

ROADRUNNER

PCA award winning newsletter 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016
PCA award winning website 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016
Region First Runner Up Ferry Porsche Award 2017

Ramblings

MARCH 2024



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The town of Madrid will
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UFO Abductions, Werewolf Maulings,
Creepy Yeti Hugs, Vampire Romances,
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Pixie Glitter, Chupacabra Bites,
Average Sized Centaurs, Sticky Vortexes
or Broke Leprechauns

ROADRUNNER *Ramblings* 2024

The Magazine of the Roadrunner Region Porsche Club of America

UPCOMING EVENTS

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ROADRUNNER *Ramblings*

PCA award winning newsletter 2019, 2018,
2017, 2016, 2015

Region First Runner Up Ferry Porsche
Award 2017

2008 PCA's Region of the Year

www.rrrpca.com

The Roadrunner Region, Porsche Club of America (RRR) publishes the Ramblings monthly for its members. Written contributions and photos are welcome and should be e-mailed to the editor. The deadline for material is on the first of the month of publication. We credit all members for their submissions. All material in this newsletter is protected by copyright. However, the newsletter editors of other regions chartered by Porsche Club of America may reprint any article provided that credit is given to the author and Roadrunner Region and that the Ramblings is cited as the source.

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STEVE WALLER
PRESIDENT/EDITOR



March is the month for wind, St. Patrick's day, the Ides of March, March madness, and daylight savings time begins again on March 10th. Hopefully everyone is fitting in some time to enjoy your Porsche.

The Roadrunner region board approved some items at the February meeting to plan for future events. Autocross chair Evelyn Watkins, presented the board with an AX budget for the year. Evelyn and her team have done a great job of securing the Expo New Mexico midway lot for events in 2024. The budget was greater than it has been in past year due to increased expenses at the venue. Everyone agrees that AX is an important of the region's menu of events. The board approved the budget unanimously. The first AX is the weekend of March 23 and 24, with a school presented by SCCA on Saturday and AXers taking the course on Sunday. Good luck to all the AX participants this year.

Also approved was the proposal to hold the Holiday party in December at the Santa Ana Star Casino in Bernalillo. Board members Ed and Terry Auerbach have agreed to chair the event again this year. Ed has been in touch with the

casino and the region will move forward with the event on Sunday December 15. For celebrations like the Holiday party, the nice venues like Santa Ana Star book out early. So thanks to Ed and Terry for securing a date for our group.

In Executive session we agreed to move forward with some preliminary planning for Fiesta New Mexico in 2025. Fiesta has generally been an every other year event. Even though it's a long way off, Santa Fe is a popular destination and the region needs to explore venues and put a hold on rooms. So the planning begins.

Region events coming up on the calendar this month include a dinner social at Tomasita's in Albuquerque on the 21st. Come out and enjoy some great New Mexican food and camaraderie with your Porsche friends.

Driving tours with tour chair Steve Johnson will resume in April. Past president George Watkins and I met with Andreas Wittler from Hans Wittler automotive and scheduled a tech session at the business for late April.

Note: The Ramblings editor reserves the right to edit member and other outside submissions for space and content. If there is a reason to publish an article exactly as submitted please let us know.



The Ramblings "team" couldn't resist the urge to go with an unusual cover for the March issue. A group of Porsche drivers headed up north 14. Just beyond Madrid, NM we stopped for a break, north of town. Region member Gary Singer always seems to find a way into a humorous situation. This sign reflects the quirky nature of Madrid perfectly. My comment was that Gary falls under the category of "Broke Leprechauns". He would agree.

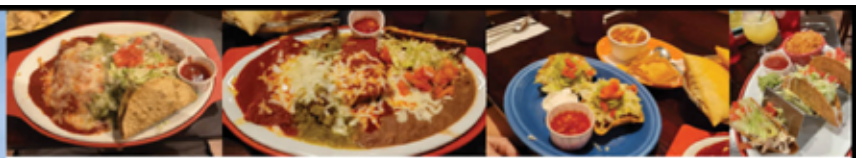
Last month many Roadrunner region members toured the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History in Albuquerque. Social chair Becky Schrieber coordinated with the museum to provide a docent guided tour. We toured inside the museum and outside on the back lot with

B-52's and other historically significant planes and rockets. See Becky's report in this issue of Ramblings.

Also in February the AX group held their 2023 awards banquet. Many cone turners and others came out to celebrate a successful year of Autocross. Check out the photos in this issue.

So it's not exactly March madness, but the Roadrunner region is off and running in 2024. Enjoy this issue of Ramblings.

Steve Waller
ramblings@rrrpca.com



JOIN US AT TOMASITA'S!

MARCH 21ST AT 6PM

Join your Roadrunner Region Porsche friends for an evening of fun and delicious New Mexican food at Tomasita's in Albuquerque. We will have a set menu of six items priced like they would be on the menu, that is \$12-17.00. The menu items would include Enchilada Plate, Atrisco Plate, Taco Plate, Southwest Chicken Salad, Chimayo Plate and Burrito. Drinks, Tax and Gratuity extra. We will have separate checks. The private room at Tomasita's is very nice with a large fireplace. The staff will be ready for us at 6:00pm. We are limiting the group to 70 attendees, so register early and mark it on your calendar. There is no cost for registration.

RSVP: motorsportreg.com

Tomasita's Albuquerque | 505-344-1204 | 4949 Pan American Freeway NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109



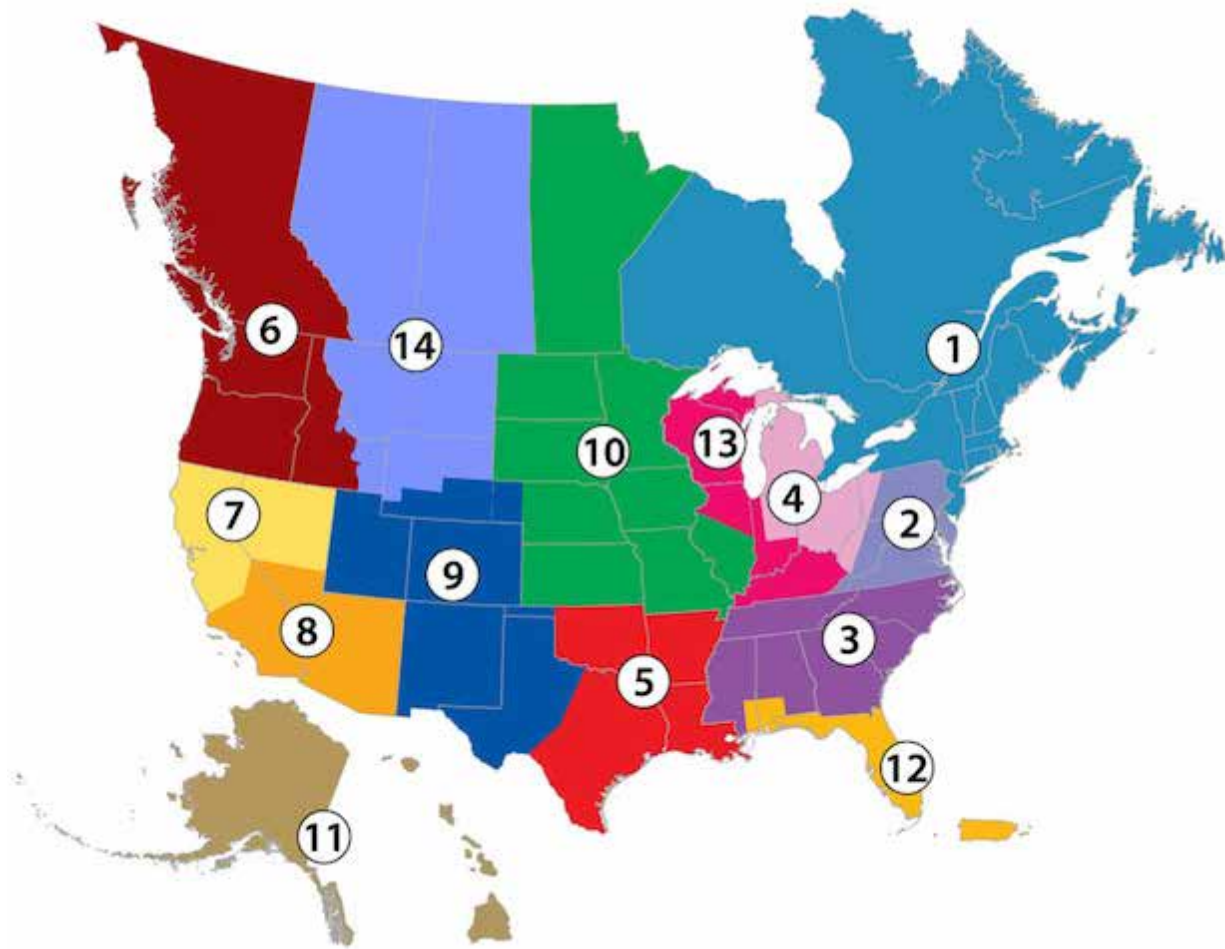
PCA Regions - USA and Canada

Meet Your Neighbors

The Roadrunner region of Porsche Club of America is a part of Zone 9. Zone 9 encompasses all or parts of the states of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. The largest region by members is Rocky Mountain region, headquartered in Denver. The smallest region is Llano Estacado in Amarillo, TX. In fact, the Llano Estacado region is the smallest region in PCA. There are 147 regions across America and Canada.

Zone 9 Regions

Region Name	Location
Alpine Mountain	Colorado Springs, CO
Carrera	El Paso, TX
Intermountain	Salt Lake City, UT
Llano Estacado	Amarillo, TX
Roadrunner	Albuquerque, NM
Rocky Mountain	Denver, CO
West Texas	Lubbock, TX





2024 CALENDAR

In 2024 the Board / membership meeting will be held online only via ZOOM. Any member can participate. Contact Roadrunner Region President Steve Waller for access. president@rrrpca.com.
The Wednesday lunches at the Owl Cafe start at 11:30am.

MARCH		
Tuesday Mar. 5	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday Mar. 12	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday Mar. 12	RRR Board meeting	ZOOM
Wednesday Mar. 13	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Tuesday Mar. 19	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Thursday Mar. 21	RRR Social Dinner	Tomasita's Alb.
Saturday Mar 23	SCAA Autocross School	Expo NM Fairgrounds
Sunday Mar 24	Autocross Die Serie 1	Expo NM Fairgrounds
Tuesday Mar. 26	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday Mar. 27	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
APRIL		
Tuesday April 2	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday April 9	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday April 9	RRR Board meeting	ZOOM
Wednesday April 10	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Saturday April 13	Autocross Die Serie 2	Expo NM Fairgrounds
Tuesday April 16	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Saturday April 20	RRR Drive out	NM Mining Museum, Grants NM
Sun.-Thurs. April 21-25	PCA Treffen	Sonoma, Ca
Tuesday April 23	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday April 24	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Saturday April 27	RRR Tech Session	Hans Wittler Auto
Tuesday April 30	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill

MAY		
Tuesday May 7	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday May 8	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Saturday May 11	RRR Autocross	Expo NM Fairgrounds
Tuesday May 14	RRR Board Meeting	ZOOM
Tuesday May 14	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Saturday May 18	RRR Drive out	Location TBD
Tuesday May 21	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday May 22	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Tuesday May 28	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
JUNE		
Tuesday June 4	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday June 5	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Saturday June 8	RRR Autocross	Expo NM Fairgrounds
Sun-Sun June 9-16	PCA Porsche Parade	Birmingham, Al
Tuesday June 11	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday June 11	RRR Board meeting	ZOOM
Saturday June 15	RRR Drive out	Location TBD
Tuesday June 18	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday June 19	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Tuesday June 25	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
JULY		
Tuesday July 2	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday July 3	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Saturday July 6	RRR Autocross	Location TBD
Tuesday July 9	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday July 9	RRR Board meeting	ZOOM
Tuesday July 16	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday July 17	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Saturday July 20	RRR Drive out	Location TBD
Tuesday July 23	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday July 30	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday July 31	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Sun.-Sun. July 29-Aug 4	PCA Treffen at Sea	Alaska

AUGUST		
Tuesday Aug. 6	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Saturday Aug 10	RRR Autocross	Expo NM Fairgrounds
Tuesday Aug 13	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday Aug 13	RRR Board meeting	ZOOM
Wednesday Aug 14	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Friday Aug 16	PCA WERKS Reunion	Monterey, Ca
Tuesday Aug 20	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday Aug 27	Santa Fe car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday Aug 28	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
SEPTEMBER		
Tuesday Sept 3	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday Sept 10	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday Sept 11	RRR Board meeting	ZOOM
Wednesday Sept 12	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Tuesday Sept 17	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Saturday Sept 21	RRR Drive out	Location TBD
Tuesday Sept 24	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday Sept 25	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
OCTOBER		
Tuesday Oct 1	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday Oct 8	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday Oct 9	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Tuesday Oct 8	RRR Board meeting	ZOOM
Tuesday Oct 15	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Saturday Oct 19	RRR Drive out	Location TBD
Saturday Oct 19	Chile Cook off	Waller home
Tuesday Oct 22	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday Oct 23	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Sat-Sun Oct 26-27	RRR Autocross	Farmington, NM
Tuesday Oct 29	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill

NOVEMBER		
Tuesday Nov 5	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday Nov 6	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Saturday Nov 9	RRR Autocross	Location TBD
Tuesday Nov 12	RRR Board Meeting	ZOOM
Tuesday Nov 12	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday Nov 19	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday Nov 20	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Tuesday Nov 26	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
DECEMBER		
Tuesday Dec 3	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday Dec 4	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Tuesday Dec 10	RRR Board Meeting	ZOOM
Tuesday Dec 10	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Sunday Dec 15	RRR Holiday Party	Santa Ana Star Casino
Tuesday Dec 17	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Wednesday Dec 18	RRR Wednesday lunch	Owl Cafe / Albq
Tuesday Dec 24	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill
Tuesday Dec 31	Santa Fe Car lunch	Capitol Grill



ROADRUNNER DRIVE TO DESTINATIONS WEST

April 20th

HEY ROADRUNNERS, JOIN DRIVE TOUR CHAIR STEVE JOHNSON FOR A TOUR TO GRANTS, NM.

Our destination, The New Mexico Mining museum and the Route 66 Neon Drive Thru. Steve has arranged for a tour of the museum and a photo op with your Porsche at the Neon Drive thru arch. Lunch follows at the Great American Diner at exit 108 on I-40. Here are the details:

When: Saturday April 20th, 2024

Where: Quail Plaza Golden Corral 2701 Coors Blvd. NW

Time: 9:00 arrival, 9:15 drivers meeting, 9:30 depart.

Lunch: Great American Diner exit 108 Acoma

Cost: Museum admission, \$4.00 senior, \$6.00 regular

RSVP to Steve Johnson
stevelee944@gmail.com

HELP!!!

The region is in need of someone to drive the autocross trailer to the March event. The trailer needs to be brought to the Expo New Mexico fairgrounds on Friday March 22 and picked up and returned to the trailer lot on Sunday March 24th. Experience driving a truck and trailer is necessary. Contact [Steve Waller](#) or [Evelyn Watkins](#) for more information.

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ROADRUNNER CELEBRATE AUTOCROSS DRIVERS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY?

Autocross is a centerpiece in the Roadrunner region menu of events. It is the only competitive driving the event the region offers. Every Porsche is built to be a track performer. While anyone can drive an autocross course, competition brings the cream to the top. The region's best and many other participants were celebrated at the Autocross awards banquet at BJ's Brewhouse in Albuquerque. AX chair Evelyn Watkins handed out the award certificates to the winners, and everyone enjoyed a Saturday night with their Porsche friends. Congrats to the winners. Good luck in 2024.







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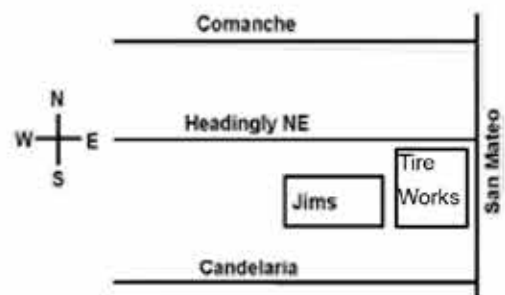
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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND HISTORY TOUR

STORY BY BECKY SCHREIBER



Photo by Ed Auerback

On Sunday, February 4, 2024, 22 members of the Roadrunner Region PCA gathered at the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History. Two knowledgeable docents talked us through the history of nuclear science as we walked through the museum's well-curated exhibits. Many of us had never been to the museum before, even though we've lived here for many years.

We learned about the science and the history of nuclear weapons, and the medical and other peacetime uses of nuclear energy. We saw the Gilbert U-238 Atomic Energy Lab which was a children's learning set sold in the early 1950's with samples of uranium-bearing ores. We also saw the three nuclear bombs recovered from the 1966 Palomares B-52 crash off the coast of Spain.

We also were fortunate to find the DaVinci Machines exhibit at the museum; so most of us took some time to interact with some of the inventions. We all agreed the tour was worthwhile; and encourage our friends to take advantage of this educational opportunity in our backyard.

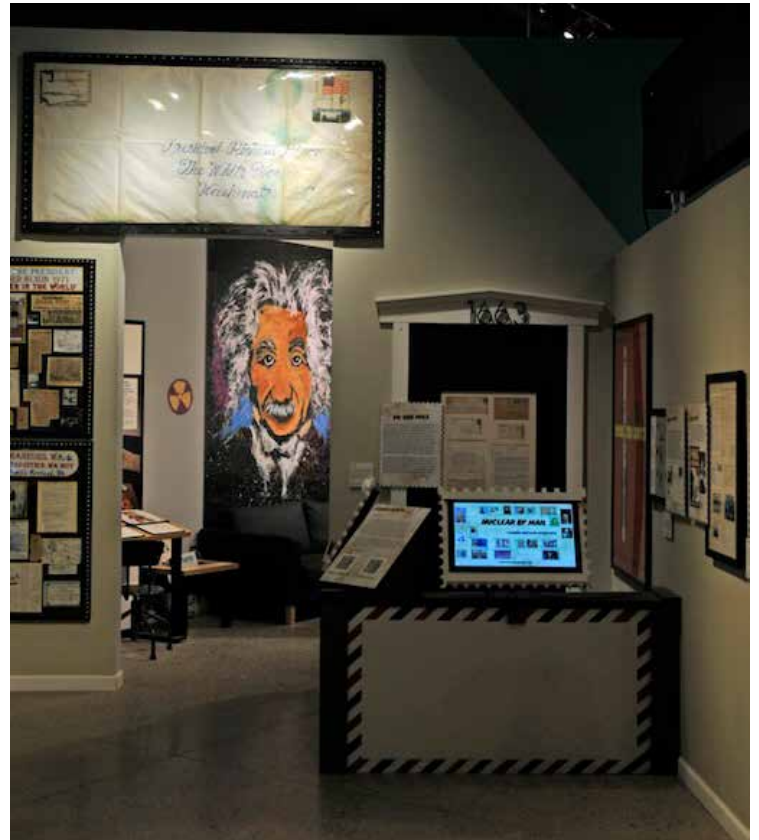
Several of us got together at the Bosque Brewery on Eubank Blvd afterward for some refreshments. A good time was had by all!



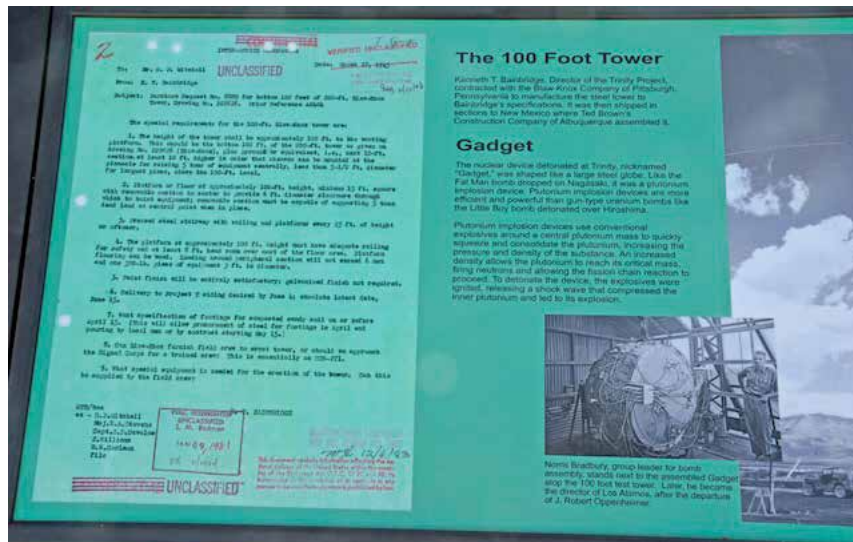
Our knowledgeable docent explains the primitive equipment used at Los Alamos.

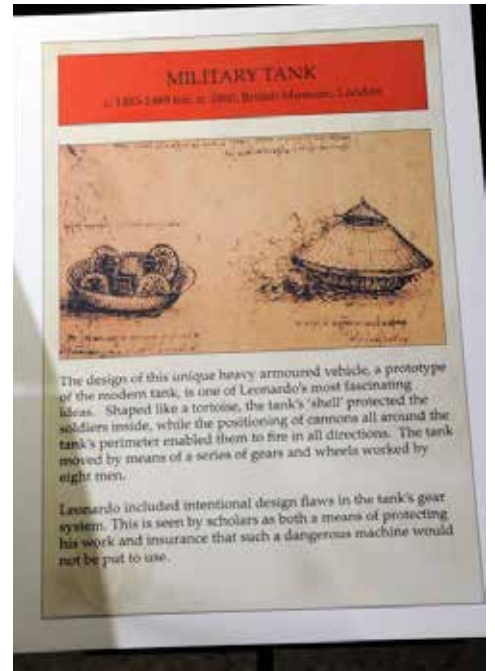
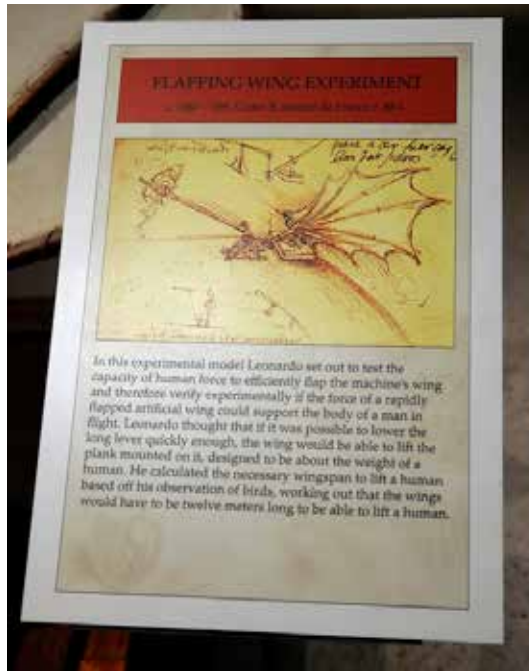


A long explanation of the bombs dropped on Japan in WWII.













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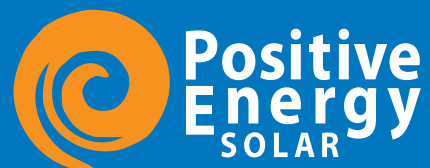
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DRIVE HE SAID

ROADRUNNER INTERVIEW BY LILIA CHACON

"My cousin said, 'let's drive to California.'"

So began Bob Alexander's first experience driving a Porsche, a 1976 911S that his cousin wanted to take on a road trip. They headed west from Phoenix and Bob was itching to get behind the wheel. When they stopped to gas up in San Bernardino Bob got his chance.

It was a bittersweet event, rudely abbreviated by the police lights flashing in the rear window.

"He finally lets me drive and as soon as I came off the ramp onto the Interstate a cop pulls me over for doing 70mph in a 55." Bob says "if you drove 70 on that same stretch today you'd get run over from behind."

The experience did nothing to dampen his affection for the marque. "It gave me a taste of what they can do, of the quality."

He's been a Roadrunner member for 2 years since moving to Albuquerque from Montana, where he was a member of the Big Sky Chapter and is now a member-at-large of the Roadrunner Board. He currently drives a silver/gray 2002 Boxster S 6-speed he purchased in 2009.

RoadRunner: Before we talk about your car life... what other lives do you lead?

Bob Alexander: I got my BS in Geology at the University of Arizona in Tucson and then my Masters at New Mexico Tech in Socorro. Not really a rock hound, I help clean up abandoned mines and waste sites. I'm divorced with two

adopted sons and grandchildren. I'm looking forward to retiring and having the freedom to do more exploring.

RR: Was there anyone who was a car influence in your life?

BA: Well my cousin obviously, but my dad took me to Watkins Glen, which I loved. I had a slot car racing setup and loved all kinds of fast cars. Now I mostly follow Formula 1.

RR: Other than Porsche any other cars you owned that were special? A first car? Foreign cars? The cars of your youth?

BA: My first car was a Mazda RX3 with a rotary engine. I came of age in the mid-70's when the American cars were a disaster. The Mazda was powerful for its size, sporty and deceptively fast. Entertaining to drive and reliable too. Things didn't end well though, I lent it to a friend and he crashed it. Totaled. And we stayed friends.

RR: What was the first Porsche you purchased?

BA: The 2002 Boxster S with a 6-speed stick transmission and a hard top. I saw it on Craig's list in 2009 and really liked it, kicked the tires and checked it out but the economy was shaky. I waited a bit and he dropped the price. I bought it with 22-thousand miles on it.

RR: Any experiences with Porsches that stick out?

BA: Well that first drive where I got to meet a trooper was pretty memorable, and expensive.

But driving Autocross here has opened up a whole new understanding of Porsches and what it takes to drive them.

RR: So you got to meet the Autocross Chair Evelyn Watkins?

BA: We are so lucky to have Evelyn organizing the Autocross events. I learned so much: that car can do a lot more than I'm able to do with it. I took a ride with Paul Dodd, he's an SCCA champ, and it was practically violent.

RR: That's a rough initiation.

BA: Driving Autocross totally made me a better driver. Learning precision in car control and finding the limits of its capabilities was a fantastic experience.

RR: Is there a new model Porsche that would look good in your garage?

BA: There will be another Porsche and this time it'll be new. I want the 911 Carrera T but realistically it'll be a couple of years. I haven't settled on the color yet, I like Miami Blue and Racing Yellow, but for certain it will be a PDK transmission. I want to drive it until they take away my keys.

RR: Please give us a heads up when that happens! Any advice for new members of the club?

BA: You've gotta come out to the events. This is a friendly and welcoming group and they will go out of their way to make you feel like you fit in.



My dad was in real estate development and Alexander Blvd was named after him...against his wishes.



My cousin Gary and I who drove me down the road to Porsche.



My 2002 Boxster S in action.



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PCA SIM RACING-IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES...

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JEREMY MAYNE



Welcome to my third installment of my experience with PCA Sim Racing. There was just one race in Series 11 for the month of February. Challenge class drivers met up on February 21st for Race 4, this time at the lengthy and challenging Road America in Elkhart, Wisconsin. This track features several long straights that demand fast exit speed from the corners leading to the straights. Getting it right offers the chance to put in your best lap times, but botching the exits means you'll carry a speed deficit through the entire straight.

The day of the race, I got a call from Steve Waller, PCA member and Editor of the Roadrunner Newsletter. He said he was having a few fellow club members over to his house and they planned to watch the race live. Okay, nothing like a little pressure to put things in perspective! Not to mention, I had a few other friends who were planning to watch the Broadcast. Suddenly, my fan base jumped from one (my supportive wife, Sandy) to several. Sadly, a few hours before the race, I learned that there were technical problems with

Podium Broadcasting and that they wouldn't be able to cover the race. Oh well, the show must go on.

I'll admit I struggle with Road America, where I have a hard time putting in consistent fast laps. There are a few spots that can easily lead to a spin, such as the famous Kink, which is a high-speed right-hand sweeper that should be taken flat out in the GT3R. After qualifying 7th, I was feeling pretty good for the first several laps, holding the position with some fast cars. That proved to be short-lived, as I chickened out going through the Kink and lifted slightly, resulting in an off-track and light hit to the right-hand wall. The car was still drivable, but I had wheel damage that caused the car to pull to the right a bit. At that point, I had dropped back several places but was still in the hunt for a top-ten finish.

I decided to continue with the wheel damage until it was time to pit around the 30-minute mark. Normally, for the 40-minute race, we don't take tires, just fuel, but I thought maybe it would be

worth it to replace my two front tires. This proved my undoing, as I now had a car that didn't pull to the right anymore but had mostly worn-out rear tires and new fronts. I spun several times but managed to keep going without losing too many places. Heading through the last lap, I once again spun at the Kink, this time causing catastrophic damage to the car. Race over, P17 of 18. That made for my worst finish so far in the Series, but they do drop one race out of the seven. So, at this point, I'll stick with my goal of a top ten finish for the Series 11 Championship.

The next race will be on March 6th at Zandvoort in the Netherlands, followed by Mugello in Italy on March 20th. The seventh and final race of Series 11 will be at Daytona Road Course in Florida on April 3rd.

I've included a scenic photo of my GT3R racecar, which is miraculously perfect again after being totalled at Road America! There is also a photo of my new Moza wheel, which has an amazing feel and weight. The paddle shifters have a high quality, positive action as well, helping to reduce mis-shifts. Many of the buttons and knobs on the wheel have now been programmed as "hot buttons", allowing me to make more adjustments on the fly.

To learn more about PCA Sim Racing, you can go to the website: <https://pcasimracing.com/>, and to see broadcasts of the races, go to the YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@pcasimracing>. You are also welcome to email me if you have any questions or comments at jeremymayne@msn.com



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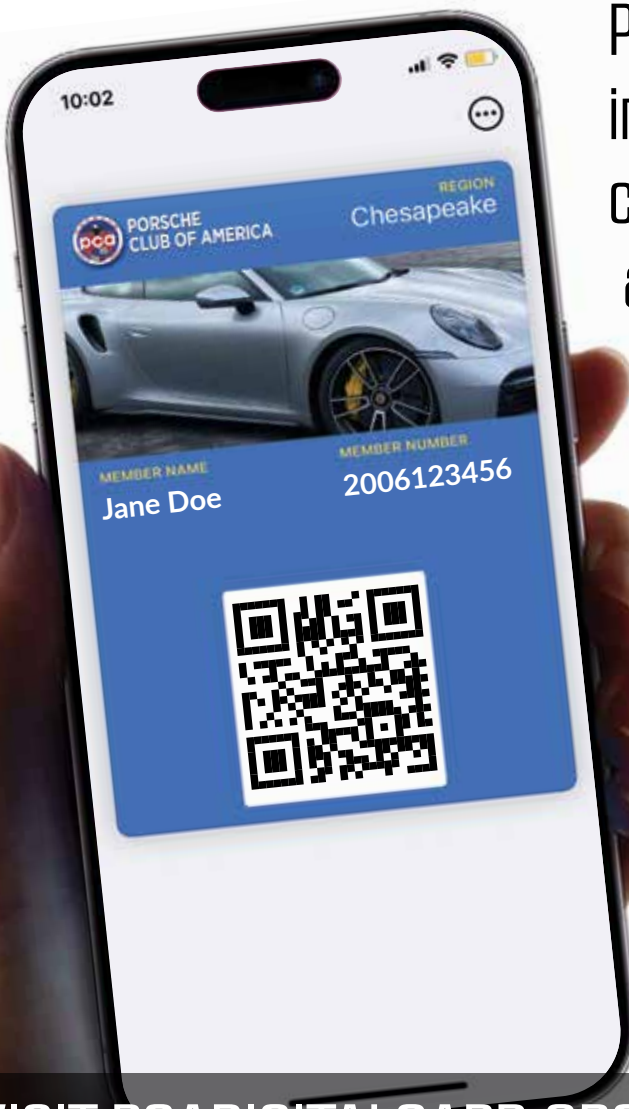


An autocross is a closed-course driving event, and they are held in a large open area - such as a parking lot - where the objective is to safely complete the course in the shortest amount of time. New to Autocrossing? Parade is a great time to give it a try!



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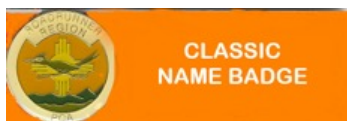


ROLAND WIELE
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



MARCH 2024

As Membership Chair I would like to welcome new and transferred in members to the Roadrunner Region. A schedule of upcoming events can be found on the Roadrunner website at www.rrrpca.com. We encourage you to join in the fun.



Roadrunner Region PCA member badges are available for purchase and can be ordered at rrrpca.com. They are \$20.00 each, including shipping and handling.

Total Primary Members	512
Affiliate Members	321
Total Region Membership	833
Test Drive Participants	3
Test Drive Conversions	0
PCA Juniors	21
Renewals	19
Late and deleted renewals	1

PCA National Membership:

Primary Members	105,070
Affiliate Members	55,085
Lifetime Members	23
Total	160,178

New Members:

Thomas M. Davis – Albuquerque – 2023 Macan
Kelly G. Denison/Elizabeth Denison – Cedar Crest – 2009 Cayman S
Kaveh Mowahed – Santa Fe – 1967 912

New Test Drive Participants:

Transfers In:

Kathryn Mead/William Shell – Santa Fe – Hill Country –
2009 911 Carrera

Transfers Out:

Lapsed:

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Jim Dobier
Drew Fischer
John P. Gonzales
Charles Lamborn
Janet R. Monroe
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Tech Tips from Pedro

IT'S NEVER BEEN TRACKED!

by Pedro P. Bonilla GCR PCA

If you've ever purchased a used Porsche or if you have perused the classifieds for a used Porsche, I'm sure you've seen how many of the sellers state, with pride, and generally in bold letters, that: "this Porsche has never been tracked!"

Every time I read that or hear it from a potential buyer of a car that I'll be doing a Pre-Purchase Inspection (PPI) on, it saddens me.

The way I see it, why buy a Porsche if you will never drive it the way the good Doctor Porsche intended it to be driven?

If you're purchasing a very valuable and collectible example of the marque, as an investment, only to be admired and one day sold for multiple times of what you bought it for, I understand. But to buy it and be afraid to drive it hard is absurd!

Porsches are just one of a handful of cars that are meant for street and track use. I don't mean that you have to be at every track day from every PCA Region and become a track junkie, but one of the greatest feelings in Porsche ownership is driving your car on the track and discovering its and your limits.

It's also good for them! We've come to realize that Porsches that are driven hard (not abused) tend to work better and have less issues 'down the road'.

Some people are concerned about getting a stone chip and cover the front end in blue tape, but it's not that bad! The track is usually fairly clean. Many of the most used tracks around the country are well maintained and kept by a professional crew which does a great job. Furthermore, you can control who's in front of you and how close. If you feel that you're too close just let them get away and you'll have plenty of clean, fresh air in front of you.

Driving on the track is also quite safe!

PCA does everything in its power to make it so.

From the organization of the DE to the safety requirements which must be adhered to.

Within 30 days before you get to the track you need to take your Porsche to an authorized shop for a (complimentary) tech inspection to make sure that the tires, brakes, suspension and all safety equipment such as seat belts, windshield, etc. are in place and operational.



Racetracks are designed for cars to travel at high speed. The surface is generally better than most roads, cars run in the same direction (most of the time), and there are no speeding tickets issued. At all PCA DE events there are professional corner workers present to warn you of any potential dangers ahead through the use of colored flags. And if you want to feel better protected, you can also purchase track insurance for your track day.



When you go to the track for the first time (and for a few more times after that) you are considered a novice driver and will have an assigned instructor riding in the car with you. The instructor is there to guide you by offering information and first-hand knowledge to make your track day safe and fun.



First you start at the classroom where the Chief Instructor will cover the bases and explain how the track day will go. After that, you go on-track!

By attending a few Driver Education (DE) events you eventually can advance to a stage where you no longer need an in-car instructor, although you still keep learning. If you want to pursue it, eventually, you can also become an instructor yourself!

I've been an HPDE instructor for many years and every time I do another track day I learn something new about me and/or my car.

If your Porsche has lived its life strictly on the roads, it really hasn't lived at all.

So, what are you waiting for?

Contact your local PCA Region and sign up for the next DE event.

There's nothing more enjoyable you can do with your Porsche.

Having said all that, I always recommend to anyone wanting to start doing track days, that they should first participate in several autocrosses (AX). They are also a lot of fun!



An AX is a timed event, in a closed-access track, usually on a large, not used parking lot, at an unused airport, or other tarmac where a short course is laid out using bright colored cones. One lap at the AX is generally around 60 seconds and it's just one car at-a-time, on track.



Not sure if these cars can really take the hard driving?

I'll just use my car as an example. It's a 1998 2.5L Boxster.

I started doing DE events as soon as the car finished the break in-period by the Summer of '98 in St. Louis where I was living at the time.

Since then, to date it now just reached 300,000 miles on the odometer and of those, close to 15,000 miles are on the track.

The advantage of first running AX courses is that it helps you learn many of the basics that you will need at the track.

You will learn exactly where your tires are because you need to come very close to the cones without touching them. This will help you to perfectly make your apexes at the track.



I've tracked it at Gateway International, Road America, Bristol Motor Speedway, Homestead-Miami Speedway, Palm Beach International (Moroso), Daytona International Speedway, Roebling Road, Road Atlanta, and at my home track and favorite of all, Sebring International Speedway.

Hope to see you at the AX and track soon!

For more information on HPDE and more, please visit my website: www.PedrosGarage.com.

The AX is generally run in second gear, so speed is manageable, but it tests the limits of your brakes and tire adhesion. You will learn to listen to your tires, which will tell you when they are reaching their limit. The same is true for your brakes. You will engage them and will quickly learn when the ABS is just about to kick in.

By knowing these basics when you do your first DE you won't be overwhelmed with too much information from your instructor which will make your track day a lot more fun and safe.

Happy Porsche'ing,

Pedro

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