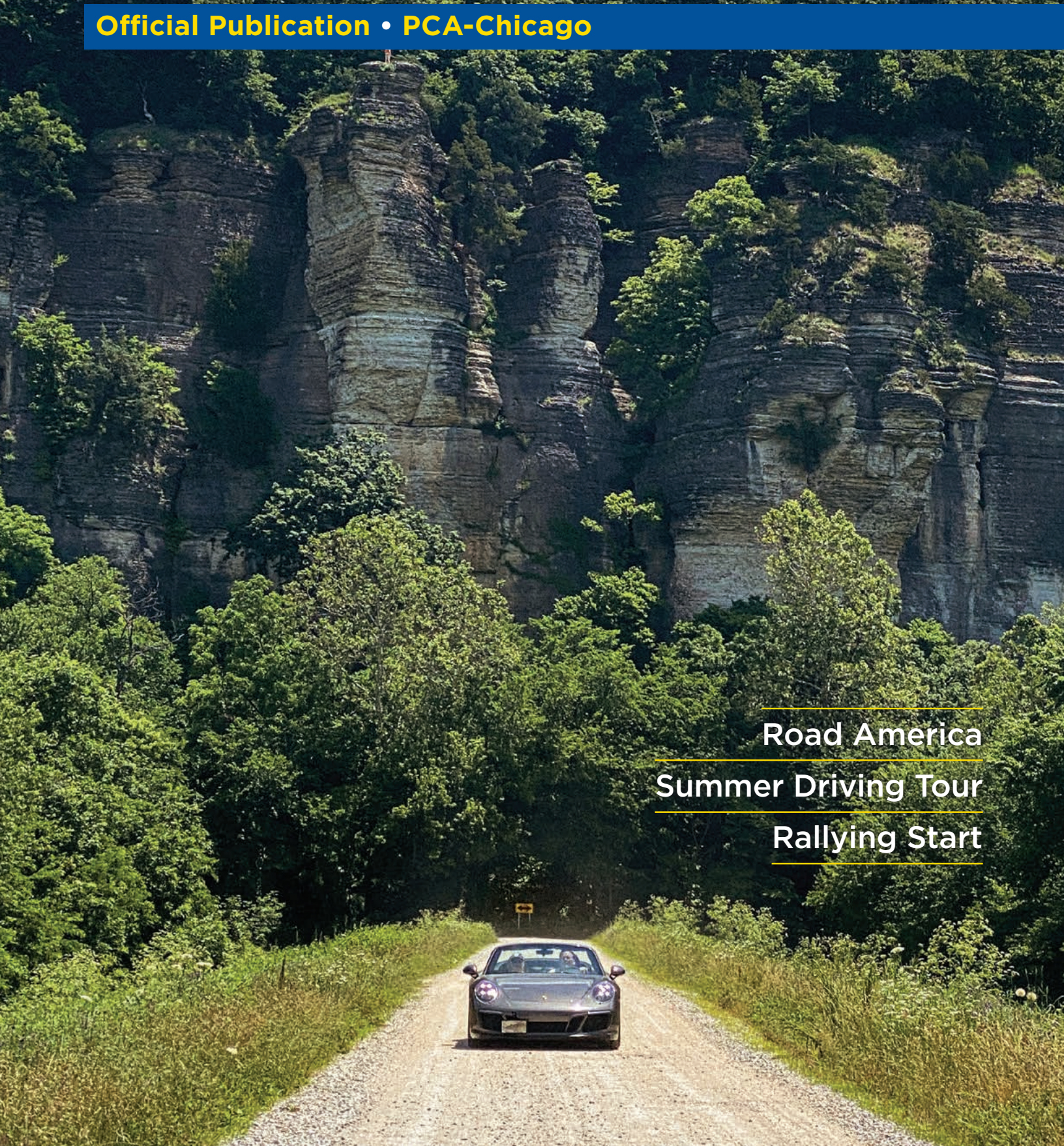


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Top photo: *by Elena Oksenyich*

Bottom left photo: *by Jeff Brown*

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Summer has Arrived, Let the Games Continue!

Thanks to all who have already attended many of our earlier and very well-attended Club events this year, and please be assured that there are still many more exciting events to follow. Frankly, it's very encouraging to see that normalcy is (cautiously) returning to our lives, particularly including reengaging with old friends, and opportunities to meet new ones! PCA-Chicago is about the fellowship and enjoyment generated by all things Porsche. It doesn't matter what year or model; they're all exceptional. Remember, "It's not just the cars, it's the people," and that's never been more apparent—or important—than it is these days.



The Road America Challenge ("TRAC") is one of my favorite Club events and it's coming up very quickly, too. By tradition, this long-running event takes place over the Labor Day weekend. Even if you aren't interested in Club Racing or track driving more broadly, the Saturday afternoon parade of Porsches from the track and into downtown Elkhart Lake, with a police escort to block cross-traffic and intersections, is worth the trip to Wisconsin all by itself. Although the track-to-town parade and the Saturday evening banquet under the tents at Siebkens were both cancelled last year, the current signs are favorable for a comeback this year. If so, imagine anywhere from fifty to a hundred Porsches—from race- and track-prepped cars, to bone stock garage queens, to meticulously restored vintage cars, and everything in between, whether two-door, three-door, or four—winding their way through the countryside on the Old Road Course that leads into town for a Saturday evening banquet in Siebkens' courtyard and environs. Do it even once and you'll also appreciate just how challenging it must have been to race these early cars, with their skinny tires and lack of safety gear, on unimproved public roads.

In further recognition of Club traditions, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind our membership that the success of PCA-Chicago is due to the hard work of all of you who volunteer to organize and staff our events. The Club is grateful for your commitment and your efforts. Volunteering also provides an opportunity to meet new friends and many remarkable people.

In that same spirit, if you're interested in serving on the Board or becoming a Club Officer, please let us know; we're taking applications! To that end, we'll soon be sending out an eBlast with more details, but the short version for now is that all you need to do is submit your name and a short statement of purpose by email to any Board Member or, more formally, to the Nominating Committee. We'll provide you with more complete information later, but please give it some thought in the meantime and keep your eyes open for this opportunity.

In closing, enjoy your summer, get out and participate, catch up with old friends, and meet new ones. I hope to see you soon at an upcoming event!

Regards,
Bob Rath

“

...the success of PCA-Chicago is due to the hard work of all of you who volunteer to organize and staff our events.

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PORSCHE

A Summertime Drive to the Shawnee National Forest

by John Diwik



Several wonderful things happen at churches: baptisms, weddings, and (yes) the beginning of our summer 2021 Driving Tour.

Approximately one hundred PCA-Chicago members driving 50-something Porsches all met up at the Cross Lutheran Church in Yorkville bright and early on Friday, 6-4-21. The oldest car was a '70s 914 and the newest was a Porsche 992. After a brief Drivers Meeting, six groups departed. The Kendall County Sheriff's Office provided two marked units that stopped traffic on southbound Rt. 47 so all of the cars could depart as one group.

What a glorious sight to see fifty Porsches in a long line driving with their headlights on! We drove mostly farm roads as we headed



continued

A Summertime Drive... *continued*

to Decatur, and arrived at the Hickory Point Golf Course where a delicious barbecue lunch had been catered. It was brisket, pulled pork, and chicken with baked beans and coleslaw. The finale was Peach Cobbler! Oh my God!

Then it was Rt. 51-S for the next few hours! We went through every small town known to man, and as we meandered through the countryside we came across a huge car show at the Duquon, IL State Fairgrounds. It was the "Street Machine Nationals." Tons of muscle cars and dragsters, and of course a bunch of them were on Rt. 51-S. Ah, the smell of unburned hydrocarbons!

We arrived at the Hampton Inn-Carbondale in the late afternoon. A very nice Hampton indeed! Groups headed out for dinner, snacks and beverages. Most of our



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people were a bit tired from the drive but they were in good spirits!

Saturday morning we boarded two motor coaches and proceeded to hit the Shawnee Wine Trail. The coaches made several stops and our members tasted numerous wines and beers. We all had lunch at the Von-Jakob Vineyard/Brewery.

We stopped at one truly inspirational location: the Bald Knob Cross in Alto Pass. This huge white cross on the top of the ridge is visible for miles in several directions. What a beautiful and inspiring location.

Saturday night brought us to Legends at Walkers Bluff, a swanky restaurant just 4 miles from the hotel. The “Event Planner” wanted our cars parked a certain way for photo ops, but it took 40 minutes to get it set up. (Many Porsche owners may drive like Peter Gregg but they park like near-sighted 14-year olds.)





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A Summertime Drive... continued



Nevertheless, we had a great meal! There was an amazing sunset and many of our “photographers” rushed out to get the winning shot! Many, many, many items were raffled off after dinner, too. Haggerty Insurance had provided close to 100 items, and Johnny D bought \$750.00 worth of swag from Suncoast! Very few members left empty handed!

No tour is complete without the Schnauzer Joke and a plethora of other bad jokes! Since many participants were new to the Club they pretended the jokes were funny!

After dinner it was back to the Hampton Inn. Sunday morning as the attendees left the hotel I was thinking, in four months we'll be in the Hocking Hills in Ohio on the Fall Tour! Wish it were tomorrow.... 🍷



Road America: The Novice Experience



by Cheryl Lehman Collier

Though I'd driven DE from 2008-2013 and Club Raced since 2014, this year I once again became a novice. 2021 marks the first year of my tenure as the Road America Event Chair, a daunting undertaking, I can assure you! Last season, when I found out that the amazing crew who oversaw the Club's DE and Club Racing events at Road America for the last 25+ years was retiring, I threw my hat in the ring. Having served ten years (combined) as Autocross Coordinator and Autocross School Co-chair I felt I had a pretty solid foundation on which to organize the first event of the season; Road America Drivers Education ("RADE"). Now multiply that by ten.

As soon as I was named heir to the throne in late 2020, my Co-Chair, Dave Mansfield, and I scheduled monthly meetings to get our arms around this commitment. We were fortunate to inherit some of the former crew: Ross Conforti (pre-event Registrar), Jody Freund (Tech), Todd Conforti (Safety), while John Ruther and Greg Turek reprised their roles as Novice classroom instructors. We then began our hunt for an on-site Registrar (Mark Prescott), track doctor (Dr. Joe Losurdo), and the many additional volunteers needed to put on an event of this scale. That was the easy-ish part. The organizational, administrative, technical, and staffing demands necessary to keep this colossus moving forward are mind bending.



continued

Road America continued



There were a lot of wonderful people who brought the event to fruition—and I cannot thank them enough.

Because this novice thing was so new to me, I thought it would be fun to talk to some of the novice drivers to remind me what it was like way back when:

- *“This was a super fun way to try a new track and learn it.”* Donovan Lahmann
- *“I’ve been interested in this place since the 5th grade, when I did a report about it. This event makes people want to come back and do it.”* Nolan Lahmann
- *“Now that these guys... have gotten into it... they are so much better drivers, prepared for real life [on the roads].”* Dr. Brian Lahmann
- *“PCA events are the best ones. The instructors are great!”* Wes Fujii

- *“Well organized, driver’s meeting was super informative, the instructors were amazing, and the corner workers were really thorough.”*

Dawid Liszkiewicz

- *“I was very impressed with the event. Friday was a learning experience... because the track was slick. I felt very uncomfortable. Saturday the track was nice and dry and I got my confidence back. My instructor was extremely helpful in guiding me around the track, pointing me to the line. [T]o use a lower horsepower car to learn how to drive[,]... [y]ou can feel what the car is doing so you understand the limits of the car. I learned a lot more about this car that I never knew before. The whole weekend was great and everybody here in Chicago is really fantastic.”*

Todd Benz, PCA National Secretary



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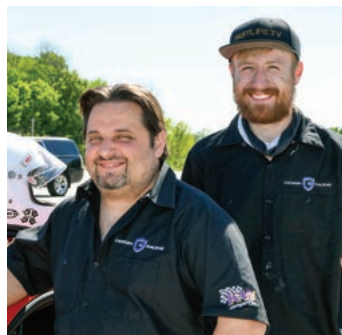
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• *“It’s so fun. The track is really fast[,] . . . a real racetrack, you know, so I felt a little bit timid coming into it but then I got more confident as the days went on. Saturday I was feeling super confident and then today [Sunday] I hit 2:50 and I’m only 10 seconds slower than my dad. . . It’s so exhilarating. [The event] was really well done, really organized.”* Elly Rogenski



In addition to all the on-track fun, we were also honored to host some young people from the Crushers Club, the PCA Chicago charity for 2021. Keith Clark and Chuck LaMantia, who formerly managed the Road America events, walked the group over to the control tower for a behind-the-scenes peek into how race control

works. They walked out on the start/finish bridge, directly over the hot race track, to experience the cars up close at speed and each took touring laps with event participants. Upon exiting the car, one young Crusher exclaimed, “That s**t is baller!” which I took as the highest compliment. Suffice it to say, they all had a great time. The Club raised a whopping \$1200 for the Crushers Club through the generosity of track touring participants.

With one event under our belts, we’re already well into preparations for The Road America Challenge (“TRAC”), a combined DE solo event and National points Club Race that takes place over Labor Day weekend. We’re expecting somewhere in the neighborhood of 300+ drivers from all over the country to attend. No pressure, right? Now multiply that by 50.

I hope you’ll join us, beginning September 3rd and coming soon to www.clubregistration.net. 🍷



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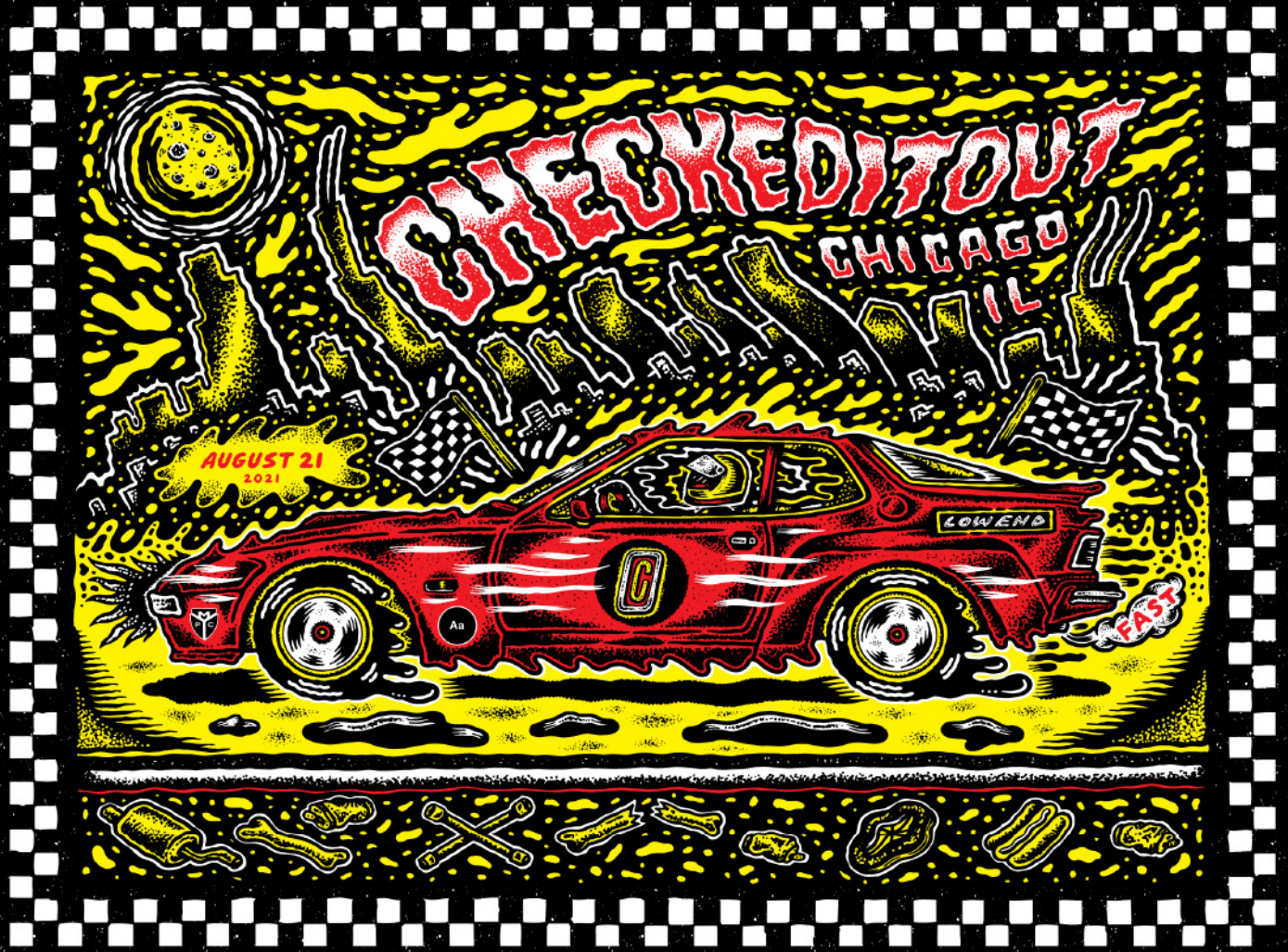


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Autocross 1:



Open the Chute!

by Justin McKeown

On May 1st, members of PCA-Chicago gathered together for the first Autocross event of the season. Hot on the heels of the Club's Performance Car Control Clinic that had taken place just about two weeks before, enthusiasm was high and morale was more than enough to counter the chilly, blustery Chicago winds that we're so accustomed to. It was a full house, too, brimming with many new faces ready to put into play what they'd just learned about car control.



Autocross 1 *continued*



The course was unique, configured with a couple of sweepers interspersed with several straights to build up some speed, a “Chicago Box,” some tight, technical corners, and a long slalom. As is typically the case, participants spent the morning sessions familiarizing themselves with the course and figuring out the challenges of diminished grip that the lower ambient temperatures presented. As luck would have it, however, we were blessed in the afternoon session with a dramatic rise in temperature, so many participants were able to further improve upon their morning times.

continued on page 22





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At the end of the day and as expected, Bill “The Reaper” Fitzsimmons (#288) walked away with fastest time of the day for all the Porsches present, laying down a scorching 40.456 second elapsed time. In addition, Jenna Samp (#14) was able to claim the title of FTD for Women’s Class, with an impressive 42.659 seconds. Nice!

To all who attended, whether new or seasoned, thank you for the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment that makes PCA-Chicago so great! We’d also like to extend a hearty “thank you” to those of you donated \$310 to Crushers Club, PCA-C’s Charity of the Year for 2021. Crushers Club is committed to helping get kids off the streets, mentoring them, and enabling them to do great things.¹ If anyone would like to further contribute to the amazing efforts being made, shirts are available on clubreg where you register for autocross this season. The next event is June 19th at Wintrust Field (AKA Boomer’s Stadium) and we should have some neat giveaways courtesy of PCA national. Until then, be well, stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you all again for AX 2! 🍷



¹ Crushers Club was founded in 2012 by Sally Hazelgrove. You can learn more about Crushers Club through the article published on page 35 in this issue of *The Scene*, and by visiting their website, at: <https://www.crushersclub.org/>.

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The SOCIAL SCENE

by Steve Kuk

BBQ Edition



On May 22nd we held the first-ever, Zone 13 multi-Region event for the Zone's four northern Regions: Chicago, Milwaukee, Central Wisconsin, and Fox Valley. Club members and their cars gathered for the event in Southern Wisconsin, and despite the ever-changing COVID guidance, over 280 members, 200 Porsches, and 40-plus Boxters came out for a wonderful day of safe picnic fun and an abundance of PCA camaraderie.

Almost ten months ago, PCA-Chicago's social events team

(Bobby Kurek, Jeremy Holleb, and I) began thinking about what might lie ahead for the 2021 season. Given the unpredictable and region-by-region health safety updates we were receiving, the need to make sure that our Region's social events remained safe as well as fun was foremost in our minds.

Initially, we thought about a mini-tour through the northern part of our Region for about 20 to 30 cars. That's when Jeremy suggested his family farm, located in Elkhorn Wisconsin, for

continued





a Club barbeque.¹ When we looked at the location on a map it hit us that we couldn't find a place better suited for a multi-region event, at which point Milwaukee Region member Bev Jurkowski, quickly guided us to the right people in the other Regions.

We pushed back the date to late May to increase the chances of warm weather, and found a weekend that was open in everyone's Club calendars. Bobby then came up with the event's theme: the 25th anniversary of the Porsche Boxster's release. Over 40 Boxsters came out, representing practically every series, including some really rare colors. Each Boxster owner also received a special "Boxster Box" of wine as a thanks for attending. In addition, our raffle team collected over \$1700 to support the four Regions' charities. Member safety remained a priority throughout the event: the farm venue offered plenty of space for social distancing, and rather than



¹ A quick bit of Club history: Jeremy is a third generation PCA-Chicago member, and his grandparents, Judy and Neil Holleb, held almost every position in the Club in the 70s and 80s. Consequently, when he heard about our unfolding plan, Jeremy's father Josh took the lead and immediately agreed to let us use their farm. A big Club "thanks" to the Hollebs for their long-time commitment and energy.

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setting up tents and tables for “up-close and personal” dining and socializing, participants simply plunked their camp chairs under shady trees and gathered in small groups. And a special thanks to LD’s BBQ from East Troy, WI, which provided us with an outstanding BBQ meal!

In closing, we’d like to thank Zone 13 Representative Mark Roethemeier and his wife Cheryl for making the long drive up from Southern Indiana.

That’s it for now, so in the meantime, take care and see you soon!

– Steve and Kathy 🍷



2021 EVENT CALENDAR

JULY

- 7** Board Meeting
- 9** Autobahn DE, Autobahn Country Club
- 11-17** Porsche Parade 2021, French Lick Resort
- 15** Westmont Cruis’r Nite / Street Fest*
- 16** Blackhawk 3
- 24** Concours 1 & Potter’s Picnic
- 31** AX 3, Tire Rack

*Not a Club event

Important: Due to current state public safety concerns, please check the Club’s latest eBlasts and the website for updated information

AUGUST

- 1** Rallye 3, Porsche Barrington
- 4** Board Meeting
- 8** Concours 2, Bolingbrook
- 14-15** GingerMan DE
- 14** Ice Cream Social, Superdawg
- 21** Checkeditout*
- 22** Geneva Concours*
- 28** AX 4, Wintrust Field

SEPTEMBER

- 1** Board Meeting
- 3-6** TRAC - Club Race / DE, Road America
- 4** Concours 3, Elkhart Lake
- 18** Concours 4 / Oktoberfest , Glendale Hts.
- 19** Rallye 4 - TBD
- 25-26** Blackhawk 4, Oktoberfest

For up-to-date details, please check: <https://pca-chicago.org/event-schedule/>

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A Rallying Start to the Rallye Season

by Anna Skura



If our first two Rallye events are any indication of what the season holds, then we're in for some real excitement! We started with a Rallye School at Andy Bizub's Midwest Performance Cars in Northbrook on May 2. The School provided an introduction to Rallying for new teams and the opportunity to clear the cobwebs for seasoned eventers. Concepts were clarified, rules and acronyms were explained, and route instructions were reviewed in detail. With the sun shining bright and a slight breeze to take the edge off of the heat, teams then traveled with great gusto through the suburbs of Northbrook, Deerfield and Lincolnshire.

Just two weeks later, on May 16, 2021, we held our first Rallye of the season, aptly named "The Endless Road." Before setting out, however, participants were treated to a special pre-Rallye event at Porsche Barrington in Barrington, Illinois. We started with an elegant catered breakfast social for Rallye participants. Better yet, some very special cars were on display, including a real show-stopper — an

opportunity to test drive Porsche's newest entry to the U.S. market: the Taycan rear wheel drive e-car. For those attendees who availed themselves of the opportunity to test drive one of these beauties, it was an exhilarating demonstration of Porsche's uncompromising power and handling.

And as to the Rallye, twenty-one teams participated. There were hilly roads that made your stomach jump into your throat; roads that offered twists and turns without end;

and even roads that challenged drivers to maintain a low CAST ("change average speed to") over several miles, a task not as easy as you might think.

As we explained at the School, all PCA-C Rallyes this season will utilize the Richta Rallye smartphone app that eliminates the need for physical checkpoints attended

continued on page 32



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28K mi., #'s Matching
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56k Miles, Classic
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1989 BMW 635 CSI
69K mi., 5-speed manual
\$22,500 or offer



Our top 6 finishing SOP teams (“seat of pants,” acronyms and initialisms, yay!) were as follows:

1. Steve and Sharon Olson
2. Steve Rashbaum and Susan Shire
3. Jack Franks and Megan Nogasky
4. Jack and Karen Stephensen
5. Con and Susie O’Mahoney
6. Art and Janet Kardatzke



by live checkpoint workers.¹ Not only does the app reduce the work required to design a Rallye, but it also allows Rallyemasters to track where each team is along the Rallye route. This is helpful in ensuring that teams that fall for a trick don’t get hopelessly off course: we made an occasional call or two to get some teams that missed a checkpoint back on course. And at the end of the day? Everyone had a great time sharing stories over drinks and food at The Lucky Monk. What’s not to like?

Our top finishing Touring team was Sean and Tammy Danielson and our top Novice team was Chris Costis and Shannon Lange. Please refer to the PCA website for individual team scores. Congratulations to all!

By the time you read this, the “There’s an App for That?” Rallye designed by Stanley and Dominique Sangdahl will have taken place on June 27, 2021. However, we’ll have three more Rallyes scheduled for this year, so come out and join us. Our August 1 Rallye, designed by Jack Franks

and Megan Nogasky, will take us back to Porsche Barrington; Jack and Karen Stephensen will take us on an adventure during their September 19 Rallye; and Steve Rashbaum and Susan Shire will have us navigating the fall colors for our October 10 Rallye. Remember, driver and navigator must register individually for each Rallye.

In closing, we’d like to extend a very special thank you to Midwest Performance Cars and Porsche Barrington for hosting our first two events and making them extra special. We also extend a hearty thanks to all of our volunteers: you make every Rallye event a success. 🍷



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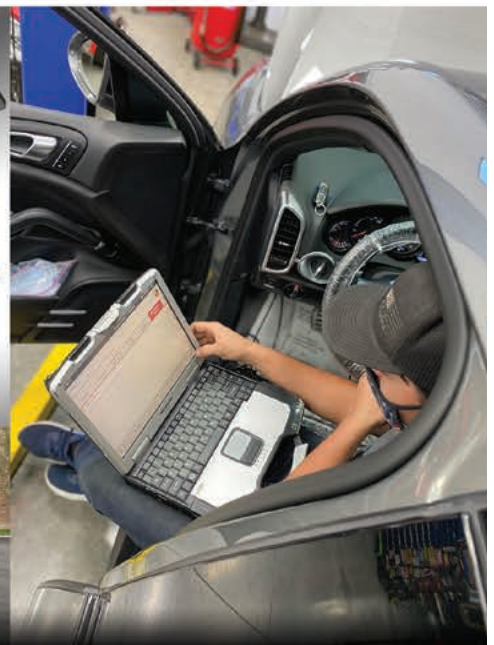
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Our Club, Our Way Forward

by Sally Hazelgrove¹



Chicago has become notorious for its gang violence, and the neighborhood of Englewood on the City's South Side has more shootings than any other. So far this year, more than 132 people have been shot in this 45-block community, forty-one of whom have died.

For more than a decade, I've been working in Englewood with at-risk young people who are involved in gangs and the juvenile justice system. For the past five of those years, I've lived in Englewood with my three children. While almost every block belongs to a gang faction, I'm not at risk of becoming an intentional target, though like everyone living here, I look out for stray bullets.

According to police statistics, 80 percent of murders and shootings in Chicago are gang-related. There's an epidemic of young people dying on the streets or entering the juvenile justice and prison systems. This mayhem isn't limited to Chicago; rather, it's happening in every inner city ravaged by drugs and violence.

These facts require us to examine the answers to two important questions: (1) what is it that causes young men to join and stay in gangs; and (2) what is it about gangs that their members are willing to kill, be killed, or go to prison for?

In 2003, I started interviewing gang members in Chicago's Harold Ickes Homes, then a public housing project that consisted of eleven 9-story high-rise buildings with a total of 738 apartments. The project was home to a number of notoriously violent, highly structured criminal enterprises, where gangs had control over entire buildings. Each time I asked a gang member why he stayed in the gang when he knew it would lead to death or prison, the answer always included two words: "love" and "respect."

I also observed a secondary emotional need that gangs fulfill, something perhaps equally as important: a purpose for living. When gang members told me about their troubled childhoods,



continued

¹ Sally Hazelgrove is the founder and executive director of Restoring the Path (d/b/a Crushers Club). Follow Crushers Club on Twitter: @crushersclub.

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JANET MARINIS
JM group





it was easy to connect the dots. If children mature in a home environment that doesn't provide these needs, they become vulnerable to the lure of gangs, which fulfill not only those emotional requirements, but also provide opportunities to make money.

Chicago currently has an estimated 117,000 gang members, and whatever else you can say about the gang "model" of social organization, I came to realize that the key to helping these kids and young adults — and thereby reducing the amount of violence plaguing the City — was to duplicate the sense of belonging and membership without the drugs, crime, mayhem, and death.

To understand what it would take to excite these young people about an alternative to gang life, I surveyed dozens of young men in Englewood and asked them what it would take to get them off the streets. Boxing was seen by these men and boys as a platform for change, and music was perceived as a second platform. To

date, the Crushers Club organizational model has been to stick to organic youth "ownership" and operation: small groups of the youngest members are mentored by older youth, who in turn are monitored by Crushers Club's young adult supervisors. We employ our leaders part-time for less than \$5,000 a year. In return, Crushers Club leaders must stop working for gangs and commit to changing not only their own lives, but those of their charges. And the commitment on our part? It must be equally long-term: even if a young man stabilizes his behavior during the time we have with him, the gangs will be still waiting afterward. In this regard, Illinois recidivism statistics show that 85% of gang-involved youth will re-offend within 3 years.

Each day, all day, year-round, Crushers youth (ages 8-18) learn to take ownership of their Club and live up to its ideals: respect, discipline, accountability, and love. Crushers' facility at Englewood's

Beautiful Zion M.B. Church features homework spaces, a computer lab, a recreation room, a boxing ring, and other enrichment programming.

Crushers Club redeems and employs high-risk and juvenile justice-involved young men to see them through probation, and keep them out of trouble by developing and channeling their love, spirit, energy, and respect towards themselves and one another through the Club. Crushers believes that a job, coupled with the Club's successful, holistic program model, is the leading deterrent to juvenile crime. To that end, Chicago youth need an opportunity that develops the skills and capacity to keep a productive and legitimate job as a means to advance within the workforce beyond the Club.

We're grateful to PCA-Chicago for the opportunity to work with you this year to advance our mutual goals. Together, we will succeed. 🏆

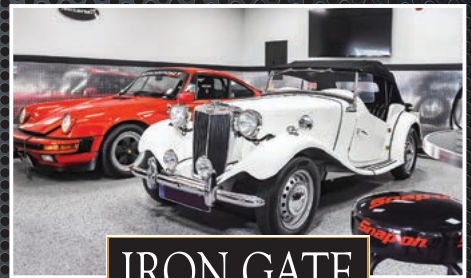


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Novice Day at Blackhawk

2021

by Dana Comolli



If there was any doubt about pent-up demand for a day at the track, our Novice Day Event eliminated that: we had 124 participants with 42 new drivers. While some of the COVID restrictions such as masks and social distancing were in place, lunch and the pizza party at the end of the day were back, bringing this event one step closer to what we remember as “normal.”

The event actually started on Wednesday evening when John Ruther and I remotely led the novice training class via GoToMeeting. This is a hold-over from the COVID



restrictions of last year, but this approach will be continued into the future. By covering the basics with new drivers prior to the event, they come to the track better prepared, the check-in and tech processes run more smoothly, and the classroom at the track can be less rushed and more focused on driving techniques. It also provides an extra ninety minutes of classroom instruction, thus improving the overall education component of the event.

Also held over from last year’s COVID processes is the use of electronic waivers. The use of these is likely to also continue as it speeds the registration process and makes it easier for follow-up should an incident need to be reported. As usual, our crack Tech team processed all the cars quickly and efficiently, to the credit of the team and the attendees alike.

continued

Novice Day at Blackhawk *continued*

Forty-two novice drivers means there's a need for forty-two instructors. Hats off to those who took on two students, thus ensuring that each got the guidance and attention a new driver deserves. It also means the two novice run groups were given plenty of opportunity to practice their on-track passing and being passed procedures and etiquette. Having ridden right-seat in one of those run groups all day, I can attest that by the end of the day, practice had made perfect and the new drivers had that aspect of track driving down pat.

All in all, a great event to kick off the year and based on the information on Blackhawk's website, our event on June 25 should be like they used to be, with all COVID-related considerations in the rear-view mirror. See you there. 🍷



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All in the Family

by Andy Bizub

The email arrived in August 2020 from the Porsche Experience Center Atlanta (the “Experience Center”), where registration had opened for their Young Driver Experience in February 2021. I knew these programs filled quickly, so I jumped on the phone to my 24-year-old, fully employed son Billy, to see if he would be interested. I already knew his 17-year-old brother Jack would shout out an enthusiastic “YES!” so after getting No. 1 son’s OK, I booked two slots for Sunday February 7th.

Fast forward through the holidays, and with flights and hotels still COVID-empty, I easily completed our travel plans. We arrived in Atlanta on Saturday to a chilly pouring rain, and after checking into our hotel rooms which had a commanding view of the Experience Center facilities and track, we left for dinner with some extended family based in Atlanta. It would be an early Saturday night for the three of us.

Sunday morning dawned to clear skies and a brisk temps — ideal conditions for spending several hours on-track in Porsches! Jack, Billy, and I made our way across the parking lot to the Experience Center building where we checked in, had coffee and a light breakfast at the Carrera Café, and then proceeded into a classroom for what would be three 20-minute preview talks on the various modules the drivers would be navigating. There was no problem in keeping attention

focused with this young group; they were clearly motivated to listen and then drive.

As parents gathered outside on the upper patio to observe, our drivers took their Panameras, Macans, and Boxster S models through the different segments: Hazard Recognition, Loss of Control Recovery, Emergency Braking, Skid Pad, and Drifting. The most popular turned out to be the “Kickplate,” where a heavy steel plate would pop up on only one random side, under the car, just as the rear wheel passed over. This would throw the car into progressively more extreme pre-spins as approach speeds climbed, challenging drivers to regain control. I can tell you, it’s a real joy to see your own child recover from a precarious situation, under ultimately safe conditions with an instructor in the passenger seat, knowing that this could give them the necessary edge if — God-forbid — they had to deal with that situation on an open road. Without doubt, this program was the best \$800 I could invest in their driving futures.

With the driving and classroom program complete, Jack cajoled the Experience Center staff to open the Sim Racing room, and the three of us spent a half hour racing on virtual tracks in our choice of Porsche cars. I can tell you, even in Sim, the 919 is beyond my skill level. Way beyond!

A trip to the gift shop wrapped up our Porsche Experience, and we left the Center with two much more confident, competent young drivers and one grateful father. I highly recommend this to any parent of a driver between 16 and 24.

Just three months later, Jack would be attending his high school prom. For many reasons, including the fact that he’s an extremely responsible and good-hearted person, as well as having had actual Porsche seat time in an instructional setting, he asked for a special favor which I gladly granted: “Yep, I trust your judgment, Jack. You can take the Porsche to the Prom!”

Billy Bizub returned to his sales job at Dell in Austin, and Jack Bizub reports for basic training this July at Fort Benning Georgia, about 100 miles south of the Experience Center.

We’ll all carry these shared memories going forward. 🍷





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