

Das Herz von Dixie



April 2021



Some like it **hot**, and some like it *cool*.

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Cover Photo Credit: Scott Witt.
Cambron 718 Spyder, Witt 718 Cayman GTS

From the President

By Jim Cambron



Hello to all you HOD members,

I'm Jim Cambron, the new President of the Heart O' Dixie Region, Porsche Club of America.

You can call me Jim. My wife and kids have other names for me, but please, call me Jim.

I know a lot of you know me, but Scott, our Publications Chair, asked me to do an official introduction of myself for this issue of the newsletter, since there are a fair number of you folks in the club that I have not had the pleasure of meeting.

I've always loved cars, but growing up in Mobile, I don't recall seeing a Porsche until our '67 summer vacation to Washington DC, when a little gray 911 zipped past our '60 Impala on I-95. Later, I saw the driver lying in the shade of a tree while an oriental lady gently fanned him. It was hot in Virginia and he was trying to take a nap in the heat of the day. I walked around the car and noticed the hood recessed below the front fenders to hold it on the road, just like I read in *Car and Driver*. I never understood how 2.0L-engine Porsches beat much larger-engined Camaros and Mustangs.

The man saw me looking at the Porsche and waved me closer. He spoke with a strong accent and was short when he stood up. He asked what I knew about the 911. I said it was fast, would do 90 mph in the quarter mile and had a 130-mph top end. He said this was an "S" and was good for more than

140. I asked how it could beat the much larger American cars in road races and his smile got even bigger as his eyes disappeared. He said Porsches could run all day and all night without breaking; American Muscle Cars were good in a straight line but their engines blew up when pushed too hard. My Dad whistled and I had to go, we shook hands, smiled at each other, and that was the last Porsche I remember seeing for some years.

In 1974, a friend of mine in the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Ft. Benning had an old 911 and though it smelled a lot like oil when it got hot, it would run 135mph, the fastest I had ever been! We did it more than once on the Georgia two-lane highways between Columbus and Atlanta. That Porsche passed everything on the road including a County Sheriff one time, but that's another story for another time.

Years passed as I worked my way up the hierarchy of affordable sports cars for a young Army officer. Throughout my career, the Army sent me to one graduate school after the next and I oriented my Master's theses for those schools toward sports cars. One such Operational Research and Systems Analysis Thesis was a *Multi-Attribute Decision Analysis on the Purchase of a Sport Car*, reviewing every available sports car priced under \$40K including the Porsche 924 and 924 Turbo. I found them deficient in many areas compared to the newly released '82 Toyota Supra. I passed on the Porsches and bought the Supra.

I repeated the analysis every September when the new model cars came out, always searching for a major improvement in the sports car market. I discovered the 1985.5 Porsche 944 Turbo corrected most of the 924 deficiencies and bought one for long-term storage. I planned to store it for 15 years and bring it out of storage in 2000 as an instant classic in perfect condition with zero miles. The plan had two fatal faults: 1) Porsches are best when driven, not stored; and 2) collectible Porsches have 6-cylinder engines in the rear, not 4-cylinder engines in the front. It never appreciated and I was fortunate to sell it at face value in a property settlement eight years later.

A year after I retired from the Army, my daughter and I spent many of our Saturdays, our father-daughter time, visiting local Huntsville car dealers and using their new-car inventory to practice her driving skills on vacant city streets. By the age of 14, she had perfected driving my cars. Now I wanted to expand her skills with other cars, and to teach her to appreciate the finer aspects of sports cars, compared to the Jeeps her school friends wanted.

In 2002, Huntsville was between Porsche dealers but Harper Porsche in Knoxville sent a Porsche to the Huntsville VW manager a couple times a year for him to drive for a few months and eventually sell at a profit. The Friday before my 50th birthday, I was looking over the VW inventory, selecting cars for my daughter to drive the next day

when I spotted the new 911 in the showroom. The salesman said it was already sold and not available for test drives. The next day I got a call from the same salesman who asked if I would be interested in driving the new Boxster that had unexpectedly arrived the previous evening.

Heather and I drove the Midnight Blue Boxster S home and Suki immediately fell in love with the color and insisted I get it for my 50th birthday. The story of how I bought it for \$22K below MSRP is another story for another day. It was however, the first Porsche I bought and immediately drove.

Searching the internet for local clubs, I found two national level clubs: The Porsche and BMW Owner Club (PBOC) that was pretty much a road-race club, since evolved into PBOC Motorsports Club; and the Porsche Club of America (PCA) that happened to have the Heart O' Dixie Region (HOD) in Huntsville. I immediately joined the HOD and attended their dinner meeting at Logan's Road House on Balmoral Dr.

I found the Club members very friendly and met a couple who also had a Boxster S a year older than mine. A few months later, we toured the countryside, with lunch at a wayside restaurant. We had Tech Sessions, the second Thursday dinner meetings, and the following March, the Dixie Tech National-level tech session with famous people you read about in all the magazines, like Mike Valentine and Bruce Anderson. They had many famous Porsches there

including a collector's Speed Yellow '98 Turbo S, the most beautiful car in the whole world!

The more Club events I attended, the more members I met, the more I liked it. Suki and I decided we just HAD to drive to the Tampa Porsche Parade in July '03.

At that first Parade we didn't dare enter the Concours or the Autocross, but we volunteered to work both events and saw every sort of race-car and famous Porsche. We did run the Time, Speed, Distance (TSD) Rally but got a DNF (Did Not Finish). It was much too difficult for us and I guess many others too with only 60/262 finishing.

Since that first Parade in '03, we've attended them all and I've been on the PCA National Parade Staff since 2008.

We started entering the Concours in 2009 and finished last in Class; you have to start somewhere! Since then, we've been in the Concours every year with five different Porsches and won four 1st-in-Class trophies with two different Porsches, four 2nd-in-Class trophies with three Porsches, and two 3rd-in-Class trophies with two Porsches. I have learned the secrets and plan to have some tech sessions this year to teach those techniques so our HOD members can achieve those same results with their Porsche if they are willing to invest the same amount of work.

We've also run the Parade Autocross events since 2004. Autocross requires

improvements to both the Porsche and the driver. Fortunately, we have a multiple National SCCA Autocross winner in our Club who offers private classes. Alan can help improve the driver and the Club can teach you how to improve the vehicle. Since our first Porsche Autocross in 2004, we've won four 1st place trophies in four Porsches, five 2nd place trophies in five Porsches, and six 3rd place trophies in four Porsches. All totaled, these fifteen Class trophies were in eight Porsches—so the point is, you can win in any Porsche, there are Classes for everybody.

The Porsche Parade has become our family vacation and we thoroughly enjoy spending ten days in a different part of the country with the Rally and various Tours adding to our sightseeing pleasure.

This year's Parade is a return to French Lick, IN (only 325 miles/ under 5 hours) and next year to the Pennsylvania Poconos, a little further at 880 miles/13 hours. You can bet Suki and I will be attending both and we will be glad to help instruct you in prepping your Porsche for whatever events you plan to enter. Even if it's just volunteering the first year, it will still be the Greatest Automotive Week of Your Life, That I Guarantee!

We're not a social organization of wealthy folks. We're a simple car club of folks who appreciate Porsches and find ways to get another one from time to time. I started with the entry level Boxster, I've had new GT3s and a Turbo S, but I've also spent three years

restoring an '88 Targa down to the bare metal, every last nut and bolt and when all my fancy, powerful, new Porsches are gone, that old '88 will still be there, the last one. I plan to take it to the Poconos where the temperature will be cooler since the Targa has no AC. It won't win any trophies, except the smile trophy I give it—but it deserves to go, it's earned its way, and I will bestow that on it! There's more to a Porsche than how fast it will go; there's also how it makes you feel.

Thank you for the honor of returning as your President.

Jim Cambron

From Your Editor

By Scott Witt



I'm happy to say that we're back with the *HOD Newsletter* after a hiatus of six months. That was entirely due to my inability to get it together in time for the normal January publication date. As some of you know, Fran and I went through some serious medical shoal waters during December and January, but we are all good now. Thank you all for your kind words, prayers, and support as we worked through things. It meant a lot to us, truly.

The new year starts with the promise of at least a little bit of progress in getting back to the old normal, which is good news for all of us, and for the HOD club, too. We have

restarted the Saturday morning Pit Stop Breakfasts recently. Meetings are in the parking lot of the designated restaurant at 0700, and if you wish, you can go in for breakfast at 0730. We're getting a steady 10 – 15 people at each one and we expect that will go up, especially as the weather improves. We and the restaurants are all following the current COVID protocols. We have five restaurants in rotation now: University IHOP, Madison; US 72W IHOP; Another Broken Egg, Jones Valley; Edgar's Bakery at Airport and South Parkway; and Little Libby's Catfish and Diner off Hwy 20. Watch the weekly updates from Jim Cambron for the latest location. So, get up early and get your Porsche out for an early morning Saturday drive and join us. Who doesn't need breakfast and coffee?

Our Social Committee Chair, Beth Carlile, is working hard to get our Monthly Membership Dinner Meetings (MMDM) back on track. Our next one is our annual Providence Commons Porsche Display and Picnic on May 13th.

Touring is definitely back on the schedule. We have some new tour directors in training this year, so God knows where we'll end up, but the first one went very well this month, with Regan and Beth Carlile leading us for 97 miles through the east, north, south, and west Alabama byways to Guntersville Municipal Park, from where a lot of us headed out for a nice lunch at many of the restaurants around town (The Rock House Eatery really outdid itself). It was a perfect

“Porsche” drive with some interesting roads, great weather and 14 cars. After driving on 65N for 18 miles, this is my new favorite road sign:



We are pretty scrupulous about sticking to the speed limit, more or less, but on roads like that, I can't help remembering what they told me at driving school: “A squealing tire is a happy tire.”



**En route Guntersville: Carlile in 1st, Corbeille in 2nd, and Schroetter in 3rd.
Photo credit: Fran Witt (in 4th)**

Back in November, we took a tour out to the Trissl Sports Cars facility in Florence. If you haven't ever been there, put it on your list. They have an extraordinary collection of Porsches: high-end, old, restored, rare, unique...all of that. Here is their description of themselves from their website:

“For the past thirty years, we have been following the Porsche brand. Our team is knowledgeable in the history and evolution of these premier cars while always staying current on new Porsche technology as it is unveiled. They are constantly seeking more information and skills to become a trusted resource to car enthusiasts. We have a

network of experts and artisans that work with us to restore, customize, and inspect the Porsche sports cars that we buy and sell. Together with these outside resources, we can give you confidence in our buying and selling process.”

It's a visual feast to view these cars close up. Our host there was extremely knowledgeable about all things Porsche, making it a very edifying visit. We will return for another visit in the fall.



At the Trissl facility, with about a third of the 60 or so cars in this view.



One of the many exceptional Porsches on display at Trissl.

We had a couple of good tech sessions, one at Alabama Dent Repair where we learned about ceramic coatings for your car. A lot more complicated than I thought, especially in terms of aftercare. We all got a free bottle of ceramic touch-up spray. I tried it on my Cayman GTS and it was startling how much it brought out in the car with 15 minutes of effort, even on the vinyl paint protection.



Freddie's guys showing us how they put on vinyl paint protection.

We also went to Freddie Louis Auto Accessories, one of our club sponsors, for our annual update on what he can do for us down there. Very informative, as always...there doesn't seem to be anything they can't do aftermarket to your car, short of tuning. And, club members get a discount.

You know by now that we have a new slate of officers and staff for the club this year. You can see them listed above in the masthead. You will also note that, alas, Lee Fowler has departed the pattern and we are now without a webmaster. What to do?

Well, I'll tell you what I did...I violated a cardinal US Navy rule that I followed nearly without fail for 28 years: Don't be first, don't be last, and never volunteer for anything.

Nonetheless, at an early morning meeting of the Board of Directors, well before my full dose of coffee, I said I'd be happy to work with Ed Stone to investigate what we needed to do and what it might cost to get a new website going for the club.

Somehow, that has morphed into me trying out a number of DIY websites that promise to help you make your own website in a jiffy...Anyone can do it!

Well, first of all, no way it's a jiffy. If you look up jiffy, you'll find that it is an actual time measurement, anywhere from $1/60^{\text{th}}$ of a second (the time between cycles of alternating current), to $1/250^{\text{th}}$ of a second (the basic "tick" of a CPU's system processor), to the jiffy of astro- and quantum physics where a jiffy is specifically defined as the time it takes light to travel 1 centimeter. That would be 0.000,000,000,033,300 seconds. So, not a jiffy. But I digress.

Second, it's anyone but me can do it, apparently. So, it's not fast and it's not too easy, but I am making slow progress, and learning a lot along the way. All this is to say, if everything is perfect, we may have a new website up and running by the end of April sometime.

One of the things I've learned about websites is that the good ones are heavy with pictures and graphics. Taking pictures is another talent I don't have, so I am very interested in putting those of you with nice cameras and the talent and training to use them in service of the website. Otherwise, it's going to be crappy Samsung Galaxy Note 8 pictures and I think we should be able to do better than that.

I would be very grateful and happy if one or two of you who regularly attend our events could make a point of taking a bunch of nice pictures. I've seen the work of Regan Carlile and Rich Corbeille and Dave Bender and it's just the kind of thing I'm looking for (he subtly hinted).

Extra bonus: The same pictures could be used for the Newsletter from time to time!

If any of you at all take a good picture at one of our events, please send it along to me as a .jpg in email to swwitt50@gmail.com, with *HOD Newsletter* as the subject. Identifying information that would be useful to include would be the date and place taken, name of primary person and make of car in the

picture. Credit will certainly be given for your work.

One final plea: If anyone reading this has webmaster experience and would like to help this effort along, please let me know. It can only get better!

I'll finish with a thought about the recent landing of Perseverance on Mars. I watched the event and it was spectacular, as emotional and rousing for me then as when I watched the first person on the moon step down in 1969. And I thought, Mars is the only planet in the solar system that is inhabited only by robots. We need to fix that.

Heart O' Dixie Charity

Charity Committee News

By Dave Bender



Your Charity Committee is already off to a great start for 2021. We are sharing our plans and goals for the year in the hope of engaging your active involvement and interest. We invite your participation and support in what we believe are some very meaningful contributions to our community. If you would like to be part of the committee, just raise your hand. We would love to have you. If you don't like

committee work, that is OK, too. There are lots of other ways you can support us.

First – the goals.

- Collect and donate 1,500 lbs. of food and household items to the Food Bank of North Alabama
- Fully fund another KTECH *Mechatronics* Grant (\$3,500)

After three monthly breakfast gatherings this year, we have collected 338 lbs. That is slightly off the pace needed for our 1,500 lb. goal. We expect, however, to make the goal with ease. The weather is getting better, our membership is growing, and attendance at our breakfasts will likely increase. And most importantly, the generosity of our membership continues to be amazing. By the way, they take more than just food. Please see the end of this article for their ‘wish list’ of donation items.

The second goal will consume most of our energy in the coming months. If we achieve this goal, we will have fully funded our third KTECH grant. Our first recipient has already graduated, and in doing so set a high bar for performance. She was top of her class and has just signed with Toyota Motor Manufacturing. Check out her story at <https://www.goktech.org/news>.

The current scholarship recipient is a young man who has a mechanical engineering degree but faced some past addiction problems. The KTECH selection process is very rigorous so we can be confident he is

committed, will succeed in the program, and transition into a productive technical career. He is currently in the soldering program and doing well. KTECH is optimistic about his future.

And now - the plans.

Driving tours are a lot of fun and popular with our members. Our club leadership is embracing that popularity by scheduling a tour every month. Our plan is to put some extra ‘fun’ (as in fundraising) into some of those tours with events like “poker chip” runs and 50:50 raffles. Participation will always be voluntary and not a condition of participating in the tour. We hope, however, that you will join in the fun because it will be for a good cause. Every dime collected will go straight to the scholarship fund.

A large event is also in the works for the fall, perhaps around Halloween. Specific plans are still being developed but we hope this dreaded pandemic is behind us by then so we can be comfortable hosting a larger event. Meanwhile, we will start building toward our goal with more frequent, smaller, and more casual fundraisers. Watch our President’s weekly email for details as they unfold.

The first planned event will be a “poker chip” run in conjunction with a June 26 tour to Henry Horton State Park. Scott and Fran Witt will be our tour guides. A poker chip run requires no poker skills – it is pure luck of the draw. The cost is \$20 per player and you can mostly win bragging rights, but the winners will also receive an incredibly

tasteful small plastic trophy to memorialize your victory. Remember this is for fun – and the real winner is our scholarship fund. We hope we can count on your hearty participation!

Food Bank Wish List

- ...Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- ...Canned vegetables
- ...Canned fruit
- ...Peanut Butter
- ...Canned soups, chili, stews, sauces
- ...Pasta, rice, stuffing mix
- ...Breakfast cereals
- ...Paper Products (towels, bath tissue)
- ...Diapers and Pull-ups
- ...Disinfectant wipes

Down the Road

Here's a handy list of upcoming events for your schedule. Jim Cambron, our president, publishes them weekly in his email to the membership, so be sure and check for changes and updates:

- **Apr 3, 7:00AM Pit Stop Social, 7:30AM Breakfast, *University IHOP***
6151 University Dr. Remember to bring your charity item for the food drive.
- **Apr 7, 11:00AM *Porsche Parade Phase II Registration***

- **Apr 10, 8:00AM assemble for the *Cambron's Florence Tour, Madison Planet Fitness*** 8050 University Blvd, **depart 8:30AM** on backroads north of US72W, rest stop in Lexington, released in Florence for individual lunches.
- **May 1, 7:00AM Pit Stop Social, 7:30AM Breakfast, *Edgar's Bakery***, 2004 Airport Rd. SW. Remember to bring your charity item for the Food Drive.
- **May 13, 6:00PM assemble on the *Providence Commons* for our *Annual Porsche Picnic*.** Bring your picnic supper or visit one of the many Providence take-out restaurants. Remember to bring your folding chairs.
- **May 15, 8:00AM assemble for the *Bayuga's Lynchburg Tour, Walmart*** 11610 Memorial Pkwy SW; **depart 08:30AM** for the Distillery tour and/or individual lunch; Miss Bobo's requires reservations, \$35 per person, pre-paid. DEADLINE for payment is April 15th.
- **Jun 5, 7:00AM Pit Stop Social, 7:30AM Breakfast, *Madison IHOP*** 8622 Hwy US72, remember to bring your charity item for the food drive.
- **Jun 10, 6:00PM in the parking lot for our *Monthly Membership Dinner Meeting*** at a location TBD. Move inside at 6:30PM.

- **Jun 26, 8:00AM assemble for the Witt's Henry Horton State Park Tour:** MAPCO 1582 US72, depart 9:00AM, backroads north into Tennessee and the rest stop en route to the State Park. Lunch at the State Park Buffet or several other local restaurants in the area.
- **Jul 3, 7:00AM Pit Stop Social, 7:30AM Breakfast, Little Libby's** 234 Lime Quarry Rd., Madison, social outside/Breakfast inside. Remember to bring your charity item for the food drive.
- **Jul 11-17, Porsche Parade, French Lick, IN.**
- **Jul 24, 6:30AM assemble for the Cambron Tour to the Bavarian Bierhaus German Cars, Motorcycles, & Coffee,** Madison Planet Fitness 8050 University Blvd. Depart 7:00AM for a quick run north I-65 to Opryland by 9:00AM with one 10min rest stop en route. \$12 each collected on-site at Opryland for a plated Breakfast.
- **Aug 7, time TBD, Heart O' Dixie 60th Anniversary Cars & Coffee Celebration,** location TBD.
- **Aug 12, 6:00PM in the parking lot for our Monthly Membership Dinner Meeting** and move inside at 6:30PM. Meeting at a location TBD.
- **Aug 21, 8:00AM assemble for the Schroetter's Mountain Tour,** Walmart, 11610 Memorial Pkwy

SW. Depart 08:30AM to Owens Crossroads for lunch in individual local restaurants.

Who's New

We've had a bunch of new members either join or transfer in since the last newsletter. We're glad you're all here and look forward to meeting you soon at any of our events:

Gary Beard – 2019 718 Boxster GTS

Sarah Galloway – 2011 911 Carrera S

Chris Gilliland – 2013 Boxster S

Rodney Johnston – 2018 911 Carrera

Richard LeClaire – 2018 718 Cayman S

Dawn Ponton – 2019 718 Cayman

Jack Law – 2003 911 Carrera S

Steve Lessman- 2016 Cayman GT4

Steven Payne – 2007 911 Carrera Cabriolet

Hung-Chi Kwok – 2015 911 GT3

David Tritt – 2014 Cayman

Lee Walker – 1987 911 Carrera Targa

Charles Yarborough – 1988 944 Turbo S

Joel Baldrige

Gene Randall – 2020 Macan

Michael Pruett – 2000 Boxster

Scotty Pate – 2018 718 Cayman GTS

Tommy Williamson – 1973 914 1.7L

2000 Boxster S

Steven Low - 2019 718 Cayman

Welcome aboard, y'all! As of March 1st, we
have 423 members in Heart O' Dixie.