

December 2016



DER SKOONER

Great Plains Region • Porsche Club of America



GPR

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THE DRIVER'S SEAT

By Kurt Halvorson

Well, here we are, closing in on the end of 2016 with another year of Club events nearly in the books. In this month's issue, enjoy recaps of the annual New Member Dinner at Oak Hills Country Club in Omaha, the women's only GPR dinner at Sage Bistro, and Jeff Sena's account of Porsche Palooza in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

In racing news, Porsche again won the manufacturers' title with the 919 Hybrid at the FIA World Endurance Championship Race in Shanghai on November 6th, one race before the season's finale. Driver Mark Webber, who announced his retirement effective at the end of this season, won the LMP1 class, driving the 919 Hybrid to victory with Timo Bernhard and Brendon Hartley. In total, from 24 races, the Porsche 919 Hybrid has 13 race wins and 15 pole positions to its credit.

In club news, this is my last column as your GPR president. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving you over the past two years and am now handing over the gavel to our next president, Steve Gehring. He will officially take the helm on January 1st. I would like to thank our entire board for their service and dedication to the club. They are the gears that keep the club wheels moving. I would also like to add a special thanks to those leaving the board

after several years of service: **Tom Cooper**, our past president; **Sally Knapp**, our Safety Chair; **Sandy Bruso**, our Membership Chair; and **Kim Burger**, our Social Chair.

Our 50th anniversary celebration is officially scheduled for next October 21st, 2017 at the Hilton Omaha. Mark your calendars now – it will be an evening you won't want to miss! Our guest speaker will be none other than **Hurley Haywood**, Porsche ambassador and the most decorated endurance driver in American motorsports. We are thrilled he has accepted our invitation. The format for the evening will include a social hour, dinner, and remarks and open Q&A with Mr. Haywood. Russ Rabeler and I had the good fortune of having him as an instructor at the Porsche Sport Driving School in Birmingham nearly 5 years ago. A very special memory. This will be an event you won't want to miss!

Please join us for breakfast on December 10th, and remember to sign up for the Annual Winter Party on January 21st.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all. See you around the club.

-Kurt

Der Skooner - Volume 51 Issue 12

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 of 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 Kurt Halvorson, 1217 N. 129th Circle, Omaha, NE 68154, and PCA, PO Box 5900, Springfield, VA 22150.

Membership News

By Sandy Brusco
Membership Chair

**It's time once again to
renew your GPR
membership for 2017.**

When you renew or join before the first of the year your membership is good for all of 2017. Why not save time and renew for 2 or 3 years? The benefits are many: you will be able to attend GPR member-only events, such as the always popular Winter Party, the New Member Dinner, and enjoy free advertising for car-related items for sale in Der Skooner. You will also be invited to the very special GPR 50th anniversary celebration in October. You must be a PCA member (www.pca.org) in order to join the Great Plains Region. All GPR memberships expire each year on December 31st, unless you renew for multiple years.

Please go to www.gprpca.com and click on the green button: **“Join or Renew Your GPR Membership Online”**. Be sure to add your significant other to the email list so she/he can also receive GPR/PCA emails. Complete the information and pay by credit card on our secure site.

If you prefer to pay by check, you may print the online form and mail it in. Please contact Sandy Brusco, Membership Chair, with any questions: 402.612.7931.



Welcome to our new PCA members:

**David Ingvaldstad
Ryan Jochim
Maria Sauvageau**

and to our new GPR member:

Alexander Boyd

Please make them all feel welcome the next time you see them at an event.

Congratulations
to our member with a December PCA Anniversary:

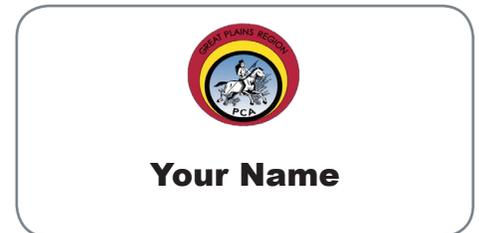
10 Years

Kurt Halvorson

GPR Name Badges

Look official at our next GPR/PCA event. The magnetic name badges are \$12, which includes shipping to your home. They take about 3 weeks to arrive.

If you would like to order one, please contact Melinda Halvorson at gprnewsletter@gmail.com.



On the Front Cover

1995 968 engine photo by Kurt Halvorson.



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The Board of Directors of the Great Plains Region PCA would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors for 2016. Your sponsorship and contributions allow the GPR to continue to offer social and driving events that make the Great Plains Region one of the most active clubs in the Midwest. We look forward to your continued support and a great year in 2017.

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Please look for information about sponsoring your Great Plains Region Club in 2017 in future issues of Der Skooner.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

10th Porsches & Pancakes - The Egg & I 3605 N. 147th St., Omaha 8:00 am
Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 7th to Kim Burger at kmburger37@icloud.com.

January - 2017

14th Porsches & Pancakes - The Egg & I 3605 N. 147th St., Omaha 8:00 am

21st Annual GPR Winter Party The Club at Indian Creek, Elkhorn
You must be a current GPR member to attend. Join or renew your membership for 2017 at gprpca.com.
See Page 16 for your invitation! **RSVP to Steve Bartlett at steve.bartlett100@icloud.com by January 17th.**

February

11th Porsches & Pancakes - The Egg & I 3605 N. 147th St., Omaha 8:00 am

March

11th Porsches & Pancakes - The Egg & I 3605 N. 147th St., Omaha 8:00 am

30th - 4/2 PCA Treffen Hill Country Austin, TX
Watch for emails coming soon with more information.

April

8th Porsches & Pancakes - The Egg & I 3605 N. 147th St., Omaha 8:00 am

29th-30th Spring Fling DE RPM - Pacific Junction, IA

May

13th Porsches & Pancakes - The Egg & I 3605 N. 147th St., Omaha 8:00 am

Stay up to date on all GPR events on our website: gprpca.com.
This is YOUR Club - be a part of it!



Save the Date for this Important Event in 2017:
Great Plains Region 50th Anniversary Celebration - Saturday, October 21, 2017

* Not a GPR/PCA sponsored event



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New Member Dinner - November 5th

Article by Sandy Bruso, Membership Chair, Photos by Melinda Halvorson

Oak Hills Country Club was once again the site of another successful Great Plains Region event, this time our annual new members' gathering and dinner. 45 new and current members turned out to enjoy the company of fellow Porsche enthusiasts, despite the broadcast of a pivotal Husker game, the result of which wasn't nearly as enjoyable as the meal. It was our largest turnout for the event so the word must have leaked out about the excellent prime rib that was served. Not surprisingly, the cocktail hour was also well attended. It did seem as if everyone spent the hour gathered around the

TV, waiting for the game to start, and conversation was equally spread between football and cars. If the ladies felt left out, their time would come the following week at the Ladies Night Out dinner at the Sage Bistro.

New 2016 PCA and GPR members present were:

Deven & Zankhana Amin
Tom Gutzke & Elisa Stutheit
Paul & Kelly Lutomski
Moe & Patricia Shanley

Social Chair Kim Burger reminded us that he's had to wear several hats in his position and this event was no different, literally. After wearing a Porsche cap, he whipped it off to reveal his true colors, Husker red, underneath. He also made note of the fact that next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the Great Plains Region, making us one of the oldest regions in PCA. 2017 will be a year of celebration, highlighted by a very special event next fall. After all, it's not just the cars, it's the people.



Left: GPR members enjoy lively conversation during the social hour.

Below: Mary Araujo and Terry Lessmann get to know new GPR members Paul and Kelly Lutomski.

More pictures on Page 11.



GPR Ladies-Only Dinner - November 8th

By Carol Lynch, GPR Member

On Tuesday, November 8th, eleven ladies of GPR visited The Sage Student Bistro of the Metropolitan Community College Culinary Institute. Located on the Fort Omaha Campus of MCC, finding the restaurant was an adventure for some – but everyone made the trip home just fine.

This event was supported by the GPR Board and offered an opportunity for those who attended to get to know each other a bit better. This should make future GPR events more fun and less intimidating for those who may not be the drivers of our marque.

There were many topics discussed and although Porsches were included, they were not the focus. This was not a tech and tune session but one could call it a chat, chew and sip session.

At the student run Sage Bistro the focus is flavorful food, beautifully presented. I don't think anyone went home hungry. A degree of patience is necessary as this is a learning experience for the students.

At one point several ladies had their phones out at the same time – noting when the next session for dining would begin. There will be some reservations made. Look for more GPR ladies-only events happening in the future.



L-R: Sheila Christ, Pat Shanley, Patti Adler, Glo McDaniel, Sandy Bruso, Sally Knapp, Carol Lynch, Jetty Rabeler, Linda Whitney, Melinda Halvorson, Theresa Mourey

Stay Current on all Things GPR and PCA:



gprpca.com



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Porsche Pictures

Would you like to see your Porsche on the front cover of Der Skooner? Please email portrait orientation JPG photos to Melinda at: gprnewsletter@gmail.com for consideration.

The deadline for articles/pictures for Der Skooner is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue.

Thank You 2016 Advertisers

The Great Plains Region would like to thank the 2016 advertisers in Der Skooner for their generous support this past year. Please keep these businesses in mind when you are in need of a particular service as a way of showing your appreciation.

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If you would like to advertise your business in Der Skooner, please contact Melinda at gprnewsletter@gmail.com for pricing and more information.

Porsches and Pancakes December 10th

Don't miss our always popular Porsches and Pancakes on December 10th. We meet at The Egg & I, 3605 N. 147th St., Omaha at 8 am in the private room. **Kindly RSVP to Kim Burger at kmburger37@icloud.com by December 7th.** It helps the restaurant know how many staff they will need for the morning.

Bring your significant other for a great morning of conversation and delicious food.



2017 DE Schedule

April 29 & 30
Spring Fling - RPM

June 2, 3 & 4
Club Race & DE - MPH

July 15 & 16
Summer Fun - MPH

August 26 & 27
Fall Finale - RPM

More New Member Dinner Pictures



L-R: Pat Shanley, Ann Burger, Linda Sena



Kim Burger, Social Chair, introduces new GPR members for 2016.

Thanks Kim, for your hard work as our Social Chair these past two years!



Members enjoy a delicious buffet dinner.

Husker fans through and through!
L-R: Pamela Storey, Glen Page, Denny Strauss,
Mary Araujo, Terry Whitney, Terry Lessmann,
Linda Whitney



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Porsche Palooza 2016

Article and Photos by Jeff Sena, GPR Member

One of the benefits of being a Porsche Club of America member is the multitude of events, both nationally and regionally that you are able to attend. As I wrote about in previous articles in *Der Skooner*, Linda I attended Porsche Parade in French Lick Indiana in June of 2015, which is a national event. Last fall we attended Escape to the Black Hills in Rapid City South Dakota. This July Linda and I attended Rocky Mountain Highway in Colorado Springs and November 9-13, 2016 we attended Porsche Palooza, held in Eureka Springs Arkansas.



Jeff & Linda at the Crystal Bridges Museum

These regional events are a little less structured omitting such things as track events, concours and other competitions. They still feature fun runs, tours, banquets and social get togethers as well as a show and shine, goodie store and tech sessions.

PCA Palooza is held annually on the second weekend of November in the Ozark mountain town of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, since 2005. The first year attracted 57 Porsches. By years four and five the number rose to 157 Porsches and over 300 people. This year there

were 264 cars and 459 people from 24 states and 25 regions. Linda and I made the 420 mile drive in just less than seven hours. We booked a room at an alternate hotel as the event hotel fills up rapidly and is often booked a year in advance.

Our first tour (Das Bier tour) was a forty mile drive on the winding, hilly roads of northwest Arkansas to a micro brewery. Speed limits varied from 55 to 15 mph, a great test of my 981's brakes and PDK transmission! Fall foliage added to the allure, although I must say my eyes were glued to the road, especially transitioning from 55+ mph to 15 mph around the "s" curves, a more relaxed pace!

Day two, the highlight for us was a tour of Rouge's Manor Castle, built by Smith Truer, a designer and artisan from Oregon, over a seven year period using California red wood inside and cedar outside, with very intricate patterns and geometric shapes throughout the castle. The Rouge's Manor has a few theme rooms that can be rented and a separate Grand Hall with long wooden tables and a gigantic fireplace. Special events such as weddings and parties are held here. One such event was a Game of Thrones style wedding and reception in full costume! The main castle has a display



Rouge's Castle

of Medieval Amour and weapons, plus a bedroom fit for a king!

Day three featured a fun run to Crystal Bridges Museum near Bentonville, Arkansas. The \$1.5 billion museum was built with donations by the Walton Family of Walmart fame. It's located in a secluded wooded lake front section and included colonial, early and late nineteenth century art, as well as a temporary art exhibit of modern dance. Also, on the grounds was the Bachman-Wilson House, an 1800 square foot house designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright, originally built in Somerset County, NJ and moved here.

Eureka Springs Features many eclectic shops and restaurants located on narrow, winding hilly streets. Parking



918

is an issue, but there are plenty of public spaces, most with meters.

(Continued on Page 14)

*(Porsche Palooza 2016, continued
from Page 13)*

No, I did not forget the cars. There was everything from early 356s to a Martini adorned 918. The last day was a peoples' choice award event followed by a parade of about 100 cars through downtown. The streets were lined with spectators with lots of cheering and waving. So the next time you're looking for a fun weekend getaway consider a regional event or PCA Treffen, which replaced Escape. Next year, PCA Treffen Hill Country is in late March in the Austin, Texas area and registration opens late December. Sign up early as PCA events fill up fast!

3 Years in the Books

By Joe Chambers, Registrar

What will stand out in my heart and mind as I look back at the past 3 years working as GPR's registrar? It will be the people. I have met many outstanding drivers that shared the passion for tracking their cars. I think the Porsche Club has an undeserved reputation for being a pompous and arrogant group. My experience has been the exact opposite. I have encountered nothing but wonderful, interesting and fun people during my tenure. I thank all of you that I have had the privilege to meet and work with during this time. When I accepted the role I agreed to do it for 3 years. My time is up and I will be passing the responsibilities to Dave Nelson in 2017. It was a lot of work but I have made many friends along the way and that made it all worth it. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during my term and I hope to see you at the track in the future!

A Porsche Christmas Rhyme

By Pepper Girl, Flat Sixes.com

'Twas the night before Christmas, where all through the shop
Not an engine was leaking, not even a drop.
The tires were filled to their max PSI,
In hopes that dreaded flat spots won't appear where they lie.

The drivers were warm, all snug on the couch,
Playing driving games in earnest so their skills would not slouch.
With batteries slowly charging from electricity on tap,
The Porsches were prepared for their long winter's nap.

When from beyond the garage there arose such a roar,
I sprang from my PS4 to the polished concrete floor.
A click of a button and the garage doors did raise,
I looked out into the dark my mind in a haze.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the luster of mid-day to the objects below.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a Porsche Turbo for a gift, "is this a joke?" I did fear!

With a tap of the pedal the exhaust note sounds,
I knew in a moment a flat-six had been found.
More rapid than a cheater in a Nissan GT-R,
With a new Porsche Turbo I know I'll go far.

Now Doctor! Now Hoffman! now, Metzger and Butzil!
On, Elford! On, Patrick! on, Webber and Hurley!
To the start of the race! we're off to the "Ring"!
Through the corners and chicanes this Turbo we'll fling!

If we meet with an obstacle, forced air is induced,
Nothing feels quite the same as that twin turbo boost.
Around and around the "ring" we did go,
By holding the line we were anything but slow.

Lap after lap the tarmac flew past,
We knew from the start we'd never be last.
My foot on the gas, I'm ready to shift,
If you find the apex there's no need to lift.

As we round the last corner the checkered flag in site,
This unfair race wasn't even a fight.
The marshals guide us over to victory lane,
Where once again Podium is Porsche's to gain.

Up upon the highest platform we stand,
Taking the win in Porsche's homeland.
Time to go home, put the Turbo in gear,
We turn up the radio so that all can hear.

The speakers are blaring as we drive out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

GPR November Board Meeting Minutes

The Great Plains Region PCA Board met at 6:00 p.m. on November 2, 2016, at Oak Hills Country Club. Present were: Sandy Brusco, Tom Cooper, Steve Gehring, Kurt and Melinda Halvorson, and Russ Rabeler. Joe Chambers attended via conference call. Kim Burger, Eric Elliott and Sally Knapp were unable to attend.

Social: The Poker Run was a success, with 17 cars and 28 participants. The participants donated 182 pounds of food and \$1,270 to go to Food Bank for the Heartland, the designated charity. This includes \$450 received from PCA. The November breakfast is at The Egg & I at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 12. The new member dinner is set for 6:00 p.m. on Nov. 5 at Oak Hills Country Club. There are 44 reservations received to date. The Club has also received a \$250 stipend from PCA to help offset the costs.

The holiday party is set for January 21, 2017. The final menu will need to be determined, and notification will appear in Der Skooner.

Safety: There are no updates from national. The new Club Safety Rules should be on the website within a week or so.

Registrar: For the Fall Finale at RPM, 37 drivers registered, 34 drove on Saturday, and 20 drove on Sunday. The event basically broke even, although there was a net loss of \$515 after all remaining refunds for the canceled Spring Fling were paid. No refunds remain.

There was discussion about the Club obtaining a 10x10 pop-up tent with PCA and GPR names and logos on it to be used to advertise the Club at various Club and non-Club events. It was pointed out that

the Club owns a tent already which might be 20 years old. Tom Cooper and Dave Nelson will determine its viability before any further decision is made.

Secretary: The minutes of the October meeting were approved as distributed. There was a reminder that the December 6 Board dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Spezia.

President: A short contract has been prepared and sent to the 50th Anniversary keynote speaker for approval and execution. There was a discussion of potential nominees for the various awards at the annual dinner, with input requested from Board members, to be finalized by December.

Past President: The contract for the 2017 Club Race has been received from national and needs to be completed.

Treasurer: The opening account balance for October was \$97,378. Closing balance was \$96,331. Receipts included dues of \$30, DE payments \$7,965, \$450 from PCA for the Poker Run charity contribution, interest income of \$13, social deposits for the Poker Run of \$690, and parade laps \$110. Expenses included administrative costs of \$37, DE track costs \$8,085, charity distribution to the Food Bank for the Heartland \$890 (including \$450 received from PCA), newsletter \$120, postage \$22, social costs for the Poker Run \$921, flowers for the Rick Schaffer funeral \$125, and 50th Anniversary expenses \$106. The Treasurer also recommended that the Club's bank account be moved to First National Bank of Omaha, where access will be easier and the Club funds will receive considerably more interest. Upon motion duly

made and seconded, it was determined to move the Club's bank account to First National Bank of Omaha. The Treasurer will make the arrangements. Authorized signatories for the account will be Kurt Halvorson (President) and Russ Rabeler (Treasurer) for 2016, and Steve Gehring (President) and Russ Rabeler (Treasurer) for 2017.

Editor: The Editor reminded everyone that November 15 is the deadline for the December Der Skooner. There was an article on the Poker Run submitted for publication in Panorama magazine. The December issue will contain articles on the new member dinner and the women's gathering.

Membership: There are 246 national members, including three new, and 130 GPR members, including three new.

Webmaster: The Webmaster reported that approximately 40 ballots had been received for the election of 2017 officers and that all officer nominees of the Board had received either 39 or 40 votes.

Other Business: The Board ratified the previously approved expenditure of \$360 to sponsor a Club women's dinner arranged by Carol Lynch on November 8 at the Sage Student Bistro at Metro Community College. After considerable discussion, it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to authorize and direct the Chicago Cubs to win the World Series.

The next meeting will be the Board dinner on December 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Spezia.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Gehring
Secretary

*You and Your Guest are Cordially
Invited to Attend
the
Great Plains Region Annual Winter Party*

Saturday, January 21, 2017

**The Club at Indian Creek
3825 N. 202nd Street
Elkhorn, Nebraska**

**6:00 Social Hour
7:00 Dinner followed by Awards**

Please choose an entree from the following selections:

**Roast Tenderloin of Beef with Balsamic Shallot Bordelaise
Lemon Chicken with Basil Chiffonade on a Bed of Lemon Cream
Almond Crusted Tilapia with Citrus Cream Reduction**

**RSVP the names of those attending and menu selections
by Tuesday, January 17th, 2017
to our Social Chair, Steve Bartlett at steve.bartlett100@icloud.com**

**You MUST be a current Great Plains Region member to attend this event.
Join or renew your membership today! See Page 3 for more information.**