

2019 Porsche Parade Boca Raton FL

By Todd Benz

Our journey starts on Thursday, July 18, when Justin and I departed from our home in De Pere in our 2016 Cayman GT4 for a three-day drive to Boca Raton. Sheila would be flying in on Saturday evening. We gave ourselves an extra day to experience the Tail of the Dragon (TotD) in Tennessee. On Day Two, we started our day knowing that we were embarking on an unknown road that was to be a must drive. The TotD consist of 318 curves in 11 miles with most of the curves being switch back style curves that started in Tennessee into North Carolina and finishing in Georgia. It was the best driving road I have ever been on. When we finished the 11 miles, we ended up at Deals Gap which is technically the start of the TotD, but we were coming from the north, so this was our end point.



We had a quick lunch and continued on Cherohola Parkway which was another fantastic road. In total, we had about two hours of incredible driving. Next, we went on our way and spent the night in Augusta GA. We left early the next morning in route to Savannah, GA, with a stop for a late lunch along the coast on Highway A1A in Flagler Beach, FL. The drive along the beach was gorgeous and relaxing. We traveled beside Daytona Beach as well with a final stop at the Waldorf Astoria in Boca Raton. Justin and I made friends with some locals as I had a nightcap in the local bar. Sheila was supposed to meet us at the hotel, but she didn't get there until the next morning. That's another story.

Sunday, we woke up when my wife Sheila got to our room at 6 a.m. She went to bed as Justin and I got up and explored the hotel. What a beautiful place this was. I had my summer national staff meeting that afternoon and Pirelli Welcome Dinner that evening. At the dinner, Porsche Cars North America unveiled the new 2020 718 Cayman GT4 and Boxster Spyder along with having a 2019 911 Speedster with the heritage package. We were able to get up close to view them all and what incredible cars they were.



Monday started off with the Concours D'Elegance which was located at the Waldorf Golf Club on the 17th and 18th holes. The weather was sunny and warm with highs in the mid-90s and very high humidity. As you would expect there many beautiful cars on the course and the judges had tough decisions to make. Our son, Justin, volunteered to help Jim Hemig, PCA National Marketing Director, with the Hagerty Youth Judging. The Porsche Kids picked the Pink Pig as their winner of the Concours. In addition, there was an inside display of (22) historically significant Porsche racecars. Later that evening we had a Presidents' Dinner on the 26th floor of the hotel that gave us some pretty incredible views.





Tuesday was the day for the Larry Wilson Private collection tour which was about an hour away. We volunteered to be the lead car for our group and were told that the building is very discrete with a sign on the door that reads "Larry's Used Car Garage." I have never seen such an extensive collection like it. Mr. Wilson was there to personally welcome us and provide details on his collection. Mr. Wilson was as nice and down to earth as anyone I have ever met. After touring the facility, we had a catered BBQ lunch and spent about 4 hours looking at all the wonderful cars and talking with several of the associates who gave us additional information about the collection. One interesting note is that every car that runs gets driven regularly. The local police know this, so they are on constant watch to make sure they comply with the local speed limits. There have been a few tickets given out from what I understand. Tuesday evening, we attended the Concours Banquet where they presented a video on the upcoming Taycan.



Wednesday was my Autocross Day where I needed to be there at 7 a.m. to get the car inspected and get our volunteering assignments. It was another brutally hot day again, but the organizers did a fantastic job with making it a great and safe event. I unfortunately did not have a qualifying lap due to missing the

same gate on each of my 3 runs, but I did have a good run time. The bright spot was my friend Kathy Thorp, the PCA National Autocross Chair, used my car to win the ladies overall division. The lady in 2nd place was driving a 2019 911 GT2RS. It just goes to show that it's not as much the cars that win but the driving skill one has, and Kathy has skills and more. Later that day Justin and I participated in the Michelin Drive and Compare event that had Cayman GTs. This was the first time Justin really had a chance to drive a Porsche with a professional driver on a closed course. He had a blast.



On Thursday, we had our Spring Break-Themed Gimmick rally. We had a total of 16 places that we needed to visit and gather clues. The team that got the most correct answers was the winner. We traveled all over the Boca Raton and Fort Lauderdale area. My favorite places during the rally were the Champion Porsche dealership, a flea market that had an unbelievable number of high-end sports cars, the Packard Museum, and Jaxson's Ice Cream Parlor. Champion Porsche had over 400+ Porsches at their dealership and were so gracious to let hundreds of PCA members descend on their facility during normal business hours. When we pulled in the Flea Market everyone was probably wondering what in the world was going on with so many Porsches pulling up all day long. The locals were probably more confused than we were. Inside the Flea Market, we saw Ferraris, Porsches and historical race cars. Who knew? The Packard Museum was filled with amazing Packards and auto memorabilia from the time period. One of our last stops was at Jaxson's Ice Cream Parlor where we had an awesome chocolate shake. Justin and I learned a whole lot more about this area and can't wait to go back. That evening we were on our own, so we spent some time with Sheila's nephew and family up in Jupiter, FL.



Champion Porsche 918 Spyder For Sale



Flea Market. Who knew?

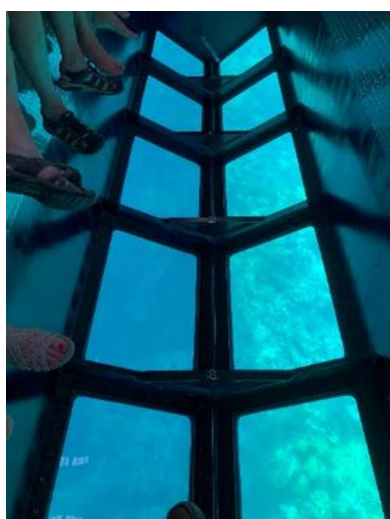


Packard Museum. Awesome.



Delicious ice cream

On Friday, we took a bus to Key Largo and went on a glass bottom boat tour out about 6 miles out in the ocean to a protected reef where we saw many colorful fish and green sea turtles. We had a great day on the boat, but just before we left on the boat, I received a call to see if I would be willing to have my car in the banquet hall in honor of Kathy's overall women's win. I said sure, but we weren't getting back until 5 p.m. Let's just say I did the quickest cleaning job on my car that I ever had. Thanks to Kathy and her husband, Bill, who helped immensely. That evening they also gave out the national awards where our very own Bev Jurkowski won 1st place in the Class II division for our newsletter Whaletales.



Saturday was once again the last day of Parade which always concludes with The Parade of Porsches. I am not sure how many cars we had but I had heard it was in the neighborhood of 350+. We had a police

escort for about 14 miles through Boca Raton. I must say this is always impressive, but this time seemed special because of the areas and scenery we drove through.



That evening we finished with the Reliable Carriers Banquet where they gave out additional awards. The event was topped off by auctioning two special design surfboards, donated by Porsche AG. They also auctioned one during Friday night's banquet as well. In total, the three surfboard auctions raised almost \$20,000 for the Gold Coast region's charity.



On Sunday, Sheila drove to the airport to catch a late morning flight home while Justin and I started our journey back home. On the way we stopped at the Palm Harbor Outlet Mall which had a cars and coffee event with more than 150 cars. We were invited to stop in by local PCA members, but when we got there, it was way too busy, so we parked away from the car show and walked around for a few hours. We saw some amazing cars including two McLaren Sennas and six Ford GTs, to name a few.



We jumped back in the car around noon and drove about 12 hours to Kentucky, completely exhausted. We finished our trip the following day with another 12 hours with no issues other than a small stone that hit the windshield driving back that I still need to get filled. Another wonderful Parade that I was able to share with my son and my wife. Until next year, see you in Palm Springs, CA.