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Top photo: Rallye by *Neil MacDonald*

Bottom left photo: GingerMan by *Jeff Brown*

Bottom right photo: Porsche Parade by *Derek Chen*

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Many more photos from our events are available online:

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It's not just the cars...

Wow, its already September; two-thirds of the way through the year and the Chicago Region has been busy. I'm kind of a data guy, so let me run the numbers for you:

- More than 40 events
- Over 3,700 attendees
- More than 5,500 photos on our website documenting the events
- 55 articles, written by 43 authors and 30 photographers spanning over 200 pages in *The Chicago Scene*.

And there are still four months left in 2024.

While there are certainly a lot of Porsches (thousands, actually) involved in these events, clearly, those cars don't come to the events on their own. Someone has to drive them, maintain them, clean them, talk about them, and yes, love them.

But here's the thing. There is another side of this Porsche-centered love-fest. It is the volunteers that organize and run the events. Believe it or not, there is a core team of only thirty-five members with an additional hundred or so volunteers that make everything that PCA-Chicago Region does happen.

Most members don't realize it, but we have term limits for all of our leadership and coordinator roles. That was something that was part of the Bylaw changes implemented last year and they were adopted to ensure the club is always being infused with new ideas and energy. As a result, we always have the opportunity for members to "grow" into roles and for roles to have backups because, regardless of what you have heard, volunteers do have lives outside of the club (yes, we really do).

Being a volunteer gives you the opportunity to meet more people, provide input into what events we hold, and be part of the team that continues the traditions that has made the Chicago Region one of the most vibrant and active Regions in PCA.

Whether you are interested in helping out on a single event, or want to take the plunge and someday become one of the organizers and planners of what we do, go here: <https://pca-chicago.org/volunteering-opportunities/> to see what opportunities exist and raise your hand to help. BTW, if you don't see something in the list that interests you, let us know what you are interested in doing anyway.

As the motto goes, "It's the people..."

Dana Comolli
President, Chicago Region



“

...we always have the opportunity for members to “grow” into roles...

”

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A Lasting Tradition: Concours at Potter's Picnic

by John Moore

The flagship and most attended Social and Concours event of the season was just that at Peter Fischer's Grayslake estate. Nothing can compare to beer, brats, ice cream, and a big top circus tent surrounded with beautiful Porsches.

The Concours Team of Barb, Jim, myself, and a team of volunteers set up the Concours Registration tent adjacent to the main tent. Registration for Concours competition began at noon and a judge's meeting was set for 12:45 with Towels down at 1:00 PM. Twelve judges were on hand ready to judge our four Concours classes and score the best cars on Preparation of Cleanliness and Condition.

continued



photo: Michael Bene

photo: Michael Bene

A Lasting Tradition: Concours at Potter's Picnic *continued*

photo: Michael Bene



photo: Michael Bene



As the Judging progressed, Steve and Kathy Kuk took to the masses to sell raffle tickets. Tickets were also being sold at registration where a beautiful array of Concours awards and fantastic raffle prizes were on display for all to see.

There were many beautiful Porsches on display in the infield and car talk and camaraderie was par for the course at this great event.



photo: Michael Bene



Something new was added this year as we initiated a Kid's Raffle with some nice prizes for future Concours enthusiasts.

There were 21 cars that were judged for competitive points. *Here are the winners by Concours Class:*

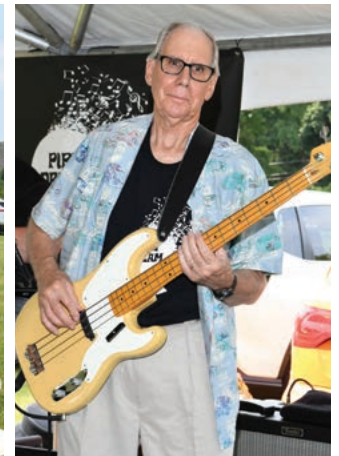
Grand Touring Class: First Place, Don Janes, 2013 911 S • Second Place, Dave Mangano, 200 Boxster S • Third Place, John Moore, 1987 911 Carrera

Touring Class: First Place, Bill Palm, 1986 911 Carrera Cab • Second Place, Ron Bean, 1986 911 • Third Place, Bob Rath & Cindy Jacisin, 2023 Boxster

Street Class: First Place, Marcin Proszek, 1985 944 • Second Place, Bob Martin 2001 911 • Third Place, Adam Kern, 2007 Cayman

Exhibition Class: First Place, Richard Tseng, 1994 Turbo • Second Place, Dana Comolli, 2011 GT3 RS • Third Place, Dana Comolli, 2013 GT3 Coupe

My congratulations to all of the winners. This was a very competitive scoring event in each class and hats off to the winners for their hard work preparing their cars; a job well done. I look forward to seeing many of you at Road America Elkhart Lake Concours on August 31. 🍷





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Not So Gingerly Driven: GingerMan 2024

by Glenn Deweirdt



photo: Evan Serrilla



What a weekend! We could not have had better weather in South Haven Michigan for our 2024 GingerMan Driver's Ed event. Typically, we are sweating through 95+ degree weather or fighting storms that would sink a Lake Michigan steamer. This year the temperatures stayed under 80 degrees and the skies were partly cloudy. Perfect driving weather!

Event Co-Coordinators Glenn DeWeirdt (Yours Truly), Neil French, and Mark Palmer, were ably assisted by Heather Ingram who headed up Registration and organized and was lead car for the track touring for charity. We were also helped by our stalwart and intrepid President, Dana Comolli, who helped out as a lead car for the low speed orientation laps Friday evening and filled in wherever required.



continued

photo: Evan Serilla



We had 113 drivers and 100 cars attending our event. Of course, Porsches were the most common cars but we also had a gaggle (I think multiple Fords are called a gaggle and not a herd as conventional wisdom would suggest) of Mustangs, and a number of other marques including a Lotus and a Ferrari. The cars were split into four run groups with novice drivers paired with instructors in Group 4, more experienced drivers in Group 3; Drivers without regard for human life, either theirs or other drivers, populating the always interesting Group 2; and the usual suspects in Group 1 taking advantage of the PCA Expanded Passing Program. I am pleased to report the weekend was incident free with only a few cars going four wheels off in the ever popular turn 10B.

We had a large group of our friends from PCA St. Louis Region, who have come out the last four years. They are a great group and we are glad to have them. They are excellent drivers as well! There were also drivers



photo: Evan Serilla





photo: Evan Serilla

from several other PCA regions represented: including Western Michigan, SouthEast Michigan, and Michiana. Our Gingerman event also draws independent drivers from the Midwest.

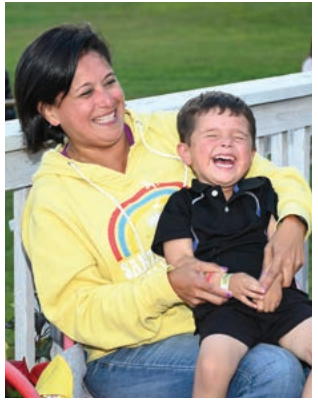
The Italian Dinner at the track was back by popular demand. Neil and Pancha French did a great job with the menu and beer and wine selections. Entertainment was provided by JB, an amazing musician who spends most of his time playing professionally on the famous Sixth Street in Austin Texas.



What a great way to end a perfect day!
Neil, Mark, and I look forward to running this great event again next year. Plan on coming up for this wonderful, family-friendly event! **RADE** happen! Now the countdown for **TRAC** begins. 🍷



photo: Evan Serilla





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Driving in all Formats: HPDE to AutoX

by Maggie Surowka

This year I finally ventured into the PCA event world after being nudged by my husband for several years. I made the decision to let him allocate all my Gala raffle tickets, which led to an unexpected win: paid season of Autocross, including school. Well, so much for excuses!

Until then, my experience driving our Porsche (“Frankie/Frankenstein” 2018 911 Carrera) was rather limited. She’s neither kid nor Costco-friendly. With Autocross on the horizon, I needed to get acquainted with Frankie and began my journey at the Ladies HPDE day held at Autobahn North track.

Ladies Day was a wonderfully planned and exhilarating event. Thanks to an amazing instructor and helpful classroom sessions, I managed to improve my lap time by 16 seconds throughout the day. HPDEs full scale track allows you to focus on finding a flow through continuous laps, absorbing feedback from your instructor, and making adjustments with each pass. Adrenaline left me shaking like a twig after each session, but the structured, strategic approach during



laps balanced it out. I left with a grin and my need for speed stoked.

However, HPDE and Autocross are worlds apart – like comparing a greyhound track to a dog agility course. The “smooth is fast” mantra is replaced by “a squealing tire is a happy tire” to help endure the hairpins and slaloms.

Autocross one at Tire Rack was infuriating! I needed a mental 180 to precision and agility, transitioning from raw speed. Managing my adrenaline became an issue as each short, intense run left me feeling like the lap ended before it even began. Despite some improvements throughout the day, I left feeling mentally exhausted and frustrated.

continued



photo: Derek Chen



Fortunately, Autocross school was around the corner and turned out to be one of the most enjoyable and educational experiences ever. It was a day to experience the thrill of pushing your car to its limits in a supportive and encouraging environment. Each drill was a mini-lesson in car control, making instruction easier to absorb. The blend of fun and learning was perfect, boosting my confidence and then I felt ready for Autocross 2.



Both experiences offer unique thrills and valuable lessons, each requiring a different mindset. HPDE opens a world of high-speed driving while Autocross emphasizes precision control in a lower risk setting. The Porsche community

has been incredible, and I look forward to continuing my journey, pushing the boundaries of what Frankie and I can achieve. 🍷





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Loud and Clear

by Paul Davis

My experience with PCA Rallye began like many others.

I apprehensively attended the school, left with more questions than I had come with, and completed the practice Rallye with only three phone calls. Despite the confusion, we skated by better than most!

Our first Rallye taught us the necessity of headsets. Initially, we had to choose between being able to hear, but suffocating with closed windows and no AC, or going hoarse from yelling. Installing the headsets was simple. I found the kit from a UK Rallye Outfitter, and all that was required was screwing down the intercom to my rear shelf and wiring power to the unit.



As our first year of Rallying progressed, we learned that going from the back of the pack to winning “Novice of the Year” involved more than just staying on route and minimizing phone calls. Moving up required constant clear communication, catching tricks ahead of time, and having a good ‘feel’ for if we were fast or slow and on or off course. This year’s season has progressed well; so far, we’ve maintained consistent top-7 finishes, which is far better than our performance from 2023, but aiming



photo: Neil MacDonald



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Jeff Brown

to shed those last few points will demand hitting much smaller margins race to race. At Rallye II in July we were holding steady in 3rd place until a slip-up caused us to fall back to 7th, which just demonstrates how dynamic the event can be.

The story behind the Blue Targa we use in Rallye is almost fit for a Hallmark movie. My dad bought the car new and drove the wheels off it throughout Europe. After its seven-year residency in Spain, it was shipped back and federalized. When the fateful head stud issue arose, he stored the car, thinking he'd eventually

continued on page XX

photo: Neil MacDonald



center & right photos: Jeff Brown

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photo: Jeff Brown

get to it: Twenty-two years later, it became a family discussion on what to do with the car, and I took on the responsibility of restoring it. When I started, I had to balance doing a head stud replacement, working an internship, and going to college full time. After learning how to drive stick at midnight just after it snowed, the car and its (in)famous 915 transmission and I clicked. I've now doubled its mileage and driven to more states than it got a chance to 30 years ago, with no plans of stopping.



My journey in PCA Rallye has been a blend of challenges and triumphs. From the constant learning required to improve our performance to the personal story of restoring and driving the Blue Targa, each step has been an adventure. The future holds more races and many more miles, and I look forward to every moment of it. 🍷



photo: Jeff Brown



center & right photos: Jeff Brown



photo: Neill MacDonald

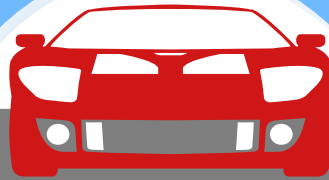
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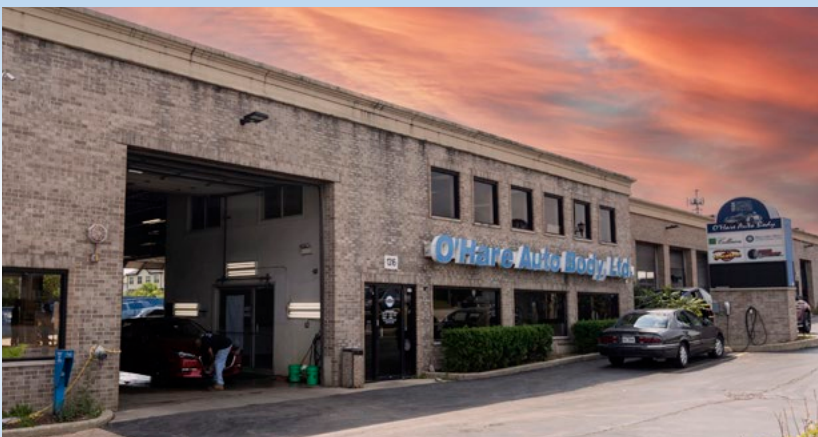
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The SOCIAL SCENE

by Sean & Julie Gillette



A Tale of Two Meets: Pastries, Porsches, and Plenty of Wieners

Sunday, July 21st, 2024, marked a first for the PCA-Chicago chapter – two car meets in one day. As four-year veterans of the club, my wife Julie and I couldn't resist the challenge of this double-header.

Our day began at the crack of dawn, or what feels like it on a Sunday. By 9:30 AM, we were pulling into the Two Brothers Roundhouse Cafe in Aurora for "Porsches & Pastries." Julie and I engaged in a spirited drive, following a newer 911, down the interstate heading for the same location.

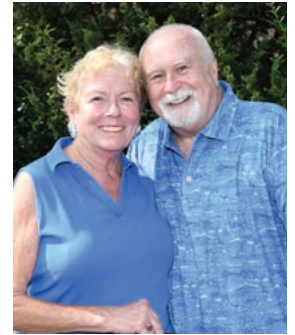
The morning meet was a feast for both the eyes and the taste buds. While Julie was meeting a new member who just retired and bought herself a new 911 as a gift, I found myself quickly looking for the GT3RSes. An owner caught me mid-gawk and joked, "She's a beauty, isn't she? Just don't tell my wife I said that!" We shared a laugh, and just like that, a new friendship was born.

As the morning wore on, we caught up with old friends, swapped stories, and debated the merits of various Porsche models. Julie

joined in the banter, proving once again that she knows more about cars than I'd like to admit. We could not leave until we had lunch in their beautiful outside beer garden/patio. We are planning to go back for their Oktoberfest.

continued





After a brief pit stop at home (and a power nap for yours truly), we headed to Superdawg in Wheeling for “Wieners & Wheels” at 3 PM. The contrast between the refined morning pastries and the Chicago style hot dogs was as stark as the difference between a 911 and a Macan – both excellent in their own right.

The afternoon crowd was just as lively, if not more so. We spotted a classic 356 that had us both weak in the knees, and Julie couldn’t stop gushing over her favorite color, the Miami blue. As we ate our ice cream, we reflected on how lucky we were to be part of such a diverse and passionate community.

By the end of the day, we were exhausted, but exhilarated. Two meets, countless conversations, and more beautiful cars than we could count – it was a Sunday well spent.

As we pulled into our driveway, Julie’s eyes lit up with excitement. “Don’t forget,” she chirped, “next weekend we’re off to La Crosse for the summer driving tour!” I couldn’t help but smile, thinking of the winding roads and good company ahead. With a playful wink, we both shouted our battle cry for the upcoming adventure: “HELLO WISCONSIN!” 🍷



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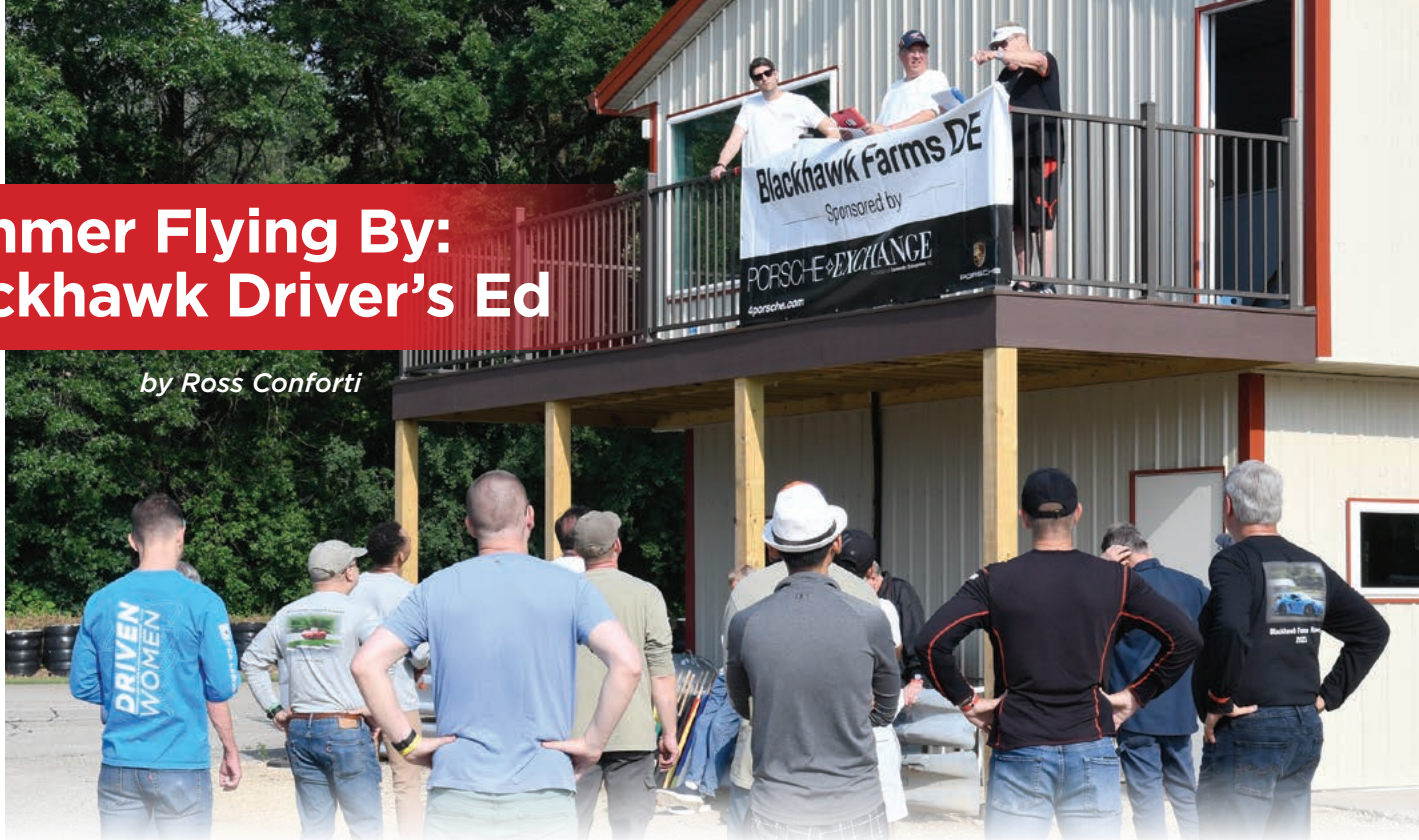
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Summer Flying By: Blackhawk Driver's Ed

by Ross Conforti



The summer heat joined PCA-Chicago region members at our first weekday driver's education event at Blackhawk Farms Raceway in South Beloit, IL on June 21st. PCA-Chicago has been running weekday events at Blackhawk for 55 years, and they remain a staple of the DE season for drivers of all levels of experience. Around 70 drivers participated in the event. This total included 15 novice drivers who took advantage of PCA-Chicago's excellent DE program to learn how to drive their car safely on track. A pre-event online class, in-car instruction, and two at-track classroom sessions featuring Dana Comolli and John Ruther got these drivers up to speed.

We were back at Blackhawk for our mid-week Tuesday, July 9th event, where 65 drivers came out to hone their skills. 10 novices at this event were assisted by instructors and participated in classroom sessions. The sun was out again for us at this

continued



Summer Flying By: Blackhawk Driver's Ed *continued*



event, everyone stayed hydrated and found shade to cool off when they were not on track.

A special thanks to all the instructors who battled the heat and humidity riding with their students at both events, many of whom then jumped in their own car for their sessions. Those who had driver cooling systems were glad to have them! We closed each event with our now standard pizza, refreshments, and camaraderie in the Blackhawk

pavilion, where everyone debriefed on the day and talked about the plans for the next upgrades to their car, the nuances of the line they learned throughout the day, and the next opportunities to get out on track. 🍕





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photo: Derek Chen

Competitive Events Medley *by Marcin Proszek*



In the spring of this year, I thought to myself “This Year, why not try and participate in as many competitive events as I can?”

I was already familiar with Autocross, I tried Concours last season and got a taste of a Rallye as well. All right! How hard can it be?

For those expecting a plot twist here, there isn't. The participation isn't hard. All events are scheduled conflict-free, so no one misses out on Concours or Rallye, registering for Autocross, and vice versa. Preparing for the events, however, requires careful planning. That's the hard part.

Watching the weather and picking which day has no rain in the forecast to detail a car before Concours with no problems; unpacking all instructions,



“

Friendly but serious competition, organized by experienced people, executed to the highest standards with safety in mind.

”





photo: Michael Bene

sticky notes and highlighters after Rally; loading up my toolbox, helmet, and changing wheels in preparation for Autocross. It's a never-ending cycle.

Events themselves, although different in nature, are run based on a similar formula: Friendly but serious competition, organized by experienced people, executed to the highest standards with safety in mind. Most of all, the organizers and seasoned competitors make other participants feel welcomed, encouraged and motivated, and are always happy to provide help whether

that is as a driving instructor, some extra rule explanation or a detailing tip.

For me, besides having fun competing, seeing fellow competitors, trying to get the best result and Year End Points, it's important to acknowledge that attending any PCA events is supporting all involved chairs, organizers and volunteers – people who offer their free time and tons of energy to make it all happen.

It's safe to say I am hooked, and from what I've seen, I'm not the only one. 🍌



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photo: Jeff Lange

“Part One” Summer Driving Tour: **Up North**

The driving tour was another resounding success thanks to the diligence of John and Beth Diwik! The day started like many driving tours before it, there were 37 cars that met up in a parking lot before heading out in groups toward our Friday lunch destination. Driving instructions began with a quote from Katherine Hepburn, “If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun.” Many participants may have translated this to: here are your

by Brian Scifers



photo: Marko & Diane Yaremych



photo: Julie Gillette

directions but it's up to you on how you get there (no worries though, as there is plenty of support to ensure everyone makes it to the tour destinations!). Lunch was at the Grumpy Troll in Mt. Herob, WI. Many stories of past tours or other shared experiences were told, though no trolls were in sight, let alone grumpy ones. We then continued onto La Crosse, taking in the natural beauty

continued

“Part One” Summer Driving Tour: Up North continued



photo: Julie Gillette



photo: Marko & Diane Yaremnych

of the Mississippi River valley along the Great River Road. A few hours later we all settled into our weekend accommodation in downtown La Crosse, where restaurants and other destinations could be found. Tour participants gathered in the hotel lobby that first night to continue the lunchtime

celebrations with shared libations and snacks/hors d'oeuvres. As the hours of the day wound down, groups splintered off to find a meal and continue building tour memories.

Saturday started with another shared meal taking in the hotel's complimentary



photo: Julie Gillette



photo: Dave & Babs Swanson

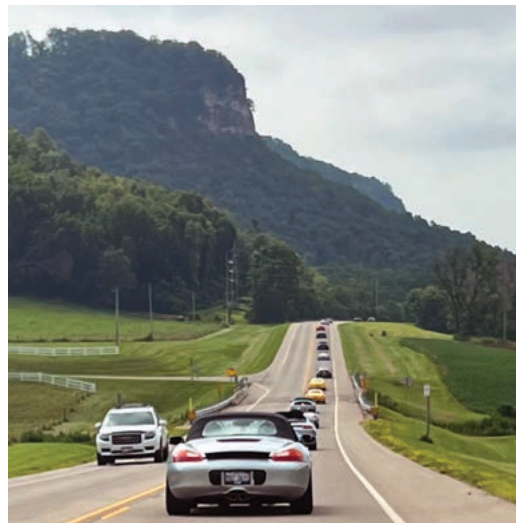


photo: Julie Gillette



photo: Sharon Finlayson



photo: Jeff Lange



photo: Jeff Lange

breakfast, while awaiting the start of our Saturday morning drive to Nelson Creamery. This time we hopped over to the Minnesota side of the river before landing back in Wisconsin, taking in more of the breathtaking river views! Nelson Creamery offered a tremendous selection of wines, cheeses, and more snacks (including some delicious ice cream...what better mid-morning snack could you ask for?!). Upon returning to La Crosse, everyone had some free time to explore the local offerings before meeting up for dinner at the La Crosse Club, conveniently located within minutes of walking distance from the hotel.

Dinner at the La Crosse Club brought more spectacular views of the river and Riverside Park. Jokes were told, raffle prizes won, accompanied by a delicious meal enjoyed by all. It is also here that the author learned that a brandy old fashioned is the “official state cocktail” of Wisconsin, and that more brandy is consumed there than any other state. Upon returning to the hotel after a wonderful night together, we were greeted by other PCA Chicago members spending the weekend in La Crosse with another group. More stories were shared of the day’s adventures before retiring for

the night. Sunday morning was filled with more conversation and laughter as we prepared to make the trek back home on our own.

It is a true testament to the love of the marquee when members strive to “get out and drive” together, making and sharing memories that we both build on and pass down over the years. Please consider joining us on the Fall Driving Tour for “part two” of our northbound adventures in Wisconsin as we visit Door County! 🍷

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.

SEPTEMBER

- 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

- 5 Porsches & Pilsners, Two Brothers
- 7 Autobahn Full Track
- 9 Board Meeting
- 13 Rallye 5, Verona, WI
- 18-20 Fall Driving Tour, Egg Harbor, WI

NOVEMBER

- 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Tech Session, TBD
- 16 Porsches & Pastries / Toys for Tots, Labriola

DECEMBER

- 14 Annual Awards & Dinner Dance, Eaglewood Resort



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

photo: Neill MacDonald



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PCA-C Representing at Parade 2024

by Derek Chen
& Randy Meinzer

Porsche owners celebrate the ownership experience, engineering, and love of driving at the Annual Porsche Parade. Getting to Parade, was also an excuse to experience the history of this great country. Driving a portion of the 444 mile Natchez Trace Parkway you can retrace one of the oldest trading routes in North America which was first used by the “Kaintuck” Indians some 10,000 years ago. We felt humbled and saddened with a visit to The Legacy Museum in Montgomery.



In contrast, a visit to rocket city in Huntsville invokes a feeling of pride in this country’s space exploration program; and one senses the passion, patience and crafting of the world’s best bourbon



continued



when touring the bourbon trail. The resulting experiences, initiated with a shared affection for all things Porsche are reinforced by the parade experience and the shared adventures on the road.

At this year's Parade, our region has a lot to be proud of. Our very own Michael Grove chaired the Concours. The venue, Birmingham's 10 Block City Walk, is a great public space built below an overhead expressway. City Walk, illuminated with shades of purple, blue, pink and white light, also shaded attendees and participants from the hot summer sun creating a comfortable environment



to hear the back stories of so many cherished cars. Michael didn't stand alone, with the help of a large Chicago contingent and other region experts, they organized, staged, judged and awarded deserving concours participants. Concours was executed flawlessly.

Additionally, our region, received two prestigious national awards. Congratulations to the *Chicago Scene* team and editor Neil MacDonald for winning 1st place for newsletters. Additionally, the Chicago region website team and Dana Comolli earned a commendable 3rd place award.



continued



The rest of parade week was filled with friendly competition between the regions and various other activities. Over 1600 attendees across 115 regions attended this year's parade. They participated in activities ranging from the Gimmick Rally to Laps at Talladega; some hopped in a SIM racing cockpit while others raced RC Cars. Tech sessions were extremely popular while the creative side was also on display at the Art Show. Among the Chicago region participants, the driving tours were the most popular and of course Parade was capped off with over 320 participating in the Parade of Porsches.

Overall, there was an abundance of activities at Parade, though we might not recall what events we



did in future years, we will remember the new friends we've made and the connections we renewed. We think that's the best thing about Porsche Parade. Hope to see you in Oklahoma City! 🍷





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