

BLAU RAIN

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www.brr-pca.org

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Happy New Year to All!

2015 was a great year for Blue Ridge Region members. We had two milestones – celebrating 35 years as a PCA Chapter and reintroducing Tire Rack Street Survival for teens school - twice !!

In 1980, John Ferguson, George A. Gasparian, Leonard D. Hatch, Jr., Jack W. Hobbs, John Kuykendall, Keith W. Martin, William E. Reefe, David Snow and Charles J. Schleupner were the original enthusiasts who got together to form our region. John Ferguson, Dick Hatch, John Kuykendall, Keith Martin, Bill Reefe, Dave Snow, and Charlie Schleupner are still in the chapter. Dick, Dave, and Charlie still serve on the board.

It was a bright, sunny day in May at the Salem Civic Center where members of Blue Ridge Region, assisted by other local car club members, police, fire department, and many other individuals gathered to assist 45 teens as they spent the day working their way through the Street Survival School.

Teens attended classroom instruction, then got practical experience in lessons learned through drills in threshold braking, skid control, distracted driving, semi-truck awareness, texting awareness, braking in corners, figure 8 skid control, and slalom. Our second school was on a COLD day in October, where students went through the same instruction and drills. The Blue Ridge Region is committed to making the Tire Rack Street Survival School for teens its mission.

The Region continued their traditional activities at a variety of venues: There were drives that took us to Paint Bank, Appomattox, and Rocky Mount. We had lunch at the Hotel Roanoke, dinner at Liberty Station in Bedford, took a walking tour of Roanoke with food tasting at various eateries, and even went to a drive-in theater.

We also had a driving event that featured a play in Staunton, as well as a dinner at the

Edelweiss restaurant near the Blue Ridge Parkway. Thank you to Lynn Schleupner for making the arrangements.

Our 'backyard' was the scene of the Tudor race at VIR again in 2015, and included a Porscheplatz. As the host region, members manned the Porscheplatz tent for the weekend and parked a lot of Porches. The reward was great seats for the race and a Q. & A. session with the Porsche race team members.

The highlight of our activities might just be the monthly Cars 'n Coffee meetings. Different gathering spots are chosen each month. Members may choose to participate or not. You get a nice drive and great food. It is a good time to enjoy each other's company and admire other member's cars. At times, there are even other activities that follow the Cars 'n Coffee (i.e. tour Appomattox Civil War Museum). We have traveled to Salem, Blacksburg, Vinton, Forest, Moneta, and Roanoke.

November was the celebration of our 35th Year. Former race car driver David Hobbs was the guest speaker at a catered dinner at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke.

Our year ended with a new member welcome and holiday party. It was great to welcome new members and see old friends. It also provided the Region with the opportunity to raise funds for charity. The Region collected over \$1,400 for four local charities – [HumanKind](#), [Lake Christian Ministries](#), [NRV Cares](#), and [West End Center](#).

This can only highlight a few of the many and varied activities of the Blue Ridge Region.

Thank you to the board and officers for a great 2015. I Hope you will join us in 2016 to help us continue these great activities!

Yours in fellowship,
Debbie Repass, President

Charities 2015

Our club is a charitable organization. Each year we raise funds for charity with proceeds going to charities we select from our region. During 2015 we donated \$1400 to 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.



Article & Photo: Dave Hogan

Notes 2015

2015 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 2016 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.

We try to have something for most everyone.

Article: 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. 2015's

visit was just as enjoyable as our previous trips. The combination of roads fit for Porsches and a great restaurant make this event popular.

The driving is spirited while staying within the speed limit. There are two hairpin curves to challenge even expert drivers. And if you can safely look while driving, the mountain views are spectacular, especially in the fall when we like to go, and this time the weather was near perfect for driving and viewing.

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

This is one trip many members look for every year. We hope to see you there.



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

Article & Photo: Dave Hogan

Social Events 2015

35th Anniversary Dinner Reflections

The recent dinner celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Region of PCA was a time for happiness, pride, and renewing old friendships, but it was also a chance to reflect on how far we have come and what the club means to us.

Charlie, one of six charter members present, spoke about his experiences. Initially during the early meetings of the Club's founders at Rose Porsche-Audi there were new acquaintances and much discussion of the cars- Porsche cars- around which the meetings centered. In those early days there were a few autocrosses at which the members would see and greet each other. Then events extended to weekends at various tracks for driver's education events. It was during those weekends each in attendance came to know the others. Most importantly, the club evolved into a source of deep and long-lasting friendships for members, but also for our whole family. In the early days, Summit Point was a destination on many a weekend. Caravans of Porsches headed up I-81 on Friday evenings. Trailers were rare and most of the members drove their Porsches. Lynn slipped into the line with her Volvo station wagon and three kids, who were looking

forward to restaurant meals, ice cream desserts, and fun at the track. The timing and scoring booth was headquarters for the children and the food. They loved using stopwatches to see who had the fastest lap times. Then they were off to watch from different vantage points or to play some soccer. We realized being with friends of all ages taught our children how to relate to many different adults on a personal level. It is an important life skill and they learned it almost without knowing. Our children knew the other club members (adults) on a first name basis and were truly assimilated into the Club.

Meanwhile, Charlie was zooming around the track, learning the lines and engaging in some friendly competition. But if someone had a mishap and needed parts or a hand in repairing a minor problem, the competition was replaced by immediate assistance and advice. Charlie learned he could count on the members of Blue Ridge Region and all the other drivers whenever he needed help, and he reciprocated in kind for others.

After Charlie became an instructor, he and other members of BRR-PCA came to know club members from

other regions. Perspectives and friendship further broadened. Yes, the cars were part of this but the personal relationships extended beyond the cars to other people and new friends.

By then Mark, then David, and finally Ann were driving and it was only natural for them to participate in DE events. They learned what was never taught in the inept drivers' education programs offered by our schools. They became good drivers on and off the track – which has paid many life dividends, both for their driving and relationships with others.

To those founding members and others who have subsequently joined the BRR-PCA, the club remains a group of people with a similar interest in cars (Porsches), but also similar life goals- camaraderie, success in a profession, and overall success at living with and among others. PCA is a club of people/friends who happen to own the same brand of car. But foremost, it is the people who count!!!

Lynn Schleupner, Social Chair

Charlie Schleupner, Charter member

35th Anniversary Dinner Reflections



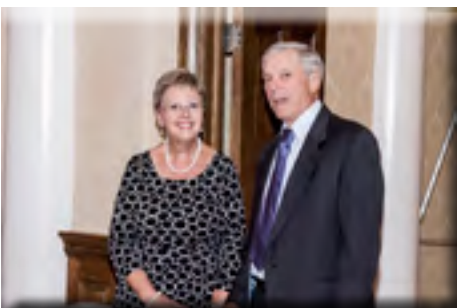
Guest speaker: Former driver and current NBC commentator David Hobbs. He gave an interesting view of racing in his early years. Racing was rougher and simpler then.



Top Left: Charter Member Dick Hatch with his usual smile.

Top Right: Some of the many who attended.

Bottom Left: The event was successful in large part to the efforts of Wanda Martin. Outgoing president Pete Kauffman (R).



Attendees listen to the interesting talk by David Hobbs.

Photos: Dave Hogan

Street Survival

Blue Ridge Region sponsored two Tire Rack Street Survival sessions in 2015. We believe in teaching young drivers how to survive in dangerous driving situations. From the classroom to the

driving course, students learned how avoid potential accident situations by learning how their car reacts and handles, and how each driver can best use the learned skills to control their car. Dry

roads or wet roads, going straight or turning, the students practiced their new driving skills. If you have a young driver, give the gift of more driver education and take them to a class near you.



A 911 Targa on the wet pavement.
Article: Dave Hogan, Photos: Jerry Hampton

Spring session graduation class.

Porsche Corral at VIR

2014 was the first time the Tudor United Sportscar Series had come to Virginia International Raceway. The 2015 Porsche

Corral & tent was in the same location as 2014 and offered a spectacular view of a curving section of track. Porsche Corral 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.



Left: Porsche #911 and 912 in the pits before the race start.

Center: The view of the track from the Porsche Corral tent.

Right: BRR member Laura Hogan meeting the Virginia Tech cheerleaders at VIR

Article & photos: Dave Hogan

Rolex 24 at Daytona

In January 2015 your editor and your BRR Database Administrator made our annual pilgrimage, for about the 10th consecutive year (Dick has attended over 40 times), to Daytona for the Rolex 24 Hour endurance race. After attending for many years now I have come to agree with Dick, the best part is not the on-track activities (although great) but rather meeting with acquaintances from previous once-a-year meetings and renewing the friendships!

The PCA-sponsored Porsche Corral was once again the focal gathering point and it was full as usual with Fans of the Marque from near and far – reference the photos for a personalized license tag example of areas represented. The brand new (at the time) 911 Carrera GTS PCA Club Coupe, celebrating 60 years of partnership, was on special display and was being admired by all – both old and young.

The garage and track (day and night) eye-candy was

spectacular and, although they did not finish well in this race, in retrospect Porsche did win the season-long championship in the GTLM class by winning OVERALL in the Petit LeMans finale! At Daytona there was even a display of car guy (or truck guy) humor in one of the race fan parking areas (see photo bottom left).

All-in-all it was another memorable Rolex 24 – if you have not attended try it, you will not be disappointed!

Article & Photos: Jerry Hampton



Green Bank Observatory & Cass Scenic Railroad.

August is a good time to head for the mountains, and that is what we did. Joining with Shenandoah Region the tour started in Green Bank, West Virginia and the Green Bank Observatory. Next was Cass Scenic Railroad in Cass, West Virginia. The last stop was the Greenbrier Bunker at the Greenbrier in Greenbrier, West Virginia. Overnight stays were at the Snowshoe Mountain in Snowshoe, West Virginia.

The event's first stop was the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia which includes the Green Bank Science Center, classrooms, an auditorium, research facilities, and an exhibit hall.

Next was the Cass Scenic Railroad in Cass, West Virginia. Originally the trains hauled logs down the mountain, today it is a scenic trip up the mountain with

stops for lunch in places with spectacular views.

The last stop on this trip was the Greenbrier Bunker at the Greenbrier Resort in Greenbrier, West Virginia. Originally the bunker was a cold war safe haven for the President and Congress, today it is no longer used and is open to the public.

Other amenities included freebies at Snowshoe.

Article: Dave Hogan



Top Left: Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope. Photo: Jim Condon

Top Right: Our group car on the Cass Scenic railroad. Photo: Jim Condon

Bottom Left: Some of our group at the Raven Grill. Photo: Dave Hogan.

Bottom Right: The drives were Porsche perfect. Photo: Laura Hogan

Cars 'n Coffee

Cars 'n Coffee is our monthly casual social event. It is open not only to PCA members, but 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 and others, 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 on our website calendar and Facebook page.



BRR members at Peaks of Otter Restaurant for Cars 'n Coffee. One of many parking lots where members socialize during the year. Don't be surprised to see a caravan of Porsches near you. Just get in line and come with us!

Article and photo: Dave Hogan



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Pictures from 2015 Events



Rainbow at Mayberry Drive-In
Photo: Unknown



Members at Tuggle's Gap Restaurant
Photo: Dave Hogan



Pete has a thoughtful moment at the planning session.

Photo: Dave Hogan



Our group after Cars 'n Coffee.

Photo: Dave Hogan



Winning Porsche 911, Tudor race at V.I.R.

Photo: Dave Hogan



Some of the people at our 35th anniversary dinner.

Photo: Dave Hogan

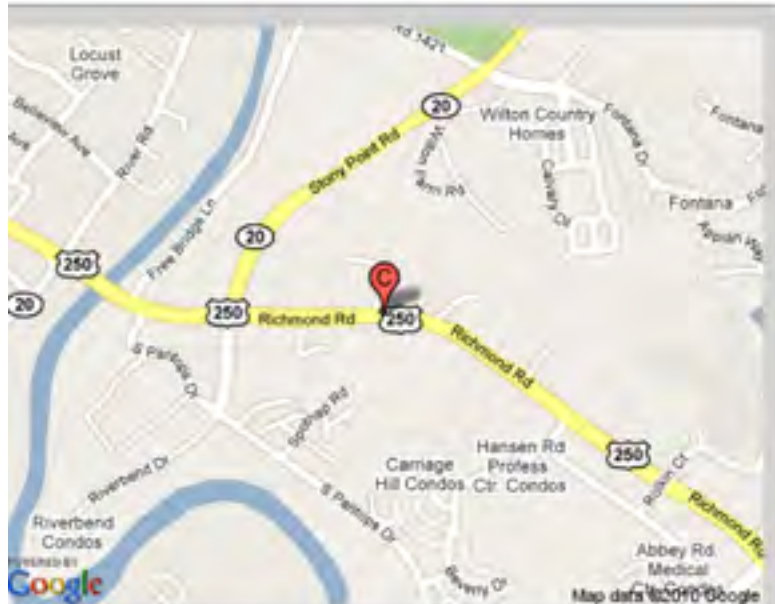


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- Carlos Vicioso, *Sales Associate*
- Everett Backe, *General Service Manager*
- Chris Wilson, *General Manager*

The Best of 2015 - The Year in Review

Continuing from past years we have selected the "Best Of" awards for 2015. 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

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



Best Porsche

Many will argue which Porsche is best, but a free one is best? Right?



Best Event S.S. X2

BRR members prepare for our first 2015 Street Survival.



Best Train Ride

Cass Scenic Railroad in Cass, West Virginia.



Best Country Music

The Floyd Country Store



Best Fall Scenery

The drive to Paint Bank, Va. and the Swinging Bridge Restaurant. Along with the fall colors there are Buffalo grazing in the fields nearby.



Best Grass Mower

One of several to choose from.



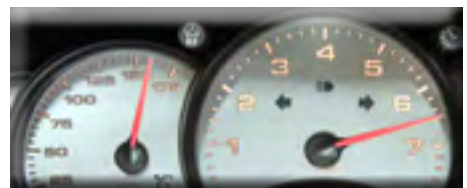
Best Doughnuts

From Krispy Kreme of course!



Best PCA Region

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





Tully's Porsche 911 after dark in the 2015 24 Hours of Daytona. Night racing has its own unique challenges, and its own interesting lighting systems adding safety and information.

Photo: Jerry Hampton

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2015 marked the last year for the Brumos car. Bromos Porsche has a long and distinguished history in sports car racing and not seeing their car on the track will leave an empty spot in racing.

Photo: Jerry 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 2015. Without you we are not a club.

Here's to 2016. May it be as grand as 2015. 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.

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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: Dave Hogan. Porsche 911s at Virginia International Raceway
Page 11 Best of articles: Dave Hogan, Best of Photos: Various
Page 13 Finish Line article: Dave Hogan
Back Cover Photo: Jerry Hampton

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Blau Rain*

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***Blau Rain** is a 17th century German translation meaning Blue Ridge.



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