

PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA  
BLUE RIDGE REGION  
1303 Winston Drive  
Salem, Va. 24153

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SALEM, VA  
PERMIT NO. 27

---

# *Blau*

VOL XXVI NO. 2  
March 2006



# *Rain*

[www.brr-pca.org](http://www.brr-pca.org)

---

**BLUE RIDGE REGION**

**PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA**



**OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

Ed Clowser  
540-992-1499  
president@brr-pca.org

**Vice President**

Jerry Hampton  
434-237-9427  
vicepresident@brr-pca.org

**Secretary**

Mick Michelsen  
540-981-0356  
chathamms@aol.com

**Treasurer**

Eddie Fort  
540-721-3678  
treasurer@brr-pca.org

**Membership**

Pat Clowser  
540-992-1499  
membership@brr-pca.org

**Social**

Gary Templeton  
434-525-2973  
social@brr-pca.org

**Drivers Education**

Harry Hall  
540-982-3726  
driversed@brr-pca.org

**Safety**

Bill Driskell  
540-745-4749  
safety@brr-pca.org

**Business Manager**

Jerry Hampton  
434-237-9427  
business@brr-pca.org

**Past President**

Dick Hatch  
540-989-0949  
LDH912@aol.com

**Historian**

Your name here  
Your phone number here  
historian@brr-pca.org

**Editor**

Dave Hogan  
434-525-3458  
editor@brr-pca.org

**Past Past President**

Gary Bell  
540-721-2914  
P951aml@aol.com

**Web Master**

Mike Roberts  
530-902-6283  
webmaster@brr-pca.org

**Address Changes:** Dick Hatch 540-989-0949 LDH912@aol.com

**Zone 2 Rep:** Jim Becker 570-629-5568 jimmar@ptd.net

**NPCA Membership:** Carolyn Ewbank 805-496-5213  
membershipchair@pca.org

Always

Have been

Always

Will be

**TOTALLY**

Committed

To

Serving you,

The Porsche

Enthusiast.



**MARTIN'S GERMAN SERVICE, INC.**

**3704 Brambleton Avenue**

**Roanoke, VA 24018**

**540-366-1626**

**www.germanservice.com**



**SportsCar  
Clinic**  
Quality Import Car Service


(540) 382-1133  
3355 N. Franklin St.  
Christiansburg, VA 24073  
FAX (540) 382-1470

(540) 563-1133  
3328 Peters Creek Road  
Roanoke, VA 24019  
FAX (540) 265-1470



**Euro-Specialty, Inc.**  
Excellence in Fine European,  
Asian and American Collision  
Repair and Painting

**JON W. GRIESENBECK, President**  
2346 Shenandoah Ave. • Roanoke, VA 24017  
(540) 343-7555 • FAX (540) 345-9473  
[www.euro-specialty.com](http://www.euro-specialty.com)



**Precision Motion Motorsports**  
207 WHISPERING ROCK ROAD, SE  
FLOYD, VA 24091

**PORSCHE SPECIALISTS**  
STOCK & COMPETITION  
ENGINE, TRANSMISSION, SUSPENSION  
(540) 745-4749

Bill Driskell

**CONTENTS & INFORMATION**

**Blau Rain\***

BLUE RIDGE REGION  
PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

Blau Rain is the official monthly newsletter of the Blue Ridge Region, Porsche Club of America; available only by subscription to BRR members as a portion of the annual PCA dues. For subscriptions for non-BRR PCA members, contact the Editor.

Permission is granted to reproduce published material, provided full credit is given to Blau Rain. Blau Rain assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of contributed articles, services, or merchandise advertised herein. Statements appearing in Blau Rain are those of the author and are not necessarily consistent with the views of the Board, Blau Rain, BRR, or PCA.

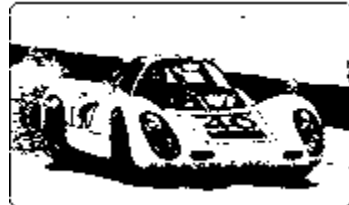
**Annual Commercial Ad Rates:** 1/3 page, \$120; 1/2 page, \$180; full page, \$350; inside back cover, \$400. Contact Jerry Hampton at 434-522-5456, or email to [tenham@aol.com](mailto:tenham@aol.com).

Communications regarding articles, photos, and other material for Blau Rain should be sent to the Editor. **Deadline:** the 18th of the month preceding publication.

**Editor:** Dave Hogan  
169 Ellen Drive  
Evington, VA 24550  
[editor@brr-pca.org](mailto:editor@brr-pca.org)

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Newt's News .....2  
Calendar of Events .....3  
Meeting Minutes .....5  
Driver Education Event...6  
Tech Session Report .....7  
PSM Tech Article .....9  
Porscheplatz..... 10  
Sebring Report ..... 10  
April Social.....12  
Exhaust Notes ..... 14  
Markt.....15



Clip art from PCA. Uncredited photos by the editor.

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

**Board meetings** are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the Transportation Museum in Roanoke, and are open to the general membership. Please join us.

**Cover:** My first cover depicts the elements of our cars. Wind in the hair, an interesting road, and beautiful views are essential for me.  
Photo: Dave Hogan

**Newt's News**

I hope everyone had a great time at the February social at Martin's German Service. Thanks to Keith Martin for hosting this event. Pat and I, along with Rosie and Jerry Hampton, were unable to attend as we were at the Zone 2 President's Meeting.

The duties of BRR have changed for the up coming Zone 2 Drivers Education Event to be held at VIR on 3/31-4/2. We are now in charge of the volunteers, so we need your help. Even if you did not sign up to drive, you can still help by volunteering to work on one or more days. Please remember that BRR is one of the sponsoring regions; therefore, we stand to share in any profit. This money will help fund our club's activities and charitable donations. If you can help, please call Gary Bell @ 540-721-2914 or me @ 540-992-1499.

Our next social is scheduled for April 8 and will be a tour of historic Old Salem in Winston Salem, NC with a side trip to Korner's Folly which is billed as the " Strangest House in America". Watch for more details. BRR has developed a new logo due to the fact that our old logo was deemed illegal because it contained the Porsche crest. We also wanted to have a logo that could be embroidered on most any type of clothing rather than a patch. You can have the new logo embroidered at Sam's on the Market (304 Market St. Roanoke, VA ) @ 540-342-7300 or through John Norman Clothiers (419 at Colonial Ave. SW Roanoke, VA – West Village) @ 540-989-3101.

Drive The Corners!

Ed Clowser Jr.



Gary Templeton takes a parade lap at the New London Air Show, June 2005. We hope to see you this year.

Photo: Dave Hogan



MARKT



-- **1988 944 Turbo S.** Maraschino red/tan. Mech. excellent, very nice throughout, good orig. paint/interior, Stage 1 chip, new Avon Tech M 500s, maint. by Porsche specialist, all records, no winters, non-smoker, garaged. \$16.9k. C.C. Ling, 941-639-6394 (FL) or ccling@surfbest.net.

-- **Porsche apparel.** Parade T-shirts & worker shirts, other Porsche apparel. Clean, well cared for by long time PCA members. Send SASE for complete list & prices to M.J. Ling, 1890 Deborah Dr. #8, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

-- **1988 911 Cab.** Turbo look body. Fresh engine, black paint, new top, 8 & 9X16" BBS wheels. 90k on odometer. \$27k. Bill Driskell, 540-745-4749.

-- **1987 Porsche 944.** White/tan, 5-speed, Boxster wheels (7&8X17), MSDS Stage 1 kit, Colgan bra, orig. Blaupunkt, turbo valance, records. Great shape. \$5,400 OBO. Chris Morganheira 215-431-2968 or lukebusler@yahoo.com.

-- **OEM 996 Turbo Wheels, Rear.** 11 x 18, ET 45 (996 362 142 10). Blimish free with half used Michelin Pilots mounted. \$550 plus shipping, OBO. Dave Moore, 304-549-4523 (Charleston, WV), or email david.moore@wvdsi.net.

-- **Wanted: Two 16 X 6 Fuchs wheels.** Round & not bent. Previously run on winning Porsches at LeMans, Daytona, or Franklin County Speedway a plus, but not required. Mick Michelsen, 540-981-0356, or chathamms@aol.com.

-- **Porsche Racing Car Insurance.** If you wish to explore the possibility of insuring your race car, learn all about it at [www.ontrakrisk.com](http://www.ontrakrisk.com). Contacts are [simon.parkhurst@allianz.de](mailto:simon.parkhurst@allianz.de) (phone 172-725-6165), or [hubert.perauer@allianz.de](mailto:hubert.perauer@allianz.de).

**EXHAUST NOTES**

This is my first issue as editor of Blau Rain. I had decided this was not the time to become editor because our schedule is busier than ever. However, I was summoned to the home of the President. It was three on one, but I held strong. Refreshments were offered as I made sure my mind was not clouded by drinking any intoxicating beverages. Even food did not weaken my resolve. After tough negotiations, I was hit with an email I wrote three years ago offering to assist with Blau Rain. Stunned anyone kept an email that long, I momentarily was without a response. Seeing one way out I offered to accept on the one condition I thought would not be accepted. Much to my surprise my condition was accepted so here I am.

We have owned a sports car since 1971 (1966 Corvette roadster). Being the old remnant of a 60s hippie I like my sports cars with 2 seats and no top. During my long haired hippie freak days we owned several motorcycles to go along with the Corvette. In June of this year we will celebrate 20 years of Porsche ownership. We bought our Boxster in 2000 and joined BRR-PCA to see how I liked it. My wife and I slowly became involved in club activities. Over the last 3 years I have written articles and submitted pictures to Blau Rain. The events have been great and we hope to attend several this year. We also own a Chrysler's TC by Maserati. Made from 1989 to 1991 with a total production of 7300 cars, only an estimated 400 TCs are still on the road. We take the Porsche and TC to numerous car events during the year.

As I begin my time as editor, I cannot help but think of Jim Michaels, the editor I am following. I looked forward to each of Jim's editions. Always well written and interesting I hope to achieve equal quality. I will depend on Jim and each member to contribute to Blau Rain.

Remember the words from the Eagles song:  
So put me on a highway, And show me a sign

Dave

P.S. Personal for Jim: I will take the week loan of the Cayman after my first issue is delivered.

**2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Blue Ridge Region - PCA Events**

Mar 31 - Apr 2 Zone 2 Driver's Ed event at VIR, now a BRR-PCA event. (Fri-Sun) VIR is located near Milton, NC, east of Danville, VA. We are now co-sponsors of this event, so lets' show'em.

April 8 (Sat) Old Salem/Kernersville, NC Tour.

May 7 (Sun) Barboursville Vineyard Tour & Wine Tasting at noon. Three-course lunch at the Palladio Restaurant at 1:30 optional. RSVP required.

June 4 (Sun) Annual Aircraft & Car Show at New London Airport (10:30). Parade of Porsches & other vehicles at noon. Aircraft rides and lunches available for purchase (12:30), or bring your own picnic.

Jul 15-16 BRR-PCA Driver's Ed Event at the Shenandoah Circuit (Sat-Sun) at Summit Point, WV. Our first time at this new course.

Jul 29 (Sat) "Survivors Game" hosted by the Martins & Sowers. Pot luck dinner follows for survivors.

August To Be Determined

Sep 17 (Sun) Bike Rides, Abingdon, VA

Oct 14-15 Octoberfest! Mountain Lake, VA. German food, beer, (Sat or Sun) music, and dancing.


Nov 11 (Sat) Election Lunch, Peaks of Otter Restaurant, Blue Ridge Parkway.

Dec 2 (Sat) Holiday Dinner & Charity Auction. Corn Beef & Co. in beautiful downtown Roanoke. Could be Dec 9 instead.

**Non-BRR-PCA Events (Partial)**

- Apr 2 (Sun) BRR-SCCA Autocross #3. Salem Civic Center.
- Apr 22 (Sat) Annual All Porsche Swap Meet, Hershey, PA.
- Apr 22-23 Rolex Grand Am Races at VIR, Milton, NC.
- Apr 30 (Sun) BRR-SCCA Autocross #4. Mercer Co. Airport, WV.
- May 5-7 Potomac region PCA Driver's Ed at Mid-Ohio.
- May 26-28 Blue meets Gray 356 gathering, Shepherdstown, WV.
- May 26-28 Jefferson 500 Vintage Car Races, Summit Point, WV.
- Jun 3 BRR-SCCA Autocross #5. Lexington, VA.
- Jun 10-11 Potomac PCA Driver's Ed, Shenandoah Circuit, Summit Point, WV.
- Jun 10-11 Historic Sports Car Races, VIR.
- Jun 17-18 BRR-SCCA Autocross School (Sat) & Autocross #6 (Sun) Mercer Co. Airport, WV.
- Jul 15-16 BRR-SCCA Autocross #7, Commonwealth Games at Danville Airport, Danville, VA.
- Jul 16 Pittsburg Vintage Grand Prix.
- Jul 29-30 Potomac Region PCA Driver's Ed, Summit Point, WV.
- Aug 8 Historic Sports Car Races at VIR.


**HAMMERSLEY GROUP**  
*Proudly Announces*  
**Porsche Roanoke**  
**Launch: August 2005**  
 Temporary Location: 3130 Franklin Road  
 (former Mercedes Benz-Volvo Showroom)



Construction is under way on the brand new showroom at 5000 Franklin Road (Route 220 South). For more information please contact Jeff Webb; 540-774-3030.

**HAMMERSLEY GROUP**

5000 Franklin Road, S. (Rt 220)  
 Roanoke, Virginia  
 540-344-8284 or 800-934-1901  
[www.hammersley.com](http://www.hammersley.com)



**PORSCHE**

*"When it comes to selecting a builder for your new home, make the right choice. At PD&M, we're committed to quality craftsmanship, professional integrity and the highest level of customer satisfaction."*

- Eddie Fort, President

16575 Maneta Rd.  
 Maneta, VA 24121

**540-297-4045**

Photos, floor plans, testimonials and more at [www.plandm.com](http://www.plandm.com).



*Voted Smith Mountain Lake's top builder in 2002 by readers of the SmithMountainLake magazine.*



Just some of the parts that set us apart.

Knowledge. Experience. Service. Delivery. Get it all from CDOC.



900 HEBLTON AVENUE CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22908 • TOLL FREE 866-946-1343 • WWW.CDOC.COM

**Please join us for our April 8, 2006 Social Event. Come see a piece of German History here in America.**

Our schedule is as follows:

8:00 – 8:30 **Roanoke Area Members** - Meet at Lowe's on 220 South. Depart by 8:30.

8:30 – 9:30 Enroute to Martinsville, VA

8:00 – 8:15 **Lynchburg Area Members** – Meet at Sheetz on 29 South. Depart by 8:15.

8:15 – 9:30 Enroute to Martinsville, VA

9:20 – 9:40 **Danville/Martinsville Area Members** – Meet at Sheetz on US Route 220 South of Martinsville.

9:20 – 9:40 **All Members converge** at Sheetz on US Route 220 South of Martinsville. We will depart as a group for Korner's Folly 413 South Main Street Kernersville, NC

9:40 – 11:00 Enroute to Korner's Folly (97 miles)

11:15 – 12:30 Tour Korner's Folly, cost is \$6.00 each.

“Korner's Folly – The strangest house in the world! The Folly defies simple description. It is said that no two doorways are exactly alike. It has 20 fireplaces of differing designs. Its cubbyholes and trap doors fascinate; it's pivoting “windows” and other openings anchor a unique air distribution system. Its music and artworks add a sense of fancy. Children-sized rooms give way to an airy elegant, high-ceiling Receptions room. A former stable becomes a library and sewing room.”

12:30- 1:00 Depart and enroute to Old Salem Tavern

1:00 – 2:30 Lunch at Old Salem Tavern. German food, approximate cost \$10.00.

2:30 – 5:00 Tour Old Salem, a German Community. Approximate cost \$21.00.

German – American history and culture, historic buildings and shopping. Leave at your leisure.

Communications – If you have small hand held 2 way radios (3 – 5 mile range), please bring them with you and we can communicate between cars.

Please *RSVP by April 1* for group rates and lunch reservations. You may call Gary or Donna Templeton at 434-525-2973 or email them at: wehokies@msn.com

**BLUE RIDGE REGION BOARD MEETING February 14, 2006**

**ATTENDEES:** President Ed Clowser, Jim Michaels, Dick Hatch, Dave Snow, Gary Bell, Jerry Hampton, and Mick Michelsen.

**MINUTES:** The minutes were accepted as published in the Blau Rain

**TREASURERS'S REPORT:** A treasurer's report was unavailable.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Ed Clowser reported we had two new members. Kim and Marilyn Grossman of Danville with a 2004 Boxster and Kenneth Mullins of Roanoke with a 2000 Boxster S.

**SOCIAL:** Gary Templeton the new Social Chair of the Region, was not at the meeting, but President Clowser reported a full slate of activities had been developed for 2006 at the Planning meeting held at Martin's German Service.

The tech session to be held at Martin's German Service on February 25 will have BBQ provided by the club. All members attending are requested to bring deserts. Hatch reminded the board insurance notification and waivers are required.

There was discussion as to whether Dave Hogan, the new Blau Rain editor will have time to get our next issue to announce upcoming events, or if flyers will need to be sent..

**TRACK:** Track Chairman Gary Bell reported on developments for both the Driver's Education Event the Blue Ridge Region will be hosting at Summit Point, July 15-16, and on the Zone 2 event we are co-hosting at VIR March 31 to April 2. It appears our responsibilities at the VIR event may have changed. At this time Bell said it is still up in the air. Bell will notify the other clubs regarding our Summit Point event in addition to using our mailing list. Clowser will discuss with Porsche of Roanoke about cosponsoring the event in the same manner other Porsche dealerships are co-sponsoring these events with the local region.

President Clowser reported we had been selected as a participating region in the Zone 2 Drivers Ed event at VIR March 31 through April 2. Our Region will have specific responsibilities for sponsors and vendors in the pits and paddock.

Bell stated while we had secured the track at Summit Point for the July 15-16 Drivers Education event we had yet to receive a signed contract. Shirts were discussed for the track event and it was decided to utilize the new Blue Ridge Region logo in the design.

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Jerry Hampton reported he had already sent out billings to current advertisers for 2006. He has also sent letters to several other businesses who have expressed an interest in advertising in Blau Rain.

**EDITOR'S REPORT:** Jim Michaels stated he has provided Dave Hogan, the new editor with everything on CD. Michaels stated Hogan will need to purchase software to publish the newsletter. The board approved these purchases.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Clowser reported clothing items with the new Blue Ridge logo will be available at Sam's on the Market. The logo will also be provided to Jeff Wendell who expressed a desire to market items with the logo. The tax exempt status of the region was discussed. A legal determination needs to be made.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Clowser and Hampton will be attending the PCA presidents meeting. Expenses will be paid by PCA. Clowser stated the national PCA awards nominations need to be made shortly. These are for the annual awards such as enthusiast of the year, and Porsche Family of the Year. The deadline is May 30.

The next scheduled Board Meeting is March at 7:30 PM at the Virginia

Respectfully submitted,

Mick Michelsen, Secretary

---

**Driver Education event at VIR  
Friday March 31- Sunday April 2**

The next event is the Zone 2 DE at VIR. We are in charge of volunteers this year. Please read Newt's News on page 2. Since I will not be there all 3 days, I will need pictures and some written material for Blau Rain.

**To volunteer call Gary Templeton at 434-525-2973 or  
Ed Clowser at 540-992-1499.**

Don't let the Mini pass you!



Early the next morning we headed for Sebring, arriving early afternoon in time to register and find a parking place. We located a site inside turn 16 on the concrete large enough to accommodate Big Lick Racing, Jim Pappas and Hope Player, Matt Hill and his brother Benny, and Jim and Hope's friend Charlie .

During practice on Friday Mike's '89 911 spun the rear crank pulley off and sheared the pulley pin. A search began for another pulley, but it would appear that a '89 911 is out of date in club racing. We could locate plenty of crank pulleys for 964 and later 911s, but nothing for an earlier car. I placed a call to David at German Auto Dismantlers in Georgia and had him ship one overnight to the track.

Mike decided to register his '86 944 Turbo we had in the transporter. He had taken this car to run errands away from the track. Mike's sons George and Mikey used this car for Drivers Ed, and George had run it at Watkins Glen and VIR in club races. Mike practiced the 944 Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, and was faster each time out. He qualified 11<sup>th</sup> and finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the 14-lap sprint race on Saturday. Sunday morning warm up and enduro qualifying went well. The enduro was a busy time as we had four cars running. Matt Hill was 20 minutes into the race when he spun and developed a severe vibration. We discussed the problem on the radio and diagnosed it as trash picked up on the tires when he went off the course. Sure enough, after several laps the tires cleaned up and he was back to fast laps.

Charlie was next to call in with a problem. When he pitted we found a broken rear engine mount that had caused the right side exhaust to scrap the payment and pull off the power steering hose, which created a big cloud of smoke. His race weekend was done.

Jim Pappas then pitted with an engine miss. When I walked up to the car I could hear the noise from a possible broken valve spring. This makes a tapping sound at idle and a flutter in the engine at speed. His race day was over as well.

Mike pitted the 944 for his mandatory 5-minute pit stop after a four-lap caution. As we were not refueling the car, Mike stayed in place and we checked the car over. Benny found the left front tire had corded on the outside edge. We discussed the problem and decided the risk of continuing wasn't worth it. Mike's race was done.

Matt had not run his Class C 996 in an enduro before and had not planned to refuel during his pit stop. Even with a full tank of gas at the start, he ran out of fuel ten minutes before the end of the race. An exciting and busy event was over for all four cars, but planning is already underway for next year's event.



Porscheplatz – Lone Star Grand Prix, Houston Texas

**PCA Membership Station in the inaugural 2006 Porscheplatz (Porsche Owners Corral) during the Lone Star Grand Prix - American Le Mans Series race, May 11-13, 2006:**

There will be a PCA Membership station within the Porscheplatz at the Lone Star Grand Prix – downtown street course, Houston, Texas from Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Porscheplatz is hosted by Porsche Cars North America and Porsche Motorsport North America with the cooperation of the International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) and the American Le Mans Series. There will be scheduled appearances by Porsche race drivers for informal talks and autographs. In addition, IMSA will offer supervised Parade laps of the track with a two lap maximum open to the first 100 registered Porsches on a first come, first serve basis. Registration for the Parade Laps will be at the hospitality tent for credentialed Porscheplatz participants only. Special features for the weekend will include a “Long Distance Award,” raffle drawings for an “Honorary Pit Crew Member” with a Porsche race team, and a “Hot Pit” escorted tour. For information please contact Zone 5 Rep, Bryan Henderson, 817-354-6045 or bhdender@comcast.net and also visit the IMSA website, [www.imsaracing.net](http://www.imsaracing.net) for the latest event schedule. ***Porscheplatz admission requires a Porscheplatz ticket package – for information please visit [www.grandprixofhouston.com](http://www.grandprixofhouston.com) or contact Michael E. Johnson at [mejohanson@grandprixofhouston.com](mailto:mejohanson@grandprixofhouston.com).*** Parking in the Porscheplatz will be for Porsches only. “For Sale” signs on cars will not be permitted. For drawings and awards, participants must be present to win.

**BIG LICK RACING’S SEBRING ADVENTURE By Bill Driskell**

The annual Big Lick Racing trip to Sebring, FL for the 48 hours of Sebring PCA Club Race had it’s high and low points. Mike Patterson the driver, Vince the inventor, Blizzard the paddock pooch, and I left Willis, VA Wednesday morning February 8 heading south, away from the predicted snow to our usual stop in Savannah. We parked outside the Shell House Restaurant where we enjoy a fine seafood dinner washed down by a pitcher of cold beer. This year we had just arrived at the restaurant when Mike’s neighbor pulled up. The interstate is right beside the restaurant so he saw our race rig joined us for dinner before continuing on his way. Really is a small world isn’t it?

**BAR-B-QUE AND TECH SESSION**

**By Jim Michaels**

On Saturday February 26 about 16 Blue Ridgers met at Martin’s German Service in Roanoke for barbeque, tech talk, and desserts. Stage 1 was the usual catered barbeque (two styles) with fixin’s, including buns, slaw, baked beans, and potato salad. The Duke b-ball game was on the big screen in the showroom, so some got to see J. J. Redding set a new ACC scoring record while we ate.

Keith Martin’s tech session on the mysterious OBD II was held in the shop area afterward. Keith began by placing Jimmy the barbeque guy’s Rule #1 on the board: “Tell’em what they want to hear.” Jimmy’s Rule #2 is: “If they ask for the truth, see Rule #1.” Keith emphasized that he would not be following Jimmy’s rules. He would be telling us the truth about OBD, however much it may hurt, or confuse.

OBD stands for On Board Diagnostics, first adopted by the EPA in 1988 as an attempt to electronically standardize diagnostic procedures. The first Porsches to use OBD were the 928 and 964. Much electronic diagnostic variation still remained, so further standardization across marques was required by the EPA with OBD II by January 1996. Understandably, manufacturers resisted such forced standardization because it meant giving up some control over their specialized diagnostics that brought ailing cars back to dealers.

OBD is an amazing technology, but it is not without its own faults. Keith held up an OBD fault code booklet showing nine single-spaced pages of diagnostic fault codes that a fault code tester might read. So many things can be detected as having gone wrong.

Second, sometimes the computer is wrong when a fault is detected because the on-board software was improperly coded. Even when properly coded, a unique combination of conditions may record a fault that will not recur. Keith estimated that about half of the fault reads are bogus or “false.” Thus, if no apparent problem exists, the fault may be recorded for future reference and the computer simply reset to see if the fault returns.

Third, a fault code read is usually so general or generic that it’s still up to the technician to track down the specific problem that is causing the fault flag to wave.

A fourth limitation in the use of OBD is that manufacturers don’t release all the information they have on their cars, not even to their own dealers. Keith considers this holdback a disservice to car owners, as they end up paying more for diagnostics and repair than they otherwise would. Keith also mentioned that Porsche is more helpful to owners in

this regard than most.

After the presentation, Keith plugged his fault code tester into Dave Snow's Boxster and announced to all Dave's car had some "issues." I don't know how all that came out because I had to leave early to get to the Virginia Tech/FSU basketball game (which Tech won). The desserts looked good though, so I snitched a few bites before I left.



Keith and others check the OBD II display data (above).  
Break time and basketball watching.

Photos: Jim Michaels

## PSM 101

PSM is composed of multiple sub systems.

- E gas
- Stability management
- Traction Control
- Yaw control

E-Gas is throttle by wire and all Porsches since 2000 have it. Without E Gas, PSM would not be possible.

Stability Management - uses inertial sensors steering wheel position sensors, ABS wheel speed sensors as inputs. It detects excessive tire slip angles and takes appropriate action by reducing power (E-GAS) and/or braking one or more wheels to correct excessive under or over steer.

Traction Control uses wheel sensors and yaw sensors and reduces power to prevent power induced over steer.

Yaw control uses the same sensors to detect excessive slip angles and takes corrective action by reducing braking force (it kicks your foot off the pedal in fact) and braking one or more wheels to correct the excessive slip angle. YAW CONTROL CANNOT BE TURNED OFF. You feel yaw control kick in if you trail brake or as others have posted, braking while turning to the point the car gets out of shape. I repeat it is independent of the PSM switch and is always on. This makes some people think that PSM comes back on under braking. That is not true.

PSM can be turned off. Doing so, eliminates traction control - yes you can do a burn out or even a smoky drift and stability management. It comes back on if the ABS is invoked. PSM goes off after it has made the needed corrections.

E-Gas is always present and if it senses brake application while the throttle is pressed it reduces engine power to idle. That is a safety measure to prevent a runaway engine. Note, if you are on the brakes and then apply throttle, the engine will not be cut. This is useful for drying your brakes after washing your car, or for the very deft, left foot braking.

In sum, if you suffer from PSM intervening, your driving is suspect. In my experience the only time PSM can be a nuisance is when trail braking a car on R compound tires. The system is designed around the street tires approved by Porsche (N spec). R compounds with greater traction fools the yaw sensor into invoking yaw control when in fact the car is not out of shape.

Bob Rouleau