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DEC
2016

Happy
Holidays!



Über Alles

Porsche Club of America, Western Michigan Region

Let's Get Together:
January Dinner Drive

Tech Spalte:
Evolution of Spark Plugs

In Review:
November Dinner Drive



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IGNITION

DECEMBER, 2016



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Über Alles

Porsche Club of America, Western Michigan Region

On the cover:
356 Porsche Speedster Christmas
Photo From Rennlist

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Mike Karluk
President,
Western Michigan Region

Another great year of friendship and driving is coming to an end and I'd like to thank all of those who have invested their time and energy organizing and hosting the wonderful array of events many of us have enjoyed. Most recently, thirty-nine members enjoyed the Blacklidges' color drive and dinner despite a cloudy day and a relative lack of fall colors. Eighteen enjoyed Pete Stott's Thompsonville Triple D drive. Thank you, Pete, for organizing such great drives up north! Thirty-nine members joined Randy and Lin Portoluri's dinner at the Main Street Pub in Allendale. Thank you, Lin, for stepping in to the role of Charity Chairperson!

Most of this year's great events were renewed for 2017 at the annual planning meeting on November 7, but there is still room for other events if you've got an idea. The tentative schedule for 2017 will be available for viewing in the January Über Alles and probably on-line a little earlier. In other activity at the planning meeting, Jim Chiavaras accepted the nomination and unanimous proclamation to become the region Vice President. Thank you, Ted Blacklidge, for holding down the VP position this past year and continuing to chair the Grattan HPDE and assist as the Über advertising co-chair with John Walters. Board heavy-lifters Amber Door and Brenda Hildon-Kaempff will remain in their positions as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, and Chuck Olenyk will be orienting with Amber to assume the Treasurer's responsibilities in the future. The remainder of our Board stalwarts will be continuing on for 2017 including Lina Spross as Über editor, her husband Eric as Safety Chair, Craig Paull as Webmeister, Lynne Olenyk as Social Events coordinator, Joyce Lo as Social Media Chair, Terry Schieble as Chief Driving Instructor, Michael Betz as Autocross Chair, Jerry Arens as Membership Chair, and Kurt Wirth as Historian and Insurance Coordinator. Thank you so much for all you do that makes our West Michigan Region club experience so enjoyable!

2107 WMR events will kick off with Rick Riley's dinner at Charley's Crab in Downtown Grand Rapids on Wednesday, January 18.

I was reading about the new Panamera Turbo this morning. With Sport Chrono, this four-seat sedan will go from 0-60 mph in 3.4 seconds. I can't imagine what the Turbo S will do. The Porsche engineering is simply amazing!

See you soon!

-Mike



ACCESS THE MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES ON OUR WEBSITE.
[HTTP://WMR.PCA.ORG/MINUTES/MINUTES.HTM](http://wmr.pca.org/minutes/minutes.htm)



We're looking for event hosts for 2017

Simply stop by our Monthly Board Meeting, or contact our WMRPCA Social Events Coordinator, Lynne Olenyk, with your event ideas. Lynne will help you work through the details and make your event a success. E-Mail: lynniemarie@charter.net · Phone: (616) 710-0122



JANUARY DINNER DRIVE

HOST: RICK RILEY

Our host, Rick Riley, has again planned a delightful winter gathering for the WMR enthusiasts! We will kick-off the 2017 Season of Events with dinner at Charley's Crab in Downtown Grand Rapids. We will have a private area facing the river to view the winter wonderland. We'll gather for cocktails at 6pm and dinner promptly at 7pm.

Hope to see you all there!

-Rick

When: Wednesday, January 18, 2016,
6 PM Cocktails, 7 PM Dinner

RSVP: January 11, 2016
Rick.Riley@Grandxray.com or
Call 616-459-0145 and speak with Kelli;
mention you would like to RSVP for the
Charlie's Crab Dinner Drive

Where: Charley's Crab
63 Market Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



IN REVIEW: NOVEMBER DINNER DRIVE

BY RANDY PORTOLURI · PHOTOS BY AMBER DOOR

Once again the weather gods blessed us with Porsche driving conditions for the dinner at the Main Street Pub. 10 Porsches blessed the parking lot and 33 people in the restaurant. One couple drove over 50 miles! As always, the food was excellent and the service par excellent. Compliments were bestowed upon the servers. The waitresses told me after everyone left that we were the most fun group they've had in a long time. Sounds like we will do this again next year. Some wanted to do it next week...I wish!



Hosts, Lin (our new Charity Chair!) and Randy Portoluri (left) enjoying good conversation, food and drinks.

AROUND THE ZONE

BY MICHAEL SORIANO, ZONE 4 REPRESENTATIVE



Michael Soriano
Zone 4 Representative,
Porsche Club of America

Greetings PCA Zone 4 Members,

I have enjoyed another wonderful year as your Zone Rep, and would like to thank all of the region officers and members who helped to make this year in Zone 4 a successful one. I was honored to be invited to and welcomed at so many outstanding events; I only wish that I could have attended even more. I am pleased to see

even more regions working together, and our zone becoming a more cohesive unit, an important goal of mine since becoming Zone Rep.

I WANT TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

During a weekend this autumn, I joined Northern Ohio Region on their trip to the Motor City. Their first stop was the Henry Ford Museum. From the museum, the group checked in to The Henry Autograph Hotel and gathered for an enjoyable dinner at TRIA. The following day, we all drove to Brighton to visit The Lingenfelter Collection, one of the largest car collections in the country. Ken Lingenfelter and his wife Kristen were there to welcome us, and after a while, Ken led a tour of the collection providing anecdotes on many of the nearly 200 cars on display. Once again this year, a number of regions held color tours, and I had the opportunity to join Southeast Michigan Region members. After the tour, they held a fantastic dinner at the Rochester Mills Beer Co., and everyone had a wonderful time. The event was so popular that the party room they reserved was filled beyond capacity.

Just because we've put our cars away for the winter, it doesn't mean that we can't experience the same camaraderie and friendship enjoyed during the driving season. Many regions will be hosting Holiday Parties this month, and what a great way to kick off the holiday season by celebrating with your PCA friends.

As the New Year begins, and the region calendars firm up, please remember to check your in boxes, region's newsletter and website, as well as the Zone 4 website <http://zone4.pca.org> for the most up to date information about events available to you. Also, consider attending other regions' events, such as:

- December 1: Eastern Buckeye Region's Thirsty Thursday at Royal Docks
- December 2: Maumee Valley Region's Holiday Party at the Toledo Museum of Art
- December 3: Rally Sport Region's Holiday Party will be at Porsche of Ann Arbor
- December 3: MORPCA's 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Holiday Party at the Boat House
- December 3: Western Michigan Region's December Appetizer Party
- December 3: Ohio Valley Region's Holiday Party at Porsche of the Village
- December 10: Central Indiana Region's Holiday Gathering and Gift Exchange at Tom Wood Porsche
- December 17: Southeast Michigan Region's Annual Holiday Party at Orchard Lake Country Club

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at MSoriano.ZoneRep@gmail.com

Thanks,

Michael





January Dinner Drive: Hunters and Gatherers mingled with Tinkerers and Toy makers sharing insights, prices and good times.



For over 14 Years, WMR Enthusiast have been gathering at the Grattan Bar



Tim Thatcher and crew would like to thank our club for the best attended Euro Autowerks Open House to date! Pictured, Scott Kraai's 1964 356 SC



Rain gave way to a perfect Grattan Day!

2016 Year In Review Events **SnapSHOTS**

Photos by
WMR Members throughout the year



Mike Karluk (right) is presenting Marshall Walters (center) and John Walters (left) with the 2015 Enthusiast of the Year trophy.



Our annual Sporting Clays event at Blendon Pines Gun Club had a great turnout of shooters and guests.



TRSS - Learning the Rules of the Road

IN AUTO SHOW NEWS...

BY VIKNESH VIJAYENTHIRAN, EDITOR · ADAPTED FROM MOTOR AUTHORITY, 11.16.2016

Porsche 911 finally adopts mid-engine layout with 2017 RSR

Since the first 911 entered production in 1963, Porsche has been faithful to the iconic sports car's rear-engine layout, Beetle jokes notwithstanding.

But when it comes to performance, it appears Porsche has finally reached the limits of having so much mass so far out the back. How do we know this? Because the automaker just unveiled a 911 race car with the engine positioned in front of the rear axle, i.e. a mid-engine layout.

The car is the 2017-spec 911 RSR, which Porsche unveiled Wednesday at the 2016 Los Angeles auto show. It replaces the current RSR introduced for the 2013 season and is Porsche's top race car based on a production model, in this case the 911. Even though there's no mid-engine 911 road car, it's still homologated due to engine optimization regulations that allow the engine to be moved slightly.

The 2017 RSR is designed for endurance events such as the World Endurance Championship and WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, competing in the respective GTE and GTLM classes. This is where other mid-engine machines, the Ford Motor Company [NYSE:F] GT and Ferrari [NYSE:RACE] 488, have proven the dominant force in the 2016 season.



2017 Porsche 911 RSR Race Car

The new RSR differs from those rivals, though, as it sticks with a naturally-aspirated engine instead of a turbocharged unit. The engine is a 4.0-liter flat-6 that, depending on the regulations, delivers around 510 horsepower. It's mated to a paddle-shifted, 6-speed sequential transmission and spins the rear wheels only.

There are more advantages of having a mid-engine layout than just weight distribution. Porsche says moving the engine forward has allowed engineers to install a much larger rear diffuser. Combined with a top-mounted rear wing adopted from the flagship 919 Hybrid LMP1 endurance racer, the level of downforce and the aerodynamic efficiency were significantly improved.

The internal structure is mostly aluminum and steel while the body panels are carbon fiber-reinforced plastic, helping to get the weight down to the 1,243-kilogram regulation minimum.

The suspension consists of double wishbones at both ends, with four-way vibration dampers and twin coil springs. Attached at each hub is an 18-inch wheel, measuring 12.5 in across up front and 13 at the rear. They're shod with Michelin racing slicks and house one-piece aluminum brake calipers biting internally ventilated steel discs.



2017 Porsche 911 RSR Race Car Interior

The new RSR's first race will be the 2017 Rolex 24 at Daytona, the season opener of the 2017 WeatherTech SportsCar Championship. The race is scheduled for next January.

"While retaining the typical 911 design, this is the biggest evolution by now in the history of our top GT model," Porsche Motorsport boss Frank-Steffen Walliser said in a statement. "The new 911 RSR is a completely new development: the suspension, body structure, aerodynamic concept, engine and transmission have all been designed from scratch."

Could this mean we'll eventually see the 911 road car move to a mid-engine layout? Possibly. There was a time when people also said that 911s must be air-cooled. That ended almost two decades ago and few are complaining about it today.



What: 55th Annual Rolex 24

Where: Daytona, Florida

When: Saturday, January 28, 2017
Start your Engines @2:40pm



2017 EVENT CALENDAR

WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION · PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

	Date	Event	Location	Host(s)/Event Chair(s)
JAN	01-09	Monthly Board Meeting	Delta Imports, Grand Rapids, MI	WMR PCA Club
	01-18	January Dinner Drive	Charley's Crab, Grand Rapids, MI	Rick Riley
	01-26 to 01-29	Rolex 24	Daytona, Florida	Non-PCA Event
FEB	02-06	Monthly Board Meeting	Delta Imports, Grand Rapids, MI	WMR PCA Club
	02-18	WMR Winterfest 2017	Cascade Hills Country Club, Grand Rapids, MI	WMR PCA Club
	02-19	Morning-After Brunch	TBD	TBD

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From the Officers and Chairperson to all the Members of Western Michigan Region, we wish you a Very Merry Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year!





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- Ted and Gabriele Blacklidge

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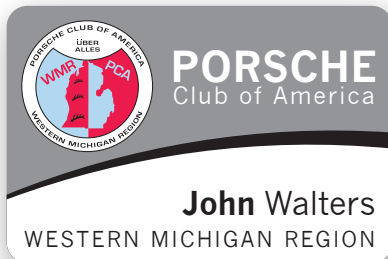


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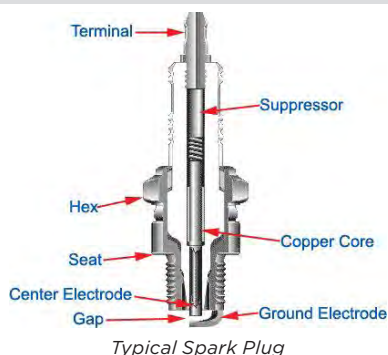
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Contributed by WMR PCA member
Tim Thatcher, ASE-Certified Master Technician
and Owner, Euro Autowerks

THE EVOLUTION OF SPARK PLUGS

AND WHY YOU MAY WANT TO CHANGE THEM BEFORE THE RECOMMENDED MILEAGE



The spark plug is a device for delivering electrical current from the ignition system to the combustion chamber in such a manner that it ignites the compressed fuel/air mixture.

Etienne Lenoir first used a spark plug in 1860 in the first piston combustion

engine. Others credited with the development of the spark plug are Nikola Tesla, Fredrick Simms and Robert Bosch. It was an engineer for Robert Bosch, Gottlob Honold made the first commercially viable high voltage spark plug in 1902. Let's take a look at the typical spark plug.

COMMON SPARK PLUG TYPES

While there are numerous types of spark plugs in use today, let's take a moment to review the most common plugs that we deal with at Euro Autowerks.

Copper Spark Plugs - Copper plugs are fairly inexpensive to purchase but have the shortest life span due to the copper eroding away at a more rapid rate during use. Here is a picture of the business end of a copper spark plug.



Platinum Spark Plugs - Platinum-tipped spark plugs are more expensive since platinum is a rare material. Platinum does not conduct electricity as effectively as copper so the plugs do not deliver the power transfer of copper plugs. Platinum plugs can be subject to overheating due to the increased resistance of the plug and/or "spirited driving conditions".



Iridium Spark Plugs - Iridium-tipped spark plugs are the most expensive of the three and efficiently deliver the spark to the cylinder. These plugs last longer than copper plugs and come close to lasting as long as platinum plugs while delivering a more consistent electrical charge.



It is with the use of these exotic materials in our spark plugs, along with more efficient ignition systems (coils) and combustion chambers, that allows us to get spark plugs to last 100,000 miles.

TIP DESIGNS

There are way too many variants in spark plug tip design to list them all and how they affect heat range. Some of the more common tip examples are double tip, triple tip, extended tip and Iridium fine wire tips. Iridium tips by the way should never be adjusted, (gapped) as you may damage the Iridium on the tip.



WRAPPING UP

One thing that manufacturers cannot prevent are spark plugs becoming stuck in a cylinder head. Due to a natural reaction, spark plugs that stay in your car for a long duration have a tendency to fuse themselves to cylinder heads made of aluminum. Even though your vehicle may call for plugs only every 30, 60 or 100,000 miles, the manufacturer puts a time limit on them of 4 years and recommends they be removed and checked regularly. Removing the plugs to check them, then reinstalling them, is short sighted at best. I think it's prudent to replace the plugs once they are removed.

Every start up and shut down is a heat cycle that breaks down the plugs' integrity. As plugs wear, it becomes harder on the ignition coils to deliver the necessary spark, causing them to fail due to the increased voltage required to fire the plugs.

JUST FOR FUN...

The Evolution of the Spark Plug



1900 1909 1912 1915 1926 1939 2016

All of us here at Euro Autowerks wish you a very safe and merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-Tim

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sgrafex@chartermi.net



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9342 Whispering Sands Dr.
West Olive, MI 49460
mbkmd9198@charter.net

COMING SOON...

The Officers and Chairpersons have set the list and checking it twice, so get ready to mark your calendars for another fun-filled year! The 2017 Calendar of events has been made and will be available in the January Über Alles. There are still several opportunities available to host an event. See page 4 for further details on hosting an event.



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Black & White: \$70/month

1/2 page:

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Black & White: \$45/month

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Join me in congratulating these fine folks on their WMR PCA Anniversaries and extend a warm "Willkommen" to our new members and transfers.

Glückwünsche! — Anniversaries

10 years (2006) James & Priscilla Frakie
Alan & Elizabeth Anderson
35 years (1981) Paul & Amy Bizzigotti

Willkommen! — New Members & Transfers

Alfred Dubuisson, South Haven, '84 911
Melvin & Mary Hawkins, East Jordan, '11 911

Editor's Note

In the November Issue of the Über Alles, "The Golden Age Of Sports Cars", I neglected to also mention that Mr. Tom Kayser is a long standing member and John Lacko is a former member of the Western Michigan Region Porsche Club of America.

THE TAILPIPE

BY L. SPROSS, ÜBER ALLES EDITOR

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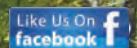
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