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Officers & Board of Directors

<https://pca-chicago.org/officers-board-of-directors/>

Board Meeting Schedule & Minutes

<https://pca-chicago.org/board-meeting/>

Not a Club member? Here's how to join:

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Many more photos from our events are available online:

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Spring Time is School Time

Now that we are past the worst of winter; sorry, not over, March is technically winter after all, our collective thoughts are focused on getting our cars out from their off-season slumber as soon as we can and get back to all the great activities we share with our fellow Chicago Region members.

But wait, have you looked at our schedule for the next two months? There are, count them, seven events that are schools to teach you how to excel and have fun in all areas of the Club. They range from introductory classes focused at the beginner to a certification class for our most experienced driving instructors.

If you are looking to try something new, we've got:

- The Concours School / Car Care and Preparation Seminar on March 23 if you want to learn about Concours and how to take better care of your car.
- The Precision Car Clinic (aka Autocross School) on April 12 if you want to learn how to make the most of your car's handling, try out Autocross, or are considering getting on the track for the first time.
- Also, for the Autocross and Drivers Ed inclined, there is the Spring Tech Session on April 13 where the latest tech requirements will be covered and Novice Day at Blackhawk Farms on April 25 is the perfect event for your first time on a race track.
- Finally, Rallye School is on May 4 to teach you the ins and outs of this unique and engaging sport and includes a practice Rallye so you can use what you learn right away.

For those looking to hone your skills:

- The Concours Judging School on April 6 will show you what it takes to be a judge and how cars are scored in a Concours.
- While Novice Day at Blackhawk is focused on the new driver there are run groups dedicated to the more experienced driver so you can continue your learning at the start of the season.
- For the first time in ten years, there will be a PCA National HPDE Instructor School on April 24. This event also has run groups for experienced drivers as well. Instructor Candidates must be approved by our Chief Driving Instructor.

Lest you think PCA has gone school crazy, mixed in with all that schooling are a healthy mix of social events for everyone to get out and enjoy the spring, their cars, and their PCA friends.

So, mix it up this spring and try something new by attending one of our schools for an activity you've never tried. It might turn out to be your new favorite thing.

I'm look forward to seeing you at our events,

Dana Comolli
President, Chicago Region



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seven events
that are schools
to teach you
how to excel
and have fun
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Braving the Elements: General Membership Meeting

by Natalie Szabo

On January 19th PCA-Chicago members braved the elements to convene at the General Membership Meeting. The frigid cold brought doubts personally on how the turnout would look for the event, yet despite the frigid temperatures the turnout was fantastic. I found myself chatting to new members who were curious about the The Scene and all that we do, along with plenty of familiar faces who came to support their respective events or parts of the club. For myself, it was great to hear what new projects or exciting things that have happened since I last saw other members. With the booth-style set up returning for 2025, it brought a lot of success



continued



in being able to showcase to our new members the vast variety of things to explore within PCA-Chicago. Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling was the perfect venue for the event, with plenty of space for all attendees to spread out and socialize with each other. The food was also fantastic, combined with a very large seating area it meant that everyone had space to sit down and chat after visiting the event booths. PCA-Chicago president, Dana Comolli, gave the introduction presentation to all new members, detailing information on club governance, types of events, and other important things to note related to the club.

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Attendees also had the chance to purchase raffle tickets to support our 2025 charity of the year, SparkShop. After the presentation concluded – the raffle began and lucky members that had their number pulled won vouchers that would waive event fees for

certain club events in 2025. All of this could not have been done without the volunteers that organized and assisted with the event; James Kaikis organized a fantastic kick-off into the 2025 schedule, setting the tone in the right direction for the rest of the year. 🍷



2025 Autobahn Events

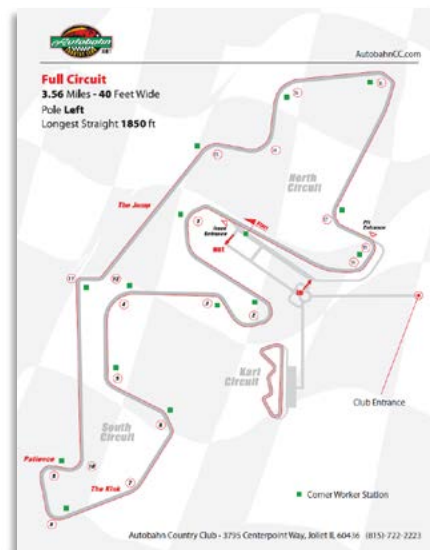
Our 2025 season includes four events at Autobahn Country Club. We kick off our driver's education season with our Street Survival defensive driving school for teen drivers. This is a must-attend hands-on driving event that teaches defensive driving to the new drivers in your family.

Ladies' Day is returning again this year on June 12, this time on the south track, and once again, we will be driving the full track, not once, but twice, on July 28th and October 6th.

- Saturday, May 31, 2025 – Street Survival
- Thursday, June 12, 2025 – Ladies' Day High Performance Driving
- Monday, July 28, 2025 – Full Track High Performance Driving
- Monday, October 6, 2025 – Full Track High Performance Driving

Come out and join in the fun.

Ladies' Day is made possible by a generous sponsorship by Napleton Westmont Porsche and Porsche Downtown Chicago.



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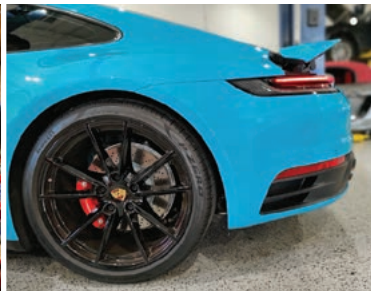
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Porsche Lovers Get Creative at Pinot's Palette Painting Event

by Shauna Franklin

On January 25th, 24 Porsche enthusiasts gathered at Pinot's Palette in South Barrington for a unique blend of art, cars, and camaraderie. The event was kicked off with a warm welcome, as attendees mingled over mocktails, wine, and a variety of snacks. It was the perfect setting for making new connections and meeting fellow Porsche lovers, whether they were long-time members or newcomers to the community. The relaxed atmosphere created an ideal environment to spark conversations, share stories, and, of course, bond over a shared love for Porsches.

The participants, spanning a range of ages and backgrounds, included three enthusiastic teenagers who joined in the fun. It was clear from the start that this wasn't just a painting event—it was a celebration of the Porsche lifestyle, bringing people of all ages together with a common passion.

Each participant was invited to customize their own Porsche painting, choosing from six stunning Porsche color options: Guard's Red, Lava Orange, Racing Yellow, Frozen Blue, Shark Blue, and Lizard Green. Once the appropriate paints for each color were individually portioned out for participants, the real fun began. As the colors were called out, friendly competition broke out among the painters, with each group cheering for their favorite shades.

An experienced instructor guided everyone step-by-step through the process of mixing three different shades for each color, teaching participants how to add depth



continued

Pinot's Palette Painting Event *continued*



and character to their Porsche paintings. As the canvases filled with vibrant colors, the atmosphere was filled with laughter and excitement. Even those who were nervous about their artistic skills were reassured by the instructor's lighthearted encouragement. "It'll dry. Just paint over it!" she said, providing reassurance and helping everyone feel confident enough to tackle their canvases.



For some, the painting process was a chance to tap into their creativity, while for others, it was an opportunity to express their love for Porsche in a completely new way. Regardless of skill level, everyone left the event with a custom-painted 911 G-type Porsche on their canvas—a personal keepsake to proudly display alongside their Porsche memorabilia.





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Pinot's Palette Painting Event *continued*



After the event, 13 attendees continued the evening with a relaxed dinner at the Hampton Social, where they shared laughs, stories, and good food. It was a fitting end to an event that had already fostered a sense of community and connection among Porsche lovers.

A big thank you to Grace Chen for organizing such a fantastic and interactive event. Not only did it allow participants to unleash their creativity, but it also created a space for new friendships and connections to blossom. Whether you're an artist or someone who just enjoys a fun evening with friends, this event proved that the love for Porsches can take many forms—and sometimes, it's as simple as picking up a paintbrush and enjoying the ride. 🍷



photo: Grace Chen



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Escape to the South

by Keith Clark



photo: Keith Clark

Many people from the Chicagoland area take flight to Florida in January to enjoy fun in the sun. Then there are many of us that take flight to Florida to kick off a new race season!

Winter in the north for me is simple: no football (Bears fan), no baseball (Cubs fan), Hockey...no comment (Hawks fan), but the largest void in my world – NO RACING. How many times can you hit replay of last year's F1 and IMSA races? So I sit, longing for the smell of race fuel, the glow of brake rotors, and the sound of cars running through gears. Indeed, the answer is simple: head to Florida for some fun in the sun. First, The Rolex 24, then a stop in Disney... and best of all; on to Sebring to start the 2025 PCA club racing season.

The Gold Coast and Suncoast regions once again hosted a wonderful weekend with perfect weather and great racing. Over 200 drivers dusted off their gear and tested their driving skills on the historic Sebring International Raceway. Not only

continued



▲ Keith at the notorious turn 17 bump... "wheels up"



▲ Exiting hairpin turn. Hotel Elan in background.

does Sebring test a driver's skill, but the real test is the endurance of the cars. Sebring as a track offers interesting challenges: hair pin and sweeping turns, joined by long fast straights, not to mention it has BUMPS. Some call them jumps, but most drivers call it the "character" of the track. Simply defined, it's just Sebring.

It has been a few years since the event offered a night race and this year it returned to the schedule to the pleasure of many. Our weekend began with test and turn on Thursday giving drivers a chance to get back in the saddle. On Friday it was much of the same testing and getting heads back into racing. The only exception was running the track at dusk, which is not common during most events. This gave those running the night race a chance to get acclimated to night driving at speed. I was anxious for the night

race as it offers new experiences. Note, if your idea of having fun is 160 mph with bright lights in your mirrors and a limited view in front of you I suggest you give it a try next year.

For me, the weekend had a few challenges. Just a brief outline of my time enjoying Florida.

On the Friday night race we were running strong up until the final lap when Newton's law entered the picture. While exiting turn one my engine shut down, my first thought was "dumbass, you ran out of gas!" but this was not the case. The safety foam packed in the car's fuel cell picked this moment to degrade, plugging the fuel pumps. Of course, this was on the final lap of the race! The team at Eurosport Road and Race jumped on the repair and we were good to go for Saturday.

photo: Keith Clark



▲ Keith at the finish line of the night race



◀ Night race start

continued on page 22

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▲ Dennis Hiffman at the hairpin turn

Saturday, a chance to put Friday night's disappointment in the past. Bring on sprint race one, the green flag waived and we're off. Not running up front, but ready for some racing fun, first lap while entering turn seven (the hairpin) I took it upon myself to try moving up the field by running wide, wide enough to hit most of the brake marker cones on the outside of the track. Now I was running the race smelling coolant and wondering why the car was sliding around. I was questioning my ability, but made it to the checkered flag. Race one was in the books. Returning to Eurosport it was discovered I successfully cracked one of the radiators when I rearranged the marker cones on the first lap, but finished a race! Very thankful for the friendship between Eurosport and Automatics Motorsports, who supplied a new radiator and with more repair work, the car was back

up and running for the second sprint race. The fuel cell fixed, the radiator fixed, the driver questionable, but ready to go. The planets were aligned for the green flag on the second sprint race. The competition was strong with some close racing finally... then my weekend ended as a fellow driver attempting to fit his car in a place it didn't fit ended the race for me. Reflecting back on it, my weekend ended as it started, being towed back to Eurosport, only this time with damage beyond repair at a track. Disappointing, yes, I was more disappointed for the early flight back to the cold of Chicago. Again, without the endless efforts from the team of mechanics at Eurosport my fun in the Florida sun would be less, thank you guys!

As my old friend Dan Gallagher would say "fun was had by all". 🍷



“Sebring as a track offers interesting challenges: hair pin and sweeping turns, joined by long fast straights, not to mention it has BUMPS.”

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- **Labriola in Oakbrook on May 3rd** - Porsches and Pastries
- **The Promenade in Bolingbrook on June 7th**. Lots of shops, restaurants and fun Porsches!
- **Potter's Picnic on July 19th** - Food, Music, Porsches and Fun!
- **Oktoberfest in Lincolnshire on September 20th at Black Dog Speedshop**. Great Porsches, Fun, Music and Food!

Register for **CONCOURS SCHOOL, March 23rd** at Napleton Porsche Westmont. Learn about Show 'n Shines, Concours & easy techniques & proper care tips that will maintain the exterior and interior of your Porsche. Preserve and protect.



Register for **JUDGES SCHOOL, April 6th** at Midwest Performance Cars, Westmont. This is a great way to learn how your car would be judged when you participate in a Concours or Show 'n Shine. Also, you can learn how to be a CONCOURS JUDGE.

SAVE THE DATE: GENEVA CONCOURS, August 24th. It's back! Come park on Campbell St. and enjoy the day! More details and how to register to follow.

For additional details on ALL EVENTS and to register: CLUBREGISTRATION.NET

The SOCIAL SCENE

by Cindy Jacisin



Sweets with Our Sweeties: St. Valentine's Day Luncheon

We have several recurring events in PCA-Chicago, some are focused on cars, some on family, and some on a specific event discipline. Happily, one event focuses on our sweethearts, the St. Valentine's Day Luncheon.

And history repeated itself with another sellout, though the reason the event is so popular is probably because it's an

opportunity to spend time with our sweeties, it's also a time to catch up with other couples, meet the people we've heard

continued





about all year and also make new friends.

On February 15th, forty-eight couples returned to the private wine cellar at Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant in Arlington Heights. After enjoying a selection of hors d'oeuvres while mingling at the private bar, everyone moved into the

beautiful wine cellar. Members then dined on a delicious three-course luncheon while snacking on a scattering of Valentine's chocolate candies. Thanks to the Cooper's Hawk staff for their

continued





fantastic service and our compliments to the chef.

With love in the air, \$740 was raised for our Region's charity, Spark Shop. Thank you to those who donated, and I hope our 3 lucky members enjoy their bottle of wine.

Another successful event filled with friendship, laughter and plenty of sweets. 🍪



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2025 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.*

MARCH

- 23** Concours School, Napleton
- 29** HPDE Instructor Workshop, Blackdog Speedshop

APRIL

- 5** Porsches & Pastries 1, Calibr  Coffee
- 6** Concours Judges School, MPC
- 9** Board Meeting
- 12** AX School, Wintrust Field
- 13** Spring Tech Session, Northstar Motorsports
- 24** PCA National Instructor School & DE, Blackhawk
- 25** Blackhawk 1, Novice Day

MAY

- 3** Porsches & Pastries 2, Show 'n Shine 1, Concours 1, Labriola
- 4** AX 1, Tire Rack
- 4** Rallye School, Engineering Systems
- 7** Board Meeting
- 22-25** RADE, Road America
- 31** Street Survival, Teen Defensive Driving School, Autobahn

JUNE

- 4** Board Meeting
- 7** Show 'n Shine 2, Concours 2, Bolingbrook
- 8** Rallye 1, TBD
- 12** Ladies' DE, Autobahn
- 14** AX 2, Wintrust Field
- 20** Blackhawk 2
- 21** Porsche Block Party, Barnaba

JULY

- 9** Board Meeting
- 15** Blackhawk 3
- 19** Potter's Picnic & Concours 3
- 20** Rallye 2, TBD
- 25-27** Summer Driving Tour, TBD
- 26** AX 3, Wintrust Field
- 28** Autobahn Full Track

AUGUST

- 3** Porsches & Pastries, Big Boost
- 3** Weiners & Wheels, Superdawg
- 6** Board Meeting
- 8-10** Gingerman HPDE
- 16** AX 4, Wintrust Field
- 17** Rallye 3, TBD
- AUG 29-1** TRAC, Road America

SEPTEMBER

- AUG 29-1** TRAC, Road America
- 3** Board Meeting
- 13** AX 5, Wintrust Field
- 14** Rallye 4, TBD
- 20** Oktoberfest Social, Concours 4, Show 'n Shine 4, Blackhawk
- 27-28** Oktoberfest, Blackhawk

OCTOBER

- 4** Porsches & Pilsners, Two Brothers
- 6** Autobahn Full Track
- 8** Board Meeting
- 12** Rallye 5, TBD
- 17-19** Fall Driving Tour

NOVEMBER

- 5** Board Meeting
- 15** Porsches & Pastries / Toys for Tots, Labriola

DECEMBER

- TBD** Dinner Dance, TBD



For up-to-date details, please check:

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





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Chili Cook-Off & Edible Art Competition

by John Moore

Chili tasting and edible Porsche art continues to be a tradition and one of the year's most popular events.

In the French tradition of Concours d' elegance combined with and the time of the year, I think of Carnival. It's a period filled with celebrations, parades, balls and parties which culminate on Mardi Gras – the French term for Fat Tuesday.

“Laissez les bons temps rouler” translated from French is “Let the Good Times Roll”!

That was the case on Sunday February 23rd at the Porsche Exchange as the revelers with their crock pots of Chili and Edible Porsche Art arrived ready to celebrate the tasting competition while noisily enjoying themselves.

The shop service door opened at 9:30 and the revelers registered and picked a warming station on a row of 40 yards of tables that ran the length of the mechanics lifts and work space. It is a great way to serve and taste the food in an orderly fashion.



Now was the time to say thank you to our host, The Porsche Exchange, for the venue. I asked Marco Rodriguez, Service Director and Vlad Alnis, Parts Manager to come front and center. Barb Mashburn, Jim Dorfman and I presented a trophy acknowledging our Gratitude and Appreciation to The Porsche Exchange from PCA-Chicago Concours for hosting the Chili Cook-Off and Edible Art event.

The Carnival was open and members and guests were checking out awards and raffle prizes. Across the aisle from registration, the

continued

Chili Cook-Off & Edible Art Competition *continued*



warming and tasting tables welcomed 27 Crock Pots of Chili and nine amazing Porsche Edible Art delicacies. Also in the first bay was one big red vinyl curtain hanging floor to ceiling and surrounding a car on a lift.

A 1986 Guards Red 911 Porsche was on that lift with four decades of accumulated dirt, tar, and grime. The car was ready for the chassis to be cleaned and renewed. Our gracious host, The Porsche Exchange Auto Detailing Service, thrilled the revelers with a live demonstration of the benefits and results of Dry Ice Detailing to the chassis of the 911. The before and after results were amazing. This is a new service that cleans the undercarriage under carriage of the car regardless of age to a near factory showroom appearance.

Lunchtime started at 11:30 and the lines of revelers would march that 40- yard stretch of tables sampling any and all Chili and Edible Porsche Art. Four teams of Tasting Judges would make the same pilgrimage to select 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners in three Categories of Chili and one category of Edible Porsche Art.



The Competitive Categories for Judging are:

- 356 Classic Chili – traditional recipe with meat, beans or both
- 911 Clubsport Chili – non-traditional creative recipe of unusual ingredients
- 930 Turbo Boost Chili – a spicy recipe of enhanced ingredients
- Edible Porsche Art – Create anything that is Porsche design and can be tasted by our experienced judges and fellow members. Cakes, cookies, candy – no restrictions



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Chili Cook-Off & Edible Art Competition *continued*



This year we wanted to acknowledge members that make this Carnival Party awesome with their special Chili recipes and their creativeness in Edible Porsche Art. In doing so we gave each competitive entry in the Chili Cook-Off and Edible Porsche Art a Commemorative Chili Cook-Off Chef's Apron in appreciation for competing in the event.

The Chili winners were adorned with first, second, and third place Chili Cook-Off aprons. The Edible Porsche Art winners received embossed Chili Cook-Off cutting boards and wooden spoons for first, second, and third place.

I want to congratulate all of the winners that pleased the judges with their cooking and baking excellence. I hope to see you all back again next year wearing your Chili Cook-Off aprons.

Here is a list of the Winners:

- **356 Classic Chili:** 1st Kinga Wesolowska, 2nd Darakle Kaukas, 3rd John Westra
- **911 Clubsport Chili:** 1st Bennye Seide, 2nd Carl Armand, 3rd Eve Estrada
- **930 Turbo Boost Chili:** 1st Bob Gustafson, 2nd Laura Kutill, 3rd Josh Loberant
- **Edible Porsche Art:** 1st Shannon Costis, 2nd Emily Mullin, 3rd Pam Torchia

Prior to the awards, I had the privilege of expressing my gratitude to all of the members attending and especially those who brought Chili and Edible Art. The Concours volunteers did a magnificent job setting up the event and working registration. Wonderful people make for a wonderful time and that is why PCA-Chicago is a great place.

We had a great turnout and there was plenty of great tasting chili and magnificent baked goods for all to enjoy.

This Concours season will feature four enjoyable events for you and your Porsche. We are combining Concours and Show n' Shine at a great venue so we can showcase beautiful Porsches and socialize with each other. Clean and well-maintained cars can compete or just display. Concours judges will answer your detailing questions. All Show n' Shine Porsches receive a PCA-Chicago Show Ribbon for participating. Wash the exterior, clean the glass and wheels and enjoy showcasing your Porsche in the Show n' Shine event.

I want to thank everyone that brought a crock pot of their Chili or Edible Porsche Art. Your special recipe of Chili or Edible Art is what made this event a success. In my opinion, everyone is a winner. After all, every crock pot was empty and the desserts were devoured.

In closing, I hope to see you at our upcoming events where Porsches and People as I said before: "Laissez les bons temps rouler" translated from French "Let the Good Times Roll." 🍷



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Concours of the Americas, 2018

The Concours Lawn: *An Interview with Jim Kutill*

When your Porsche ownership started in the 70's and your PCA membership began in 1981 – as it does for Jim & Laura Kutill – your experience and knowledge are a treasure trove of insight, wisdom and inspiration for everyone on the Concours lawn. From his first PCA event (at Soldier Field) to current day competition, Jim's welcoming smile, heart-felt laugh and complimentary judging demeanor are only rivaled by his beautiful 914.

From an ego-deflating last place finish in his first event – Potter's Picnic, 1985 – Jim's yellow rays of sunshine rose to the top of the Chicago Region class THREE times. Adding luster to the shine, TWO top finishes, at Parade in 2013 & 2015, make this mid-engine a radiating sunburst! Sitting with the judges at dinner in 2015 made the trip to French Lick truly unforgettable.



by Kirk Owens

Porsche Parade - Traverse City, 2013



Resprayed in 1983(!) and looking glorious today is four-wheeled evidence this 914 is loved and well-manicured by two generations of Kutills. For those of us without Parade trophies, their prep work and cleaning guidance are needed lessons to apply (with a soft cloth of course). A "serious detail at the start of every season" puts the towels and products in motion. A regimen of claying, waxing and 303 treatments are accompanied by removing the fuel injection air flow box to better expose the engine for Concours-level cleaning. The seats are also removed for complete interior detailing (if you haven't seen the new special order seats you'll jump when viewing the tremendous interior!). Jim's Christmas & birthday gifts from Griot's are applied as liberally as advice he's continually honing from our local experts – Pat Yanahan, Ron Bean & Steve Koch. Self-admitted, "I'm not a very technical person." So, Jim

continued

The Concours Lawn: *An Interview with Jim Kutill* continued

found his niche in Concours. He's "... enjoyed learning more about the car and being proud of how it looks. But the best part has been the people I've been involved with over the years." His keenly-focused judge's eyes don't miss a piece of lint nor a dirty wiper blade, but his mantra is to "...almost always compliment the owner on the car" and offers follow-up tips to participants. Want to know what Jim sees most entrants miss? "Seat seams almost always show lint and dirt...on a 911, the center of the pulley almost always has little



CheckedItOut, 2019

pieces of the belt. But there is one thing that seems to be universal: I think every hood or engine lid underside has holes in it. It's a rare car that doesn't have dirt inside those holes."

We all love our Porsches and Jim perspective is a shining example of The Concours Lawn – "I participate in Concours for a couple of reasons. First, I really enjoy the camaraderie of the other Concours crazies. Second, I am proud of how it (his 914) looks after all these years. And, it's become a family event. Being out in the alley with my two sons is fun." The Kutills, their smiles, and their AMAZING 914 are reasons why our Lawn is a treasured soil. 🍷



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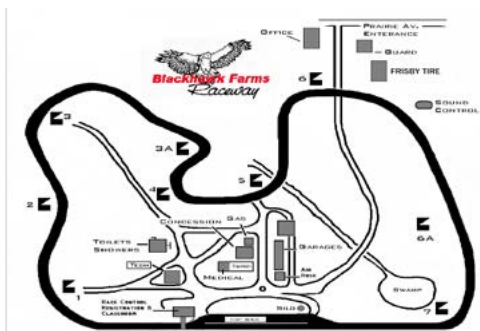


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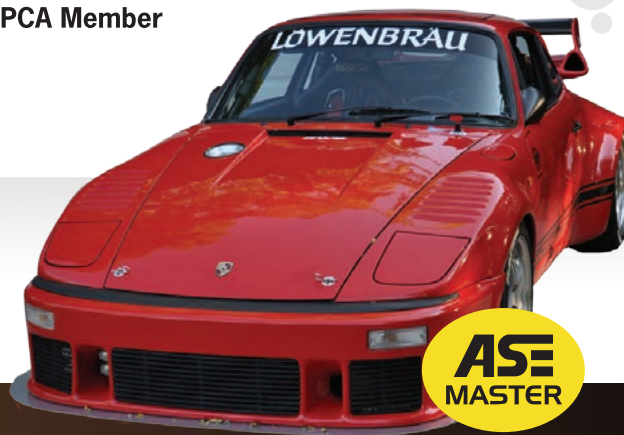
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