



Der Skooner

Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

July 2009

Volume 43 Issue 7

Porsche Pride at Fatburger

Story by Sally Knapp, photos by Steve Wilwerding



Who would have thought that the front-engine, water-cooled Porsches could outnumber the 911s? On Thursday night, June 25th, three 968s, three 944 S2 cabriolets (how rare is that?), and at least three Boxsters attended Porsche Pride at Fatburger at the Shadow Lake Towne Center in Papillion. It wasn't long before the heat forced us inside, which wasn't a bad thing. Everyone was able to satisfy their hunger with delicious burgers, fries, onion rings, and of course, Fatburger's great shakes.

It was neat to meet some new people and to sit and chat with some different friends. If you weren't able to make it out for this one, you're in luck. George Poullos and Fatburger will be hosting another Porsche Pride on September 3. Thanks to George and his staff for a fun night.

From the Prez

By Jon Theobald



June 2009 will go down in the history books as one of the most exciting months in recent GPR memory. We've really amped up the number of events this season, and our attendance has been great, so thank you GPR members for participating. Our Board has put a lot of effort into planning a diverse line-up of events, so we are glad to see everyone enjoying themselves.

The Sonic Show 'N Shine put on by Ken Kusik kicked off June on the first Saturday of the month. The turnout was fantastic and fun was had by all at the summer drive-in event.

The following weekend was the stellar Great Garage Tour. Just a few days before the event, the weather looked questionable, but we just hoped for a few hours of dry, sunny weather. What we got was one of the most beautiful days of the year, with perfect temps and blue skies, with puffy bursts of white clouds. A very special thanks to the families that prepared their homes for the GPR invasion of 30+ cars and over 50 members ogling at each personal shrine to their automotive interests. Tim and Kathy Gentile, Bob and Carol Lynch, Dave and Sam Farrell, and Denny and Chris Strauss were all gracious hosts and deserve a round of applause for their generosity and hospitality. I have to mention that Denny Strauss and Sandy Steckman had been kicking around the idea of

this event for a few years, and did an amazing job with all the little details, from the passports to the barbeque dinner at the Strauss's. Thank you all very much!

We finished up the month with the Porsche Pride Night put on with the help of Fatburger owner George Poulos. Let me tell you that if you haven't had one of their banana shakes or onion rings, you are not living life to the fullest! Thank you, George, for your generosity in hosting this event.

About the time this issue is going to press, we'll have several GPR members heading to Keystone, Colorado, for the Porsche Parade. We hope to have some stories and pics from this event for the next issue. I hope everyone has a safe and fun trip to Keystone!

July will also be a fun-filled month, starting out with the Third Annual Candlewood Picnic on Saturday, July 11. This is a very popular family event at the park at Candlewood Lake. The sandy beach, swimming area, playground, and large grassy area make for a perfect spot for the family to have fun in the afternoon. We'll also have a paddle boat and canoes available to take out on the lake. The grills will be fired up, so bring your favorite meat to be cooked and another side dish or dessert that serves several people, and we'll provide the plates, napkins,

utensils, soda, water, and beer. The event starts at 1:00 p.m.

July 18 is the third and final Sonic Show 'N Shine of the summer. If you haven't made the drive to Lincoln for one of the previous events this summer, be sure to try and make this one! Ken does a fantastic job preparing for these events and they are worth the trip!

The last weekend in July is the GPR's final 2-day DE of the season! We may be able to work in a 1-day DE later in the season, but that will be determined by our attendance for this event, so hopefully we'll have a solid turnout and will allow us to work another 1-day event in the fall. Our fantastic group of instructors will be available for new novices and those looking to further their driving education. We also have another special promotion for those bringing a novice - you will be credited \$50 towards your registration fee with no limits on new novices! If you have any further questions, contact our registrar Tom Cooper at gpr-registrar@cox.net.

I hope everyone has a great vacation season and enjoys their July!



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On Track



By Steve Wilwerding

As usual in the summer months, there is more going on than I have space to write about, so I am again left with a short article.

Here, then, are some short thoughts from the racing and car scene. For the first time in awhile, an Audi did not Le Mans, a Peugeot did. The Porsche RS Spyder ended its career by winning its class – the 911s were not so lucky. Jenson Button, driving for Brawn GP, looks poised to win the F1 World Championship this year, unless Sebastian Vettel, driving for Red Bull, can catch up in the points race. By the way, if you’ve never heard of these drivers or teams, it’s because they were either virtual unknowns or didn’t exist (Brawn GP) last year – what a season it has been!

In other F1 news, FOTA (the Formula One Teams Association), which is made up of all of the “famous” F1 teams like Ferrari, Mercedes, and Renault, finally came to an agreement about racing next

year. The news at Silverstone last week was that FOTA had a falling out with F1 management and the FIA, and threatened to start their own series. Luckily, cooler heads prevailed, and the series will not split. A little sacrifice was required - Max Moseley, the head of the FIA, was forced to resign, which upset literally no one in the whole world but Max.

In Porsche news, the Panamera has been released to the press, and the consensus seems to be that it is not nearly as ugly in person as it is in the pictures. The performance of the car, however, has been deemed by most journalists as unequaled by any sedan now available, and they predict that folks who buy the Panamera will be very happy indeed. Porsche, who just a short year ago was proving to be one of the most successful hedge funds in the world, and who made more money last year in the stock market than by selling cars, is in dire financial

straights. The plan had been for Porsche to buy up control of Volkswagen (something akin to a tadpole eating a whale), but the global economic downturn has hit Porsche hard, and they are now nearly \$10 billion in debt. Just today, Porsche announced that they had rejected a takeover bid by VW, and are hoping to secure financing from the country of Qatar so that they can continue building the cars that we all love.

Finally, in GPR news, it has been a great summer. We had a great DE in Hastings, the Great Garage Tour was a smashing success, people have gotten their fill of food and fun at Sonic, and George put on a great show at Fatburger. In the coming weeks, we’ll wrap up the Sonic season, hold the annual Candlewood picnic, hold our last DE of the year, and show our cars at Havelock and Lauritzen Gardens. Make sure to come out and join us - summer is only so long, especially in Nebraska!



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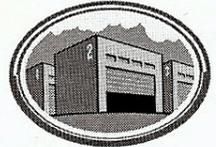
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The Greatest Garage Tour

Story by Susan Quast, photos by Steve Wilwerding

It was a perfect Saturday afternoon for the Great Garage Tour. The weather was beautiful and there was a great turn out. The tour was planned by Sandy Steckman and Denny Strauss, and they did a wonderful job. We toured four very different garages and all four were to “dream of”. Not only were they each unique, but each was very clean and well organized.

Before we embarked on this tour, we were told to email head shots of ourselves to Sandy. I really tried to find out what these were to be used for, but it was a deep, dark secret! We found out when we arrived. We were each given a printed passport with a lovely photo of ourselves. Actually, mine was better than my real passport photo. At each garage, we then got our passports stamped before we left. So, those of us who were on the tour now have stamped passports with the garages that we have been to. We must keep these as keepsakes forever! We may need them again.

The tour started at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, at the home of Tim and Kathy Gentile. The cars in the tour consisted of a group of Porsches, Corvettes, a Ferrari, and some other cars in the mix. Would you believe that one of those “other” cars



belonged to our fearless leader, Denny Strauss! What happened to your Porsche, Denny? There were 33 cars and about 58 people on the tour.

The Gentile’s had a garage and family room filled with some very interesting car memorabilia. It was on the walls and other interesting places. In the garage area was a 1929 Ford, which had been chopped and had a Chevy V8 engine. It was built to 1950’s hot rod specs without fancy leather interiors and chrome and all of the do dads that are found on current hot rods. There was also a restroom

where the door handles were off of a ’49 Ford. If you happen to use this facility, a light will go on in one of the cabinets behind the bar, and everyone will know where you are!

The cabinets were from a frame alignment machine. The coffee tables in the family room were made out of ’56 Chevy steering wheels. The ceiling was covered with

791 license plates and had an old Sinclair sign that covered a florescent light.

It was then off in a caravan to the home of Bob and Carol Lynch. The grounds of their home are an arboretum, which is very pretty and is full of trees and plants. They have made their garage area into a showcase for cars and rare posters on the walls. The first part of the garage is a complete machine shop. In it, Bob has a milling machine, lathes, presses, various computer controlled metal cutting saws, and welders, etc. The second part of the garage has their car and poster collection. Their car collection include a ’72 911S and a 914 with a 2.8 liter engine. Both of these are painted a green color that was a custom color that the original owner had ordered for them. Two cars that were restored by Bob himself are a BMW 700 and a BMW Isetta. They also have a Euro Turbo Smart Car, which I understand Bob drives.

The caravan was then off to the home of Dave and Sam Farrell. At their beautiful country place, we had horses greeting us, who were very interested in what all of these cars and people were doing! We all drove to the back of the property, where we managed to back our cars up into





fairly nice rows. Dave and Sam have two garages. Dave's specialty is big block '70s Corvettes. In one garage, the working garage, there were four Corvettes and a Datsun 240Z. One of the Corvettes was on a lift. This was one that Dave had restored himself and had his daughter helping him put in the windshield. Dave had Corvette judges come and look at the car, and it got almost 99 concours points. In the other garage were more Corvettes, two late '60s SS Chevelles, a Road Runner with a hemi engine, a Ferrari, and a 911 Cup Racing Car.

On the way back to our cars, we found Steve Wilwerding sitting on top of a very high ladder. He wanted us to stand by our cars and wave for a group photo. He managed to do this without falling off of the ladder, which was quite a feat!

We were then informed that our caravan was going to go on a scenic route to the last garage, which was at the home of Denny and Chris Strauss. So, off we went on this adventure. I have to say that it was a very pretty drive.

We finally arrived at the home of Denny and Chris. They have a lot of James Dean and other posters on the walls of their garage. For those of you who don't know, Denny and my husband, Gary, are both big James Dean fans. There was also other memorabilia in the garage with a nice model car collection. Their cars included a Beck 550 Spyder, a '65 356 SC, an '84 911 Turbo, and an '85 635 BMW.

Denny and Chris graciously hosted all of us in their garage and driveway to a BBQ dinner from Boyd

and Charlie's in Elkhorn. The wonderful day didn't end there, though. At the end of the dinner, a quiz was passed out with questions on it about what we had seen and learned during the day. I have to tell you that there were some people who cheated on the quiz and compared answers! Before we could learn who won the quiz, door prizes were given out. Then came the prizes for the quiz. Brooke Peters won first place, and he didn't cheat! There were also second and third place prizes - however, I also have to tell you that one of the third place prizes went to four people who cheated. I'm not saying who, but I did enjoy my prize.

After this wonderful day, I think that we all need to give a BIG thanks to our hosts: Tim and Kathy Gentile, Bob and Carol Lynch, Dave and Sam Farrell, and Denny and Chris Strauss. We need to also give a BIG thanks to Lily Steckman. She did the artwork for the logo stamp for the passports for each garage. For those of us who got wine bottles as prizes, the logo was also on them. Also, Emily Strauss needs a BIG thanks for helping Denny and Chris at their home.

Last, but not least, a really BIG, BIG thanks go to Sandy Steckman and Denny Strauss for the idea for the tour and for making it happen. We all had a great time. Let's do it again sometime. After all, we do have our passports and are ready to go anytime!

Achtung!

Gary Quast is looking for a GPR member with a 2005 or later 911, Boxster, or Cayman who would be interested in taking part in a tech demonstration. Gary will be demonstrating an adapter made by Yellow Dog Motorsports that allows a sealed Optima battery to be installed in a Porsche. The kit will be available free of charge to the owner who volunteers his car. If you would be interested in volunteering, call Gary at 392-1999.

Upcoming Events

GPR Candlewood Park Picnic - July 11



Bring your appetites and sunscreen for a picnic with the GPR/PCA at Candlewood Park on Lake Candlewood. There are picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, a sandy beach, swimming in the lake, fishing, pontoon boat rides, and plenty of tasty picnic food.

Please bring one dish of choice that serves several people (main dish, side, or dessert). There are grills available, so any meat can be cooked over charcoal. GPR/PCA will provide plates, napkins, utensils, charcoal, soda, and beer. The event starts at 1:00 p.m.

Directions: Go north on 132 & Dodge, turn right on Cuming Street into Candlewood, then take the second right onto Burt Street at the roundabout. The park is on Burt Street at the end of the block. Bring the kids and pets for a fun picnic on Candlewood Lake!

If you have any questions about this event, please call Jon Theobald at 659-6068.

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Upcoming Events

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Regional Websites

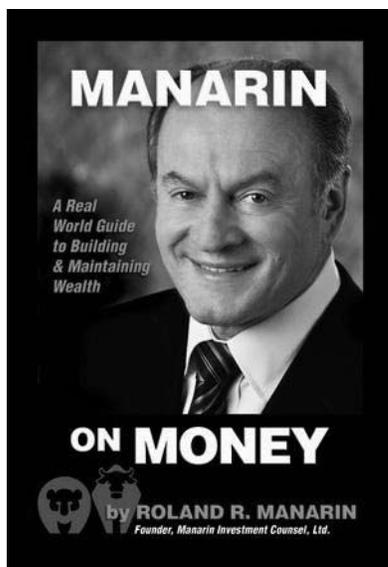
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Upcoming Events

GPR & Other Regional Events

Candlewood Picnic	July 11
Sonic Show 'N Shine	July 18
DE @ MAM	July 25-26
Dinner @ Ryan's Bistro	August 22
Fatburger Porsche Pride Night	September 3
Havelock Car Show	September 13
Lauritzen All-Euro Car Show	September 13
Woodhouse Track Experience	September 19-20
MAM Boo Bash	October 24

Sonic Show 'N Shine - July 18



The third and last Sonic Show 'N Shine of the year will be held July 18 at the Sonic on South 48th and Highway 2 in Lincoln. Come on out and help us set a new attendance record to round out the year.

Dinner at Ryan's Bistro - August 22

It's been a while since we all got together for dinner, so come on out to Ryan's Bistro on Saturday, August 22. Not only does Ryan's Bistro have a great atmosphere, there is a good mix of selection on the menu from a delicious Havarti Steak to enormous fresh salads. Ryan's is located at 17607 Gold Plaza, Omaha, on the north side of Center Street. We'll be meeting at 6:30 for liquid refreshments, 7:00 for dinner and ordering off the menu. There's a limit of 30. Contact Sally Knapp at 402-291-9350 or sallyknapp@juno.com if you would like to attend.

Upcoming Events

DE at MPH - July 25-26



The second (and last) DE of the season will be held July 25-26 at Mid America Motorplex in Pacific Junction, IA. Visit the GPR website to view details, then head to clubregistration.net to sign up for the event.

We will be holding novice training at this event, so if you have never been on the track before, this is your chance to learn the ropes. Cost is \$175 for one day or \$295 for Saturday and Sunday, or if you register for the early bird special, cost is \$260 for the weekend.

We will be offering novices courses at this DE, in which we will pair novice drivers up with a Porsche Club instructor. If you are a novice and will be attending this event, please try to get your reservation in as soon as possible so that we might have the appropriate number of instructors available.

Tech begins at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, and the drivers meeting will be held at 8:00. There will be parade laps during lunch.

Porsche Pride at Fatburger - September 3



Fatburger and Porsches. It's time to start thinking about cleaning up our cars and hanging out with some friends at Fatburger to listen to some great music and watch the people go by at Shadow Lake Towne Center in Papillion.

Now here's just a few things to make you drool over your dashboard: onion rings made from real onions. Hand-scooped, real ice cream shakes. Great tasting chili. And let's not forget those hamburgers made from fresh lean beef, not frozen patties.

The event runs from 6:00 - 9:00, but you can come and go as you please.

GPR Board and Minutes

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Web Master: Steve Wilwerding

The GPR/PCA Board met Tuesday, June 2, at Investors Realty. Members present: Jon Theobald, John Krecek, Sean Cahill, Jim Avilla, JR Sanders, Heather Wester, Steve Wilwerding, Sally Knapp, and Tom Cooper.

Secretary: The minutes from the May meeting were approved. Sean discussed Board roles and policies.

President: We had a very successful event with our May DE at Motorsports Park Hastings! We reviewed our DE procedures, registration, identification, and our fees. We need to make sure we have radios at events, and they should be in the hands of the Safety Chair. Plans for succession for next year's Board were discussed.

Registrar: Tom is starting promotion for the July DE immediately.

Club Race Chair: We are, at this time, planning to hold a 2010 Club Race. Sean will be putting together a Club Race committee for the event as soon as possible.

Treasurer: The Register report was all up to date. Numbers from the Hastings event looked good, but we need to be cautious about our budget.

Membership: We are getting more new members. Heather is continuing to make contacts with PCA members who are not members of our region.

Social: Several events are on our calendar and we are adding more. The social/track event at MAM, Boo Bash, is planned for Oct 24. Sally is planning more dinner events.

Safety: Sean and JR are working with MAM on contracts for future events.

Newsletter/Website: The website is up to date. Material is needed for the July *Skooner* by June 20.

Past President: John Krecek hosted a Past Presidents meeting.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of Investors Realty, 11301 Davenport.

Respectfully submitted, Sean Cahill.



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.

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The Porsche RS Spyder, in the hands of the Essex Team, ended its racing career in style by winning the LMP2 class at the 2009 24 Hours of Le Mans.

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More Great Garage Tour Pics

