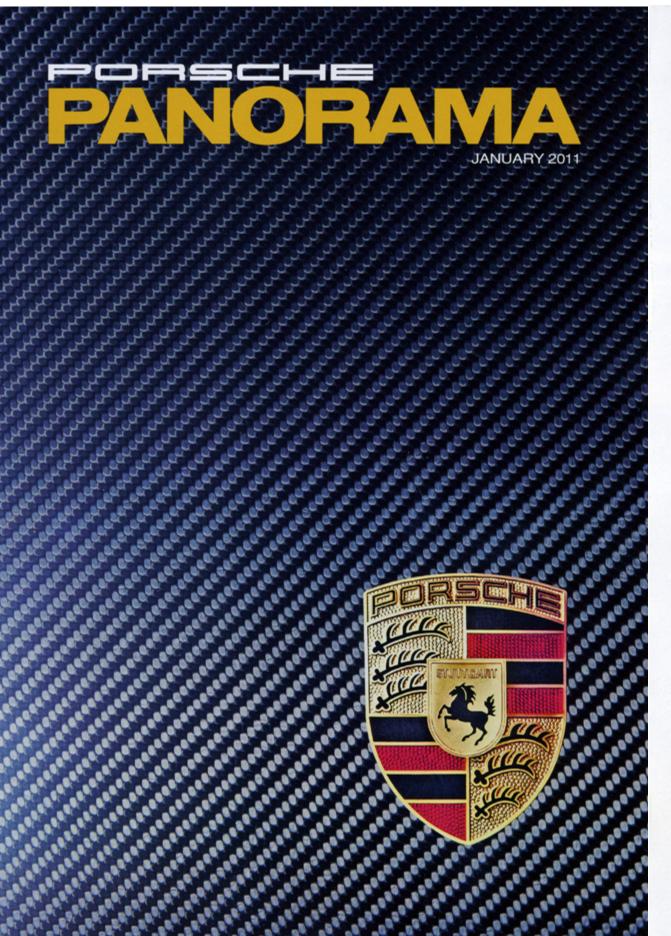
Oktoberfiesta

by Sean Cridland

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Cover

Among the spectacular Porsches at the Los Angeles Auto Show was the flagship GT2 RS with minimalist Porsche decal resting on its signature carbon fiber hood. Photo by Leonard Turner.

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Roadrunner Region President Tony Richey presents a financial contribution for the event to Carrera Region DeDe Rogers.

One of the best little PCA events in the country

OKTOBERFIESTA

BY SEAN CRIDLAND

ost people remember I-10 in southern New Mexico as a long, mostly flat, endlessly straight strip of bumpy asphalt that parallels the railroad. It's notable for blinding windstorms that often force road closures. Yet, each October an oasis appears out of that landscape that is no mirage for regional Porsche lovers. The little town of Deming is home to a variety of small, excellent vineyards, a hub for many fine touring roads, and the closest town to regionally popular Arroyo Seco Raceway. And it is home to one of the best little PCA events in the country: Carrera Region's Oktoberfiesta.

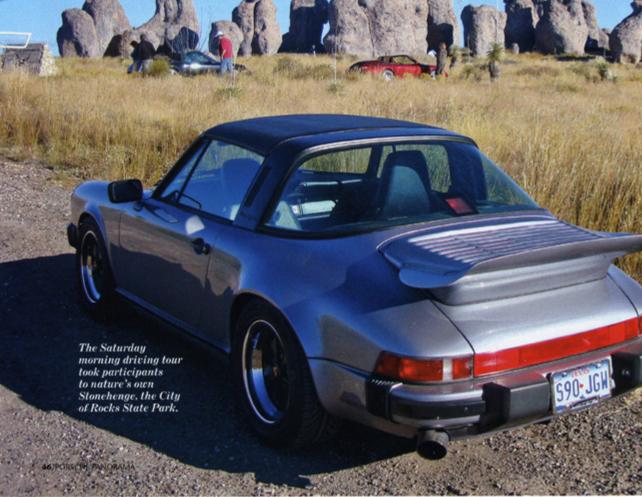
The late October event, which just celebrated its 35th edition, brings in a strong contingent of PCAers from Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas for two and half days of

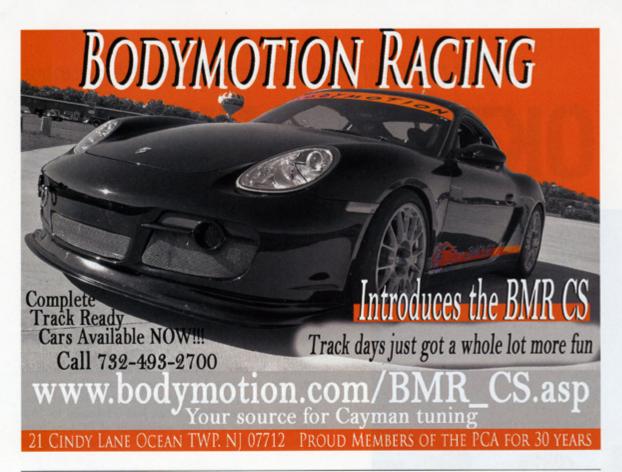


Separated at birth! The Carrera Region presented identical cowboy shirts to Vic Elford and Zone Rep Sean Cridland, complete with Porsches on them!



DE Participant Michael Galaviz eagerly looks on as Vic Elford signs his helmet during Oktoberfiesta weekend.





Porsche-related fun. As a special treat, this year's edition offered a new feature: a special guest appearance by Porsche community favorite Vic Elford. Legendary winner of classic races such as the Targa Florio, Nürburgring 1000K, Daytona 24 Hour, and the Monte Carlo Rally, "Quick Vic" came to Deming to share his stories and adventures with a diverse community of listeners, some of whom followed his career during his racing days and many of whom are hearing of him for the first time. Whatever the case may be, Elford's reputation for grace, eloquence, an engaging personality and accessibility are well earned. Everyone loves having Vic around.

As always, Friday night kicks off the weekend with the registration and check-in party, hosted at the Luna Rossa winery. It's always a fun Halloween styled affair with all the ghouls, crawling body parts, webs, and ghosts you can handle as old and new friends start pouring in. Whether it was Vic's presence or Carrera Region President Dede Rogers' effervescence that did it, the 2010 event was especially well attended. Finger foods and friendly chat accompany the release signing and the goody-bag pick-up. This year's event t-shirt featured a likeness of the Porsche 918 hybrid supercar, as photographed by one of the region's members at its unveiling this past summer in Monterey. After

registration, many of the participants convened on the best little Italian restaurant in town, Palma's, or the popular Mexican spot, Si Senor. But no one stayed out very late. Everyone knew how busy they'd be early Saturday morning.

For those dedicated to track-day activity, the DE group converged on Arroyo Seco Raceway, about 15 miles east of town, to get their cars prepped and attend the drivers' meeting, conducted by local hotshoes Lenny Loftin and the now-legendary Wild Bill Walker. The Arroyo Seco track is a short, but challenging course that can be run in 1.4 or 1.1 configurations, with either 14 or 7 turns and can be run in either direction, clockwise or anti. It's a favorite with many novices because of its flat, obstacle-free run-off areas. And for those more expert drivers, it's a track whose challenge never seems to evaporate. As Bill Walker says, "There are a couple of turns that'll have you talking to yourself" Because even a wellattended Oktoberfiesta is still a small event, drivers were treated to enough track time to tire out even the fittest and reveal the cord on even the harder compound track tires.

Meanwhile, another group of Porsche drivers made their way off for a drive through some twisty roads and a visit to Mother Nature's version of Stonehenge, the





City of Rocks State Park. Then tour director Ray Palomarez took everyone up the hill to the beautiful college, ski, and mining town of Silver City. Eventually the tour wound through some of the largest mining operations in the Northern Hemisphere and then back to Arroyo Seco to join the track group for a hearty lunch.

Oktoberfiesta Saturday night is always a favorite, with a great steak dinner at the Rancher's Grille, with a great prize giveaway, a tech quiz, and this year, of course, a great talk and Q+A session with Vic Elford. He fielded queries about his career post racing, his

experiences at the Targa Florio, and his favorite (the 917/30) and least favorite (the small wheeled Shadow Can-Am car) race cars. At the end of his talk, Vic gave away a giclée print that was signed by many of the drivers depicted in it. The lucky winner was Roadrunner Region President Tony Richey. Then Dede Rogers presented Vic and Zone 9 Rep Sean Cridland with custommade cowboy-shirts with Porsches on them. Everyone got a prize and went home happy and stuffed!

For the Sunday autocross, Lenny and Bill set a twisty course on the 1.1-mile circuit, one that none of the drivers present had sampled before. Challenging was a word not uttered often, as drivers simply came in gasping for air, but with big smiles on their faces. Kirk Maurer took the top time of the day in his silver GT3, but there were many class battles that were amazingly close, especially amongst the Boxster/Cayman and 914 classes. After a fun awards ceremony and everyone taking the time to get last photos and autographs with Vic, it was time for everyone to start the tour home...across that flat, windy stretch of I-10 that never surrenders a hint of just how much the Carrera Region brings to southern New Mexico.

Photos are by Sean Cridland, DeDe Rogers and John Davis.