



# 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 – January 2026

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope your 2026 is off to a great start. While these chilly January temperatures are less than ideal for summer tires, plenty is happening and planning is well underway for a busy spring. I saw many of our members at Harper's Restoration Challenge kickoff event. Not only were the cars incredible, but their auto-body facility is impressive! Hopefully you will have an opportunity to see it without needing to use its services!

Our next social will be Tuesday evening, 1/20, at Mimi's on Parkside. The Rolex 24 at Daytona events will be kicking off later in the week, and [registration is open for the 2026 Spring Thing](#) in April. I hope to see all of you soon, be sure to check out the full list of events on our website and block your calendars!

Todd

### WHAT IS COMING UP?

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

- January 17 – [Quarterly Board Meeting](#)
- January 20 – Monthly Social, Mimi's Cafe Parkside
- January 28 – [Phase I Porsche Parade registration](#)
- February 17 – Monthly Social, Corner16
- March 22 – [AUTOCROSS!](#)
- March 24 – Monthly Social, Wasabi Japanese
- April 23-26 – [Spring Thing 2026](#)

Keep an eye on our [2026 calendar for](#) more!

### NEW MEMBER ROUNDUP – WELCOME!

**DECEMBER 2025** - Say "Hi!" to our new members!

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Mark C.           | PCA Test Drive     |
| Mike P.           | 2024 911 Carrera S |
| Linda U.          | 2026 Cayenne S     |
| Jay & Kimberly B. | 1974 911           |
| Dennis W.         | 1983 911 SC        |
| Paul B.           | 2021 911 Carrera   |
| Kris A.           | 2024 911 Carrera S |

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

### SMTPCA AUTOCROSS 2026

Now what about autocross? 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](#):

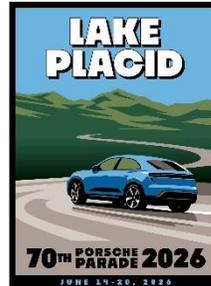
- |           |                          |           |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 3/22/2026 | 4/25/2026 (Spring Thing) |           |
| 5/24/2026 | 6/14/2026                |           |
| 9/13/2026 | 10/18/2026               | 11/8/2026 |

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

### SPRING THING 2026

The 2026 Spring Thing will be April 23-26 this year, held at the [MeadowView Conference Resort Center in Kingsport TN](#). We are changing things up this year: New Venue, expanding it to Four Days, and the Schedule has been rearranged a little. The new chairs for 2026 are Tammy and Phil Kirby, with Tom and Kathy Moreno co-chairing as a hand off. Mark your calendars and plan to be there! [See our website](#) for more and the registration link.

### PORSCHE PARADE 2026



Porsche Parade 2026 is in Lake Placid, New York Sunday, June 14 - Saturday, June 20, 2026. [Phase I registration](#) (Event and Hotel) starts at Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 12 noon ET.

Phase II Opens Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 12 noon ET, where you can register for Events & Banquets.

### NEW MEMBER INTRO – Lenn Rainwater

Hi everyone, this is my 2003 911. Photo was taken after driving the Talladega Speedway, at an event offered during the Porsche National Rally in Birmingham. I recently moved to the Knoxville area from Alabama (near Barber Motorsports Park) and am ready to explore the beautiful roads here. I look forward to meeting everyone!





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### MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Mark Demange, Region Membership Chair  
**A New Face at the Membership Desk**

I'm stepping into a new role here in our corner of the Smoke Signals. I've officially taken over as Membership Chair, following in the footsteps of Teresa Fischer. Teresa has dedicated years of incredible service to this chapter, and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her hard work. Thank you, Teresa!

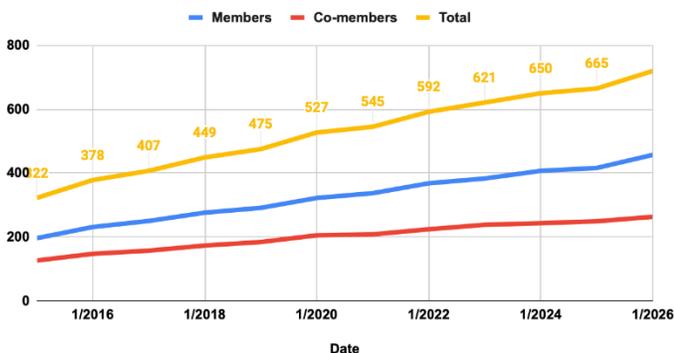
To give you a quick introduction: I've been a part of this region for four years now, having transferred from the Chicago region. I'm thrilled to be serving you all within this region. Statistically here's our region "By the Numbers".

Our growth over the last decade has been:

- **10 Years:** We have doubled in size.
- **457:** Primary Members.
- **263:** Co-Members.
- **700+ Strong:** Our total collective community!

We want to make sure this column stays relevant to you. Please drop us a note via the [SMTPCA Contact List](#) to let us know what you'd like to hear more about. We'll be sure to get back to you or cover your suggestions in an upcoming issue.

Members, Co-members and Total



### TRACK & PERFORMANCE EVENTS

If you are interested in going, or have questions, please [contact our HPDE Chair](#). Check out our [HPDE content on the region website](#).

*Remember, smooth is fast, and shiny side up!*

### PORSCHE 901 CABRIOLET BY KARMANN

By Harvey Goranson

This is the Porsche 901 Cabriolet by Karmann, made in a limited edition of 333 by AutoCult (issued in 2018). In June 1964 Porsche commissioned a cabriolet prototype from Karmann, who had clothed the 356B and 356C cabrios.



Long story short, though used extensively in testing, fear of US rollover protection legislation led Porsche to introduce the 911 Targa instead, which had an integral roll bar. It would be several years before Porsche made a true convertible.

### DEALER CORNER

Harper Porsche held its 2026 Porsche Restoration Challenge Kickoff on January 8<sup>th</sup> at Harper Collision and invited all to come. This year's Key Piece is their 2006 Carrera GT. Many Smoky Mountain Region members attended, so [check us out online](#).



Harper's next big event is their [annual PLATICA](#) May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### DID YOU KNOW... WE NEED YOU!

Following up on Teresa's message last month: this club is entirely volunteer run. We are always looking for volunteers to plan, help run, and head up our events. Our driving tours are incredibly popular, and to make this a reality, we need people to assist or lead.

Driving Tours are our "entry level" Volunteer event. Our 2026 events are mostly staffed, but you can "learn by doing" by helping a Tour Leader craft, ground truth, and run their Tour. They can mentor you into a world class Tour Leader. 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.*



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AS ALWAYS... Remember our Sponsors!



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**Harper Porsche**

