

DIE FLORIDA KRONEN ZEITSCHRIFT



Newsletter of the Florida Crown Region



FIELDS
AUTO GROUP

COMING SOON



All-New Porsche Service Center Arriving Fall 2025

- > 445 World Commerce Center
- > St. Augustine, Florida, 32092

For the latest information visit porschejacksonville.com

PORSCHE

Porsche Jacksonville

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Board of Directors

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Contributors

Ken Perry , Wayne Kunkel, Chris Pownall, Chris Hoyt , Janet O'Donnell, Patrick O'Donnell, Debbie Cooper, Danielle Bader, Sabine Moeller, Hylton Early, James Coleman, Jesus Caracoza, Spyros Dennis Syrmis, Mark Pribanic, Kenneth Staton, Jeff Combs, John Pellerin cover photo by Wayne Kunkel shows Sabine Moeller & Spyros Dennis Syrmis

Committee Chairs

Advertising Chair: Help needed !!

Newsletter Editor: Wayne Kunkel

From the Editor Wayne Kunkel

First, I must explain why this issue of the newsletter is late. FCR has been paying to post our newsletter, which is normal for many PCA Regions. Before FCR renewed our yearly contract, I noticed that a few regions were hosting their regional newsletter on their own website.

An email to Ken Perry and Brett Atkin started the ball rolling to explore this option. That website team is also working on several other projects so I assumed it would be several weeks before anything was accomplished. Brett found the right plug in for the website to host our newsletter and now you can see the current one and previous issues as well. They accomplished this in record time, and I was caught unawares. This means a savings of \$600 a year to the region!

The red-hot activity schedule for FCR has also kept me busy taking pictures for social media, Panorama, and Newsletter. The September issue of Pano does have an FCR event picture on page 133. Anyone can contribute an image to all of these BUT Pano has requested that FCR screen images sent in for publication. If you have an image to send into Pano please contact us for information. FCR will be in the November and December issues.

Having members participate in events is one of our goals. Enjoying our wonderful cars together does enhance the ownership experience. The Holiday Brunch has been announced! Timuquana Country Club will be the location on Sunday, Dec. 14th. The cost is \$75. The brunch will start at 11 a.m. The social committee survey results indicated that members did not like driving home at night from an event location that might not be local.

As always, check <https://www.pcafc.org/club-events/> for more information on any event!





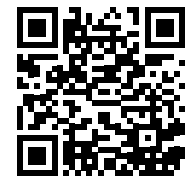
1st Grand Prize: A stunning 2026 Porsche 911 GTS + \$35,000 cash

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

Fall 2025 Member-Only Raffle Now Open!

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 above 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



PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

From the Prez

Chris Pownall FCR PCA President

Holy cow, we're already into October. Insert the overused phrase about time flying by...

With the weather now cooling off a little, now's a great time to get the windows down and roof open (regardless of which variety of opening it is) and enjoy the drive a little bit more.

Speaking of driving, are you all aware of the new penalties in the state for speeding? Especially if caught over 100mph, it's right to jail. Which is a fantastic reason to sign up for the High Performance Driver Education (HPDE) event January 17-18, 2026, at Roebing Road Raceway. A safe, fun environment to wring out your Porsche while improving your skills, all while going fast (if you want!). Registration is now open, so sign up today and truly enjoy the capabilities of your vehicle while not risking jail time.

For 2025, our annual Holiday Party is an even bigger event as we also celebrate the 65th anniversary of Florida Crown. The sights and backdrop will be truly picturesque as we enjoy the year-end festivities at the historic Timuquana County Club. The Board is excited for what this venue has to offer.

Indeed, I would be remiss to not give thanks to the Board and the Chairs for their outstanding achievements this year. It's been a lot of dedication on their part to reinvigorate our calendar of events. We're looking to add monthly socials to the Gainesville area soon. If interested in being a host, please contact the Social Chairs.

Stay in the loop of upcoming events through the website, email blasts, and our Facebook page. We're looking forward to seeing you out there!

Keep the shiny side up,



FLORIDA CROWN REGION 3rd QUARTER MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Oct. 2, 2025

REGION SUMMARY

New Members 43

Transfer In 5

Transfer Out - 4

Lapsed - 47

Life Members

Total Primary Members 1089

Affiliate Members 588

Total Region Membership 1677

NEW MEMBERS July, August and September 2025

NAME	CITY, STATE	VEHICLE YEAR & MODEL
Hall, Jessica M. Bruce Hall	Jacksonville, Florida	2024 Cayenne
Johnson, Eugene Tiffany Johnson	Jacksonville, Florida	2017 911 Turbo S
Lalli, Russell S.	Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida	2013 911 Turbo S
Lee, Tyreese J.	St. Johns, Florida	2023 911 Carrera T
Libengood, J. Michael Deborah Libengood	Gainesville, Florida	2013 911 Carrera S
Lowery, Kevin	Jacksonville, Florida	2008 911 Carrera 4
Magdalerin, Kim L	St. Johns, Florida	2005 911 Carrera S
Palombo, Anthony W.	Saint Johns, Florida	2022 911 Carrera GTS
Schaefer, Paul	Catherine Schaefer	1992 911 Carrera 2 Cabriolet
Schaffer, Katherine D. Stewart Schaffer	Fernandina Beach, Florida	2025 911 Carrera
Smotherman, John T. Lang Smotherman	Jennings, Florida	2018 Macan

Trabal, Enrique	Fleming Island, Florida	1979 911 SC Targa
Tweed, Peter	Jacksonville, Florida	2004 Cayenne S
Young, Josef	Saint Augustine, Florida	2021 911 Turbo S
Berkowitz, Mark Jeri Haynes	Fleming Island, Florida	2019 911 Carrera S
Bertram, Catherine Christopher Bertram	Fernandina Beach, Florida	2024 911 Carrera S Cabriolet
Brown, Kenneth	Jacksonville Beach, Florida	2016 911 GT3 RS
Cantu, Darin	Ponte Vedra, Florida	2004 911 Turbo Cabriolet
Fraas, Lynne Corwith Steven Fraas	Flagler Beach, Florida	2025 718 Boxster S
Johnson, Timothy	Saint Johns, Florida	2019 718 Cayman
Kelley, Michael	Jacksonville Beach, Florida	2020 911 Carrera 4S
Moody, Debora	Ponte Vedra, Florida	2022 Panamera
Nolan, Kyle	Jacksonville, Florida	1992 968
Phillips, James S	Fernandina Beach, Florida	2004 911 Turbo Cabriolet
Sassa, Steven L	Jacksonville, Florida	1987 924S
Sergeant, Jeffrey B	Jacksonville, Florida	2015 911 Carrera S Cabriolet
Vaidich, David Joseph Cathy Vaidich	Palm Coast, Florida	1999 Boxster
Artiga, Brandon	Jacksonville, Florida	2016 Cayenne GTS
Boggs, Ralph	Jacksonville, Florida	2002 911 Carrera

Busby, Tiffany Derek Busby	Saint Augustine, Florida	2025 Taycan 4S
Camilleri, Al	Fernandina Beach, Florida	1987 911 Turbo
Farrell, James John Sebastyn	Saint Augustine, Florida	2022 911 Carrera S
Hasic, Demir	Jacksonville, Florida	2017 911 Turbo
Johnson, Daniel	Gainesville, Florida	2001 Boxster S
Ma, Wey-Tu	Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida	2016 Cayman GT4
Magdalein, Sam	Jacksonville, Florida	2019 911 Carrera T
Nastovski, Brian D. Varessa Sanchez	Hilliard, Florida	2022 Cayenne
Peoples, Ian Thomas	Saint Augustine , Florida	2025 911 Carrera S
Pernas, Leonardo German	Green Cove Springs, Florida	1985 944
Piscitelli, Philip L	St. Johns, Florida	2019 Panamera GTS
Redmon, Clarence John	Palm Coast, Florida	1995 911 Carrera 4
Schoer, Joshua S	Ponte Vedra, Florida	2014 Cayman S
Scott, Joshua Amy Scott	Jacksonville, Florida	2017 911 Carrera

Transfer in Members

Bach, Ulf E. Transfer From: Nord Stern (NST)	Fernandina Beach, Florida	2011 Cayenne Turbo
Bobbitt, Benjamin B Joyce Barry Transfer From: Allegheny (AR)	Ponte Vedra, Florida	2005 911 Carrera
Stringfield, Edwin Transfer From: Olympic Peninsula (OLP)	Jacksonville, Florida	2018 Macan GTS

2025 FCR ANNIVERSARIES 4th QUARTER

30 YEARS

James Voss
Cathy Voss
Brian Barker

25 YEARS

Sean McCormick
Darlyn McCormick
Mac McGehee
Richard Tumlin
Jenny Tumlin
Michael Roy
Jenny Roy

20 YEARS

Debbie Williams
Hugh Williams
Robert Harrington
Norman Seals
Sherrie Lewis-Seals

15 YEARS

Arnold Duhrkopp
Dennis Fallen
Neal Newfield
Bruce Hartley
Janie Hartley
Chris Pownall

10 YEARS

Denise O'Brien
Robert Bailey
Bruce Hinman
Leigh Wohlfarth
David Wohlfarth
Eduardo Oyloa
Pamela Lonsdale
James Lonsdale
Greg Adams
Ron Rowell
Richard Lavosky
James Hetherton
Henny Hetherton

5 YEARS

Alberto Franco
Darin Gollnick
Timothy Witt

5 YEARS

Chris Sittard

Keith Kasen

William Showalter

Kathy Pino

John Cardella

Marcus Williams

Daniel Aristimuno

David Armstrong

Nancy Armstrong

David Rieken

Nathan Renstrom

Daniel Young

Matthew Sara



Historic Putnam Hotel Tour
November 8th, 2025
15487 Northwest Highway 19, Cross City FL 32628

It was 1927 when the Putnam Lumber Company built this finely crafted hotel using very rare pecky cypress and other fine hardwoods. The hotel was restored in 2014 and still has its old charm and character from the days when Al Capone visited and it served as a bootlegger meeting point during the prohibition days.

Our tour begins in Green Cove Springs. Expect two tour groups when we depart and as we drive through some of North Florida's most beautiful country backroads past an institution where the criminal Ted Bundy was sentenced for his horrific crimes and finally ended when he got the shock of his life.

We will have lunch in High Springs, then depart for the Putnam Hotel enjoying more lightly traveled backroads. After we check in at the hotel, enjoy walking around the property, or maybe take a drive to see Horseshoe Beach which was originally populated in the 1800's and is considered "Florida's Last Frontier".

We inspected several of the rooms at the hotel and found them to be clean, no musty odors and they allow pets.

Dinner will be in the 1927 Steakhouse which is located on the property within the lodge.

This FCR Tour will be limited - They only have 20 rooms available for us! When you call and make your reservation mention PORSCHE Club and get a 10% discount. RESERVATIONS AT THE HOTEL MUST BE MADE BY OCTOBER 8TH.

<https://www.pcafc.org/event/historic-putnam-hotel-tour-november-8th-2025/>



October

14 – Social- Don Juan’s / Mandarin

18 - 9:30 am - 11:30 am FCR High Performance Driver’s Education Information Session @ Bavarian Rennsport 2027 Mayport Rd, Mayport, FL

25 - 9:30 am - 2:00 pm FCR Renegades on the River – Drive and Dine

October 26 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am Porsches and Pancakes First Watch Gainesville

November

November 1 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am Porsches and Pancakes 4 locations

November 7th-9th- Space Coast PCA Heritage 24 Weekend Porsche-focused event during the Historic Sportscar Racing Daytona Classic 24 weekend <https://clubregistration.net/events/signUp.cfm/event/16140>

November 8 Historic Putnam Hotel Tour

November 11 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm November Social – Hilltop Restaurant Orange Park

November 14 - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Women in PCA Friday Florida Yacht Club

November 29 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am Porsches and Pancakes First Watch Gainesville 3729 SW 40th Blvd, Gainesville

December

December 6 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am Porsches and Pancakes 4 locations

**December 14 - 11:00 am - 2 pm Timuquana Country Club
Check website for details and registration**

January 2026

**January 17, 2026 @ 7:30 am - January 18, 2026 @ 5:00 pm
Annual FCR HPDE at Roebing Road Raceway**

SOCIAL EVENTS

Patrick and Janet O'Donnell Hosts
Porsches and Pancakes

CRACKER BARREL SOUTH SIDE



Porsches and Pancakes

CRACKER BARREL PALM COAST

James & Ada Coleman hosts





Amelia Island / Fernandina Beach

John Pellerin

A great showing from the Amelia Island / Fernandina Beach contingent of Florida Crown at our inaugural Porsches & Pancakes monthly breakfast....9 Porsches and 16 people!! We had a great time and people really enjoyed having something out here in the northern fringes of the region!



PUSSER'S BAR AND GRILLE PONTE VEDRA SEPTEMBER SOCIAL



Wicked Barley Brewing Company Jacksonville, FL FCR PCA OCTOBERFEST 2025



Concours Prep 101 Class

Hylton Early

On Saturday, August 23rd, the Florida Crown Region's concours team hosted a *Concours Prep 101 Class* at the Brumos Collection. Following the Club's April 12th "Show n' Shine" concours held at the Brumos Collection in tandem with their "Spring Social", multiple Club members had questions about the concours judging sheets and how to properly prepare their car for a future event.

In response, the Club's concours team, led by Hylton Early, decided to offer a free, interactive class featuring the four key areas of concours prep. The four instructors were: Chris Hoyt (Exterior/911 Turbo); Jeff Jones (Tires & Wheels/Macan); Ken Perry (Interior/Boxster). They demonstrated their "Prep 101" techniques on their own cars. Ed Lustgarten (Engine Compartment) used the Brumos Collection's Keen Project Safari 911 as his demonstration vehicle.

Participants had the opportunity to ask questions, spending 15-20 minutes with each instructor sharing one aspect of preparation. The event was graciously hosted by Brumos in their garage shop. Approximately fifty club members were in attendance. This first ever event was given high marks by participants, so we are hoping to see more cars entered into the twice-yearly club concours events!

Finally, the feedback was "Lets Do It Again." Stay tuned!



Ed Lustgarten speaking on the engine compartment



Left to right are the concours prep instructors: Jeff Jones, Hylton Early, Chris Hoyt, Ken Perry, Ed Lustgarten





Luftgekühlt 11 Brings Air-Cooled Magic to the East Coast

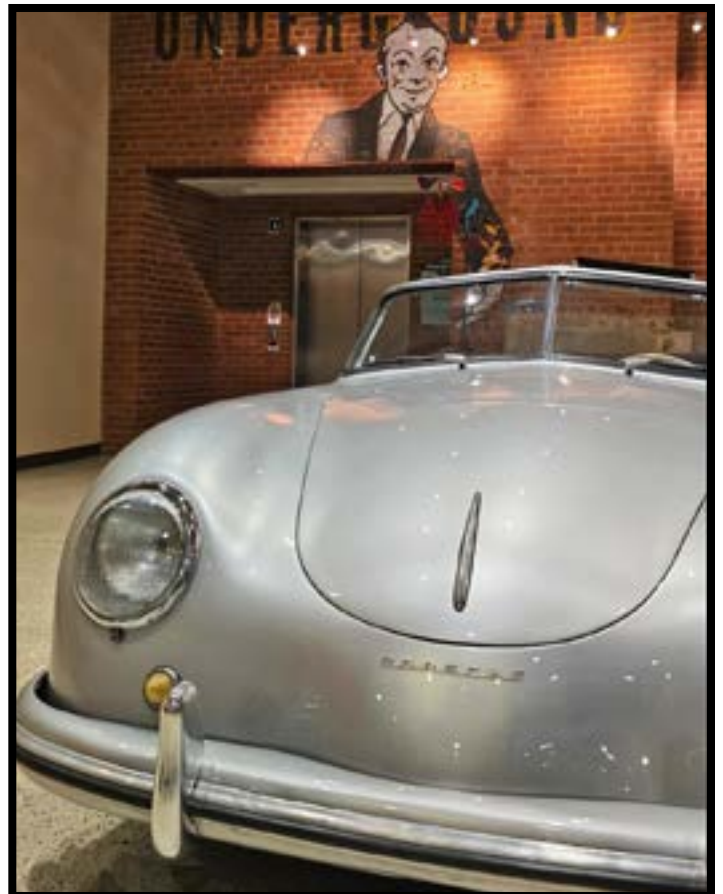
Jesus Caracoza

For the first time ever, Luftgekühlt made its way to the East Coast, and Durham, North Carolina, became the unlikely—but undeniably fitting—host city for the 11th iteration of the iconic air-cooled Porsche gathering.

Known for its carefully curated displays and infectious community spirit, Luft 11 did not disappoint. Among the standout participants was a strong showing from the FCR (Florida Crown Region) community, many of whom made the 14-hour round trip to represent North Florida in style.

Their efforts were well worth it—several FCR cars were featured prominently in the event's stunning lineup. Mark Pribanic's legendary 356, boasting over 400,000 miles of patina-rich stories, stood as a testament to the endurance and love behind these machines. Debbie Cooper's race-bred Coppa Florio 911 drew admiration for its pedigree, while Richard Papy's yellow 911 Turbo turned heads with its vibrant finish and clean stance. Bryan Baker showcased his own 911 Turbo alongside the iconic Brumos 911 race car, adding a heavy dose of Porsche motorsport heritage to the mix. Beyond the cars, the event drew a passionate group of FCR supporters who made the journey to soak in the atmosphere and support their fellow enthusiasts. Kenneth Staton, Aaron Mong, Steve Albino, Jeff Combs, Jesus Caracoza, and many others added to the camaraderie that defines the air-cooled community.

As the sun set on Luftgekühlt's East Coast debut, one thing became clear: this wasn't just a one-off. The hope across the FCR family is strong—that Luft will return, and with it, more opportunities to share the passion, stories, and spirit that make this community so special.

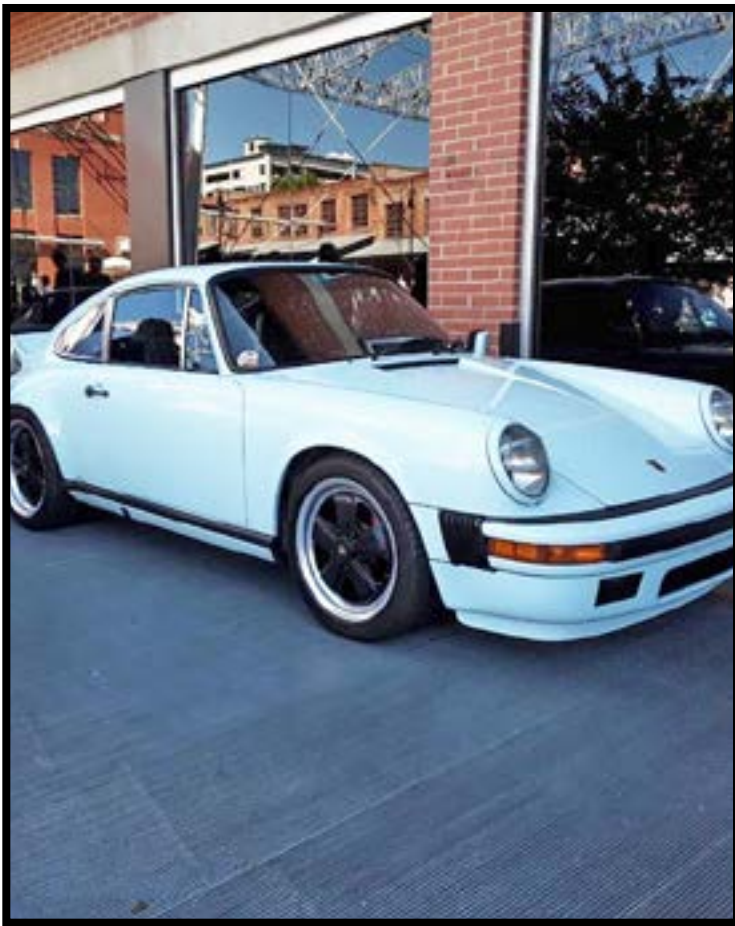


Luftgekühlt 11 mileage summary



Departure to Luft: 9.25.2025: 67508
Return from Luft: 10.5.2025: 69563
Total miles driven: 2055







Interested in Porsche market trends?

Sign up for PCA's free monthly e-newsletter, Mart Fresh News!

The Porsche Club of America features news, videos, and information about the current market for used Porsches in the monthly *Mart Fresh News* email newsletter.

Mart Fresh News also highlights a variety of Porsche listings from PCA's Mart Classifieds. When you find a vehicle in The Mart, you can be assured that it's been cared for by a registered PCA member — not some anonymous seller.

SIGN UP FOR MART FRESH NEWS TODAY: www.pca.org/newsletter-signup



PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

September 2025

Danielle Badler

I'm Not Obsessive ... You're Obsessive

It was F. Scott Fitzgerald who famously said, "The rich are different from you and me." And it was Ernest Hemingway who allegedly responded with, "Yes, Scott, they have more money."

I love that. The implication, to Hemingway, is that the rich are different because they can afford to be different, to indulge in whatever floats their boat or, in our case, drives them down the road. While the rest of us stand by the wayside and gape, or wax poetic about what we'd do if our lottery ticket hit the jackpot, or our business IPO led to a valuation with too many zeros to count.

Take the collector. The big-money spender who, after buying the yacht, the palatial abode and the Gulfstream jet, amasses a fleet of vehicles so big that one person could never possibly use them all, in many lifetimes.

I recently came across an on-line story in The Drive, about a car collection that was being liquidated in a month or two. What got me was the headline, which read, "Huge Auto Museum Is Shutting Down and Selling Off 295 Pristine Collector Cars." It was the Klairmont Collections Automotive Museum in Chicago.

Apparently, Larry Klairmont had amassed a small real estate empire (he passed in 2021) and applied his, shall we say, ample resources to what his widow says is "the largest collection on display anywhere in the Midwest."

That piqued my interest ... just what do you buy if you can afford 295 vehicles? And my answer was a click away. Because The Drive listed each of them.

All I can say is that, at the end of the road, Fitzgerald must be gasping, and Hemingway must be laughing hysterically. I mean, 13 Vespa scooters. A DeLorean and a Bricklin. Two Corvairs. A VW Thing, a Beetle and a Karmann Ghia convertible. Two Messerschmitt cars, one a convertible. Three Goggomobils. Thirteen Jeeps in various configurations. Fourteen Rolls Royces, from the '20s to the '80s. A Zimmer Golden Spirt. Three 1941 Cadillacs. A 1948 Tucker replica.

Sorry, no Porsches. No Ferraris. Two BMWs, an Isetta from the '50s and a 1936 319 cabriolet. One Fiat, a 500 sport sedan from 1959.

Performance? You want performance? A Lamborghini Espada, a Citroen SM, a 1969 Camaro pace car, two Pontiac GTOs, a Dodge Super Bee ... it goes on and on ... and on. As the Church Lady might say, isn't this a bit ... eccentric?

My brother-in-law collects and sells rare books. A lot of first editions, a lot of sci fi. All lovingly hand-wrapped in plastic. I once asked my sister, what is the attraction in collecting books? Aren't they meant to be read? I mean, they're books, aren't they? Isn't that what they're for? And she answered by saying, "you're not a collector. You'll never get it."

Which I guess is true. I don't get collecting books that you don't read, and I don't get the point of assembling one of the most eclectic and apparently self-indulgent car collections I've ever come across. Just like I don't get collecting sports memorabilia off the sweat of athletes. And that leads me to bring up one of my very own quotes. "The rich are weird. Because they can afford to be weird." Please cite me, if you ever use it. How else do you explain the mania?



FLORIDA CROWN REGION PCA
HOLIDAY PARTY BRUNCH @TIMUQUANA CC
DECEMBER 14, 2025 11 am -2 pm SUNDAY

Drifting Dreams at Hockenheimring

Sabine Moeller
smoeller2001@yahoo.com

The air crackled with anticipation, a mix of high-octane fuel and my own nervous excitement. I was at the Porsche Experience Centre (PEC) Hockenheimring in July 2025, signed up for the “Pilot G-Force GT” drifting class. My steed for the day? The glorious new 992 GT3. Its guttural roar as it idled was already music to my ears, a promise of the exhilarating dance to come.

Our first challenge was what I'd call “skiing with the car” on a wet road. It sounds simple, but coaxing a powerful machine into a controlled slide on slick asphalt, feeling the rear tires lose grip in a predictable ballet, was a revelation. It's all about precision and a feather-light touch, counter-intuitive at first, but utterly captivating.

Next, we moved to the dry circle, a tougher beast. The grip was immense, demanding more commitment and a sharper flick of the wheel to break traction. But oh, the satisfaction when the rear end finally stepped out in a beautiful, squealing arc!

The grand finale was the full drift course – a winding ribbon of about eight turns, each one an invitation to slide. This is where the magic truly happened. Once you initiate the drift with a precise burst of power, the real art is in maintaining it. It's a delicate balance: getting into the drift requires a firm foot and quick hands, but staying in it demands light, almost intuitive adjustments with your hands and feet. It's like powder skiing, where you're constantly balancing on the edge, flowing with the terrain, and feeling completely connected to the movement.

The 992 GT3, needless to say, was an absolute dream. Its engine note was pure symphony, and its chassis responded with incredible precision, making every slide feel manageable, even as the G-forces pressed me into the seat. It's so incredibly addictive – once you get a taste, you just can't get enough.

And lucky me, there were only two students in our class, which meant we got double the drift time! More laps, more slides, more opportunities to refine that delicate balance. The feeling of the car rotating gracefully around a corner, tires screaming in a controlled protest, is pure exhilaration.

It was so utterly intoxicating that I've already signed up for the “Ice Experience” in Finland. Five days of ice and snow, promising even more sideways action. If any fellow member would like to join me for more Hockenheimring action in Germany or even in Finland, please send me an e-mail and we can team up!





PCA 70TH ANNIVERSARY

WAYNE KUNKEL

September 13th was the 70th anniversary event for the Porsche Club of America. The Florida Crown Region celebrated at Jacksonville Porsche and it was very well attended. The concours judges had their hands full with each Porsche being concours prepped very well.

As a photographer, I feel challenged to bring a true representation of the event with my images but also giving the images a flavor. There was the inside cars and people, the concours cars, the swap meet people and cars, the crowd, and energy being given off by attendees.

It's always gratifying seeing old friends and new friends. The cars are amazing but when I see our new membership chair, Sabine Moeller, fly in from NJ and working at the FCR station inside the dealership along with Debbie Cooper, I know we are making progress as a region.

I also saw most of the FCR Board working as a judge or helping with the event. Hans Mandt stayed late to make sure 157 autocross cones got put away at 2 pm. We have some great folks in this region. We are blessed.





Return to Le Mans - Third Time Lucky?

By Chris Hoyt, FCR Member

The third trip to Le Mans for Ed Lustgarten and myself was not without its ticketing challenges again, which has become the norm for us when attending this legendary motor racing event. Ticketing issues aside, it was still the thrill of a lifetime. New for this trip, we had two other racing fans join us who had never been but wanted to cross Le Mans off their respective bucket lists – Bob Barren FCR member and past region president, and Tom Provasi long-time west coast PCA member and founder of Werks Monterey and Amelia Island.



Left to right: Tom Provasi, Bob Barren, Chris Hoyt & Ed Lustgarten at the famous Dunlop Bridge.

Once it was decided that all four of us were definitely going, flights were made and hotel rooms secured in the lovely town of La Suze literally 10 minutes from the track. Hats off to the Le Mans guru Jack Williams, who told us of this gem and had been staying there for many of his 20+ visits to the race. Sadly, we lost Jack last year and we owe much of our familiarity of navigating the Le Mans maze to him. Ed, Bob and I were on the same flight, and we met up with Tom, who flew in from his home base in Reno, Nevada. Surprisingly, immigration was relatively smooth at Charles de Gaulle Airport – much smoother than our previous two visits.

Rental car pick-up was a bit crazy this time around as many of the car rental offices are located in the same small building and it got very crowded waiting for a representative. It was also exacerbated by the fact that the Paris Air Show was that week, so the crowds were larger than usual. If you've ever rented a car at Charles de Gaulle, you know it's a real trek to find it as the underground garage for the rental cars is absolutely massive. Luckily, we had been through the drill before and following the signage was straightforward. It's a helleva way to get in your steps! Our rental was a mid-size Citroen SUV which just handled our four bags and was gas-powered, not diesel. Leaving Paris is not an easy chore on a Monday morning but we landed later in the morning, so it was a little easier this time as we avoided much of the rush hour traffic. We waved 'au revoir' to The Eiffel Tower and headed to La Suze, which was a little over two hours away.

Tickets Were A Headache...Surprise

One thing was hanging over us during our drive to Le Mans and it was – you guessed it – about our tickets. As USA ACO members, we “theoretically” have access to seats in the stands, a.k.a. tribunes, directly across from the pits on the start/finish straight...theoretically. We thought we had everything squared away but through a series of emails with the ACO, we were told we didn't get the tickets, then told we did get them! Confusion ensued. So, we drove straight from Charles de Gaulle to the ACO ticketing office in a football stadium next to the track to get our ticket package still unsure of what tickets we were going to get. Thankfully, we really did get the desired tickets, and we let out a collective sigh of relief! If you are considering going to Le Mans, join the USA ACO group. It is a growing organization that has caught the eye of the ACO in France and is beginning to gain some clout with them. How much clout remains to be seen but the membership benefits extend beyond the race.

So, with that chapter closed, it was off to our home base for the next week – the lovely town of La Suze. Two of our UK mates, Phil Rudd and Stuart Evans, were already there and awaiting our arrival. They take a six-hour ferry ride from the UK every year landing at Calais and then driving to La Suze. They have attended a lot of Le Mans, much like we go to Daytona every year. Of course, their wait was over a pint or two.



Left to right: Stuart Evans and Phil Rudd.

With our Monday adventure concluded, we settled in at the Hotel St. Louis in the heart of La Suze and joined Phil and Stuart for a few pints and vino before turning in. It's a great family- owned hotel run by Silvain Héron, and he is the third generation running the property. Its location and amenities are ideal for our needs. The hotel's food is first class, and they offer a delicious menu. Surprisingly, their hamburger is as good as any I've had in the U.S.!

Back To The Track & The Museum

Now rested up and running on some leftover adrenaline, we headed back to the track. Be sure to purchase an EXPO parking pass, which was 50 Euros. You are in a huge lot across the street and down from the track entrance and the Musée des 24 Heures du Mans. It's a 10-minute walk. This museum is off the charts and houses many of the overall winners. Arranged in a circular pattern, it has cars from about every decade, and this year they had a great display featuring the groundbreaking cars of Kiwi Bruce McLaren. And, if you are into 1/43 scale models, you will find every grid from 1923 to the most recent year displayed in rolling Plexiglas cases. Last but not least is a visit to the busy gift shop across the hall which has a ton of Le Mans memorabilia from clothing and models to books and posters, so bring your plastic and/or lots of euros with you. The vendor village inside the track is massive, too, and has everything a collector could want – at a variety of price points. Even Rolex has a location there!



The McLaren display was incredible with a number of models present.



Can't Forget The Hot Lap

This is one of the many highlights of going to Le Mans for me – a hot lap around the full eight-mile track at speed with a professional driver. Ed and I do a day lap and a night lap. Tom and Bob did the day lap and were impressed to say the least. Bob's response was classic after getting out of his 992 GTS; it was "Holy S@%t." Being a PCA racer, Tom's was a bit more practical, "I wanted him to hit 200."

Our laps were in brand new 992 GT3 hybrid coupes and targas. And I could see no difference between hybrid and gas only. The acceleration and handling with the PDK transmission are stunning. I said last year that the hot lap in the day was the fastest I had ever been in a Porsche, much less a car. This time, my driver Nico topped that hitting a top speed of 311 kph down the Mulsanne. For those keeping score at home, that's 193.246 mph. He pulled 304 kph (188.897 mph) in the night lap confessing the track was a bit more slippery in the evening, so he was a bit more cautious. Hot laps are an absolute blast, but they fill up quickly and are pricey. And since part of the Le Mans course makes use of public roads – especially the famed Mulsanne Straight – we had to let Tom and Bob drive the Mulsanne so they could tell all of their friends they did it even if it was in a rental car!



Lined up for the hot lap and ready to go.



Ed Lustgarten discusses the line with his driver.

We work with a couple of great people at the PORSCHE Experience Center Le Mans (PECLM) to set up these laps. Special thanks go to Justine Guenver, Chargée Clientèle Driving Experience, and Soline Chartier, Responsable Driving Experiences. They are very helpful and responsive and always make us feel welcome. They are like family to us. Of course, Ed and I will be back next year!



Ed Lustgarten, Justine Guenver, Soline Chartier & Chris Hoyt all smiles after the lap.

Time For A Field Trip Into History

Neither Bob nor Tom had been to the U.S. cemetery at Normandy or the beaches of D-Day, so off we went to the coast to see this very important part of world history. It's a little more than two hours from Le Mans but well worth the time. The cemetery holds the remains of nearly 9,500 U.S. soldiers as well as Allied troops who lost their lives on June 6, 1944. A memorial museum at the entry with a beautiful reflection pool overlooking the ocean contains artifacts and stories of valor and courage from that important battle. It's definitely a sobering experience - even the second time around. We also made our way to the Operation Overlord Museum filled with military memorabilia of all kinds. Omaha Beach is now a quiet coastal scene but still has a few remnants of the battle along with some striking new memorials.



Nearly 9,500 U.S. and Allied soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice and are buried at Normandy.



Recently completed metal sculptures on Omaha Beach commemorate the D-Day landing.

Hotel de France Calling

We took another field trip to Hotel de France in the quaint town of La Chartre-sur-le-Loir. This was pure automotive enjoyment. Legend has it that decades ago many of the race teams would stay at this hotel and drive their cars to the track! I think it might have been a good way to shake down the cars and tighten up any loose nuts and bolts in preparation for a grueling 24 hours on the track! On this day, the Aston Martin club was out in force. A number of models were there with a PORSCHE or two sprinkled in. Whatever the marque, it draws a very large crowd each year and has gotten to be an annual “must see.” The restaurant inside features a lot of memorabilia and photographs of all of the top drivers of many eras and a few of them have been known to check out the event, among them five-time winner Derek Bell, David Hobbs, Hans Stuck and Justin Bell. Put it on your list.



It was wall-to-wall Aston Martins and people at the Hotel de France



A stunning DB11 was front and center at the Hotel de France.

The Race Was A Three-Peat

In what is becoming old news, Ferrari and their dominant 499P won for the third consecutive time with PORSCHE finishing second and on the same lap. Race day is unlike anything I've ever experienced. The crowd was again massive, and a grid walk wrist band – another must purchase item – lets you stroll the front straight to examine the teams and cars – Hypercar to GT. All of the big manufacturers are very eager to win this race, and they spend sums equal to the GDP of some countries to compete, including PORSCHE, Ferrari, Cadillac, Ford, Toyota, Lamborghini, BMW, new entry Aston Martin and hometown favorites Peugeot and Alpine. But it's been said many times, "Le Mans is a cruel mistress."

Pre-race festivities got the crowd pumped up and included team presentations and the customary French Mirage flyover. Le Mans has a 4pm start but darkness doesn't hit until around 10pm so we got to see a good bit of racing in the daylight. In addition to a grid walk pass, ACO members can purchase entry to an exclusive viewing area called La Chapelle, which is located at the Dunlop Bridge. It's a fairly large area with plenty of seating, TV screens, access to the rise at the bridge, nice bathrooms, and decent food and drink. The La Chapelle wristband – another must have – also gets you into the "Georges Durand" complex directly behind the ACO USA grandstands where there are more food options and nice restrooms.



Teams lined up waiting for the formation laps to start and the checkered flag to drop.



Aston Martin made its return to Le Mans with the striking Valkyrie livered in a famous number.

Once again, it was not to be for the Penske PORSCHE team. The Ferrari 499Ps ran a pretty flawless race and the 963s just didn't have the pace or luck this year. The 499P continues to clean house on the WEC calendar throughout this year as well. Honorable mention goes to the screaming V12 of the Aston Martin Valkyrie which made an absolutely glorious sound going down the straight and I hope they return in 2026. But, as always, lady luck (and money) plays a key role in any victory at Le Mans.

Bucket List Item: Checked

The 24 Hours of Le Mans is the "Holy Grail" for endurance racing fans just like Monaco is to F1 or Indy is to U.S. open wheel racing. It's really one of the greatest environments in motor racing and is, in my opinion, the greatest race of all. It's a bit of a ding to the budget so if you are thinking about going, start saving now for flights, tickets, and all of the stuff you'll want to buy! Le Mans is a bucket list item so start planning today. We would be happy to have Bob and Tom join us again in 2026 as I dare say they had a great time, and they are superb traveling companions.

My story on our Le Mans experience isn't complete without mention of FCR member Jack Williams, who passed away suddenly last year while on holiday. He took Ed and I under his wing and "showed us the ropes," which enabled us to enjoy the 2025 24 Hours of Le Mans like seasoned veterans. Ed and I will be back in 2026 and know Jack will be there with us in spirit.

Now if we can just get ticketing ironed out...stay tuned.

**Florida Crown Region annual D.E. event
January 17-18, 2026 at
Roebing Road Raceway Savannah, Georgia.
Registration opens October 3, 2025.**

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

just the desire and curiosity to give it a try!

18+ years old with a valid license.

**Your own car (all makes and models welcome except EVs)
mechanic's inspection with our technical inspection form.
First time HPDE drivers are most welcome! We provide the Instructor!
approved helmet (Snell SA or SAH 2025, 2020 2015 rated).**



Your Florida Crown Region contacts are:

Michelle Mullen,

HPDE Event Registrar

Email: FCRHPDE@gmail.com

John Pellerin, Track Chairperson and Chief Driving Instructor

Email: FCRTRACK2@gmail.com

Phone: 518-813-5045

REDLINE MARKET PLACE

FAB SPEED MUFFLERS for 993 model

Robert D Sewell

robertsewell1954@gmail.com

Supercup Mufflers \$750.00 (new)

MaxFlow \$950.00 (used)

GET MORE INFORMATION

Robert D Sewell

robertsewell1954@gmail.com

991.2 GT3 RIM AND TIRE SET
(NEW)

2018 Porsche 911 GT3 Rims and
Tires (I recently sold the car).

Rims are flat black, used, excel-
lent condition

Tires are brand new, never used
Set is track ready, balanced with
metal stems and TPMS

Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2
Front: 245/35ZR20 (95Y) XL
Rear: 305/30ZR20 (103Y) XL

\$4,250

Charles Ferry

chuckferry19@gmail.com

(813) 614-3573

COLLECTORS AND MAN CAVE DECORATORS

I lived just over an hour from Watkins Glen for many years as a member of Central New York Region PCA. My collection of Watkins Glen Formula One ORIGINAL POSTERS has 8 posters from the 1972- 1980.

I also have some Porsche Posters from various races. These are unframed original posters with no holes or tears.

Framing available

Prices commensurate with condition and rarity.

Wayne Kunkel

Lotusrpv@aol.com



OEM/ORIGINAL 20" PORSCHE 982 BOXSTER CAYMAN S 718 WHEELS/RIMS BRILLIANT FINISH
OEM/Original 20" Porsche 982 Boxster Cayman S 718 Wheels/Rims Brilliant finish

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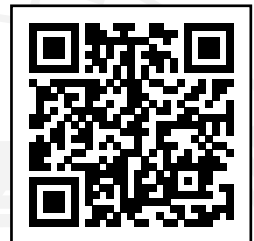
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New Porsche 911 Club Coupe celebrates 70 Years of PCA — 70 cars for 70 members

The Porsche Club of America is proud to announce the third 911 Club Coupe, a collaboration with Porsche AG to celebrate our club's 70th anniversary. As with the 50th and 60th anniversary Club Coupes, this Club Coupe contains many unique features that one cannot not find on other Porsches. 70 units will be produced and exclusively offered for sale to PCA members through a raffle system.

Stay tuned to [PCA.org](https://pca.org) for more information and updates on this incredible opportunity for PCA members. Consider expressing your interest to become a PCA70 911 Club Coupe owner when the raffle opens July 11.



▶ More about the Club Coupe at pca.org/news/pca70-club-coupe



PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA