



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 – December 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great year it has been for our club! I personally want to thank our members that put so much effort into planning, organizing, and executing all the activities we enjoy: we truly would be lost without our volunteer spirit. Special thanks to our board members and officers for another year of service, especially John who fills in for me so often and has also picked up the autocross duties, and Kathy for all her work organizing our socials, and Jack and the other drive leaders for keeping our cars on the move, and Carl for his support of growing our HPDE participation, and Teresa for her membership efforts, and Matt for his years of social media and website work, and Michael for his leadership of our charity giving.

And there are so many legacy members that have served and continue to help whenever asked – Mike, Suzan, Clyde, Charles, Louise, Vaughn – I'm sure I'm forgetting to name many but Matt has me under time pressure! And finally, Bob for helping in the transition to my role so there is continuity in the club.

The holiday season is upon us, and many of our cars are nestled all snug in their sheds, while visions of driving dance in our heads. I hope everyone can spend time with loved ones this season, and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year full of friendship and driving!
Todd

WHAT IS COMING UP?

As 2025 winds down, the 2026 calendar is filling up, so if you have ideas and are willing to help, [let us know!](#)

- January 8 – Harper [Restoration Challenge 2026 Kickoff](#)
- January 17 – [Quarterly Board Meeting](#)
- January 20 – Monthly Social, Mimi's Cafe Parkside
- January 31 – Phase I Porsche Parade registration
- February 17 – Monthly Social, Corner16
- March 24 – Monthly Social, Wasabi Japanese
Keep an eye on our [2026 calendar for](#) more!

HOLIDAY PARTY 2025

The 2025 Smoky Mountain Region PCA Holiday party was held at [Chesapeake's Seafood House West](#) on Thursday, December 11th. We had an excellent turnout, including many new members! We started it all with libations and appetizers, and after mingling a bit, we then had a nice buffet. Todd recapped 2025, discussed 2026 events, and thanked all who make this happen. Special thanks to Kathy and Tom for throwing a great party!



Check out all [the good times online!](#)

NEW MEMBER ROUNDUP – WELCOME!

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

Lenn & Pankaj W.	2003 911 Carrera Cabriolet
Chris H.	2024 718 Cayman GTS 4.0
Brandon M.	2014 Cayman S
Tom B.	2025 Cayenne E-Hybrid
Simone Z.	2004 Cayenne
Stefan & Susane S.	2023 911 Carrera 4S Cabriolet
Bowen M.	2023 718 Cayman S
Lisa B.	2026 911 Carrera S Cabriolet
Monte M.	2013 911 Carrera
Jeremy G.	2014 Cayenne
Giuseppe	2018 Cayenne Turbo
John A.	1973 911S
Bobbi W.	2022 Cayenne S
Eric R.	1998 Boxster
James & Suzanne P.	2024 Macan GTS
Jack W.	2026 911 Carrera GTS
Mark D.	1984 911 Carrera

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Teresa Fischer

As we reach the end of 2025, I want to highlight the incredible impact Smoky Mountain Region (SMT) volunteers make to our club. Volunteer dedication and enthusiasm are the driving force behind SMT's continued success, and now is the perfect moment to invite passionate Porsche enthusiasts like YOU to join the volunteer ranks.

Volunteering isn't just about giving your time. Volunteering is about building connections and friendships, inspiring others, and leaving a lasting legacy. Volunteerism has kept our club going for over 50 years. Every new volunteer brings fresh energy and ideas. If you want to be more involved or are seeking a meaningful way to contribute, PLEASE step forward and contact your [Membership Chair](#).



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Volunteers do not go it alone; you will have a mentor to help navigate your passion to assist. Together, we can create vibrant programs and foster a supportive environment where everyone thrives. New volunteers make a real difference so please consider how you would like to help and then reach out. As a guide, please check out the website at www.smtPCA.org to stay up on region events.

Also, 2026 rings a new volunteer. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as the SMT Membership Chair. Please welcome Mark Demange as your new Membership Chair. Remember, "It's not just the cars; it's the people."

SMTPCA AUTOCROSS RECAP 2025

Well, the club's autocross season has come to an end. The holiday season is here, too! During this down time, check those brakes, tires and other mechanical parts to ensure your car is in good shape for the 2026 season.

We had 115 drivers across 5 events, including Spring Thing. We had many different types of vehicles this year: Porsche, BMW, Tesla, Miata and Corvette, just to name a few. That is outstanding and participation has been growing with each event! Many drivers participated in numerous autocross events. What is really exciting is we had quite a few new drivers who had never participated in an autocross. There was lots of learning about how their car performed when trying to follow the course and get faster with each run.

I want to thank everyone who participated as they were critical in making autocross a success. Folks were very helpful in setting up, working a corner or grid and cleaning up. Special thank you to the folks at Pellissippi State Community College for letting us use their parking lot.

Now what about next year? Including Spring Thing, we have seven autocross events scheduled. Pellissippi State Community College again has been kind enough to permit us to use their parking lot. Six of the events will be held there, with the Spring Thing autocross being held at Sullivan Heights Middle School in Kingsport.

Here are [the 2026 dates](#):

3/22/2026	4/25/2026 (Spring Thing)
5/24/2026	6/14/2026
9/13/2026	10/18/2026 11/8/2026

Hope to see everyone at each of these.....bring a friend!

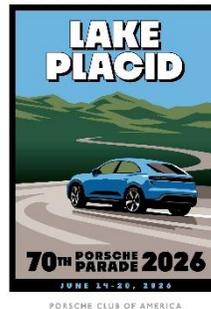
DRIVING TOUR TO KINGSWOOD

Saturday, December 13th, we headed back to Kingswood Home for Children, taking some nice back roads in eastern Tennessee. As in past years, the Smoky Mountain Region PCA purchased \$75 gift cards for each child at Kingswood. Our drive began at the Village Green Shopping Center in Farragut and ended at Kingswood Home for Children in Bean Station. There were plenty of curvy blacktop roads, rural farmland scenery and elevation changes, and great weather!



The kids really appreciated this, and thanks to all that "donate" to the Driving Tour Fund, even if it is under a little duress... "Youse wouldn't want anything to happen to that nice car, eh?" Check out [more pictures online](#).

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!*

TRACK & PERFORMANCE EVENTS

If you are interested in going, or have questions, please [contact our HPDE Chair](#). Check out Carl's 2025 Wrap-Up later in this newsletter.

Remember, smooth is fast, and shiny side up!



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YOUR PORSCHE “AHA!” MOMENT

We have another “Porsche AHA! Moment” this month, this time with bad haircuts and all! If you have a story to share, and a picture or two, [we would love to hear from you!](#) We would especially like to hear from our newer members!

PEACHSTATE RENNFEEST 2025

The word on the street is RennFest had many SMT members in attendance... And swept the podiums? We finally got the scoop from some attendees.

First Place in Class for Concours:

Mary Helen Perry, Debbie Cooper, Clyde Perry, Vic Rola, Allan Cox

Rally: Rose and Allan Cox 4th overall

Tech Quiz: Rose Cox 2nd overall women & 2nd overall men

Autocross in Class:

Clyde Perry 2nd, Vic Rola 2nd, Allan Cox 1st and third overall (0.07 seconds behind second overall)

Alan Cox also won “**Out of Region Award**” which is based on cumulative scores in the four competitive against all non-Peachstate members. Congratulations and thank you for representing!!!

MARK DONOHUE 2010 MINICHAMPS SET

By Harvey Goranson

The Mark Donohue set was made by Minichamps in 2010. This consists of the 1973 917/30 that he won the L.A. Times Grand Prix Can-Am race (and subsequently the entire Can-Am championship). It is paired with his Carrera RSR from the International Race of Champions that year, in which he won the first race.



Mark Neary Donohue Jr. (March 18, 1937 – August 19, 1975), nicknamed "Captain Nice", is probably best known

as the developer and driver of the 1500+ bhp "Can-Am Killer" Porsche 917-30 and as the winner of the Indianapolis 500 in 1972.

DEALER CORNER

On November 6th Harper Porsche, in collaboration with the Smoky Mountain & Wilderness Trail Regions, hosted the PCA 70th Anniversary at their showroom. There was a special display of rare, unique Porsche models as well as food and drinks. Hundreds attended, food and drink were consumed, speeches were made, and plenty of memorabilia and posters telling our history were seen. Thanks to all that came and especially all who helped!

[Check out the good times online!](#)



PORSCHE 911 TURBO TURNS 50

From the original 930 Turbo "The Widowmaker" to today's 50th Anniversary Edition, the Porsche 911 Turbo is a badge everyone knows. Enjoy this [Hagerty documentary video](#).



DID YOU KNOW...

You too can organize and run a Driving Tour. It takes a bit of work, but they are fun and give you a chance to find roads you've never been on and enjoy the lovely drives this area has to offer. Check out our [How To Guide](#) online!

There is even a list of [“canned” routes on our website](#).



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TRACK & PERFORMANCE EVENTS - A Year of Momentum, Growth, and Community

As 2025 comes to a close, it's clear that this has been one of the strongest years yet for our Smoky Mountain Region HPDE program. Attendance is up across the board, enthusiasm is high, and our region continues to attract both first-time drivers and seasoned track veterans eager to sharpen their skills. The momentum we've built together is real, and it's only getting stronger.

One of the biggest highlights of the year has been seeing our HPDE community consistently grow. Every event brought new faces, returning drivers, and a shared excitement for learning, improving, and safely exploring what our cars can do. The paddock conversations, the student breakthroughs, and the sense of camaraderie have made each weekend something special.

We also reached a significant milestone this year: both Todd and I completed our certification as official PCA National Instructors. This not only strengthens our instruction team, but reinforces our commitment to providing high-quality coaching, a safe environment, and an exceptional learning experience for every driver in our region. We are grateful for everyone who supported us along the way, and we are excited to bring even more value to our HPDE program in 2026. Looking ahead to next season, our goals remain simple:

- Continuing to grow participation
- Provide even more structured learning opportunities
- Foster a welcoming environment for drivers at every experience level
- Keep safety, fun, and Porsche passion at the center of everything we do

Thank you to everyone who drove, volunteered, instructed, spectated, or simply supported our HPDE efforts this year. YOU are the reason our region is thriving. We can't wait to see what 2026 brings — new tracks, new drivers, new milestones, and more unforgettable experiences behind the wheel. Wishing you all a safe, happy holiday season and a fast, fun start to the new year! Roebing Road in January is available so if you're interested, I'll put you in contact with the registrar.

– Carl Justice, [HPDE Chair](#), Smoky Mountain Region PCA





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That Porsche “Aha!” Moment

By Matt Fischer

I started out as an air-cooled (VW) guy, like my father, who bought new TWO Beetle convertibles in college. I went through a series of daily driver and project Beetles and Ghias in high school and college but was always a “Porsche Guy” since I was 12. For 1976 VW prepared to make 1,000 “Triple White” Beetle Convertibles to commemorate the end of the Beetle run. My father wanted to be sure he got one of the two allocated to North Florida, so in 1975 he, with me in tow, made regular trips to the local VW Dealer (the dealer’s wife got the other one). Kinnebrew Motors, Inc. was also one of those “grey market” Porsche Dealers at the time.

On our first Kinnebrew visit I fidgeted about the VW side of the building and eventually wandered off to The Other Side... and beheld a mid-70s Carrera, whale tail and all. **Epiphany!** (or **AHA!!**) I had no idea what it was other than a car made by the same guy who makes Beetles, but I knew one thing: “I want one of those!”

Subsequent visits saw me abandoning dad immediately and perusing whatever Porsche or two they had in stock, reading any literature on hand, and wiping my chin a lot. My first driving experience happened when a high school ex-girlfriend handed me her 914 for two weeks after graduation to “Fix X, Y, and Z so I can sell it”. Four hours of work took care of that and a few other things I found, so I spent the next 332 hours snapping a clutch cable, replacing a rear set of tires, and acquiring a few speeding tickets. “**AHA!**” confirmed.

We finally made the Porsche Plunge in 2013 when I bought Teresa a 2009 well-cared for Boxster for her birthday (she spent two months finding That Car). Jackie served us well, then came Lucille (2009 Cayman S) followed by Maya (2022 Macan GTS) and Amy 1.0 and 2.0 (Yellow Cayman GTS 4.0s). *One day I will own that mid-70s Carrera, whale tail and all...*



The Johnny Ramone Era





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PARTING SHOT – Some more HPDE Pix

Carl provided more than enough copy for this month, so enjoy...





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



PORSCHE

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