

# *Das Herz von Dixie*



*October 2025*

2019



## Club Executive Committee

President – Jim Cambron

Treasurer – Ed Stone

Past President – Dave Schroetter

Vice-President – Greg Bayuga

Secretary – Jack Harding

## Club Board of Directors

Nominating Committee Chair – John Nord

Social Committee Chair – Melanie Nord

Webmaster – Scott Witt

Membership Chair – Steve Ward

Publication Chair – Mike Stokes

Historian & Equipment – Jim Cambron

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## President's Prologue

Jim Cambron



### **Heart O' Dixie Region at 70 years of PCA October '25**

**Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> was  
PCA's Seventieth Birthday,  
the Heart O' Dixie Region  
celebrated the event with a  
driving tour to lunch on  
Lookout Mountain including a  
70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake, thanks Beth Carlile!**

My first input to the October 2025 Newsletter was an article written with input from my friend and colleague Betty Joe Turner, past editor of Panorama magazine, and lifelong member of the Peachstate Region.

However, another close friend; RJ Wilmoth, past PCA Historian and my historian mentor also went to Betty Jo for input on an article for PCA's recently published magazine: "PCA through the Ages", 2025 edition. Since RJ's article and my article were written using the same source material, the articles were appropriately similar in content, many sentences almost "word-for-word." RJ's article entitled "Bill Sholar PCA Founder" is on pages 20-25 in the PCA booklet "PCA Through the Ages, 2025 Edition. A condensed version of that article is reprinted on pages 104 & 106 in the September Panorama.

Therefore, I withdrew my article from this Newsletter and substituted the following:

### ***The Heart of Dixie Region at 70 years of the Porsche Club of America.***

If PCA founder Bill Sholar was still alive today and I asked him what he envisioned for the PCA Regions, I think he would wish for every Region to provide the utmost activities for the enjoyment of its members, filling the Region calendar with multiple and various Porsche driving opportunities from casual sight-seeing tours to driving skill contests, on the street, track, over the plains, and up the mountains. Driving Porsches to various events; breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, are for the fellowship of members and their enjoyment of driving their beloved Porsches.

I think Bill would be proud of the HOD Region. The Heart O' Dixie was chartered on March 28, 1961, five and a half years after Bill chartered the PCA. From PCA's formation on September 13, 1955, the 190 charter members were from 27 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. Members outside the Washington DC area started forming their own PCA Regions in 1957.

Eight more Regions were formed in 1957 including the Gulf Coast Region with a membership area along the Gulf beaches from Florida to Texas.

Five more Regions formed in 1958, eleven in 1959, twelve in 1960 including Peachstate on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, then ten more Regions were formed in 1961 for a total of 46 Regions in the PCA, and this included the Heart O' Dixie Region chartered in Birmingham, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Heart O' Dixie Region membership area encompassed all of Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee except for Chattanooga and its immediate counties which belonged the Tennessee Region chartered just two weeks after the HOD on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1961. However, many of these new Clubs lapsed within a few years: the Gulf Coast and Heart O' Dixie lasted about three years each and the Tennessee Region just over a year. Some of these lapsed Regions returned with new leadership a few years later or were incorporated into new Regions covering the same membership area.

The Heart O' Dixie was PCA's 42<sup>nd</sup> Region, the first Region in the three-state area of the deep south, in fact the Alabama license plate acknowledged being the "Heart O' Dixie", hence the name of the club. There is a letter in our club archives to the club founder Frederick Smith from the PCA President Bill Sholar congratulating Smith for his submission of the Region Bylaws and Letter of Petition for the formation of the Region. Mr. Scholar mentions that both Smith and Sholar recently received factory delivery of their new Porsches and PCA appreciates the article Smith shared of his experience driving his new Porsche at a Nürburgring driving school.

The 1961 HOD End of Year Report lists 23 Active and 15 Family members, meeting every other week and the Club President and his wife attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Porsche Parade sponsored by the Northeast Region at Berkshires, MA.

The 1962 HOD End of Year Report lists 26 Active members, having met four times for a Gymkana, Fun Rally, and two Tech Sessions.

The 1963 HOD End of Year Report lists only 20 Active members, Smith serving his third term as President, and only having met twice, for a combined dinner and tech session on national race weekends. The Club lapsed in 1964, Smith sold his Porsche, resigned his office, and returned the treasury balance of \$42.98 to the PCA National Executive Secretary.

However, just a few years later, New Year's Day, 1967, Bill Stephens, a Huntsville Porsche owner, met with a group of other Porsche enthusiasts to organize an ad-hoc Porsche oriented Club called the Porsche Pushers. Their primary purpose was to enlist the minimum 15 Primary members necessary to reapply for PCA membership. The Porsche Pushers developed a draft Constitution in November 1967, using the Niagara Region Constitution provided by PCA as a template, and worked to enlist members and formulate their own Club documents leading to the Heart O' Dixie Region's re-charter on June 19, 1968, with the same geographic membership area. The Club had 23 primary and 38 total members: 17 in Huntsville, 7 in Birmingham, 4 in Dothan, 3 in Montgomery, and a total of 7 members in Auburn, Selma, and Eufaula.

On December 18, 1967, President B. E. Duchesneau sent letters of invitation to the addresses of previous Region members throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee notifying them of the re-charter of the HOD and requesting their membership. Unfortunately, that same month the local Huntsville Porsche dealer abandoned the brand leaving the Tennessee Valley without a Porsche dealer for the next 38 years.

The 1969 HOD End of Year Report lists Bill Littlefield as the Club's fourth President (who resigned in January due to Military transfer) replaced by Hal Caneer as Club's fifth President. There were 50 Primary members: 28 in Huntsville, 5 in Birmingham, 6 in Montgomery, 5 at Dothan/Ft. Rucker, 2 in Jackson and Meridian, and 1 each in Nashville and Memphis.

The 1970 HOD End of Year Report lists Bill Hughes as the Club's sixth President. The Alabama Region was chartered in Birmingham with a membership area of the southern half of Alabama and Mississippi. The HOD continued with a membership area of the northern half of Alabama and Mississippi plus the state of Tennessee.

There have been six Regions formed from the HOD original membership area:

- The Tennessee Region initially chartered April 1961, lapsed, then rechartered September 1970.
- The Smoky Mountain Region chartered in April 1975 in Knoxville, TN.
- The Wilderness Trail Region chartered in July 1978 in Bristol/Johnson City/Kingsport, TN.
- The Musik-Stadt Region chartered in November 1982 in Nashville, TN.
- The Mid-South Region chartered in August 1986 in Memphis, TN.
- The Magnolia Region chartered in October 1987 in Jackson, MS.

The 1971 HOD End of Year Report lists our very own current member Chuck Drake as the Region's seventh President. The Club met at the Hollytree Automotive Garage where a report was presented by several members who participated in the Porsche Factory delivery program.

Now, let's skip to the present. Fifty-four years later, we survived the 1961-66 Dark Ages, 1976-1981 Dark Ages II, and 1988-1992 Dark Ages III. Each time it took a special person to step up to the podium and lead the Club out of those nearly inactive and certainly dark periods of Porsche Club inactivity.

*Fred Smith* formed the Region in 1961. *Bill Stephens* and *Charlie Gurley* picked up the torch and brought light to Huntsville in 1967, then handed the torch to *B. E. Duchesneau* and *Bill Hughes* in 1968. *Jim Williams* returned from Kwajalein in 1982 and gave us the Fuch Grill Badge and the Club revival through

monthly Tech Sessions in his home garage. *Martin Foglmann* led us out of the darkness in 1993 and has supported us since with his display barn and Classic Cars service shop. Another bright spot for the HOD has been welcoming back our very own Porsche dealership. Porsche of Huntsville has stepped up as a true partner, guiding us with expert service, exclusive member perks, and that unbeatable Porsche support we all crave.

We had 99 members when I joined the PCA and HOD in 2002, 175 members in 2004, 216 in 2008, 309 in 2013, 425 in 2020, and today 555 total members in the Heart O' Dixie Region. Just as Bill Sholar said: "What fun we did have in the roaring twenties!" Well, Jim Cambron, Club Officer since 2003 and President for 16 of the last 20 years, agrees with Bill:

What a great Porsche ride we've had the last 63 years, entertaining thousands of members and driving hundreds of Porsches all over the southeast United States. We started in the Heart O' Dixie, but have spread with the Porsche Parades across America!

## From the Editor Mike Stokes



For my family it has been a very busy summer. With my wife's and my new e-bikes, a *new* 2007 BMW motorcycle I have been prepping to sale, the summer vacation to Moab Utah including visiting "The Mighty 5", and the Rocky Mountaineer train ride between Moab and

Denver, well, we have not spent as much time with the Club as we would like. But with the Fall upon us, we are looking forward to cool air, Porsche rides through over roads decorated with yellow and red Fall leaves, and spending more time with Club members and activities.

We have one member article this quarter from one of our most prolific authors Jim and Carol Wachter titled "Along Came a Spyder. A Happy Mystery of Sorts."

Jim Cambron submitted an article of interest he found that he thought the HOD might enjoy reading. Here's a link to the piece regarding a one-of-a-kind [Porsche 356A](#) that is described as being ahead of its time.

## From the Nominating Committee Chair – John Nord

The following HOD PCA members are the candidates for the Executive Committee (EC) for 2026.

President: Jim Cambron  
Vice President: Jack Harding  
Secretary: Dane Tkacs  
Treasurer: Ed Stone  
Past President: Dave Schroetter (not elected)

Ballots will be sent via email to the HOD members on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Responses are due back to the Secretary on Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Side note from the editor:* On the side of levity, I asked John Nord if he had any pictures he would like to submit to fill out a page in the newsletter. The following is what he sent with the statement:



"I don't have any more recent pictures besides this one I call *my favorite gas station soap disperser*. I won't mention where it's located, but it was found during a Porsche event. Thanks John! It filled out the page nicely!"

## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Events

- Jul 5<sup>th</sup>, **Pit Stop Breakfast** at the **Eggs Up Grill, Madison**, with 22 HOD members.
- Jul 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, **69th Porsche Parade** at the **Omni Oklahoma City Hotel**, with 3 HOD members and 2 Porsches. Jim Cambron receives the **Gmund Gold Level of Achievement** for his '96 993 Turbo.



- Jul 10<sup>th</sup>, **Membership Dinner Meeting** at the **Salt Smokehouse**, with 26 HOD members.
- Jul 19<sup>th</sup>, **Driving Tour** led by **Greg Bayuga**, to the **Urban Stack** in Chattanooga for lunch followed by a visit to the **Coker Automobile Museum**, with 16 HOD members and 9 Porsches



- Jul 26<sup>th</sup>, **Dave Schroetter** hosts **Porsches & Coffee** in **Scottsboro**, moved from Variety Bakery to **Alabaster Coffee Company** with 10 HOD members and guests in 8 Porsches
- Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Pit Stop Breakfast** at **Edger's Toyota Field Bakery**, w/33 HOD members attending
- Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, **New Member Reception** at **Porsche of Huntsville** w/15 New Members, 8 Club Officers (and Family Members), and 7 Century personnel followed by the **New Member Complementary Dinner** at **Carrabba's Italian Grill**. 77 New Members (including 26 Family/Affiliate Members) invited, 28 RSVP'd to attend, 15 (19%) attended plus 8 BOD/Family Members.
- Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, **Member's Dinner Meeting** for all members. **Carrabba's Italian Grill** with 16 attending.
- Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, the **Executive Committee & Board of Directors** meet at the **Porsche Conference Room**, to plan the **65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** scheduled on **April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.
- Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Steve Ward Driving Tour** to the **Twin Creeks Marina Restaurant**, Winchester, with 24 members in 15 Porsches.
- Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, **Jack Harding** hosts **Porsches & Coffee** at the **Madison Love of Coffee Cafe**, with 22 members in 13 Porsches.
- Sep 6<sup>th</sup>, **Pit Stop Breakfast** at **Shaggy's**, with 17 members.
- Sep 11<sup>th</sup>, **Membership Dinner Meeting** at **Mildred's Restaurant**, Ardmore, 18 members.



- **Sep 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00AM Driving Tour** led by **Beth Carlile** with lunch at **Massey's Kitchen**, Lookout Mtn., with 17 members in 9 Porsches. *We join every PCA Region in celebrating PCA's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, including a cake for dessert.*



- **Sep 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:00AM, Porsches & Coffee** at the **Jones Valley Le Macaron French Pastries Valley Blend**, Jones Valley with 16 members in 12 Porsches.

## Member Articles

### **ALONG CAME A SPYDER - A Happy Mystery of Sorts Jim and Carol Wachter**

This latest mystery in my life starts off with a dream! Or, at least a hopeful possibility ever since I first saw one up close back in 2020! Just a simple variant on the mid-engined Boxster chassis. How come everything seemed so different about it in my eyes? It managed to return to my thoughts time and time again over the next year; or had it been lurking in my subconscious the whole time! Carol and I had sold our long time 1972 911 Euro T project a couple of years earlier along with Ruby, a lovely 2008 Cayman S, our first experience with a Porsche supercar, and 2021 was about to bring us both a really sweet surprise!

We were ready for a new car, and our Porsche dealer in Ocala had new allocations just in! After talking with them for nearly a year, we were at the top of

their list! But there was a hitch! Not a bad hitch.....but a choice between a Spyder and a Boxster GTS 4.0! Of course, I wanted the Spyder, and yet we chose the Boxster GTS instead. Why? I wasn't sure why we both thought the GTS might be a better street car. Maybe its push-button top had managed to hit a nerve! It was so mysterious in fact that the decision has haunted me ever since. And that, my friends, was only the beginning!

Thus, with the decision made, the excitement became overwhelming about having this major auto manufacturer produce a vehicle with this level of quality and engineering just for us; and to our personal specifications no less! Vicki arrived late 2021. Perfect Carrera white metallic paint, red top and black and red all leather interior! And the icing on the cake . . . that fabulous 6-speed transmission to help nearly 400hp sing to us at every opportunity!

In 2022, we again found ourselves seated across from our favorite Porsche salesman, Darnell, as we placed the order for our second new car in as many years . . . a Macan S in Papaya metallic! Jinjer would become the perfect touring compliment for Vicki in our stable of two! Another custom factory vehicle produced just for us and again to our personal specifications! What Joy!

By 2024, it became necessary to sell our beloved Vicki. And we did so with very heavy hearts! It was a tumultuous year for us; full of ups and downs as we had decided to move from Florida to a small town in north Alabama called Hazel Green the previous summer. As our commissioned custom home began to sprout, communication problems with the sellers demanded we make multiple trips to keep tabs on the growing concerns we had with the builder. Yet in the end, our combined experience and tenacity overcame initial difficulties, and the house was ready in June.

With problems solved, we again found ourselves talking with Darnell. We had been considering ordering a new Cayman GTS 4.0, but he told us that something we might like had just come in; a 2022 Cayman GTS traded in for a new 911 GTS. The silver metallic paint was flawless plus Bordeaux red leather interior and turbo wheels! Quite a nice package which might suit us even better than the Boxster, as I had only put the top down 3 times in 3

years! The interior was not just red, but a LOT of red . . . as in everything was red! Still that fabulous 6-speed was there for my amusement and only 5,928 miles on the ticker! Nuff said . . . we bought it; just before we officially moved ourselves to the new home in October!

We immediately rejoined the Porsche Club of America after several absences over the years while Carol and I were assigned overseas. As part of the Heart O' Dixie region, we met some really nice people that were quite active with lots of planned events and fun road tours to add memorable experiences to our driving pleasure! As new friendships grew, they helped us to broaden our knowledge of fine restaurants and great driving roads meandering throughout the southern Appalachian Mountains. A far cry from our mostly solitary life in Florida, we could not have foreseen a more positive impact on our lives that the decision to move would make!!

And we were content with Theia! Carol had chosen the name taken from the ancient Greek Goddess of Silver, and I thought it quite appropriate. She ate up the roads with ease as we joined in on the tours and impressed all who viewed her sleek lines and flashy interior. However, after a few months into 2025 my contentment began to waver a bit after a chance encounter at the Porsche dealership in Huntsville where they had a new Spyder RS on the showroom floor! I just stood there in awe as that old dream came flooding back to fill my thoughts! Impractical perfection described this sultry beast perfectly! Could I have one, I thought! But the more I thought about it, the more it seemed it was probably not in the cards for me.

Well Heck . . . That couldn't stop me from dreaming or from building one on Porsche's Build-Your-Own website! At least for the time being, having fun with the massive options list was enough to keep me satisfied. And just for hope's sake, I sent a version to our friend Darnell with a note; if you get an allocation, please think of us! Carol just rolled her eyes at me when I told her what I was really thinking! Fixing minor problems and upgrading our home had to come first she said. Of course, I had to agree, and that's where things stood as 2025 rolled on.

As June began, we headed out for an awaited two-week vacation with several stopovers during the trip. Back in Ocala to visit friends, I had scheduled Theia for her annual service at our favorite dealership where you're always treated as if YOU are the most important customer they have! It's very close to a "Happy Family Visit" as everyone there remembers us and wants to chat. So, there we were sitting again and talking with Darnell. He told us about Porsche cancelling the 718 series gas powered vehicles in October which would be replaced by all-electric versions in the future. So much for my dream I thought to myself; maybe I'll just build a model.

That's when, without thinking, I blurted out a question. Do you have any allocations for a new Spyder RS? Darnell's face seemed puzzled but quickly morphed into a smile. I do, he said. We just got two new-buildable allocations in; one for a Boxster GTS 4.0, one for a Spyder RS! And no one else knows they're here yet. Carol and I just looked at each other in amazement! Then, we turned back to Darnell as he asked if we would like either one of those! I couldn't even speak! Déjà vu had overwhelmed me! A few moments later, Carol said how about the Spyder? It was almost too much for me, but as I calmed a bit I brought up the fact that we were all in this exact position four years ago. I could see the light go on in Darnell as we continued to talk. He still had the build I had sent him, and as we reviewed, he began to work up a proposed order. My original color choice was Nordic Gold metallic even though Carol was partial to a darker color called Gentian Blue metallic. Caught up in the moment, we gave a deposit while Darnell printed out the build sheet and sent in the order.

Clearly, we hadn't thought this through . . . or did we! All we could do was ponder the situation over the remainder of the trip. So, now it gets interesting as my mind began to bring up questions of fate, destiny, reality and the limitless potential the universe holds! These are certainly not strange questions for me as other events throughout my life have brought me to the same threshold! Those of you that know me well are quite aware of this.

Some might even think I'm a little crazy, yet Carol, a very grounded and stable girl never seemed to think so. In fact, she often agreed with me . . . up to a point! Much of what I'm still feeling comes under the Philosophical Disciplines which have a lot of gray area and what one believes rather than factual conclusions.

Am I in the Matrix (remember that movie)? The scientific me says no and yet the child of wonder part of me says not so fast; there's no proof either way! The week after we returned home, this personal mystery took on yet another layer when Porsche said that no more Paint-to-Sample colors could be done! In response, Darnell put in a new order with a Gentian Blue metallic body and the addition of the extended stitching package in GT silver! A bit less outlay and Carol was all for it! And, what about destiny or fate? Was I supposed to get a Spyder the first time around? Was I being given a second chance? If either were true, who was making that decision? Right now, the child of wonder in me is having a field day! Science guy says there's no proof; and the child replies...EXACTLY! Cameel is slated to be delivered later this year! What do you believe?

## Financial Reports HOD 2025

Per the PCA Bylaws, Article XI Obligations and Indebtedness, Section 5 Financial Oversight, the HOD BOD include the Financial Summary from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 through September 31, as follows.



### Treasurer's Report, 2025 9/26/2025

Beginning Balance, Jan. 1st, 2025 (All accounts)		\$ 10,559.75
Income		
PCA Rebates/Refunds	\$ 4,301.67	
PCA Activity Subsidies	\$ 1,829.40	
Bank Account Dividends/Interest Earned	\$ 79.11	
Sponsor Donations	\$ 250.00	
Member Purchases (Holiday Dinner, etc.)	\$ -	
<b>Total Income/Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 6,460.18</b>	
Expenses		
Membership, including HOD 65th Project	\$ 3,453.14	
Executive Council	\$ 129.26	
Social Complementary Meals	\$ 1,363.57	
Miscellaneous	\$ 404.75	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,350.72</b>	
 Current Balance		 \$ 11,669.21