



Der Skooner

Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

February 2010

Volume 44 Issue 2

Member Bio: Ken Burson



My name is Ken Burson and I was born and raised in Omaha. I have been married to my lovely wife, Irene, for nearly 22 years. Together we have a 19 year old daughter, Nicole, who is a junior at Iowa State University and a 17 year old son, Kyle, who is a senior at Omaha Westside. My wife is an audit manager with First National Bank of Omaha and I am the President of Piping Resources, Inc.

I first became acquainted with Porsche in the mid 1960's watching a rebuild on a 356 engine. It looked just like a Volkswagen engine only bigger in every dimension. It had bigger cylinders, bigger heads and much more carburetion. Otherwise, it

looked like a VW. At about the same time, I recall seeing Howard Shoemaker blasting down South 32nd Avenue in his car. I didn't know who he was at the time, but I liked the styling of the car and the sounds the 911 engine made!

I bought my first Porsche in 1978. The car was a bank repossession 1968 911L in Peru red with an engine that did not match the VIN. With that car I had the dubious distinction of being one of a few guys in the PCA who did not get screwed by the "California Kid". I actually bought back the original engine that was taken from my car from this individual. Many others in the club were not

so lucky in their dealing with the Kid.

It was at the same time I gave the "Shoe" a ride to the Old Market in the '68 right after I restored it. I'm not sure who enjoyed it more, but I think it was me.

My wife brings to my attention that our first date in 1982 was shared with a couple of Porsche enthusiasts that I had met for the first time on that very evening at Julio's in the Old Market. Their names were Bob Knapp and Mike Fuchs, and it is amazing Irene granted me a second date; she was bored to tears as the discussion turned to 911s.

I sold the 911L to buy a house but bounced back in 1983 with a sepia brown 1970 911T. I restored this car shortly thereafter and it is the red car I have today. I played in the SCCA in the mid 80s doing Solo II and was lucky enough to win a couple of MidDiv Championships with the car, but my wife pulled off the runner up National Champion title in 1988.

I didn't join the GPR/PCA until 1988 and I did so for one reason: to get access to Brainerd International through Nord Stern Region. I didn't think I needed the

Continued on page 4.

From the Prez

By Jon Theobald



The GPR Holiday dinner was a trousing success as fifty-plus members gathered at Oak Hills Country Club on January 23rd for some cocktails and a wonderful dinner followed by some well deserved award presentations and finally the raffle prize drawings. This was a new venue for us recommended by GPR member Kurt Halvorson after three annual parties at Lo Sole Mio's. Kurt also helped out with the date and menu arrangement so make sure you thank him when you see him—he'll be the tan guy with the sunglasses on (he and Melinda missed the party because they were out of the country on some sandy beach!). Thanks again, Kurt!

Each year we present awards to members that grab our attention for their accomplishments and noteworthy participation in the club throughout the year. The "Family of the Year" award went to new members Abe and Kelly Schlott and their sons, Jonathan and Nicholas. Kelly and Abe have been very active members since joining in 2009 and both even participated in their first driver education events. Abe also holds the Secretary position on the 2010 GPR Board. Kelly also took

home a faux-coupon for some mud racing tires she earned by putting Abe's 911 off the track in turn four at one of the driving events last season. They are still finding mud under Abe's car in newly discovered crevices. Well done, Kelly and Abe!

The "Enthusiast of the Year" award was presented to Steve Gallagher. Steve was a regular at many social events and as usual was easily found in the front row of the grid at the driving events. Steve also was the primary organizer for the "One Lap of the Plains" track tour several GPR members went on when they hit three racetracks in one day for some fun laps and camaraderie.

Steve set a new precedent for the "Aw-nuts" award presentation when he grabbed the mic and began lobbying for the award based on his misfortunes over the past track season. I was prepared for this. As Steve was talking, I held his "Aw-nuts" award certificate up behind his head as he was speaking to the delight of the crowd and surprised him with his award. It was a classic unscripted moment that got some good laughs—thanks Steve!

The "Driver of the Year" award was presented to the GPR member that displayed great improvement in their driving skills over the season. Input from our '09 Chief Driving Instructor Sandy Steckman also supported our choice for this award winner. Randy Cassling was not able to accept the award in person. Nice job, Randy! You deserved it—good luck with your Club Racing adventures this 2010 season!

The co-winner of the "Aw-Nuts" award, Sandy Steckman, was also presented a faux-coupon for a complimentary tire service visit for his trouble when his truck tire disintegrated as he was driving back from the Hastings DE back in June while towing his car trailer. That was a very scary moment that could have been disastrous but was averted by Sandy's masterful handling of the truck during the incident. Sandy has since upgraded all four tires on his truck!

The "Dumkopf" award has a special place in GPR history and is awarded to those special members for their display of "supreme poverty of intellect" as it is written on the back

Continued on page 10.



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The Journey

By Steve Eckhart



What's your goal, Daddy, 1,000,000?" My daughter, Ruth, asked me that question a few months ago.

No, we weren't talking about dollars. We were talking about mileage.

We were driving to an event at the church in the 968 and passed some interesting number on the odometer (I think it was 87654.) Ruth seems to have picked up my interest in numbers, so I try to find opportunities with her to find patterns. And, it was a cool number to have on the odometer.

Her question got me to thinking, what is my goal with my car? Let's face it, no matter how hard I try to convince myself that the 968 is a "practical" car as a daily driver, we drive our cars because for each of us the Porsche brand has some emotional pull.

If we were practical, we'd drive what my mom used to call "plain vanilla." The first car she ever bought for herself was a 1979 Honda Civic. It didn't have air conditioning. It didn't have power anything. No cassette player, not even FM radio. It had an AM radio. But, I think it got about 30 mpg in the city. It provided reliable transportation to school and work and to Grandma's and Grandmother's houses.

Also, I probably don't really fit the profile of the typical Porsche driver. I drive right around the speed limit. It's easier than

worrying about watching for cops everywhere you drive. And, unless you're going a really long distance, you can't save much time by speeding. I look at it this way: I can make people feel really good about their Toyota Tercel when they tell their friends they "smoked" a Porsche.

But, I have an emotional tie to the Porsche brand. My first car was a Porsche. So was my second. One of my favorite movie lines ever was, "Okay, who's the U-boat commander?" from *Risky Business*. And, as I always tell friends who ask, Porsche builds real super cars people can drive every day, unlike some other sports car brands.

So, when I bought the 968 three and a half years ago, I promised Stacy that if I ever stopped appreciating driving it, I'd sell it. To this point, I still get a little smile on my face when I walk down to the parking lot and see it parked there. I still think the 968 is one of the prettiest cars Porsche

ever built. And, I look forward to every on-ramp. (I said I drive the speed limit; I didn't say I take my time getting there!)

I also started thinking during that conversation, what is my goal in being in the Porsche Club of America? Did I just want to get a really nice magazine every month? Did I want to track my car? Why was I in the club?

Mostly I'm in the club because I like the members. As you learned last month, Stacy and I had a great time at the PCA Escape last fall mostly because of the great people we met. We joined the club because a friend invited us. We stayed in the club because we liked the people we met at our first event.

So, what's your goal? Why do you own a Porsche? How do you want to use your car? What do you want to get out of the club? More importantly, what do you want to put into the club?

Enjoy the Journey!



Steve Eckhart and George Poulos share a laugh over the Dumkopf Award for "extreme poverty of intellect."

Member Bio *(continued from page 1)*

club but I wanted the track. Later I discovered it isn't about the cars or the tracks, it's about the people and GPR has some of the best members anywhere.

Great Plains jumped on board the next year by renting a new track in Topeka called Heartland Park. The club owes thanks to Denny S., Chad L., Randy D. and Harvey P. for making this possible. I was asked to help as a track DE

instructor at that time and have been doing so ever since.

When PCA Club Racing started in the early 90's, I participated with the 1970 911T. I quit racing in 2001 and satisfied my need for speed through being a DE instructor. Now over 100 served, a few of my students hold professional licenses and have raced in events at a level I will never experience. Remember this discussion J.R.?

My son and I attended our first Porsche Parade in Keystone this

year and caught up with my long time Porsche friends Bob and Mike. A month later, Bob agreed to sell me his 993 to make room for his new GT3. Maybe I just wore him down with years of nagging. Whatever the case, I got the car of my dreams and my interest in Porsche has been restored. It looks right at home with the 1970 and to see them side by side, you would never know there are 25 years between the two.

2010 Dues Are Due

Dues for the 2010 calendar year are due this month. The dues are only \$20 a year: what a deal! Please mail your check made out to GPR/PCA to:

**Great Plains Region, PCA
c/o Tom Cooper
635 Shorewood Lane
Waterloo, NE 68069**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____ Work (____) _____ - _____

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National Dues Current? Yes _____ No _____

Car Model: _____ Color: _____ Year: _____

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Car Model: _____ Color: _____ Year: _____

Car Model: _____ Color: _____ Year: _____

Upcoming Events

St Pat's Day at Shamrock Racing - March 13



The Shamrock Racing St. Patrick's Day Party will be held Saturday afternoon, March 13, at Shamrock Racing. This annual event keeps growing, with plenty of Sean's famous corned beef and cabbage. If you wish to bring a side dish or some of your favorite beer to share, that would be appreciated.

As in past years, if the weather is nice, plan on a show and shine in the parking lot. The big screen will be going with either a good race on the Speed Channel or a good race movie, so plan on staying all day. We plan on starting about 1:00 p.m. and ending when the last Irishman leaves! RSVP to Sean Cahill at 402-239-1238 or wldrvr@aol.com.



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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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Zone 10 Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 2010

- | | | |
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| 13 | Valentines Day Party | Dakota |
| 21 | Wine Tasting, Yia Yia's Eurobistro, Leawood, KS | Kansas City |

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

St. Louis Region: www.stlpca.org

Central Iowa Region: www.ciapca.org

Dakotas Region: dak.pca.org

Kansas City Region: www.kcrpca.org

Show us your Porsche Collectibles!

Woodhouse Porsche in conjunction with your Porsche Club will be holding a Porsche Memorabilia Saturday, March 20th from 9AM to 12PM. This theme goes along with Woodhouse Auto Group declaring March as "Porsche Pride Month". Bring some of your most prized collectibles down to Woodhouse Porsche (Friday or 9AM Saturday morning) to share with us. We hope to see a wide assortment of items so don't be shy. Leave that winter boredom at home and plan on coming down to Woodhouse Porsche to spend some quality time with your car friends. Light refreshments will be available.



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Upcoming Events

2010 GPR Events

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Club Breakfast at Wheatfields | February 13 |
| Out of the Corkscrew Social | February 27 |
| Club Breakfast at Wheatfields | March 6 |
| St. Patrick's Day at Shamrock Racing | March 13 |
| Woodhouse Collectibles Display | March 20 |
| Dinner at Bella Vita | March 27 |
| Karting Event | April 24 |
| Club Race & Drivers Education in Hastings | June 4-6 |
| Drivers Education at Mid America Motorplex | July 24-25 |

Club Breakfast - February 13

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

We will meet at Wheatfields at 8:30 a.m. 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 DE @ MAM - July 24-25

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.

Also, the second DE of the season will be at Mid America Motorplex July 24-25. Details to follow.

We are always looking for volunteers, so if it looks like you may be able to volunteer either weekend, please mark your calendar and plan to join the GPR in Hastings and Pacific Junction.

From the Prez (cont. from page 2)

of the trophy. This year's award was presented by Steve Eckhart who witnessed this tragic (some would say "senior") moment when George Poullos, our faithful Fatburger supporter, failed to inform his restaurant employees of the "Porsche Pride" event that night for dinner at his restaurant. Steve and his wife Stacy ordered their dinner and received blank stares back from the cashier as they claimed they were there for "Porsche Pride" night with the Porsche Club. The cashier called George and he quickly realized his oversight. Nice move, George! It was all in good fun as we all got a good laugh at George's expense. (*Ed. Note: Really, George, we're laughing with you!*)

Sandy Steckman received a special plaque and a certificate for a free Driver's Ed in recognition for his contributions as the Chief Driving Instructor for the GPR. For seven years Sandy has been responsible for guiding track newbies through their first track experience and helping others further their driving skills. Sandy was also responsible for putting together student driving manuals and managing the DE instructors and assigning students for all of our DE's. Thanks for all of your help, Sandy. The GPR wouldn't be where it's at without all of your help.

Steve Wilwerding was also recognized for his five years of contributions as *Der Skooner* editor, which included being responsible for all of the content, layout, and advertising. I presented a special plaque with a blue Boxster mounted on it (to match his own) to Steve. Steve did a wonderful job with this position, which is critical to the club as *Der Skooner* is the primary

communication tool for the members.

The final award of the night was the prestigious "Shoemaker Award", presented to John Krecek. This award is presented to the person who represents the ideals and values of the GPR: fellowship, love of the marque, and involvement in the club activities over an extended time. John has been a member for 13 years, 7 of them in service on the GPR board, including as the previous president. John also served as club race chair for several years. This year, John volunteered to replace Sandy Steckman as Chief Driving Instructor and is also co-club race chair with Tom Cooper. Thank you, John, for being so involved and helping to make the club great!

I want to note we had a few members in the crowd make an appearance after not being involved for several years. Ardey and Jo Ann Clark were members back in the early 70s and have since moved away and now are back in Omaha and Porsche owners again. Also, past president Rick Krancj (1982) was present to see some old friends and get caught up in the present-day

GPR activities. We were also pleased to see past presidents Jim and Joann Palmquist. Thanks for coming back to the GPR and seeing us—it was great to meet you!

One final thanks to Mitch Schneringer and all of the Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha folks for joining as and making the presentation of the \$5,000 check as primary sponsor of our club race in June. We are looking forward to another fantastic year with our club race and all of the other activities we plan with Porsche of Omaha's support.

Keep an eye on upcoming events: we've got a club breakfast coming up on February 13 at Wheatfield's and the "Out of the Corkscrew" social at the Krecek's on Feb 27th. Bring your favorite bottle of wine and an appetizer to share for an informal social gathering. Over the years this has been one of the most well attended events of the year and sure to be a great time, so don't miss it!

Have a great February and remember springtime will be here before you know it!



GPR Family of the Year Abe and Kelly Schlott

GPR Board and Minutes

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913-897-5444
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Web Page: <http://gpl.pca.org>

Web Master: Eric Elliot

Great Plains Region Porsche Club**Minutes of the January 5, 2010 Board Meeting**

Attending were board members Jon Theobald, JR Sanders, Steve Wilwerding, Jim Avilla, Tom Cooper, Steve Eckhart, and Abe Schlott. Also present were Heather Wester, and Past President John Krecek. The meeting was held at Investors Realty.

Social: No new events since last meeting, working events for March and April. Discussed Awards dinner details. Discussed Awards dinner needing a defined head count 1 week out and a definite RSVP with food choice. Discussed Raffle drawings and prizes. Discussed an outing for indoor Karting. Discussed needing new locations for the garage tour – one new stop already committed, working on more as well as a date.

Secretary: Minutes approved from the December meeting. 4 ballots in for BOD as of this meeting, all sustained.

President: First D/E will be at the club race, possibly another in late July. BMW Club wants to participate in our D/E as they will not be having one any longer.

Registrar: Nothing to report.

Club race chair: Club Race announcement is in PCA News, Club Racing News, and Panorama. We will also have 3 sprint races and no enduro. Consider sending a marketing piece to all registered club racers via clubregistration.net as a part of doing more targeted marketing.

Treasurer: Jim presented End of Year report. A Hope Center donation of \$563 will be made with proceeds from parade lap donations. We may want to consider putting BOD minutes on line to save space and cost on the newsletter.

Membership: No report

Safety: No report.

Newsletter: January – escape article. Member Bio for February – Ken Burson. Due Jan 20th.

Website: No update

Past President and Chief Driving Instructor: No report.

Respectfully submitted by Abe Schlott



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 Tom Cooper, 635 Shorewood Lane, Waterloo, NE 68069 and PCA, P.O. Box 5900, Springfield, VA 22150.

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Get ready to show your Porsche memorabilia at Woodhouse Porsche on March 20. See page 8.

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

Holiday Awards Banquet



John Krecek displays the Shoemaker Award presented by Jon Theobold.



Steve Gallagher politicks for the Aw Nuts which Jon Theobold can't wait to present.



Jon Theobold presents a special award to long-time Chief Instructor Sandy Steckman.

*Pictures courtesy of
Kelly Theobold, Steve
Wilwerding.*



Sandy Steckman also took home an Aw Nuts award from Jon Theobold.