



ÜBER ALLES

Porsche Club of America, Western Michigan Region

October 2012



In this issue:

- **Annual Fall Color Tour** – Enjoy the fall colors (and one last drive) with us in October
- **TechSpalte** – Things to consider when storing your Porsche for the winter
- **Annual Planning Dinner** – Join us in November, and help us plan our coming year
- **Member Profile** – What Porsche Means to Me, by Len Gawron
- **WMR's Community Service** – Supporting driver education

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ÜBER ALLES

- 4 President's Letter
- 5 Upcoming: Fall Color Tour + New Member Lunch
- 6 Upcoming: Annual Planning Dinner
- 7 In Review: Sep. Tech Session
- 8 WMR Calendar
- 9 In Review: Grattan DE Event
- 10 TechSpalte: Winter Storage
- 11 WMR's Community Service
- 12 What Porsche Means to Me
- 13 September Meeting Minutes
- 14 Classifieds

Über Alles October 2012 Issue

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Please make checks payable to WMR PCA



Pre-Autumn Fun in West Michigan

John Walters
President, Western Michigan Region

First off, thanks to those who hosted events in August – we enjoyed hot dogs at Delta Porsche and watched classic cars cruise by on the 1st night of the 28th Street Metro Cruise. This was followed by the annual IROC on Sunday, where a number of fast cars (and drivers) braved the orange cones. The Boss 302 Mustang was incredibly fast on the straights, but Marshall and I picked up cones every time it made a run through the esses! Not nearly as graceful as the beautiful Porsches! Thanks to everyone who made this event happen as well.

Thanks to Arnie and Val Axelrod for hosting what has become an annual golfing event at Egypt Valley Country Club (a premier course) the first weekend in September. The turnout this year was a bit smaller than in prior years, but there was a good showing for dinner (and the food and service were exceptional, as always).

I enjoyed the Pre-Grattan Tech Session, everyone received a goody bag and door prize. And thanks to Red for the great brats and burgers! Thank you Euro Autowerks for your generosity and knowledge sharing.

I also enjoyed watching the braver (and faster) club members driving their highly tuned German autos around Grattan. The weather definitely cooperated (sunny and not too hot). You should ask Mr. Bubeck what a “Wolfgang” is...After the track was cold, the pizza and “3-Buck Chuck” were enjoyed by many on Saturday night, along with the “war stories”. Thanks to everyone who worked very hard that weekend (and for many months prior) to pull off this annual DE event.

If you have any ideas for new events, please attend the Annual Planning Dinner on November 5th , at 6:30 PM, at Bistro Bella Vita (or, if you can’t attend, contact a board member) – your RSVP is required a week in advance. This club is about the people, and hosting events are important to getting us all together (and we aren’t limited to only one per month). Some of you have already indicated a desire to host another event – please don’t forget to send an e-mail to a board member if you can’t join us on November 5th.

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Jenison, MI 49428-7938
(616) 457-4515
amdoor242@aol.com
1984 Porsche 911 Coupe

Upcoming: Fall Color Tour + New Member Lunch

13 Oct

WMR PCA's Annual Fall Color Tour

Hosts: Jim & Ardis Schaaf, Len & Bonnie Gawron

Once again, it's been a terrific summer in West Michigan.

True enough, but now let's look ahead. No, not so far forward as to get yourself mired in the snowy mess of another Michigan winter, just far enough ahead to see the beautiful colors of fall in West Michigan.

Again, thinking ahead, there you sit, it is a beautiful Saturday afternoon, 13 October and your Porsche is clean, fueled and ready for a drive. You look beside you and see the person that has helped to make all of this possible over those many years, and the two of you are about to head out with other like-minded folks for the annual WMR PCA Fall Color Tour and Dinner Drive. This year, rather than heading miles and hours up the west coast shoreline, let's take a drive through the countryside's of Allegan and Fennville, enjoy a stop at Fenn Valley Winery for a taste of the vineyards finest offerings and then drive along even more beautiful back roads to Holland for a fine dinner at The Boatwerks Restaurant on beautiful Lake Macatawa (www.boatwerksrestaurant.com).



Sounds good doesn't it! So mark your calendars, wash and fuel the Porsche and join your Porsche friends for what promises to be a colorful drive through west Michigan followed a fine dinner and conversation.

Let us know that you can make it by responding to Jim & Ardis Schaaf (dogzan2@aol.com) or Len & Bonnie Gawron (lagawron@comcast.net). We hope to see you all on the 13th!

20 Oct

New Member Luncheon at Dill's German Restaurant – Middleville, MI

Host: Len Gawron

My name is Len Gawron, and I am the Vice President of the Western Michigan Region of the Porsche Club of America (WMR PCA). We are a group of Porsche enthusiasts that tend to drive our Porsches a bit more regularly than others who choose to leave them in the garage. Yes, a number of them have even been caught in a rainstorm, driven on the Bonneville Salt Flats, and spent evenings in the dark parking lots of a number of less than 5 Star Hotels. (A few even spin gleeful donuts in salt-encrusted winter parking lots.) We are a very diverse, fun and laid-back group that truly enjoys the friendship of others, and Porsche automobiles.



That we may have the opportunity to introduce ourselves and the West Michigan Chapter of PCA, we ask that you join us at the New Members Luncheon on Saturday, October 20th at 12:00 noon, at Dills Restaurant in Middleville located at 119 East Main St. [(269) 795-7761, www.dillsrestaurant.com]

Joining us will be current and past Board Members, and a number of other enthusiastic members of the club, each quite outgoing and passionate about Porsche automobiles. Over lunch we look forward to sharing with you the remainder of our 2012 events calendar and our plans for 2013, including Porsche Parade 2013, monthly dinner drives, weekend travel, technical sessions, and AX & DE track events. More importantly, we look forward to learning about your Porsche interests and to answer any questions you may have.

So join us for lunch, and share the passion stirred in you by your Porsche. Kindly RSVP to me not later than Saturday, 13 October at (231) 670-3274 or lagawron@comcast.net.

Thank You and we look forward to seeing you on the 20th of October and talking Porsche!

Upcoming Events: Annual Planning Dinner

05 Nov

WMR PCA's Annual Planning Dinner

John Walters, WMR PCA President

Every year, we gather toward the end of our driving season to plan our calendar for the next year. Some of the items get set in stone, and others remain 'TBD' for some time, but the mission remains the same: create a fun-filled year of Porsche-centric events, to continue to bring Porsche enthusiasts of all kinds together.

"It's not just the cars, but the people" – and we want to ensure all of our people have the opportunity to not just enjoy the club, but participate in what we (collectively) want our club to be. So we invite you to join us in creating a calendar filled with variety, excitement, and fun that everybody can enjoy.



Ever wanted to host or lead an event? Have some great ideas or suggestions? Want to have a great dinner at one of Grand Rapids' top restaurants? Here's your chance! And don't worry – we're here to help you! It's easy, and it's fun.

Please RSVP for this event by Thursday, November 1st to John Walters at (269) 672-5055 or jwalters@wmis.net. We look forward to creating a great club year both for you, and with you!

When: **Monday, 05 November 2012, 7:00 pm**

Where: **Bistro Bella Vita**
44 Grandville Ave SW #100, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 222-4600 / www.bistrobellavita.com

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In Review: Tech Session at Euro Autowerks

Text and Photos by Amber Door

On Saturday, September 8th, Euro Autowerks, long-time advertiser, and Tim Thatcher, owner and long-time WMR PCA member, opened their doors to give our members a “hands on” education on tire alignment.

If you read your Über Alles from cover to cover, you know that Tim writes our very informative TechSpalte (literally, Tech Column) for all the “car people” in the club that either DIY or want to understand how someone else is doing it. In August, his article was on tire alignment. Proper alignment allows your car to handle better, and extends the life of all 4 of tires.

With the annual Grand Prix of Grattan Drivers Education event just a week away, he opened the doors of his shop on Saturday, September 8th so that our members could fill in the visual gaps and learn the things that the one page article could not hold prior getting on the track. He covered all aspects of alignment, including but not limited to toe, camber, caster and thrust angle. For the DIY’ers, he also gave some stocking stuffer suggestions (Christmas is coming!)

To finish out the event, after everyone had a chance to pick Tim’s brain regarding tire alignment, we were hosted to a great lunch of burgers and brats. Oh, and we can’t forget the great door prizes!

Thank you to Tim, Clyde, Debbie and crew!



The sun shines on Stuttgart’s finest



The Carpenters enjoying one of the toys in the shop

New Members: *Willkommen!*

Lawrence & Nancy Draper – Elk Rapids, MI
2000 Porsche Boxster

Jason Nagher – East Grand Rapids, MI
2001 Porsche 911

Ross Smith – Kentwood, MI
1999 Porsche 911

Michael & Diane Whelan – Traverse City, MI
1983 Porsche 911

October Anniversaries: *Glückwünsche!*

1 year (2011) Norman Golm

5 years (2007) Robert & Colleen Benjamin

20 years (1992) John & Jan Boockmeier

2012 Calendar

Porsche Club of America

Western Michigan Region



October	1	Monthly Board Meeting – Delta Imports, Grand Rapids, MI
	4-7	Third Coast 356 Oktoberfest – Gull Lake/Richland, MI <i>Non-PCA Event – (http://www.thirdcoast356oktoberfest.org)</i>
	13	Annual Fall Color Tour – Boatwerks Restaurant, Holland, MI <i>Hosts: Jim & Ardis Schaaf, Len & Bonnie Gawron</i>
	20	New Member Lunch – Dill's German Restaurant, Middleville, MI <i>Host: Len Gawron</i>
November	5	Annual Planning Dinner – Bistro Bella Vita, Grand Rapids, MI
	8-11	PCA Escape 2012 – Eureka Springs, AR <i>PCA National Event (http://www.pca.org/Activities/Escape.aspx)</i>
	14	November Dinner Drive – Ju Sushi & Lounge, Grand Rapids, MI <i>Hosts: Amber Door & Jerry Arens</i>
December	3	Monthly Board Meeting – Delta Imports, Grand Rapids, MI
	8	December Appetizer Party – Shelbyville, MI <i>Hosts: John & Marshall Walters</i>

Coming up in November!

November Dinner Drive to Ju Sushi & Lounge

Come out with us Wednesday, November 14th to enjoy the modern cuisine and posh atmosphere at Ju Sushi & Lounge! Mark your calendar today, and RSVP to Amber Door at amdoor242@aol.com.

Ju Sushi & Lounge
#9, 1140 East Paris Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 575-5858 / jusushi.com



Annual Grand Prix of Grattan in Photos

Special thanks go out to WMR Treasurer Amber Door, and to WMR member Jeff Simonis and Watermark Photography for their excellent photographs. You can find Watermark Photography and many examples of their excellent photographic work on their Facebook page...conveniently linked for you on our very WMR PCA facebook page!



Michael Betz gets technical



914 comes onto the straight



996 blings in the sunshine



Ed Klunk's Cayman R detail



Terry Scheible makes his exit



"It's loud!!"



Grattan is great for drivers & spectators alike



Lunch break



Vintage beauty



What's that saying about idle hands?



Relaxing at day's end



Even the police got in on the fun



TechSpalte: Things to Consider When Storing Your Porsche

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

Not knowing how much longer Old Man Winter will allow us to drive our cars, I thought it might be wise to review the process of properly storing your car.

Changing the oil and filter will eliminate the contaminants that accumulated during the summer and prevent possible damage they may cause. Having fresh oil in your engine is one of the best things you can do to prevent problems down the road.

If you came to our open house, you received a free can of stabilizer; that's because we consider it an important component in storing your car. Just prior to parking your car, fill your gas tank, adding stabilizer per the instructions. Once you have the tank topped off, run the car for about twenty minutes to allow the stabilizer to get into all the fuel lines and injectors.

Remember, once stored, we do not recommend starting the engine until spring. Short run times build up moisture in the engine and exhaust system which can be harmful over time.

Rolling the engine over occasionally without starting it can be beneficial, and can be accomplished in a number of ways. While rolling the engine over for short-term storage periods is not necessarily required, it certainly won't hurt. However, during an extended storage period it becomes more important. Short storage or long, any of these three methods will prevent the rings from resting in the same spot while in storage:

- *Disconnect the fuel pump fuse or relay and crank the engine over briefly.*
- *Put the car in gear and push it forward a foot or so.*
- *Use a wrench to turn the crank-shaft, being sure to turn it in a clockwise direction only.*

To keep your battery in tip-top shape, we recommend that you use a battery tender. A good battery tender will keep your battery properly charged and avoid discharge and/or over charging. If you choose to disconnect your battery, make sure you know your radio code.

Adding 10 pounds or so of extra air to your tires can eliminate flat spots and keep your tires rolling smoothly. It also helps to move the car a foot or so from time to time, to let it rest on a different spot.

Prepare the exterior of your car with a good wash and wax. Once you've finished with the exterior, turn your attention to the interior. This is a good time to apply a good leather conditioner throughout. Apply it liberally, letting it soak in during the winter; a quick wipe down come spring and you'll be on your way.

A very important step to prevent possible damage from rodents is to place dryer sheets in and around your car. Haven't seen any sign of the little critters? Great! But don't take a chance with your car; invest in a box of dryer sheets. (Visit <http://www.curbly.com/chrisjob/posts/1602-25-alternative-uses-for-fabric-softener-dryer-sheets> to read about all the uses for dryer sheets)

Cedar balls can be used in place of dryer sheets for rodent protection, however avoid putting mothballs in your car. All these items can be placed around the edges of your storage area to discourage rodents from taking up residences.

Once your car is properly prepared for storage, you can relax and enjoy the winter activities, knowing that your car is ready for spring.

We want to take a moment to thank all of the members who came out to our open house last month. We sincerely appreciate the friendship and support you give us. We have placed a number of pictures on our FaceBook page, and will add more as time allows. Thanks again for allowing us to be your host.

WMR PCA's Community Service: MTSI

Contributed by Gabi Blacklidge

The MTSI (Midwest Traffic Safety Institute) is a non-profit organization established by Dave Muma of Century Driving School to help provide driver education through matching-fund grants to low-income students and adults, to help them obtain their license to drive. WMR PCA contributed to MTSI in 2011 and plans to again in 2012.

WMR PCA wishes to thank all of our members for your generous support of our charitable efforts this year and in years past. The funds raised through lunchtime charity laps at Grattan, the famous 'bucket' you see floating around our events, and through other means, has enabled us to give enough support to help MTSI get off the ground in 2011.

We are proud of the difference we have made in individual people's lives, and that our encouragement for Century to establish this charitable fund has lead to other donations and positive results.

Dear Gabi,

I am pleased to report to you the donation from the West Michigan Porsche Club or America [to the Midwest Traffic Safety Institute] assisted 34 people in getting their licenses. The association also completed a road safety study for the GVSU police academy, which did not come from your funds but this was additional work that was involved. We are so grateful for the club's assistance and look forward to working with you in the future. We did receive one thank-you card from one of the grant recipients. I will scan it and forward it on for you to share with the group. If you have any further questions please let me know. Blessings to you and the West Michigan Porsche Club.

- Dave Muma, Century Driving School

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Member Profile: What Porsche Means to Me

Contributed by Len Gawron

It was early June 1988, and my mid-life crisis had really taken hold as our oldest was about to graduate from High School, and I had recently passed my 40th birthday.

On my weekly Friday return home from Grand Rapids' Gerald R. Ford International Airport, the drive often took me down east 28th street and past the since closed Classic Chevrolet. For some weeks I'd seen a beautiful metallic red over tan Corvette roadster in their showroom. Weeks passed taking this same route home, and then it happened. I stopped and talked with the sales manager, went for a test drive, and later that day bought the car.

That started what became a 24-year odyssey that included the first available red Fiero GT, three Corvair convertibles, a Triumph TR8 roadster, and some 8 or so Corvettes.



Fast forward to 2008, and I decided I'd had enough of the Corvette's crudely engineered mechanicals, unrefined suspension, poor build quality, and economy car style/fitted interior. I soon began a search for something with a higher level of engineering excellence. Following a number of fittings in what was then a new 997.1 coupe; we purchased a beautiful 996 – a 6,566 mile model year 2000 Millennium Edition Coupe.

On arrival, I tried to fit myself inside realizing that something was terribly wrong – someone had shrunk my car! Prompt follow up visits to the dealership brought the sad reality that the 996 vs. 997 body design/style changes also included changes to the wheel base and overall length of the car, who knew!

After a very brief summer stay, our first Porsche was on its way to a (shorter) chap in Washington state. Not wanting to be carless, and still upset with the Porsche debacle, I purchased another Corvette roadster for the summer. However, during this time I began searching for a proper 997.1-bodied Porsche.

After a month long search, I found a beautiful Forest Green 997.1 Carrera 4 in Phoenix, and had it shipped to Michigan. It was lovely, and had the necessary longer wheelbase that fit my 6' 4" frame.



But as the summer months went by, we longed for a cabriolet. So, the search was on once again and after a few short months, much like the Etta James song, 'At Last, My Love Has Come Along', we found our beautiful Ruby Red Metallic Carrera 4S.

The love affair continues, not to say that temptation hasn't raised its eye occasionally. Today, anytime my dear wife finds my eyes looking longingly at another, she reminds me of Ted's license plate that says it best – "THE END".



WMR Meeting Minutes, 10 Sep 2012

Delta Imports, Grand Rapids September 10, 2012 – Meeting was called to order by John Walters at 7:00pm. Members present were: John and Marshall Walters, Len Gawron, Amber Door, Brenda Hildon-Kaempf, Ted & Gabi Blacklidge, Rick Riley, Kurt Wirth, Arnie Axelrod, and Colin Carpenter.

Treasurer's Report: Approved.

Membership Report: 223 Primary Members, 170 Affiliate Members – total 393. New Members – 4: Lawrence & Nancy Draper, Elk Rapids, '00 Boxster; Jason Nagher, East Grand Rapids, '01 911; Ross Smith, Kentwood, '99 911; Michael & Diane Whelan, Traverse City, '83 911. Transfers In – 0. Transfers Out – 0. Non renewals – 2. Renewals – 9.

August Meeting Minutes: Approved.

Uber Alles Editor's Report: No report. There was discussion about using photos in classifieds, perhaps with a fee. Tabled for now.

Webmaster' Report: Michael has the website up-to-date.

Insurance Report: Kurt is in need of waivers for the following events: IROC, Schulers, and Spring Up. Kurt will provide insurance for the Color Tour.

Old Business:

- August 26 IROC III WMR Autocross – 16 cars, 17 participants. Nice venue, great participation and many volunteers.
- November 5 Planning Meeting – reservations have been made at Bistro Bella Vita in Grand Rapids at 6:30pm. Cash is needed for parking.
- September 7 – 4th Annual Golf Outing – Hosts: Arnie and Val Axelrod. 9 golfers, 14 dinner participants. Good time had by all.
- September 8 – Pre-Grattan Tech Session – Host: Tim Thatcher. Nicely done. Great information. Tim created a nice banner for the event and had gifts for virtually everyone. Great food enjoyed by all. Tim has requested more ideas for tech articles in the Uber.
- 2013 Winterfest – we are still vetting out locations. Will be either February 9, or February 16. More to come.

New Business:

- September 15-16 Grand Prix of Grattan DE – Event Chair: Ted Blacklidge. Looks like we may break even. Hope to obtain a few more participants.
- September 26 Dinner Drive – Bostwick Lake Inn was suggested. Amber will send out an email blast for the event.
- PCA WMR Charity Update – We will present a check at the Planning Meeting.
- November Dinner Drive – Amber has book Ju for November 14. More to come.
- 2013 Porsche Parade update – The Cherry Festival should have minimal impact. Things are progressing. National is coming in October 5,6,7 for and open meeting on Saturday, October 6 at 7:30. No agenda yet. Amber will send out a blast to let everyone know how to register for Parade and volunteer opportunities.
- October 13 Color Tour – Fenn Valley. More to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

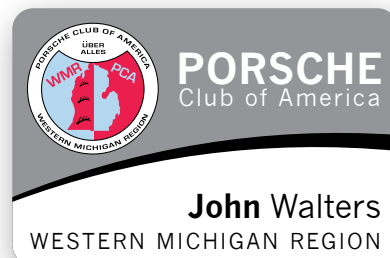
Respectfully submitted by Brenda Hildon-Kaempf

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John Walters
2578 Selkirk Lake Dr
Shelbyville, MI 49344-9525

Please make your check payable to WMR PCA.





Classifieds

2000 PORSCHE BOXSTER – 9456 miles. Over \$8000 exclusive options: Artic silver, sport package, Nephrite Green special leather, 17” Sport Classic wheels, stainless door sills. Flawless. \$16,000. Contact Frank Wosek at (231) 264-5120 or email Diane Wosek at dfwosek@gmail.com. Former PCA and WMI members. (Aug 2012)

1989 PORSCHE 911 TURBO – Linen Metallic (silver) over grey leather interior. 115k miles, 2nd owner, service by German Auto for the past 14 years. Many mods, very fast. Divorce forces sale. \$38,000. Contact Al Nelson at (231) 690-9092 or email i.xlr8@live.com. (that’s the letter “i”, a period, followed by “xlr8”) (Dec 2011)

1987 PORSCHE 911 TURBO CABRIOLET – Factory slant-nose (one of 216 real 505 factory built and documented), pristine all-original condition, black on black, with Porsche certificate of authenticity. Contact Frank Berris at (616) 887-0956 or email fgberris@americango.biz (July 2011)

1985-1/2 PORSCHE 944 – Great 1st Porsche and beginning autocross or track car. Roll bar, Dino steering wheel, Recaro driver’s seat, 17” Cup wheels with Kumho Cector Racer tires. 5-point harnesses plus stock belts. HD springs & swaybars, Koni adjustable shocks, more. Asking \$5,495 OBO. Contact Jim Morgan at (574) 457-2044 or email jimandjudi@hoosierlink.net. (Michiana Region PCA) (Aug 2012)

1972 PORSCHE 914 PARTS – We have a 1972 914 parts car with complete engine & transmission. Also most other parts. Also have a four-cylinder short block and additional 914 parts. Let us know what you need. Contact Randy Portoluri at (616) 842-9266 or email lindaportoluri@charter.net. (Sep 2012)

1989 PORSCHE 944S2 RACE CAR – PCA Stock E Class. Well-maintained and less than 10 hours on rebuilt engine. Recaro seat, B&B exhaust, 2 sets of 3-piece wheels (BBS & Forgeline), full cage, Bilstein coil-overs, Fabcar A-arms, quick-release steering wheel...to name just a few items. Comes with spare parts. Also available is a 24-foot Wells Cargo trailer, 5,000-lb axles, diamond plate floor, tire rack, winch and storage container. Contact Craig Ackerman at (616) 866-1905 or email pcaackerman@aol.com. (Sep 2012)

WHEELS AND TIRES – 16” factory wheels & tires from a Porsche 911 (993), sizes are 205/55-16 front, 245/45-16 rear. \$500 o.b.o. Call Glenn at (269) 751-5644. (July 2011)

911MAX MULTI-CHIP – Fits 1984-1989 Porsche 911. Multiple mappings, including Stock, 93 Octane, Valet (3,000 RPM limit) and No-Start, easily modifiable via external switch, customizable via software. Works w/either 24 or 28-pin DMEs. Price reduced - now only \$100! Call Greg Calahan at (616) 617-0369 or email greg@cerulean-group.com. (June 2011)

AUTO DETAILING SERVICE – References available. Call or e-mail Eric at Professional Car Appearance, LLC, (616) 706-4421 or ericpca911@yahoo.com. (Feb 2010)

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