

# THE CHICAGO SCENE

March 2024

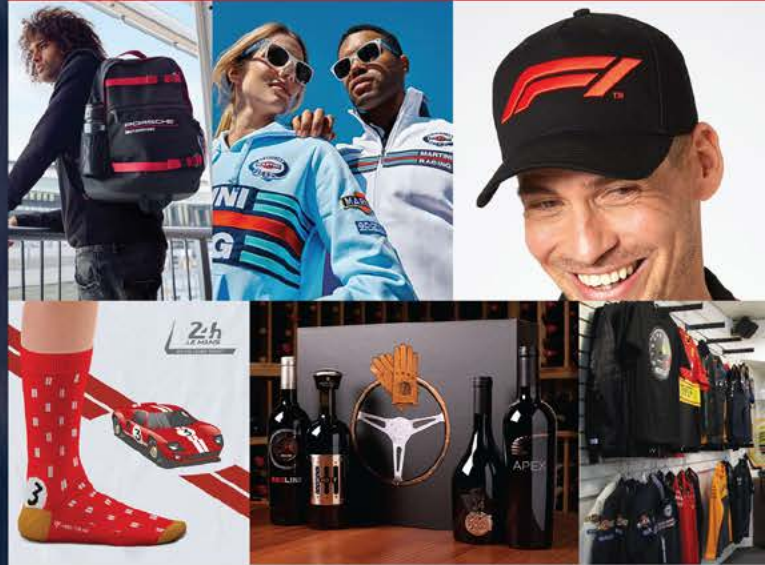
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**Cover:** General Membership Meeting by Jeff Brown

Top photo: Club Racing at Road America by Neil MacDonald

Bottom left photo: General Membership Meeting by Jeff Brown

Bottom right photo: Midwest Performance Cars supplied by Andy Bizub



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# THE CHICAGO SCENE

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## Looking Back – Looking Forward

It's already the beginning of March (sure doesn't feel that way, as I write this, it's in the low 70s outside and it is still February) and we've had three events; all very well attended.

Often, someone I am talking to congratulates me (or gives condolences), asks how much work it is, or just wants to know what it is like to be President of the Chicago Region.

Part of my role is to attend the Zone 13 President's meeting in Springfield, IL in late February. Chicago is part of Zone 13 (<https://www.pca.org/connect/region-directory>) which, at least to me, looks like the product of some serious gerrymandering, but I digress. Chicago has 1,100 more members than the seven other regions in the zone combined.

My fellow Presidents asked some of the same questions; they couldn't fathom what it must be like with 50+ events over eight different disciplines and 4,000+ members.

The short answer is it's not bad at all. The great thing about Chicago is that we have been around for a long time, have a large pool of volunteers, and are really good at planning and running events of all types and sizes. All our coordinators are experienced and work well together, so unlike a smaller region where there is a limited talent pool, the President is generally not involved with the details of any single event unless he/she happens to be one of the event organizers anyway.

This allows the President to identify synergies between disciplines, opportunities for growth in engagement, improve overall processes, and help identify and grow future leaders of the Club.

One aspect of the job I didn't expect was that I receive an email every time a new member joins the region, transfers in, or transfers out. It's a pretty rare day when I don't get at least a couple of those emails. Our membership is that dynamic. That means that at any given event, it is almost guaranteed that at least one attendee is new to the region.

What all this means, is that you are a member of one of the few regions that not only offers the full range of driving and non-driving events, but also is constantly looking for new types of events that will engage more members and need more volunteers and leaders to stay vibrant and fresh into the future.

If you are new to the region, haven't attended any or many events, or only attended events in one or two areas of the Club, take a look at our 2024 Event Guide to see what the various areas of the Club have to offer. If you are a veteran of our events, let's track down and welcome those new members that we know are attending our events.

Remember, we are always looking for members that want to help with planning, organizing, and running events. Without our volunteers, we wouldn't have a Club.

Now that Spring has sprung, our event schedule ramps up fast. It's going to be a great year!

See you out there,

Dana Comolli  
President, Chicago Region



“

The great thing about Chicago is that we have been around for a long time, have a large pool of volunteers, and are really good at planning and running events of all types and sizes.

”

Event Guide





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### Meet Natalie Szabo

Editor of *The Chicago Scene*

As a longtime car enthusiast I have always found myself gravitating into wanting to do more with cars. My admiration for Porsche started in high school after an encounter with a 944 in my high school parking lot that sparked a spiral into obsession. From high school through college, I dreamt up ways I could weasel myself into Porsche ownership, though I wasn't able to rationalize buying a 944 until I had secured my first job out of college. Two 944s later, I found myself signing up for PCA on an impulse decision at The Amelia Island Concours.

Last year was my first year as a member and every experience I have had thus far has more than justified that decision. The joy of being able to not only indulge in car related events, but to meet and converse with people that hold a similar passion is unmatched.

From working on the school newspaper in high school, to managing communications within two clubs in college, I have always enjoyed being more involved in the things that I am passionate for.

I look forward to meeting more PCA-Chicago members this year! I'm thrilled to be part of this organization and hope to deliver a strong publication. See you all out on the road (or track) this season!

– Natalie



Natalie in 2016 in Sankt Gallen, Austria



### Meet Tess Conforti

Social Media Coordinator

Before I could walk, I was behind the wheel of a 911... you know how it goes, Porsche is for life. Some of my favorite memories growing up were track days - the familiar sounds of engines revving, race fuel in the air, and friendly faces throughout the paddock. Having spent 23 years attending PCA events, I am thrilled to be the new Social Media Coordinator.

The Chicago Region is a special group, and now I get to help spread the word. While studying for my marketing degree, I found that I love creatively connecting with people. I have spent the last two years doing just that for RPM Steak, Three Dots and a Dash, Sushi-san, and The Omakase Room, to name a few. Being a Marketing Manager for Lettuce Entertain You has been a wild ride, and I can't wait to apply my knowledge to one of my passions, PCA.

Some of you might recognize me from helping out in registration or on the grid, running timing and scoring papers, selling charity raffles, or cheering on my dad and brother in the stands. If I'm a new face, I look forward to meeting you!

– Tess



Tess in 2005 at Road America with her father, Todd

# Father-Son Bonding Through Club Racing



by Griffin Fujii

**I have always been heavily involved in car culture.** From going to classic car shows as a kid, to tinkering on project cars in high school, my relationship with cars has always been inextricably intertwined with my relationship with my dad. He and I were lucky enough to join the cool club (PCA) when he was fortunate enough to be able to buy his dream car, the 2018 911 GT3, and later a 2018 911 Turbo S. These cars were the vehicle (pun intended) that allowed us to truly chase our passion.

When I finished college and moved away to live in downtown Chicago, it made it more difficult to find time to spend with my dad. This is where our love of cars really paid off: it gave us a common goal and means to share our passion and as well as our time. We spent our



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Michael Bene

first season in 2020 doing HPDEs with PCA, falling in love with track driving.

In my initial season doing HPDEs, I absorbed all the information I could from the talented PCA instructors around me. Then, in my second season I jumped into a 997 Cup car which at the time felt very intimidating, but I was determined to learn how to drive a full blown race car safely (and fast). Being younger than the average PCA enthusiast at 26, I didn't want to be seen as reckless. Thanks to the talented PCA instructors, namely Dana Comolli and John Ruther, I was able to safely get fast much to my dad's relief.

In small increments I learned how to drive a real race car and what it means

to drive well. I set my sights on eventually being able to participate in PCA Club racing. As the season wore on, my dad and I continued to bond over track driving, and with his purchase of a 911 Cup car, we also began to connect over how surreal it was to both be driving real race cars. Since I had gotten a head start in a Cup car, I got to show him the ropes on driving a full blown race car.

My third season and most recent season is where my dream of racing wheel to wheel came true. I earned my SCCA novice permit and planned my first big race to be TRAC 2023 at Road America as a novice club racer. I began practicing in the 991 Cup car because it was obviously faster and more reliable. I practiced during HPDEs with the mindset that at the end of the season I would club race at Road America. After countless hours of practice, studying, and a lot of spins it was time to race.



photo: Neil MacDonald



photo: Jeff Brown

“GREEN, GREEN, GREEN,” my dad’s voice boomed over the radio as the flag went up. For my first race, I was in the TRAC club race in the 991 Cup car. Everything went off without a hitch, I drove both fast and safely, surrounded by 30 other racers just like I, and my dad, had dreamed.

The best feeling of all is the feeling of getting to arrive at Club racing with the person who’s been with me since day one: my dad. We both have a burning passion for racing, but the memories



photo: Michael Bene



photo: Michael Bene

I will cherish forever are those of the time spent with him at the racetrack; talking about driving, going on trips together, and making my dad proud performing in a race car. Beyond our own bond, we have made so many friends and mentors by driving with PCA, for whom we’re both incredibly grateful. Here’s to another season. 🍷

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# 13 Months, 13 States...

## A 10,000-mile road trip in a 35-year-old sports car.

Some call this “asking for it,” I call it *adventure*—spread across 13 months, 13 states, and multiple car parties. Things didn’t go exactly as planned, but that’s why we play the game. Adventure starts when things go off map: A clutch cable snaps, an alternator fails, a wheel bearing burns up. Experienced road warriors are ready for this: They pack tools, spare parts, extra food and water, and a compact floor jack. Right now, I’m taking a mental inventory of the tools stuffed in the frunk of my 3.2 Carrera before leaving the South Side 1,100 miles ago. That weird feeling in the brakes that I brushed off in Deadwood, South Dakota birthed a grinding noise. We pull into the parking lot of an Autozone in Casper, Wyoming—myself and my partner

by Adam Kern



...and we're off!

Brooke. It’s 600 miles to her family farm in Bear Lake, Idaho, another 250 to the starting point of the 2022 Overcrest Rally—who knows how many hard backroad miles for that event, then 540 miles to Vegas, where we’ll keep the car until Rennsport Reunion 7, with part time visits for SEMA, Lüftgekühlt 8, Arizona Car Week, LA Lit & Toy Show, Overcrest ’23, and finally the long-haul home.



left & above: Badlands, SD

continued



photo: Brooke Johnson



I should've listened to the car. Old cars talk to you. If you listen, you can mostly keep yourself out of trouble. Today's trouble sounds like a rock in the brake shield or a wheel bearing. I've had the 911 jacked up in this hot parking lot, creating a scene, revealing an inner brake pad cooked down to the backing plate. A would-be friend, a father and son in a '60s Beetle, offer the number for the local Euro shop and they order new pads, they should be



Taking a break from the road, Overcrest 23



Epic rain in SoCal, 356 swap meet



here tomorrow. So, we book a room in Casper, Wyoming. Things are now officially off map, and true adventure kicks in. We have a fantastic time exploring Casper, the art museum, and an evening of beer and bingo. When adversity shuts a door, adventure opens a window.

The brake pads won't come until the weekend is over. As lovely as Casper's been, we're anxious to get back on track. I'm messaging fellow Porsche adventurer and wrench, Tony Sottile for his advice; his words? "Send it," Brooke's dad offers a two-lane route to the farm that requires minimal application of the center pedal and we make it to Bear Lake in six hours. Enough time for me to face that the caliper piston is seized.





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# 13 Months, 13 States... *continued*

Bear Lake is an oasis for us. Happy to be temporarily home in Southeast Idaho. It's 2.5-hours north of Salt Lake City, home of PMB Performance, the authority on vintage Porsche brake calipers. PMB has what I need, all four calipers and new pads. I borrow the farm truck (the nice one) and head 150 miles to SLC.

Belief in yourself is integral to success, and I ain't got it when it comes to wrenching. Sometimes, despite your best efforts, you strip the brake line nipple clean off the caliper that seemed destined to save your trip. The Overcrest Rally is out and I accept that.

I was done, more than done. Saturday morning, Brooke's dad's farm ingenuity kicked in. He took a steel brake line, flattened it in a vice, and welded the end shut. Genius! Two front brakes and one rear is probably safe in a lightweight G-body 911, right? A quick road test said yes, mostly, I just had to anticipate it pulling to one side under hard braking.



The Farm Shop



Hagerty Garage+Social, Van Nuys, CA



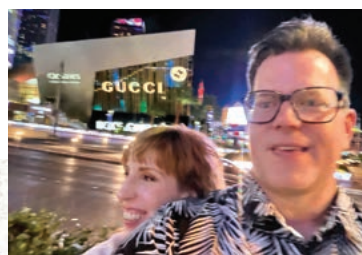
Porsche Artist Manu Campa



PCA's Scott Nacheman with legendary Porsche Racing engineer Alwin Springer



Post Checkeditout Monterey

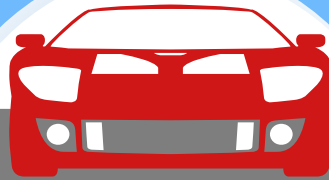


Vegas, storage at Wik's

Overcrest '22 would've been a phenomenal adventure, but it wasn't in the cards. Lesser—hell—*smarter* folks might've called AAA and had their car towed to a shop for repairs, and with luck might have been back on the road in a week. For better or worse, we chased the good story.

We made the eight hours to Las Vegas on three brakes and put the car to rest at Duane Wik's garage. This very eventful first leg added up to nearly 2,500 miles and I would change little about the experience I had with Brooke.

There's still 7,000 plus miles of story left to tell on the various events we attended on the West Coast, but this journey was always about Monterey, California and Rennsport Reunion 7. Luck would also have it that the 2023 Overcrest Rally was scheduled up the coast in Oregon a week later. Perhaps it's a triumph, it's definitely a full circle, the rally was outstanding, and the car made it home after a year of what I call 'Western residency.' 🍷



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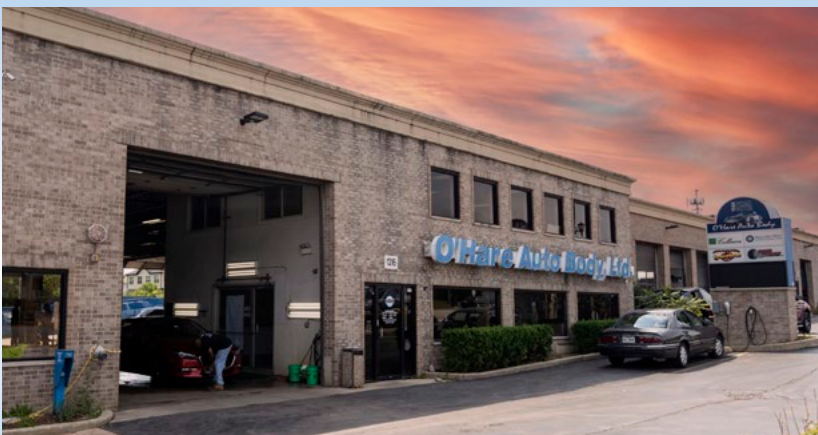
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# PCA-Chicago at Rennsport Reunion 7

by Michael Bene



**Rennsport Reunion 7** would be my first Rennsport. Having joined the club in 2018, I discovered Rennsport 6 a little too late to understand its magnitude. After talking with some club members about the event at a fall 2018 social event, it was added to the list. My anticipation grew over the next 5 years to a point where my journey to Rennsport became a pilgrimage of sorts.

I had decided I was going to take my 2018 Carrera T and drive across the country in multiple segments. The first leg of our trip was from Chicago to Phoenix in the early spring, where after attending a few local social and driving events with the car, we put her to sleep on a battery tender for the remainder of the summer.

The second leg was more scenic and occurred the week before the event. We started out of Phoenix with Adam Kern on the 26th, and made a quick stop with him in Joshua Tree National Forest before parting ways and heading south to Irvine. That night we were graciously hosted by Grace and Derek Chen in Irvine, before heading north again to spend two days in the Santa Ynez Valley wine region where we had some great meals and wine.

*continued*



photo: Derek Chen



# RENNSPORT REUNION 7



We arrived in Monterey on Thursday night, where we stayed with several other Chicago Region members at an Airbnb on the beautiful 17-mile scenic drive for the remainder of the weekend. The rest of the trip became a blur:

- Early morning parade laps on the scenic 2.238-mile road course at Laguna Seca, including the thrilling 5.5 story drop down the corkscrew and beautiful sweeping views of the Salinas Valley.
- Racing at just about every moment. There were over 300 entrants racing vintage and modern Porsches from 356, every generation of 911, 904, 906, 908, modern prototype cars to the new Porsche GT3 R Rennsport.
- Many of our Chicago Region members were racing, including Keith Clark, Dennis Hiffman, Mitch Bowling, Brian Weathered, Glenn Spiegler, Gary Knoblock, Gary Collins and John Westra. The event also marked a final run for Cheryl Lehman Collier. She now hangs up her racing career and plans to enjoy her retirement (from racing) by buying an Airbnb in Florence, Italy.
- Checkeditout Monterey – a satellite event for the Chicago city event that we've grown to love over the past 6 years. Checkeditout Monterey was held at Monterey Touring Vehicles on Friday night and the event was packed with Porsche owners from around the world!

- Autograph sessions from racing legends and Porsche icons such as Hurley Haywood and Rod Emory.
- Our local dealer Napleton Westmont Porsche was crowned as the overall Restoration Challenge Winner for their beautifully restored 1994 911 Turbo 3.6.
- Running across other Chicago Region members at every turn. This event was well attended and represented by the region. Some were camping at the track, others were in hotels and Airbnbs around the area.
- Side excursions into Carmel, Big Sur, Paso Robles and the beautiful northern California Coastline.

Suffice to say, we were all thoroughly exhausted on Monday morning when it was time to return home. I was more than happy to load my T onto a Roads United trailer with other Chicago and Milwaukee region members for an express trip home to the Midwest.

If you haven't attended a Rennsport Reunion yet, I strongly recommend adding this to your bucket list. The event doesn't happen every year and the next one will likely be 3 to 5 years from now. This is easily the pinnacle of all Porsche events in North America. 🍷

photo: Derek Chen





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# 2024 Charity: CASA of McHenry County

by Bea Pedersen

**CASA of McHenry County's** mission is to support and protect children who have been abused or neglected by providing them with trained, committed volunteers who advocate for their best interest. CASA's driving force is their shared belief that every child deserves a safe, loving, forever home.

Nearly 2,000 cases of child abuse and neglect will be reported this year in McHenry County, with 150 of those being assigned to the foster care system. Becky Morris, CASA's Executive Director explains, "Our work is to recruit, train, monitor, and support these dedicated volunteers who represent the voices of these children to the juvenile court."

CASAs, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, are the one constant adult in the lives of these children throughout the entire court case. The volunteer's presence provides consistency, stability, trust, and dependable, long-term relationships with the children they serve.

In addition to the training and support of these volunteers, CASA of McHenry County, a member of the national association that supports more than 400,000



children in foster care each year, will use the funds raised by PCA-C to further the development of a transportation program to help foster families – a first of its kind in Illinois. "We will also spearhead a new program to provide secondary-trauma support for nonprofit employees in McHenry County. Our desire is to support our community – our children, volunteers, and non-profit employees, so that we can achieve the highest standards of positive impact on those most in need," Becky told us.

CASA of McHenry County, as do all county-based CASA organizations in the Chicago Region, provides countless opportunities for adults in the community to serve as Volunteer Advocates. Volunteers can also serve on events committees, or as Board and/or committee members. "Even attending one of our fundraising events," Becky continued, "will give PCA members a deeper look into our mission and new opportunities to support and protect the children we serve. Together we can change a child's story." 🍌

photo: Jeff Brown

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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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# The SOCIAL SCENE

by James Kaikis and Stanley & Dominique Sangdah



## 2024 General Membership Meeting: New Format - New Faces by James Kaikis

This year, we decided to do something a little different for the General Membership Meeting: a booth style and interactive format that promoted members interacting and meeting new people.

Changing the makeup of a traditional event is no easy task and not without resistance. In planning the General Membership Meeting, we decided it was in the club's best interest to change the event from a three-hour slideshow presentation where you sat next to your friends to an interactive environment where you met

new people and learned more about the club's offerings in a more intimate setting.

Early feedback shows that more than 50% of attendees rated the event excellent, with another 30% rating it very good.

More importantly, 50% of attendees said they learned about different parts of PCA that they were unfamiliar with, and an astonishing 90% of attendees say they definitely or probably will attend different events this year than in past years!

*continued*





We even took extra steps to make new and like-new members more aware of our events and offerings by reaching out to them prior to the event. Fortunately, we saw the number of registrations double for those members in their first year of membership.

One of the early favorites about the event is the 2024 Event Guide which showcases everything our PCA region has to offer!

Of course, our event was not without hiccups like sunlight that affected our projector, an AV system that didn't work properly,

mixed feedback on the chicken, tightness in the overall event layout, and a few other small things.

But, for the price of half a tank of gas per PCA member, the event was a hit. We expect to make some adjustments for next year and continue to promote the events and folks associated with the PCA Chicago region. The great news is that our hard-working coordinators expect to see more attendance at their events, resulting in more value in the membership for everyone! 🍷

## Valentine's Day Lunch by Stanley & Dominique Sangdahl

The Chicago Region celebrated Valentine's Day on Sunday, February 18th by sharing the love of our Porsche friends, cars, and that special someone in your life, at Cooper's Hawk in Arlington Heights.



*continued on page 26*

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Just over one hundred members and guests filled the pleasantly cozy Barrel Room for some socializing over wine and lunch. For many years this venue has been enjoyed by everyone with its relaxed atmosphere, excellent food and wonderful service. Many thanks to the staff for another memorable event. The event started at noon and by the scheduled ending time of 4:00 there were still plenty of people ready to keep the party going.

As part of the festivities, a variety of wine varietals paired with the appropriate chocolate bar were raffled off resulting in the collection of over \$700 toward the Chicago Region's 2024 Charity partner, CASA of McHenry County. Oh, and thanks to everyone for eating the various chocolate treats at the tables. It saved us from having to bring them home and tempt us (until they are gone). 🍫



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## Newcomers Concours Clinic

by Patrick Yanahan

This year our Concours coordinators John Moore and Rich LaMarre scheduled a clinic just for brand new Concours participants. The purpose was to reduce the intimidation of how to prepare a Porsche for local and national competition. Over a dozen Chicago Region members met at Pat Yanahan's garage and were given a basic course on what techniques and products work on different areas of the vehicle.

The Porsche used for demonstration was a 2000 Boxster with over 100,000 miles indicated. This was owned by member Larry Lambert who was thinking of selling before he started preparing it for a possible Concours entry.

*continued*



Complete detailing of interior



John Moore discussing score sheets ▲



▲ Rich LaMarre is moving out of our Region and will be missed. We appreciate his many contributions to PCA-C!

◀ Pat and Curt Crowell discussing Curt's 356.



The group was shown how to wash, clay, and machine polish twenty-year-old paint. Additionally, the interior was cleaned and the leather re-dyed back to as new. Even the wheel wells and suspension were cleaned and polished. Larry estimated it took a total of about 40 man hours to bring the Boxster back to near showroom condition. Much of the conversation addressed the various products and new technologies now available at modest prices. Review of “ceramic” technology was actively discussed due to much confusion and mislabeling on some products.

The seminar entrants were asked ahead of time to send a photo of their Porsche so each entrant could tell us about the history and condition of their car. Ron Fantetti prepared the blow-ups for display. This dialog among the group stimulated conversation and questions with Pat as he demonstrated and discussed the right and wrong way of Concours detailing and preparation to compete.

Rich and John concluded by discussing the scoring at a Concours competition and the different levels that allow even beginners to compete. They also discussed the revised classes and what is judged in each.

During lunch the questions continued and the group interacted with some of their previous car cleaning experiences. This intimate event proved to be very successful and we believe as a result we will have a dozen new entrants participating in Concours 2024. 🍷



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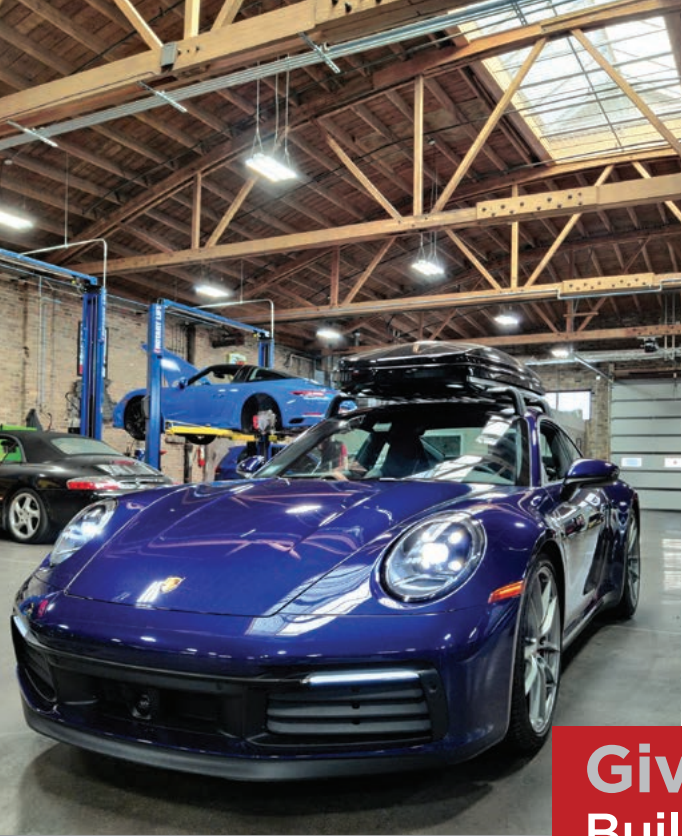
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## Giving Back: Building Leadership Through Passion

### My automotive life began at age 19 with a Triumph Spitfire

purchased with money saved up from a paper route and caddying.... that should betray my age. Life continued through a procession of vehicles until I acquired my first Porsche in 2005. It was a 1988 930, Black over Linen, and driving has been better ever since. I did not grow up in a workshop, but I did learn electrical, carpentry and mechanics alongside my dad, Rudy, and as a result developed a full respect for the trades. In 2014, after a 33-year career in the financial industry, I learned that the shop I frequented for maintenance of my turbo was in a difficult position and unlikely to survive. I saw great untapped potential, so I worked out a deal to acquire that workshop and launched Midwest Performance Cars LLC in April of 2014.

I had a vision for what I wanted to achieve in owning a Porsche-specialty workshop. Having the highest technical abilities demands continual training, so we send our technicians across the country to train with the best automotive minds in the world, as well as bringing great trainers into town for local events.

*continued*

*by Andy Bizub*



from left: Brandon Ludwikowski, Ryan Virgilio, Andy Bizub, and Chris Lum



◀ My first Porsche was a 1988 930, Black over Linen

But the main opportunity I saw was a cultural shift to make everything revolve around our relationship with our clients. I wanted people to be comfortable asking questions, feel confident in their dealings with MPC, and know exactly what we had done to maintain, repair, and upgrade their Porsche. I am proud of our teams who put our client's concerns and desires first.

In 2018 I had the opportunity to open our second location in Northbrook Illinois, and in summer of 2023, we launched our third location in Westmont, bringing the MPC service experience to existing and new clients who prefer not to travel into the city.

Midwest Performance Cars has always embraced change, like servicing the current Taycans and the future Porsche EVs. Approaching our 10th Anniversary brought another meaningful change. With an eye to the future and our growing footprint, three of our high-performing team members stepped up to ownership shares of the company. I have always thought that as an owner, one of my responsibilities to the business, my clients, and my people is to "build a bigger ladder" for people to continue moving up in their profession. So today, Chris Lum, Brandon Ludwikowski,



and Ryan Virgilio are now part-owners of the business, clearing the way for others to assume management roles and ensuring that MPC has the talent, drive, and bandwidth to continue as a leading Porsche service center in the Midwest region.

Participants in Chicago PCA Autocross and the annual Swap Meet and the revived Golf Outing will recognize Chris, Brandon, and Ryan as regular drivers, volunteers, and organizers. The four of us plus the entire MPC organization will continue to be enthusiastic supporters of the Chicago region PCA as Midwest Performance Cars begins its second decade! 🍷



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**High Performance Drivers Ed**

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- ★ Friday, June 21, 2024
- ★ Super Tuesday, July 9, 2024
- ★ Saturday & Sunday, September 28 & 29, 2024

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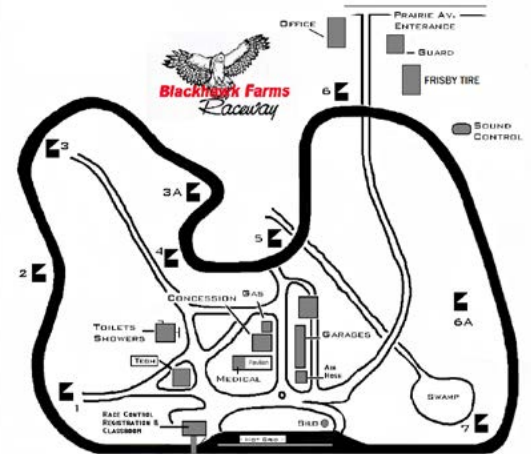
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## 2024 Autobahn Events

Our 2024 season includes four events at Autobahn Country Club. We kick off our driver's education season with our first-ever Street Survival course for teen drivers. This is a must-attend hands-on driving event that teaches defensive driving to the new drivers in your family.

Ladies' Day is returning again this year on June 13, and, for the first time, we will be driving the full track, not once, but twice, on July 29<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>.

- Saturday, April 13, 2024 – Street Survival
- Thursday, June 13, 2024 – Ladies' Day High Performance Driving
- Monday, July 29, 2024 – Full Track High Performance Driving
- Monday, October 7, 2024 – Full Track High Performance Driving

Come out and join in the fun.

Ladies' Day is made possible by a generous sponsorship by Napleton Westmont Porsche



# 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.

## MARCH

- 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Swap Meet, MPC Northbrook
- 16 St. Pat's Social, Hardware
- 23 HPDE Instructor Workshop, Blackdog Speedshop
- 24 Concours School, Napleton

## APRIL

- 6 Porsches & Pastries, Calibré Coffee
- 10 Board Meeting
- 13 Street Survival, Autobahn
- 14 Tech Session, Northstar Motorsports
- 20 AX School, Wintrust Field
- 21 Concours Judges School, MPC
- 26 Blackhawk 1, Novice Day

## MAY

- 4 Porsches & Pastries, Labriola
- 5 Rallye School, Engineering Systems
- 8 Board Meeting
- 18 Concours 1, Klairmont Collections
- 19 Rallye 1, TBD
- 23-26 RADE, Road America

## JUNE

- 5 Board Meeting
- 8 Porsches & Pastries, Barnaba
- 13 Ladies' DE, Autobahn
- 21 Blackhawk 2
- 22 Golf Outing, White Pines
- 23 Concours 2, Bolingbrook
- 29 AX 1, 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
- 26-28 Summer Driving Tour
- 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

For up-to-date details, please check:

<https://pca-chicago.org/event-schedule/>

## PCA-CHICAGO DRIVING TOURS 2024

As usual, there will be a **Summer Driving Tour** and an **Autumn Driving Tour**.

### Sommer - Fahrt Tour

**Friday 07-26 thru Sunday 07-28** The **Summer Tour** will bring us up to La Crosse, WI. We will stay Friday and Saturday night at the **Fairfield Inn LaCrosse**. The hotel is right downtown and near everything. They have ample off-street parking. We will take a drive on Saturday up the scenic Mississippi River. We will then return to LaCrosse and dine together for a nice barbecue lunch at **Piggy's Restaurant and Lounge**. It isn't far from the hotel, so you can walk or drive to lunch. They have a large parking lot as well.

Saturday night, we will dine as a group at **The Freighthouse Restaurant** in La Crosse. The restaurant is a 3 minute drive or an 11 minute (1/2 mile) walk from the hotel. Besides eating and drinking, we will have the traditional raffles, jokes (yep the Schnauzer Joke) and other frivolities!

### Der Herbst - Fahrt Tour

**Friday 10-18- thru Sunday 10-20** The **Autumn Tour** will bring us up to Door County, Wisconsin. We will stay Friday and Saturday at The **Landmark Resort** in Egg Harbor.

On Saturday morning we will drive to Northport, WI and board the **Washington Island Ferry**. We and our cars will be transported to Washington Island. We will pass through "Death's Door" both going to, and coming from, Washington Island. Seeing 35 or 40 Porsches on a ferry is a pretty impressive sight! Pray for calm seas! With any luck, we will see amazing foliage as well! I am planning a special little stop on the island that may involve Lavender! Stay tuned....

Saturday night we will dine and drink as a group at the **Carrington Restaurant** at the Landmark Resort. The restaurant is walking distance to all the guest rooms. Besides eating and drinking, we will have the traditional raffles, jokes (yep the Schnauzer Joke) and other frivolities!



Keep an eye out for advertisements for these events as we get closer to the event dates. Look for ads for the **Summer Tour** in April and ads for the **Autumn Tour** in July. Contact John Diwik, Chicago Driving Tour Coordinator with questions, **630-962-9224**.



## The Concours Lawn: An Interview with Don Janes

by Kirk Owens

Daily driving a 2022 Cayenne GTS is a necessary trophy-hauler for 2023 overall PCA-Chicago Concours Grand Touring Champion Don Janes, PCA member since 2016. His immaculate 2013 911S scored two 1st places and one 2nd place – more than impressive for his very first Concours car and only his fourth year competing! We cannot wait to see how much shine his 2012 Cayman R will have this year; as a previous track car, the judges will have a sharp eye for stone chips and rash remnants.

The Grand Touring class involves cleaning and judging, the entire car. How does a champion do this? In Don's words, *"I clean the underside of the engine, wheel wells, springs and shocks, sway bars and links – basically everything a tall judge with long arms can reach with a white glove when lying on the ground. I jack-up the car, remove all four wheels, scrub and clean everything, then roll under the car and scrub and vacuum all the underbody panels. This is a lot of work."* To prove his humility, he notes, *"I always seem to do well on the undercarriage, but a speck of dust on one of the wheels always reminds me I'm human."* If Don doesn't remember, the judges score sheet will.

But why spend all those hours on such meticulous cleaning Don? *"I love doing the work and learning all the nuances of the car – disassemble and reassemble, learning new products and methods. The work itself is a great way to break away from business, completely. It clears my mind and keeps me busy for hours. The final results are a sense of pride and enjoyment."* Don't forget to add – every attendee and participant seeing a near flawless Pcar and feeling a little jealous of his accomplishments.

A glimpse from the wash bucket reveals Don's habits, products and recommendations. He washes the car monthly and keeps it fresh with Griot's Speed Shine. *"It is also a good clay bar lubricant"*, he advises. He'll start Concours detailing 7 to 10 days before the competition and adds, *"The first detail of the year is the toughest, then it's relatively easy to keep up."* Look inside this champion's cleaning kit and you'll find: Turtle Wax Ceramic Polish and Wax, *"very easy to use with great results"*, Chemical Guys VRP Shine and Protect, Griot's Vinyl & Rubber Dressing and Invisible Glass.

Products must accompany technique to claim the title, so here's what Don does to stay on the Concours podium. *"I keep a spreadsheet of all the various tasks, sequentially organized for efficiency. The spreadsheet is a work in progress but designed to eliminate duplication of effort."* Microfiber meets Microsoft indeed! As a Concours judge, he knows, and shares, the "watch-outs": *"1) Empty your glove box, 2) Carpeting and floor mats – they must be like new and cleaned underneath as well, 3) No potato chips or morsels stuck in the seat crevices, 4) Lug nuts – clean and not chipped and clean the back of wheel spokes."*

*continued*



From years of PCA membership and hundreds of hours detailing his 911, Concours has brought Don, "...a whole new group of friends. Everyone I met has been supportive, friendly, and social. With much in common, we all work on our own cars and know the effort that goes into prepping a car for competition. There is plenty of opportunity for building friendships, enjoying a meal or a beer together and making your PCA membership more rewarding and meaningful."

There must be a cherished Concours memory, right Don? "I would say taking the overall Grand Touring 2023 win was right there. Growing my friendship with John Moore and, in a closely contested battle, winning against his beautiful, one-owner, '71 Targa was especially memorable. What should probably have been a tie, was a closely contested, hard win. Unlike our national elections, this was always friendly and always supportive. There are few competitions that can build what I hope will be a lifelong friendship!"

So what's the 2024 Concours season look like for the reigning champ? "I plan on participating in all Chicago concours events this year. I also hope to attend Parade again and give that my best. I did Parade in 2022 at Poconos – it was a learning experience and humbling because the waxy residue, that I couldn't see in the sunlight, brought me down. I hope to do better this year."



For those interested in walking Don's steps, a few thoughts from the #1 seed:

- 1 Concours is a fabulous way to meet wonderful people, see some great cars and increase your car's appearance, safety, value and owner pride. I find working on my cars a great diversion from my everyday workplace tensions.
- 2 Concours preparation is a great way to keep your car in top condition. This year, while doing the undercarriage, I found a transmission leak and was able to get it repaired and upgraded before my transmission was damaged. Deep cleaning is always good preventative maintenance.
- 3 Like other PCA-Chicago activities, meeting other enthusiasts and making new friends is a primary benefit of Concours. After the work is done, this is a very social activity – one of the most social activities we have in the Club. We walk around in cool or unique locations, give advice to newbies and catch up with other regulars, all in the pursuit of good times.
- 4 It is very easy to start participating in Concours. Just clean your car, come to a Show & Shine event or just join the corral at an official Concours. Watch the scoring process, speak with any of the regulars and ask questions. Bring the kids too! We always enjoy the youth judging and it's fun for everyone. Absolutely plan on attending the Concours school, March 24 at Napleton (Westmont), you're guaranteed to make new friends.
- 5 When you're ready to give it a try, we have several levels of difficulty starting at Exhibition level (exterior only). From there, you can add in the interior, the storage areas, then the engine or undercarriage. Seek your own comfort level and just do it. I promise, we'll help you with any questions you may have. 🍌

◀ John Moore's '71 Targa that Don Janes competed against

photo: Jeff Brown

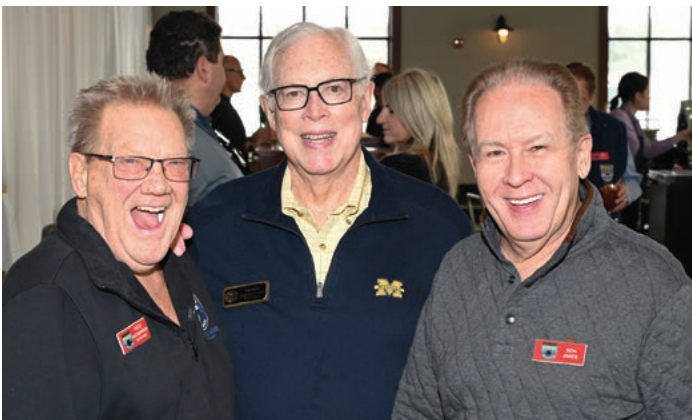


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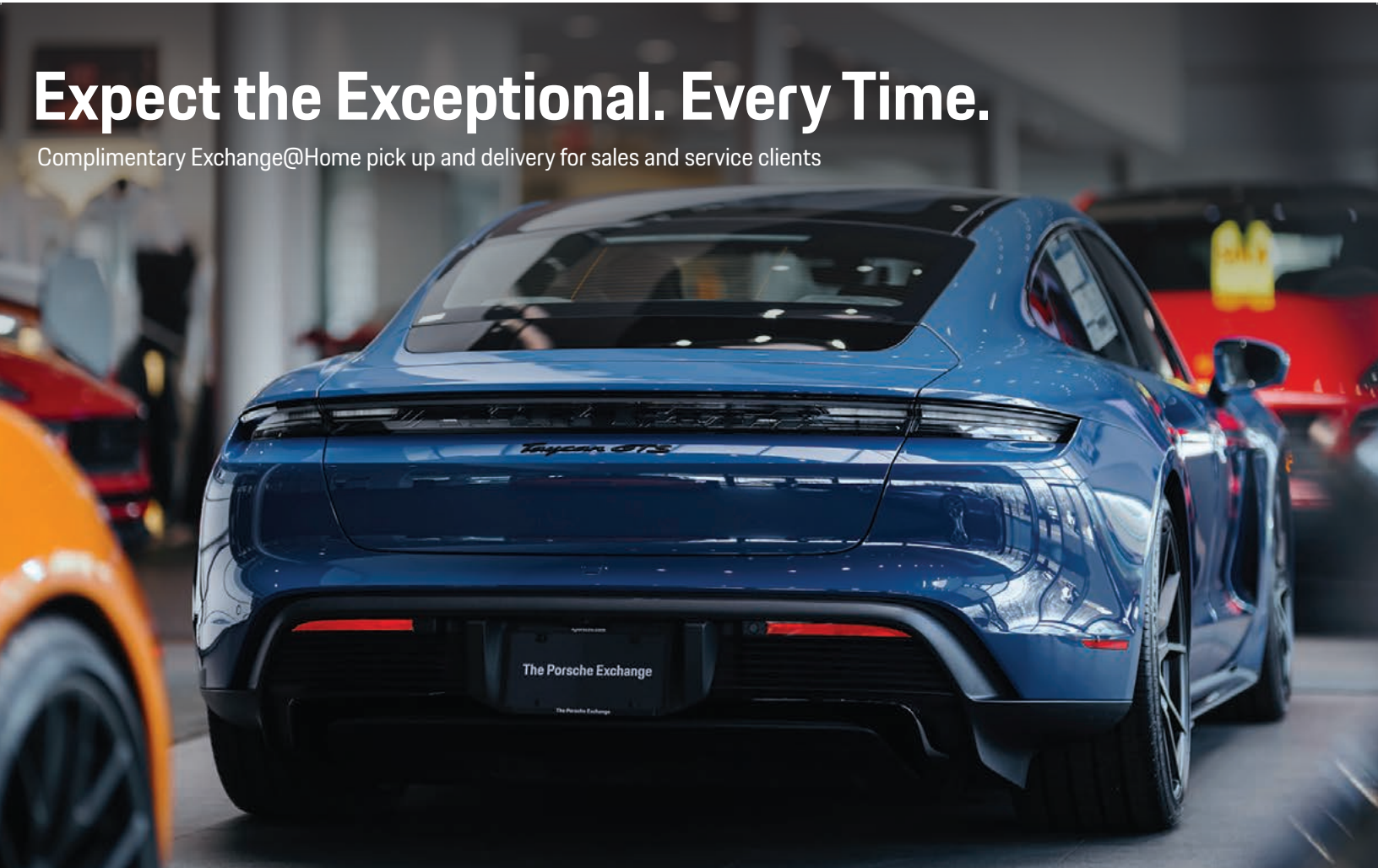
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