

2025 Nurburgring Tripmates



Mike Butig

I am 59 years old, been married for 32 years, have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. I own a business called Evergreen Tree Care, and have done that for 40 years. I recently built a Winery Industrial Park with 5 wineries as tenants, in Maltby, (just inside Snohomish County,) and am enjoying learning a bit about Wineries. I live in Spokane but most of my career has been in Western Washington. I am learning how to drive, have been doing track days and getting some coaching for about 8 years, I have had a 991.1 GT3, a few Corvettes, including a C8 and a C8 Z06. Now I have a 992 GT3, a 718 GT4, and a 718 Clubsport. I am really enjoying learning how to drive. Besides this, I like to spend time at our place at Priest Lake, Skiing at Schweitzer, and lots of Ocean activities in the winter in Mexico, and I enjoy working with my kids, 2 work with me. I have been to Germany several times and really enjoy the people, cars, roads, culture and am super excited for this trip.

**Tom Bloom**

Home town Ann Arbor Michigan. Now live in Chelsea Michigan, ½ mile from the Chelsea proving grounds. We get to see a lot of new cars long before everyone.

Race car: GT4 clubsport RS, new car fun but some adjustment for sure.

I have been Club Racing off and on for 14 years. I have won 3 PCA GTB-1 Cayman point championships.

Driving the Ring: just for the experience, if you drive some of the roads in Upstate New York, Southern Ohio, Tennessee, its like this cool. So the Ring is like those roads but a race track?

Numerous Hobbies. I am working on a 2.5 acre pond - running big dirt equipment is Zen like racing. We call it dirt therapy.

Tom and Beth Ann

**Adam Harris**

Hometown - I was born in 1981 in Alaska. I don't have a home town in the traditional sense as my dad was in construction so we moved around a lot. I joined the Army at 17 and haven't been back since; Where you currently live - I currently live in a small North Idaho town called Rathdrum.

What you typically drive on track these days? Current track day car is a 992 GT3RS, I also race a prepped 2016 Shelby GT350R with ICSCC.



Briefly, what's your driving experience? Started tracking in 2015 when I could afford it. As my business grew so did my seat time. Started endurance racing in 2017 with a very good team. Been tracking and racing ever since with various organizations. I also come from a heavy simulator background and have been active on the iRacing platform for about 10 years.

Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? Of all the tracks I've driven it's my favorite. I also love German culture and would love to visit there.

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? Mountain biking, competitive shooting (3 gun)

Dan Shute

Married to Jan, parents of 6 adults we're super proud of. Hailing from Leduc, now living near Beaumont, I work in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

I race Spec Miata and enjoy a 981 Cayman GT4 for solo track events.

Competitive driving started in 2006 with autocross, progressed to HPDE on a full racetrack around 2008, and then to club racing in 2013. Cars have ranged from an R32 Skyline GTR and M5 (both with over 500 hp) to a Miata (with maybe 100 hp) and the Cayman. I find joy in realizing improvement in my own performance and helping others do the same. Competition, with the goal of winning on a level playing field, is energizing.



I want to drive the Nürburgring because it's the pinnacle of track-based challenges and getting good at difficult things is a source of joy and fulfillment.

Trained as an engineer, I devoted the first two decades of my career to deep technical work primarily in mechanical systems relating to the upstream oil and gas industry. The next two(ish) decades have shifted from building things to building people and teams. I currently lead Volant Products, a company devoted to enabling the responsible and reliable recovery of oil and gas resources. Although we unapologetically serve this industry, we seek ways to sustain human ability to thrive into the future through careful stewardship of hydrocarbons and achievable energy transition.

Looking forward to meeting you all in Germany!

Michael Liu

Hometown - New Orleans, LA; Currently live - Lafayette, LA

Track car - Stock 2018 Mustang GT 350

Experience - Autocross and Track days for about 10 yrs (NASA HPDE-2, PCA Blue-solo). Started with a 2010 Corvette Grand Sport for 6 years, then a 2004 Honda S2000 for 3 years, now in a 2018 Mustang GT 350 for the past 2 track days. 99% experience is at NOLA Motorsports Park. (2 days at COTA, 1 day at Texas World Speedway, 2 days at MSR Houston, 1 at Ron Fellows Corvette School).



Why Nurburgring - I want to try something very technical and challenging, and the bragging rights that come with driving the historic, iconic, and "bucket list" track.

Anything else - I'm a doctor specializing in kidney medicine (nephrology). Only other hobby outside of car stuff is some woodworking. I like wine and beer. And I'm extremely bummed that we aren't able to do Spa.

Michael Robbins

Hometown – Born in Fayetteville, Arkansas grew up in Durango, Colorado; here you currently live – Montgomery, Texas

What you typically drive on track these days Supra GT4

Briefly, what's your driving experience? Track days, lemons, WRL currently

Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? Enjoy experiencing new destinations, culture and tracks.



Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? When not at a track we enjoy spending time on our small farm in Texas and time in the jungle with the monkeys in Costa Rica.

Deidra will be joining us, wife of 33 years.

Mark Spelich

Originally from outside Albany (Delmar), New York USA; currently in Boise, Idaho for 21 years. Now spending part of the year in Europe, with home base in Bilbao, Bizkaia, The Basque Country, Spain.

I drive a '14 PORSCHE GT3 on the track; stock save for a roll bar, racing bucket seat and 6-point harness.



Learned to drive in Upstate New York, learning to "powerslide" cars in the snow long before I was old enough to get a driver's permit or license. My first sports car was an '86 Mazda RX7 which I would put Nokian Hakkapeliitta studded snow tires on in the winter and drive the mountains of New England--rally style-- to go skiing. After having done similar in a Chevrolet Chevette.

Attended Porsche Sport Driving school in Birmingham--3 times, the first in 2014 before ever owning a PORSCHE. *Got to passenger for hot laps with Hurley Haywood!* Bought my GT3 as a street car with no intention of becoming a track guy until I took it to the track--then called Miller Motorsports Park in Utah--and the rest was history. No longer drove it on the street (have a 911 Cabrio for that), and trailer to tracks for about 10 days/year since. Took a trackside class with Ross at a Hooked on Driving event at Oregon Raceway Park a few years ago. Been to PORSCHE Canada Ice Experience(Ice Force+ 4 times which I describe as "the most fun you can have with your clothes on." Went 187 mph in my GT3 (Passengered in a modified Corvette Z06 to 214 mph) in The Sun Valley Road Rally (most recently called Sun Valley Tour de Force) high speed run. NEVER NEED TO DO THAT AGAIN! Not worth the risk. Also attended RWD course at Dirtfish Rally school.

The Nurburgring: The Ultimate experience/challenge for someone who drives on the track.

Retired (for 1 year) Orthopaedic Surgeon; previously Mechanical Engineer, and Technician Training Center Instructor with General Motors for 11 years. Former bicycle mechanic and frame builder.

Enjoy recreational bicycling, occasional motorcycling/trips, downhill skiing, traveling. High Performance track driving events, car activities (eg. Monterey Car week, but not this year).

Excited for this grand event! Looking forward to meeting everyone there and learning The Nurburgring Nordschleife.

Jesse Evan

Hometown: San Jose, CA; Where you currently live: Campbell, CA

What do you typically drive on track these days? I'm currently driving my 2024 Corvette Z06 on track exclusively these days.

Briefly, what's your driving experience? In terms of race tracks, I have only ever done HPDE events. I started around 2013, and stopped in 2015 before starting again in 2024. All told I've had a few hours of instruction, and done around 30 track days. I typically join the open passing groups these days.

Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? In short, because it has been a dream of mine since I was a teenager. I have always wanted to drive it since I was a kid, growing up watching sports car racing (WEC Group C, ALMS, IMSA GT) and reading articles

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? I'm a software engineer working on Google Photos. In the past I was a wedding photographer and still have a passion for photography, which is my primary hobby aside from cars. If you have a Chromecast, you may have seen one of my photos of a Japanese Macaque pop up on the screensaver https://www.instagram.com/p/CxF_61mLG75/

Unfortunately, my family won't be joining me due to logistics, but here we all are :-)

**Lawson Crain**

Hometown: Houston, TX; Current Residence: Dallas, TX

Typical Track Car: e36 M3 racecar (nasa tt/st3, Gridlife GLTC)

Driving Experience: HPDE for ~13 years, racing for the past 5 with Nasa, Gridlife, WRL, Champcar and Lemons

Why N-ring: I have always admired the track as the ultimate challenge. A bucket list place to drive.

Hobbies/Other: Exercise and raising a 1-year-old. Attending this trip with my twin brother who I am lucky enough to do a lot of racing/driving with.



Alex Crain

Hometown - Houston TX; Where you currently live - Houston TX

What you typically drive on track these days - Porsche 996 gt3, ST5 Mazda MX5, various BMW

Briefly, what's your driving experience? - I began doing HPDE 12 years ago, still do a handful of mostly PCA events per year as an instructor. Started doing a few WRL endurance races a year about 10 years ago. Also, I race with NASA in ST5, but would like to move to SM.



Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? The legend of it and of course the challenge.

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? I work in upstream oil and gas. I enjoy traveling with my wife Betty.

Photo of self (and guest, if you're bringing someone) - I will not be bringing my dog.

Andy Moriarity

Hometown - Boyne City, MI; Where you currently live - Grand Rapids, MI

What you typically drive on track these days - 911 GTS, previously various BMW M models

Briefly, what's your driving experience? - 15 years of recreational weekend events for personal development, no professional experience



Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? - Bucket list drive after having followed development cycle of many models through the year and learning the racing history

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? - Avid golfer when not at the track

Paul Fanning

Hometown: various places as father in military, high school in Killeen, Tx; Currently: Tyler, Texas

Track cars: 2018 GT3

Track experience: started DE driving in 2000, did Porsche Club racing for a few years, have done Skip Barber, Bondurant racing schools, as well as Ford GT350 track attack. Also lots of karting over the years

Reason for Nurburgring: bucket list drive for sure. Tried to do this in 2001 with European delivery of an M5 but weather bad the day I planned drive and track closed.

I am a physician. Love motorcycles in addition to cars, as well as anything that runs on gas.

**Spencer Sim**

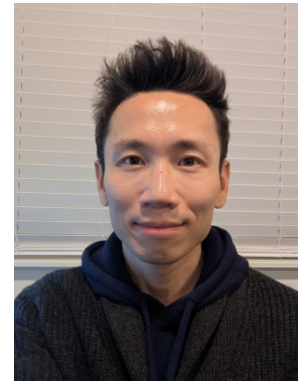
Hometown: Cerritos, CA; Where you currently live: Mountain View, CA

What you typically drive on track these days? 2003 Miata

Briefly, what's your driving experience? About 30 track days around Sonoma/Laguna/ThunderHill. Also tracked once each at Blackhawk Farms and Autobahn Country Club. Did a Dirtfish course as well as a car control clinic (with Fastsideways)

Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? Because it looks fun to do. I was also humbly invited by Brad

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? I like to stay in shape by running/cycling/rock climbing/hiking.

**Patrick Peters**

Hometown: St Louis, MO; Currently: Austin, TX

What I drive on track: 2015 NC Miata Club ("the answer" 🤔)

Experience: 5+ years of HPDEs/track days

Why Nurburgring: 50th bday bucket list! I did a few laps on Nurburgring years ago on a tourist day. Looking to spend more time on track with instruction



Other stuff: married with 3 kids, big baseball fan (Cardinals), recently bought a Lotus Emira

Photo: was taken with my older daughter at the F1 in Austin last year (she won't be going but I have very few photos of just me!)

Gregg Bell

Hometown - Jamestown, OH (southern OH)

Where you currently live - Edmonton, KY (50 miles from Bowling Green)

What you typically drive on track these days? Variety, but for HPDEs mostly a Porsche 981 Cayman GT4. Sometimes a prepped C7 Corvette Grand Sport. Also have a prepped MINI Cooper S that I really have fun with. I race a 1970 Datsun 510 vintage B Sedan.



Briefly, what's your driving experience? Started autocrossing about 1992 in a Fox Body 5.0L Mustang. About 1993 I started doing a few SCCA track days and HPDEs. Since 2008 I've been doing many track days (at least 15 to 50ish) per year. I've been an instructor/coach for the BMW and Porsche clubs for about 10 years along with several profit making organizations.

Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? I'm only able to do the Ring this time. I visited the town and saw the track in the mid 90s during a work trip and have wanted to drive it since. The learning and challenge opportunities are so appealing!

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? Retired dual major mechanical and electrical engineer. For about 10 yrs I've farmed a 300-acre cattle and hay farm. Cars and cows are my hobbies 🤝

Photo of self (and guest, if you're bringing someone) - attached, but my wife is shown and she won't be coming

Matt Farnsworth

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois; Where you currently live Hawthorn Woods, Illinois (about an hour northwest of Chicago)

What you typically drive on track these days 1991 BMW M3 (for W2W racing and HPDE) and 2017 BMW M2 (for autocross)

Briefly, what's your driving experience? Have done wheel-to-wheel racing for 25 years with Midwestern Council and some with SCCA, in-car instructor for Windy City BMW Club HPDEs, and have autocrossed on and off for 30 years. Have raced or taken a school at Road America, Mid Ohio, Laguna Seca, Milwaukee Mile,



Autobahn Country Club, Gingerman, Blackhawk, Grattan, Putnam Park, and a handful of others, plus Nurburgring and Spa last year

Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? With a couple days under my belt from last year, I'm looking forward to building on that experience

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? I work in finance at Yendo (a start-up credit card company) and am co-founder of Vintage Ltd. which sells motorsport-inspired apparel. My wife is Emily and I have two boys, Ryan (9) and JW (7). Both of the boys are obsessed with cars!

Dave Farnsworth

Hometown: Chicago; Where you currently live: Schaumburg, Illinois (northwest suburb of Chicago—didn't fall too far from the tree)

What you typically drive on track these days: 1972 BMW 2002 and 1991 BMW M3 both Vintage race-prepped.

Briefly, what's your driving experience? Track experience started in 1981 with the BMW club. Progressed to track instructor in 1986, started club racing in 1989 and have held an active race license continuously since then. Ran ITB and ITGT in current era wheel to wheel racing up to 2022 when I switched to Vintage racing.



Why do you want to drive the Nurburgring? My son Matt and I attended the event last year. As I expected, despite the sim training, combing over the printed material and watching the videos many times the actual track is still pretty intimidating. This year I hope to get over that factor and feel more comfortable so I can actually start to concentrate on refining my currently still pretty crude feel for the Ring.

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? I'm a retired pediatrician, my hobbies, besides cars, include motorcycles, running, reading, volunteering at the local nature center and a local animal rescue organization and outdoor activities.

Tony Iorfino

Hi all, it's Tony Iorfino (the I is pronounced like a Y). I'm very much looking forward to this amazing trip, possibly, seeing acquaintances from the 2018 & 19 trip and meeting even more track nuts/nerds.

I was born in Stamford CT, in the NY metro area and I'm currently living in Tamworth NH, home of Club Motorsports. I've been driving in the Porsche club for 19 years and instructing for at least 10. I've driven at least one track day per week for the past nine years during season at Clubmotorsports, plus PCA, Lemons, and Bertil Roos events at mostly North Eastern tracks.



My current track cars and bikes are: daily driver/ track setup Golf R, Rush SR with an SRX coming, GT2RS, Aprillia Tuono factory and KTM RC8C. I was recently woken up inside by driving a Radical, so that will be next!

My other favorite topics/hobbies include medicine, music, art, furniture/ boat building, XC and AT skiing etc.

The Ring is such a challenge, which I love, and growth from this is immense. To be there with the best ever Coaches, the RSR crew/facilities, etc. only leaves me to pinch myself. Again, I'm looking forward to meeting you all!

Brian Biskeborn

From 2023 Bio...

I live in Milpitas, CA with my partner Hanqing, who is coming along after missing this trip last year. My current track car is a McLaren 720S, acquired earlier this year -- with a C7 Corvette as backup for when (not if) the McLaren is broken. Sonoma is clearly the best Bay Area racetrack, but they all have a lot to offer. My goal at Spa and the Ring is to challenge myself and have fun, not necessarily in that order!



Rhuna Shen

From 2024 Bio... (no photo provided)

Hometown: Edison, NJ; Where you currently live: Boonton twp, NJ

What you typically drive on track these days: Porsche Cayman T And 911 T

Briefly, what's your driving experience? I started at the Porsche driving school in Birmingham, AL in 2019. I had just acquired a manual 911 cab at that time, after searching for the perfect manual car. I was simply trying to find out what the car is capable of, as I felt the "buggy" was like a caged lion. Well, once you start... so I kept going back to Birmingham and finished all their advanced courses, and got the competition license just for kicks. I don't intend to race. When COVID hit, I traded in Buggy for Zippy, 2021 Cayman T and started going to DE events. From 2021 to 2023, I spent about 30 DE days each year, while still going to the Porsche driving school each year. My favorite track is Watkins Glen followed by Sebring and Road Atlanta. The most challenging track for me is the Lime Rock Park. I have visited Laguna Seca, but not

experienced enough to appreciate it. I have driven at Summit Point and enjoyed it, but not enough to travel there on a regular basis. I have yet to visit VIR. My least favorite track is NJMP. I don't think about tracks when I am not physically there, no time. So the only time I learn and renew driving skills is when I'm at the track and in my way to the track. I find Ross and Peter's virtual track walk extremely helpful. Kinda like crashing for an exam, I go into hyper-mode the day/night before any DE days, and listen to Ross and Peter on double speed (I'm sure you sound very different in person, at normal speed). So preparing for the Ring trip is very different for me.

Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? Who doesn't want to drive the Nürburgring?! Spa, well, because it's part of the package. It would be a good opportunity to decide if I ever want to move there for extended period of time, so I can learn it better in person.

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? Medical. Past hobbies a few, current just driving in circles.

John Hubert

From 2024 Bio...

Hometown: Hillman MI; Reside: Austin TX and Traverse City MI

Track cars: 1974 911 stock and Lotus Elise

Experience: 50+ days of DE

Reason: Why not?

Extra: Pilot American Airlines, Retired Military



Joseph Minarik

From 2024 Bio...

Hometown – Born in Allentown, Pennsylvania; grew up in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania; Where you currently live – Reston, Virginia

What you typically drive on track these days – 2016 Porsche Cayman GT4

Briefly, what's your driving experience? – Began Porsche Club HPDE in 2005 (at age 56), have participated consistently ever since (apart from a three-year period after my first track car, a 1989 Porsche 944 Turbo, suffered an engine meltdown; and the pandemic)

Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? – Want to walk in the footsteps of Nuvolari, Fangio, Phil Hill, Stefan Bellof, and Timo Bernhard



Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? – Retired economist (was chief economist in the Office of Management and Budget for the eight years of the Clinton Administration); enjoy classical music (Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Brahms, etc.); read history

Tim Blakeley

For the last fifteen years I have called Dallas, Texas home. I am traveling alone for this trip to the Nurburgring.

For now, I race a Formula Ford - a Crossle 32 - in various vintage events, mostly in Texas and Oklahoma. One of the highlights of owning this car has been attending the annual Brian Redman event at Road America. I also race a SpecRacer Gen3 in SCCA Club racing events, although less than in previous years. I maintain a Mazda Mx-5 at a local track for practice and for sessions with my driving coach.



Of all the tracks in Texas, my favorite is COTA. It is a track that I did not particularly enjoy when I first drove it, but over time I have come to appreciate its challenges more and now it is my favorite. My current plans call for racing my Crossle there in the SVRA year-end event at the end of October.

I want to drive the 'Ring because I prefer an active vacation over the usual run of the mill vacations. These driving events also allow me to incorporate my hobby into my vacation and provide the opportunity to meet new people who share my interests. As well, experience tells me that Tom and Ross are great hosts for these events. My goal is to have fun driving this great track and share the experience with an engaging group of people.

Bob Ashenbrenner

Returning for my third Drive of a Lifetime because the Nurburgring Nordschleife is so unique, and the entire Ross, Tom and RSR experience is so great. The Ring is like that winding country road that you wish you could open it up on – and on the Ring you can. It has so many places that are fast, or technical, or fast and technical. It is like no other track.



As an instructor with the BMW CCA, my experience level has increased considerably. It highlights different cars, techniques and learning styles. Plus, there is satisfaction in helping someone learn and become part of the HPDE community.

I've driven on 15 tracks in 4 countries. Now living in Ocean City NJ, the NJMP tracks are an hour away and have become my home tracks. I make regular trips to Watkins Glen and the Summit Point tracks. COTA and Mont Tremblant are also favorite North American tracks.

I am currently tracking a C8 Corvette Stingray, which is an impressive and fun track car.

This year, I've also experienced the Dog of a Lifetime, as my wife's passion for showing dogs resulted in her Giant Schnauzer winning Best in Show at the 149th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in February.



Ted Pitts

I'm Ted Pitts from Reno, NV. I drive the Northern California tracks in a MX5 Cup and a GT3 RS. This is mostly HPDE, plus a few club races. I've been driving since 2016, which was the first year I drove the Nurburgring. And every year since I've been coming back to the Ring because it's always a highlight of the year. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and creating a new highlight for 2025.



Brad Kellett

Hometown: Sydney, Australia; Where you currently live: Los Altos, CA

What do you typically drive on track these days? Porsche Cayman GT4 Clubsport MR, assorted race cars depending on the series.

Briefly, what's your driving experience? Currently an FIA-licensed racer, driving as many endurance races as possible (which honestly hasn't been that many for the last year because of an injury).



Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring? Because I have a heart and it still beats!