokymtnbmwcca.org


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.

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Chapter Information

www.smokymtnbmwcca.com

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Visit us on Facebook

[Facebook.com/SMBMWCCA](https://www.facebook.com/SMBMWCCA)



SMC CCA 2019 Treasurer's Report

Year Beginning Balance	\$8,797
Total Income	\$32,866
Total Expenses	\$32,854
Year Ending Balance	<u>\$8,809</u>



Visit us on Instagram

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<https://www.instagram.com/smokymtnbmwcca/>

To email pics to post on Instagram or
info/questions contact Laura Allison or Rachael
Cheek at IGPics@smokymtnbmwcca.org

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