

First Concours

By Nancy Corbeille

Rich and I have been thinking about competing in a Porsche Concours as an introduction to a PCA competitive event. Dave Schroetter suggested to us as a first attempt the Tennessee Region's Winterfest. Its main event is a Concours competition and is held in mid-February. It is a Street-Level type Concours, which means they only judge your Porsche's exterior and interior. It is a good event for beginners.

So we signed up for their 2019 Winterfest. It was held February 15-16 in Chattanooga at the VW Corporate Conference Center. We decided to register my 2014 Boxster, since the interior was smaller and there was less to clean. Also, the VW Corporate Conference Center as the location meant it was indoors and only 115 miles from our home. And we hoped for no rain during our trip, which thankfully did not occur.

We searched the internet for tips about what the judges check and got some pointers from the Schroetters and Fowlers. Cleanliness, Preparation and Maintenance are the judging criteria. Concours judges are experienced and they know where to find anything that you may have missed. There are two judges, exterior and interior. The judge of the exterior used a white cloth inserted in every nook and cranny to expose any dirt, grease and lint. The interior judge examined the headliner which we had forgotten since it was out of our normal view. Apparently, we were lucky because it was clean. The judge did find some lint under the passenger's floor mat.

In preparation at home before the event we washed the exterior of the car three different times. It was then that we started looking for all the lint and dust and spots, outside and in. Our initial cleaning supplies included the different Griot products, clay and wax, as well as kits for repairing rock chips on the paint and windshield chips. Toothbrushes and Q-tips were necessary tools for the cleaning effort. A small flashlight came in handy to find the hidden dirt and dust. For the convertible top, a lint adhesive roller was the way to go.



Judges checking our work at the Concours.

It was a challenge to think of all the hidden places where something could be that should not be there and then get them super clean. It was rewarding to observe how this extra cleaning kept making the car look better and better. Although only the faces of the wheels were judged, we did make the extra effort to clean inside the wheels. Mineral spirits, plastic scouring pads and elbow grease finally removed the tar spots. The lesson for us was to keep up with the tar removal as it occurs.



My car is looking like new again!

It was exciting and lots of fun. We didn't place, but our score was 139.5 out of 140 possible points. And my soon-to-be 5-year-old car looks brand new!