

# MEMBER MOMENT

## BILL Sanders



**How old are you, what is your occupation and where do you live?** I'm 53 years young. For 28 years, I've been a certified public accountant and for the past year have had my own tax, accounting and consulting practice. My wife Jill and I live in Keswick, Virginia with our two dogs, Cameron and Duke.

**What was your first car?** A 1971 VW Super Beetle. I bought this after I graduated from high school in 1973 and rebuilt the engine once, added Koni shocks, cut the front springs, added wider tires, a Recaro seat and a header exhaust system. I spent several years running this car in autocross events, taking a couple of first and seconds in a stock class. I sold this in 1977 to buy a 1972 BMW 2002 tii, which I also autocrossed, rebuilt its engine and transmission, lowered it, added Recaro seats, etc. So from an early automotive age, I've been spending my time and money on cars.

**What was your first Porsche? Current Porsche? Modifications?** Although I've wanted a Porsche for many, many years, my first Porsche is my current Porsche, a 1994 928 GTS, which I bought 5 years ago. Modifications include a rear muffler bypass, Koni shocks and Eibach springs. I've also added a cup holder, as Porsche at the time didn't think they were appropriate for high speed driving. Other than that, it's bone stock, with 152,000 miles on the clock. I think my 1992 Mercedes Benz 500E may qualify as my second Porsche, since this was a collaboration between Porsche and Mercedes. Porsche actually built the car from a Mercedes supplied body-in-white, under contract with Mercedes, at a time when Porsche was in dire financial straits.

**Why did you choose this model?** Partly because I couldn't afford a 1998 993 Carrera S! I'd been looking for a sports car for about 6 months and actually had a deposit on a new 1993 Mitsubishi Evo, when I found

my 928 in an online ad. The 928 GTS was very reasonably priced and is a fairly rare car. Only 100 were imported in each of the last two years (1994 and 1995), out of 375 produced each year. The car in the ad just called out to me, so, with the help of a local bank, I arranged to buy it. The 928 is a highly technical car, with innovations in its design and layout that were many years ahead of the time. It's still a gorgeous car after all these years and a lot of fun to drive on the highway or the track.

**What is your earliest Porsche memory?** A neighbor living a few houses from mine, while I was in high school, bought a new 1970 914/6. He let me hang around his garage and lend a hand as he rebuilt the engine. I also helped him install a 2.7 liter engine in it a couple of years later. He still has this car in his garage and I hope to buy it from him.

**What is your dream Porsche and why?** A four car garage with a lift, because one is not enough! For a long trip, my 1994 928 GTS is a very comfortable highway cruiser. I'd love to drive to California with my wife to see my family. But maybe next summer we'll go to Colorado for the Porsche Parade. For fun drives in the spring and fall, a 1958 Speedster with a 4-cam Carrera engine. This is such a beautiful car and I'd love the chance to own and drive one. For the track, an IROC 911, with a tricked-out 3.0 liter twin-plug engine. I remember seeing these race in October 1973 at Riverside International Raceway in Southern California, sort of like a bunch of jelly beans being raced by the best drivers in the world. I've got some old slide photo's I've had digitized and I'll be writing an article about that weekend for an upcoming Heat Exchanger story. For everyday use, a Cayenne GTS 6-speed. This would be the vehicle for taking a trip to the beach with our Labrador retrievers, Cameron and Duke, or just going to work.

**What is your favorite Porsche-related activity?** I really like DE events where I can drive the heck out of my car, just to see what it can do and what I can do. I've been driving autocross events since my early twenties and ten years ago took the Skip Barber 3-day racing school at Lime Rock, so any time spent on the race track is a great time. I also just like to work on my cars. I've recently changed the oil, spark plugs, distributor caps and rotors. Two years ago, it was a timing belt, water pump and cam sprockets, plus replacing the shocks and springs. I get a lot of satisfaction in doing the work myself, although for certain jobs, I take the car to a good mechanic who knows 928's. But the best activity is meeting fellow Porsche owners at any sort of activity. We have many great and interesting members in our own club and I've met so many other neat people at Parade's and other events. Owning a Porsche is really about the people.

**What is your all-time favorite Porsche and why?** A 917K. I was 17 years old when the movie LeMans was released and my Porsche interest was beginning. I think this was such a beautiful design and when coupled with a great 12-cylinder engine and some needed aerodynamic tweaks, resulted in a truly great race car that won many races during its career. And who didn't want to be cool like Steve McQueen, who drove both a 911S and a 917K!! I've got the movie on DVD and watch it about once a year. I also remember later 917 variants that raced in the Can-Am series, the 917/10 and 917/30 turbocharged versions that were the zenith of Can-Am racing. When I win the lottery, I want Weldon to find me a 917K.

**What is your favorite driving song?** A fast-paced rock and roll song, with a great drum beat and rhythm, would be L.A. Woman by the Doors or Billy Idol. Next would be anything by Eric Clapton. I really liked the 'Cars' movie and its soundtrack. There are just too many great songs to pick just one. But my all time favorite song is "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", sung by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole or the version by Eric Clapton. Favorite driving movie....I'd have to give the nod to "Cars", the Pixar animated movie from 2+ years ago, featuring Sally Carrera, a shortened 996 coupe, with Paul Newman as Doc Hudson. This movie has a great story line and sound track. Makes me want to head out to Route 66 again.

**What non-Porsche activities do you enjoy?** Vacations or trips to a warm tropical island with my wife Jill, snow skiing, working around the yard, flying and Duke basketball.