

RANDY POBST - PROFESSIONAL DRIVER AND GENTLEMAN

By Bob Spruck

TALK ABOUT COINCIDENCES!

Randy Pobst is a famous professional race car driver. Randy Pobst lives near Road Atlanta. Randy Pobst, being a Porsche driver, knows Jerry Peters, another Porsche nut with a Porsche restoration shop adjacent to Road Atlanta. Jerry races with Vintage Drivers Club of America at its HOTlanta Historic Races. Jerry offers his shop, showroom and parking lot for the Saturday night party. Randy drops by to say hello and schmooze with the vintage racers. Next thing we know, Randy will co-drive David Beardon's 1972 Porsche 911RS in Sunday morning's one hour Endurance Race.



David takes the first stint and does his usual solid driving for about 8 laps. He pits and refuels the car and Randy takes over. He climbs steadily for the next 8 laps but then unexpectedly returns to the pits, judiciously reporting an issue with the steering. David reported that he was excited to offer his car to someone as famous as Randy, but a little apprehensive as well. Like most of us drivers, David feels he drives pretty much at his car's limit and is getting all he can out of his race car. All of a sudden, David realizes that a pro such as Randy will certainly be able to drive his car faster than him. How much faster is the question. During the driver exchange, David offered some tips about the car and Randy accepted them like a gentleman. Once out on the track, Randy was definitely quicker yet drove David's car conservatively, making David a little calmer than he was initially. Using some discretion and consideration, we didn't keep lap times but we all recognized that, as expected, the Porsche went faster with Randy in it than it did with David in it. Keep in mind, David is no slouch, but Randy is, after all, a pro. It was decided to take the car back to the paddock and investigate the problem rather than go back out on the track. Smiles were evident, handshakes and pats on the back were exchanged, photos were taken, and a big sigh of relief was given, probably by both parties.

I wonder if I could get Brian Redman to co-drive my MG Midget?