



Der Skooner



Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

November 2012

Volume 46 Issue 11

45 years- Happy Anniversary GPR!!!

October 20th about 100 Great Plains Region members and guests gathered at Embassy Suites to celebrate a momentous occasion - the 45th Anniversary of the Club. 45 years is quite an accomplishment and testimony to the commitment and passion the membership holds for one another and the marque.

Members were greeted by a significant display of GPR awards, plaques, photographs and models chronicling our 45 year history as they entered the dining area. This historic "drive" down memory lane was expertly organized and presented by none other than Denny Strauss (with setup assistance from Chris). After "catching up" with friends during the cocktail hour Master of Ceremonies and Club President Steve Wilwerding called the "meeting" to order. Steve shared thoughts about the traits that have allowed GPR to survive and thrive for 45 years. Steve then invited all of GPR's past presidents to the front - there were 15 in attendance!

Dinner was then served, followed by an hour-long presentation by the honored guest of the evening, Steve Matchett. For those who didn't attend, Mr.

Matchett is a former F1 mechanic and current F1 broadcaster on SpeedTV. He first addressed the future of F1 broadcasts in America – SpeedTV has lost their contract to broadcast races in the US, and NBC had picked it up. Mr. Matchett did not know whether he would be invited to be a commentator for NBC, but he certainly hoped that would be the case.



Mr. Matchett then discussed the 2012 season, with its ups and downs, multiple winners, drivers retiring or moving to other teams, and the general progress of all the teams through the season. He then took questions from the GPR members, and judging by the number and detail of the questions, it is obvious that we have many F1 fans in the Club!

Mr. Matchett closed out his

presentation by reading a chapter from his book currently in progress. The reading was about his experiences relating to the death of Ayrton Senna in the early nineties, from visiting Senna's gravesite in Brazil to attending the race at Imola one year after Senna's tragic death there. At the end of the reading, everyone in the audience was thoroughly spellbound, and I think Mr. Matchett garnered himself a good number of pre-orders for the new book.

Overall, the evening was a great success. While some of the wives may have been a little bored during the F1 discussion, the chance to catch up with old Porsche friends (including many who don't often come to events) was well worth the price of admission. A big thanks goes to Sally Knapp, Sandy Bruso, Tom Cooper, Eric Elliott, and Denny Strauss – they did a lot of work prior to the event that made it a big success. It's too bad that we only have these memorable events every five years, but it is definitely something to look forward to in 2017, when we celebrate our 50 anniversary!

By Steve Wilwerding

Inside Track

By Steve Wilwerding



As the year wraps up, and as my term comes to an end, I can look back on 2012 and see a very successful and fun year in the GPR.

We had some truly outstanding events this year, from the Lynch party to the Manarin fun run, from the summer picnic to the 45th Anniversary party. We also couldn't have asked for much more from our track events – the weather was at least reasonably good for all of them, including Club Race, and our participation for every event was high.

Also, our sponsors again stepped up this year, and we were able to run the Club in the black, including paying for Mr. Matchett and subsidizing the meals at the 45th Anniversary party. Over my two years as President, we were able to break even on enough events that, with sponsorship money, the Club is again able to make a charitable donation this year.

When I first started on the Board almost ten years ago, we made enough money every year that we would invite folks from the Hope Center to the Holiday Party and

present them with a donation from the Club. Then, the financial crisis hit, and we lost a lot of money on track events, enough such that, for a time, we had to scale back a number of events. Thanks to the excellent leadership of my predecessor Jon Theobald, we climbed back to where we needed to be, and, through the generosity of our members, the diligent work of the Board, and robust member participation in events, we have run a surplus for the last two years.

The Board voted this last week to split our donation between the Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls Club of Nebraska. Unfortunately, until all of the numbers came back from the Anniversary party, we were not sure whether we would have enough money to make a donation this year, but it turned out in the end that we did, and I feel that we chose two excellent charities where the money will be well spent. Tom Cooper and the Board have already agreed to make charities more of an ongoing focus in 2013, so that we can have a more comprehensive idea of the amounts and beneficiaries at the end of next year. I am very glad that the

Club is again financially stable enough to give something back to our communities.

As info, the "ballots" are all in, and the 2013 Board was voted for unanimously. Unfortunately, due to some unforeseen circumstances, Steve Gallagher will not be able to serve as Treasurer next year. Luckily, Bob Lynch had stepped up to fill the position, and the Board voted unanimously to name him in Steve's place. I also want to point out that this is George Poullos's first newsletter, so if see either Bob or George, give them a pat on the back for stepping up to volunteer.

We have a few more events before the end of the year, but the big one coming up in the new year is the Holiday Party on January 19. The full details are in this issue – RSVPs can come to me.

George has assured me that there will be a December newsletter, so I will have one final column to wrap up my tenure on these pages. In the meantime, I wish everyone a safe and joyous Thanksgiving, and look forward to seeing you at a future event.

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STOP IN TO SEE ONE OF OUR SALES ASSOCIATES TODAY

Manarin Fun Run and Italian Potluck

By Brian Tessman, Social Chairman

I would like to start out by offering a special thank you to Roland Manarin for being such an awesome host for the Manarin Fun Run and Italian Pot Luck Sunday October 7th! Roland, along with help from his friend Kim Damratowski, put a lot of time and effort in getting little Italy West ready for the club event. In addition, I would like to thank Denny Strauss for once again producing a delightful fun run through portions of the Elkhorn valley; another Strauss fun run on great roads slicing through a scenic countryside. Thanks to Sandy Steckman for continuing informative and humorous commentary throughout the run and, with the assistance of George Poullos bringing up the rear, for keeping the caravan together at the urging of Denny!

We were blessed with as about as perfect weather as you could ask for this time of year. Bright clear blue sky and seasonally pleasant temperatures. It was a Chamber of Commerce day! Of course the food, appetizers, side dishes and wine everyone brought was the perfect compliment to the Italian Lasagna and Chicken Piccata catered by Pasta Amore. The food could not have been any better! As a bachelor used to eating microwave dinners, this was heaven and I ate way too much! Sitting at the same table as Bob Lynch, if it would have gotten real quiet he probably could have heard my arteries clogging up.

Beginning to end, this was a fun event to coordinate. When I asked Roland if he would be willing to open up his beautiful home and host an event, he immediately said "yes"! When I asked Denny to if he would be willing to organize the fun run, he immediately said "yes"! Each time I reached out to Eric Elliott or Steve Eckhart requesting an update to our Web site or an email reminder go out, it was done. These are just a few of the countless examples as to why the Great Plains Regional Porsche Club has been in existence and remained strong for over 45 years.

Teamwork and dedicated members willing to say "yes" will continue to be the driving force behind future successful events like we had at Roland's. Please remember I am always open to fresh ideas, looking for volunteers, and willing to assist you if you would like to organize an event for the club. Thank you to all who attended and shared your food, wine and great company. For those who were unable to attend, I hope to see you at our next club event!



Photos courtesy of Steve Ginn. Thanks Steve!

MEMBERS ONLY - by Kurt Halvorson

PSDS – Another Porsche Acronym

Many of you are likely familiar with the above acronym – PSDS, or Porsche Sport Driving School, which is held throughout the year at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama.

This past January, my wife Melinda surprised me with the gift of this school for my 50th birthday. I was elated, knowing I would get to experience one of the best tracks and facilities in the country, with the top instructors from around the globe (including Hurley Haywood the week we were there!), driving the best that Porsche has to offer.

I am on my second Porsche, having started my love of German cars with BMWs 13 years ago. My first P-car was a '02 996. I thoroughly enjoyed that car, doing DEs with it and becoming an instructor for novice students through the club. Late last fall, I found a midnight blue 997S in Princeton, NJ. I flew out to pick it up and drove 21 hours back home, because that's what enthusiasts do!

So, wanting to learn more about my 997 in a phenomenal environment led me to try the PSDS. After learning fellow member Russ Rabeler received the school as a retirement gift, we booked our school for the same time slot. We attended at the end of May for the 2 Day School. This 2 Day is the pre-requisite for the Masters and other classes.

We arrived on a Tuesday and stayed at the host resort – the Renaissance Ross Bridge, also home of one of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses. I recommend playing the course for those of you who are golf junkies like me. Russ humored me and rode along for 18 holes while I played. The course is touted as the longest in the country at 8200 yards from the tips.

Wednesday morning we gathered in the hotel lobby with others attending the class. We headed over to the track by motor coach – about a 45 minute ride. Arriving at the track complex, we were struck by the beautifully landscaped grounds and meticulously maintained facilities. This is not your ordinary track facility – this is an automotive country club for enthusiasts!

We met in the classroom facility, enjoyed breakfast and met the instructors. Next up was ground school to re-learn the basics of car physics and the track layout. Some of the discussion was very elementary, but we had a wide range of experience levels in the room – from “never been on a track” to “I've raced in South America and am being interviewed to become an instructor at PSDS”. Of course, neither Russ nor I fit the latter category. There were about 30 in our class and the instructors grouped us by experience levels for our driving time. Russ and I ended up in the same group.

Driving exercises on both days consisted of track time, skidpad and autocross, with another segment



dedicated to heel and toeing and an off road stint in the Cayenne on day two. Thinking we were going to be driving the 997 / 987 variants, we were surprised to learn we were one of the first classes to drive the new 991 and 981 (even before the Boxster hit the showrooms).

The track time and autocross were the most fun. Track time consisted of a “lead – follow” arrangement whereby the instructor would drive the lead car for pace and we would fall into line behind him. Our group was one of the more experienced so we were allowed to pass slower groups on the track as we lapped the facility. Every car had a two way radio, so communications were always very clear from the instructor. After two laps we would switch positions, so everyone got a chance to follow the “perfect” line around the road course behind the instructor and everyone else got a chance to “find” the perfect line while wallowing at the back of the group.

The autocross course was set up in one of the upper parking lots and was a terrific layout, a little bit like a figure

eight with a lot of kinks in it along the way. We had team competitions on the autocross and the skidpad. Our 5 man team won the skidpad competition, driving a red 991 S on the water soaked pad around a figure 8 course in the shortest amount of time without killing any cones. We all believed it was our northern climate winter driving skills which led us to the top of the standings! Out of 6 teams in The autocross course was set up in one of the upper parking lots and was a terrific layout, a little bit like a figure eight with a lot of kinks in it along the way. We had team competitions on the autocross and the skidpad. Our 5 man team won the skidpad competition, driving a red 991 S on the water soaked pad around a figure 8 course in the shortest amount of time without killing any cones. We all believed it was our northern climate winter driving skills which led us to the top of the standings! Out of 6 teams in the autocross team competition, let's just say that we finished one position out of 5th. Regardless of our team performance, the 987 Boxster S that we drove on the autocross course was terrific.

Each day we had lunch with the instructors, and on the evening of day one, the instructors came to the hotel for an outdoor dinner with the students. It was great to be able to sit with them and ask them questions about the cars, about Porsche North America, their racing careers, etc.

The track itself is one of the finest in North America. At 2.3 miles long with 60 feet of elevation change, it offers an exhilarating driving experience. Leaving pit lane, you come down a hill making a slight left hand turn, and immediately turn right coming up the hill and heading back down, drifting out to the left, then up the hill onto a somewhat blind straight (which leaves your stomach in the back seat) where we were flat out before slowing hard for a left hand hairpin which leads onto the second straight before another right hander which drops in elevation as you drift left again to set up for the long, kinked straightaway. You can take the kink almost flat out as long as your track position is proper, otherwise a touch of the brake will set you up

MEMBERS ONLY (con't)

properly without going wide on the curbing to the left of the straight past the kink. As the straightaway concludes, it's a slight left and immediate right, up the hill and down the hill, and then up the hill to the right to a decreasing radius right hander which sets you up to come back down the hill into a left hand sweeper onto the main straight. Just writing this rekindles my senses and makes me want to go back!

The 991s that we drove were both the 7 speed manual and the new 7 speed PDK. While I'm old school and like to row the gears, I have to admit that the second generation PDK is a marvelous piece of technology. Left in auto mode in the sport plus setting, it learned the track and made for quicker laps than driving the course in 3rd gear in the manual cars. The PDK would snap off shifts and downshifts with a sonorous note out the exhaust, and never went searching for a gear in any corner, regardless of braking pressure. We also drove the new Boxster S on the track, and enjoyed the comparison of the mid engine progeny with the new 911. It's a phenomenal car in its own right, with a terrific chassis,

balance and handling. It feels very planted at speed and became a strong contender for best driving experience in my book.

Day two also added the off road experience with the Cayenne – not nearly as much fun as the track and the autocross, but still a good marketing



move by Porsche to showcase their wares. The Cayenne is an amazing vehicle, as demonstrated by traversing a flowing creek over heavy rocks to descending a hill so steep that your feet are firmly planted in the floorboard as though you're standing up. To conclude our on track experience, we enjoyed hot laps in the 991 S and the Turbo Panamera with our instructors at the wheel. Suffice

it to say there is a large gap between their skill at the wheel and mine. 'Nuf said.

After "graduation" and receiving our certificates and pictures with our track cars, we made our way over to the Barber Museum, containing the world's largest motorcycle collection (over 1200), the world's largest collection of Lotus cars, a variety of historic racing examples, several Porsches and automotive memorabilia. Mr. Barber has a good sense of humor, evidenced by the unusual sculptures and art work that adorn the track facility – from spiders in the infield several stories tall, to a lady the size of a small office building reclining in the lake. Many of the sculptures are hidden in the trees, on hills, etc., so a keen eye is required to find them all.

The experience came to an end all too quickly. While not cheap, it's a great opportunity to drive the best Porsche has to offer at a world class facility with the world's best instructors. What could be better for Porsche enthusiasts?



...heard it through the grapevine

From time to time we act incredibly human and produce genuinely humorous "aw nuts" moments that could be shared with the membership. Such moments usually bring a smile to everyone's face accompanied with the utterance "there but by the grace of God go I". (Of course if one is exceptionally human earning the infamous Dummkopf Award becomes a possibility).

We'd like to know about those "aw nuts" moments. Of course we will never publish the moment without the offenders permission.

Sent a note to George Poulos at gpx@cox.net should you know of an "aw nuts" moment.

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In Memoriam Samuel A. Ancona

Sadly, the Great Plains Region of PCA lost one of its finest members in October of 2012.

Sam Ancona joined GPR in 1969 and immediately became a very involved member. He provided advice and guidance through the early years and quickly earned the respect of his fellow GPR members. In 1973 Sam was elected President of the GPR. In his position as President, he outlined a direction for the club that would see the club expand rapidly in the following decade.

Sam quickly became known throughout the Midwest. In 1973, Sam was appointed "Zone 10 Representative for the National Porsche Club of America." Sam was again asked to serve as "Zone Rep." In 1974 and 1975, before retiring from that position. In 1976, Sam was awarded the "Shoemaker Award", which was given to the club member who most exemplified the criteria and brotherhood that the club was originally formed to represent.

Sam will be sorely missed by those who knew him. For those of us who had the pleasure of knowing him, we are the better for it. We will never tire of the stories of Sam and his cars. Who can forget the "strawberry 911," the Mercedes Blue 911 that he had the factory build him while on a Treffen to Germany, and what about the 911 that was crashed! There are so many more stories left untold.

On several occasions in the past two years, Sam visited Woodhouse Porsche with several of his long time Porsche friends. At the age of 90, he still had that gleam in his eyes when looking at the new cars. The plethora of new models amazed him, but one could see his gaze always shifting back to the new 911's in the showroom. In his eyes, you could see the memories of days past and his continued love of our favorite marque.

While he loved his Porsches, he did not put them on a pedestal. They were driven every day, rain, snow or shine! Now, that is the way to enjoy your special car and he leaves that lesson to all of us.

In January - Winter PARTY

WHEN: Saturday January 19th, 2013.
6P - social hour
7P - dinner
8P -awards/drawing
(\$50 gift cards from Woodhouse, Brix, Borsheims, In The Garage and a DE in 2013 from GPR)

WHERE: Oak Hills Country Club
12325 Golfing Green Drive, Omaha, NE
402.895.3636

SERVING: House salad with balsamic vinaigrette, fresh rolls
Chicken Saltimbocca with garlic and herb roasted potatos
or Filet Mignon with garlic and herb roasted potatos
or Pan-seared salmon with garlic and herb roasted potatos
Black Forest cake for dessert.

COST: \$40 per person

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BACKPACK PROGRAM

"We have several families with 3-4 children who are at the poverty level that would not be able to make ends meet without this program."

-BackPack Program coordinator at Westbrook Elementary School in Omaha

1 in 5 children in Nebraska and western Iowa under the age of 18 is at-risk for hunger. The BackPack Program is designed to provide food for hungry children at times when other resources are not available, such as during weekends and school vacations.

Approximately 3,700 children in more than 150 schools in Nebraska and western Iowa receive backpacks full of nutritious food each week. The bags are discretely distributed to hungry children each Friday at school so they have something to eat during the weekend. Your contribution can help us fill those backpacks.

The Woodhouse Auto Family, KAT 103.7 and KGBI 100.7 urge you to help by participating in the Woodhouse Challenge and donate to Food Bank for the Heartland's BackPack Program.

\$500,000 will sponsor 3,125 children for an entire school year!

To make a donation, please go to www.woodhouse.com or www.FoodBankHeartland.org.

We also accept cash, check or credit cards.



- 55% of teachers notice a positive change in students receiving BackPacks
- 78% of parents say their child shares the BackPack food with siblings

"(The) healthy food makes me grow."

- Student at Franklin Elementary School in Council Bluffs

Goal: \$500,000

Woodhouse:	\$150,000
Woodhouse Employees:	\$150,000
Community Match:	\$200,000



Sponsor one child for entire school year

\$160

One BackPack costs \$4/week

BackPack consists of:

- Two breakfast meals
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- Shelf stable milk
- Two juices



Sponsor Hot Lap - Woodhouse Porsche

The Porsche brand has come a long way since Woodhouse picked up the franchise back in 2005. We've gone from serving a small, loyal customer base in the Omaha area to now over 1,500 Porsche enthusiasts in Nebraska & Iowa. A lot has changed in the last seven years, both with our dealership and with Porsche Cars North America.

The most notable of the changes has been the introduction and success of four door Porsche models. Even though the very first Cayenne was introduced in 2003, it took a little while for the idea of a "Porsche built for four" to catch on. But once it did, look out! The success of the first generation Cayenne transitioned to the introduction of the Panamera in fall 2009 and the release of the second generation Cayenne in 2011. During this seven year span, the designers in Germany not only redefined the SUV and sedan marketplace; they also managed to redesign all three iconic Porsches (911, Cayman & Boxster). Porsche is a true pioneer in the auto industry.

And for the die hard Porsche enthusiasts in the group, it would be remiss of us not to talk about the introduction of the PDK transmission. If you own a Porsche equipped with PDK or have driven one, you know what we mean. If not, here's a little info about this ground breaking technology. The PDK's available start/stop feature and coast/sail mode both increase your fuel efficiency. Or when you want a burst of power, the launch mode coupled with the Sport Chrono package enables you to launch the vehicle flawlessly for your best 0-60 times.

While all the exciting Porsche products were rolling off the assembly line in Germany and hitting the road, the crew here at Porsche of Omaha was busy with changes of our own. We have gone from sharing the Lincoln showroom in our infancy, to having a building of our own, to remodeling that building and now in 2013 we'll be adding on to it. During this time, we've gone from a staff of two employees to ten employees. We've also earned the Porsche Premier dealer award twice (2011 & 2012). The Premier Dealer program identifies the top 25 Porsche dealers in North America. The qualifications for this reward included achieving the highest performance among our peers in branding utilization, product representation and development of key 'Porsche business drivers'; and in doing so, succeed as independent entrepreneurs who routinely exceed the expectations of their Porsche customers. Kind of ironic how this last line ties into to our Woodhouse motto, "to provide you with an experience that exceeds your expectations." The Premier dealer award is a point of particular pride for us at the dealership level and we're striving to keep our crown in 2013.

Success not shared is failure. It would be a shame to not share the many blessings we have been given. In the last four years, we have joined with our Woodhouse family to raise money for the Food Bank for the Heartland Backpack program. Every year this cause grows closer to our hearts. The Backpack program at the Food Bank helps kids who go home on Friday and have nothing to eat until they return to school on Monday morning. \$160 per year makes sure one child has a 4 lb. Backpack of food to take home on Friday afternoon to get them through the weekend. Since 2009, we have helped raise over \$800,000 for the Food Bank for the Heartland. We hope you'll join our efforts to give these children hope for a brighter future. Our 2012 Challenge is currently underway. To donate go to woodhouse.com and click on the Backpack Program logo on the center of the screen.

The outstanding Porsche products and our passionate employees make Porsche of Omaha a cut above the rest. We look forward to many more years of involvement with the Great Plains Porsche Club. Together, we are ambassadors for this beloved brand and can share our enthusiasm for all things Porsche.

Help Wanted

Your club is seeking an individual willing to memorialize events through photography.

Do you enjoy taking really cool photographs? Do you enjoy participating in Club functions?

Photographs tell a wonderful story and our club has some great stories to tell. We seek a member who has the vision and can memorialize our stories for posterity.

Please contact George Poullos at gpx@cox.net or your favorite Board Member.

MORE Help Wanted -

Teamwork and members willing to say “yes” and sponsor events will continue to be the driving force behind successful GPR social events.

As the Social Chair it’s my charge to produce events that get us involved. Its a critical function as I believe we’re a social group first. Sothe better the event the more fun it is to attend and we get to spend time with fellow members. Certainly one objective going forward will be to generate more events that celebrate our female members.

So, I NEED your assistance.

Please let me know what type of events are of the greatest interest to you. It certainly makes the job easier if I know what interests and pleases you.

Additionally please let me know if you wish to sponsor an event.

I’m here to serve you. Brian Tessman - brian24667@yahoo.com

EVEN MORE Help Wanted -

Der Schooner should celebrate the organization and its members. Celebration includes sharing.

This month Kurt Halvorson shared his experiences , along with Russ Rabeler, at the Porsche Sport Driving School in Birmingham, Alabama in the MEMBERS ONLY section. Its a great read that your will thoroughly enjoy.

Next month we’ve another article for MEMBERS ONLY that you will thoroughly enjoy.

BUT we need MORE from YOU! Please share your experiences with all of us. Did you participate in a driving school? How a about that vacation trip in your Porsche? Maybe a scenic drive somewhere cool. Did you do some work on your car? Your participation makes Der Schooner of greater interest to the membership. Besides, we’re snoopy and want to know what you’re doing! Send your articles and photos to: George Poullos at gpx@cox.net.

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...a short movie about a self-made clothing designer with a PASSION for 1964 through 1973 911's! It's about 25 minutes in length but well worth the time. This is PASSION!

<http://www.reelhouse.org/mos/urbanoutLaw/>

...a shorter video about Craig Jackson's - of Barrett-Jackson fame - circular garage filled with significant sports and muscle cars. Quite a display of outstanding cars in a very cool garage.

Million Dollar Rooms: Paradise Valley, AZ (Craig Jackson Garage) - You Tube



Porsche 917 Photocourtesy Denny Strauss

Have you some interesting Porsche photographs?

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Sent photos to George Poullos at gpx@cox.net

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The October Board of Directors meeting was postponed.



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911 RSR Prototype photo courtesy of Denny Strauss