

December 2017



Skooner

Great Plains Region • Porsche Club of America

50th Anniversary Dinner



Guest Speaker Hurley Haywood, Hilton Omaha
Photo by Jamie Walker

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HANDS ON THE WHEEL

By Steve Gehring

Reflections on 50

It has been a pleasure and an honor to be the President of your Club during the 50th anniversary year. Your Board started 2017 wanting to make it a very special year with some great events, and I believe we succeeded well. If my math is correct, we had 27 separate events during the year, including three special events: the Spring Fling dinner at Bob and Carol Lynch's residence, the summer picnic and the 50th anniversary dinner with Hurley Haywood. In addition, we had three great fun runs, including one culminating in a breakfast with our Lincoln club members. We took in 16 new members, thanks to the great efforts of Joe Chambers, our Membership Chair, and finished (so far) with a recent high of 155 members.

For those of you who attended all five of our Club-paid events, you received more than \$235 in benefits for your \$30 dues investment. These five events were attended by more than 405 persons, which I think is outstanding, and I thank you all for your terrific participation.

Looking forward to 2018

While we have not finalized all of the calendar for 2018, I am already excited about it. We are going to repeat the picnic in June. We are

planning four driver education events, which are the subject of another article below. Mark your calendars for May 19th as we intend to have a wonderful catered dinner at the track at RPM. We are excited about having 2 one-day DE events at Raceway Park of the Midlands at a reduced per-day fee. We will have at least three social dinners in addition to the annual dinner, and we are planning three fun runs. I think you will like next year.

More Porsche Rantings

At the conclusion of the WEC race in Shanghai on the first weekend in November, Porsche pulled off the hat trick of hat tricks, winning both Le Mans and the LMP1 Championship for three straight years. In addition, its factory drivers Brendan Hartley, Timo Bernhard and Earl Bamber sealed the drivers' championship. This has to rank right at the top of Porsche's all-time successes in auto racing. It makes Porsche's decision to discontinue the 919 hybrid program even more disappointing. Electric is here—we will see if it's here to stay. There are interesting commentaries out indicating that if all automotive went electric, there is neither the money nor the electrical grid capacity to support it. The next 10 years should be interesting.

Der Skooner - Volume 52 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.

Membership News

By Joe Chambers
Membership Chair

We are getting close to having 2017 in the books and it will be time to renew your membership for 2018. Many of you have paid in advance using the multiple year options and I know it's hard to keep up with your last payment. Please contact me if you need to be reminded of the status of your membership.

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, Spring Fling Social, New Member Dinner, as well as enjoy free advertising for car-related items for sale in Der Skooner. You must be a PCA member (pca.org) in order to join the Great Plains Region. **All GPR memberships expire on December 31st, unless you renew for multiple years.**

Please go to 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.

Questions?
Contact Joe Chambers
Membership Chair
402.250.7032 or
gprmem@gmail.com



Congratulations

to our members with a November PCA anniversary:

15 Years

Doug Troupe

5 Years

Chris Kidwell

Welcome to our new PCA member and GPR member:

Mike Agostino

Please make Mike feel welcome the next time you see him at an event.

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 at gprnews-letter@gmail.com.



GPR Member Numbers

155 paid 2017 GPR members
268 PCA members in our Region

In This Issue

Hands on the Wheel	Page 2
Calendar of Events	Page 6
Thank you 2017 GPR Sponsors	Page 8
Winter Party Invitation	Page 8
Did You Know?	Page 9
GPR's 50 th Anniversary Dinner	Pages 10, 11, 12
Porsches & Pancakes	Page 13
GPR New Member Dinner	Pages 14, 16
Meet a GPR Member	Page 15
We get inside Porsche's Secret Museum ...	Page 17, 18
November Board Meeting Minutes	Page 19, 20



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

9th Porsches & Pancakes TBA 8:00 am
Watch your email for information about December's breakfast.

January - 2018

13th Porsches & Pancakes Garden Café 8:00 am
11040 Oak St., Omaha

20th GPR Annual Winter Party The Club at Indian Creek 6:00 pm Social
See Page 8 for your invitation! Elkhorn, NE 7:00 pm Dinner

February

10th Porsches & Pancakes Garden Café 8:00 am
11040 Oak St., Omaha

March

3rd Tech Session Porsche Omaha, 6625 I St. 2-4:00 pm

10th Porsches & Pancakes TBA 8:00 am

April

14th Porsches & Pancakes Garden Café 8:00 am
11040 Oak St., Omaha

28th Social Pay-Your-Own-Way Dinner TBA 6:00 pm

May

12th Fun Run TBA 8:00 am

19th-20th Spring Fling DE RPM, Pacific Junction 8:00 am
Spring Fling Dinner at RPM

Stay up to date on all GPR events on our website: gprpca.com.

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Thank You 2017 Great Plains Region Sponsors!

The Board of Directors of the Great Plains Region PCA would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors for 2017. 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 2018.

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David Adler

Please look for information about sponsoring your Great Plains Region Club in 2018 in future issues of Der Skooner.



*You and a Guest are
Cordially Invited to Attend the
Great Plains Region Annual Winter Party
Saturday, January 20, 2018*

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

6:00 Social Hour Cash Bar with the 2017 Year in Review slide show

7:00 Dinner followed by Raffle and Awards

Dinner Menu

Thunderbird Salad

Combination-Roast Tenderloin of Beef AND Grilled Fresh Salmon

Parsley Potatoes

Green Beans Almondine

Dessert

Salted Caramel Apple Walnut Tart with Raspberry Sauce

Please RSVP to Social Chair Steve Bartlett steve.bartlett100@gmail.com **by January 13, 2018.**

You must be a GPR member to attend. Adults only, please. No jeans.

Did you know...

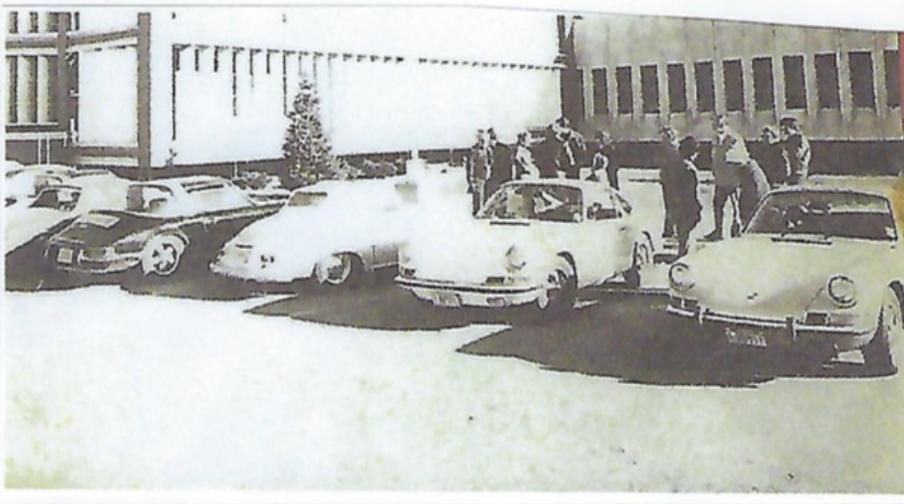
By Gary Quast, GPR Member

... the Great Plains Region has always continued to increase the activities of the Club. From the auto cross courses of yesteryear to the race tracks of today. From the small gatherings at the Bohemian Cafe to the banquets of today.

GPR has always finished each year hoping to continue the friendships and to increase the activities of the Club. The friendships grew stronger. The activities became an event of one every other week or more. We planned a wide variety of events. We held many events during the year. Many of these events are displayed in the scrapbook. Impromptu tech sessions could be found almost any weekend in someone's garage.

Our most important goal to achieve was to continue our support of community programs. Our participation in the various community and national events achieved this goal. Delivering "Meals on Wheels" to the senior citizens seemed the perfect way to implement our Porsches.

In 1974 we began delivering meals. In August of 1974, we received our own route which we delivered once a week. In 1975, this service mushroomed into the GPR being able to deliver all the meals to the elderly on Christmas day, relieving other volunteers so they could spend the day with their families.



Great Plains Region PCA members gathering at the "Meals on Wheels" headquarters to prepare for food deliveries.

I would like to thank Denny Strauss and Gary Quast for the monthly "Did You Know" articles this past year and making the history of the Club come alive! - Editor

Stay Current on all Things GPR and PCA:



gprpca.com



pca.org



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I Want Your Car...

... on the front cover of Der Skooner!

I would like pictures submitted for consideration for the front cover to be portrait (vertical) orientation, please.

I also need pictures of your car(s) for Member Rides! Those can be any orientation. Send your JPG(s) to: gprnewsletter@gmail.com.

~ Editor

Great Plains Region's 50th Anniversary Dinner

By Steve Gehring, President, Photos by Jamie Walker and Kurt Halvorson

A year's planning culminated in a wonderful evening at the Omaha Hilton to celebrate our Club's 50th anniversary. I am sure that the handful of charter signers back in 1967 never imagined that the Club would survive and prosper over a 50-year period and have over 155 members.

More than 130 enjoyed the wonderfully prepared tenderloin and chicken breast dinner, which was beautifully set up and served by the Omaha Hilton staff.

The social hour was great fun. It was rewarding to see a number of members who have been in the Club for more than 30 years, including Deon and Susan Bahr (charter members), Randy and Joni Dotson (34 years), Jeff and Holly Morgan (32 years), Brooke Peters (43 years), Gary and Susan Quast (46 years), and Denny and Chris Strauss (31 years) mix with folks who had just joined the Club this year, including Blake Uhl, Tom and Deb Berger, and Jack Krecek.

Club Historian Denny Strauss brought many Club items from past years for members to enjoy.



Social Chair Steve Bartlett and President Steve Gehring worked hard to ensure the evening would be a success!

We were also most pleased to have our Zone 10 representative, Julie Bailey, and her husband Chester with us.

Denny Strauss, our Club historian, had two tables set out during the social hour with memorabilia going back 50 years. He had a lot of great old photographs, scrapbooks, Porsche memorabilia and old tech

manuals.

The highlight of the evening was a fun and informative talk by Hurley Haywood, who has won more endurance races, mostly in Porsches, than any other driver alive. Hurley also serves as an ambassador for Porsche North America and gets two new Porsches a year to drive (tough duty!). Hurley shared a number of anecdotes from his racing career and regaled us with some great stories about how racing used to be and how it is now. He said two or three drivers and perhaps five or six mechanics and support staff would gather the night before a race around burgers and a few beers to discuss the setup of the cars and the racing strategy. Hurley said that today the teams involve several hundred people, and the only successful drivers are the young guys who grew up on video games and can master the 20-button steering wheels.

(Continued on Page 11)

(Great Plains Region 50th Anniversary Dinner, Continued from Page 10)

At the end of the evening, everyone took home a beautiful gold-rimmed Porsche coffee cup, and one lucky person at each table left with a rose-and-fall-foliage centerpiece.





Porsches and Pancakes - November 11th

Fifteen Porsche friends attended our November Porsches and Pancakes. Watch your email for information about December's breakfast.

L to R: Joe Chambers, Dennis Fitzke, John Rebrovic, Bob Kirchner, Kurt Halvorson, Jeff Morgan
Photo by Steve Bartlett



L to R (Visible): Tom Cooper, Terry Lessmann, Tom Gutzke, Chris Coda, Jim Vulku, Kim Burger, David Adler
Photo by Kurt Halvorson

New Member Dinner - November 11th

By Joe Chambers, Membership Chair, Photos by David Adler, Steve Bartlett and Kurt Halvorson

The GPR hosted its annual new member dinner Saturday, November 11th at Oak Hills Country Club. New members in attendance were **Mike and Kristina Agostino, Tom and Deb Berger, Chris and Erin Coda, Mark Eichten and his daughter Lilly, Brandon and Jen Koom, Volker and Chandra Olbrich, and Keith and Ardith Ziegenbein.** Thirteen GPR members joined in welcoming the new members to the Club. Following a cocktail hour, the guests moved to the dining room and were welcomed by Social Chair Steve Bartlett. Membership Chair Joe Chambers introduced the new members. A wonderful meal of salad, chicken piccata with green beans and new potatoes, and a cheesecake dessert were served. Following dinner, Steve Bartlett announced upcoming events and Kurt Halvorson discussed the details for the November 18th Fun Run through the southern leg of the Loess Hills. Overall, it was a great evening of socializing and getting to know the new Club members. For the new members that were unable to attend, we welcome you to the Club and look forward to seeing you at future events.



Meet a GPR Member

The GPR PCA is made up of a great group of members. This month's feature member is **Bob Kirchner**.

1. When did you join the PCA?

I joined in January 2015 several months after I bought my 1973 914 back.

2. What Porsche(s) have you owned and what do you currently own?

I bought a 914 2.0 new in June 1973. I sold it to my best friend in 1979 and regretted selling it ever since.

3. Where are you from?

I grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and lived there until I was 24.

4. What is your career/current occupation?

Since 1988, I have had my own Forensic Accounting practice and I am a Certified Fraud Examiner and many know one of my largest cases, the failure of Franklin Credit Union. Before 1988, I had been in banking, and was president of the last bank for which I worked.

5. What makes your car(s) special?

After I sold the 914 in 1979, my best friend moved away and for the next 35 years we stayed in touch about the car. When he passed away in 2014 his family offered the car back to me and my brother and I flat-bedded it back from Michigan. The car had been well maintained but was showing its age at 200,000+ miles.



Bob's 914 the year he got it - July of 1973

The 914's history and mine are so tightly knit together over 44 years. I never even entertained the idea that I would ever see the car again, let alone get it back. Even now after having it back for 3 years, it is still really weird to see it sitting in my garage after being gone for 35 years. Getting this car back re-kindled all the emotions and love of the marque that got set aside when life took over after selling the 914.

6. Next Porsche or current project?

I am still in-the-hunt for an air cooled 911. However, I have also become a fan of the Caymans.

7. Favorite memory with your Porsche?

Besides being suddenly faced with the prospect of getting it back after 35 years, several stick out, both from the 1970's. The first was driving from Bellevue across Nebraska to the Wyoming border in a little over 4 hours, about 450 miles. And then driving back roads in the Rocky Mountains where you find out both what the car is made of and what you are made of.

8. What got you interested in Porsches?

After driving a friend's Jag XK 140 in the early 1960's I became a huge European car fan. In the mid 1960s I saw my first 911s racing in parking lot gymkhanas and was hooked for life.

9. Any other dream cars you would own?

My dream car is probably an '87-89 911. I like the driver-car connection in the cars made before computers came to dominate.



Bob's 914 today - 2017

More New Member Dinner Pictures



*Welcome
2017
New GPR Members!*



We get inside Porsche's secret museum

And live to tell the tale...

By Mark Vaughn West Coast Editor Mark Vaughn covers all car things west of the Mississippi from his Autoweek lair high above the LA metropolis.

Article originally printed in Autoweek, Photos by PORSCHE



“We ask that you not take any photographs of the outside of the building, or of the street, or that you say where this is...” said Porsche Museum leiter Alexander Klein.

This place was a secret and a pretty well-kept secret at that. You may know the public Porsche Museum in Stuttgart. This is not that. If you want to see cool old Porsches, you can see many, many cool race cars and production cars (and even a tractor) at the public Porsche Museum at Porscheplatz 1, 70435 Stuttgart, Germany. We saw that place, too, on a recent visit, and it is well worth your time to stop by. The public Porsche Museum has everything from the 356/1, the very first 356 (and it is truly a thing of beauty), to race cars like the 550 Spyders, 917s and 962s, as well as modern production cars you may have lusted

after. You may still lust after them.

But in all, Porsche owns 575 historic race cars, prototypes and early development mules that went on to become production cars, and it can't keep all those at the public museum in Stuttgart. So it has about 300 or so cars at this secret warehouse in... well, we won't say where. And we might not even be able to find it now; we went there on a shuttle bus and we were a little delirious from jet lag and dehydration.

But once we got inside, hoo baby!

The first thing you see are the race cars, which are parked near the front of the huge 9000-square-meter building (almost 100,000 square feet to you and me). There are 160 race cars here. Right there in front is a Jo Siffert/Derek Bell Gulf-liveried 917.

Next to that is a Derek Bell/Hans Stuck/Al Holbert Rothman's-liveried 962. Across from those is Jo Siffert's 917-10 Can-Am in RC Cola colors. And a Gulf 908/3 from the 1970 Targa Florio. It goes on: A 906, a 917 with the prototype flat 16 engine that never saw competition, the 911 GT3R hybrid race car driven by American Patrick Long, Dan Gurney's 1962 F1 car, Porsche Indycars stacked in wooden crates with plexiglass panels on the end so you could look in, and others too numerous to name.

But it isn't all race cars.

“There are race cars, R&D cars, prototypes, all kind of steps from the first idea of a car and all the steps in between,” said Klein.

(Continued on Page 18)

*(We get inside Porsche's secret museum...
Continued from Page 17)*

For instance, how do you make a four-seater Porsche? There was an early stretched 911 with back seats that look like they'd fit live adult humans, for one. There were some ideas that might have looked better than the current Panamera.

There was a 984 design study for a mid-engine roadster done 10 years before the Boxster came out. There was a 989 that ran around the Nardo oval with a 200-liter gas tank trying to set speed records.

There were rows and rows of 356s, 911s and 924/944/968 cars, some in prototype form, some in production trim. One section had 911s stacked in racks three high to the ceiling. There was a Cayenne convertible that could give the Nissan Murano CrossCabriolet a run for its ugliness.

It's all fascinating. And all very secret. Which it will stay.



GPR November Board Meeting Minutes

The Great Plains Region PCA Board met at 6:00 pm on November 7, 2017 via conference call.

Present were: Steve Gehring, Joe Chambers, Pete Jardine, Terry Lessmann, Russ Rabeler, and Kurt Halvorson. Steve Bartlett, Eric Elliott and Melinda Halvorson were apologies.

Social: October P&P held on 10/14 with good turnout. 50th Anniversary Dinner was a huge success with 135 registered attendees. Hurley Haywood was excellent in all regards. His willingness to visit with members, autograph anything, entertaining speech and his appreciation of Omaha were all extraordinary. A special thanks to Denny Strauss for the wonderful trip down memory lane with his history of our club. We had numerous comments following the event from members about the great speaker, the good food, and overall good time. Upcoming events include: P&P breakfast on 11/11 at First Watch; New Member dinner at Oak Hills CC on 11/11; P&P breakfast on 12/9; Winter Party at Indian Creek GC on 1/20/18. Social Chair plans to poll crowd at the next P&P to see if the new layout and table seating is “ok” or if we should look for a new location.

Safety/CDI: No safety updates for November. Waiting for PCA National for any key DE and/or Fun Run rules changes for 2018. Insurance for November Fun Run has been submitted.

Registrar: A DE subcommittee was formed of Steve Gehring, Rick Mourey, Joe Chambers, and Terry Lessmann. They met to discuss ways of increasing DE participation and reducing club costs. It was decided to survey past participants as a starting point and questions were formulated for the survey. The survey was put into Google Forms and emailed to a list of GPR DE participants from the last several years. 30 people responded to the survey and the results have been analyzed by the subcommittee. Many ideas were garnered and will be incorporated into the 2018 DE season. Negotiations are now in progress with RPM to come up with a modified pricing model and DE dates (MPH’s contract for 2018 is already completed). Once the RPM contract is completed, Registrar will compose an article for Der Skooner announcing the changes and schedule for the GPR 2018 season.

Secretary: The minutes of the October meeting were approved as distributed. Results of the 2018 GPR Board of Directors election were presented with the incumbents receiving nearly 100% of the 58 ballots received. A motion was passed to elect the 2018 GPR Board of Directors as presented on the ballot.

President: Interest for the November Southern Loess Hills Fun Run has been strong with 26 people signed up thus far. The President is seeking nominations for the Club’s year-end awards to be presented at the Winter Party. A tentative 2018 calendar of events was presented and discussed. A few items need to be finalized but portions of the calendar will be printed in upcoming issues of Der Skooner. A request was made to encourage members to submit ideas for events.

Past President: A follow up to last’s month’s discussion regarding unaffiliated individuals wanting to attend an upcoming DE and riding along with instructors as passengers was had. Response from unaffiliated group was positive with our requests including a charge of \$25 per person.

Treasurer: The opening account balance for October was \$86,860.64 and the closing balance was \$69,422.23. Receipts included Dues of \$120, Club Sponsorship of \$500, and Interest Income of \$14.67. Expenses included Club Race Deposit of \$5,000, Administration of \$87.63, Newsletter of \$239.42, Postage of \$19.60, 50th Anniversary Decorations of \$1,123.35, Speaker of \$3,464.10, Hilton Payment of \$8,201.48, Misc. of \$97.50, less non-member dinner payment of \$160.00, equals a net 50th Anniversary of \$12,726.43. Total expenses of the 50th Anniversary Dinner were \$16,936.43. It was noted the Club’s cash balance is at a level last seen in 2014 but with all the events surrounding the 50th Anniversary such as the June Picnic and October Dinner which were free to members and included many giveaways, it was expected and the events tracked extremely close to budget.

Editor: There was a reminder of the November 15 deadline for the December Der Skooner. Articles planned include: Coverage of 50th Anniversary Dinner; New Member Dinner; 2017 Sponsor Thank You; 2017 Der Skooner Advertiser Thank You; Did You Know?;

(Continued on Page 20)

(GPR November Board Meeting Minutes, Continued from Page 19)

Meet A Member. Upcoming events to be highlighted include Winter Party.

Membership: There are 155 paid GPR members for 2017. There are 268 National PCA Members in our region. There was 1 new National PCA Member and new GPR Member added to our region. Data provided by PCA National shows the GPR placing 8th in membership growth when viewed on a normalized chart. In an effort to continue building membership, each PCA member that is not a GPR member will receive a postcard detailing some of the 2018 events and inviting them to attend. A motion was passed to allow new GPR members to have their \$30 dues count towards the remainder of 2017 plus 2018.

Webmaster: An article written by Mike Reynolds entitled “Drivers Education: A Novice’s Guide” was published on the website under the Driver’s Education page. An blast email will be sent out for the November P&P. Results of the 2018 Board ballots were collected and distributed to Steve Gehring.

Other Business: None.

The next meeting will be held on December 5, 2017. Location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Jardine
Secretary

