

# P O R S C H E C O R R A L & H O S P I T A L I T Y T E N T

October 9-10, 2021

Articles & uncredited photos: Dave Hogan

Virginia International Raceway



## Saturday Rain

Saturday morning the sky was cloudy with a moderate mist falling. Just before 8:00 AM qualifying, the steady rain began.

## Hospitality Tent

Porsche owners watched Saturday morning qualifying inside the tent. There were plenty of chairs & tables, and beverages.

## Live Painting Auction

Austin Hatcher held a live painting auction. Bill Patterson painted the one-of-a-kind painting in the hospitality tent.

## Michelin GT Challenge

The Michelin GT Challenge was the main event of the day. The competition was physical at times. The Porsche Carrera Cup race followed.

## Sunday Clouds But Dry

Sunday morning dawned mostly cloudy but dry. The morning was all qualifying, and the afternoon all racing.

## Porsche Parade Laps

Between Sunday morning qualifying sessions and afternoon races, there was time for Porsche Parade Laps.

## Saturday & Sunday

Early Saturday morning there was a moderate mist falling at Virginia International Raceway. Just before Porsche Carrera Cup qualifying began, a steady rain began and lasted about 90 minutes. Track conditions were very slick and there were several off-track events resulting in several caution flags and a reduction in qualifying time.



The corner worker at turn 4 displays the green flag at the start of Saturday morning qualifying in the rain.

Sunday morning was still cloudy, but dry. With no weather issues, the day's events, on and off track, were better enjoyed by drivers and fans alike.

## In The Tent

In spite of Saturday's early morning rain the tent provided a dry place to watch the events. After Porsche Carrera Cup qualifying the rain stopped and the track dried. Later there was a visit from Grand Marshal Ray Evernham, A IMSA Hot Pit Experience raffle, and a technical presentation from Michelin, along with a Michelin raffle. The afternoon included Carrera Cup Paddock Tour and a Michelin Tire Workshop Tour. Also an Austin Hatcher live auction for a Bill Patterson painting. Bill painted the picture in the tent

while we watched. Shortly after noon the main event, the Michelin GT Challenge began, followed by race #1- Porsche Carrera Cup. Sunday morning another busy day began with qualifying for the Michelin Challenge TCR series, followed by qualifying for the Michelin Challenge GS series. Later in the morning the much awaited Porsche Parade Lap registration and Mandatory IMSA Parade Lap Safety Briefing were held. The afternoon began with race #2- Porsche Carrera Cup, and a IMSA Hot Pit Experience raffle. Porsche parade laps were held with only one Porsche SUV, the rest being Porsche cars. The last event was the IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge. It was a very interesting and busy weekend. Lets do it again next year.



Before the weekend events began, the hospitality tent was ready and waiting.



Blue Ridge Region member Laura Hogan has manned (womaned?) the registration desk several years.

## The Painting

Each VIR Porscheplatz/Hospitality Tent Bill Patterson comes to the tent to paint a picture for the year. After the painting is finished, it is auctioned with the proceeds going to charity.



Artist Bill Patterson in a 2018 photo.

## In The Porsche Corral

The Porsche Corral hosted 100 Porsches. There were 78 Porsche cars and 22 Porsche SUVs. The popularity of Porsche SUVs increases each year, as indicated by the corral. Many owners have a



The auction for the Bill Patterson painting begins.

Porsche car and a Porsche SUV. There were mostly modern era cars as few air cooled 911 models were observed. Of the modern era models, most were represented. Whatever your preference there is always a spot for your vehicle in the Porsche Corral and driving parade laps.



Some of the cars in the Porsche Corral, and the Hospitality Tent at Virginia International Raceway.

## Porsche Parade Laps



The Porsche Parade Lap cars lined to get onto the track. Photo: Laura Hogan

The Porsche Parade Laps are always popular. There was only one “Grocery Getter” i.e. SUV in the field. Try as they may, the cars could not outrun that Macan S. Do you think the pace car in front may have been the reason?

Being last in line, and at highway speeds, the Macan had no trouble keeping up with the cars. It is strange to see SUVs on the track, even at slow speeds. But we know Porsche SUVs are a breed all their own. And while they cannot compete with Porsche cars, they still give great driving experiences.

Safely driving at highway speeds, parade laps give race fans a better perspective on the technical parts of driving in competition. Following the racing line through the turns helps fans understand some of the nuances of racing.



Halfway down the front straight, the Porsches they ran. Photo: Laura Hogan

## On The Track

The main event, the Michelin GT Challenge was run with the GTLM Corvettes finishing 1-2, and the Weather Tech Porsche 3rd. While the Corvettes and Porsche shared some paint, it was the off-track event for the Weather Tech Porsche that sealed its finishing spot.



The GTLM class winning #4 Corvette Racing Corvette.



The #79 Weather Tech Porsche RSR-19 keeping the #19 GRT Grasser Racing Team Lamborghini Huracan GT3 EVO behind.



The #9 Pfaff Motorsports Porsche GT3 R won the GTD class.

## With The Starter



The #96 Turner Motorsport BMW M4 GT4 passes under the start stand.



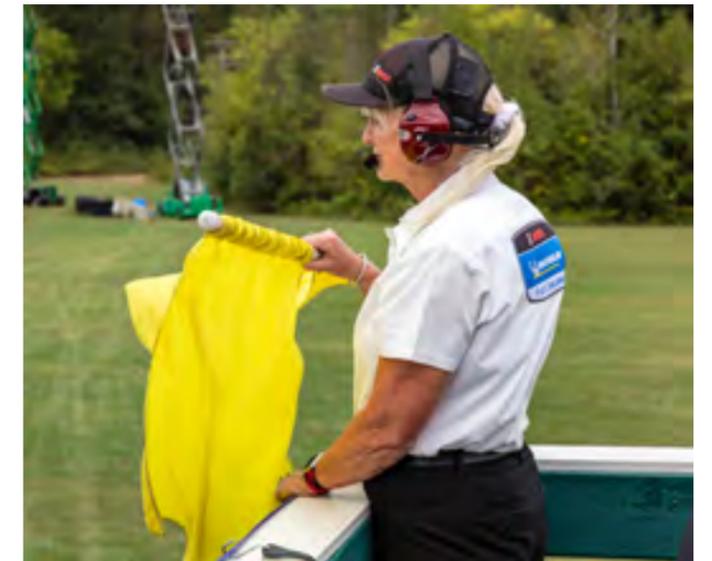
The #40 PF Racing Ford Mustang GT4 leaves the pits and heads back onto the track.



The #65 Murillo Racing Mercedes-AMG GT GT4 leaves the pits and heads back onto the track.

Have you been on the start stand during a race? It is a very interesting place to see the cars in action. The sounds differ from the sounds heard on the ground, and the view is vastly different. With a view of the start/finish line, the track, and pit out there is a lot to see all the time. With the view from above, identifying the cars is difficult unless you are familiar with the cars' colors. Even then, teams with multiple cars are near impossible to tell apart.

During the race there an incident on the track brought out the full course caution. Photos like just below are not often seen from that perspective. As the cars slowed, there was a better photo opportunity due to the lower speed. Workers there are constantly alert to changing track conditions.



The full course caution double yellow flags displayed due to an incident near NASCAR Bend.



The VIR Rapid Response Vehicle passes under the start stand headed for an incident.



Full course caution brings out the safety vehicles. Photo looking toward the Horse Shoe. Note the yellow flag at the corner.

## The Conclusion

The early Saturday rain put a small damper on fan experience, but the rain was short lived. Even though cloudy both Saturday and Sunday, the October temperatures were comfortable, and much more enjoyable than the usual August heat. Let's petition IMSA to make the later race date a regular event. The Porsche tent was well run and supplied. With two TVs to see the track action not visible from the tent, Porsche owners were able to follow the racing in comfort.



At the conclusion of events, everyone left with smiles.



Zone 2 Representative Rose Ann Novotnak (L) and Porscheplatz/PCA Corral Coordinator Lynn Friedman (R) pause for a quick photo. It was difficult to get these two together at the same time. The Hospitality Tent was busy and so were they. Their hard work resulted in a great experience for PCA members and Porsche owners. It was a very enjoyable event.

## Odds & Ends



The #47 Forty7 Motorsports LMP3 Prototype goes off track and needs to be pulled back to resume racing.



Crew members standing on pit wall waiting for their car to pit.



When all else fails, get a bigger hammer.



Part of the 78 Porsche cars in the Porsche Corral.



The line of the 22 Porsche SUVs in the Porsche Corral. That Cayenne color is very different.



The #88 Team Hardport Porsche 911 GT3.R.



Panoramic view from the start stand during the IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge.