



Der Skooner

Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

August 2009

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Showtime 2009 Honors the 356

Story by Ken Kusik



The Great Plains Region will once again celebrate the pride and passion for Porsche as we return to the rustic brick streets of historic Havelock in Lincoln, Sunday, September 13, for the “On the Avenue” Car Show. This marks our twelfth consecutive appearance in the finest open car show in the state, courtesy of our friends at the Capitol City Ford and Mustang Club. Now in its 28th year, the 2008 show drew over 250 cars.

This year, we are honoring the 356 with an extraordinary event. We are attempting to gather a dozen 356s and line an entire city block with them. Photos will be taken of this special occasion, along with an article submitted to both the *356 Registry* and *Panorama*. For the first time at the show, there will be a 356-only class. There will also be 356 collectibles for all 356 participants, as well as a drawing for a 1/18th scale model last made in 1989.

The three other classes are: 1966-1979, 1980-1994, and 1995-current. Awards will be given to the top three in each class. There will be 23 door prizes, as well as collectibles for the first twelve Porsches entered. With the early \$20 registration, you also receive a free T-shirt.

We will again be defending our “best attendance” award that we have held for 11 consecutive years – we need to get out and show the pride in our rides. For more information about the event, call Ken Kusik at 402-420-1523.

Great fall weather, food, fun, friends, and a lot of exceptional automobiles – plan to be a part of this year’s special event.

From the Prez

By Jon Theobald



For the GPR social calendar, August will be the equivalent of “relax and take a few deep breaths” with only one event Saturday, August 22, at Ryan’s Bistro. This summer, we’ve almost had an event every week, which some have said is too many, but our attendance would say otherwise. We’ve had a solid and enthusiastic turnout for every event.

The Candlewood Picnic in early July ended up being a beautiful day in the mid-eighties and sunny with around 30 members enjoying the picnic on the lake. Jack and Nick Avilla brought their fishing poles and were pulling in bluegill on almost every cast! Abe Schlott brought his boys Jonathan and Nick, who were also swimming and fishing. Larry and Bonnie Anderson’s grandson Aiden was busy fishing and playing with the other boys. We grilled hamburgers, brats, and hot dogs, and the side dishes and desserts were fabulous. Thanks everyone for coming - it was a really fun day!

I missed the Sonic Show ‘N Shine again (sorry, Ken!), but I’m sure it was another well attended and fun event. Thanks to Ken Kusik for putting on these events in Lincoln. There is a large Lincoln Porsche contingent that just can’t make it to Omaha for a lot of events and likewise for Omaha folks with the Lincoln events, so it’s nice to have an active member there putting these together.



The Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha Drivers Education event in July was an absolute blast. It was perfect DE weather, warm and breezy, and most importantly, dry! We ended up with 52 cars on Saturday and 46 on Sunday. I have a new appreciation for what the GPR instructors have been doing for years – I had a novice student, Troy Brothers, a co-worker from my office, in group 1 novice, then I’d rush to group 2 where Jasmine Pittack was waiting for me on grid for the next session as a continuing education student. Then I’d hurry to my car and catch part of my instructor group 3 session, and then get a quick breather while group 4 ran. Thanks to all the other instructors that day and to our Chief

Instructor Sandy Steckman for keeping everyone organized and handling the novice group. You can always tell the novice folks on the paddock as they are all wearing perma-grin all weekend. Super thanks to Tom Cooper for running the registrar’s desk and to JR Sanders for handling the Safety duties. Special thanks to Russ Standage and Eric Elliot for running grid. Without all of the volunteers, our events wouldn’t be as great as they are, so make sure you thank them in person when you get a chance.

I hope you enjoy your month of August and what’s left of your children’s summer!

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On Track



By Steve Wilwerding

We have an expression that we use at my work when we talk about people in the company that we consider indispensable. "What if so-and-so were to get hit by a bus?" Inevitably, we decide that if such-and-such a person were to slip the mortal coil, we would lose a great deal of knowledge about company policies and procedures.

I was thinking about indispensable people in the Porsche Club, and realized how tenuous the existence of this club is. At least at work, we have enough people to cover should someone leave, but I'm not sure that's true of the Porsche Club. There are literally a handful of people who keep this club running. Were even a few of them to leave or quit volunteering, we wouldn't have track events, social events, or newsletters – in short, there would be no club.

Fortunately, we have been lucky that there are the handful of

dedicated people willing to volunteer their time and resources for the good of us all. Unfortunately, in the last few years, that pool of volunteers has been shrinking.

Speaking for myself, I do know that after having served on the Board for five years now as newsletter editor, I am getting a little burned out and think that the newsletter needs a change. However, I do not intend to stop serving. If I can be useful in some other position on the Board and continue to volunteer at events and instruct during track days, then I will gladly volunteer my time, because I believe that this Club is worth preserving.

I do know that there are some folks in the last few years who have had issues with the Club and its leadership, but I hope they realize (if they are still with us) that everyone who serves on the Board, who hosts events, and who helps during track days are volunteers, and that, in most

cases, they go above and beyond the call of duty. Yes, we have fallen down a few times, but the tenacious few who still volunteer have brushed off the criticism and continue to do what is right for the Club.

I feel a little bit like a preacher passing the collection plate, but it is my feeling that if you get something from this Club (track time, fun at social events, etc.), then you ought to try to give something back. As I mentioned above, we are stretched very thin on the Board, and while we are lucky to have such great Board members, we need your help. Even if you don't want a full Board position, maybe you could assist Sally with ideas for new events, or help Tom at the racetrack with registrations. Most of us volunteers would tell you that it doesn't necessarily take a lot of time to make a big difference, and we ask that you consider donating your time for what we hope you also believe is a club worth preserving.

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One Lap of the Great Plains

Story and photos by Steve Gallagher

For some time, Sandy Steckman and other local GPR members have been discussing the idea of driving on several race tracks in the same day. The goal was to start at Iowa Speedway, drive some laps, then do the same thing at MAM near Glenwood, continue on to MPH in Hastings, and end up at Heartland Park in Topeka. Sandy mentioned his idea to me about six months ago and asked if I would be willing to organize the event. I said yes without knowing the logistics and time involved in such an endeavor. After several months of planning, thousands of e-mails, phone conversations and text messages, we finally set a date - June 24, 2009! Unfortunately, Iowa Speedway kept throwing up "road blocks", so we decided to start at MAM. As far as we know, no other club has driven on three race tracks in three states in the same day. We started with about 10-12 drivers saying they would participate, but we ended up with seven cars and a few co-drivers.



We began at MAM at about 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24. We had seven Porsches, driven by Sandy Steckman, Rick Schaffer, Leah Schaffer (Rick's daughter), JR Sanders, Jim Lang, Larry Dean, and myself. Jim Howe, the manager of MAM, opened the track just for us. We had two staff

they could ride to Hastings with us. One of them rode with me and the other with Sandy. They took video from our cars during the trip and interviewed both of us. Heather Wester took us on the "scenic route" from MAM to get to the Interstate - we caravanned all the way, keeping in touch by 2-way radios. Unfortunately, Leah had to leave us at Lincoln, so we had six cars for the rest of the journey. Heather rode with JR, Lori Carnahan rode with Rick, and George Poullos rode with me (after we got to Hastings).

photojournalists from the Omaha World Herald there to record the event and interview drivers. An article was published July 7 in the World Herald and video was posted on their web site. The MAM track photographer also took pictures and posted them on their web site. I should mention that MAM and MPH did not charge us anything to use the track - they were extremely accommodating! The photojournalists (one male, one female) were having so much fun that they asked if

At MPH in Hastings, George Anderson met us with his usual enthusiasm. We arrived around noon and were there for nearly two hours. There were several reporters from the Hastings and Grand Island newspapers as well as the News Director from the local NBC affiliate (my cousin, Dennis Kellogg). Nice articles were subsequently published in the local papers and several TV broadcasts were aired with some nice footage on the track. One of the TV photojournalists rode with me for a few laps - they could not use much of the footage because I think he suffered from vertigo trying to look





through the camera while also checking to see if we were going to crash!

We made a side trip at Hastings to the Tessman's "vintage" garage near the Hastings airport. They are the parents of Brian Tessman, one of our local members. Those of you who went to our event in Hastings this spring were also treated to a visit to their garage, where they provided dinner and drinks for our entire GPR group. They are really nice people and true car enthusiasts! We lined up our cars, and the newspaper and TV crews interviewed the Tessmans. We were having such a

good time that we lost track of time. We needed to get to Topeka before dark!

The trip down to Heartland Park was a long one. It was long enough to begin with, but it seemed we needed numerous pit stops. Heather was consuming massive quantities of liquids to keep from smoking! Unfortunately, she was constantly looking for a bathroom. This began what seemed like a never-ending discussion about bladder control! George Poullos suggested that Heather get some Depends so that we could avoid so many stops. Heather retorted, "Depends don't

work with a bikini!" I did not count the number of stops we made, but we finally made it to Topeka. As we neared Topeka, the sky ahead was as black as night! Within about twenty minutes, the temperature dropped from 95 degrees to about 70.

We were warmly greeted at the HPT track by Dwight Cowen and his staff. They had posted a homemade sign on the grid stating "Great Plains Region - Welcome Back Home!" We hurried onto the track as we noticed it was starting to rain. Some drivers continued to drive in the rain. Most, like myself, cut the session short. We lined up our cars by their control tower building for a group photo, as we had at the other two tracks. Then it was off to get cleaned up and get to the New City Cafe restaurant, which stayed open late just for us! We celebrated our adventure with some great wine, food, and stories about the trip.

All of us had a great time, and we agreed that it would be fun to do it again in the future. I'll be glad to go along - just as long as someone else volunteers to organize it!

All European Car Show - September 13

Want to show off your Porsche in a setting worthy of the marque? Then set aside Sunday afternoon, September 13, to bring your P-car to Lauritzen Botanical Gardens for the Annual All-European Car Show. You're especially encouraged to bring your race-prepared car. The organizers have assured us that there will be plenty of room for trailers to park and turn around if necessary.

Be sure to check the website (gpl.pca.org) in the coming weeks for more details.

Upcoming Events

Dinner at Ryan's Bistro - August 22

Join us for one of the last outings of the summer at 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.

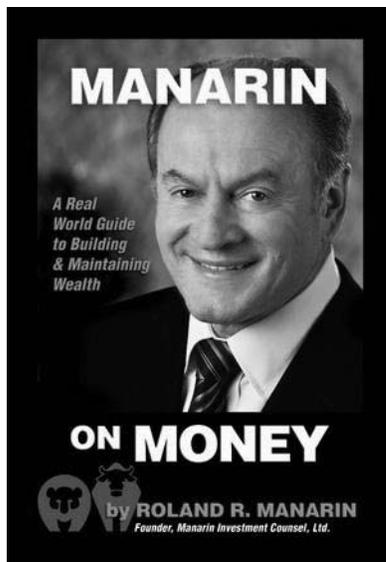
Contact Sally Knapp at 402-291-9350 or sallyknapp@juno.com if you would like to attend.

Porsche Pride at Fatburger - September 3

Clean up your car and come on out to Shadow Lake Towne Center in Papillion for the final Porsche Pride at Fatburger on Thursday, September 3.

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.



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Register online at clubregistration.net. Once you have created an account, go to "Dashboard" and click on "Event Sign-up". Our event is Woodhouse - Porsche of Omaha - Drivers Ed. The cost is \$50 for one day or \$75 for both. Lunch will be provided for registered drivers.

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Porsche Parade 2009

Story and photos by Kurt Halvorson

There are few destinations whose natural beauty and great mountain roads evoke such anticipation and excitement! Keystone is one of those places. With abundant sunshine and mild temperatures, friendly people and 1,000 Porsches, what more could you ask for in the middle of summer?

With those attributes beckoning, fellow GPR member Kim Burger and I signed up for our first Porsche Parade. Registration began in March, with the first 1,000 registrants accepted. The Parade is the annual Porsche pilgrimage to a U.S. destination, where for a week you can take in everything Porsche and not feel guilty about it. Everyone is there for the same reason – they're crazy about their cars and the Porsche brand. It's a community – a great week of socializing, rallies, autocross,

tech seminars, history and technical challenges (quizzes), a 5K, Concours, RC car racing, dinners, golf, driving tours, and more! The Rocky Mountain and Alpine Regions of the PCA hosted and organized this year's event and did an outstanding job.

Besides Kim and myself, Ezell Fox, Tim Grandon, Paul Gearke, Mitch Schneringer, and Russ Rabler represented the Great Plains Region at the event. There were sightings of a handful of other GPR members in and around Keystone as well.

The week began with a nice solo drive for me from Omaha to Keystone on Sunday. Kim Burger and his wife had left the prior week for a long weekend with some friends of theirs in Denver. Surprisingly, I had to drive 580 of the 600+ mile trip before I saw my first Porsche. After that, the concentration of Porsches in Keystone

was like driving in Stuttgart for the week! Of course, after any 600 mile trip, the first thing you want to do is go wash your ride, which we did at one of several free car washing stations they had set up around Keystone. We met some club members from Oregon and Ohio the first night, as well as a rep from Porsche NA whose job was to wash the cars on display at the conference center. He brought over a Cayman S and a Cayenne GTS while we were there.

Monday dawned with the anticipation of a 4-hour driving tour upon us. 150 had signed up for this first driving tour, so we left the staging area 50 cars at a time, bound for Minturn and Leadville and all the mountain highways in between. What a beautiful drive. We drew a lot of stares from oncoming motorists and townspeople as we snaked our caravan through their sleepy towns on a Monday afternoon. We stopped for a few photo ops of the cars and the scenery (oh yeah, the mountains!), and a little bit of history of the 10th Mountain Division training facility for the U.S. Military. Returning late in the afternoon, we headed over to a welcome reception hosted by our Zone 10 representative and the Kansas City region, where talk of Porsches and car modifications consumed the waning hours before dinner.

Tuesday was Concours and it seemed everyone who had registered



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for the Parade was in attendance. Held at the beautiful Keystone Ranch golf course, it was a spectacular sight to behold. There were cars there from every vintage – from Porsche’s first tractors to 356s to Carrera GTs. There were even two 959 examples on display. There was something for everyone there and the judging was keen. GPR Members Ezell Fox and Tim Grandon from Grand Island competed in the preservation class with their pristine black '89 911 (pictured above). Having had our fill of eye candy and socializing with members from across the U.S. and Canada, we headed back to the village. Enjoying the previous day’s driving tour so much, we headed out for another drive up to Fairplay and Breckenridge via Swan Lake Road. Several other attendees had a similar idea, as we exchanged waves and

headlight flashes with many of our Porsche brethren on the way up and back. Dinner at the Swiss Haven restaurant in Breckenridge was a great culinary conclusion to a perfect day.

Wednesday brought a second place finish for our threesome in the golf tournament at Keystone Ranch. The winnings were not enough to buy any new gear for our cars, but rather some new golf shirts from the pro shop. The TSD rally was taking place concurrent with the golf

tournament, and being newbies to the Parade, we thought we would try our TSD skills some other time at a smaller scale rally. Technical seminars were available on a variety of topics including tires, Mobil 1, preservation techniques for early 911s, technology in new Porsches, and strategies in high performance driving, to name a few. The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the new Panamera sedan to a standing ovation at the Concours banquet Wednesday night.

Having to leave for home on Thursday, we missed the Autocross, Gimmick Rally, Beerfest, more driving tours, and the concluding banquet Saturday night, but we immersed ourselves in what we could with the time we had. It left us wanting more and already has us considering a drive to St. Charles, Illinois for next year’s Parade. Hope to see you there!





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Member Spotlight



Hello, my name is JR Sanders. Not wanting to put together a boring spotlight article, I asked Sally Knapp if she had any suggestions to get me started. She gave me a list of questions to answer, and these are my favorites.

Five cars I'd like to put in my garage:

- > Any Porsche Cup Car. What could possibly be a better track/race car than a Porsche factory car?
- > Porsche 904. As pretty as any Ferrari and more rare than most. I'm not sure who would keep the four cam engine going though.
- > 427 Cobra reproduction. Of course, an original would be awesome, but I'd want to drive the thing, not just take the cover off and drool on it.
- > Super Duty crew cab pickup. If you're gonna have toys, you've gotta be able to drag them around.
- > 1947 Chrysler Town & Country Sedan. This thing is so big it will take up two stalls. My dad actually had one when I was a little kid and this has always been one of my favorite old cars. The hood is long enough to land a small plane on and the factory spotlights mounted on the front doors can keep a kid entertained all night long. This particular car ended up being sold to a relative in New Mexico who stills drives it (usually in a parade somewhere) and absolutely refuses to sell it back. I would love to participate in the Great American Race with this car and with my Dad as co-pilot. I'd be doing all the driving though.

Five favorite tracks raced on:

- > Stapleton. Yes, the old Denver airport. The Rocky Mountain Region ran a Club Race there once or twice and I was lucky enough to be invited to share Randy Roatch's GT3 car with him. There was so much concrete and it was so flat that the course looked like the world's largest autocross course. Orange pylons were everywhere. We even left a few standing. The layout wasn't that exciting but the speed was awesome. It's a favorite because it was one unique experience that I will most likely never have again.
- > Road America. Because it's huge, fast, very historic, and in a gorgeous wooded area. This is the one track that all road racers and fans must see. My most memorable experience there was racing Jeff Conkel's GT3 class 911. We discovered that if you got the perfect launch onto the super long pit straight and you got the lexan windshield to buffet in and out then you just hit 172 (according to the gear chart). This made finding the brake markers very interesting. They looked like they were moving back and forth about 3 to 5 feet.
- > Brainerd. Similar in experience to Road America. Brainerd is also big, fast and it's located in the northern Minnesota woods. This track has been around about 40 years but it still lacks the history of RA. The thing that sets this place apart from the rest is the awesome hospitality of everyone in the area, especially the folks from the Nord Stern region.
- > Mid-Ohio. Home of the SCCA Run Offs for lots of years. One of the hardest tracks I've had to learn. We just aren't accustomed to having hills peak right in the middle of faster corners when the car is already unloaded. It's not uncommon for one bump in turn 8 to cause the rear wheels of the stiffer cars to leave the pavement. Of course, this happens under heavy acceleration, which is just about the worst time to have the rear end kick out, which causes some very spectacular spins. I wouldn't know anything about this though, only been told. If you do go to Mid-Ohio, be sure to find a local and follow them for a few run groups.
- > Heartland Park. The place where both GPR and myself got started with our track events. This place has been a blast since it opened and gave our club the opportunity to put on the first PCA Club Race in the midwest. Through the years, it has gone through several changes, both major and minor, and now looks like a truly world class racing facility.

GPR Board and Minutes

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The GPR/PCA Board met Tuesday, July 7. Members present: Jon Theobald, Sean Cahill, Jim Avilla, JR Sanders, Heather Wester, Tom Cooper, Frank Graziano, and Abe Schlott.

Secretary: Minutes from the June Board meeting were approved.

President: We received a thank you card from the Tessmans for the gift we sent, and they are looking forward to hosting dinner again for the Club. Emails have been sent to some other clubs regarding our upcoming DE event.

Registrar: We currently have 29 registrations, with over two weeks to go before the event. Registration for the event will start at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at the track. There will be Friday night security.

Club Race Chair: The Board discussed if we would have a race next year - plans are to go ahead with planning next year's event.

Treasurer: All final numbers were reported for the *Wicked* event, the Garage Tour, and the DE. The books are in order.

Membership: We are getting more new members - Heather made three contacts who joined in the past week.

Social: Jon reported for Sally who was not at the meeting. Plans have been made to have an event at Ryan's Bistro August 22. The Board would like to plan a golf event.

Safety: JR will work on the final DE contract with MAM. Sandy Steckman will assist in finding instructors for the Woodhouse DE event. We will be promoting the MAM Boo Bash event.

Newsletter/Website: Not present.

Past President: Not present.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 4, at 6:00 p.m. at Parkers Smokehouse in Ashland.

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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GPR members stop for one of many fill-ups during the One Lap of the Great Plains event. Photo by Steve Gallagher.

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GPR & Other Regional Events

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

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