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Top photo: Driven Women by Jeff Brown

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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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Advertising Order Form & Specifications:

<https://pca-chicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2024-Scene-Advertising-Order-Form.pdf>

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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Well, that was Cool

A water bottle is launched over a building via an airbag. Sorry, a little context is in order.

We held our Spring Street Survival where we transform a group of sullen teenagers into excited, confident, and safe drivers.

Most people have never experienced how violent an airbag is and we want to demonstrate why feet on the dashboard and cell phones on the steering wheel are such a bad idea. We wire up an airbag¹ and put a partially filled water bottle on it and then set it off. This time the bottle went > 60 feet in the air and went over the South Tower at Autobahn and onto the grass track-side; That was so Cool...

We also set up a semi (thank you Eurosport) with cars in the blind spots (including right outside of the passenger door.) All the teens (and some parents) got to sit in the driver's seat (don't you wish you got to do that) and see for themselves what you can't see. In their own words: "That was so Cool."

Cool things happen with astonishing regularity in the Chicago Region:

Memorial Day weekend, there were three (yes, three) 992 GT3 Cups, a 991 Cup, and a GT4 Clubsport in my paddock at RADE (and one of the 992s was mine, snicker, snicker, ...) AND Friday was an OPEN TRACK DAY for experienced drivers; Way Cool.

Less than two weeks later, after a short stint with two- and four-year-old grand-nephews, at Dove Mountain (North of Tucson), I got to teach the classroom for one of my favorite events, Ladies' Day HPDE at Autobahn (thank you SO MUCH, Napleton). Thirty-two women on the South track at Autobahn learning how to drive their car on the track; again, Very Cool.

Twenty teams driving a 105-mile course without a map, just a bunch of cryptic directions masquerading as riddles and the winner being within 6 minutes of the predicted time (or being a novice at it and getting within 25). Pretty cool if you ask me.

A Porsche Block Party with more than 250 Porsches on a Saturday. Wildly, Extremely, Cool.

Driving your car on a course in a parking lot competing against others to see who can complete the course in the fastest time without hitting any cones. Cool with a capital C.

Sixty to Seventy Porsches, some cleaned and prepped to the such an extent that Q-Tipping the underside and engine compartment will come away clean. While other, mere mortals, compete at a less daunting level making it accessible to everyone. The definition of Cool.

Finally, TRAC, our Club Race at Road America over Labor Day weekend, is going to be Live-Streamed on YouTube. How Cool is that?

Thanks to everyone for making them happen,

Dana Comolli
President, Chicago Region



photo: Dan Halenza @HalenzaStudios



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photo: Derek Chen

From North to South Track: Driven Women 2025

by Kasia Vetter

Now in its third year, the Driven Women event at Autobahn Country Club in Joliet has become something I truly look forward to every summer. Organized by the Porsche Club of America-Chicago Region (PCA-C) and proudly sponsored by Napleton Westmont Porsche and Napleton's Porsche Downtown Chicago, it's more than just a track day it's a celebration of women confidently stepping into the driver's seat.

This event creates a welcoming, supportive space for women to explore high-performance driving whether in a Porsche or not. Seeing both returning drivers and fresh faces this year proved that this isn't just a one-time thrill, but a growing community of women who share a passion for driving and a willingness to challenge themselves.



photo: Derek Chen



photo: Derek Chen

continued



photo: Derek Chen



photo: Derek Chen

Whether you show up feeling nervous (like I did my first year) or excited (like I do now), the day quickly becomes empowering. With classroom sessions, guided laps, and experienced PCA-C instructors by our side, each moment is designed to build confidence, skill and joy behind the wheel.

This year, we had the chance to drive the South Track a fast, technical course that was as challenging as it was exhilarating. Having instructors ride along helped many of us push our limits and discover what both we and our cars are capable of.

What really makes this day special is the sense of community. We connected over shared nerves, swapped tips and cheered each other on. New drivers learned the basics:



photo: Dan Halenza

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From North to South Track: Driven Women 2025 continued

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racing lines, braking points, and cornering while returners refined their skills with smoother lines and quicker laps.

With growing attendance, the continued support of PCA-C and generous sponsors like Napleton Westmont Porsche and Napleton's Porsche Downtown Chicago, I can only imagine how this event will continue to evolve. Whether you're curious about your first track day or already dreaming of shaving seconds off your lap time there's a place for you here.

A huge thank you to the PCA-C, our sponsors, and to Autobahn Country Club for opening up the track to us. We're all looking forward to next year's Driven Women already. And who knows... maybe next time when I'm pulling out of the driveway or merging onto the highway, I'll smile, grip the wheel with both hands and think, "How can I take this apex just a little smoother?"

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Street Survival: A Student's Perspective

by Tyler Ptaszkowski

When my stepmother, a driver's ed instructor, signed my brother and me up for Tire Rack Street Survival, the 7 a.m. registration time, the lengthy schedule, and the distance from home were all deterrents. However, I knew she would take advantage of every opportunity to make us feel more comfortable behind the wheel, and this was no exception.

Upon arriving at Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, we were split into two groups and paired up with a



continued



Street Survival: A Student's Perspective *continued*



volunteer driving instructor. The groups alternated between indoor classroom sessions and outdoor driving practice. Participants were given a lunch break halfway through.

Inside, we were shown presentations and videos about responsible driving practices, such as how to avoid distracted driving and handle hydroplaning. Outside, we put this knowledge to the test by cycling through an obstacle course with four stations: the slalom (weaving between a line of cones), the braking zone (braking a vehicle at high speeds), the skid pad



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photo: Derek Chen

photo: Derek Chen

photo: Derek Chen

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Street Survival: A Student's Perspective *continued*



photo: Derek Chen



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photo: Derek Chen



(making quick turns on a wet or dry surface), and an area where we could make several rapid lane changes, as if on a highway.

Miscellaneous activities throughout the day included checking our tire pressures and witnessing an airbag demonstration that launched a water bottle onto a nearby track. We also each got behind the wheel of a stationary semi-truck surrounded by cars positioned so that it was impossible to see them, even in the rearview mirror.

I found the course valuable for comprehending the capabilities and limitations of my vehicle. My driving instructor was always understanding about what I felt comfortable doing, and I was

gradually able to complete the obstacle course faster and with less disorientation. I'm grateful that this course increased my confidence behind the wheel, especially since driving requires lifelong learning and countless unexpected firsthand experiences. Buckle up! 🚗

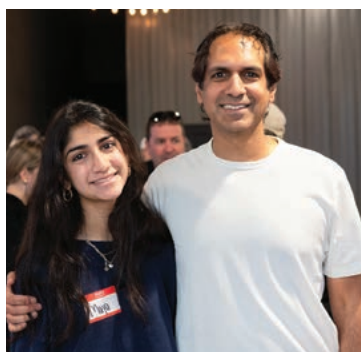


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New Beginnings

by Brian Scifers

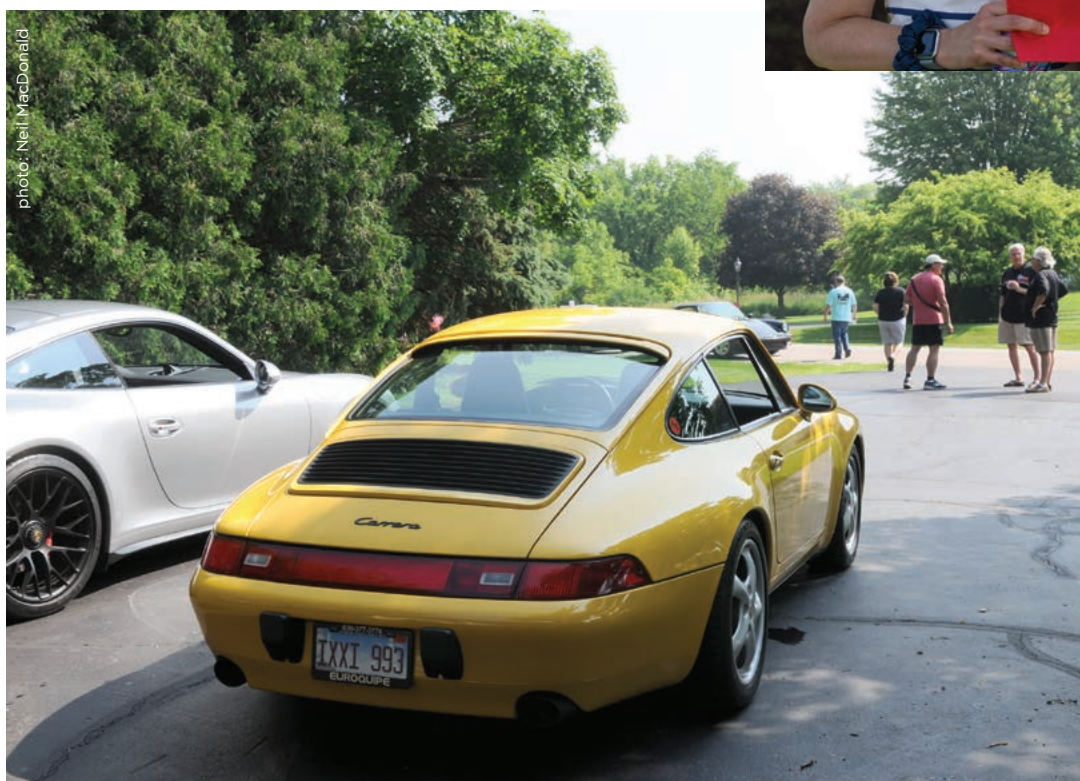


photo: Neil MacDonald

Rallye number one was aptly titled New Beginnings, representing a new experience for novices just learning the ropes and a kick start to a new year for seasoned teams. The day saw 20 teams “come out to play”, with three touring teams, five novice teams, and 12 experienced competitor teams! Touring teams had some additional help from “cliff notes” within their instructions to point out the tricks and traps to help them stay on course (and hopefully on time!). Each novice team (driver, navigator, or both) attended Rallye School, putting their budding skills to the test!

continued



photo: Neil MacDonald

The Rallye began at the Olson's home, the current Rallye co-coordinators and Rallye Masters for this first Rallye of the year. Rallye teams were greeted by gracious hosts with breakfast treats and coffee (rallyists must remain alert after all!). The morning was beautiful, and teams were eager to get underway. The Rallye route took teams through portions of Kane and DeKalb Counties along gorgeous roads offering some high-speed driving (requiring diligent attention to maintain the prescribed speed and not simply "cut loose" between checkpoints... "Why am I so early?!"). Novice teams had the opportunity to test themselves for everything taught in Rallye School; Experienced competitors needed to dust off their skills and try not to overthink it (and quite a few experienced teams rediscovered that hindsight is 20/20... time to prepare for the next one!).

I typically tell anyone interested in Rallye that it's mostly about learning the "jargon". What is CAST? Change Average Speed To (hold your speed, not too fast, not too slow...but account for "traffic," stop signs, railroad tracks). ONTO...onto what?! Keep



an eye out for that road, in that direction, for the entire rest of the Rallye (you won't get another instruction about it, but it continues to apply!). ...and so many other acronyms and terms to become familiar with. But wait, is that all you

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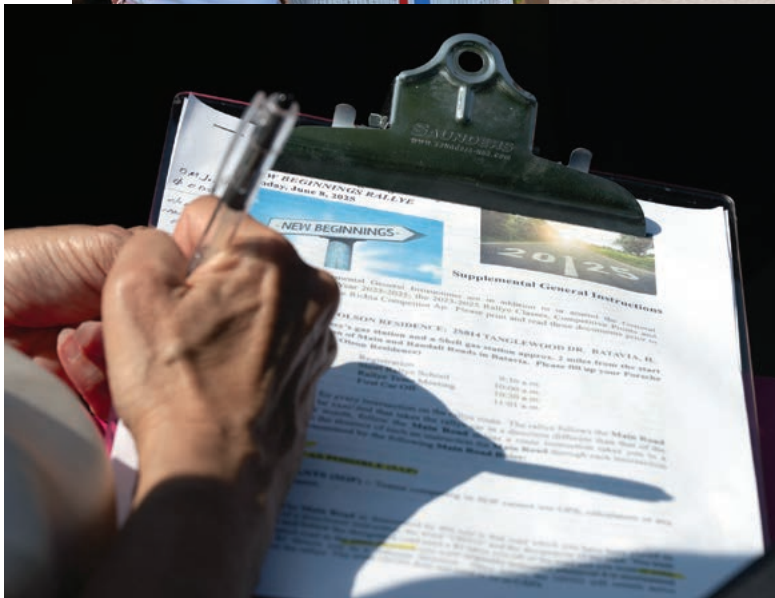
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photo: Neil MacDonald



need to do, memorize the "Rallye Dictionary"? Like any good English professor might say, you now must form a sentence. In my terms, it means you need an "eye" for what the instruction truly means or can be ignored. Say what now? Yes, certain instructions can be skipped or do not apply.

Like any great driving event, there's a mental component to doing well. Unlike the club's other competitive driving events, Rallye is a team sport – a driver and a navigator. It's still about speed, but as a function of distance to be on time! Quite like other driving events, the camaraderie is shared over a meal at the end of

the day. Two teams managed a score of ZERO on one leg of the day, meaning they hit the required time exact – with one of those teams being the first place NOVICE team. The winning team of Jack and Karen Stephensen did manage to pick up an off-course penalty but otherwise accumulated 188 points that meant they were a tad more than 3 minutes off from a perfect drive time over a 105-mile-long route. That's quite an achievement Jack & Karen! The day ended at Old Town Pub with shared experiences (and discovered traps/tricks), as well as some weather watching by nervous patrons while parts of the region experienced severe hailstorms (that fortunately missed our little gathering). 🍷





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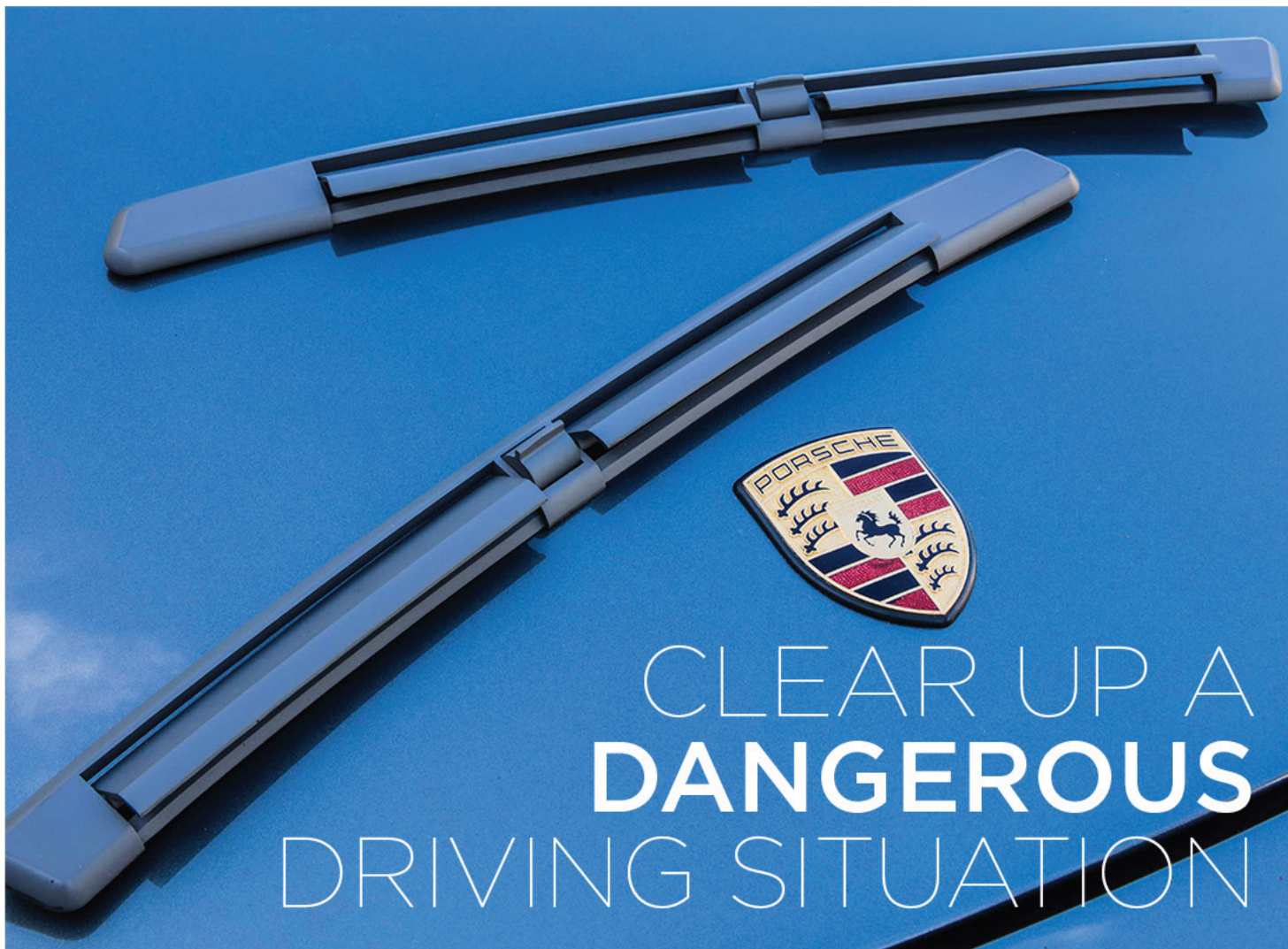
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photo: Michael Bene



A Higher Perspective: SUV AutoX at Tire Rack

by Julie Rivera



There's usually not many, if any at all, SUVs running at the PCA-C Autocross events. I was so excited to see another Macan at the first race of the season at the Tire Rack!

continued



The morning was cold and gray and in the afternoon it started to rain. Driving in the rain has always scared me but pushing the Macan showed me how awesome these cars do when it's wet.

My times once it started to rain were faster than most of the Porsches out there! (except Katherine in her Macan GTS, who beat me rain or shine.)





To quote Phil, the starter, “the Macans went from being the biggest and slowest to the biggest and fastest!” It felt pretty good to have some faster times than most of the 911s. I guess it is more fun in the rain! 🍂





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RADE: A Perspective from North of the Cheddar Curtain

by Darius Dirmantas



For full disclosure, we are not members of the Chicago chapter of the PCA. We are Steinlifters, Milwaukee PCA chapter. But we are all PCA family.

Follow me back to the spring of 2024. My wife says “hey, the Chicago Porsche Club is hosting a RADE at Road America”. I think to myself hmm, we went to Fright Night at Road America last October and it was fun. But I am thinking, we may be a bit old for a Rave. I have a bit more grey hair than the previous year but why not. Fun is fun. So, after some thought, I went to my wife “sure let’s go to the Rave, it could be fun.” She looks at me with a look of confusion and says “Rave. What Rave?” I’m like “the one at Road America.” She just starts to laugh. “You mean the RADE.” I answer back, “no, the Rave”. And then it dawns on me. I seemed to have missed it... again. After some more laughing and explaining I finally am on the same page. RADE is Road America Drivers Education. We had never done a PCA Drivers Education event. We had a new track car, so it was a go. We registered immediately and were excited to participate. When the time came, we packed up our Sprinter van, loaded our track car on the trailer and headed out. As excited as we were, we

were a bit reserved as we didn’t know anyone from the host club. But everyone was very gracious and welcoming.

We signed up for all three days of RADE 2025 and arrived Thursday night to get settled in. I must say coming the second time was better than the first. The people we met the first year were now good friends who treated us warmly like family.

continued





Friday started with a driver's meeting as required and beforehand we chatted with everyone we recognized from the previous year. Exchanging tidbits of information about our cars and what we had been up to. There were two run groups, and you had track time every hour. There was so much track time akin to if you had the track for a private event. I know a few people who ran every session they could, but we chose to run most but not all. It was three days of track, and we wanted to be fresh for all of them. This year Friday was a bit different than the previous year; it was limited to advanced drivers. Novice drivers would have their track time and instruction on Saturday and Sunday. We had started in the Novice



photo: Neil MacDonald



for the weekend. Everyone is welcomed the same. And everyone is available for advice or help.

OK, back to track time on Friday. The morning started out with some cautious laps to get everything up to temp and shake the cobwebs off from last season. My wife did the DE at Blackhawk prior to this event but for me this was my first PCA event of the year.



group the year prior and appreciated the instruction available. This year Friday had no formal instruction but there were plenty of instructors on site if you had a question. This is what sets this event apart from all the other DE events we have attended. The skill level of everyone involved is very high. But it is the whole vibe that makes this event. It may be Porsche-centric but there are many other manufacturers represented. You have everything from people with full race support to people who drive up in the car which they will run

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We got quicker as the morning progressed and by lunch, we were happy and a bit tired. The lunch break allowed us time to tour the paddock and see all the great cars. It truly is a car show. We skipped the first run of the afternoon instead taking the opportunity to walk our dogs and watch cars on the track. For those that don't know, Road America is referred to as America's National Park of Speed. It is one of the most beautiful racetracks to wander around and just take everything in. We viewed the cars on track from a few shady viewing areas watching how others handled different turns. A quick trip back to the van to get ready and we were off on the track again. I must say having so many opportunities to run on the track made it seem like nothing was rushed. The afternoon built on our progress from the morning. It was a great day. Once the track closed, we tried to do a quick run into town to stop and get some supplies for the next day. But just as we left, one of our friends at the track called and asked if that was us leaving. We were informed that we should immediately turn around and come back. There was some great food and a cooler full of drinks that were not going to consume themselves. Did I say it's like a big family? These are the people we met for the first time the previous year. After much conversation, some drinks and some food

(oh, and some great gifted homemade hot sauce), we finally made it to town to run some errands.

Saturday came quickly and at the drivers meeting there were more people. Today would see novice run groups in the mix. As the meeting was drawing to a close, the novice group drivers were introduced to their instructors. And everyone was released for the day. Since there were more run groups, we had more time between sessions to decompress and prep our cars. The weather was perfect again and we drove all day until we were pleasantly exhausted. After the final run group finished, we were all invited to stop by for pizza and cold beverages. This was sponsored by Eurosport of Bensenville. Eurosport provides full track support and car prep. They were there



photo: Neil MacDonald



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with their staff and full support for their customers. I have brought our car to their shop before for some maintenance and a track alignment. Can't recommend them enough. Since they have a huge tent attached to their trailer, the pizza dinner was held under it next to the assortment of cars they were supporting that weekend. I must say the variety and quantity of pizza was quite impressive. Oh, and I almost forgot to mention Eurosport held a raffle with some great prizes for those eating and chatting. Dinner allowed us to catch up with other drivers we had previously met and to meet a bunch more. Cars, food and drink, what a great way to spend an evening.

Sunday, another great day. We took some time to watch the other run groups on track. Especially the novice group since we had run

into a friend from many years past. He was running an air cooled 911 (he's a purist). We watched all the drivers handle their cars with more confidence and poise. The progress everyone makes is great to witness. Like everyone says, "it's all about seat time." Well, this event certainly gives you the seat time if you want. My wife and I definitely got smoother and faster as the weekend

progressed. As they say, all good things must come to an end, and eventually end it did. What a great weekend. As we were packing up to go home, my wife and I were already talking about 2026. The ride home was bittersweet as we immensely enjoyed the weekend but there was that undercurrent of slight sadness of it being over.

Concluding thoughts: If you have never come out and participated in RADE, what are you waiting for? The volunteers, organizers and everyone associated, did and does a phenomenal job. If you are interested in coming out next year and are worried that you may not know anyone just look for the Sprinter van and white soft-sided trailer. We will welcome you, talk your ear off and offer you a cold drink. 🍹

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.

JULY

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

AUGUST

- 3** Porsches & Pastries, Big Boost
- 3** Weiners & Wheels, Superdawg
- 6** Board Meeting
- 8-10** German HPDE
- 16** AX 4, Wintrust Field
- 17** Rallye 3, Stuck in the Sticks, Elgin
- 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
- 11** AX 6, Wintrust Field
- 12** Rallye 5, TBD
- 17-19** Fall Driving Tour

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

- 13** Dinner Dance, Westin Chicago North Shore



For up-to-date details, please check:
<https://pca-chicago.org/event-schedule/>

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