

# Smoke Signals

The Official Publication of the Smoky Mountain Region

Porsche Club of America

Aug  
Sep  
2015



**Carol Rola  
1953-2015**



**INSIDE:  
A Ride Around the Nurburgring**

On the web at [www.smtPCA.org](http://www.smtPCA.org)

# SMOKY MOUNTAIN REGION PCA

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### Membership Chair

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**On The Cover:** 991 GT3 ridden around the 'Ring by Travis McGowan. Submitted by Rich McGowan.

**Editorial Contributors:** Janis Berry, Rich McGowan, Travis McGowan, Rich Neubauer, Vic Rola, Steven Schleif **Advertisers:** Cindy Doyle, Eurotech Knoxville, Weddings by Suzan

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# FROM the PRESIDENT

August is past, schools are in session, and we begin looking ahead to next year's vacations. For our PCA Region it is time to put together a slate officers for the coming year and to spend a Saturday morning – October 10 – making plans for next year's activities.

What does the future of our club look like? Who will be our leaders for the future? What activities and events would we like to see in 2016 and beyond? These are some questions, will YOU take the time to help us with the answers and, equally as important, assist in leadership roles to make things happen?

**NOMINATIONS:** Bob Hutchins (Chair) and the Nominating Committee have put together a slate for next year. You can find the list on page 11 of this newsletter. This is my last year as President – term limits in By – Laws. Are you willing to serve in some capacity? We are looking for officers and board members for next year, also an Assistant Chair for Spring Thing, as well as chairs for various other activities. We need some folks to step up – are YOU willing? This is YOUR club and its success depends on member volunteers. Please consider sharing some of your time and talents in the coming year. HOW? Say “yes” when asked to serve, volunteer to lead or help with events, give us your ideas prior to the Planning Meeting...just be involved!

**SPRING THING:** Finding a place for Spring Thing 2016 proved to be a challenge this year. We have had a team of people working diligently on this. They considered three different sites and asked for a quote from two - General Morgan, Greeneville, TN and the new DreamMore Hotel (Dollywood), Pigeon Forge, TN. Because of hotel construction, they were not able to visit DreamMore until July 29. The decision finally came down to cost and after their analysis of the proposals, the recommendation was, we go back to the General Morgan in Greeneville for Spring Thing 2016. The Executive Board approved the recommendation and a contract with the General Morgan Inn has been signed. We need volunteers to serve as assistant chair and sub committee chairs for the event.

**JULY:** July's activities included an open Autocross on the 11th at Pellissippi State, a “Sneak Peek” (along with the Jaguar Club) of the new Harper Porsche Jaguar location, and then the Grand Opening on July 24. Harper's built a very nice “state of the art” facility and we wish Harper Porsche Jaguar well at their new location.

**AUGUST:** Saturday August 1 was a great Tech Session on IMS Bearing issues. A big THANK YOU to Eurotech - Rick and Janis Berry and Staff - for an excellent presentation! August 15 was Porsches + Pontoons at Cherokee Lake – a perfect day on the water and a good time had by all. THANK YOU Vic and Carol Rola for putting this together.

Condolences to Vic and his family on the recent passing of Carol. She was a well-loved member of our club and will be sorely missed.

## UPCOMING...

**OCTOBER:** Our October Social will be a New Member Celebration October 8 hosted by Harper Porsche. In addition to refreshments, we will hear and have an opportunity to ask questions about the Porsche product line. We will also have a presentation on PCA Club Racing by club member Newsom Baker, who is currently participating racing events.

On Saturday October 10 we have our quarterly Executive Board meeting (all members are invited to attend) at 9:00 AM, followed by our Annual Planning meeting at 10:00 AM. This will be at Harper's – exact location to be determined by current construction progress.

Another Autocross is scheduled for October 24 at Pellissippi State College.

Happy motoring and see you soon..

*Rich Neubauer*

President

# HEARD 'ROUND the ~~REGION~~ *Zone*

• I don't know if you will hear it here first, or not. But... here goes... PCA's Escape event is growing in popularity by leaps and bounds. So much so, that in 2017, there will be two Escapes... the spring event will be in Austin, TX, and the fall event, will be at the Grove Park Inn, in Asheville, NC (09.20-24-17)! Right in our own back yard! By 2017, all Escapes will be directed by PCA National, whereas the local Region will supply 'tourmeisters'. In the case of the Escape to Asheville...tourmeisters will be provided by one of our newest Regions – Appalachian.

• By the way, continuing with Escape information, the October 2016 Escape to Mount Rushmore, is close to being filled at 350 cars!

• Final bit of Escape information... look for a name change to be announced in the very near future, along with other event upgrades!

• Looking for a race to go to in the fall? How about Petit LeMans? It will be October 03 + 04 at Road Atlanta. Tickets are on sale now, and we'll be looking for Porsche Platz volunteers soon. If you want to sign up now as a volunteer, go to ... [petitlemansvolunteers@peachstatepca.org](mailto:petitlemansvolunteers@peachstatepca.org)

• Several events are coming up that you should be aware of:

• The Heart 'O Dixie Region has a drive scheduled on November 21st to the Porsche Cars North America HQ in Atlanta at One Porsche Drive. If you want to join in, drop an email to Jim Cambron at [james.cambron.ctr@mda.mil](mailto:james.cambron.ctr@mda.mil)

• The Alabama Region has a Fall Fest DE scheduled for Barber Motorsports Park, on October 3-4.

For registration, go to [www.clubregistration.net](http://www.clubregistration.net)

• The 914 Registry is having their fall meet, Okteenerfest, in Banner Elk, NC, on September 17-20. Among the 60+ Porsche 914s on display (and being driven) will be some rarities: (2) M-471 optioned 914-6s and the very first factory-built 914-6 race car! For more information, visit the event web site at [www.okteenerfest.com](http://www.okteenerfest.com)

• The Hilton Head Island Concours happens again this year the last weekend in October. The Coastal Empire Region will have a showing of Porsches at the event, followed by a sit down dinner that night. Go to [www.carclub.hhicon.org](http://www.carclub.hhicon.org) to purchase General Admission tickets.

• Finally... one of the responsibilities of each Zone Rep is to hold a Presidents meeting once a year. I got off to a late start scheduling the Zone 3 meeting, but finally had it on August 01. The Porsche Cars NA HQ at One Porsche Drive hosted the event. I wanted to mention this, as many of you have expressed interest in touring to that facility, to tour, etc. The facility is open to tours, but special PCA pricing for tours, etc., won't be put together by Porsche, until after the New Year. Get with your Regions' officers and discuss this opportunity, for a tour now, or next year. It really is a great facility!!!

See you at the next event!

*'Til next time...*

*Vic Rola*

Zone 3 Rep

## FROM the DRIVER'S SEAT

The heat of summer is nearly gone and fall weather is upon us. Many with "convertible" Porsches consider this time of year to be perfect driving weather. I am one of those. I often leave the targa top stowed safely in the trunk for several weeks at a time.

Headed to work in the morning (a 20+ minute commute along backroads from Seymour to Pigeon Forge), I need a jacket to ward off the cold. I suppose I should hook up the heat one of these

days. By afternoon, the sun has heated things up quite nicely and I enjoy every minute of my drive home (well, maybe not the few miles along Chapman Hwy!)

For the observant who remember my last ramblings about quitting at the paper... I found a new job in Pigeon Forge doing graphic design for one of the theaters. The job is good; the drive there is better!

*Steve* - Editor



My dear friends of Smoky Mountain Region,

It is with an extremely heavy heart, and equally unbelievable sadness, that I tell you that Carol passed on at 0215, Sunday morning, the thirteenth. I was there with her when her heart stopped. I kissed her lips and wished her a safe trip.

I write to you all because all of you are, and were, an integral part of my and her family. She loved you guys so much! When I met her twenty-five + years ago, she had no idea of Porsches, let alone how to autocross, concours or rallye them. She was my partner in all of those, and taught many ladies of the Club how to autocross.

I want to thank all of you that reached out to me in the past 60 hours, offering hope, offering prayers, and counseling with warm commentary.

My love for Carol saw no boundaries. My love for all of you is equally strong... *Vic Rola*

Dear Fellow Members,

As the motto says, "It's not just the cars, it's the people", and "people" is what this club is all about. We have opportunities to come together around a common interest - "Porsche" - making friends, sharing resources, and having fun with our cars. This is YOUR club and we want YOUR input as we begin to plan for 2016.

Our Board/Planning meeting will be held Saturday October 10 from 9:00 AM to noon and all members are invited to attend. The meeting will be held at Harper's, Knoxville, with the location TBD because of current construction.

To assist us in the planning process, your leadership would very much like to hear your thoughts and ideas regarding club activities for next year. Some of the activities and related questions we will be considering are listed below.

Monthly Socials - Day of Week (currently Tue, Wed, or Thur)? Location? Meal? Drinks/Appetizers? Other?

Autocross - Scheduled at Spring Thing and Fall Fest; How many additional? Location (Splash Country, Pellissippi State College Other)?, When (Saturday or Sunday)?, How many open to other Sports Car Clubs (currently 2 events)?

Driveouts - When? Where? Overnights?  
Tech Sessions - Where? Topics? Hands-on/interactive?

Spring Thing - scheduled for April 29 - May 1, 2016 in Greeneville, TN; Thoughts or ideas on changes or how to make this better?

Fall Fest - Thoughts or ideas on changes or how to make this better?

Great Porsche Show Off - Do you like it? Should we do more than one per year? How do we best publicize it?

Other - Any other ideas or suggestions (dream big) you want to put out for consideration?

If you are unable to attend, but would like to comment, please Email me at [rnflga@gmail.com](mailto:rnflga@gmail.com) or call 407-491-3403 prior to October 10 with your input.

It is YOUR club and we want YOUR input!

Thanks,

*Rich Neubauer*

Club President

# Porsche and Pontoons on Lake Cherokee

By Vic Rola

Nary a drop of rain fell at Cherokee Lake for the Porsches + Pontoons lake event on Saturday, August 15th!

Eighteen PCA'ers showed up at the Black Oak Marina Restaurant for a mid morning breakfast. After about an hour of eating and socializing, the group headed out to the Marina Dock, where two pontoons, plus that of Vic + Carol Rola, were loaded up and headed out. Our pontoon skippers were Allan Cox, Rick Berry, and Nick Imperato. An electrical snafu on Allans boat required the Marina folks to come out and check a faulty ignition switch, but after that was done the three headed out onto Cherokee Lake.

The trio first examined the Cherokee Dam. Built in 1937 in only 17 months, it is part of the TVA system, generating some power but mainly is used for flood and water control. Leaving

there, the trio of craft headed northeast on the lake, making a u-turn after about four miles, coming back along the southern side of the lake.

We turned into a protected cove, anchoring, and tying all three craft together. From this spot, there was much socializing, partaking of adult beverages, as well as snacks. We stayed in the cove until about two in the afternoon, heading back to the Marina.

Once we turned the craft in, everyone headed to the Restaurant for a mid afternoon lunch, and brewskis! All agreed that it's not just the cars... it's the people.

A good time was had by all!

*Photo submitted by Vic Rola*

**Porsche club members enjoying a day on the lake.**



# REPORT: August Tech Session

By Janis Berry

Several members of the Smoky Mountain Region PCA gathered at the shop of Eurotech Knoxville on Saturday, August 1, for a tech session regarding the IMS bearing failure issue on certain 911, Boxster and Cayman engines.

Rick Berry's presentation began with an overview of the bearing, possibilities of failure and recommended solutions.

Attention was then directed toward a 996 engine out of the car and the bearing was removed during the tech session.



# The Ride of My Life

By Travis McGowan

As my father said in the last issue of Smoke Signals in the article “My First Time on the Autobahn”... Car guy nirvana. When we looked online before we left, there were many different options to go with around the Nurburgring. There is the tourist drive (driving your own car around), the Rental car drive (you rent from a variety of hot hatchbacks and drive those around), or there is the ‘Ring Taxi (have a professional driver drive you around in a supercar: BMW M5, Aston Martin, 911 GT3, and a 911 Turbo S to name a few). But first, my mom’s coworker’s son, Andy, who is about 20-21 years old.

Andy has a slightly modified Golf GTI. Shelby volunteered to ride with him on his warm up lap, turning a 9:20.

Next was me. I got in, buckled my seatbelt and prepared myself for awesomeness. He put his phone into a holder and videoed the whole thing. It also acted as a timer, G-force meter, a speedo, and a track based map to find yourself on the track.

Not thinking clearly, I had asked Andy what was probably the stupidest thing I could have said, “Is the speedometer in miles or kilometers?” Idiot. Knowing me, that is the loudest thing I had said the entire time.

The video is on Youtube (I’ll link it at the end of this story). He also had a GoPro recording both his face and my face. That video, however, is not on Youtube just yet.

We set off. He has a perfect driving technique: good shifts and incredible heel-and-toe downshifting as well, good lines through all corners, and all while being very smooth. We came up on a 997 Turbo S, passed it, and left it behind for the rest of the lap.

When you watch the video, you do not realize just how much elevation change there is (300 meters or about 1000 feet). There are 73 corners: 33 lefts and 40 rights. If you are a fan of the track, you might be familiar with a turn called the Carousel. Andy actually has to turn off the



traction control for this corner because the car will think he is out of control. You will understand when you see the video.

About one-third through the lap we came upon a Mitsubishi Evo VI. We lost it solely due to our lack of power. But, about two-thirds through, we saw it again. I told Andy to try to catch up with it. He was already thinking the same thing. There was almost no traffic that got in our way.

The lap was over before I knew it. That lap was not only Andy’s best of the day, but it was also his best lap ever, an 8:59. When I got back, it was my dad’s turn. He only did a 9:08, still very fast.

That was, however, not my favorite part of the day. My parents agreed to get me a ride with a pro driver for my 18th birthday (Feb. 7). I picked, of course, the brand new 991 GT3. My driver was named Theo. He has driven for many years around the track. When I asked him exactly how much experience he had, he told me, “I have much more than 10,000 laps here.”

It was illegal to video tape that lap, but there is one on Youtube with Theo driving, but a different passenger. I will link that video as well. Again, not much traffic to worry about, but every car that we did stumble upon, we passed immediately. Around the carousel, where Andy was going 40-50 KPH, Theo went around at 90-100 KPH. I will NEVER get tired of that engine revving to 9,000 directly behind my head.



# The Ride of My Life



*photo submitted by Rich McGowan*

I said the same thing as all the reviewers. That last 500 rpm makes all the difference. Theo estimated our lap time as about a 7:30 (times are not comparable to the record due to the different route that they take to set the record).

The weather could not have been any better for the lap. It actually stormed the night before, which made me worried that they were not going to want to drive on a wet track. They actually closed off the track the entire morning due to the rain and even snow in some areas. It cleared up

***For his 18th birthday, Travis McGowan was treated to a lap around the 'Ring in a brand new 991 GT3***

around noon, just in time for our arrival.

Every time someone does something for you, including the lap, they always say, "It was good for you?" Yeah it was good for me, are you kidding!

That was the ride of my life!

***Video of Andy driving with me in the passenger seat:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHLQj2ybOVA>***

***Video of Theo driving 991 GT3 with someone else (driving starts at 1:35):  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLk\\_XQZZe5g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLk_XQZZe5g)***

# PCA REGISTER PROGRAM

Giving members an opportunity to network with owners of specific Porsche models.

The PCA Register program was established in 1995 to encourage closer relationships within register groups in PCA. The program allows PCA members to network with others in their specific area of interest. Sharing of information fosters restoration and maintenance of member's automobiles. A register can potentially provide a new resource for historical displays at Parades and other PCA events, along with information for articles in Porsche Panorama.

## **356 Register**

Skip Shirley, Advocate

## **911 Carrera 1973 Register**

Brian Fryar, Advocate

## **911 Carrera 1974-1975 US Register**

Bob Westmoreland, Advocate

## **911 Carrera 1988-1989 US Club Sport Register**

Craig Crease, Advocate

## **911 Carrera 3.0 1976-77 Register**

Milliard Beatty, Advocate

## **911 Speedster Register**

Blake Carlson, Advocate

## **911SC Register**

Thomas Westfall, Advocate

## **911T 1969-1973 Register**

Bryson Kiser, Advocate

## **912/912E Register**

Rick Becker, Advocate

## **914-914/6 Register**

Bob Saville, Advocate

## **924/931 1976-1982 Register**

Bob Dodd, Advocate

## **928 Register**

Adam Birnbaum, Advocate

## **930**

Bud Szurek, Advocate

## **944S/944 S2 Register**

Craig Seko, Advocate

## **968 Register**

Jeff Coe, Advocate

## **997 Club Coupe Register**

Gerry Curts, Advocate

## **1992 Carrera Cup USA Edition Register**

Richard Winne, Advocate

## **Boxster 986/987 Register**

John Novotnak, Advocate

## **Cayman Register**

Michael Souza, Advocate

## **GT3 / GT2 / GT3 Cup Register**

Bryson Kiser, Register Coordinator

## **RS America Register**

Keith Verlaque, Advocate

## **SUV Registry (Macan, Cayenne)**

Randy Gananathan, Advocate

## **Wide Body/Turbo Look (M491)**

Hank Weil, Advocate

*More information can be found on the PCA site:  
<https://www.pca.org/special-interest-groups>*

# Smoky Mountain Region PCA 2015 Calendar of Events

<b>OCT</b>	1-4	PCA Escape	Black Hills, SD	
	8	Social	TBA	7:00 PM
	9-10	Renn Sport		
	10	Board Meeting (Members Welcome)	TBA	9:00 AM
	10	Planning Meeting (Members Welcome)	TBA	10:00 AM
	17	Autocross (Open)	Pellissippi	9:00 AM
	24-25	Overnight Driveout	TBA	9:00 AM
<b>NOV</b>	7-8	Fall Fest (Autocross PCA)	TBA/Pellissippi	
	12	Social	TBA	7:00 PM
<b>DEC</b>	5	Holiday Party	TBA	6:00 PM

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## Nominations for Officers 2016

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### Vice President

Vaughn Smith 865-607-1747

### Treasurer

Ross Spence 865-567-4253

### Secretary

Cathy Hutchins 865-690-4811

### Directors:

Adam Boling 865-223-8604

Peter Lepir 865-458-3303

Steve Wise 865-766-2021

# SMT DECALS NOW AVAILABLE!

Guitar Logo



Round Logo



PRICE: \$3.00 each.

**HOW TO ORDER:** Specify number and style of decals you would like and send with a check made out to SMT/PCA along with a self addressed/ stamped envelope to:

Rich Neubauer  
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Townsend, TN 37882



**Cindy Doyle, Agent**

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Knoxville TN 37923-4925

**865-690-6300**

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