



# ÜBER ALLES

Porsche Club of America, Western Michigan Region

November 2013

**Pilgrimage to Petit Le Mans at Road Atlanta**

*Upcoming Events: Annual Planning Dinner and Nov. DD*

***In Review: WMR's annual Fall Color Tour***

*TechSpalte: Build your own high-performance car ramps*



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# ÜBER ALLES

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## Über Alles November 2013 Issue

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Please send submissions and advertising content by the 21st of each month to:

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# The leaves are falling, and the turkeys are getting nervous!

John Walters  
President, Western Michigan Region

THE WEATHER COOPERATED with a beautiful afternoon for the September Dinner Drive hosted by Randy and Linda Portoluri. Twenty plus members gathered in a Holland parking lot with a landmark 50's green Buick. Next, was a pleasing drive down the Blue Star Highway to Joe's Bar & Grill. The place was hopping on a nice Saturday afternoon. Randy knew a good spot to park at a nearby business. The service and food were good for the number of people seated. I like catching up with new and old friends over dinner. Randy and Linda have almost always changed up the destination for their drives, nice job.

October 5th, up in God's country (Traverse City area), Jerry Arens hosted a new member event at MFD Classic Motors, there was a nice turnout with coffee and plenty of donuts and bagels. And the backdrop of classic cars was a nice touch (some unusual models were on hand, including a late 50's BMW Isetta). I enjoyed meeting the new members and their (new to me) prized Porsches. The event provided a great opportunity for the new members to learn about the club and spend some time socializing, one on one, before departing for the color tour. Immediately after this was the starting point for Patti Pelizari's Fall Color Tour. The rain started on Friday and continued all weekend, but for the drive portion of the tour, the rain stopped! After a wonderful scenic drive to The Homestead, we lunched in the beachside clubhouse. This is the first event Patti hosted and her good taste shows.

On a non-drive related item, many thanks to Wolfgang Hoffmann for volunteering to take over as Über Alles editor. Dan Phillips has done a great job, and made many improvements. Wolfgang and Dan will work together on the next couple of issues, before Dan completely "retires". As we have just signed up a couple of new advertisers, the publication may even get a couple more pages! As a reminder, we are still looking for a volunteer to take over maintenance of our website, as Michael Betz has it in great shape, but would also like to "retire".

There are a couple of more events before the calendar year ends, I hope to see you at one or both. Lastly, congratulations go out to Darren Draves, this month he's been a PCA member for 20 years!

## Officers



**President:**  
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2578 Selkirk Lake Dr  
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1988 Porsche 911 Coupe



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amdoor242@aol.com  
1984 Porsche 911 Coupe

# Upcoming Events: Annual Planning Dinner

04 Nov

## Annual November Planning Dinner

*Host: WMR PCA Board of Directors*

ALL YEAR LONG, often more than once per month, we gather to celebrate our shared passion for the experience and joy of driving Porsches. We drive, we compete, we tour, we rally...we volunteer for the club, we give back to our community...we eat, drink, and find merriment together...we share stories, we laugh, we talk shop...we enjoy friendships both old and new, friendships that often last a lifetime, bonds we forge as members of this club. Together we make it what it is.

To that end, we invite you to join us this November 5th to plan our next year together. You can count on a great dinner at Bistro Bella Vita in downtown Grand Rapids, participate in a brief board meeting prior to dinner, and after dinner help us determine the calendar and course of our club for the coming year.

Have an idea for an event? Want to host an event? Want to volunteer to help, as little or as much as you want? Want to eat, drink, and be merry? Don't be shy!

Please RSVP by Friday, 01 November to John & Marshall Walters at (269) 672-5055 or email [jwalters@wmis.net](mailto:jwalters@wmis.net) (John) or [marshall.walters@towerswatson.com](mailto:marshall.walters@towerswatson.com) (Marshall).

When: Monday, 04 November 2013, 6:00 pm

Where: Bistro Bella Vita, 44 Grandville Ave, Grand Rapids, MI [www.bistrobellavita.com](http://www.bistrobellavita.com)



# Upcoming Events: November Dinner 'Drive'

15 Nov

## November Dinner 'Drive' to Salt & Pepper Savory Pub & Grill, Holland, MI

*Hosts: Amber Door & Jerry Arens*

NOVEMBER IN MICHIGAN brings a change in our weather, winter slumber for many of our Porsches and a gearing up for the upcoming busy holiday season. Mark your calendar to join us for dinner and conversation to celebrate the 2013 summer driving season, "mourn" the upcoming winter driving season and enjoy the company of fellow WMR members.

We are headed to Salt & Pepper Savory Pub and Grill in Holland. It is a casual restaurant featuring a diverse selection of foods from an adventurous American pub menu.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, 13 November to [Amdoor242@aol.com](mailto:Amdoor242@aol.com), or call (616) 340-0971 (Amber) or (616) 340-2912 (Jerry).



When:

Friday, 15 November 2013, 7:30 pm

Where:

Salt & Pepper Savory Pub & Grill

11539 East Lakewood Blvd

Holland, MI *Just 1/2 mile east of US-31*

**Salt & Pepper**  
savory grill and pub

Visit their web page at: [saltandpepperpub.com](http://saltandpepperpub.com)

# Upcoming Events: December Appetizer Party

07 Dec

## December Appetizer Party at the Karluk Residence, West Olive, MI

*Hosts: Mike and Barb Karluk*

FOR 2013, the annual WMR Appetizer Party returns to the Michigan lakeshore in West Olive, MI. Mike and Barb Karluk invite you to their home to celebrate your WMR friendships both old and new! This year we'll explore the world of Champagne and cheese! Chocolate lovers need not despair, Mike's brother has promised to send some chocolate truffles as well.

Please join us to for a great evening of food, friends and festivities. As is tradition, bring an appetizer to share and your favorite beverage.

Please RSVP by Thursday, December 5th via email to Barb at [Barbara.Doss@spectrumhealth.org](mailto:Barbara.Doss@spectrumhealth.org), or call Barb's cell phone at (616) 443-4855.



When: Saturday, 07 December 2013, 5:00 pm

Where: Mike & Barb's Home, 9342 Whispering Sands Dr, West Olive, MI 49460

Directions (from Grand Rapids): Lake Michigan Drive (M-45) west to Lake Shore Drive. Head south (left) on Lake Shore Dr. ~2.5 miles, past Kirk Park. Turn west (right) on Sheldon Dunes Dr. which dead-ends into Whispering Sands Dr. Our house is the only red house, and is on the southeast corner of Sheldon Dunes & Whispering Sands Dr.

*Overnight accomodations can be found nearby at:*

Best Western Beacon Inn / 1525 S Beacon Blvd, Grand Haven, MI / (616) 842-4720

Days Inn Grand Haven / 1500 S Beacon Blvd, Grand Haven, MI / (616) 842-1999

## Chairpersons

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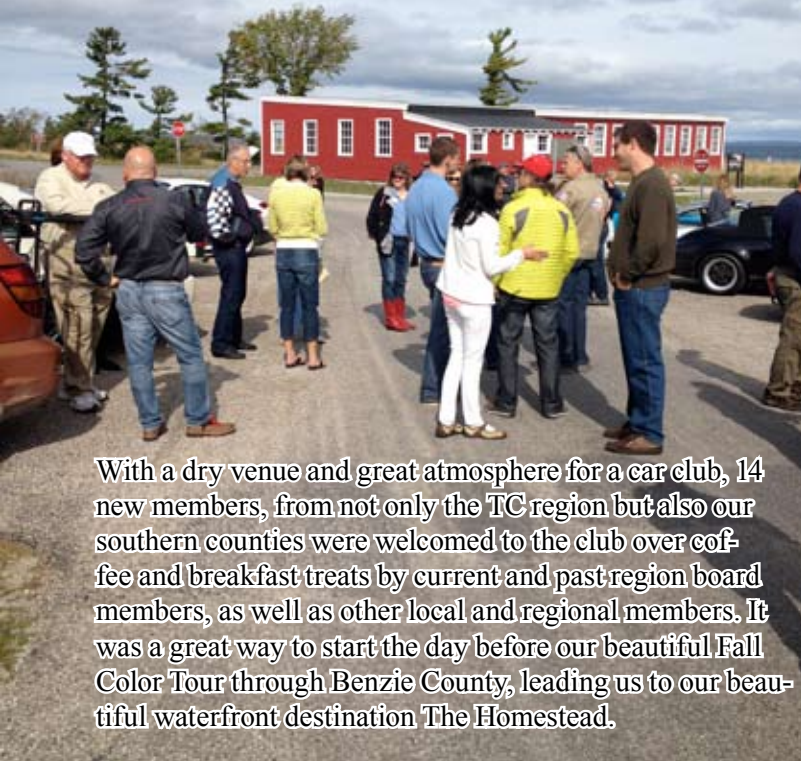
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[zone4rep@embarqmail.com](mailto:zone4rep@embarqmail.com)



# In Review: Annual Fall Color Tour

*Contributed by WMR PCA Members Jerry Arens and Patti Pelizzari*

Saturday, October 5th in Traverse City began with a deluge of the things that we dread for WMR events – rain. Despite the wet start, our members braved the wet weather and ventured out with their Porsches to the New Member gathering held at Grand Rapids Auto Gallery - Traverse City / MFD Classic Motors in Traverse City.



With a dry venue and great atmosphere for a car club, 14 new members, from not only the TC region but also our southern counties were welcomed to the club over coffee and breakfast treats by current and past region board members, as well as other local and regional members. It was a great way to start the day before our beautiful Fall Color Tour through Benzie County, leading us to our beautiful waterfront destination The Homestead.

*Drivers meet and greet before the tour*



*Relaxing at the water's edge*



*Arrival at The Homestead*



*The newest and oldest of our group.*

# 2013-2014 Calendar

## Western Michigan Region

### Porsche Club of America



#### 2013:

<b>November</b>	<b>4</b>	Annual Planning Dinner – Bistro Bella Vita, Grand Rapids, MI
	<b>15</b>	November Dinner Drive – Salt & Pepper Savory Pub, Holland, MI <i>Host: Amber Door &amp; Jerry Arens</i>
<b>December</b>	<b>2</b>	Monthly Board Meeting – Delta Imports, Grand Rapids, MI
	<b>7</b>	December Appetizer Party – West Olive, MI <i>Hosts: Mike &amp; Barb Karluk</i>

#### 2014:

<b>Jan</b>	<b>6</b>	Monthly Board Meeting – Delta Imports, Grand Rapids, MI
<b>Feb</b>	<b>3</b>	Monthly Board Meeting – Delta Imports, Grand Rapids, MI
	<b>22</b>	Winterfest 2014 – Cascade Country Club, Grand Rapids, MI <i>Hosts: WMR PCA</i>

#### **Save the Date!**

#### **Winterfest 2014**

Date: 22 February 2014  
 Time: 6:00pm social hour / 7:30 dinner  
 Location: Cascade Hills Country Club  
 3725 Cascade Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Formal invitations will be mailed out in late January.

For more PCA National and Inter-Regional events, visit <http://www.pca.org/Activities.aspx>.  
 For the full PCA Club Racing Schedule, visit <http://www.pca.org/Activities/ClubRacing/Schedule.aspx>.



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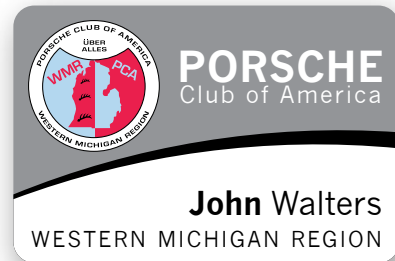


## Get your WMR PCA Name Badge!

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Please make your check payable to WMR PCA.



### New Members: *Willkommen!*

Robert Baker & Kimberly Fletcher – Belmont, MI  
2013 Porsche 911

Leonard Crandall – Traverse City, MI  
2004 Porsche 997

Frank Jeffreys – Manistee, MI  
2007 Porsche Cayman S

Stephen & Susan Rathford – Manistee, MI  
1988 Porsche 911

Brian & Kris Rieck – Kalamazoo, MI  
2005 Porsche Boxster S

### November Anniversaries: *Glückwünsche!*

1 year (2012) Ralph Rogers

15 years (1998) William & Diane Shaw

20 years (1993) Darren Draves



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### Notable Porsche Quote:

"Driving a Porsche in London is like bringing a Ming vase to a football game."

– Douglas Adams, as quoted in 'Don't Panic: The Official Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy Companion', ©1988 by Neil Gaiman

Thanks to WMR PCA member Bob Cox

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looks almost better than new. A big thanks  
to Terry and Curt for the outstanding job."*

- Ted and Gabriele Blackledge

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# Pilgrimage to Petit Le Mans at Road Atlanta

*Contributed by WMR PCA member Wolfgang Hofmann*

THERE IT IS AGAIN, the end of the driving season. It feels like it always ends before it's really started around here. By the way, it's a customary German tradition to complain about something right away – then, we apologize for it.

So let me tell you about the trip my friend Tim and I took down south to Georgia and our pilgrimage to the endurance racing event known as Petit Le Mans.

This year was bitter-sweet as the American Le Mans Series is winding down operations and is being absorbed into the TUDOR United Sports Car Championship, a merger with NASCAR. Let's hope for the best.

Then, there was the rain. Yes, I'm complaining again, aren't I? Well, it did rain a lot, but we braved the elements anyway, both on our journey down and trackside. Arriving at the "Porscheplatz" car corral Thursday morning, I was keen to sign up for Friday's Porsche Parade Lap.

The event itself lasts for 4 days in total with lots of support races, which are certainly exciting with some very close racing. So there's something for everyone.

For us, we started walking the entire track, to and from every corner, the paddock, vendor village, and so on. It's no small feat, especially since the track is divided by a large hill with very steep access roads. It doesn't hurt to get a bit of exercise, right?

Eventually, we reached the top of Spectator Hill overlooking the downhill esses, the signature mark of Don Panoz's track. The Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge commenced, and we enjoyed the sights, sounds, and on-track action.

Believe it or not, but the sun came out too. That improved our moods, the racing, the consumption of one or two adult beverages, and subsequently our appetites. Sure, we had some Southern BBQ, but our favorite place was Ted's Montana Grill in Buford. We enjoyed some Bison Steaks that were out of this world. Nice ambiance too, and of course the famed Southern courtesy and hospitality.

Saturday we walked the Grid just before the race was going Green. All the cars were parked Le Mans-style and flanked by grid girls, crew chiefs and just one or two confident racecar drivers.

At 11:30 AM the pre-race ceremony concluded and the



*The GT-class winner, #17 Falken Porsche GT3 RSR cars set off to battle it out over the duration of 1000 miles or 10 hours, whichever comes first. (Check out the videos that we posted to the WMR Porsche Club's Facebook page. Also, Tim never sat down his camera, and he has some great shots posted to <http://instagram.com/grundski>.)*

It's hard to convey the sense of speed and some of the racing action in a paragraph and as a spectator it can also be boring at times, truth be told. That's why it's great to bring company. So we can discuss racing lines, mishaps, engines, suspension setups and aero parts.

So, if you've never been to a race, go. If you've never taken your Porsche to an Autocross or a track day, do it. I will borrow the famous line from the Le Mans movie: "Racing is life. Everything before or after is just waiting."

We packed our bags and set off back to Michigan under warmer temps and a spotless sky. Go figure. In fact, it was so nice that we took full advantage of the Smokey Mountains vs. driving around them on the interstate. Roof down. Foot down.

The Tail of the Dragon, they call it. Just one of the many winding scenic roads going up and down the foothills of the Appalachian mountains. Folks from Michigan can only dream of 318 curves back to back, within an 11 mile stretch of road. It was definitely worth taking the road less traveled, but be advised – these roads can be dangerous.

6 hours after slaying the dragon, we arrived in Cincinnati and stopped at "The Pub" for a pint and some grub. Afterwards, we complained all the way back to Grand Rapids about just how long the 850 mile drive back is. Next year we'll fly. Sure. Just like this year.





# TechSpalte: Building Your Own Car Ramps (Suitable for Use with a Porsche!)

*This fun winter project contributed by WMR PCA member and Über Alles Editor Dan Phillips*

*This month, Tim Thatcher is taking a much-needed break, so please enjoy this article, reproduced in part from the original version I published on RennTech.org back on 06 Feb 2006. For the complete article and more pics, please refer to: <http://www.renntech.org/forums/tutorials/article/55-building-your-own-car-ramps/>*

I'VE BEEN DISAPPOINTED by off-the-shelf car ramps from auto parts stores and even high-end specialty catalogs. They all seem to be too low to the ground, too narrow for big 'monster meats', too steep of an approach angle so they won't fit under a low air dam or exhaust, and generally flimsy. So I built my own, to my own specifications. My requirements were:

1. Extra width and no side channels, for extra-wide tires
2. Shallow approach angle for cars w/low ground clearance
3. Extra height for more working space under vehicles with low ground clearance
4. Very high strength for my own peace of mind

Disclaimer: Intermediate woodworking skills required. Use all new materials. Work carefully and join each interface with multiple fasteners for safety. If you build your own ramps based on my design, using your own materials, techniques, tools, and ideas, and then use them to work on your car, you do all of that at your own risk. Chock your tires. Safety first! There are many Porsches in the world, but only one you...

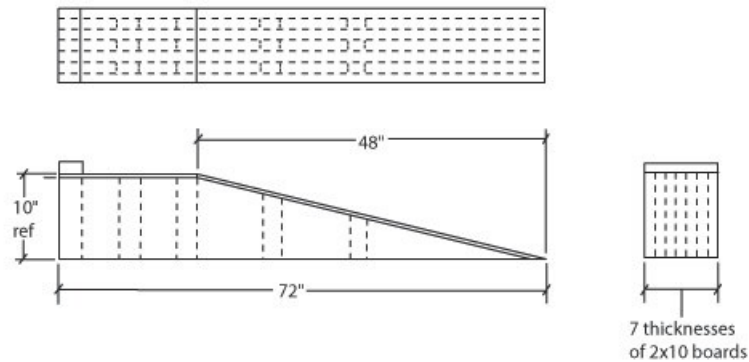
## Materials List:

1. Four (4) 2x10s, 8 feet in length
2. Two (2) 2x4s, 12 feet in length
3. One (1) sheet of plywood, 3/4" thick, about 7 feet x 2 feet
4. One (1) box (approx qty=200) 2-1/2" galvanized nails (dry-wall screws may be substituted, and will be stronger)
5. Eight (8) heavy-duty grab-handles (4 per unit)

## Procedure:

1. On each 8' section of 2x10, measure 24" from each end of the board, and draw a diagonal line between the points. Cut along this line to produce two (2) main boards from each single 8' 2x10 board. Each main board will have the shape of the side of the ramp. Each ramp will require at least four (4) main boards. *(Optional - for increased strength and significantly increased weight, construct each ramp out of seven (7) main boards, thus making each ramp completely solid all the way through. Use qty=7 2x10s for this.)*
2. For ramps w/4 main boards, cut 2x4 spacer blocks to create an alternating arrangement of main board / spacer / main board / spacer / etc. Cut spacers for both the flat section and the angled section so there are periodic spacers along the entire 6-foot length of the ramps. Make 'em strong!

3. Assemble the base sections with lots and lots of nails and/or drywall screws. Don't be afraid to use a lot.
4. Cut the facing out of your plywood. Mitre the ends of the plywood to make a smooth transition between the ground and the ramps. Mitre the joint between the facing on the ramp section and the facing on the top section. Assemble facing to base sections with plenty of nails.
5. Use your 2x4 stock to cut "stop blocks" for the ends of the flat sections. These give you notice that your tires are at the ends of the ramps. If you do not have these, you may accidentally drive right off the end of the ramps. If you have a hard time feeling when the tires contact the blocks, stack up two (2) thicknesses of 2x4s at the ends to make your stop blocks. Make sure the two thicknesses still clear the air dam/exhaust/etc. Assemble to ends of flat top sections with liberal use of nails and/or drywall screws.
6. Optional, but very very handy: Affix heavy-duty grab-handles in desired locations. Note the positions and orientations of the grab handles of my ramps. One set is to carry them around and move them when in storage (stored on their ends for minimal footprint), and the other is to move the ramps into position at the vehicle.



*Views of Finished Assembly; note the 5 locations for spacers in main view.*



*Handles for Moving and Storage*



*Handles for Positioning at the Vehicle*



# WMR Meeting Minutes, 07 October 2013

---

*Delta Imports, Grand Rapids, October 7, 2013* – Meeting was called to order by John Walters at 6:58 pm. Members present were: John Walters, Marshall Walters, Brenda Hildon-Kaempf, Wolfgang Hofmann, Amber Door, Rick Riley, Gabi Blacklidge, Colin Carpenter

Welcome:

Treasurer's Report: Approved.

Membership Report: Primary Members – 262; Affiliate Members – 194; Total – 456; New Members – 4; Transfers In – 0; Transfers Out – 0; Non renewals – 2; Renewals – 13

\* *New program from PCA – Dealership New Member Pilot Program. Interest expressed and will wait for further details on how a region can request participation.*

Minutes: Minutes from September meeting approved.

Über Alles Editor's Report: No report. [*Wolfgang Hoffmann has been approved by the board to be next editor of Über Alles - Ed.*]

Webmaster' Report: No report.

Insurance Report: No further insurance needs for 2013.

Old Business:

- September 14-15th Grand Prix of Grattan HPDE: Final financials reviewed. No financial loss this year.
- September 20th - 5th Annual Golf Outing – Egypt Valley Country Club: Hosts Arnie & Val Axelrod
- WMR Charity: Planned vote on Charity for 2014 at the November Planning Meeting. Gabi Blacklidge agreed to be Charity Chair for 2014. Will provide efficiency ratings for each proposed charity for review.
- 2014 board elections
  - Nominating Committee: John Walters, Rick Riley, Ted Blacklidge
  - Still need nomination for President .
  - Announcement regarding ballot to go out to the region 2 weeks prior to November 4 planning meeting.
- Winterfest 2014: 2/22/14 at Cascade Country Club. Save the date to go into Über starting November.
- September 28th Dinner Drive, Joe's Bar & Grill, South Haven, MI: Hosts Randy & Linda Portoluri. 20 participants. Good weather and nice drive.
- 10/5/13 New Member Cars/Coffee (Jerry Arens) at Grand Rapids AG-TC/MFD Classic Motors in Traverse City; well-attended with over 30 people, with great turnout of new members
- 10/5/13 Fall Color Tour (Patty Pelizzari); nice turnout despite less than ideal weather

New Business:

- 11/4/13 Annual Planning meeting, Bistro Bella Vita, Grand Rapids; Announcement in Über and blast planned to membership as reminder
- 11/15/13 Dinner @ Salt & Pepper Bistro (Jerry Arens/Amber Door), Holland, MI
- Über Editor: New editor Wolfgang Hofmann to begin with January issue. Thank you Dan Phillips for his dedication over the years.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm*

*Respectfully submitted by Brenda Hildon-Kaempf*



# Classifieds

**2000 PORSCHE 911 CABRIOLET** – 6 speed manual, black on black, 10,000 miles on a new set of Michelin Pilot Sport AS Plus, new battery, a few cosmetic road marks in the front, interior in good shape. It runs and handles excellent, everything works, no leaks, 81,000 miles, asking \$22,000.

Feel free to contact me for more photos. Located in Northport, MI – just 35 miles from the 2013 Porsche Parade! Contact Norm Golm at (231) 386-5857 or email [ncgolm@gmail.com](mailto:ncgolm@gmail.com). (June 2013)



**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, adjustable swaybars, camber plates, quick release steering wheel. Spare parts included. 39,800 miles. Asking \$19,000. Call Craig Ackerman at (616) 866-1905 or email [pcaackerman@aol.com](mailto:pcaackerman@aol.com). (Aug 2013)

**1987 PORSCHE 924S PARTS** – On 11-1-11 my 1987 924S (most parts fit 944) was destroyed. Parting it out. Here is a basic list: Glass lift gate, Transmission, Engine Computer, Cam shaft, Re-conditioned Head with new valves (5000 miles since the head had been redone), Manifold, Fuel Rail w/Injectors, Doors and much more. Have full list upon request. Please contact Duane Weed at (231) 250-9624, or email [duane@dwvideo.com](mailto:duane@dwvideo.com). (Aug 2013)

**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](mailto:lindaportoluri@charter.net). (Sep 2012)

**PORSCHE 928 ACCESSORIES** – Bra for Porsche 928 (pre-'87 front end), very good condition, only \$45. Two original equipment wheels from 1982 928, 'phone dial' style, \$50 for the pair. Contact Jim Schaaf at (231) 759-7360 (home) or (727) 688-2486 (mobile), or email [dogzan2@aol.com](mailto:dogzan2@aol.com). (Oct 2013)

**WANTED** – Set of tires (205 55/R16 & 225 50/R16) to be used for DE events for my 1980 911SC (stock 6" and 7" Fuchs). Please contact Kevin Pinner at [klpinner@gmail.com](mailto:klpinner@gmail.com). (May 2013)

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



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