

# BLAU RAIN

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Blue Ridge Region, Porsche Club of America  
[www.brr-pca.org](http://www.brr-pca.org)



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# Inside This Blau Rain

<b>Message from the President</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>From Around The world &amp; In Print</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Charities 2017</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Notes 2017</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>From Around The Web &amp; In Print</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Treffen Asheville, NC</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Treffen Pictures</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Back of the Dragon</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Driver Education</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>2017 Event Pictures</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Porscheplatz at VIR</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Cars 'n Coffee</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>2017 Event Pictures</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Past Event Pictures</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Finish Line</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Credits</b> .....	<b>15</b>

## Advertisers Index

<b>The Sportscar Clinic</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Porsche of Charlottesville</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Commercial Waterworks, Inc</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Precision Motion Motorsports</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Brogan Insurance</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>King's Auto Upholstery</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>West Salem Collision Center</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Kustom Film &amp; Tint, LLC</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Euro-Specialty</b> .....	<b>Inside Back Cover</b>

# Happy New Year to All!

2017 was a tough year for Blue Ridge Region members. We were not able to hold a Tire Rack Street Survival for teens because of the change in the insurance program that PCA National instituted. Our previous Street Survival Schools allowed teens with learners and a designated number of driving hours to attend the school. These teens make up the majority of our students. The change required full licensure.

In support of the Virginia Transportation Museum, we joined with the Roanoke Valley Region of the Antique Automobile Association of America for a Cars n' Coffee End of Summer Cruise In.

October brought a great event. 27 members participated in "Back of the Dragon" driving event. They traveled to Marion, Virginia, had lunch at Hungry Mother State Park and visited a local winery. There was a rumor the caravan made a wrong turn, but I am sure that was part of the trip.

We held our annual Planning Meeting at Mamma Maria's in Salem and our Annual Meeting and Election Brunch at The Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Again, a big, big thank you goes out to Lynn Schlepner, our Social Chair, for making all of the arrangements.

Our 'backyard' was again the scene of the Michelin GT Challenge race at VIR, which included a Porscheplatz. As the host region, members manned the Porscheplatz tent for the weekend and parked a lot of Porches.

Those who volunteered to work the Porscheplatz were rewarded with great seats for the race and volunteer shirts that were the envy of those who did not volunteer and for which they received offers to buy. I am told, however, that no one took them up on the offers. Past President Dan Dehart was in charge of all the volunteers and was praised for his efforts!

The highlight of our activities continues to be our monthly Cars 'n Coffee meetings.

Different gathering spots are chosen each month. 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. We have ventured throughout the region by driving to Rustburg, Moneta, Roanoke, Forest, Salem, Lynchburg, Rocky Mount, and Martinsville. Two new venues were added this year – Acorn Hill Lodge in Forest and Simply Suzanne's in Martinsville. A big thank you goes out to our Cars n' Coffee Chairman, Gene Reed. He keeps coming up with great places to go.

Our year ended with a new member welcome and holiday party at the home of Dawn and Mick Michelsen. 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 funds from our members and will add money so each of the four charities will receive \$1000. The charities are: Bedford Domestic Violence Services, Lake Christian Ministries, NRV Cares and West End Center.

It is also hard for us to say goodbye to Mick Michelsen as Secretary of the Blue Ridge Region. Mick has held this job for 22 years. While we are not willing to let him walk off into the sunset, we think it is time to give him a break. And do not despair, Mick will still maintain Piddlings.

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 2017. Hope you will join us in 2018 to help us continue these great activities!

Yours in fellowship,

Debbie Repass, President

## From Around The Web and In Print

The world of communication has changed. Cell phones and the internet have made communications instant or very fast. That is true for Blue Ridge Region as well.

Our Facebook page is updated almost daily with event information, photographs of past events, Porsche and other auto news, and reminders and changes. The good news is you do NOT have to have a Facebook account to see our page. Go to our website at [www.brr-pca.org](http://www.brr-pca.org) and click the "Facebook" button on the left then bookmark our Facebook page for the future.

It is that easy to stay current on BRR events and happenings. We have followers from around the world.

Monday Morning Porsche Piddlings is emailed to members each week. Along with the important announcements, a calendar of events is included. Other interesting tidbits are included and will make you laugh or cringe.

Our website is being used less each year. Faster means of

communication are taking its place. Whatever your preference, Blue Ridge Region is communicating with you.

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Below: Be careful where you leave your Porsche keys! There is always someone wanting to take it for a joy ride. Photo: Dave Hogan



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## Charities 2017

Our club is a charitable organization. Each year we raise funds for charity with proceeds going to charities we select from our region. During 2017 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.

Article & Photo: Dave Hogan



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## Notes 2017

2017 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 activity types. We do

have something for everyone! In 2018 the fun continues. Driver education events at VIR are planned by several groups. Our annual planning session is early January.

Cars 'n Coffee continues each month. A variety of activities await you. We try to have something for most everyone.

Article: Dave Hogan



# National Social Event 2017

## Treffen Asheville, NC

Article and photos: Dave Hogan

Treffen North America (formally Escape) was held in nearby Asheville, NC. The event took only 58 minutes to sell out showing how popular Treffen has become, especially along the winding mountain roads in western North Carolina. Attending were 455 PCA members with 230 Porsches. Registration and check-in began Wednesday afternoon at the Omni Grove Park Inn. The welcome reception on the aptly named Mountainview Terrace gave the view from a hotel built on a mountainside. With hors d'oeuvres and a bar close by, socializing after check-in was the order of the day.

Thursday had several driving tours of which the Wheels Through Time museum was my choice. Located in Maggie

Valley, North Carolina the museum is home to the one of the world's best collection of rare American motorcycles, memorabilia, and unique American automobiles.

Thursday evening featured a downtown dine-around, with five different Asheville restaurants from which to choose. Busses were provided so driving and parking was not an issue. I chose Pack's Tavern by chance and that proved to be an excellent choice.

Friday was Navigator's Day Off (NDO), but there was one driving tour, the famous Tail of the Dragon. I chose to relax at the hotel Friday, especially after the huge breakfast buffet left me a little lazy. Later in the day I did take advantage of the

shuttle provided by Porsche Asheville to go downtown to explore.

Friday evening we were back on the Mountainview Terrace, with dinner served family style. While we ate we received a beautiful sunset behind the Blue Ridge Mountains, and the weather was perfect.

For my Saturday tour I chose the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute, PARI, home to both radio and optical telescopes. They have a museum with minerals, meteorites, and space related equipment.

Saturday night dinner at the hotel country club included closing ceremonies and top PCA officials. And just like that Treffen was over.



Mountainview terrace during the check-in reception on the first afternoon of Treffen Asheville. Good friends and spectacular views from the terrace made the event more enjoyable.





## Back of the Dragon

The October event brought twenty seven members to the "Back of the Dragon" driving event. They traveled to Marion, Virginia, had lunch at Hungry Mother State Park and visited a local winery. Even the rumor the caravan made a wrong turn was dismissed as just part of the trip.



T. Center: Fred Gallagher

T. Right: Gene Reed

B. Left: Lynn Schleupner

B. Center: Lynn Schleupner

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# Driver Education

Article & Photos: Dave Hogan

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, the 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 volunteers needed to run the event. So whether you like to drive or just be around cars, a Driver Education event has a place for you.



# Porscheplatz at VIR

Article and photos: Dave Hogan

This is the August event which is eagerly awaited each year, the WeatherTech Sportscar Challenge arrives at VIR and BRR will be there. The 2017

Porscheplatz was larger and in a slightly different location but offered a spectacular view of a curving section of track. Porscheplatz cars

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





# Cars 'n Coffee

Article and Photos: Dave Hogan

Cars 'n Coffee is our monthly casual social event. It is open not only to PCA members, but also 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 20-25 people. Some of the places we enjoyed in 2017 are Simply Suzanne's in Martinsville, Peaks of Otter Lodge in Bedford, Colonial Restaurant in Rustburg, Old Oak Cafe in Moneta, The Roanoker in Roanoke, and The Hub in Rocky Mount. Each location has its own atmosphere and specialty.

Not only are these brunches an excellent social opportunity, but a chance to learn more good places to dine. Many locations offer other things to do after eating. So drive your Porsche and join us. Casual is the word and good friends are there with you. Dates & places are on our website and Facebook page, and in Monday Morning Porsche Piddlings.



Some of our group and cars at Oak Hill in Lynchburg, Virginia.



Porsches and trains at the Roanoke Museum of Transportation.



Members and Porsches at Blue Apron in Salem, VA.



Our view of the airport at Simply Suzanne's in Martinsville, VA.

# Pictures from 2017 Events

Photos: Dave Hogan, except as noted



Jo, Rich, and Laura at the Omni Grove Park Inn during Treffen in Asheville, NC. It was the first Treffen close to our region.



Eddie and Terri enjoy brunch at Old Oak Cafe in Moneta, VA.



Dave & Mick show our Cars 'n Coffee events are very casual. Where was Gene when this picture was taken? Photo: Unknown



Often the scenery is great, like this view at Martinsville Airport. A Porsche drive, scenery, food, and friends is a good combination



Most of us drive when it is raining, proving Porsches do not melt when wet. It takes more than a little rain to dampen our fun.



Occasionally we stop at a cruise-in. You never know who you are going to see there.





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## A Look Back at Other Years

Here are a few pictures from years past. Do you remember any of these events?

Photos: Dave Hogan, except as noted.



Above L: DE at VIR 2006.

Above R: Star City Motor Madness in Roanoke 2003.

Below L: Parade laps at VIR 2013. Photo: Jerry Hampton.

Below R: BRR member showing his skills at New London Airport 2006.



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Porsche #911 in the garage at the 24 hours of Daytona, the start of the 2017 season.

Photo: Jerry Hampton



# FINISH LINE

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 2017. Without you we are not a club.

Here's to 2018. May it be as grand as 2017. 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, Treffen, 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: Laura Hogan. Porsches near Asheville, NC during Treffen.

Page 13 Finish Line article: Dave Hogan

Back Cover Photo: Dave Hogan. Porsche Corral at VIR.

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A big part of our region's history is the train. Here restored Norfolk & Western engine #611 speeds by on an excursion near Altavista, VA. Photo: Dave Hogan

## **Blau Rain\***

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



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