



www.pca.org

ÜBER ALLES



http://wmi.pca.org

September 2008

This Month's Activities

SEPTEMBER

07 WMR PCA IROC at Ionia
TJ Thatcher (616)914-9721

08 Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM

13 Michiana Autocross - Tire Rack

19-21 GRAND PRIX OF GRATTAN -
DRIVER'S EDUCATION EVENT
Ted Blackledge (616)866-4143
sgrafex@chartermi.net

19-21 VSCDA Elkhart Lake
Vintage Festival
Road America, WS

27 Dinner Drive - Paul & Renee Krapp

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MUSKEGON AREA DINNER DRIVE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 @ 2:00 PM



Join us for a change of pace after all the excitement at the Grattan DE – relax with a nice leisurely drive and dinner the weekend after.

We will meet at Russ's restaurant across from the US-31 to 120 (Fremont) Exit at 2:00 PM and we'll plan to depart at 2:45 PM.

The drive will wind through some of the most scenic and twisting roads in the area, ending up for dinner at Ramshorn on the Lakes in Fremont. After dinner we'll drive back to Muskegon via a different route to enjoy the sunset on Lake Michigan.

Check out our website (<http://wmi.pca.org/>) for maps and more information. Call and/or email Paul & Renee Krapp (231) 924-6173 or pkraapp@sintelinc.com



Upcoming Events

Monthly Meetings will occur at 7PM at Delta Imports, 6025 28th St. SE Grand Rapids, 49546

2008

Grab your camera and join your hosts
Duane & Brenda Weed as they put on our fall event:

OCTOBER 2008

06 Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM

11 Dinner Drive - Fall Color
Tour - Duane & Brenda Weed
(231) 937-4867
duane@dwvideo.com

NOVEMBER 2008

03 Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM - 2008
Event Planning Meeting

12 Dinner Drive - Dave & Kris Reid
(616)957-1498 dreid@comcast.net

DECEMBER 2008

01 Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM

13 Dinner Drive - Appetizer Party -
Greg & Lee Koning (269) 624-1741
gregkono@yahoo.com

25 Merry Christmas

The Dam Fall Color Tour 2008 Saturday, October 11

It has been a few years since we traveled across
the Hardy and Croton Dams
in search of the spectacular fall color that Michigan has to offer us.

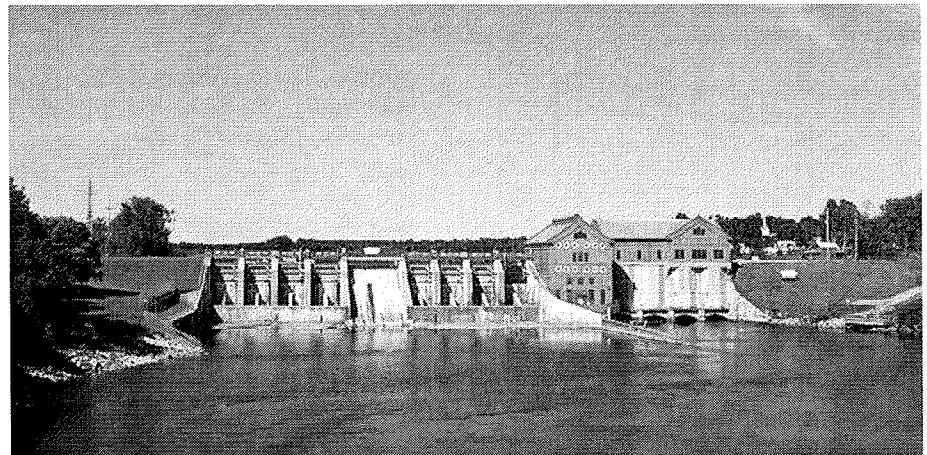
This year we will take a much different route beginning at the Big Rapids Meijers (US131 exit 139). Our tour takes M20 west out of Big Rapids through a series of windy roads cruising through White Cloud and back roads to the Hardy Dam. Continuing on to Croton Dam, we can take a scenic photo or two before heading out to the restaurant (yet to be determined). Ladies, I am searching for a place with restroom along the way for that all important break! Depending on stops, this year's trip will be around 1 ½ - 2 hours.

Arrive at 4:00pm

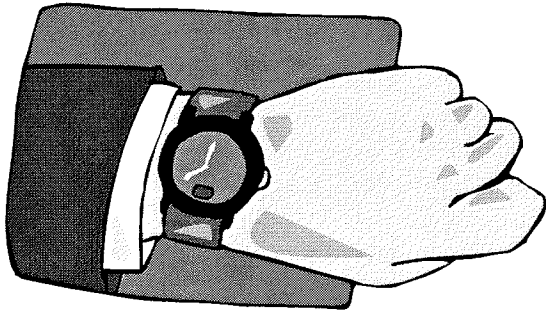
At the Big Rapids Meijer Parking Lot (behind Ruby Tuesday's):
Leave for Tour: 4:30pm

Please RSVP by October 6th

Duane's Cell Phone (231) 250-9624
Email: duane@dwvideo.com



Upcoming Events



HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE.....

It's *that* time of year again....the time of year to plan for *next* year!

Have you participated in and enjoyed your club events this past year? Would you like to do more activities with this fun group of Porschephiles? Is there an event you would like to have added to the calendar? You are part of a special club and we want your input!

If you've got an idea and would like to host a monthly dinner drive or special event – join us for the annual dinner ***Planning Meeting*** on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3TH @ 7:00PM @ PIETRO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 2780 BIRCHCREST SE, GR, 616-452-3228**. This is when the schedule is organized for the upcoming year - new faces and fresh ideas are always welcome!

To the folks who would still like to put on their “Annual” event – please find a calendar for 2009 to pick a date for the upcoming year and let me know (616) 866-4143 or sgrafex@chartermi.net. The planning date will be here before you know it. And you thought it was still summer.....

If you are unable to join us at the meeting, or have any questions, please call or email your Board and they will present the information or suggestion. Thank you ! Ted Blacklidge

WEST MICHIGAN REGION AUTOCROSS

Plan to buzz on over to the Ionia Fairgrounds on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7** for our **WMR IROC** Autocross. Directions: Take I-96 east or west to exit M-66 North. The fairgrounds are approx 5 miles north – just follow the signs - and the river on your left.

Bring a helmet (or one will be provided) and experience the thrill of driving your car in competition against other drivers in your class, through an enclosed racecourse of cones for accuracy and time. Registration runs from 8:30-9:30am.

Novices (first-timers) will be able to get instruction from experienced autocrossers starting at 10:00. Start time for the event will be 11:00am. Contact IROC Chairman, TJ Thatcher, at 616-914-9721 or Ted Blacklidge, 616-866-4143 sgrafex@chartermi.net

CLUB MINUTES: AUGUST

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Ted Blacklidge.
 Attending: Ted & Gabi Blacklidge, Amber Door, Dan Phillips, Kurt Wirth, Rick Riley, John Kilgren, Val & Arnie Axelrod

Minutes: approved as printed in Uber Alles

Treasurer's Report: approved and filed

Webmaster: no report

Membership: Primary Members: 257; Affiliate Members: 210, Total: 467.
 Transfer out: 2. Non-renewals 9; Renewals 18

Advertising: John will check on two accounts for follow-up on ad copy.

Uber: There was discussion on the possibility and cost of color printing.

Insurance: Kurt is working on the paperwork for the Picnic, Saunter, IROC and Grattan.

Driving Events:

Amber reported on the Grattan registration numbers.
 There is a possibility that Delta will provide all or part of the Grattan commemorative tee shirts as a donation.
 Gabi presented a draft of "Grattan Charity Guidelines", which was discussed and revised. The club is taking applications for a new Charity Chairperson to provide breakfast at the Grattan DE event.
 Ted informed the Board that a new IROC Chair will be needed for next year.

Old Business:

Dan & Ren's event, ALMS at The Score was well attended.
 Ted & Gabi's Gimmick Rally was also well attended.
 Nametags are still in the planning stage.

New Business:

Amber & Jerry's Picnic & Concours is August 9th.
 Candis & Barry's Saunter to the Shore is August 23rd.
 Dan suggested an organized club appearance at Delta for the 28th Street Metro Cruise.
 The November Planning Date is Monday, Nov 3rd. It was agreed that the location be the same as last year – Pietro's on 28th Street.
 After discussion, the location for WinterFest '09 will remain at Bridgewater Place. Date to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm
 Respectfully submitted by Gabi Blacklidge, Uber Alles Editor

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 Jerry Arens
 616 457-4515
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CHARITY OPPORTUNITY

This is your chance to promote and collect donations for your favorite Charity!
 The Grattan DE event is looking for volunteers to help on Saturday and Sunday, September 20, 21 from 8:00am until 1:30pm. As in the past, we have a need for volunteers to provide their choice of breakfast items for both mornings and to promote their Charity and collect Touring donations at noon.

Applications for Charities will be approved by the WMR Board.

Please contact Ted Blacklidge at sgrafex@chartermi.net or call (616) 866-4143 for further information.

2nd Annual WMR PCA Picnic and Concours

If you were not at the WMR PCA Picnic and Concours on Saturday August 9, you missed a beautiful day of Porsches and WMR friends! The weather was made to order for showing off the cars. The event brought out 15 Porsches *and* a Lamborghini! Fourteen of the Porsches, representing 59 years of Porsche history (1959-2008), participated in the Topside Concours. The amazing color palette for the day was diverse, with orange, yellow, shades of blue, and chiffon - alongside the ever-present Porsche black, silver and a lone Guards Red car.

The event brought out several new members, John Zevalkink in his 1997 993; Jovan Jovanovic and his son Matt with his 1989 930. We also were able to get a look at a new addition to the Blacklidge family, a Glacier Blue '83 cab; the latest addition to the Rick Riley corral - a fabulous '59 356D speedster; the beautiful black '08 turbo of Julio Morales; as well as a gorgeous Cayenne of James Wiederhold.

As the participants arrived the cleaning supplies (for some of us) came out for the last minute cleanup of the bugs that lost their lives in our pursuit of driving pleasure. Following the last minute cleanups the "Judging" began. Our volunteer judges spread out to check the cars for presentation and cleanliness in 7 exterior categories - Coachwork (metal work & fit); Exterior Surfaces (paint, convertible top); Outer surfaces of Glass, lights); Metal trim; Rubber Trim; Bumpers and Wheels/Tires. The judges, at one point, had to be reminded that they could not "deduct" for soda cans, dirty carpet or other items inside the vehicle. If they felt compelled to critique the vehicle to this standard, then their own vehicle would have to be re-judged at Touring Concours criteria (open everything up! And don't forget the gas hatch!). Imagine - there were no takers.

Throughout the afternoon, the colorful line of cars (and the Lamborghini) drew many admirers who were passing by on foot, on bike and a few who just pulled in to check out why so many Porsches were parked in a church parking lot. It made for a great day to share our passion for Porsches with each other and everyone else who came by.

We did manage to squeeze in a lot of great picnic fair into the day because no WMR PCA event should be without sustenance! Thanks to everyone who brought a dish to pass. And for Ren's idea to put the ice cream on the brownie, followed by nuts and chocolate sauce!

All those who attended and those that just came to ogle had a good time. Don't miss the fun again! Plan to give your car a wash and come out in 2009 for the fun, food, and friends, and to add your car to the Porsche menagerie.

A round of applause for the awards winners in the 2008 Concour de'Elegance:

356 Class

- 1st Rick Riley
- 2nd Kurt Wirth

Front & Mid Engine Class

- 1st Jim Schaaf (Cayman)
- 2nd James Wiederhold (Cayenne)

911 Class 1975-1989

- 1st Amber Door
- 2nd Eric & Lina Spross
- 3rd Ted & Gabi Blacklidge

911 1990-2008 Class

- 1st Julio Morales
- 2nd James Wiederhold
- 3rd Ted & Gabi Blacklidge

Peoples Choice

- Rick Riley - 1959 356D - An orange beauty



Classified Ads



971 PORSCHE 911T TARGA:

Appraised class 2 collector car. Black on Black. CA car never has seen winter. All service records. Recaro Seats, Monza Exhaust, top in Exc. Condition. All #'s match. Ya gotta see it!! \$15,000.00.

Call Burt: 1-810-523-4088

HEATED (limited) OR UNHEATED SPACE for your car. Unheated storage is \$200 for 5 months (\$40/month). For more information, call Bob or Carol Friday (PCA members for over 15 years) at 616) 863-9395 or email: bfriday@chartermi.net

PARTS FOR SALE 944- Control Arms, complete exhaust system with catalytic converter, brake rotors, calipers, torsion bars, coil over springs 400 lb, design 90 wheels 7 & 8 x 16 inch, CV joints with new boots, oil coolers, steering wheel with air bag. 911- (930) complete exhaust system with exchangers, oil lines, lower front clip with driving lights (black) , transmission gear set (1st to 4th) , turbo charger, inter-cooler, shift lever, old style head lights. Parts are from 1989 944S2 and 1986 911/930 and pricing is negotiable. Call Craig Ackerman at 616-866-1905 or pcaackerman@aol.com.

2001 PORSCHE 911 TURBO: Arctic Silver Metallic, black leather interior. Perfect condition. 3400 miles. Navigation system, heated seats, 6 CD changer. First 2001 Turbo in West Michigan. \$83,036. Please call Greg at (231) 780-0102 or cell phone (231) 740-1077.

FREE FERODO DOT4 RACING BRAKE FLUID: Three 500ml bottles still sealed. Pay only for shipping \$8 for Priority Mail) or pick up free in Kzoo area. (Not recommended for normal road use) Call or email: Brady at (269)544-0286 or brady.harmish@sbcglobal.net.

SET OF 4 FUCHS TRACK WHEELS & TIRES: 8 x 16" and 9 x 16" from a 911 turbo, will also fit 944 turbo and 911. Yokohama Advant 032R soft tires 225x50-ZR-16 and 245x45 ZR-16 with good tread remaining. \$900. Just trying to clean out the garage. Dave Cramer, 616-957-7807 or e-mail DrDaveCramer@gmail.com

1999 PORSCHE 911 CARRERA 4 - Heavily-optioned 996 6-speed manual coupe in gorgeous Midnight Blue Metallic with Space Grey interior. About 64,800 miles. Long options list includes Litronics, PCM nav, PSM stability, full supple leather, full power heated seats, and lots more! This car is in excellent shape cosmetically and mechanically, and shows evidence of careful owners. It has been loved! Now it's your turn...\$31,625. Call Dan at (616) 281-2459, or for more info and pictures of the car visit <http://www.geocities.com/dphil66/Porsche.html>.

As a service to MIR/PCA members, classified ads for personal items are FREE! They will run for at least three consecutive issues unless other arrangements are made.

Commercial and non-club members please remit \$5 per ad per month for Classified Ad Space. (Approx 25 words or less)

Please send information and/or checks to Club Treasurer.



Welcome New Members!!

**HEY,
WHERE
ARE
YOU
?!?**

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5 Years

John & Amy Blanke

Paul & Pam Schweitzer

OOPS!

The Friday Twins were born

**July 2
not June 2nd -
Sorry, Carol!
Gabi**

1983 Porsche 930
Pearl White
87,600 miles

Very Good condition. New Parts and updates by Bruce @ German Auto.
\$34,500

call Jack @ 231-937-4592

Southern Hospitality at the 2008 Porsche Parade

By Dan Phillips

While participating in the 2008 Porsche Parade's Gimmick Rally, held on Monday, June 30th 2008 in Charlotte, NC, my wife Ren and I experienced rural North Carolina like we never expected. Now maybe some people don't even consider North Carolina "the South" (yes, it's a proper noun down there), but geographically, it is south of the Mason-Dixon line. Thus, it is by definition "the South".

Now, just about everybody has heard of "southern hospitality", "good-ole' boys", and "grits" (and imagine that line being read by the narrator of *The Dukes of Hazard*), but not everybody has experienced them first-hand. Most people not from the South, "Yankees" in particular, tend to consider the region a bit of a backward, back-woods, backwater place, stereotyping it as a place filled with toothless hillbillies strumming banjos in front of decrepit mobile homes. Moonshine, lazy dogs named Skeeter, and old Dodge Chargers jumping over barns and wood piles. This despite the fact that one of the nation's premier aerospace research corridors is located in Huntsville, Alabama...or 'Bama, as it is properly called down there.

Some stereotypes are well-deserved in the land of sweet tea and fried catfish, but mostly only those that one might find endearing. Like sweet tea and fried catfish. Or "barbecue" (pulled-pork to you and me). Or grits. Or "y'all" and its plural "all y'all". Or those sweet older ladies who keep calling you "love" with that sweet Georgia lilt. Or "southern hospitality", otherwise known as "the kindness of strangers".

Our day began with a 20-minute drive from our friend's house in Tega Cay, SC to the North American headquarters of Continental Tire just west of Charlotte, NC. The Continental crew put on an excellent hot breakfast of eggs, bacon, biscuits & gravy, grits, coffee and juice. Rally-heads could follow up with a tire seminar from Continental engineers, or experience a virtual-reality "sensory experience" in a special semi-trailer outside. After picking up our time slot, some bottled water, and a goodie-bag filled with hats, can-coolies, pens, and Continental brochures, we rolled away from the tire-check station up to the starting block at the end of the Continental driveway. Once given the green light (there really *was* a green light), we began the 2-1/2 hour rally into the rural countryside east of Charlotte to find answers to 20 little baffling riddles along the way.

The route didn't really begin until we had first covered about 18 miles of freeway between Continental and the actual starting point. But only 1/2 mile before the exit, we drove over something that kicked up into the body of Ren's beautiful Arena Red Boxster, or Ruby II as we like to call her. (Ruby I was her '85 Granite Red 944.)

Scowling at the prospect of body damage, we got off the exit and turned into the parking lot of the old Pure gas station, which was actually the answer to the first Gimmick Rally question. We got out, circled the car to survey the damage, and...no body damage! Then we saw it - the front driver's side tire was totally flat. With low-profile tires on 18" rims, we could barely even tell from the driver's seat.

We were crushed. The rally was over for us before it even began! There was no way we were going to drive the course on the spare, and we still had to get back to Michigan by week's end. What to do? We had to go find a tire shop, and either plug it or get a new tire. By the time we did all that, the Gimmick would be over, we'd be out some more cash, and Dan would be in a very foul mood.

Then up drives a man in a ratty old purple Geo Tracker, unshaven for days, wearing a wide-brimmed camouflage hat, and chewing on...something. He asks us about the 100 or so Porsches that have driven by on the main road since earlier in the morning, and we gladly tell him all about the event and the Parade. He tells us that he lives across the side-street from the gas station, and that he's been watching them all morning. The home across the side street was your Yankee stereotype of a southern home - an ancient, rotting trailer surrounded by several small outbuildings and several vehicles of questionable mechanical condition. And lots of other miscellaneous yard décor, if you can call a set of car ramps or a rusty old stove yard décor.

The man flips out a cell phone, and says he'll call his cousin. He might have a tire in our size! "I guess he's in the paint booth, he'll call me back though. We got lots of cars there, he probably has one that size."

After the man emerged from the gas station with his purchases, he told me that they didn't have one in our size. We thanked him for checking, and he wished us luck.

A few minutes later, we had the tool kit and the jack out of our packed front trunk, brought the car to a level part of the parking lot, and started in on that front tire. We soon realized that the spare needed air. So Ren rolled it up to the storefront to find an air hose.

Meanwhile, the man in the camo hat (sound like Curious George?) returned to the scene. I had the lugs off the wheel, and he gets out of his Tracker and says, "I bet we could spot where that leak is...why don't you pull that off so we can take a look?"

We roll the tire around, and quickly find the culprit – a hole punched right in the middle of the wide rain groove in the tread, probably by a bolt or something we hit on the freeway. That was what had bounced up and apparently hit the undercarriage before we got off at the exit, but only after it had pierced our baby's front left shoe. I nodded in affirmation of our find, and then looked up to see if Ren was coming back with the spare yet. When I looked back down, the tire was gone, the man was gone...I turn, and there he is, rolling our wheel across the street back to his house like he's on Patrick Long's pit crew.

I guess I'd better follow him... He's rolling the wheel/tire one-handed across his gravel driveway. "Hey, now, be careful, don't drop it in the gravel! Uh...hey, wait up!" He rolls the wheel down behind his house, toward a little old mini-barn down past the car ramps, and I'm following a few yards behind him. '*Ren doesn't know where I am...where the heck are we going?*' Banjo music starts going through my head, and I wonder if I'll wake up tied to a wooden chair in his barn, with him and some other guy sayin,' "He got a reel purdy mouth on 'im, ain't he?"

But the man leans the wheel back up against a log ever so carefully, and I realize he was in no way going to drop or damage my wheel on the way over. He almost runs the rest of the way down to the barn to retrieve his air compressor's hose, and after the compressor charges up for a few seconds, he runs back and gingerly removes the expensive valve stem cap I'm so proud of and pumps some air into the tire, all the while being so careful that the metal end of his air hose doesn't come in contact with the pristine finish on the wheel. I begin to think - he's done this kind of thing before.

Air is literally blasting out of the hole in the tread. "Yup, that's the one!" he says.

Then he's up, and he's rolling the wheel somewhere else now. We're behind his old pickup now, and he says, "Here, hold onto this."

As I'm holding the wheel upright, he's rummaging around his pickup's big toolbox. I have no idea what's going to happen next. Then out come the T-handles, a reamer and a plugger. He doesn't have any plugs, but assures me that we can buy some back at the gas station. Then he stops to think, and says, "Hang on just a minute." Back into the toolbox.

By now, I'm thinking I *really* need to let Ren know where I am. A stranger in a strange land, and now her husband just up'n disappeared. She's seen too many horror flicks, so I walk about 20 yards or so where I have a line of sight back to the car, and I finally catch her eye with my waving arm. She nods, and I get back to our hero. As if on cue, he finds a 3-pack of really old-looking tire plug worms.

He goes to work on that tire like a man on a mission. Before I know it, the tire is plugged, re-filled with air (to the right pressure no less, because he even read the number off the side of the tire), and...there he goes again, he's rolling the repaired drama back across the street to the gas station.

I'm barely keeping up with him, and before I can even say a word he's down on his knees on the hard asphalt, with the tire back on the car, spinning in the lug bolts with his fingers. I had to stop him. "Really, I can get it from here. Seriously. You've done so much to help us, I can't tell you how much you've helped us..."

He finally relents, and considers his work here done. I tell him that he has really pulled us out of a jam, and that we are profoundly grateful for his help. I offer him money. He says no. I say, "we have to give you something – we have to!" He reluctantly suggests maybe \$5 for the plugs, but that's all. I have nothing but 20s. He won't take it. I insist. "You have saved us hours, and lots of money, and we can even continue on and do the rally. We thought it was all over, and because of you, we can keep going. You have no idea how much we appreciate this!!" He finally takes the \$20, and thanks us.

I ask him his name, to which he replies "Rallah." I'm pretty sure that was "Rollo" in Yankee-speak. We thank him profusely, and he wishes us luck as he gets back into the Tracker and drives the 50 feet back home.

What an incredibly nice man. He helped us out of a real jam, and prevented our day from getting completely off-course. I was ashamed of my own initial stereotyping of this extremely kind and generous man. He wasn't hustling us for money. He just helped us out of pure kindness, and didn't even want anything in return.

**SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW HOW TO DRIVE?!?
FIND OUT WHAT IT REALLY TAKES AT THE
GRAND PRIX OF GRATTAN DRIVERS' EDUCATION EVENT
SEPTEMBER 19, 20, 21, 2008**

The event is limited to 80 Participants – 15 Novice, 65 Experienced – REGISTER NOW @ www.clubregistration.net

Grattan is one of the finest road courses in America. It is located only 20 minutes northeast of Grand Rapids. The 2-mile course is winding, hilly and has a complex assortment of almost every conceivable corner imaginable. The 10 turns include both uphill ascending and descending radius turns, a flat out dog-leg off the 160 degree hair-pin turn, a hidden apex, a Monza bowl, "S" turns, and even a downhill reverse-camber turn. It has been said that if you can master Grattan, you can drive anywhere! It also allows spectators the most viewing surface to watch, with 90% of the racetrack visible from one seat.

If you are new to road courses, you will experience first-hand how to manage your high-performance automobile in a controlled, closed environment and acquire skills that will enhance safer vehicle operation in everyday driving conditions. Each novice will be assigned an instructor and will be a Drivers' School Participant.

The event format is as follows:

Friday, September 19 is set aside for ADVANCED Drivers' Education only. Prior track experience, either at Grattan or other tracks, is required. NO EXCEPTIONS! Novices are welcome to help – and will benefit from learning more about the track.

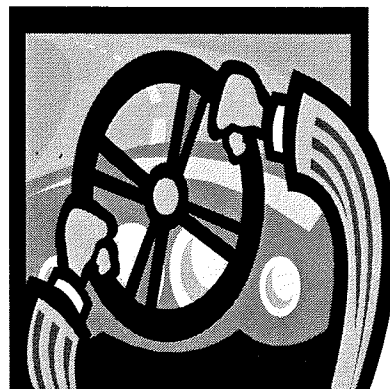
Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21 will be Drivers' Education with full instruction and professional corner worker support. Novices will begin each day with DRIVER'S SCHOOL before starting track activity with assigned instructors. Saturday night, the *Western Michigan Region PCA* invites you to join us for a TRACKSIDE BANQUET.

Sunday September 21 will complete the Driver's Education instruction at noon, followed by TIME TRIALS in the afternoon. All experienced drivers are welcome to participate. Drivers with no track experience prior to this event are not eligible for time trials.

During lunchtime on Saturday and Sunday, we will have low-speed TOURING around the track. The "cost" is a \$20 donation, which will be given 100% to the designated WMR Grattan Grand Prix charity. Lunch is available at the track on all three days.

Contact: Amber Door, Registrar
645 Summerset Drive
Jenison, MI 49428
Phone: (616) 457-4515
Email: Amdoor242@aol.com
Or: www.Clubregistration.net

Questions: Ted Blacklidge, Chairman
Phone: (616) 866-4143
Email: sgrafex@chartermi.net



**CHECK OUT ONE MORE ADVANTAGE TO
TAKING A DE COURSE ON PAGE 16!**

Southern Hospitality continued.....

I'm sure it was communicated, but we did not know (or else we didn't remember) that Continental...a tire company...was offering a free mobile emergency tire repair service to all rally entrants. All you had to do was call, and they'd show up to save the day, gratis. But in the end, I'm glad we didn't remember that little detail, because we would have missed out on experiencing some real "southern hospitality". May it live on forever.

[Epilogue]

A little later in the drive, we were rounding a big sweeper with a 45-mph limit, and there's a man standing halfway into the oncoming traffic lane, trimming the edge of his lawn with a gas trimmer. Around the corner rolling right toward him is a giant gravel truck (a full-size trailer being pulled by a Peterbilt) - and he's flying! He's got to be doing at least 70, and he's swerving to avoid the guy with the trimmer. Which means he's now coming at us into our lane, head on. We're two wheels in the ditch. He's jamming on the brakes. The tractor is slowing down straight, but the trailer looks like it's starting to swing wide. If he jack-knifes that thing and we're 100% in the ditch, the rear wheels of that trailer will still decapitate us. He's shuffling that wheel like Jimmie Johnson in turn 4 at Daytona, and we could almost see the angels helping that trailer stay in line. He threads the needle between us, still going at least 60, and then it's over!

We're crawling out of the ditch in 1st, shaking, and the man with the trimmer is standing there shaking his head ever so slowly. He almost saw some gruesome death right in his front yard. Two and a half miles later, I had to pull over to calm down, still shaking from that brush with death and a good-ol'-boy in a semi. He may not have helped us, but at least he knew how to drive, and at least he didn't kill us.

That's NASCAR country for you.



PORSCHE CLUB ?!?!?!?

OOOOO, they must be snobby! They must really be into one-up-man-ship! They must like to throw their money around!

Two words, folks – SEPARATE CHECKS.

Not too long ago, someone asked me – “Why a Porsche?” and “Why belong to the Porsche Club?” It stopped me in mid stride – hmmm.....

As to the first question – DUH – I had to excuse her – obviously not a car person.

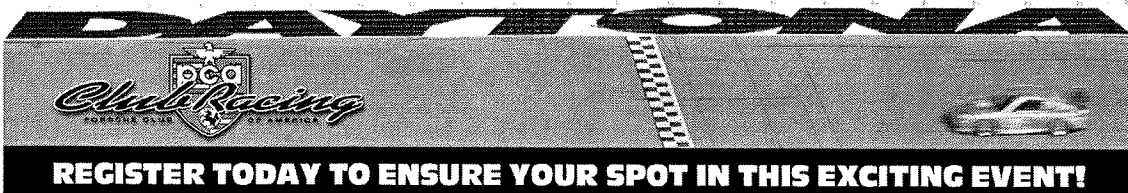
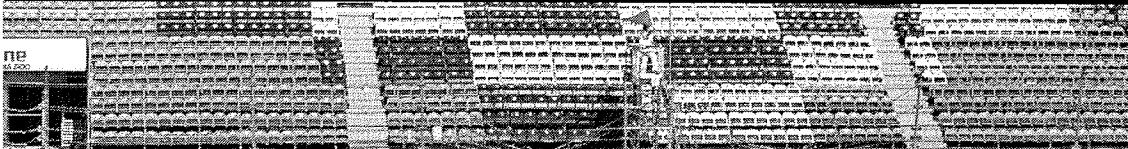
As to the second – well –

Some clubs are really into the accoutrements of their cars, some clubs are really into themselves owning their cars, but this club is into each other, as owners of some of the cutest, finest, fastest, and classiest vehicles ever made! And we don't really care what make or model we have – they all have the same value in our eyes – and so do we.

Even though we take our cars very seriously, we don't take ourselves too seriously. So if you have any doubts about why you should join us for some of the numerous events we offer you – they shouldn't be about the type of person you'll meet there.....Gabi

don't You Wish You Could Be Here At Daytona...You Can Be!

The annual “*PCA OctoberFast Daytona Club Races*”, sponsored by the Florida Crown and Citrus Regions, will be held at the world famous Daytona International Speedway on October 10 -12, 2008. There will be four race groups, a total of 320 race cars, running both Sprint and Enduro races. There will also be advanced Solo DE sessions. You will run the same 3.56 mile road course that is used for the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona, utilizing the infield road course and the high banks of Daytona! Registration information for this prestigious race event can be found at www.pcadaytonarace.com.



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

JUST A LITTLE REMINDER TO MEMBERS WHO SUBMIT CLUB EVENT INFORMATION TO THE ÜBER ALLES OR TO THE WEBSITE -- PLEASE SUBMIT TO *BOTH AT THE SAME TIME* TO MAXIMIZE EXPOSURE.

ÜBER: me at gabriele@chartermi.net WEBSITE: Michael Betz at mmbetz@image-stream.com

WE NEED AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE TO ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT AND GIVE CLUB MEMBERS A CHANCE TO GET FIRED UP ENOUGH TO PUT A NOTE ON *THEIR* CALENDARS!

DUE TO PRINTING DEADLINES (and my other life), YOUR DEVOTED ÜBER EDITOR NEEDS *AT LEAST TWO MONTHS NOTICE* TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE WONDERFUL ACTIVITIES WE WORK SO HARD TO OFFER.

AND BECAUSE WE DO WORK HARD TO ARRANGE THESE ACTIVITIES- ATTENDEES, PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO *RSVP TO THE HOSTS* SO FOOD PREPARATIONS CAN BE MADE AT HOMES OR AT RESTAURANTS.

OUR *YEARLY PLANNING MEETING* IS COMING UP ON NOVEMBER 3RD. IF YOU ARE ITCHING TO JUMP IN WITH A GREAT IDEA FOR A FUN-FILLED EVENT, PLEASE JOIN US, OR CALL (616-866-4143), OR EMAIL (gabriele@chartermi.net), WITH INFORMATION ON WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO AND WHICH MONTH; AND IT WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING.

WE CAN EASILY SUPPORT MORE ACTIVITIES – ESPECIALLY OUTSIDE OF GRAND RAPIDS!!! THE MORE EXCUSES WE HAVE TO DRIVE OUR PORSCHEs, THE BETTER WE LIKE IT!!

Gabi

PS: ATTENTION HOSTS: PLEASE MAKE SURE THE SIGNED INSURANCE WAIVERS ARE RETURNED TO KURT WIRTH AFTER EACH EVENT. THANK YOU.

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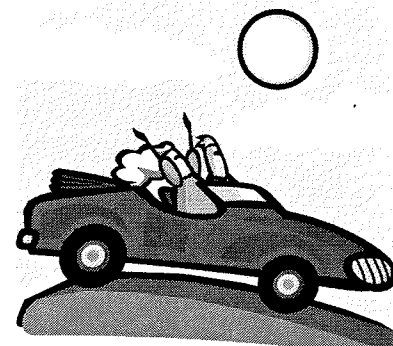
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When we're toodling down the road on one of our driving events, let's remember to turn our headlights on for safety - and to make sure people don't miss us!



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Porsche 911 Highest Initial Quality Among All Vehicles Surveyed

ATLANTA--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Porsche continues to meet and exceed the quality demands of consumers in its largest export market, the United States. Porsche recorded the top ranking of all brands surveyed in the 2008 J.D. Power and Associates "Initial Quality Study". This makes it three consecutive years that the Porsche brand had the fewest problems per 100 vehicles in this prestigious brand ranking. The scores were based on interviews of 81,500 new car owners from across the country.

Incredibly, not only did the Porsche brand come out on top, but the legendary Porsche 911 has the highest initial quality of any vehicle in the study. According to J.D. Power and Associates, the Porsche 911 has the fewest quality problems in the industry, with just 67 problems per 100 vehicles.

Every year, J.D. Power and Associates assesses the level of satisfaction among buyers of new cars after the first 90 days of vehicle ownership. On this basis, a customer is asked to fill out a survey containing 228 criteria regarding quality and workmanship.

Porsche Cars North America, Inc. (PCNA), based in Atlanta, GA, and, Porsche Cars Canada, Ltd. (PCC) in Mississauga, Ontario, are the two separate importers of Porsche sports cars and Cayenne sport utility vehicles for the United States and Canada respectively. They are each wholly owned, indirect subsidiaries of Dr. Ing.h.c. F. Porsche AG. These two subsidiaries combined, PCNA and PCC employ approximately 250 people who provide Porsche vehicles, parts, service, marketing and training for its 200 U.S. and 12 Canadian dealers. They, in turn, provide Porsche owners with best-in-class service.

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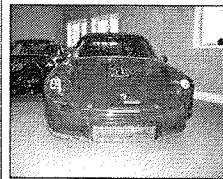
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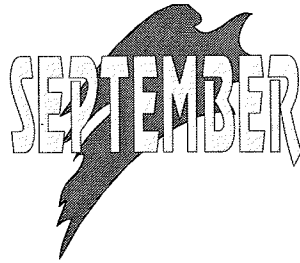
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**FYI:
DE PARTICIPANTS:**

Forwarded to us from Jim Morgan, Michiana Region Editor
Written by Mike O'Rear, Bahnstormer Editor

"Attention MIR members living in Michigan – We received the following from Al Gaulin, Insurance chair for the RSR Region:"

"The state of Michigan has passed a bill (HB5651) which would amend the State Insurance Code and allows Michigan Insurance Companies to offer a 5% discount to drivers 50 and over who have completed a certified Drivers Education Program. I have followed up with my insurance company and they will honor our DE Program for the discount. This discount will remain in effect (per the Bill HB5651) for three years before re-certification is necessary. The driver must remain at-fault accident free and have no more than one moving violation during that period. It's worth a phone call to your agent to see if your company has this discount available. "

Jim adds: "5% is 5% - I'd take it!"

About Uber Alles

Porsche Uber Alles is the official publication of the Western Michigan Region Porsche Club of America, Inc. It is a non-profit organization registered in the State of Michigan and issued monthly. Statements and opinions appearing herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of WMR/PCA, PCA, it's officers or members. The editors reserve the right to edit all material for publication and to publish on the material which it felt to be in the best interest of the region and PCA. Permission is granted to reprint, providing credit will be given to the author, WMR Porsche Uber Alles, and provided that copyright is not involved, return copy of the article when published would be appreciated. Subscriptions for non-members are \$18.00/year. Deadline for advertising and new articles is on the 10th of the month prior to publication. Please send information to:

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