

BLAU RAIN

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www.brr-pca.org

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Greetings

Is it 2015 already? They say time flies when you are having a good time; the good times shared by the Blue Ridge Region members must have accelerated the 2014 months along. These good times included several long drives with a good meal at the end, something we all enjoyed. Traditional activities such as October in Paint Bank and the Michelsens' St. Patrick's Day party remained popular, also an outing event on Smith Mountain Lake hosted by the Kauffmans. It was great to have an exciting Tudor race in our backyard at VIR. As the host region, BRR members manned the Porcheplatz tent for the weekend and parked a lot of Porches. The payoff came in the form of great seats for the race plus exclusive access to the Porsche race teams via Q & A sessions. A tech session at Martin's German Service and our Driver Education events round out the year. These are but a few of the many and varied activities each year in the Blue Ridge Region, PCA. Invited guests and interested people can attend most events.

Monthly Cars 'n Coffee meetings provided additional opportunities for our members to gather for a meal and companionship, (things we are good at). These are low commitment events for all; no reservations, just show up and enjoy yourself. Sometimes other activities (i.e. MDA car show) would be linked to follow the Cars 'n Coffee, but it is always at the member's option to participate in either activity. Different gathering spots were selected within the region to provide a nice Saturday morning drive, a good breakfast, opportunity to admire other members' cars, and time for tire kickin'. Destinations were selected in Salem, Blacksburg, Lynchburg, Vinton, Forest, and Roanoke.

Our last event of the year demonstrated what Blue Ridge Region is all about. We had our Christmas Dinner/Charity Auction at the Roanoke Country Club, it was great to see old friends and many of our newer members.

BRR members gathered to enjoy one another's company and to share a good meal together (thanks to Wanda and Keith Martin for making arrangements). Thanks to Jeff Wendell for doing a great job as auctioneer for the night. There were many interesting and unique items brought in by the members for the auction block. This resulted in some spirited bidding, happy bidders leaving with their prizes, and most important approximately \$1460 for local charities. Thanks to those of you who brought auction items and to all of our bidders. We did a good job and had fun doing it. Thanks to the Board and Officers for a great 2014 and let's plan on more of the same in 2015.

Share yourselves,

Pete Kauffman, President

About Us

The Blue Ridge Region of the Porsche Club of America (BRR-PCA) was chartered in 1980 and is now one of 141 PCA Regions across the country. We have about 160 members; only about 0.2 percent of the 65,000+ PCA members nationwide. Our geographical center is around Roanoke, but our area extends south to the North Carolina line, into West Virginia, east to Lynchburg, and north to the Shenandoah Region of PCA around Staunton and Waynesboro. All our members own Porsches, of course, but we participate in the Club because we like to drive them, keep them up, learn about them, talk about them, and promote them. In other words, about the only other people who can stand to be around us for very long are other Porsche owners who feel the same way. Actually, it is not all about the cars; we seem to do as much eating and socializing as we do driving and talking cars. Popular annual events include our January planning brunch, cruise and dine, driver education (DE), Cars 'n Coffee, and our Christmas Banquet and Charity Auction. We schedule at least one event per month.

Charities 2014

Our club is a charitable organization. Each year we have a Christmas auction with proceeds going to charities we select from our the region. For 2014 we donated \$1000 to each of four charities across our region. One charity is chosen from a different area in Blue Ridge Region. Additionally we donate to other charities during the year as voted by the board.

The generosity of our members allows us to give back some of our blessings. Some members may have used one of our charities, some may use one in the future. Our donations allow the charities to help others during these tough economic times.

Thank you for your support.

Photo: Dave Hogan



Notes 2014

2014 was a fun year in Blue Ridge region. Socials, Cars 'n Coffee, and track events gave some activity for everyone. And many participated in all three event types. We do

have something for everyone! In 2015 the fun continues. Driver education events at VIR are planned for several months. Our annual

planning session is early January. Cars 'n Coffee continues each month.

So whatever your Porsche activities are, we have something for most everyone.

Racing Events

Each year our members attend a variety of races, some close and some distant. Locally we have Virginia International Raceway (VIR)

which had an Tudor race in 2014 and will have a Tudor Sportscar race in 2015. Other events of member interest are Daytona and

Sebring Florida. The 24 Hours at Daytona begins the racing season. Porsche and racing go together. See you there.



Photos from 2014 Daytona 24 (left) and 2014 Sebring (above center & right).

Photos: Jerry Hampton



Social Events 2014

Picnic and Polo

Combining a polo match with a picnic, and at a winery too, makes an enjoyable afternoon. The cloudy day made being outside a little

cool, but not uncomfortable. Everyone brought food for our table which we enjoyed before and during the match. We even had a group do the

divot stomp during a break. Action was fast with horses racing by close to the boards. Everyone stayed clear of the action making a safe event.



(L) Blue Ridge Region cars parked beside the polo field. (R) The polo match in progress (note the University of Virginia team in orange).

Photos: Dave Hogan

Porsche Show & Tell for Lynchburg Cub Scouts

While not an official Blue Ridge Region event, Bill and Debbie, Gary, and Dave responded to a request from a local church to bring their Porsches to a Cub Scout Camp they were sponsoring. They took their Porsches for a Show and Tell and received a warm welcome from staff and scouts. The scouts were enthusiastic to say the least. They sat in the cars, pretended to drive, and blew the horn more than a few times.



Support of our community is part of being a PCA member. We actively support organizations with PCA and as individuals.

How many Cub Scouts can you get in a 911? It appears to be more than the designed seating for 4. The looks on their faces made our time there very worthwhile. Because of our support, maybe some of them will buy a Porsche when they are adults.

Photo: Dave Hogan

Cars 'N Coffee

Cars 'n Coffee is our monthly casual social event. It is open not only to PCA members, but also to all Porsche owners, guests, and anyone willing to listen to us talk about our cars. Held at 9:30 AM each month in a different area within our region, it gives an opportunity for all members to meet and socialize. Weather permitting a lot of socializing happens in the parking lot before and after the brunch. These events usually have the largest attendance of our events with numbers ranging from 15-25 people. Dates & places are online.



BRR members at Beverly's Country Kitchen for Cars 'n Coffee.

Photo: Dave Hogan

Swinging Bridge Restaurant

Another of our favorite places is the Swinging Bridge Restaurant in Paint Bank, VA, on Rt. 311 near

the West Virginia line. 2014's visit was just as enjoyable as previous trips. The combination of

roads fit for Porsches and a great restaurant make this event popular.



Blue Ridge Region members gather in the parking lot after a good meal and conversation. The early fall colors were showing around us, and the fog stayed on the highest ridges.

Photo: Dave Hogan

Leaving Roanoke on Rt. 311 begins an approximately 28 mile run through the Virginia mountains. The driving is spirited while staying within the speed limit. There are two hairpin curves to challenge even expert drivers. And if you can do it safely, the mountain views are spectacular, especially in the fall when we like to go, though this trip had its share of fog limiting the viewing to a few places.

The long, curved road reflects only a small portion of Rt. 311 toward West Virginia. The road can be driven slowly or spirited, depending on the driver's mood.

Tech Session

Each year we have a tech session and lunch, and 2014 was no exception. There is always good food and company, and for the technically challenged, a tech session about maintaining and repairing our Porsches.

As usual we met at Martin's German Service in Roanoke. Keith and Wanda supplied the location. This session saw Keith Martin displaying the restoration progress of his 1964 911, and how the work was being accomplished.

After the tech session we gathered for the "desert session," the highlight of the day for some (maybe many?). If you want to learn something about fixing your Porsche, and eat great food, this event is for you.



Members talk during the Tech Session.
Photos: Dave Hogan

Keith's new project, another 1964 911.

Porscheplatz at VIR

2014 was the first time the United Sportscar Series has come to Virginia International Raceway. The Porscheplatz Corral was in

the same location as 2013 and offered a spectacular view of a curving section of track. Porscheplatz cars were allowed on the track

for touring laps. Some said the speed on the track was too slow. But whatever the speed, touring laps are fun.



New Porsches outside the tent at VIR before the Tudor race.

Photo: Dave Hogan

Christmas Dinner & Charity Auction

What a great way to start the Holidays! Good friends, good food, and a beautiful setting! Our annual Christmas Dinner and Charity Auction was held at Roanoke Country Club. Wanda and Keith Martin did a great job planning and setting up the night for us. Thank you Wanda and Keith.

We were pleased to welcome many new folks as well as greet old friends and neighbors. I would like to thank everyone who brought in an item for our auction, as well as those who purchased the fine merchandise available. Thanks to Jeff Wendell, who did a great job as our auctioneer again. We had quite the range of items. Our efforts together raised close to \$1460, to which \$2540 was added by BRR, to be split among four local charities. We will make contributions to a Roanoke area charity, a Smith Mountain Lake area charity, a Blacksburg area charity, and

a Lynchburg area charity. Thank you to all for your help in reaching out to support our communities in this way.

This year we plan to have lots of events and activities for everyone to participate. We'll start the year with a planning brunch in January and end the year with our annual

Christmas Dinner and Charity Auction in December. Check our calendar on our website and events on Facebook. Also, you can see our events on the Zone 2 website calendar.

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters. May 2015 bring peace and prosperity to each of you.



Left Top: Outgoing president Dan transfers the gavel to incoming president Pete.



Left Bottom: Auctioneer Jeff has a new friend.

Above Left: Auctioneer Jeff tries to get a higher bid.

Above Right: Dan speaks to the group.

Below: The entrance foyer at Roanoke Country Club.

Photos: Mike Paris



A Comedy of Errors

January 11, 2014 was a cold and crisp Saturday morning. When the alarm sounded, I struggled to get out of bed and get moving—after all it was a Cars and Coffee morning at the Old Oak Cafe in Moneta. Walking out the door, I noticed the front and rear trunks on the Boxster were open, so I pushed them closed as I walked around the car. Upon sitting in the car and turning the key, the only sound emitted was the driver's window rolling about half way down. There was no other sound. The engine would not turn over, as the battery was completely discharged. Thankfully, it was parked on the carport as the forecast was for falling weather and brutally cold temperatures. Another disconcerting happening was that the key locked in the ignition and would not come out. (You will have to ask the German engineers why?)

There was no time to deal with it, so Martha and I hopped in the Volvo to get to Cars and Coffee. On returning home, the task was to charge the battery, but it is in the front trunk (that I had just closed). There was some sense of urgency as the temperatures were running very low at night and a discharged battery will freeze. We all know the levers to open the trunks are at your left hip, however on the 987, they are electrically operated. DAMN! After doing some research on the internet

and reading the owner's manual, I learned there are two solutions to opening the trunk when the battery is dead. The first solution is to find a good battery and a set of battery cables. You then hook the cable to the positive terminal and to a tab that you pull out on the fuse box. You then hook a cable to the negative post and to the door striker. However, on my set the positive and negative wires are clipped together with only enough separation to hook to battery terminals. Therefore another set of cables had to be located to use the positive cable from one set and the negative cable from the other set to be able to make the reach. This is supposed to give you enough power to open the trunk to get access to the battery. However, when I pulled the lever ---- NOTHING ---- DAMN!!

So, back to the owner's manual, and to the internet to read about solution number two. This involves jacking up the front driver's side of the car, taking off the wheel and removing the wheel liner to get to a wire, that, when pulled, will mechanically open the front trunk. After gathering together the jack, jack stands and other required tools, I remembered an adapter is required to loosen the security lug nut on each wheel. I also remembered it is in its designated storage place IN the front trunk. (You will have to ask the

German engineers why?)

So, back to solution number one. I borrowed a "battery pack" used for starting cars and hooked it to the designated points and left them hooked up for about an hour. I was very glad to hear the pop of the front trunk opening as the lever was pulled. The battery was totally discharged and required many hours on a charger to build back up. The adapter for the security lug nut was promptly moved to the glove compartment (to insure it will never be needed for this purpose again).

This should have been the end of the story however there was one more error to occur. When hooking the battery connections, the ratchet handle swung over breaking the plastic vent tube off flush with the battery. DAMN! I managed to get the broken piece out of the battery by putting a U shaped bend in a piece of stiff wire, sticking it inside the broken fitting, and pulling. A trip to Autozone and Advance revealed they no longer sell vent kits---"they come with the battery". They had no plastic fittings that would serve the purpose. In desperation, I asked if they had taken in any battery cores that had the vent fitting still in it? YESSSSS! They had just taken in a Mercedes battery with the vent fitting still in place!. "No Charge". With all the

connections in place, I was thrilled to hear the engine roar to life. What a wonderful sound.

In retrospect, I believe the very sensitive buttons on the key that opens the trunks were accidentally pressed while in my pocket. That triggered this “comedy of errors” which proved to be a learning experience I do not care to repeat. I hope my story helps you avoid the same experience.

Right: Church at Paint Bank, VA. Photo: Jerry Hampton



Porsche Parade 2014, Monterey, Ca.

Photos: Dick Hatch



Driver Education and Club Race

Driver Education is a popular event with Blue Ridge Region Members. Driver Education gives members an opportunity to experience near race conditions on the same tracks used by professional drivers in the world's top race series.

Close to home for many Blue Ridge Region members, Virginia International Raceway is scheduled by

several east coast PCA regions as well as Zone 2.

But Driver Education is not just for drivers. There are volunteer positions which have to be filled too.

Driver Education is also an excellent photography opportunity. Of course the cars, not just Porsches, are always interesting.

So whether you like to drive on the track, help with the logistics, or just be a spectator Driver Education is an interesting and fun event. The connections made at a Driver Education event also aid endeavors off the track. Come to a Driver Education event near you and see for yourself. You'll be glad you did.

Photos: Dave Hogan



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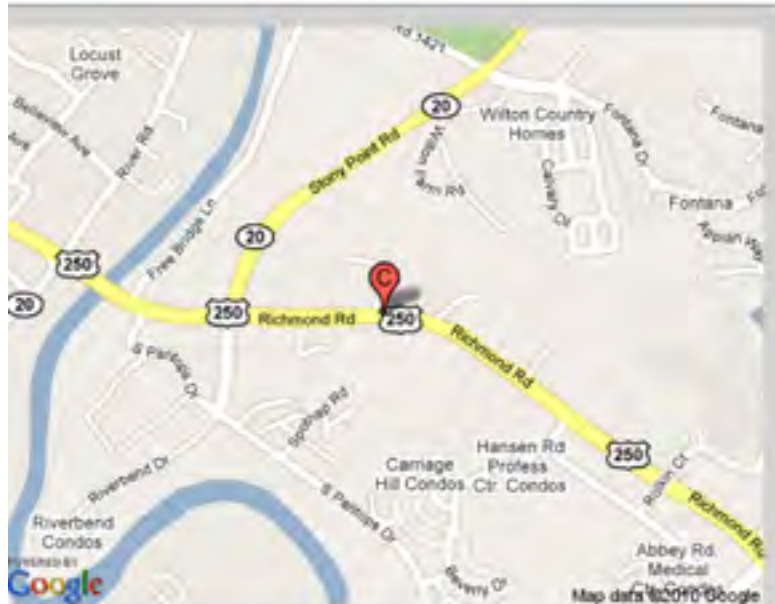
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- Carlos Vicioso, *Sales Associate*
- Everett Backe, *General Service Manager*
- Chris Wilson, *General Manager*

The Best of 2014 - The Year in Review

Continuing from past years we have selected the “Best Of” awards for 2014. Some are humorous and some are serious, but all are our people having fun. If you see yourself here, congratulations (I think). If not, just wait. I have *my* camera ready and so do others.

Best Race Look

Gary watches the race on the back of his eyelids. Where was Dick this time?



Best Cruise-In

Each year Star City Motor Madness in Roanoke, Va. sponsors an old fashioned cruise on Williamson Road.



Best “Cool” Look

Dick and Laura work the registration table at the VIR Porscheplatz.



Best Odd Use

Of course Porsche cars are good road cars, but they may have other uses too.



Best Porsche

Many awards are given during the year, but the ones given at Cars ‘n Coffee are the best. This time Chris takes home the trophy.



Best Vanity Plate

Intuitively obvious, I hope.



Best Picnic

During the year Blue Ridge Region has many events. With diverse food and destinations. Below is BRR members having a picnic on the sidelines while watching a sporting event.



Best Divot Stompers

BRR members return to the sidelines during halftime of the polo match after “stomping the divots” made by horses, a long standing tradition at polo matches.

Best Selfie

Editor Jerry testing Dick's camera.



Best Website

Blue Ridge wins here with it's third place finish at Parade: www.brr-pca.org



Best PCA Region

In my opinion anyway. A great group of people. Join us and see for yourself. You'll be glad you did.

Best Scenic Drive

The natural beauty of the Blue Ridge Parkway make this highway a perfect place to drive some curves, see spectacular views, and have a picnic.

Best Spectator Event

Porscheplatz at VIR. Take a Tudor Sportscar race and a huge Porsche Corral then add fans. Plus a touring lap drive on the track adds to the event. We will look for you there in 2015.



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Photo: Rosie Hampton



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Bill Driskell

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It was a fun and exciting year in Blue Ridge Region. Our club exists because of its people.

Dedicated volunteers make it possible. Our sponsors, advertisers, and supporters contribute both money and time to make us successful. Please remember to support those who support us.

Thank you to each person and each organization, contributors to our success in 2014. Without you we are not a club.

Here's to 2015. May it be as grand as 2014. Blue Ridge Region hopes to see each of you at a meeting and an event.

Lastly, Porsche Club of America with its organization and support make Parade, Escape, DEs, and many other events possible. Whether your participation in PCA goes from Panorama reader to attending all our events, a large team and many hours go into planning and execution.

West Salem Collision Center



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Do you know who our leaders are? See our contacts list inside the front cover and know. We are here to serve our club.

And you can help by volunteering for one of the positions your club needs to be filled.

Photo: Dick Hatch

Magazine Credits:

Front Cover Photo: Laura Hogan. On the way to Roanoke for brunch.

Page 2, Charities, Notes, Racing Events: Articles: Dave Hogan

Page 3, Picnic & Polo, Porsche Show & Tell: Articles: Dave Hogan

Page 4, Cars 'n Coffee & Swinging Bridge Restaurant: Articles: Dave Hogan

Page 5 Tech Session and Porscheplatz: Articles: Dave Hogan

Page 6, Christmas Dinner: Article: Gary Templeton and Dave Hogan

Page 7 A Comedy of Errors: Article: Byron Maddox

Page 9 DE & Club Race article: Dave Hogan

Page 11 & 12, Best of articles: Dave Hogan, Best of Photos: Various

Page 13 Finish Line article: Dave Hogan

Page 15 Photo: Dave Hogan

Rear Cover Photo, Jerry Hampton





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Mary Brogan Wilson, Owner

Blau Rain*

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