



Der Skooner

Porsche Club of America • Great Plains Region

August 2023



2024 Cayenne

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*"On The Cover" photo courtesy of
Paul De Luca*

Zero to 60

Mike Anderson, GPR President

I used to travel by plane for work on a regular basis. I'd get behind on my reading pile around the office and then jam it into my briefcase and "power read" while flying to who-knows-where. Recently while flying to Chicago then Flint, MI (family reunion), I read my back-logged pile of articles and magazines. I know you can drive to Flint, but airplanes are faster and easier on the body. However, some of the small regional jets could challenge that statement!

To add to the project, I picked up a copy of Road and Track from April which was largely dedicated to the Le Mans 24 Hour race. Porsche didn't win, but we have won 19 times during the race's 100 year history.

The June Panorama had an article on the Porsche track at Weissach and had pictures of Ferry Porsche inspecting the track in 1962. They kept referring to the track history and showing black and white photos. I was alive and in elementary school. I thought we had color pictures back then?

I also read an article on a really fast Cayenne Turbo GT, an SUV with 600 plus horsepower! I'd really like to see one at a Driver's Ed to watch as the driver pulled away from me on the straight. I think for some of you that use a Porsche SUV as a tow vehicle the added bonus is more than 600 pound-feet of torque. This baby will haul. The part that kills me is the price tag. "As driven" for the article it was \$197,630 without delivery charges. Thinking about my theme of zero to 60, prices certainly have gone up fast.

So when I got home and was tired of reading, I watched some Formula 1 racing from Hungary that I had recorded. On most tracks they can hit speeds of over 200 mph. I have to admit to having driven around 140+ mph a couple of times, but I have to think from 140 to 200 mph, the change is exponential and very impressive.

On a completely different topic, we're planning to have breakfast Saturday, August 12 at Stories Coffee in Gretna for a change of pace. The owner invited us to come out and have a mini car show. August 26th will be our next Driver's Ed program at RPM near Glenwood, IA. Bring your cars out and see if you can get them up to 200 mph ---- safely!

Safe Driving,
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

August 2023

August 12th - Breakfast - Stories Coffee 8:00am

10520 S 204th St, Gretna, NE 68028

August 19th - Ladies Day Drive - (RSVP - sign up at www.clubregistration.net)

August 26th - Dog Days 1 Day DE @ RPM (RSVP - sign up at www.clubregistration.net)

September 2023

September 9th - Breakfast at Paradise Bakery 8:00am

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

September 14th - Pickleball & Dinner @ the Ziegenbein's (Ashland, NE) 6:00pm

Watch your email for further updates!

National Calendar



Club Racing Calendar



Porsche Club of America - Zone 10 Regions

Central Iowa | Dakotas | Great Plains | Kansas City
Nord Stern | Ozark Lakes | Red River | Schonesland
St Louis | Wichita

Online and Social Media



[instagram.com/#gprpca](https://www.instagram.com/#gprpca)



gprpca.com



pca.org



[facebook.com/groups](https://www.facebook.com/groups)

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of the GPR Board meeting

July 11th, 2023

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

PRESIDENT: Anderson shared a big “thank you” from Least of My Brethren for the 6 bikes the GPR purchased from Sol’s and provided to them with funds raised from parade laps at DEs. Current needs were mentioned, with a forthcoming email to be sent to the membership. The Schonesland region has indicated further interest in joint events. Anderson will participate in the national regional presidents’ webinar with PCA in July.

SECRETARY: The June 2023 minutes were approved as distributed.

TREASURER: The June beginning cash balance was \$74,330; the ending cash balance was \$65,860. Year to date net loss is \$6,569.

SOCIAL: July 8th Porsches at Paradise breakfast attracted 20-25 members. The overnight Sandhills drive to Valentine on July 15-16 has 12 cars and 10 passengers registered. Stories Coffee Shop in Gretna will host the August 12th club breakfast from 8am -10am. A Ladies Day fun run will be held August 19th with details in August’s Der Skooner. Venue for the fall new member dinner was discussed.

MEMBERSHIP: We have 197 paid GPR members out of 315 PCA primary members assigned to our region. Chair Lynch will participate in the upcoming “Retention of Members” PCA webinar. Lynch will facilitate the upcoming Ladies Day fun run driving tour on August 19th.

REGISTRAR: Registration for the Sandhills drive to Valentine July 15-16 closes July 12th. Registration opens July 22nd for the August 19th Ladies Day fun run through the Loess Hills. Dog Days DE registration at RPM opens July 29th for the August 26th 1 day event.

SAFETY: Next DE is August 26th at RPM – a track clean-up day will be discussed with RPM’s management. July Sandhills drive insurance certificate has been received and insurance requested for the Ladies Day fun run drive on August 19th.

EDITOR: July Der Skooner was published and distributed to our advertisers and to the website. August issue will feature photos and recap on the Sandhills overnight drive, out of region columns, a Porsche newsroom article, and hopefully member contributions. Editor Kroh will evaluate the ‘Ride with GPS’ app for future fun run driving tours.

WEBMASTER: GPR website is up to date with events. July Der Skooner was emailed out June 30th. Chair Elliott will post video from the picnic on our website and provide email updates to members regarding the August breakfast and Ladies Day fun run.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, August 8th at 6:00pm at the Anderson residence.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Halvorson, Secretary

Community Impact

The graphic below illustrates what our charity focus this year does for those in our community. We continue to ask for your donations of items as listed on the following page. As a reminder, you can bring any of your donations to our club events, and we will be glad to get them to LoMB!

Least of My Brethren



Meals Served
29,890

Breakfast, Lunch, Food Pantry



Blessing Bags
17,110



People Clothed
18,370



Outdoor Gear
2,710

Apartments
Set-up
2,741



Volunteer Hours
109,225



People
Donating
17,640



Bicycles
2,431

Members of Our Facebook Community
6,643

Needs for August

People in our community need your help. Least of My Brethren, the GPR charity for 2023, provides a bi-monthly breakfast feed downtown, assists people living outside, and helps someone move off the streets into an apartment. They are a group of volunteers from the Omaha & Council Bluffs metros looking to make a difference for the homeless. If you have used items and want to find a good home for them, please consider donating them to our friends on the street. Many are veterans.

Items needed for August:

Tents and sleeping bags
Crockpots
Twin bed sheets
Towels: kitchen and bathroom
Hand tools: screwdriver, pliers, hammer, crescent wrench

Please bring items to events in August:

Breakfast on the 12th at Stories in Gretna
Ladies Day Drive on the 19th
DE on the 26th



Donate Online:

You can also donate online by going to their website: www.leastofmybrethren.org/donate

Mike Anderson will take your donations at events and deliver them to Least of My Brethren. Questions? Call or text Mike at 402-290-6611.



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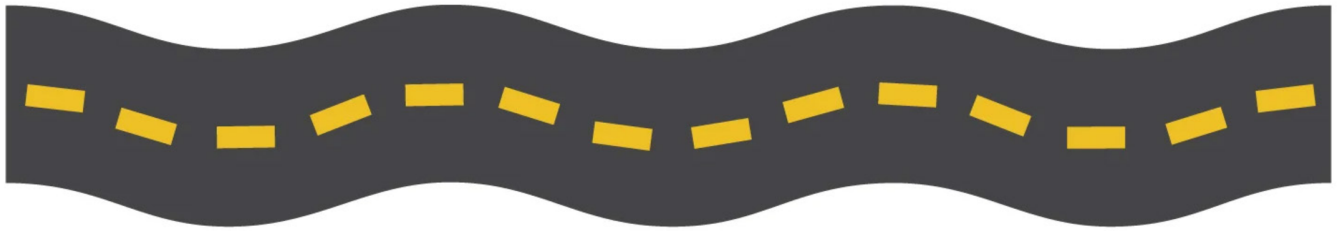
Ready to join us in PCA Sim Racing? The group is founded on the principles of gentlemen driver racing found in PCA Club Racing. If you are a beginner racing online this is a great place to start as we openly coach and mentor new drivers through our highly successful eDE Driver Education program. Races are broadcasted live on YouTube with professional announcers.

JOIN US! <https://register-simracing.pca.org>

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://pcasimracing.com>



PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA



First Ever LADIES DAY DRIVE

Our first ever Ladies Day Drive will be held on **Saturday, August 19th**. The drive will start in northern Omaha, and exact details will be provided when you sign up. You're welcome to arrive anytime after 7:45am. There will be coffee and tasty bites to get us started. The driver's meeting will start promptly at 8:15. Everyone must attend the meeting. The drive will start at 8:30am and last approximately 1.5 hours.

Only ladies will drive the Porsche. Drives are much more fun when there are two people per car. Other models of cars are welcome, but a Porsche will look really nice in our pictures.

Club Registration is the place to sign-up: www.ClubRegistration.net Participants will need to set up an account to register if you don't have one currently. There are forms that must be signed electronically. The website guides you through this easily. When you register, if you are a single driver, please note if you would like to have a passenger. If you would like to be a passenger for the drive, please note that and arrangements will be made. If you already know of another member you would like to have ride with you, please extend the invitation to join us. Everyone must register! Registration closes August 15th. Sign up now!

Fifteen cars will be the maximum. Please join us and get to know the other ladies in the Club. We hope to make this an annual event! Questions? Call or text Carol Lynch, 402-880-8782.



Great Plains Region PCA

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MEN WOMEN

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Please contact me with any questions and suggestions about the GPR Gear Shop!

Carol Lynch | Membership Chair | carol.lynch356@gmail.com

Sandhills Run

Article by Paul Schudel

On the morning of Saturday, July 15, eleven Porsches and 19 total participants met at Baker's, 156th and Dodge, for our Sandhills Run.



(Above, GPR members staging at the Baker's parking lot, photo courtesy of Paul De Luca)

Our route took us west and north to Albion where we stopped for a short break before continuing to Bartlett where we visited the Herb Mignery Western Bronze Art Display. A collection of over 25 bronzes are displayed on granite pedestals located on the grounds of the Wheeler County Courthouse. Mignery's close friend and the caretaker of the sculpture garden, Bob Nichols, met our group and provided a narrative of the background of the art display and details of his lifelong friendship with the artist.



Nichols' guided tour of the sculpture garden made our visit even more enjoyable.



(Above, group photo time at the conclusion of the statues tour. Photo courtesy of Paul Schudel)

Back in our Porsches and on the road again, we drove to Ord for lunch at the Scratchtown Brewery. Lunch was provided by Jubilee Catering and was delicious. As an interesting factoid, the Brewery's name comes from the towns name-sake, US General E.O.C. Ord, who so named the town in the 1873 due to the local mosquito infestation. While the nickname did not hang on, the brewery found it's fame as "Scratchtown".



(At left, one of the many statues on display, photo courtesy of Jim Medici. Above, lunchtime at the Scratchtown Brewery. Photo courtesy of Paul De Luca)

(Continues on page 11)

Sandhills

(Continued from page 10)

Following lunch, we were back on the road to drive the Loup Scenic Byway to Burwell and on to Halsey. At Halsey we took a side trip over essentially a one lane paved road to Purdum that has been designated by the Sandhills Open Challenge Race as the "Loup 2 Loup" route. It was fun to experience a drive on the road where the first day of the Sandhills Open Challenge Race will be held in August.



Smoke from the Canadian wildfires had drifted in and settled over the area and added a haze to otherwise breathtaking views of the rolling hills headed north towards Valentine. After a brief stop to gas up the cars, all were back on the road to the final stop for the day.

(Photos above and below courtesy of Terry Lessmann)



The last leg of our Sandhills Run was from Halsey through Thedford, with the last stop being Valentine. We arrived at the Trade Winds Motel at about 5:00 and after checking in, it was time for a brief rest from the days drive.



(Above: Overnight accommodations photo courtesy of Paul De Luca.

Below: Some of the fine folks at dinner. Jim and Chris Medici, Sandy and Paul Schudel, and Denny Strauss. Photo courtesy of Chris Strauss.)



We gathered once more for dinner that evening at the Peppermill Restaurant. It seemed that the popular choice of fare was predominantly excellent Nebraska steaks.

All of the participants enjoyed the day behind the wheel taking in the sights of the Nebraska Sandhills and the unique scenery in that part of the State.

As Sunday morning broke, one by one, we pointed our cars towards home.



PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

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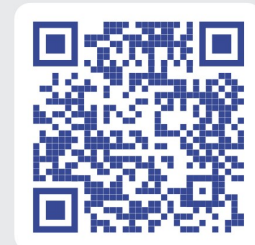


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2023 Membership News

By The Numbers:

PCA Primary Membership: **316**

GPR Membership: **197**

Club Anniversaries

Drew Blessing - Kearney (1 Year)

Jerry Hoffman - Lincoln (1 Year)

Leon Dickinson - Omaha (1 Year)

Primary Members and Comembers

When you join Porsche Club of America and pay your fee – you become a Primary Member. Each Primary Member is allowed one Co-member. This can be anyone at least 18 years old. Commonly, the spouse is noted as the co-member and is signed up with their own PCA number. But it could be a son or daughter, friend, brother, a plus one, anyone who meets the age requirement. You can help Porsche Club of America grow its membership by simply going online and checking if you have signed up your co-member. If you have not, please do so.

Thank you!!

First Ever Ladies Day Drive

Our first Ladies Day Drive will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2023. The sign-up period on clubregistration.net will be open starting July 22nd and will close on Wednesday August 16th. If you have not yet set up an account with www.clubregistration.net, I encourage you to do so as it will allow you to set reminders for upcoming events. There are electronic forms to fill out to complete registration, and you will receive confirmation and further instructions via email. If the online registration forms are not signed, you will not be able to participate.

Please note, participation is limited to 15 cars. You should arrive at the start no later than 8 am **with a full tank of gas.** You are welcome to ar-

rive as early as 7:45. The driver's meeting will start promptly at 8:15 am. All drivers must attend. We will leave promptly at 8:30. The meeting place will be disclosed in the informational email sent out when registration closes.

The rule is only Ladies will be driving the Porsches – *or whatever vehicle you are comfortable with.*

Drives are much more fun when there are two people per car. When you register, if you are a single driver, please note if you would like to have a passenger. If you would like to be a passenger, please let me know and I will see what can be arranged. If you already know of another member you would like to have ride with you – please extend the invitation to join us for the Drive. Coffee and tasty bites will be available at the start.

I look forward to starting a new GPR tradition for our club. Please join me and get to know the other ladies of the club!

Primary Members, please support your co-member by letting them know this opportunity is available.

One more thing, Shop the [GPR Gear Store](#)!

Show your support of the club with clothing displaying our GPR logo. Der Skooner and the GPR website have links to shopping. These items make great gifts for a birthday, Christmas or anytime. Land's End Business is the vendor, and the clothing is easy care and of good quality. Please show your support of the club with some GPR Gear. FYI, the club receives no profit from these sales. The GPR Gear store is simply for the pleasure of GPR members.

Click this link for the [GPR Gear Store](#) today!

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

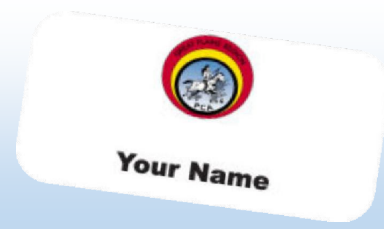
Carol Lynch - Membership Chair GPR
Carol.lynch356@gmail.com

Member Name Badges

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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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PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

A Note from the Editor

As of this writing, it's late July already. The heat is starting to bear down the Great Plains. Do I dare say it's too hot to run around with the top down? In a few of the Porsche forums I follow, fellow Boxster owners in the southwest talk about this very topic. Some embrace the blazing sunshine, others are more, dare I say, creatures of comfort. Top up and AC on full. I know we aren't expected to reach the level of heat here that our counterparts down south are experiencing, but then again, they have a "dry heat" to contend with. I guess growing up in Nebraska, I like my atmosphere like my coffee, hot and so thick you can drink it. Might not be top down, but the windows will be down. Unless my darling bride is beside me, then, by all means, the AC is on.

We had some members take a trip to Valentine this month. I certainly hope the trip was worthwhile. I haven't personally had the opportunity to ask how the trip was, but perhaps some stories will get shared at our next breakfast gathering. Which, if you haven't noticed yet, is taking a detour in the month of August to Stories Coffee in Gretna.

Speaking of breakfast, and more specifically, of breakfast past, Armando Colorado took the photo of the P-Cars you see below as we were parked in early July out at Village Pointe. Quite the array of models and colors! Good to see the Great Plains Region out in force.

As for garage projects? I'm turning an eye to some cosmetic needs. Polishing up of the headlight lenses, a little leather repair, fresh Porsche decals on the brake calipers. Nothing major, it is the season to be driving after all.

What have you got going on in your garage? Do you have a project to share? Road trip? Have you done an "Experience Center" delivery? As always, I encourage you to send in a photo of your new acquisition or daily driver, or 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.

I also welcome anyone that would like to submit an article for the "Meet A Member" feature. Don't miss this great opportunity to be included, just follow this link: [Meet A Member](#)

For any inquiries about submitting an article, please do not hesitate to contact me. Be sure to patronize our generous ad sponsors.

Editor@gprpca.com



Undercover Boss

Article and photos used with permission from Porsche

23/06/2023 At this year's 24 Hours of Le Mans, race fans in the Porsche Employee Camp were surprised by an unlikely neighbor.

For 75 years, from the boardroom to assembly line, Porsche has been a family. And come early summer, when the conditions are right in a certain corner of north-west France, that family likes to go camping.



Since its return to top tier endurance racing, Porsche has supported its factory campaigns at the 24 Hours of Le Mans with a travelling fanbase of employees, all of whom are invited to camp together on the infield at the Circuit de la Sarthe. At the heart of the action, the Porsche Employee Camp has become something of an institution in recent years, a ringside seat at the greatest race in the world with an unrivalled party atmosphere.

With just 400 places made available for the camp this year, a lottery system is used that selects the lucky winners at random. And in 2023, with Porsche Penske Motorsport competing for overall victory with the 963 for the first time, applications were understandably high. The excursion to La Sarthe was organized under the leadership of Johannes Schneider, Project Lead Global Events and Motor Shows, and Richard Schramm, Assistant to the Executive Board Human Resources and Social Affairs. "We held the lottery in April and there was huge demand for tickets,"

Schramm says, "because this was such a unique opportunity to go to the centennial Le Mans in the 75th year of Porsche. More than 1,200 people applied. We only give out 200 tickets with everyone who wins one able to bring a friend or partner."

Le Mans is a nine-hour drive from Stuttgart, and on the Thursday preceding the race, the roads due east of Baden-Württemberg were dotted with a mix of camper vans, motorhomes and a variety of Porsche models – from high-performance Caymans and 911s to several examples of the highly practical, all electric Taycan Sport Turismo. The Employee Camp filled steadily over the next two days, old friends reconnecting and new friendships forming over a shared anticipation of what was about to unfold. And parked up in one corner of the campsite was a black 911 Turbo S, unusual only because of its matching black roof tent.



The 100th staging of Le Mans meant the Employee Camp would play host to a number of special events. Alongside the traditional barbecue and musical entertainment, the site was visited by factory drivers André Lotterer, Dane Cameron and Nick Tandy, one driver from each works car, to take part in a Q&A session and photo opportunity. They were also joined by Brand Ambassador and 919 Hybrid veteran Mark Webber and representatives of the Racing for Charity initiative which would see 750 euros donated to three charities for every lap turned by the 963 during the race.

(Continues on page 18)

Camping

(Continued from page 17)

But for many, the most memorable moment of the weekend would be more impromptu. On race day itself, employees queuing up for their breakfast were greeted by the surprising sight of Oliver Blume waiting in line with them. Eager to be at the centre of the Porsche community on this remarkable weekend in racing history, Porsche's CEO and Chairman of the Executive Board had come up with the unusual idea of sleeping under canvas in amongst his co-workers.



Camping in a roof tent on top of the 911 Turbo

The 55-year-old was joined by his wife, and for two nights they camped in a roof tent on top of his 911 Turbo, revealing to colleagues that it was actually very comfortable.



While the CEO had a packed schedule over the weekend, he nevertheless found time to spend with his fellow campers, watching the race and enjoying the unique atmosphere that the Employee Camp offers.

"I'm lucky that through my work I can get as close to the action as anyone could dream," said Blume, following the weekend. "But this year was incredibly special: camping on a Porsche, in amongst the Porsche community, is something I'll never forget. The fans are at the heart of Le Mans, and this is what keeps drawing us back."



Following what would prove to be a challenging debut for the 963 at Le Mans, the sense of community at Porsche was nevertheless stronger than ever. "On the Monday after the race, I sent out a survey for feedback on the whole experience," continues Schramm, "and lots of people commented on how meaningful it was that our CEO was sleeping in the camp and standing in line to get breakfast. Everyone loved that he was there, in shorts and sandals, totally relaxed and just part of the Porsche crew."



For this, and other content, please visit:

<https://newsroom.porsche.com>



PCA members make a difference in their community!

Porsche Club of America Regions create fantastic opportunities to give back and support many different aspects of their communities.

Every year across Porsche Club of America, members are making a difference with many amazing, heartwarming, and thoughtful acts of kindness. PCA is continually collecting stories of member's community contributions, and publishing articles for all to read in an effort to highlight what our club is doing and inspire other regions to help in their own way.

READ ALL OF THE HEART-WARMING MEMBER STORIES: www.pca.org/members-making-difference

OR SUBMIT YOUR REGION'S CONTRIBUTION: www.pca.org/contact-members-making-difference



PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

Rocky Mountain Region

Article thanks to Danielle Badler of the Rocky Mountain Region PCA

Baby You Can Drive My Car

Two magic days driving manufacturers' latest offerings came and went again last month. And your humble scribe is here to report back on a new year and a new slew of vehicles.

This is an annual event, for which major thanks go to the Rocky Mountain Automotive Press Assn, for arranging everything. And the vehicle manufacturer reps, for bringing the cars.

A few top-of-mind observations. First, the annual spoiler alert; no Porsche participation, no Audi participation, no BMW participation. Audi and BMW have participated in the past. But Porsche has never shown, for at least the last 10 years that I've gone. I have no idea why. They're all missing out.

As for the manufacturer reps, riding shotgun, or in the back seat, I must say, this year's crop was extremely knowledgeable, and really good company. Forthcoming on tech, and product planning, and industry observations. It hasn't always been like that. And I didn't notice even one cringe, as we blasted through the twisties.

Which brings up the route. Oh, we've been in the mountains before. But this year was some of the best of the best. Up to the Peak to Peak Highway, back down for lunch in Lyons, up to Estes Park, into Rocky Mountain National Park, over Trail Ridge Road, down and through to Winter Park for the night. The following day were drives around the surrounding roads. Then up and over Berthoud Pass (11,300 ft elevation) and back down. A quick hop on I 70 to Georgetown and up over Guanella Pass. Then back down, a left onto 285 and back to our base in Golden.

We saw elk, we saw moose, we saw deer, we saw pronghorn sheep, we saw tundra, we saw snow, we saw rain, we saw sun, we saw curves, we saw straights.

Oh yeah, the cars. Of course there were EVs, and there were hybrids, and there were SUVs, and there were trucks. I couldn't find the time to

get into everything. But I did spend seat-time in two, yes, two manual transmission fun machines. The Toyota Corolla GR. And the Acura Integra Type S.

Did I enjoy them? Is Trail Ridge Road the highest road in North America that goes somewhere? The GR can't escape its econobox roots. But 300 hp from a 1.6-liter three cylinder mill, driving all four wheels, can get your attention. Hey, Subaru, this really is a street rally car for today. Linear punch into the stomach, a nice, tight ride, no-thought steering. If you're interested, I'd order one today. They won't last.

Nor will the Integra. A year ago, I drove the A-Spec, and I found it a buzz-box, sadly lacking in oomph. No longer. The exterior's more pumped up, the interior's more luxe, the power's more ... more. And, on the overrun, the engine gives you a "pop pop pop" song that's almost worth the price of admission, in and of itself.

Trends this year. The Honda Accord hybrid had paddle shifters that didn't actually shift the vehicle at all. What they did was control the degree of regenerative braking, when you lifted. You went from virtually none to, well, a lot. Paddle on the left for more, paddle on the right for less.

Full-on, I found this remarkably useful in the twisties. But I couldn't help wondering, does it affect fuel economy? Honda's rep said hardly. Does it save on wear and tear on brake pads? Yes. Do brake lights come on, when in full regenerative mode? I forgot to ask. But I did hum Fleetwood Mac's "You Can Go Your Own Way."

The Mercedes-Benz AMG GLE 63 S 4matic+SUV won the longest model name contest. And, with a reported 603 hp and 627 ft-lbs of torque, with the help of a 48-volt hybrid assist, leading to a reported 0-60 time of 3.7 seconds, at an MSRP north of \$160K, it also won the most outrageous vehicle award, at least from me.

(Continues on page 21)

Badler

(Continued from page 20)

The Benz also featured the most over-the-top dash. The usual digital instrument cluster, flanked by the largest infotainment system maybe in existence. I mean, in nav mode it looks like you unfolded a complete digital, touch-sensitive Hagstrom map. And then, to its right, there's another digital panel, just for the front-seat passenger. And it all kinda flows up, almost into the straight-ahead sight-line, giving a slightly truncated view forward. A true Godzilla vehicle.

What else? The new Prius Prime looks sensational. And drives like a good car, not a Mobil Economy Run entrant. God bless the natural induction of the Lexus IS 500. And the massaging rear seat in the Genesis G90.

Life is good. Thank you all.



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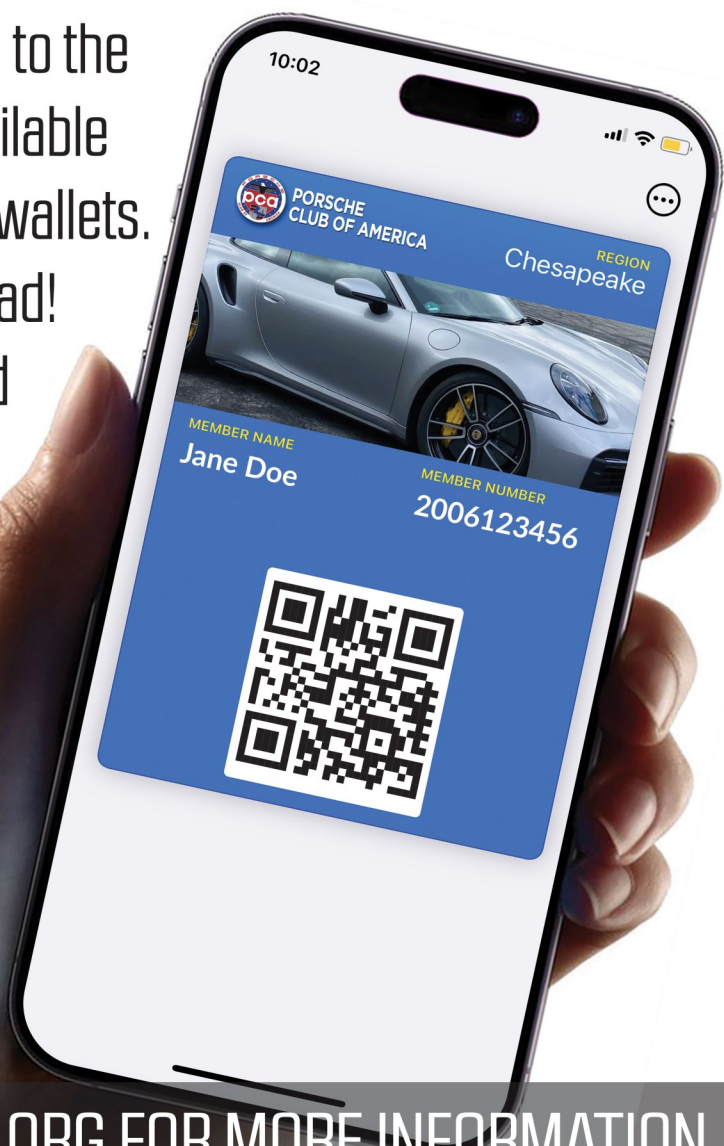
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