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ÜBER ALLES



http://wmi.pca.org

January 2009

THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES

January 2009

- 01 Happy New Year!
- 05 Monthly Meeting 7:00PM,
Delta Imports
- 14 January Dinner Drive,
Leo's - Rick Riley,
rick.riley@grandxray.com
or Sarah Lewis (616)
459-0145

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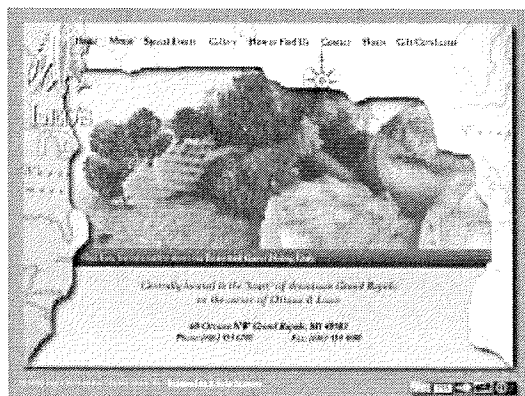
JANUARY '09 DINNER DRIVE

Start off the New Year right by joining your WMR PCA club friends for a classy dining Experience at **Leo's Restaurant** in the heart of Downtown Grand Rapids. It will be an adult evening with no grating distant relatives or clamoring children and/or grandchildren from the 2008 holiday celebrations. Our diner at Leo's offers a nice relaxing time to chat about new Porsche-related presents and plans for the driving season.

**Join your host, Rick Riley, on Wednesday,
January 14th, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Leo's Restaurant is located at 60 Ottawa,
on the corner of Ottawa & Louis,
Downtown Grand Rapids

**Pease RSVP by January 14, 2009, by emailing Rick at
rick.riley@grandxray.com or
call Sarah Lewis at (616) 459-0145**



Upcoming Events

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

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION!

WinterFest 2009



Location:

University Club
Fifth Third Bank Center
111 Lyon N.W. 10th Floor
Grand Rapids MI 49503

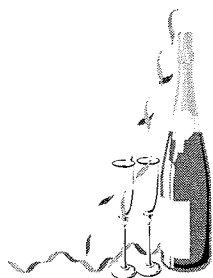
Free parking available in the Fifth Third Ramp, adjacent to the building

When:

Saturday February 21, 2009

Time:

Doors will open at 6:00pm.
Dinner will be served at 7:30,
followed by a short program.



Guests will have a choice of three entrees - \$42.50/person

1. Roast Tenderloin & Chicken w/Béarnaise
2. Broiled Salmon w/Cucumber Dill Sauce
3. Mushroom & Asparagus Penne Pasta

All entrees include Garden Salad, Baked Potato and Green Beans.

Desert will be Cheesecake w/Strawberry sauce.

Cash Bar

Check your mailboxes in mid-January for your invitations.....

X Abbv. MWAAS COLONY.

Celebration

WONDERFUL WINTERFEST WEEKEND

We know that spending time with Porschephiles at WinterFest is great, but how about making it a weekend to check out the great facilities Grand Rapids has to offer? The Public Museum, the new Art Museum, the Ford Museum, and the Conservatory at Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park are among the finest in the state.

For convenience, you can stay at any of the fine hotels in the downtown area. For the budget-conscience (and aren't we all these days?), we have also contracted a special rate of \$89.00 at the Country Inn & Suites for 2/20&21/09. This location is very close to Meijer Gardens and 5 minutes away from downtown.

Browse around Grand Rapids during the day on Saturday and Sunday; then join us for the WinterFest celebration of friends, food and fun on Saturday night!"

Earth Friendly. Art Friendly.

The Art Museum's commitment to current and future generations includes opening its doors as the first newly-constructed, Gold LEED-certified art museum in the world. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings.

At GRAM, environmental stewardship is a commitment that is evidenced throughout the facility, from its innovative water collection system that reduces the demand for city-treated water by 20 percent, to the recycled paper gift bags used to hold the many environmentally-friendly items sold in the museum store.

The Ford Museum.

Located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, **The Ford Museum's** permanent exhibits allow visitors to actually participate in history while reviewing the lives of President and Mrs. Ford. A succession of feature exhibits draw upon the holdings of the entire Presidential Libraries System, Smithsonian Institution, National Archives, and others. Visitors can also see President Ford's Burial Site. Address: 303 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353. Hours: Daily from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. (Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day). Telephone: 616-254-0400.



The Tropical Conservatory.

The Tropical Conservatory is more than five stories high and is the largest tropical conservatory in Michigan. Featuring tropical plants from five continents of the world as well as waterfalls and misty streambeds, one feels upon walking in, that you have truly entered a tropical world. Emmerge yourself during any season in the lush sights, smells and sounds of a far away land. See flowering plumbago, clerodendron and jasmine, as well as a massive Green Island fig tree (*Ficus macrophylla*) and a changing display from the Gardens over 3500-plant orchid collection. Palms reach over 30 feet amidst banana and coconut trees, bromeliads, Egyptian papyrus, allspice, and a giant golden alocasia.



The Public Museum.

The Public Museum is a collections-based educational organization that explores and celebrates the world and our place in it. The Museum does this by collecting, preserving, interpreting, exhibiting and providing access to authentic objects of significance to the community. These "real things" bring history and science alive in ways that would be impossible with printed pages or electronic screens alone. The Museum's collections are interdisciplinary, encompassing specimens, artifacts and preserved historic structures and sites. They include, but are not limited to Anthropology, Decorative and Fine Arts, History, Material Culture, Natural and Physical Science.

WONDERFUL WINTERFEST WEEKEND

Morning After Brunch - 2009

After much searching to "mix it up" for a fabulous Sunday Brunch we discovered that we have already been dining on the best brunch in the area. So, as is tradition, we will again gather for a casual brunch on Sunday, February 22, 2009 for the "Morning After" Winterfest.

Charley's Crab is located in downtown Grand Rapids overlooking the Grand River. It has been offering some of the best seafood in Grand Rapids since 1979 and a Sunday Brunch that has been rated the Best by Grand Rapids magazine.

Reservations are for 12:00 noon at Charley's Crab located at 63 Market Ave S.W. Grand Rapids.

Mark your calendars for what will prove to be, yet again, a fabulous dining experience. We have reservations for 20 (or more).

Call if you have any questions. Can't make it to Winterfest? Come hear what you missed!

Remember:	Who:	You and anyone you would like to bring along
	What:	"Morning After" Brunch
	Where:	Charley's Crab 63 Market Ave SW Grand Rapids
	When:	Feb. 22, 2009 -- High Noon
	Why:	Food, Fun & Fabulous Friends -- The only 3 reasons you need!
	How:	RSVP by Wednesday February 18, 2008

Amber Door

amber.door@me.com

616 457-4515 h

616 340-0971 c



CLUB MINUTES: December 2008

President Ted Blacklidge called meeting to order at 7:02 pm at Delta Imports

Attending: Ted & Gabi Blacklidge, Amber Door, Dan Phillips, John Kilgren, Arnie Axelrod

Minutes: Approved as printed in Uber Alles

Treasurer's Report: Approved and filed. Amber reported on the balance sheet for Grattan, which was just shy of breaking even.

Webmaster: No report

Membership: Primary Members: 243; Affiliate Members: 197, Total: 440. Transfer out: 1. Non-renewals: 7; Renewals: 6; New Members: 1.

Advertising: John reported the Hagerty ad will discontinue after this month until further notice.

Also discussed was the option of advertisers running different monthly copy.

Uber: December Uber Alles is in the mail. There was discussion on investigating a different format for the newsletter.

Insurance: No report

Driving Events: Ed Klunk has agreed to Chair the *IROC* Committee in 2009. Contact information will be in the January newsletter. The emphasis will be to coordinate closely with Michiana & MotorStadt.

The *Zone 4 DE Meeting* in Ohio was well attended, with spirited discussion and shared information. The Grattan Committee will be meeting soon to make decisions on our 2009 event.

Old Business: The *November DD* at Ichiban, hosted by the Reids, was well attended.

Dan suggested a smaller version of "Parade" for the 50th *Anniversary Celebration* over 2 or 3 days, with several events at different venues.

WinterFest details were discussed. Invitations are coming out mid-January. Arnie made a motion to set the ticket price at \$42.50, Dan seconded, motion passed. The awards ceremony part of the meeting will be shortened to allow more time to socialize.

New Business:

Amber presented a "*Funkana*" as a possible new event and will pursue more information.

Appetizer Party at Konings on December 13th.

Riley's *January DD* at Leo's on Jan 14th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Gabi Blacklidge, Uber Alles Editor

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Obsession trumps practicality every time.

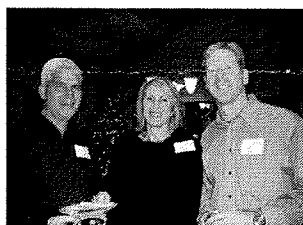
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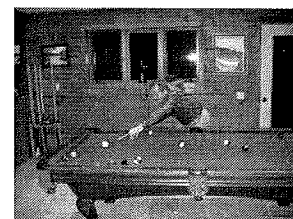
PORSCHE

DECEMBER DINNER DRIVE



Thank you to all who braved the winter weather (oh, but it is beautiful) to attend the first "Kalamazoo Area" Western Michigan Porsche winter appetizer party. A hardy force of "twenty-two-ish" wine enthusiast (12-14 bottles of the grapes met their Waterloo) enjoyed an evening of conversation, relaxation and told a few lies about Porsche horsepower (with or without water). Also of some passing interest was what the ensuing spring might bring in, shall we say, "modifications of some sort" to enhance the German breed. Many a fine appetizer was sampled (oh, there was plenty of those goodies) with leftovers to feed an infantry. An interesting yellow "Porsche shaped" Christmas ornament was left on our tree slyly. Very nice wrap to a great evening of conversation and friendship. Thank you to all, and Ted, sharpen your skills on the slate for next year. As in Porsches, there is always next year.

Greg & Lee Koning



HERE'S A CHANCE TO BOOST YOUR ENTHUSIAST'S POINTS!

Firstly, I would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to all the Dinner Drive Hosts for supplying me with their event information. I really appreciate all your efforts in complying with my deadlines for advertising your events – I know it's taxing on your time. I also know that Ren will appreciate your enthusiastic cooperation when she comes a-calling in 2009.

Now for the exciting news: the Board has voted to allow an additional method to accumulate points: *If you are a host, or if you attend any of the events offered by your Western Michigan Region or any PCA sponsored event; and you make the effort to submit pictures and/or a post-event write-up to the ÜBER ALLES, you will be issued 10 points.*

Included in the original hosting points is the pre-event "ad"; but for the first time, 10 extra points will be added for follow-up articles* and/or pictures. This is your club and your newsletter and we encourage you to participate.

So, attend your next event with a camera and a pad of paper – send us your compositions and watch the points pile up!

Gabi Blackledge, Co-editor

*Articles are subject to editorial discretion.

PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA**WEST MICHIGAN REGION
2009 CALENDAR**

January	5	Board Meeting – Delta Imports
	14	Dinner Drive – Leo's Restaurant <i>Host: Rick Riley</i>
February	2	Board Meeting – Delta Imports
	21	Winterfest <i>Host: Brenda Hildon</i>
	22	Morning-After Brunch – Charley's Crab <i>Host: Amber Door & Jerry Arens</i>
March	2	Board Meeting – Delta Imports
	11	Dinner Drive – Grattan Bar <i>Host: Kurt Wirth</i>
April	6	Board Meeting – Delta Imports
	18	Dinner Drive – Chili Cookoff <i>Hosts: Terry & Dorilee Schieble</i>
May	4	Board Meeting – Delta Imports
	30	Dinner Drive – Destination TBD <i>Hosts: John & Marshall Walters</i>
June	1	Board Meeting – Delta Imports
	TBD	Spring Up to Traverse City <i>Hosts: Doug & Beth Howard</i>
	TBD	Gilmore Gathering – Hickory Corners
	29	PCA Parade (National) – Keystone, CO (29th June – 04 July)

**Note – All dates subject to change. Please watch Über Alles and wmi.pca.org for the latest events, dates, & locations.*

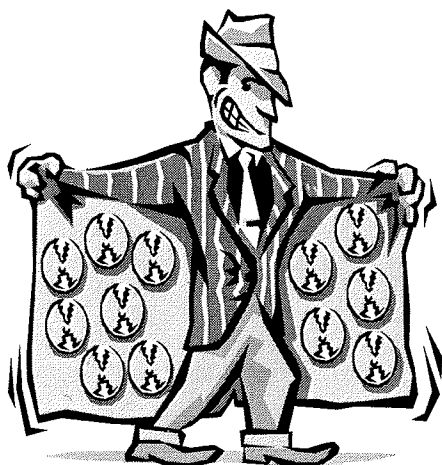
Visit wmi.pca.org for more fun events!

PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA**WEST MICHIGAN REGION
2009 CALENDAR**

- July 6 Board Meeting – Delta Imports
 11 Gimmick Rally
 Hosts: Ted & Gabi Blacklidge
 25 Dinner Drive – Destination TBD
 Hosts: Dan & Ren Phillips
- August 3 Board Meeting – Delta Imports
 8 Family Picnic & Concours
 Hosts: Amber Door & Jerry Arens
 22 Dinner Drive – Saunter to the Shore
 Hosts: Barry & Candis Collick
 28 28th Street Metro Cruise (28th & 29th)
 Hosts: Dan & Ren Phillips
- September 14 Board Meeting – Delta Imports
 TBD Grattan Driver Education
 TBD Dinner Drive – Destination TBD
 Host: Randy Portoluri
- October 5 Board Meeting – Delta Imports
 TBD Fall Color Tour – Destination TBD
 Hosts: TBD
- November 2 Board Meeting – Delta Imports \
 (2010 planning)
 TBD Dinner Drive
 Hosts: TBD
- December 7 Board Meeting – Delta Imports
 TBD 12th Annual WMR Appetizer Party
 Hosts: TBD

Visit wmi.pca.org for more fun events!

Classified Ads



FOR SALE



Welcome New Members!!

944T & 944T PARTS - 1986
 944 Turbo coupe, stone gray/burg., koni 2-way cup-car coilovers, M030 front sway bar, racer's edge bushings, camber plates, Lindsey Racing stage-3 heads, MAF, intake manifold & solid lifter/cam, larger turbo, chips, adj. air/fuel, 968 - 6 speed trans., 3 sets of wheels, roll bar, sparco racing seats and belts, fiberglass rear bumper \$16,000 OBO. 944T parts: Front fiberglass fenders \$250, Fiberglass hood \$200, Fiberglass 924T LeMans real spoiler for 944T \$200, Lexan rear hatch \$500, Window net \$50, 944T front brake calipers \$60, 944T 5-speed trans. with cooler \$600, SFR stage-3 turbo \$900. Prices as listed, OBO. Ron Hendrick (616) 402-0362 (NOV)

PARTS FOR SALE 944 - Control
 A-arms, complete exhaust system with catalytic converter, brake rotors, calipers, torsion bars, coil over springs 400 lb, design 90 wheels 7 x 8 x 16", CV joints with new boots, oil coolers, steering wheel w/ air bag. 911- (930) complete exhaust system with exchange- ers, oil lines, lower front clip w/ 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.

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

1999 PORSCHE 911 CARRERA 4 - NEW PRICE - Heavily-optioned 996 6-speed manual coupe in gorgeous Midnight Blue Metallic with Space Grey interior. About 70k 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...\$27,500. Call Dan at (616) 281-2459, or email dphil66@hotmail.com. For more info and pictures visit <http://www.geocities.com/dphil66/Porsche.html>.

1983 PORSCHE 930 - Pearl white, 87,600 miles. Very good condition. New parts and updates by Bruce at German Auto. Priced at \$34,500. Call Jack @ (231) 937-4392

4x - 18" WHEELS - for wide body 993 or 996. Turbo wheels came off our C4S. Make reasonable offer. Call Ted Blacklidge, (616) 456-1806, or sgrafx@chartermi.net

Adam & Deb Dingwall
 Battle Creek
 '07 Boxter



Classified Ad pricing for 3 month minimum:

*Free for Western Michigan Region members.
 \$5.00 for PCA non-region members.
 \$10.00 for non-PCA members.*

*Editor reserves right to edit ads.
 Please send information and/or checks to Club Treasurer.*



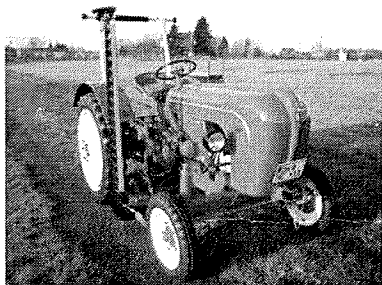
PORSCHÉ - DIESEL

North American Registry



Porsche's history with agricultural implements goes back farther than most people know, and began with Ferdinand Porsche's interest in developing a tractor to replace horses and oxen before the first world war. He built a tractor prototype as early as 1914 while working for Austro-Daimler, three years before the Vienna Technical University conferred his honorary "Dr. Ing h.c." degree.

In 1932 and 1933, Porsche worked with Zündapp and later NSU to build prototypes of a low-cost automobile. Once he heard Adolf Hitler's speech at the 1933 auto show in Berlin, where the charismatic new chancellor shared his dream of an inexpensive car for the masses, Porsche took steps to arrange a meeting with Hitler in an effort to acquire funding – a business partner – for his same dream. By 1937, with the VW factory in Wolfsburg nearing completion, and the Nazis usurping total control of Germany, Hitler dictated that Porsche also develop an inexpensive farm tractor meant for ordinary Germans as an expansion of his "people's car" philosophy. Porsche may have built prototype tractors as early as 1934, but it's unclear whether he sold the idea to the Reich or whether it was imposed upon him in 1937. Regardless, various iterations of the "Volksschlepper" (people's tractor) or "Volkspflug" (people's plow) were developed from 1937 to 1940, from the Type 110 to the 112/5. With government financing approved in 1938, architecture and plans laid out by 1940, and his son-in-law Anton Piëch working on factory layouts well into 1942, the slow-moving project slipped entirely by the wayside as the war and the Reich dictated other priorities, primarily design and development of military vehicles.



After the war and its aftermath, Ferdinand's son Ferry Porsche continued tractor design work as a secondary pursuit, and entered into licensing agreements in the late 1940s with Allgaier GmbH and Hofherr Schrantz to produce tractors that would be named with the suffix " – System Porsche". In 1956, Mannesmann AG purchased the rights to the Allgaier tractor design and the rights to the Porsche diesel engine design. Mannesmann created a division of their company named Porsche-Diesel Motorenbau GmbH, and produced about 125,000 tractors from 1956 until 1963. The tractors were named "Porsche-Diesel", and the product range consisted of the JUNIOR, STANDARD, SUPER, and MASTER (14 hp, 25 hp, 38 hp, 50 hp). Porsche-Diesels continued to be assembled literally outside of the factory into early 1964, after MTU-Daimler took over the factory in 1963 to produce lightweight diesel engines for NATO tanks.

factory in 1963 to produce lightweight diesel engines for NATO tanks.



In recent years, the Porsche factory has attempted to highlight Porsche's foray into things other than sports cars, ostensibly to justify the Cayenne and demonstrate that there's more to Porsche than the 911. But the innovation evident in the overall design of the tractors, the engines, and many sub-systems demonstrate a passion for engineering and problem-solving that belies their apparent simplicity. Porsche-Diesel tractors are unique, rare, and collectible, and there is a small but vital collector community in the United States and abroad.

The Porsche-Diesel Registry for North America was founded in the summer of 2002. With the help of Porsche AG and Porsche Cars of North America, the Porsche-Diesel Register was incorporated into the Porsche Club of North America Register Group. PCA members can join the club to receive technical, maintenance, and restoration support, and also to network with other Porsche-Diesel owners. Their excellent website has a large photo gallery section, maintenance and repair tips, and even a classifieds section. For more information on these unique and special workhorses and the PCA-affiliated club that supports them, visit <http://www.porsche-diesel.com/>.

Contributed by: Dan Phillips, Vice President, WMI PCA. Photos and some content reproduced with permission.

Porsches. All of them.



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Random thoughts after a Fantastic Weather Weekend:

Contributed by Pete MacDonald, Maumee Valley Region PCA

This past weekend Deb and I took off for Houghton Lake Michigan (about 230 miles north) in the Boxster. The temperature was about 75 heading to the 80's sun shining and clear. So naturally, the top was down and smiles on our faces.

The only trouble with expressway driving with the top down is the noise. It's amazing how loud other cars and trucks seem to be. However, we cranked up the radio, rolled up the windows and cruised down the road. At 75 mph I was the slowest car, and every time I started to move with the traffic, which there was plenty of, Deb would say to me: "You know... if three cars are speeding past a policeman, he's going to ticket the sports car." Knowing that she's right, I would reluctantly slow down.

Traffic in Michigan always amazes me. Everyone and I mean everyone, drives in the left lane! It doesn't matter if there's no other car in the right lane for a mile; they stay in the left lane! What happened to the "olden days" of passing on the left? Sorry, I digress...

About 2 hours north, just past Birch Run, is "Freeway Fritz" a Frankenmuth chicken restaurant on I-75. A must stop if you like mashed potatoes and gravy. We do, we did! Also, if you don't like chicken, the Birch Run exit has "Tony's". If you've never stopped there, you must try it the next time you head north. Tony's is famous for the amount of food you get. Have you ever had a BLT on homemade thick bread with a pound of bacon on it??? I have. Hunters stop there on the way north to provision up.

Once you get past Bay City and over the Zilwaulkee Bridge, there's less traffic and clean air. As I get closer to 80 mph I hear "remember what I said earlier?" Yes Dear however...! The Boxster is at the top of her game around 80. Smooth and making just the right exhaust sound. Note: up to this point, no other Porsches have been seen on the road??? Around Westbranch you are now in rolling hills and hardwood trees as far as you can see. Westbranch also has "The Dream" one of my favorite golf courses, but alas, we cruise by.

Houghton Lake is the largest lake in Michigan. It's a natural spring fed clear water lake that is a favorite of boaters and people who love to Ice Fish. They have one of the most celebrated Tip-Up-Town's in the USA. However, we're there and it's a perfect 75 degrees and not a cloud in the sky. That evening was spectacular! The sun was setting behind us and the moon was coming up over the trees in front. As the full moon rose over the lake, it created a white sidewalk like reflection all the way across the lake. Fantastic! We sat there mesmerized.

The next morning was cool and clear, about 48 degrees but warming fast. We decide to head down Rt 55 for breakfast. Just about a mile or two away is the Ron's Coney Dog Restaurant. It's owned by a Greek so you know the food was good. Ron wasn't there but... Try the Greek Omelet.

The weather by then was fantastic! We spent that day driving around and seeing the sights. About 100 miles north is Petoskey Michigan, gateway to the Boynes, 50 miles west is Traverse City, another great vacation area. This is the best time of the year to drive up north. From now until the end of October the colors are fantastic! We're too early, but there are hints... Again, no Porsches. The next morning, we get up, clean the cottage and hit the road. We try to be on I-75 before 10am because later, the traffic is awful. Around 11 am Iva's opens in Sterling. Iva's is an Old House restaurant that's been selling chicken dinners since the 50's, and they've got it down! Of course we stop there for an early lunch. Back on the road the traffic picks up, but the weather is fantastic! The top goes down, the music goes up. After about an hour or so, traffic is locked into the passing lane again!

As we cruise back to Toledo, we can smell the flowers, grass and morning rain. Soon, clouds, snow and cold air will replace these wonderful scents and the Boxster will be covered up for a long winter nap. However, right now, all is well. We blow past Ann Arbor and roll into the Toledo area. The Boxster did her job well. We averaged 28 miles per gallon at 75- 80 miles/hour and it was a pleasure driving or actually being part of her trip up North and back.

We finally did see another Porsche around Sylvania. Funny, we traveled about 500 + miles and saw only one other.

We wish for you many more pleasurable miles such as ours, in your Porsche. If you can, get it on the road, open it up and enjoy the music it makes.

Pete and Deb MacDonald
2003 Artic Silver Boxster

American Le Mans Series 2009: Porsche backs GT teams with works drivers

Stuttgart. In the 2009 season, three Porsche factory drivers will support the GT teams in the American Le Mans Series (ALMS). With this, Porsche underlines its ongoing involvement in the racing series with the world's fastest sports cars. Joerg Bergmeister (Germany) and Patrick Long (USA) share the cockpit of a Flying Lizard Motorsports GT3 RSR. Wolf Henzler (Germany) backs up the Farnbacher Loles team with its GT3 RSR.

"For Porsche, the American Le Mans Series continues to be very important," emphasized Porsche head of motorsport Hartmut Kristen. "For this reason we are providing our Flying Lizard Motorsports and Farnbacher Loles teams with three of our best GT drivers. Moreover, we will continue to support the teams with Porsche engineers at the track."

With three championship titles to his credit, Joerg Bergmeister (32) is one of the most successful pilots in the American Le Mans Series. His new teammate, Patrick Long (27), is no stranger to him and the GT3 RSR. In 2005 the pair claimed the ALMS title in the GT2 class. Recently, Long drove a Porsche RS Spyder for the Penske Racing team and claimed third in the fiercely contested LMP2 class. "I'm looking forward to having such a world class pilot like Patrick as a team mate in 2009. We will do our best to defend the ALMS title for Porsche," said Bergmeister.

Wolf Henzler (33), who secured his first title victory in the ALMS with Bergmeister in 2008, will drive for the Farnbacher Loles squad in 2009, after having already raced for the team in the 2005 season. "I'm absolutely thrilled to have extended my contract as a works driver and that Porsche has again put me with a top team," said Henzler. "It'll be strange in the beginning to race against Joerg. In 2008 we got really close as a team. But when I was faster than Joerg, I was surely very close to the maximum."

Porsche has contested the American Le Mans Series with the racing versions of the Porsche 911 without a break since its inaugural year of 1999 and in this time won nine drivers and nine manufacturers championships. Furthermore, Porsche claimed three drivers and manufacturers titles in the years 2006 to 2008 with the Porsche RS Spyder in the LMP2 class. With this, Porsche is by far the most successful manufacturer in the ALMS.

Detroit Grand Prix canceled for 2009

By MAC MORRISON AND CURT CAVIN

AutoWeek website, 12/18/08

The Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix is the latest casualty of the global economy in general and the Detroit region's struggles specifically, *AutoWeek* has learned.

Longtime CART and IndyCar Series team owner Roger Penske--who spearheads the event in his role as chairman of the Downtown Detroit Partnership--informed the Indy Racing League and American Le Mans Series that the race will not be held in 2009. Penske told *AutoWeek* that Audi's recent decision to effectively quit the ALMS in 2009, combined with Porsche pulling the plug on its factory RS Spyder prototype program--a program Penske's team ran--hurt the race, as did Detroit's poor economy overall.

"Obviously, it's something we're disappointed in, but as good businessmen we've got to make a call," he said. "We have the assets to continue on, but there's no reason at this point to have an event that wouldn't be first-class."

"This is a real economic time of distress for everyone and we couldn't sit here and count on a lot of things happening that we know weren't going to happen, especially knowing we live in such a distressed area with unemployment and all the other things going on."

"We had to make the decision."

The Grand Prix--scheduled for Sept. 4-6--returned to the city in 2007 to strong reviews after a six-year absence. Officials hope to resurrect the race as soon as possible.

Formula One cars first took to downtown Detroit's streets in 1982, racing annually in the Motor City until the event switched to the CART World Series in 1989. The race moved from the streets to the Belle Isle Park circuit in 1992, and continued as a CART weekend through 2001. The IndyCar Series and American Le Mans Series returned as a result of a coordinated effort to improve downtown Detroit, led by Penske and the Downtown Detroit Partnership, that also brought SuperBowl XL to town in 2006 and has invested in various projects aimed at improving the city.

The move reduces the 2009 IndyCar schedule to 17 races, and the ALMS schedule to 10.

Calls seeking comment from IRL and ALMS officials were not returned immediately.

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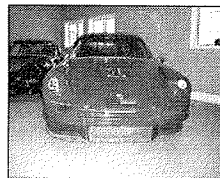
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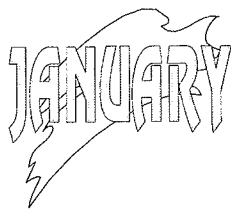
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Letter From the President ...

Greetings, everybody, from the frozen tundra of Northern Kent County (Rockford!). As I am writing this on December 21st, the snow depth on my back deck measured 22" and the temperature is 8 degrees. I really could do with a little global warming right about now. We had an early Christmas with the family on Saturday, which included our really cute 16 month Granddaughter - Samantha - which involved lots of beeping, popping, clinking, jangling, noisy toys. On Sunday, our daughter, Lacey, went to Caberfae and skied in powder snow over her knees. I am soooooo jealous.

In looking at the past year, our West Michigan Porsche Club had a wonderful 2008 with many social and driving events. As you know, we have at least one activity per month, which can draw 20 to 40 participants. One of my Big Questions is, where are the other 200+ club members?? Surely, you aren't that busy every month!! None of us bite and we do have a good time.

For those of you who attended our 2008 Grattan Drivers' Education event, you probably noticed that we had a substantial decline in driver participation. The reason for this is twofold—the very lousy economy and increased competition. The economy is something that we can do little about, however the competition is!! I attended a meeting with several Zone 4 DE chairman and club presidents in late November, and came away from this gathering with the information that good marketing can make or break this event. Our Grattan Committee now has an opening for a Marketing Coordinator. This person's duties would be to contact other car clubs (Corvette, Audi, BMW, Subaru, EVO, Furrin, etc.), our local dealership, other Zone 4 clubs for cooperative advertising, and more promotion in media outlets. Grattan Drivers Education is your club's only source of income for the year. This position is critical!! Contact me if you have any questions or can help.

Looking to the future - in 2010, the Club will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. This is a BIG DEAL. How would you like to help with the organization? We have a preliminary outline for the necessary committees to put together a 1, 2, or 3 day celebration. Again, we need for you to get involved with your club. Let me know if you have some cool ideas about how to help us create a great party.

Ted Blacklidge, President
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ABOUT ÜBER ALLES

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