

The hands-on guide to everything 944Fest!

New for  
2023

# 944Fest

## FOR DUMMIES

### What's inside:

- What is 944 Fest?
- How do I sign up?
- Where do I camp / stay?
- What is a mystery poker rally?
- What is a Rally-X
- Can I bring my 1988 Nissan Pulsar NX Sportbak?

Discover where you're going, how to get there and what to do once you arrive.



# Guide Book

**2023 edition**

944Fest is the largest and longest-running annual gathering of Porsche 944s in the world. For one weekend a year, hundreds of Porsche 944 variants will come together at Nelson Ledges Road Course, one of the nation's most historic race tracks, for a casual celebration of cars and community.

This is your guide to help navigate 944Fest weekend.

# What is 944Fest?

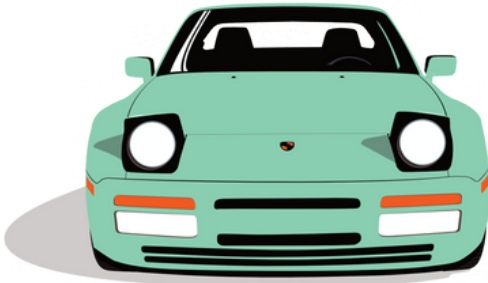
944Fest is an annual weekend-long 944 celebration. For over two decades, 944Fest has been the central hub that connects Porsche 944 enthusiasts from around the globe.

Once a year, hundreds of people and cars converge on the small but historic racetrack in Eastern Ohio known as Nelson Ledges. This is the same race track where the first Porsche 944 Turbo set tire to asphalt as a prototype during the iconic 1983 Longest Day of Nelson event.

Driving or owning a 944 is not a requirement to attend. 944Fest is not an exclusive club; no one must pass a board review to participate. Everyone with an interest in the Porsche 944 is welcome.

**“The greatest part about 944Fest is even if you’ve never been before, as soon as you arrive, you have like 100 new friends.”**

*~ Michael P. (944Fest Attendee)*



**944FEST<sup>23</sup>**

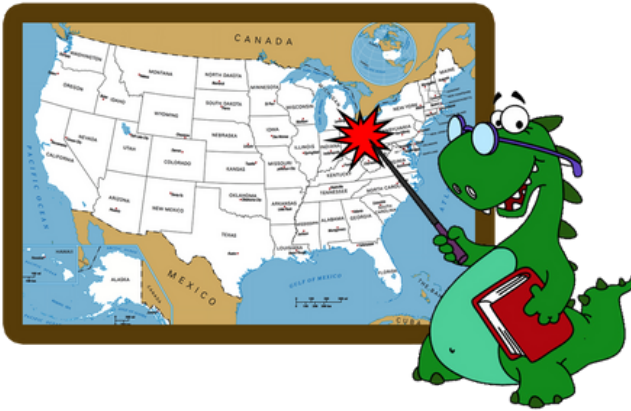
September 1-3, 2023

# Where is 944Fest?

Nelson Ledges Road Course

10342 OH-305

Garrettsville, OH 44231 [map](#)



## Driving distance to Nelson Ledges

Pittsburgh, PA - 90 miles

Cleveland, OH - 45 miles

Buffalo, NY - 170 miles

Detroit, MI - 200 miles

Cincinnati, OH - 250 miles

Indianapolis, IN - 300 miles

Baltimore, MD - 330 miles

Richmond, VA - 400 miles

Charlotte, NC - 509 miles

St. Louis, MO - 581 miles

# When is it?

**September 1st - 3rd, 2023**

*Labor Day Weekend*

# How to Sign Up

Signing up for 944Fest is fast and easy. All attendee and activity registration is done at:

**[944FEST.COM](https://944FEST.COM)**

Here you can register to attend, sign up for the HPDE, Rally-X, and even pick up some 2023 merch like hats and t-shirts.

# Activities

This is what we have going on at 944Fest for 2023



# HPDE

HPDE or High-Performance Driver Education, is our on-track portion of 944Fest. This is where you can take your 944 out on the track in a controlled and safe environment.

Run groups are divided by experience. Novice and First Time drivers will receive a ride-along instructor as well as classroom learning between track sessions.

If you have never been on the track before, the 944Fest is a great place to start.

The Friday HPDE session is for 944 (944/924/968/928) cars only. Saturday and Sunday sessions are open to all makes and models.

You must register ahead of time for this portion of the event.



# Rally-X

Whether you're lifted and rally prepped or rocking the factory stance, there's nothing like getting jiggy with it in the grass. This year we have the opportunity to do just that!

A Rally-X is a lot like an Auto-X but in the grass. We will have a course marked out with cones in the field next to the track. Cars will be sent one at a time for timed runs, with seconds being added for knocking over cones or going off course.

Keeping in mind that not all of us have jacked up our 944s or have installed knobby tires (yet), the course will be laid out on the flat to accommodate most cars. Unless you're lowered and sitting on 400+lb springs, you should be AOK to come sling some grass with us.

The Rally-X will take place on Saturday at the track. You must register ahead of time.

# Mystery Poker Rally

This is an exciting event that takes participants all over the surrounding area where they solve clues and move from checkpoint to checkpoint.

Solving a clue will reveal the next checkpoint, the last one being a secret location you will not want to miss.

Teams should expect to start heading out at 9:30am, the last stop around 11am, and an optional lunch stop around noon.

All stops on the Mystery Poker Rally will include parking and some walking so please wear comfortable shoes.

This event requires no pre-registration. If you are attending 944Fest, you are welcome to join in.

# 944 TurboCup Reunion

Porsche delivered fifty-one 944 Turbo Cup cars to North America. They were all raced, and few survived the competitive series unscathed. The 944 Turbo Cup is the most desirable of the 944 marque not just because it stands on its own as something special but also because each and every one has a racing history.

The 944 TurboCup Reunion is a chance to check out these iconic cars in person. Expect to see them at 944Fest all weekend long, on and off the track.

# Casual Car Show

944Fest's take on a car show is probably not what you're used to. We see the whole weekend as a "car show." Doing it this way allows our judges to see the cars, not just polished and lined up in the grass, but going through their motions all weekend.

Every car in attendance is entered into the car show automatically. There is no need to sign up or register a number.

However, we do ask that you move all cars to the area surrounding the tech shed around 3pm on Saturday. This makes it easier for us to identify the winning cars while handing out awards.

Maybe your car isn't the "best" or "cleanest" one there. It's OK, we have a range of awards that celebrate not only perfection but recognize the glory of imperfection as well. Awards such as the "Beater" and "Most Quotidian" stand shoulder to shoulder with any of our "Best" classes. What piston trophy will you take home?

# BBQ Dinner

Saturday starting at 4pm kicks off our Smoked Meats extravaganza at the Tech Shed. We will have smoked pulled pork, chopped brisket, ribs, baked beans, potato salad and of course, something tasty for dessert. Pair this with a wide selection of competition BBQ sauces and no one is leaving hungry.

We will also have vegan/vegetarian options available.

For any kids in attendance who have not yet developed a taste for great BBQ, we'll have grilled all-beef hotdogs at the ready.

# Awards and Door Prizes

The awards and door prize drawings will start around 5pm at the Tech Shed. Bring over your folding chair and watch the show while you finish off a plate of BBQ.

The door prize drawing is one of the highlights of 944Fest. Our sponsors donate thousands of dollars in automotive-related items each year to be given away. Everyone signed up for the 944Fest gets a chance to win. Most years, everyone goes home with something.

Throughout the door prize drawing, we will announce and present piston trophies to the winners of the Casual Car Show.

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# Bonfire and Beer Swap

On Saturday night, after all the BBQ has been eaten and all the awards and door prizes are given away, we make our way to the infield for the Bonfire & Beer Swap.

What is a beer swap? Well, it's pretty simple. Since we have people coming in from all over the place, we encourage them to bring some local brew to share with others. All of these beers go into a big cooler (or a few coolers).

For one night Nelson Ledges has the most diverse beer selection in all of Ohio.

What is a bonfire? It's a big fire. Bring a camping chair and have a seat at a comfortable distance while enjoying drinks and talking cars.

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# Driving to 944Fest

## Caravan

Nothing makes a long trip go faster than driving in a group. No matter which direction you are coming from, there are likely other 944Fest attendees along your way.

Join the SLACK message app to connect with others heading to 944Fest.

[Invite link](#)





# Flying to 944Fest



If you can't make the drive, you can fly in and grab a rental car. We don't recommend taking your rented Chevrolet Impala out on the track but it will get you here to enjoy the other 944Festivities.

The three airports below are each about 1hr away from Nelson Ledges.

[Cleveland Hopkins International Airport](https://www.clevelandairport.com)  
<https://www.clevelandairport.com>

[Pittsburgh International Airport \(PIT\)](https://flypittsburgh.com)  
<https://flypittsburgh.com>

[Akron-Canton Airport](https://www.akroncantonairport.com)  
<https://www.akroncantonairport.com>

# Where to Stay

## CAMPING



Staking a tent next to (or on top of) your 944 is not only an inexpensive way to stay for the weekend, it's also a great way to make the most of your 944Fest experience.

Waking up next to your car, hanging out by the campfire with new friends, and enjoying the whole weekend on-site is what 944Fest camping is all about.

The infield is ours for camping so you can pick a spot next to the action or off to the side for added privacy.

RVs are welcome however Nelson Ledges doesn't have hookups or utilities.

Showers and bathrooms are available on-site.

Camping at 944Fest is included in your registration fee and is available on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

# HOTELS

9.8 Miles

Holiday Inn Express Lordstown-Newton Falls

4185 State Rte 5

Newton Falls, OH 44444

330-872-6000

[website](#)

10.2 Miles

Budget Lodge

4100 State Rte 5

Newton Falls, OH 44444

330-872-3833

10.5 Miles

The Falls Inn

4248 State Rte 5

Newton Falls, OH 44444

330-872-0988

[website](#)

12.1 Miles

Best Western Park Hotel

136 N Park Ave

Warren, OH 44481

330-393-1200

[website](#)

# When to arrive

Earliest Arrival: Thursday at Noon

Arriving on Thursday is preferred for those driving in the HPDE on Friday. This will give you time to set up camp, unpack your car, and prepare for the track the next day.

HPDE participants arriving on Friday morning must be unpacked and ready by 7am for registration and tech.

Attendee Arrival: Friday by 4:30pm

If you are not participating in the HPDE portion of 944Fest, arriving by Friday at 4:30pm is suggested. On Friday at 5pm we will hit the asphalt for the iconic group photo shoot.

Coming for a single day: Saturday by 9am

If you will be coming for a single day and not staying for the weekend, Saturday is the day to be here. Arrive at Nelson Ledges on Saturday before 9am to participate in the Mystery Poker Rally, Casual Car Show, Dinner, Awards, and, after the sun goes down, infield bonfire / beer swap.

# When you get there

## **ALL ATTENDEES AND HPDE Check in:**

944Fest check-in is located in the Tech Shed.

Check-in for the 944Fest will be open starting Friday at 8AM. Please go here first.

If you signed up for 944Fest online, your name will be on the sign-in sheet. After signing in, you will receive your goodie bag.

## **HPDE Check-in:**

HPDE Check-in is located in the Tech Shed.

Check-in for the HPDE on Friday starts at 7AM. Here, you will get your welcome packet and instructor pairings.

# Late Night Arrivals

For those arriving after hours, the front gates will be open. Come in and get setup in the camping area. Check-in at the Tech Shed at your earliest convenience during operating hours.

## What to pack

### Essentials:

Folding chair  
Sunscreen  
Hat  
Bug spray  
Bottled water  
Comfortable shoes

### Camping:

Tent  
Air Mattress \*  
Small camp grill\*  
Towel for showers  
Flashlight / lantern  
Cooler with drinks / snacks

### HPDE / Rally-X

Roll of painters tape  
Zip ties  
Extra oil  
Portable tire compressor\*  
Tire gauge  
Closed toe shoes  
SNELL 2015+ Helmet

\*Suggested

# FOOD

## **Food included with your registration:**

Friday: 12PM Pizza in the Tech Shed

Saturday: 3PM Snow Cones by the Tech Shed

Saturday: 5PM BBQ in the Tech Shed

*Vegan/Vegetarian options will be available*

## **Food for purchase at the track:**

Pit-Stop Grill

Fri/Sat/Sun morning breakfast 7:30AM - ?

Sat/Sun 12pm lunch

## **Food outside the track:**

Garrett's Mill & Brewing (5 miles)

Dinner and a craft beer

<https://goo.gl/maps/v1hS3yhDtR8EPgtJ9>

The Brick (5.5 miles)

Dinner and a craft beer

<https://goo.gl/maps/MchQ9PYt74tY67p88>

Maggies Doughnuts (6.3 miles)

Good doughnuts and coffee

<https://goo.gl/maps/8xFxBCf9KqmnDPw9A>

## **Food outside the track continued...**

Domino's Pizza (5.3miles)

Pizza

<https://goo.gl/maps/6WuA3jXbivu8eyZb7>

Gionino's Pizzeria (6.3 miles)

Good Pizza

<https://goo.gl/maps/V3a8NKaLRphamA219>

McDonald's (5.5 miles)

Burgers

<https://goo.gl/maps/tvUXHiRdABtAEz4u7>

Taco Bell (5.5 miles)

Tacos

<https://goo.gl/maps/a4vqqyACbDEvAz8x7>

Subway (5.5 miles)

Subs

<https://goo.gl/maps/Mr5RmE8iwmWYiWsTA>

IGA (5.6 miles)

Groceries

<https://goo.gl/maps/PfLLWfFUdCjCJkmK9>

Dollar General (4.5 miles)

Groceries

<https://goo.gl/maps/vgLfca8V3Ltq7y26A>

Walmart (15 miles)

Walmart stuff

<https://goo.gl/maps/FthSs8mrnxHJa82b9>





# 944Fest Events Schedule

## Thursday

12:00am Early Arrival

## Friday

7:00am 944Fest HPDE

12:00pm Pizza @ Tech Shed

5:00pm On Track Photos

## Saturday

7:00am HPDE (All Cars)

8:30am Rally-X begins

9:00am Mystery Poker Rally Meeting @ Tech Shed

3:00pm Car Show parking @ Tech Shed

4:00pm BBQ @ Tech Shed

5:00pm Awards @ Tech Shed

7:00pm Bonfire / Beer Swap @ Infield

## Sunday

7:00am HPDE (All Cars)

Pack up and say goodbye to another great 944Fest.

# HPDE Schedule

## Friday Sep 1st

- 7:00-7:55 Registration & Tech
- 8:00 MANDATORY Instructors Meeting
- 8:05 MANDATORY Drivers Meeting
- 8:15-8:30 Track familiarization rides
- 8:30-8:55 Instructors on track D to Classroom
- 8:55-9:20 B group on track C to classroom
- 9:20-9:45 C group on track B to classroom
- 9:45-10:10 D group on track
- 10:10-10:35 Instructors on track D to Classroom
- 10:35-11:00 B group on track C to classroom
- 11:00-11:25 C group on track B to classroom
- 11:25-11:50 D group on track
- 11:50-12:50 LUNCH - Pizza Provided @ Tech Shed
- 12:50-1:15 Instructors on track D to Classroom
- 1:15-1:40 B group on track C to classroom
- 1:40-2:05 C group on track B to classroom
- 2:05-2:30 D group on track
- 2:30-3:00 Instructors on track D to Classroom
- 3:00-3:30 B group on track C to classroom
- 3:30-4:00 C group on track B to classroom
- 4:00-4:30 D group on track
- 5:00-6:00 On Track Pictures

# HPDE Schedule

## Saturday Sep 2nd

- 7:00-7:55 Registration & Tech
- 7:45 MANDATORY Instructors Meeting
- 8:00 MANDATORY Drivers Meeting
- 8:15-8:30 Track familiarization rides
- 8:30-8:55 Instructors on track D to Classroom
- 8:55-9:20 B group on track C to classroom
- 9:20-9:45 C group on track B to classroom
- 9:45-10:10 D group on track
- 10:10-10:35 Instructors on track D to Classroom
- 10:35-11:00 B group on track C to classroom
- 11:00-11:25 C group on track B to classroom
- 11:25-11:50 D group on track
- 11:50-12:50 LUNCH
- 12:50-1:15 Instructors on track D to Classroom
- 1:15-1:40 B group on track C to classroom
- 1:40-2:05 C group on track B to classroom
- 2:05-2:30 D group on track
- 2:30-3:00 Instructors on track D to Classroom
- 3:00 Free Snow cones @ the Tech Shed
- 3:00-3:30 B group on track C to classroom
- 3:30-4:00 C group on track B to classroom
- 4:00-4:30 D group on track
- 5:00-6:00 BBQ @ the Tech Shed

# HPDE Schedule

## Sunday Sep 3rd

- 7:00 Track Opens
- 7:40 MANDATORY Instructors Meeting
- 7:45 MANDATORY Drivers Meeting
- 8:15-8:30 Instructors on track
- 8:30-8:55 D group on track
- 8:55-9:20 C group on track D to classroom
- 9:20-9:45 B group on track C to classroom
- 9:45-10:10 Instructors on track
- 10:10-10:35 D group on track B to classroom
- 10:35-11:00 C group on track D to classroom
- 11:00-11:25 B group on track C to classroom
- 11:25-11:50 Instructors on track
- 11:50-12:50 LUNCH
- 12:50-1:15 D group on track B to classroom
- 1:15-1:40 C group on track D to classroom
- 1:40-2:05 B group on track C to classroom
- 2:05-2:30 Instructors on track
- 2:30-3:00 D group on track
- 3:00-3:30 C group on track D to classroom
- 3:30-4:00 B group on track C to classroom
- 4:00-4:30 Instructors on track

# Q&A

Q: Can I bring my pet?

A: Yep. Dogs, Cats, Pigs, whatever you like. Do keep them on a leash. This is a racetrack. Speeding cars and free-roaming pets do not mix well.

Q: Can I register when I get there?

A: Yes. Just head over to the tech shed, and we'll get you set up.

Q: Can I ride along with someone on the track if I am not driving in the HPDE?

A: Yes. Sign up at the tech shed for a ride-along wristband. You will be allowed to ride along with any instructor at the event throughout the weekend.

Q: I didn't get signed up for the HPDE but I want to do it now, and it's Thursday night. What do I do?

A: Show up with a completed tech form and we should be able to squeeze you in.

# Contacts

## **944Fest General Info:**

Social: @944fest

Web: 944fest.com

Travis O'Steen

[travis@9fest.com](mailto:travis@9fest.com)

cell: 954-445-6437

Cat Spurgeon

[cat@9fest.com](mailto:cat@9fest.com)

cell: 321-615-2229

## **Nelson Ledges:**

Fred Wolfe

[info@nelsonledges.com](mailto:info@nelsonledges.com)

330-977-0111