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November 2021

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Bottom left photo: TRAC *by Neil MacDonald*
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Editor
Neil MacDonald

Contributing Writers
Alexander Block
Pete Bukantis
David & Allie Cronin
Steve Kuk
Bobby Kurek
Cheryl Lehman Collier
Justin McKeown
Bob Rath
Henrique Regina
Robert Safe

Contributing Photographers
Michael Bene
Jeff Brown
David & Allie Cronin
Dan Cubric
Jeff Lange
Neil MacDonald
Herbie Macias
Scott Mao
Mouse Media
Michael Radosta
Nate Vestal, *NVUS Images*
Kristy Young

Art Direction, Design & Production
Fred Huetter, *Graphic Solutions Inc.-chgo*, www.graphsol.com

Printing
Ed Soske, *Presstech*, www.presstechus.com

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What a Challenge and a Privilege It's Been!

Fall is now upon us, and events are winding up for the year. Having said that, Cindy and I certainly look forward to seeing you at the annual awards banquet in December. What more fitting an end to the 2021 season!

I want to thank the Club Officers—Vice President Stanley Sangdahl; Treasurer Andrew Skura; Secretary Bob Danko; and Immediate Past President Neil MacDonald—for their guidance throughout the year. I'd also like to recognize Club Directors Kurt Konrath, Dana Comolli, Anna Skura, Chuck LaMantia, and Adam Kern for their input and commitment to the PCA-Chicago Region.

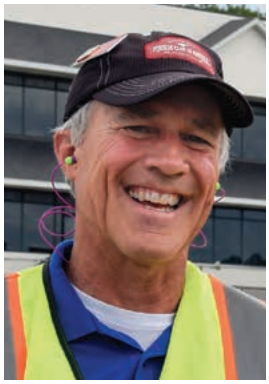
Fortunately, the Club was able to stage a full schedule of events in 2021, but as you know, "it's not just the cars, it's the people." Most prominently, Cheryl Lehman Collier and her team built on the tradition of success for the Road America events that Keith Clark and Chuck LaMantia previously led, and who assisted in the change of leadership for these events. The Blackhawk DE events likewise experienced continued success, due in large measure to the leadership of Todd Conforti and Pete Hackenson. All the Club's local venue Autocross events also sold out, due to the dedication of Adam Kern and his able support team. Similarly, Enrique Regina and Alex Block built on the strength of past Concours successes and expect many more for next year. So, too, with Glenn DeWeirdt, John Westra, Neil French, and Mark Palmer, who ably guided the success of the Autobahn and Gingerman DE events. And while we're at it, how about a shout-out to Anna and Andy Skura for their challenging Rallye events as the Club pivots towards the Richta App competition format. Steve Kuk and Bobby Kurek, too, hosted many enjoyable social events, including the Club's widely popular four-Region gathering held this year at the Holleb Farm in Wisconsin. And as the outdoor events came to a close this fall, John and Beth Diwik held the second of two sold-out scenic tours this year. Many other volunteers too numerous to mention supported the Club's success throughout the season. On behalf of the Club, your efforts are truly appreciated.

It would be fair to say that it's been a year of transition, and yet we've been able to resume many of our "normal" activities. And with many new ideas to encourage more activities for all ages on the horizon, 2022 will be even better as we continue to secure the future success of PCA-Chicago.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who supported the Club throughout my tenure as your president. It has truly been a gratifying experience working with so many dedicated team members and volunteers over the course of the last two years.

In the meantime, please look out for one another, stay safe, and I'll see you in January at the General Membership meeting!

Regards,
Bob Rath



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Labor of Love: TRAC Weekend 2021

by Cheryl Lehman Collier

The Road America Challenge ("TRAC") took place over Labor Day weekend, which we stretched to four days to get in some extra driving. So that happened . . . and then it took me an entire week to recover. No joke! Sure, there were a few things we'll improve for next year but overall, I'm quite pleased with what we were able to pull off. Y'all, I'm not exaggerating when I say it takes a village to put on a show of this magnitude.

continued

Photos by Neil MacDonald, Jeff Lange & Dan Cubric
(Photos by Neil MacDonald except as credited otherwise)

Labor of Love: TRAC Weekend 2021 *continued*

One of the new things we did this year was to create an electronic event program, which included the schedule; listings of entrants, volunteers, and sponsors; and even race results. This format also allowed us to update event details throughout the weekend, an impossibility with print. In sum, we had 508 unique users with almost 1,500 sessions and more than 3,700 page views. To check it out, please visit TRAC – The Road America Challenge (https://trac.pca-chicago.org/).

Another area on which we focused this year was PCA Juniors, a first for this event. There were six events planned for the kiddos, and we're hopeful (once word gets out) the program will encourage more families to join drivers at Road America. As I keep saying, it will be up to the youth of our organization to ensure the next generation of eager participants.

continued on page 10

The Walters family – 3 generations, with room for more drivers and crew!

photo: Dan Cubric

photo: Dan Cubric

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2010 911 Turbo Coupe – Black with Black Full Leather, 16,819 miles, PDK transmission, CPO warranty.

2011 911 Carrera GTS Coupe – Carrara White w/ Black Full Leather, 22,861 mi., Manual trans., CPO warranty.

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Labor of Love: TRAC Weekend 2021 *continued*

> "113 DE participants,
> 116 lapping-only racer drivers,
> 156 Club racers,
> 65 very hard-working volunteers..."

For me this was also a family affair. My parents, sister, her long-time partner and my 11-year-old niece, Opal, all came up from Georgia to support me in my role as Chair. So, what did I do? I put them to work! Seriously, it was wonderful to have them all there to share the wonder that is TRAC. They loved it and will definitely be back.

Here are some of the stats in round numbers: 113 DE participants, 116 lapping-only racer drivers, 156 Club racers, 65 very hard-working volunteers, 12 PCA National crew, 40 participants in the parade from the track into town, 1000 spectators who admired the car show at Siebkens Resort,

continued on page 12

photo: Jeff Lange

photo: Jeff Lange

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500 attendees for the Saturday banquet, $4,000 raised for charity, and $200,000 in revenue but oh so many expenses.

As I said at the beginning, this event would not be possible without the tremendous group of core Road America staff with whom I was honored to work, and an extensive list of additional volunteers (all identified in the program). I can't thank them enough, but I'll continue to try because they so richly deserve the kudos!

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10 Things I Learned as a Novice Driver

by Robert Safe

photo: Nate Vestal, NVUS Images

In late 2020 I bought my first Porsche, a silver Carrera 4. I immediately joined PCA-Chicago and signed up as a novice for three HPDE events at Blackhawk and one at Gingerman.

What did I learn?

1. **Pre-track instruction is invaluable.** The virtual online sessions are where I was introduced to the dynamics of car handling before I experienced it at speed and on the track. The Hot Lap track guides and video, available on our website, also helped orient me to track driving, which is absolutely not the same as simply driving fast on the freeway. Classroom instruction at the track after the first run drove home these lessons. A special shout-out here to Dana Comolli, John Ruther, Glenn DeWeirdt, Neil French, and Mark Palmer.

2. **Nothing compares to in-car instruction.** The insights, encouragement, and real-time inputs by our in-car instructors' responses to their respective drivers driving decisions makes these DE events effective and special.

3. **Smooth is fast.** Every input I give to the car (turning, braking, accelerating) finds its way to that small contact patch between tires and track; and it's that patch which keeps the car in control. Smooth inputs reduce the forces on that patch and help keep me within its adhesion limits. Respect the patch.

4. **Fast corners are planned.** Speed through a corner is directly related to entry speed, turn-in point, apex location, track-out point and rate of acceleration during track-out. Changing any one of these changes my line and speed at the exit. A slower entry often allows a much faster exit, as in a late apex turn.

5. **Use the whole track.** By using the whole track, and curbs when proper, my turn radius is increased and with it my speed.

continued

all instructional photos: Jeff Brown

Photos by Jeff Brown & Nate Vestal

6. **Track elements are connected.** The track is a continuum of parts that are not independent and must be driven in combination with each other for best speed. Exiting one part sets me up for entry into the next. A mistake that takes me offline in the first of a series of tightly coupled turns will probably follow me well into the others.

7. **Stay focused.** Things happen quickly at track speeds. Re-focus after making a mistake or you're sure to make a bunch more. Work to correct it on the next lap.

8. **The limits of the car are high.** Even in stock form, these cars have impressive traction and brakes. I found myself consistently braking too soon at the end of fast straights and driving too slowly around long sweeping turns. I learned to push it up slowly until I became comfortable with the limits of the car. Still working on that.

9. **The right line just FEELS right.** You know it at once.

10. **This is fun.** Everyone should try it. These skills are easily learned, and you meet great Club members happy to help each other.

Thanks to great instructors I was able to solo halfway through Gingerman, and then drove the Blackhawk Oktoberfiesta alone. My special thanks go to my brave in-car instructors; Ian Mast, Michael Kowal, and Bill Distel, and to all the pre-track and classroom instructors as well. Thank you all.

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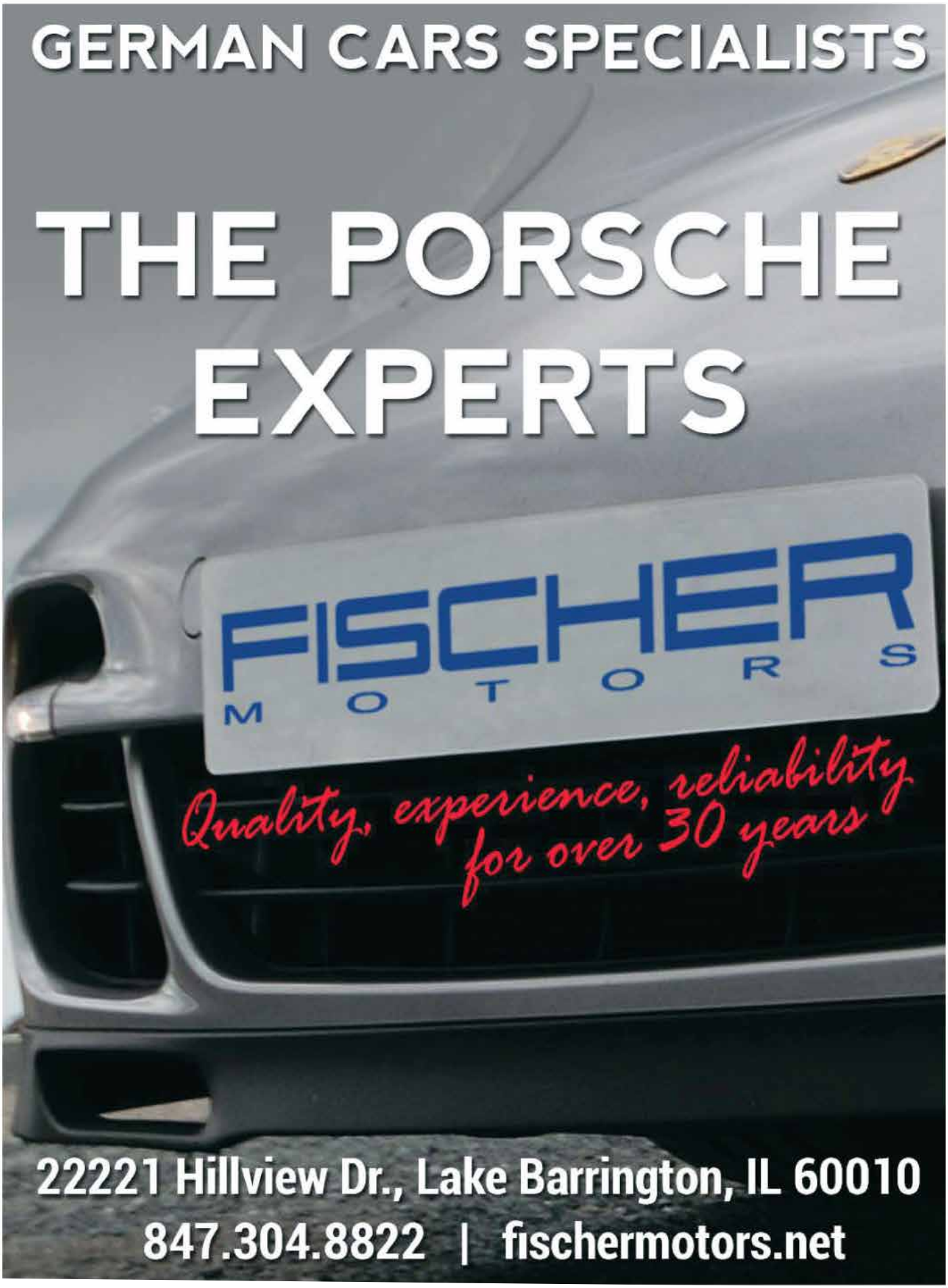
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by Justin McKeown

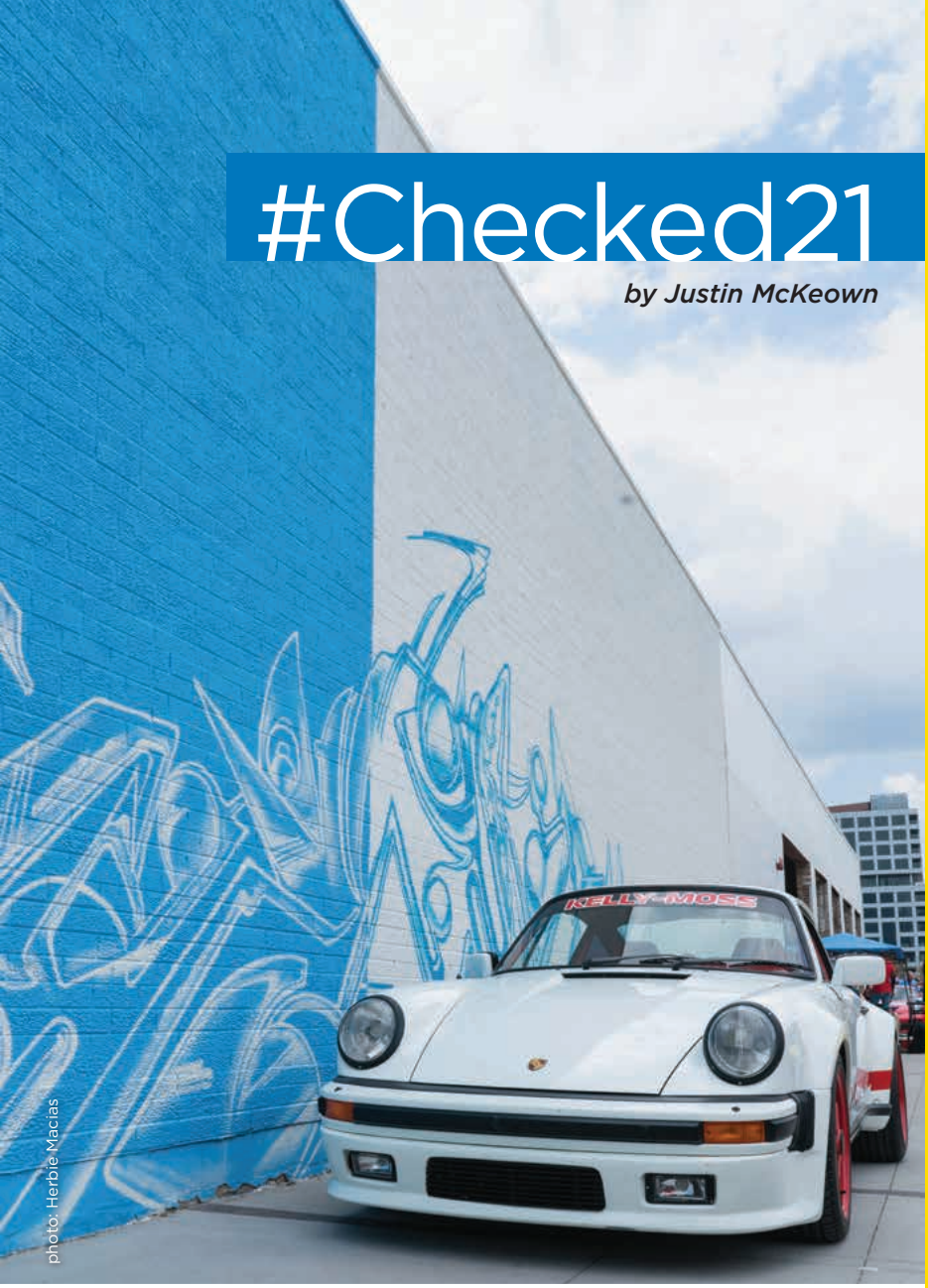

photo: Herbie Macias

photo: Jeff Brown

On August 21, the Checkeditout Chicago crew picked up where they'd left off at Checkeditout 2019. No doubt, 2020 was a strange year, and while their "Chicago Field Trip" event was remarkable in its own right,[1] it was great to be back at Fulton Market—the quintessential urban backdrop—to showcase the cars and community that comprise the Porsche experience.

With expectations set high, the CIO Crew pulled out the stops and orchestrated an event that, once again, exceeded everyone's expectations. Hundreds of Porsches and even more fans descended on the Market in the early hours of the day. In typical late August fashion, the air was warm and humid, the skies were clear and blue. As time would show, however, it was more than Mother Nature that was bringing

continued

photo: Kristy Young

photo: Michael Radosta

Photos by Jeff Brown, Neil MacDonald, Herbie Macias, Michael Radosta, Michael Bene, Kristy Young, Scott Mao & Mouse Media

photo: Michael Radosta

the heat. A plethora of Porsches is a sight to behold in itself, but there were some truly exceptional cars in attendance: two Carrera GTs, a 918 Spyder, a Singer 911, a 964 Carrera Cup (the 24th of such cars that were built before Porsche later cancelled the program); a 992 GT3, and a 917/30 on loan from a private collection. Having called attention to these exotics, however, I would be remiss to suggest that the full range of "other" Porsche models was not well represented. These cars and their owners are part of the backbone of the Chicago Porsche community, and their participation at such events is what makes these gatherings so special. Throughout the day, a number of Porsche owners shared their stories for everyone to hear—the opportunity of getting to know the people behind the wheel added so much to what made this Checkeditout remarkable.

Checkeditout is quickly becoming a valued participant not only in the Chicago Porsche scene, but also nationally. To that end, a warm thank you is in order to CIO President Adam Kern; his fellow CIO officers

continued on page 20

left & center photos: Jeff Brown

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photo: Michael Bene

[1] Please see the article that begins at page 28: SceneNov20.pdf (pca-chicago.org)

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above photo: Herbie Macias

photo: Scott Mao

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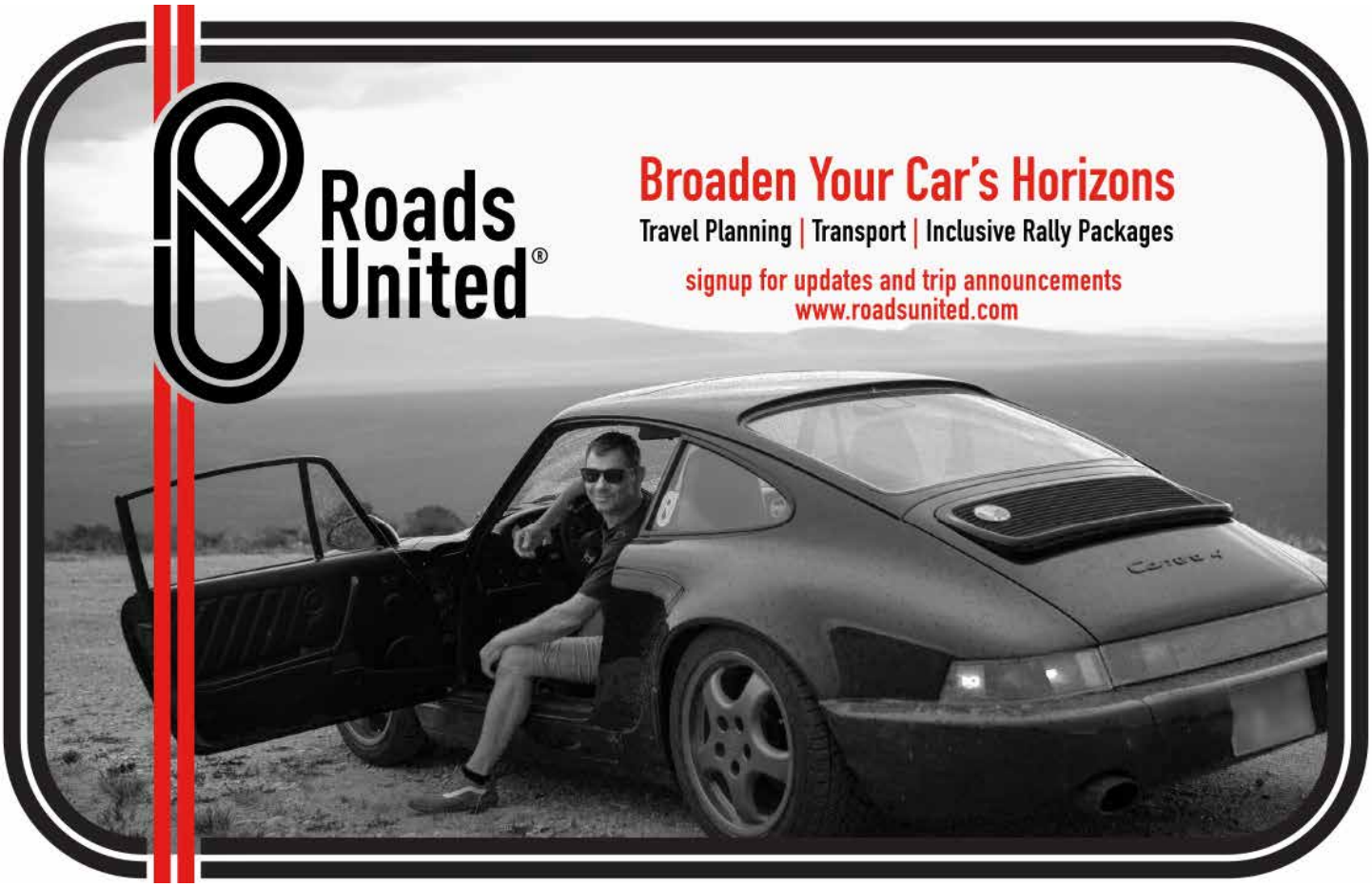
and crew; Midwest Performance Cars; G-Design Racing; Hagerty; Autobahn Country Club; and presenting sponsors Napleton Westmont and Porsche Downtown Chicago. A special shout-out is also in order to Mouse Motors, for bringing out some the crowd's favorites: the Singer and the 917/30 referenced above, as well as a 918.

And to think that such a gathering could have emerged from an Instagram handle and a good friend gone too soon. Karsten would be proud.



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Concours 2021: An Overview

by Henrique Regina & Alexander Block

After a year of pandemic-enforced down time and a later start this year than usual—Concours 1 took place at Potter's Picnic on July 24—PCA-Chicago's Concours program finally returned. As always, Potter's was well attended, with 21 Concours participants and hundreds of spectators and picnic fans. We were also glad to see many new Concours participants, which is not only a fun competition but also a great way to learn how to keep your Porsche looking its best for years to come.

photo: Neil MacDonald

photo: Neil MacDonald

Next up was Concours 2 at The Promenade in Bolingbrook on August 8. This event also brought out many cars (and their owners!) just to socialize: at least 40 cars were lined up on Sandburg Way, counting both competitors and "show and shine" participants who were just as pleased to be showing off their cars to the general public.

As a traditional part of the Club's annual Labor Day Road America weekend, Concours 3 was held on Lake Street just outside Siebkens Resort in downtown Elkhart Lake, WI. Colleagues from Wisconsin also brought a pair of beautiful 1959 Porsche 356A coupes for the

continued

photo: Neil MacDonald

photo: Jeff Lange

photo: Jeff Lange

Photos by Jeff Lange, Neil MacDonald & Jeff Brown

photo: Neil MacDonald

photo: Jeff Brown

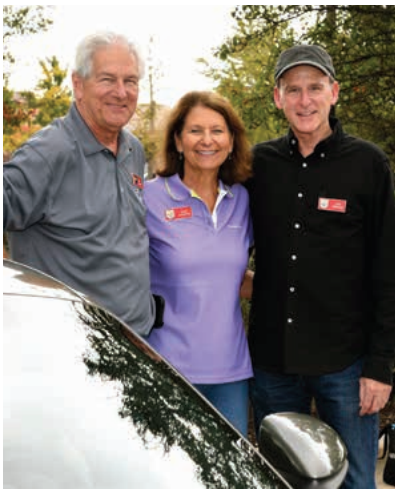
photo: Jeff Brown

viewing delight of all. The weather was a bit coolish but without rain, which allowed participants and spectators to stroll the boulevard before attending a delicious dinner under the tents in the Siebkens courtyard! And let's not forget the arrival of all the racers from Road America, who traveled the Old Road Course into town for a parade and a stroll before dinner.

Concours 4 was held along with an Oktoberfest celebration in Glendale Heights on September 18. After the Concours, participants were able to relax and enjoy some excellent German food and beverages after putting in the work to get their cars competition ready. Turnout for the social part was also very good and, as usual, everyone had a fine time.

The Concours season wrap-up took place on October 3 at Randhurst Village in Mount Prospect. Unfortunately, a rainy forecast kept away some of the faint hearted, but we had a good turnout on the social side, including three Cayennes, a Taycan; and an Italian and a British sports car joined as well. In the end, it was a great event with many members stopping by just to socialize and to look at some very clean cars.

We're out of space in this issue, but in closing, Alex and I are already planning some great events for 2022. Be sure to check out the January 2022 issue of *The Chicago Scene* for more details. See you then!



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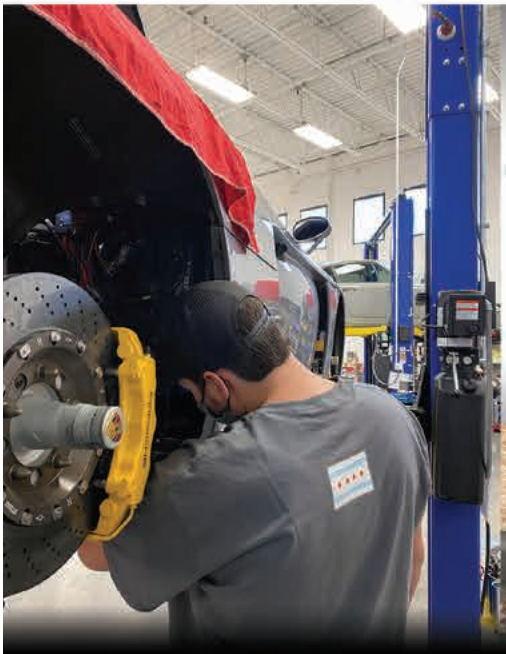

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The SOCIAL SCENE

by Steve Kuk & Bobby Kurek

SuperDawg Ice Cream Social, August 14

On August 14 (an eon ago!), we packed the SuperDawg parking lot with Porsches as far as you could see for our 5th Annual Ice Cream Social. And the weather? It was perfect, and we had over 100 members who brought out approximately 70 Porsches. Wow!

This event has become a favorite for new Club members. It seems that the size and relaxed vibe of this event is very informal and inviting: a real draw for the Club's new members. It also draws long-time Porsche owners who tell us that they're "not-quite" members yet, but who intend to (and do!) join shortly after attending this event. Fellow members, we *always* do our part to show the world that the Club is a lot more than just the cars.

Laura and the whole Superdawg team did a great job of supplying us with yummy treats, and once again, made this annual event a highlight of the summer season. Even before we left for the day, we had put our heads together to pick August 13, 2022 for our 6th annual Ice Cream Social. See you then and there, and thanks, Superdawgers, for all you do! – *SK*

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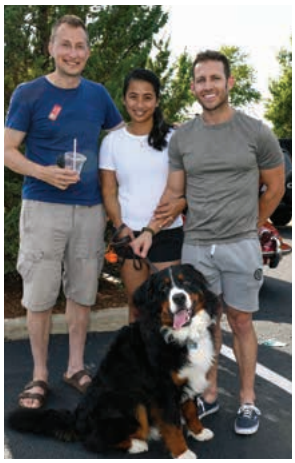

Photos by Jeff Brown

The Geneva Concours, August 22

For the last several years, members of PCA-Chicago and the Midwest 356 Club have been invited to attend the Geneva Concours d'Elegance as special guests of the organizers. This year—my first as an attendee—was no exception, and the two Clubs were given a fine space downtown next to the Courthouse to display our cars.

It's always a special experience to see the beginnings of Porsche, with the 356s on one side of the *Straße*, through the latest, "cutting edge" Porsches on the other. What a great opportunity to view the span of Porsche automotive excellence. From classics, to modern classics, to race cars, and even to a few very shiny and well-cared for late model cars, this event was remarkable.

More broadly, though, the streets were brimming with automobilia of many marques, ranging from fully restored, pristine "ordinary" cars that are now rare finds, to the truly historic and exotic, even by the high standards of the Geneva Concours d'Elegance.

Sharing Porsche ownership experiences and talking about life is always an engaging experience for me, but this one was truly special. Please mark this one on your calendars for next year! – *RK*

continued on page 28

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Photos Courtesy of JR Photon

Glendale Heights Oktoberfest, Sept. 18

We held yet another excellent Social event this year at the Glendale Heights Oktoberfest. Naturally, several of the Social event attendees had come out early to cheer on their favorite "Q-tippers" and their super clean cars. Once the Concours-related activities finished up, however, we all strolled over to the nearby festival tent for giant soft pretzels, hot brats, and cold beers, *alle aus Deutschland.* The massive beer garden tent was full of music played by a local German band that played on all afternoon. The festive atmosphere had us all felling like we had been magically transported from Glendale to Munich!

In closing, we've found over the years that Social and Concours events are a great combination, so we're planning similar pairings for 2022. See you out there! – *RK*

Photos by Jeff Brown

2021-22 EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

3	Board Meeting
6	Porsches & Pastries 5 with Toys for Tots, Labriola Bakery, Oakbrook
6	Fall Tech Session, G Design Racing

DECEMBER

1	Board Meeting
18	Dinner Dance Gala

JANUARY

5	Board Meeting
23	General Membership Meeting

FEBRUARY

2	Board Meeting
13	Valentine's Day Social, Cooper's Hawk
27	Chili Tasting & Concours Clinic, The Exchange

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

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

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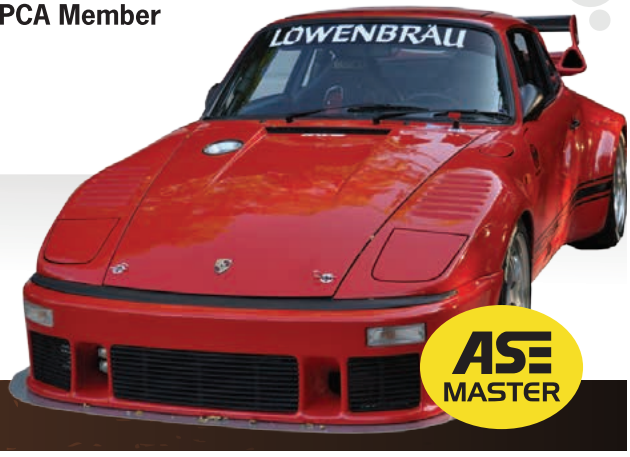

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ASE MASTER

Sizzler in Schaumburg

by Pete Bukantis

Autocross 4 at Wintrust Field on August 28 was the end of PCA-C's 2021season, but with the heat, it almost felt like the end of the world: with a slight breeze and blue skies, but 90 degree temps and super-hot pavement, it felt like we were standing on a frying pan! Short story shorter, we had lots of motivation to wrap it up without dawdling, but we still packed in a lot of fun, setting a new record for runs in an event—48 drivers completed 14 runs each in a single day, with all runs completed by 2:30pm. Sweet!

Adam Kern, our AX master of ceremonies for the season, had a previous engagement, so the rest of the gang stepped up to cover the duties. Ziggy Hemielec's quick track had some nice technical bits, with complexity added by the heat-induced slipperiness on course; Ashley Chin handled the registration chores with notable efficiency; while Buzz Browne and associates made quick work of tech. Of course, we can't forget Larry Daujotas and Gordon Zhao, who handled cones and awards. Timing, too, was flawless, so thanks to Dana Comolli, Don Janes and myself on that point. And let's not forget all of our participants, who stayed on their toes to quickly transition between Drive, Work and Rest.

Competition was the name of the game. Knowing that it was only going to get hotter throughout the day surely motivated everyone to charge hard early on. There weren't many knocked down cones, but many a run was wrecked by overdriving the

continued

Photos by Neil MacDonald

course and washing out on the tight turns. Porsche vs X-class was a tight battle, too, and those cars with 4-wheel drive ruled the roost, particularly for those cars that sported slicks.

Though the usual characters popped to the top, there really wasn't much gap between the bulk of the field, most of which finished in the 35- to 38-second range. Afterwards, I analyzed some of the times and found that a majority of folks improved a max of 2 seconds from their initial run time. It was also interesting to note that all cars in a run group tended to speed up or slow in equivalent fashion across each group, a finding that I would characterize as anecdotal evidence that cloud cover can affect performance on a hot day.

Thanks to all of you who made this such a great season, and a special thanks to AX event sponsor Midwest Performance Cars, a point worth remembering when your steed needs attention!

In closing, 2021 was a great AX year, and we look forward to seeing you back out there in 2022!

> "Competition was the name of the game."

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Rallye 4:

Newbies Welcome!

by David & Allie Cronin

When we pulled into the meeting spot for the Rallye Drivers Meeting on September 19, we were worried about being the new members who didn't know anyone. We were also worried about the possibility of being of the only people in a Macan Turbo instead of a coveted 911; and having absolutely no idea what we were doing, even after reading and re-reading all of the event literature provided to us weeks in advance. We were therefore thrilled to discover, however, that not only was everyone friendly and welcoming, but we were not the only SUV Rallye

> "What is the 'CAST?'... Where the heck is 'T?'"

photo: David & Allie Cronin

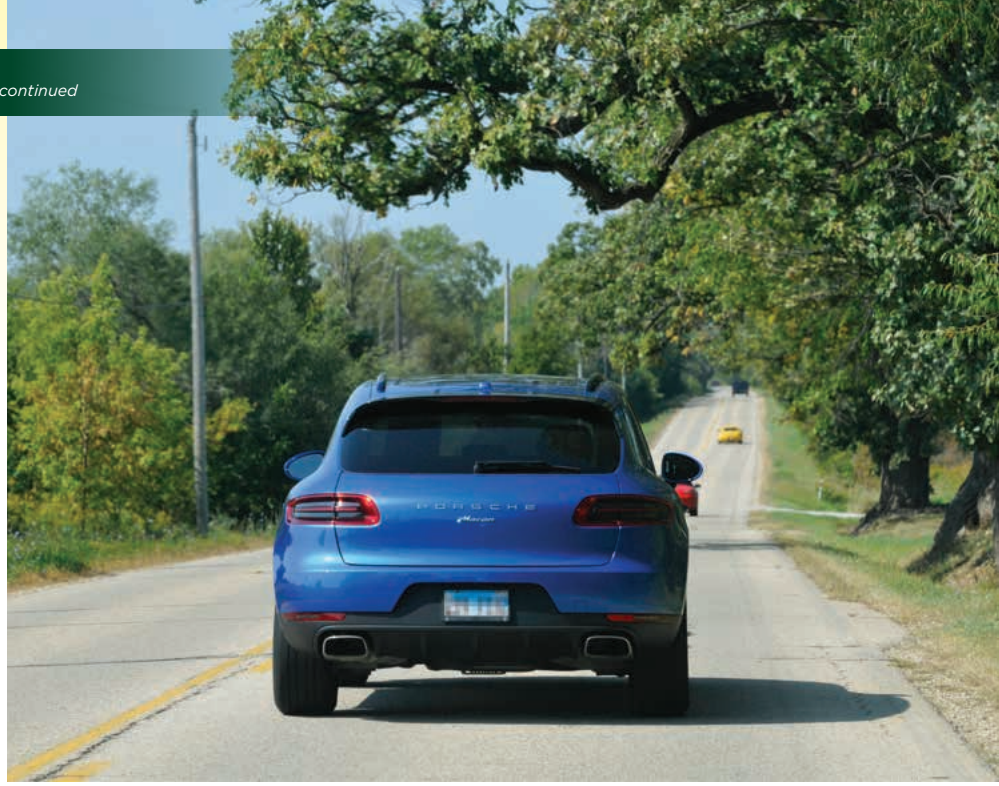
▲ Allie and David Cronin – Our first Rallye! What's not to like?

continued

Photos by Neil MacDonald (except as credited otherwise)

participants, and (not to worry) there were still plenty of beautiful 911s there to drool over.

Almost as soon as the Rallye started, we realized that this was not going to be a relaxed driving tour of the countryside to see the leaves change. Instead, we discovered that we had signed up not only for a test of our driving skills but also of our communication skills: "What is the 'CAST?'" "Does it say the word 'ONTO?'" "Where the heck is 'T?'" These were only a few of the questions that were enthusiastically and repeatedly shouted back and forth as we cruised through twisty back roads, laughing and trying to catch a glimpse of another Porsche to reassure us that we were at least headed in the right direction, or at least the right vicinity! In the end, though, despite completely missing a check point and having to pull several U-turns, we had an absolute blast and managed to cross the digital finish line in a timely manner!



If you love driving your Porsche the way it's meant to be driven, want to meet some fun people, and you have a competitive streak, we highly recommend signing up for the next Rallye with PCA Chicago! We'll see you at the next one, that's for sure!

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¡Octoberfiesta!

by Pete Bukantis

What a fantastic way to end the 2021 track driving season. Being the wrap-up of a year in which PCA-Chicago began to emerge from COVID and also celebrated 52 years at its unofficial home track, Blackhawk Farms Raceway, it had to be special.

Beautiful weather greeted us Saturday morning and stayed with us all weekend. Yes, that's right, a completely dry weekend! The beneficiaries of this unusual weather cycle were the 85-plus drivers and their associated guests, and

> "...our Blackhawk friends have been like family to the Club for over 50 years..."

Photos by Jeff Brown & Neil MacDonald

though the event's hardy band of campers did experience a little "morning dew" overnight, the low to mid-70s daytime temps—perfect driving temperatures—dried them out quickly.

And how was the driving? Engaging, yet uneventful. We had a very safe event this year, with only one shortened session all weekend, and lots of track time gave everyone a chance to enjoy the skills they'd honed all year.

But what's this "fiesta" we speak of, you ask? Because 52 years of anything is special, we tried to figure out a way to shake things up. We therefore took the theme of the *Carrera Panamericana* (a border-to-border race on open roads in Mexico held between 1950 and 1954), and gave Oktoberfest a Latin twist: German cars, Mexican food (courtesy of Little Mexico of Beloit), add a party and margaritas, stir briskly, and . . . *Octoberfiesta!* And because no fiesta would be

continued

This year marks the Club's 52nd year at Blackhawk, and over the weekend of September 25 and 26, the Club wrapped up its 2021 track driving season with a two day *Blackhawk Oktoberfiesta*, a twist on the Club's annual Oktoberfest celebration. The weather forecast for the weekend event was perfect: a sprinkling of rain and high overcast on Friday afternoon, but unseasonably mild and mostly sunny for the rest of the weekend.

The woman pictured above is Joyce Zorn-Jaffe, who works in The Pit Stop, the BFR sandwich and beverage shop. Her husband Hank Jaffe, pictured with Joyce, is now retired but was also a longtime Blackhawk employee as well as a lifelong SCCA member.

Earlier, Joyce had asked whether she and Hank could stop by the track during the weekend to watch the cars; the mild weather would be nice and Joyce knew that Hank would enjoy the beautiful cars speeding by as they participated in the event. Cindy Lindstrand, the Event Coordinator for BFR, responded immediately, "Sure, of course."

Joyce and Hank are pictured at the foot of the false grid, just up-track from Corner 7. Between sessions, Joyce and Hank stopped by the track pavilion at lunch time. Hank's face lit up when a few of his old friends stopped by to say, "Hi!" and to wish them well.

All in all, it was fine weekend, a lovely day.

complete without music, we piped in some mariachi music to add to the ambiance. Judging by the empty serving trays and smiles on people's faces afterwards, I'd say it was a success.

In closing, our Blackhawk friends have been like family to the Club for over 50 years and a bedrock host of our DE program from the beginning. BFR, we couldn't have done it without your support. Finally, thanks to Todd, Pete, and their supporting crew for putting on such great events, including this one. Let's face it, it's true: it's the cars bring us together, but it's the people who make it a Club. *Gracias a todos!*

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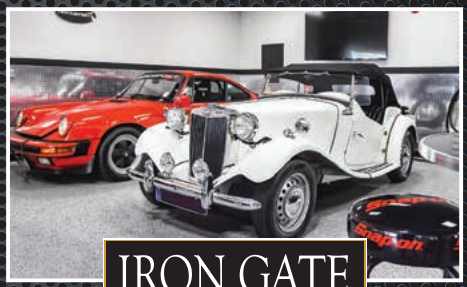

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