



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 – April 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Having just returned from a long weekend at Road Atlanta and immediately whisking off across The Pond Our Illustrious Leader is taking a break this month!

“Todd”

WHAT IS COMING UP?

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

- April 23-26 – [Spring Thing 2026](#)
- May 03 – [Porsche Platica](#)
- May 16 – [Driving Tour, Goodfellas & Monkeys](#)
- May 24 – [Autocross](#)

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

NEW MEMBER ROUNDUP – WELCOME!

MARCH 2026 - Say “Hi!” to our new members!

Michael C. 1988 911 Carrera Targa

David H. 2017 Cayenne

William M. 2024 Panamera 4

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

SMTPCA AUTOCROSS 2026

The Autocross season kicked off with a beautiful Sunday March 22nd at Pellissippi Community College, temperatures in the upper 70's and low 80's by the end of the day. We had the most participants yet, 34 drivers! Plenty of Porsches on display ranging from a 1988 Porsche 924 to a 2024 Cayman GTS. There were other brands of cars stretching their wheels as well: 2 Tesla Model 3's, 2026 Mustang Dark Horse, multiple Miatas, Hondas and a Corvette, just to name a few. Lots of competitive runs across all cars. Check out the [pix online](#).



One of the most exciting parts of the day, we had several younger drivers, first timers and 5 women driving the wheels off their cars (figuratively of course)! Our drivers ranged in age from 16 (young lady who services her own Boxster) to a veteran 83 year old who is still out there pushing it! We would love to see more of this! The Fastest

Time of the Day (FTD) went to one of the Teslas (they are really fast, along with the driver being very skilled). Second fastest was a Porsche Cayman S. Our next open Autocross event is scheduled for May 24th, so come on out and bring a friend to drive! Here are all [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](#). Mark your calendars and plan to be there! [See our website](#) for more and the registration link.

NEW MEMBER INTRO – The Andersons

Jeff & Kim Anderson recently transferred from the Appalachian Region, relocating from Flat Rock, NC, to Crossville, TN, in 2025. They traded a BMW Z-4 for a new 981 Boxster “S” in 2012 when it became available because... Porsche, “There is no substitute”. They really love that Mid-Engine set-up, and they are a Porsche Family as well: their son has a 2022 Python Green GT4, and they do activities together when they can. Their current paddock:

- 2013 Boxster “S” in Guards Red
- 2016 Cayman “S” in Mahogany Metallic
- 2022 718 Cayman GTS 4.0, Gentian Blue Metallic



WELCOME ABOARD!!!



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TRACK & PERFORMANCE EVENTS

We are gearing up for another exciting season: Here are the track events being attended this year by our crew.

- NCM Motorsports Park — May 16–17 (10/10ths)
- Mid-Ohio June 27-28, MORPCA
- Mid-Ohio, July 17-19, Metro NY PCA

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

A bunch of Smoky Mountaineers recently attended the April 10-12 Road Atlanta HPDE, and fun times were had by all!



If you are interested in attending, coordinating travel, or just want to learn more, please check out the [HPDE content on 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.

Remember, smooth is fast, and shiny side up!

DEALER CORNER

You're invited to attend another annual installment of Porsche Platica on May 3rd, 2026. [Register online](#) in advance to join Harper Porsche and other Porsche enthusiasts at the The Quarry Venue.

PORSCHE 911 TARGA

By Harvey Goranson

The Porsche 911 Targa was introduced in late 1967 as a hedge against US regulations that might have eliminated convertibles due to safety concerns in rollover crashes. Fortunately, ragtops are still with us. German toymaker Marklin has a rich history, having made railway toys since 1891. By the 1930s, Marklin was making very well detailed diecast cars, but when the Hot Wheels era arrived, a change had to occur. From about 1970, Marklin's recently introduced 1800-series were converted over to low-friction wheels.



In the case of the Targa, this was not so bad as the 5-spoke speed wheels looked very similar to the Fuchs wheels of that time. My model has opening doors and a lift-off roof, painted in a color resembling Bahama Orange, a popular shade back in the late '70s. The model was discontinued in 1976.

MARCH 2026 DRIVING TOUR

On Saturday March 14th, 2026, 46 cars showed up for our first Driving Tour of the year. The drive was 133 miles, primarily on some of our favorite and lesser-known backcountry twisty roads. We headed through downtown Murphy, traveling Joe Brown Highway and TRIED stopping at the Hiwassee Dam Welcome Center (closed for construction!).

We finished in Downtown Tellico Plains, where many dined at the various restaurants there. Next Driving Tour is at Spring Thing 2026!



MAY 2026 DRIVING TOUR

The "April" Driving Tour is technically at Spring Thing so start thinking about the [May Tour: Monkeys, Goodfellas, & Fireflies!](#) This will be on Saturday, May 16, 2026, starting at I-75 & SR72, and ending in Loudon with dining options galore.

This scenic country drive features a great mix of long sweeping curves, beautiful "tree tunnels," and an extended stretch alongside Watts Bar Lake. It's a passenger-friendly route, so feel free to bring a friend or partner along to enjoy the ride.



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PARTING SHOT – Resto-Mods Gone Wild

You're ambitious, you own a welding rig, a totaled 911 drops in your lap... What do you do?!? We doubt this is real, but a boy can dream.





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Starts at \$999/person includes room, meals, and beverages



PCA Treffen at Sea 2026

Six-Day Pacific Wine Country Cruise

Join hundreds of PCA Members on the 4th Annual Treffen at Sea with Princess Cruises, from Saturday, September 19th to Friday, September 25th, 2026. We will set sail from Vancouver, Canada, to Los Angeles, CA, with stops in

San Francisco and Santa Barbara. Experience fun Porsche and partner seminars, special on-board events and activities, unique Porsche themed beverages, wine tastings, and incredible in-port experiences in partnership with local PCA Regions.



More information: www.pca.org/events/treffen-at-sea-2026-pacific-wine-country



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MEMBER ONLY
RAFFLE

1ST GRAND PRIZE:
2026 PCA 70th Anniversary
CLUB COUPE
+\$60,000 CASH PRIZE



2ND GRAND PRIZE: 2026
911 CARRERA
+\$40,000 CASH PRIZE



Scan code or
see website
for more details
and official rules:
www.pca.org

ENTRY DEADLINE: June 1, 2026
WINNER ANNOUNCED: July 31, 2026
Multiple winners anticipated

Additional prizes after first grand prize
are based upon number of entries
as outlined in OFFICIAL RAFFLE RULES



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AS ALWAYS... Remember our Sponsors!



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