

THE CHICAGO SCENE

March 2026

Official Publication • PCA-Chicago

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a grey and white striped sweater and a black apron, is seated at a table in a paint-along class. She is focused on painting a white Porsche on a canvas. She holds a paintbrush in her right hand and a palette in her left. The palette has various colors of paint. In the background, other participants are also painting, and the walls are covered with colorful artwork.

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Rallye Ready!
Porsche Paint-Along

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THE CHICAGO SCENE

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Get Ready, Spring has Just about Sprung...

After enduring an unpleasantly cold and snowy, but certainly more typical Chicago winter, we are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. By the time you read this, we will be back to daylight savings time and some early flowers like crocuses will be starting to show. That also means the Club's event schedule shifts into high gear.

We've got two new events this month; **Women Under the Hood** (March 21), an event directed toward women that helps you learn more about the maintenance and operation of your Porsche and **From Stuttgart to Provence — A European Delivery Culinary Journey** (March 28), a hands-on cooking class inspired by a Porsche European Delivery adventure. These are in addition to our normal March events such as our always popular **Concours School** (March 22), this year at Body Builder's Auto in Rolling Meadows.

March is also the time to get yourself and your Porsche ready for the driving season. To that end, we've dedicated this issue of *The Chicago Scene* to help you do just that, with articles on how to get ready for Autocross, things to prep for your car when planning on taking it on the track, getting familiar with the Richta app; a must know for those of you that want to Rallye, and what types of tools make the most sense to have for Track day and Autocross events.

It's a good thing we're doing this because once April rolls around, we'll be in full swing with events every week, sometimes two, whether they are driving, touring, learning, or BSing at a Porsche and Pastries, we'll all be out and mixing it up again before you know it.

Last, but certainly not least, for the first time ever, the Club has decided to focus its charitable support to two organizations: **CASA of McHenry County** and **The Spring Foundation**. You can learn all about them both in this issue.

Dana Comolli
President, Chicago Region



“

March is also the time to get yourself and your Porsche ready for the driving season.

”



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Porsche Paint-Along

by Sherry Walton

Many of us accompany our spouses to PCA-Chicago meetings and PCA events. So attending a PCA-Chicago social event without my Porsche-obsessed husband was a first. And what better event to attend than one planned by Grace Chen. She has a reputation for planning outstanding social outings – like the PCA-Chicago Holiday Dinner Dance of the last few years. My first solo outing was the “Porsche Paint-Along” at Pinot’s Palette at the Arboretum in South Barrington. As one might expect, the event was well-attended by about 30 Chicago Region members or affiliate members. I was not the only member who attended the paint party without my better half.

The event started with a bit of time to socialize and sip wine, as we surveyed the 911 outlined canvases of our soon-to-become masterpieces. Our guide in this artistic journey,



continued

Porsche Paint-Along continued



Jose, soon began giving us instructions on how to use color, shading and paint tones to create what would appear to be shiny paint surfaces using matte paint. As good as the instructions were, I soon learned that I hadn't understood them or I lacked the talent to execute them. In other words, my Porsche portrait looks like its subject was matte black 911 – a perfect example of artistic license.

However, my experience was not the norm as many PCA-Chicago members produced stunning works, worthy of prominent display. Most important, everyone had a wonderful time as, thankfully, there were no art critics in the crowd. After we got out creative juices poured into the canvases, most of the budding artists and some spouses not involved in the painting portion, convened at the Hampton Social

for food, beverage and the kind of conversation that we artistic types generally exchange in – such as how we attempted to correct early errors in our masterworks. Once again the venue, chosen by Grace, was ideal and we even added an additional attendee to the dining portion of the event – my husband. He was a pleasant, but I now realize, unnecessary addition to the creative side of the project. As much as we enjoy PCA events as a couple, I'm a new convert to the reality that on those occasions that he can't attend, I'll find a warm welcome and a wonderful time joining the group by myself. 🍷



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RADE is one of PCA-Chicago Region's annual visits to the beautiful 4-mile Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. This event provides our members an opportunity to learn the capabilities of their sportscars at a world-renowned, premier facility.

RADE provides plenty of track time over 3-days, and features sessions for all skill levels from novice to advanced. For novice drivers, in-car instruction and classroom sessions are included. RADE runs Friday through Sunday, leaving the Memorial Day holiday open to celebrate with friends and family.

EVENT FEATURES

- **REDUCED ENTRY FEES!**
- 3 days of on track sessions
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- **Novice sessions Friday - Sunday** with in-car instructor and classroom
- Friday happy hour & Saturday pizza party
- Off-track enjoy the resorts, dining, shopping, and outdoor activities of beautiful Elkhart Lake, WI



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Be Prepared

by Pete Bukantis

Whether you are a DIY or a “Done For You” person, it’s a good idea to have a basic tool set you can carry in your Porsche. Sadly the cars of the last few decades have included only a very basic toolset that really can’t help you with any real issue. It basically consists of a wrench to pop out your headlights and a swapable screwdriver (flat and Phillips heads). Good luck finding a fastener on your Porsche that is either of those types.

You can put together a compact set of tools, that can offer you the ability to address many issues on the road or at an event, for around \$100. I stress compact because that will give you the most versatility given all the tight places on a Porsche

TORX T20, T25, T30 – A majority of the fasteners you can see on your car are of the TORX variety (6 pointed recessed). You can remove your front or rear bumpers, the under panels, as well as access the engine in both your 911 or Cayman with just these three drivers.

continued



photo: Pete Bukantis

Plastic Pry Bar – Dislodge trim held on by metal or plastic clips.

E-TORX E8 thru E14 – External TORX. Used instead of the common hex head fasteners

10mm and 13mm sockets and a ratchet – match the drive of your E-TORX ¼" or 3/8". A few of these fasteners are still used

Combo 10mm and 11mm open or box end wrench – disconnect the battery and operate the brake bleeders on the calipers.

Pair of pliers – any pair will do but I find needle nose slightly more useful.

Other – zip ties, rubber gloves, tire pressure gauge, small tool bag, garbage bag

Start putting together your custom tool kit now. You'll never be sorry you have it. Find existing tools you have. Go shopping in store or online. Great excuse to get out during the off-season. Even if you don't feel comfortable wrenching yourself, just having the right tools would make it convenient for a friend to help you out.



I have found many of these tools at places like Harbor Freight, Eastwood (Alsip, IL and online), Home Depot, Menards, Lowe's and even Griot's garage. Talk to friends to find out what works for them.

Be prepared and travel with confidence. 🛠️



photo: Pete Bukantis

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



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St. Valentine's Day Lunch at Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant

by Ashley Chin



Another year and another successful Valentine's Day celebration for our PCA-Chicago family! Nearly a hundred members gathered for a wonderful afternoon of friendship, food, and fine wine.

From the moment guests arrived at noon, the atmosphere was warm and inviting. Members enjoyed a relaxed social hour, reconnecting with familiar faces and welcoming new ones into the group.

As always, the venue did not disappoint. The cozy downstairs Barrel Room provided the perfect setting for our celebration. Known for its attentive service and consistently delicious cuisine, the restaurant once again delivered an exceptional dining experience.



continued

St. Valentine's Day Lunch *continued*



The relaxed pace of the afternoon allowed everyone to enjoy great conversations. The event concluded at 4:00 pm, leaving members with full hearts and plans to return next year.

A highlight of the afternoon was our raffle drawing. Congratulations to Sehr Dean and Brooke Johnson, who each won a bottle of wine, and to Brian Karel, who took home the picnic basket. Thanks to the generosity of our members, the raffle raised \$720 for our charities — a wonderful example of how our social gatherings also support meaningful causes.

Special thanks go to our co-hosts, Ashley Chin and Maggie Surówka, whose planning and coordination helped make the event run smoothly. Their efforts ensured another memorable and well-organized Valentine's celebration for our members.



Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this another wonderful gathering. We look forward to continuing this tradition for years to come! 🍷





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top photos: Jeff Brown

Give It A Look-See

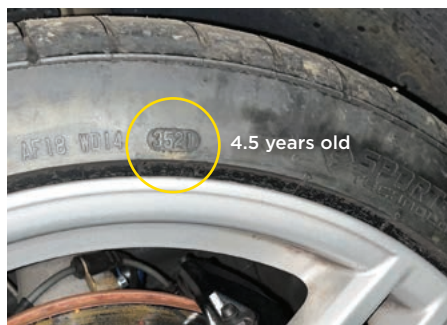
by "Loose Nut"

Spring is around the corner and the driving season is not far behind.

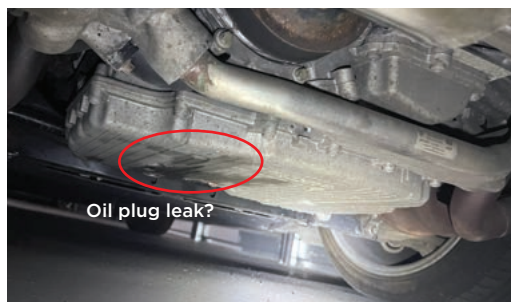
While you're waiting for the weather to clear, consider inspecting your steed.

All the higher speed driving events require your car to pass a tech inspection but all cars can benefit from a quick look. You can start the process yourself in the off season. Get a note pad and pen, a flashlight, a compact mirror or a cell phone to snap photos, and a piece of card board to lay on. Now you are ready to be an inspector.

Start easy. Walk around the car looking for anything that seems to be out of place. Make note of anything you see. Check the function of lights and look at your windshield for any cracks. Inspect the tires. Do they have cracks in the tread or sidewalls? Are they more than 6 years old? If your wheels allow, flash a light on the rotors and brake pads. See any cracks? Any fluid leaking from the calipers? Do the pads peaking out of the caliper look at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick?



Lay on the ground. Use your flashlight to look for drips on the ground or wet spots on the bottom of your car. Look for pieces hanging down that don't look right. Sniff for coolant (sweet), grease (acrid) and oil. Take pictures of things that appear off.



Pop the hood. Battery terminals look clean? Battery secure in the car? How old is that battery? If it is more than five years old, it should be tested. Brake fluid look brown or cloudy? If you can see the engine from the top look for signs of leaks, loose hoses, broken clamps, torn/loose belts.

Lastly, inspect the interior. Drivers pedals look secure? Look for signs of leaking fluid in the foot wells (brake/clutch or water). Tug steering wheel and check shifter.

Now evaluate your list of issues. These are the things you should plan on addressing in the next month or two to be ready for the season.



While this inspection is not enough to officially pass tech, it gives you an idea of what we look for. Plan on attending our official **Spring Tech Session on April 12** to get more tips and speak to our tech experts. And by all means, start your repairs early. We have plenty of sponsors that can help. 🍷





Rallye Ready! What Does It Take?

by Brian Scifers



PCA-Chicago offers many activities to enjoy the marquee PCA is built on. Varying degrees of preparation are required to extract the maximum experience. Track time requires properly equipped cars to perform “as designed”. Social events may involve checking the clock and asking friends what time they plan to arrive. Rallye is in-between (but closer to social event prep!). So, what does it take?! First off, GO TO RALLYE SCHOOL! There you’ll learn what all the funky terms mean (CAST is not a spell, but will spell out Change Average Speed To... meaning how fast your average speed must be). I describe Rallye as learning a language, the vernacular of how to follow instructions (or be wary of).

Rallyes include “Supplemental Instructions” which likely include clues to



continued



some tricks the Rallye Masters have up their sleeves. These usually include “gravel roads don’t exist” (because we don’t want you driving down gravel roads), dead ends don’t exist (because how can you drive out of a dead end), and sometimes something like “Portsmouth doesn’t exist” (say what?! ...that means you’ll see “Portsmouth” and being told to ignore that road!!). Okay, so prep step #1 is **Read the supplemental instructions**.

Other steps are simply...come prepared to enjoy a day of driving your favorite car among friends with a co-pilot. Fill up

the gas tank, maybe bring some snacks, and empty your bladder before getting underway.

But what about preparing for HOW to rallye, you ask? PCA-Chicago uses the Richta App, which you’ll only get familiar with by using it (sorry, there’s no independent study!). And the best place to use it is of course at Rallye School for first timers (or anyone needing a refresher!) and during the Rallyes of course!

Recap...Rallye School, Read Supplemental Instructions, and Show up! 🍌



Let's get ready to

RALLYE!

No excuses...**this is your year** to join in the fun and excitement of rallying PCA Chicago style!

Come learn how to rallye.

No pressure, just a lot of fun with a good group of folks.

Rallye School kicks off Sunday, May 3rd at EUROQUIPE in St. Charles. Classroom time will be followed by a short practice rallye.

What do you need... a car, Driver and Navigator.⁽¹⁾ Bring your spouse, significant other, son / daughter, or a friend. We'll take care of everything else.

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Register now at clubregistration.net.



(1) Drivers must be at least 18 years of age, Navigators at least 16 years of age.



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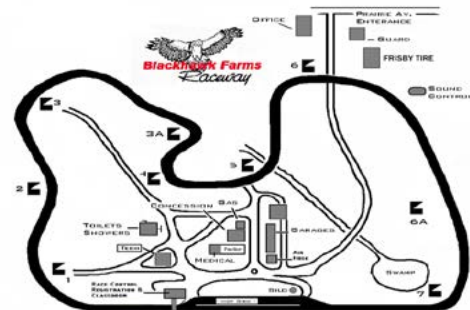
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2026 Charities of the Year



For the first time, The Chicago Region has selected two organizations to support. The organizations we will be supporting in 2026 are CASA of McHenry County and The Spring Foundation.

These complementary charities are focused on the wellbeing of families and children in the Chicago area. We'll be raising funds throughout 2026, and all donations will be split evenly between the two charities.

To make a donation, scan this code or go to: pca-chicago.org/donate



CASA of McHenry County *by Becky Morris*



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, and supervise our 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, will use the funds raised by PCA to expand the transportation program to help foster families. "We will expand, possibly doubling, the program started in 2024 to allow volunteers the option of driving their CASA kids to appointments, after school activities, therapy and more," 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 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



The Porsche Club of America has always been about more than just cars. Yes, we love a good drive – but we also know how to show up when it matters. That's why I'm proud to introduce the Spring Foundation as one of the Charities of the Year.

The Spring Foundation is a local, volunteer powered nonprofit supporting families across the Chicago region who are dealing with life when it doesn't go according to plan. Our mission is straightforward: offer thoughtful, personalized help that restores dignity, stability and hope – and helps families get back on their feet for the long haul.

No cookie cutter assistance here. Every family's situation is different, and the support reflects that. It might mean helping a mom and her kids to move into a safe apartment after leaving a shelter, stepping in while a parent undergoes a serious medical treatment, replacing essentials after a fire, or making sure kids still

have access to education when everything else feels uncertain.

The Foundation runs almost entirely on volunteers with minimal overhead. Meaning: your dollars actually go to people, not paperwork. PCA-Chicago's support will mean rents paid, medical needs covered, and real breathing room for families navigating these hard moments. Each year the Foundation supports roughly 20-35 families. With the PCA-C partnership that support can go further helping more families with more complete assistance.

We are powered by volunteers and community involvement is at the heart of everything. If you've ever wondered how to turn good intention into real impact, this is a good place to start. Whether through time, talent or support, we'd love to hear from you. 🍷

Anna Kochyjan - Board Member
anna.kocyjan@springfoundation.org



photo: Jeff Brown

“

Your dollars actually go to people, not paperwork.

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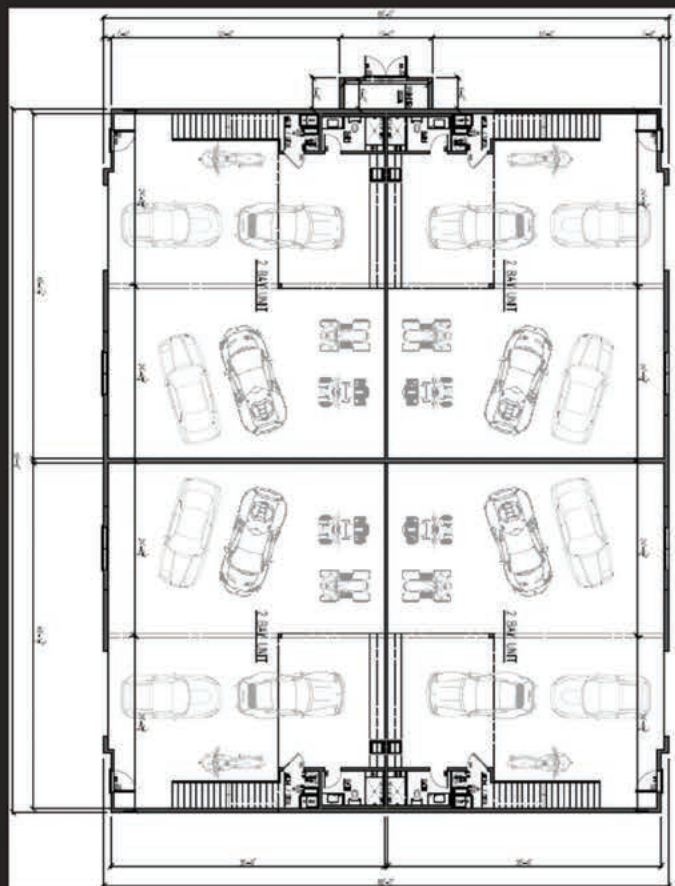


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The Concours Lawn: An Interview with Hank Bernbaum

by Kirk Owens

It's easy to understand why a self-named, *"Type A person... amped up for the competition..."* is also a well-trophied Concours participant. With a PCA membership since 1990, and a stable of Stuttgart's finest ranging from 100 hp to OH MY hp, Hank Bernbaum's microfiber commitment is focused, apparent and widely appreciated.

So why PCA-Chicago Concours Hank? *"I haven't met anyone at a PCA Concours who I haven't learned to truly enjoy and get to know. These people have been doing this for years and they are always willing to share knowledge and offer encouragement. Any new participant has a huge upside and nothing to lose, so jump in and enjoy the ride."* No denying, Concours success takes commitment. *"I probably wash my cars weekly but do a full detailing monthly. Obviously, a pending Concours will prompt a full detailing much sooner."* When you consider his stable of 10 Porsches, you know his commitment is 110%

His microfiber muscle has been duly rewarded. His 1997 993 Turbo S and the 2011 997.2 GT3 RS have both won "Best in Show" awards at Chicago PCA Concours events. Additionally, the 2005 Carrera GT won its class at the Amelia Island Werks Reunion (twice!) as did his 918 Spyder. Lastly, the 1997 993 Turbo S won 2nd in class also at Amelia Island Werks Reunion. Applause!

Oh Hank, but WHY? *"These events give me an excuse to 'deep clean' my cars. ...I think it's really important to keep the cars I own in tip-top condition and I find it therapeutic to spend time digging into the car's nooks and crannies with popsicle sticks, dental tools, and camel hair brushes. All learned from other PCA-Chicago Concours participants and judges."* Hank says, "I

start detailing a car at least a day or two before a judged event. I then arrive at the Concours three hours early to clean areas affected by the drive to the event. I bring a battery powered blower, a vacuum, lots



continued

The Concours Lawn: An Interview with Hank Bernbaum continued

of microfiber towels, all my chemicals and cleaning tools, and knee pads. If the weather is a bit iffy, I bring a tarp to lay down.” With appreciation for ALL that effort, the cars are scored with meticulous detail. How do you approach the judging? “I find PCA Concours judging to be far and away the most critical of any judged events. I learn a lot each time I participate, either from the judges or from other participants who are experienced and willing to share their knowledge.”

Advice from humble beginnings – “I brought my 1997 993 Turbo S to my first PCA Concours in June 2023. The car was pretty special and was in “like new” condition so I expected a trophy. I was 7th of 15 cars in my class. Recognizing my disappointment the judges offered a wealth of advice, phone numbers, even offering to teach me whatever I needed to learn.” Those connections have gone a LONG way.

“The best thing about PCA-Chicago Concours is meeting great people. Winning is always nice but getting to spend time with other members is the real benefit.”

Thanks Hank – we extend our Type A (for Appreciation) to you and we can’t wait to see you, and any of those beautiful Porsches, soon on the Concours Lawn! 🍷



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Getting Ready for the Autocross Season

by David Bowers

Warm weather is approaching and in two months, the Chicago Region will be busy with season opening events. Whether you're a new Porsche owner, just upgraded to your latest dream machine, or have a memory behind every bit of patina, this is your sign to get out and join the fun. Mark your calendar for April 18th and come rev things up at the Precision Car Clinic & Autocross School. It's the perfect way to

shake off the winter dust, sharpen your skills, and reconnect with fellow enthusiasts.

The event focuses on handling exercises conducted on a closed course with small rubber cones. You'll explore how quickly your



continued



car can accelerate and brake, feel it grip and wiggle on the skid pad as you vary the throttle, and master the rhythm of weight transfer through a slalom. It's all about discovering what your Porsche can really do in a fun, controlled environment. Along the way, you'll build skills that come in handy for real-world accident avoidance. Also, if you catch the bug, you'll be well on your way to diving into Autocross or HPDE events during the season.



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Jeff Brown

Here is a short list of items you can start doing now to get ready for the School, Autocross & HPDE season:

- 1 Review the Autocross Tech Sheet, Rule Book, and Vehicle Classes** on the website at <https://pca-chicago.org/autocross/>. Each registered driver will self-tech the vehicle for the event and sign off on each item that is listed, indicating you have taken the appropriate action and your vehicle is able to participate.
- 2 Inspect your helmet.** If you don't have one, or if it is older than SNELL2020, you'll want to buy a SNELL2025 helmet to participate in both HPDE and Autocross.



photo: Jeff Brown

- 3 **Familiarize yourself with the manufacturing date and UTQG (softness) rating of your tires.** A UTQG rating of less than 200 bumps you to the Modified class in Autocross unless it is an OEM N-Spec tire. A tire older than 6 years should be replaced.
- 4 **Check your lug bolt tightness** is set to factory recommended specs with a torque wrench.
- 5 **If you do not have vinyl numbers, you should purchase painters' tape** in a contrasting color of your car which will be applied as your numbers (not blue tape on a blue car). Consider requesting a permanent car number (details at pca-chicago.org/permanent-car-numbers/) if you will participate in more than 3 Autocross or HPDE per year. You can then have vinyl numbers made for events instead of using painters' tape and being assigned a number.
- 6 **Know when your vehicle was last serviced** and what recommended services need to be completed. If your oil is over 12 months old or your brake pads are very thin, you need to complete that service before April.



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Jeff Brown



- 7 **Ask another member for advice.** It's a good way to meet people and learn together.
- 8 **Other items to consider for Autocross** (not required for Autocross School): tire pressure gauge, torque wrench/wheel sockets, chair, cooler/lunch/drinks, rain gear, and a change of clothes.

I hope to see you at one of our 7 events in 2026. 🍷

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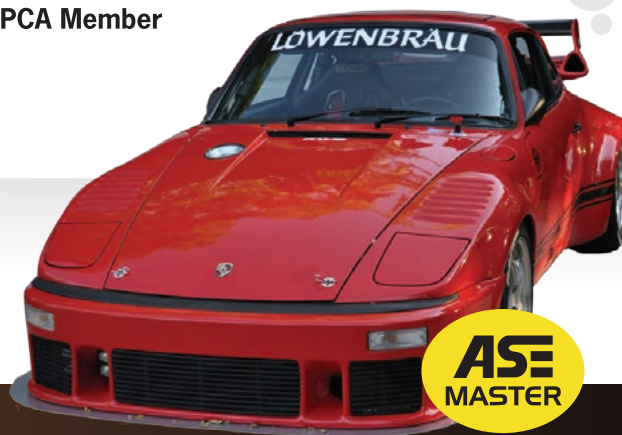
Engines

Balancing

Track Prep

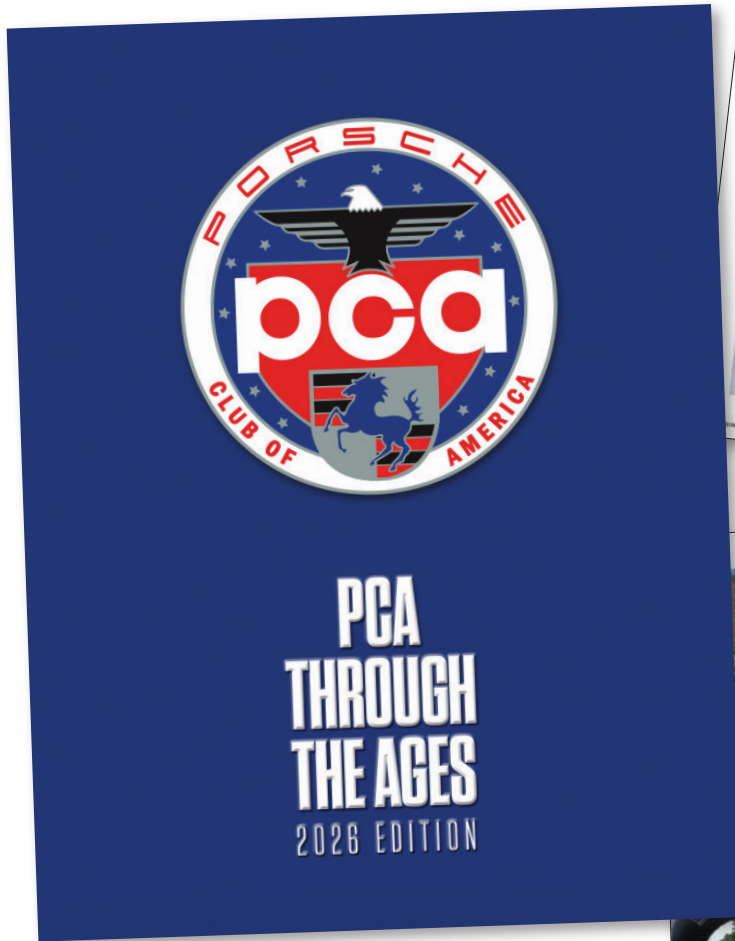
Routine Maintenance

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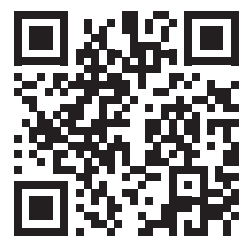
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PCA History Book

Updated for 2026, the Porsche Club of America History Book is online now. Inside, you'll find a comprehensive look at the club's journey, detailed sections on key milestones, a showcase of events, and prominent National Awards, complete with descriptions and past winners.

Read the updated book here: <https://ww2.pca.org/pca-history>



PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

2026 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

- 4** Board Meeting
- 15** St. Pat's Social, Two Brothers
- 21** Women Under the Hood, Porsche Orland Park
- 22** Concours School, Body Builders
- 28** HPDE Instructor Workshop, Blackdog Speedshop
- 28** From Stuttgart to Provence — A European Delivery Culinary Journey, Cork and Fork, Palatine

APRIL

- 8** Board Meeting
- 11** Porsches & Pastries 1, Calibré Coffee
- 12** Spring Tech Session
- 18** AX School, Wintrust Field
- 19** Concours Judges School, MPC
- 23** Blackhawk Advanced Driver Day
- 24** Blackhawk Novice Day
- 24-26** Spring Driving Tour

MAY

- 2** Porsches & Pastries and Concours 1, Show & Shine 1, Labriola
- 3** Rallye School, Euroquipe
- 6** Board Meeting
- 16** AX 1, Wintrust Field
- 21-24** RADE, Road America
- 30** Street Survival, Teen Defensive Driving School, Autobahn

JUNE

- 3** Board Meeting
- 6** Porsches & Pastries 3, Show & Shine 2 Concours 2, Bolingbrook
- 7** Rallye 1, TBD
- 11** Driven Women, Blackhawk
- 12** Blackhawk 2
- 14-20** Porsche Parade, Lake Placid
- 20** Barnaba Block Party
- 27** AX 2, Wintrust Field

JULY

- 8** Board Meeting
- 12** Rallye 2, TBD
- 14** Blackhawk 3
- 18** Potter's Picnic, Show & Shine 3, Concours 3
- 19** AX 3, Wintrust Field
- 28** Autobahn South Track

AUGUST

- 2** Porsches & Pastries, Big Boost
- 2** Weiners & Wheels, Superdawg
- 5** Board Meeting
- 7-9** Ginnerman
- 15** AX 4, Wintrust Field
- 16** Rallye 3, TBD
- 23** Geneva Concours d'Elegance

SEPTEMBER

- 4-7** TRAC, Road America
- 9** Board Meeting
- 12** AX 5, Wintrust Field
- 13** Feel Good Sunday
- 19** Octoberfest Social, Concours 4, Show & Shine 4
- 20** Rallye 4, TBD
- 26-27** Octoberfest Blackhawk

OCTOBER

- 3** Porsches & Pilsners, Two Brothers
- 7** Board Meeting
- 10** AX 6, Wintrust Field
- 16-18** Fall Driving Tour
- 25** Rallye 5, TBD

NOVEMBER

- 4** Board Meeting
- 8** Fall Tech Session
- 14** Porsches & Pastries / Toys for Tots, Labriola

DECEMBER

- 12** Dinner Dance, TBD



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



photo: Neil MacDonald

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