



Porsche Club of America

SMOKY MOUNTAIN REGION

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

Smoke Signals - The Newsletter of the Smoky Mountain Region – October 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have just returned from Petit le Mans, the final race of the 2025 IMSA WeatherTech series, and witnessed Porsche clinch the manufacturer's title and Penske take home the team championship, with two drivers clinching the drivers' honors for the season. What a great weekend of racing at Road Atlanta!

[Fall Fest is upon us](#), it will be a nice time of year for a driving tour and a chance to see EAG's facilities and capabilities as we socialize over lunch on Saturday, with an autocross to cap off the weekend on Sunday. Details and registration are on motorsportreg.com.

On November 6, we will be joining Harper Porsche in [celebrating the 70th birthday of PCA](#). Block the evening, food and beverages will be provided along with a history of the club provided by Mike Parker and some interesting cars on display. It will be a fun evening. More details will be coming by email, so watch for that and send in your RSVP.

I hope to see you all on the roads as we enjoy fall on the most amazing roads in the country! *Todd*

WHAT IS COMING UP?

The calendar is filling up. If you have ideas and are willing to run with it or help, [let us know!](#)

- October 16 – [Quarterly Board Meeting](#)
- October 18 – Fall Fest Driving Tour & Monthly Social
- October 19 – Fall Fest [AUTOCROSS!](#)
- November 6 - [PCA's 70th at Harper Porsche](#)
- November 15 – Driving Tour, The Great North!
- November 09 – [AUTOCROSS!](#)
- December 11 – Christmas Party at Chesapeake's
Keep an eye on our [calendar](#) for more!

NEW MEMBER ROUNDUP – WELCOME!

SEPTEMBER 2025 - Say "Hi!" to our new members!

Jonathon A.	2008 911 Carrera 4S
Robert T.	2013 Boxster
Barry & Pam R.	2025 911 Carrera T
Corey D.	2025 911 Carrera 4 GTS
Rebekah B.	2025 Macan
Paul P.	1995 928 GTS
John H.	2025 911 Carrera S
Ashley & Debbie D.	1997 911 Carrera
Diane P.	2025 Macan 4 (EV)
Jerry W.	2025 Cayenne GTS
Michael C.	2025 718 Boxster GTS 4.0

Don P. 2025 Macan 4 (EV)
Cindy K. 2025 Taycan Turbo S

Speaking of new members...

Need a Name Tag? Check [the website](#) and order away!

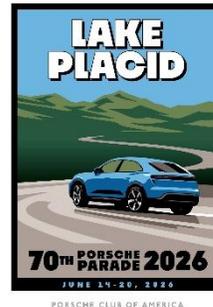
MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Teresa Fischer

Do you have two residences that are not located within the same PCA Region? Would you like to participate in both Region events? PCA accommodates this by providing PCA Dual Membership.

To be a member of more than one PCA Region at the same time, you will need to pay dues for multiple memberships. To accomplish this, contact the PCA National Office at (410) 381-0911.

PORSCHE PARADE 2026 & 2027



Time to start planning ahead: *Porsche Parade 2026 is in Lake Placid, New York, and Parade 2027 is in Boise, Idaho!*

FALL FEST 2026

This year's [Smoky Mountain PCA Fall Fest](#) will be *this* Sat/Sun, with a Driving Tour and Luncheon Social on Saturday, October 18, and the [Autocross](#) on Sunday, October 19. Saturday's Guided Driving tour is from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM, followed by a Luncheon Social at European Auto Garage 1 – 4 PM. Sunday is our Autocross, at Pellissippi State Community College in Hardin Valley. Pre-registration for both events is required.

All the details are [online at our website](#), and REQUIRED registration is via MotorsportReg.com.

TRACK & PERFORMANCE EVENTS

The track season is rounding up, and The Track Rats made one last big showing at Road Atlanta. Twelve members of Smoky Mountain Region participated in the Oktoberfest



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HPDE hosted by Peachstate Region at the fabulous Road Atlanta track. NEXT YEAR??? Stay tuned!!



If you are interested in going, or have questions, please [contact our HPDE Chair](#).

Remember, smooth is fast, and shiny side up!

LUFTGEKÜHLT 11

The eleventh edition of LUFTGEKÜHLT hit the East Coast in Durham, North Carolina on October 4, 2025, hosted at the historic American Tobacco Campus. This was an air-cooled (only) event, and a few SMTPCA folks headed on over. Check [online for some more pix](#).



YOUR PORSCHE “AHA!” MOMENT

Borrowing from another region’s newsletter, we started a new segment last month: “Your Porsche “AHA!” Moment. When did you “know” you were a Porsche Person? What were the signs? A friend’s car? A wall poster? A movie?

Last month we cut and pasted a moment from the Gold Coast Region’s “Kassette” into our “Parting Shot” segment. The response was great! Lots of appreciation, and a number of submittals. This month we’ll hear from our own Wendy McGowan in what looks to be a regular feature.

For future issues we want to hear from YOU, our members. So if you have a story to share, and a picture or two to illustrate, [we would love to hear from you!](#)

VALKYRIE RACING 1956 PORSCHE 356A

By Harvey Goranson

If you said a housewife and mother of four took up racing at age 55, then went on to tackle one of the most grueling rallies in the world, culminating in Antarctica, and in a Porsche 356A of all things, you’d say that was a Hollywood fiction. But a few years ago, it actually happened.

Renée Brinkerhoff decided to go racing after her last child left home. She began with rallying and in 2013 formed her own team, Valkyrie Racing, with a 1956 Porsche 356A as the main ingredient. By 2017, Valkyrie organized the Project 356 World Rally Tour as well as Valkyrie Gives, a philanthropic arm. She took the little 356A on grueling rally stages over six continents, including vintage rallies like the Carrera Panamerica and East African Safari Classic, to raise funds for, and awareness of, the need to stop child trafficking.

But continent No.7 posed a few challenges, namely snow, ice, and bitter wind. The old coupe underwent a massive alteration, including skis at the front and tracks at the rear, that latter sadly requiring cutting part of the original fenders off. There were a [ton of other retrofits](#). Despite numerous hurdles and breakdowns, the team was able to drive 356 miles over several glaciers. On December 10, 2021 they reached the Drake Icefall, after [driving through white-out conditions and fierce winds](#). Her charity has raised over \$500,000 as a result of this massive team effort.

Now to the model, brand new from Matrix. I’ll let the pics speak for themselves, but this is now the pride of my 356 sub-collection.



PEACHSTATE RENNPFEST 2025

The word on the street is RennFest had many SMT members in attendance... And swept the podiums? If anyone has results and/or pix, [do share!!](#)



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FALL 2025 MEMBER-ONLY RAFFLE NOW OPEN!



1st Grand Prize: A stunning 2026 Porsche 911 GT3 + \$35,000 cash

2nd Grand Prize: A sleek 2026 Porsche 911 Carrera + \$35,000 cash

The wait is over! The Porsche Club of America is thrilled to kick off the Fall 2025 Member-Only Raffle, your exclusive shot at driving home a brand-new Porsche and pocketing a massive cash prize. The raffle is open and runs until December 12, 2025. Don't wait. Every ticket you purchase boosts your chances of claiming one of these dream prizes.

Log in and click the link below to enter and secure your chance at winning a piece of Porsche perfection. Drive. Dream. Win. Good luck, members! More information: pca.org/news/fall-2025-raffle



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That Porsche “Aha!” Moment

By Wendy McGowan

This is a Porsche AHA moment that brought two people together. Rich and I met in 1985 when I moved to Steubenville, Ohio, for my job. For our first date, Rich took me to a restaurant in Pittsburgh for dinner. On the hour drive there, I remember asking Rich a lot of questions about his new Dodge Daytona. After all these years together, I know now that he must have been thinking “This is one for the plus column.... she likes cars!”

Being new in town, I lived in one of the local hotels for about the first two weeks. Once I found an apartment and moved in, Rich came over. We had pretty much seen or talked to each other every day after that first date. I guess it was “another one for the plus column” when he noticed the Porsche coffee table book. I wouldn’t say I grew up obsessed with cars. My parents were Buick people, but we had an old VW Bug when I was little, and I used my dad’s VW Rabbit to get my driver’s license. But I remember always noticing cars. I always thought Porsches were the coolest, but in 1985 when I bought that coffee table book, I think it was just a dream. I had high aspirations, but I wasn’t sure I would ever own one.

Rich and I married in 1986. Cars were always a big part of our lives. I had a VW Scirocco by then and Rich was autocrossing his Daytona. There was always at least one Porsche at these events. So, that fascination continued. In 1991, after our careers were established, we had our first house and we had put off having kids, it happened. Little did I know, Rich had probably been shopping for Porsches since before he met me, but he found a 1986 one-owner Carrera for sale in Akron. It was a stretch for us at the time, but we bit. And we never looked back.

It’s funny now that the car rolled off the line in Stuttgart the same year we were married. Our fleet expanded over the years. In 2025, we reached the point in our lives (and the opportunity presented itself) when we would ORDER our first Porsche. We decided to reduce the fleet, but we couldn’t part with that 86 Carrera. Our kids were raised in that car. We took so many drives and family trips. There were too many memories. So, we hatched a plan. Our son, who is probably more of a car guy than his dad, is now the proud owner. So, even though he was born with his AHA Porsche moment, it’s come full circle to now own this car.





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