

DER PORSCHE BRIEF

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Slow Learner

Don Boggs at the 2007 Porsche Parade

Slow learner. Yeah, that's gotta be it: I'm a slow learner. How else to explain that - after as many times as I've vowed never to go to a Parade that takes more than two days' driving - I found myself in late June heading west on I-10. Twenty-two hundred miles west, at that.

I thought it would be interesting, seeing places I had never been. For sure, I'd never been in a place where the Weather Channel informed me that the local conditions were 105 temperature with a humidity of 8. Eight! Never been in a place where the DOT put barrels of radiator water every half mile or so up a long, steep grade. With a call box at each barrel. Never been in a place where the sign really *did* read "next gas 35 miles."

With no misadventure, I got to San Diego on Saturday afternoon early enough to register for Parade and check into the hotel. Explored, found old friends, got supper at the pizzeria on the hotel grounds. Sunday was the official opening, with the welcome buffet outdoors among the hotel swimming pools, with the by-now obligatory retro rock band for the ensuing party. I don't do excess decibels well, so left what seems to have been a good party early.

The party was followed by the concours on Monday. Somehow, the 7-car group my judging team was scheduled to view dwindled to one by the time we took the field that morning. Nor was my team the only one having a single entry to judge. This made it the more mystifying when 2, then 3, then 4, then more hours passed without the results being posted. Dick Kjellsen, a friend and fellow judge from Peachstate Region, and I concluded that if it reached 2 o'clock without our respective results being posted we would be on the next shuttle back to the hotel (judges are supposed to hang around until the protest period has passed). They weren't, so we were. The concours banquet was dressy and held on site, one of the two dinners for which we had to reserve our seats. Other friends from Peachstate, who had driven out, won their class and division.

The rally, er, rallies, ran Tuesday. I could have entered the VW in the gimmick rally. I went so far as to have it tech inspected (which explains the numbers on the side windows) but stayed home instead. That evening's event was a beach party held at a Navy facility on Coronado Island. I asked a local how far away this was (we had shuttle buses for all the off-the-grounds events) and was told 15 minutes. Fifty-five minutes later, we arrived. First time I had ever seen the Pacific Ocean, so of course I had to take my shoes off and get my feet wet. The zone challenge consisted of a sand castle building contest, a tug of war, and a Frisbee throwing contest. I managed to avoid participation in any of these, but cheered when it seemed appropriate.

The autocross was held July 4th, and they managed to get all the runs in in a single day. They used the parking lot for the local pro football stadium. It was impressive and immense, with as many as 5 cars running at the same time. It even included elevation changes, and the spectators could see most of the cars at the same time. For the fourth of July, we wound up (more shuttle buses) with two or three hundred thousand of our closest friends at SeaWorld. Since the package included the entry ticket for SeaWorld, one could - and many did - go early and see Shamu, penguins, sharks, and anything else. Getting out was a nightmare, and my bus' return was complicated by the fact of a major wreck at the entrance to the appropriate freeway, which caused its closure. The detour took us through some neighborhoods of San Diego that I had certainly planned to leave *off* my itinerary.

And on Thursday they held the tech quiz and the workers' party. I won an award (not a trophy, unfortunately) in the quiz, the only competitive event I actually entered. Most impressive - make that Most Impressive or even MOST IMPRESSIVE - was the victory banquet held on the flight deck of the USS Midway. There were over 1,000 of us up there with the display of airplanes, helicopters, and one Porsche Spyder and there was still plenty of room. We were allowed time to tour the ship before the banquet and I wish I'd had more. Only trouble was the forays below the hanger deck where the headroom dropped sharply. I banged my head a few times. Not as bad as a tour I took of a submarine some years ago, but still low. But in the absence of winning the trip to the factory, the highlight of the Parade.

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NORTH FLORIDA REGION
PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA



Scenic Drive 1 - Apalachee Savannahs Scenic Byway

By Ian Anderson

For the inaugural scenic drive, I chose a route easily accessible to members in Tallahassee and Panama City, the Apalachee Savannahs Scenic Byway. Designated in 1989, it is Florida's only National Scenic Byway and is a unique driving experience. The Byway is famous for having over 100 varieties of wildflowers and for its pine forests full of wildlife. There are even carnivorous pitcher plants growing in the savannahs.

Setting out on a sunny September morning, I headed west on State Highway 20 from Tallahassee, heading towards Bristol, State Highway 12, and the Apalachee Savannahs Scenic Byway. The drive took a little over an hour and was like most of rural Florida; farms, small towns, and lots of grass and trees. Turning South on Hwy. 20, I became surrounded by trees on either side and suddenly had that wonderful feeling of being alone with nature. The serene experience continued as I only passed three other cars during my entire 31-mile drive on the Byway. There is a lot to see along the road, and for those with Cayennes or other vehicles better suited to dirt roads, there are many additional sights to see.



In my case, I was searching for a long stretch of the open road where I could give my Boxster a workout and be surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery in Florida. It turns out that the Byway is ideally suited for both. If you want to enjoy the scenery, you can cruise slowly through the forests and meadows, pulling off to the side to view the wildflowers, butterflies, stands of pine, and other natural sights. I saw horses running through the fields, wild turkeys in the underbrush, raptors in the sky, and butterflies covering the flowers. Depending on the time of year, there are many varieties of wildflowers and animals you might see.

As for the driving, look for long straight-aways and big sweeping turns. The road is freshly-paved or well-paved depending on the section, though it's a little narrow and has soft shoulders. It's not a place to drive through twisting turns, but definitely a place to enjoy the scenery. Two or three long straight sections north of Big Gully Creek are available for those looking to cruise at the speed limit, but overall, it's a road best enjoyed with the top down or

windows open at cruising speeds. That way you can listen to the sounds of nature and spot the wildlife. The southern section of the road on Hwy. 65 is much busier, so be careful of other motorists in this section.

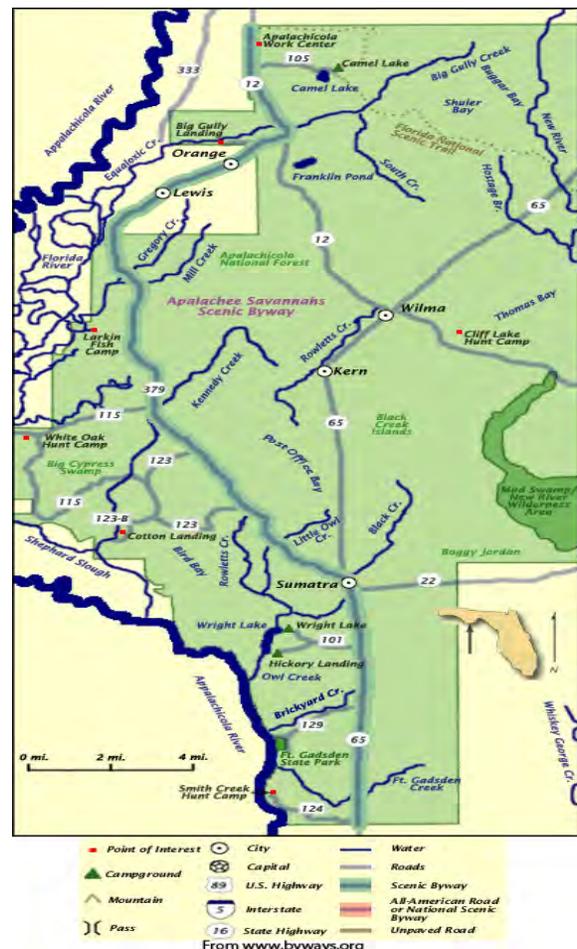
The Byway follows State Highway 12, turns onto State Road 379 and continues down State Highway 65 towards the coast. When I reached 65, I turned north back towards 20, to complete a loop, as shown on the map.

Directions

From Tallahassee head west on State Highway 20 to Bristol (~55 mi.) and turn left on State Highway 12 South (don't confuse it with 12N, just a block earlier), and follow the signs to the Byway.

From Crawfordville take State Highway 98 West to State Highway 65 North and the beginning/end of the Byway

From Panama City take State Highway 231 north to State Highway 20E and continue to Bristol and State Highway 12S or take US Highway 98E to State Highway 65N.



**Porsche Club of America
North Florida Region**



Host



**The 2nd Annual Charity Car Show
Saturday, October 13, 2007**

11 a.m. ~ 4 p.m.

Destin Commons

Free Admission

Porsche~Lamborghini~Lotus~Ferrari

Place your vote for “Best in Show”!

**If you have a Porsche or exotic car you
would like to register for the event please
contact Alabama Charlie at**

(850) 585-3053 by October 12th.

Benefiting

Sacred Heart Hospital

This is a report on the 2006 First Annual Destin Car Show by Steve LaRosa

NORTH FLORIDA REGION RAISES AN ASTOUNDING \$40,000 FOR SCARED HEART HOSPITAL

Through the outstanding efforts of Alabama Charlie McPeak and Dominic Damiano, and the efforts of their fellow North Florida Region PCA members, the charity car show held at the Destin Commons Mall on August 12 was successful on many different levels. The \$40,000 raised for the Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation was a feather in the cap for a great event. The donation is earmarked for the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. The hospital foundation staff was there to welcome the cars and their owners at registration, along with the Destin Porsche Club Girls and the Hooter's Girls who circulated the mall asking for donations. While Porsche was the featured marque, the car show also featured other exotic makes such as Ferrari, Lamborghini, Cobra, Alfa, Ford GT and Bentley. A Carrera GT and Patriiti Porsche were featured. The Patriiti was perhaps the most beautiful Porsche I have seen, the carbon fiber body was an art form, and having the designer, builder and owner there to talk to was amazing. A total of 90 cars (60 were Porsches) gave everyone something to look at and talk about. The 911 T from Hawaii was the car from farthest away, while the speed yellow 356 Speedster was the brightest car. The Destin Commons Mall had lots of interested visitors. Many new members attended and several potential new members will be joining our region. So here's to the organizers, supporters, participants, new members and old members, and Porsche supporters who made this a memorable day.



A Speed Yellow Speedster and Steve LaRosa's 1965 911 at the 2006 Auto Show.



A Porsche GT in the Center Ring at Destin Commons Mall at the 2006 Auto Show

Region Calendar—SEP/OCT 2007

September

6—6:30 PM, Social at Cuvee Beach and Wine Restaurant, 36120 Emerald Coast Highway, Destin, Florida. Socials are the first Thursday of every month at the Cuvee.

16—Drive Your 356 Day. Don Boggs will host his annual Pit Stop from 1 PM to 4 PM at Lake Hall in Maclay Gardens, 3540 Thomasville Road in Tallahassee. A small fee is charged to enter the Park. Look for the 356s. Non-356 Porsches welcome to attend. Call Don at 850 386-2321 for more info. On the day of the event call Alan Berg at 850 284-3741 (wireless) for info.

19—6:30 PM, Social at Gill's Tavern, 2545 N. Monroe Street, Tallahassee. Socials are the third Wednesday of every month at Gill's Tavern.

October

4—6:30 PM, Social at Cuvee Beach and Wine Restaurant, 36120 Emerald Coast Highway, Destin, Florida. Socials are the first Thursday of every month at the Cuvee.

13—Second Annual Destin Car Show. See Flyer on page 3.

17—6:30 PM, Social at Gill's Tavern, 2545 N. Monroe Street, Tallahassee. Socials are the third Wednesday of every month at Gill's Tavern

Dates to Save:

2-4 November— Rennsport III, Daytona Beach, www.rennsport2007.com,

15 December—North Florida Region Holiday Party in Tallahassee.

Short Tracks

Nominations-Please submit nominations for the 2008 Board of Directors to any Officer or Board Member. Ballots will go out in November, and the new Board will be announced and meet at the Holiday Party.

Boggs at Parade-Continued from Page 1

So it was that I got up and got the car loaded as early as possible on Friday. I was losing an hour each day coming home, for I decided to make the return trip in 3 days, instead of the 4 I had taken for the drive out. Made it, too, though that Sunday was a real drag. Houston traffic is awful even at 10 on a Sunday morning. Thanks are due to my car. After a 4,400 mile round trip, through long stretches in which the car thermometer didn't get below 110, it waited until a mile from home before the radiator sprang that leak and I got into my own driveway. That's luck.

How was it? I had a great time, as usual. Saw friends from Parades past, met new ones, hung around on the patio outside Saxtons' room cadging margaritas. I took the Passat for the air conditioning and it was still wonderful. Like the t-shirt says: "It's not the cars, it's the people." Think about trying it. Next year Parade will be in Charlotte, and that's a 1-day drive even for one of the 356s. I met the chairman and he has - shall we say - some interesting ideas on how a parade should be run. Each chairman gets humored to some extent and we'll see how this one plays out. But remember, Harvey, what most of us were saying in San Diego: SPS.

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