



# MEMBER MOMENT

## SHERRY Westfall

**How old are you, what is your occupation and where do you live?** I'm 49. When I write that number, it makes me feel old. But then I remember all the track time I've had this year, my struggles, and my triumphs. I got up to 130 mph on the back straight at VIR—not so bad for an ol' girl! I'm a landscaper. I don't want to grow up, so I still play in the dirt and draw pictures. I live on almost 30 wooded acres in North Garden, VA with my husband, Jim Condon, and our new kitty, Taffy.

**What was your first car?** That's a hard question to answer. I grew up in a "car" family. Some of the earliest memories I have of my father were of him buying old cars and fixing them up or just having them around. Before I was born, he built a hot rod from an old Model T and raced it at the Salt Flats in Utah. He even had his picture in Hot Rod Magazine. In my teen years he and my brother got the idea of having a car business. This evolved into an automobile restoration business that included the whole family. We had a large shop for the restoration part, a salvage yard, and a used car dealership. In addition to being office manager and researching and ordering parts, I worked in the shop helping to take cars apart, stripping paint, sanding, taping and prepping cars for paint, reassembling, and prepping cars for shows. Unfortunately, we were so busy with clients' cars, we never had time to prepare a car for ourselves. We restored numerous '40s and '50s Lincolns, '40s and '50s Cadillacs, an early 1900s Rolls Royce, an Austin Healey, several MGs, a Triumph TR-3B, a BMW 2002 tii Turbo, a couple of E-type Jaguars, a 1957 Chevy, and the list goes on. The cars I drove were whatever we had around. The range of cars included a 1966 Chevy II, 1968 Lincoln Continental (a car the size of a boat, with suicide doors), 1975 Chevy Vega station wagon, 1973 Datsun 240Z, a host of Buicks, and a wide variety of trucks. The first car I actually purchased was a black 5-speed 1995 Dodge Daytona Turbo Z with black leather interior and all the bells and whistles.

**What was your first Porsche? Current Porsche? Any modifications?** The first year Jim and I were dating, he found a beautiful Guards Red 1989 964 C4. She was a wonderful car, but we sold her after about a year and bought our current Porsche, an Arena Red 1999 Carrera 996 C2. We bought "Elfie" just before we were married in 2004. Since her days as a garage queen with 12,000 miles, we have made a few modifications for her new life as an every-day driver for Jim and a track car for two. She now has Pagid Yellow brake pads, GT3 brake ducts, an ROW030 sport suspension, 18" wheels, and Pilot Sport Cup tires for track use.

**Why did you choose this model?** The water-cooled engine of the 996 has been less expensive to maintain and has more power. The car in general handles better and is lighter, quicker, and more agile.

**What is your earliest Porsche memory?** I remember seeing Porsches in movies and thinking they were neat little sports cars. The first Porsche I remember specifically was a bright orange 914 that one of the counselors drove when I was 14 and worked at a summer camp for children with learning disabilities. It looked like a fun car to drive, and the college-age owner was always buzzing around with the Targa top off. The first Porsche I got to ride in belonged to a friend of mine when we were students at Virginia Tech. His girlfriend was a friend of mine, but she didn't like to go driving. He and I would spend hours exploring the winding roads of southwest Virginia in his 1973 911 Targa. At the time I was very active with the Virginia Tech Sports Car Club, a chapter of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA). The Porsche dealer in Roanoke was one of our sponsors, and the general manager of the dealership and his wife were very supportive of our group and the autocrosses and rallies we held. They were almost like having a second set of parents who were rooting us on at a baseball game. I'm still impressed that this couple and the Blue Ridge Region PCA were so accepting and encouraging of a bunch of poor college

students. A strange coincidence occurred earlier this year at VIR. Jim had a driver's education instructor who had been active in events when I was at Tech. We actually remembered each other after all those years!

**What is your dream Porsche and why?**

In my fantasy world I'd have a large and varied stable—some cars to drive and play with and others to look at and show. I'm torn between two lovers—the classic lines and character of the older Porsches and the sleek styling, handling, and power of the modern ones. At the Fall Fling dinner at VIR this year I sat across from the 550 Spyder Weldon had on display. I couldn't take my eyes off of it. For an older Porsche, it would be at the top of the list. In the newer car group, I'm very happy with the 996 we have now—although I guess she's not all that new anymore. I love the lines of the 911, so when the time comes to replace her, I'd like to have a 997 or a GT3.

**What is your favorite Porsche-related activity?**

One of my favorite things to do is get in Elfie with Jim and a map book and just pick out roads and see where we end up. We've discovered some incredible drives that way. I also love driving in road rallies. When I was at Virginia Tech, our club did a lot of time-speed-distance and gimmick rallies. I've always enjoyed driving through the countryside, the excitement of working as a team, and the challenge of trying to figure out clues/instructions. One of my aspirations is to participate in a multi-day rally some day. In addition to that, I have thoroughly enjoyed becoming an active member of the Shenandoah Region PCA and serving as social chair. I've gotten to meet so many fun, interesting, and caring people. I've never been part of such an enthusiastic and diverse group of individuals who can bring their talents together to make great things happen.

**What is your all-time favorite Porsche and why?**

I really don't have an all-time favorite. I truly like all the Porsches from the oldest to the newest and everything in between.

**What is your favorite driving song?**

I'm such a music junkie I like anything from Beethoven to the BeeGees, country, big band, spirituals, pop, and even some rap. It just depends on my mood.

**What non-Porsche activities do you enjoy?**

I enjoy gardening, cooking, traveling the globe and climbing radio telescopes with my husband, taking road trips, hiking, dancing (swing and ballroom), listening to music, and spending time with Jim and the rest of my family.