

BMW Car Club of America
Smoky Mountain Chapter



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The Dragonfly Driveout

By Richard Stouder

After a week of rain and snow and horrible weather Saturday February 22nd dawned as a glorious day. A little cold to start but what a beautiful day! 17 cars and 31 folks signed up to meet at the Tractor Supply Store parking lot on Maynardville Pike at 10:00 am. We ended up with 19 cars and 35 Smoky Mtn. BMW enthusiasts.

After socializing and signing the release forms in the parking lot and mugging for pictures, Bill and Beverly Reeves gave us the route instructions and told us what they had in store for us.



A little after 10:45 am we began our journey through the back roads of Union and Anderson Counties. What a beautiful drive with a lot of curves going up and down the hills and valleys of these county roads. There was little traffic so we had no problem staying together as a beautiful pack of BMWs winding hither and yon through our beautiful East TN.

At about 20 miles we stopped at Big Ridge State Park where we parked and got out and stretched our legs. We gathered in groups and talked about the beautiful day and about our cars. We took more pictures and then mounted up for the drive to Norris Dam Visitor Center. We lined up the cars and then went to look at the dam and use the rest room. After 30 minutes or so we then started the short drive to the Clinch River Brewery. *continued*





Kathy the owner was waiting for us as we entered and took up upstairs where we had the area to ourselves. They had a wide range of craft beers and a nice menu of lunch items. We ate, drank, socialized, and watched the UT-Auburn basketball game. Despite the Vols losing the basketball game the day was a victory for the Smoky Mountain BMW Chapter.

Annual Meeting & Dinner

By Richard Stouder

On Saturday January 11 our chapter had their annual meeting and dinner at Avalon Golf and Country Club in Knoxville, TN. We had 64 pre-paid attendees and 61 who were able to attend. A huge rainstorm caused us to hustle for the entrance to the clubhouse and ended up cancelling the time we set aside for cars and beer. But the attendees had time to socialize while listening to some very nice music. This extra time also afforded the attendees the opportunity to view all of the items that we were going to give away as well as the silent auction items.

At a little after 6:00 PM we called the meeting to order. The first order of business was to elect the Vice President and Treasurer. Steve Smith and Norm Durfee were the only candidates and were elected unanimously. Steve has been my right hand as VP and has been a huge reason for our success. Thanks to Steve for all the work he has done for our chapter and a bigger thanks as he has volunteered for another two years. Norm has been our treasurer and has been outstanding in the thankless job of keeping up with our finances. I'm thankful we can count on him for another two years.

I then gave the "President's Annual Report" where I assess the chapter as strong and vibrant. At the BMW CCA November meeting I attended in Dallas the Board Meeting where I was told that Smoky Mtn. BMW is one of the few chapters that they don't worry about. Faint praise on one hand but high praise on the other hand; I took it as high praise. In another interaction with the board as they were discussing how they were going to assign regional coordinators "to help" the chapters. I told them that they should leave us alone as we didn't need any "help" from national.

At the annual meeting I then discussed the huge issue facing all chapters in that our rebate was cut by 50% starting on 1 January. In the past our primary source of income has been part of your dues to BMW CCA has been given back to chapters in the form of monthly rebate. What this means is that 13.8% of the \$58 dues to BMW CCA is now given back to the chapter (divided by members by month). This represents a reduction of just over \$1500 a year. Now that doesn't seem like much but to a small chapter like us that is a huge hit on our finances. *continued*

Since the November national meeting where that reduction was announced, you chapter board has been working hard to find ways to work with this new reality. One of the ways to raise money for the chapter was represented in our annual meeting. We decided that we would conduct a silent auction and work to increase the number and quality of the items we give away. All these items generated a lot of excitement for the meeting.

The delicious menu for the dinner was selected by a group of ladies from the chapter. Avalon did a great job with the meal and kept the food coming. I'd say that the meal was a big success. During the meal we were treated to very nice background music, which was another great choice of the ladies that planned the meal.

After the meal we reminded everyone of the closing of the bids for the silent auction. This caused a big rush to the silent auction sheets as several items were in hot bidding wars. The two trips to the Cayman Islands, donated by Steve and Liz Smith, were in a big bidding war. The two Dyson items, donated by Tristan Hall, we also hotly contested.

After we closed the silent auction bidding we began to give out the donated items. This year we changed how we did this portion of the night. Once we selected a number that person then went to the tables that held the items and selected what they wanted. This was certainly a popular way to give away the many donated items.

Next was the selection of the winners of the M Day seats. One seat was for our Chapter M Day and the other was a donated one-day M School donated by the BMW Performance Center. Ken Lamb won the seat for our Chapter M Day and Jim Allison won the one-day M School. While this was going on we were totaling the money taken in by the silent auction and the bidding for the M Day seats and it ended up being around \$6400. The board then met and decided to give out another seat in the Chapter M Day. We then dove into the pile of numbers from those that bid on the Chapter M Day and pulled out the number that was owned by Jason Tarver. Congratulations to all the winners.

Once we paid Avalon for the dinner and deducted the \$1400 for the two Chapter M Day seats **your chapter made just over \$4000!**

I'm just so proud of our members. We told everyone of the decision of national where our income was going to be reduced by 50%. Your board then devised a plan for silent auctions and auctioning off the M Day seats. And the membership stepped up!! Our annual meeting/dinner was an unqualified success due to the enthusiasm and generosity of our members. The reduced income for national represented around a \$1500 reduction and because of our members we more than made up that deficit. This is going to put your chapter in a great financial situation for 2020 and into 2021.

Another challenge for me was replacing Chris Tighe as the newsletter editor. I was talking to one member who is a long time member of BMW CCA and someone who has helped every leadership position in a chapter, including newsletter editor. He told he would step up as long as we went to quarterly newsletters versus bi-monthly. I readily agreed. This great member is Buck Bailey. Thanks so much to Buck. Having Buck agree to this and the success of the revenue generation and I was "on cloud nine" when we closed the meeting.

Thanks to all of our members who came to the meeting this year and hope those that didn't come will join us in January 2021 for a night of socializing and fun.



President's Corner

By Richard Stouder

Welcome to 2020 fellow Smoky Mtn BMW chapter members. 2019 was a great year for our chapter by just about any measure. I want to thank some members who are on our board of directors or have regularly attended our board meeting and provide guidance and input for our chapter.

Steve Smith
Brian Kaldenbach
Sammy Cheek

Laura Allison
Chris Tighe
Jim Allison

Norm Durfee
Mike Washington

Kyle Swift
Buck Bailey

These folks have donated their time and effort to guide the chapter throughout the year. They are absolutely committed to making our club exciting and meaningful for the members of Smoky Mtn. BMW. I will tell you that they do a lot of work, but the work is a labor of love for them. They have made my job so much easier and allow me to take a strategic look at the state of our chapter now and for the future. Our chapter is indebted to them.

We set out the year to find out what are the things our members want to do as part of the club. We conducted a survey and 55 members provided us input. The survey input helped us to create a framework for our plans for the year. First, the members like that we communicate via email, Facebook, and our digital newsletter. Secondly, the members wanted more drives, both day drives and overnights.

We set out as an objective to have a drive every month. We came close to meeting that. We had some exciting and well attended drives, and on many of the drives there were members that I had not met before. That is exactly what we are trying to achieve – opportunities for members that haven't been to chapter events before. We had two drives with overnights at Tapoco Lodge and to Helen, GA. They were so popular we are going to repeat them this year!

This year we are planning some very exciting new adventures. We are planning on going to the Corvette Museum in Kentucky, which will probably be an overnight. Also on the planning list is "The Snake" in NC; "M-vading the Dragon;" Chattanooga Motorcar Festival; The Vintage in Hot Springs, NC; Tapoco Lodge; Helen, GA. We will do Street Survival on May 23 in Knoxville. We will also put on a free car control clinic at Pellissippi State Community College (some might say this is an autocross but I won't say that). Look for more detail as we get deeper into the planning for all these events.

Our biggest challenge in 2019 hit us when BMW CCA decided to slice our income by 50 percent because publishing the *Roundel* was bleeding money. But I'm proud of our board of directors as we accepted the new reality and immediately devised a plan to make up for the loss of income. I highlight more of this in the article about our annual meeting/dinner. But what I'm most proud of is our members who stepped up with their dollars in the auctions and we more than made up for the loss of revenue from national. My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for keeping our chapter on sound financial footing. *continued*

The whole purpose of being a member of this chapter is twofold – enjoying our ultimate driving machines and being with friends who also enjoy our marque. I will tell you that I'm fully capable of enjoying my BMW without any help from a "club." Shirley and I could just jump into her or my BMW and hit the pavement and thoroughly enjoy the excitement of our cars. However, and this is a big "however", is that I have discovered that the enjoyment of our cars is multiplied because we have made so many friends we would never have met without this club.

The Dragonfly Driveout (see article in this issue) attracted 19 cars and 35 folks. We were having so much fun talking to each other that we had to shoo everyone into their cars to get the drive started. Shirley and I joined this club because of a BMW, but we are passionate about this club because of the people in the club. If you are involved with us – thank you. If you are a member but are not involved, please give us a try. You will make friends and you will enjoy your BMW more!

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

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.

Matthew Evans	Sami Parker	Marie Williford	Nick Polhamus
Evan Meade	Jacob Draper	Ross Spence	Katelynn Mercer
Bridgid Alexander	Timothy Golas	Brenda Spence	Donovan Howell
Martin Cross	Ted de Groot	Kevin Squire	Will Eriksson
Michael Adams	Amanda Scott	Alfredo Sosa	June Walker
Ellen Wood	James Williford	Grace Smith	

Volunteers Needed

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

Chapter Information

www.smokymtnbmwcca.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND CONTACTS	
President	Richard Stouder president@smokymtnbmwcca.org 865-310-8080
Vice President	Steve Smith vicepresident@smokymtnbmwcca.org 864-410-4521
Treasurer	Norm Durfee treasurer@smokymtnbmwcca.org
Secretary, Socials Chair	Kyle Swift secretary@smokymtnbmwcca.org
Newsletter Editor	Buck Bailey editor@smokymtnbmwcca.org
Membership	Richard Stouder membership@smokymtnbmwcca.org
Activities Chair, Events & Drives	Laura Allison 4smcevents@smokymtnbmwcca.org
Board Member At-Large	Mike Washington tri-cities@smokymtnbmwcca.org
Webmaster	Laura Allison Webmaster@smokymtnbmwcca.org
Club Website & Gen'l Info	www.smokymtnbmwcca.org info@smokymtnbmwcca.org
Street Survival	Brian Kaldenbach trss@smokymtnbmwcca.org

SMC CCA 2019 Treasurer's Report

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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