VELOCITY NEWS

Porsche Owners Club

November '18 Issue 1811

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CHUCKWALLA

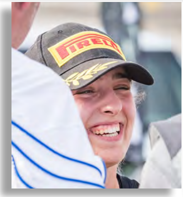
Photo: Max Gokhman

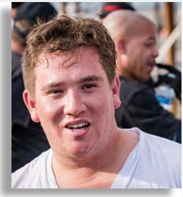
by **Don Matz**

For the past two years I've had the pleasure of sharing my racecar with my son Scott, who has been flying in for each event from New York. Not only do we get to share some great father-son time together, but Scott is also becoming proficient at driving 'ol #707. I've been spending less time on the track myself (oh the sacrifices we make for our children) and spending more time coaching and watching Scott.

Unfortunately, at Chuckwalla we had a couple of issues with our car. First some minor engine adjustments, and then a CV joint went south during a Saturday run session. But thanks to Bill, our mechanic from Precision Motion, and to Steve Parker, who brings everything to the track an early air-cooled car would need in the way of parts, we were quickly up and running. Scott only missed one session.

When I wasn't busy with Scott, I found myself in the stands watching the action in both the Red and the Orange run groups. I was biting my arm not being out there, but watching the battle for the lead between Gene Sigal and Matt Hollander was a hoot. In the first race on Saturday, Matt got position on Gene going into the first turn and was able to hold on for the win. In the second race, it was the exact opposite, this time Gene taking the checkered flag. But my eye was on another car that was giving me chills... I was watching #100 driven by Ana Predescu as she took third place and what turned out to be one of her three podium finishes for the weekend.





When Sunday rolled around, Matt let me know that, just for the heck of it, he was going to start DFL in the third Orange Race of the weekend and let the chips fall where they may. So, by default, Ana got the second slot, right alongside Gene for the start.

As the cars came around the bend and onto the straight, Ana's mom (also Ana) and dad Vali were standing right below me. I could see her mom's hands clench. The green flag fell. It was a horse race to the first turn.Gene won out, took the lead, and proceeded to pull away. As the race continued, from the back of the pack Matt started picking his way forward. First one car and then another... moving up. I'm not sure which lap, but Hollander moved into P3 and was catching Ana. This is where the race got interesting. For six laps Ana held Matt off. Every time they hit the front straight, Matt made his run and Ana shut him down. Both drivers were driving brilliantly, but what makes this especially sweet is that both Matt and Ana are new racers. Both have had their licenses for less than two years, and there they were driving all-out to beat one another against seasoned veterans.

In the end, Ana crossed the finish line by less than a car length ahead of Matt. Her mom and dad, along with everyone in the stands, let out huge cheers. Even Matt's dad Jeff was smiling. Nate Johnson summed it up when he simply said, "That was a great race!"

Later that afternoon, the drivers in the Red run group squared off with one another. Steve Parker, having won the first race of the weekend on Saturday, was sidelined with a blown head gasket. So the bright green car driven by Kevin Roush was sitting on pole. It often seems like Roush and Parker are in a league of their own. I can't imagine, nor will I ever experience, that kind of speed in my 911sc. I just watch, and every time they fly by all I can say is, "Geez."

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As expected, Kevin jumped out to a more-than-respectable lead. But then, enter Bob Mueller. Man, can that guy drive. I remember Dwain Dement mentioning about a year ago how hard it was to catch Mueller once he got in front of you. And, Bob was making a serious bid. However, it was never meant to be. They finished one-two and headed for impound where cold water awaited and high fives were in abundance.

The weekend provided us with great racing, great weather, and some great moments in the pits. Vali had so many cars at the event his stable was dubbed Valiville. Precision Motion and the Speed Gallery guys joined forces for a great Saturday night dinner. Matt Hollander barbequed, Karen Robinson showed up with her world-famous pumpkin pie, and Scott and I ran down the road to pick up more beer.

Oh yeah, and if you missed looking at the stars that night, you missed a great show.

CHUCKWALLA Action

Photos: Frank Spasaro

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John Payne speaks about Porsche, POC and Bolton

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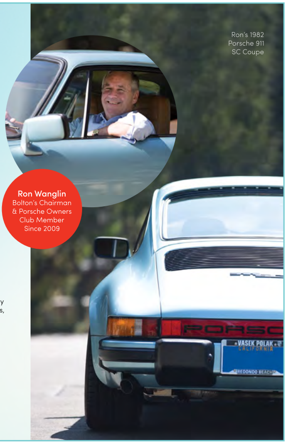

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POC
A FAMILY AFFAIR

By Martina Kwan

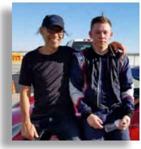
There are many forms of track support. Some drivers are fortunate to have a crew that enables them to relax while their tires are being changed or the timing is being adjusted under the hood. Others may reference the internet or read manuals to help them fix a problem. I, on the other hand, have noticed another form of support. It comes from family and friends. And this form of support, I think, is what makes the POC so special.

The Porsche Owners Club is more than *Club Racing at its Best.* It's a community of like-minded individuals forming life-long friendships. And, there is an increasing number of daughters and fathers, fathers and sons, husbands and wives and boyfriends and girlfriends who race together.

Take for instance…

Alexandra Hainer, daughter of Anders:

Sharing the passion of driving with my dad has been such an incredible experience. From watching him compete as a little girl, to now being behind the wheel has been a common thread in our relationship. I am so thankful that he not only allows me to be a part of POC, but works so hard every day to make it happen. He never pushes or scolds me if I make a mistake, but is happy to sit and watch my footage to help me improve. Even on a hot day he'll be happy to do a few more laps of lead and follow to get my track times down. Hopping out of the car after a race and having someone there to give you a hug and be proud of you is such a blessing. I'm grateful for every moment we get to spend together jamming to music on the way to the track, talking about cars, laughing, and just hanging out.



Malcolm Van Halen, son of Alex:

My dad is the one who got me into cars. He thought that it would be a great way for us to bond, as well as to keep me from speeding on the street.

Race weekends with the POC have allowed me to push the limits of my car. I don't get a speeding ticket, and I get to spend time with my dad and all the new friends I've made at the track. Now that I'm in college I'm spending less time at home, so race weekends have become a special way for us to hang out as a family.

Ana Predescu, daughter of Vali:

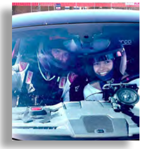
My earliest memories come from the racetrack. I've grown up in the POC, watching my dad change tires and cheering him on to victory. I always knew one day I would be racing, too. I started out with karting at eight years old. My dad would run around the track and literally stand right next to the apexes so I wouldn't miss them. We had hand signals to communicate during races. My mom would always laugh at how we were able to communicate with a simple look or motion. She was my number one fan. She always made me feel like I won, even when I didn't.

Fast forward twelve years. Now I'm racing a Boxter. This year was my first year as a licensed cup racer. It started out a little rocky, but I've improved so much, and I still have a long way to go. This past event at Chuckwalla was one of my best performances as a racer, with a podium finish in all three races. My dad was on the radio with me but was quiet the entire race. I asked him why he didn't comment during the race. He told me he had nothing to say, that I basically did everything he would do before he could tell me to do it. What a dad!

I am very excited to continue improving. And I'm so thankful to everyone in the club for always supporting me and offering guidance and never-ending encouragement. But above all, I'm beyond thankful for my amazing parents. I'm very fortunate to be where I am today and it is all thanks to them and their endless love and support.

Darin Moore, father of Ryan:

In my late teens and early 20s, I drag raced every week at a local drag strip. It was my son, however, who got us into racing together when I got my first Porsche. First we tried autocross, but wanted to go faster. Then we tried HPDEs, which allowed us to go faster but didn't offer us the regular competition we desired. Then we discovered the POC in 2016 at California Festival of Speed. We were hooked, and we haven't missed many events since. Getting to race with my son, side by side, (we're in the same run group) is a thrill most parents aren't lucky enough to experience, and one which I NEVER take for granted. Next year we will move up to Cup racing and will co-drive our new race car. I consider myself the luckiest dad at the track!



Max Gokhman and wife, Heather:

After a couple years of Time Trialing with the POC Max finally brought his wife Heather to the track to drive. Her first driving event was at the Auto Club Speedway where a lot of time was spent with another of the POC's iconic couples Terry Davis and Andrew Weyman. According to Max, "We are one of those annoying (i.e. awesome) couples that do everything together. Racing was the only hobby that Heather didn't want to jump into with me. I was sad leaving her behind for the weekend. Fortunately, now she's addicted, too." According to Heather her expert instruction at ACS from Terry was great. Then on Sunday, Max got in the car with her. He provided the calm she needed and immediately Heather became a POC convert.

Paul Bakhoum, husband of Adriana:

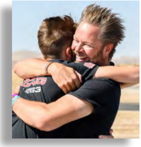
I'm new to the POC. I learned about the club from Jim Salzer, Darin Moore, and Max Gokhman. Chuckwalla was my first race track experience. With my wife Adriana cheering from the sidelines, I ran my turbo 911 in the Performance Driving Series.

A while back I started driving in Autocross, but my Chuckwalla experience was like comparing apples and oranges. My car actually came to life on the big Track (Insert cool emoji). Need I say more?

Don Matz, father of Scott:

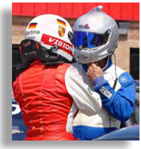
It was just a matter of time, I guess. Scott always had a need for speed. But, he grew up. Went to school. Got a job. Moved away…all the way to New York. For Christmas two years ago, I gave Scott a "Free Race Day" with the POC. What's the saying, "Hook, line and sinker?" Scott was hooked after his first event in the infield at the Auto Club Speedway. Since that time, he's been flying cross-country to every other event to race dad's 'ol 707. I whisper to myself as I pat my own back, "Genius!"

Scott has now become a part of our bigger family and may be travelling west to attend our Racers Clinic in the spring.



Vanis Buckholz, son of Dave:

I've been going to race tracks with my dad and the POC since I was seven, about half of my life. There's nothing I love more. What made the first POC weekend of 2018 so awesome was it was my first time driving in a Performance Driving Series event. Lucky for me I had a great instructor (Dad!). He kept me focused on the fundamentals. He said, "Getting this right is all that matters." We concentrated on using my mirrors, paying attention to the corner workers, conducting proper passing and the occasional point by, plus straight braking and hitting my turn-in, apex, and track-out points. The paddock experience is always a blast for our team (no one has more fun than Two Tools Racing), but being on the track that weekend was unbelievable. Plus, I got 2nd place in the BSR class. Just wait until my Boxster BSR transformation is complete!



Martina Kwan, whose boyfriend is Dwain Dement:

Dwain Dement has been my main instructor since I joined POC in January, 2015. Since then, I've been applying his teachings and attempting to live up to his legacy as a champion race car driver, owner of Vision Motorsports, and man of integrity. He's an amazing driver. He has finished First in Class in various racing organizations: SCCA, NASA, TCRA, SVRA, Porsche Racing Club, Beverly Hills Motorsports Sprint Races, PCA, and POC. He has even won a top podium at the United States Sports Car Invitational Grand Am Cup Race.

It's Dwain's zen-like driving quality ("Be like water, my friend") that I try to emulate. In 2017, our relationship gradually evolved from racing to true love as kindred spirits that share the same passion for racing as well as horses. Being with him has made me try even harder. I want to make him proud. At the race track, he tells me things I want to hear, and also things I don't...but I know will help me. A driver is always looking to perform well by spending more time behind the wheel. But in spending time with the POC family, you grow in a different way. It's a feeling of togetherness that is unparalleled, and it has truly changed my life.

I guess one could say, “The POC is a *family affair,* and families that race together stay together.” (unless, of course, one is faster than the other.)

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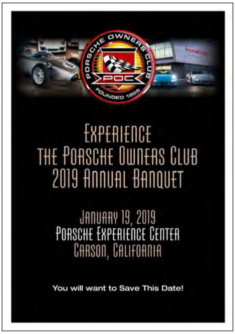

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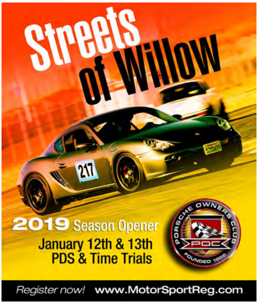

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