

Carlisle Porsche Swap Meet 2022

by Russell Clarke, MD

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The swap meet that is billed as “America’s Largest Porsche Swap Meet” was this year at the Carlisle Fairgrounds in Pennsylvania on April 30th. Erich Leonardi and I decided to make the trip. We considered taking my Porsche Carrera 4S, but worried that we might not have adequate space for purchases. Taking the pickup truck seemed a better choice.

We left on Friday about noon and arrived in Carlisle about eight hours later. Weather was good and traffic manageable. Interestingly the Pennsylvania Toll Road was not collecting tolls that weekend. At the toll booths there were signs saying “Drive through”. There was a Holiday Inn Express waiting for us about 3 miles from the Fairgrounds. We were advised to have dinner at a local restaurant that turned out to be a fabulous recommendation. The Rustic Tavern was a cozy, warm, friendly, reasonably priced, family-owned establishment that offered a wide variety of menu items and had a fully stocked bar. We highly recommend it to anyone doing Carlisle in the future.

Saturday morning we were up by 6:30 am for the generic, free, tasteless, motel breakfast. By 7:00 we were pulling into the fairgrounds. It was a sunny 38 degree day, with temperatures headed towards 70 degrees by noon. Parking was easy and only a few visitors had arrived. The venue was wonderful, with lots of space for parking, trailers, merchandise vendors, etc. There was music and lots of food. We were surprised by the large quantity of great “stuff” for sale. Erich filled up the back of my truck with purchases, including new \$25 356 floor pan sets. I was surprised by the number of matching chromed 356 wheel sets available. We theorized that the covid-19 lockdown had allowed Porsche enthusiasts to inventory their holdings and decide it was time to unload at the swap meet.

The only other Cincinnati people we recognized were Mark Schlacter and his fiancée, Tina. Mark had a large trailer full of valuables that he was selling. His trailer wheel blew out a few miles outside of town and somehow they avoided total disaster and limped to the swap meet ahead of a trail of rubber pieces and steel cords. The trailer wheel and fender

were destroyed, but fortunately, there was a trailer repair/supply shop a block away.

One of the goals we had set was to find a soft-top Porsche Targa 912, if one showed up. We are restoring a 1967 Porsche 912 soft-top and we had a few questions about exactly to install the soft-top. What are the odds! There sat a beautiful, unrestored, original-owner, blue 912 Targa. We eventually found the 80 year old owner who shared the car and his experiences with us. What a delight!

By noon we had made some good deals, made some new friends, eaten good fried chicken fingers, bought the mandatory swap meet T-shirts and viewed the hundreds of Porsches that had been driven to the event. We hit the road and enjoyed a pleasant ride back to Cincy, arriving in time for Saturday night dinner at City Bar-B-Que. A great trip, it was. I wish more Cincy friends had attended.
