

Porsches and Parachutes

By Kristi Wiley-Bell, Mid-Air Reporter,
and Jim Heimer, Both-Feet-on-the-Ground Correspondent

How fast can your Porsche go? How fast can you go without your Porsche? Would you believe that it just might be possible for you to go faster without your Porsche than with it? Well, Lone Star Region members had the opportunity to watch people who routinely exceed 120 mph without the benefit of a vehicle. Of course, they are doing this vertically and horizontally between jumping out of an aircraft and opening their canopies for landing.

The Lone Star Region (LSR) of the Porsche Club of America recently conducted their first judged concours of 2009 on September 20th. About 30 cars turned out for the event, held at Skydive Houston off of Highway 290 and FM 362 in Waller, TX. The original venue, MarineMax, suddenly became unavailable, and an urgent replacement was needed.



Photo by Kandace Heimer

What luck that LSR member, Kristi Wiley-Bell is co-owner (with her husband, Todd Bell) of Skydive Houston. She was able to arrange for the use of the facility at the last minute. Actually, Kristi said she could hardly refuse an opportunity to display such beautiful cars on their field.



Photo by Stacey Carl

Early Sunday morning, our concours sponsor, Victory Motorcars set up their tent and tables for judging the event, and cars began arriving from all over the Region. By 11:00 am, the competitors were parked in the observation area usually reserved for spectators adjacent to the skydiver landing zone. This proved to be exciting for the skydivers, from beginners doing their first tandem jumps to the more advanced divers there to practice acrobatic routines for upcoming competitions.

The jumpers landed nearby under their colorful canopies as final touches were applied to the cars and judging began about noon. While the judges did their thing, Todd and Kristi briefed the earthbound Porsche crowd on the intricacies of skydiving. Are there future divers in LSR? We think so, based on comments made at the event, which seemed almost the perfect combination of people that love speed in the air with people that appreciate speed on the ground. Let's be real, we aren't drivers of slow cars; some of the cars on display were actual race prepared vehicles.



Photo by Stacey Carl

By 3:30 pm, the judging was complete and then sadly, Porsches galore motored away in a single file line for a 4 pm rendezvous with traditional Texas fare at The Hill Bar and Grill in Waller, TX. There, the concours chair, Sylvia Lanz awarded prizes for the concours competitors and door prizes, some provided by Skydive Houston. Sylvia said, "I know everyone was thrilled to see people falling out of the sky and to have the skydivers and aircraft as a background behind their Porsche!"



Photo by Kandace Heimer

For more information:

- Lone Star Region: www.lsrpca.com
- Victory Motorcars: www.victorymotorcars.com
- Skydive Houston: <http://www.skydivehouston.com/>
- The Hill: <http://www.hillbarandgrill.com/>

SkyDive Houston Concours, Sept 20, 2009

				Score	Place
Class P1					
Bobby	Crumpley	1965 356 SC	Champagne Yellow	392	1st Place & Best of Show
Class P3					
Thomas	Erdmann	1990 944 S2 Coupe	Cyclan Red Met	364	1st Place
Class P4					
Andy	Kay	1979 911 Euro Coupe	Guards Red	352	1st Place
Class P5					
Robert	Buchanan	1986 Carrera	Guards Red	384	1st Place
Mike	Greuter	1996 C4S	Polar Ice	330	2nd Place
Hugo	Zagaria	1991 911 Targa	Red	316	3rd Place (tie)
Lynn	Friedman	1992 964	Malachite Green	316	3rd Place (tie)
Class P6					
James	Zwahlen	2007 Carrera S	Guards Red	390	1st Place
Ann & Ron	Retzler/Baklarz	2008 997	Arctic Sil Met	386	2nd Place
David	Signet	2005 911 Turbo S	White	384	3rd Place
Eddie & John	Musgrove	2001 911 Turbo	Silver	368	
Eric & Michelle	Serrell	2004 Carrera	GT Met Silver	364	
Class P7					
Stephen	Voss	2009 Cayman S	Malachite Green	368	1st Place
Thomas	Erdmann	2006 Cayman S	Lapis Blue Met	350	2nd Place
Roger	Murray	2008 Cayman S	Red	348	3rd Place
Display Only					
Dan	Morton	1968 911 Coupe	White		
Chris	Thomas	1987 Carrera			
Bruce & Carol	Mitchell	1992 964	Green		
Bruce & Carol	Mitchell	2000 911	Silver		
Jerry	Hinloopen	2002 Carrera	Black		
Andrew	Barry	2007 Turbo 997	Black		