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Top photo: Fall Driving Tour by Sharon Siciak

Bottom left photo: Dinner Dance by Jeff Brown

Bottom right photo: Fischer Motors by Neil MacDonald

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THE CHICAGO SCENE

The Chicago Scene is an official publication of PCA-Chicago Region. The magazine is published bimonthly.

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The Chicago Scene (ISSN 10564195) (USPS 0006-381) is the bi-monthly publication of the Porsche Club of America (PCA)-Chicago Region, printed at Presstech, 959 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016-6545. Periodic Rate Postage paid at Des Plaines, IL. PCA dues are \$46 annually, which includes a subscription to *The Chicago Scene*. PCA-Chicago Region is not responsible for any services or products advertised herein. Statements appearing in *The Chicago Scene* are those of the authors and do not constitute an opinion of the PCA-Chicago Region or its Board of Directors. Articles submitted for publication are subject to approval by the President and Editor. If published, the Editor reserves the right to edit articles for clarity, grammar, accuracy of content, and available space.

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Looking Back – Looking Forward

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are ready for another year of Porsche fun. As your new president, I want to thank you for your trust and support, and I look forward to serving you and the Club in 2024.

I purchased my first Porsche, a 2002 Turbo with a factory Aerokit, right after Thanksgiving in 2008. After driving it on the Edens Expressway, I realized either I needed to learn how to drive this car or something truly bad was going to happen. I did some research and joined the Club in February of 2009. I attended the Autocross School in April (back then it was at Hawthorn Race Track) and then went to Novice Day at Blackhawk Farms (on Wednesdays, which is another story) and was hooked.

Flash forward; now I do more than twenty track days a season, teach the Drivers Ed and Autocross classrooms, re-did the Club's website, was involved in many areas of the Club, and now I find myself as President. It can truly be a slippery slope...

Before looking to the future, I'd like to thank Stanley Sangdahl, the outgoing president, for whom I've had the pleasure serving as his Vice President for the past two years. Stanley did a great job ensuring all our members are aware of what events are coming up and fostering an environment where we can explore new types of events.

Some of the highlights of the past year are:

- We crossed the threshold of 4000 members in the fall.
- We held 47 events with around 1300 members attending (up from 42 with around 1150 attending in 2022).
- We held our first ladies only drivers education event, introducing the fun of driving your Porsche on the track to 32 new drivers, and in the process, raised more than \$3400 for our charity.
- We raised \$35,000 for our charitable community partner Mobile Makers.

I am making the focus of 2024 increasing the engagement of our membership as both attendees and volunteers. To that end, we once again will be holding events that we have never done before or in ways that are different than in the past:

- The General Membership Meeting in January is moving to allow for greater attendance and we are using a format to encourage mingling and learning about all the areas of the Club.
- Street Survival, a defensive driving school for drivers 15½ to 20 will be held in April.
- We will be driving the full track at Autobahn twice.
- For the first time, we will hold two Porsche and Pastries on the same day in different parts of the Chicago area.

In addition, for the first time in our history, we have 50 events on our schedule and expect more to be added. Finally, this year's charitable community partner is CASA of McHenry County (<https://www.casamchenrycounty.org/>). Let's build on the what we did in 2023 and increase what we raise for the sixth year in a row.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our events,

Dana Comolli
President, Chicago Region



“

I am making the focus of 2024 increasing the engagement of our membership as both attendees and volunteers.

”



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The 2023 Dinner Dance

by Stanley Sangdahl

While it seemed that every event over last year was a highlight of the season, the Annual Dinner Dance and Awards Gala truly deserves a top ten (or five) spot, with 200 members and guests gathering at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort for this year's soiree. Fourteen years have passed since we last held our year end celebration at this venue and looking back at the photographs in the February 2010 *Scene*, a lot of us have changed. A LOT! Besides gathering with friends before getting into the full swing of the approaching holidays, the event gives us a chance to reflect on the past year. Awards for outstanding performances in Autocross, Club Race, Concours and Rallye as well as the Discount Tire Year End Award which included a \$1,000 gift certificate for new car shoes were presented.



continued



Besides the music supplied by the DJ there was a new attraction added to the festivities in the form of a photo booth. Besides the standard props of goofy hats and masks there were many car-related items such as a helmet, trophy, winners bottle of champagne, Porsche and checkered flags for people to pose with. Another unusual addition was a cigar rolling station where you could watch your cigar be hand rolled on the spot.



Among the many highlights of the evening there were several that stood out. After an absence of several years the Takehara Award returned to honor the member who had misfortune (sic) frown on them during the season. The award's namesake, John Takehara, was present to provide the history behind the award and together with Cindy Jacisin ran through the past recipients. This year's winner(?) was Glenn DeWeirdt for his car trying to run away from him in the Road America paddock.



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The 2023 Dinner Dance *continued*



Another standout during the ceremonies was the President's Award given to Jeff Brown for his photographic contributions to memorializing so many of our events. To make this particular presentation stand out, all of the past presidents came up to help with the award by wearing sunglasses for the obligatory photograph with Jeff who allowed it for this one time.



It is also at the year end gala that we present our charity of the year with the donations collected at our events during the season. This past year we set a new high for the generosity of our members with a \$35,000 check to Chicago Mobile Makers. This organization creates programming that encourages youth to become advocates and change-makers in their own communities through design-focused, skill-building workshops in design and architecture. Many thanks to all of the Chicago Region for their contributions. 🍷



Celebrating 20 Years of Toys for Tots!

by Cindy Jacisin

In October 2003, I asked the Board of Directors if we could support Toys for Tots by asking our members to bring toys to the Holiday Dinner Dance. Before I could say anything more, Susan Shire immediately shouted, "Absolutely!" Thanks to Susan and the 2003 Board, a tradition was born. For many years, we also had a toy collection at the Fall Tech Sessions.

When the 2020 Dinner Dance had to be cancelled, we pivoted and added a Toys for Tots collection at the November Porsches and Pastries because we could meet in a parking lot. The event and the collection are now a recurring event on our Region calendar.

A little history:

- Toys for Tots was founded 75 years ago, and this was the Chicago Region's 20th year of collections.
- Toys for Tots has distributed 652M toys to 291M kids.
- Chicago Region has collected over 12,000 toys and donated \$55,000.

Toys have a long-lasting impact on kids — we all remember our favorites. How many of you still collect certain "toys"? As kids, some members were even recipients of Toys for Tots due to circumstances beyond their control.



THANK YOU to those who contributed these last 20 years. And thank you to the Chicago Region Board and the PCA National Office for the respective \$1,000 and \$750 donations to supplement the toys. Because of your generosity, you made a child smile at an experience they will always remember. 🍌

Photos by Jeff Brown

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Auto Museums x3: PCA-C's Fall Tour 2023

by John Diwik

PCA-Chicago's Fall Driving Tour for 2023 took place from Friday, October 10 through Sunday, October 12. The premise? A little over 100 years ago, north and central Indiana boasted over 170 companies building cars or manufacturing car parts in factories and workshops scattered across more than 30 cities and towns throughout the region. With all that automotive history in our own back yards, we just had to have a look.

By event day, approximately 60 members had registered, so we gathered at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen in Westmont, IL, where management kindly permitted us to check in, refresh, and organize for departure. The weather cooperated, too: partly sunny and while cool, it certainly wasn't unpleasant. True, too, that it drizzled a bit, but no Porsches appeared to be melting, and hey, who among us doesn't enjoy



photo: Matt Klucha



photo: Matt Klucha

looking into the rear view mirror and seeing all those bright Porsche headlights stretched out behind?

Our morning route took us through a tremendous number of commercial establishments, but it became more pastoral as we traveled further into Indiana. In Plymouth, we turned off of US 30 and headed into Amish country, where occasionally we observed horse drawn buggies on the road, quite a few farms, produce stands, and a school house with easily a hundred bicycles parked outside.

Soon we reached our lunch stop in Middlebury, where we dined at Das Dutchman Essenhaus, an Amish-style restaurant that serves an amazing "family style" meal with freshly made pies for dessert! Sigh, as

continued



photo: Matt Klucha



photo: Sharon Siciak

Photos by Matt Klucha, Sharon Siciak, Greg Siciak, Julie Gillette, Dave & Babs Swanson, Michael Grove, and Cindy Jacisin & Bob Rath



photo: Greg Siciak



photo: Julie Gillette



photo: Julie Gillette



photo: Sharon Siciak

you might imagine, I picked a bad month to be on a strict diet!

After lunch we hit the back roads to Auburn, IN, where we arrived at a familiar Hampton Inn around 4 p.m. Once everyone settled in, we had a lively get together in the lobby dining room lounge. Even better, there were two restaurants right across the street (can you say “walking distance?”), though some of us ventured into “downtown” Auburn for more diversified culinary options.

On Saturday, we traveled to the Cord, Auburn Duesenberg Museum (the “CAD Museum”).¹ Now, I’ve been to a lot of car museums, but this place knocks it out of the park! The Museum is located in the building that once housed the offices of the Auburn Automobile Company. It also contains a showroom where the cars were once sold. The Auburn Automobile Company closed in 1937, and was later joined by Cord (the first front-

wheel drive car company) and Duesenberg. Nevertheless, in the thirties when a car could be bought for under a thousand dollars, Duesenberg’s sold for \$16,000. Not surprisingly, many of their owners were actors or actresses, sports figures, business moguls, and politicians.

The automobiles and airplanes in the



photo: Sharon Siciak



photo: Julie Gillette

¹ https://automobilemuseum.org/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAgeeqBhBAEiwAoDDhnwU_Ktbru3lopELu4NYmBf920At98zGgJpzqhEdbNYsTH-1vDtLiKhoCb4sQAvD_BwE



CAD Museum are breathtaking. The size of these vehicles is also incredible, and the vehicles' details look like fine jewelry. You could easily spend a whole day exploring the three floors of the museum.

But wait! There's more! Adjacent to the CAD Museum is the National Auto and Truck Museum,² which includes a varied collection of cars, race cars, trucks, and even a Futureliner. Unfortunately, this unique

vehicle was in hot demand at a Florida car show when we visited. So after a long day of looking at rolling art, our group headed back to the hotel.

Our dining venue for Saturday night was the Kruse Plaza, a 30,000 square foot facility subdivided into three sections: the first is used for weddings and receptions; the second is used for auto auctions like Barrett-Jackson, and the third can be used for expos, shows, conventions, etc. We were able to look at a handful of cars in the auction room as well. The craziest car, though, must have been an Austin Healey with gold-plated



bumpers and trim. With its mink (as in fur) inserts in the seats, it was stuff that Mr. T or "Goldfinger" would have admired.

Drinks and dinner on Saturday were served in a room called "The Hangar," and yes, we were all able to drive our cars into the room and park in and around the dining area tables! Ever eat with your car before? Me, neither, until then! The food was served buffet style, it was pretty darn tasty, the cheesecake looked awesome, too (just call me Mr. Keto), and all went well. One of our new members even rode his bicycle around the room! After dinner it was the traditional prize raffles and yes, the Schnauzer joke. Big fun!

And then, unfortunately, it was time to vacate the premises, so the Porsches returned to the Hampton Inn just in time for an impromptu cocktail party. Naturally, many of us continued to socialize until "quiet hour" arrived at 10:00 p.m.

continued



² <https://natmus.org/>

Auto Museums x3: PCA-C's Fall Tour 2023 continued

Because this tour is about museums to the third power, a group of us drove over to the Early Ford V8 Museum on Sunday morning. This was another remarkable place, and if you like early Fords (flatheads), this place is for you! This diverse collection was lovingly displayed, and each car was nicer than the previous one.

On Sunday afternoon we departed Auburn for the suburbs of Chicago. The weather was perfect, the skies were blue, the sun was shining brightly, and the fall foliage was just amazing! All in all, it was a happy ending for an event that couldn't have gone better! 🍂

photo: Matt Klucha



photo: Matt Klucha



photo: Cindy Jacisin & Bob Rath



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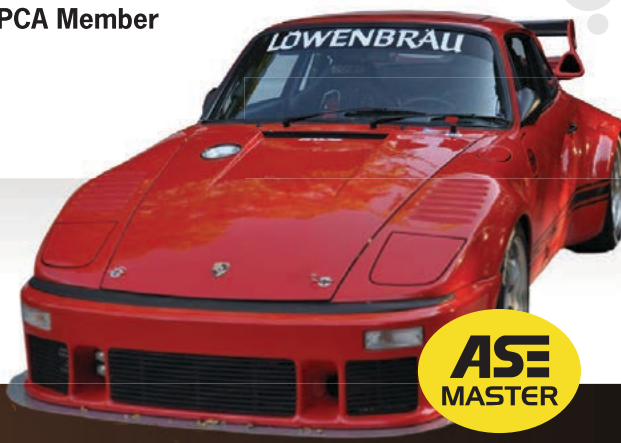
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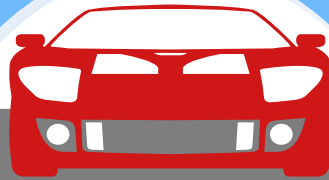
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The Fall Tech Session: Olsen Motorsports *by Robert Safe*

The Fall Tech Session convened on November 12, 2023, at Olsen Motorsport, hosted by Tim Olsen and his dedicated team. Welcoming around 50 members, the event offered insights into various topics. Tim and his team engaged the audience, fielding questions on race track wheel alignments, tire heat cycling, restorations and modifications.

Attendees were treated to an exclusive view of remarkable Porsches in different stages of refurbishment, from an awe-inspiring light green shell to the meticulous rebuild of a classic air-cooled flat six engine—truly

a work of art. Notably, a striking black Speedster was undergoing a comprehensive restoration, showcasing the Olsen team's dedication to automotive craftsmanship.

The day boasted ideal weather, with a radiant, sunny sky, perfect for exploring recently completed cars parked outside and a red 930 Turbo seeking a new owner. Attendees enjoyed tasty hot sandwiches from the food truck,



continued



and very conveniently, a nearby visit to Alter brewery offered a chance to enjoy some refreshing libations. The event provided an immersive experience, combining technical insights with the beauty of automotive craftsmanship against a backdrop of a perfect, sunlit day.

And in the meantime? Here's some fall haiku by the Porsche Whisperer:

*Nature's art displayed,
Porsche glides with autumn's grace,
Harmony unveiled. 🍂*





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Winding Up (AX)

by David Bowers



2023 is in the rearview mirror, the holidays have passed, and we're all eagerly awaiting the spring thaw to resume driving our amazing Porsches. The 2023 Autocross season consisted of five events, competing at three different venues, with four events having near perfect sunny skies, and one event challenging competitors with rainy, slick conditions. Competition was fierce as class-winning times usually came down to the last run of the day and participation in all five events was required to be in contention for overall awards at the Dinner Dance. The season's top finishers were:

Men's Overall

- 1st: Marcin Proszek
- 2nd: David Bowers
- 3rd: Teodor Petrov
- 4th: Bart Surowka
- 5th: Bill Fitzsimmons

Women's Overall

- 1st: Jenna Samp
- 2nd: Elsa Bukantis

continued



photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Jeff Brown

Winding Up (AX) *continued*

photo: Jeff Brown



photo: Jeff Brown



Marcin and Jenna placed first in their respective classes at all five events, a feat no other competitor was able to accomplish in 2023. Congratulations on a great season!

Dates for the 2024 season:

- AX School: 4/20
- AX1: 6/29
- AX2: 7/20
- AX3: 8/3
- AX4: 9/7
- AX5: 9/21

All events are taking place at Wintrust Field in Schaumburg. This venue consistently sells out and offers the best overall experience for the price. Please come join us and test the limits of you and your car in a safe and controlled environment! I'd also like to ask you to take a few minutes to provide feedback on our Autocross program here:

<https://forms.gle/n2W1iVwz8pEEqQG27>

In closing, I want to extend my gratitude to Adam Kern for serving as the Autocross Chair over the last five years. I also want to thank our sponsor, Midwest Performance Cars, and the many volunteers and participants who have worked tirelessly to build a fun, educational and successful program. We don't get paid to put on these events; rather, we're driven by our passion for the cars and the people with whom we share these experiences.

I look forward to your feedback and seeing you at our events in 2024. 🍷



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It's a Rallye Wrap!

The 2023 Rallye season

entailed many adventures for a mix of novice and experienced Rallyists alike. Like other competitive disciplines offered by PCA-Chicago, there's room for all levels of drivers, navigators, and car vintage. The Novice Team of the Year was comprised of Paul Davis and Chris Bonk in an air cooled 911. The year end podium is otherwise comprised of Steve and Sharon Olson in first place, followed by Andy and Anna Skura, Jack and Karen Stephensen, Steve Rashbaum and Susan Shire, and Les and Caroline Teichner, rounding out second through fifth places, respectively.

Rallye provides a tremendous opportunity to test your skill at interpreting and following instructions. This year's events included a Rallye with very few

by Brian and Danielle Scifers



instructions, where your score was heavily dictated by your ability to regulate the pressure of the “skinny pedal”; as well as more technical Rallyes requiring a sharp eye for “counting opportunities” (as one team noted, “Do you realize how many people you have going in circles?”). These “mini tours” are only possible due to the hard work of the Rallye Coordinators and Rallye Masters, and we encourage all of you to try a hand at writing a Rallye! As first time Rallye Master this year, we

continued



photo: Jeff Brown

photo: Jeff Brown



can tell you that exploring the mechanics of a Rallye “trick” was satisfying, and hopefully we also provided a fun day for teams to roam a varied landscape. Rallye draws out the competitive spirit in each team, challenging them to make up time or “slow their roll,” all while not knowing when or if they’ll encounter the next checkpoint. It is a constant dance after all!

Similar to the camaraderie of the paddock for Autocross and HDPE events, we Rallyists close the day at a restaurant, whether to commiserate an off-putting performance or to share the jubilation of successfully staying the course.

In closing this note and the season, we hope to break bread with all of you at a Rallye in 2024, whether to hone your Rallye skills or to investigate what all the buzz is about! 🍷





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PARK THAT BEAUTIFUL MACHINE SOMEPLACE SPECIAL



The home at 945 Old Green Bay Road in Winnetka was designed by renowned architect Don Erickson. The Cayman GTS 4.0 is unmistakable.



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Ok, so the car is just for attention, but if you're looking for a home that's as special as your Porsche, let's talk. I help clients buy and sell amazing modern properties designed by architects like Don Erickson, Keck & Keck, Dennis Blair, Schiller & Frank, Don Tosi, Tivadar Balogh, I.G. Colburn, Henry Newhouse II and more. This spectacular home at 945 Old Green Bay Road in Winnetka was originally designed for photographer Dick Boyer, and is now available for the first time in more than 40 years. Sadly, car not included.



Lou Zucaro - Baird & Warner

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The SOCIAL SCENE

by Robert Safe



Porsches & Pastries and Toys for Tots by Robert Safe

The weather and company could not have been finer for our last outdoor social event of the year on November 18, 2023. Crystal clear blue skies provided the backdrop for some beautiful cars, and the delicious fresh coffee from our host, Labriola Bakery & Café, kept everyone warm in the chilly morning air.

We had an excellent turnout of members, once again showing their support in very tangible ways for the Toys for Tots mission of the United States Marine Corps Reserve. The donation collection

continued



▲ from l to r: Bob Rath, GySgt. Aporongao, USMC, Toys for Tots representative Deanna Thoss, and Cindy Jacisin



table was piled to overflowing, meaning joy for a lot of children needing exactly that during the holiday season.

Gunnery Sergeant Jan Aporongao joined us again this year, cheerfully volunteering his time to help make the event and the mission a success. Of course, he likes Porsches too, which is not surprising since, according to congressional testimony from 1912, Gunnery Sergeants are selected “on account of superior intelligence, reliability and mechanical knowledge.” I asked him to let me know which car was his personal favorite. You can see the results in the photo to the right.

It was a great day for our members and an excellent result for the Toys for Tots campaign serving the children of DuPage County. What a fine way to kick off the holiday season. 🍷



photo: GySgt. Jan Aporongao

▲ GySgt. Aporongao's personal favorite Porsche at the event



2024 EVENT CALENDAR

*Preliminary Calendar of Events. Event details are subject to change and several dates and venues are to be determined.
Please refer to the Club's website for updated information.*

JANUARY

- 3** Board Meeting
- 21** General Membership Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 7** Board Meeting
- 18** Valentine's Day Lunch, Cooper's Hawk, Arlington Heights
- 25** Chili Cook-Off & Concours Clinic, Porsche Exchange

MARCH

- 6** Board Meeting
- 10** Swap Meet, MPC Northbrook
- 16** St. Pat's Social, Hardware
- 23** HPDE Instructor Workshop, Blackdog Speedshop
- 24** Concours School, Napleton

APRIL

- 3** Board Meeting
- 6** Porsches & Pastries, Calibré Coffee
- 13** Street Survival, Autobahn
- 14** Tech Session, Northstar Motorsports
- 20** AX School, Wintrust Field
- 21** Concours Judges School, MPC
- 26** Blackhawk 1, Novice Day

MAY

- 4** Porsches & Pastries, Labriola
- 8** Board Meeting
- 18** Concours 1, Klairmont Collections
- 19** Rallye 1, TBD
- 23-26** RADE, Road America

JUNE

- 5** Board Meeting
- 8** Porsches & Pastries, Barnaba
- 13** Ladies' DE, Autobahn
- 21** Blackhawk 2
- 22** Golf Outing, White Pines
- 23** Concours 2, Bolingbrook
- 29** AX 1, Wintrust Field

JULY

- 3** Board Meeting
- 7** Rallye 2, TBD
- 9** Blackhawk 3
- 13** Potter's Picnic & Concours 3
- 20** AX 2, Wintrust Field
- 21** Wieners & Wheels, Superdawg
- 26-28** Summer Driving Tour, tentative dates
- 29** Autobahn Full Track

AUGUST

- 3** AX 3, Wintrust Field
- 4** Rallye 3, TBD
- 7** Board Meeting
- 9-11** Gingerman HPDE
- AUG 30-2** TRAC, Road America
- 31** Concours 4, Osthoff Resort

SEPTEMBER

- AUG 30-2** TRAC, Road America
- 4** Board Meeting
- 7** AX 4, Wintrust Field
- 14** Porsches & Planes, Code 1 Aviation
- 21** AX 5, Wintrust Field
- 28-29** Oktoberfest, Blackhawk

OCTOBER

- 4** Porsches & Pilsners, Hardware
- 7** Autobahn Full Track
- 9** Board Meeting
- 18-20** Fall Driving Tour

NOVEMBER

- 6** Board Meeting
- 10** Tech Session, TBD
- 16** Porsches & Pastries / Toys for Tots, Labriola

DECEMBER

- TBD** Dinner Dance, TBD



For up-to-date details, please check:

<https://pca-chicago.org/event-schedule/>



photo: Neil MacDonald

Fischer Motors: *Driving Excellence for 50 Years*

As Fischer Motors celebrates 50 years in the industry, the family reflects not only on the years passed but the countless satisfied customers, the relationships forged, and the passion for German engineering that has fueled their journey.

It all began in 1963 when Peter Fischer, a young German entrepreneur looking to start a business, decided to come to America. After finishing his apprenticeship in Germany, he headed to America and, in 1974, established Peter Fischer Imports. Eventually, the business became known as Fischer Motors.

by Catherine Fischer & Doug Grier



Peter's son Rick began learning the trade at a young age by working at the shop on weekends and over breaks. Once he graduated from technical school, Rick started working with his dad full-time. Now the proud owner of Fischer Motors, he carries on his father's legacy.



photo: Priceless Images Photography



photos: Fischer family photos



Photos by Jeff Brown (except as credited otherwise)
Archival family photos supplied by Catherine Fischer



photo: Neil MacDonald



Long-Time Supporters of PCA-Chicago

The Fischer family has long been a supporter of the PCA-Chicago Region. Fischer Motors first entered the PCA-Chicago Scene in April 1977. Rick and Peter began Club racing in the 1990s. Since 2001, Peter and Rick have hosted the longest-standing PCA-C social event in North America — Potter's Picnic (after beloved member and founder Wayne Potter).

Now 80, Peter continues to race and stay involved in Club activities. Andy, Rick's brother, can be found on the track enjoying racing around with his brother and dad on weekends he isn't working at the hospital. Rick and his wife, Catherine, as well as all the Fischer children, can be found happily supporting the Club through various Club races, DE, and social events.



photo: Neil MacDonald

50th Anniversary Celebration

Fischer Motors will host a 50th-anniversary party to celebrate their milestone year in May 2024 (stay tuned for details). In addition, to show appreciation for the community that has made their success



continued



possible and for the unwavering support of PCA-Chicago members, they will offer a 10% discount on services during their anniversary year to any PCA member who mentions this article.

Driving Excellence

Fischer Motors' dedication to quality service and community engagement has laid the foundation for a future that promises to be as exciting as the last five decades. 🏆



photo: Priceless Images Photography



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Award Winning Race Car Builds.

The Concours Lawn: from an interview with Pat Yanahan

by Kirk Owens



What follows are excerpts from an interview with Pat Yanahan, November, 2023.

Kirk, I've been a member of PCA-Chicago since 1975, but one thing I've learned over the years is that every season brings fresh challenges, new joys, recognition of my good fortune in getting to participate in this amazing sport, as well as working together and sharing with so many wonderful people.¹

I'll begin with a precaution: having worked in the advertising industry for over 30 years, I would advise you **not** to believe everything you see or read. The technology in car care and maintenance products has advanced immensely in the last several decades, but it goes in phases and fads. The term "ceramic," for example, is one of the current buzzwords, but it's not necessarily the best solution for every cleaning, maintenance, or preservation challenge...sometimes is just "marketing."

For me, each Spring brings a full weekend of work, which I approach in phases. When washing my car, I start with Dawn dish soap to safely remove all of the old wax & polish. Next, I'll use a clay compound, which gently picks up all of the

continued



¹ Patrick Yanahan's Concours judging and event competition summary includes: 2x First Place, Porsche Parade (his own cars); 2x First Place, Porsche Parade (cars prepped for others); First Place, Porsche Classics National Dealer Competition (member of Napleton Westmont Porsche team); Judging at a dozen Porsche Parade Concours events; the Keeneland Concours, Porsche Tractor Concours, in Germany); and ongoing current participation in PCA-Chicago Region Concours events.

microscopic surface particles, etc. Finally, I'll apply a wax to the car's painted surfaces, to enhance and protect. After the exterior has been completed, I then work (in order) on the interior, then the engine and finally storage areas. If you have a new car, do not assume it's clean – as amazing as these cars are, Porsches get dirty, dusty, and scratched in transit.

One of my favorite cleaning products is Wurth Citrus Degreaser, which can be used to safely remove grease and dirt without affecting the paint or clear-coat. For fine scratch removal or polishing, I've found Meguiar's DA Correction Compound to be excellent. *(NOTES from Kirk – this is a single-stage paint correction done with dual-action buffer. Pat oversaw my paint correction – knocked-out 90% of the swirl marks and completely changed the Guards Red! Short of an exterior color change or adding a wing, this may be the most striking exterior enhancement you can do.)* I have my favorite products but, I try to use a single brand since the products are formulated to work as a system. Don't be scared – ask others, read reviews, try on another car first and enjoy.

What's the most difficult area to clean on my 2014 Boxster? The engine! The newer 911s are also almost impossible to get into all of the little cavities. As a Concours judge, the areas many contestants often overlook are under the oil filler or brake fluid cans; and the inner surface of the door handles. When you prepare a car, you get so close to it you miss the obvious.

Whatever you do, don't go the Concours route alone. My wife Bonnie is my quality control inspector and inevitably sees things I've missed. Always have someone else inspect your work.



photo: Jeff Lange

Let's not move too quickly beyond the obvious: making a car Concours podium ready, whether locally or at Parade, requires more than a microfiber towel and a strong elbow. Don't try to do everything in one day. Even getting ready for a local show can take 20 to 40 hours. In addition, never shy away from seeking advice. Always ask other competitors what they do and what are their favorite techniques. Above all, make it fun.

When asking Pat for technique recommendations, he responded: "There are books written on Concours preparation and competition, but relax and have fun. Anything can be restored or fixed, including well-worn leather and carpeting. Each author or participant has her or his favorite techniques and will share with you. Also, ask different owners who have excelled in Concours and they will gladly share."

In closing, take pride in owning a Porsche, and participating in Concours accomplishes at least three things: participation in an enjoyable sport; meeting new friends; and helping retain the value of these special cars. "My fun is in sharing what I've learned by passing it on."

From one who has learned from Pat and returns often with questions, THANK YOU, Pat! Please keep sharing, and we can't wait to see you on The Concours Lawn. 🍷



photo: Jeff Brown





Mary Catherine Fischer continuing the family tradition

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At a young age, Rick began learning the trade at his dad's shop on weekends and over breaks. After graduating from technical school he began working at the shop full-time. Now the owner of Fischer Motors, he's proud to carry on his father's legacy.



PETER FISCHER

Originally from Germany, Peter emigrated to America in 1963. In 1974 he established Fischer Motors. Although he's officially retired, Peter can still be found working on the shop floor.

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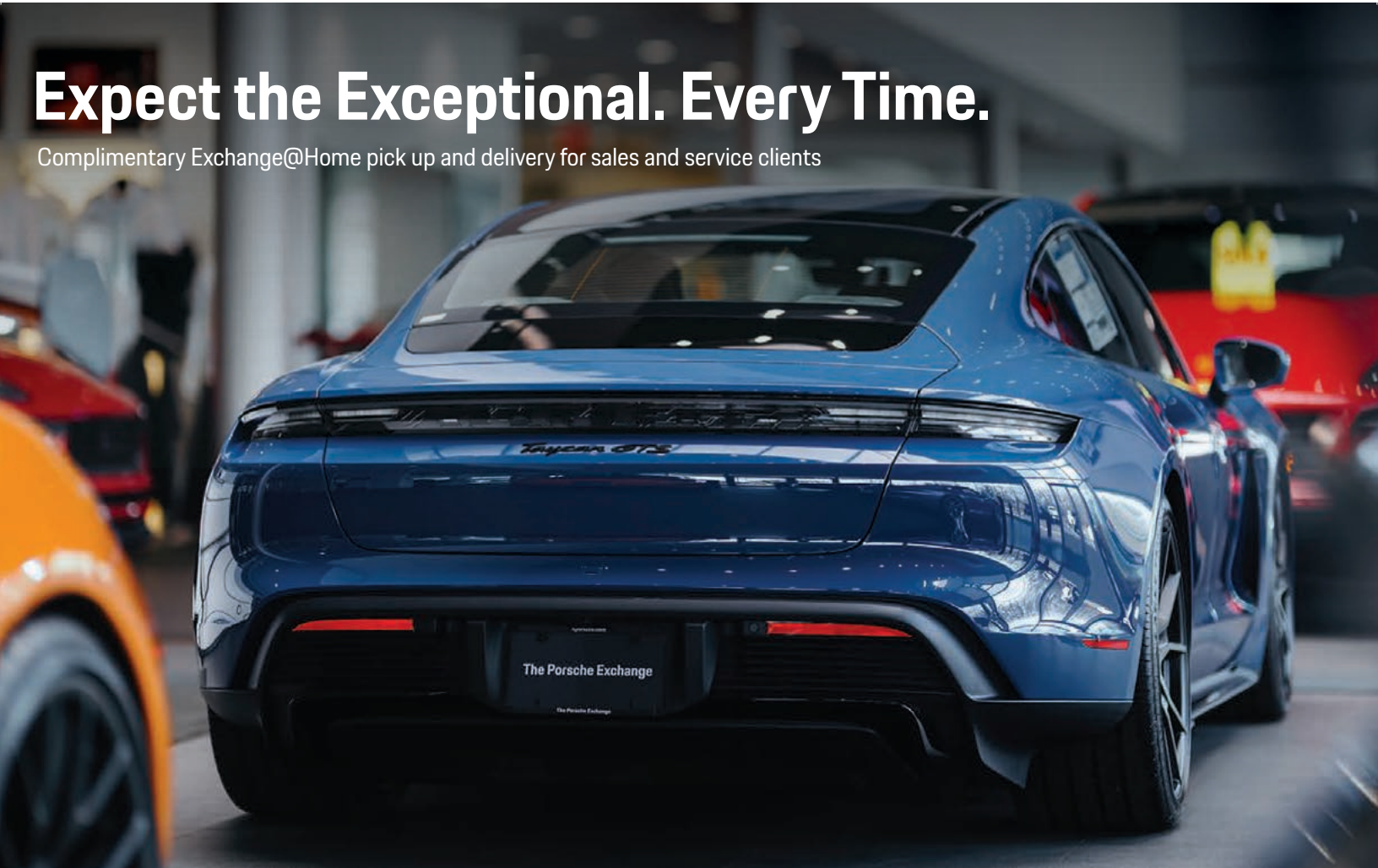
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