

Drive Instructions

MINIs On the Dragon 2018

Donut Run! Choose Your Own Adventure

Organizer: Aaron Granger

Questions?

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On Motoring Alliance and NAM: agranger



SunriseDrive-2018-v1

Date/Time: 7:30am, Friday, May 4, 2018 at the Fontana General Store & Ice Cream Parlor.

The Route: “Flexibility” and “Donuts” are two words that don’t frequently go together but, for one day at MOTD 2018, they fit perfectly! This is a loosely organized group of folks who love MINIs and Donuts. You get to build your own adventure. The trip is organized into 3 parts and you are welcome to partake in 1, 2 or all 3 parts. It’s up to you! You don’t have to tell anyone what you want to do. Show up, drive, make friends, eat donuts, have fun with the group or do your own thing. The instructions below will help you make your own choices.

Want to do part A only and drive with the group to Richy Kreme Donuts in Maryville? Great! Scarf your donuts and reverse the directions to head back to Fontana quickly (beautiful roads... well worth driving twice). Want to see OutMotoring HQ (Part B) but need to get back to Fontana for another event? Sure! Grab your swag and reverse the directions. Want to take the long way home and see the Cherohala Skyway? Excellent! Follow me and come along for the whole 3 parts! It’s up to you.

Part A: Fontana to Richy Kreme Donuts in Maryville, TN: (1.25 hours – 52 miles)

We will leave the Fontana General Store, drive across the Dragon, up the West side of the Smoky Mountains, along the Foothills Parkway (a stop for pictures) and then visit Richy Kreme Donuts in Maryville, TN. If you are only doing part A of the drive, feel free to head out on your merry way as soon as you have had your fill of donuts, coffee and MINIs. I’d bet that there will be many folks heading directly back to Fontana from here, so network a bit between bites of donut to find an informal caravan, if you wish.

Duration: If you go for just donuts, you are looking at 2.5-3 hours drive time (donut eating and conversation time not included).

Richy Kreme Donuts is at 2601 Old Knoxville Pike, Maryville, TN.

Part B: Maryville, TN to OutMotoring Corporate HQ in Knoxville: (20 min – 15.5 miles)

At 9:45am, after eating entirely too many donuts, those that wish may continue on to visit the OutMotoring corporate headquarters, where you will find a treasure trove of MINI parts and swag, along with the friendly and helpful folks at OutMotoring. Around 10:45 am or so, we will leave to start part C, if you want to join me for that part of the drive.

Honestly... I expect most of our group will go their own way by now. Only a few, elite motorists will persevere into Part C.

Duration: If you choose to head back along the route we took here, add another 40 minutes of drive time (shopping time at OutMotoring not included).

OutMotoring HQ is at 10555 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922

Part C: The return to Fontana via the Cherohala Skyway: (3 hours – 134 miles)

In previous years, the event ended with part B. I’ve got to make it back to Fontana anyway and I love the Cherohala Skyway, so why not make it fun! First, I’ll be grabbing gas at a Pilot Gas station near MINI of Knoxville (very close to OutMotoring). From there, I’ll be heading south on I75 for a bit, passing through Tellico Plains and joining the Cherohala Skyway, a road that is not only beautiful, but also super twisty! It will drop us off just north of Robbinsville. At this point you can head back to Fontana by turning left and driving 16.5 miles up 129 to Deals Gap and then turning right on 28 to get back to Fontana in 9.5 miles. I’ll probably get gas again at this point, so I’ll turn right and head into Robbinsville for gas, shopping and then return to Fontana via the instructions above.

Duration: If you do all 3 parts, I’m guessing we will get back to Fontana around 1:30 – 2:30pm... depending on if the group wants to stop for lunch. Part C is about 3 hours of driving.

Cost: There is no cost for this event. You must be a registered participant for MOTD to participate in this drive. You buy your own donuts. You buy your own swag at OutMotoring. Friendship is free.

Radios: FRS radios are wonderful for this type of event. We will run on Channel 8 (no sub-channel or sub=0).

The Pace: This is a brisk yet SCENIC drive. Please keep all four wheels on your side of the yellow line. We will keep the pace up, but will happily respond to radio requests to slow down a bit. These directions will help you get to the end, so if you feel that you are driving beyond your limits to keep up with the group, please requests that we slow down a bit or enjoy the rest of the drive at your own, safe pace. The most important thing is the safety of everyone involved.

Warnings: Unlike most sharp turn signs (especially in a MINI), the speed warnings for turns in the Smoky Mountain park are very accurate... Take them seriously. Mind your speed on anything that resembles a highway... radar WILL be present. Fines for speeding on the Foothills Parkway are very serious (Federal road), from what I've been told, so we will be taking it easy on that road.

I like to make use of trip meters (the mileage tracking feature on your odometer). It helps to know if your next turn is coming up in the next mile or after 20 miles. I use my own experience and/or Google Maps to plan the route... both of which can be inexact. Even if my source material is right, everyone has slightly different tires and tracks mileage differently, so please don't count on those mileages being exact in your car. They are approximations.

Logistics: Please be sure you have plenty of fuel for the trip. If you haven't been to MOTD before, you would be well served to buy gas at every opportunity. We are out in some rural areas and you never know when a good gas station will be around. Right after leaving the OutMotoring HQ, the group doing part 3 with me will have a quick stop for gas. If you have an urgent need for a MINI dealership, we will be heading right past MINI of Knoxville.

If you are at a stopping point and have questions you can look for 2 things:

1. Look for Aaron (me – your fearless leader). I'm a 6'4" male, 47, greying hair, 300 lbs (ish). At MOTD, I'm almost always in my grey fleece. I'm hard to miss.
2. Look for Rufus, my MINI. If he is still out in the parking lot, you haven't been left behind. Rufus is a R53 (first generation MINI) in Chili Red, with a red roof and red painted arches. Much like me, he is hard to miss!



HOW TO DRIVE THE DRAGON (Reprinted from an article by Ron Johnson at www.tailofthedragon.com):

Drive the Dragon at your skill level - don't try to push it or keep up with faster vehicles.

STAY IN YOUR LANE, There are videos available for sale that show vehicles cutting the corners and taking chances that might appear "fun" while sitting in your easy chair. **BEWARE !** This style of driving on the Dragon can cost you dearly. The challenge of the Dragon is to take the many curves in the best line possible and both lanes IS NOT "the line". Drive Florida if you like to straighten out the curves.

Do NOT sightsee. The Dragon is to drive, not to watch the sights. On many runs I don't even see what is on the side of the road. I'm watching the roadway way ahead.

Look far ahead at the road, curves, bushes, other vehicles, etc. If you haven't seen the hazards right in front of you, you are going to hit them anyway, so you might as well pay attention to what you have time to avoid.

We have seen deer, bear, turkeys, and wild boar on the roadway. Be ready to brake and slow. When we say brake we **DO NOT** mean slamming on the brakes. That will get you turned around in a hurry and it's no fun looking at where you've been at any speed.

Maintain a "safe zone". Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you. Watch your rear view mirrors for faster vehicles. If you see a faster rider/driver coming up behind you, pull over to the right of your lane, slow down just a little, and wave them around. It is much safer to let a faster vehicle around you than to try to outrun them. **NEVER** stay left trying to keep someone from passing you. **NEVER** pull off the road onto the shoulder unless it is at one of the pull-off parking areas. It may be illegal to pass on the Dragon, but I'll let a faster vehicle get around me to protect my safe zone.

There will always be faster drivers than you. Don't try to be the King of the Dragon.

Drive the Dragon many times before trying to challenge it. Then you still need to respect it at all times.

DO NOT STAND ON THE BRAKES if you see danger ahead. You are much better off to tap the brakes and maintain control. Some 90% of the accidents on the Dragon are due to speed and then over-braking. If you see another vehicle coming at you in your lane, hug the white line in your lane. In all likelihood you can avoid trucks and trailers if you stay alert and watch ahead.

DO NOT be spooked by other vehicles. **DO NOT** make sudden avoidance moves. You might have to adjust your line to avoid a car, truck, or bike, but **DO NOT** lay on the brakes or turn off the roadway suddenly unless that is the only out you have. Motorcycles might dent your car, but that is better than going off the bank and hitting a tree sideways. If a cycle is in your lane that is their mistake and problem ... don't let them force you into a worse situation for yourself.

Trucks are usually traveling at a very slow speed and you should have time to stop and back-up if you see one coming at you and taking the whole corner. Watch for signals from drivers/riders coming at you. Many times they will escort a big truck over the Dragon and wave a warning to you to pull over. **DO NOT** ignore these warnings.

Avoid driving hard on the Dragon in heavy traffic times. Weekends from 11 am to 5 pm are the busiest. These are the times to lay back and enjoy watching the "show" go by.

The early mornings (before 11 am) and the late afternoons (after 5 pm) have the least traffic.

ALWAYS stay 100% alert. You do not have the advantage of relaxing on the Dragon.

Make sure your vehicle is mechanically sound and that your tires are good.

Plan to make several runs, the first is always a nervous one then you can have fun on the second and third.

DO NOT over-use your brakes. Use your gears and **DOWNSHIFT**. A good Dragon driver **WILL NOT** use a lot of brakes.

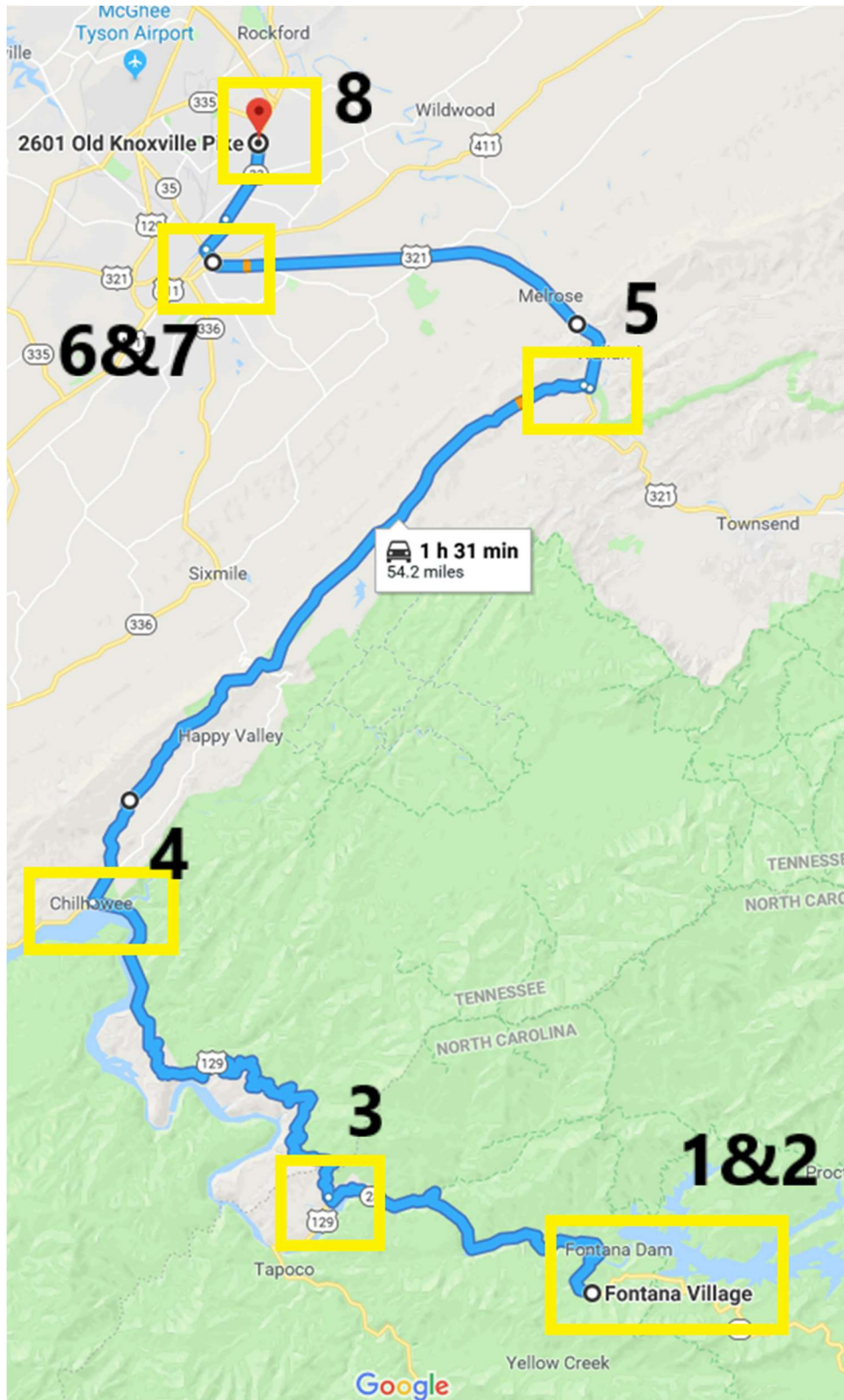
Focus - do not daydream. Watch the road, your mirrors, and pay attention to other bikes/cars/trucks.

99% of the accidents on the Dragon come from the following:





- Too much speed
- Too much brakes
- Inattentiveness
- Driving above your abilities

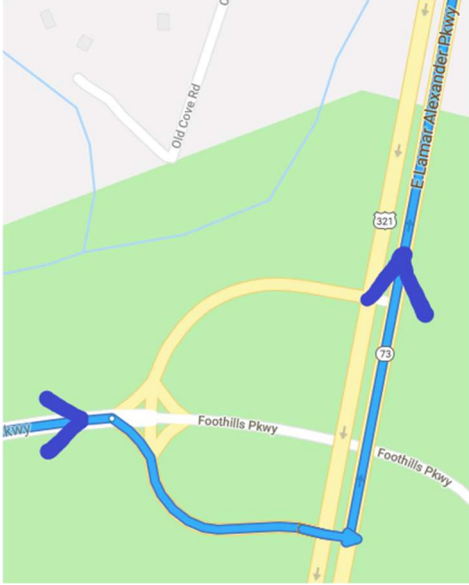
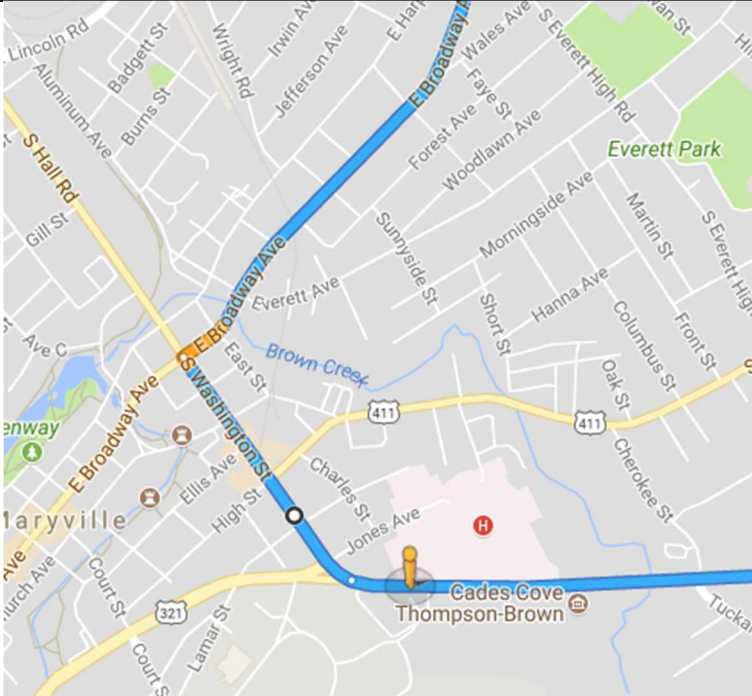
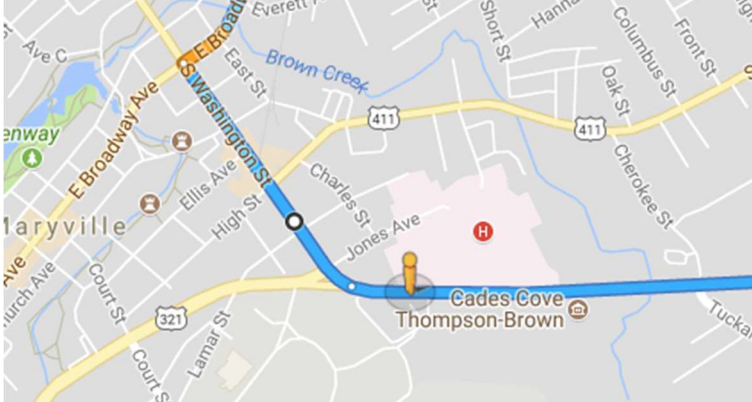
Part A – Fontana to Donuts:

Getting to Richey Kreme Donuts at 2601 Old Knoxville Pike, Maryville, TN

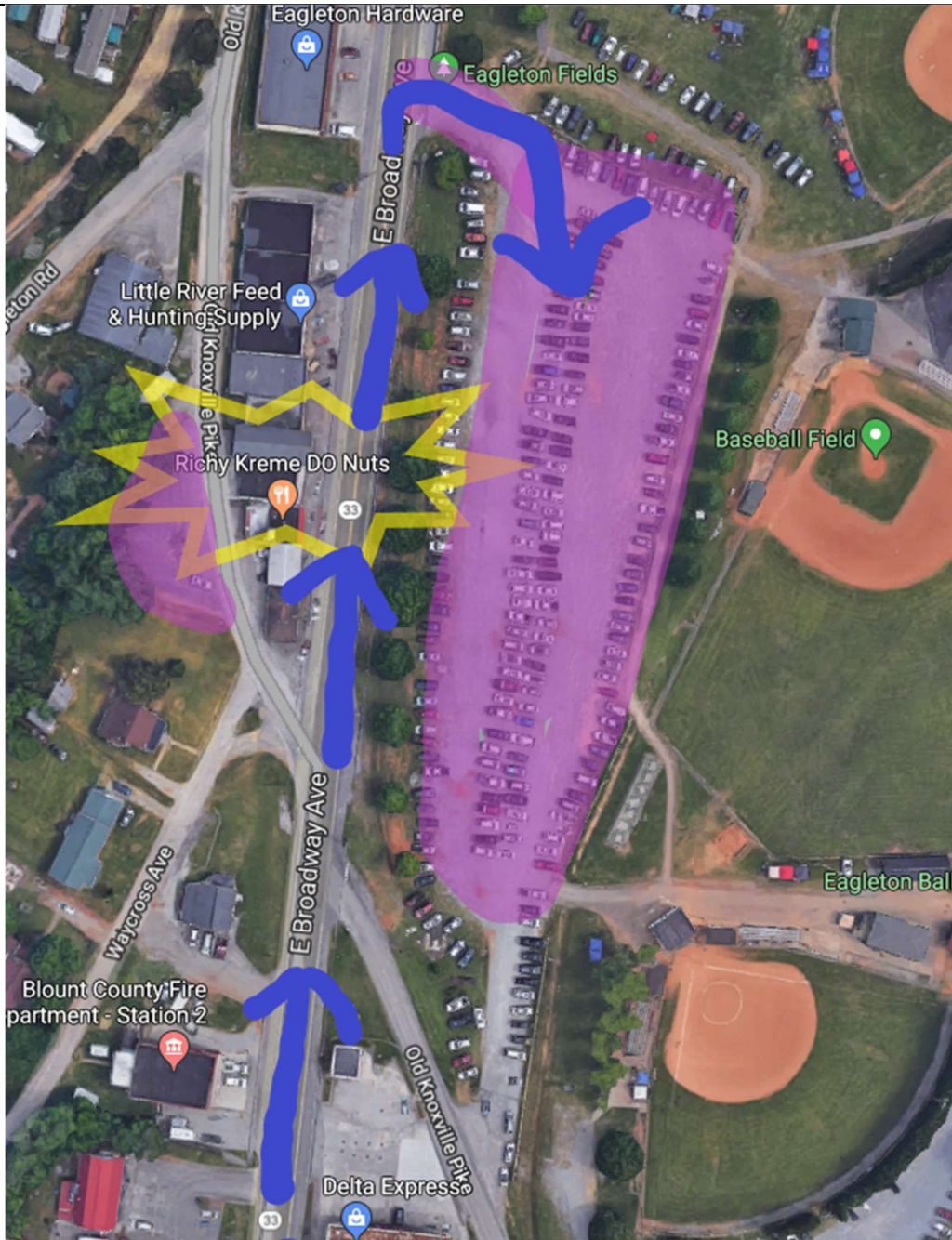


Step by step instructions for Part A (Fontana to Donuts):

Miles	Map	Directions
		<p>1: Depart the staging area in front of Fontana General Store.</p>
<p>0 Miles on trip 7.7 to next turn</p>		<p>2: TURN LEFT onto 28 towards the Tail of the Dragon – Reset your trip meter as you make this turn.</p>
<p>7.6 Miles on trip 14.9 to next turn</p>		<p>3: TURN RIGHT onto US 129 (State 115) at Deals Gap</p>
<p>22.4 Miles on trip 16.8 to next turn</p>		<p>4: TURN RIGHT onto Foothills Parkway</p>

<p>39.1 Miles on trip</p> <p>9.9 Miles to next turn</p>		<p>5: At the end of the Parkway, TURN LEFT onto US 321 (State 73), AKA The Smoky Mountain Highway</p>
<p>49 miles on Trip</p> <p>0.4 miles to next turn</p>		<p>6: Bear right (just past the large hospital), using the right 2 lanes, on to Washington Street</p>
<p>49.4 miles on Trip</p> <p>2,7 miles to next turn</p>		<p>7: Turn right onto Broadway Ave. (just past Full Service BBQ)</p>

52.1 miles on the trip



8: Turn right into the large parking lot for the baseball fields. Richy Kreme donuts are across the street. There is a small backup parking lot on the back side of the donut shop, if needed.

END OF PART A

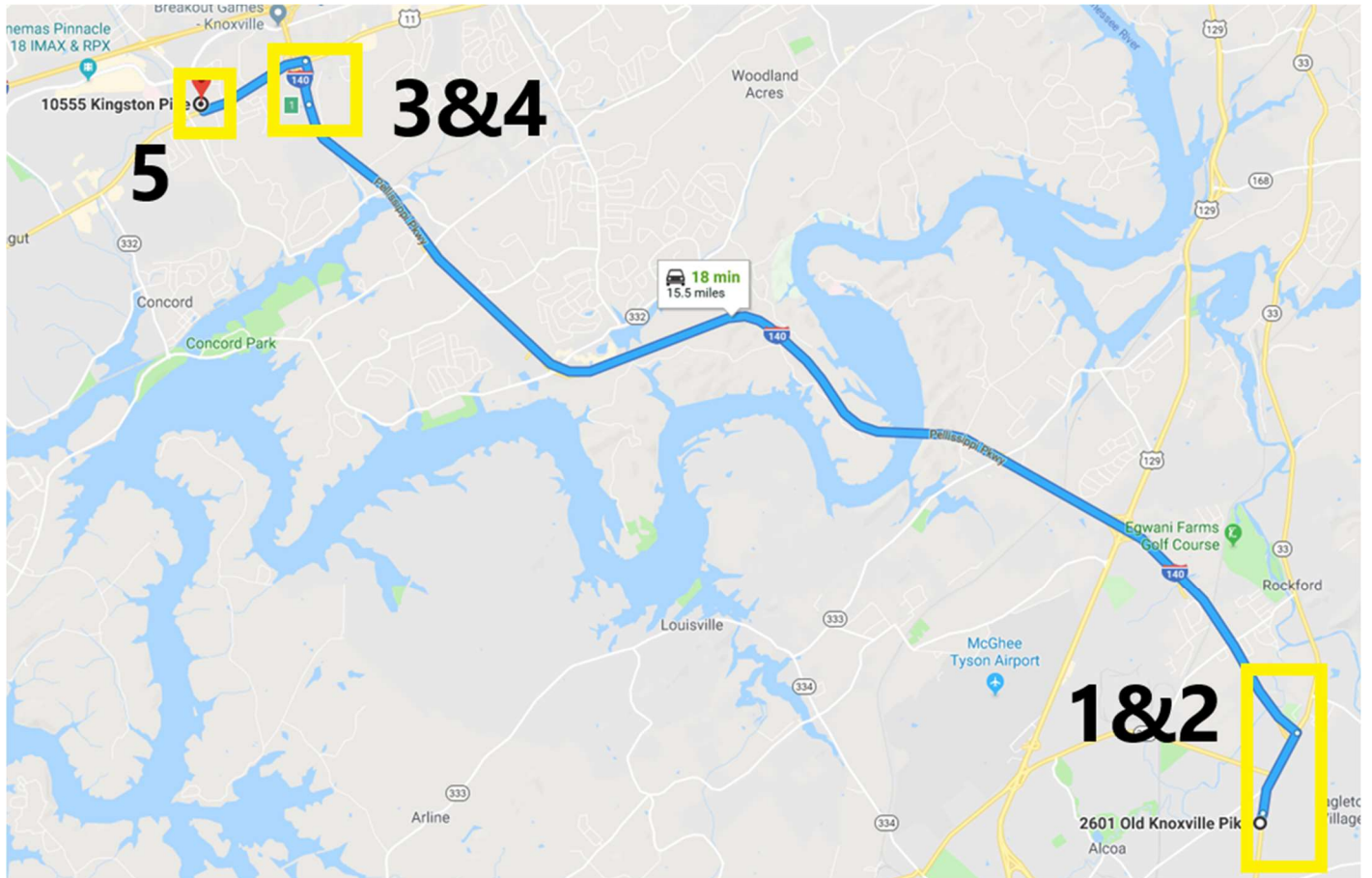
Go on inside and eat all the donuts you can buy!

If you are continuing on to OutMotoring (Part 2), we plan to leave the parking lot around 9:45am.

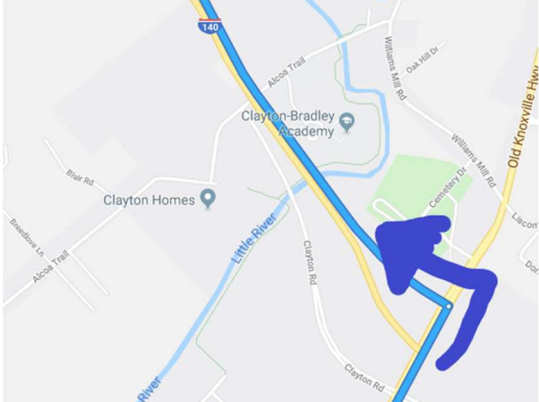
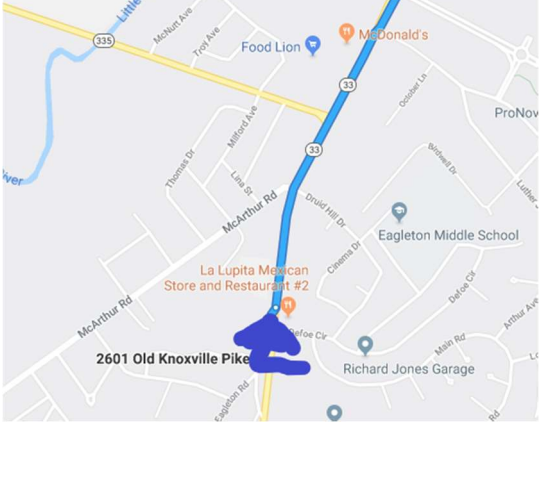
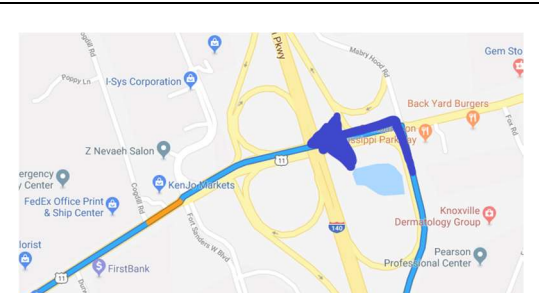
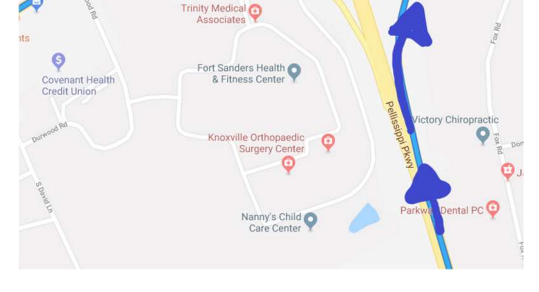
Part B – Donuts to OutMotoring:

Richy Kreme Donuts at 2601 Old Knoxville Pike, Maryville, TN

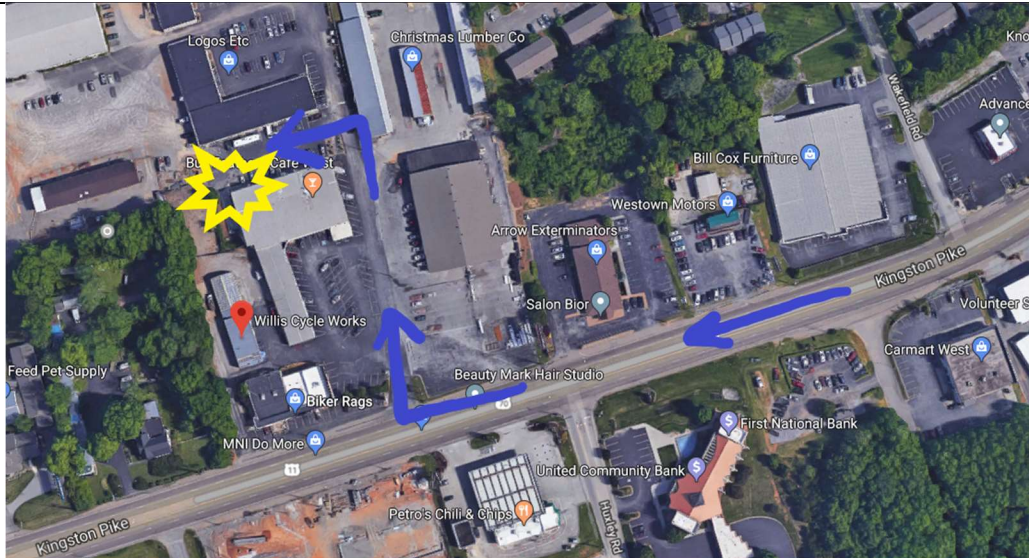
OutMotoring is at 10555 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922



Step by step instructions for Part B (Donuts to Outmotoring):

Miles	Map	Directions
0		<p>1: Depart the ballfield parking lot, TURNING RIGHT onto Old Knoxville Highway</p> <p>Reset your trip meter as you make this turn.</p>
<p>1.0 Miles on trip</p> <p>12.9 miles to next turn</p>		<p>2: TURN LEFT at traffic light onto Pellissippi Pkwy (follow signs for 162 North and I-140)</p>
<p>13.9 miles on trip</p> <p>0.4 miles to next turn</p>		<p>3: EXIT PARKWAY at Exit #1 (Kingston Pike)</p>
<p>14.3 miles on trip</p> <p>1.2 miles to next turn</p>		<p>4: TURN LEFT onto Kingston Pike (AKA US 11)</p>

15.5
miles
on trip



5: TURN
RIGHT into
the Heritage
Square
Shopping
Center parking
lot.
Outmotoring
corporate HQ
is located on
the back side
of the
Bullfeathers
Café building.

END OF PART B!

Go on in and check out everything at OutMotoring!

If you want to continue on back home via the Cherohala Skyway, we will be leaving around 10:45am to start Part 3 of the drive.

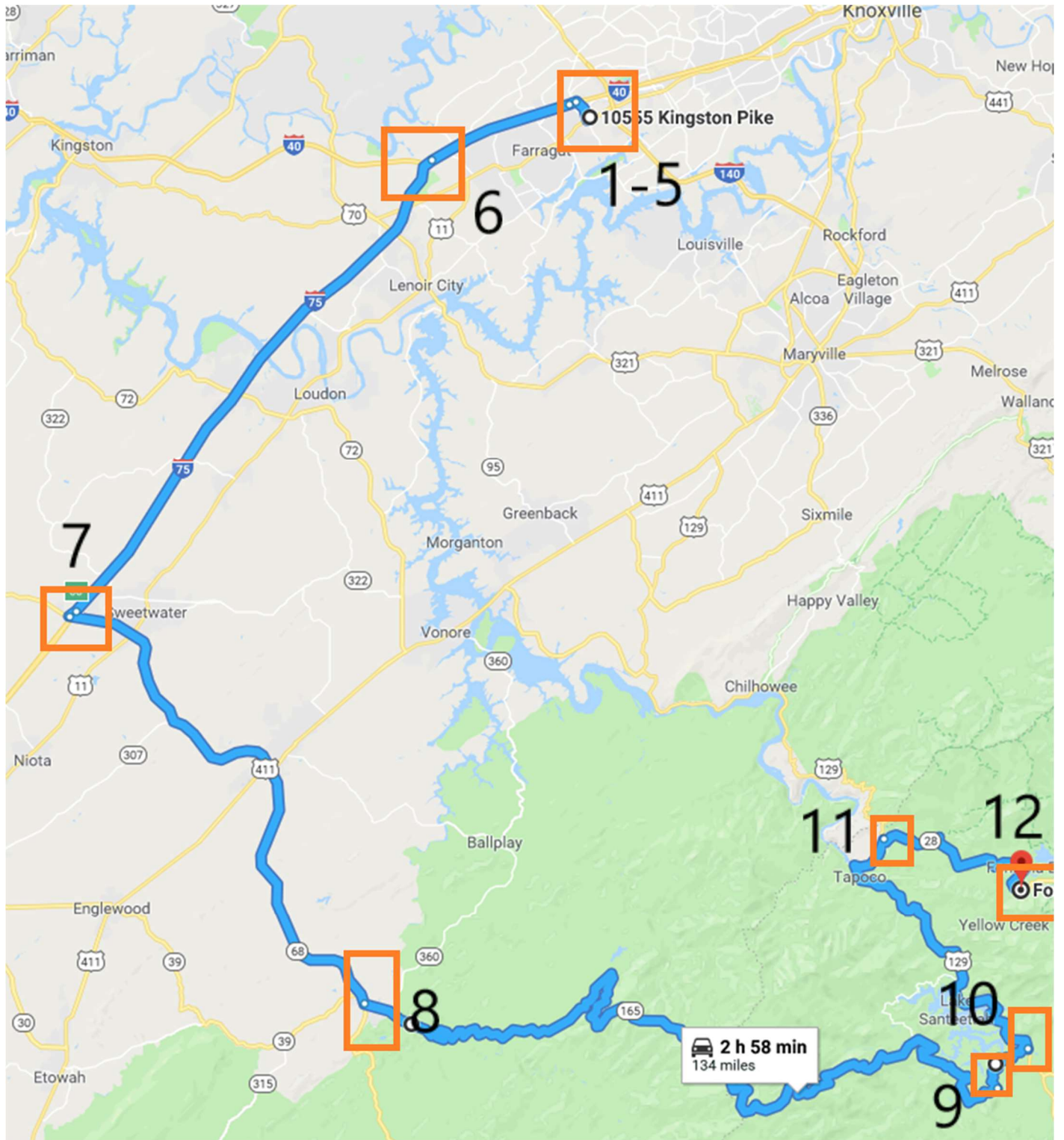
We will be stopping for gas shortly after leaving OutMotoring, so don't worry about that!

If you are in desperate need of a MINI dealership, MINI of Knoxville is just around the corner (see instructions for Part C of the trip). The dealership isn't a planned stop, so you might want to get an early start out of OutMotoring, hit the dealership and then meet us at the Pilot Travel Center (the gas stop) that is just past the MINI dealership.

There will also be bathrooms and a Wendy's restaurant at the Pilot gas stop (almost immediately after we leave OutMotoring).

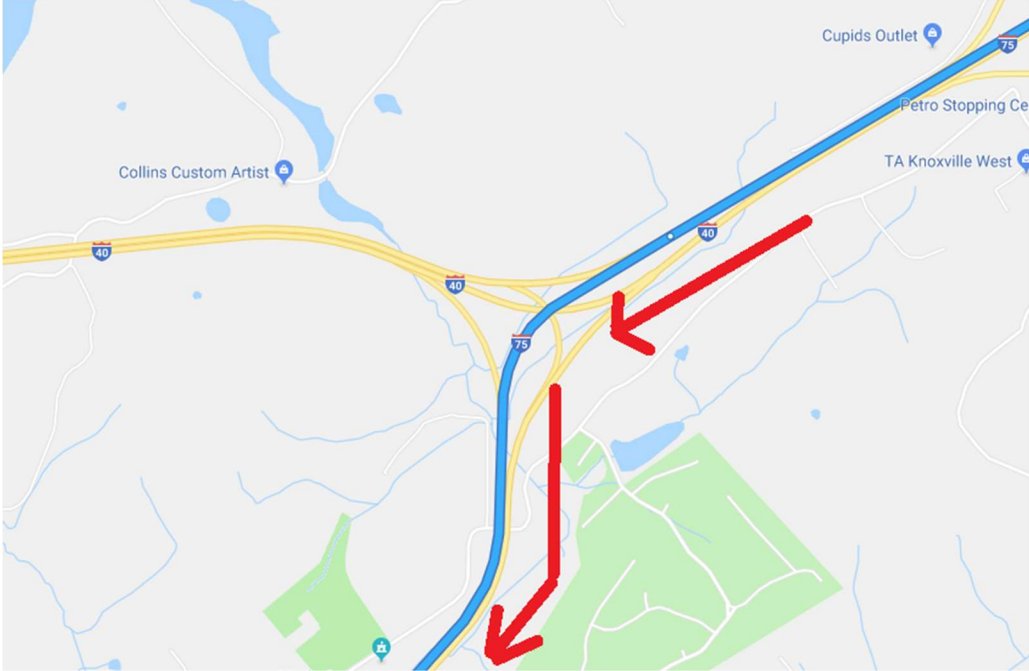
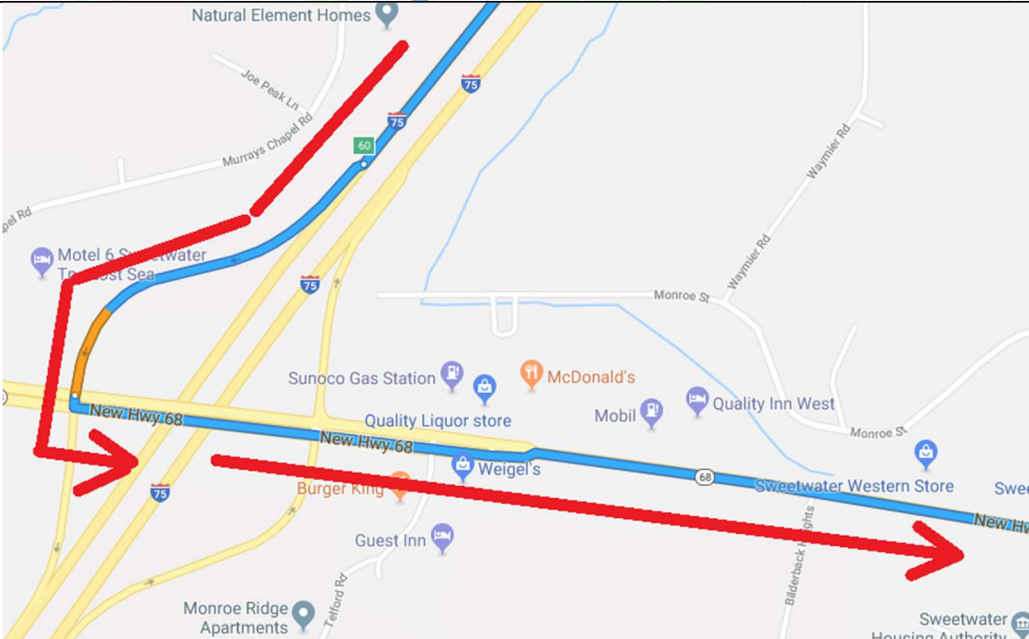
Part C – OutMotoring to Robbinsville / Fontana:

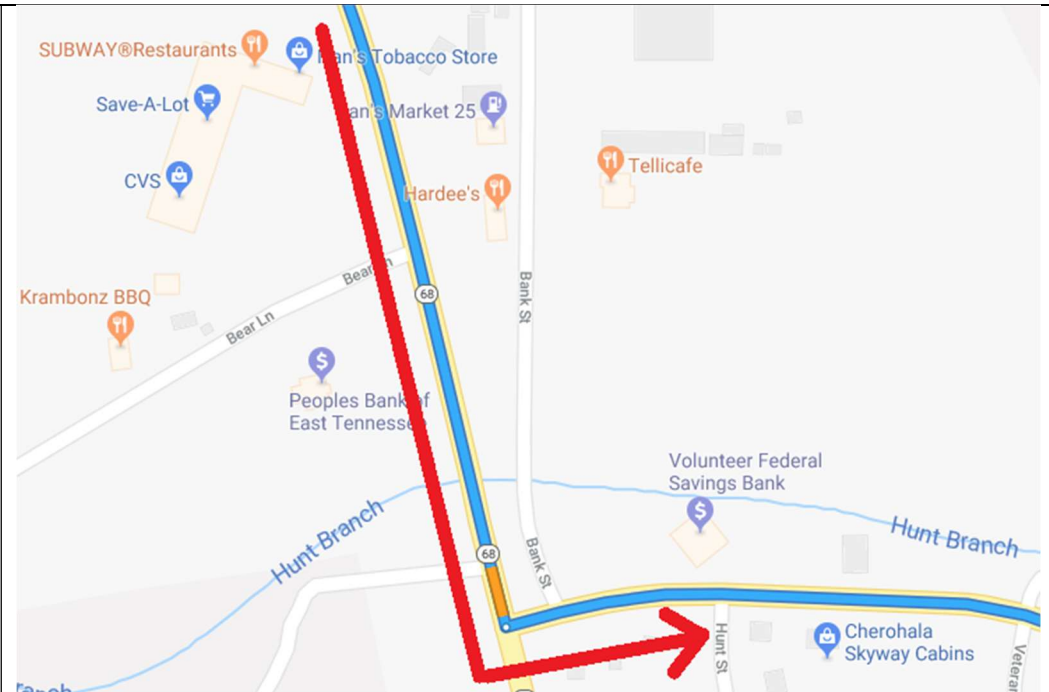
OutMotoring is at 10555 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922

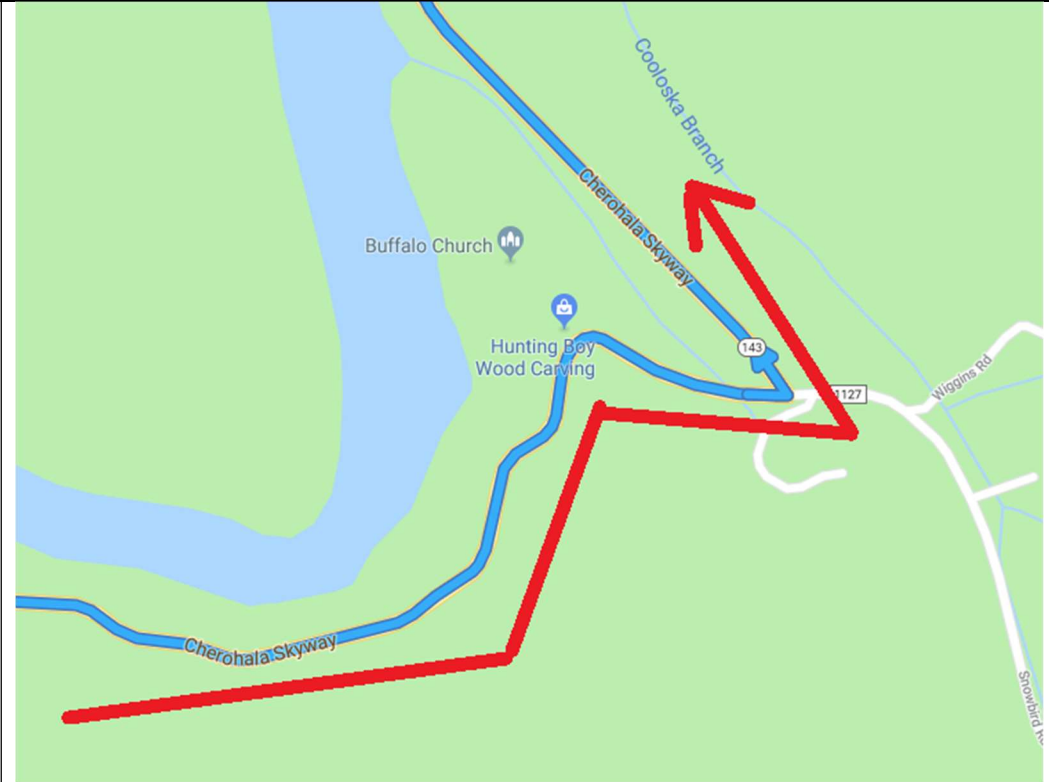


Step by step instructions for Part C (Outmotoring to Robbinsville / Fontana):

Miles	Map	Directions
<p>0 miles on trip</p> <p>0.2 miles to next turn</p>		<p>1: TURN RIGHT to depart the parking lot from OutMotoring HQ. Reset your trip meter as you make this turn.</p>
<p>0.2 Miles on trip</p> <p>0.7 mile to next turn</p>		<p>2: TURN RIGHT onto Lovell Rd (at the Grassy Valley Baptist Church on your right), following sign to 131</p>
<p>0.9 miles on trip</p>		<p>3: TURN RIGHT into the Pilot Gas Center to fill up</p>
<p>0.9 miles on trip</p> <p>0.2 miles to next turn</p>		<p>4. TURN RIGHT out of the Pilot Gas Center, back onto Lovell Rd.</p>
<p>1.1 miles on trip</p> <p>6.2 miles to next turn</p>		<p>5: TURN LEFT onto I-40 / I-75, as soon as you cross the bridge</p>

<p>7.3 miles on trip</p> <p>24.8 miles to next turn</p>		<p>6: BEAR LEFT on I-75 South towards Chatanooga</p>
<p>32.1 miles on trip</p> <p>24.4 miles to next turn</p>		<p>7 EXIT at #60 (Sweetwater / Spring City) and TURN LEFT at end of ramp onto New Highway 68</p>

<p>56.6 miles on trip</p> <p>48.4 miles to next turn</p>	 <p>(last food and restrooms until Robbinsville – a Hardees, Subway and Tellicafe at this intersection)</p>	<p>8: TURN LEFT in Tellico Plains onto the Cherokee Skyway</p>
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<p>101 miles on trip</p> <p>3.4 miles to next turn</p>		<p>9: TURN LEFT onto 143 (follow the sign to 129)</p>
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This is where we part ways. At 104.4 miles on the trip meter, the road dead-ends on Rt 129,/ Tapoco Road. I'm going to TURN RIGHT, drive about 1 mile and stop in Robbinsville for gas. You are welcome to join me. Once I've filled up, I'll be coming right back to this intersection and following the directions below to take me back to Fontana.

<p>104.4 miles on trip</p> <p>16.4 miles to next turn</p>	<p>Left to Deals Gap & Fontana</p> <p>Right to Robbinsville (1mi)</p>	<p>10: TURN LEFT onto Rt 129 (aka Tapoco Rd)</p>
<p>120.8 miles on trip</p> <p>9 miles to next turn</p>	<p>11: TURN RIGHT at Deals Gap onto 28</p>	<p>11: TURN RIGHT at Deals Gap onto 28</p>
<p>129.8 miles on trip</p>	<p>12: TURN RIGHT at the Fontana Texaco</p>	<p>12: TURN RIGHT at the Fontana Texaco</p>

One Page Instructions for the Donut Run – MOTD 2018

A-1		Depart the staging area in front of the Fontana General Store .
A-2	Trip: 0 mi 7.7 to next turn	TURN LEFT from the Fontana Entrance Road onto 28 towards the Tail of the Dragon – Reset your trip meter as you make this turn.
A-3	Trip: 7.6 mi 14.9 to next turn	TURN RIGHT onto US 129 (State 115)
A-4	Trip: 22.4 mi 16.8 to next turn	TURN RIGHT onto Foothills Parkway - DO NOT SPEED – This is federal land and tickets can easily reach \$500!
A-5	Trip: 39.1 mi 9.9 to next turn	At the end of the Foothills Parkway, TURN LEFT onto US 321 (State 73), AKA The Smoky Mountain Highway
A-6	Trip: 49 mi 0.4 to next turn	BEAR RIGHT (just past the large hospital) using the right 2 lanes, onto Washington St.
A-7	Trip: 49.4 mi 2.7 to next turn	TURN RIGHT onto Broadway Ave (just past Full Service BBQ)
A-8	Trip: 52.1 mi	TURN RIGHT into the large parking lot for the baseball fields, Richy Kreme donuts is across the street.
Part A is complete		
B-1	Trip: 0 mi 1.0 to next turn	TURN RIGHT as leaving the ballfield parking lot. Reset your trip meter as you make this turn.
B-2	Trip: 1.0 mi 12.9 to next turn	TURN LEFT at traffic light onto Pellissippi Parkway (follow signs to 162 North and I-140)
B-3	Trip: 13.9 mi 0.4 to next turn	EXIT PARKWAY at Exit #1 (Kingston Pike)
B-4	Trip: 14.3 mi 1.2 to next turn	TURN LEFT onto Kingston Pike (AKA US 11)
B-5	Trip: 15.5 mi	TURN RIGHT into the Heritage Square Shopping Center lot. OutMotoring.com is located on the back side of the Bullfeathers Café building.
Part B is complete		

C-1	Trip: 0 mi 0.2 to next turn	TURN RIGHT as leaving the OutMotoring.com parking lot Reset your trip meter as you make this turn.
C-2	Trip: 0.2 mi 0.7 to next turn	TURN RIGHT onto Lovell Rd (at the Grassy Valley Baptist Church on your right) following sign to 131
C-3	Trip: 0.9 mi	TURN RIGHT into the Pilot Gas Center – fill up and use facilities
C-4	Trip: 0.9 mi 0.2 to next turn	TURN RIGHT when leaving Pilot Gas Center, back on Lovell Rd.
C-5	Trip: 1.1 mi 6.2 to next turn	TURN LEFT onto I-40 / I-75 as soon as you cross the bridge
C-6	Trip: 7.3 mi 24.8 to next turn	BEAR LEFT on I-75 South, towards Chatanooga
C-7	Trip: 32.1 mi 24.4 to next turn	EXIT #60 (Sweetwater / Spring City) and TURN LEFT at the end of the ramp onto New Highway 68
C-8	Trip: 56.6 mi 48.4 to next turn	TURN LEFT in Tellico Plains onto the Cherohala Skyway
C-9	Trip: 101 mi 3.4 to next turn	TURN LEFT onto 143 (follow the sign to 129)
C-10	Trip: 104.4 16.4 to next turn	TURN LEFT onto 129 (or turn right if you want to run into Robbinsville)
C-11	Trip: 120.8 9.0 to next turn	TURN RIGHT at Deals Gap to head back to Fontana (or turn left if you need another Dragon Run)
C-12	Trip: 129.8 miles	TURN RIGHT at the Fontana Texaco and you are back home.
Arrive back at Fontana!		