



For the first time since I became a PCA member, I attended Parade in Spokane, WA. I've not been anti-Parade, it just wasn't something I was interested in since most of my PCA interests lay trackside. But I had official duties this year as Zone 5 representative, so off I went.

Parade is so big that at baggage claim at the Spokane Airport when I arrived on Friday, I was greeted by a welcome display from both the local Porsche dealer and PCA. Okay, that's a good start.

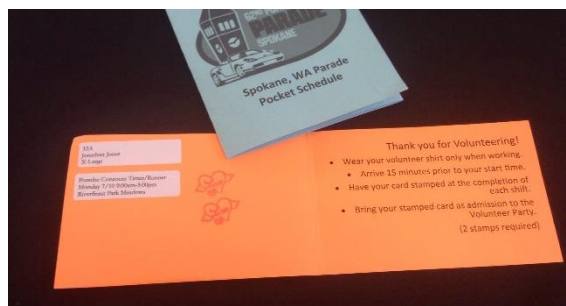
Arriving at the staff hotel, I was again welcomed by lots of signage celebrating PCA and Parade. Gee, it's like PCA has taken over the whole town!

Saturday morning was time for breakfast with the Executive Council and other National Staff. Given the two-hour time change for me though, I was up at 5 AM for an 8 o'clock breakfast. My hotel was situated right on the Spokane River and near Riverfront Park, which was the site of Expo '74. I went exploring and found PCA banners all along the Park's Centennial Trail. Very scenic and quiet that early in the morning, but also educational with many information signs explaining the history of the Spokane River and city surroundings.

Sunday was time for more meetings with the other Zone Reps, and then the Board of Directors meeting in the afternoon. That completed, I looked at the Parade schedule for activities I was interested in and where I could volunteer. And I completed the Parade Registration. I was amazed at the efficiency and organization of the registration process! It all begins by knowing your "car number". What my car number was I had no clue until politely directed to a large board with *all* of our names and registration or car numbers listed. I was number 032, so I went to the 1-55 station, and there I was on the list. Off to the goodie bag station, the volunteer station, and any other activity I had signed up for. Quick, efficient, and organized. Perfect.

Since I was leaving Wednesday morning due to other commitments, I chose to volunteer for the Concours on Monday and to help with the Rally on Tuesday.

Monday was Concours day, so I short distance over to Riverfront Park. pleasant park with lots of trees and areas; perfect for a show of Porsche of the cars were already in place as the concours had started at 5 AM. I been involved with a concours as a participant, so I was curious to see process worked. I had volunteered as the one who takes the completed sheets from the judges to the central tallied. The judges are a team of 6 or so PCA members, each assigned a specific area of responsibility: undercarriage, interior, exterior, engine. On my judging team was PCA President Caren Cooper, who was assigned "storage areas" as a judge. Caren promptly invited me to "shadow" her as she judged each car.



My volunteer card and stamps.

walked the It is a very grassy cars. Most parking for have never judge or how the a "runner" – score office to be

The class of cars our team was assigned were newer Caymans and Boxsters in a "Preparation" class, meaning cleanliness. As Caren and I looked over each car, she pointed out the things she looks for as a judge, and how to stress consistency between cars. PCA policy is to make Concours events comfortable for participants, rather than a harsh "there's a

speck of dust on your fender!” type of judging. Yes, be fair to each entrant, but also offer words of education and encouragement to the owners.

Looking over some of the preparation cars, it was clear that the owners engage painstaking methods to ensure every nook and cranny of their Porsche was spotless. Case in point: it is relatively easy to clean inside the center console, but how many owners think to clean *under* the hinge at the back of the console lid? Some did and scored well, some didn't and lost points. Obsessive? Maybe a little, but based on all of the happy faces I saw, not a whiff of frustration or resentment. It's a competition, but a friendly one.

The Concours field was beautifully filled with Porsches, I had a great time, and learned much more than I expected.



The 911 class.

On Tuesday I was helping the Rally organizers tally the scoring sheets as they came in from the last checkpoint. It was mostly data entry, but I learned a little bit about how a rally is set up, run and, scored. From the variety of times I saw on the scoring sheets, it was clear that some folks were here for fun, but some were pretty serious, too. I met another great group of volunteers and brought home lots of info on Rallying.

This was a great introduction to Parade for me, I can't wait for Osage Beach next year - so many more things to learn and do.

Each region has dinners, drives and other fun times for all of you, the members of PCA. Get out there and enjoy your friends and your Porsche!

Jon Jones, Zone 5 Representative, Cimarron Region, Porsche Club of America

jonesjon843@gmail.com