



Der Skooner

Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

October 2009

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Club Dinner at Stokes - October 10



The GPR will be holding a Club dinner at Stokes Grill and Bar, 177th and Center, on October 10. Social "hour" starts at 6:30, dinner at 7:00.

Stokes specializes in Southwest cuisine, and the GPR will be able to order off of the full menu, which includes everything from tacos and enchiladas to wraps, grilled chicken breasts, and various pasta dishes.

If you would like to attend, please email Jon Theobald at jontheo911@yahoo.com.

From the Prez

By Jon Theobald



I wasn't involved with the GPR back in the "Glory Years" of the GPR Club Racing and DE scene back in the late eighties and early nineties, when I've been told by several old-timers that as many as 120 to 150 cars would attend track events at Heartland Park in Topeka. I could never imagine such an event in today's track environment, with four open tracks within a four-hour drive and open track driving available every Friday if someone wants it. We've also got at least a half dozen regional car clubs making track time available on a monthly basis on weekends, too. All this adds up to is a bunch of less attended events all struggling to break even just to keep having track time. Well, leave it to Woodhouse to put together a spectacular driving event "just like the old days" at MAM, where they attracted around 120 cars of several manufacturers (all the brands they sell). There were some serious track weapons there, including a Porsche GT3RS, Viper ACR, Corvette ZR1, ZO6, Nissan GTR, Nissan 370Z, Ford GT, and a Lincoln Mark VIII. Yes, you read that right, a driver brought his track-prepped Lincoln Mark VIII. I spoke to the driver for a while, and he said he had \$1500 in his car and was having just as much fun as anyone else out there. That is the true essence of what track weekends are all about.

Thanks to Bill Pemberton of Woodhouse who helped organize the

Woodhouse Track Experience from the "track event essentials" perspective and made sure all of the instructors were paired up with the thirty or so novices in attendance. I know my novice, Dr. Kyriacos Panayides (call him K-Y), was having a fabulous time, and couldn't wipe the grin off his face after each session. His wife Gillian and their children even made the trip from Des Moines to watch him learn to drive his beautiful black on red 997 C4S Cabriolet. Thanks to all of the GPR instructors who volunteered to help out and a great job to Bill for running a safe and well organized event. Also, many thanks to other Woodhouse employees Mitch Schneringer, Lauren Schomburg, and others - I apologize for leaving anyone out for hosting such a wonderful weekend for us track junkies. All in all, it was a fantastic debut track event put on by the folks at Woodhouse.

Our event schedule is winding down as the colder temps start to set in. In October, we have a GPR dinner set up for October 10th at Stokes at 177th and Center (south side of Center), known for their fabulous southwestern food (the Sharon's Enchiladas are phenomenal), and their extensive wine list. I've reserved the party room, and we'll be ordering off the full menu and wine list.

October 17th is the Porsche of Omaha debut of the Panamera,

Porsche's new four door performance car, at the Salisbury House in Des Moines, IA. See the advertisement on the back of the newsletter for more details. Also, mark your calendar for November 6th, the tentative date for the Omaha Panamera launch at Regency Fashion Court.

Saturday, October 24th, is the last open-day track event at MAM, a.k.a. The BOO BASH. This event historically is made up of a large P-car contingent along with all of the other track-a-holics trying to get their last day in for the season. This event is hosted by MAM and is a no-novice event, but if you need instruction, I'm sure there will be many GPR instructors available for ride-alongs if you just ask.

Have a great October!



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On Track

By Steve Wilwerding



If you were to go up to someone on the street, and ask them, "Which automaker is the most famous, the most prestigious, and has won the most races?" Being members of the Porsche Club, we would hope that that person would answer Porsche, but my guess is that your "average Joe" would probably answer Ferrari.

As mentioned during a recent F1 broadcast, Ferrari is to motor racing what Tiger Woods is to golf – people may not follow golf, but they probably think that Tiger Woods is the greatest golfer. Likewise, people may not follow international motorsports, but they probably think that Ferrari is the greatest. As was mentioned on the broadcast, not only is Ferrari important to F1, but in many ways, they are the symbol of F1.

What does this have to do with Porsche? As you may know, our beloved Porsche is no longer an independent company, but is now owned by VW. As you may not know,

Ferrari has itself been owned by Fiat for a very long time. While many people are upset that Porsche has lost its independence, it is my hope that VW may do for Porsche what Fiat has done for Ferrari.

Long ago, when Ferrari wasn't selling enough road cars to pay for racing (as an aside, when asked what separated Ferrari from Porsche, Enzo answered that Porsche goes racing to sell cars – Ferrari sells cars to go racing), Ferrari let Fiat take over the road car business, and let Enzo focus exclusively on racing. Fiat understood that, while the Ferrari company may not be viable on its own, the Ferrari brand is worth its weight in gold, and so Ferrari became the prestige brand in the Fiat empire.

While Ferrari produced some iconic cars while they were still independent, many of the greatest road cars that they have produced have come after the ownership by Fiat. I believe that the only way for the

Porsche brand to survive is for VW to take a similar position – produce Porsche prototypes that are capable of winning Le Mans outright, and go back to producing pure sports cars for the road.

It is somewhat of a shame to see Porsche being taken over. For a car company that, in the span of just over a decade, went from being nearly bankrupt to being the most profitable car company in the world, being taken over seems like a bitter end. Who knows how VW will decide to run the company – they may keep Audi as their luxury brand, and Porsche and their motorsports history will fade into the background. I like to be more optimistic, and believe that VW will elevate Porsche back to being a world class racing brand, and hopefully in the next several years, when asked about prestigious auto manufacturers, a few of the average Joes will answer, "Porsche."



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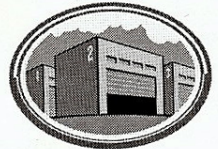
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Upcoming Events

MAM Boo Bash - October 24



The annual MAM Boo Bash is being held October 24 at MAM in Pacific Junction, IA.
Note: This is not an official Porsche Club event!

The track will be running the event, but if you would like to stop down and see some of your Porsche friends on the track for the last time this year, come on down. We may even meet up after the track event for dinner, drinks, or maybe a little trick or treating!

Details about the event can be found at <http://www.midamericamotorplex.com>.



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Meet our team:

Brian Weisenburg
Sales & Leasing Professional



Brian is originally from Hooper, NE. After high school, Brian attended UNO. Previous to Woodhouse Porsche, Brian lived in London, UK for the past four and a half years working for the top menswear brand in the world, Kilgour. Brian has also worked with other vendors like Hugo Boss, Vivienne Westwood, Tag Heuer, De Beers, Marc Jacobs, Hilton Hotels and Prada.

In addition, he has worked for clients like former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, soccer star David Beckham, comedian David Walliams, actor Jude Law, the British Royal Family including Her Majesty the Queen, music mogul P. Diddy and pop stars Outkast.

Brian is excited to have the opportunity at Porsche of Omaha and to get behind such an exclusive brand. He looks forward to advising you on your next Porsche purchase that fits your wants and needs best!

Getting to know Brian:

- 1. How many years/months have you been with the Woodhouse Auto Family?**
A little over a month
- 2. If married. . . what is your spouse's name?**
Haven't taken the plunge yet... girlfriend's name is Gina.
- 3. What is your first thought when you wake up in the morning?**
I need some breakfast, but there's no time left.
- 4. What kind of car do you drive?**
2005 Mustang GT
- 5. What is/was your favorite vacation?**
Lived in London for almost five years, that felt like a vacation sometimes. London or Paris tie for favorite.
- 6. What is your favorite pastime/hobbies?**
Basketball, baseball, going to the gym, painting or working on artwork
- 7. What kind of music do you listen to most?**
Alternative rock, soft rock, indie, 80's, oldies, anything but country
- 8. What is your favorite movie?**
Goodfellas or Twelve Angry Men
- 9. Tell us something that makes you happy.**
Being back in the states with my family and having the chance to watch my nieces grow up.
- 10. What is your favorite Porsche?**
I have a soft spot for the Cayman S, but I love all of the Porsches!
- 11. What color would it be?**
Black
- 12. Where would you rather drive your favorite Porsche: race track or scenic road?**
Definitely on a curvy, scenic road. . .

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Upcoming Events

Regional Driving Events

Kansas City DE @ Topeka October 16-18

St. Louis DE @ Gateway October 17-18

Central Iowa Fall Color Tour October 18

Regional Websites

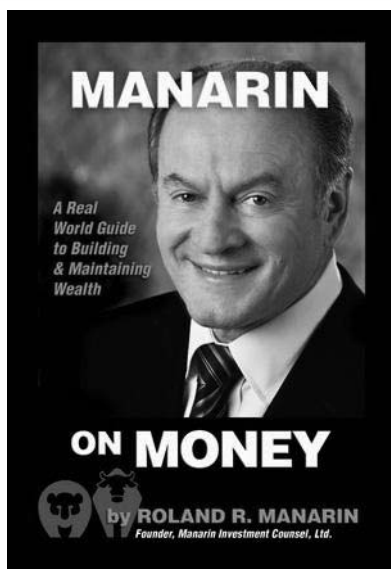
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GPR Board and Minutes

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:

Sean Cahill
31454 Highway 77 South
Beatrice, NE 68310
402-239-1238
wldrivr@aol.com

Membership:

Heather Wester
31454 HWY 77 South
Beatrice, NE 68310
402-203-0481
h_wester@hotmail.com

Safety:

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

Social:

Sally Knapp
919 Bayberry Dr.
Bellevue, NE 68005
402-291-9350
sallyknapp@juno.com

Newsletter:

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

PCA Zone 10 Rep:

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

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

Web Master: Eric Elliott

The GPR/PCA Board met Tuesday, September 1, at Investors Realty. Members present: Jon Theobald, John Krecek, Sally Knapp, Jim Avilla, JR Sanders, Heather Wester, Eric Elliott, Steve Eckhart, Tom Cooper, and Sandy Steckman.

Secretary: Minutes from the August Board meeting were approved.

Chief Driving Instructor: Sandy attended to discuss the upcoming Woodhouse Driving Experience logistics. GPR driving instructors are awaiting instructions from Bill Pemberton. Sandy has officially turned over the Chief Driving Instructor responsibilities to John Krecek after serving in this position for 7 years.

President: GPR marketing options were discussed for the upcoming Woodhouse Driving Event.

Registrar: Nothing to report.

Club Race Chair: Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Jim's report was all up to date.

Membership: As a group, we reviewed the membership list and made corrections and additions in preparation for the roster. Heather made her report on new members.

Social: Sally discussed a potential golf outing, but we need an organizer. The Board also discussed future events for the remainder of the year.

Safety: JR discussed fire extinguisher requirements for future driving events. Jon will contact Doug Pierce (the Zone 10 rep) to see what other regions are doing.

Newsletter/Website: Nothing to report.

Past President: Nothing to report.

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

Respectfully submitted, Jon Theobald.



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
4811 Davenport Street
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The Panamera will officially be introduced by Woodhouse in two upcoming events. Details for both events are below.

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Upcoming Panamera Events

Woodhouse will be holding two upcoming Panamera unveilings.



Experience the new Panamera...

with your Woodhouse family at the Salisbury House.

The first will be held at the Salisbury House in Des Moines, IA, on October 17 from 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The event will feature hor d'oeuvres and beverages, valet parking, tours of the historic Salisbury House, and Porsche test drives, and door prizes for participants. If you would like to attend, RSVP to Lauren Schomburg at 592-1000 by October 12.

The second Panamera event will be held at Regency Fashion Court on November 6. More details will be available through Woodhouse in the coming weeks, or call Lauren at 592-1000 for more details.