

# Palmetto Pipes



PCA Palmetto Region  
[www.pcapalmetto.org](http://www.pcapalmetto.org)

March 2007

## Springtime in Palmetto

We all know what that means. While we are normally able to drive our beloved cars year round, the shorter days don't provide us the time to get out and enjoy like the springtime does. Also, the spring weather here may be the absolute best. I often tell people that winter in Charleston ends at lunchtime. We are lucky to live in an area that has winters that are mild. But springtime is different. Springtime for us is shorts and short sleeves time. The arts come alive. The ladies are likely pulling out their favorite sandals. Many are watching as the basketball season fades and gives way to baseball. So much to choose from.

All of this to tell you to get ready for a busy spring with PCA Palmetto.

**March** meeting at Sticky Fingers in Mt. Pleasant.

**April** we won't have time for a general meeting. We will be either going on the road trip to Tail of the Dragon or the DE with Seat Time Driving. Heck some people are attending both.

**May** will be our Welcome Home party. Like last year this is sure to be a huge hit. Also, Tuggy is planning a Walking Rally in downtown Charleston. This will not only bring the club together in our beautiful town but, should be fun and educational for all.

**June** Well in June we will have a rally to a wine tasting at our local winery on Wadmalaw Island.

These events along with the normal lists that have accumulated over the short winter days will make for a busy, busy spring. Make sure to keep track of these events and the many details as they unfold. Check the website calendar at [www.pcapalmetto.org](http://www.pcapalmetto.org) as well as headlines there. Mark the events now that you plan to attend.

## 24 Hours of Daytona

Who made it to Daytona this year? Well I did and let me tell you from a first timer's point of view this is a can't miss event.

We arrived on Friday with no idea where to go or what to do. We followed the crowd and soon found ourselves parked in the infield of this grand old track with the Koni series race underway around us. The roar was music to our ears. Little did we know this was a very light appetizer for what was in store.

We spent the day finding our way around. We quickly found the Big Green Bus. For those who have made this trip over the years you know this is the unofficial base for PCA Palmetto. Our own Prez was there and we were quickly welcomed. We walked the garages and marveling at the cars and the sights in general. Having a local PCA connection through Bob Woodman and Autometrics Racing made us feel like we belonged there. As daylight turned to dark and the evening began to quiet we decided to leave for the day and formulate a plan for Saturday's race.

We arrived early Saturday and walked the garages noting the state of disrepair some of the cars seemed to be in just hours before race time. To an untrained eye the thought was these guys won't be ready to race. Note that the Autometrics team cars were not only fully race ready they were practicing pit stops to shave a few seconds. While there are no Nascar like, 15 second pitstops in a 24 hour race, A mistake could result in a trip behind the wall costing many laps. But, it was quickly noted that the teams, even those that appeared a long way from race ready were calm and methodical. (contd. Pg 4)



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# Palmetto Pipes

## From the Prez

Hello Fellow PCAers,

I just returned from the Winterfest in Chattanooga, Tn. Where we had our Zone 3 president's meeting. (14 regions in the southeast) and discussed a lot of what's going on in the national club. What a great Porsche weekend! Debbie and I saw many of our old PCA friends and everyone had a fantastic time. Many asked, "Why don't we host an event in Charleston?" I assured my fellow presidents that we would love to host something. Maybe after Parade 2008.

Well spring is here or maybe not... Should we cut on the heat or the A/C? Oh well it will be hot soon enough. We have a lot of planned activities so stay tuned.

The March 13th meeting will be held at Sticky Fingers in Mt. Pleasant at 7 PM where Mike Duck will be there to talk to us about Parade 2008. Volunteers are needed. This is very important. If you plan to attend Parade you should make this meeting.

Our welcome home party is planned for Saturday May 12th 6-10 PM at the Stone Ferry club house in Hollywood. Details will follow on the website.

Speaking of websites, our plans are to email the newsletter starting with the March edition. Our single largest club expense is the printing and mailing of the newsletter. Make sure your email address is current with PCA Palmetto. Send it to any officer to update. Lastly we still have t-shirts for \$15.00. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting...

*AL*





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**Your site for current events...**

### **Driver Education 101**

I have commented on driver educations in past issues like I knew something about them. Fact is I have never been but, I have registered to go to my first.

Anxious and excited, I am open for helpful hints. My car is 28 years old now but never lets me down so I am ready there. Are there components that need to be replaced? Of course there are but, it is much more prepared than I am at this point. My approach is when the car begins to slow me down instead of vice versa I will make upgrades.

My thoughts are that whoever draws this amateur of amateurs as a student will spend most of his time telling me to go faster.

Fun, its all about fun and that's what I intend to do with the opportunity. Fellow Palmetto member Scott Hornsby let me borrow a video of a recent DE he attended. Watching my thought were OK this looks easy enough. When I returned the tape he commented that coming into the front stretch the trick is to carry lots of speed which he says he never does. I asked how fast? He responded 90 mph. OK so we are rounding a turn at 90. so that we can accelerate down the front stretch...

Do I need to say this will be a new experience for me? More thoughts to follow as the day draws nearer...

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## **24 Hours of Daytona (contd from pg 1)**

They know these cars like no others. These are professionals

The drivers were calm and cool while anxious to get started. This is what they do. This is game day for these drivers. They would rather be behind the wheel of these magnificently prepared cars than standing in the garage waiting. That is where they are in control. Those that aren't excited fall behind. Those that aren't comfortable with this surrounding are quickly nudged aside by someone who is.

We watched Bob Woodman make laps in the beautifully prepared vintage 911. After these laps Bob was at the big green Bus with his family. Apparently Bob's daughter made the laps with him and wearing a racing suit led to some mistaken identities for her. She actually signed a few autographs. What a thrill for a teenager to ride in a car with her father on the famous highbanks of Daytona and then have an autograph session after.

As the time for the dropping of the green flag approached we made our way to the grandstands. Waiting for those words from Richard Petty, we found what we thought were good seats to watch the start. We had no idea. The cars started and were loud as they made several warm up laps. We were at the top of the grandstands lower level, obviously choice seats for Daytona events. Finally the pace car peeled off into the pit and the green flag was waved. We just thought the cars were loud before. The roar as these cars thundered into the first turn. This is not Daytona's first turn but the road course's first turn. I can only believe that there is an understanding that you stay at your speed and maintain your line through this first turn. There is hardly room for 3 cars to be parked by a NY parking lot attendant much less 3 cars racing at serious speeds.

If you choose to stand by the fence as the cars pass mere feet away at full throttle, you quickly realize why the signs warn against this. I have never felt the raw power that these cars exude. It is literally breathtaking. The roar can be felt from head to toe. Your chest vibrates. Yes, they are that loud. This roar could be heard when we returned to our hotel that night some 10 miles away.

From the grandstands you get a great overview of the event but you find yourself wanting to experience the road course section of the track from down at ground level. While this event is heavily attended the enormity of the facility makes any viewing point and any point of view easy. Every view has it's advantages. The PCA Paddock overlooks the track and affords a view of the race on big screen much like the old drive in movie days.

By the time the 01 car took the checkered flag and we were on I-95 headed back home we had all of the plans made for next year. These plans include everything from hotel reservation to lawn chairs to food and beverages to stock the cooler. Make plans now to attend you won't be disappointed.



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**Welcome Home Party  
Stono Ferry Club House  
Hollywood, SC  
May 12th  
6-10 PM**

**Mark your calendar now you won't want to miss it.**



**A view of the Porsche Paddock at the 24  
Hours of Daytona**

## **Cha...Cha...Changes...**

As with anything good, changes are required to move forward. We are once again making changes to the newsletter. The latest evolution in the newsletter is that it will only be available on line. This change is based on finances.

As everyone knows, PCA Palmetto was in the rebuild mode most of last year. While rebuilding, many great things happened. We had numerous events that reminded us all why we are here. Friendships. We are here to develop and maintain friendships that are as much a part of PCA as the cars that so lovingly adorn our garages.

We have partied, rallied, roadtripped, and had a great time while admiring the various cars that are all perfect in their own ways.

As we continue to move forward, we are required to look at finances and make decisions. One item that was very dear was that our greatest single expense was the newsletter. This newsletter played an integral part in the club growth and will continue to do so but the printing and mailing expenses have become more than the club can bear.

With today's technology and internet service the answer to maintaining a line of communication while obvious. A better line? Maybe for some while not for others but we will do what we have to do to make sure that the needs of all members are met.

The newsletter will still be created and will be uploaded in a format that is easy to download or for those that wish it can be printed and read as always.

We still invite everyone to contribute and use the newsletter as a focal point of the club. The website has reached a point where it is a daily newsletter and information is available as soon as it comes to light in this format.

Any concerns or comments concerning this change are certainly welcomed. Contact any of your officers and let us know your thoughts.

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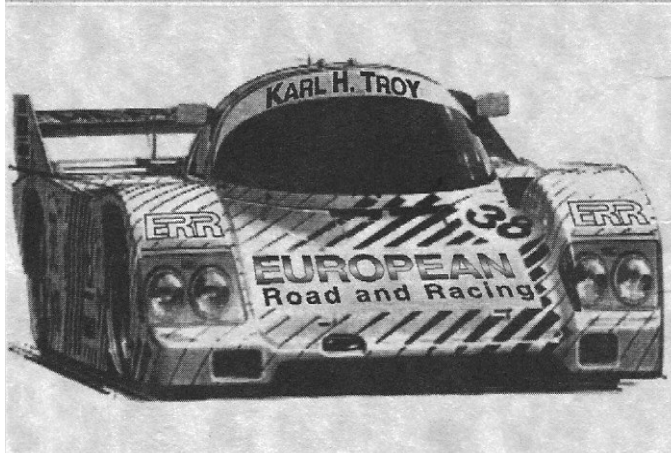
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## ***Palmetto Pipes***

PCA Palmetto Region

March 2007

### **March**

- 2 Turn One Open Track Day CMP
- 3-4 Carolina's Region DE, CMP
- 13 PCA Palmetto Monthly Meeting @  
Sticky Fingers, Mt Pleasant

### **April**

- 6-7 Driver Education @ Roebing Road
- 20-22 Tail of the Dragon Trip

### **Saturday Breakfast**

Dr. Bob and the gang have moved. The Saturday breakfast is now held at Sunflower Café on Hwy. 61 @ 8:00 every Saturday. Join us.....

## ***Palmetto Pipes***

3169 Stanyarne Drive  
Charleston, SC 29414

### ***Monthly Meeting***

PCA Palmetto Monthly Meeting  
13 March at Sticky Fingers in Mt. Pleasant  
Go to [www.pcapalmetto.org](http://www.pcapalmetto.org) for details