



Der Skooner

Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

December 2009

Volume 43 Issue 12

Merry Christmas from the GPR!



The GPR Board would like to wish all of the GPR members a very merry Christmas and happy holiday season. We hope that all of you were able to enjoy a GPR event this last year, whether it was a car show, a show 'n shine, a track event, a picnic on the lake, or just a social breakfast or dinner.

We are hard at work on next year's social calendar, with a number of events already scheduled for the first few months of 2010. We have heard from you that you want more social events, so there are a total of six already scheduled for the first three months of next year. 2010 also marks the year that GPR returns to Hastings to sponsor a Club Race and DE. We are also working on car shows, more driving events, and more social events throughout the year, so stay tuned to the newsletter and website.

In the meantime, please enjoy your holiday season, and we hope to see each of you next year at one our upcoming events!

From the Prez

By Jon Theobald



Now that we are really into December, I can start listening to Christmas music to help me get into the spirit of giving gifts and thanks, or in today's case, writing about it. I think I'll throw on some Chuck Berry's "Run Rudolph Run" to start with and get my fingers tappin'. Run, run, Rudolph, Santa's gotta make it to town!

The GPR really had a phenomenal year with our social calendar setting some sort of record for number of events, attendance, and variety. Just looking back, I'm remembering the always popular Chili Feed at Shamrock, Museum of Speed tour, Gymkhana at Porsche of Omaha, Wicked at the Orpheum, The Garage Tour, Sonic Show 'N Shines, Fatburger Porsche Pride events, Out of the Corkscrew Social, and on and on - I'm leaving many out! Can we match that in 2010? It will be tough, but I think we're up to the challenge with your help! Now is the time we are putting together the new calendar for next year and we really need your ideas and suggestions. If you have a minute, email me at jontheo911@yahoo.com and let me know your thoughts on what events you enjoy and any new events you'd like to see on the calendar - we'll do our best to put it together.

I want to thank our *Der Skooner* sponsors for this year of support. The newsletter is our

primary method of contact and information for our members and without your advertising dollars, we'd struggle to be able to mail out a printed copy for everyone each month, so thanks again for all your help and we hope to have you back for 2010.

Thanks to Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha for all of your support financially and for allowing us to host some events on-site. I can't express enough how valuable it is having a supportive dealership with our club. Each year at the Zone 10 Presidents meeting, I speak with the other Presidents and we really have a top-notch relationship compared to others. Thanks so much to Mitch Schneringer and his team over at Porsche of Omaha. You guys are the best!

On a very exciting note, we have already got a jump on Club Race planning for the upcoming season and have secured a date and location: June 4-6 at Motorsports Park, Hastings, Nebraska. We are finalizing the other details, but it's shaping up to be a great weekend with the test and tune Friday, shifter kart fun laps Friday night, and dinner activities being planned for Friday and Saturday night. We are very excited to be back on the Club Race schedule after sitting out last year, so we hope to be back in a big way and are trying to "bam-up" the event so Club Racers

out there, call your out-of-state buddies and get this race on your calendar!

We hope you can make it to the Porsche of Omaha Christmas Open House on December 12. This is an all-day event with a Panamera 4S on display. They'll also be collecting for Toys for Tots.

Saturday, January 23, is the date of our upcoming Awards Dinner at Oak Hills Country Club. We decided to mix it up this year and change venues after several years at Lo Sole Mio. Come find out who the award winners will be this year for Enthusiast of the Year, Family of the Year, Most Improved Driver, Aw Nuts, and Dumkopf. We'll be having some fabulous raffle prizes including gift cards to Porsche of Omaha, Borsheims, Brix, Flemings, In the Garage, and a free DE! There will be other door prizes too, and the introduction of the 2010 Board Members. This is our biggest party of the year, so don't miss it!

Aside from the Awards dinner, we'll be having a Breakfast at Wheatfields on January 9 and the ever-popular Shamrock Chili Feed in Beatrice on January 30. We're off to a running start in 2010 and we'll be working to build on the successes of 2009.

Thanks and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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On Track

By Steve Wilwerding



As I look back on my last five years on the Board of the GPR as newsletter editor, I find that the Club has changed an awful lot since I started. I just pulled up the picture of the outgoing Board from 2004, and out of the eight people in the picture, only two are still active members of the Porsche Club. It is tough to believe that within five years, many of the people most responsible for the running of this club and its events are no longer even members.

I suppose people move on for different reasons. Some of them, I know, found other interests, sold their Porsches, or just got busy doing other things. I also know that some of them, unfortunately, got fed up with the Club and quit in protest. I think the reason that those members left is that they didn't appreciate what has changed in the last five years.

When I joined the Board, circumstances were very different from today. We had close to 200 members, we were making money hand over fist at our annual Club Race, and times were good. We could afford to spend thousands of dollars to bring in guest speakers, or to buy gifts for the Holiday Party.

Things are a little worse now. Our membership has declined, the economy is still very poor, and we had to cancel the 2009 Club Race for fear that we wouldn't have adequate attendance (a fear that was realized for several other clubs who did hold races).

Fortunately, we were lucky enough to get the right leader at the right time. The best leaders are the ones who guide us through difficult times and emerge from the other side stronger. While the past presidents of the Porsche Club have all done well in the position, none of them has had to deal with the difficulties that Jon Theobald has.

When Jon started as President, the Club's treasury was badly depleted, and we were hemorrhaging money at track events. There were also a lot of inconsistencies on the Board, with some Board members not adequately fulfilling their roles, and to top it all off, we were losing members at an alarming rate. Jon quickly took charge and turned things around – when Board members fell down in their duties, Jon stepped up and made sure things got done. He has personally worked to increase membership in our club, and has made a lot of difficult but correct decisions regarding the Club's finances.

We can now look back and see what a transformation has occurred. The Club's treasury is now healthy, membership is starting to increase, the Club Race is back on the calendar, and 2009 witnessed more GPR events than I have ever seen. Jon gets a lot of the credit for this transformation, with help from the diligent efforts of our other Board members.

And, as I reflect on the last five years and notice that many things have changed, I also recognize that many things remain the same. Despite the difficulties of the last few years, many of our "old" members have remained loyal to the Club, and have realized that despite some of the failings, the idea of the Club and its preservation is more important to these folks than any individual errors that have been made. Another thing that has remained the same is that there are enough people who still love this Club to donate their time and energies to keep it alive. If you have never been exposed to a Board member's job, it is almost unimaginable to learn how much time goes into planning events, running track events, communicating with

members, and finding volunteers for our various activities. Heck, even attending Board meetings is a struggle for some of our past and present Board members who have driven up from Beatrice and Lincoln.

My father, who has volunteered for more Board positions than I could possibly count, says that any volunteer organization, no matter the size, has essentially 10 or 20 people who run the Club – they organize the activities, they keep membership up, they make sure the Club has enough money to run. If, my father says, those 10 or 20 people can't get along, or don't feel like doing it anymore, you may as well, in his words, fold up the tent, because there is no way for a Club to survive without those crucial people. I would say that "folding up the tent" has been a distinct possibility the last few years, and it is only through Jon's leadership and the Board members' hard work that we have come through the storm, and are still a strong and vibrant Club.

Finally, to close out my 61st column, I would like to mention how much this Club and its members have meant to me. As those of you who know me are aware, I am a private person. I am not a social butterfly, and my life tends to be pretty pedestrian. But through this Club, I have met some of the finest people in the region, have experienced some of the best and most enjoyable events of my life, and have had the pleasure of serving with some of the smartest and hardest working volunteers that you will ever meet. It has been my honor and privilege to have served the last five years as your newsletter editor, and it is my fervent hope that this Club continues to inspire its members to support the Club, attend its events, and volunteer for its activities and its Board of Directors.

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, or 402-319-8623

Details: Dinner will consist of a house salad with balsamic vinaigrette, fresh rolls, vegetables, and chocolate lava cake for dessert. The entree is your choice of Steak Diane, Sauteed Chicken Breast, or Atlantic Salmon. Wine, pop, or iced tea will be included with dinner - otherwise, it is a cash bar. We will be having a raffle during the event, and the big prize is a certificate for a free DE in 2010. Other prizes include gift certificates to Flemings Steakhouse, Woodhouse Porsche, Borsheims, In The Garage, and Brix Restaurant. RSVPs are very important, and we need to have all of them in by Friday, January 15. Even if you have already RSVPed, please do so again with your choice of entree. Also keep in mind that if you RSVP and don't attend, you are still responsible for the cost of dinner. We will also be collecting 2010 dues at this event, which is \$20 per member/family.

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 wldrivr@aol.com.



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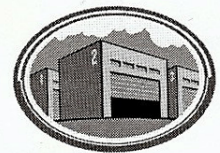
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Upcoming Events

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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Meet our team:

Lauren Schomburg

Sales & Marketing Assistant



Lauren is a native Nebraskan whose passion for Porsche was sparked at a young age. She grew up aiding in whatever restoration project her dad and brother were currently tackling, but enjoyed none as much as the Porsche 944 that they worked on.

While in high school, Lauren joined the Woodhouse family as a receptionist and customer service assistant and continued to work in the title department after her first year at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Following college, Lauren relocated to St. Louis, Missouri to get her feet wet in the event industry. While there, she worked with Live Nation, a leading concert promoter, and assisted in producing a number of concerts including Journey, Rascal Flatts, and Dave Matthews Band.

In January, Lauren returned to Omaha to join the Porsche team. She now handles various marketing duties and assists the sales and service departments whenever necessary.

She's proud to represent such an iconic brand at a dealership that values lasting relationships.

Getting to know Lauren:

1. How many years/months have you been with the Woodhouse Auto Family?

Almost three years (the first 2 were from 2004-2006)

2. If married. . . what is your spouse's name?

Not married, but I've got a wonderful boyfriend named Scott.

3. Where were you born?

Lincoln, Nebraska

4. What is your nickname?

Lo

5. What is your first thought when you wake up in the morning?

Thank you, Jesus.

6. What is/was your favorite vacation?

This past May I took a 10 day vacation that began Memorial Day weekend with friends in Las Vegas, followed by a week in Cancun with my family.

7. What is your favorite movie?

Big Fish

8. What is one thing most people do not know about you?

For those of you who attended the July DE, I really am excellent at driving a manual transmission!

9. What is your favorite pastime/hobbies?

Running, accumulating vinyl records, going to concerts and volunteering as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

10. What kind of music do you listen to the most?

Indie and classical

11. Tell us something that makes you happy.

Traveling

12. What is your favorite Porsche?

Cayman S

13. What color would it be?

Artic Silver with Cocoa interior

14. Where would you rather drive your favorite Porsche: race track or scenic road?

A scenic race track, perhaps?

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Upcoming Events

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

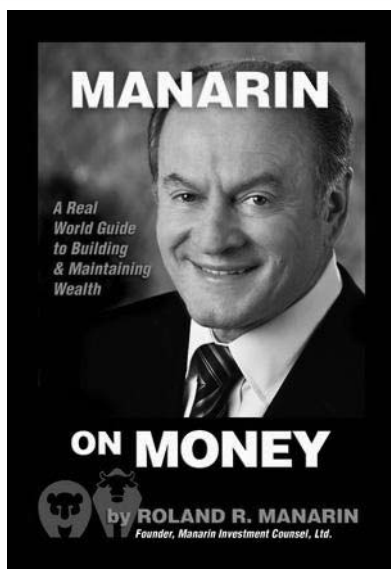
Nord Stern Region: www.nordstern.org

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Central Iowa Region: www.ciapca.org

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Upcoming Events

2010 GPR Events

Club Breakfast @ Wheatfields	January 9
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 - January 9 & February 13

The GPR is again going to start hosting a series of breakfasts this winter. The first two will be at Wheatfields Restaurant at One Pacific Place in Omaha on January 9 and February 13.

We will meet at Wheatfields at 8:30 a.m. on those two dates. 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 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.

Member Spotlight



Hi, my name is Eric Elliott. I live in Lincoln where I work as an Internet developer and an iPhone application developer. I am single and have a five year old son, Kyan Senna Elliott. If you can't guess from Kyan's middle name, I am a huge fan of Formula 1 and most other types of racing (except NASCAR and drag racing.) I've been a GPR member since 1997 and currently own a 2002 Boxster and a 1987 944S, along with a 1982 BMW 528e and a 1965 Chevy Corvair Corsa turbo convertible.

I've been a car nut as long as I can remember. When I was born, I was driven home from the hospital in a 1967 Mercury Cougar, but my favorite car to ride in was my mom's 1963 VW Beetle. I used to love riding in the back where I could hear that engine, always asking to go for a ride in the "Go Waggy" since I couldn't pronounce Volkswagen.

As I got older, I loved riding in my uncle's Corvettes, my favorite being his 1964 Corvette convertible, which he still has. I read every car magazine I could get my hands on, and I could tell you the year, make, and model of every car on the road just by a glimpse of a tail light.

In 1981, the movie Cannonball Run came out, and I discovered European exotics... what car-loving kid wasn't mesmerized by that red Lamborghini? Then, in 1983, it happened: I read an article on the Ruf 930 turbo, and became an instant Porsche fan. Sure, the Lamborghinis and Ferraris were swoopier and more exotic, but that 930 grabbed me somehow. I started reading all I could about Porsche, and discovered new favorites like the 356 and the 550 Spyder.

The summer before ninth grade, I moved to Nebraska and met my new best friend. One night, I was over at his house, and he said, "Hey, come out to my garage, I want to show you the car I get when I turn 16." I headed out to the garage and he showed me a car I knew nothing about: a 1965 Chevrolet Corvair Corsa. It looked pretty cool, the name sounded close to Corvette, and then he showed me the air-cooled flat-six sitting in the back. It was just like a Porsche! And I bet someday I could even afford one of these!

Well, I didn't get a Corvair as my first car, but I did get a 1973 Opel GT, which was still pretty cool. When I graduated high school, the Opel was passed on to my younger brother, and I bought my first rear-engined turbocharged flat-six car. No, not a Ruf 930, but a '65 Corvair Corsa turbo convertible. That car got me through college, and I still have it today.

About six months before I graduated from college, I decided I was going to buy either a new Miata or MR2. I played in a dance band at the time, and whenever I drove to a gig, I would arrive in the town early so I could cruise around the car lots. Then one night, I saw a 1987 944S on the Toyota lot in Grand Island. It was Guards Red and had 39,000 miles on it. Looking at that car reignited the Porsche passion in me. Every time I had a gig in Grand Island, I would drive by to see if the car was still there. After four months, I found out this Porsche was priced far below a new Miata or MR2. I couldn't believe it! A couple weeks later, I bought the 944S, and I now have over 173,000 miles on it.

That brings me to my Boxster. When the Boxster prototype was unveiled in 1993, I knew I had to own one some day. Finally, after years of telling everyone I came in contact with that I would own one, my friends and family had enough, and said, "Just do it already!" So in April of 2002, I picked up my brand new Speed Yellow Boxster.

The best part of Porsche ownership has been the GPR. We have amazing people in our club, and the friends I've made are priceless. The past couple of years you may have seen me helping Russ Standage on the grid for DEs and the Club Race. Well, my goal for 2010 is to finally get on the track myself to do my first DE. I can't wait!

GPR Board and Minutes

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Web Master: Steve Wilwerding

The GPR/PCA Board met Tuesday, November 3, at Investors Realty. Members present: Jon Theobald, Sally Knapp, JR Sanders, Steve Wilwerding, Jim Avilla, Eric Elliott, Steve Eckhart, Tom Cooper, and Past President John Krecek.

Social: The Holiday/Awards Dinner will be held January 23 at Oak Hills Country Club. Steve W is working on Club breakfast dates. February 27 is the Out of the Corkscrew Social at the Kreceks.

Secretary: The minutes from the October Board Meeting were approved.

President: The 2010 Board transition was discussed. Board ballots will be in the November *Der Skooner*. The 2009 Award candidates were discussed.

Registrar: Nothing to report.

Club Race Chair: The Club Race Committee meeting will be held at the Fox & Hound on Sunday, November 8.

Treasurer: Jim presented his report. The GPR finances are all in good order.

Membership: Nothing to report.

Safety: Nothing to report.

Newsletter: Steve W is working on getting out the November *Der Skooner* – event details are delaying release.

Website: The website up to date. Eric will post videos from the Woodhouse Track Experience online.

Past President and Chief Driving Instructor: A new projector was purchased and described—everything works great.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 1, 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.

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Porsche's latest racecar, the GT3 R, which sports a 4.0 liter, 480 HP engine, will replace the GT3 Cup Car model in future FIA GT3 races. If you'd like one, they will be released in spring of 2010 with a list price of \$415,000.

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

Woodhouse Breakfast Pics



Pictures courtesy of Steve Wilwerding