

# Porsche Club of America Wilderness Trail Region



# PORSCHE DRAGON FEST II

MAY 18TH, 2024



We are hosting an exciting 200-mile\* drive to the **Back of the Dragon** in Tazewell, with a detour to **Burkes Garden** and an opportunity to drive through the **Hayter's Gap** and **The Channels Natural Area Preserve**. This event is an excellent opportunity for Porsche owners to showcase the capabilities of their vehicles and connect with other enthusiasts who share their passion for sports cars. So, join us for an unforgettable adventure that will test your driving skills, provide you with a breathtaking view of the Appalachians, and let you experience the thrill of driving like never before! \*120-mile of PCA sponsored drive / 80 mile of suggested roads to return home on your own.

We will have two meeting locations and time to this event:

- Option 1: 8:45 a.m. in Bristol, Virginia - Welcome Center - 66 Island Rd, Bristol, VA (I-81 North - Mile 1)
- Option 2: 10:15 a.m. in Marion, Virginia - CITGO, 1121 N Main St, Marion, VA

## AGENDA

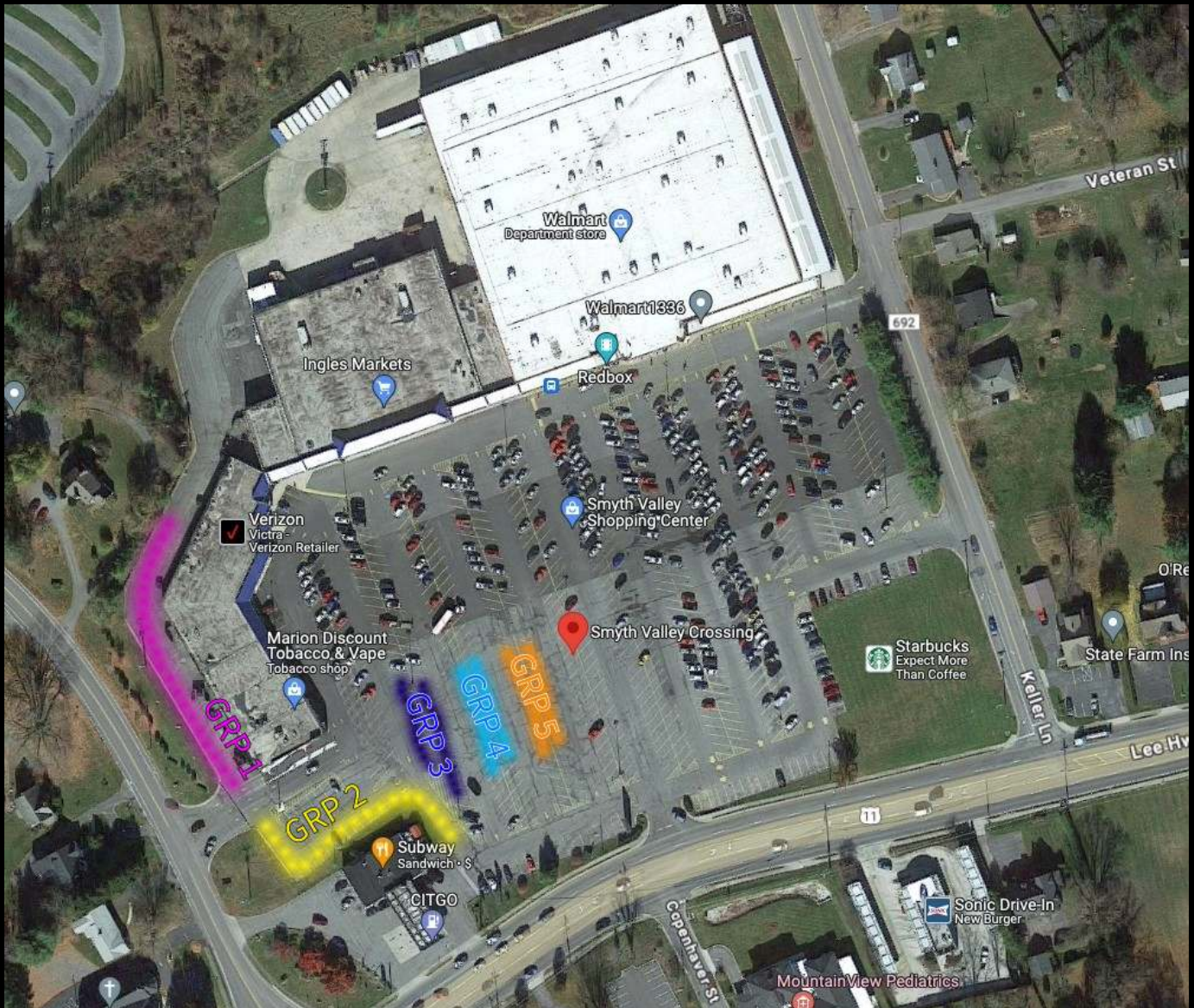
### BRISTOL TO MARION – 49 miles

8:45 – Meet in Bristol

9:10 – Groups 1 to 5 rolling with 2 min interval

10:00 – Groups 1 to 5 arrive in Marion Citgo/Ingles – Restroom located at Ingles and Walmart

### MARION PARKING CHART





## MARION TO TAZEWELL – 32 miles

10:30 – GROUP 1 to 5 leaving Marion toward BOTD with 3 min interval.

11:45 – All groups arrive at Back of the Dragon Welcome Center (drivers can go straight to their restaurants of choice – see below)

## LUNCH

11:45-1:30 – All groups will have 1:45h to eat in one of the restaurants below and come back to meet at BOTD

- [BOTD Welcome Center Food Truck - 592 W Main St, Tazewell – BBQ, Burgers, Nachos, etc.](#)
- [Old Va. Chophouse - 203 Main St, Tazewell – American: salads, sandwiches, burgers, entrees, steaks, etc.](#)
- [The Front Porch on Main - 254 Main St, Tazewell – Southern: Soup, Salad, Subs, Burgers, etc.](#)
- [The Happy Goat - 216 Main St, Tazewell – Deli: Sandwiches, Wraps, Salads, Soup, Hot-Dog, etc.](#)
- [Bee Noodle'd - 171 Main St, Tazewell – Asian, noodles, Pasta](#)

### TAZEWELL DOWNTOWN RESTAURANTS



1:30 – All groups meet back at Back of the Dragon Welcome Center

### TAZEWELL TO BURKES GARDEN – 23 miles

1:35 – GROUP 1 to 5 leaves toward Burkes Garden with 3 min interval

2:15-2:25 – All groups arrive at the General Store (park on shoulder near the fence) – *The General Store is CASH ONLY*

### BURKES GARDEN TO TAZEWELL – 13 miles

2:45 – 3:15 – All groups meeting back at Back of the Dragon Welcome Center / Restroom stop

3:30 – **PCA Event is over\***, drivers can go back home on their own, with their lead cars or form smaller groups. If you live around Bristol or are staying in town overnight, we will meet at the Michael Waltrip Brewing for a toast.

*\*For insurance purposes, the Wilderness Trail Region PCA event ends here, at the welcome center after we return from Burkes Garden. Anything drive from this point and beyond is no longer part of the PCA event and PCA insurance is not applicable.*

### TAZEWELL TO BRISTOL – 73 to 78 miles

Two suggestions to return to I-81 / Bristol:

- 1) Via Back of the Dragon (VA-16) to experience doing BOTD the opposite way you did in the morning
- 2) Via The Hayter's Gap\* (VA-80) to experience something new and exhilarating

5:00 – Cars should be arriving in Bristol, VA area. Those staying around or interested, we will meet at the **Michael Waltrip Brewery** for a toast.

*Disclaimer: This itinerary, agenda, and routes are subject to slight changes.*



# THE ROADS

## BACK OF THE DRAGON

This premier riding road is perfect for Porsche drivers and enthusiasts, as it offers thirty-two miles of driving excitement, with 438 curves that will challenge drivers' skills. The Back of the Dragon is the ultimate road driving experience, crossing three mountains from Marion to Tazewell, VA, and featuring dragging curves, switchbacks, limited access, and elevation changes that no other route can offer. The Back of the Dragon (VA-16) is a 32-mile stretch of road that runs through the Appalachian Mountains in Southwest Virginia. It is known for its scenic beauty, tight curves, and challenging switchbacks, making it a popular destination for motorcycle and sports car enthusiasts. Back of the Dragon was designated a Virginia Scenic Byway in 2015, which recognizes its unique scenic, historic, cultural, and recreational resources.

Back of the Dragon on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOGZ-pwMIDM>



Figure 1 - Internet image / not from PCA or captured during a PCA event

## BURKES GARDEN

Residing at 3,000 feet, a world of lush green hills, mountainous overlooks and secret forests await you in Virginia's very own Narnia. A picturesque valley framed by nature's majesty that has been dubbed "Vanderbilt's First Choice" and "God's Thumbprint." The route there was as interesting as the destination itself, with twisted roads that every driver dreams about. While there, we will make a visit to Burke's Garden General Store, which will make you feel like going back in time. The store, run by the Amish community, offered a variety of local items (CASH ONLY), and radiates a relaxing, community vibe. The front porch provides an ideal vantage point from which to take in the valley's views. Burkes Garden viewed from the sky looks like a valley on top of a mountain or an old volcano, but in truth it was an ancient seabed, limestone caverns underneath it collapsed making the bowl like structure. It has two roads in and out, an entire self-contained community.

Burkes Garden on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k07UpOLjyDc>



*Figure 2 - Internet image. Not from PCA or captured during a PCA event*



## HAYTER'S GAP & THE CHANNELS

The journey via Hayter's Gap is an exciting adventure, with numerous hard twists that make the Tail of the Dragon look like a wimp path. This road is a never-ending sequence of twists and turns, alternating with rolling hills, with occasional patches of flat and straight road. The road surface is perfect, and traffic is light, but it's worth mentioning that in some areas, the road narrows without the safety of guardrails, making it inappropriate for inexperienced drivers. This journey takes you through the lovely scenery of The Channels Natural Area Preserve, a huge 721-acre sanctuary tucked between Washington and Russell counties in Virginia. This untouched region is located on Clinch Mountain's southern slopes and is home to the breathtaking geological wonder known as the Great Channels of Virginia. This unique phenomenon is made up of sandstone outcroppings that have been molded by natural forces over 400 million years, resulting in deep fissures or "channels" hidden among massive boulders. These canals provide breathtaking vistas and serve as a stunning backdrop for this beautiful drive.

Hayter's Gap on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/wGy5D6BUi5o?si=E8wjQEdnoIO8sDIg>



Figure 3 - Google Maps sourced image

## CLUB MERCHANDISE

We are a small non-profit organization, we welcome guests, PCA members or not, every Porsche driver is welcome in our events. Consider buying one of our merchandise items using the link below:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/dfa0287c-e086-4bef-87eb-fe90c39056ab>

We have T-shirts, key chains, Yeti and even an exclusive 11x17 event poster (shown below)! Pay with Credit Card, Google Pay, Apple Pay or ACH Debit.

Ps.: Feel free to change the suggested amount in the field "Support the 100% free platform we use!" during the check-out. This *extra* amount does not go to our club, but the payment platform.





# QUESTIONS? IDEAS?

We would love to hear from you!

Contact:  
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