

2026 Spa & Nurburgring

Tripmates



Bob Ashenbrenner

Returning to the Ring and Spa for the 4th time with the RSR / Speed Secrets Ultimate Drive of a Lifetime. Tracking cars is one place that consumes 100% of my attention and allows for constant learning and raising of the bar – all while having fun. And to do so on two of the best tracks in the world is what brings me back.

Track driving for over 15 years, instructor with BMW CCA for a third of those years. Instructing delivers experience with different cars, techniques and learning styles. Plus, there is satisfaction in helping someone learn and become part of the HPDE community.



In the past year I have tracked a Porsche 718 GTS/GT4 Spec, BMW F80 M3 and a Corvette C8 on tracks that include Watkins Glen, Circuit of the Americas, and NJMP's Thunderbolt and Lightning courses. In total, I've driven 16 tracks in 4 countries. The C8 is my main track car.

My wife Sandy Nordstrom has a very successful career in the conformation dog show world, including winning the 2024 AKC National Championship, and Best in Show at the 2025 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. I get to follow along and occasionally help her and the dogs that she campaigns.

Born and raised in Philadelphia. After engineering college, I relocated to Boston and then Austin. Retired now in Ocean City, NJ.

Doug Wille

Dayton, Ohio; Katy, Texas

C8 Z06, Supra

Autocross and track stuff for 3 decades. Over 100 time trial and HPDE days in the last 10 years. One Lap of America twice. The Ring and Spa once each.



The Nurburgring is such a challenging track, Spa is just plain fun, Zandvoort is the icing on the cake.

I like to hike and run. Travel is probably my current "other" hobby,

Kunal Aggarwal

Hometown: Naperville, IL

Currently live: Irvine, CA

What I track: 2022 Porsche 718 GT4

Experience: Been tracking my cars for 20+ years and have participated in various driving/racing schools.



Why: The Nurburgring and Spa are two of the most iconic racing circuits in the world. I had the opportunity to visit a few years ago, and ever since then I've been itching to go back. Driving circuits with so much history, character, and challenge is a bucket list experience for any enthusiast.

Anything else: I'm an entrepreneur and lifelong car enthusiast. Outside of work, I enjoy traveling, exploring great driving roads around the world, and spending time at the track.

David Dunigan

Originally from Bordentown NJ (South Jersey close to Philadelphia).

Currently living in Savannah GA. Retired from running a family business.

Current Cars:

Track: Porsche 2014 GT3 Cup

Street: Porsche 992.1 911 Turbo S, Cayenne GTS, Tesla Model 3



PCA Drivers Ed instructor since 2006

PCA Club Racer since 2010.

Second trip to the Nurburgring.

Hoping to be much better prepared than last time. Lots of Forza time.

Really looking forward to heading up Eau Rouge.

I am sticking around to watch the ADAC race the weekend after we finish.

Would love to get a WhatsApp group going for before and during trip.

Hank Smith

Hey everyone – My name is Hank Smith and I have lived in Austin Texas since 1968 so I consider that to be my hometown. Go Longhorns – Hook'em.

I have several cars I drive on the track but my go to car is my BMW SPEC E46 I use to race with NASA and in general just have fun with. I also have a BMW Z4 M roadster that is lots of fun when you want the top down. I recently sold my 996 Porsche 911 GT3 and am looking to replace that so let me know any suggestions. Finally, I have a 2025 Cadillac CT5 V Blackwing #9 LeMonstre edition that sees its fair share of track time. I get to be one of the Chief Driving Instructors for COTA and am also a driver/instructor for the Porsche Deliver Experience program as well as several other programs here in Texas.



I have been on the track since 2013 when one of my sons introduced me to Houston Motor Sports Ranch and I was hooked for life. Now some 320 events later I am a national PCA instructor and level 2 MSSF instructor and get to instruct and teach the level 2 course for MSSF.

I came here with this group 2 years ago and can't wait to get back (hopefully some dry weather). At the end of August, I am retiring from a life of engineering that started in 1982, so this is my retirement gift to myself. I have been a consulting engineer for 45 years and worked on most of the master planned communities here in central Texas.

Hobbies include bee keeping, bike riding, keeping all my cars running, etc.... I am an adjunct professor at the UT McCombs business school in a program called "Winning" which is a business management course based on racing so most of us are active race car drivers and instructors as well as business owners and I am also working with the UT college of engineering to help redevelop their engineering curriculum.

My wife of 44 years (we actually went to Elementary School together) is joining me in Amsterdam along with a couple of my kids so the fun will continue for me for several weeks after we are done.

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 are returning for the third bite of the apple. The first half of the track is beginning to feel familiar, thanks to the previous two years and resetting the sim after every crash (helpful hint: Don't do this—you'll end up knowing the early part well and the last third will be an intimidating mystery) 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.

Matt Farnsworth

- Hometown - Schaumburg, IL
- Where you currently live - Hawthorn Woods, IL (1 hour north of Chicago)
- What you typically drive on track these days - 1991 BMW M3 race car / 2026 BMW M2
- Briefly, what's your driving experience? - wheel-to-wheel racing, HPDE, and autocross for 25+ years
- Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? - it was pretty fun the first two times!
- Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? - work in finance for a credit card start-up (Yendo), side hustle in the automotive space (vintageltd.com), other than car stuff, hanging out with my boys (10 & 8) and wife Emily



Brian Biskeborn

I'm a California native, currently living in San Jose, and have been doing track days since 2015.

My track car for the last few years has been a McLaren 720S. (The rumors about reliability are true, but it's great fun when it runs.)

This will be my fourth Speed Secrets trip, solo this year. I keep coming back for the mix of driving challenge and camaraderie.

By day, I work in big tech, and my other major hobbies are road cycling and hiking/mountaineering.



Brad Kellett

- Hometown: Sydney, Australia
- Where you currently live: Mountain View, CA
- What you typically drive on track these days: Porsche GT4 Clubsport MR
- Briefly, what's your driving experience?
 - Endurance racing in WRL, 24h Series, etc, and loads and loads of track days
- Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa?
 - I've been coming for many years, it's an addiction!
- Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)?
- Photo of self (and guest, if you're bringing someone)



Alex Ikonomidis

I was born in Toronto, but I've lived in the US for most of my life. I grew up in the southeast (SC/GA) and have lived in CA for the last ~11 years. I'm currently living in Sunnyvale in the SF Bay Area.

I typically track my 992.1 GTS, and try to get in 20-30 track days per year. I want to drive on the Nürburgring because I grew up watching Top Gear, reading about it online, and hearing manufacturers (cough Porsche cough) use it as the benchmark for their cars. I want to see what it's all about for myself!



Outside of the track, I like to off-road my Bronco, ski, and travel. I'm also into cooking!

My wife Marissa will be joining us this year; here's a picture of the two of us:

Mike Monson

This will be my fourth 'Ring trip with Ross and Tom. I skipped last year and traveled to Watkins Glen instead to add it to my track list.

I live in Northern Wisconsin and am a retired surgeon. My track driving consists of instructing for PCA, primarily the Chicago region at Road America and midwest tracks with my one-owner 2016 GT4. I travel to visit other tracks and broaden my experience, 23 tracks on my log book so far.



This year I decided to come for a quick trip to Ring and Spa without side trips or dragging a companion with me. I look forward to meeting new friends and probably a few from previous trips.

Charles Tzinberg

Charles – always from and still live in Southern IL, about 30 minutes from St. Louis. Daily is also my track car – 2026 Supra. Fun car is 2005 Lotus Elise purchased new, now 86k miles of smiles Driving for 60 years, 1st track day in 2021, 74 track days so far (but drive like maybe 12 😞). Was with the group for the Ring & Spa “once in a lifetime” experience in 2024, decided once wasn’t enough! I’m a CPA, have my own firm.

Crystal – born in St. Louis, lives in Southern IL. Has been my passenger on track about a dozen days. Is a professional model & social marketer.



Ted Pitts

Hometown: Hard to pin down, but I've lived in Florida, Texas and California.

Currently live: Reno, NV

Typically drive: MX5 Cup, GT4, GT3RS

Driving experience: I've been driving for 10 years, mostly HPDE, with a little bit of club racing.



Why Nürburgring and Spa? These are my favorite tracks. I've been driving them for 10 years, and I can't wait to go back!

Andrew Blyholder

Born in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Moved out to Berkeley, CA to go to school at UC Berkeley at 18. Met a California girl at school, married, and been stuck here in paradise ever since. We live in a small house in Richmond, one of the small towns surrounding the San Francisco Bay.

Got a degree in Architecture and worked for just three firms in my 35 year career, finishing up with 19 years doing historic preservation projects all over the West Coast.



Met a friend in architecture school that was racing Porsche 914s with PCA. Started helping him on race weekends. After graduation quickly bought my first 914 and been doing autocross, time trials, and track days with 914s from stock to full race ever since. Also recently started driving with a 24 hrs of LeMons team running a Porsche Boxster.

Retired in 2018 to spend more time playing with cars. Got myself a retirement job learning to build race car motors at Hasselgren Engineering in Berkeley. (They are known for dominating the Toyota Formula Atlanta series in the 90s and 00s.) Another builder does most of the Altantic motors, I do all the older, collector car motors (notice the link to historic preservation!)

Played tennis competitively up through high school but not good enough to play at the college level. Pretty much gave it up for 40 years but picked it back up again after retirement. Also ski as much as I can in the winter.

Biggest stress in my life now is balancing my wife's desire to be traveling extensively with my car stuff (what a good problem to have!)

Michael Liu

- Hometown - New Orleans, LA
- Current town - Lafayette, LA
- Track car/ Daily driver/ Grocery getter - Shelby 2018 Mustang GT 350 (stock)
- Experience - I started doing autocross in 2014 in a 2010 Corvette Grand Sport. Added track days the next year. I'd consider myself "slightly" advanced (NASA HPDE-3, PCA Blue-solo, SCCA Track Night Advanced). After 6 years in the Corvette, I moved into a 2004 Honda S2000 for 3 years and now I've been in a 2018 Shelby Mustang GT 350 for the past 2 years. I find most people gravitate to one or the other, but I love both autocross and track days (albeit for completely different reasons) and I still do both whenever I can. 99% of my track experience has been at NOLA Motorsports Park in New Orleans, with a couple of days at COTA, Texas World Speedway, MSR Houston, Ron Fellows Corvette School in Las Vegas, and Allen Berg School at Laguna Seca. And oh yeah, Speed Secrets Trip of a Lifetime 2025. So nice I had to do it twice!
- Why Nurburgring - Extremely technical, difficult, and challenging. Plus, I had a fantastic experience last year and wanted to do it again in a different car.
- Why Spa - It's my favorite video game race track, and I really want to experience that whole "Eau Rouge" thing.
- Anything else - I'm a nephrologist (kidney medicine specialist). Outside of cars, I enjoy woodworking, if I can ever find the time. My wife, Parisa, is a singer/ actress/ community theatre artist. We like to travel and try to enjoy life.



Andy Hollis

Hometown: Baltimore, MD

Where you currently live: Austin, TX

What you typically drive on track these days: McLaren 720S, Honda CRX time attack build, 2019 Mazda Miata, 2023 Hyundai Elantra

<https://grassrootsmotorsports.com/articles/competing-2022-one-lap-america/>

<https://grassrootsmotorsports.com/project-cars/1988-crx/>

<https://grassrootsmotorsports.com/project-cars/2019-nd-mx-5/>

<https://grassrootsmotorsports.com/project-cars/2023-elantra-n/>



Briefly, what's your driving experience? Decades of national level autocross competition and instruction, then more than a decade of track competition and coaching. On track at least once a week.

Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? Have done this trip twice before and loved it. Great group, incredible venues. Especially stoked to add on Zandvoort.

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? In a previous life, was a pioneer in computer gaming with Microprose and Electronic Arts. Now I spend free time driving cars, building/fixing cars and writing about it in Grassroots Motorsports Magazine. Hobbies include hiking and trail running. We'll already be in Europe hiking in the Alps prior to the Ring/Spa trip.

My wife Ann will be joining. Also an avid hiker, but more into pickleball, knitting, Mahjong and now taking up golf. Also a highly accomplished autocrosser until an on-road car accident sidelined her. She's a retired nurse.

Peter Zaballos

Hometown: Berkeley/Seattle/Wisconsin

Currently live in Whitewater, WI

On track, I drive my 2016 Cayman GTS - and love every moment of that flat six sound+performance

Driving Experience: In 2019, with valuable advice from Ross Bentley, I started track driving a 1973 BMW 2002 restomod and did my best to learn to drive a slow car, fast. Along the way, I upgraded to a highly modified, track-focused 2007 Porsche Cayman (bought from the prior owner who funded all the mods), and drove that until it threw a rod coming out of turn 4 at Sonoma



(Tom generously loaned me his GT3 for the better part of an hour afterward, letting me salvage the day a bit).

Overall, I've spent a lot of time at PNW tracks (Seattle Raceway, The Ridge, Portland, Oregon Raceway Park) as well as Sonoma, Buttonwillow, and Thunderhill. Even more important, I have met and made friends with some absolutely wonderful, ego-free driving-obsessed friends along the way.

The last two years, I've gone to Lapland in northern Sweden in March for three days of ice driving - eight different Porsches on as many different tracks. Studded snow tires, much drifting. I learned as much car control there as I have on asphalt racetracks.

Why drive the Nurburgring? I've been obsessed with cars and racetracks since I was little, and the Nurburgring has been an ultimate experience. I am fortunate to have been there twice before (2022, 2024) and have driven it in the rain (2024). Spoiler alert: the rain was more fun. And the prep has been so helpful. 200+ sim laps beforehand made my first laps stress-free, and I was able to shift my focus from the line to getting smoother and faster.

Anything else, I am a mostly retired technology exec. My wife, Kristine, and I met in Boston, where we lived for ~10 years, and where three of our four children were born. We moved to Seattle, and that's where our fourth child was born. They are all in their 20s and 30s now, living in Brooklyn, DC, and Austin - all great places to visit. I grew up in Berkeley, and cannot believe the embarrassment of car riches that surrounded me when I was a teenager. I could identify the sound of an air-cooled 911 from 2 blocks away.

And for the 2024 Nurburgring trip, my dear friend Duane (we have known each other since high school) joined me. He will be returning for the 2026 trip. We share an obsession with cars, and a great time for us is spending the day hanging around a classic car auction.

Brian Prokop

- Originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Currently and for the last 45 years in Calgary Alberta.
- Either 2025 Porsche Cayman GTS 4.0 in the dry and drizzle wet or 2023 VW Golf R (APR enhanced) in the wet
- Varied over last 25 years - no racing, mostly track days, HPDE, open wheel, Baja, rally
- Done it, want to do it again - haha!



David Herrington

Winston-Salem

Porsche Cayman GT4

Club racing x 20 yrs

Nurburgring = bucket list + cool challenge

Prof of Cardiovascular Medicine at Wake Forest
University School of Medicine



Building a second DIY electric car, trying to resuscitate a long dormant golf game, fielding questions on a daily basis from my wife about when I will retire...

Looking forward to meeting everyone in Sept!

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 carting 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.

Mike Budig

I was born in Spokane, and currently live there.

On track days I drive a 718 Clubsport, I have done track days for about 7 years, generally 5 to 10 per year. More now.

I am excited to go drive on the Ring, I love Germany and fast cars, this is the ultimate combination for sure.



I own a Tree Service called Ever-Green Tree Care in Washington State, I am a snow skier, like to Mt Bike, Efoil, hang out with family.

Rhuna Shen

I'm Rhuna Shen from Boonton, New Jersey. I began my track driving journey at the Porsche Track Experience at Barber Motorsports Park in 2019 and started participating in HPDE events in 2021. Since then, I've averaged 20–30 track days a year, except this season due to a bicycle accident.

My current track car is a stock, manual Ruby Red Porsche 911 T. My favorite U.S. tracks are Watkins Glen and Sebring.

Professionally, I practice cardiology in northern New Jersey. Outside of work and the track, I enjoy reading, cooking, and gardening.

The Nürburgring is a truly special place—one whose uniqueness can only be fully appreciated by experiencing it firsthand. I'm looking forward to returning to the Ring with Ross and Tom!



Kenneth W. Sanders

Shreveport, LA

Ligier JS2R, Porsche 991 Cup; Years of HPDE, 2 years of endurance racing in WRL

Sounds like a once in a lifetime type of trip to do with my best friend.

Facial Plastic Surgeon, avid CrossFitter, F1 fan



Alex Craine

Hometown - Houston TX

Where you currently live - Houston TX

What you typically drive on track these days - 996 gt3, e36 m3 endurance car

Briefly, what's your driving experience? - PCA national instructor, WRL/AER/Champ endurance racing



Why do you want to drive the Nürburgring and Spa? - Went last year, bitten by the bug and can't wait to get back

Anything else (profession, hobbies, etc.)? - Work in oil and gas (shocking in Houston I know) and enjoy traveling with my wife.

John Cochrane

I was born in Scotland, educated in England, and presently live west of Houston, Texas. I have a wife and five children and a black Lab.

I usually drive BMWs on the track - M3 and M5. My favorite tracks are Circuit of the Americas and Virginia International Raceway.

In terms of driving experience, I usually drive 6-8 track weekends per year.

I have been to the Nürburgring and Spa-Francorchamps several times with RSR, Speed Secrets, and BMW. I enjoy the flow of Spa and the challenge of the Nürburgring. As always, I hope plan to keep it out of the Armco! I seek to be more comfortable and consistent with my laps at the Nürburgring.



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)



Tim Blakeley

I recently relocated to Austin, Texas after more than twenty years in Dallas, Texas. 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. My current plans call for racing the Crossle at COTA in the SVRA year end event at the end of this year. I also race a SpecRacer Gen3 in SCCA Club racing events, although less than in previous years. This year I acquired a C8 Corvette that I use at a local country club track for practice and for sessions with my driving coach.

I want to drive the 'Ring and Spa 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.

Tim Adams

Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas

I'm Tim Adams, co-founder of STAK Racing and an endurance racer in the GTO class of the World Racing League. My racing journey started with high-performance driving events in my Porsche GT3 RS, where my longtime friend, Kenneth Sanders, introduced me to road racing. What began as a hobby quickly turned into a passion.



After years of track days together, Ken and I made the jump into wheel-to-wheel racing. In our rookie WRL season, we competed in just three GP2 races and earned second-place finishes in two of them. Since then, we've moved into the GTO class with our Ligier JS2Rs and continue to learn, improve, and chase faster lap times every weekend.

I'm excited for the opportunity to drive the Nürburgring because it's one of the most iconic race tracks in the world. Sharing that experience with my wife while tackling the Ring alongside my best friend is something I've dreamed about for a long time. For me, this trip is about more than racing, it's about friendship, adventure, and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Tom Przewdzia

I live in the north-west suburbs in Chicago area (2 hours south from Road America, 1 hour north from Autobahn Country Club).

I'm a full practicing physician, a car enthusiast in my free time.

My active track experience goes back about 15 years when I started with Skip Barber Racing, I also got courses from Porsche Track Experience (R level /completion lic), BMW Performance, NASA Great Lakes (group 4), just to mention the ones which made a biggest impact. I actually came across Ross a few times in the real time :), driving with NASA at Grattan MI, NASA instructor summit Indianapolis organized by Eric Meyer NASA chief instructor.



Now, The Ring; second time around. I attempted to get back into this event a few times, this year I was fast enough to succeed. A few more years of driving experience behind the belt, but the years are catching up with me too (I'm turning 65). I feel it's a good blend of experience vs ability to still do the Ring, especially when combined with Spa, which I missed last time.

My 1st visit up there left me with a long-lasting memories and I knew I'm not done with that track. I just want a good drive up there, conquering that Green Hell, working it out with your guidance, somehow it's a challenge and a pleasure :)