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**January/February 2026**



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# DIE OFFENE STRASSE

(The Open Road)  
Published Monthly by the  
Mid-Ohio Regional Porsche Club of America

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### Club Photographer

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Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged and should be in the hands of the editor by the 10th of each month for the following month's issue.

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## The Passenger Seat

**DEBRA STONER**  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

I've just wrapped up my first year as your newsletter editor. While I wouldn't claim to be fluent in InDesign, I can now at least find my way around without panic clicking. I'm officially capable of using the software for other projects. If life ever slows down, I fully intend to complete the InDesign Beginner on-line class... emphasis on if.

With a year under my belt, I've noticed a pattern: winter months tend to be a little lighter on content than the warmer months, when social activities rev up and garages empty out. And no, you didn't miss the January issue. Beginning in 2026, there will be eight newsletter issues per year.

Honestly, this will make the editor's job a bit easier while (hopefully) giving you issues packed with more great content. You'll notice this issue includes another guest writer. We love hearing from you about your Porsche experiences. Stories are always welcome, and photos are an appreciated bonus.

At the Holiday Party, I passed out a QR code to submit "Your Porsche Journey," which I'll be using to highlight members. Thank you to those who filled it

out on the spot. On page 29 is a new code, so please consider sharing. Fair warning: photos will be requested to go along with your spotlight.

I also managed to recruit one new volunteer, Anne Fuller, to help with photos and stories this summer for Drive and Dines. Yes! A huge thank-you goes to Alan Schultz, whose Holiday Party photos appear throughout this issue. This newsletter truly wouldn't happen without the extra volunteers and contributors.

I was originally the backup plan if the board couldn't find a newsletter editor, so I was deeply honored when Steve Eisenbrown presented me with the President's Award at the Holiday Party. Thank you for that recognition and support.

Here's hoping March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, so we can wash the cars, clean out the garages, and get back to enjoying the people and the drive.

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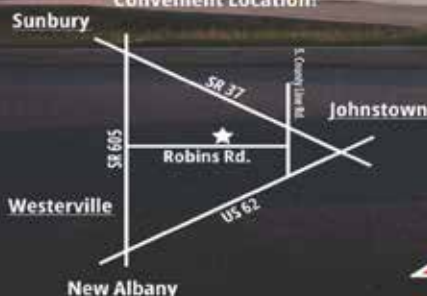
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**PORSCHE**

# **Der Fahrersitz**

## **The Driver's Seat**

**Steve Eisenbrown**  
**MORPCA President**



Dear MORPCA members,

I hope everyone is making it through this brutal weather episode. Regardless I am thinking about Spring and our many events to come this year. We have had an exceptional start of the year beginning with the New Members/Holiday Event in January at the Boathouse. It was a sellout with over 20 new members joining in on the fun. Plans are already being formulated by Melinda and Frank Todaro for next year's location. Stay tuned.

Even though it was 10 degrees out we had a sellout Trickle Charge activity hosted by Chip Vance and his team at Auto Assets in Feb. We held our annual food drive for the Mid-Ohio Food Collective as well. It was fun to learn a number of car tips as well as raised over \$6000 and collected 1100# of food. (Tip-Did you know to lock your car in the garage in order to shut down all car electronics and save the battery from parasitic drain?) Thanks Chip.

We are in need of volunteers for some key roles. First, the treasurer role is open as Vicki Kilbourne, who has done a great job, has asked to move on due a busy schedule. The role doesn't require a CPA background given the work is structured through software tools. Please give this your consideration and give either I or Mike Stoner a call to discuss if you are interested. The second role is membership chair. Linda Grossglass is "retiring" after many years of service at the end of the year. This is a fun job as you get to meet and educate new members coming into our region. Linda will be available to assist along the way. Thank both Vicki and Linda the next time you see one of them at an event!

That's it for the moment. Stay safe out there!  
Steve

Congratulations to this year's award recipients:

**Ron Carr Appreciation Award**  
**Andy Welter**

**Broken Wheel Award**  
**Chris Kanner**

**President's Award**  
**Debra Stoner**

**Driver of the Year**  
**Jose Isern**

**The Zombek Enthusiast Award**  
**Kevin Hennessy**





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# FUN DRIVE



By  
**Mike Stoner**  
**MORPCA Vice President**

**JULY 22-26**

## **Great Drives – Laurel Highlands**

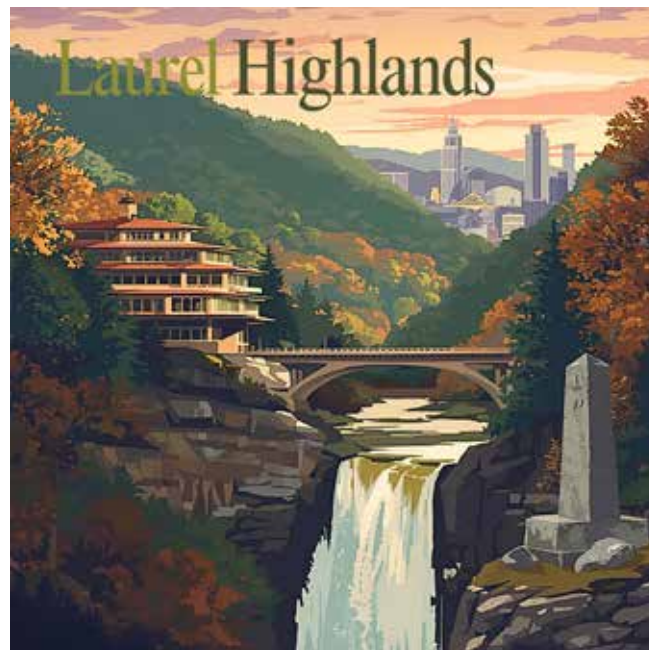
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Our home base will be the beautifully restored Omni William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. The week unfolds at a relaxed, engaging pace. Wednesday evening begins with a welcome reception and dinner. Thursday and Friday feature scenic drives along curvy, picturesque routes, with arrivals at Fallingwater and the Flight 93 National Memorial, plus a delightful lunch and elegant dinners each evening. Saturday shifts gears with no scheduled drive, giving you time to explore downtown Pittsburgh, its neighborhoods, museums, and dining. We will close the experience with a farewell dinner Saturday night before departing Sunday morning.

More details are coming in future DOS issues, with registration opening in April. Mark your calendar. This is one drive you will want to be part of.





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# Zone 4 Update by Dave Stetson

Our snow is melting, Amelia Island Werks Reunion is just a few weeks away, and registrations are already coming in for this year's HPDE events. It's time to think about bringing the treasures out of winter storage and taking the snow tires off the Cayennes and Macans, or whatever you use for your winter daily drivers. It's nearly time for us to get back together in the sunshine!

Stephanie and I have attended a few annual banquets over the last few months, and at each stop I've mentioned that all PCA members are part of the same family and can attend events anywhere Porsches are driven, especially in nearby regions. We all have busy schedules, and conflicts often arise with events in our home regions, so to avoid Porsche starvation, I encourage you to check the schedules of neighboring regions for fun and slightly different opportunities. I, along with some generous volunteers, will be rethinking and rebuilding a Zone 4 website with easy links to Zone 4 regions and their events, so stay tuned.

Stephanie is once again serving as the Art Show Coordinator for Porsche Parade this year, and she

has been encouraging members to attend Parade in Lake Placid and to share the creative works they have produced for the Hans-Peter Porsche Art Show. Her message has clearly been received. This year's Parade will be the biggest ever, with over 2,400 registered attendees, including more than 130 from Zone 4. That has to be a record for the most Zone 4 representation at Parade since Traverse City in 2013.

Steph and I will be trying to take in as many events as our schedules allow this season, and we hope you will too. See you soon!



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## In Memory: Dan Nettler

1958 - 2026

Dan Nettler was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and by the age of four became a Buckeye when his family moved to Reynoldsburg, where he would build deep roots and lasting friendships.

Dan was an active and valued MORPCA member since 2014. At the time of his passing, he owned a 2020 Panamera and had also enjoyed a Boxster. Along with his wife, Susan, Dan was a familiar and welcoming presence at Third Thursday gatherings, where his quiet warmth and steady enthusiasm for the club were always appreciated.

Over the past three years, Dan generously volunteered on the Great Drives planning committee. Even after becoming ill, his commitment never wavered. He continued to participate in Zoom meetings and found creative ways to contribute, transferring his woodworking talents to the use of the library's laser engraving to create customized ornaments and coasters for Great Drives. It was a reflection of Dan's character: thoughtful, resourceful, and always eager to give back.

Dan will be remembered not only for his love of Porsches, but for his kindness, creativity, and dedication to the club and its people. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Susan and to Dan's family during this difficult time.



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# MORPCA BOARD MINUTES

Jen Reynolds

Secretary

## MORPCA Business Minutes for January 12, 2026

**Attendees:** Steve Eisenbrown\*, Mike Stoner\*, Debra Stoner\*, Vicki Kilbourne\*, Doug Kilbourne, Kevin Hennessy\*, Jennifer Reynolds\*, Akash Vaswani, Dave Stetson\*, Frank Todaro\*, Melinda Todaro\*  
\* Voting members

Meeting was called to order by Mike Stoner, Vice President, at 6:30 p.m.

**President's Report** by Steve Eisenbrown, President: Steve thanked Frank and Melinda Todaro and their team of volunteers who all helped to make a great Holiday Party and New Member Social. There was discussion about what went well and what could improve, including the increase in turnout with moving to a new location and a January date. Dave Stetson, Zone 4 representative, commented that multiple regions have chosen to move their annual parties to January. Dave went on to comment that PCA is seeking budget input from Zone reps following discussions with region Presidents regarding a possible new administrative position.

**Treasurer's Report** by Vicki Kilbourne, Treasurer: Vicki reported that it was a good year for MORPCA thanks to income from advertising and events. Newsletter expenses in 2025 were offset by advertising. Vicki requested budgets to be submitted by the end of January. There was discussion regarding transitioning to QuickBooks Plus, due to the current software being out of date. Debra Stoner made a motion for the club to approve using QuickBooks Plus. Steve seconded the motion. All meeting attendees were in favor and the motion passed.

**Advertising** by Akash Vaswani, Chairperson: Advertising is on track for 2026. Akash will forward advertising details to Vicki for mailing invoices. Akash recommends no increase in advertising rates in 2026 and is working with Kevin to enhance email and website communications that will feature advertisers throughout the year.

**Membership** by Linda Grossglass, Chairperson: Linda couldn't attend but reported there were five new members, one transfer in, three transfers out, and 1173 members in total.

**Newsletter** by Debra Stoner, Newsletter Editor: Debra submitted the newsletter budget to Vicki. Debra has updated the newsletter calendar with new deadlines for the eight issues to be published in 2026.

**Communications** by Kevin Hennessy, Chairperson: Kevin has been reviewing and updating the club website. Kevin requested that Chairpersons review the content and submit any updates. Kevin updated the club awards history information. Members not receiving emails can use the contact page on mor.pca.org for guidance.

**Social Activities** by Frank and Melinda Todaro, Chairpersons: The Holiday Party and New Member Social was well attended with 126 members and guests. Feedback is welcome, and Steve commented that it was the best party yet. Looking ahead to next year's

party, if anyone is a member of an organization with rental space e.g., country club that could host MORPCA, please let Frank or Melinda know. Third Thursday Social planning is taking shape: April is to be determined, May will be held at Horsepower Farms in Powell, June will be held at Executive Storage Estates in Plain City, July will be held during the Arthritis Foundation's MORPCA Car Show, and the August social is tentatively scheduled at 80 East in Powell.

**Concours** by Mat Allison, Chairperson: No report.

**Driving Events** by Kevin Hennessy and Mike Stoner, Chairpersons: The budget was submitted to Vicki. Registration is nearly open for a fully instructed HPDE for June 26-28 at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. Another possible joint HPDE is waiting for confirmation for July at MOSCC. Kevin noted the July HPDE could overlap the concours event, although typically those are separate audiences. The teen driving program is shaping up for 2026 and is expected to take place at the Safe-Lite campus. Potential pavement options for Autocross continue to be investigated. There was conversation about arranging a Time Speed Distance or other rally activity. Drive & Dine dates and activities are being planned. Great Drives planning is also underway. There was discussion about checking club helmets and their lifespan. PCA recommends up-to-date helmets for track events. Kevin will report back about the expiration dates for helmets owned by the club and if any helmets should be replaced.

**Safety** by Chip Henderson - No report.

**Charity** by Mike Stoner, Chairperson: A silent auction of posters during the Holiday Party and New Member Social raised \$1600 to benefit Hilliard Food Pantry. The Trickle Charge/Food Drive will be held Saturday, January 31st, at Auto Assets and will benefit Mid-Ohio Food Collective. Non-perishable goods and checks are welcome. In addition, input for additional charitable organizations for MORPCA to support is welcome. Charities must be registered as 501c3-registered organizations. Please bring recommendations to the January Food Drive.

**New Business** by Mike Stoner, Vice President: Nothing to report.

**Old Business** by Mike Stoner, Vice President: Steve suggested that the board officers meet and review the MORPCA Bylaws before the February meeting to determine if changes need to be made.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

## MORPCA Business Minutes for February 9, 2026

Meeting called to order by Mike Stoner, Vice President, at 6:35 p.m.

**Attendees:** Steve Eisenbrown, Mike Stoner, Dave Stetson, Linda Grossglass, Hal Grossglass, Melinda Todaro, Frank Todaro, Jennifer Reynolds

\* Indicates voting members

**President's Report** by Steve Eisenbrown, President: No news to report.

**Treasurer's Report** by Vicki Kilbourne, Treasurer: Vicki couldn't attend the meeting but sent her report. Advertising invoices were sent. Mike reported that Vicki is transitioning the duties of Treasurer to Mike and Debra and the current financial accounting is transitioning to online QuickBooks. All budgets should have been submitted. Mike is updating the club's Vanguard information and IRS Form 990, to be filed in May.

**Advertising** by Akash Vaswani, Chairperson: Details for the invoices for the 13 paid advertisers have been provided to Vicki who will generate them after the QuickBooks transition. I will be sharing the changes for the year when I send out the invoices

Advertiser changes for 2026 include:

*Nathan Purdy no longer an advertiser*

*Rife's upgrading from half-page to full-page*

*True Performance on as a new advertiser*

Developed a new email and website banner with all our advertiser logos - saw it went out with the Detail Pro email, thanks Kevin!

P3 Autokrafte in Dayton contacted us about advertising and organizing tech sessions and we are in discussions with them

But the big news... The Wyler Collection (TWC, previously MAG) contacted us, and we met with them on Friday

### *Standing Committee Reports*

**Membership** by Linda Grossglass, Chairperson: Linda reported there were eight new members, one transfer in, and a total of 1178 club members. Linda is reviewing her new member communication and coordinating efforts with Steve.

**Newsletter** by Debra Stoner, Editor: Debra couldn't attend but sent an updated newsletter schedule for 2026. Feb. 15th is deadline for the upcoming issue. The next deadline is April 15th

**Communications** by Kevin Hennessy, Chairperson: Kevin couldn't attend the meeting and had no report. Meeting attendees commented that the updated email format with a banner of advertisers looks great and like it's always been part of email communications.

**Social Activities** by Frank and Melinda Todaro, Co-Chair persons: The Third Thursday Social schedule is being finalized: The Wyler Collection in April, Horsepower Farms in May, Executive Storage Estates in June, MORPCA at the Arthritis Foundation Car Show in July, and 80 East in August. More details and events will be shared as dates get closer. Planning is underway for the 2027 Annual Meeting/Holiday Party. Frank and Melinda visited Brookside Country Club and Villa Milano Banquet Center, both in Columbus, to consider as possible venues.

**Concours/P2O** by Mat Allison, Chairperson: Mat was unable to attend but is working with Frank on a Car Show Social in July.

**Driving** by Kevin Hennessy and Mike Stoner, Co-Chairpersons: HPDE registration is open and there are 63 registered. A DE meeting will be held in March, to be arranged by Frank. Jose Isern is working on Drive & Dines for the year, including a possible overnight event to Marietta. The search for pavement for Autocross continues.

**Safety** by Chip Henderson, Chairperson: No report.

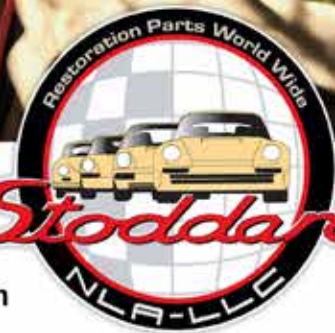
**Technical** by Jeff Brubaker, Chairperson: No report.

**Philanthropy** by Mike Stoner, Chairperson: The Food Drive held in January at Auto Assets yielded 1100 lbs. of food and \$6140. All proceeds were donated to Mid-Ohio Food Collective. The silent auction of vintage posters displayed at the Holiday Party in January brought in \$1650, which benefits the Hilliard Food Pantry.

*Old Business* by Steve Eisenbrown: No report.

*New Business* by Steve Eisenbrown: The region report was updated and submitted to PCA. A rebate from PCA was received. Dave Stetson reported that he attended multiple Zone 4 annual meetings and is working on updating the Zone 4 website so regions can share their information and events. Mike reported there are MOR positions available for club members to serve. Discussion included ways to promote our advertisers and better serve our club members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



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# MORPCA BOARD MEMBERS

## ELECTED OFFICERS



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| <b>PRESIDENT*</b><br>Steve Eisenbrown | <b>VICE PRESIDENT*</b><br>Mike Stoner | <b>SECRETARY*</b><br>Jennifer Reynolds | <b>TREASURER*</b><br>Vicki Kilbourne | <b>PAST PRESIDENT*</b><br>Dave Stetson |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|

## STANDING COMMITTEES

|  |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>MEMBERSHIP*</b><br>Linda Grossglass | <b>ACTIVITIES*</b><br>Melinda Todaro<br>Frank Todaro | <b>DRIVING EVENTS*</b><br>Kevin Hennessy<br>Mike Stoner | <b>TECHNICAL*</b><br>Jeff Brubaker<br>Matt Scott | <b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR*</b><br>Debra Stoner |
|--|--|---|--|---|

|                                     |  |                                |   |                                |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>P2O/CONCOURS*</b><br>Mat Allison | <b>COMMUNICATIONS*</b><br>Kevin Hennessy | <b>CHARITY*</b><br>Mike Stoner | <b>DEALER LIASION</b><br>Steve Eisenbrown | <b>TEST DRIVE</b><br>Available | <b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b><br>Available |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|

## APPOINTED COMMITTEES

|                                    |                                       |                                      |                                   |                                  |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>CLUB RACE</b><br>Chip Henderson | <b>CHIEF INSTRUCTOR</b><br>Tom Todaro | <b>AUTOCROSS</b><br>Ryan Heidenreich | <b>OFF ROADING</b><br>Jeff Glancy | <b>RALLY/TOURS</b><br>Jose Isern |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|

|                                     |                                |                                     |                                 |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>ADVERTISING</b><br>Akash Vaswani | <b>HISTORIAN</b><br>Ted Zombek | <b>INSURANCE</b><br>Dwayne Reynolds | <b>SAFETY</b><br>Chip Henderson | <b>GOODIE STORE</b><br>Brian Peterson |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

For More Details: <https://mor.pca.org/contact>

\*Voting Board Members



## Trickle Charge Event & Annual Food Drive – Auto Assets

Members gathered at Auto Assets in January for the Trickle Charge Event and annual food drive. Discussions focused on maintaining modern Porsches and avoiding unnecessary, costly repairs. Participants broke into two groups: Chip led a session on owner-focused maintenance priorities, while Rich Howe hosted a tour of the race shop and answered questions about the racing program.

Members also contributed generously to the food drive, donating canned goods and checks benefiting the Mid-Ohio Food Collective. The event was a strong success on all fronts.



## Member Highlight: Rick Snyder

This edition's Member Highlight is Rick Snyder, **Lightning Round**

a longtime MORPCA member whose Porsche journey has plenty of miles and smiles behind it. Preferred Top: Targa

Rick joined the club in 1987, his very first club event was autocross. A proper introduction.

Preferred Control: Three pedals (as it should be)

These days, Rick's garage reads like a greatest-hits album: 914 vintage racers, a 944, and a 356. The 914 holds special status as his first Porsche, proving that first loves really do stick. Looking ahead, a Cayman club racer or anything shiny and new with "GT" in the name could be in his future. But if luck ever delivers a winning lottery ticket, Rick already knows the answer: a 918 hybrid, no hesitation required.

Preferred Cooling: Air (oil)

Engine Location: Middle

Number of Gears: Five

Steak: Medium rare

Beverages: Cold

Some of Rick's most memorable experiences have been PCA Parades, which he says are always a great time, especially when shared with fellow MOR members. Outside of MORPCA, Rick enjoys vintage racing, working on cars and around the house, and spending time outdoors with his family. In other words, if it involves engines, projects, or fresh air, he's probably in.

Rick sums it all up best with this simple truth: "Good times with good people and cars = MORPCA."

And honestly, that equation checks out every time.

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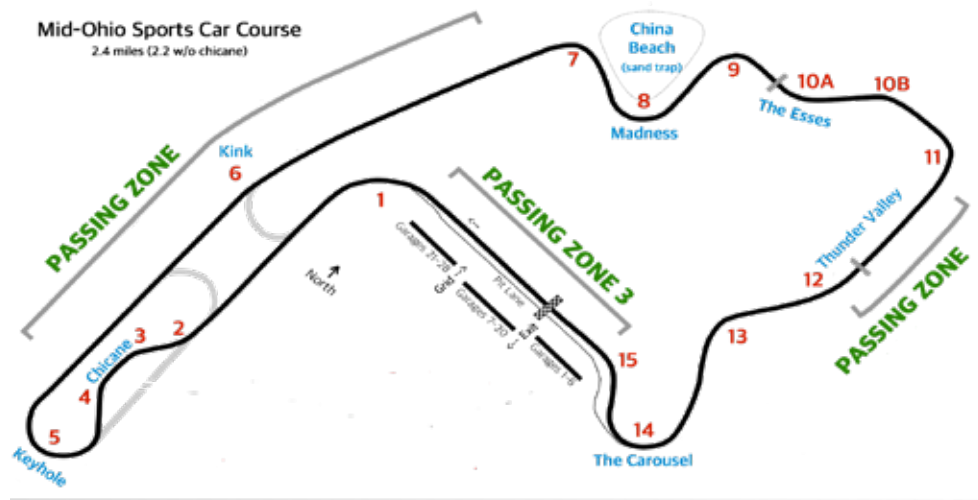


## High Performance Driver Education

# June 26–29 Driver Education Event – Mid-Ohio

Registration is now open for our June Driver Education (DE) event at Mid-Ohio. This will be a fully instructed program. Friday features the traditional solo driver and instructor lapping day, along with a DE-Lite option for drivers interested in a half-day “taste of the track.” The DE-Lite program includes a tech inspection, classroom instruction, and two on-track sessions: one as a passenger and one driving your own car.

A track walk will be held Friday afternoon. Saturday includes instructed on-track sessions with an instructor in your car. Charity laps will take place during Saturday’s lunch break, offering an opportunity to drive the track at highway speeds. Our thanks to Auto Assets for sponsoring overnight camping for the weekend.



*Here is a bit of safety information regarding the 2015 Helmets*

TO: PCA Zone Reps, Region Presidents, DE Chairs, Chief Driving Instructors, and Safety Chairs

FROM: Mia Walsh, PCA National Driver Education Committee Chair

DATE: October 1, 2025

The PCA National HPDE Committee would like to share the following updates with you:

### SA2015 HELMET EXPIRATION EXTENSION – JUNE 30, 2026

In November 2024, PCA HPDE announced the extension of expiration dates of the SA2015 helmets to February 28, 2026. We are extending the expiration date to June 30, 2026 to allow the manufacturers time to get their product into the supply chain.

Effective July 1, 2026, Snell SA2015 helmets will no longer be permitted.

Please inform your HPDE drivers so they are aware of this update to the PCA Minimum Standards Section 11b.



## 2026 Social Activities

### Frank and Melinda Todaro, Co-Chairpersons

#### **Holiday Party**

More than 125 MORPCA members gathered at the Boathouse at Confluence Park in early January for our annual New Member Social and Holiday Party. The event sold out at this new venue, and we were delighted to welcome 20 new members to the club. During the evening, we highlighted the many activities and opportunities available through MORPCA membership.

President Steve Eisenbrown recognized and thanked our sponsors for their support during a successful year. The club continues to prosper financially while growing its membership base. It was an enjoyable evening for all, and we are already looking forward to next year's celebration. Please mark your calendars and plan to register early for the 2027 Holiday Party and New Member Social on Saturday, January 30, 2027.

#### **Social Activities**

Our Third Thursday program kicks off in April with several new and exciting venues. Each year from April through October, we gather on the third Thursday of the month, typically from 5:00–5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. These events feature great locations, adult beverages provided by the club, and food trucks in most cases. This year includes a few exceptions, with select events held on Saturdays or at unique venues.

#### **“Third Thursdays” 2026 Schedule:**

April 16, 2026 (Thursday): The Wyler Collection campus in Dublin (formerly MAG). Join us as we welcome a new club sponsor and Porsche dealer to Columbus and begin building a strong partnership.

May 21, 2026 (Thursday): Horsepower Farms. Always a favorite and one of our best-attended events.

June 20, 2026 (Saturday): Executive Storage Estates Open House and Friends & Family Car Show, hosted by Frank and Melinda Todaro. The Porsche corral returns to Color Fast, with special activities planned including cars, food, and music.

July 18, 2026 (Saturday): Arthritis Foundation Charity Auto Show in Dublin. MORPCA will host a Third Thursday–style event on a Saturday, complete with a club tent, beverages, a designated Porsche parking area by the pond, and a concours event. Cars and Coffee will be held earlier in the morning nearby. Expect a full day of cars, food, music, and camaraderie.

August 20, 2026 (Thursday): 80 East, a private bourbon bar in Powell. This exclusive venue offers a special evening with provided food and beverages. The historic home has been beautifully restored and will host MORPCA members for a unique experience.

September and October events are still in planning. Updates will be posted on MOR.PCA.org and the club's Facebook page.

*Save the date:*

*Annual Holiday Party & New Member Social  
January 30, 2027 – Villa Milano*



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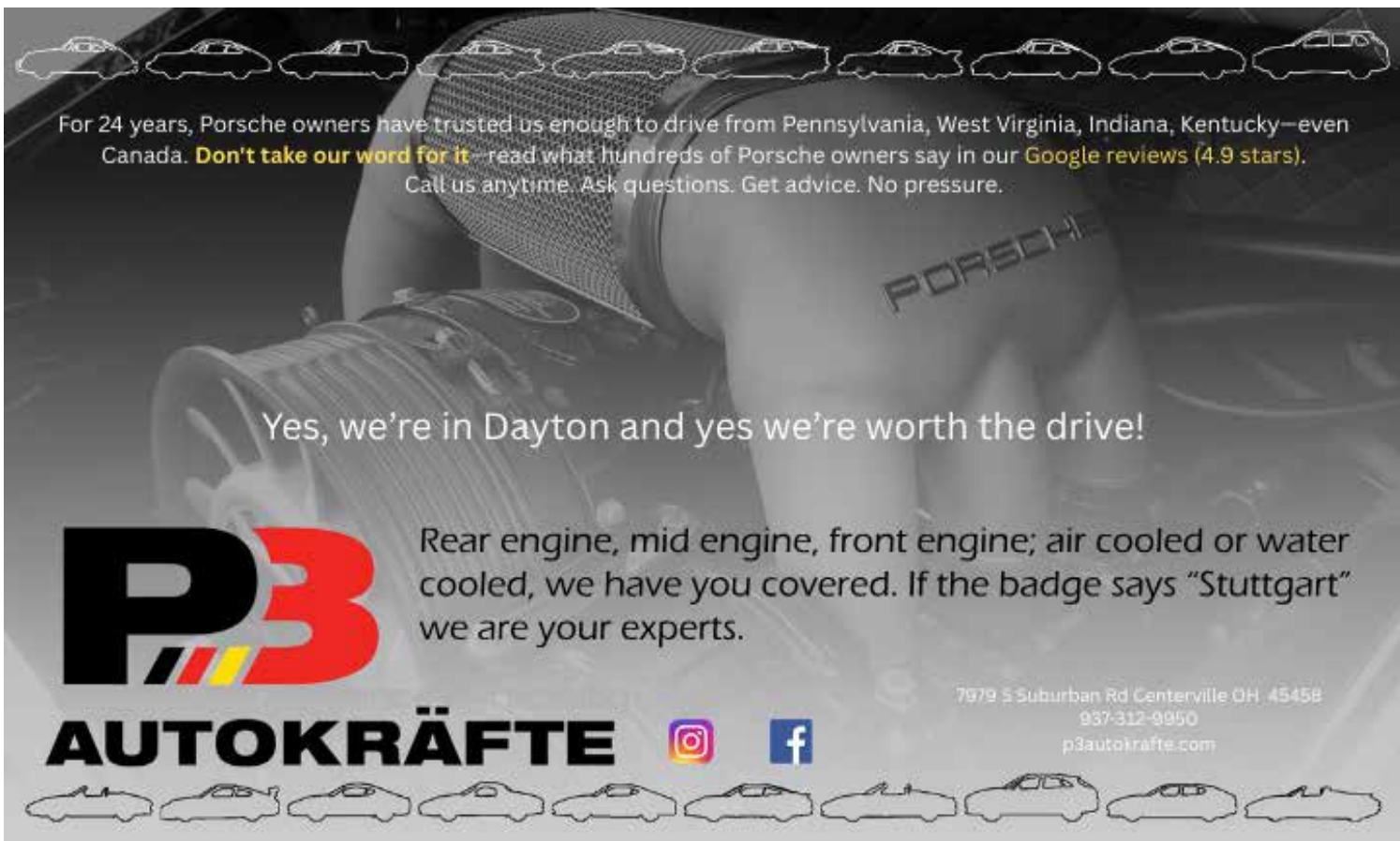


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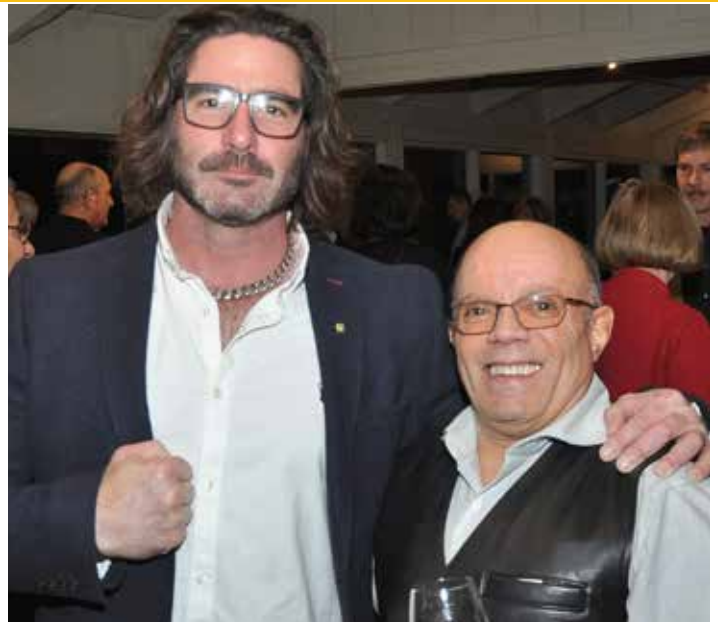
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# Endurance Racing and Other Questionable Life Choices

By John Peacock

It was at a Third Thursday almost two years ago when Mark Walters casually walked up to me and asked if I was “in” for the “Endurance Car.” When I said yes, my wife Sandy immediately asked, “Is there something you want to tell me?” Fair question.

Triple Nickel Racing officially came to life in early 2023, formed by MORPCA members Mark Walters, David Sheppard, Kevin Hennessy, Mike Stoner, David Collier, Patrick Welch, and John Peacock. We acquired a race-prepped 1983 Porsche 944 from South Carolina and began the long, greasy, occasionally smoky journey toward endurance racing with ChampCar and LeMons. Some of us were active racers, some thought they had retired long ago, and some were stepping up from a healthy diet of HPDE events.

Relying heavily on Mark’s experience racing 944s in the PCA Club Racing Series, we tackled maintenance, upgrades, and car prep while getting reacquainted with the car at HPDE events throughout 2024. Heading into 2025, we engineered a roll cage designed specifically for “larger-than-average” drivers, thanks to the talents of Jerry Gemeinhardt, our master wrench and fabricator. After countless weekends of sorting, repairs, maintenance, HPDEs, and cigars, we decided we were ready for a real race.

We chose the season finale of the ChampCar Endurance Series at VIRginia International Raceway on December 6–7, entering the eight-hour race on Saturday and the seven-hour race on Sunday. ChampCar seemed like the right fit for our mix of experience and car pace. Several team members attended a fall NNJR HPDE to learn the track, though for some of us, VIR would be a brand-new adventure.

We left Columbus on Thursday, December 4, and made it about 30 minutes down the road before receiving an email announcing that Friday’s test day was canceled due to weather. Snow and freezing temperatures were forecast for the VIR area. We pressed on anyway, now fully aware that those unfamiliar with VIR would be learning the track during actual race

conditions. Friday was spent setting up the paddock, unloading the car, and making our way through tech inspection. The evening wrapped up at our lakeside Airbnb with pizza and a carefully curated viewing schedule of On Patrol Live and Cops. High culture.

Saturday arrived with temperatures in the high 20s to low 30s for the eight-hour race. Radio communications were... aspirational, and despite our best efforts, never truly worked all weekend. At the green flag, Mark took the wheel and immediately explored the outer limits of traction on ice-cold tires, finding himself roughly a football field off track in Turn 1. He skillfully navigated the grass and rejoined without damage. Five laps later, in Turn 5, traction again became optional, the car hopped the rumble strips, and the transponder was knocked clean off the car. This would become important later.

At the 1.5-hour mark, Kevin Hennessy took over as we tried to convince ourselves that it was warming up. It wasn’t. A little after 11 a.m., while planning our next fuel stop, Kevin ran out of fuel on track. After a tow back to the paddock, we refueled, checked oil, and sent Dave Sheppard out. From that point forward, we adopted a strict pit schedule: driver changes every hour and fifteen minutes, fuel every other stop.

## Lessons Learned (Mostly the Hard Way)

Cold tires have opinions, and they will share them immediately.

Radios are optional. Cardboard, duct tape, and hand signals are not.

Fuel calculations should be treated as facts, not suggestions.

A transponder can fall off, will fall off, and may still be found in the dark if you send the right person.

Ice fog is not a driving aid.

Finishing both days is a win, regardless of position.

Endurance racing is equal parts preparation, improvisation, teamwork, and stubborn optimism.

With radios still useless, Kevin devised a communication system involving the word “BOX” spelled in red tape on a yellow plastic tote lid, waved enthusiastically as the car passed. Drivers responded with the universally recognized trucker arm-pump signal to confirm pit entry. I drove after Dave and discovered two things: my glasses fogged relentlessly, and traction was still theoretical. I went off track four times while learning VIR and trying to keep pace. Yes, it was still very cold. I was relieved to hand the car to Dave Collier in one piece, and he did an excellent job in his first race. Kevin finished the final stint, and we ended the day tired, frozen, and oddly satisfied.

After the race, we rotated tires, which showed minimal wear thanks to the temperatures. A closer look

revealed that the front brake pads and rotors were essentially finished. While performing a front brake job in the dark and cold, a race official informed us that only our first five laps had been recorded. A glance under the hood confirmed the transponder was missing. Mark immediately recalled his lap-five excursion and set off into the darkness to search for the blinking red light somewhere near Turn 5. Against all odds, he found it on the 3.4-mile circuit, and we reinstalled it in time for Sunday. I'll skip the part about watching the Buckeyes lose the Big Ten Championship Saturday night.



Sunday morning brought "ice fog" and severely limited visibility, delaying the race start until noon. I started the race and was able to stay on track and improve significantly. As the day progressed, visibility improved and temperatures climbed into the low 40s. Pit stops went smoothly, the car ran well, and Dave Sheppard, Dave Collier, and Kevin Hennessy all turned successful stints. We finished Sunday's race 13th in class.



Finishing both days felt like a victory. We proved to ourselves that we could do this, despite different experience levels and skill sets. More importantly, we did it together.



We loaded up the car and gear, left the track around 6 p.m., and rolled back into Columbus in the early hours of the morning. As I finally put my head on the pillow at 2:30 a.m., I was already looking forward to more endurance racing with the Triple Nickel team in 2026.





## 2026 Newsletter Calendar

| Issue         | Deadline for submission | Email distribution |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Jan & Feb     | Feb 15                  | Feb23              |
| March & April | April 15                | April 25           |
| May           | May 18                  | May 25             |
| June          | June 18                 | June 25            |
| July          | July 20                 | July 26            |
| August        | Aug 18                  | Aug 25             |
| Sept & Oct    | Sept 18                 | Sept 25            |
| Nov & Dec     | Dec 14                  | Dec 21             |

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# Pit Stop Updates: Who's New, Who's Moving, Who's Celebrating



## JANUARY 2026 ANNIVERSARIES

### 60 YEARS

Bruce E. & Emily Pickering, 53 years  
W. Brooke Mossgrove, 51

### 40 YEARS

James L. Graham, 35 years  
Gary L. & Julia A. Hickman, 35  
Jeff A. & Patrick England, 32  
James A. & Carole Sander, 32

### 30 YEARS

Mike D. Ulery, 29  
Robert E. Heinzerling, 27  
Jim & Walene Borowski, 27  
Charles R. Owens, 24  
Roche & Carla Simmons, 24  
Joseph F. & Julie Billmaier, 24  
Bruce A. & Alex Brown, 22  
Patrick J. Affourtit, 22  
William J. & Jean Ann Conley, 21  
Jeffrey T. & Jennifer Whaley, 21

### 20 YEARS

Gary R. & Deirdre Barton, 19  
Dave Collier, 13  
Thomas & JP Daniel Ryan, 13

### 10 YEARS

Mark Kvamme, 10 years  
Drew & Vaidila Alvino, 10  
Rob & Denise Hess, 10  
Michael Peterson, 10  
Mark & Kathleen Gray, 9  
Nicholas & Taylor Francis, 7  
Tim Timmons, 7  
Jay & Cornelia Brown, 7  
Brad Koehler, 6  
David Jamison, 6  
Joshua & Jennifer Eck, 6

### NEW MEMBERS

Shawn & Kathy Allen, Ostrander  
Henry Lee & Gowry Bell, Lewis Center  
Laura Carr, Columbus  
Katie & Aaron Gausepohl, Canal Winchester  
Peter A. Kenimer, New Albany

### TRANSFERS IN

Mario & Majorie Garzia, from Everglades (EGS)

### TRANSFERS OUT

Jeffery P. Allison, to Ohio Valley (OHV)  
Nathan Caplin, to Big Island Hawaii (BIH)  
Bruce Stout, to Rocky Mountain (RMT)

## FEBRUARY 2026 ANNIVERSARIES

### 60 YEARS

Stephen R. & Martha Southard, 56 years  
Richard H. & Florence Snyder, 51

### 50 YEARS

Andrew R. Trux, 50 years

### 40 YEARS

Jim & Brady Mudra, 36 years

### 30 YEARS

John & Sandy Peacock, 30 years  
David M. & Tracey Sheppard, 27  
Richard E. Marra, 26  
Eric J. & Melinda Balicki, 25  
Douglas M. & Linda Miller, 25  
James D. Keck, 21 years

### 20 YEARS

Kevin & Mary Blosser, 20  
Gary J. & Carol Swiatek, 19  
Dale A. & Jason Jewell, 18  
Daniel S. & Barbara Sinclair, 18  
Kevin P. Justice, 13  
Jeff P. & Marie Jarvis, 12  
David L. & Stephanie Stetson, 12  
Marc A. Sigal & Amy Goldstein, 12  
Tarek Maguid & Cub Marion, 12  
Hoang Wong, 11  
Bill & Susan Parsons, 11

### 10 YEARS

Michael Kendall, 9 years  
John Morrison, 9  
Ron & Suzanne Landthorn, 9  
Raj & Sid Menon, 8  
Bradley Barkhurst & Singthong Parichat, 7  
Harlin & Justin Robinson, 7  
Rick Lane, 6

### NEW MEMBERS

Fernando G. Bergas-Coria & Taylor Marshall De Bergas, Bexley  
James Fonner, Pataskala  
William Johnson & Erik Gzibovskis, Westerville  
Lee & Kate Salisbury, Dublin  
Paul Seifert, Butler  
Michael Slattery, Grandview  
Yota & Rika Suwa, Dublin  
Joseph Vinciguerra, Westerville

### TRANSFERS IN

David A. & Alex Sherf, from Arizona (AZ)

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| <b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>   |                 |   |
|--|-----------------|---|
| <b>DATE</b>  | <b>START</b>    | <b>EVENT</b>                                |
| <b>Mon Mar 9</b>   | <b>6:30 PM</b>  | <b>Business Meeting</b>                     |
| Tentative Rusty Bucket Restaurant and Tavern, Easton                   |                 |   |
| <b>Mon Apr 13</b>  | <b>6:30 PM</b>  | <b>Business Meeting</b>                     |
| Tentative Rusty Bucket Restaurant and Tavern, Easton                   |                 |   |
| <b>Thu Apr 16</b>  | <b>5:30 PM</b>  | <b>3rd Thursday</b>                         |
| The Wyler Collection campus Dublin                                     |                 |   |
| <b>Mon May 11</b>  | <b>6:30 PM</b>  | <b>Business Meeting</b>                     |
| Tentative Rusty Bucket Restaurant and Tavern, Easton                   |                 |   |
| <b>Thu May 21</b>  | <b>5:30 PM</b>  | <b>3rd Thursday</b>                         |
| Horsepower Farms   |                 |   |
| <b>Sat May 30</b>  | <b>9:00 AM</b>  | <b>Drive &amp; Dine - Marietta</b>          |
| Lafayette Hotel, 101 Front St, Marietta, OH 45750                      |                 |   |
| <b>Mon Jun 8</b>   | <b>6:30 PM</b>  | <b>Business Meeting</b>                     |
| Tentative Rusty Bucket Restaurant and Tavern, Easton                   |                 |   |
| <b>Sat Jun 20</b>  | <b>5:30 PM</b>  | <b>3rd Thursday Social on a Saturday</b>    |
| Executive Storage Estates Friends & Family Car Show                    |                 |   |
| <b>Fri Jun 26</b>  | <b>6:00 AM</b>  | <b>HPDE at MOSCC</b>                        |
| Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, 7721 Steam Corners Rd, Lexington, OH 44904 |                 |   |
| <b>Sat Jul 11</b>  | <b>9:00 AM</b>  | <b>Drive &amp; Dine - Placeholder</b>       |
| TBD  |                 |   |
| <b>Mon Jul 13</b>  | <b>6:30 PM</b>  | <b>Business Meeting</b>                     |
| Tentative Rusty Bucket Restaurant and Tavern, Easton                   |                 |   |
| <b>Fri Jul 17</b>  | <b>12:00 AM</b> | <b>HPDE w/ NNJR &amp; Metro (Tentative)</b> |
| Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, 7721 Steam Corners Rd, Lexington, OH 44904 |                 |   |
| <b>Sat Jul 18</b>  | <b>12:00 PM</b> | <b>3rdT &amp; Car Show @ Arthritis Show</b> |
| Metro Place North, Metro PI N, Dublin, OH 43017                        |                 |   |
| <b>Jul 22 - 26</b>   | <b>12:00 AM</b> | <b>Great Drives</b>                         |
| Laurel Highlands Omni William Penn Hotel                               |                 |   |
| <b>Mon Aug 10</b>  | <b>6:30 PM</b>  | <b>Business Meeting</b>                     |
| Tentative Rusty Bucket Restaurant and Tavern, Easton                   |                 |   |
| <b>Sat Aug 15</b>  | <b>5:30 PM</b>  | <b>Drive &amp; Dine - Placeholder</b>       |
| TBD  |                 |   |
| <b>Thu Aug 20</b>  | <b>5:30 PM</b>  | <b>3rd Thursday</b>                         |
| 80 East, a private bourbon bar in Powell                               |                 |   |

**Event planning for the 2026 calendar subject to change.  
For the latest details, go to <https://mor.pca.org/calendar/>.**

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