

The hands-on guide to everything 944Fest!

# 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?
- Are there showers at Nelson Ledges?
- 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

*2022 edition*

*944Fest is the largest and longest-running annual gathering of Porsche 944s in the world. For one weekend a year, over 100 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. Four decades later, Nelson Ledges preserves as the most appropriate location for 944Fest.*

*Driving or owning a 944 is not a requirement to attend. 944Fest is not an exclusive club and no one has to pass a board review just to participate. We welcome everyone with an interest in the Porsche 944 to come out and join us.*

*What makes 944Fest so great?*

*Camping out with your car*

*Track Time*

*Good friends*

*Great food*

*Generous sponsor giveaways*

*A welcoming and inclusive culture*

*"The greatest part about 944Fest for me is that even if you've never been before, as soon as you arrive you have like 100 new friends."*

*~ Michael P. (Fest Attendee)*

# #1 944Fest Question

*We've been doing this a while now and there is one question that gets asked more than any other. It comes up when 944Fest is still months away, weeks away and even hours away.*

**"CAN I STILL COME TO 944Fest IF I CAN'T BRING MY 944?"**

*The short answer is **YES!***

*The long answer is still **YES** but with more details...*

*Whether it's a planned project that has taken longer than expected or a last minute failure that puts you out of time for repair, you always have the option to hop in the "other" car to come experience 944Fest. 944 not required.*

*So many times people say things like "someday" or "next year." The best inspiration that can be had, to get your 944 up to snuff, is hanging out with over 100 others that just made the journey.*

*So **YES!** Bring the Volvo Wagon if you have to. Bring the work van or borrow you Mom's Mini Cooper.*

*Whatever gets you there, rest assured that you will be welcomed and in good company.*

# Signing Up / Cost

*Signing up for 944Fest is easy and you have a couple of options.*

*Attendee Registration: \$36.00*

*This option is for those that are attending 944Fest but not participating in the HPDE (on track) portion of the event.*

*What you get:*

*Camping all weekend*

*Event T-Shirt*

*Sponsor Goodie Bag*

*Participation in the Car Show*

*Participation in the Mystery Poker Rally*

*Dinner on Saturday Night*

*Door Prize ticket*

*HPDE Registration: \$275 Friday (\$495 Fri/Sat/Sun)*

*This option is for those that will be driving on track with us on Friday (optional Fri/Sat/Sun).*

*What you get:*

*Everything in the Attendee Registration*

*4 to 5 Sessions on track per day*

*Ride along instructor*

*Classroom time between track sessions*

*ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE PROCESSED ONLINE AT*

**<https://944Fest.com>**

# Where is 944Fest?

*Nelson Ledges Road Course*

*10342 OH-305*

*Garrettsville, OH 44231 [map](#)*



*Driving distance to Nelson Ledges from:*

*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*

# Flying into 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 944Fest-ivities.*

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

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

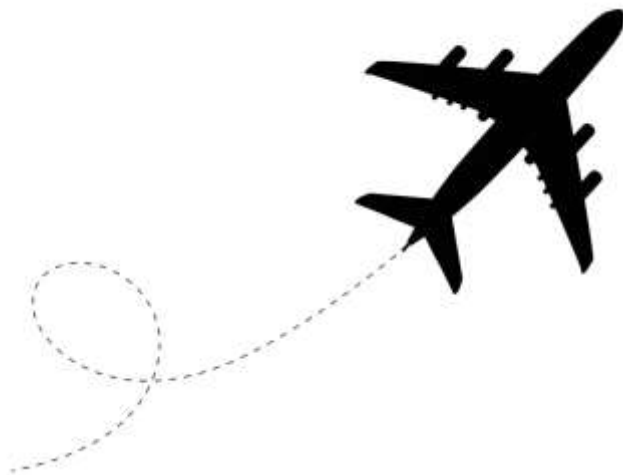
<https://www.clevelandairport.com>

[Pittsburgh International Airport \(PIT\) | Home](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 camp fire 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 though Nelson Ledges doesn't RV accessible hookups or utilities.*

*Showers and bathrooms are available on-site.*

*Camping at 944Fest is included in your registration fee.*

## Not into Camping?

**Flip the page for area lodging**



# 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](#)

19.8 Miles

## **Punderson Manor Lodge**

11755 Kinsman Rd

Newbury Township, OH 44065

440-564-9144

[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 setup camp, unpack your car and get ready for the track the next day.*

*HPDE participants arriving on Friday morning need to 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 no later than 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 the 944Fest online, your name will be on the sign in sheet. After signing in you will receive your wristband and goodie bag.*

*Wristbands must be worn at all times throughout the weekend.*

*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. HPDE check in is located in the Tech Shed.*

## 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

*Roll of painters tape*

*Zip ties*

*Extra oil*

*Portable tire compressor\**

*Tire gauge*

*Closed toe shoes*

*SNELL 2015+ Helmet*

*\*Suggested*

# Food at the 944Fest

## Food included with your admission:

<i>Friday: 12PM</i>	<i>Pizza in the Tech Shed</i>
<i>Saturday: 3PM</i>	<i>Snow Cones by the Tech Shed</i>
<i>Saturday: 5PM</i>	<i>BBQ in the Tech Shed</i>

## Food for purchase at the track:

*Pit Stop Grill*  
*Fri/Sat/Sun morning breakfast 7:30AM - ?*

*Pit Stop Grill*  
*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>

*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/a4vqayACbDEvAz8x7>

*Subway (5.5 miles)*

*Subs*

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

*IGA (5.6 miles)*

*Groceries*

<https://goo.gl/maps/PfLLWfUdCjCJkmK9>

*Dollar General (4.5 miles)*

*Groceries*

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

*Walmart (15 miles)*

*Walmart stuff*

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

# Events

## HPDE

*HPDE or High-Performance Driver Education is our on track portion of the 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.*

## 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. Use your smart phone to look up facts or stop and ask the locals.*

*Solving a clue will reveal the next checkpoint for a total of 5 stops, the last one is a place to eat lunch before heading back to Nelson Ledges.*

*The Mystery Poker Rally meeting is at the Tech Shed at 9am on Saturday. Here you will be given your booklet and the initial clue that will reveal your first stop.*

*Teams should expect to start heading out at 9:30am and arrive at the final stop for lunch around noon.*

*All stops on the Mystery Poker Rally will include parking and some walking so please wear comfortable shoes. A smartphone with GPS is suggested but not required.*

## **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, German potato salad and of course banana pudding. Pair this with a wide selection of homemade BBQ sauces and no one is leaving hungry.*



*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 / Door Prizes**

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

*The door prize drawing is one of the highlights of the 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 door prize ticket. Most years we have so many we have to go around twice.*

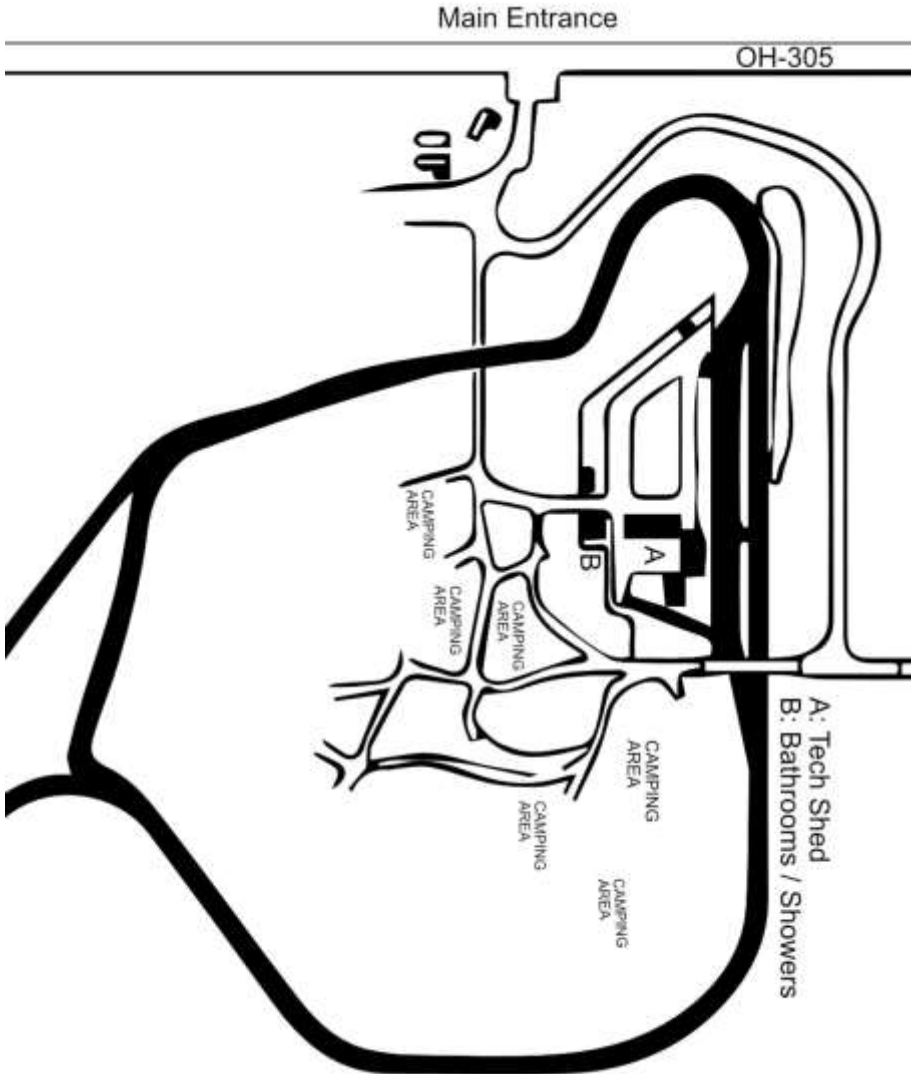
*Throughout the door prize drawing we will be announcing and presenting piston trophies to the winners of the Casual Car Show.*

## **Bonfire / 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.*

*Bring a folding chair and a cooler stocked with your favorite local brew to trade with others while sharing stories around the fire.*

# Facilities Map



# 944Fest EVENTS SCHEDULE

## Thursday

12:00 *Early Arrival*

## Friday

7:00 *944Fest HPDE*

12:00 *Pizza @ Tech Shed*

5:00 *On Track Photos*

## Saturday

7:00 *9Fest HPDE (All Cars)*

9:00 *Rally Meeting @ Tech Shed*

9:30 *Rally Start*

1:00 *Rally End*

3:00 *Car Show parking @ Tech Shed*

4:00 *BBQ @ Tech Shed*

5:00 *Awards @ Tech Shed*

7:00 *Bonfire / Beer Swap @ Infield*

## Sunday

7:00 *9Fest HPDE (All Cars)*

*Pack up and say goodbye to another great 944Fest.*

# HPDE SCHEDULE

## Friday Sep 2<sup>nd</sup>

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 3<sup>rd</sup>

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 4<sup>th</sup>

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

# CONTACTS

*944Fest Coordinator:*

*Travis O'Steen*

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

*cell: 954-445-6437*

*HPDE Coordinator:*

*Diane Baus*

[diane@demonsspeedmotorsports.com](mailto:diane@demonsspeedmotorsports.com)

*216-333-1200*

*Nelson Ledges*

*Fred Wolfe*

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

*330-977-0111*