



Der Skooner

Great Plains Region / Porsche Club of America

November/December 2011

Volume 45 Issue 10

Indian Cave Fun Run by Eric Elliot



Russ Gifford

Ten Porsches (and another German automobile inspired by Dr. Porsche) pause for a photo opportunity in Nebraska City before continuing to Indian Cave State Park.

The weather couldn't have been better as ten Porsches (and one VW!) cruised through southwest Nebraska!

After a great breakfast at D&K's in Gretna, about twenty GPR members hit the highway heading south. The route mapped out by Ardey was perfect as we drove through the scenic countryside, where some of Stuttgart's finest machines

mixed with those green and yellow machines from Moline as they worked in the fields.

At the first stop in Nebraska City, the tops came down on the Boxsters and 911 Cabriolets as we continued on to Indian Cave State Park. While there we drove through the park and stopped at the historical St. Deroin Cemetary, with graves dating from the

late 1800s, most victims of cholera, which basically wiped out the settlement of St. Deroin. From there, a drive down a winding, "haunted" roadway brought us to the one-room schoolhouse built in 1908, and the General Store which features broom making using a machine from 1879.

Also evident from our trip to the park was the extent of the

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Inside Track

By Steve Wilwerding



It's hard to believe that by the time you read this, we will be only a couple weeks away from the holiday season. It seems the summer and fall have flown by, and that Christmas will be here before we know it. At least the weather has been lovely – I cannot remember a fall in which I was able to golf in shorts in late October.

Speaking of golf, it has been an interesting summer for me, in that I took up golf again after a six or seven year hiatus. At the urging of a few co-workers to knock out early one summer day to hit the links, I dusted off the clubs, and surprisingly, did much better than I expected. I started golfing in my pre-teens, and golfed avidly until I was in my early twenties, then it kind of died out. Though I've never been a magnificent golfer, it's interesting that, like so many other things in life, the golf swing that I developed when I was young still comes rather instinctively. In fact, one of my co-workers who I golfed with just took up the game a few

years ago, and he finds it difficult to get in a rhythm. He commented that I must have grown up golfing, since my swing, even after several years of disuse, was still fluid and natural. I have read several things of late noting that it is a rare person who can become proficient at a skill (like golf, motor racing, or playing an instrument) without having learned it as a child. There is something about learning motor moments as a child that just cannot be replicated by adults.

As is also true of so many other activities, as I went golfing a little more, I found myself craving new equipment. It started with a new Taylormade driver, but by the end of the season, there wasn't an old club in my bag. I picked up a set of nearly new Taylormade irons, and when I went to the golf shop to have them lengthened, I tried out some new putters. The putter that I had in my bag had been given to me by my grandparents when I was about

10, and I never felt the need to use anything else. As one of my golfing buddies said, you could putt with a two-by-four – the important thing is that you are used to it. As I was trying out a few of the newfangled putters (some of which have heads as big as my driver), the shop owner noticed that I wasn't really liking any of them, and he recommended that I try an old putter he had on the shelf. For you golf historians, it is an Acushnet mallet head putter, which I am told is rather rare. It is all steel, except for a brass insert in the middle of the face where it comes into contact with the ball. After hitting a few test putts with it, I fell in love with the feel of the club, and for \$20, I threw it in my bag.

It's instructive, I think, that despite modern technology, despite the fact that drivers and irons are now so far superior to equipment from even ten years ago, the feel of a custom-made, sixty year old putter is unrivaled by modern equivalents. Isn't it the same

Continued on page 10.

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Midwest Americana Road Trip *by John Phillips*

I recently took two days to explore some Midwest Americana. It is quite amazing the number of attractions that are so close to the Omaha area.

From Omaha, take I-80 west to Lincoln and catch Highway 77 south. Stop in Beatrice and visit the Homestead National Monument of America. They have a very nicely presented museum that explains the Homestead Act of 1862. Did you know that the government distributed over 270 million acres of land in 30 states under the Homestead Act?

From Beatrice, continue south on Highway 77 into Kansas and stop at the Pony Express Barn Museum in Marysville, Kansas. This is the only original home station at its original site. A home station was one where riders as well as horses changed.

Continue south from Marysville on Highway 77, which now becomes a scenic highway, until you reach state Highway 16. Highway 16 will intersect Highway 13 and these two roads will take you around the Tuttle Creek State Park. It was fall when I went through this area and it was alive with birds and nature's color. Highway 13 intersects Highway 177 that you can take south through Manhattan to I-70 or as I did, take Highway 24 and reconnect with Highway 77 around Ft. Riley Military Reservation and intersect I-70



The Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum was the focus of John Phillips' recent road trip to see midwest Americana.

near Junction City.

Just a few miles west on I-70 at exit 286 you will find the Kansas Auto Racing Museum. It houses the first NASCAR trophy and the first NHRA trophy in addition to restored race cars from seven different eras.

Hop back onto I-70 west and stop in Abilene, Kansas to spend the night. This first day is not quite four hours driving time from Omaha and about 230 miles. There is a Holiday Inn Express close to the Abilene exit and next door is the historic Brookville Hotel with family style chicken dinners.

After breakfast the next morning, it is a short drive through Abilene to the Eisenhower Presidential

Library and Museum. This was the primary focus of my driving tour and I was not disappointed. You can spend anywhere from 30 minutes to several hours touring the Family Home, Museum, Statue, Place of Meditation, and Visitors Center.

You might want to head home at this point going west to Salina and then north on Highway 81. Several miles out of town is the Stony Hill Winery that is worth the stop if you enjoy vino. Highway 81 drops you into I-80 at York, NE and a short drive home. Again, about 230 miles and 4 hours.

If you are up for a little more adventure, keep heading

Continued on page 6.

Zone 10 November/December Events

November

- 5 Wichita Region First Council Casino Back Road Run
- 11-13 Ozark Lakes Region PCA Palooza in Eureka Springs
- 12 St. Louis Region and Parktown Imports Present Ross Bentley's Inner Speed Secrets
- 19 Dakotas Region German Dinner in Canton, SD

December

- 10 Wichita Region at Newton Opry Dinner and Show

For detailed information about listed events, see the respective Region's website or the PCA National site at www.pca.org.

Central Iowa Region: cia.pca.org

Dakotas Region: dak.pca.org

Kansas City Region: kcrpca.org

Nord Stern Region: www.nordstern.org

Ozark Lakes Region: olk.pca.org

Red River Region: redriverpca.org

St. Louis Region: www.stlpca.org

Wichita Region: wic.pca.org

2012 Board Ballot

President - Steve Wilwerding

Social - Ardey Clark

Secretary - Abe Schlott

Treasurer - Steve Gallagher

Newsletter - Steve Eckhart

Safety - Sally Knapp

Membership - Sandy Bruso

Please cast your ballot for the 2012 Great Plains Region board of directors. The members listed above have agreed to run for the indicated positions. You may vote for the full slate by simply returning the ballot by mail to Abe Schlott, 727 S. 13th Street, Omaha, NE 68102 or by sending an email to ASchlott@wd-wpp.com. You may also write in a candidate for any of the positions. Write-in candidates must be members in good standing of the Porsche Club of America and the Great Plains Region. All ballots cast by email or U.S. mail must be received by December 1, 2011.

Upcoming Events

2011 GPR Events

Dinner at Ryan's Bistro.....November 12

Breakfast at WheatFields.....December 3

2012 GPR Events

Holiday PartyJanuary 21 (Tentative)

Drivers Ed at Mid America Motorplex.....May 5-6

Carrera GT at Motorsports Park HastingsJune 1-3

Watch your email for additional events that may come up after we went to press. Note that this is the last issue of Der Skooner in 2011.

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Midwest Americana (cont.)



Clockwise from top: Before there were highways (or even railroads), Pony Express riders were the fastest from coast to coast; this guy would have loved to have a Porsche. The unique Garden of Eden. Homestead Museum displays 19th century farm implements.

west on I-70 from Salina to exit 206 and head north on Highway 232 to the little town of Lucas, Kansas. You will pass through beautiful Wilson State Park on this scenic highway.

Lucas, Kansas is the home of the Garden of Eden. Built in 1907, this garden and cabin were fashioned from 113 tons of cement and limestone. It is one

of the most unique structures I have ever visited and is in the National Register of Historic Places. I was tempted to head north on Highway 281 and see The World's Largest Ball of Sisal Twine in Cawker City and then on to Lebanon for the marker of the Geographic Center of the Conterminous U.S., but I decided that enough

is enough and from Lucas, I took Highway 18 east to Highway 81 and headed home.

This short drive was taken in the fall and the colors were wonderful as well as all of the combines and farmers in the field. This was a very enjoyable get-away to explore a few sites of the Midwest.



PORSCHE



Porsche of Omaha is proud to announce the promotion of a new Service Manager, **Andy Hipwell**. Andy has been with the Woodhouse Auto Family for 5 1/2 years and a part of the Porsche team since 2009. Andy looks forward to working with you and getting the most from your Porsche.



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Nic Meyer



Nick Buller



Chad Hart



Indian Cave Fun Run (cont.)



Russ Gifford

recent Missouri River flooding. The uprooted trees and silt-covered roads showed just how far the flooding reached.

Finally, on the way back

home, part of the group stopped at the Kimmel Orchard and enjoyed delicious cider and apple pie — a perfect end to a wonderful day.

Due to the effects of the flood, we didn't make it down to the actual cave; instead, that will be saved for another adventure. Don't miss it!

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Russ Gifford

Opposite: Tops come down at the first pit stop. Clockwise from top left: The old schoolhouse brings back warm memories. Single file on a tree-lined road. A GPR member shows off his school colors and allegiance.

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November and December Gatherings

The Great Plains Region will get together to share a meal twice more this year.

First up is a dinner on November 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Ryan's Bistro, located at 176th and Center in Omaha.

Then, we will meet for breakfast at WheatFields, located at 1224 South 103rd Street in Omaha, on December 3 at 8:30 a.m.

Please RSVP for both events to Steve Wilwerding at steve.wilwerding@gmail.com.



Inside Track (cont.)

with our Porsches? Though a modern Boxster or 911 would blow the doors off any of the older street cars, there is just something about the feel of an old 356 or 911 that can't be duplicated. There are not many days I miss my old 1981 911SC, but one of the things I do miss is that clunk that the old doors made when you closed them – the new cars don't do that. On many of the message boards that I frequent, there are a growing number of people with both a new Boxster or Cayman, and an old 911. They mention that, while the

Boxster/Cayman is so easy to drive, so comfortable, and so forgiving, they will get the 911s out from time to time to relive the visceral, seat of the pants feel that only older cars can give.

We have a few events to close out the year before our Holiday party in mid-January. We will be having dinner at Ryan's Bistro in a few weeks – for those of you who haven't eaten at Ryan's, it is one my favorite restaurants in Omaha, and I encourage you to join us. We will then have a breakfast at WheatFields in early December.

More details about both events are in this newsletter. We are still working on details for the Holiday Party, but it is looking like it will be the third weekend in January. We plan to again host the event at Oak Hills Country Club, since it is such a wonderful venue for the event. I am already praying that the weather will be better this year than it was last year, and I encourage all of our members to make an effort to attend this event – it really is the signature event of the year.



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The GPR/PCA Board met via email in October.

President: From my end, I will get with Kurt Halvorson to work out details for the Holiday Party, which I believe is scheduled for January 21. I took a drive down to MAM yesterday - the weeds were too high to see the track, and the road in front of the south entrance is all beat up (and closed to the east). There is still a lot of standing water (and stench) in the fields, but I've heard that the track looks pretty good. So, hopefully they can get repairs going and be open next year.

Social: Due to cost, we will move the November dinner from Brix to Ryan's Bistro. We will have a breakfast at Wheatfield's in December.

Secretary: The minutes from the September meeting were approved via email.

Registrar: No report.

Chief Driving Instructor: Nothing to report.

Treasurer: No report.

Membership: We have had requests to print another directory. I have been told by Doug Pierce that we are not allowed to share member information, even with other members. I have a question in with him as to whether on our membership renewal form, we can have a box that they can check in order to be included in a directory (in other words, opt in). I will let you know what I hear.

Safety: No report.

Newsletter: Steve has collected information for upcoming events.

Website: Eric will update the website with new event information.

Past President: Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 8.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Wilwerding



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.

