



# *Der Skooner*

Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

June 2010

Volume 44 Issue 6

## ***Southeast Nebraska Fun Run*** by Eric Elliot



On Sunday, May 16th, about twenty GPR members in a dozen Porsches met in Gretna at the D&K Gretna Cafe for a day of driving and discovery, organized by member Ardey Clark.

After breakfast, the group set out, undeterred by the cool temperatures and light rain. The line of Porsches made our way south toward the Platte river. En route, we encountered our first obstacle in the form of road construction. Not a problem, as we made a slight detour toward our first destination.

After a nice drive through some scenic

farmland, we arrived at the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center in Nebraska City. There was lots to see and even more to learn. Those explorers were true American heroes, and it was fascinating to learn about the various discoveries they made, and about the challenges they had to face. Going through the exhibits and watching a short film about Lewis and Clark gave me a much greater appreciation of what they accomplished.

Back on the road, we made our way toward historic Brownville, Nebraska, to the Whiskey Run Creek Winery, where we enjoyed each other's

company, along with plenty of wine and cheese. After enjoying the wine, we learned the history of the winery and got a tour of a prohibition-era cave that was once used by bootleggers. The cave has been partially renovated and is now a really cool space that can be rented for parties and other occasions. We closed out the day with a tour of the current wine-making facilities.

A special thanks to Ardey and JoAnn Clark for a wonderful event. We are already looking forward to the next one!

# From the Prez

By Jon Theobald



As a male, you probably have experienced this before where your wife comes home and says, “Honey, I went shopping today and I saved SOOOO much money so I had to buy this much more!!” I usually respond in my best advice-giving Abraham Lincoln voice, “Dearest, you can’t save money if you are spending it,” while I’m shaking my head trying to understand the logic (and failing miserably).

Well, I officially changed my stance on this since last month when I wrote about the new Nitto track tires I recently purchased. I am always online looking for a bargain and on one of the Porsche websites I visit regularly someone said an internet retailer in Chicago had Toyo RA1’s on sale. So, I got online and checked them out. These prices couldn’t be right – they are so low, I was thinking to myself. So, I called and spoke to a salesman. He saw the price on the tires and asked me to wait while he checked with his manager to double check the price because it’s so ridiculously low! As it turns out, the price was correct and he gave

me the delivered price of the tires (4) to Omaha of \$450. I jumped off the bed like a pre-teen girl that just scored front row Justin Bieber concert tickets and screamed in a high-pitched voice no man should ever make, “Give me two sets!!”

So I ended up getting 2 sets of Toyo RA1’s delivered for 900 bucks, a 50% discount. After I hung up the phone a tiny bit of buyer’s remorse set in as I thought to myself I soon will have 12 new tires sitting in my garage (including the Nitto’s I purchased last month). That feeling didn’t last long because I quickly remembered that I just SAVED \$900! “My wife will be so happy,” I thought to myself. I couldn’t wait to tell her.

The “In the Garage” event May 8 turned out to be a great success with members from the BMW club and the GPR commingling in the candyland for men known as “In the Garage”. With a dozen Porsches lined up on one side of the parking lot and a dozen BMW’s on the other, it looked like a perfect day to show-n-tell and talk to Robert Horstman about his

garage enhancements and car care products. There were also giveaways for some cool gifts and samples of some quick shine products from a local manufacturer. After the event several members met over at Ryan’s Bistro for lunch — I had the prime rib sandwich that was probably the best I’ve ever had. Thanks to Robert for putting on a fabulous event and advertising in *Der Skooner*.

I missed the Fatburger Porsche Pride event May 13, but I’d like to thank George Poullos for his generosity for hosting what I’m sure was another wonderful night of burgers and malts. I’ll be sure to make the next one.

Thanks to Ardey Clark and his wife, Joann, for organizing and hosting the Southeast Nebraska Fun Run. I met the group for breakfast at D&K Gretna café and passed out radios and mingled awhile before I had to leave. About a dozen cars left the café and headed south to the Whiskey Run Creek Winery in Brownsville, NE. I haven’t heard all the details yet,

*Continued on page 4.*



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# The Journey

By Steve Eckhart



I'm writing this on Memorial Day weekend. The summer is here. And with it, our family is in the midst of some major transitions.

We're teaching Jordan to drive. "Give it a little gas and let out the clutch. Look both ways at the intersection. Check your mirrors. Watch your speed. Stop! That truck is pulling out into your lane." Actually, he's doing really well. At first, he wasn't crazy about the beater '92 Nissan Sentra we bought for him to learn on. Especially as he was learning to handle the clutch, he would tell us that he hated the car. But, as he's gotten smoother (he rarely stalls anymore), he's learned to appreciate driving a stick, a skill many of the kids his age don't have.

We're teaching Ruth to ride a bike, too. Of course, that involves skinned knees, some tears, but mostly, "Watch me, Daddy!"

Both of these transitions are important steps in a child's journey to adulthood. Both represent new freedom. Because, in not very long, Ruth will be riding over to friends' houses and we won't want to run along behind her to make sure everything is okay. And getting your driver's license means being trusted to get



*Jordan and Ruth are each gaining new freedoms as they learn to transport themselves.*

yourself where you need and want to go.

That freedom to travel when and where we want is one of our most treasured freedoms in the United States. When I was growing up, I remember being surprised to learn that to travel in the Soviet Union had required specific traveling papers that stated where you were traveling from and what your destination was. And there were those World War II movies that showed Germans being arrested because they didn't have their papers with them.

Freedom to travel isn't the only freedom we have in the United States. We also treasure our freedom to speak our mind, worship God in the way we choose, and associate with the people we like. We hold dear

our freedom to live in our homes without fear that someone will kick in the doors to see if we've done something wrong. And, we take it for granted that the people we choose in elections will be able to serve in the positions to which they were elected and not be placed in prison because they are from the "wrong" party.

For many, Memorial Day has become just a day off work or the official start of summer. But, I hope you remembered what the Memorial part of the day is about: honoring the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who have given the last full measure of devotion to secure the freedoms we sometimes take for granted. We cannot bring them back to life, but we can honor their sacrifice in the way we live out our freedom.

# ***From the Prez (cont. from pg. 2)***

but I'm looking forward to reading about them in this issue when it comes out. The highlight of the morning was when Ardey shared with the group his daredevil "motorcycle jump-gone-bad" story about how he ended up doing a superman dive over his motorcycle handlebars and walked away with a few scratches and a neck brace. Good thing the windshield broke his fall. Thanks for being a trooper, Ardey, and I hope you are feeling better!

I can't tell you how excited I am for our Club Race coming up June 4 through 6 in Hastings at Motor Plex Hastings (MPH). Currently, we are at 42 racers and 28 Driver

Education participants and we'll pick up a few more no doubt before we close registration. We've had a very successful response from our sponsors which will certainly put the GPR in a good position for this event and for next year as well. Thank you very much to the sponsors and the volunteers! A full report of the event will be included in next month's issue.

Also in June we've got the 4th Annual Homestead Days in Beatrice June 19th. The GPR will be doing a show-n-shine at the Beatrice Airport starting at 11:00 am and there will be activities all day. Check out the details within. Thanks to Sean Cahill and Heather

Wester for organizing the GPR portion of this event!

Coming up in early July (Saturday the 10th) is the Candlewood Lake Picnic. This has been a very popular family event with a nice sandy beach and playground equipment for the kids, not to mention all the picnic food! Bring your favorite dish to share and meat to grill out. We'll provide the charcoal, soda, water, and utensils. You can swim and fish in the lake. So, bring the kids and the dog for a great afternoon in the park.

Hope you have a great June and I look forward to seeing you at some of our great events coming up!

## ***Great Plains Carrera GT at MPH Sponsors***

The Great Plains Region of the Porsche Club of America would like to thank all of the sponsors of the Great Plains Carrera GT Club Race to be held June 4 through 6 at Motor Plex Hastings.

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# Upcoming Events

## 2010 GPR Events

Club Race & Drivers Education in Hastings.....	June 4-6
Homestead Days in Beatrice.....	June 19
Candlewood Picnic.....	July 10
Kearney Cruise Nite .....	July 17
Fun Run to the Hausbarn in Manning, Iowa.....	July 18
Drivers Education at Mid America Motorplex .....	July 24-25
Sonic Show 'N' Shine .....	August 28
Porsche Pride at Fatburger .....	September 23

## Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha Events

Our friends at Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha are hosting the following events. Mark your calendars. More details will follow.

September 11	Racoon River Lodge in West Des Moines
September 18-19	Woodhouse Track Event at Mid America Motorplex

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# Woodhouse Ready Set Launch 2.0!

**Steve Eckhart**



*A family gets ready to test drive the Panamera 4S.*

Don't pull the red handle!" Those were Cass Whitehead's words of wisdom to the next set of drivers as he pulled up to drop Stacy off after her ride in the Boxster Spyder. Not realizing it was the door handle, Stacy had grabbed it as Whitehead drove her through the slalom at Ready Set Launch 2.0.

This was just one of our highlights at Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha's second annual event at the Strategic Air and Space Museum in Ashland, Nebraska. In addition to the pair of Boxster Spyders on the autocross course with instructors from the Porsche Sport Driving School, Woodhouse also provided test drives of the Panamera 4S, Cayenne Tiptronic, and Carrera PDK. The museum staff provided a nice luncheon of fruits, cheeses, chips with guacamole and salsa, and roast beef sandwiches. Woodhouse also provided a number of nice door prizes, ranging from key chains and

Bose® headphones to a Porsche watch. The winners seemed genuinely pleased with their prizes.

Along with the driving experiences, Woodhouse provided admission to the museum for all of the attendees for the day. In addition to the usual aircraft displays, there was a moving, traveling exhibit from the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

All of the club members present had smiles on their faces as they got out of the cars. The GPR would like to thank Woodhouse Porsche of Omaha for sponsoring the event. If you missed this year, be sure to put it on your calendar the next time it comes around!



*The Woodhouse crew poses with the Porsche Sport Driving School Instructors at the autocross course.*



*Professional drivers on a closed course. Smiles all around.*



*These were new tires at the start of the day.*

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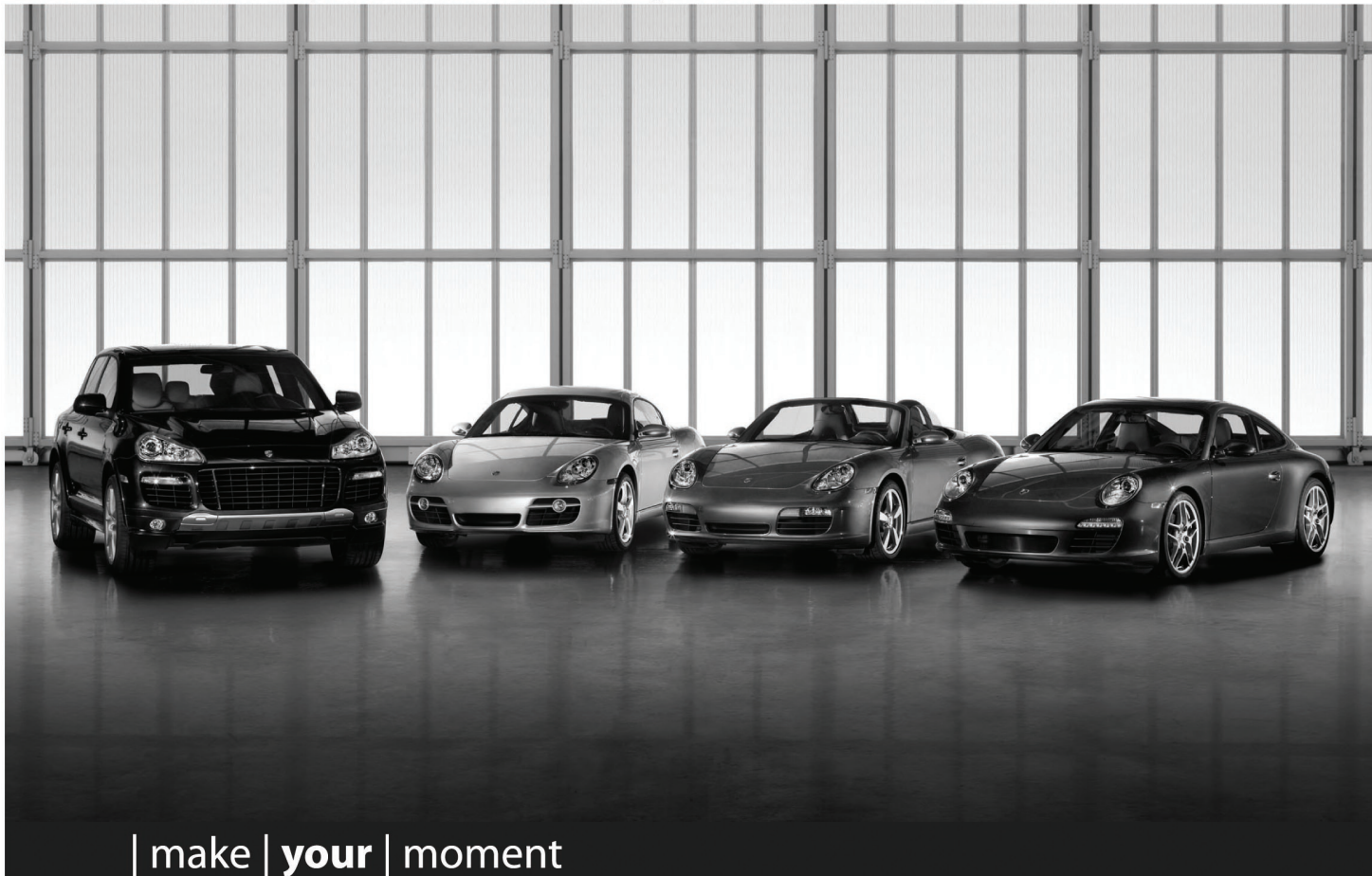
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# German Auto Nation 103: Bugs and Spyders *by Ken Kusik*

It was an incredible celebration of all that is inspiring and emotional about the exceptional automobiles we drive and the people who understand the experience. The sight of a row of the world's finest machines shining in the sun and the sound of turbo charged 4s, flat 6s, V-10s, and 12 cylinder engines singing.

This was the opening act of the Great Plains Region's "Sweet 16th" season of the neon nostalgia social event of the summer: Show 'N' Shine Cruise Nites. Like a spring thunderstorm, it exploded with a tidal wave of exceptional cars that swept the Sonic drive-in parking lot and flowed into two others. The old record of 62 cars fell fast and hard and by the end of the evening 103 cruised in the bask of the glow of the neon as it reflected off the

cars. There were perfect 50s Beetle Bugs, a Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder, and almost every conceivable Porsche imaginable. Just some of the marques represented were: Porsche, Audi, Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Triumph, Austin Healey, MG, and Viper.

While the car is the star, the people and the camaraderie among marques was extra special. New friends came and old friendships were renewed and stories flowed like water. Like the lady that had only driven her dad's completely restored 50s Beetle two times since he passed away more than a year ago. Chet and his '74 911 with 54,000 miles that had been rescued from a trash pile in the basement of a parking garage and had not rolled on its own power for 15 years! Or the

gentleman who had raced in Trans Am back in the 70s with a Keith Black engine Corvette. He said at Elkhart Lake he was doing 170 mph and the legends of Porsche racing flew by him in 935s like he was standing on the brake!

Show N' Shine Cruise Nites continue Saturday, July 17th, as we gather to cruise to Kearney to represent Germany's finest in their big weekend show, shine and cruise. Then Saturday night, August 28th, we will return to the south Sonic Drive-In in Lincoln to conclude the season.


The neon nostalgia of Show 'N' Shine Cruise Nites, has been serving up big fun to thousands of enthusiasts for 16 years. Join us for the half price food, fun, sights, and sounds. Great food, great friends, and memories to last a lifetime! Make some of your own.



*Something old, something new, all of them fast, and something blue.*



*An excellent crowd turned out for the first Sonic Show 'N' Shine Cruise Night of 2010*



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# ***Building a Better Boxster, Part 2***

***by Steve Wilwerding***

In my previous article about swapping a bigger engine into my 1998 Boxster, I listed some of the details you need to consider when buying the engine for your swap, including what year, size, etc. will work best for your particular car. I decided that the easiest and most cost effective engine for my swap was a 3.4L engine from a 1999 996. In this article, I will list some of the general maintenance items that I have added to my engine in preparation for the swap.

Once an engine is out of a car, like my 996 engine is sitting on a palette in my garage, there will never be a time when the components are easier to work on. In that spirit, I decided to do as many maintenance items on my engine as possible before I swapped it into my Boxster.

For general wear items, I decided to replace the water pump, spark plugs, spark plug tubes, serpentine belt, air oil separator, and engine mount. The water pump was an easy choice – it is difficult to change once it's in the car, and for an engine with almost 50,000 miles and 10 years of service, it would be due for a water pump one of these days anyway. Spark plugs are another easy call – they would have been due at the 60,000 mile service anyway, and for around \$8 a plug, I decided to do them now. The serpentine belt was also due at 60,000 miles, and since I had to take the old belt off to change the water pump anyway, it made sense to put a new one on.

The spark plug tubes were a little more of a challenge. The tubes, as you would imagine, are just plastic tubes with O-rings on the ends that seal the gap between the spark plugs and the valve covers so no engine oil gets on the plugs. It is very common for the O-rings to leak, and Porsche is now on about their fourth version of the tubes, so I decided to change them out. Getting the old ones out, however, was not an easy process,

and I managed to break one of the old tubes. There is actually a special Porsche tool used to remove the old tubes, which I didn't have, and that led me to trouble. I ended up getting the tubes changed out, but I would recommend that you don't need to do this unless your old tubes are leaking or broken, and even then, I would recommend a professional mechanic.

The remaining wear items are a front motor mount, which should be changed at around 50,000 miles anyway, and the air oil separator (AOS). The AOS is Porsche's fancy version of a PCV valve, and is a way for the excess air to be separated from the oil in the crankcase and fed back into the intake system. AOS failures are relatively common – in fact, my Boxster's AOS failed last year, so I thought it was a worthwhile update to make on the new engine.

I also decided to change a few non-wear-related items – the rear main seal and the intermediate shaft seal. The rear main seal is a rubber seal around the flywheel-end of the crankshaft, and since the introduction of the M96 engines, it has been a trouble spot. Early ones had a tendency to leak oil, and while they generally did not cause catastrophic failures, they were a nuisance if they leaked and had to be changed during a clutch job. Porsche has redesigned the RMS numerous times, and from what I have read, the latest revision is nearly bulletproof. The piece itself is only about \$10, and with the clutch off (as it was on my engine), it is easily accessible, though it does take special Porsche tools to install.

Finally, the one area that I had debated doing was the intermediate shaft seal, or IMS. All of the other wear items only totaled up to about \$500, and were worth doing because most of them would have had to have been done sooner or later anyway. However, the IMS is not a necessary part to change, and at \$600 plus labor to change a little bearing, it is steep.

After going back and forth, I finally decided that I would change the IMS. Unlike some earlier Porsche designs, the camshafts on early Boxster and 996 engine are not driven by the crankshaft – instead, they are driven by chains from another shaft called the intermediate shaft (IMS). Unfortunately, Porsche's choice of bearing for the end of the IMS was weak – it was supposed to be sealed, but often the seal gets worn away and engine oil starts to wash out the grease in the bearing. The bearing then fails, which essentially causes the engine to grenade. On an otherwise robust engine design, the IMS is a known weak point, though one that causes very rare failures.

A company called LN Engineering has developed a ceramic bearing that supposedly deals with the shortcomings of the Porsche bearing, but as I mentioned, it is \$600 and requires special tools to install. However, since I decided on “only the best” for my new engine, I ordered one up.

After talking with Woodhouse about doing some of the work on my engine that required special expertise or tools, they agreed that they would purchase the tools necessary for the IMS upgrade. The good news for other Porsche owners who are nervous about the IMS is that you can now take your car down to Woodhouse for the retrofit kit. If you would like more information about the IMS upgrade, feel free to call or email me.

So, the engine is presently down at Woodhouse having all of the pieces installed that I could not have easily done myself at home. Just last week, I got a complete parts list of the remaining pieces I need for the swap, including a new flywheel, clutch, and a complete exhaust, from the headers to the tailpipe, which I just ordered last week. Stay tuned – there will be plenty more details (and hopefully more progress) next month.

# ***Homestead Days***

## **4TH ANNUAL FLYING CONESTOGAS HOMESTEAD DAYS**

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## Minutes of the May 4th, 2010 Board Meeting

Attending were board members Jon Theobald, JR Sanders, Jim Avilla, Steve Wilwerding, Tom Cooper, and Steve Eckhart. Also present were Eric Elliott and Past President John Krecek.

**Social:** In the Garage event 5/8. 5/13 Fatburger. Winery tour 5/16 Woodhouse at SAC 5/29. Club Race at Hastings 6/4-6 as well as Tessman's dinner. 6/19 Homestead days in Beatrice. 7/10 Candlewood Picnic, 7/17 Kearney Cruise Night, 7/24-25 DE at MAM. 8/28 Sonic Show 'n' Shine. 9/18-19 Woodhouse Track Experience. 9/23 Fatburger.

**Secretary:** Minutes approved from April meeting

**President:** Discussed need for waivers for minors, participants and ALL guests. This has been discussed with MPH officials. Must crack down on waivers for all participants. Fundraising for Club Race is moving forward. Another round of letters was sent and resulted in some responses.

**Registrar:** Considering buying a new computer for Tom. He has a pretty airtight waiver signing plan.

**Treasurer:** Jim Avilla reviewed April financials.

**Club Race Chair:** John K will re-confirm Bob Thompson. Next Board meeting will mainly focus around the race.

**Membership:** Things are going well here. Better if he had a new computer.

**Safety:** Discussion of waivers and an old DE complimentary certificate.

**Newsletter:** Should be in the mail tomorrow.

**Website:** Updated with all social events and newly-scheduled events.

**Past President and Chief Driving Instructor:** We have 4 pair of headphones that will be at the track and charged up ready to go.

Respectfully submitted by John Krecek



**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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*Along with Porsche and BMW club members, Corvette, Jaguar, and Mercedes owners learned about car care at In the Garage.*

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

## ***Spab Haben Rennen Haus Schenue***

The next fun run will be Spab Haben Rennen Haus Schenue. For those who do not spreken Deutsch, a loose translation is Fun Run to the Hausbarn. At least, I think it is.

We will meet on July 18 at the northwest corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot off I-680 and Irvington Exit. Pedal to the metal at 10:00 AM sharp. We will take a scenic drive to Manning, Iowa where we will have

lunch and a guided tour of the Hausbarn, Historic Farm, and Church. Admission is \$7.50 per adult. The Methodist Church will furnish us with a sandwich, salad, dessert, and refreshments for \$8.00 per adult at the Visitor Center. The tour will take an hour to an hour and a half, so we should be back in Omaha around 3:30 or 4:00 PM.

Please RSVP to Ardey Clark at [jclark70@cox.net](mailto:jclark70@cox.net) by July 11 so I can make sure they have enough food for us all. I will hand out a detailed list of the route at the Wal-Mart Parking lot.

Please show up with your Porsche and a full tank of gas. There is only one other Hausbarn in the United States. You can learn more at [www.germanhausbarn.com](http://www.germanhausbarn.com).



*In the Garage hosted a number of Porsches (and other makes) in May.*



*The next Fun Run will be July 18 to the Hausbarn, Historic Farm, and Church in Manning, Iowa.*