PCA Escape 2008

Escape to the Land of Enchantment

Host:

Roadrunner Region, PCA





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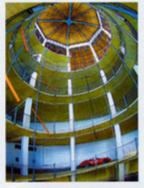
2009 997 3.8-liter engine, engine bay paint, GT3 LSD failures, 1966 912 dim headlights, 1984-94 811 engine alternator housing cracks, 911 fuel leak, 1986 944 fuel tank in 1983 944, 944 Turbo intermittent poor throttle response

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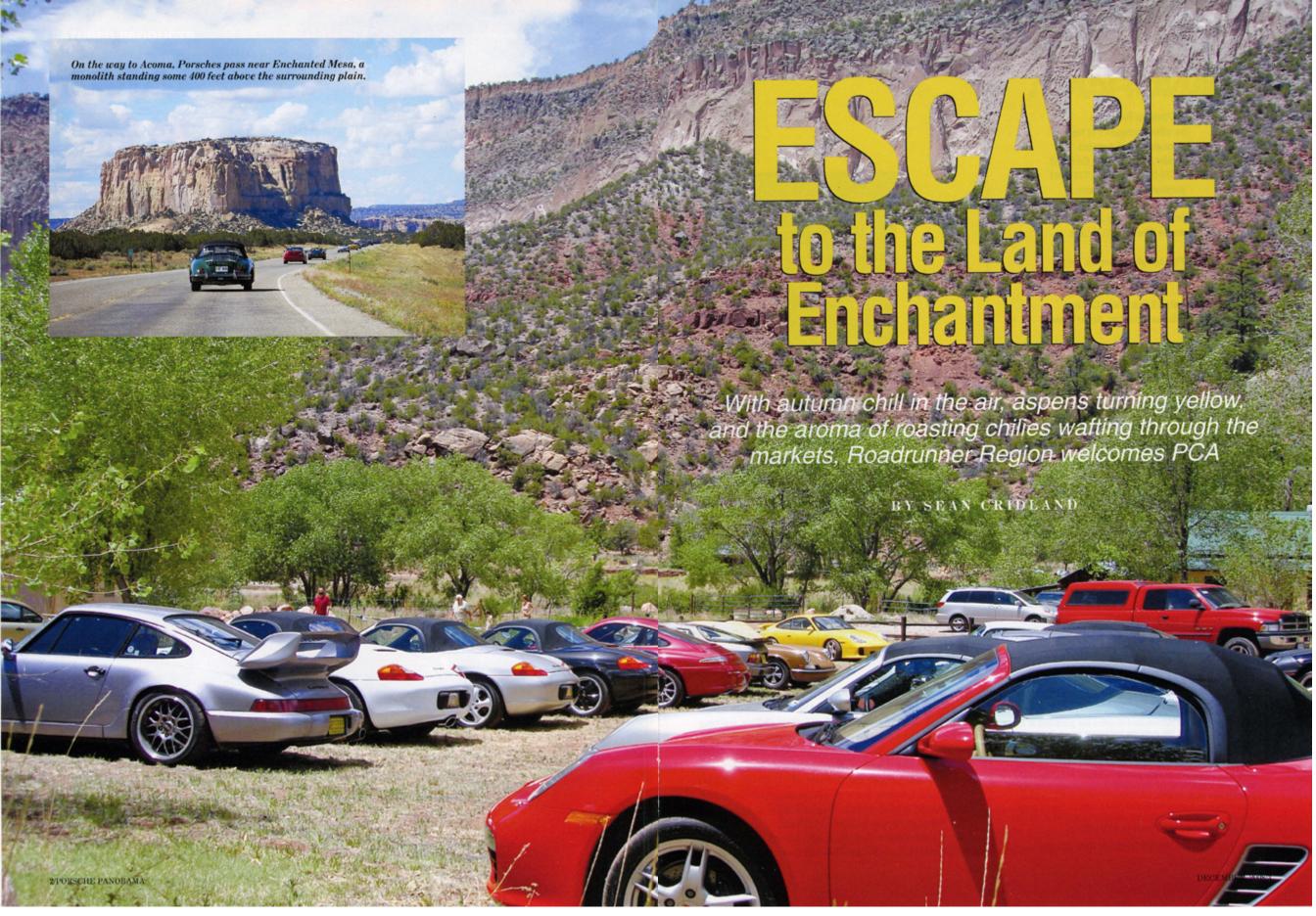




Cover

A 911 Speedster climbs the parking garage at the Franz-Josefs Hohe Visitors Center on the Grossglockner Hochalpenstrasse. Photo by Leonard Turner.

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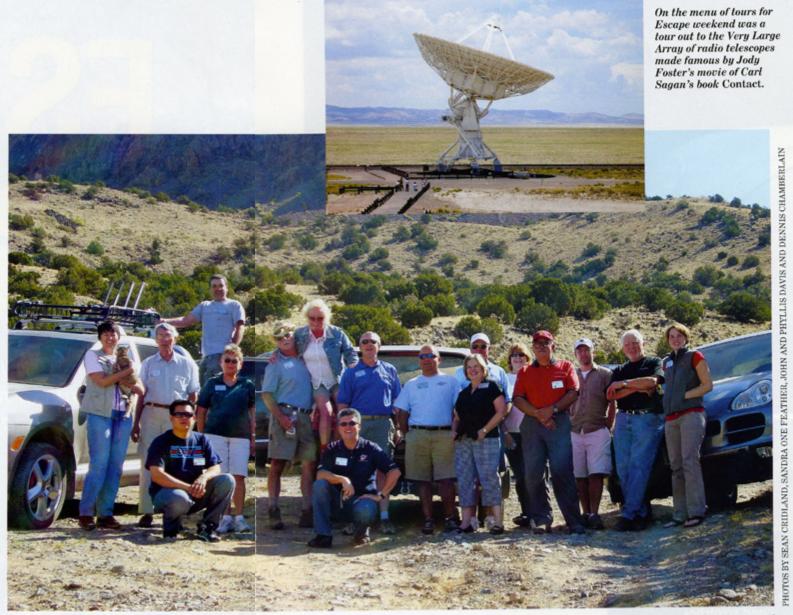
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The off-road aficionados loved the tour for Cayennes which explored the desert area around the Cabezon and Ojito wilderness areas.

ith a slight autumn chill in the air, the aspens turning yellow, the white clouds wispy, and the aroma of roasting chilies wafting through the markets, the world of Porsche descended upon New Mexico for PCA Escape 2008: Journey to the Land of Enchantment. Roughly 170 cars and 330 people came from all over the United States and Canada for a weekend of great tours and memorable social events, capped with a great talk from Porsche racing legend Vic Elford.

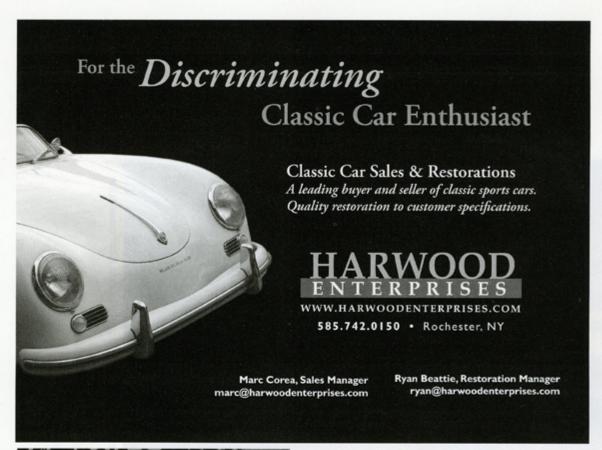
For Roadrunner Region, it all started in the winter of 2005 when Zone 9 Rep Howard Burr announced the

addition of a second national PCA event at the zone meeting. The words were barely out of his mouth when then region-president John Rheinschmidt and newsletter editor Sean Cridland looked at each other and winked. The Roadrunners had been doing a multi-event, multi-day, and multi-region meet called Fiesta del Porsche since the 1970s so it was something they knew they could do. Being a medium sized region (in member numbers) in a large geographic area (the entire state of New Mexico) puts the "little region that could" at a distinct disadvantage when thoughts of hosting a Parade come to mind. But the Roadrunners

have strong cadre of enthusiastic members who are willing to do just about anything to help out.

With the great help of our local sponsors and immeasurable assistance from Paul Gregor of Porsche (AG) Club assistance and PCA Executive Director Vu Nuygen, who brought and hung banners and signs, the whole event came together so beautifully, with such great timing, it was almost as if the mystical powers of our Land of Enchantment were on our side. Even the weather was perfect for that time of year.

Early on, a couple of Roadrunner Region members who are also 968 enthusiasts, Bob Blackwell and Dan





Dennison, suggested that the 968 Register hold its annual event in concert with Escape. Between our regular Fiesta participants and the 968 folks, we knew that we'd have enough cars for an event, but would other people come? That was a question answered early and with enthusiasm. PCA publicity chair Kathleen Lennon and our local web-guru Kate Rivera went on the offensive and got the word out to the rest of the world and come registration day Escape Registrar Liz Shaw reported that the numbers were coming in. Whew! From then on, it was a flurry of activity with everyone planning and testing their routes, maps being copied, badges being made, and folders and goodie bags being stuffed until...finally the day arrived.

Our guests must have thought that the Roadrunners had really gone all out by their greeting at the host hotel, the Albuquerque Marriott. Security for the cars, it seemed, was like that at Fort Knox. Well, almost. It turned out that a presidential candidate and his entourage were staying at the hotel the night before our event, so the whole hotel was on lockdown, with security agents on rooftops and guys with ominous looking bumps under their suits and little earphone wires running into their suits patrolling the Porsche parking lot and the rooftops above. Our cars were SAFE!



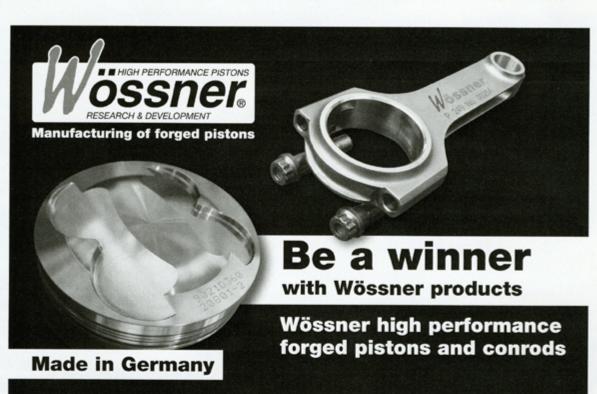
The weekend of great tours and memorable social events was capped with a great talk from Porsche racing legend Vic Elford, here with PCAer Sandra One Feather.



At the Anderson-Abruzzo Balloon Museum, Escapees were treated to a great meal, some beautiful Porsches parked on the grass outside, and local traditional music and dance from the Toya family of Zia Pueblo.

That delayed registration a little, but once things got going, it all went smoothly. Folks got in and out and made it over to the Tanoan with little difficulty. Once there, they were treated with perhaps the most beautiful setting for a concours this side of and including Pebble Beach. With the craggy Sandia Mountains poking 5,000 feet straight up from the eastern city limits, and music from Santa Fe recording artist Matthew Andrae, everyone quickly got in the mood. With the green, green grass of the Tanoan and the regal homes surrounding the course, it was easy to tell right away that this was a setting designed perfectly for Porsches.

It was up early on Friday for the start of the tours. The first tour out went all the way up to Taos for a fantastic ride through New Mexico small towns, mountains and then over to the Rio Grande suspension bridge before making its way back to Albuquerque. Another tour went up to the famous old church at Chimayo and then over to Espanola for a great New Mexico-style lunch. Two tours took different routes to Santa Fe. One went up the east side of the Sandia Mountains and even made a trip up to the Sandia Crest before winding through the little roads that go through Madrid (pronounced by locals as MAD-rid), site of the final scene of the recent movie Wild Hogs. The other followed the eastern side of the Rio Grande valley before spending a day at some of Santa Fe's best museums. Yet another tour went up the Los Alamos side of the Jemez Mountains, made a photo stop at the Jemez caldera and then continued on down



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through the beautiful red-rock canyon country with a stop at the Canon del Rio Inn for lunch.

On the southern side of the state long time Roadrunner tour-master Bill Oaks took people on a ride out to our local Sandia Motor Speedway for a few controlled laps and then out to the ancient city-on-amesa of Acoma. One of the most mystical looking of all human habitations, Acoma was settled more than 1200 years ago by its people who still enjoy both the view and the long heritage of their traditional community. Bill and the Porsche folks were greeted there by Gary "Waya" Keene, who regaled them with his knowledge of history and tradition as well as with his great wit and story-telling. Meanwhile, Steven Stacy was leading a tour out to the Very Large Array (of radio telescopes) made famous by Jody Foster's movie of Carl Sagan's book Contact. The tour then continued out to locally famous Pie Town. Besides the pies, many of the participants were thrilled that Steven was offering rides in his Carrera GT. Who wouldn't enjoy that?

Amazingly, all the tours made it back within a halfhour of one another and with plenty of time to spare to make it to the Anderson-Abruzzo Balloon Museum, a hall of fame for the sport of hot-air and helium balloons, dirigibles and zeppelins from around the world. It is a truly fantastic museum, and the Escapees were



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treated to a great meal, some beautiful Porsches parked on the grass outside, and some local traditional music and dance from the Toya family of Zia Pueblo. The winners of the people's choice concours from the night before were awarded trophies for fun categories like The Whole Enchilada (best of show), The Big Burrito (the Cavenne award), La Margarita (most intoxicating), and El Brujo (most sinister looking). But the most prestigious award was Vic's Pick, presented by Vic Elford to the owner of his favorite car, with no other criteria. That award fittingly went to King and Carol Clemons of Colorado for their beautiful forest green 356 with over 800,000 miles on it. The car is certainly a driver and is very pretty. And the Clemons are great people. But, in the end, Vic said he liked it most because they also cart their huge Siberian Husky Kitka around with them everywhere they go in that car. It turns out that everyone loves Kitka!

Saturday morning was another early one. This time the Cayenne AWD tour was first out. With seven intrepid Cayennes and a few brand-X vehicles along, this tour explored the desert area around the Cabezon and Ojito wilderness areas before a great lunch at the famous El Bruno restaurant in Cuba before heading up and over the lushly pine-forested Jemez Mountains and then down through the Gilman Tunnels, featured in the recently made version of 3:10 to Yuma with Russell Crowe, then back out through the red-rock canyon Jemez Valley and home to Albuquerque. Other tours that day went to various New Mexico wineries, back to Santa Fe, out to Acoma again, and up to Chimayo. Once again, the tours came off with hardly a hitch. And even then, the "hitches" turned into opportunities for enchantment. One hapless GT3 driver got a flat tire on the way to Santa Fe, an experience which could have turned into a real bummer. But when he was towed into the gas station, movie star (and com-



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panion to famous Porsche-racer Steve McQueen) Ali MacGraw happened to be there getting some work done. "What is this," she queried, as all the other cars streamed into the lot, "a Porsche convention?" Well, as a matter of fact

Meanwhile, back at the Marriott people were gathering for the final dinner. Guests were greeted by Mariachi Nuevo Tapatio, a fitting accompaniment for margaritas, sangria, and cerveza (and chardonnay, rose, bourbon or scotch). Everyone had great stories to share from their weekend adventures. And finally it was time to hear the ever gracious Vic Elford talk about his experiences as a Porsche racing driver. Vic is one of those guys who made racing drivers' lives glamorous. Not just a wheel-turner, his career spanned one of the finest times in motor racing history and he raced in an array of vehicles rivaling that of Mario Andretti's career. Vic raced in rallies, saloon cars, endurance sports cars, Formula One, NASCAR, Trans-Am, Interseries, and Can-Am and probably a few others we haven't discovered yet. He has an amazing array of stories to draw upon with his great memory. But more than that, he is someone who took full advantage of his racing career to make friends around the world and to take in culture, food, wine, and friendship. Several of the Escapees commented that they've seen Vic at several events, but





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that they never tire of him, such is his repertoire of stories and experiences.

Of good fortune was the Roadrunner Region's chosen charity, The Barrett Foundation of Albuquerque. Escape Chair Sean Cridland donated one of his prints of a 908 coupe (a picture he'd taken in his childhood) to be auctioned at the event. It turns out that Vic had driven the car at Watkins Glen and had a marvelous story about it. The promise of a Vic Elford signature on the print drove the price up to \$1200 in auction, going to a very good cause. Congratulations to Randy Kaplin of the Cimarron Region for his great purchase and for making a donation to a great cause. And a big thank you to Vic for increasing its value.

That wrapped up an event that brought a great group of Porschephiles together for some great fun, wonderful touring, and many new Porsche friendships. Escape is now establishing itself as a PCA tradition. PCA VP Kurt Gibson reported that representatives from several regions approached him during the weekend asking how to make proposals for their own versions of Escape. Escape is gathering momentum as a national event. So, everyone should start making plans to attend next year's event: Escape to the Birthplace of Aviation, hosted in Dayton, Ohio, by Ohio Valley Region. We look forward to seeing you there!