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Wilderness Trail Region Porsche Club of America

NOVEMBER '11 NEWSLETTER

Our November meeting was held at Todd Bohon's business training facility on West Market Street. This is a great meeting place for our club with private parking, no interruptions from waitresses or customers and offers more visitation time. Our thanks to Todd for allowing us to utilize his facilities again!

President Greg Schuette welcomed Luke Osborne and Larry and Shelly Jones who drove Shelly's newly restored 911 Targa to the meeting. Their Targa looked like a new one and I am sure they will get a lot of enjoyment from their efforts. Greg also thanked all the ladies for participating in our meeting and encouraged everyone to "bring your lady" to future events. Due to Treasurer Wayne Thacker's absence we do not have a treasurers report.

Greg gave a short recap of events we have participated in this year. Starting with the Rolex 24-Hour race, Concours @ Village Porsche in Cincinnati, Amelia Island Concours, Heart of Dixie Region 50th Anniversary-Huntsville, 3-5th Sunday Drives, Boxster Summit-Little Switzerland, Antique Auto Club of America-Bristol, In De Bergen Concours-Waynesville and our own BBQ and picnic at the Allandale Mansion. There are a lot of Porsche (and other) events we can all participate in, if you are not having fun, come and participate with us! Meet some great people, see some great Porsches and enjoy your own Porsche driving to the event.

Mark Finley and Tom Dutton attended the Parade at Forsyth Park in Savannah this past August. Mark reports he and Tom tried to get an early start, however, they spent a couple hours the day before recharging the A/C in Toms 1987 911 Carrera Targa (with beautifully restored top) and got behind on time. Mark reported the A/C cooled beautifully.....for about 10 minutes before cooking out. This turned out to be the hottest day (112 degrees) in Columbia, S C since they have been keeping records 211 years ago. He reports they saw one other family with their windows down (no A/C) laughing at two old men in a Porsche soaking wet from the heat! By the time we were getting to our hotel in Savannah across from the park, heat stroke was setting in and the most important thing for our survival was going to be the A/C in our hotel room. As we came around the corner to park and enter the hotel, we were blocked by every fire truck and fireman in Savannah. All the hotel guests were on the street in various states of dress. The manager informed us the hotel was on Fire! And directed us to a local bar with broken A/C. The fire turned out to be a gas leak from a commercial carpet cleaning machine and everyone was back in the hotel after a couple hours. After recovering and getting dressed for one of Savannah's fabulous restaurants, we walked outside to a flash hurricane. Horizontal Rain, Fire then Flood!!!! We thought we had entered the gates of hell on this trip. The next morning was overcast and beautiful (even though it was supposed to rain) perfect for Concours and picture taking. The Brumos race car collection was fantastic and the 1972 911 T restored through Porsche Classic Car had to be seen to be believed! This was the car given away in the PCA Raffle. We ordered a new receiver drier and expansion valve for Tom's A/C as soon as we returned home. Thanks to Mark for this **"HOT STORY"!!!**

Greg asked if the club would give consideration to doing fund raisers and charity events in 2012? PCA can be utilized as they will assist us in those projects.

For 2012 Greg would like to use our 2011 events as a base in hope more members in the coming year, will participate in even more functions.

Craig reported on our DE in October. We had a total of 35 registrants, good weather, great comments from many participants and only one car was damaged in an accident but nothing serious and no injuries. Unfortunately we lost money due to amount of participants as we usually have at least 70 or 80 registrants. Greg and Craig feel the economy had a lot to do with the lack of more registrants as well as the deletion of names from our email list by some individual.

Both feel we need to really give serious consideration as to whether we want to do any DE's in 2012.

Greg would like for our membership to come up with some new ideas for events we could do as a club for 2012. Please report on DE's, Concours shows, tours/drives, racing, autocross and anything which might interest our members for more camaraderie and a good time.

Todd recommended we do a rally as we have a great area for such an event and keep the 5th Sunday drives going for 2012. Other events mentioned were wine tasting and we have several wineries nearby in N C.

Tom Raymond reported the Speedster Group this fall went to the BMW plant in Greenville for a plant tour and recommended this for a short trip we could do next year. We do have to make an appointment 30-days prior to the day of the tour.

Craig also recommended doing an autocross in conjunction with a teen drive for teenagers, and teaching them how to drive more safely.

A late guest James Edens from Nickels Speed Shop in Piney Flats Industrial Park acquainted us with their services. They are primarily a shop for domestics, however, James is quite familiar with foreign cars and he hopes we will try them in the future for high performance improvements we may desire for our Porsches, street or track. By registering with them (email address) they will honor a 5 to 10 % discount on parts we may be interested in purchasing from them. Their phone is 423-391-0941 and address is 293 Industrial Park Road.

We would like to try new meeting places/restaurants next year for our monthly meetings. Would everyone please check into restaurants in the Tri-Cities who can accommodate our group and report back to Greg Schuette?

During the meeting Derek used pictures on one of the training monitors from Ed and Hugh's recent European trip to show the club. The trip over and back was uneventful, the day after arriving Ed picked up his new European Delivery Mercedes-Benz they used for 21 of their 23 days traveling. Which made an awesome car for the Autobahns and mountains in Austria and Northern Italy. And due to all the small cars in Europe the CLS was a hit in every town, Ed and Hugh had their pictures taken numerous times as people apparently thought they were celebrities? However, they were disappointed they were not asked for our autographs! Suppose it was the car???

Autobahn Adventures tour company did a splendid job for their portion of the trip. Wonderful meals, toured a winery, visited Venice, Italy (no Gondola rides), stayed at a 2,000 year old Castle for 2-nights and experienced 2 or 3 of Europe's finest luxury hotels in Austria and Germany. Their agenda allows one to have a half day or all day a couple times to do whatever, rather than a planned all-day regiment of something to do every hour of the day.

The Porsche, Mercedes and VW Museums were very nice, however, the afternoon at Ruf Automobile was very special. Ruf actually produces new cars as well as restoration of Classic Cars or rebuilding your street or track car. Seeing their 997 with their own manufactured V8 in the back replacing the Boxer Six was a real treat. The rear seat is

untouched and how they "shoehorn" the V8 in place of the six is anyone's guess. They had several CTR3 total custom cars in various stages of production as well as one completed, along with several RT12 650 HP very special Turbo all-wheel drive cars. If price is no object and you want the fastest and best, Ruf Automobile is the place to go! Ruf knows Porsches like no other place in the world.

Two factory tours at Porsche (Stuttgart & Leipzig), Mercedes (Stuttgart) and two factory tours at VW (Dresden & Wolfsburg) made the trip more interesting to see how German engineering is incorporated in some great cars. The VW plant in Dresden is total glass and known as the "Glass House" as one can see through the building to the other side. And the plants are so clean you could have lunch sitting on their floors. The all glass silo type multi story parking buildings for new cars are quite unique and totally operated electronically. New cars are parked in these glass parking garages until the new owners pick them up.

After the Autobahn Adventures tour we visited Berlin and took pictures of the portions of the remaining wall that divided east and west Germany. We saw pictures and read stories of how the east Germans were treated in extremely poor conditions and how many families were separated for years

until the wall was torn down. Only depressing portion of trip!!!

Enjoy.....*Hugh Tackett*



RUF RGT8
997 RUF Designed V-8 Conversion



Alois and Estonia Ruf at RUF Automobile in Pfaffenhausen, Germany