

## A Tri-State PCA adventure...friends reconnecting with friends

A graphic artist, living in the Washington DC area founded The Porsche Club of America (PCA) in 1955. He wanted to meet other interesting people...that also loved Porsches. With a founding motto "It's not just the cars, It's the people", the club, now the largest car club in the world with 175,000 members, celebrated its 70th anniversary last year. The focus of the club continues to be camaraderie and friendship...and nowhere is this better reflected than the relationship between the Las Vegas and Arizona regions.

There has been a tradition of close friendships between the Las Vegas and Arizona PCA regions with the two groups holding joint events in Arizona or Nevada for the last 4 years. This tradition, led by Arizona's incredible Frank Grimmelmann, led to another joint event January 16-18, 2026 with the Las Vegas region driving down to Scottsdale to join Arizona region members for three days of camaraderie and Porsche driving fun. The Las Vegas region also now includes PCA members in Southern Utah that were formerly members of the Intermountain region. Southern Utah members (from St. George and surrounding communities) are now officially members of the Las Vegas region as a result of their closer proximity to Las Vegas rather than Salt Lake City.

This latest adventure, The 2nd Annual Tri-State Phoenix Fun Run, began with Southern Utah members of the Las Vegas region driving down along the shore of Lake Mead on Northshore Road (one of the best driving roads anywhere) to Boulder City, Nevada on Thursday, and spending the night so they could join other members of the region early Friday morning, January 16, for a planned departure to Arizona. Leaving Boulder City, the group drove at a brisk pace through Kingman, Wickieup and Wickenburg before everyone separated to find their preferred Scottsdale hotels. Everyone was looking forward to reconnecting with old Arizona region friends later that evening and enjoying an evening of great food and music at the Black Mountain Cafe & Lounge. Frank (and assisted by his beautiful wife Maria and other volunteers) could not have picked a better venue. For those coming from cooler Utah temperatures, the outdoor patio was like going to Florida for Spring break. The members of the two regions blended seamlessly, enjoying a great menu and drinks while listening to a unique band...one that continuously swapped singers and band members throughout the evening. Allen Fenske, the lead guitarist even played a custom guitar...painted with images of Paul Newman's Porsches. What an evening.

The next morning over 100 PCA members convened at the spectacular new Porsche North Scottsdale. A very large and impressive version of the new Gen 5 Porsche centers. We were welcomed by Arizona region volunteers, impressively arranging almost 50 cars into three run groups. These volunteers were friendly and skilled...they had done this before. The leader of my group was Rook Younger, the former PCA National Chair for Tours with other groups led by Cel Leal and another by Frank. The Arizona region has some impressive...and active volunteers. During the breakfast hour, I even reconnected with a Porsche sales ambassador, Valerie Burks, that had sold me my first Porsche in 1990. After selling Porsches in Las Vegas for 27 years, she had relocated to Porsche North Scottsdale 12 years ago. The dealership also provided many nice Porsche items that were given away during a fun drawing just before the drivers meeting. And then we were off...run groups separated by about 10 minutes.

After a few minutes of navigating urban traffic, we were suddenly on great driving roads carving through the Sonoran Desert...one of the most beautiful and diverse deserts anywhere. I sure hope our Arizona region friends don't take this area for granted...it is beautiful. The desert roads quickly lead us to the foothills and then into the mountains...via New River, Wickenburg, Yarnell and crossing Mingus Mountain into Prescott...curvy roads that all Porsche owners enjoy. The scenery was like something out of a vintage *Arizona Highways* magazine. At one of the rest stops, one run group was just leaving, circling the roundabout like a Porsche parade, as the next run group arrived at the same roundabout. It was fun waving and flashing lights with our fellow members. We created quite a sight...with people along the shoulder stopping to take pictures or video the caravan of beautiful cars. After several fun hours we arrived into Prescott, our destination. The weather was perfect and parking was easy and plentiful in the city parking garage. Everyone was then free to find lunch on their own and spend the afternoon in Prescott as they liked or venture on to Jerome, Sedona or even Flagstaff. My group selected the Palace Restaurant and Saloon, Arizona's oldest bar, for lunch. Located on the historic Whiskey Row, the staff was dressed in authentic western garb...and had a lot of personality.

The next morning, Frank had arranged for a private cars and coffee style event at Alpio's (at Troon North). While this venue is well known to local PCA members, it was new to the Las Vegas members and was made even more special by being private and a gathering just for our group. Alpio whose name is prominent on this special event center personally showed up making it special. Two special Porsche's were also present at his special event, Alpio drove from his collection his brutally quick Volcano Orange Twin Turbo 700 horsepower GT2 RS, 553 lb-ft of torque, and 0-60 mph in 2.7 seconds, and Duane Smith who hosted the event brought his 918 mid-engined Spyder, a plug-in hybrid hypercar (with an angular, low-slung roadster design, featuring a 4.6L V8 and two electric motors (887 total hp). Members generously made volunteer donations that raised substantial funds to support the St. Vincent de Paul Society. It was the perfect end to a perfect PCA weekend. We can't say thank-you enough to all of the Arizona region volunteers for their hospitality and friendship. This connection between our two regions has now grown even stronger...and discussions are already underway to plan our next joint event in either Las Vegas or Utah.

