

SMOKY MOUNTAIN REGION

IT'S NOT JUST THE CARS - IT'S THE PEOPLE

Smoke Signals - The Newsletter of the Smoky Mountain Region - May 2021

Keep up to date with all the latest - http://smtpca.org/

SPRING THING 2021 WAS GREAT!

Annnnnnnnndddd... That's a wrap! Another one is in the books; Jamie, Rebekah, Rich, and Wendy knocked it out of the park and took Spring Thing to the next level. Great weather, great events, good friends, and good times. This was our first time at The Carnegie Hotel, and the staff was a tremendous help! Many thanks to all that helped us out - we look forward to seeing you back in Johnson City in 2022! Check out all the pictures online.

On Friday, we prepared the registration room, registered everyone, then socialized for a while, washed and tweaked



our Porsches, then put them to bed. Saturday morning was the final preparation and the Porsches were set to display mode on the top deck of the parking garage for the **Harper Porsche Concours**. There was plenty of stiff

competition, and many "first time showers". Our great Judging Teams descended on the cars and gave them the "White Glove Inspection". Many Rookie Mistakes were learned, even by some "old timers".

After lunch, the drives commenced. Two groups headed off to run The Snake (US 421), and three groups headed up to Roan Mountain on some great roads as well. The courses were well laid, scenic beauty abounded, and some fun

times were had. After that, we freshened ourselves up for the awards banquet. Concours trophies were passed out, door prizes were awarded, and we raised \$2,500 for the Kingswood Children's



Home auctioning a replica of "Inspiration 911". After some socializing and reminiscing, off to bed to rest up for Sunday's Autocross.

Like the rest of the weekend, Sunday blessed us with great weather, and the **Eurotech Autocross** went off without a hitch. Rick Berry set up a great 60-second course, with some long, speedy sections and some technical twisties. Morning session, Local Pizza, then afternoon session

showed some very stiff competition, with the top three within about a $\frac{1}{2}$ second of each other. In the end, Brutus took the day! We stacked up the cones, packed up the



trailer, passed out the trophies, and headed home.

Again, many thanks to the management team that put this year's Spring Thing together. And thanks to all the helpers

that assisted where needed. An especially big thank you to all the attendees: you made this happen. As said many times before: "It's not just the cars, it's the people."

We will see you next year, same Porsche Channel, same Porsche Time... Well, in 2022. Again, pictures are online.

PORSCHE PARADE 2021 – July 11-18!

Parade registration Phase II went "swimmingly" this last April 7th. In spite of the glitches, all registrants got what they wanted for events, dinners, drives, tours, and such. Smoky Mountain Region has at least a dozen cars heading up to the French Lick Resort (Indiana), and there are some friends from Wilderness Trail heading up, too.

The Autocross at the French Lick Municipal Airport looks to be a good one this year. Danny is plotting up a good layout this year and has some help from our in-house experts. Get the <u>full scoop at the website</u>. As noted before, we are discussing a "Fun Drive" to Parade, most likely Saturday, so if you are interested, <u>drop us a note</u>.

FROM THE REGION PRESIDENT

Great news! Knox County reports that COVID benchmarks are trending in the right direction and two are actually in the "green" for the first time in months. Folks should still give serious consideration to being vaccinated if they have not already done so and we should continue to practice social distancing as we ease out of the pandemic. PCA National continues to require events to be on guard and to plan for and practice social distancing at all National and Region events. It certainly appears that we are back on the road to normalcy.

As promised, the board is working to schedule events that can be safely carried out. Response to these events has been great and this signals that membership is wanting to



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get things back to normal. Our day drive in March had 30 cars participating. In April, we had 21 cars participating. Spring Thing was an overwhelming success with over 60 cars participating. Event leaders are working to ensure that everyone has fun while at the same time are able to remain safe. These events work because the majority of the activities are outdoors and easy for people to maintain proper distancing and to congregate into small groups. Mask use is still required in these situations. At Spring Thing, attention was given to the spacing of dining tables and fewer people dining at each table. In all, we are demonstrating that we can begin to resume our activities and keep members safe.

Additionally, plans are actively underway for a "Welcome Back/New Member Social" for July 24th. More info to come on this as we get closer. However, please mark this date on your calendar as you won't want to miss this special event. Looking forward beyond this event, you can expect to see the resumption of our normal social calendar. Obviously, all these plans are subject to things continuing to trend in the right direction.

I would like to schedule a monthly "cars & coffee" type event for the Smoky Mountain Region. Mind you, nothing fancy or formal. Rather a standing monthly date on the calendar at a local bakery/coffee shop for a couple of hours to enjoy one another's cars and to interact with other members. If you have any locations in mind that could accommodate such a gathering, please let me know. With other Regions that hold such events, an impromptu drive sometimes occurs following the gathering.

As always, if you have ideas for drives, locations for socials or things that we could do as a club, please shoot me a message.

Safe Travels - Bob

APRIL DRIVE OUT - PETROS/ROCKWOOD

April 17, 2021 – We met about noon after the Board Meeting at Harpers Auto Wash, we gathered about 50 people in 20+ cars, completed The Paperwork, Drivers' Meeting, and split up into two groups. Bob and Penne laid out a very nice "around and through the mountains" route, again with some "new to many of us" roads.

We travelled through Oak Ridge and Oliver Springs, then hopped onto the Devil's Triangle (TN 330 & 116), going up and over some mountains and through the valley. First Pit

Stop: <u>Brushy Mountain Prison</u>. Then we picked up 27 to 229, then 70, to our second Pit Stop, a lovely Kroger in Kingston. After some windy, scenic, sort of unknown roads, we toured TN 95, a local favorite, past Melton Hill Dam, then hit the interstate for the last few miles home.

Great drive, and good weather made this one another HIT! Many thanks to Bob and Penne, and to all the group leaders and sweeps. Check out <u>pictures from the day</u>.

Next one is on the <u>books for May 15th</u>, to Cumberland Gap National Park for a pic-a-nic and views!

2021 CALENDAR - http://smtpca.org/calendar/

The <u>Region Calendar</u> is filling up, Autocross dates are set, Drive Outs are lining up, and Fall Fest and a Summer Do at The Ranch is in the works! If you have any activity ideas, want to lead a Day Drive or Drive Out, host an event, etc., please <u>send your thoughts in.</u>

DID YOU KNOW?



Our website has a lot of good stuff. There are lots of news and notes and event blurbs out there.

So, checkout our "Posts" section. Posts are short, quick web pages, usually about a timely event or interesting news item. The latest 10 posts circulate at the top of all the website pages, letting readers

keep abreast of current events, news, and interesting items. Posts are archived back to 2012, so bonus points to anyone that can <u>tell us the last post!</u>

2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

If you have any questions, ideas, or want to help, please feel free to contact The Executive Board. They can be reached on the website.

Remember, it is the people that make this work!

PCA NATIONAL UPDATES

- Werks Reunion Amelia Island –May 21, 2021
- Porsche Parade, July 2021 French Lick, Indiana
- Porsche Parade 2022 Poconos, New York
- Porsche Parade 2023 Palm Springs, California

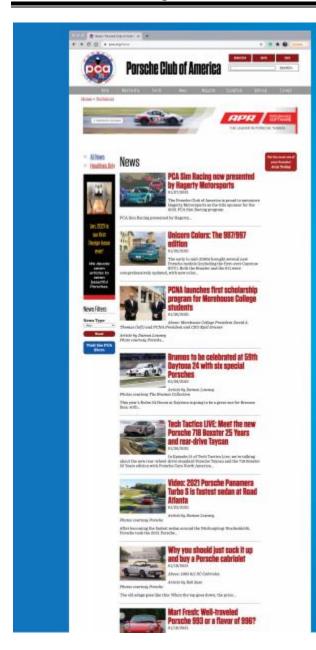
Keep up with all the National PCA events.



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Keep up with the latest Porsche news

PCA.org has a dedicated news blog to share new-Porsche debuts and general Porsche news, feature stories, DIY tips, videos, and much more. Bookmark the PCA News blog for easy reading.

READ MORE: www.pca.org/news



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PARTING SHOT - PORSCHES GONE WILD



But wait... there's more. So the Porsche "April Fool's Woody Panamera" was just a digital render, BUT... Someone actually did it. (*Editor – SMH...*). Yep, now we have Porsche's five-seater Panamera Family Truckster with a set of wood veneer vinyl side panels, a roof rack, and a matching surf board. Clark has hit the big time!

This was a 2018 model, so if you are hankering (we don't know why) for a Surf's UP Shooting Brake, you will have to search the used market. Bon Appétit...

Someone's Actually Driving a <u>Convertible Wood-Paneled Porsche Cayenne</u>... No joke. Unlike the "April Fool's Woody Panamera" Porsche posted years ago, this one exists. Quoting the article...

"I guess everybody has the right to their freedom of expression but, I don't know. Society has rules. I'm pretty sure one of them is never make a Porsche look like a PT Cruiser."





So, we at SMTPCA News could not find any provenance on this one... but that is probably for the best. Had enough with the out" "tricked Hondas Mazdas with gobs of negative camber and loud exhausts by backed miniscule horsepower? Here a Spatzelburning, louver-happy, intercooler, excessively finned "Track Star"... Yep.

So next HPDE or Le Mans you are in, watch out! This is the one to beat.

(Note: this may be an RWB, or more likely a knock-off RWB)



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AS ALWAYS... Remember our Sponsors! They make Spring Thing and other events possible.

Remember to utilize their services and vote with your wallet.





Harper Porsche

















