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FROM THE PADDOCK -

The close of the year brings change, not only to the trees and temperatures, but also to the PCA Hill Country Region. Members voted in new leadership in November and I personally am excited about what each officer brings to their new position. I hope you enjoy learning more about each of them as you read their bios in the following pages.

But as things change, many things remain the same. Several club events are becoming popular calendar regulars and we have our Horizons sponsors and partners to thank for that. Porsche Austin hosted another enjoyable holiday party at the beginning of December, Casa de Montecristo hosted their quarterly Sips N Sticks, and Mozart's Coffee continued their Coffee, Cars and Croissants gathering this fall.

For the most up to date information, scan the QR code to view the events calendar on the HCR website.



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COVER IMAGE
HORIZONS EDITOR

THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Article written by Crystal Zarpas

Reflecting on 2024, it has been an eventful year! The membership numbers in the Hill Country Region (HCR) steadily increased each month, and HCR remained one of the busiest regions in PCA Zone 5. Additionally, 2024 marked an election year, with a transition of leadership scheduled for January 1, 2025.

I am honored to have been given the opportunity to serve as HCR's President for the 2025-2026 term. Alongside me will be Vice President Kent Ketterman, Secretary Gordie Robbins, and Treasurer Andrew Garcia. We stand ready to build upon the remarkable achievements of those who came before us and look forward to serving HCR and you, its members.

Reminiscing on the past year, HCR organized an impressive range of activities in 2024. Under the leadership of Social Chair Andrew Garcia, the social team hosted regular events like Informal Get-Togethers, Ladies' Luncheons, and Happy Hours, together with special events such as Mozart's Cars, Coffee & Croissants, Wine Socials, and the annual Holiday Party. In total, the social team delivered approximately 140 social events, thanks to our dedicated volunteers!

The 2024 driving team, led by Driving Chair Ken Kalin, had a busy schedule as well. They organized 5 driving tours, including a Bluebonnet tour and a unique tour that combined both paved and unpaved routes. In addition, they hosted 2 High-Performance Driving Events at the Circuit of the Americas (COTA), a PCA Club Race, 2 Autocross events, and a Tire Rack Street Survival Session.

In April 2024, HCR partnered with the Maverick Region to host the 2nd Annual "Pick-Yer-Tour" weekend in Kerrville, TX. Co-Chair Gordie Robbins led the HCR team. The event attracted 200 cars and over 300 attendees who participated in technical, leisure, and paved/unpaved driving tours. A highlight of the weekend was the now infamous "Dirty Porsche Contest."

The Tech Session team, led by Kent Ketterman, partnered with HCR advertisers to offer 13 informative tech sessions. Participants gained valuable insights into Porsche vehicle maintenance and repair. 3 of these sessions were held at Porsche Austin, our biggest supporter, for which we are very grateful.

HCR's Community Service team, led by Chair Kent Ketterman, remained committed to giving back. In 2024, they organized 6 events with local charities, including the Texas Burn Survivors Society and the Texas Ramps Project. At the 2024 annual Holiday Party, HCR members donated over 100 new toys to the "Austin Police Operation Blue Santa" program and raised thousands of dollars for charity through our annual raffle and silent auction.

HCR enhanced its communication strategy by focusing on its underutilized social media platforms to engage current members and attract younger ones. Under the guidance of Social Media Coordinator Arsh Khaira, HCR's online presence grew through



its established platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, Discord, and YouTube. By mid-December 2024, HCR had reached 2,200 followers on Facebook and 1,800 on Instagram. Additionally, HCR's YouTube channel began featuring volunteer-produced, professional videos showcasing new and past HCR events, providing entertainment for members and the general public.

HCR's media presence was enhanced in 2024 with the new appointment of an Advertising Coordinator. Member Don Dominick volunteered to take on the responsibilities of maintaining relationships with current HCR advertisers, seeking new advertisers and sponsorships, and creating a media packet.

HCR's Horizons newsletter, nationally recognized and award-winning, underwent a leadership change in 2024 with member Joe Cunningham volunteering as the new Editor. Despite the transition, the quality of the newsletter's articles and photos remains high, and members can also access it digitally on our website at www.hcrpca.org

Speaking of our website, the HCR web team, consisting of Edward Doan and Max Silvestri, demonstrated their competitive spirit by implementing several recommended changes to the website. Their efforts paid off and at the 2024 PCA Parade in Birmingham, AL, HCR was honored to receive the 2023 Class V Best Overall Website Award. Congratulations to Edward and Max!

In 2024, our membership experienced steady growth of 4%, reaching over 2,200 active members. Additionally, the PCA Juniors' membership increased to 94 members. We anticipate that HCR's growth trend will continue in the same direction into 2025.

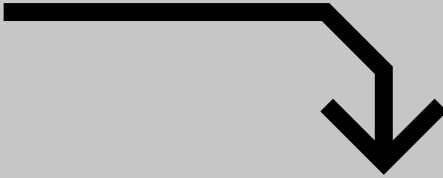
To help integrate our new members into the club, HCR sends a welcome email from our Membership Chair, Bruce Mason, and our President, Michelle Freudenberger. Ladies Luncheon Chair, also sends a warm welcome email to new female members. These emails offer key information about HCR's operations and activities and will continue as membership grows. The annual New Member Social is another valuable resource. Welcome new members!

As I prepare to begin my term as President, I am committed to building upon the strong foundation established by previous leadership teams. I understand that leading a volunteer organization like HCR is no small task. It takes a village, or as I like to say, a fleet!

I want to acknowledge that the core of HCR is its dedicated and talented team of volunteers. They come from diverse backgrounds and bring a variety of unique skills. I would like to express my gratitude to both our current volunteers and those who will join us in the future for your passion, energy, loyalty, and commitment. These qualities are vital for HCR's ongoing success.

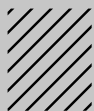
As I step into the role of HCR President, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and excitement for the journey ahead. The mission is clear; to foster a welcoming environment where every member feels valued, engaged, and inspired to participate.

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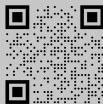
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A FRESH BREW
OF TRADITION

ARTICLE By AMBER ASHY
PHOTOS By RICO SCOTT

Our Coffee, Cars, and Croissants at Mozart's Coffee Roasters on Lake Austin has become a beloved tradition, every spring and fall since October 2021. Known for its stunning lakeside views, hand-crafted brews, and vibrant community feel, Mozart's delivered yet another unforgettable morning for auto aficionados and coffee lovers alike.

This event continues to grow, deepening its embrace of community connections. Each car served as more than just eye candy; they became conversation starters, drawing attendees of all ages into stories of Porsche heritage. Our members, ever proud and passionate, showcased models spanning the last 67 years, each with its own unique tale.

The iconic 356 always draws a crowd, and this year, we featured two polar opposites: a beautifully restored, Ivory 1965 356C and a converted, fully electric, Oak Green 1957 356 Speedster! But it wasn't all about the cars. The day was alive with laughter, Bavarian tunes, and cheerful chatter over countless cups of coffee. It reminds us all that while Porsche cars are extraordinary machines, the true joy lies in sharing their beauty with others.

From the precision of German engineering to the artistry of Mozart's tasty treats, the synergy of this event is undeniable.

This gathering continues to inspire new connections and cherished memories. Mark your calendars for the next edition of Coffee, Cars, and Croissants in spring 2025!



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HILL COUNTRY REGION

Porsche Club of America Digital Calendar

HCR is starting the 2025 year strong with more than 30 different events. Ranging from lunches, happy hours, meet-ups and brewery nights during the week to informal get-togethers, driving events and tours on the weekends. We encourage you to use the QR code to stay updated on club events.



PCA Membership Anniversaries

Almas	Paulo	1 Year	Vassberg	Trent	1 Year
Ashley	Tom	1 Year	Vega	Carlos	1 Year
Ashley	Autumn	1 Year	Weaver	Jared	1 Year
Bales	Paula	1 Year	Wheeler	Troy	1 Year
Bell	Sara	1 Year	Wheeler	Kim	1 Year
Bell	Martin	1 Year	Whidby	Christopher	1 Year
Bennett	Richard	1 Year	Whitehead	Julie	1 Year
Bennett	Jennifer	1 Year	Wilbert-Yeager	eva	1 Year
Braun	Miriam	1 Year	Wilson	Charlie	1 Year
Brown	Seth	1 Year	Wolf	Matthew	1 Year
Bryan	Hogan	1 Year	Yan	Yuan Yu Derek	1 Year
Campbell	Nicole	1 Year	Yeager	Pete	1 Year
Campbell	Kyle	1 Year	Bennett	Brent	5 Year
Chavez	Craig	1 Year	Bishop	William	5 Year
Claessen	Paul	1 Year	Brooks	Daniel	5 Year
Clark	Sandi	1 Year	Cersonsky	David	5 Year
Clark	Gregory	1 Year	Cersonsky	Dora	5 Year
Cleveland	Will	1 Year	Darling	Jason	5 Year
Cohen	Jeff	1 Year	Darling	Chinell	5 Year
Coleman	Joshua	1 Year	Factor	Jim	5 Year
Connor	William	1 Year	Gerth	Roland	5 Year
Debalko	Deborah	1 Year	Ghani	Zain	5 Year
Debalko	David	1 Year	Giambelluca	Jenniefer	5 Year
Dove	Jacqueline	1 Year	Kelly	Matthew	5 Year
Fernandes	Goncalo	1 Year	Kelly	Colby	5 Year
Gillespie	Seth	1 Year	Kelton	Ben	5 Year
Greenwood	Rica	1 Year	Kushner	Kevin	5 Year
Greenwood	Aaron	1 Year	Kushner	Britt	5 Year
Heinzel	Will	1 Year	McDonald	Keith	5 Year
Hill	Gary	1 Year	McDonald	Lisa	5 Year
Hoppock	Andrea	1 Year	Musick	Marc	5 Year
Hughes	Devin	1 Year	O'Connor	Brandon	5 Year
Irshad	Farhan	1 Year	Rogers	Chris	5 Year
Johnson	Kyle	1 Year	Thomas	Amy	5 Year
Jones	Phillip	1 Year	Whitman	Carol	5 Year
Jones	Charlie	1 Year	Whitman	Scott	5 Year
Jones	Cynde	1 Year	Whittle	Edward	5 Year
Jung	Eric	1 Year	Williams	Stephen	5 Year
Keever	Penni	1 Year	Bellm	Brent	10 Year
Keever	Michael	1 Year	Brocato	Ralph	10 Year
Knox	Alan	1 Year	Ford	Ken	10 Year
Krafcik	John	1 Year	Ford	Jane	10 Year
Kuhn	Tobias	1 Year	Harris	Bruce	10 Year
Kupferschmid	Thomas	1 Year	Harris	Jan	10 Year
Kupferschmid	Curtis	1 Year	Jung	Richard	10 Year
Laosa	Michael	1 Year	Matthews	Jerri	10 Year
Lee	Sarah	1 Year	Matthews	Phillip	10 Year
Lo	Megan	1 Year	Miller	Rick	10 Year
Louis	Jean-Pierre	1 Year	Miller	Satya	10 Year
Lowrey	Sean	1 Year	Nefkens	Mike	10 Year
Marshall	Bryan	1 Year	Peek	Connie	10 Year
Mastylo	Damian	1 Year	Peek	Peter	10 Year
Miller	Gerri	1 Year	Sampson	Martin	10 Year
Mondal	Arif	1 Year	Howard	Travis	15 Year
Nafziger	Dean	1 Year	Lammers	Sophie	15 Year
Nafziger	Kristin	1 Year	Lammers	Paul	15 Year
Naruns	Nicholas	1 Year	Mason	Bruce	15 Year
Patel	Deep	1 Year	Mason	Ann	15 Year
Patschke	Jonathan	1 Year	Shaffer	Eric	15 Year
Reneau	Julie	1 Year	Trotter	Bradley	15 Year
Reneau	Ace	1 Year	Twilligear	Lum	15 Year
Richardson	Kelly	1 Year	Copp	Mary Jane	20 Year
Rosenblum	Jennie	1 Year	Copp	Thomas	20 Year
Ruckgaber	Karl	1 Year	Evans	Jacki	20 Year
Scott	Mark	1 Year	Evans	Brian	20 Year
Scott	Leslie	1 Year	Brindley	Sean	20 Year
Scroggins	David	1 Year	Brindley	John	25 Year
Sculley	Michael	1 Year	Marcus	Sherry	25 Year
Sculley	Sheryl	1 Year	Pecor	Shawn	25 Year
Shah	Furqan	1 Year	Pecor	Nancy	25 Year
Short	Gram	1 Year	Smith	Larry	25 Year
Taylor	Donna	1 Year	Trevey	John	25 Year
Tilford	Anthony	1 Year	Lapp	Sandi	30 Year
Tilford	Debbie	1 Year	Miranda	Maricarmen	30 Year
Towell	Karyl	1 Year	Webb	Kevin	30 Year
Van Sistine	Nick	1 Year	Wilson	Marian	45 Year
			Lambert	Robert	50 Year



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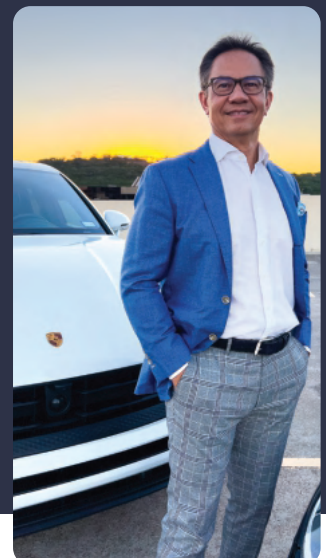
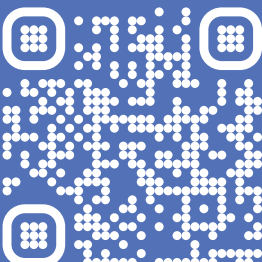
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HILL COUNTRY REGION HOLIDAY PARTY RECAP

STORY BY HORIZONS EDITOR
PHOTOS BY CLUB MEMBERS

The Annual Holiday Party at Premier Dealer Porsche Austin was an absolute blast! The evening kicked off with a lively social hour, where guests enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks, setting the perfect tone for a night of celebration. The festive atmosphere was enhanced by the beautiful venue and some lovely special vehicles on display. The highlight of the night was the HCR Annual Awards ceremony, where we recognized

outstanding individuals in the community. The Silent Auction and Raffle added even more excitement, with all proceeds benefiting HCR's community service organizations. As always, guests showed immense generosity by bringing over one hundred gifts for the Blue Santa Toy Drive, making this holiday gathering a memorable celebration of both fun and giving back!





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SIPS N STICKS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHARLIE SPARKS

On December 4th, HCR advertiser Casa de Montecristo hosted the winter edition of its quarterly Sips 'n Sticks event at its Davenport Village location. Sixteen attendees gathered in the usual reserved section of the front lounge at Casa, eager to sample a cigar from the large walk-in humidor, paired with four different whiskies for the evening.

Casa General Manager Justin Woodworth selected a newly released cigar for the tasting: the Angelinos Double Robusto by Prometheus. Justin personally chose this cigar to complement the evening's whiskey theme, which featured blended Canadian and Rye whiskies. The pairing was a huge success, with Justin providing tasting notes for each whiskey, sourced from the ever-reliable ChatGPT.

Our whiskies for the evening, selected by master Steve Rosebaugh, were, in tasting order:

- Pendleton
- Crown Royal Hand Selected Barrel
- High West Double Rye
- JP Wiser's 15 year



As usual, we voted on the whiskies, and the top two were the Crown Royal (made in a rare Coffey still, with fruit and vanilla flavors) and the High West (ah, those popular spice, mint, and eucalyptus flavors). While cigars are optional for those who don't wish to partake, judging from the nub cigar remnants in the ashtrays, it seems the Angelinos Double Robusto was a fine choice, Justin!

We would like to thank Casa de Montecristo for being a long-term advertiser (since 2020) and event host for the Hill Country Region PCA. These popular quarterly events can always be found on our website calendar. Prior registration is requested. Attendance is limited to 20 participants.



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NEWLY ELECTED HCR OFFICERS

ARTICLE BY DON STEVENS

PHOTOS BY JOE CUNNINGHAM

We are delighted to introduce the newly elected officers for our Hill Country Region (HCR) leadership team. Each of these outstanding individuals brings a wealth of experience, commitment, and fresh perspective to their roles. Together, they are ready to drive our region forward with vision and purpose. Please join us in welcoming Crystal Zarpas, as our new President, Kent Ketterman, as Vice

President, Gordie Robbins, continuing in his role as Secretary, and Andrew Garcia, as our new Treasurer. We are excited about the journey ahead under their leadership and look forward to the positive impact they will have on our Hill Country Region. Below, you'll find a photo and a short bio for each officer — get to know the people who will be shaping our club's future over the next two years.



Crystal Zarpas, Pres.



Kent Ketterman, VP



Gordie Robbins, Sec.



Andrew Garcia, Tres.

Crystal Zarpas, Pres.

With over 42 years of experience as a business attorney, licensed in both California and Texas, **Crystal Zarpas** has honed exceptional skills in leadership, communications, and interpersonal relationships. This experience has given Crystal the ability to analyze complex situations and subsequently propose practical alternatives and best-case solutions. Additionally, her involvement serving on various professional and charitable boards, including serving as President of multiple organizations, has further provided Crystal with valuable leadership experience that adds to her qualifications for serving as our HCR President.

When Crystal moved to Austin in 2021, she transferred her Los Angeles PCA membership to HCR. Her initial goal was simply to meet new people, as PCA has always been a fantastic way for her to build connections. At the time, HCR needed a Social Chair, and she willingly took on

that role. She recalls thoroughly enjoying her oversight of HCR's diverse social events and collaborating with the dedicated Event Coordinators. It wasn't long before Crystal was invited to serve as a Member-At-Large on the HCR Executive Council. She says she accepted this position out of a curiosity for gaining a better understanding of HCR's structure and operations. Little did she realize that this role would set her on a path to the Presidency!

As President of HCR, one of Crystal's top priorities is to express heartfelt appreciation to the volunteers who generously contribute their time and talents to the club, while also ensuring they have the support they need to succeed. She also will work to inspire others to volunteer, even if it's just for a single event.

HCR's membership has now grown to over 2,200 members, and as our club continues to expand, she says that

she will be committed to working closely with the leadership team to effectively manage this growth while maintaining a strong sense of community.

Crystal was born in Niagara Falls, New York and holds dual citizenship in the United States and Canada. Her passion for Porsches began in the 1970s when she dated

a boy who drove a 914. Needless to say, she fell in love – not with the boy, but with the car! She bought her first Porsche, a 944, in the 1980s. Since then, she has owned a Cayenne, a 911S, and currently enjoys driving a 991.2 GTS Cabriolet. She's not sure what her next Porsche will be, but she guarantees that there will be another one in her future!

Kent Ketterman, VP

35 years of project management experience within the oil industry has given **Kent Ketterman** the ability to apply policies and standards, resolve conflicts, manage budgets of both time and money, and build constructive relationships – all skills that will be valuable in his role as HCR Vice President. Kent gained additional leadership experience from recently serving a 3-year term as President of a ranch property owners' association.

Kent is a lifelong car enthusiast who has always wanted to be part of the car scene and connect with like-minded individuals. Joining PCA and becoming an HCR officer has allowed him to fulfill that passion. When asked to join the HCR Executive Committee as a Member-at-Large, he jumped at the chance to better understand how the club operates. He is always looking for opportunities to meet new people and expand his circle of friends – his membership and roles within HCR have provided an ideal environment for this.

Kent's primary goals for his term as Vice President are to:

- Fill our club's calendar with well-organized events.
- Increase event participation among a wider range of members.
- Grow the number of club volunteers.
- Always remain open to constructive feedback.

In his retirement, Kent has become immersed in fitness competitions. CrossFit competitions and obstacle course races have become a significant part of his life. These exhilarating experiences not only test his physical endurance and strength but also provide fun and adventure – nearly on par with driving a Porsche. After all, where else as an adult do you get the chance to crawl through mud pits, climb walls, throw spears, and tackle monkey bars and cargo nets?

Kent never anticipated that he would hold an elected leadership position and feels truly honored to be HCR's Vice President. He is looking forward to facilitating our club's continued success.

Gordie Robbins, Sec.

Gordie Robbins will once again be serving as Secretary for our club. His professional and personal background reflects a lifetime of leadership and service that has prepared him well for this position – some of which includes service with the Army National Guard; leading Engineering Product Design & Strategic Analysis teams with IBM; serving as Chairman of an International Technical Society Group and on a Homeowners Association Board of Directors. Gordie has also served in multiple HCR leadership roles such as Membership Chair, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Founder and Co-Chair of our first two Pick-Yer-Tour Weekends, Test Drive and Lunch Bunch Coordinator, and as a previous HCR Secretary. Gordie's

tenure in prior club roles underscores his dedication to the HCR community and his ability to support the management of the club's responsibilities.

When asked what motivated him to step into this leadership position, Gordie shared that "Being an HCR member is like being part of a large family, and I enjoy the opportunity to support the interests and activities of local Porsche enthusiasts – whether it's through track days, tours, or social events, I want to ensure our members have memorable experiences that reflect the passion we all share for our Porsches."

The true center of Gordie’s life is his wife Barbara and being a proud parent of five adult children and stepchildren, seven grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. While Gordie’s contributions to HCR are well known, members may not be aware that Gordie also had an exciting chapter of speed and performance in his life that did not involve Porsches. Before moving to Austin, Gordie raced and

cruised sailboats while he lived on the East Coast.

Whether on open water or the open road, Gordie has always sought adventure, teamwork, and a shared sense of purpose—a spirit that continues to shine through his contributions to HCR.

Andrew Garcia, Treasurer

Andrew Garcia grew up in Austin and made two significant decisions during the pandemic: first, to move back from New Jersey to start a family in Austin, and second, to purchase his first Porsche, a 981 Cayman S. Andrew spent his college years in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Pittsburg. After earning his college degrees, Andrew began building a career in the field of financial services technology, located in New York City. His business school background, experience in management consulting at Deloitte, and his current role as Vice President of Technology for the Investment Bank at UBS will serve him well as Treasurer for HCR.

Andrew discovered his passion for motorsports and racing after college. Within this sport, he found new friends and soon joined the World Karting Association to compete in the Rotax Max series. With the growing demands of his career in engineering and technology, karting just became a hobby. Yet after a few years, Andrew joined the BMW Club in Northern New Jersey where he was intro-

duced to track days, with Lime Rock Park becoming his favorite track. While he still owns his track-prepared BMW 2 Series, he since has upgraded to the Porsche Cayman and now enjoys participating in Schnell Fest each year.

Andrew became actively involved with HCR during Charlie Sparks’ presidency in 2021, assisting him as an event coordinator for the quarterly “Sips n Sticks” cigar events. When Crystal Zarpas assumed the role of Vice President, Andrew gladly accepted the position of Social Chair to support the work of the Event Coordinators and the high-quality events they provide for our members.

Now, Andrew looks forward to building upon the important work George Hansen accomplished over the past two years as our HCR Treasurer. Andrew says he is committed to effectively managing the Club’s finances and ensuring clear, ongoing visibility into the Club’s financial health and the stability of future operations.



2024-2025

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INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER AT RUDY'S BBQ ON RR 620.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HORIZON EDITOR



The Informal Get-Together series is a monthly series for the first and third Sundays of each month. Barring any special events or holidays, these monthly events are well attended by both classic and modern Porsche owners and enthusiasts alike. For the first Sunday Get Together on December 1st, the sunny skies and crisp temperatures provided perfect weather for enjoying

a morning cruise. As the name suggests, there is not much structure to the gathering between 9 AM and 11 AM. With more than twenty cars coming and going throughout the morning, HCR members were swapping stories, sharing ideas, and appreciating our common interests.



EVENT SPOTLIGHT

COBB TUNING - FIRST THURSDAY MONTHLY MEET-UP

STORY AND PHOTOS BY EDWARD DOAN



COBB Tuning recently became an HCR advertiser and we are off to a great start with them. You are probably already aware that COBB is also an advertiser with PCA National and has been for some time. In case you are not familiar with what COBB is all about, let me tell you a little bit about them. COBB has been in the business of tuning cars since 1999 and hence are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year! COBB got their start tuning Subarus but have expanded to include several other brands in their offerings, including Porsche. Simply put, the staff at COBB has the skill and resources to remap a car's Engine Control Unit (ECU) to improve the performance of our cars. There is more horsepower and more torque available from a Porsche engine than exists when we receive the car from the factory. COBB knows how to unleash the hidden performance by replacing conservative factory ECU settings with more aggressive calibrations. To go just one step deeper, the remapping primarily adjusts ignition timing, fuel delivery and turbo boost pressure.





COBB claims a 69 HP and 124 torque increase in a base Carrera 991.2 for example. If tweaking the ECU isn't enough for you, COBB also manufactures and sells aftermarket performance parts to improve air induction, exhaust flow and engine cooling. You can go big or go small with COBB, it all depends on what you are looking to do.

Now let me tell you a little bit more about COBB Tuning. Each first Thursday of the month, COBB holds an event at their Austin HQ. First Thursday gives attendees the chance to see cars, talk about cars, learn more about COBB, eat some food and socialize with fellow enthusiasts. On August 1, COBB held a Porsche focused event for us to celebrate our new relationship with them. The event was attended by nearly 50 HCR members and included a tech/dyno demonstration of a Porsche 718 Cayman GTS. Porsche Club members have an open invitation to attend First Thursday and keep an eye out for future events with COBB.



GRUPPECHAT AT TOP NOTCH

WRITTEN BY HORIZON EDITOR

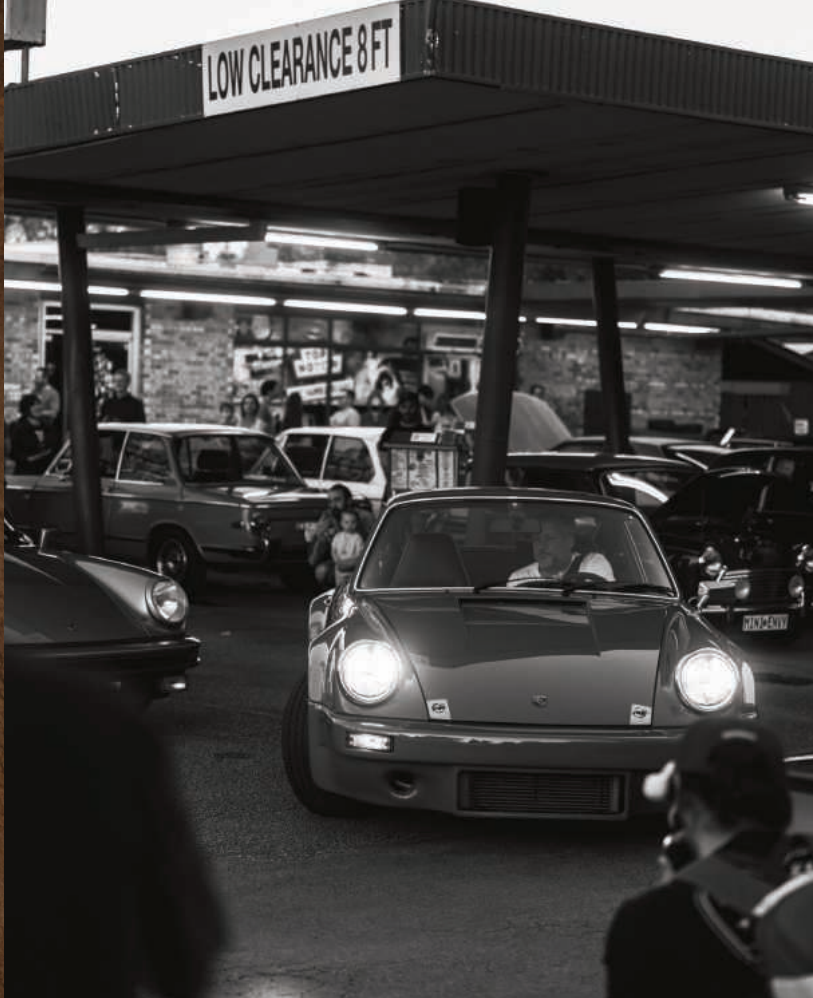
PHOTOS BY BRIANO RAI ORTIZ

I will go on record and say that the Hill Country Region of the Porsche Club of America has some of the best members and events around. Not only compared to other PCA regions, but in general. Having said that, there are some events that shine that are not HCR run events. One event that has grown in popularity recently is run by a small and dedicated group of friends who share a love for two wheeled bikes and four wheeled classics. Held on every fourth Thursday of the month, Gruppechat meets for a Vintage Euro Night from 6p to 9p at Top Notch on Burnet Road. Known as an Austin burger joint to locals, and recognized from Dazed and Confused and Varsity Blues to some visitors, Top Notch serves as a perfect period backdrop for a range of motor heads.

The creators of Gruppechat are Jim, Jed and Aaron. Each has a strong interest in BMX that started as soon as they could start riding. Aaron and Jed grew

up in Corpus Christi and met when they were young. Aaron and Jim met while working at Odyssey BMX, where they still work today. The itch for a classic car had been in the back of their minds for a while, and once Jim purchased a 911, Aaron purchased one. Once Jed borrowed Aaron's for the first running of the Hill Country Rallye, it was all over and their small group was cemented.

Outside of their newly formed small group, a desire for an 'easier' event to bring cars out of their garages and to get people together started to grow. While driving events are still paramount to enjoying their automotive classics, the idea of a weekday get together with other enthusiasts offered the social aspects of a driving event without the time commitment. What was needed was a centrally located parking lot show where people can congregate and then groups can go drive with like minded individuals. With Top Notch



being so iconic for the Austin scene, it only made sense. In the summer, the long Texas sunsets provide some spectacular golden-hour opportunities for photographers. In winter, Top Notch's lighted covered awning offers a unique atmosphere that is rare these days.

While the event was mostly friends and acquaintances with mostly vintage Porsches from the Hill Country Rallye, Gruppechat at Top Notch focused on all German vintage cars and quickly grew to European vintage cars. With Porsche and BMW still being very well represented, you can see several different makes roll in and out throughout the evening. To encourage others to bring their specialty cars, the group has played with featured marques themes with the local Land Rover chapter and then the Alfisiti representing Alfa Romeo. Both seemed to be a success.

As Gruppechat at Top Notch started to become a regular monthly event, second guessing started to creep in among some of the group. As a group specific to cars, they were more about driving than parking. Repeat cars and people month after month might get old rather quickly. But they were blown away that new people and new cars that they have never seen before were still joining the event even after the fourth or







fifth consecutive month. The parking lot began to fill-up within minutes and quickly attendees started arriving early to secure a parking spot. It was then when the guys knew that they had something special and were adding to the automotive culture of Austin.

With some incredible growth of the event throughout the later half of 2023, the crew tried something new for the last group gathering of the year. For the first time, Gruppechat at Top Notch hosted a toy drive benefitting a local nonprofit. Launching something new always has its questions and the group wasn't sure if the toy drive was going to mirror the success of the normal meet-ups. To their amazement, both trunk and frunk of the Porsche 914 were almost instantly filled. A Mercedes G-Wagen served as the secondary car to bring all the donated items back after the end of the toy drive.

Piggybacking on their 2023 success, Gruppechat hosted their first food drive benefitting Free Lunch in November and are proud to continue their toy drive for a second year. At Horizons, we wish them the best of luck in continuing their efforts to host automotive events focused on community and camaraderie.

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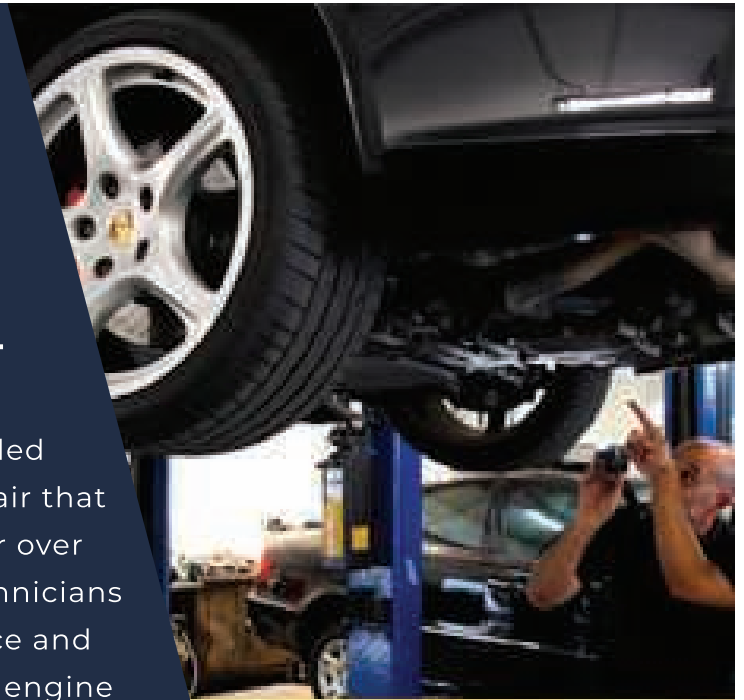
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PASSENGER'S SEAT

ARTICLE BY CARL ROSSI

In this issue of Horizons, I've moved over to the passenger seat, which is both symbolic and factual. After two years as your President, it has become my honor to transfer the responsibilities to Crystal Zarpas and the new Executive Council. I wish all success to Crystal and her team, Kent Ketterman as Vice President, Gordie Robbins as Secretary and Andrew Garcia as Treasurer.

My new role is that of Immediate Past President who remains on the EC. The main objective of this role is to provide advice and continuity to the new Team.

During the past two years, we have accomplished many things together. Some of those accomplishments are visible, like the Pick Yer Tour events and some not so visible such as putting Horizons on a firm financial footing.

These milestones were reached only through the efforts of our many volunteers. Hill Country Region is a reflection of its people, and the unsung heroes are the Event Coordinators, members of the Board of Directors and the many people who just show up when we ask for help.

The time and effort that goes into organizing an event like Mozart's, Teen Street Survival, or Pick-Yer-Tour weekend is enormous. Our HCR members jump in and get things done without fanfare. The result of this dedication and volunteerism is a Region that sponsors almost 200 annual events, continues to grow and continues to receive national PCA recognition.

When becoming President in January of 2023 I really didn't know what to expect. I received counsel from many people with a lot of different opinions, but after my two years I can tell you that this has been a work of joy. As President I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with members, whether they recently joined HCR, or have been members for 35+ years!

The cars we drive have certainly evolved and changed, but Hill Country members are the same – friendly, helpful and always have a story about their P-Car!

Thank you all for your thoughts, ideas, help, and most of all – your patience. I leave you in good hands with an exceptional leadership team in Crystal, Kent, Gordie and Andrew!



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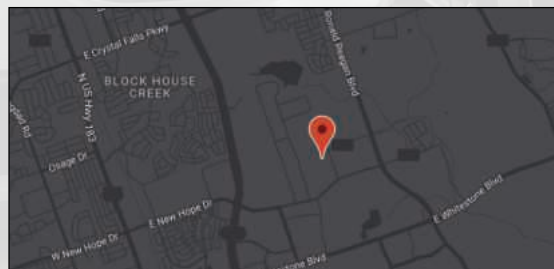
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FRIENDSGIVING

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STORY BY CRYSTAL ZARPAS
PHOTOS BY GORDY ROBINS



In 2021, HCR's Social Team proposed hosting a "Friendsgiving" for our members seeking one last social event before the long Thanksgiving weekend, whether they would be with family or not. Volunteer Social Event Coordinators Amber Ashy and David Schnepf took on the responsibility of organizing this gathering, which has since become a popular event.

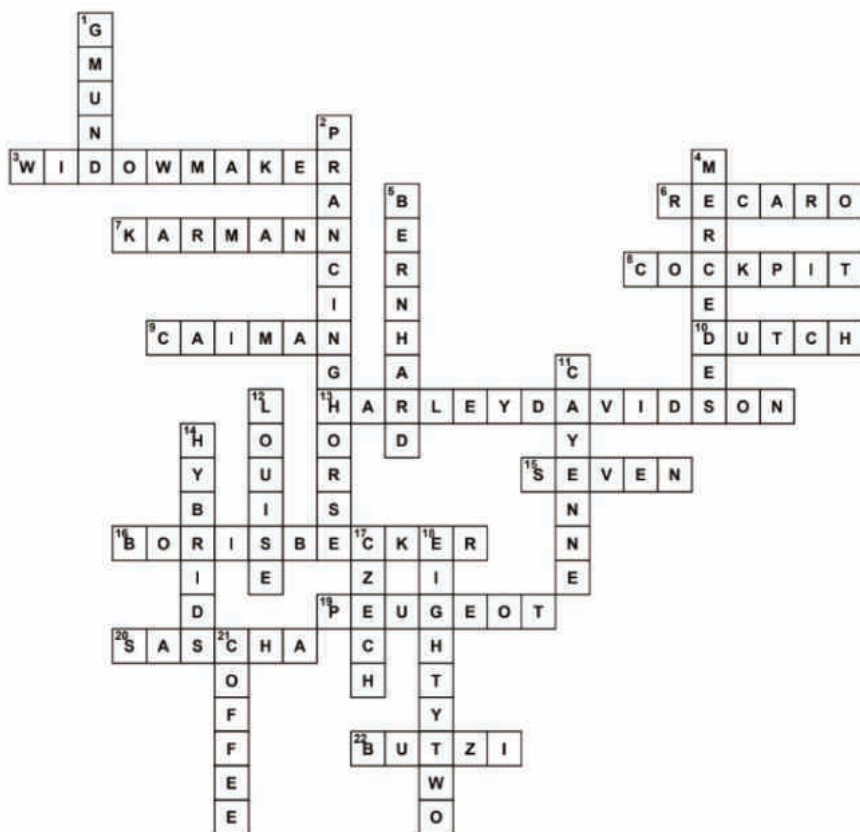
Fast forward to November 2024, and Amber and David hosted over 30 HCR members gathered at a local restaurant to celebrate Friendsgiving. The atmosphere was warm and inviting, filled with laughter, lively conversations, and a strong sense of togetherness. HCR's Friendsgiving has already been marked on the calendar for 2025, and it will continue to be a cherished HCR alternative or complement to traditional family gatherings during the holiday season for years to come.



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Solution from Previous Issue



Across

- [3] What was the colloquial name of the first Porsche Turbo?
- [6] Porsche contracted out the build of 356 bodies, then later bought out that part of the company. This company is still in operation. Name it.
- [7] Who was the coach builder for the 914?
- [8] What part of an Airbus A300 did Porsche design?
- [9] What is the Porsche Cayman named after?
- [10] Which Police Force used the 356?
- [13] Porsche designed an engine for a motorcycle company. Who was it?
- [15] How many steel plates are in the Porsche Control Clutch housed in the 959 front differential?
- [16] Which famous tennis star had a 959?
- [19] Which manufacturer objected to the original name given to what we now know as the 911?
- [20] What car won the Targa Florio in 1922?
- [22] What was the nickname of the Porsche 911 designer?

Down

- [1] Where were the first 356's built?
- [2] Ferrari and Porsche have something in common. What is it?
- [4] In 1939 Porsche designed the 'fastest car on earth'. For which manufacturer?
- [5] Who is the longest serving Porsche works driver?
- [11] Which Porsche model is in the record books for towing a plane?
- [12] Ferdinand's son had an older sister. What was her name?
- [14] What did Ferdinand Porsche design in 1899 that is only now becoming mainstream?
- [17] What was Ferdinand Porsche's original nationality?
- [18] Originally, the 911 was called the 901. How many cars were built called 901?
- [21] For what business did Porsche design petrol tractors

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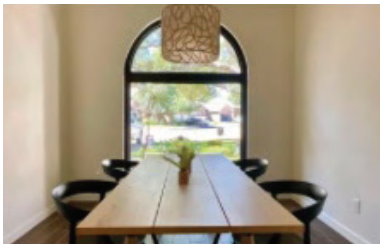
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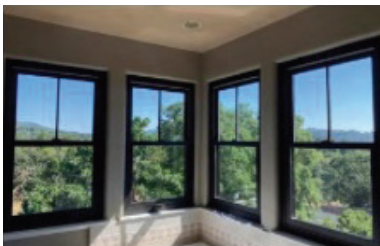
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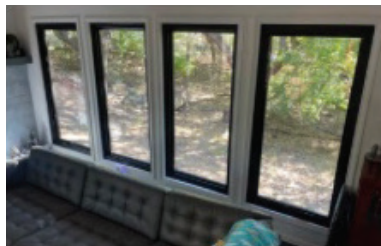
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COMPASS



THANK YOU CARL ROSSI

ARTICLE BY CRYSTAL ZARPAS
PHOTOS BY EVENT ATTENDEES



Over the past two years, while serving as HCR's Vice President, I have come to appreciate that the heart of HCR has been our devoted President, Carl Rossi. Many members may not know that to be nominated for the office of HCR President, a volunteer typically commits to a 7-year timeline: 1 year as a

voting Board member; 2 years as Vice President, 2 years as President, and 2 years as Immediate Past President. While his term as President ends on December 31, 2024, Carl remains committed to HCR in his role as the "Immediate Past President."

On behalf of the incoming officers, the EC, HCR's Chairs, and Event Coordinators, a heartfelt thank you goes to Carl, who worked tirelessly during his presidency while HCR faced several unique challenges and setbacks. Just months after assuming the office of President, Carl's VP, Tuffy Von Briesen, was promoted to a national PCA position. That left Carl without a VP. However, Carl did not panic and carried on with the duties of both a President and VP until a new VP (yours truly) was approved by the EC. I was honored to be given the opportunity to serve alongside Carl, and I am still learning from his calm demeanor in the face of unthinkable circumstances.

Shortly afterward, Carl faced another significant hurdle when several long-term key members of the Horizons team resigned within months of one another. Again, Carl forged ahead, looking for their replacements. Months passed, and while the search for new Horizon volunteers continued, Carl ensured he came up to speed on the inner workings of producing and publishing Horizons. Due to Carl's extraordinary efforts, HCR membership continued to enjoy the nationally recognized newsletter, unaware of the pressure Carl faced to ensure the transition of the Horizons team was as seamless as possible.

Of course, the greatest personal and leadership challenge was the passing of HCR's beloved Tuffy Von Briesen. It was then that Carl realized Tuffy was involved

in every aspect of HCR. Without a written trail left by Tuffy, Carl put his emotions aside, first trying to identify the gaps left by Tuffy's passing and then coming up with solutions for moving HCR forward in light of this significant loss.

Likewise, Carl was informed that at the end of 2024, volunteer George Hansen would be stepping down as HCR's Treasurer and Schnell Fest's Registrar. Unfazed as usual by yet another key volunteer resignation, Carl simply reacted by putting out the call for a Treasurer and Schnell Fest Registrar. George's contributions as HCR Treasurer have been invaluable in establishing new financial and budgetary controls, to name a few.

Furthermore, the organizational skills and number of hours George has spent as Schnell Fest's Registrar have not gone unnoticed. On behalf of Carl and the remaining HCR leadership, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to George for his dedicated service to HCR.

In summary, Carl showed unwavering commitment and selfless dedication, investing his time and energy to persevere through challenging leadership circumstances. He now hands the reins to me with HCR fully intact and a steadily growing happy membership. I'm incredibly grateful that Carl will continue serving as HCR's Immediate Past President and remain on the Executive Council, ensuring a smooth leadership transition. Carl, on behalf of HCR leadership and the membership, we salute and thank you for a job more than well done!





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ARTICLE WEBSTER MERCADO

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Porsche enthusiasts are known for their passion for perfection. Whether you're an aficionado of factory-spec OEM originality, aiming for OEM+ enhancements, or dreaming of a full custom build, there's a route for every enthusiast. Here's a step-by-step guide to achieving a flawless, head-turning Porsche, covering everything from pristine OEM maintenance to a striking full-on build.

1. Achieving OEM Perfection: Concours-Level Maintenance

For many purists, nothing beats the original. The OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) standard is a commitment to preserving the car in its factory-delivered condition. When aiming for concours-level perfection, every detail matters, from original bolts to the pristine condition of factory finishes. Here are some tips to maintain a Porsche at the highest OEM standard:

Start with a Full Inspection: Every inch of the car must be assessed. Look for signs of wear, damage, or parts that may have been replaced in the past with non-OEM options. The goal is to return the car to factory-fresh condition.

Use Authentic Parts: Originality is crucial. When replacing parts, stick with factory-original components or OEM-recommended options. Porsche dealerships and specialized parts suppliers can source the most hard-to-find items.

Professional Detailing for Exterior and Interior: Regular detailing maintains the paint, trim, and interior as close to factory-fresh as possible. A concours-level detail includes paint correction, leather conditioning, and ensuring every component gleams as it did when new.



Mechanical Precision: Service all components to ensure the car performs as it did when it left the factory. This includes fluids, filters, spark plugs, and any rubber seals that may degrade over time. Your goal should be a Porsche that feels and drives as new.



2. OEM+ Enhancements: Maintaining the Look with Modern Improvements

The OEM+ approach strikes a balance between factory authenticity and subtle upgrades that



enhance performance, safety, and enjoyment without compromising the classic Porsche aesthetic. This is a popular choice for enthusiasts who want an elevated driving experience while staying true to Porsche's original design language.



Enhanced Suspension Systems: Consider a suspension upgrade that retains the Porsche's factory look but offers improved handling. For example, coilovers with adjustable damping and ride height options are ideal for achieving a balanced yet OEM-compatible setup.

One of the simplest OEM+ enhancements is upgrading the brakes. Consider high-performance brake pads and drilled rotors for better heat dissipation, or even an OEM big brake kit for enhanced stopping power. This improves safety without making noticeable changes to the car's appearance.

Factory-Style Wheels with Modern Touches: OEM-style wheels in larger sizes are a tasteful upgrade for a modernized look that respects the car's heritage. Companies often produce wheels in original styles but with wider



diameters and improved materials, offering the best of both worlds.

Updated Lighting Systems: LED technology has come a long way. Upgrading your Porsche's lights to modern LED options, particularly in headlights and taillights, increases visibility without altering the car's original styling. Choose OEM+ LED upgrades that emulate the factory design.



Interior Comfort and Technology: Consider subtle additions like an upgraded sound system, seat heating, or a retro-style navigation system that looks vintage but integrates modern tech. Keeping the interior looking period-correct while adding small luxuries makes for an elevated driving experience.



3. Full Custom Build: Unleashing Creativity and Performance

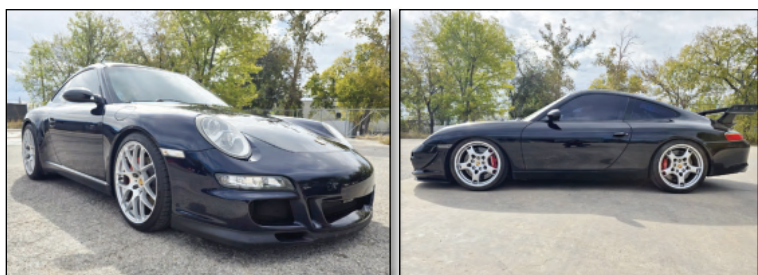
For those who want to take things to the next level, a full custom build opens up limitless possibilities. From turbocharged engines to custom body kits, a full build is a journey that transforms your Porsche into a unique, high-performance machine tailored to your personal taste and needs. Here's how to approach a custom build while respecting the Porsche spirit.

Begin with a Vision: Define the look, feel, and purpose of your build. Will this be a track-focused machine, a daily driver with flair, or a showstopper? Knowing what you want will guide your decisions on components, design, and performance.

Upgrading the Powertrain: The engine is the heart of any build. Depending on your goals, consider turbocharging, supercharging, or swapping in a more powerful engine. Remember to balance power upgrades with corresponding modifications to cooling, transmission, and drivetrain to ensure reliability.



Custom Bodywork and Aerodynamics: For a fully custom aesthetic, add a body kit, wide fender flares, or custom aero elements like splitters, spoilers, and diffusers. High-quality custom parts or custom-fabricated carbon fiber can transform the car's appearance while enhancing performance on the track.



Exhaust and Sound Enhancements: A custom exhaust system can give your Porsche a more aggressive sound and increase horsepower. Consider options that offer adjustable sound profiles, allowing you to switch from a subdued note to a roar at the push of a button.

Personalized Interior Design: Fully customizable seats, a redesigned dash, unique materials, and modern technology can make your Porsche's cabin truly unique. Alcantara, leather, and carbon fiber accents are popular for a bespoke yet luxurious feel.



Suspension and Chassis Reinforcement: For improved performance, particularly for track-focused builds,

add adjustable coilovers, upgraded sway bars, and reinforced chassis components. This will tighten handling and give you maximum control at high speeds.

Electronics and Infotainment: Upgrading electronics in a custom build can include everything from digital instrument clusters to performance tracking systems. A well-integrated system adds functionality without overwhelming the interior's aesthetics.

4. Bringing It All Together: Crafting a Showstopper

Whether you're dedicated to OEM restoration, subtly enhancing your Porsche to OEM+ standards, or going all-out with a custom build, it's all about the attention to detail. Here's how to make your car a true showstopper:

Final Fit and Finish: No matter how extensive the build, finish with a quality detail that includes paint correction, ceramic coating, and interior conditioning. Attention to the smallest details is what separates an amateur build from a show-quality Porsche.

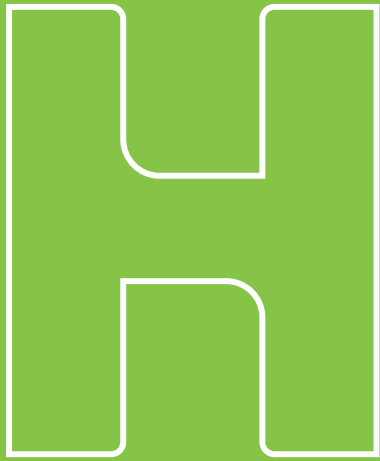
Balance Performance with Style: Even in a custom build, there's a fine line between tastefully modified and overdone. Stay true to the clean, sophisticated lines of a Porsche, making each modification intentional and cohesive.

Document the Process: For both personal enjoyment and resale value, document every step of the process. Keep receipts, take photos, and create a build journal. This not only shows the care put into the car but also helps potential buyers appreciate the quality of work.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Turning a Porsche into a showstopper is a rewarding journey, whether you're going for concours-level OEM restoration, OEM+ enhancements, or a full custom build. Each approach has its unique appeal, from the satisfaction of maintaining an iconic car in its original form to the thrill of customizing a high-performance machine. At the end of the day, the best Porsche build is one that combines passion, precision, and a deep respect for this legendary marque.

So grab your tools, make a plan, and get ready to transform your Porsche into a true showstopper—one that not only captures attention but also embodies the legacy of precision engineering and timeless design that Porsche is known for.



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