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Zero to 60

Mike Anderson, GPR President

As I am writing this, March Madness is in full swing. Zero to 60. That's how fast some people get involved in college basketball. Many of us haven't watched a game all year, but there we are filling out a bracket to see if we can predict the ultimate winner. Best of luck.

I heard once that life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer you get to the end, the faster it goes....

So with that, here are some quick changes so far this year.

For those in sales, your first quarter is gone and 25% of your sales year is over. Better get crackin'!

Daylight Savings Time is here. It seems like sunset is now at midnight compared to December when it was before 5:00 p.m.

The snowbirds are all gone but many will be back in the next few weeks.

Winter sports will give way to fishing soon.

Flowers will make a return to the landscape.

So how does all of this relate to Porsche and the club? It's almost time to drive! To pull the car out of the garage and hit the road. It's the change in the weather we have been waiting for.

April brings with it some great opportunities to drive your car.

April 8 will be our breakfast at Porsche Omaha followed by a Driver's Ed session led by Rick Mourey. Even if driving on the track isn't in your future, the presentation still will be beneficial to understand how to drive safely on I-80!

April 15 brings a Fun Run. Details and the route will be disclosed to members when you register. If you haven't participated previously, you should try it, it's fun! Driving with a group of owners after eating donuts and drinking coffee is a great time.

April 29 kicks off our first Driver's Ed event at RPM's track near Glenwood, IA. Now, if you're not sure you want to drive your car on the track "at speed," there is still an opportunity to drive your car on the track during the lunch hour when we host "Parade Laps." No helmet required and no passing, but a great chance to drive and learn more about what drivers are doing when "at speed." Besides, you'll be able to go from zero to 60 very quickly if you like.

Outside of the Great Plains Region, club events will be Treffen April 19-23 in Adairsville, GA. If you've never been to a Treffen, it's a "gathering" of roughly 300 Porsche owners who like to meet with like-minded individuals. There are Fun Runs for two days, some cocktail parties and a couple of dinners. The fall Treffen will be in St. Louis, MO. September 20-24, 2023. Reservation spots fill quickly, so watch the PCA website for the registration date and time.

Enjoy the Spring!

Mike

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 of Directors 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.

Great Plains Region Club Calendar

April 2023

April 8th · Breakfast & DE101 at Porsche Omaha 8:30am

6625 L St, Omaha, NE

April 15th - Fun Run - RSVP on the GPRPCA.com website

April 29th - Spring Fling 1 Day Driver's Education (DE)

Raceway Park of the Midlands 19340 Jesup Ave, Pacific Junction, IA

May 2023

May 6th - Ladies Event @ Lauritzen Gardens. Tour, Tram Ride & Box Lunch!

Watch your email for further details for sign up information.

May 13th - Breakfast at Paradise Bakery 8:00am, followed by SuperCar Saturday (non-PCA event)

Village Pointe 17305 Davenport St, Suite 101, Omaha, NE 68818

May 19th-May 21st - Carrera GT Club Race and DE at Motorsports Park Hastings

427 S Showboat Blvd, Hastings, NE

June 2023

June 4th - Annual GPR Picnic and Porsche Concours Car Show

Walnut Grove Park, 15050 Q St, Omaha, NE

June 9th & 10th - Great Plains and Schonesland "Iowa Region" Combined Events

Village Pointe, Omaha, NE

National Calendar



Club Racing Calendar



Online and Social Media









gprpca.com

pca.org

facebook.com/groups

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of the GPR Board meeting

March 14th, 2023

The Great Plains Region PCA Board met at 6:00 pm at the office of Paul Schudel. Present were Mike Anderson, Carol Lynch, Bob Kirchner, Paul Schudel, Rick Mourey, David Patterson. Terry Lessmann and Kurt Halvorson joined via teleconference. Eric Elliott and Jeremey Kroh were unable to attend.

PRESIDENT: Anderson reviewed the PCA Glovebox for document archiving across our board positions. The club charity for 2023, Least of My Brethren, has benefitted by several member donations to date. Current needs were discussed and will be listed in Der Skooner each month. Anderson announced they are looking for 8,000 sq ft of additional warehouse type space in the Chalco Hills area.

PAST PRESIDENT: No formal report this month.

SECRETARY: The February 2023 minutes were approved as distributed.

TREASURER: The club's cash balance on February 28, 2023, was \$72,572, with year to date net income of \$472. A \$750 donation was received from the Lynches towards the cost of the annual Club Race, along with a periodic membership dues rebate from PCA for \$1,100.50. The initial deposit for the Club Race in Hastings was paid in the amount of \$4,000. Kirchner participated in the online PCA Finance webinar and shared important insights from the discussion.

SOCIAL: Chair Schudel and Editor Kroh attended the Zone 10 Presidents' meeting February 25-26 and Schudel shared a summary of the topics. Ten ladies attended the charcuterie event on February 25th at Delicious Catering in Valley. The next ladies' event is planned for May at Lauritzen Gardens. The March 11th Porsches at Paradise breakfast was well attended. March 25th Greek Isles' self-pay social dinner email invite has been sent out. April 8th is Porsche Omaha breakfast with a DE 101 presentation. A Fun Run for April 15th is planned with donuts and coffee. May 13th is Porsches at Paradise breakfast with Supercar Saturday following at Pitch West (not a GPR event). May 20th features a dinner at Lochland Country Club in Hastings as part of the Club Race and DE weekend (19th-21st), with only a \$10 member co-pay. June 4th is the Annual Picnic at Walnut Grove Park. June 10th features a club breakfast with the Schonesland Region from Des Moines at Bentley Omaha followed by Supercar Saturday (not a GPR event). The overnight GPR Sandhills Run to Valentine, NE is planned for July 15 and 16, with details to come in Der Skooner.

MEMBERSHIP: We have 178 paid GPR members out of

311 PCA Primary members assigned to our region. It was noted we also have 3 dual memberships in our region (belonging to another region in addition to GPR).

REGISTRAR: The April 15th Tax Day Fun Run is open for registration on ClubRegistration.Net. A 100" projector screen was purchased for club use, particularly for DE novice classroom sessions. Club Registration announced they will no longer refund credit card fees, so any cancelled registrations will be refunded net of fees. Spring Fling DE registration opens April 1st.

SAFETY: Chair Mourey participated in the DE Region Focus updates with PCA - no current changes necessary to our DE program. No changes to the Driving Tours/Fun Runs guidelines. RPM DE contract finalized, and deposit provided. DE participant rates were discussed and finalized. Club Race and DE promotion is in progress with mailings planned to various groups to increase participation. DE interest expressed from KC region members. DE 101 presentation is ready for the April Porsche Omaha Breakfast. Insurance for the April 15 Tax Day Fun Run has been requested from PCA. MPH Club Race is still awaiting a PCA timer to be assigned to us. Volunteers being solicited for assistant and backup roles. Cross marketing our Club Race with others for the new Mid-America Series is underway. On-Site Tires has confirmed availability for the Club Race weekend to sell and service tire needs. Single day DE pricing was approved at \$165 per participant.

EDITOR: March Der Skooner was published and distributed to our advertisers and to the website. April issue will feature Pedro's Garage and the other usual offerings. **Member content contributions for Der Skooner are welcomed!**

WEBMASTER: GPR website is up to date with all current events. March Der Skooner was emailed out February 28. Email RSVP is up for the March 25th Greek Isles dinner, with the April Porsche Omaha breakfast RSVP up next.

OTHER BUSINESS: Discussion ensued around having a social media chair to monitor and gatekeep our Facebook and Instagram pages. It was agreed that past president Patterson and member Steve Wilwerding would be asked to facilitate such function.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, April 11 at 6:00pm at President Anderson's home.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Halvorson, Secretary

2023 Membership News

By the numbers:

PCA Primary Membership: 313 GPR Membership: 179

April Anniversaries

Mark Canbras (Atkinson) – 1 year Terry Lessmann – 10 years

Members of Great Plains Region:

Track Season means Parade Laps!!!

You are in this club because you own a Porsche. Porsches are known as finely constructed, excellent handling, iconic driving machines. They were meant to drive like a dream and make taking a corner an experience.

Oh, your Porsche has four doors. It is a Cayenne, a Macan, a Panamara or a Taycan. How amazing! Those Porsches are meant to do the same things a two door Porsche is meant to do. Drive!

Parade Laps are just a little opportunity to take your vehicle to the track and give it a bit of a stretch after a long winter of just getting from place to place safely.

At each Driver's Education Event there is a break for lunch at noon and that is when we offer GPR members the experience of a Parade Lap. All it takes is a \$10.00 per car donation, which is used to support our charity of the year, Least of My Brethren.

Show up at the track early around 11:00. Check out the cars, chat with the drivers, enjoy the weather on a Saturday. Be sure to fill out the PCA required insurance waiver prior to your parade lap. Weather is part of the charm of a track event. [This is said very tongue in cheek, as the weather is either wet, windy, cold, muddy, snowy, hot, or otherwise miserable in some way. But it is great because you are at the track!]

There is always a leader of a Parade Lap and a sweeper to bring up the rear. Your drive will not ex-

ceed safe road speed, passing is not allowed, respectable distance is kept between vehicles, and takes about three minutes per lap for a total of about five laps, or fifteen to twenty minutes of your life.

You will have a hard time wiping the grin off your face when you come into the pits. How exciting!!

You might consider attending DE 101 at the April 8 breakfast at Woodhouse Porsche to gain more insight of the Driver Education Experience. DE 101 will begin around 9:15. Please sign up on our gprpca.com website to attend the 8:30 breakfast.

Seriously, four door Porsches, I challenge you to outnumber the two door Porsches at a Parade Lap this year. Wow, that would be something!

Ladies, this is your opportunity to bring your 911, Cayman, Cayenne, Macan, Panamera or Taycan and give it a fun run. Enjoy the power on the straight away, the great braking and the fine handling in the corners. Don't let the boys have all the fun. Ladies, you can always stay home on a DE Saturday, but try something new. Any vehicle is welcome on the track.

Dates for Parade Lap Experiences:

Raceway Park of the Midlands – RPM, Glenwood, IA April 29

August 26

October 7

Club Race and DE at Motorsports Park of Hastings – MPH, Hastings, NE May 19, 20, 21

<u>If any</u> of your contact information has changed, please let us and PCA National know that as well.

The Great Plains Region Board works to ensure there are numerous social and car events for you to enjoy. Some social events are completely supported by the club. Your club dues must be paid for you to enjoy the fun.

If you have any questions about your membership with GPR please contact Carol via email:

Carol Lynch - Membership Chair GPR Carol.lynch356@gmail.com

Member Name Badges

Look official at our next GPR/PCA event! The magnetic name badges are \$10, which includes shipping. Click the link at the top of the GPRPCA web home page or follow this link to order yours today!

https://www.gprpca.com/gpr-member-name-badges/



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Or watch the YouTube video on creating accounts at *PCA.org/youtube.*



PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA



Social Apex

Article thanks to Paul Schudel, photos by Jeremey Kroh

March Porsches at Paradise

Neither rain nor sleet nor frosty snow will keep Great Plains Region Porsche people away from breakfast at Paradise! On March 11, a rainy, sleety and snowy Saturday, some 20 members of our crew braved the weather in their Cayennes and pickup trucks to make it warm and friendly inside Paradise Bakery and Café in Village Pointe for conversation and fellowship. President Anderson welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. While there weren't any brand new members, there were a couple who had not attended in a while. Life member, Brent Schulz, came to catch up and sought help on an engine rebuild. Mourey was happy to offer assistance. Studtheit from Lincoln, attended and thanked everyone for the kind words and notes after her "significant irritant" Tom Gutzke passed in January.



Bruce Bode offered advice on Apple AirTags and putting one in your car to help find it if it were to be stolen. Cheap insurance. Denny Straus offered a joke which was enjoyed by all and then asked everyone to introduce themselves, which they did. Carol Lynch covered a number of items for membership and reminded people promote the "Parade Laps" at DE events this year. She also emphasized RSVPing for the upcoming events including the DE 101 presentation by Rick Mourey at the April 8 breakfast at Woodhouse.

President Anderson emphasized the March 25 dinner at Greek Isle, the April 29 DE at RPM and the May 19 -21 weekend at Hastings for both Club Racers and DE participants. He also thanked Robert Kennedy for sharing our DE information with the Mustang Club and asked others to make sure and promote the DE's with other car clubs to build attendance and aware-

ness.

Lastly, our charity of the month, Least of My Brethren, received donations of coats, hats, sweaters, gloves and a kitchen's worth of utensils and handy items. Many thanks!

March 25 Social Event at Greek Isles

Although we were unable to tour the Wimmer's Union Pacific Museum, nevertheless 25 members and their spouses enjoyed a social dinner at Greek Isles Restaurant. There was lots of great conversation. It is pretty obvious that with the cold and snowy March that we have experienced, Club members are anxious to remove the car covers from their Porsches and get on the road. A great opportunity to do so is available at the April Fun Run described below.



April 8 Porsche Omaha Breakfast and DE101

On March 19 all members received an email confirming that Porsche Omaha will host the Club's April breakfast on April 8 at 8:30 a.m. at the dealership. As of this writing, we have reached our capacity of 50 attendees for breakfast. At 9:15 Rick Mourey will present a DE101. Even if you do not attend the breakfast, you are welcome to attend the DE101. No prior registration for the DE101 is required.

April 15 Fun Run

Please watch your email for details regarding the Club's first Fun Run of the year that will be held on April 15. Prior to departure, the Club will provide coffee and donuts starting at 7:30. Registration details will be provided by email.

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Social

(Continued from page 9)

Future Social Events - Save the Dates

April 29, Drivers Ed event at Raceway Park of the Midlands.

May 13, 8:00 breakfast at Paradise Bakery, Village Pointe, followed by Supercar Saturday (not a GPR event).

May 19-21, Club Race and DE at Motorsport Park, Hastings, NE with dinner on Saturday, May 20, at Lochland Country Club in Hastings. When you sign up for the DE or Club Race, be sure to sign up for the dinner! Cost will be \$10 per person, and will be buffet style from 6:00 - 9:00 that evening. Jeans are okay. There will also be a car show! Lochland Country Club will rope of an area in their parking lot for us to display our great cars. More details will be available on the GPR website soon.

June 4, Annual Club Picnic at Walnut Grove Park, 15050 Q Street, Omaha starting at 11:00 a.m. with Concours judging featuring Porsche 914s followed by lunch catered by Porky Butts. Complete details will be provided in the May issue of Der Skooner.

June 9-10, Schonesland Region Porsche Club of Iowa / GPR joint event. Notable times for this event: Friday June 9th, dinner with members of Schonesland at Bravo Cucino (RSVP). June 10th, breakfast hosted by Porsche Omaha at Bentley Omaha in Village Pointe (RSVP), followed by the non-PCA event Supercar Saturday where the two clubs will have pre-staged their cars before breakfast and trolley rides courtesy of Ollie the Trolley. Look for more information to come via email and the May Der Skooner.

July 15-16 Sandhills Run to Valentine, NE

A highlight of the Club's summer social schedule will be a weekend drive through the Nebraska Sandhills on some of the most scenic byways of our State with Valentine as our destination. One of our stops along the way will be at the Mignery Sculpture Garden in Bartlett which contains an outdoor display of some of the finest bronze sculpture pieces that you will ever see. We also plan to drive the Sandhills Open Road Challenge Loup to Loup route. A block of rooms have been reserved at a Valentine motel. If you are interested in participating in this weekend event, please register at your earliest convenience by clicking this link: SANDHILLS RUN LINK

Watch for further details in upcoming months' issues of Der Skooner!



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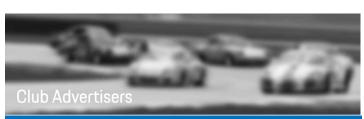
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Have you signed up for PCA Juniors?

The PCA Juniors program is here for kids to enjoy PCA events, learn about Porsches, and continue the passion that runs throughout the Porsche Club of America. As a PCA member, you may sign up your child, grandchild, niece, or nephew under the age of 18. It's free to join! Your PCA Junior will receive a welcome box with an ID name badge in the mail. Many region events include activities for children and teens geared to grow enthusiasm for Porsche and PCA for generations to come.

SIGN UP HERE. IT'S FREE! https://www.pca.org/pca-juniors

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DOWNLOAD HERE: https://www.pca.org/pca-juniors-activities



PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

A Note from the Editor

As you all know, we designated Least of My Brethren as the 2023 charity of the year. The focus of the organization is providing assistance to the homeless. They mostly work with homeless men, and many of them are veterans.

Their two main goals are to aid those living outdoors and to move them into apartments and get them started with the essentials. Each month their needs change as the seasons change.

To that end, their April needs list includes the following: Tents, sleeping bags, tarps-dark colors, bicycles, kitchen cooking utensils, crockpots, toasters, microwaves, coffee pots, air fryers, area rugs — 6 X 8 or smaller, tennis shoes or boots, flashlights, and rain ponchos.

Least of My Brethren is 100% volunteer staffed. They accept donations on Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:00 at 17711 Storage Rd, Omaha, NE 68136. Feel free to drop items off yourself or if you prefer, please bring them to Porsche Omaha on Saturday, April 8, and give them to Mike Anderson. If you have bicycles or larger items and would like Mike to pick up, please let him know. If you participate in Facebook, their main form of communication is there.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/ LeastOfMyBrethren

Off of the soapbox, and on to the coffee table.

During a recent road trip, it was noted how few "unique" cars you see headed in the opposite direction. As a younger lad, I would study the headlights or taillights of cars at night and try to guess the make and model. That habit has stuck with me to this day. In the last 10 years or so, automakers have somewhat moved away from halogen daytime running lamps to each having their own unique LED DRL signature. Porsche of course having adopted the 4 dot matrix surrounding each projector headlamp, has made spotting their marque more easily amongst the pack of "c-clamps", "eyebrows" or some other variation that frames other brands headlights. Kia of course has made that a little difficult at distance to identify with their "4 bar" LED DRLs flanking their headlights. A bit of a rip off if you

ask me, and a bit of a disappointment when you finally get close enough to tell.

Our recent family spring break trip took us west through the panhandle of Nebraska to Estes Park, via Scottsbluff. Four door Cayenne's and Macan's were the typical fare, especially when far from city centers. There are great roads with equally breathtaking scenery headed north from Ogallala that I highly encourage you to experience. Once we crossed into Colorado headed south on I-25, we were quickly greeted by a Boxster and Cayman headed north. The rest of the trip was dominated by Subaru (save for a lone 911 in Estes Park) as my wife gleefully pointed each and every one out. We had taken our "other boxer engine" on this trip, jokingly "to be with its people".

Nonetheless, I constantly scan on coming traffic, part a bit of self preservation, part looking for that "unique" marque in traffic.

This month's cover photo is provided by Armando Colorado. Featured is Terry Lessmann's 2008 Boxster S at last years April DE session.

I encourage you to send in your best "social media worthy" photo of your new acquisition or daily driver, your own article chronicling a road trip or the technical aspects of your latest garage project and I will feature it in an upcoming issue of Der Skooner. We would love to share in your adventures in the garage, track, or stories from the open road. For any inquiries about this, please do not hesitate to contact me. Be sure to patronize our generous sponsors.

Editor@gprpca.com



80% by 2030

Article thanks to Pedro P. Bonilla, Suncoast PCA

That's Porsche's goal for electrification of it's fleet: 80% full electric by the year 2030. That is a fully committed company!

A few short years ago, in 2019, we witnessed the introduction of the Taycan, Porsche's all electric sedan.



For the year 2021, Taycans represented 14% of Porsche's vehicle production, even outselling the iconic 911.

The next two platforms to be offered as EVs from Porsche will be the Macan (2023) and the 718 Boxster / Cayman (2025).

The fate of the 911 is still up in the air, although a hybrid version has been talked about without a specific timeframe.

The previous paragraph plus the title of this Article seem to cryptically announce that Porsche isn't planning to completely give up on ICE (internal combustion engine) altogether, at least not for it's flagship 911, considered by many as one of the best driver's cars in the world.

But Porsche has also committed to reaching carbon-neutrality by 2030 as well! Thinking about that, how can Porsche then justify maintaining the production of an ICE platform?

That question may have been answered this past week when two Porsche Executives filled up a 911 from the first batch of E-fuel ever produced. The symbolic act took place in Punta Arenas, Chile, site of the pilot plant that has been in the works for the past several years, and is now producing (albeit in reduced volume) the new, clean alternative to gasoline, a synthetic methanol produced by a very complex process that uses wa-

ter, hydrogen and carbon dioxide.

This wonder-fuel enables a nearly CO₂ neutral operation of internal combustion engines which use gasoline, when switched to e-Fuel.



In the initial (pilot) phase the plant will produce 130,000 liters (34,342 gallons) per year and this fuel will mainly be used for Porsche Motorsports, including the Porsche Mobil1 Supercup and the Porsche Experience Centers' vehicles. By 2025 it is expected that production will ramp up to 55 million liters (14.5 million gallons) and by 2027 the facility should be supplying 550 million liters (145 million gallons) per year.



Initially it won't be cheap. The first batch destined for Porsche Motorsports has a cost of 10€ per liter or \$45 per gallon. But, by 2026 Porsche expects the price to drop to around \$7.50 per gallon due to efficiencies of scale and further technological developments.

(Continues on page 14)

2030

(Continued from page 13)

The project is a joint effort between Porsche, Highly Innovative Fuels, Siemens Energy, ExxonMobil and the Chilean oil and gas companies ENAP and Empresas Gasco.

The process sounds way simpler than the execution: A Siemens wind turbine (3.4 megawatt) powers a Siemens proton exchange membrane which produces green hydrogen from water by electrolysis at 65% efficiency. As the production needs grow, the wind-generated power will ramp up to 2.5 gigawatts and further improving efficiency.

At the same time, a Global Thermostats system scrubs CO₂ from the air using a special ceramic honeycomb matrix which yields 98% pure CO₂. When the hydrogen and CO₂ are run through a copper-zinc catalyst, green methanol is produced. Finally, the methanol is vaporized, superheated and passed through a fluid-bed reactor where a special ExxonMobil catalyst helps convert it to gasoline, with water as a byproduct.

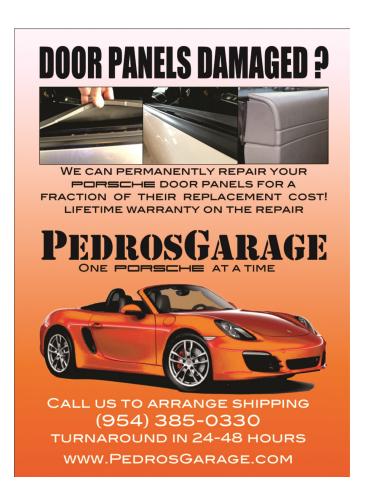
Because of the additives and blending requirements to ensure that eFuel can serve as a drop-in replacement for crude-based gasoline, the carbon intensity figure is 10, not zero. That still means that burning it results in 90% less net carbon than standard gasoline with identical performance properties.

Porsche's end game is to ensure there's a carbon-neutral fuel that can power the 70% of all Porsches ever built that will still be on the road long after the new car fleet is fully electrified.

For more information on EVs, ICE and more, please visit my website: www PedrosGarage.com.

Happy Porsche'ing, Pedro

2023 Technolab / PedrosGarage.com





The Great Plains Region Invites You to Come Track With Us! Here are the 2023 Dates:



Spring Fling DE

April 29th

Novices welcome



PCA Club Race & DE

May 19th - 21st

Novices welcome at DE 5/20 & 5/21



Dog Days DE

August 26th

Novices welcome



OktoberFAST DE

October 7th

Novices welcome

Check ClubRegistration.net for more information as it becomes available.

Rocky Mountain Region

Article thanks to Danielle Badler of the Rocky Mountain Region PCA

Push, Push, Push

Here's my problem with Season 5 of "Drive to Survive," which is airing now on Netflix. It's the producers' view of the car vs driver equation. Can you say "myopic?"

Let me explain. It's something we Porsche people all know. We're the ones who've always known, that it's a balance of car and driver. And, as the decades have come and gone, the pendulum has swung way, way over to the car. At least in top-level racing. Yes, the driver makes a difference. But less and less as time has marched on.

Yet Season 5 and, really, let's face it, each preceding season of Drive, has focused to a very large extent on the drivers. And their teams, and their careers, and their team principals, and their contracts, and their sponsors.

And, if I hear it one more time, I'm going to throw my OLED big screen off a cliff, how they have to push. Push push push. They always have to push. They have to be told, over the intercom, there's one lap left, now it's time to push. C'mon, let's push. I mean ... I have a question for everyone else in F1; what are drivers doing the rest of the time, when they're not pushing? Just cruising down the boulevard? Listening to tunes? Making a run to the nearest In-N-Out Burger?

Hey, pushers, what about the car? I mean, really! From watching last season, in real time, we all know, all too well, about the "porpoising" phenomenon on many cars, especially Mercedes. Now, in Drive, I think I heard it just touched on, two, three, maybe four times in the course of 10 long episodes.

Oh, we heard how the season was such a black mark on Toto Wolff, Mercedes team principal, and on Lewis Hamilton, searching for the pace to claim a record eighth world championship and bury the ignominious conclusion of the 2021 season-ending race. And we watched Max just sail by Lewis, to win the driver's championship. Once again with feeling; how did they do it? It

was clear it wasn't just Max's brilliance behind the wheel. Although he was, indeed, clearly brilliant.

What exactly was Mercedes' problem? And, importantly, why was the Red Bull not porpoising? Nor Ferrari? I'll give you a preview; you won't find the answer on Season Five of Drive to Survive.

Nor did they give much reference to the major rules changes for 2023. What rules? What changes? They wanted to make passing easier, to make for a better show ... what did they do? You won't find out by watching.

And the cars themselves. We get shot after shot, all in vivid HD video, over the shoulder. You can clearly see the steering wheel, and the digital readout, and the myriad dials and switches, that are all attached to the steering wheel. Fine. Now, here's a simple request; explain it. Explain some of it. Explain any of it.

Same for the performance envelope of a current F1 car. Horsepower. The hybrid system. How it regenerates energy. How the drivers have an accelerator and a brake, and use one foot for each. How fast it accelerates. How fast it brakes. The g-forces it generates in a corner. Any of the above. Ever.

I mean, they certainly had the opportunity this year. Because Max and Red Bull just ran away with the season. Which pushed (ahh, so sorry, I won't use the word again, I promise) the producers to look elsewhere for their human-interest story. They found it with who would win out to be ... I'm not kidding ... the fourth best team. Alpine or McLaren. And who would drive in 2023 for these same mid-pack teams. What?

I do have to call out one interesting comment by Christian Horner, Red Bull team principal. It's about Max's genius. At one point, he says Sergio Peres, Verstappen's teammate, has studied Max's readouts, his speed around the track, all the telemetry, and he can't figure out how Max does it.

I'm reminded about Jim Clark's comment, "I brake a little later."

(Continues on Page 17)

Badler

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Oh, I also watched the Netflix series on tennis, and the Netflix series on golf. These series were interesting, because they also concentrated on several top-flight competitors.

But they didn't have a choice! A tennis racket or a golf club is not a 1,000 hp race machine, hand-built with unobtainium. And, while there may be performance differences in rackets and clubs, they're infinitesimal compared to a race car. And, besides, players are free to experiment with the wares of the manufacturers. Let's put it this way; have you ever heard a tennis player or a golfer complain that they lost the tournament because of their equipment?

No. And that's the point. Drive to Survive is becoming a soap opera of ... I won't say it See for yourself, or don't.





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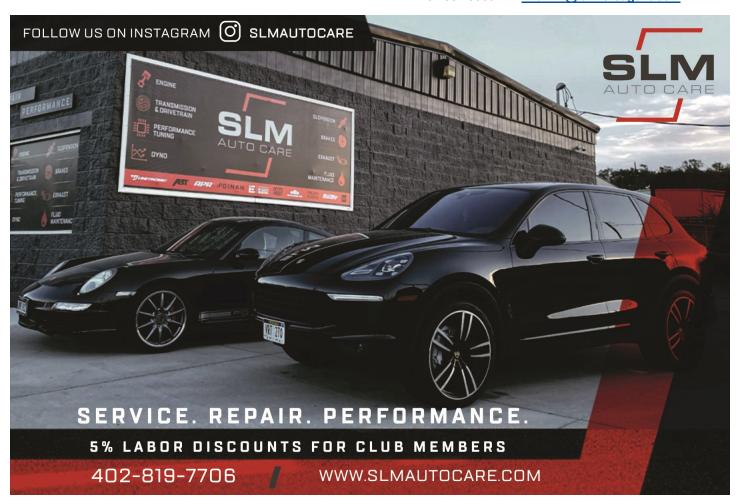
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