In early September the Florida summer is still in full force. On a very warm day the intrepid of Sonnenschein took to the roads with tops down or AC on max and caravanned from an ubiquitous Wal Mart to a most wonderful eatery in Atmore, AL. Gerald Adcox had made special arrangements for Pintolis to provide lunch for us at a time they would ordinarily be closed. The populace of this small Alabama town appeared awestruck as we took over their streets with Porsche after Porsche after Porsche.
Pintolis had a full menu of Italian delights as well as a full selection of wines—some of which were from the Perdido Winery we would be visiting after lunch. I believe most passed on wine at lunch with the expectation of FREE tastes later at the winery.

After lunch it was off to Perdido Winery a few nice curves down the road. Gerald Adcox did the preliminary scouting earlier and met with a wonderful character and vintner, Jim Eddins. Upon our arrival Gerald introduced us to Jim who greeted us and regaled us with tales of wine making and dealing with the backwoods government of the great State of Alabama. The wine flowed freely—pure grape juice—fermented grape juice—and vinegar were all available for testing and tasting. Jim even put together a nice party Sangria with a variety of fresh fruits—VERY refreshing on this HOT HOT HOT afternoon in the Alabama sun.
On Saturday, September 20, we were treated to an Open House at Dean McCrary Porsche to showcase the 2009 911. In a wonderful event led by Lin Williams, we enjoyed a very good explanation of 911 features, feasted on snacks fit for kings, and then about cracked our faces smiling after rides in the 2009 911. It was an extraordinary afternoon, and the 911 was truly the star. I would best describe these cars as INCREDIBLE. The fit and finish, performance, and various options were astonishing. I think everyone’s favorite event was Launch Control starts in the PDK-equipped green 911S. Hold the footbrake, quickly bring the revs up to 6500, slide your foot off the brake, floor it, and hang on. Even from rolling starts, I’ve never felt acceleration like that in a 911. This particular car also had PASM (Porsche Active Suspension Management). The Off-On switch made an instantaneous night and day change in the suspension, which you could detect just driving over the Bots dots. We also drove a 6-speed 911S, which didn’t quite have all the options of the PDK car, but it too was a treat to drive. The short throws and precise gear selection made me nearly forget about PDK driving. I could go on and on about the marvels of these cars, but other writers have done a much better job of it. Our thanks to Dean McCrary and his staff for their warm hospitality and for providing a top-notch open house, as they always do. If you weren’t there, you missed a great time!

We concluded the Open House at 5 PM and then headed over to Valenti’s restaurant in Fairhope, for what turned out to be an interesting ride. Coming out of the Mobile tunnel
and up onto the I-10 causeway, we could see heavy rain showers in the distance. We in coupes didn’t think too much about it, but for Jim McManus and his son Mike in their top-down Boxster, action was urgent. But not as urgent as I had imagined — would you believe the Boxster top can be put up while still going 30 mph? That feature takes much of the drama out of cabrio ownership! One benefit of the heavy rain was to wash away most of the nearly 4 million love-bugs splattered on my front bumper. Mint green must be their team color. Anyway, we all made it safely and dry to Valenti’s for a superb dinner. If you are in Fairhope and looking for an exceptional restaurant, this is one to try.

So this very good day of driving amazing cars ended with us having a wonderful social hour while enjoying a delicious dinner. As with Dean’s Open House, if you weren’t there, you missed a good one!

Dean McCrary was very generous in providing door prizes—Thanks Dean—Winners were:

John Phelps Porsche Design Watch
Walter Benecke Porsche Polo Shirt
Pete and Patsy Mellin Porsche Polo Shirt
The rest of the crowd received Porsche Carbon Fiber pens

Another Summer Event: 7/26/08

On Saturday, three intrepid couples in our group braved weather well passed “marginal” (rain and thunderstorms) and tried the “Cruise In” on Nine Mile road in Pensacola. Only three cars showed for the Cruise In. Undaunted, the trio of couples pushed forward to King’s Buffet to socialize and dine. They may have been small in number, but they were great in spirit.
A little Porsche humor

A woman walks into a New York City Bank and asks for the loan officer. She says she’s going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow $5,000.

The bank officer says he’ll need some kind of security for the loan, so the blonde hands over the keys to a brand new red Porsche 911 parked in front of the bank.

With the title and paper work all checked out, the bank agrees to accept the car as security for the loan.

The loan officer drives the new Porsche into the bank’s underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later the woman returns, repays the $5,000 she borrowed, and $15.40 interest that accumulated. The loan officer approaches the woman and says “We here at the bank are very happy that this transaction has worked out, but while you were away, I checked you out, and I’m a little puzzled. I found out that you are a multi-millionaire. What puzzles me is why you would bother to borrow $5,000.”

The woman replies, “Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for 15 bucks?”

Driver’s Education: By Pete Congiundi

Who would’ve thought when they bought their first car, whatever it was, that one day there would be an opportunity to drive it on a racetrack? I would have bet the farm had someone told me that, I would have thought they were certifiably crazy. One of America’s fastest growing hobbies is what has come to be known as driver’s education. It is a high performance driving "school" of sorts held in a track type setting in various locations all around the country. There are structured schools where one can learn the mechanics of high performance driving taught by well known and not so well known race car drivers. There are also car clubs
which rent different road type tracks several times during each year and invite members
and non members to sign up for a fee to come and participate in driving their own car
(yes it's true!) on the track for a two or three day weekend event. First, if you are a car
nut and love the feeling you get when your speedometer hits triple digits like I do then
you should definitely give this a try. It is a disease that is not easily cured. Second, if you
are a car nut like I am and enjoy utilizing the ability your Porsche has for negotiating
curves at high speeds or braking smoothly after a long straight from 135 MPH down to
50 MPH or so in order to make the next curve without worry, then you should
DEFINITELY try this.

Driver's Education events are just that. People who are experienced at this hobby
enjoy teaching those who are novices and help nurture them along so one day they can
drive safely on and off the track in a potentially emergent situation. Personally, I took
several structured courses before taking my own car onto the track. It gave me much
needed technique and skills for the track setting so I would be comfortable from the
word "go". Others seem to be comfortable at the very beginning and don't seem to be
worried much about potential damage to their street cars, so they come to the track
with no experience at all. Whatever your beginning is, we all share the same passion for
what I term "the need for speed".

It is fairly easy to participate, and clubs
love to accept people with little or no
experience to get them into the sport of
track driving. One never need become a
racecar driver. That said, many use this
venue as a springboard to Club racing
and even possible careers in race car
driving. That is the exception, as most
of us just enjoy driving fast in a
controlled setting with no chance of flashing blue lights appearing in your rear view
mirror.
The fees involved are fairly reasonable. Depending on which club event you are attending, the entry fees range from $345 to $595 for the weekend. This allows you to drive your car during your group's run sessions, of which there are three, four or five groups. These groups range from novice/beginner to intermediate to advanced to expert. Run times are usually 20 to 30 minutes long, but can go for as long as 60 minutes. The average total track time is about 2-2.5 hours a day depending on the club. It is a great chance to meet new people, and everyone there has the one common bond that is driving fast and driving well. Of course there are almost as many types of cars as there drivers. You will see everything from the most common daily driver to exotics you've only seen in magazines. It is an experience worth the price of admission.

In closing, while I know it is not something everyone would do, it's something I enjoy immensely and recommend at least dipping your toe in the waters at least once. Just for the fun of it. Here are a few websites for anyone's perusal: chinmotorsports.com, bmwcca.org, pca.org for driver's education club driving. To see a list of venues, dates and their respective hosting clubs go to trackschedule.com.
Photo Contest Extraordinaire by the Editor

Hey folks- really hoped for more participation in this little contest of mine. I already wrote the language about how I was torn with so many excellent photos and lost nights of sleep debating who the winner should be. With one entry, that took a lot of the weight out of my presentation.

Nevertheless, we have a winner. And it is a very good one. Lloyd Johnson searched the country for a 993. In June of 07 he found his prize in Scarsdale, NY. He drove it to New Hampshire for a wedding (presumably not his) and took a short detour to the Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, RI. He was able to tour the museum and also play on the famed grass courts. He drove home via the Blue Ridge Parkway- a roadway designed for Porsche, Lloyd says. Thanks Lloyd.

For his extraordinary photograph, Lloyd will received a $50.00 gift certificate to a restaurant of his choice.
On Labor Day weekend, David and I headed to north Georgia for the 40th annual Rennfest (festival of racing cars) put on by the Peachstate Region. We had no idea what was involved since we are newbies to all of this but found the weekend to be totally relaxing and enjoyable.

It was held at the Brasstown Valley Resort up by the North Carolina line. It took us about 8 hours to get there. We were joined by 96 other vehicles and 171 other people. We learned that Renn means speed or racing and Rennwagon is a race car.

The first night we drove about 30 miles over to Helen, Georgia which is a quaint/touristy Bavarian town. The road to get there was all sharp turns and hills. A kindly driver in a slow truck pulled aside and we blasted by him at a clip just this side of safe. WOW, what a road.

Saturday morning was a Concours Event and since we’d driven from here and had bugs all over the front of our car, we passed and went horseback riding instead. That afternoon was a Road Rally, nothing like the one we did last spring. It was timed, which drove us crazy. Each instruction gave average speeds, none of which was above 42 mph. We were on winding, twisting country roads that cried for us to accelerate and we couldn’t go fast - very disappointing. We spent most of the time arguing about what to do next but found all the check points and made it back in one piece.

That night was radio controlled racing on the tennis courts, followed by a great BBQ while we watched the sun slip behind the hills.
Sunday was the best day – Autocross. Having never raced before we were a bit nervous. They used a school parking lot and set up a course with cones. We walked the course a bunch of times trying to get rid of the nerves we were feeling. They broke the group of 78 racers into a morning and afternoon group. Whichever group was not racing, was working the course. I raced in the morning group and David in the afternoon. Each driver made three laps on a run and got three runs.

I got an instructor to go with me since I NEVER get to drive our Porsche and was really nervous. My goal was to not hurt the car or hit any cones. Speed was not important. The first run I followed my plan and took 75 seconds to run the course, probably the slowest time in history. Spectators probably thought I ws looking for a parking place,; I ws moving so slow. The instructor kept saying “speed up”, as we approached the turns and I kept saying, “are you crazy?” After the first run I realized I loved it so talked the instructor into going with me again. The second time I was ready for action and cut 12 seconds off my time. Now I was down to 63 seconds and I went to find David and tell him I loved it. He said to try to break a minute on my final try.

David was supportive, but had had nightmares the night before that I might do something like this to our Boxster S >>>>>>>>>>>. I got the instructor back and told him we had a goal of less than a minute. We did our best but came in at 60.36 seconds. At least I cut three more seconds off my time and ended up second place in my class. I have got the fever and want to do this again and often. What a blast!!
Poor David was lined up for his first run when our neighbor called and told us to come home because Hurricane Gustav was headed close by. Our dog was in Bon Secour and he said they were evacuating Gulf Shores and I-65 was one-way north. I let David have one run and then we zoomed back to the hotel, checked out and figured out a way to get home. David’s time was 58.89 which beat me by 1.47 seconds and he only had one try. I can see I am going to need lots of practice to get this down, maybe even my own car!

Calendar of Future Events

**October Event:** Destin Porsche Club Charity Car Show at Destin Commons Mall October 11th at 11 am. Travel independently and be sure to stop by Gerald Adcox’s 356 which will be in the show.

**November Event:** Still working on, probably on the 1st or 8th. Possibly joining the Cruisers on Nine Mile Road and going to dinner at Tokyo Steak House.

**December Event:** Christmas Party – Place still being determined

Administration:

**Your 2008 Board of Directors**

- Pete Mellin President
- Gerald Adcox Vice president
- Lindy Kirkpatrick Secretary
- Mark Silver Treasurer
- Dave Kirkpatrick Newsletter
- Dianne Watson Membership
- Monty Willis Past President

**New Members this quarter**

- Barry Beroset
- Robert and Becky Herrin
- Duane and Sandra Yessick
- Barbara Hall
- Mark and Maryann Kassab

Keep an eye on our website, [www.sonpca.org](http://www.sonpca.org).
From the Prez

Charlotte and the Dragon. It was a dark and stormy night…but that was OK because we and the car were safely bedded down in Charlotte for the 2008 Porsche Parade, having arrived via the Tail of the Dragon in Deal’s Gap, NC. And therein are two good stories.

Having thoroughly enjoyed our first two Porsche Parades, Patsy and I decided to try a third, since it would be on our side of the Mississippi this year. We departed a few days early, planning to hike the mountains of western North Carolina, and perhaps find a few enjoyable roads to cruise. For our first night we stopped at a chain motel in Robbinsville, NC (pop. 800). Entering the parking lot we saw parking spaces for about 10 cars and about 100 motorcycles. My steel-trap mind slowly realized this wasn’t quite the norm, so upon checking in, we learned we were a mere 15 miles from 2-Wheel Nirvana, more commonly known as the Tail of the Dragon. Straddling the NC-Tennessee border, just west of the Blue Ridge National Park, it advertises 314 turns in its 12-mile length. Having been there, I can’t disagree with that claim. The road travels through heavy woods, and although I don’t recall any 100-foot drop-offs, an road excursion of more than a few feet would put you up close and personal with large pine trees. Many bore impact marks and some paint, undoubtedly from motorcycles and non-Porsches. It is a spectacular drive, but just a small part of hundreds of miles of spectacular drives in that area. I proud to report that no mint green paint adorns any Tail of the Dragon trees!

Arriving in Charlotte a few days later, we were greeted by the sight of hundreds of Porsches and many hundreds of volunteers and participants, all going in different directions. Quite a show. As usual we saw some spectacular cars, made new friends, and participated in lots of fun events. There were about 950 members registered, and about 2,000 in attendance counting associate members and families. It makes for an amazing event, but also restricts where Parades can be held. For that
reason, regional Parades are becoming more popular, such as the one Peachstate Region recently held. Our Secretary and her trusty Newsletter Editor husband attended, and I believe they are still smiling about it. Even though a fair amount of planning, and some expense, are involved in attending Parades, they are a unique chance to see what PCA is all about on national and zone levels. Even though this was just our third, I’m starting to see people from prior Parades and getting to know national and zone officers. Pete Tremper (National Driving Chair) told me he was born in Pensacola, and hasn’t been back since. Sensing an opportunity, I suggested that if he would visit, I was sure we could find lodging for him and perhaps even locate a loaner car for him to try on our local DE track. Since our DE track efforts haven’t panned out as planned, I’ve held off on following up on that invite!

Happy motoring,

Pete

**HOW THE FIGHT STARTED!**

I picked my blind date up in my emerald green GT 3. She took one look at my shiny Porsche and suggested we go some place very expensive....... So, I took her to a gas station....... And that is when the fight started.

**Editor's Prerogative:**

This photo is of the new Boxster Design Edition- it was provided by Gerald Adcox and serves two purposes- a space filler and just a super photo of MY NEXT PORSCHE!!!