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May 2024

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Top photo: Street Survival by Michael Bene

Bottom left photo: Concours School by Paul Bilek

Bottom right photo: PCA-C Swap Meet by Jeff Brown

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# THE CHICAGO SCENE

*The Chicago Scene* is an official publication of PCA-Chicago Region.  
The magazine is published bimonthly.

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<https://pca-chicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2024-Scene-Advertising-Order-Form.pdf>

*The Chicago Scene* (ISSN 10564195) (USPS 0006-381) is the bi-monthly publication of the Porsche Club of America (PCA)-Chicago Region, printed at Presstech, 959 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016-6545. Periodic Rate Postage paid at Des Plaines, IL. PCA dues are \$46 annually, which includes a subscription to *The Chicago Scene*. PCA-Chicago Region is not responsible for any services or products advertised herein. Statements appearing in *The Chicago Scene* are those of the authors and do not constitute an opinion of the PCA-Chicago Region or its Board of Directors. Articles submitted for publication are subject to approval by the President and Editor. If published, the Editor reserves the right to edit articles for clarity, grammar, accuracy of content, and available space.

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## And We're Off...

It's now four months into the season and since we last spoke, we've had Concours participant and judges schools to get you ready to show your car, our spring tech session and novice day at Blackhawk Farms to get you ready for the driving season, our first Porsche and Pastries, and our first-ever Street Survival teen defensive driving school.

Speaking of Street Survival: based on feedback from the students, their parents, and the volunteers that made the event happen, this is something we will be doing again. The current plan is to hold two events per season beginning next year. Also, the PCA National representative was so impressed with how we ran the event, we have been asked to help develop the adult version of the class and run one of the first sessions. More on that as it develops.

Continuing with the subtle (or not) change to *The Chicago Scene* that started with the March edition, this issue includes multiple articles that tell stories, educate, and offer differing perspectives of being a PCA member in addition to the event summaries traditionally found in the publication. Personally, I found the March issue a compelling read as did the numerous members that wrote in and I hope you feel the same for this issue as well.

Looking forward, the season will be in full swing, with Rallye school, our first Show and Shine, our first Rallye, our Spring Road America DE event (RADE), and that is just May. June has events planned every weekend across all areas of the club, including our second annual Ladies' Day High Performance Driver's Education event at Autobahn.

Looking further out, for those of you that are fans of Porsche and Pastries, on July 21 there are going to be two, one in the morning and one in the afternoon with enough time in between to easily get to both. Like I said at the member meeting, it's a big region; we can hold events like Porsche and Pastries at more than one location on a given day if we want.

BTW, those emails I alluded to in my last note, the ones that I get every time someone joins the club, keep on coming. Since January, I've received nearly 200 of those emails. What that means, of course, is that there are new members at every event. If you've been a member for a while, seek them out. If you are one of the newer members or new to the region, we're glad you're here and join in the fun.

We are always looking for members that want to help with planning, organizing, and running events. The more folks that help, the more events we can have.

Finally, I want to note the passing of Wilma White. Wilma served as the first woman president of the Chicago region in 1980 and 1981 and vice president in 1986. A thoughtful memorial written by Jim Becker can be seen on page 7 of this issue.

See you out there,

Dana Comolli  
President, Chicago Region



“

If you are one of the newer members or new to the region, we're glad you're here...

”

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Wilma with Helmuth Bott's 959 in 1984 (he let her drive it!)

## Wilma White, In Memoriam *by Jim Becker*

Dear Porsche Club members:

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of Wilma White's passing. Wilma passed away on October 18th, 2023, peacefully in her sleep. For those that did or did not know her, here are a few of the many contributions Wilma made to our club.

Wilma and her husband Bob joined PCA through Chicago Region in 1962, were founding members of Lincoln Trail Region in 1963, and transferred back to Chicago Region in 1971. Her long-term occupation was as a librarian working in many aspects of children's services in Urbana, Illinois.

Among her many accomplishments Wilma served as the first woman president of the Chicago region in 1980 and 1981 and vice president in 1986. She vice chaired the 1984 Chicago run Porsche Parade held in Appleton, Wisconsin. The success of that Parade is what put the Chicago region treasury back on solid ground after basically being bankrupt in the years prior.

On a national level Wilma was zone 11 rep 1987 to 1990, Secretary 1991 and 1992, and a Parade concours judge. Together with daughters Dawn and Wendy, Wilma and Bob won family of the year for 1975. In 1981 Wilma was the enthusiast of the year (the 2nd woman in PCA history). She attended 47 Porsche Parades making her well known to regular attendees from all around our country and the world. Wilma also acquired a wide range of PCA experience assisting her husband Bob in his past capacities of zone rep, National Technical chairman and National Treasurer.

Wilma was an excellent Rallye navigator and won several trophies at Parade. She and Bob also competed in concours with their 911S and won their class at the 1974 Poconos Parade receiving a perfect score for the interior, which was Wilma's job in prepping the car. Wilma also did Autocross, although it was not her favorite activity.

I will always remember Wilma for her kindness, friendship, intelligence, and ability to get to the crux of any issue. 🍷



Wilma with Jo Siffert at the Nürburgring in 1971



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# Concours School Is In Session!

by Kirk Owens

When “class” includes delicious coffee, scrumptious pancakes, usable welcome gifts and precise lessons by national champions – no one skips school. The 2024 Concours School, graciously hosted by Napleton Westmont, was once again the ideal classroom for the sage counsel of Pat Yanahan, John Diwik, and Ron Bean. From the first timer who said, “I just want to clean my car better” to the reigning Concours overall champion – lessons were learned in the service bay, under the lift and on the showroom floor.

Pat Yanahan, the oracle who has guided many Parade winners, partnered with his Boxster-loving neighbor Larry to share how they brought the wow factor back to a 100,000+ miles, non-garage kept, green goddess. Lessons for exterior preparation, restoration and maintenance, addressing the hype around ceramic products, ways to properly apply touch-up paint, returning color to worn leather, washing and protecting the convertible top, and making those headlights shine brightly. Going beyond the techniques, Pat’s wisdom included product recommendations, price saving tips, and watch-outs.

John Diwik, no stranger to the winner’s circle and veteran of numerous Pcars, provided wonderful guidance to often neglected areas, wheel wells and the chassis. While not every garage

*continued*



photo: Paul Biek



## Concours School Is In Session! *continued*

has a lift, John instructed safety and insight for the garage warriors to bring exceptional cleanliness with a low-profile jack and two stands. From grease cutters to lift pucks, the underside takes tons of abuse, but is never far from the judge's eye. John's guidance spanned HOW to clean, WHAT products work best, WHERE to focus time, and HOW to improve the Concours score sheet. It gave everyone a new found appreciation for the Grand Touring competitors and their commitment to a spotless chassis.

Ron Bean, a proud owner of a national champion Guards Red beauty, brought his brushes, picks, and globe-spanning product kit to guide interior and storage cleaning. From vents to seals, shifter boots to battery compartments, the judges catch every crevice and Ron shared how to avoid any point deductions. Whether it's Simple Green or Germany's finest cleaners, Ron's wide-spanning coverage across glass (clean vertically on the exterior & horizontally on the interior), leather, vinyl, and plastic left no surface untouched and no student with an excuse for not knowing how to clean, treat, and preserve.



photo: Paul Bliet

*continued on page 12*

PARK THAT BEAUTIFUL MACHINE SOMEPLACE SPECIAL



The home at 945 Old Green Bay Road in Winnetka was designed by renowned architect Don Erickson. The Cayman GTS 4.0 is unmistakable.



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Ok, so the car is just for attention, but if you're looking for a home that's as special as your Porsche, let's talk. I help clients buy and sell amazing modern properties designed by architects like Don Erickson, Keck & Keck, Dennis Blair, Schiller & Frank, Don Tosi, Tivadar Balogh, I.G. Colburn, Henry Newhouse II and more. This spectacular home at 945 Old Green Bay Road in Winnetka was originally designed for photographer Dick Boyer, and is now available for the first time in more than 40 years. Sadly, car not included.



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# Concours School Is In Session! *continued*



photo: Paul Bilek



The “after school” session included many treats for those eager to learn more. A lively Q&A addressed the nuances of the Chicago region’s Concours events, scoring, and class structure. Our region is not only one of the longest standing in the nation, we’re also proud to note our Concours participants and format are among this country’s best! Member generosity (buying raffle tickets to support this year’s charity) was handsomely rewarded with PCA swag and incredibly generous gifts from Napleton Westmont (thanks again!).

Now the homework begins as each student applies their learnings to create microfiber magic on their (soon to be ready) Concours-ready Porsche. 🍷





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# A Taste of PCA-C: 2024 Chili Contest

by Rich LaMarre & John Moore

The 2023 Chili Tasting and Car Care Clinic was a roaring success: on a beautiful, sunny day in February, 200+ members showed up to enjoy the festivities! The event was an accumulation of months of planning and preparation by the organizers, and the turnout was well beyond expectations. This event, hosted annually at The Porsche Exchange in Highland Park, has been a mainstay Club winter event for ears. The venue also adds to the excitement, as attendees are able to admire the latest models in the showroom, which this year included a rare 918 Spyder.

Thanks to all who came to The Porsche Exchange today to participate in our Chili Tasting event! The Porsche Exchange does a fantastic job hosting this annual event and always makes our PCA members feel welcome. Today was no exception as they rolled out the red carpet and entertained us with presentations and raffle items!

Many excellent Chili cooks presented their family recipes to the judges and attendees. Three categories made the competition intense and led to difficult choices for the judges. For the three categories, the winners were

## Meatiest

- 1 Rob Kleckauskas
- 2 Barb Mashburn
- 3 Mike Brown

## Beaniest

- 1 Alex Block
- 2 Barb Mashburn
- 3 Dave Richter

## Non-traditional

- 1 Barb Mashburn
- 2 Bob Rath
- 3 Howard Kaplan





## Porsche-themed edible art

- 1 David Hulata
- 2 Shannon Costis
- 3 Emily Mullen

Thanks again to all who participated, and we appreciate you spending the day with us to shake off the winter cobwebs!

Our next event is roughly one month away. As the days are getting longer and the Concours season gets closer, we'll ensure we get everyone ready for a fun and competitive series of events.

One personal note from Rich:

I've stepped down from my co-chair responsibilities as I've accepted a position in my company that includes relocating to the Denver area. It's bittersweet to leave when we're just getting started. We have always been blessed with a strong, certified, judging crew and many helpful volunteers. The season is in place, and I'll be helping in the background where/when I can. I do have some work cut out for me once the dust settles, as the Rocky Mountain Region seems to have only one Concours event!

A sincere thanks to all who participated today! 🍷



# DRIVEN WOMEN



## Ladies' Driver's Education Day

Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 8a-5p at Autobahn Country Club

Back by popular demand due to last year's inaugural success, PCA Chicago is hosting a Driver's Education event **dedicated to and for ladies**. Have you ever wanted to try your hand at driving on the track but maybe had some reservations? What were they?



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- Too much testosterone at those male-dominated events
- Don't own a Porsche
- Don't have the need for speed
- Don't want to or are intimidated to drive partner's Porsche
- Don't want partner's judgment or advice about driving

Over the years, as we've encouraged women to come out and participate, these are the things we've heard. Well, there is an opportunity just for you to get behind the wheel of your Porsche sports car, Porsche SUV, or non-Porsche sports car and experience what it is like to drive on the North racetrack in Joliet, IL. It's a well-established fact that women tend to be better drivers on the track—just ask any PCA driving instructor! Not necessarily faster, though sometimes, but better because they listen to instructions and implement quickly.

### ***This is an event just for ladies, run by ladies.***



Are you a Driven Woman? Consider joining other like-minded ladies to experience the thrill of driving on a track! **This event will be generously sponsored by Napleton Westmont Porsche, but for a small registration fee which will be donated to our 2024 charity, Casa McHenry.** You have nothing to lose. **Instructors will be provided, as needed.**

For more information and to register, go to [clubregistration.net](http://clubregistration.net)





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# The SOCIAL SCENE

by Greg Lehman  
and Natalie Szabo



## St. Patrick's Day Lunch, Hardware Gastropub *by Greg Lehman*

March, to coin a phrase often used in Chicago, “In like a lion and out like a lamb.” While our winter would have to be characterized as mild by any Chicagoan’s terms, there was no salt on the roads, so what a perfect time to take the car covers off, turn “on” the insurance, and gather with our Chicago Region PCA flock! There is nothing like gathering with everyone to enjoy and create some needed warmth between Porscheheads, so on Saturday, March 16, 2024, we met at the Hardware Sustainable Gastropub and Brewery in North Aurora.

The Hardware Sustainable is a uniquely local, Avant-garde haunt with seasonal and creative entrees to pair with whiskeys from around the world along with wonderful locally crafted beers. Their definition of “Sustainable” refers to their ability to grow lettuce, herbs, fruits, and nuts in their own gardens which are used to create their menu of delicious food items. They even grow the hops in their own brews.

But sitting in this comfortable and warm spot amongst the excitement of seeing everyone who attended was this thought of Sustainability! We as an organization of friends that share our love of Porsche, also demonstrate such wonderful sustainability! Sitting

*continued*





at my table was a guest that came along to enjoy all the Porsches in the parking lot, Whittaker had recently graduated college, is doing well at his first job in the city, and had just ridden in the first rear engine Porsche on the way to the event. While talking, connecting, and enjoying the company of all in the room, we toasted to the day Whittaker will have his first Porsche and that he may one day carry on the sustainability of our wonderful organization!

Of course, with that, we went outside to see our vehicles and even though the winds were gusting at 30+ mph, who would even notice. As we stared, ogled, and rejoiced at everyone's stories of projects and happenings through the doldrums of winter, we now will rejoice with spring and fun on our horizon. Thank you, PCA-Chicago, for keeping us not only sustained, but also growing. 🍷

## A Bouquet of Porsches by Natalie Szabo

On a crisp, spring, Saturday morning more than 140 cars and people arrived at Calibrè Coffee in Barrington to attend the first Porsches & Pastries event of the year. After battling terrible weather through the week, when we were thrown everything from rain to snow, PCA-C's luck persisted, and we were spared from Chicago's worst.

Colorful Porsches lined the lots of the Arboretum on all sides, eager to take in the sun after a long winter. A string of GT3RSes bordered the front entrance of the movie theatre; their colorful paint presented



photo: Natalie Szabo



a symbolic nod to flowers poking out of the ground as a seal of guarantee that warmer weather is here to stay. While the cars gave us a spectacle to ogle at, the real substance came from speaking with fellow PCA-C members: Catching up from a previous event, talking about new changes to their car, plans for the driving season, and the general nonstructured conversing that kept chatter flowing. Whatever the topic was, it was

*continued*



certainly refreshing to socialize over a coffee, surrounded by our shared objects of interest.

A brown air-cooled caught my eye as one of the most interesting cars there for me (Yes, of course the light-yellow 2.7 RS tops this mental list). I loved the lightweight shifter and the faux grass floor mat that gave this example a quirky flair. Cars are a wonderful vessel to showcase our own personalities; whether it is a meticulously clean example, or one flecked with dirt and rust of a life lived, you can start to see how an owner represents themselves through their car. What better forum to see that direct line of connection than a Porsches & Pastries event.



With such a strong start to the Porsches & Pastries calendar, I hope this momentum carries through the summer. A huge thank you to our hosts at Calibrè coffee, for handling the masses needing their caffeine fix and for being a friend to the Porsche community. 🍵



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## HPDE Instructor Workshop:

### Updates to Solo and Run Group Progression Processes for 2024

by John Ruther



In preparation for our 2024 driving season, we would like to outline changes to the solo and run group progression process that were developed and agreed upon during our HPDE Instructor Workshop on March 23rd. The purpose of these changes is to ensure the skills of our newer drivers are at the level we expect and to improve the safety and experience of drivers in the Yellow run group.



#### Signing off to Solo

No new driver can be soloed on their first day. This means if you have a new driver at a one day event, such as Blackhawk, they cannot be soloed at that event. If your student has previous track experience, you may solo them during a single day event after riding with them for at least two sessions.

On multi-day events such as RADE, if you feel the driver is ready to solo after the first (or second) day, you must ride with them during the first session the following day to verify your evaluation. Things get lost overnight and we want both you and your student to be sure your student is ready.

Solo stickers will no longer be distributed by Tech. See the CDI or his event designate for them moving forward.



#### Run Group Progression from Green to Yellow

Drivers should not be driving in the Yellow run group until they have driven at least six events (two seasons of three events) so they develop the situational awareness and proactive driving style that the faster run groups require. When a driver does move to the Yellow run group, an instructor must ride with them their first time out to ensure they are ready for the faster pace.

We feel these changes will add more consistency to our instruction, improve the safety of our events, and increase the overall satisfaction with the event experience for all attendees. 🍌





photo: Michael Bene

# Survival of the Fittest

by Chris Carollo

As a parent of a newly minted teenage driver, the statistic that teen drivers aged 16 to 19 are nearly 3 times more likely to be in a fatal crash than drivers aged 20 and older scares me. Thankfully, programs like Tire Rack's Street Survival are available to help teach young drivers how to respond to extreme conditions while driving.

As soon as PCA-C announced the event, I knew I wanted to have my son attend and I wanted to volunteer to help other new drivers. On a beautiful mid-April Saturday, we assembled at Autobahn Country Club for the class. Approximately 20 students were in attendance with over 30 volunteers. The



photo: Michael Bene



photo: Michael Bene



photo: Michael Bene





photo: Michael Bene



photo: Michael Bene



volunteers served as both in-car instructors and helpful hands on the course providing direction and shagging fallen course cones.

The day started in the classroom and then we split into two groups, alternating between the classroom and course all day. The students were in the cars that they normally drive with an instructor in the passenger seat for the whole day helping them through the exercises. There was a

wide variety of vehicles from Accords and Altimas to Foresters and Highlanders.

They focused on lane changes, emergency braking, wet skid pad, and slalom to understand how the car handles AND how they, as the driver, should respond. It was amazing to see all the students' confidence grow as the day progressed. Special thanks to David Bowers for instructing my son Jon!



continued

After lunch, there was a demonstration of the power of an airbag.<sup>1</sup> Sitting on the ground, an airbag was detonated shooting the water bottle that was placed on top sky high. A great reminder to all those in attendance to not rest your feet on the dashboard.

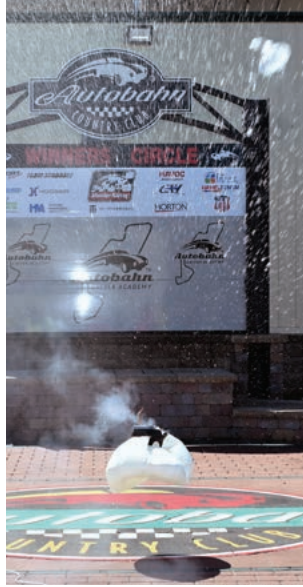


photo: Michael Bene

All of the students left with smiles on their faces and so did the instructors. Let's keep doing our part in keeping our roads safe and helping the next generation of drivers! 🍌



<sup>1</sup> Special thanks to O'Hare Auto Body for providing the airbag used in the demonstration.

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A photograph of a blue and yellow Porsche GTD race car parked in a garage. The car has various sponsor logos, including 'Motec', 'HAWK', and 'Porsche Design'. The number '08' is visible on the side. In the background, there is another race car and a tool chest.

**EurosportPorsche.com (630) 595-5577**



photo: Michael Bene

## PCA-C Swap Meet Memories: 2018 to Now by Dimitri Fountas

**Spring** – a time of renewal, growth, and PCA-Chicago's annual swap meet!

In the spring of 2018, when I first joined PCA-Chicago, I was late to the party; this storied event had already transpired. I would have to wait until the following year, 2019, to peruse the offerings of our Club's members and to sell my wares.

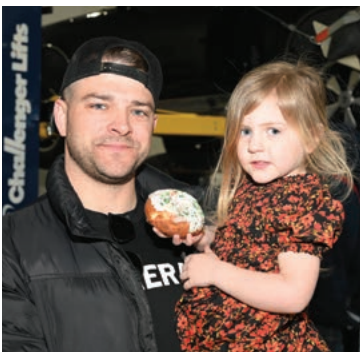
Fresh off the plane from my visit to New York to welcome my older brother's first child, I hurried home to prepare. This would be my very first swap meet! During my "honeymoon phase" of being a first-time Porsche owner, I had feverishly acquired any and all collectibles bearing the Porsche crest. However, in the all-consuming addiction that owning a Porsche can be, I had somehow managed to collect doubles, triples, and sometimes even quadruples, of the same item! Luckily, they were mostly Porsche Hot Wheels, so my wallet and my "future Porsche funds" did not suffer greatly.



photo: Michael Bene

In 2019, as well as subsequent years, the swap meet was held at Midwest Performance Cars (MPC) in Northbrook. Andy Bizub and the MPC staff have always been nothing short of stellar and accommodating! From the posted map showing our designated spots, outlines on the ground indicating where one spot starts and another ends, and the ample coffee and pastries they provide us with, I cannot imagine a better host. I remember one

*continued*



▲ Dimitri and his father Nicholas at the 2020 Swap Meet.



photo: Michael Bene



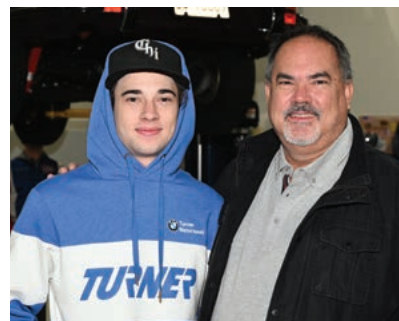
year Andy put the Formula 1 race on the TV, so we could all watch as we setup!

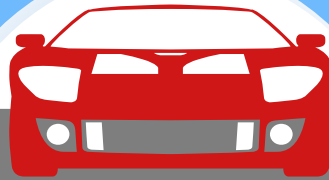
From the moment you enter, you are immediately greeted with Porsche paraphernalia. There are workshop manuals, racing seats, steering wheels, headlights, taillights, carpeting, interior trim pieces, and various Porsche memorabilia. Whatever you are looking for, there is a good chance you will find it at our region's swap meet; sometimes even things you did not know you were searching for! Like the Bruce Lee poster I got from my friend Henry, an extra set of Cayman wheels for the VW Golf of my good friends Terry and Arman, or a new, unopened QuickJack after just paying full price for one at Home Depot.

From 2019 to 2024, I have not missed an opportunity to attend the swap meet with my father, Nicholas. If you were to ask my father why he enjoys coming, he will say, without hesitation "because it gives us an opportunity to see and catch up with all

our wonderful friends." My dad does not get his own copy of *The Scene*, so I feel safe enough to say; in my opinion, the REAL REASON he comes with is to sample whatever new, delicious donuts Andy and MPC have waiting for us.

I look forward to more swap meets to come, and I have the utmost confidence they will remain important dates on my, and my father's calendar. 🍩





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# Spring into Autocross!

by David Bowers



**Daffodils, tulips, and 7 PM sunsets reassure me that spring has indeed arrived.**

A visual reminder that now is the time to have your car prepared for the fast-approaching Autocross season. At the time of publication, the start of the first competitive Autocross event will be approximately four weeks away at the Tire Rack Test Track in South Bend, IN.

You may be wondering, “wait a second, I thought all events were taking place at Wintrust Field in Schaumburg?” Alas, spring has thrown us a curve ball.

*continued*



# Spring into Autocross! continued



We selected venues and dates for our events in October 2023. I wanted to use Wintrust Field for all events to simplify scheduling, but the tradeoff meant it would be harder to secure dates as Miata and BMW club also host events at Wintrust Field. By the beginning of December we had a signed contract, paid our deposit, and save-the-dates for the 2024 season were underway.

Fast-forward to March, when I was notified that our original date for the AX School was no longer a possibility – the Village of Schaumburg had scheduled a conflicting recycling event at the same location. With the help of the Directors & Board, I was able to secure Tire Rack as a venue for AX1 and move our School to 6/29 – a date we'd already reserved at Wintrust Field.



photo: Michael Bene



photo: Michael Bene



The revised 2024 Autocross calendar of events is:

- AX1, 6/15 – Tire Rack Test Track, South Bend, IN
- AX School, 6/29 – Wintrust Field, Schaumburg, IL
- AX2, 7/20 – Wintrust Field, Schaumburg, IL
- AX3, 8/3 – Wintrust Field, Schaumburg, IL
- AX4, 9/7 – Wintrust Field, Schaumburg, IL
- AX5, 9/21 – Wintrust Field, Schaumburg, IL

I look forward to seeing you at our events in 2024, all of which are currently live on [ClubRegistration.net](https://www.clubregistration.net).

I can *guarantee* the weather for the AX School won't have snow this year. In fact, you may even be able to work on your tan! 🍌



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## Debunking the Myths of Rallying

by Karen Stephensen

**Why Rallying?** Rallying is a singular way to enjoy your Porsche together with your spouse, partner, or friend, driving the beautiful roads of the Midwest and participating in a game that challenges your knowledge of the rules of the game against the minds of the rally masters, all while competing against others.

At this point, however, I want to stop here and speak to those of you who are about to abandon this article because they have heard certain misconceptions about rallying. I would like to dispel those misconceptions.

**Myth #1 - Rallying does NOT involve racing:** Rallying is based on a Time-Speed-Distance calculation using a defined speed (never over the speed limit) over a measured distance to move from Point A to Point B. The ultimate goal is to reach a Checkpoint in the exact amount of time. The Rallye team is assessed a point for each second that the car is early or late to a checkpoint. The rallye team with the lowest score wins the rallye.

**Myth #2 - Rallye teams get hopelessly lost on rallyes:** Now, at face value, the game may sound relatively straight forward. Rallye teams are given a set of instructions and told to turn right, turn left, etc. as they are guided down the roads. Not so much. The designers of the rallye route, the rally masters, test your knowledge of the rallye rules by building in tricks or traps to either take you off course or to impact your timing. While it may have been true several years ago that cars were lost,



the Rallye program has recently adopted the use of a software application, RichtA app, that allows the rallye masters to monitor the progress of the rallye teams. Through this technology, the rally masters can contact the rallye teams when they move off course and guide them back on route.

**Myth #3 - Friendships have been broken or divorces have occurred as a result of rallying:** Jack and I have been rallying for over twenty years and know of no divorces because of this game. Rallying does require a partnership that collaborates and communicates well. There is no doubt about that. There is also a learning curve. Jack and I still, to this day, make mistakes. Although frustrations sometimes are high in our car, the frustrations have led to shared memories that we regularly laugh about now.

**Rallying is FUN!** It has also led to a lifetime of friendships that have expanded outside of this one common interest. We encourage everyone to try rallying and share this passion of ours.

There are five competitive rallyes every year that are designed to slowly build your skills. This year, they are being held on May 19th, July 7th, August 4th, September 28th, and October 13th. Please check the event calendar on the PCA-Chicago region website for specific details.

I look forward to each and every one of you joining us for the 2024 RALLYE season. 🍷





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## That's a Wrap

by Dana Comolli

### *I've always wanted a yellow Porsche.*

Porsche sold the 991 generation of the GT3 Cup in any color you wanted, as long as it was white. When I got mine in 2019, I decided to keep it pretty low-key with some simple stripes. At the end of the 2023 season, I decided that was going to change.

Wrapping a car is not a DIY project. It requires bringing together a team with three distinct skills:

- A designer that will take your vision and translate it into the graphics you want for your car: A key aspect of this is whether the designer has experience with the specific car you are going to wrap, as the design must be printed in a way the wrap can be efficiently applied to your car.
- An installer that has experience with doing a full wrap and is certified by the manufacturer of the wrap material the designer is printing, in my case Avery Dennison Super Cast air release. Having experience with your car model is a definite plus.
- A mechanic that knows your car and can work with the installer to remove components (such as headlights, wings, etc.) to make it as easy as possible for the installer to apply the wrap.



Photos by Dana Comolli & Jeff Kruger



For my project, I chose KI Studios in San Diego to do the design because they are one of the premier wrap designers for Porsche vehicles, GT3 Cups in particular. I chose Chicago Vinyl Professionals to do the installation because they are certified on the wrap material that was used for my car, additionally I had seen the work they had done for other PCA Members. Finally, I chose Jeff Kruger Motorsports to manage the process as Jeff takes care of my car, has many years of experience working with GT3 Cups, and is thoroughly familiar with the wrapping process.

### The Process

Before the wrap can be applied, any existing graphics need to be removed from the car and the entire vehicle must be cleaned with rubbing alcohol. Rear-view mirrors, door handles, and wing ends generally don't wrap well because of the tight curves. On my project, we opted to have those items painted rather than wrapped. Other preparation included removing the lights, grills, wheels, hood and deck tie-downs, and the wing uprights in order



continued



to make it easier for the wrap to be installed.

The wrap itself arrives on a 54-inch roll with the various sections of the car printed and labeled. The installer first unrolls the wrap then separates and organizes the various sections and develops a plan for the installation. In my case, that started with the rear of the car, then the passenger side, the front bumper, the hood and roof, the driver's side, and finally the wing.

The process for applying a wrap is straight-forward, but meticulous. The backing paper is removed from the vinyl and the wrap is carefully positioned. The wrap material is very sticky so making the initial positioning of the wrap is critical.

Once positioned, the wrap is trimmed and smoothed, removing any air bubbles. Modern vinyl materials have what is



Sometimes, intricate cuts are too complex or too long to use a knife. In those cases, when a custom design is being done by applying various colors of vinyl material to a car, the installer will use what

is known as Knifeless Tape. This is applied to the surface of the car and then, when the cut is to be made, the embedded wire is pulled out, cleanly cutting the wrap material. This was done on the wing of my car as the top and bottom were separate pieces and the seam needed to be perfect.

Once the wrapping process is complete, the components that were removed at the start are replaced and the car is given a once-over to ensure everything is perfect.



known as air release technology, which allows air to escape through the material via adhesive channels, making it easier to produce a smooth finish. The wrap is then trimmed, tucked, and post heated with a blow torch or heat gun to seal edges and to check for any air bubbles or imperfections. This also removes any surface scratches in the laminate from the installation.





## Additional Items & Maintenance

Because I track this car more than twenty times per season, I also had Hexis Body fence paint protection film placed just behind the doors on both sides, as this is the area that gets the most abuse on the track. I also had the grills and tow hooks powder coated yellow and the wing uprights powder coated black.

Maintenance is the same as if it was paint, with the added advantage that these newer wrap materials are self-healing. This means that any surface scratches and/or scuffs just go away if the car is left in the warm sun. This can also be accomplished using a torch or heat gun.

## Summary

Wrapping your car is not a DIY project, but it is a cost-effective way to dramatically change the appearance of your car without permanently altering its appearance. To do it right, you should assemble a team of experienced professionals that can work with you to produce the results you envision.

*Finally, I have a yellow Porsche. 🍷*

If you have a story to tell about your car, let us know. Contact Natalie Szabo at [natszabo20@gmail.com](mailto:natszabo20@gmail.com) to submit article suggestions.

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ASE  
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# 2024 EVENT CALENDAR

*Preliminary Calendar of Events. Event details are subject to change and several dates and venues are to be determined. Please refer to the Club's website for updated information.*

## MAY

- 4 Porsches & Pastries, Labriola
- 5 Rallye School, Engineering Systems
- 8 Board Meeting
- 19 Rallye 1, DuPage Airport
- 23-26 RADE, Road America

## JUNE

- 2 Concours 1, Klairmont Collections
- 5 Board Meeting
- 8 Porsches Block Party, Barnaba
- 13 Ladies' DE, Autobahn
- 21 Blackhawk 2
- 22 Golf Outing, White Pines
- 23 Concours 2, Bolingbrook
- 29 AX School, Wintrust Field

## JULY

- 7 Rallye 2, TBD
- 9 Blackhawk 3
- 10 Board Meeting
- 13 Potter's Picnic & Concours 3
- 20 AX 2, Wintrust Field
- 21 Wieners & Wheels, Superdawg
- 21 Porsches & Pastries, Two Brothers
- 26-28 Summer Driving Tour, La Crosse, WI
- 29 Autobahn Full Track

## AUGUST

- 3 AX 3, Wintrust Field
- 4 Rallye 3, TBD
- 7 Board Meeting
- 9-11 Gingerman HPDE
- AUG 30-2 TRAC, Road America
- 31 Concours 4, Osthoff Resort

## SEPTEMBER

- AUG 30-2 TRAC, Road America
- 4 Board Meeting
- 7 AX 4, Wintrust Field
- 14 Porsches & Planes, Code 1 Aviation
- 21 AX 5, Wintrust Field
- 28-29 Alohafest, Blackhawk
- 28 Rallye 4, Blackhawk

## OCTOBER

- 4 Porsches & Pilsners, Two Brothers
- 7 Autobahn Full Track
- 9 Board Meeting
- 18-20 Fall Driving Tour, Egg Harbor, WI

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





## The Concours Lawn: An Interview with Michael Grove

by Kirk Owens

There are MANY reasons to join PCA-C, but for Michael Grove buying his (dream car) 1986 911 Carrera Targa in Meteor Metallic over Burgundy was the ONLY reason needed in 2002. The rally bug bit the first couple years, but the Concours virus has been in his blood since 2004, including 2013-2017 Chairmanship...and what a Concours run it has been!

Michael is the only Chicago Region member to win Overall Concours THREE times(!) and his impeccable '86 Targa took First Place (Restoration Full class) at the 2015 Porsche Parade, receiving the Gmund Gold Award for restoration excellence – scoring 298+ points out of 300.

So why spend ALL that time and SO much commitment to Concours? “Being a CPA, I’m a detailed person and find it therapeutic – gets my mind away from the daily stresses. In the end, you have something to show for your time plus you’re helping maintain the Porsche and its value.” In Michael’s class, the ENTIRE car is judged and without a lift at home, the chassis is challenging (open spaces, the frunk’s firewall or the back side

of the wheels). He adds, “Once you’ve done the engine a few times, you know where to focus.”

As a regional judge and Concours school instructor, his keen judge’s eyes also serve at Parade, 2023 Concours Co-Chair (with Pat Yanahan) and 2024 Concours Chair & Chief Judge. Michael’s happy to share a few thoughts/tips for us Concours-mortals:

- 1 Don’t rush! Work one area at a time.
- 2 Always start with the most non-aggressive cleaning product, sometimes simple water does the trick.

*continued*



2014 Concours Judges School



2004 Cuneo Concours 1st Concours Award

Photos supplied by Michael Grove

## The Concours Lawn: An Interview with Michael Grove *continued*

- 3 Find a quality paste wax (not liquid), it holds up best.
- 4 Judges look closely at the glass, do inside & out and don't miss under the gas filler cap.
- 5 Most importantly, "Take it in small bites, it's an evolutionary process and never hesitate to ask questions."

Maintaining a national champion Targa doesn't require a full wash every week, depending on drive time and condition, Michael washes infrequently yet focuses on his strong-elbowed detailing and quality products. For recommendations he advised we, "Stay with tried and true products from mature companies (Meguirs, 3M, Turtle Wax) and stick with them. Select one you like and use their full line as they work well together." Contrary to advertising, expensive products aren't always better, "You want something with a good UV protection and stay away from those high gloss, greasy products."

Michael's concours experiences have "dramatically" impacted his PCA-C membership. "My dream car, as a 14 year old, has become a national champion. More importantly, I have met and maintain life-long friends all over the country. It is all the members that have mentored me along these years and pass



The Groves with their 2013 Boxster S

along my knowledge that makes the Concours experience so rewarding."

The Concours Lawn has provided many special memories but at the pinnacle is the 2015 Porsche Parade Gmund Gold. Beyond the hardware, Michael's favorite part of the Concours journey is, "All the memories shared with Nancy, my wife of 38 years. She is as much a Porsche person and gearhead as I am!" (Nancy is a national Concours judge and has shown at Parade...BTW her 2013 Boxster is a must-see) "We have shared some amazing Porsche road trips and a lot of dirty finger nails. It is a journey we continue to take together and I am very thankful."

Our thanks to Michael and Nancy for their Concours commitment, leadership, big smiles and damn sweet Porsches! We're looking forward to seeing them on the Concours Lawn. 🍷



With Pat Yanahan at the 2022 Parade



Parade Judging, Porsche-Glöckler

Joseph Fischer continuing the family tradition



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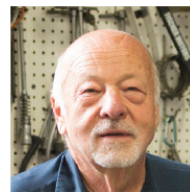
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Originally from Germany, Peter emigrated to America in 1963. In 1974 he established Fischer Motors. Although he's officially retired, Peter can still be found working on the shop floor.

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