



"DEVIL'S DROP AND MORE"

WHEN: Saturday, March 24, 2018

DEPART: QT, 2305 N. Chester Street, Gastonia, NC at 8:30AM

WHERE: See Below for the Details.

Segment 1 will be leaving Gastonia, run The Devil's Drop and have lunch in Black Mountain, NC.

Segment 2 will be leaving Black Mountain, run the Devil's Whip and Diamondback, then return to Charlotte. This means you can run Segment 1 or Segment 2 or both.

ESTIMATED TIME: Approximately 6-7 hours

GOAL: An Area II Day for Drivers that takes in The Devil's Drop, The Devil's Whip, and the Diamondback

IMPORTANT: This adventure is a go based on weather, will be rescheduled in the event of bad weather.

CONTACT: Bob Atkinson, bob.atkinson@tarheelbmwcca.org and let me know if you are going

ABOVE PICTURE: At the intersection of the Blue Ridge Parkway and NC 151 heading down the mountain



SEGMENT 1

This is a picture of the Devil's Drop.

It is NC 151 and we'll be driving from the intersection of the Blue Ridge Parkway and NC 151. The first part of the downhill run is where the action is and there are numerous YouTube videos that highlight the route. It is a technical route, pretty steep, and general comments are to protect your brakes on the way down.

Our group ran this same route and direction back in the fall of 2015 and pretty much gave it a thumbs up.

Our route getting here will be NC276 which is a great run from SC 11 up to Brevard.

The link below covers The Devil's Staircase of which The Devil's Drop is part.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkJIIDNRPRU>



SEGMENT 2

As we drive East towards Marion, NC, we travel through Old Fort on US 74 until just before Marion, where we arrive at NC 80 which is known is some circles as The Devil's Whip. It's North Carolina State Road 80...12 miles of pure adrenaline and challenge! It separates the men from the boys and the women from the girls! Truly - posers beware!!!

A word of CAUTION - When you hit the "LEARNING CURVE" northbound (a.k.a. SCHOOL BUS TURNAROUND), you've just reached THE POINT OF NO RETURN! Hold on because you're getting ready to travel the **LONGEST** 3 miles in these parts. You climb 1,205 feet and take 50+ turns in this **3 MILE section alone** to Buck Creek Gap and the Blue Ridge Parkway intersection!!

This road needs no further explanation.



SEGMENT 2

Moving North on the Blue Ridge Parkway we soon come to the NC 226/226A interchange. Little Switzerland awaits us and we have a choice. NC 226 is called NC 226, NC 226A is called the Diamondback. These 11 miles are packed with great twisties.

The first 5 miles are the steepest and tightest. Make sure you have good brakes and use your gearing on this downhill ride. There are no guard rails and the drop-offs are steep and deep with only the forest to stop you in many places. This is no place to drive too fast or alone.

The pavement is good. There were a few turns with gravel and dust from driveways, but not more than you should expect anywhere. There are a few homes and other structures, so watch out for locals pulling in or out. We encountered no traffic on our run. There are no difficult switchbacks, but some curves came close.

Our choice will be the Diamondback since it has a pretty good reputation.