



# Der Skooner

Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

## ***Dinner at Bella Vita*** *by Steve Wilwerding*



Photos courtesy of Steve Wilwerding



*About 20 Great Plains Region members enjoyed a wonderful Italian buffet at Bella Vita Restaurant*

March 27 marked the first Porsche Club event of the year that some members were actually able to drive their Porsches to, as we met for a Club dinner at Bella Vita Restaurant in Elkhorn. We only had about 20 members who attended, but as one member in attendance said, it was the other members who missed out on a truly great evening.

While the weather outside was poor,

the mood inside the party room was excellent. Everyone was excited about the coming summer and getting their favorite cars out again. The conversation was lively all evening, and was complimented by the excellent food. New members Volker and Chandra Olbrich joined us for their first GPR event, and it seemed like they had a great time.

This marked the second Club dinner

at Bella Vita, and the popular consent at this year's event was that we should make it an annual gathering. So, if you couldn't or didn't attend the event this year, check the calendar and website, and make sure that you don't miss the next Club dinner. Club dinners sometimes have good weather, often have great food, but always have great friends, so don't miss out!

# From the Prez

By Jon Theobald



Porsha, Carrera, Ferdi, Cayenna, Caymani all have something in common: they were shockingly (in my mind anyway) shot down as potential names for our soon-to-be-born child. We didn't know if we were having a boy or a girl and I was confident I could slide one of these names in onto our "favorites" list. My effort was in vain as Kelli had the final judgment on the name as we patiently waited for the wonderful day to arrive. As it turned out, one day after our 36 week appointment, on March 9, Kelli went into labor and our baby girl was born, all of 5 lbs, 12 ounces and 19 inches. Baby Isla "Eye-lah" Kristine was four weeks early and perfectly healthy. In fact, we brought her home the next day after only one night in the hospital. She is our first child and as many of you with children know, it has changed our lives completely in a fantastic way. For some time to come instead of changing the oil and polishing the Fuchs on my 911, I'll be changing diapers and washing bottles! I look forward to showing her off at some of our future events.

We are a little over two months away from our club race and

driver education (DE) at MPH in Hastings on June 4 through 6! This is a major event to look forward to for our club and we are doing our best to make this an event to remember. Registration opens April 19 on [www.clubregistration.net](http://www.clubregistration.net). Just to recap the weekend the event starts on Friday, June 4, with a test-n-tune all day for racers and DE participants. Friday night will feature a casual cocktail hour at the Guardrail Club overlooking the track where everyone can mix and mingle with drivers from the surrounding regions and relax before the weekend full of racing. Saturday will feature a couple of practice starts and a sprint race with the DE driving sessions sprinkled in between. Saturday night the Tessmans will be graciously hosting a complimentary dinner for all the racers and DE drivers at their home just a few minutes from the track at their retro garage. Sunday will feature two more sprint races and finally the awards presentations. It will be a fantastic weekend full of racing and spectating.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Going to be in Hastings June 5 and 6 and

want to be involved in the Club Race? We'd love to have some folks come out and volunteer for the weekend where you can help out on the grid or front gate or some other easy to handle job Tom Cooper can find for you. We'd love to have you and we could really use your help! We promise it will be easy and you'll have fun!

A special thanks to Sean Cahill at Shamrock Racing for hosting the St. Patrick's Day party at his shop in Beatrice. I missed it this year but it sounds like it was another fantastic event! Thanks Sean!

Another special thanks to Russ Standage for organizing the Porsche Memorabilia show on Saturday, March 20. A really great crowd turned out to view some great collectibles from various contributors and artwork by Howard Shoemaker. Also, a big thanks to Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha for allowing us to host the event.

See the article within for the upcoming Sonic Show and Shine events put on by Ken Kusik. This is the 16th season of Show 'N' Shine events; can you believe it? Great job by Ken and these events wouldn't have the longevity they



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have if they weren't such great fun, so make a special effort to get down to Lincoln for one. The dates are May 1, June 17, and August 28, so mark your calendars!

Come on out April 10th for a breakfast at Wheatfield's Café and Bakery. Grab a coffee and breakfast with some GPR buddies to start the Saturday right!

Coming up May 8, we have planned another breakfast gathering at In the Garage, a GPR

advertiser. Robert Horstman will host a breakfast and gathering at his store on 176th and Center where you will find an amazing assortment of car and garage related products. It literally is an automobile lover's candy store. Robert will have a special display showing off some of his detailing products (we're working on the details). Last year Robert had several giveaways and we had a raffle for some cool gifts. Hope to see you there to support one of our

advertisers!

Have a great April and hope to see you at one of our events!

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Photo courtesy of JWR Studios, ©2010

*GPR's newest member, Isla Kristine Theobald, is already dreaming of the day when she will smoke her Daddy on the race track!*

# The 2010 Club Race Is Coming

**By John Krecek, Chief Driving Instructor**

Did you know that the Great Plains Region of the Porsche Club of America was one of the very first regions to hold Club Races for PCA? Did you realize that our events are typically considered some of the safest club races around? Were you aware that once people come to our Club Race, they are highly likely to return stating that we have one of the most fun, friendliest events around? For many years the GPR region had the highest ratio of racers/members in the country – this may explain part of it. You must have heard how great the steaks are in Nebraska - duh. Does this happen just because we have four great road courses within a three hour drive of Omaha, Nebraska?

In 2010 the GPR is holding their 14th Club Race in Hastings, Nebraska, at a four year-old track called Motorsport Park Hastings or MPH for short. The facility is run by the friendliest and most professional people in the

country. If you have been to our events in the past you know how much fun we have and how much track time you get. If you are a Club Racer you will get three sprint races, of varying lengths, in a three day period for \$465. If you can't make it Friday, the cost is \$110 less! Drivers Education participants will get three days of track time for only \$375. If you are looking for a low-budget weekend, this is for you. Just check out hotel rates and local food prices and see how affordable multi-day driving events can be.

If your family doesn't want to join you at the track, they can lounge around the indoor pool at the Quality Inn and Convention Center, the headquarters motel for the event, or take in one of the many family attractions in Hastings. We will also have a legendary GPR dinner, which the entire family is invited to, this time at the home of a GPR family who has made an entire building to resemble an old time gas station and food from

the Heartland that you will not want to miss.

The dates for this monumental event are June 4, 5, and 6. History shows that the weather then is warm and dry; however, if the weather turns poor for an evening, there is covered, indoor parking for cars, trailers, and campers, complete with a shuttle bus that has been seen drifting around track turns. Look up Hastings, Nebraska on a map and see how easy it is to get to pulling a trailer.

If you are looking for a lot of track time, for less than the cost of a set of Hoosiers, you need to check out this event. If you have never been, ask some of your friends about our Club Race – they will tell you. If you have been to our Race before, bring some of your friends. We have enough hospitality to go around!

For more information send email to [tcooper40@cox.net](mailto:tcooper40@cox.net) or see our website at [gpl.pca.org/upcomingevents.html](http://gpl.pca.org/upcomingevents.html)

Catch you in the Curves!

*Rosemary Lee Hernandez*

*and*

*Adam Luke Keske*

*together with their parents*

*invite you to share in the joy when they exchange marriage vows  
and begin their new life together*

*Saturday, the Nineteenth of June, Two thousand and ten  
at One p.m.*

*King's Crossing Winery, Glenwood, IA*

*For Directions see [www.kingscrossingvineyard.com](http://www.kingscrossingvineyard.com)*

*Outdoor wedding*

*Reception to follow*

*Cash Bar*

*RSVP by May 19th to: Adam and Rosemary, 823 Gayle Street  
Papillion, NE 68046 or [keske944@cox.net](mailto:keske944@cox.net).*

# Upcoming Events

## 2010 GPR Events

Breakfast at Wheatfield's .....	April 10
Sonic Show 'N' Shine .....	May 1
In the Garage .....	May 8
Club Race & Drivers Education in Hastings .....	June 4-6
Homestead Days in Beatrice .....	June 19
Candlewood Picnic .....	July 10
Kearney Cruise Nite .....	July 17
Drivers Education at Mid America Motorplex .....	July 24-25

## Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha Events

Our friends at Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha are hosting the following events. Mark your calendars. More details will follow.

May 29	Strategic Air and Space Museum
September 11	Racoon River Lodge in West Des Moines
September 18-19	Woodhouse Track Event at Mid America Motorplex

### Roland Manarin

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# Member Bio: Dan Erxleben

I was born and raised in Papillion, where I grew up with a love for cars. My first car was a '66 Galaxy 500 with a 390 under the hood. Boy, I would like to have that car back! My first rebuild was a '65 Impala 327. My grandpa, who was a diesel mechanic, and I rebuilt it when I was 16 years old. He left me his tools when he passed away. I still have them and use them from time to time.

Growing up with a mechanic for a grandpa and a plumber for a dad, we were always do-it-yourselfers. It wasn't until I started working for a dealer that I moved past the stereotype that dealerships only sell cars.

I began my career as a service technician trainee at the local Volkswagen dealership in 1979. In 1985, the dealer added Porsche and Audi franchises to the campus. I began taking training courses for both manufacturers and became a certified Porsche technician and an Audi Master Technician.

In 2003, I was able to attend the Cayenne launch event in Alabama. This was the introduction of the first Porsche that didn't ride 4 inches off the ground and could actually seat 4 adults; needless to say, it was very exciting to drive the now famous SUV both off road and on the track. I now see so many come through the dealership for both sales and service. It was great to be there when it all started.

In 2005, Woodhouse Auto Family



*Dan Erxleben works on a Carrera GT at Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha.*

bought the Porsche franchise and I joined the staff of the new Porsche of Omaha. Since then, I have earned my Porsche Gold Meister certification in 2008. The most memorable training course during my certification was in April 2005. During this session, I completely disassembled and reassembled a Carrera GT. Little did I know how valuable this training would be as I get to service a Carrera GT annually for a customer. What a machine! Be sure to check out the pictures.

My wife Lisa and I have been together for 27 years. We have four kids: Brad, 25; Andrea, 22; Ryan, 18 and Tyler, 16. When I'm not working, I enjoy golf, spending time with my family and cooking.

Although I do not own a Porsche, I do enjoy working on your beauties. I have completed two DE's. One with a 911 C4 and the other with a Cayman S. So...I do still get my need to drive a Porsche at least 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year.



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## SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, May 29th**

Performance Event at Strategic Air and Space Museum - Ashland, NE  
Featuring Panamera models and 2011 Boxster Spyder

Test drives available through scenic Mahoney State Park  
and on a Porsche-designed performance course

Lunch, museum tours, movies and more for our guests!

**Saturday, September 11th**

Test Drive Event at Raccoon River Nature Lodge - West Des Moines, IA

Featuring 2011 Cayenne & Panamera V6

Guests will enjoy scenic test drives, activities and light hors d'oeuvres from the river-front.

**Saturday & Sunday, September 18th & 19th**

2nd Woodhouse Track Experience at Mid America Motorplex

Participants of all skill levels will experience a one-of-a-kind  
racing weekend that only Woodhouse can offer!



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# 2010 PCA Parade Registration

Registration for the 2010 Porsche Club of America Parade in St. Charles, Illinois, is open now. The registration web site opened on Tuesday, March 9. All registrations entered online or postmarked before midnight, Thursday, March 11 will receive the same priority.

Nestled in the scenic Fox River Valley and just one hour west of Chicago, St. Charles, Illinois offers the perfect setting for the 55th Porsche Parade. Running from

July 3rd through July 9th, 2010, it is time to start planning your visit now.

For details, see the Parade web site at [parade2010.pca.org](http://parade2010.pca.org). You can also access the Parade web site from the main club web site at [pca.org](http://pca.org).

It's only 431 miles from Omaha to St. Charles. According to mapquest, you can make the drive in 6 hours and 48 minutes.

If you plan to attend Parade, please

let members of the board know and we can try to arrange a caravan.

If you wonder what it's like to attend a national club event, see the articles on PCA Escape and Parade in the January 2010 and August 2009 editions of *Der Skooner* for a Great Plains member's perspective.

If you can make it, you won't regret it! There's no better place to see that it's not just the cars, it's the people.

## Show 'N' Shine Cruise Nites Turn Sweet Sixteen by Ken Kusik

The neon nostalgia summertime "Happy Days" fun is back again! Join us for an extra special schedule, which includes a Kearney Cruise Caravan, for the 16<sup>th</sup> season of Show 'N' Shine Cruise Nites (SSCN).

Relive the cool cruising days when gas was cheap, there were jukeboxes, carhops, drive-in movies, and Jan & Dean and Beach Boys hot rod tunes on the AM waves. And while we don't have Arnold's from *Happy Days* or Mel's from *American Graffiti*,

we will be serving up big fun at America's drive in Sonic at South 48<sup>th</sup> and Highway 2 in Lincoln. We can't roll back gas prices, but food is half price for the whole family. The event will run from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., but you can come and go as you like.

Just like the drive-in theater, the neon will be on and the feature starts Saturday night, May 1. The second SSCN is the special Kearney Cruise Caravan on Saturday, July 17. This is for the 700 Car Show, Shine, and Cruise.

The third SSCN will be Saturday, August 28.

We had 62 cars for opening night last year. So, mark your calendar now. Grab your best girl, some 8-track tapes, fire that fine machine up and cruise on out! Join us for the food, fun, and festivities. Reminisce, see old friends, and make some new ones. The neon nostalgia of Show 'N' Shine Cruise Nites: experience it for yourself.



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# Porsche Pride Memorabilia Day



Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha hosted a memorabilia display as part of Porsche Pride Month in March. Several GPR members shared their favorite collectibles. As you can see in the photos above, our collections range from comical to fine art. There was a great display of Porsche garages and transporters. Of course there were race cars ranging from extremely realistic to more whimsical models. And, there was a first edition *Der Schooner*.

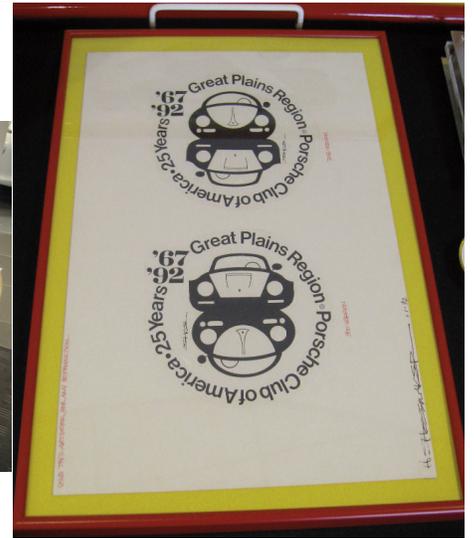
# Obituary: More Memorabilia

## Hal Mardis

by Howard Shoemaker

Dr. Hal Mardis passed away a few days ago. Hal joined GPR back in the late 70s. He was "hooked" on Porsche and GPR membership. Hal was a very friendly, gentle, good-buddy guy. He was a well-known urologist who studied in Germany on leading edge techniques, including breaking up stones with sonic vibration. Hal once received the Dumkopf award for "fixing" the wiring in his 911's steering column. The short and ensuing fire almost burned off the front end. A memorial service is forthcoming.

You can see his obituary in the Omaha World Herald at <http://www.omaha.com/article/20100307/NEWS01/703079889>.



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Offered by Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha. We sold this car on May 2, 2009 with 12,077 miles and today it only has 14,376 miles. The performance track setup was performed locally and the car is ready to be enjoyed by a new driver. Contact us today for further details or to schedule your personal inspection. (402) 592-1000 or [www.omaha.porschedealer.com](http://www.omaha.porschedealer.com)

# GPR Board and Minutes

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## Minutes of the March 2, 2010 Board Meeting

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

**Social:** Upcoming events on email. Discussed Shamrock event and Woodhouse breakfast. Karting event was canceled due top insurance reasons. Discussed car show at Village Pointe, local winery tours, and other events.

**Secretary:** Minutes approved from February meeting

**President:** Jon talked to Jim Howe regarding July DE contract, getting close to a deal. BMW Club is still planning on joining us for the July DE at MAM.

**Registrar:** Club Race, June DE, and July DE is now advertised on clubregistration.net. Discussed early and late registration fees for DE's.

**Treasurer:** Jim Avilla reviewed February financials.

**Club Race Chair:** No Report

**Membership:** 139 GPR Members, 14 Woodhouse Members, +1. 73 paid as of today. There are 93 PCA members that are not GPR members. Discussed sending membership information and *Der Skooners*. Tom will be sending emails to those people who have not paid their memberships.

**Safety:** No safety issues to report. No insurance needs until June DE. Friday is test and tune.

**Newsletter:** Member bio for April, will put Woodhouse event on website. John's Club Race article on club race will be on website and in *Der Skooner*. Articles on memorabilia show and Porsche Pride event.

**Website:** Up to date. Event reminder emails sent, CR schedule and fees are online. GPRPCA.com has been registered and will be our new website.

**Past President and Chief Driving Instructor:** July DE 7/24 and 25, John K will be getting to MAM just in time Saturday morning. Instructor/Novice pairings will be done week prior. Videos have been incorporated into training.

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 Tom Cooper, 635 Shorewood Lane, Waterloo, NE 68069 and PCA, P.O. Box 5900, Springfield, VA 22150.

**Editor**  
**16024 Arbor St.**

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\*\*\* If your name is preceded by three asterisks (\*\*\*) in the mailing label, then we have not received your 2010 GPR dues. This will be your last issue of *Der Skooner* until your dues are paid. Contact Tom Cooper to update your membership. See the GPR Board Minutes on page 11 for contact information. If your payment crossed this issue in the mail, thank you!

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

## ***Inside This Issue***



*Dan Erxleben worked on this Carrera GT. See page 6*



*Club members displayed their fine art and toys at the Woodhouse Memorabilia event. See page 9.*

