



BLAU RAIN

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www.brr-pca.org

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Meet your new President for 2019!

Our hard-working President of the past three years, Debbie Repass, has shifted gears by passing the gavel after serving this club with lots of hard work, dedication, and distinction. Finding her replacement was quite the challenge as few members felt qualified to follow in her footsteps. I accepted the nomination for the position only after getting assurances from all our board members and past presidents (six of whom attended my installation) they would help me get up to speed.

I have been a BRR-PCA member since May of 1988 and have served on our board since 2010 in various capacities, most recently as Business and Risk Chair, and general Board antagonist. Having over 40 years in the automotive service industry, and almost as many on the track, you might assume (correctly) I am a bit of a motorhead and track junkie, but fear not as I do have other interests. I have served over 25 years on the Disaster Response Board for the Virginia District Church of the Brethren and 23 years as the Volunteer Coordinator for Project WARM, a firewood resource for families in need around the Roanoke area. I am married to one of our clubs' sponsors (Mary of Brogan Insurance Agency) and we have 3 children. Jon, Jessy, and Nicki are now all in their 20s, but as young drivers each participated in our club's Street Survival driver training program and have gone on to promote and assist with many of our club's events.

Enough about me though, how about you? What interests do you have? How can YOUR club best serve you? Yes, we all have Porsches as a common interest but how do we use our collective interests to build our community? While my "talents" tend to be more technical in nature, our club is filled with people who you would love to meet I'm sure.

Want to do HPDE events, or just hang around fast cars? Got that covered. Many of our members are active drivers and/or instructors with ours and other regional clubs. We supply volunteers for our Zone 2 sponsored races as well as several historic events at VIR.

How about casual monthly "Cars and Coffee" gatherings on Saturday mornings? Yep, we got that too. This has to be our single most popular event and the best way for the newer and older members of our club to get to know each other and what we are about. With no RSVP required, you just show up and enjoy a laid-back breakfast and conversation with friends. Check our website, Facebook page, or Mick's "Monday Morning Porsche Piddlings" for one near you!

Got a strong Social Awareness streak? How about a Street Survival school to help our youthful drivers

become safer while having fun in the process? Having sponsored many of these over the years on our own, this past year our volunteers provided support to the Tarheel Chapter BMW CCA last May and are planning again for one in April 2019 – stay tuned for more details!

What about helping our greater community help themselves? We sponsor at least 4 non-profits each year that you get to choose from around our region. Even though we are a small club by national standards and are spread over a large geographic area, we take one of the founding principles of our club to heart – *"to promote the enjoyment and sharing of goodwill and fellowship engendered by owning a Porsche"*.

Take a minute and flip back to the page listing all our officers and board chair people – these are all members just like you and they do their best work when you get involved. As you read through this newsletter and learn a little more about us and what we do, maybe something will peak your interest and you will want to know more or maybe you have some ideas that we haven't thought of yet. Just contact any Officer or Board member with your ideas or better yet, join us at any event or meeting. Remember, this is your club and it works best when you get involved!

So, what can your club do for you?

Marc Wilson,

President

Welcome Marc. (Ed.)



Another view of our new president in this 2010 photo by Jerry Hampton.

From Around The Web and In Print

This issue looks a little different than previous printed issues. The font size has been reduced from 12 to 10. The font size reduction results in smaller text print and leaves room for larger pictures and a few more articles. The larger pictures will make it easier for the reader to see the things members saw during the events. The smaller font also means others and I have to write longer articles to cover the extra space. The printed edition of Blau Rain goes around the country. Readers see not only what we do, but where we do it.

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 Facebook page. Go to our website at www.brr-pca.org and click the "Facebook" button on the left then bookmark our Facebook page as it is that easy to stay current on BRR events and happenings, or use your favorite search engine. It is that easy. 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. The Porsche Gone Bad section may make you sad, but

check it out anyway.

Statistics show 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.

2018 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 2019 the fun continues. Driver education events at VIR are planned by several groups. Cars 'n Coffee continues each month. A variety of activities await you. We try to have something for most everyone.

Article: Dave Hogan

Charities 2018

Our club is a charitable organization. Each year we raise funds for charity with proceeds going to charities we select from our region. During 2018 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

good fortune. 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 their tough time of need. We are happy to help our friends in need. Donations are welcome throughout the year.

Thank you for your support.

Article & Photo: Dave Hogan



This car was built for the track exclusively. It was not a real Porsche GT3 RS, but a clone. It was built in 2007 by a locally famous citizen. Do you remember who built it and why? It was a local build and many Blue Ridge Region members watched the progress.

Its life was short lived as it was damaged at Virginia International Raceway. It is not known if it was repaired, but there were no observations reported locally.

Do you know where it went? Curious minds want to know.

Photo: Jim Michaels

Blue Ridge Region Events 2018

Captions and photos: Dave Hogan



Hi everyone! We are at Hot Shots for food and golf. I won a set of Michelin tires at the VIR Porscheplatz.



We intercepted NC invaders at Chateau Morrisette. Good conversation while waiting for food at Hale's.



Menu choices come first at Old Oak Cafe. December Holiday Party at Westlake Country Club.

Cars 'n Coffee

Article and Photos: Dave Hogan except as noted.

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 20-30 people. Some of the places we enjoyed in 2018 are Simply Suzanne's in Martinsville, Carol's Place in Forest, Mac and Bob's in Salem, Old Oak Cafe in Moneta, The Great Room in Lynchburg, and Dale's Diner in Montvale. 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.



Members before entering Mac & Bob's, and their cars.



Reid takes careful aim with this putt for the money during the Blue Ridge Region Open at Hot Shots. Fierce competition during the event kept the pressure nearly unbearable.



Going to an event is part of the fun.



Which of these Porsches has the pole position at Colonial Restaurant?



You never know what interesting people you will meet.
Photo: Laura Hogan



Something new and something old. A lot of changes have been made over the years.



Reflecting on the previous year and anticipating the current year at the January planning session.



John with his 1997 Boxster.

Street Survival

Again in 2018 Blue Ridge Region volunteers teamed with the BMW Car Club of America which sponsored a Tire Rack Street Survival session at the Salem Civic Center in Salem, VA. Street Survival offers students real-world driving experiences not covered in normal driver education training.

From the classroom to the driving course, students learned how to avoid potential accident situations by learning how their daily driver car reacts and handles, and how each driver can best use the

learned skills to control their car.

Dry road and wet road, going straight and turning, the students practiced their new driving skills with an experienced instructor beside them in the car. Important “two wheels off the road” experience helps avoid often deadly over correction accidents.

Experience texting while driving in a safe and controlled simulation gives students the reality of distracted. Actions as simple as a radio, heat, or eating cause too

many accidents and deaths.

What can you see from the driver’s seat of a tractor-trailer? Once inside you cannot see much if cars are too close.

If you have a young driver, give the gift of more driver education and take them to a class near you. For more information see www.streetsurvival.org.

Thank you to the Salem Civic Center and Salem Fire Department, and our many dedicated volunteers.



Driving on wet pavement and in heavy rain creates several driving hazards. This driver receives a heavy water blast to the windshield, much like a passing truck may send.



Cars preparing for the next exercise. While there is a break in the action, the views provided a beautiful backdrop for parents and others. The facilities inside provided a place to rest.



Do you wonder what a big rig driver can see when your car is near? Students got into the driver seat with cars around them as in typical traffic. Another driving hazard to be recognized in everyday driving.



Two wheels off road is a driving situation too many drivers react to by swerving back onto the pavement and losing control. Inexperienced drivers are involved in serious accidents by not knowing how to respond.

Tri-Region Spring Tour



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2019



The Hurricane, Carolinas, and Blue Regions have assembled a Tri-Region Spring Tour in the New River area of West Virginia. There will be scenic drives and dinners with wines selected by wine expert Byran Tucker. Blue Ridge Region slots are filled, but there may be cancellations so get on the wait list.



While the players were competing in the Blue Ridge Region Golf Classic at Hot Shots, others played around. Does anyone look familiar. Perhaps they would like to remain anonymous. In either case there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Photo: Donna Templeton

During the Blue Ridge Region Golf Classic at Hot Shots some members took time out from the competition to pose for photographs. Hopefully the winner will defend his title next year. Until then, congratulations Mark.

Photo: Donna Templeton



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 2018

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. Join us in 2019.



An early morning start with Porsche, doughnuts, and coffee at Virginia International Raceway. That is a great way to start the day!



Laura (left) registers Blue Ridge Region member Byron in the Porscheplatz tent at Virginia International Raceway at the IMSA race in August.



Porsche #911 on the track at Virginia International Raceway. Along with the sister car #912 their distinctive exhaust note means fans can hear them coming.



Every Porscheplatz has interviews and questions with team drivers. The technical and emotional parts of competition are most often discussed.



During the GT3 Cup race at Virginia International Raceway one car "mows the grass" after running off track in the turn. Sights like this make the racing exciting.



Volunteers are required at every Porscheplatz. These two worked parking Porsches in the corral. It was hot and humid, but there were breaks for water and cooling.



In the background, the large and comfortable Porscheplatz tent. In the foreground are two Porsches parked in the Porsche Corral. The view of the track is very good.



Inside the Porscheplatz tent there is closed circuit TV so fans can see what is happening on other parts of the track. The shade and cold beverages make a hot day more enjoyable.



Between races there is time to view the newest Porsches. Porsche dealers support the Porscheplatz and add to the Porsche experience. Maybe get a new one next year?



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Incoming president, Marc, receives the gavel from outgoing president Debbie as five other former presidents watch.
Photo: Jim Laub

Pictures from 2018 Events

Photos: Dave Hogan, except as noted



In April Blue Ridge Region detected an invasion of our territory by Hurricane Region. We confronted the invaders at Chateau Morrisette and demanded tribute. Debbie (r), BRR president accepts the tribute.



Some members attend local cruise-in events like this one in Moneta, VA. There is often a mix of old and new cars, trucks, and motorcycles at these events. Whatever your interest there are vehicles to see.



Happy 70th birthday, Porsche. This Atlanta celebration had a very famous Blue Ridge Region car. Photo: Jerry Hampton



Street Survival was aided by Salem Fire & EMS. Without support from organizations and volunteers these events would not happen. Blue Ridge Region was happy to assist this successful event.



There are still a few farms in this fast growing area just west of Lynchburg, VA.



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- Chris Wilson, *General Manager*



The Blue Ridge Mountains gave our region its name and provide beautiful scenery. Photo: Dave Hogan

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Who sneaked those two BMWs in there?

Photo: Dave Hogan

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 2018. Without you we are not a club.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Gary Bell. Goodbye my friend.



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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. Attend a club meeting and find out how you can help your club, and feel good about it.

Photo: Dick Hatch

Magazine Credits:

Front Cover Photo: Jerry Hampton. Porsche #911 in the pits during the Daytona 24.

Page 14 Finish Line article: Dave Hogan

Back Cover Photo: Dave Hogan. Cars parked at Chateau Morrisette.

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A vintage 911 sits outside Martin's German Service during one of our events in 2007.


Photo: Dave Hogan

Blau Rain*

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

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