



Item: Fast Lane #34 in 2022 Petergram (#129 since 2020)
Date: **Saturday, August 20th 2022**
From: Peter writing from our office in Oldsmar, FL
To: Our Fast Lane Travel Customer Family and Friends at home
in Australia, Canada, Europe, Iceland, New Zealand,
Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!
Subject: **Electric Flying Taxis; A Compelling PCA TREFFEN Report;
and Let's go to Tuscany; plus valuable Retirement
Relocation Advice.**

I. United Airlines Puts Down Deposit on Flying Taxis

United made \$10 million in predelivery payments for 100 of the aircraft being developed by Archer Aviation

Source: **WSJ** Aug. 10, 2022 8:00 am ET, By Alison Sider and Micah Maidenberg,

Picture Source: Archer Aviation

United Airlines Holdings Inc. has paid a \$10 million deposit for 100 electric flying taxis, a sign that the airline is growing more confident in the nascent technology. United and a regional airline it partnered with last year, invested in and struck a preliminary agreement to buy up to 200 of the flying taxis that the San Francisco Bay Area-based company is developing. Other airlines and leasing companies have announced their own investments in flying-taxi startups and preliminary orders. But the aircraft haven't yet been approved by regulators to fly passengers, and customers generally haven't had to put down cash. The aircraft being developed by Archer and its rivals take off and land vertically like helicopters. Airlines hope that they will be able to zip customers around cities, whisking them over congested highways to and from hub airports while reducing carbon emissions for such journeys. Archer Aviation indicated that the flying taxi has a top speed of 150 mph and a range of 60 miles.

Electric-flying-taxi companies have been developing and testing vehicles but need to secure approval from regulators before they or customers that purchase the aircraft launch commercial service. In the U.S., the Federal Aviation Administration has been examining aircraft, working on pilot requirements, and looking into how to integrate



planned vehicles into the airspace. Leaders at the agency have said the FAA is committed to meeting timelines that would allow at least some companies to gain certification for their vehicles as early as 2024. Archer expects to gain

certification by the end of that year and start commercial operations afterward, Chief Executive Adam Goldstein said.

The company's technology, funding, and the regulatory framework for the industry have matured to the point that customers like United are ready to lock in orders, according to Mr. Goldstein. "There's a lot of talk about orders in the industry, a lot of talk about paper commitments, but this is the first real cash commitment," he said.

II. PCA TREFFEN 1976 to 2022. Louise Swartzwalder, a renowned journalist and PORSCHE enthusiast participated in the first revitalized PCA TREFFEN in 1976 and came back for a refresher in 2022 on the Spring 2022 PCA TREFFEN to Stuttgart. The December 1976 PANORAMA featured her article about the first TREFFEN to Stuttgart. Below is her article about the 2022 Spring PCA TREFFEN, which was the 60th scheduled TREFFEN since the first revitalized one in 1976! She submitted it to the PANO, but this time they rejected it. Well, here it is for your pleasure:

From the Spring PCA TREFFEN to Stuttgart May 2nd to May 7th 2022, by Louise Swartzwalder: They say your dreams show your innermost feelings. This morning, I was "back" on my "treffen" trip, laughing and driving and dining with a great bunch of Porsche lovers.

When I decided to take this trip – a redo of one I took in 1976 – I thought about all the great things I had experienced on that first adventure -- attentive compatriots, gazing at fantastic cars, being driven by a "real" race car driver. And, of course, the food and wine. This week-long trek this year took me to Stuttgart (pronounced shtuttgart) from Ohio. Along the way I thought about some of my influencers in loving vehicles. When I was a kid, I saw a toddler in neighboring Loudonville, riding a miniature car. Coincidentally, (maybe phantasmagorically) I saw a toddler named Leo driving his own version of a miniature car (a Porsche) at the Porsche museum. And I remembered how my father, John Swartzwald (black forest) had a rule that he had to get new cars every two years.

The itinerary for our trip included a **driving training session**, for we were to drive on the Autobahn. For real. This is something most people only dream about. The Autobahn allows the driver to perform – a very good word – driving at very top speeds. We did that for two days. And our leader for this trip, our "Treffenmeister" Peter Sontag, gave us our



very own 150 mph Club's decals, patches, and pins. Sontag is the eminence at Fast Lane Travel. He organized the trip for this Porsche Club of America (PCA) group. A lot of people, when told about this trip, thought it would have been a great "vacation." I've had to inform them this was more like a little work.

To be able to drive, across incredibly beautiful terrain, require skill and devoted attention. I got help, as an adventurous driver without a companion, from diligent Miro Srebric, one of Fast Lane's European Staff, who was assigned to help me on my driving stint. Along the way on the Autobahn, we had well timed stops to use facilities. And the staff helpfully had bags of coins so we could use toilets. (Just like the old days in America when women had to use pay toilets).

After our training session, surviving the Autobahn and visiting the Mercedes Museum, we got to visit the Porsche factory. We were **the first Porsche Club** group from any country worldwide allowed in the PORSCHE Factory in two years. This, straight from Mathias Menner, the liaison with PORSCHE Club groups for Porsche. This also meant we were the first group to see the Taycan production line in Zuffenhausen. After a fact filled Friday seeing the “real” Porsche operation, we dined well. Again. One companion, Toby Parcel, said the Friday treat at Porsche was the “most enjoyable.” It was even better than being able to drive fast, she said.



The Porsche tour came in phases. We first see an older section of the factory, led by Joachim Schillmöller (call me Joe). Driverless vehicles roam the halls of this building. There are three shifts of workers. Work starts at the top of the building. Increments of work last three minutes per station. All workers are trained to do numerous jobs. The body of the vehicle is presented first. For the cockpit it takes 20 screws to put in. As the body of the vehicle descends from the top of the building to the bottom, other parts are put in. Windows get put in. The body descends, and then a “marriage” occurs. This is



when the engine is placed under the body. Doors get put back on. You get to see singular colors – Meissen blue, frozen berry metallic, star ruby. Joe says workers are kept happy – they get one month off in the summer. Plus, they receive bonuses.

At lunch at the renowned **Christophorus Restaurant**, on the top floor of the Museum, the clients' restaurant (and a Porsche namesake magazine), TREFFEN troop members smiled. “At last. It

was great,” one American Porsche owner said. We visited the Porsche museum. And I snapped at the offer to sit in a Porsche police car. The Taycan visit was different. Our guide Joe was telling the truth when he warned us.

Porsche had to hire 1,500 new workers when they moved into Taycan production. The electric vehicle is CO2 neutral, meaning it conserves energy. The Taycan building has higher ceilings. One worker was happily running his forklift, smiling. We were told workers had just gotten their bonuses. It was 8,000 Euros for everyone. The body of the vehicle gets teamed with a charging box. This is the battery assembly. This unit is almost as big as the body section of the vehicle. Windows get put in. Robots (monitored) do all the work. My thought, watching all of this: I feel a little inadequate here. To do this Taycan work takes three years of apprenticeship. And 0.1 percent of the workers leave. Porsche is the number one employer in Germany, said Joe. The workers are unionized, and they go on strike “a lot.”

The battery of the Taycan has an eight-year warranty. Huge trucks go in and out of the factory complex (.07k2) routinely. Here, the marriage of the frame and body takes 15 minutes. One tour member said “amazing -----” Last is the paint shop. There must be drying and cooling and a quality check. Paint goes on, and then metallic is applied if it is that kind of color. One vehicle was getting a mamba green metallic paint job. One of the best Porsche colors, in my opinion.

Part of our Germany trek was to visit RUF. This company is a GMBH, the same legal designation as Porsche. There you see Porsche lookalikes. But they have the RUF emblem. Rafael Riethmüller was our helper there. He showed us a room with two engine divos. These are testers for performance. Vehicles at RUF get ordered and there is a yearlong backup to get them.

As part of the trek on the Autobahn and to see RUF, we stayed at Schlossanger Alp, a pristine hotel nestled in the Bavarian Alps’ foothills.

Each day’s hard work got travelers to become loose. Stories were exchanged. One stalwart renamed himself Maverick, modeled on the Tom Cruise persona in action films. Treffenmeister Sontag was a true raconteur. “This a true story,” he would start. Eyes rolled. But we all listened and laughed.

Peter’s Comment: Thank you Louise for your wonderful report. We had 18 cancellations before this trip departed due to “Ukraine” and CNN’s “War in Europe” reports. We didn’t see a single Russian. I guarantee you that downtown New York or Chicago are far more dangerous places than Stuttgart.

III. Update from Europe for this Fall:

We’ve had some very encouraging news from our friends and colleagues at the PORSCHE Company Stuttgart regarding the availability of PORSCHEs for our Fall PORSCHE Tours Program. I have e-mailed all registered participants on the Fall Treffen and both Tuscany PORSCHE Fest trips. For the Fall TREFFEN the car selection is a little more limited, but everyone is guaranteed a PORSCHE. On the Tuscany trips we have been able to secure a bevy of 911’s, Caymans, Boxsters and even Taycans. It’ll be awesome.

The traditional **PCA FALL TREFFEN to Stuttgart is better than ever.**

We have completed all arrangements for this exhilarating experience to enjoy a day in Zuffenhausen at the awesome **PORSCHE Museum** and be able to get a very rare tour of the **PORSCHE Factory**. In

addition, we spend a couple days driving a PORSCHE on the

Autobahn, lunch in the **Bavarian Mountains** and enjoying the **5-Star Hotel**

Bayerischer Hof In Lindau directly on **Lake Constance**. Furthermore, it's a very rare

treat to get invited by **PORSCHE**. **Get a group together from your local PCA Region**

and enjoy unequalled hospitality and an amazing **PORSCHE Experience**. **Come on,**

check it off your bucket list! LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!! GOOD NEWS: The

City of Stuttgart is forecasting that the long **COVID-induced closure of the**

Cannstatter Volksfest will finally be lifted this fall! I predict that it'll be THE wildest

Oktoberfest party ever. We have reservations in a private Loge in THE most famous

beer tent in Stuttgart. **NOTE:** I'll work out something special for a group of 12 from

any PCA Region!!



Of our US PORSCHE Fest trips, I highly recommend the Carolinas – it's a very

attractive option for you to get that car out of your garage. So, drive your own

PORSCHE, Corvette, '62 Cadillac, Lexus or whatever, to our superbly planned and

organized **Carolinas** and **Romantic Wild West** tours. We conduct both US trips in THE

most desirable time of the year in each location. The **Fall Colors of the Carolinas** and

you can't beat the sunset of the **Romantic Wild West**. If you don't want to bring your

own car, we will assist you to rent one from PORSCHE Drive Atlanta or the Phoenix or

Tucson PORSCHE Dealers. Please check out these links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coKJcvb0nII> and this one

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8tGOBhxkdQ> You'll love our European-quality

PORSCHE trips in America.

2022 Fast Lane Luxury PORSCHE Trips Sill Available -130 V-2					
From	Date	To	Date	PORSCHE Tour	Highlights & Status
Sun	11-Sep	Sat	17-Sep	Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	2 Spaces still Available
Tue	20-Sep	Thu	29-Sep	USA Carolinas Fall Colors - Tail of the Dragon	2 Spaces still Available
Mon	3-Oct	Sat	15-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen #1	2 Spaces became Available
Wed	12-Oct	Sun	23-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen #2	6 Spaces still Available
Sat	29-Oct	Tue	8-Nov	Romantic Wild West - THE VERY best of the USA	SIGN UP NOW Please!

IV. 2023 Fast Lane PORSCHE Tours Forecast Dates and Destinations

We have received lots of interest in our 2023 PORSCHE Tours. The top three count so far are: Twelve Alpine Passes, Austria and Tuscany. The Executives at the

PORSCHE Factory in Zuffenhausen are looking for more **PCA participation** in the traditional PCA PORSCHE TREFFEN – come on folks – **let's show them the PCA**

cares. 😊

2023 Planned Fast Lane PORSCHE Tours:					
From	Date	To	Date	PORSCHE Tour	Highlights
Fri	21-Apr	Wed	26-Apr	Original PCA Spring PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	Factory & Museum
Sun	23-Apr	Thu	4-May	NEW: From Munich to Amazing Croatia	Alps, Gmünd & Adriatic Coast
Sat	3-Jun	Mon	12-Jun	HUGE: The 100th 24-Hours of Le Mans Luxury Tour	Paddock, Pit Pass, Tribune
Wed	7-Jun	Fri	16-Jun	REPEAT: Twelve Alpine Passes PORSCHE Fest	Awesome Scenery & Fun
Sat	8-Jul	Mon	17-Jul	Our 5th: Colorado Rocky Mountain High	The BEST of the Rockies
Sun	28-Aug	Thu	7-Sep	NEW: Come Home to Two Peters' Austria	An unequalled private tour
Mon	11-Sep	Sun	17-Sep	Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	Factory & Museum
Wed	20-Sep	Sun	1-Oct	Our 3rd: Fast Lane Alpine Adventure	Repeated by Popular Requ.
Tue	3-Oct	Sun	15-Oct	Our 12th: Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen	Our Annual Favorite
in planning - early December				NEW: Christmas Markets in Germany & Austria	Starting in Stuttgart to Vienna

v. My Final Thoughts: Glorious Insults

"He had delusions of adequacy."

Walter Kerr

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."

Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."

Clarence Darrow

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary."

William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it."

Moses Hadas

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."

Mark Twain

"He has no enemies but is intensely disliked by his friends."

Oscar Wilde

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one. "

George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one."

Winston Churchill, in response

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."
Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator."
John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial."
Irvin S. Cobb

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others."
Samuel Johnson

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."
Paul Keating

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily."
Charles, Count Talleyrand

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him."
Forrest Tucker

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?"
Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork"
Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."
Oscar Wilde

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music."
Billy Wilder

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it."
Groucho Marx

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination. "

Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

Please stay safe, healthy, and look forward to the great times we will have together again on the remaining **PORSCHE tours in 2022 and the fabulous tours planned for 2023.** Please register for one of our **2022 USA PORSCHE Tours** – You really must get out now and have some fun! All the best to you, Peter

