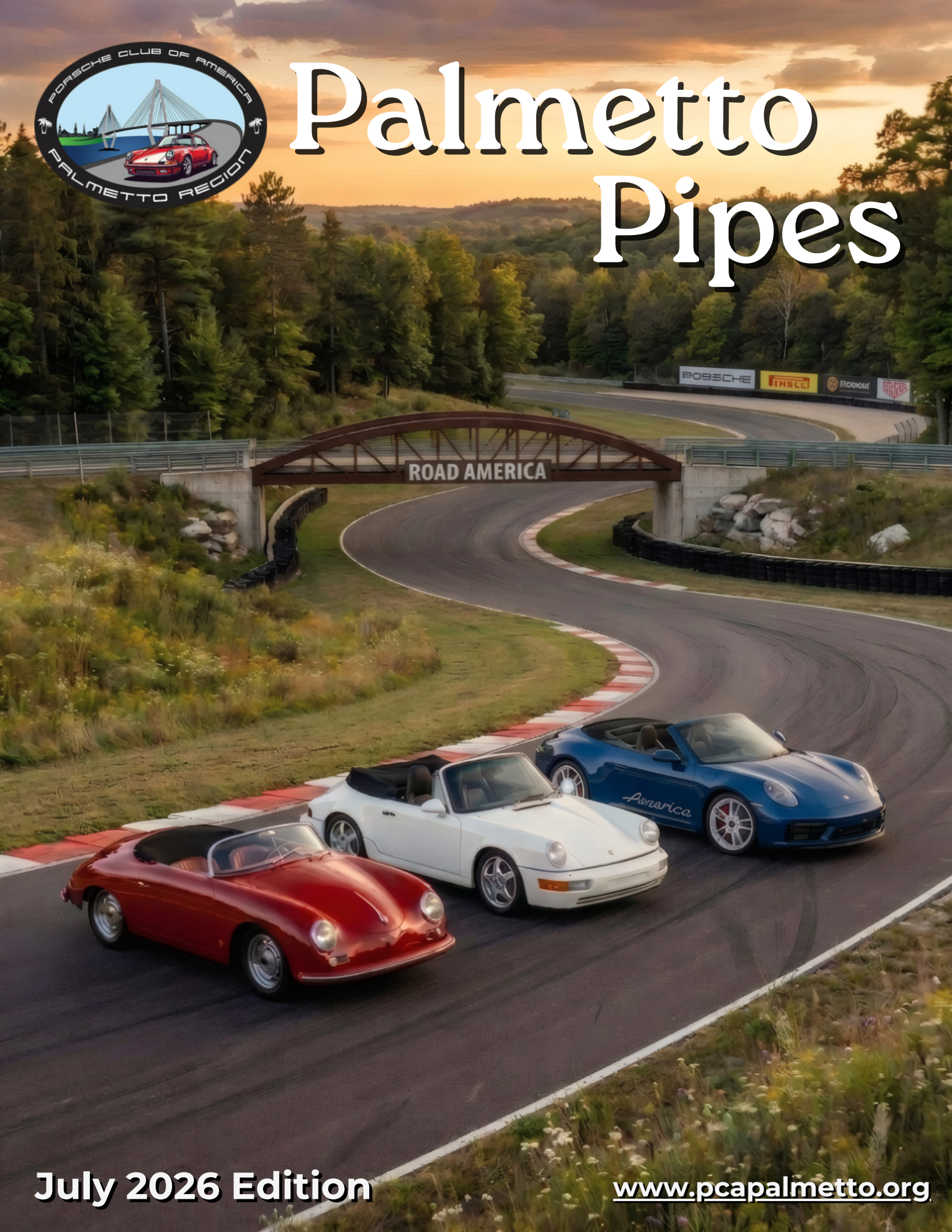
Palmetto Pipes



July 2026 Edition

www.pcapalmetto.org

Region Officers

President:
Keith Kirwin
Vice President:
Lola Massoglia
Secretary:
Jason Proctor
Treasurer:
Andy Cygan
Membership
Keith Gardner
Grand Strand Area Director
Jennifer Mims
Website:
Josh Stolarz

Newsletter Team:
Gary Becroft
Rusty Waddell
Josh Stolarz
Tony Morelli
Nicci Morelli

Zone 3 Representative
Rick Daniels

Contact Us
pcapalmetto.org/contacts

In this Issue

3 Upcoming Events
4 Presidents Column
5 Membership Update
6 New Member Welcome and Drive
7 The Longest Drive
8 Stars, Stripes, and Flat-Sixes
11 Porsche Parade 2026
13 Help Shape the Future of Palmetto Pipes
15 Cliff's Corner
16 Inside Track
17 Sponsors

More than just a car—it's a passion.
What's your Porsche story?

SUBMIT YOUR STORY HERE.

Interested in helping with Newsletter content?

SEND US AN EMAIL AT
NEWSLETTER@PCAPALMETTO.ORG

EXPLORE PAST ISSUES

Cover: Three generations of America Porsches at Road America
Photo: *Josh Stolarz*

FOR ALL THE LATEST UPDATES VISIT PCAPALMETTO.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLICK ON UNDERLINED WORDING BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS

JULY 11TH

Saturday, 9am:
Grand Strand Breakfast on Pawleys Island
Join fellow Grand Strand Porschephiles for breakfast every other month at the Millstone Biscuit Company on Pawleys Island.

JULY 14TH

Tuesday, 6:30pm:
Monthly Palmetto Social
Join your fellow PCA members at Tavern & Table on Shem Creek for our July dinner.

JULY 25TH

Saturday, 9:00am:
New Member Welcome at Brookgreen Gardens
Fire up your Porsche on July 25th for the Palmetto PCA New Member Drive & Dine - a day designed for scenic backroads, fine dining, and the camaraderie of the club. While this event is open to all members, we are rolling out the red carpet for our newest additions.

JULY 19TH

Sunday, 7:00am:
Peachstate PCA Autocross 4
Each round of the 2026 championship will take place at Echo Park Speedway, Hampton, GA.

JULY 30TH

Thursday-Sunday
Porsche Carerra Cup - Road America
The summer race weekend at the Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, circuit features extensive Porsche and sportscar racing.

AUG 8TH

Saturday 5pm:
Drive and Dine to Harold's Country Club
Our annual Tuggy Memorial Drive & Dine to Harold's Country Club in Yemassee on Saturday, August 16th!

Presidents Column

As we continue building momentum across Palmetto Region, I'd like to begin by recognizing one of our own. Congratulations to our Webmaster, Josh Stolarz, for earning PCA's Best in Class Website Award for clubs in our size category. This national recognition is a testament to Josh's countless hours of dedication, creativity, and commitment to keeping our members informed and connected. On behalf of the entire club, thank you, Josh, for representing Palmetto Region so well.

Another highlight this year has been the continued success of our monthly social dinners. We've enjoyed excellent venues, great service, and consistently strong attendance. I also want to thank everyone for responding to our RSVP requests. Your advance responses allow our restaurant partners to prepare properly for our group, resulting in a better experience for everyone. Your cooperation has truly made these gatherings more enjoyable and successful.

Our club continues to grow at an exciting pace, with new members joining on a regular basis. Earlier this year, PCA recognized Palmetto Region as #10 in the nation in percentage membership growth, and that accomplishment belongs to every member who welcomes newcomers and helps create the friendly atmosphere that makes our region so special.

I'm also looking forward to the July editions of both Panorama and Octane magazines. Our Evening with the Bells continues to generate excitement, and we're expecting coverage in Panorama, while Derek Bell's article in Octane will include his time in Charleston and his experience with Palmetto Region. It's exciting to see our club receiving recognition not only within PCA, but on an international stage as well.
One final note for our members who attended the Evening with the Bells: the limited-edition memorabilia personally signed by Derek and Justin Bell was not available the night of the event. Derek graciously signed these curated pieces the following day, and they are now available for purchase through our club website while supplies last.

Speaking of getting on the road, registration is officially open for two fantastic summer events you won't want to miss. First, on Saturday, July 25th, we are hosting a New Member Welcome Drive & Dine to Brookgreen Gardens. We've organized simultaneous northern and southern rally routes that will converge at the gardens, where we've secured an exclusive, Porsche-only parking corral before heading to lunch at Harvest Restaurant. Then, on Saturday, August 16th, we are partnering with the Coastal Empire Region for our highly anticipated annual Drive and Dine to Harold's Country Club in Yemassee for their famous Steak Night. Head over to the website calendar now to view the full route details, meeting locations, and to RSVP so we can secure our final headcounts for both venues!

We have a number of exciting events planned throughout the remainder of the summer and into the fall. Whether you enjoy social dinners, scenic drives, car shows, or special gatherings, there's something for everyone. Be sure to check our website and event calendar regularly for the latest details. Our continued growth comes from members getting involved, and I hope to see you at an upcoming event soon.

Warm regards,
Keith Kirwin
President, Palmetto Region PCA

Membership Update

PCA National Membership: 170,522
Palmetto Region: 842 Members
Primary: 555 | Affiliate: 287 | Test Drive: 5

Welcome Our Newest Members

Jamie Britt
2007 911 Carrera S Cabriolet

Dan J. Furlong
2001 911 Carrera 4 Cabriolet

Grady Marsh
2011 Cayenne Turbo

Norm Uress
2023 Macan

Alan Lowenthal TRANSFER
2014 911 Carrera S
from Southeast Michigan

Marc Fischer
2026 911 GT3

Dennis James Howell
2005 911 Carrera S

Steph Mcdonald
2016 Cayenne

Dan J. Furlong TRANSFER
2001 911 Carrera 4 Cabriolet
from Coastal Empire

Peter R. Walters TRANSFER
2000 911 Carrera Cabriolet
from Metropolitan New York

One Month Behind

Join Us for the New Member Drive & Dine! > Rev up your engines for an unforgettable day of camaraderie and coastal cruising. On **Saturday, July 25th**, the Palmetto Region is hosting a New Member Welcome that brings together two beautiful, scenic driving routes, concluding at the breathtaking Brookgreen Gardens. Whether you are a brand-new member or a long-time enthusiast, this is the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow Porsche lovers, enjoy exclusive Porsche-only parking, and share a delicious meal at the Harvest Restaurant. Don't miss your chance to experience the best of our club community.

Register Today...

No Women's Drive for July, plan for an August drive.

Drive & Dine to Harold's Country Club

Get ready for our annual Tuggy Memorial Drive & Dine to Harold's Country Club in Yemassee on **Saturday, August 8th**! This year, we're teaming up with the Coastal Empire Porsche Region for what promises to be another fantastic evening of scenic driving and delicious food.

Harold's Country Club is famous for its steak night, and for just $26 per person, you'll enjoy a steak (or chicken for $19), access to the salad bar, a baked potato, and coffee or tea.

Please register and pay by August 6th, the sooner the better...

Driving Together from West Ashley

For those in the Charleston area who'd like to drive to Yemassee together, please meet at the South State Bank at 3628 Savannah Highway in West Ashley (next to Publix Market). We'll depart promptly at 5:00 PM. Dinner at Harold's Country Club begins at 6:30 PM.

We look forward to seeing you there for a memorable drive and a wonderful meal!

https://www.pcapalmetto.org/palmettonews/2026-drive-and-dine-harolds-country-club/

Stars, Stripes, and Flat-Sixes: Celebrating America 250 with Porsche's Most Exclusive Moniker

Story: The Duke

As the United States celebrates its landmark 250th anniversary this July, automotive enthusiasts nationwide are looking back at the machinery that defined the American road. For Porsche purists, this milestone aligns perfectly with a highly exclusive, fiercely protected bloodline: the America Editions.

Porsche has long treated the United States as its spiritual second home. To honor this unique relationship, Zuffenhausen has occasionally released purpose-built, highly limited sports cars designed explicitly for the American driver. Spanning seven decades, this lineage represents the pinnacle of open-air, driver-focused performance.

The Precursor: Reversing the Hacksaw
In our May issue, we dove deep into the miracle restoration of Chassis 356/2-063, the legendary 1951 Le Mans class-winning Gmünd Coupé. As our readers will recall, that specific car served as the accidental, rebellious blueprint for Porsche's entire American expansion.

Seeking a competitive edge on the sun-drenched California racing circuit, legendary importer John von Neumann famously took a saw to the historic vehicle, hacking off its aluminum roof to shed weight and create an open-top racer. When visionary US importer Max Hoffman laid eyes on von Neumann's modified creation, he didn't see a ruined artifact—he saw the future.

Hoffman brought photos of the chopped-down coupe directly to Ferry Porsche in Zuffenhausen, issuing a historic challenge: "If you build a factory version of this, I can sell it for under $3,000". Porsche listened. That direct line of cross-continental influence immediately birthed the official "America" lineage.

The ultra-rare 1952 356 America Roadster, the direct ancestor to the iconic Speedster.

1. The Genesis: The 1952 356 America Roadster (Type 540)
The car built to fulfill Hoffman's promise an uncompromising, bare-bones speed machine. Built by coachbuilder Gläser, the Type 540 featured a lightweight aluminum body, a minimalist detachable windscreen, and removable side curtains.

- The Powertrain: A 1,480 cc flat-four engine producing 70 horsepower—a massive jump from the standard 40-horsepower models of the era.
- The Rarity: Because the coachbuilder faced severe financial strain during production, only 16 official aluminum units were ever completed.
- The Impact: Though incredibly rare, its immense popularity at track events proved Hoffman right, directly convincing the factory to develop the mass-production 356 Speedster.

2. The Revival: The 1992–1993 911 America Roadster (964 Generation)
Exactly forty years after the original, Porsche revived the moniker for the air-cooled 964 generation. This model was a masterful exercise in grand touring aesthetics meets pure sports car mechanics.

- The Recipe: Porsche took a standard rear-wheel-drive Carrera 2 Cabriolet and dressed it in the aggressive, ultra-widebody hips of the contemporary 911 Turbo. To maximize its driver-focused mission, the rear seats were deleted entirely in favor of a luggage shelf.
- The Performance: It utilized the Turbo's heavy-duty brakes, suspension, and 17-inch Cup wheels, but retained the naturally aspirated 3.6-liter flat-six (250 hp).
- The America 250 Connection: In a stunning piece of mathematical poetry for this July's celebration, Porsche capped production at exactly 250 units for North America.

3. The Modern Homage: The 2023 911 Carrera GTS Cabriolet America Edition (992)
Unveiled at the 2022 Porsche Parade, the modern iteration is a visual love letter from Porsche Exclusive Manufaktur to the original 1952 Type 540.

- The Design: Finished in a bespoke Paint-to-Sample Azure Blue 356, the car features subtle red and white graphics reading "America" along the doors. The windshield frame is uniquely wrapped in Satin Black to trick the eye into seeing the thin, delicate pillars of the 1950s original.
- The Wheels: It marks Porsche's first-ever tri-finish wheel design, showcasing RS Spyder rims with white spokes, a polished silver face, and a delicate Guards Red outer pinstripe.
- The Philosophy: Pushing 473 horsepower from a twin-turbo 3.0-liter flat-six, Porsche restricted this special edition strictly to a 7-speed manual transmission and rear-wheel drive. Only 115 units were built (100 for the US, 15 for Canada).

The Hardtop Exception: The 1993 RS America
While the core "America" bloodline is strictly an open-top, wind-in-your-hair affair, no American tribute is complete without mentioning the 1993–1994 911 RS America. When US enthusiasts realized they wouldn't get Europe's hardcore Carrera RS due to emissions regulations, Porsche stepped up. They stripped out the power steering, cruise control, air conditioning, and sound deadening, replacing the interior door handles with fabric pull-straps and slapping a fixed "whale-tail" wing on the decklid. It remains one of the most raw, celebrated US-exclusive track toys ever built.

Freedom of the Open Road
From the tracks of 1950s California to the modern highways of today, the "America" lineage proves that Porsche's greatest muse has always been the American enthusiast. As we celebrate America 250 this July, these rare machines remind us that the pursuit of happiness is best done from behind the wheel of a flat-six sports car.

Local Dealership Alternative

WRIGHT AUTO WORKS

843-865-6783

Charleston's Trusted Porsche Experts!

PORSCHE PARADE 2026: LAKE PLACID

By: Gary Becroft

Palmetto Region Shines at the Record-Breaking 2026 Porsche Parade

The 2026 Porsche Club of America Parade in Lake Placid, NY, turned out to be the largest Parade in PCA history. My wife Judy and I flew into Albany and drove up to the historic village, checking into the Golden Arrow Resort to a gorgeous view of Mirror Lake from our balcony. We weren't alone in the Adirondacks, as several Palmetto PCA members made the trek north to join the festivities.

On Monday morning, a light rain didn't deter the large crowd gathered for the Concours d'Elegance. The cars were displayed on the historic 1980 Olympic speed skating oval, with the towering ski jumps visible in the distance. A major highlight was Porsche revealing three secret project cars built in partnership with PIXAR Studios for the upcoming Toy Story 5 movie: a Buzz Lightyear GT3 RS (complete with custom "Light Year" tires), a Jessie car, and a Woody car. That afternoon, I volunteered at the Historic Display on the same oval, enjoying a fantastic lineup of significant Porsches ranging from early 356s to a legendary 959.

Tuesday brought spectacular weather and some incredible PCA tours. First, we visited the Olympic Ski Jump complex to watch future Olympians training. Because it was summer, they were jumping on a special brush-like material watered down to make it slippery. We even got to chat with the young athletes in the elevator on our way to the top of the tower. In the afternoon, we headed to Mt. Van Hoevenberg. After a tour guided by 2026 Olympic Skeleton competitor Mystique Roe, I signed up for the "Discover Luge" activity. Flying down the track on a wheeled luge just two inches off the ground at 25 mph—with no brakes but your own shoes—felt incredibly fast!

Wednesday was spent at the Tech Tactics presentations. Nathan Merz started the day with a humorous but highly educational talk on estate planning and liquidating car collections, offering great advice on making life easier for your family down the road. Other speakers covered everything from classic restorations to modern electric car driving experiences. Our evenings were filled with exploring local restaurants and enjoying excellent food and drinks with fellow PCAers.

Although the Parade continued through Saturday with rallies, autocross, and an art show, we checked out on Thursday to head home. The best news from the event came later that week: on Thursday evening, Palmetto Region and Webmaster Josh Stolarz won the National Award for Best Region Website (Class 4), and on Friday, past president Joe Carastro took 1st place overall in the Parade Technical Quiz!

It was an incredibly eventful trip with fantastic Porsche aficionados. Next year's PCA Parade will be held in Boise, Idaho from July 11 to July 17, so start planning for a new adventure.

Be sure to check out **pcapalmetto.org** to view the full photo gallery from Parade 2026!

PALMETTO SPELLING BEE RALLY

Are you ready for the Palmetto Region Spelling Bee Rally?

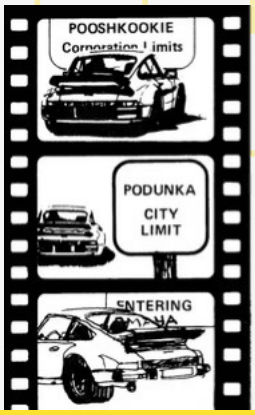
You might be wondering—what exactly is a Spelling Bee Rally? Let us tell you: it's a fun and unique adventure in your Porsche designed to be enjoyed at your own pace (you have until the end of November to finish it), whether you're going solo or with friends.

What is a Spelling Bee Rally?

The Spelling Bee Rally is an exciting tour where participants visit towns and cities of their choice, covering a required number of locations. Here's the twist: you'll be given a special phrase, and for each letter in that phrase, you must visit a town or city whose name starts with the corresponding letter.

For example, if the phrase contains the letter "S," you'd visit a town like Summerville. You'll take a photo as proof of your arrival—it's as simple as that!

Whether you're looking for a relaxing drive or a creative challenge, this rally has something for everyone.



Palmetto SPELLING BEE RALLY

Ready to get creative? 'Flair' points are awarded for the most unique photos!

MORE DETAILS HERE

Behind the Wheel:
Help Shape the Future of Palmetto Pipes

The best part of being in the Palmetto Region PCA isn't just the cars—it's the people and the journeys behind the wheel. While our official region newsletter originally kicked off in 1969 as the Porsche Palms, it ultimately settled into its iconic name, Palmetto Pipes, in 1975. After a brief recent hiatus, Pipes was proudly brought back and completely modernized into a full magazine style in July 2025.

Now that we've crossed the one-year mark of its relaunch, we want to ensure it continues to reflect our incredible members...

Every Porsche has a story, and behind every wheel is an enthusiast. Whether you are searching out the winding roads around Charleston, taking a weekend cruise out to Kiawah Island, or logging track miles at Roebling Road Raceway, your experiences are what make our local club community so vibrant.

We are actively seeking member submissions to keep Palmetto Pipes rolling, but we want to make sure your content gets to the right place. We have two distinct ways you can contribute:

1. Tell Us "Your Porsche Story"
You don't need to be a professional writer to be featured in Palmetto Pipes! For this monthly feature, we aren't looking for a polished essay—we just want to get to know you and your cars. We've set up a quick question-and-answer form to guide you through sharing your journey.

The questions are simple:
- What's currently in your garage?
- What Porsche(s) have you owned?
- The "Spark": What first hooked you on Porsche?
- Your Favorite Memories: Tell us about your first Porsche (or your favorite memory with one).
- Show it off: Upload a few photos of your current Porsche, a past favorite, or your very first one!

Ready to share your journey? Just head to the form, fill out your answers, drop in your photos, and our editorial team will handle the rest. 👉 **Submit Your Porsche Story Here**

2. Submit General Newsletter Content & Event Coverage
Did you just attend a local Palmetto Region cars and coffee, a drive-and-dine, or a DIY tech session? Do you have club-related news, official announcements, or photos from a recent regional event that belong in the next issue?

How to submit general content:
To ensure our editorial team can track and format event coverage efficiently, please upload your write-ups, event recaps, and photo links directly via our content submission form.

Deadlines: To make the upcoming monthly issue, please ensure all general content is submitted by the 15th of the month (this gives our editors plenty of time to lay out the formatting before publication!).
👉 **Submit General Newsletter Content Here**

The Fine Print (Submission Caveats)
- Article and photo submissions must be provided by the original author/photographer.
- Submissions must be original content that has not been published previously.
- Share as much or as little as you would like—we just want to hear about your unique experience!

Help us celebrate the cars and the people that bring the Porsche legend to life right here in the Lowcountry. Head over to the forms and send in your content today! **We can't wait to read about what you've been up to.**

Make your fantasy car your reality car.

PORSCHE APPROVED CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED VEHICLES.

Having a Porsche of your very own is now closer to reality than ever. Every Porsche Approved Pre-owned vehicle has been meticulously inspected to meet our high standard of excellence, and is covered by a 2-year limited warranty. Ensuring that in every way, your dream Porsche is the real deal.

Porsche Charleston
1515 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407
843-852-4005
https://charleston.porsche.com

©2024 Porsche Cars North America, Inc. Porsche recommends seat belt usage and observance of traffic laws at all times.

CLIFF'S CORNER

THE VALUE OF A CAR

By Cliff Hudson

Over the next few months, I'll talk about purchasing cars both new and used. I don't know how many months this subject will take, because there is a lot to cover. Bear in mind that these are my opinions and in most cases are applicable to all brands, not just Porsche.

I was an automotive dealer until Covid. Our goal was to offer only the nicest of inventory and focus on the higher quality brands. We weren't high volume, so at any given time there may only be a few cars in our inventory.

Most customers assumed that we were only a repair shop and were not aware that we were also a licensed South Carolina car dealer. Over the years, many service customers inquired about cars that were out front for sale. A few of the conversations went as follows:

"Hey Cliff, I've been looking at that car that you have out front. I see that you are asking $28,000 which the internet says is the correct asking price for a dealer, but the private party sell price is $26,000".

I then would ask the customer, "Oh, so my asking price is accurate only for a dealer?" to which the customer would always respond, "That's right!" I would then smile and say, "That's great, because I AM a dealer!!" (no customer ever responded, "Awesome!")

I have told this humorous story only for one reason. The customers had assumed that I was selling the car personally and hey, who doesn't look for a way to lower the cost? But as I would then explain to the customer, the value of a car is not influenced or determined by who happens to own the asphalt where it is offered for sale. The value is the value and while values can be influenced by several factors, it is my opinion that ownership is not one of those factors. I often paid more for a car being sold by an individual who had impeccable service records, than one offered at auction or being wholesaled by a local dealer with zero maintenance history.

Having said that, there are cases where a car's value can be influenced and command a far higher price than comparable models when a former owner was a famous celebrity, actor, racer, etc. Janis Joplin's psychedelic painted 356 comes to mind.

As for trading in or selling to a dealer, retail price should never be expected. The business is in business for profit, which means that we (hopefully) sell products at a price higher than we paid for them. I covered this in last month's article. If your goal is for "all" of retail money, then you may need to attempt to sell the car yourself.

You read where I mentioned maintenance history. Next month I'll discuss where that can and cannot be found and a misconception that seems to permeate the marketplace.

INSIDE Track

Brought to you by Rusty

Porsche's top management is looking at a number of actions in light of their dismal **financial results** over the past couple of years. The major causes of current poor results are well documented in Panorama and can be boiled down to basically three causes: the significant decline of vehicle sales in Porsche's largest market (China down over 25%), very disappointing sales numbers and profit margins on electric vehicles after very, very large expenditures in their design and production and on a smaller scale the plus $810 million paid in U.S. tariffs (2025 figure). VW Group which Porsche is a part of paid over $3.3 billion from just April through December of 2025.

One interesting decision currently **under consideration by Porsche is the construction of a U.S. production facility** to help offset the tariff mandates. Two other German automobile companies already have vehicles being produced in the U.S. BMW's only plant is in Greer, SC and Mercedes has a plant in Tuscaloosa and a van assembly plant in Charleston.

It seems the logical Porsche models to be produced here would be the SUV lineup given our craving for larger vehicles. Both the BMW and Mercedes plants in the U.S. produce SUV's currently.

On a totally different topic the most recent **J.D. Power Vehicle Dependability Study** (first three years of ownership) shows the following brands at the head of the list as being the most dependable: Lexus (no surprise here) followed by Buick, MINI, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Subaru and Porsche. Bringing up the rear were: Audi, Jeep, Land Rover, Volvo and in last place was Volkswagen. The persistent problems with infotainment systems, spotty performance of over-the-air software updates and issues with vehicle exteriors top the list of issues owners reported.

Supporters of the Region

Interested in Sponsorship?

WRIGHT AUTO WORKS

European ROAD AND RACING

COOL SHEDS .COM

PORSCHE

Porsche Charleston

HAGERTY®

BOLES LAW FIRM, LLC

AUDIO EVOLUTION

AUTOMETRICS motorsports

KINGSVIEW PARTNERS

EGGS UP GRILL®

FAST LANE TRAVEL®

www.pcapalmetto.org

www.pcapalmetto.org/calendar

www.pcapalmetto.org/contacts

Palmetto Pipes