

The devil's Advocate

December, 2013



Downhill Skiing with a Twist

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| Director | Adam Cipriano | ac@bsgconsulting.com |
| Director | Satoshi Iwashashi | publicity@diablo-pca.com |
| Director | Jeff Kreutzer | jeff.kreutzer01@gmail.com |
| Director | Dale Miller | safetychair@diablo-pca.com |

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| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Past President | Walt Lietz | pastpresident@diablo-pca.com |
| Zone 7 Representative | Paul Czopek | axnut@att.net |

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| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Calendar | Nancy Bocanegra | calendar@diablo-pca.org |
| Charity Coordinator | Nancy Bocanegra | charitychair@diablo-pca.org |
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| DE Program Chair | Mike Roberts | dechair@diablo-pca.org |
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| Tour Chair | Lillie Echevarria | tourchair@diablo-pca.org |
| Track Registrar | Adam Cipriano | trackregistrar@diablo-pca.org |
| Webmaster | Steve Jones | webmaster@diablo-pca.org |

Mailing Address: Diablo/PCA
PO Box 1676
San Ramon, CA 94583-1676

2013 Event Calendar

December

Sat. 14th—Holiday Party-Bob& Christy Hilton

January

1/26-Blackhawk Awards Luncheon-Elsie

TBD-Tesla Tour/Test Drive-Ed

TBD-Dealer Tech Session-Diron & Jeff

TBD-Bowling Day-Diron

2014

February

TBD-Super Bowl Party

TBD-Movie Night

2/22-Big Cats & Casino Tour-Lillie

TBD-Ano Nuevo-Rollie

March

3/8-Mystery Dinner-Kay

3/14-16-Mendocino-Vern Thomas

3/21-Thunderhill DE





Ed's Comments

As I sit and write my final column for the year, I can't help but think about the great year I had with you all whether, just attending our breakfasts, taking tours, having great dining, social activities or the track days we just had. I hope you all had fun participating in this year's activities, reconnecting with friends and meeting new folks.

I started this year as your Vice President and took over for Doug Wiebe, big shoes to fill literally, size 13's as I recall. Seriously, I learned a lot from Doug, the club and you all. I learned that we have some pretty terrific folks that bind this club together, and the history of the club is still here if you talk to folks.

We had some really great tours this year and made new friends from our Tour program headed by Lillie Echevarria. We drove with the Mercedes Club and Sequoia Region, meeting new friends along the way. Lillie stepped down as the Tour Chair and another will be named soon. But not to worry, Lillie will continue to do tours and she has some very nice ones planned for next year.

We had three track days each sponsored by a different Porsche dealer in our region. We are very fortunate to have all the dealers actively support our club. I want to say a big thank you (in no particular order) to Gunther and Dave at Fremont Porsche, Kevin at Livermore Porsche and Mike S. at Stead Porsche. Jeff Kreutzer has also worked hard to partner with them. Thank You Jeff.

Mike Roberts has served as the Track Chair for the last two years and has done a great job with the program. We are in the black and on solid footing for future track days. Mike will be stepping down and moving to an advisory role for the Track Program. Mike has taken a new job and has less time to devote to being the Chair. I asked if he would quit his new job and continue with the unpaid volunteer work. I even smiled but he said "No". We'll have to fill his shoes, I think he wears size 13's too. Thanks Mike for all your work! We just came back from Laguna Seca, I can safely say we all had a great time and some fond

memories.

Speaking of memories we had a great November, we started the month with the DE 101 for Laguna Seca that was very well attended for a Saturday morning. Folks learned about our track program and got an introduction to Laguna Seca Raceway.

Then we had a scheduling conflict with the board meeting and Veteran's day dinner. The board attended the Veteran's Day dinner and had a short meeting. I was so glad we made it work. Thank you Diron Scott for putting the event together. What better way to say "Thanks" to a veteran than to say "Thanks" personally and hear about the experiences they would like to share. Forget about a day off or a sale, this is what Veteran's day is all about.

We then had a Pizza Planning Party, thanks to Ingrid, Ted, Jeff and Kay for helping. We had 35 folks come for pizza and who gave ideas about events. We planned quite a number of events for next year. Attendees got a preview of what's coming in 2014.

The next day Frank and Joan Duran lead a nice tour to the Grand Island Mansion for a very nice buffet lunch; one of the best buffets I have ever had. We had so many cars, we broke up into four groups. I had to fill in for Marc as a leader for one of the groups due to Marc being under the weather. I lead the last group. Those poor guys! Yes, I was the last car to arrive. I even had a last minute navigator. But it was still fun .

I started Thanksgiving week at Laguna Seca on the track with Golden Gate Region for a day and Diablo for the next day. I want to say thanks to Tim Smith and their registrar Heath for making the newbies feel welcome. They run an excellent program as well. I was tired after two track days and I slept very well, but I'm pretty sure I was grinning in my sleep. It was a huge blast! I enjoyed seeing our regular track guys and having dinner with them the night before Diablo's day on the track.

I hope to see you at the upcoming Diablo Christmas party and the Blackhawk awards luncheon in January when we honor and celebrate you .

This year was also a tough one for Jacquie Lietz, event chair and wife of Past President Walt Lietz. The doctors had not given her much time, but I'm glad that Jacquie so far has proven them wrong. Fight on Jacquie! We love you! Thank you so much for everything!

Please have safe and Happy Holidays with your friends and family.

2014 Diablo Proposed Activities Calendar

If you happened to miss the annual Diablo Planning Meeting in November, the proposed activities are listed below for your review. If there are any events you would like to help with, feel free to contact the individual assigned to the event or a Board member to let them know you want to help.

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;">January</p> <p>1/26-Blackhawk Awards Luncheon-Elsie TBD-Tesla Tour/Test Drive-Ed TBD-Dealer Tech Session-Diron & Jeff TBD-Bowling Day-Diron</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">July</p> <p>7/25-7/27-Mammoth Lake Tour (Joint) 7/12-Sequoia oonlight Drive-Dave</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">February</p> <p>TBD-Super Bowl Party TBD-Movie Night 2/22-Big Cats & Casino Tour Lillie TBD-Ano Nuevo-Rollie</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">August</p> <p>8/3-Mercedes Benz Tour-Ed TBD-Legends of Autobahn-Dave TBD-New Member Picnic</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <p>3/8-Mystery Dinner-Kay 3/14-16-Mendocino-Vern Thomas 3/21-Thunderhill DE</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">September</p> <p>TBD-Reno Tour/Auto Museum/ Regional Dinner-Diron 9/20-Monterey Whale Watching Lillie TBD-Oktoberfest 9/26-Thunderhill DE 9/27-28-King's Canyon & Sequoia National Park Tour-Lillie</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">April</p> <p>TBD-Bocce Ball-Kay TBD-Wine Tour-Kim 4/19-Blue Lakes Tour-Lillie</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">October</p> <p>10/11-12-Groveland Overnight Tour Susan 10/4-San Luis Obispo Tour-Lillie TBD-CIA Cooking-Kay</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">May</p> <p>TBD-Luau-Debbie TBD-Family Day-Diron 5/25-Wash 'N Shine</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">November</p> <p>TBD-Veterans' Dinner-Diron TBD-Planning Party</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">June</p> <p>6/15-21-Parade 6/28-29-El Dorado National Forest Tour-Lillie</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>December</u></p> <p>12/6-Christmas Party-Linda & Patrick</p> |

Diablo PCA Region Holiday Party

Come Join in the Fun !!

When: Saturday, December 14, 2013

Time: 4:30pm

Where: Bob & Christi Hilton's Home
1252 Piemonte Drive
Pleasanton, CA
925-484-1530

Cost: \$15 per person

All Diablo Region members are invited to come out and celebrate the holidays with food and fun. We will have a Holiday Celebration Potluck, Holiday Light Sightseeing Tour and a White Elephant Gift Exchange.

How to Sign Up: Log onto diablo-pca.org and click on the Event button. Select the Holiday Party and complete the information and make your payment. You **MUST** sign up online as the party is being held in a gated community and our hosts must provide a guest list to the front gate to ensure you get access.

What to Bring: Please bring a hearty appetizer to share (i.e. meatballs, crackers & cheese, veggies & dip, etc.)

Bring white elephant gifts (one from each attendee, valued at no more than \$20) for a fun gift exchange

What's Provided: Beverages (beer, wine, soft drinks, coffee), dessert and a neighborhood tour route of holiday lights.

Questions: Contact Christi Hilton at christihilton@comcast.net or (925) 484-1530

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Food and Friends Monthly Dinner

Come join the fun, festive conversation with fellow Diablo members and delicious food on the 3rd Thursday of each month at:

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**Mike Roberts,
Driver Education Program Chair**



**Driver Education –
(What Porsche calls High Performance Driving Experience)**

We just completed a great year with a visit to Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, on November 26th. The event was a sell-out, but we ended up accommodating all but a couple of drivers. The weather was perfect; sunny and warm – it doesn't get much better in Monterey in November.

I must admit the day began with a slight panic, when I was called over to talk with the Track Supervisor who pulled me out after the drivers' meeting and insisted I go over to their offices – turned out our check to pay for the event was made out to the wrong payee...totally my fault but they could have caught it earlier and been less dramatic about the need to correct it before the day began!

But the day developed well and the great turnout from our Instructors really helped to make everything run smoothly.

Actually, this year has gone well for the DE program – we continued to develop and present the pre-event briefings we call DE101/201, a couple of weeks before each track day. They have been really well received and we certainly find people who have attended them approach the day better prepared, whether first timers or experienced.

The formula we announced in late 2011, with an emphasis on driver training and an exclusive, 3 run group format on the track, with a limit on the number of participants, means an experience unlike any other – not to mention that it makes our events friendlier and easier to run. Having David Ray and the Hooked On Driving team support us has also been a valuable contribution to safety and effective management of our days at the track.

Further, our DE activities have not been a big drain on the bank account...in 2013 we are around break-even for the year – pretty good considering we need to rent space for DE101/201 these days, plus we always buy pizza.

I would like to thank Adam Cipriano for stepping into the DE Registrar role this year, it has been terrific to have the help and many people just don't realize that motorsportreg.com is not easy, even though it is

a great tool for managing sign ups. Also, Adam has helped us field questions from participants or prospective participants. This is a volunteer program, and Members often don't realize when they have questions or queries on our activities, that there's a volunteer at the other end who has probably worked a full day already!

My thanks also to Kay Maloy whose continued support on DE (as well as many other Club activities), is a mainstay of PCA Diablo's success. Not only does Kay design and publish our Flyers and create the monthly Advocate newsletter, she also appears at every track event with individually prepared envelopes containing all participants run group letters, schedules and passing zones, she also brings freshly baked goodies...

Thanks also to Jeff Urnes for taking on the Chief Driving Instructor role both on and off track. Jeff's enthusiasm has included the introduction of several participants to the wonderful world of driving their car on track and to their learning.

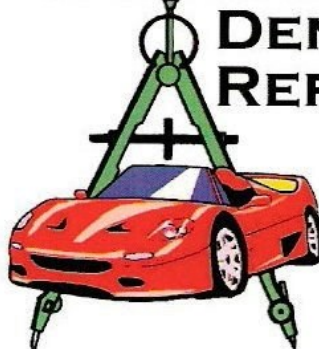
It's not easy talking in front of groups, particularly peer groups...so I am also grateful to Ken Wu and Tom Davenport who have come out to present our DE 101/201 briefings. They started as an idea in 2011 and we have now done 7 of them...! Tom and Ken did the original presentation and it has been honed over the last couple of years and to include videos, and expanded to cater for the experienced driver too.

Finally, I would like to thank our sponsors...this year we had a unique mix of three events sponsored by the three Porsche dealerships in our Region, Livermore Porsche, Michael Stead Porsche and Fremont Porsche (in calendar order). It's great to see the increased level of interest in PCA events from them and PCNA.

As many know, back in April I informed the Diablo Board that I would not be performing the DE Chair role in 2014. Hopefully, we will be able to announce my successor and manage a handover soon. Certainly, the program is now well-developed with all the process, documentation and content that we need.

I'm grateful to everyone who has helped and supported me through the last couple of years as we have up-leveled the program. We are all volunteers and only by sharing the work can our Club and its programs continue to exist. My challenge to all members who are interested in, or participate in Diablo DE is to help play your part to ensure its continued success – and that means getting things done - the administration, the planning and the event management. What's the old saying? "it takes a village"...

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DIABLO PCA ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON BLACKHAWK MUSEUM EXTRAVAGANZA

Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014

Time: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Location: Blackhawk Museum

3700 Blackhawk Plaza, Danville

Cost: \$40 per person

Come join us for our annual awards party and enjoy the event while nestled amongst a multitude of exceptional, one of a kind automobiles.

Included:

- A special display of Porsches on the Plaza

Please let Elsie Lum know if you would like your car displayed on the plaza.

A committee will choose up to 40 cars.

Cars will be parked beginning at 8:30am.

- Docents to provide guided tours of the Museum at 10:00am
- A gourmet luncheon catered by Scott's Catering
- No Host Bar (no outside alcohol allowed)
- Door Prizes
- Special Guest Speaker

A chance to heckle/congratulate your friends as they receive their awards.

Luncheon Menu:

- Spinach Salad
- Three Cheese Ravioli with Tomato, Olive Sauce
- Pistachio Crusted Salmon with a Ginger Orange Sauce
- Carved Roast Prime Rib, au jus, Horseradish sauce
- Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Fresh Seasonal Vegetables
- Rum Cake with Caramel Walnut Sauce
- Coffee and Hot Tea

You can complete your reservation on the Goodie Store starting November 15th.

You can also indicate on the Goodie Store if you would like to park your car in the rotunda of the museum - 40 cars will be chosen.

For additional questions, email Elsie Lum at ewklum@yahoo.com

IT WILL TRULY BE OUR EXTRAVAGANZA OF THE YEAR!!

Welcome New Members!!

New Members

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Little, Robert A. Robbyn Little (Affiliate) | 2005 Boxster, Gray |
| Matteson, James | 2002 Boxster S, Silver |
| O'Connor, Terry E | 1977 911 S, Red |
| Thomas, Leslie | 2005 Cayenne |
| Wanket, Gregory J. Tony Wanket (Affiliate) | 2011 Cayman, Black |

Total New Members: 5

Transfer In Members

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Balino, Robert Reginald Balino (Member) <i>Transfer from Las Vegas (LV)</i> | 1994 968 |
| Bell, Jason <i>Transfer from Calif. Central Coast (CCC)</i> | 2013 911, Silver |
| Ceglio, Nat <i>Transfer from Calif. Central Coast (CCC)</i> | 2009 Cayenne |
| Huff, Ronald C. Foster B. Huff (Member) <i>Transfer from Arizona (AZ)</i> | 1965 356 |
| Winkel, Steven R. Barbara Sahm (Affiliate) <i>Transfer from Golden Gate (GGR)</i> | 2006 Carrera 4, Silver |

Total Transfer In Members: 5

Primary Members: 667
Affiliated Members: 437
Total Members: 1,104

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Breakfast With Friends Walnut Creek Breakfast

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660 Ygnacio Valley Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
located between N. Broadway and N. Civic Drive.

Don't forget to wear your name tag so everyone knows your name. This is a great way to casually meet other members and catch up on upcoming Region events



Tri-Valley Saturday Breakfast

If you can't get up in time to get to the Saturday morning breakfast at Buttercup Grill & Bar in Walnut Creek, drive over to Pleasanton and join a few hungry members at Strizzi's. We meet each month on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 8:30AM.

The next breakfast is scheduled for **Dec. 14th** and again on **Dec. 28th**. We hope to see you there. We have tables reserved in the rear of the restaurant.

Strizzi's
649 Main Street (between Division St. and St. Mary St.)
Pleasanton, CA





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Love to solve mysteries? Enjoy non-stop laughter? Then save March 8th for an entertaining 3 hours of fun and good food.



Kay Maloy will be hosting a Mystery Dinner at Sunol Country Club. More details will be announced shortly. If you have any questions, contact Kay at editor@diablo-pca.org.

Watch For Updates For These Upcoming Events

January

- **Tesla Factory Tour**
- **Dealer Tech Session**
- **Bowling Day**

February

- **Super Bowl**
- **Movie Night**
- **Big Cats & Casino Tour (2/22)**
- **Ano Nuevo Tour**

March

- **Mendocino Tour (3/14-3/16)**
- **Thunderhill DE (3/21)**

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Honoring Our Veterans

A big "Thank you" to Diron Scott for setting up a dinner at the Brass Door on November 11th to honor our Diablo members who are Veterans. We had 11 veterans in attendance plus some spouses and Board members. The evening gave the honorees an opportunity to tell the rest of us what it meant to them to serve our country. All the speeches were very touching and made us all feel very proud of them and the service they had done. It was a wonderful evening and will now be an annual Diablo event.

Thank you for your service to America:

Jerry Bennett, Carl Billings, Jack Carpenter, Martin Demond, Frank Duran, Jim Edmonds, Phil Eskildsen, Michael Houston, Don Mayo, Bill Packwood and Diron Scott.





Pictures from Ed Won.



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PORSCHE

Grand Dining

As I pulled into the Buttercup Pantry parking lot that sunny Sunday in November, I was looking forward to meeting up with several (meaning 60) other Diablo members in preparation for a scenic drive to our lunch destination-The Grand Island Mansion.

After getting out of my car, I noticed something different. Everyone looked so awesome! The day had a “Special” look and feel to it.

As Frank and Joan Duran organized us into four (4) groups, we obediently got behind our lead cars and began the journey. I traveled through small towns whose names I had seen,



but had never visited. The drive took us on roads for miles along the Delta. The views were so intriguing it was hard to keep my eyes on the road.

Suddenly, we turned around the bend and there stood this huge, gorgeous mansion that simply took your breath away. We parked and could hardly wait to get inside to see if the interior was as elegant as the exterior.



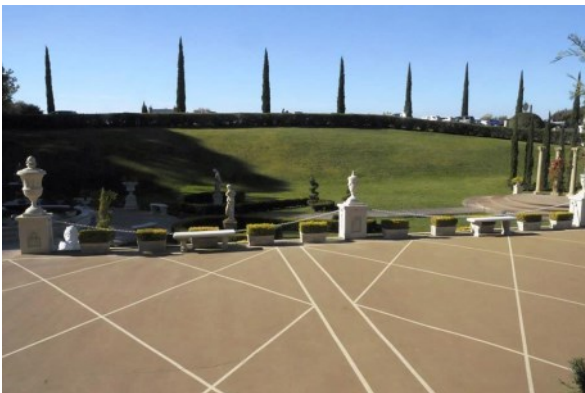
We were a little concerned when we discovered that Ed and his group had not arrived with the rest of us. He eventually turned up claiming they were just discovering more of the beautiful countryside. Yeah, right!! He even had a navigator.

Once inside, we were taken to our own dining room, which was a good idea since we were quite noisy as a group. We then were invited to venture into the buffet room to get our lunch. The choices were bountiful and very delicious. No one would leave here hungry for sure.



After we finished our yummy lunch, we were allowed to check out the rooms upstairs. WOW! It was like going back in time, but with a modern twist. I would love to stay there. The location is used frequently for weddings and is set up to accommodate the wedding party and their guests.

If you want to have an enjoyable drive and meal, check out the Grand Island Mansion in Walnut Grove.



Pictures provided by Ed Won.

Laguna Seca Bliss



Once again the Sun Gods were shining down on the Monterey Peninsula in November as the Diablo DE Track Day was getting ready to roll onto the 11 turn, 2.238 mile road course known as Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. This raceway is well known, especially for the infamous turns 8 & 8A commonly known as The Corkscrew. Why infamous you ask? From Turn 8 to Turn 9, the elevation falls 109 feet or just over 10 stories.

Diablo's DE day was scheduled for November 26th, the day after Golden Gate Region had two days on the track. We started our event the night before with pre-registration and dinner at the Embassy Suites. It was a chance for drivers to meet other drivers and for Instructors to meet their drivers for the next day. It was non-stop chatter for 3 hours. We had drivers and Instructors from up and down the state. There were some PCA members from Fresno and Yosemite.

Everyone was in good spirits and was excited for the next day. Early the next morning, we all started gathering about 7am at the track and Mike Roberts, DE Chair kicked off the day before handing it over to David Ray from Hooked on Driving for more details on the day.

We had a very filling lunch provided by Porsche of Fremont, who also provided several gifts given away during our lunchtime raffle. By the end of the afternoon, the smiles were still going strong and the camaraderie between everyone was evident with the newly formed friendships happening on and off the track. Great way to end the 2013 DE Program happenings. Thank you Mike Roberts and DE Team for another memorable year!!





Pictures provided by Ed Won, Carlos Bocanegra and Susanne Waite.



Porsche Pride

As we continue with our series in highlighting members who have recently purchased a Porsche, we want to remind you if you have purchased a Porsche in 2013, contact our Communications Chair, Charles Rooks at flyinglow22@yahoo.com.

Al Arrivas

Purchased Date: February 2013

Year and Type of Porsche: 2007 911 Carrera S Cabriolet

Outside Color: Atlas Grey Metallic

Interior Color: Grey

Transmission Type: 6 speed Manual



John Hobson

Purchased Date: Oct. 2013

Year and Type of Porsche: 2010 Boxster S

Outside Color: Black

Interior Color: Black

Transmission Type: PDK



Paul Bonderson

Purchased Date: Ordered in May, delivered in Sept.

Year and Type of Porsche: 2014 911 4S

Outside Color: Guard's Red

Interior Color: Black leather with red stitching

Transmission Type: PDK

Other Comments: Aero kit, power package and wheel spacers



Bob and Christi Hilton

Purchased Date: June 2013

Year and Type of Porsche: 1965 356 SC

Outside Color: British Racing Green

Interior Color: Beige

Transmission Type: 4-speed manual

Other Comments: A 356 at last!



Feels Like Home

Porsche Panamera—Embrace the Moment

By Bob Beck

Porsche likes to speak of its DNA. Study the Porsche family of cars and you'll understand what Porsche's DNA is all about. It's a family of technology, passion and proportion in motion. It is perhaps best said that nothing drives like a 911. If you are going to build the ultimate sports car it goes without saying that it will be compared to a 911. Introduced in 1964, the archetype 911 defines the sports car.

On the other hand if you are going to build an ultimate sports sedan it would typically be compared to an Audi/Mercedes/BMW/Maserati-ish sort of thing. There are a lot of good choices in the luxury sports sedan category – A8, M5, CLS AMG, Quattroporte. At one time it would have been hard to choose, but no longer. Today there is really only one choice and it is unequivocally the Porsche Panamera. It's that good. You simply need drive it to understand.

As a born skeptic, I traveled off to sample the new Panamera as a 911 man. On the roads of Milwaukee and the track at Road America, I would test the Panamera as a 911 devotee. Being a 911 man I really don't do automotive change well. With apologies to Porsche, I haven't even completely accepted the Cayenne. I have owned or driven every type Porsche made and enjoyed them all but I'm a 911 man at heart. There is something intangible that gets in your blood with the 911. It is driving perfection.

Now, frankly, my automotive world order has been rocked. A middle age fog could be clouding my vision but I'm rethinking the whole 911 man thing. Maybe a Panamera could fit in my garage, too? Maybe I'd like to take the wife and kids when I lap the Nürburgring. No, my manhood is not withering as we speak. I am still loyal to the 911 but the Panamera is an amazing car. Perhaps it's even worthy of consideration as the perfect Porsche.

The technology and numbers of the Panamera have been well documented by now. It brings a lot to the game with an efficient direct injection engine mated to a smooth 7-speed PDK transmission with all of the suspension and engine tuning buttons

one could dream of located on the center console. S and 4S versions sport a 4.8-liter, 400 hp V8 engine, while the Turbo version pumps out a conservative 500 hp to all four wheels. When the launch control feature activates, it's nothing short of amazing. Prices range from \$90K to over \$130K.

All this tech goodness delivers stunning performance. The performance is beyond the sports sedan expectations. It's really a super sedan. The Panamera Turbo has a Porsche stated zero-to-sixty of 3.8 seconds, only three-tenths slower than the 911 Turbo. In usual Porsche fashion, these numbers are a bit conservative as the street times are rumored to be 3.5 for the Turbo Panamera. The 400 hp normally aspirated Panamera turns in a healthy 5.2 second zero-to-sixty. Tie this together with the legendary Porsche chassis and brakes and we're off to the races.

But numbers and factoids don't make a Porsche. (Heck, the Corvette has good numbers but it ain't no Porsche, my friend.) The roads and race tracks of the real world is where Porsche has earned its' reputation. My Panamera test drive came with real world extremes. Milwaukee has some of the worst weather rutted roads in the world. Contrast this with Road America, just outside of Milwaukee, one of the best driving, well-storied tracks in the country. So how does it drive? As expected in a six-figure car, the Panamera is prefect for a long haul drive in the city or country. The long wheelbase and sophisticated suspension tuning make for a perfect compromise of supple ride and top of the class handling. With smooth PDK transmission, efficient direct injection power in the 400 or 500 hp range, it takes off like your favorite executive jet. To complete the experience, Porsche adds to that what it calls an "executive class interior" (think Bentley meets Lear jet).

Porsche is very, very good at most things, but they have yet to master Mother Nature. So I tackled Road America in the wet... very wet. An ark would have been more appropriate for the biblical proportions of rain. Chassis dynamics and physics come to play much earlier in this kind of weather. Fortunately for me I had Porsche factory driver Patrick Long riding shotgun to help temper my driving skills.

Belted in a six-figure car with 500 horsepower on a very wet track I had never driven, Patrick and I paddled up to speed. Once settled into the cockpit , I would have sworn I had jumped into a 911. It felt like home. The IP and cockpit are designed to

feel like home for the 911 driver. The power and handling are world-class good. The car feels completely neutral and begs to be pushed hard even in the wet. The steering is precise, but a little numb on feedback compared to the 911, but this is understandable with the large engine up front. The Michelin Pilot Sport PS2s offered amazing grip as I found out when I unleashed the 500 hp Turbo on the back straight. The thrust was astonishing. The only thing that felt out of sorts were the sweet engine sounds coming from the wrong end of car. Oh well, lots of Le Mans winning cars have had the engine up front.

A lot has been made of the exterior design. Some say it's not the best looking car ever made. Certainly, the same was said of the original Beetle and even the first 911, the 901. The Panamera looks like a Porsche and one must see it in person to judge how well form follows function. My experience is that when you see it in person and drive it at speed and the Panamera morphs into a thing of absolute beauty. Form so very much follows function. The proportions of the car in motion define its beauty. Porsches are not static objects. Touch the Panamera, drive it, and you will see the beauty. Whether driving on Road America or up to your favorite valet parking event on Saturday night and you are front row material.

The most important design feature of the Panamera is the interior. Fittingly this is the first Porsche that focuses on passengers as well as the driver. It is a unique interior synthesis between sports car and luxury sedan. It is a distinctly Porsche interior with a splash of English-like coachwork and luxury to boot. This the most luxurious interior seen from Stuttgart. Four things immediately stand out: first, the ascending center console, reminiscent of the Carrera GT; second, the four individual seats, all 911-style sport seats for great support; third, the amount of space in the rear, where even taller passengers will find plenty of legroom and headroom (with room for those well over 6 feet tall); and fourth, the versatility of the luggage compartment, thanks to the folding rear seats. The driver feels coddled by all the dynamic features of the Panamera interior - seat position, pedal placement, instrument panel and so on. Fortunately the dynamic luxury the driver feels is shared with all the passengers - the experience is indistinguishable from one seat to the next. The center console extends into the rear seats, so the rear passengers can access their individual gadgets for climate control and seating options. Every surface can be covered in the

rich leather with wood and metal touches. In fact the only people who are not going to enjoy this interior are the folks at Mercedes or Bentley. It is stunning.

I sense a paradigm shift coming and it is the Panamera. Perhaps this is the first archetype for the super sedan. Porsche definitely built a better sedan and in the process they may have built one of the best Porsches ever. Sixty plus years ago, Dr. Ferry Porsche built the car he wanted and the world loved. Now Porsche has built the car you and your family will want. The Panamera has arrived. Embrace the moment and take a trip to your local Porsche dealership.





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