



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 – February 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I typed this note, we are expecting the high to reach 70 in Knoxville today. I know Tennessee better than to think spring has arrived, but I can't help getting a bit of spring fever! I will have the buckets and sponges out tonight, and I'll be ready as our club activities get into full swing.

A few of our track enthusiasts will be kicking off the season at AMP at the end of this month, and we have quite a few dates set for the year (see the [full calendar](#)). The Concours at Amelia is always a signal that spring is here, and the driving season is upon us. Shortly after everyone returns from Florida, our driving tours and autocross events will begin. I, for one, cannot wait!

As always, [full schedule and details](#) are on our website. Hope to see all of you at our social next week, and at many of our events throughout the year. *Todd*

WHAT IS COMING UP?

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

- No driving tours Jan/Feb: Ice, salt, slick tires...
- February 17 – [Monthly Social](#), Corner16
- March 14 – [Driving Tour](#), Murphy, NC, Tellico
- March 22 – [AUTOCROSS!](#)
- March 24 – Monthly Social, Wasabi Japanese
- March 28 – Grand Opening Harper's New Dealership
- April 12 – Harper [Cars & Coffee](#)
- April 23-26 – [Spring Thing 2026](#)

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

NEW MEMBER ROUNDUP – WELCOME!

JANUARY 2026 - Say "Hi!" to our new members!

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Jeff & Kimberly A. | 2016 Cayman GTS |
| Richard G. | 2026 911 Carrera GTS |
| Anthony M. | 2016 Boxster Spyder |
| Warren & Juanita M. | 2026 911 Carrera S |
| Terry & Terry H. | 2019 718 Cayman |
| Mark H. | 2007 911 Carrera |
| Heathe & Ingo R. | 2026 Macan GTS |
| Michael L. | 2011 911 Carrera S |
| Patricia & Michael S. | 2014 Cayman S |
| Jacob R. | 2023 911 GT3 |

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

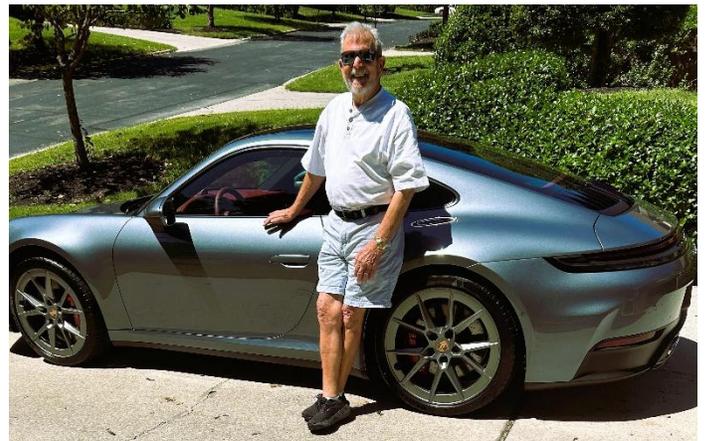
The 2026 Spring Thing will be April 23-26 this year, held at the [MeadowView Conference Resort Center](#) in [Kingsport TN](#). We are changing things up this year: New Venue, expanding it to **Four Days**, and the schedule has been rearranged a little. The new chairs for 2026 are Tammy and Phil Kirby, 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) opened January 28, 2026, and Phase II Opens Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 12 noon ET, where you can register for Events & Banquets.

NEW MEMBER INTRO – Warren Michaels

Warren & Juanita Michaels recently joined the Smoky Mountain Region with their new 2026 911 Carrera S. They have previously owned a 1979 911 SC and a 2006 911S and Warren has been an enthusiast for nearly 50 years. WELCOME ABOARD!





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TRACK & PERFORMANCE EVENTS

As we gear up for another exciting season, a group of HPDE enthusiasts recently gathered to eat, drink, and make plans for the SMTPCA 2026 track year. The energy and enthusiasm were strong, and we're looking forward to a fantastic calendar of events with great turnout from our region. Here are the track events being attended this year by our crew.

- Atlanta Motorsports Park — February 28 (Peachstate PCA)
- Road Atlanta — April 10–12 (Peachstate PCA)
- National Corvette Museum Motorsports Park — May 16–17 (10/10ths)
- Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course — June 27–28 (MORPCA)
- Mid-Ohio — July 17–19 (Metro NY PCA)
- Mid-Ohio — September 11–13 (Allegheny PCA)
- Virginia International Raceway — October 23–25 (MORPCA)

Registration for these events can be found on <http://www.clubregistration.net>, except for the May NCM event, which is hosted on motorsportreg.com.

If you are interested in attending, coordinating travel, or just want to learn more, please check out the HPDE section of the region website or reach out to Carl Justice. These events are a great way to grow skills, build confidence, and enjoy time with fellow drivers both on and off track.

Many thanks to Rich and Wendy for hosting the planning session, and to everyone doing the upfront legwork that helps make our season run smoothly. And, check out our [HPDE content on the region website](#).

Remember, smooth is fast, and shiny side up!

1976 PORSCHE 935 MARTINI

By Harvey Goranson



For the 1976 Le Mans race, new rules resulted in several class changes, with Group 6 designated for prototypes, Group 5 for "special" production cars, and Group 4 for racers based on road cars that followed strict rules for

modifications. Porsche won all three groups, and for Group 5 the class winner (and 4th overall) was the Martini decorated 935 driven by Rolf Stommelen and Manfred Schurti. Power came from a turbocharged 3-liter flat six. Model is by Ebbro of Japan and issued about 20 years ago.

OUT OF DATE HELMET DONATION

The Smoky Mountain Region, and individual members, donated used out-of-date helmets to the Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee. The helmets will be provided for clients so they can take part in everyday activities, reducing the changes of head injury should they fall. Pictured are Dave Yoder, Vic Rola, EFET Executive Director Monika Hancock, EFET Wellness & Public Educator Arlene Walston, Charlie Gault, Clyde Peery, Mike Parker, and Daniel Paransky, at Harper Porsche.

Smoky Mountain Region encourages all PCA Regions to consider donations of autocross/race/bicycle helmets to local Epilepsy Foundations to help limit head injuries.



SPEAKING OF HELMETS...

Here's a "Helmet Certification & Safety Reminder"! Safety remains our top priority at every HPDE event. Please review this important reminder regarding helmet eligibility, as HPDE will be following Club Racing rules on acceptable helmets.

Per PCA Section 11a:

"Helmets with a printed manufacture date expire at the end of the 10th year following the year of manufacture."

The manufacture date inside your helmet — not the purchase date — determines eligibility.

The following Snell SA2015 Extension apply:



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- Snell SA2015 helmets manufactured in 2015: valid through June 30, 2026
- Snell SA2015 helmets manufactured in 2016: valid through December 2026
- Snell SA2015 helmets manufactured in 2017: valid through December 2027

Please plan ahead if your helmet is nearing the end of its certification window. Checking your equipment now helps avoid surprises at tech inspection and keeps registration moving smoothly! We're looking forward to another safe, social, and skill-building season with everyone. See you at the track!

Carl

DEALER CORNER

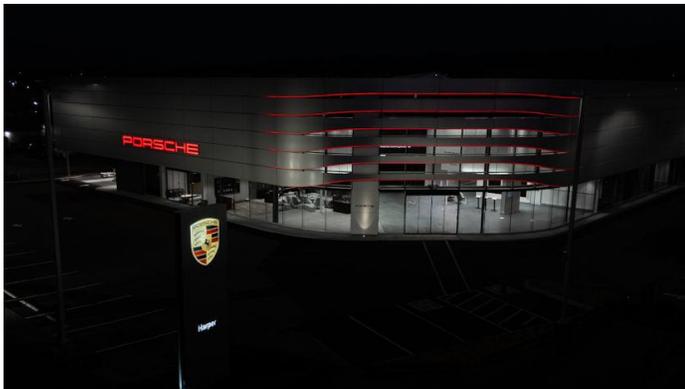
You're invited to join Harper Porsche on Saturday, March 28th from 9AM-12PM as they are unveiling their new Generation 5 Porsche facility. Enjoy food, gifts, and a special Porsche display as we bring new life to the Porsche community in East Tennessee. Harper Porsche has been a proud family-owned Porsche dealer since 1981.

If you own a Porsche, drive it!

Where? Harper Porsche, 9768 Parkside Drive

When? March 28th, 9AM-12PM

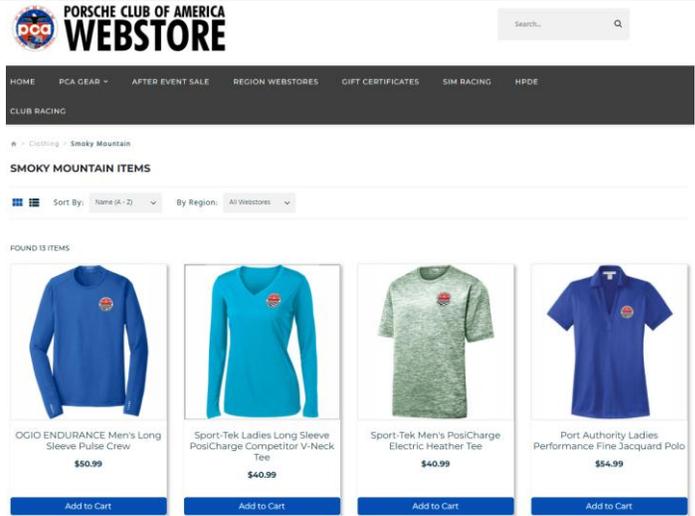
Signup? Click [here for online registration](#)



Harper's other next big events are [Cars & Coffee](#) on April 12th, and their [annual PLATICA](#) May 3rd.

DID YOU KNOW... WE HAVE BLING!

You can buy Smoky Mountain Region Swag? YOU CAN! From the top menu of the website (PCA STORE) you can link to our online store for shirts, jackets, duffels, totes, and more. Show your colors and look stylish to boot!



MARCH 2026 DRIVING TOUR

Join us on Saturday March 14th, 2026, for our first Driving Tour of the year. The drive is 133 miles, primarily on some of my favorite backcountry twisty roads. We'll be heading through downtown Murphy, traveling Joe Brown Hwy (a fantastic road in case you have not tried it) and stopping at the Hiwassee Dam Welcome Center. We'll then be heading towards Downtown Tellico Plains, where we will have an optional "Your Choice" lunch selection of 4 restaurants all within walking distance to conclude our Driving Tour.

This drive will be more on the twisty and curvy side than our normal tour. Hopefully, that's what you may be looking for. We'll meet at our favorite Hardees at 9:00am, drivers meeting 9:15am and depart at 9:30am

- Hardee's 1001 US-411, Vonore, TN 37885

Our drive will conclude at Tellico Goods & Gear at approximately 1:45pm - 2:00pm for those who can't make the drive but would like to meet for lunch.

- 706 Veterans Memorial Dr, Tellico Plains, TN 37385

Please email Jack the following information at igottlieb01@gmail.com to sign up by March 12th, so that adequate leads and sweeps can be recruited to assist if we have more than one group of 10 cars.

- Driver and Passenger Name
- Year, Model, Color of car
- Cell Phone Number
- Email Address

A GPXfile of the route is also available for those requesting.



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AS ALWAYS... Remember our Sponsors!



PORSCHE

Harper Porsche

