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Top photo: Autocross School by Jeff Brown

Bottom left photo: Driven Women by Michael Bene

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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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Doing It Right

If you're having fun, then you're doing it right. This saying says a lot as we travel down the road of life seeking experiences that bring us enjoyment and fulfillment. The Porsche Club offers a pretty good map for this route by providing opportunities to have fun with our cars while socializing with like-minded enthusiasts. As I attend many of the events in the Chicago Region one of the most common sights is the smiles on everyone's faces. The cars are a big part of this, but no event would be complete (or even possible) without the people driving them.



Events such as Drivers Education offer us an opportunity to challenge ourselves, to explore and learn the capabilities of both car and driver. For many of us the first time we take our car on the track is pushing the envelope of comfort. This unease soon gives way to a growing confidence as the laps accumulate.

Autocross is another event that offers a distinct opportunity to challenge our driving skills. At first sight a twisting, narrow course made up of cones can seem like a navigational nightmare. However, after repeated runs a driver soon finds themselves focusing on parts of the course where they can pick up those precious tenths of a second toward the betterment of their time.

Rallye offers the opportunity to get more than just a driver involved, as you and your navigator strive to follow the prescribed route at just the right speed in order to arrive at each checkpoint at just the right time, not too soon or late. These routes often take you over local roads that ordinarily would be conducive to some "spirited" driving but restraint is the order of the day, as it is not the lowest time that wins, but the lowest score.

Finally, Concours gives the Porsche owner(s) the opportunity to truly appreciate the craftsmanship that went into the design and construction of their cars. Having visited the factory in Stuttgart I can attest to the pride on the factory floor that goes into each Porsche that rolls out the door. No event highlights the pride an owner has for their car like a Concours.

All of these activities include a social aspect that affords the Porsche owner the opportunity to fully enjoy the experience that comes with owning a car that is revered worldwide. The fun never stops in the PCA.

Stanley Sangdahl
President, Chicago Region

“

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**DRIVEN
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Meet the *Driven Women* of PCA-Chicago

by Catherine Fischer

For the first time in over 20 years, PCA-Chicago hosted a High Performance Driver's Education event exclusively for women on June 15, 2023. The event was a HUGE success: 74 people attended, including 36 drivers.

The morning started with a buzz of excitement and a bit of trepidation. We each got registered, emptied our cars, and headed to tech. After making our way through tech we headed for a quick continental breakfast and a meet and greet with the

continued



Meet the *Driven Women* of PCA-Chicago continued



fellow registrants and instructors. As the excitement for the day grew, we were ready to get started!

First up: driver's meeting! The ladies gathered in the Winner's Circle and experienced their first ever driver's meeting with Dana Comolli. After the rules of the road, and a group photo, we were ready to hit the track. We had four total run

groups: two novice sports car groups, one novice SUV group, and an instructor group. First out was a touring session (at highway speed, without helmets) designed to help each of us to see and learn the track with our instructor along for the ride.

After the touring session we were ready to go! Helmets were on and each group hit the track for their first 20 minute session.



photo: Michael Bene



photo: Michael Bene



The buzz of excitement was electric. How did everyone's session go? We headed to the first classroom session to find out! Hosted by Dana Comolli, the ladies met to review their first experience on the track. We spent 50 minutes on questions, talking about the track, learning about late apexing, while building camaraderie and community amongst our group.

After the classroom session, we headed out for our second track session. Each group spent another 20 minutes out on the track, going a little faster, braking a little harder, practicing that late apex, and learning about the power and control of our cars. The last half of the day was a repeat of the first half, with food, the track, and a classroom debrief. We finished the day with a fourth and final track session.



Overall, it was an amazing day: we learned car control on a track, safely and with skill. Our instructors adapted to each student's skill level and guided us calmly and without judgment. It was a seamlessly run event, and a day to remember. But don't just take my word for it: here is what the other ladies had to say:

"To see so many women on the Autobahn Race Track with their beautiful cars was so encouraging, especially since I'm a new Club member and this was my first time on a track."

– Sandy Adell

continued

Meet the *Driven Women of PCA-Chicago* continued



"Aside from having the opportunity to get back on track, both literally and figuratively, and learning a few things I didn't know, it was great to spend a day with some of the lady friends I've made over the years at PCA and on the track." – Molly Heyen "Boss Lady"

"It way exceeded my expectations with the quality classroom and in car instruction I received. It really was a special day that started with a bit of humility and ended with everyone feeling much more confident!"

– Marilyn Handschiegel Black



photo: Michael Bene



photo: Michael Bene



"Overall, the first Ladies' HPDE Event was a huge success! Everything was executed flawlessly."

– Zaza

As your fellow wife, mom, daughter, sister, PCA-C member, executive, friend, and now TRACK DRIVER, I'd like to thank all the drivers and instructors. A special thank you to **Napleton Westmont Porsche!** Without each of you this event would not have been possible. I hope to see you at this event again next year, and at other DE and social events throughout the season! 🍷



photo: Michael Bene

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From Macan to Boxster S, a Female's First at Road America

by Shanelle Trinidad Kaikis



I wasn't always a Porsche gal, but thanks to my husband and PCA-Chicago, I was inspired to trade in my Macan for a Boxster S and hit the track. Over Memorial Day weekend, my husband James and I drove both of our cars to Elkhart Lake to take on Road America, "America's National Park of Speeeeeed!"

James has always been a Porsche enthusiast, and when he got delivery on his 911 Targa S last year, he found every reason to hit the road, including a 3,500-mile trek across the country!¹ As his newfound hobby pulled him to the track, I couldn't help but feel a bit of FOMO, i.e., "fear of missing out."



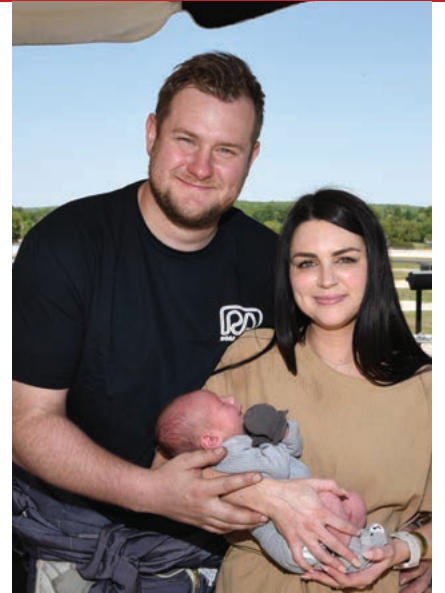
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¹ Please see *The Chicago Scene, From Lemons ...*, by James Kaikis, <https://pca-chicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/SceneMay23.pdf> at p.29.

From Macan to Boxster S, a Female's First at Road America *continued*



photo: Neil MacDonald



Encouraged by John Ruther, PCA-C's Chief Driving Instructor, however, I attended a couple of Driver Education days and I was hooked. With our Macan lease coming due, I proclaimed, "I need my own car!"... The rest is history.

For a first-timer, Road America was quite intimidating. However, PCA-C did an incredible job of alleviating fears and building my confidence through the highly qualified and experienced instructors they provide. Upon arrival at Elkhart Lake, the excitement in the air was palpable. The folks at Registration and Tech ran a smooth process (hi Joell!), and the Driver's Meeting and Classroom Instruction (Q&A led by John Ruther and Dana Commoli) provided us with the proper insights to set us up for success. We had



photo: Neil MacDonald

continued



so much fun and I can't wait to come back for PCA's TRAC event over Labor Day weekend!

We have made many friends on this journey, and cherish our shared culture and love for the brand that is Porsche!

A special shoutout to Cheryl Lehman Collier for putting together such a well-organized operation! 🍷



photo: Neil MacDonald



Use the QR code or link below to the Club's website where you'll find an excellent article, written by Sid Smith, about the RADE weekend and driving instruction more generally. Happy reading! <https://pca-chicago.org/2023-my-road-america-experience> [link available after July 7, 2023]



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Follow the River Rallye

by Bob Rath

Our *Follow the River Rallye* began at Panera Bread in suburban Willowbrook, as 26 cars and Rallye teams passed through metro areas southwest along the Des Plaines River, then on through Lockport, Romeoville, and Joliet before entering the wide-open spaces of rural Illinois.¹ We also traversed a section of Route 66, passed by the Route 66 Museum, and encountered a drawbridge that thankfully remained down and thus didn't interrupt our event.

This Rallye was all about CAST (“Change Average Speed To”). Maintaining accurate speed between checkpoints was the biggest challenge, because the route directions were otherwise fairly straight forward. The challenge became how many frontage roads would each team



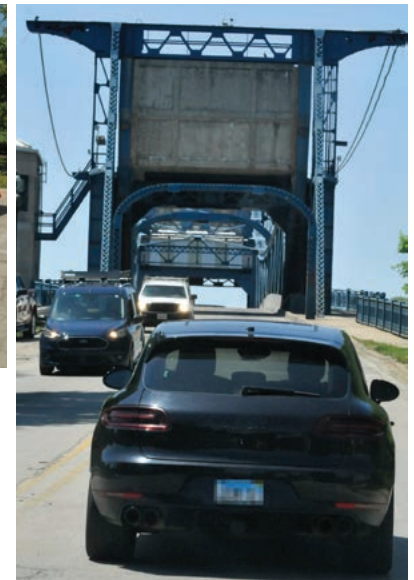
¹ <https://www.cityoflockport.net/222/History>.



have to turn on, and how many Bluff roads would each Rallye team encounter, a fun trick that kept everyone thinking.

Our Rallye landscape included interesting bridges, a lock, and Autobahn Country Club, with its fancy “Garage Mahals.” The directions also took competitors past windmills, the Marseilles Illinois National Guard Training Center, and along winding and hilly roads. In addition, we crossed a bridge that looked like we were driving into a dead-end barn, which was a bit intimidating until Rallyists realized it was actually a bridge designed to protect drivers from the fog created when the power plant’s cooling ponds interact with the cold ambient air (during a pre-run, we experienced heavy fog, with very low visibility).

The Rallye ended at the entrance to the Starved Rock State Park, bringing our Rallyists through the Park and up to Skoog’s Pub and Grille, where the awards were presented and a party ensued! Although Illinois has been recognized as the second flattest state in the country, we were able to find numerous rolling hills and curvy roads to enjoy on this beautiful, sunny day. 🍷



“ Maintaining accurate speed between checkpoints was the biggest challenge... ”

photo: Bob Rath

A Rallye Renewal!

by Sharon Gregor-Olson,
2023 Rallye Co-Coordinator



The 2023 PCA-Chicago Rallye season started under beautiful blue skies on May 7 at Engineering Systems Inc. in Aurora, where forty-six diehard Rallyists attended, including support volunteers who ensured the event was a success. Rallye School began with a two-hour classroom session instructed by the notorious Jack Stephensen, who introduced participants to the Competition Rules and “language” of Rallye, including various tricks and traps that could be encountered on any given Rallye challenge.

Of the thirty-four participant competitors who attended the School, thirteen of the teams were novices! This practice event gave each Rallye team the opportunity to experience some of the driving concepts and terms learned, such as: priority, OR instructions, spelling tricks, and the use of ONTO, all the while keeping the proper CAST (change average speed to) in an effort to achieve the lowest score overall in the event. Of course, the No.1 concept



photo: Neil MacDonald

learned was exercising extreme patience with one’s fellow team member!

The excitement continued at the Rallye end point—Hardware Gastropub in North Aurora—where competitors and Rallye support staff gathered for tasty libations and banter as the Rallye awards were announced.

Congratulations to Brian and Danielle Scifers who earned first place in the Experienced group; and Jack and Mandi Steidle for their first place in the Novice group!

We hope to see all of you at the remaining 2023 Rallye events this season, and also hope that you become as addicted to Rallying as we are! 🍷



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Accelerate. Brake. Turn. Repeat.

by Tom Cutter



“Hard” driving is something I’ve been doing for decades, but the Autocross School at Wintrust Field and the High Performance Driving Event at Blackhawk Farms brought it to a new level. While it was all about the driving, the classroom sessions were invaluable, emphasizing physics, etiquette, and most importantly, safety. The expectation, then, was to put theory into practice.

Though I thought I’d driven hard before the Autocross School, I’d neither accelerated nor braked with as much intensity nor experienced such relatively high G-forces, lateral or otherwise. Likewise, I’d never driven a car as aggressively as I did during the introductory autocross, which was my first opportunity to put it all together on a course, cone or otherwise.

continued





photo: Michael Bene



A week later, I was on a racetrack, trying even harder to put it all together. The weather was perfect and my instructor was remarkably knowledgeable, attentive, and patient. To drive a car on a racetrack was an entirely new and occasionally counterintuitive experience when compared to driving on the street. It was also a challenge to go all in with the pedals and to trust the brakes, suspension, and instructor, though I suppose it was even harder for him to trust me.

Both events maintained the reputation of PCA-Chicago as a club that embraces education, high performance driving, and camaraderie. While there were egos, there was little if any arrogance. All drivers were welcome,



photo: Tom Cutter

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no matter their car nor their skill level. The Club's goal for these events was to make better drivers, not to beat someone. For me, the pictures accompanying the events described above show me that we succeeded.

....accelerate, brake, turn, repeat.... 🏁






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The SOCIAL SCENE

by Robert Safe & Edward Kolodziej



Porsches & Pastries at Calibré Coffee *by Robert Safe*

We held our second Porsches & Pastries event of the season at The Arboretum of South Barrington, with Calibré Coffee as our host for approximately 150 cars and their owners gathered for a pleasant morning, where the Club concurrently held its first Show and Shine. The clouds and occasional light rain didn't dampen spirits, and demonstrated the amazing water beading capabilities of a properly polished and waxed finish. Wet Porsches can look very cool!

With a tasty café latte in hand, I made the rounds and picked out some personal favorites, including an orange air cooled Targa

kept in the family since new, and now owned by the son of the original owner. This one also earned my personal People's Choice vote. I also admired the dark blue, back-dated '92 911 with the brushed nickel trim and the center-lock wheel cap: it not only function as a fender mounted oil tank cap, but hinted of the 1967 911. Sitting next to it was an amazing 356 in the most beautiful shade of dark red I think I've ever seen: just stunning! Elsewhere on the lot I found a pair of green GT-4s, adjacently parked, which allowed us to note the details that distinguish the GT-4 and GT-4 RS versions. Thanks for that, guys!

continued





The rest of the lot was a virtual cornucopia of Porsches, including a rare 918 Spyder that the owner decided should be driven in the rain, just like any other car. Very well done. For contrast, please note that several cars, including my own, appeared still wearing their track numbers and grime from our first HPDE event at Blackhawk Farms the prior day.

I met some friends onsite and took the opportunity to explain—probably in excruciating detail—the differences between generations and models of these wonderful cars, something you



can probably only do at a well-attended P&P gathering. I enjoyed it (I think!) as much as they did.

As promised, our host, Blaine Bontempo of Calibré Coffee, had his wonderful 600,000 mile, Volvo 122S on display, where it received a special award from the Concours team.

In closing, our thanks to Calibré Coffee and The Arboretum for hosting this wonderful event. 🍷

Porsches & Pastries at Blackdog Speed Shop *by Edward Kolodziej*

On Saturday, June 10 approximately 70 cars came to Blackdog Speed Shop in Buffalo Grove, of which half of the Porsches came in with their convertible tops down, taking advantage of the sunny 70 degree day. A red 1964 356 looked like it just left

Zuffenhausen, although the owner says he drives it regularly; several GT3 RS's attracted attention, as well as a Gentian Blue Metallic 718 Spyder. A late 1960s red Targa had the nostalgic smell of oil and gasoline.

continued on page 30

photo: Edward Kolodziej



photo: Edward Kolodziej

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Conversations overheard ranged from, “I wanted a manual for my Carrera T, but got a PDK because I live in the City” to the cost of building a new house outside Asheville, NC (\$400 per square foot). Inside Blackdog was a 718 GT4 RS in PTS matte white. Non-Deutschland cars included a black McLaren, a white Shelby Mustang, which was also very cool; and an orange Lotus Evora (for sale). There were also some track cars, some resto mods with engine swaps. I spent time looking at the Evora: surprising amount of headroom; engine compartment very

tight, looks like you have to take the body off the frame to check the dip stick.

And the great part about a PCA-C Porsches & Pastries? You realize all over again that as difficult as it must be to design and build a race car, a very sporty car for city streets, or a comfortable, long-distance cruiser, Porsche has done just that, decade after decade, model after model, car after car.

But you know what makes it even better? “It’s not just the cars, it’s the people!” 🍷



photo: Edward Kolodziej

photo: Edward Kolodziej

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2011 911 GT2 RS – Carrara White w/ Black interior, 527 mi., and 6-speed manual transmission.

2010 911 GT3 – Basalt Black w/ Black interior, 6,866 mi., and 6-speed manual transmission.

2007 911 Turbo Coupe – Guards Red w/ Black interior, 20,688 mi., and 6-speed manual transmission.

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PORSCHE



Autocross 1

by Michael Bene

The crew was back at Wintrust Field (formerly Boomers Stadium) for the first run of the season, and what an opener it was. A familiar venue for PCA-Chicago, the course was designed by AX veteran Mike Pietruszka, and it was a fast and intuitive one. A few corners were great tests of brake timing skill, and the extended stop box was welcomed by many.

The usual suspects are back for the season—Bill Fitzsimmons, David Bowers, Bart Surowka, Noel Selewa, Larry Dajoutas, and



photo: Michael Bene



photo: Neil MacDonald

continued

photo: Jeff Brown



Jenna Samp, to name a few—but everyone turned in fast times for this initial event. Everyone was also adjusting to the new competition classes, which have been posted on the website if you want to review them prior to enrolling. B3 and B4 have the most competitors, but B6 and B7 (which contain the GT cars) were also showing strong times.

At the end of this day, David Bowers came out on top for the Porsches, showing a time of 28.768. Bart Surowka and Bill Fitzsimmons were not far



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Neil MacDonald



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continued on page 36



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PORSCHE



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Jeff Brown

behind, but it seems there are a few other competitors ready to vie for the top spot if they continue to show up regularly for events.

It's not too late to be in contention for an overall season trophy, either, as your lowest score will be dropped when computing the season-end results. It'll be an exciting season, so come out and show us what you got. 🏆



photo: Michael Behr



photo: Neil MacDonald



photo: Jeff Brown



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(NOT) Just another Wednesday

by Kirk Owens

The date to remember is April 26 because by the time you read this, I likely still have the smile on my face! From a 1970s 914 through the current 992's beautiful lines, with a Cayenne diesel thrown in for full Stuttgart measure, that Wednesday was anything but typical.

Yellow, red, black or gray... two doors or four... wind blowing with the cabriolet top down or music jammin' in the coupe... whether just a leisurely cruise through the countryside or chance to stomp on the gas through the farm roads of Wisconsin, it didn't matter – the day was absolutely terrific.

Organized by a small group of enthusiasts who meet regularly for lunch, for spirited country road driving and for tons of P-car enjoyment – this day's destinations was Lake Geneva with a promise of lunch downtown and a big helping of flat-six fun for dessert.

Arriving from a variety of routes, 18 Porsches met in Woodstock for a day to remember. With a fantastic route, chosen for minimal traffic and maximum driving, the sunshine warmed the highways all the way across the border. There were a few stones and small potholes to avoid but the twists, turns and full throttle straightaways were more than a filling appetizer. The afternoon in Lake Geneva was filled with fun, lots of laughs, a few tall tales

and plenty of camaraderie to make new friends & catch-up with veteran club members.

Having just completed my first full year as a Chicagoland PCA member, three thoughts linger from this amazing Wednesday:

1. The people in our club are fantastic!
2. Spending a PTO day behind the wheel is well worth it!
3. I need to drive more! 🍷



Photos by Jeff Lange



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2023 EVENT CALENDAR

JULY

5 Board Meeting

9 Rallye 2, TBD

11 Blackhawk 3

15 Concours 2 & Potter's Picnic

22 AX 4, Wintrust Field

28 Autobahn North

AUGUST

5 Ice Cream Social, Superdawg

6 Rallye 3

9 Board Meeting

11-13 Gingerman HPDE

27 Geneva Concours d'Elegance

SEPTEMBER

1-4 TRAC, Road America

2 Concours 3, Elkhart Lake, WI

6 Board Meeting

9 AX 5, Wintrust Field

10 Rallye 4, TBD

17 Social/Show & Shine, Roads United

23-24 Oktoberfest, Blackhawk

OCTOBER

4 Board Meeting

7 Porsches & Pastries 4, Hardware

8 Rallye 5, TBD

16 Autobahn Full Track, Autobahn

20-22 Fall Driving Tour

NOVEMBER

8 Board Meeting

12 Tech Session, TBD

18 P & P 5 / Toys for Tots, Labriola

DECEMBER

9 Dinner Dance, TBD



Important: Please check the Club's latest eBlasts and the website for updated information

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

Chicago Region Bylaws are being Revised

In 2022, the board directed a committee to update our Bylaws to incorporate the following items:

- Remote Board Meetings
- eMail and/or other types of distributed motions
- An explicit procedure for replacing a director that is elected as an officer before the end of the director's term
- The ability to have electronic voting

During that process, the committee learned that all changes to bylaws must be reviewed and approved by the Policy Committee of PCA National. The Policy Committee's review is not restricted to the changes and includes a review of the entire document. The Policy Committee provides guidelines on what it expects to be included in a region's bylaws and provides sample text as a guideline.

Our revised Bylaws are being reviewed by the Policy Committee at this time and they are expected to be approved in the coming weeks. Once that has been completed, you will be asked review and vote on the revised Bylaws. The communication will be via the normal weekly eBlast.

In the meantime, a summary of the changes is available here:

<https://pca-chicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Summary-of-Changes-PCA-Chicago-Region-Bylaws.pdf>



IN GALLAGHER'S GEAR¹

I cannot believe it but the year is half over. Memorial Day at Elkhart has come and gone. As I promised the good lady Peggy the weather was not as bad as last year. Saturday was perfect. . . . Sunday brought the rains. . . . If the weather had co-operated Arnie and George would have had a perfect event. As you may be aware we had an absolute record 159 cars. The safety record continued to be impressive as only one car suffered any damage and that thankfully was minor.

Ed and Debbie Leed ran a timing and scoring school which was well attended and the practice will show at our race series in July. Elkhart is our ultimate event. I cannot wait until Labor Day. By the way, the event will sell out. If you want to go I would register early.

By the time you read this column our first Porsche Race Series will be about to occur at Elkhart. We still have plenty of room for volunteers to help. Arnold Zahn and his committee have put in one hell of a lot of time into what I believe will be the best run event in the race series. We need your help and I hope you will not let us down. We need approximately 30 people just for timing and scoring. Your region has a lot more than a great deal of money at stake here, we have our prestige on the line.

I have appointed Debbie Leed, Keith Clark, Lee Lichtenstein, David O'Brien and my self to be this year's nominating committee. According to our by-laws the committee must publish its recommendations in the September newsletter. If you are interested in holding a regional office or directorship please let any member of the committee know. . . .

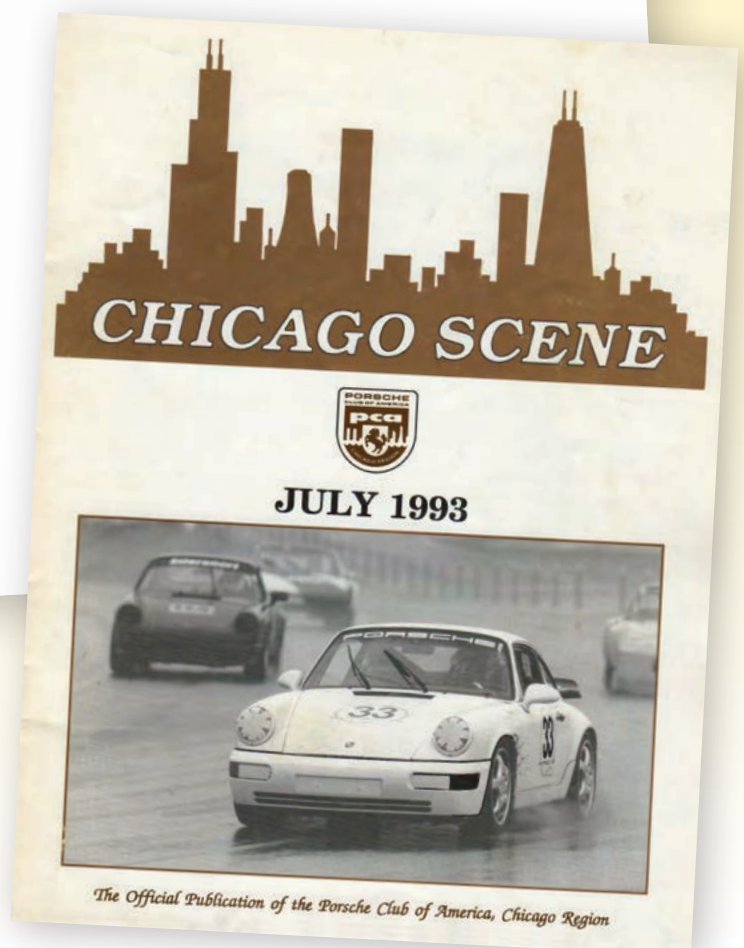
I enjoyed the Harper's rallye a great deal. Jim had called me the Tuesday before the rallye in a panic because four of his rallye roads were totally under water after the week's major storms. All worked out except that the roads were rough and gravel had been put down where the pavement had washed away. Thankfully the waters receded and the weather was absolutely beautiful. Thank you Jim and Alice for a great rallye.

I am going to recommend to the board that we split the position of Autocross coordinator into two positions. I am recommending this because our track events, Elkhart and Blackhawk, are so different than our parking lot gymkhana. I also believe that our track coordinator should be our chief driving instructor. If you have any thoughts on this please let us know.

The second Blackhawk was a tremendous success. I had over 80 cars for the June event. Naturally the weather was near perfect. It was also nice to see our old friend Tom Burke at the event. You may not know it but Tom had a lung removed recently. He figured it was better therapy driving his 944 at speed than sitting around relaxing. Hope Tom continues his excellent job of registrar. . . .

Once again, I want to remind you of the upcoming Porsche Phenomenon. We are long over due in honoring the old timers who made the Chicago region what it is today. I still need good Porsches for our French style Concours. Please fill out the form and send it to me. . . .

¹ From *The Chicago Scene*, July 1993, by Dan Gallagher, PCA-Chicago President from 1992-1993, 1996-1997, and 2000. <https://pca-chicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SceneJul93.pdf>





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