



# Der Skooner

Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

January 2010

Volume 44 Issue 1

## Let's Escape! *By Steve Eckhart*



### Unveiling the Panamera to an appreciative audience.

recharging the A/C could wait until next spring. However, it's one thing to drive 15 minutes home from work with the windows open. It's a little different to drive using the 270 air conditioning for the 12.5 hours from Omaha to Dayton. So, we came up with a plan: if the highs were in the 60s or lower and there was no threat of snow, we'd take the 968. Otherwise, the Cayenne would get the call. When we checked the weather on Tuesday, the highs for the whole trip were forecast in the low 60s, so 968 it is!

Mom arrived on Tuesday to get acclimated to the routine at our house. After learning who goes to bed when, what time everyone has to get up, what the chore schedule was, and how to get to the library, she was ready to run the house for a few days.

Our plan was to get on the road early and drive all the way to Dayton in one shot. Having made the trip many times, we can almost do it in our sleep. We generally know where and when we'll eat. As usual, we stopped for lunch in Iowa City at Chick-Fil-A. Things were extremely smooth until we decided to try to find a Moe's Southwest Grill in Indianapolis. Stacy found one using the internet on her cell phone and we got directions. It was a little off the highway, but since Moe's is a favorite, we decided it was worth it. Unfortunately, when we got to the intersection where Moe's was supposed to be, it became obvious that this Moe's was no longer around.

We followed the signs to get back to the interstate. What the signs didn't tell us is that the on ramp we were heading for was closed. Trying to head in the general direction of an on ramp we know is open (like I said, we've made the trip more times than I can count), we found ourselves on Gasoline Alley. Following it, we found ourselves outside the Brickyard, a fitting start to our trip.

We made it to mom and dad's house in Dayton that evening, and I've never felt so relaxed after the trip. Maybe because we didn't have any bickering or "are we there yet" or other demands for stops right now.

### Combination Tour: Frank Lloyd Wright, Covered Bridges, and the Panamera

On Thursday morning, I got out of bed about 7:00 and went out to wash the car, purposely not looking at the thermometer beforehand. I set my personal record for hand washing a car at a low temperature, as when I came in it was 38° F. We got to the hotel for registration a little late, but the friendly staff provided our registration packet with the directions for all of our trips, our passes to the Packard Museum the next night, and to the Show and Shine on Sunday.

We headed out to the car and started off for our first destination: The Westcott House is a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home in Springfield, Ohio, just north and east of Dayton. This part of the drive was mostly on interstate and state highways which I knew well from when I was learning to drive. But, as we turned the corner to the street where the house was, we saw a lovely line of Porsches leading up to the entrance of the house. We joined the second of two tours of PCAers going through the house and learned a great deal about Wright's style, the history of the house, and the

*Continued on page 10.*

Our journey to the 2009 PCA Escape to the Birthplace of Aviation began in February or March when the *Panorama* announced that this year's escape would be in Dayton, Ohio. The day I read the story, I called my mom and asked, "What are you doing the first weekend in October?" When she replied that she didn't have any current plans, I asked, "Would you like to come to Omaha for the weekend?"

"Sure," she replied.

"Great!" I said, "Stacy and I will be in Dayton. You can come watch the kids and Dad can either host us or come help with the kids." Since my mom loves spending time with her grandchildren, especially in their own homes, she agreed.

### Getting There

About a week before it was time to leave, we began to get things ready in earnest. There was cleaning to do (Mom would be spending the weekend at our house.) Dad finally decided he would stay in Dayton (the golf league was rained out the week before and he would need to organize the make up matches). But, most importantly, we had to make a final decision about which car to bring.

The third week of August, the air conditioning went out in the 968. Given the cool weather we had this summer, I decided

# From the Prez

By Jon Theobald



Welcome to 2010. Can you believe it? I know I say that every year to myself as the new year rolls in but it still always comes as a shock another year has passed. We all plan for months for the holidays then they are over so quickly. I hope all of you spent time with your families and friends and cherished the moments together.

The ballots have been cast and the 2010 GPR Board has been set. We have a few new faces helping out this year with Abe Schlott as Secretary, Steve Eckhart as Newsletter, and Tom Cooper as Membership Chair. Tom has also graciously returned as our Registrar as well. The returning folks from 2009 are myself as President (which I feel very privileged and honored to serve again), Jim Avilla as Treasurer, JR Sanders as Safety, and Steve Wilwerding has moved from Newsletter Editor/Website to Social Chair. We've also got a new volunteer for the website: Eric Elliott. John Krecek will ceremoniously return as Past President for an unprecedented third term. John will also be serving as Chief Driving Instructor as replacement for Sandy Steckman. Please welcome the 2010 Board members when you get a chance and

thank them for their time and efforts!

Thank you very much to the outgoing Board members from 2009: Heather Wester as Membership, Sean Cahill as Secretary, and Sally Knapp as Social. Your contributions to the club were invaluable and you all helped make 2009 an amazing year for the GPR.

As you recall from last month's issue, Steve Wilwerding has written his last article as newsletter editor after five years. Steve was also our website guru for several of those years and did a fantastic job keeping the newsletter timely, informative, and a pleasure to read. The website was completely revamped over his watch and Steve did an awesome job keeping the dates and information current for upcoming events. Newsletter duties are not easy with time constraints, space constraints, late article submissions, managing advertising, keeping articles interesting, and keeping the GPR members informed of upcoming events. *Der Skooner* is the primary method of keeping in touch with club activities for most members and thus the newsletter editor's job

is critical to the well-being of the club. Great job Steve and thank you for your hard work—we look forward to your hard work as Social chair.

We are still working on DE dates for 2010 but we are shooting for something early in May at MAM, the Club Race weekend at MPH Hastings June 4/5/6 will feature a DE also, and then another in late July or August at MAM. Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha is also planning another Track Experience event as well but the date is uncertain. We'll get details out as soon as dates are finalized.

I hope to see you at some of our upcoming January events with the Breakfast at Wheatfields January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Holiday/Awards dinner January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Oak Hills Country Club and the Shamrock Chili Feed January 30<sup>th</sup> at Shamrock Racing in Beatrice. You'll find more details on these events within.

Happy New Year to all and I look forward to another great year for the GPR!



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# The Journey

By Steve Eckhart



Welcome to my new column, The Journey. I've titled it that way since for me one of the main reasons I own a Porsche is the journeys I get to take in it: long trips, day trips, and even trips to church, work, school, and the grocery store. You never know what you will find as you drive down the road.

I'm now driving my third and fourth Porsches. My first Porsche was also my very first car. It was a 1974 914 2.0 painted white with orange trim. Okay, it wasn't the prettiest car ever made and certainly not my favorite color combination. But, I was on a budget (still in college) and wanted something sporty. I had a blast in that little car, making many trips between my parents' home in Dayton, Ohio, and Atlanta, where I went to Georgia Tech.

After college, I went into the US Air Force. I had money burning a hole in my pocket and decided I needed something a little nicer. I found a slightly used 1983 944. It was Guard's Red with a black leather interior. I traded the 914 for it and spent the next 12 months tooling around northern California. Then, the USAF gave me orders to Fairbanks, Alaska. I quickly (and correctly) surmised that I couldn't have a Porsche as my only car in Alaska and I couldn't afford a second car payment. So, I reluctantly traded the 944 for a 1987 Isuzu Trooper II. Big change, and it seemed, the end of my Porsche driving days.

Flash forward 19 years to 2006. My son was going to be a junior in high school. For his first two years of school, he'd ridden to school with my niece (who lives next door). However, she had graduated and we

decided we needed a third vehicle. We test drove some "practical" cars: a Mazda 6, a Honda Civic hybrid, a few others. After a day of test driving, I went on eBay "just to see what was there." And I found my dream car in my price range: a 1992 Guards Red 968. I wanted the cabriolet, but Stacy has long hair and convinced me to look for a coupe. After a few days, I "won" the auction but didn't meet the reserve. A quick call to the dealer and we had a deal. Stacy and I flew out to California, picked up the car, and got back in time for the second day of school.

We added the 2004 Cayenne S this summer thanks to Mitch's test drive day out at the SAC Museum. Stacy had been pretty happy with our Dodge Grand Caravan until we drove the Cayenne. Over the next few months, we started watching eBay again. I actually bought the Cayenne while I was standing in a line at Worlds of Fun in Kansas City.

Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This time, we got to fly to West Palm Beach, Florida, to pick up the car.

As you've probably figured out by now, my wife's name is Stacy. We have three children: Alex, 20, just finished Navy Boot Camp and is currently stationed in Pensacola, Florida, training to be an Aviation Electronics Technician. Jordan (the car nut) is 17 and a junior at Millard North High School. Ruth, 7, is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Morton Elementary School. She hopes her first car will be a pink Porsche.

So, how did I end up as the new Newsletter Editor for *Der Skooner*?

When I bought the 914, my

perception of the PCA was that it was a bunch of snobs who looked down their noses at my Volkswagen-Porsche (which I guess even the Panamera Turbo S is now!). I didn't actually know anyone in the club; that was just my prejudice. I didn't join the club when I had the 944, either. But, while I was searching for the 968, a friend a work, Dick Nieman, asked, "So, are you going to join the PCA?"

Dick's a nice, normal guy, so I asked him how to get signed up. Just after we got the 968 home, we joined the national club. Then, in February 2007, we attended our first event: Out of the Corkscrew at John Krecek's home. We liked the people we met. Over the next few months, I realized that I needed to get involved with the club or there wasn't much use in paying the dues.

Then, back in September, Steve Wilwerding wrote his column saying he was hanging up his word processor. I wrote an email to Steve and Jon and told them I had a little experience as the sports editor of my college newspaper. I think it took about 20 seconds to get a response saying "the job is yours!"

I want to thank Steve again for the great job he's done for the last five years. I hope I can keep the newsletter up to his high standards.

Enjoy the Journey!

# 2010 Holiday/Awards Night

Saturday, January 23



**Where:** Oak Hills Country Club  
120th Street, south of Q in Omaha

**When:** Saturday, January 23  
6:00 p.m. Social hour / cash bar  
7:00 p.m. Dinner  
8:00 p.m. Awards and Rewards

**Why:** Awards, Rewards, and just plain fun. Relax after the holidays and start the new year with a great night of food, friends, and fun. We will be presenting the Enthusiast of the Year award, the Most Improved Driver award, the Aw Nuts award, and the Dumkopf award.

**Cost:** \$30 per person

**RSVP:** Steve Wilwerding, [steve.wilwerding@gmail.com](mailto:steve.wilwerding@gmail.com), or 402-319-8623

## 2010 Dues Are Due

Dues for the 2010 calendar year are due this month. The dues are only \$20 a year: what a deal! Please mail your check made out to GPR/PCA and mail it to:

Great Plains Region, PCA  
c/o Tom Cooper  
635 Shorewood Lane  
Waterloo, NE 68069

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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National Dues Current? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Car Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Car Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Car Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

# Upcoming Events

## Chili Feed at Shamrock Racing - January 30



Think you make good chili? Here's your chance to find out.

Shamrock Racing will host the Third Annual Chili Feed at the World Headquarters of Shamrock Racing in Beatrice, Nebraska, on January 30, at 1:00 p.m. Last year, while watching the Rolex 24 at Daytona, celebrants brought white chili, elk chili, beef chili, meatless chili, mild chili, spicy chili, and everything in between. Don't panic - if chili isn't your dish, feel free to bring a salad, appetizer, or dessert. Beverages will be provided.

Please join the Shamrock Team as we start 2010 by watching the 48th Rolex 24 at Daytona.

RSVP to Shamrock Racing at (402) 228-6819 or Sean Cahill at wldrvr@aol.com.

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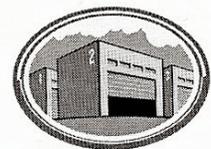
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# Upcoming Events

## Out of the Corkscrew Social - February 27



The point of this gathering is to meet and greet, socialize, and have a pop, beer, or some new and exciting wines.

This will be a "pot luck" wine tasting and hor d' oeuvres party at John and Pam Krecek's house (15260 Pine Street). We ask that people bring either a beverage to share or something to munch on. Even if you're not a serious wine lover and just want to socialize, this is the event for you. The Club is asking for a \$5 donation per person for the Hope Center - last year, we had over 70 people attend, and we made a large contribution to the Hope Center.

Please RSVP to John Krecek at 402-505-9911 or krecek@cox.net.

Directions to John and Pam's house: Take Pacific Street to 155th. Turn South and follow the street until the stop sign on 153rd Street. Turn left, then follow the street until the stop sign on Pine Street. Turn left, and the Krecek's house is the first driveway on the left.



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# Zone 10 Upcoming Events

## JANUARY 2010

- 16 Changing of the Guard dinner Kansas City  
 23 Winter Party, Carousel Porsche Nord Stern

## FEBRUARY 2010

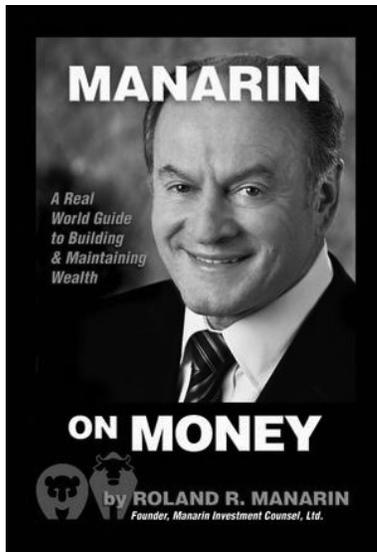
- 13 Valentines Day Party Dakota  
 21 Wine Tasting, Yia Yia's Eurobistro, Leawood, KS Kansas City

## Regional Club Races

- Kansas City Club Race @ Topeka ..... April 17-18  
 Nord Stern Club Race @ BIR ..... July 31 - August 1  
 Rocky Mountain Club Race @ HPR ..... August 14-15

## Regional Websites

- Nord Stern Region: [www.nordstern.org](http://www.nordstern.org) St. Louis Region: [www.stlpca.org](http://www.stlpca.org)  
 Central Iowa Region: [www.ciapca.org](http://www.ciapca.org) Dakotas Region: [dak.pca.org](http://dak.pca.org)  
 Kansas City Region: [www.kcrpca.org](http://www.kcrpca.org)



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# ***Upcoming Events***

## ***2010 GPR Events***

Holiday/Awards Night .....	January 23
Shamrock Chili Feed .....	January 30
Club Breakfast @ Wheatfields .....	February 13
Out of the Corkscrew Social .....	February 27
Dinner at Bella Vita .....	March 13
Club Race & DE in Hastings .....	June 4-6

### **Club Breakfast - February 13**

The GPR is again going to start hosting a series of breakfasts this winter. The first will be at Wheatfields Restaurant at One Pacific Place in Omaha on February 13.

We will meet at Wheatfields at 8:30 a.m. While drop-ins are welcome, if you know for certain that you will be attending, an RSVP would be appreciated.

You can RSVP to Steve Wilwerding at [steve.wilwerding@gmail.com](mailto:steve.wilwerding@gmail.com) or 319-8623.

### **Club Race and DE @ MPH - June 4-6**

Mark your calendars now for the 2010 GPR Club Race at MPH in Hastings June 4-6. While the final schedule has not been set yet, we will have the track Friday through Sunday.

DE will likely be all three days, with Friday reserved for test and tune for racers, and Saturday and Sunday for races.

We are always looking for volunteers, so if it looks like you may be able to volunteer that weekend, please mark your calendar and plan to join the GPR in Hastings.

# ***Let's Escape*** (cont. from page 1)

history of the family who had lived there.

After the tour, as we were photographing the vanity plates on their red Boxster, we met Steve and Callie Robertson from Wichita. They were a great couple and we spent many hours over the next few days getting to know them better. They were attending not only their first national event, but their first club event of any kind.

Then, we started the fun part of the driving on some of Ohio's most scenic back roads. We followed our tour to beautiful Clifton Gorge. In the parking lot were five or six other Porsches. Some we had met on the tour, others we were meeting for the first time. The chance meetings along the trail were delightful parts of the tour. Following a brief walk down the gorge, we headed to Yellow Springs and the Winds restaurant. We saw several couples we'd met on the Westcott House tour. Right in front of us in line, Jeff and Ellen Markel of Lititz, Pennsylvania, were asking for a table. When they saw that the wait list for a table of four was now and a table for two was 30 minutes, they asked if we'd like to join them for lunch. We had a delicious meal and swapped car stories. Well, Jeff and I swapped car stories; Ellen and Stacy talked about families and what it was like to be married to Porschephiles.

After lunch, we did a little shopping in Yellow Springs with the Robertsons. Stacy found a cool cheese board made from a melted down wine bottle in a glass shop. Then, we hit the road to see some of the covered bridges in the area. Now, I went to high school in the Dayton area and my parents have lived there for 30 years. If you'd asked me before the Escape registration came out about covered bridges, I'd have told you I didn't know they existed. My sister had the same experience, telling me she'd learned about them when she went on a tour with her Harley club. That afternoon, we found five covered bridges in various states of preservation. And, we got to drive some great back roads.

The big event for the evening was the Panamera unveiling at White-Allen Porsche. After serving a light supper of brats, sauerkraut, pretzels, and other light fare, we all met in the show room. With great flair, representatives from PCNA unveiled a Panamera. We spent the rest of the evening taking turns sitting in the driver's, passengers, and back seats. The car was beautiful, the exhaust note was satisfyingly growly, and judging by the reactions of the crowd, Porsche will have no problems selling this beautiful car to the faithful. We also had the opportunity to meet Vu Nguyen, the PCA Executive Director. It was nice to be able to put a face with the name.

## **Behind the Scenes, Tour Guide, and the Packard Museum**

On Friday, we started a little later in the day. So, we started with breakfast with my dad at a local Bob Evans restaurant. Next up for us was a behind the scenes tour at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. I've been going to the museum since I was little boy since both of my parents are from southwest Ohio and my dad was a career Air Force officer. But, I'd never gotten to see what goes into the restoration of the aircraft before they go on display to the public. For me, the highlight of the tour was getting to see the Memphis Belle. Yes, this is the very plane featured in the film of the same name. Friday morning turned out to be the best time for this tour as it was cool and drizzling, but the clouds cleared out for the afternoon. After our tour, we headed over to White Allen Porsche for the start of our next tour, Covered Bridges West. The route instructions said to check in at White Allen to meet up with a tour leader. When we got to the dealership, they didn't seem to know anything about the tour departing from there. Hmmm. Just then, Roger and Martha Kelly of Denton, Texas arrived at the dealership. When they found out I was from the area, they asked if they could trail us. This sounded like a fun way to do the tour, so we pulled out of the lot and they followed in their beautiful, special edition Boxster.

We found the first covered bridge on the tour, passing a red 911 going the opposite direction. I started walking toward the bridge to get some pictures when Roger said, "No trespassing." Thinking he was kidding, I stepped over a low cable. Then, he let me know he really wasn't kidding. We got a fun picture of Stacy and I standing behind the no trespassing sign. Just as we were getting ready to head for the next covered bridge, the red 911 pulled up. Les Checcl of Lyndhurst, Ohio (near Cleveland) had just driven down through the rain and was pleased to join our little caravan. We spent the rest of the afternoon seeing eight more covered bridges. We stopped in a little park for a snack picnic where one of the covered bridges served as a picnic shelter. To be honest, after the sixth covered bridge of the day, I told Stacy I was "covered bridged out", but we enjoyed our time with Roger, Martha, and Les.

That evening, we headed down to the National Packard Museum at the site of Dayton's old Packard dealership. We enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres, good jazz, and regaled each other with stories of the day's drives. As we toured the museum, we got to meet with the staff including one of the men working on the restoration of J. Edgar Hoover's '38 Packard for the New York FBI office. Hoover's car featured gold in the glass and pewter door handles. The restorer was a wealth of information and we enjoyed seeing another set of "P" cars.

## **Aviation Trail and Showcase**

Saturday was the most relaxed day of our Escape. We were scheduled for the Aviation Trail Tour #1. The trail took us to Huffman field (now part of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) where the Wright brothers did much of their development after the initial flights at Kitty Hawk. We met Van Nianouris, another 968 owner from the Cincinnati area. Then, we met Walter Chin, one of the co-chairman of the Escape. Walter is currently the owner of my "next" Porsche, a gorgeous '97 silver Carrera Targa.

After chatting with Van and Walter for a while, we went into the museum and watched a film about the Wrights at Huffman Field with our friends from lunch Thursday, the Markels. We also had the opportunity to fly a computer simulation of the Wright B flyer. After two crashes, I managed to have a successful flight (3 minutes without a crash).

Next was lunch at a local favorite, Skyline Chili. If you're ever in Cincinnati or Dayton, you've got to try either Skyline or Gold Star Chili. There's nothing quite like it. After lunch, we headed over to a local eatery, Quaker Steak and Lube, where the Escapers were gathered. There were probably 60 or 70 Porsches in the parking lot: everything from 356s to GT3s. We enjoyed chatting with the other drivers and checking out each other's cars.

## **Shine, Show, and Farewell**

Our final event was a Show and Shine at Carillon Park (a local landmark). My personal favorite was a black '54 356 with over 500,000 one-owner miles. The people's choice winner was a beautiful 911 Turbo. The event ended with a flyover by a replica of the Wright B Flyer at about 1000 feet. It was a dramatic ending to a fantastic, fun-filled weekend of driving, eating, and touring. Our congratulations go out to the Mid Ohio region for putting on a great event.

Before we left, we didn't really know what to expect from a national PCA event. What we found was that it is about the people—people who enjoy the same cars we do and driving them to interesting places to meet interesting people. If you have an opportunity to attend a future PCA Escape or any other national event, take it!

# GPR Board and Minutes

**President:**

Jon Theobald  
12537 Burt St.  
Omaha, NE 68154  
402-659-6068  
jontheo911@yahoo.com

**Past President:**

John Krecek  
15260 Pine St.  
Omaha, NE 68144  
402-505-9911  
krecek@cox.net

**Treasurer:**

Jim Avilla  
13960 Camden Ave.  
Omaha, NE 68164  
402-445-4959  
javilla@mackleaseofomaha.com

**Secretary:**

Abe Schlott  
727 S. 13th Street  
Omaha, NE 68102  
402-977-5885  
aschlott@wd-wpp.com

**Membership:**

Tom Cooper  
635 Shorewood Lane  
Waterloo, NE 68069  
gpr-registrar@cox.net

**Safety:**

JR Sanders  
3700 S. 77 St.  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
402-489-8951  
jrmksanders@windstream.net

**Social:**

Steve Wilwerding  
4811 Davenport St.  
Omaha, NE 68132  
402-319-8623  
steve.wilwerding@gmail.com

**Newsletter:**

Steve Eckhart  
16024 Arbor St.  
Omaha, NE 68130  
402-431-0332  
s.eckhart@cox.net

**PCA Zone 10 Rep:**

Doug Pierce  
913-897-5444  
zone10rep@yahoo.com

**Web Page:** <http://gpl.pca.org>

**Web Master:** Eric Elliott

**Great Plains Region Porsche Club****Minutes of the December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 Board Meeting**

Attending were board members Jon Theobald, JR Sanders, Steve Wilwerding, Jim Avilla, Tom Cooper, Steve Eckhart, and Abe Schlott. Also present were Eric Elliott and Past President John Krecek. The meeting was held at Investors Realty.

**Social:**

Discussed upcoming events at Woodhouse, January Breakfast, Shamrock Chili Feed, Wheatfields breakfast, Bella Vida dinner (March). Discussed Awards dinner needing a defined head count 1 week out and a definite RSVP with food choice. Discussed Raffle drawings and prizes including gift certificates and a free D/E. Discussed an outing to Velocity Indoor Karting in Omaha

**Secretary:**

Minutes approved from the November meeting. 3 ballots in for BOD as of this meeting.

**President:**

Club Race contract nearly finalized for June 4/5/6. Need to finalize the D/E charges as well as sprint race and Enduro. JR Sanders will be in charge of the D/E.

**Registrar:**

Nothing to report.

**Club race chair:**

Discussed as part of President's report above

**Treasurer:**

Jim presented his report. GPR finances are in good order.

**Membership:**

1 new member

**Safety:**

No report.

**Newsletter:**

Working on details for December Skooner re: upcoming events and dates.

**Website:**

Website up to date. Eric has posted videos from Woodhouse Track Experience online. Club race info to go on soon. Researching new web hosting tools via Google.

**Past President and Chief Driving Instructor:** No report.

Respectfully submitted by Abe Schlott



**Editorial Policy:** *Der Skooner* is the official publication of the Great Plains Region/Porsche Club of America. Statements and opinions appearing in *Der Skooner* are those of the author and not necessarily those of the GPR, PCA, the Board or the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit all material and to publish only material that is felt to be in the best interest of GPR/PCA. Other regions are welcome to reprint *Der Skooner* articles provided that the source and author are credited. Address changes must be sent to both Heather Wester, 31454 HWY 77 South, Beatrice, NE 68310 and PCA P.O. Box 5900, Springfield, VA 22150.

Editor  
16024 Arbor St.  
Omaha, NE 68130

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*Porsches and planes at the National Museum of the United States Air Force*

A Publication of the Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

## ***PCA Escape Pictures***



*Porsche and Frank Lloyd, respectively, best designs ever! – Marty Shafer*



*Roger and Martha Kelly, Les Checel, our Porsches, and one of the covered bridges*

*Pictures courtesy of  
Stacy Eckhart*



*The largest gathering of Porsches at the Escape was at Quaker Steak and Lube*