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Cover: Concours 1988 "CE" 911 by Ryan Bennett

Top photo: TRAC by Jeff Brown

Bottom left photo: Octoberfest by Jeff Brown

Bottom right photo: Autocross 6 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.

### Editor

Natalie Szabo

### Contributing Writers

David Bowers

Pete Bukantis

Dana Comolli

Shonali Ditz

Griffin Fujii

Sean Gillette

Kirk Owens

Karen Stephensen

### Contributing Photographers

Michael Bene

Ryan Bennett

Jeff Brown

Derek Chen

Wes Fujii

Neil MacDonald

Victor Newman

Steve Rashbaum

### Art Direction, Design & Production

Fred Huetter, *Graphic Solutions Inc.-chgo*, [www.graphsol.com](http://www.graphsol.com)

### Printing

Ed Soske, *Presstech*, [www.prestechus.com](http://www.prestechus.com)

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

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## Year End Random Thoughts

The season's almost over and so is my first term as President. I say first term because you re-elected me to a second term (or was it everyone else took one step back when they were asking for volunteers...) All that's left is our Dinner Dance / Awards Gala.

Rather than rambling on about something or another, I've decided to fill my space with some random thoughts and statistics...

- We have had nearly 3400 individual event registrations so far this year across 54 events.
- 1248 unique people registered for those events. One member went to 26 different events. Last year the most events any one member went to was 24.
- I thought the tariffs on cars and parts would do major damage to attendance at the DE events. I was wrong. In 2024, we had 1000 attendees at DE events. In 2025 we had 970 and we had one less event.
- Clearly there's a really large group of people that are truly passionate about their car(s), activities, and the club. No wonder PCA is the only single mark car club in the world that is growing.
- You love to get email. 60% of you open the eBlast within a day of it being sent. It's nice to know we're not a spam machine.

One more thing. To the folks in the white run group at October-fest. Yes, the yellow/black/orange 991 Cup in your run group **was** (emphasis on was) my old car. The driver, however, was not me. It was the new owner; I guess I should have insisted that he put "Not Dana" on the back...

Dana Comolli  
President, Chicago Region



“

We have had nearly 3400 individual event registrations so far this year across 54 events.

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## Octoberfest American Style

by Pete Bukantis

**A beautiful fall day. The faint smell of bbq in the breeze.** The hustle and bustle of folks getting their cars ready for the day of driving. The whoosh of sports cars at speed. Sharing a meal with friends old and new. These are the ingredients of our Blackhawk Octoberfest weekend.

Our theme this year was an American Octoberfest featuring American picnic fare and our version of a bourbon trail. Two days of driving with plenty of time to socialize. It is the culmination and celebration of another driving season. We typically don't offer instruction for brand new novices at this event but we did have a few (just got their first Porsche, just turned 18). Two reasons to celebrate getting on track!



Photos by Jeff Brown



continued



On Saturday evening, after the driving was completed, we wind down by enjoying some cocktails and bragging to our friends. This year we featured drinks based on bourbon and whiskey. While we didn't make you travel around Kentucky, we did offer a variety of spirits dispensed by our local whiskey expert.

Dinner followed featuring ribs, brisket, chicken and all the fixin's provided by one of our log time caterers BBQonWheels. Yum! Full tummies lead to some relaxing time at our traditional bon fire. This year we didn't need the heat it provides but it makes for a nice environment to talk more with your friends.

Sunday provided more nice weather and excellent track time ending with pizza and beer.

While 2025 was closing down, we found out some great news about 2026. Blackhawk is getting an entire repave during the off season! The entire Blackhawk team thanks you for participating in a fun year and look forward to seeing you in 2026. 🍷



# Holiday 25

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This evening is a wonderful opportunity  
to celebrate the passion, dedication, and  
camaraderie that define our Porsche  
community.

As we gather to reflect on the milestones  
of the past year, the Gala offers a splendid  
opportunity to connect with fellow  
enthusiasts, share stories, and create  
lasting memories.

Your presence is what makes this  
celebration special. We look forward  
to sharing an unforgettable  
evening with you!



## *the Details*

December 13, 2025

Cocktail Reception - 5pm

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## A Fond Farewell on the Open Road: The Diwiks' Final Tour

by Sean Gillette



**This past October, when Julie and I rolled into the starting point** with over forty Porsche owners, the air felt different. We knew it was an end of era. After fifteen legendary years, John and Beth Diwik were retiring as PCA-Chicago's tour masters with one last masterpiece: 380 miles of perfect backroads to Margaritaville Lake of the Ozarks.



*continued*

## A Fond Farewell on the Open Road: The Diwiks' Final Tour continued



We rolled out at mid-morning with John and Beth leading in their 911. The route they chose was pure poetry. Illinois cornfields melted into Missouri's emerald hills, every corner a reminder of why we fell in love with these cars—and this Club.

By late afternoon we crested the ridge above the lake, sunlight shattering across the water like spilled diamonds. We'd made it. Margaritaville welcomed us like family.



Friday night, John raised a glass to the club. The Diwiks thanked us for letting them play tour guide for the best family on four wheels. Julie and I knew no one else could have scripted a more perfect goodbye.

Saturday brought another flawless drive, a cliffside lunch and endless views. Our Saturday banquet auction was one for the books including Lou's record bid on a beautiful art print. (your secret is safe with me) Standing ovation!

Fifteen years. Thousands of miles. Friendships forged in third-gear pull.

John and Beth, you didn't just plan routes—you built a family. You proved the best destination is always the people laughing in your mirrors. Wherever the road takes you next, save us a spot at the ultimate Five O'Clock Somewhere.

Safe travels, always. 🍷

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# A Perfect Late-Summer Race Weekend: TRAC 2025

photo: Jeff Brown



by Griffin Fujii

**TRAC 2025** was the kind of late summer day racers and HPDE drivers alike all dream about: crisp air, clear skies, and a track surface warm enough for grip but cool enough to reward precision. Drivers from around the nation descended upon Road America in Elkhart Lake, WI, to fuel the passion for track driving we all love so dearly.

For myself, TRAC was my most anticipated event of the year, not only because the PCA-Chicago Region puts on a flawless event at a premier track, but because it was my return to club racing since my crash in the 991.1 Cup back in April at the PCA Road Atlanta club race. From May to August, I was preparing myself in my new-to-me 992 cup car. TRAC was the time to put the three months of practice in the 992 cup to the test in my first wheel-to-wheel club race in the



photo: Wes Fujii

continued



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Jeff Brown

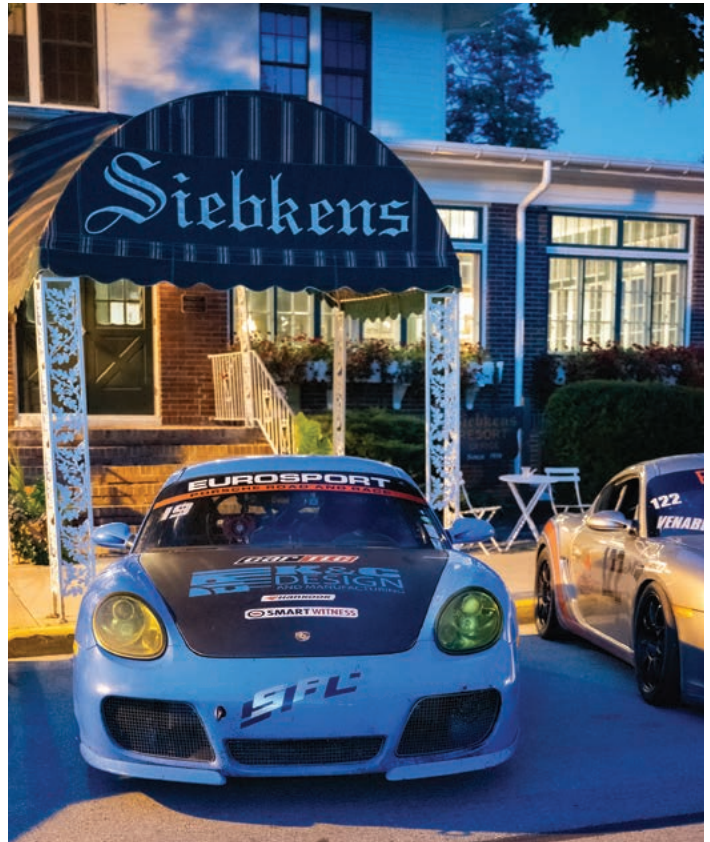
new car and new class GTC8. To my surprise, I was able to eke out a P1 finish in the last of the three sprint races.

As a driver, I was elated about the GTC8 win. Still, as a member of our PCA community, the most memorable aspect of the event was the time spent with family and friends. This event was the first time I had many friends and their families attend, who are not car/motorsport enthusiasts. My favorite thing I heard about my friend's experience was how their kids talked about it the whole way home and continued to discuss it constantly for the following week. They may not have been interested in motorsport before, but they definitely are now.

That is a testament to the experience that PCA-Chicago and Road America offer. Thanks to the unwavering hard work of everyone involved, from volunteers and administration to corner workers, safety crews, and PCA-Chicago Region and National management. I'll see you all once again at the start of next season. Cheers! 🍷



photo: Victor Newman





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## The Fantastic End to a Great Rallye Season

If you did not participate in the TSD competitive Rallyes over the past two months, you missed two tremendous events that tested your knowledge of rallying and enhanced your driving skills; yet, allowed you to enjoy the roads of northwest Illinois and southern Wisconsin while operating your Porsches the way they were meant to be driven.

Rallye IV, held on Sunday, September 12th, was an “away” Rallye. The majority of the participants drove to the Galena Territory the day before the Rallye. Early that Saturday, a golf outing was held at the Woodbine Golf Course. Eight of the Region’s members played eighteen holes of golf on a beautiful, hilly course, under perfect weather conditions. Later that same day, the entire group of rallyists gathered at Chestnut Mountain Lodge to socialize, have dinner, and enjoy a birthday cake celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Porsche Club of America. A wonderful time was had by all.

The ‘Enjoy the View’ Rallye was held the following day. It was another day of glorious sunshine and temperate temperatures. Nine teams participated in the Rallye. The Rallye route was mainly on country roads that took the cars over hills and through valleys and gave the Porsche occupants

by Karen Stephensen

the opportunity to enjoy the spectacular views of this beautiful area of our state. At day’s end, the Rallye group met at the Lena Brewing Company to discuss the Rallye and learn who was, ultimately, successful in traversing the Rallye course the closest to the perfect time.

Jack and Karen Stephensen were the Rallyemasters for ‘Enjoy the View’ Rallye. Our thanks to Ron Micek and Martha Kuffel who were the pre-runners. Congratulations to Steve and Sharon Olson who took 1st place in the Seat of the Pants (SOP) category, followed by Steve Rashbaum and Susan Shire. Third place was awarded to



continued

## The Fantastic End to a Great Rallye Season *continued*



Bob Rath and Cindy Jacisin. The Novice team of Joris Prikken and Charles Waldman took 7th place.

Steve Rashbaum and Susan Shire were the Rallyemasters for Rallye V held on Sunday, October 12th. For more than twenty years, this Rallyemaster team has written an annual Rallye. A momentous commitment and demonstration of loyalty, their support of the Region's Rallye Program is very much appreciated.

This particular Rallye did not disappoint in its challenges. The Shirebaum's imaginative way of developing a Rallye route examined the rallyists knowledge of definitions, rules and regulations. The

Rallye began and ended at the Brat Stop in Racine Wisconsin, under beautiful weather conditions once again. Traversing over 100 miles of rustic roads in southern Wisconsin, the rallyists were treated to hilly terrain, winding roads, and most of all, the lovely views of Fall in the Midwest.

There were fifteen cars that participated, thirteen SOP teams and two touring teams. The winners of Rallye V included Jack and Jake Steidle who were awarded first place points. Second place



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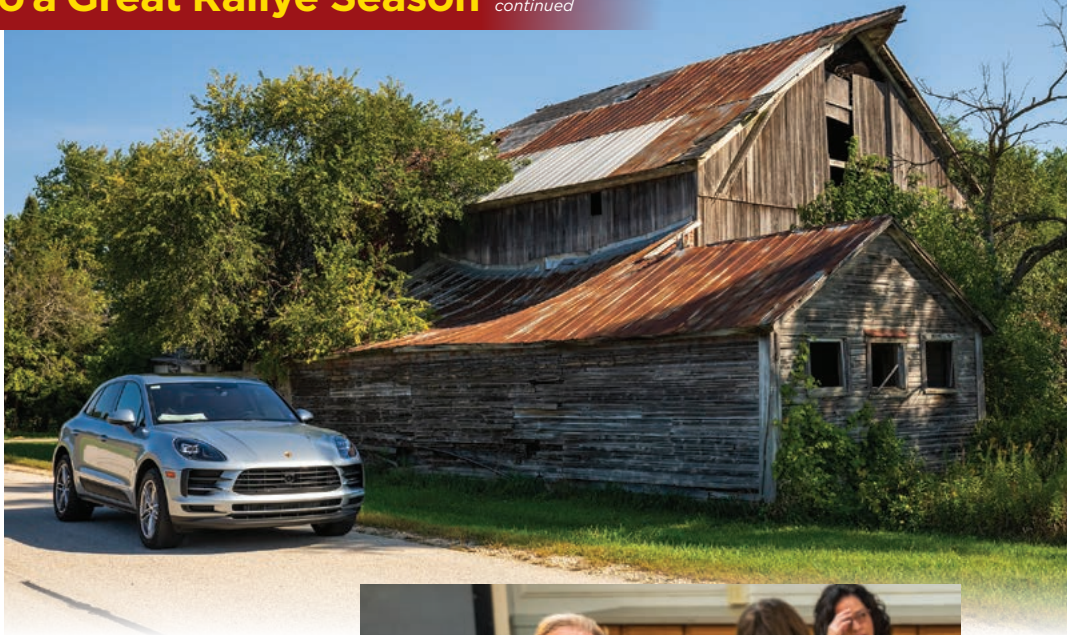
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## The Fantastic End to a Great Rallye Season *continued*

was won by Bob Rath and Cindy Jacisin. They were followed in point standings by Steve and Sharon Olson who took third place. The Novice Team of Bob and Lynn Friend came in eleventh place with a very respectable score for a difficult Rallye. Congratulations to all! We are, once again, very grateful to Ron Micek and Martha Kuffel who were the pre-runners for this event.

The 2025 Rallye season is now over. It was fun-filled and nothing short of exciting with the introductions of new faces, the beginnings of new passions, and the knowledge development of our Rallye members. There is no doubt that Rallying is a continual learning experience. No matter how long a team has Rallied, there is always something to learn.

We thank everyone who participated at any level in our Rallye program, especially the Rallye coordinators, Rallyemasters and pre-runners who devoted significant time to the Program's success. We cannot wait to see what next year will bring. 🍷



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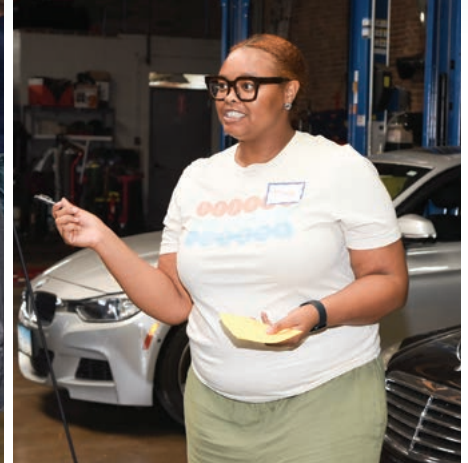
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## PCA-Chicago × SparkShop

by Shonali Ditz



On October 26th, more than 40 club members joined SparkShop (PCA-Chicago Region's 2025 Charity Partner) for Porsches, Pastries, and Packing! At SparkShop, we partner with over 40 elementary schools in Chicago, providing 4th and 5th grade teachers with STEM kits and curricula that ignite the love of engineering! Midwest Performance Cars generously hosted the social volunteer event at their Chicago location. On that beautiful fall day, 24 Porsches lined the historic industrial corridor on Fulton Street.

*continued*



Inside MPC, club members packed supplies that our students will use to build a dynamo-powered circuit and explore energy conversion. This activity is an element of SparkShop’s electrical engineering unit. PCA-Chicago volunteers packed over 1,400 kits that will be delivered to local schools starting on November 13th. This event had an especially local feel. In addition to making an impact on the community, attendees enjoyed beverages and desserts from two nearby small businesses: Dark Matter Coffee and D’Amato’s Bakery.

Our partnership with the PCA-Chicago Region has spanned many years. In 2019, PCA-Chicago’s support funded programming



in two new schools that we still work with today. In 2022, the club’s donation funded the pilot of a high school internship program, which will open recruitment for its 2026 cohort later this year. This year, our partnership will support the buildout of SparkShop’s first office space, creating lasting capacity for the organization. We are so grateful for the support of the Chicago Region, Midwest Performance Cars, and all of last month’s volunteers! 🍌

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## The Concours Lawn: An Interview with Ryan Bennett

by Kirk Owens

**Unlike old dogs, new Concours participants learn new tricks** (and apply them with GREAT success). Joining the Chicago region's microfiber madness in 2022, Ryan Bennett has quickly, and keenly, buffed those Concours tricks into his 1988 Commemorative Edition ("CE") 911 and took that one-year only model to the top of the Geneva Concours d'Elegance podium this August!

*"When I was very young, I would help my father wash, clean, and detail the family cars. That has always stuck with me."* When the garage door opens for Ryan and wife JoAnn, Porsche pride shines as each can savor the joy of left-handed ignition; *"Having a vintage 911 and a beautiful 1988 944, keeping the cars as clean as possible is a sign of respect and tribute to their history. A clean car also adds value, and greatly helps preserve the history and originality. For me, prepping for Concours is simply a continuation of that but at the highest possible level I can achieve."* Ryan added, *"Competing in Concours gives me a heightened sense of pride of ownership and you really get to know almost every inch of the car. That's important for a number of reasons, but in the*



*end it really helps the owner maintain and preserve the car for the future, and gives you a very clear view on what maintenance or improvements need to be done."*

Back to those new tricks, *"One important lesson learned this year – do not use quick detailer or similar products in the sun or on hot surfaces, particularly right before a competition! Almost all of them will leave streaks on the paint."* Adding to the day-of-Concours preparation, *"Make sure to clean wheels/rims after driving to Concours, as they will get dirty from brake dust."* Knowing the interior and seals are equally important, Ryan notes, *"I condition leather, rubber, and plastic 2-3 times a year. Use dedicated towels for your paint, glass, and rubber."* Because sage advice is only a question

*continued*



As his busy schedule allows, Ryan competes in 1-2 events/year and happily shares a few thoughts for the next “trick learners” – “...take advantage of the amazing group of people in our PCA-Chicago Region... there is a treasure trove of knowledge available and they are all eager to answer questions and talk car care. Start with an easier class the first time and work your way up.” As it’s easy to feel

away, “Keep your ears open and talk to people about anything you’re trying to learn.”

Brace yourself and keep the wash bucket on the shelf, “It will sound blasphemous to some folks, but I wash my two Porsches (only once a year with water...maybe twice if they’ve been in the repair shop and get dirty. They are not daily drivers, so they are exposed to very little road contamination and I want to keep the cars as rust-free as possible so they almost never see water.”

For optimal results, Ryan will, “...wipe down the cars with waterless wash (mostly Adams Graphene CS3 or ONR) about once every 1-3 weeks depending on how much they get driven.” Thanks to this consistency, “I’ve maintained the beautiful paint correction on my 911 for over three years now.” The sage advice has helped Ryan find the products best suited, “There are a lot of opinions on cleaning products, I regularly use (after a lot of trial & error and advice from others)”:

- **Exterior Paint:** Adams Graphene CS3, Optimum No Rinse (ONR), MaxL One.
- **Exterior Rubber:** Sonax Rubber Protectant, MaxL One, Wurth Rubber Care.
- **Glass:** Invisible Glass (inside and out)
- **Interior Plastic:** Dr. Beasley’s Plastic Conditioner (an amazing product)
- **Interior Leather:** Colourlock “Elephant Leather Preserver”
- I also use Wurth Degreaser and Simple Green when necessary.

like your Porsche doesn’t measure-up quickly, Ryan suggests you, “Listen to what the judges say...don’t take points deductions personally. Ask the judge how you can improve next time and do so.” Because no one steps on to the Concours podium with a simple wipe-down, “My biggest piece of advice is to plan far ahead with your prep. Focus on specific areas and work on them until you get the best result you can.” The judges’ role is to find what’s been missed – his advice for areas to clean (maybe twice), “Hood latches, hinges, seat rails and the brake fluid reservoir...pay special attention to the interior’s glass as it’s not easy to clean the inside rear window of a 911.”

Hours, and hours and hours, of cleaning and preparation are well-spent when holding the Carl Benz trophy! Ryan’s happy to share a few of his favorite memories, “Bolingbrook was amazing this past summer. There were a huge amount of participants, more than I’ve ever seen, to see that many people take so much pride in their P-cars was remarkable. The competition was also very difficult as a result! Winning my class at Geneva Concours d’Elegance was of course a huge highlight. When all of your prep time, trial and error, care, and knowledge gained comes together to get you a win, it’s a real triumph and makes it all worth it.”

Worth it for us as well, when you see the CE and the 944 – you’ll know those hours shine brightly, just like the paint, the glass, the wheels and the trim. BRAVO Ryan! 🏆



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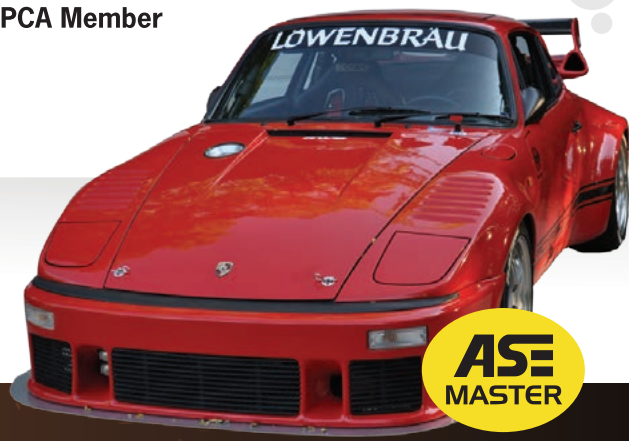


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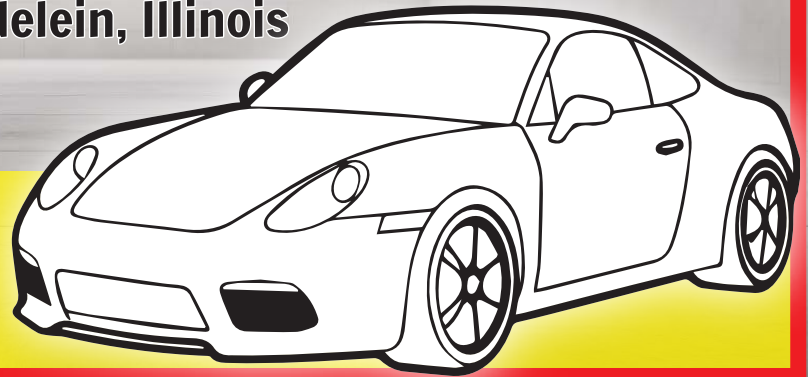
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## Autocross 2025 Recap

by David Bowers

October 11 marked the 6th and final competitive Autocross event of the season, and it also brought out the most competitors. We hoped to increase competition when adding a 6th event to the calendar, while using the top 5 finishes of the season to award year-end trophies. The new format was a success, as the placing for the top 5 for both the men and women truly came down to the last event of the year.



photo: Jeff Brown



At the conclusion of a beautiful day of competition, your top five competitors for year-end awards to be presented at the Dinner Dance are as follows:

### Women's category:

- 1 Katherine Darnstadt – 30 points
- 2 Maggie Surowka – 27 points
- 3 Julie Rivera – 26 points
- 4 Jenna Samp – 23 points, and taking the tie-break
- 5 Ashley Chin – 23 points

### Men's category:

- 1 David Bowers – 30 points, and taking the tie-break
- 2 Mirko Dimitrijevic – 30 points
- 3 Bill Fitzsimmons – 29 points, and taking the tie-break
- 4 Marcin Proszek – 29 points, with next highest tie-break
- 5 Bart Surowka – 29 points

*continued*

# Autocross 2025 Recap continued



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Jeff Brown

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that came out and pitched in to help run the season. Whether you were working to design the course, making sure the gear was transported to and from the storage unit, showing up by 7a to setup the course, helping with tech and registration, running timing, taking photos, or just showing up and bringing a good attitude to any of the events as a competitor and course worker, I thank you. Without your help, enthusiasm, and dedication, we would not have the

successful program we have today. Every one of you played a part in making the season run effortlessly. I hope you can look back on the season with fond memories of sharing the day with friends, improving your driving skills in a safe and controlled environment, and experiencing how capable your Porsche truly is in a demanding setting.

If you have any feedback, please reach out. Thank you all for showing up and making for an enjoyable season. I look forward to another great year in 2026! 🍌

## 2025 EVENT CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

- 5** Board Meeting
- 15** Porsches & Pastries / Toys for Tots, Labriola

### DECEMBER

- 13** Dinner Dance, Westin Chicago North Shore

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

photo: Neil MacDonald

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

1. Publication Title: Chicago Scene

2. Publication Number: 09381

3. Filing Date: 08/05/2025

4. Issue Frequency: Bi-Monthly

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 6

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$12.00

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): Chicago Scene, 959 Lee St Des Plaines, IL 60018-6545

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): Chicago Scene, 959 Lee St Des Plaines, IL 60018

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):  
 Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): Neil MacDonald, 6702 Crest Road, Danien, IL 60561  
 Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Neil MacDonald, 6702 Crest Road, Danien, IL 60561  
 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Neil MacDonald, 6702 Crest Road, Danien, IL 60561

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11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box  None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one):  
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title: Chicago Scene

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 07/01/2025

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
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