



Über Alles

Porsche Club of America, Western Michigan Region

Upcoming Events:

The Dam Fall Color Tour
2015 Board Elections

Feature Stories:

“Oh Canada” by
Don and Helen Sazama
Around the Zone
Grattan — A Rear View



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IGNITION

OCTOBER, 2014



ALL DRESSED UP AND READY FOR HALLOWEEN. Photo by Scott Kraai.

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Über Alles

Porsche Club of America, Western Michigan Region

On the cover:
*Ready to race at Grattan.
The track called.
We answered.*

Photo by Amber Door

FLASH YOUR HEADLIGHTS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Mike Karluk
*President,
Western Michigan Region*

September's Grand Prix of Grattan DE was a lively and excellent affair by accounts I've received, with fifteen new students among the sixty total registrants for the event. I think this was a significant increase in registrants from the last Grattan DE I attending in 2012 and hope we can top it in 2015.

Rick Mammel, the President of our neighboring Rally Sport Region, made an excellent point in the RSR monthly magazine that the DEs are not just for the track-oriented folks, but excellent social events, as you actually have more time to talk with your friends between runs than during a dinner drive. I heartily recommend arriving at Grattan Raceway at noon on Saturday next year, driving some parade laps on the track in support of our charity, which this year netted over \$1,200 for the Midwest Traffic Safety Institute, having fun watching Porsches do what they were born to do, and enjoying a casual supper and drinks with your friends! The September dinner drive to Boyne City organized by Dan and Ren Phillips has yet to take place as I write, but promises to be an excellent affair.

Duane and Brenda Weed will be hosting the annual Fall Color Tour on October 11, which might be one of the last opportunities we have this year to take our Porsches on a group outing if forecasts I've heard for winter weather of biblical proportions prove accurate. For those of you looking further ahead, we are also having our annual planning meeting at Bistro Bella Vita in Grand Rapids on Monday, November 3. Please join us, as this will be an opportunity to discuss any events that you would like to organize and host.

Miscellaneous thoughts: Out of curiosity, do any of you flash your headlights at approaching Porsches in the classic "Porsche salute?" I do, but seldom is it returned. Some reading recommendations: If you have never seen the British magazine "MotorSport," I heartily recommend picking up a copy for excellent coverage of most things racing, current and historic, and excellent new car reviews by Andrew Frankel. Ever debated about who was/is the greatest racing driver of all time? Read Gerald Donaldson's "Fangio: The Life Behind the Legend" and see if it changes your opinion. You can watch Fangio race by going to YouTube and watching the 30-minute 1955 "Belgian Grand Prix - A Shell Film." I'll bet you'll enjoy it. — *Mike*

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THE DAM FALL COLOR TOUR

HOST: DUANE & BRENDA WEED

It has been many years, since Duane & Brenda Weed have hosted a color tour. So this year we are going to drive portions of Montcalm, Newaygo and Mecosta counties. Traveling the back roads to Hardy and Croton Dams, hence the name 'The Dam Fall Color Tour' and areas unknown - well not really unknown, it sounded good. A few stops are scheduled for photos and to enjoy the beauty of the area.

Octoberfest fun to commence at the end of our drive. This year Duane has chosen Cranker's Craft Brewery in Big Rapids as our watering hole. Crankers was voted one of Michigan's Top 10 breweries. More exciting news, October 11th is Cranker's 'CRANKTOBERFEST'. Talking with Jim Crank the owner, we have choices: \$12 admission includes: 3 beer samplers/soda tickets and one food ticket to the buffet (which begins at 6pm). Plus, if you do not want the buffet you can choose from their menu. You can take a look online by visiting www.crankersbrewery.com.

A special roped-off area for parking will be set aside for our club. There will be security on-site for the event and they will also stand watch by our cars.

If you decide to stay the night the Big Rapids area has many hotels. Please make your own reservations.

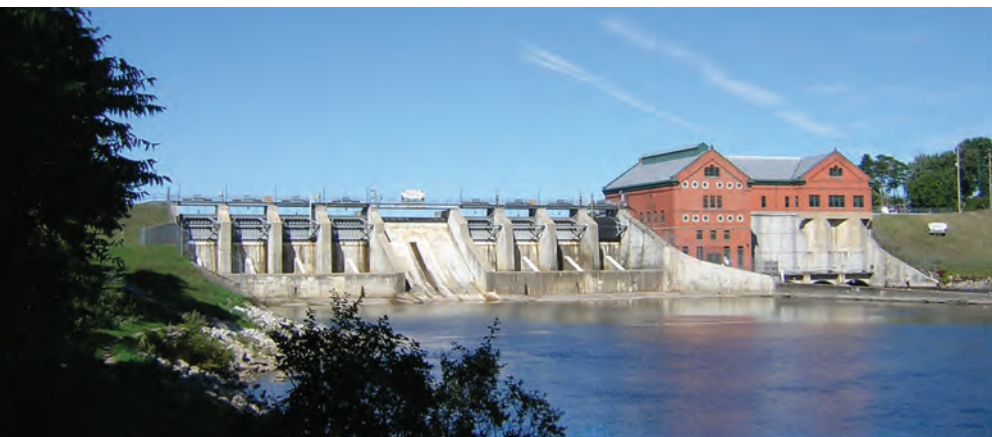
A fun day of driving, photo ops, great food, drinks and conversation. Do not miss out on the 2014 Dam Fall Color Tour. Contact Duane (231) 250-9624 or send an e-mail to: duane@dwvideo.com, with any questions.

Where:

We'll leave at 2:30 pm from the Pierson Township Hall just east of exit 114 of US-131 express-way. The Township hall address is: 21156 W Cannonsville Rd, Pierson.

When:

Sunday, October 11, 2014 · 2:00 PM



AROUND THE ZONE

BY MICHAEL SORIANO, ZONE 4 REPRESENTATIVE



Michael Soriano
Zone 4 Representative,
Porsche Club of America

With the arrival of autumn upon us, it is a great time to look back and reflect upon all of the exciting activities that took place within Zone 4 during a busy and fun-filled summer. In a scenic park on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, I attended Southeast Michigan Region's annual Family Picnic and

Concours; a tradition that is 38 years old. Over 100 members dined upon an impressive selection of appetizers, side dishes and at least 4 different entrees. A number of trophies were awarded to the nice variety of cars in attendance.

I travelled to Northern Ohio Region's 3rd Annual Rib Burn Off and Social, where approximately 150 members were treated to a wide variety of ribs and other types of barbecue. In addition they served fresh cut fries and had a bar with frozen margaritas and beer on tap. I also joined Maumee Valley Region members for their annual Sunday Champagne Brunch at Mon Ami Winery

on beautiful Catawba Island; a long standing tradition, and one of the region's most popular events. Members were able to enjoy delicious food and could spend the afternoon listening to live music or visiting some of the other attractions that Lake Erie has to offer.

Recently, I was given the opportunity to spend the day driving a nice selection of brand new cars that had just been shipped over from Germany for this event. The first part of the day was spent navigating a 40 acre autocross course in the Panamera GTS and Macan Turbo. The remainder of the day we were able to run the new Boxster GTS, Cayman GTS, and Targa 4S on a test track. I'm sure we would all agree that this was an outstanding way to spend the day, and the expert instruction provided by the Porsche Driving School was an added bonus.

I look forward to having the opportunity of meeting each and every one of you at upcoming events. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at MSoriano.ZoneRep@gmail.com

CALL FOR 2015 BOARD NOMINATIONS

BY BRENDA HILDON-KAEMPF



Brenda Hildon-Kaempf
Secretary,
Western Michigan Region

The WMR PCA is pleased to announce the call for nominees to serve on the 2015 Board.

There are three positions open for the 2015 board slate, and will be voted upon at the November 2014 Planning Meeting.

Kindly submit nominations to Brenda Hildon-Kaempf at

blue911rsr@charter.net, or by mail to:
637 S. Shore Dr, Portage MI 49002.

Deadline for nominations is November 1, 2014.

The open positions are:

1. Vice President
2. Treasurer
3. Secretary

Typical board member activities include:

- Attend once a month board meetings
- Make a commitment to participate actively in board and club activities
- Stay informed of club matters
- Actively participate in planning efforts

GRATTAN — A REAR VIEW

BY OUR MEMBERS FOR OUR MEMBERS



AS IT TURNS OUT, GRATTAN NEEDS INTERESTING NAMES FOR ITS CORNERS. GO ONLINE AND SHARE YOUR COLORFUL IDEAS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

OH CANADA

BY DON AND HELEN SAZAMA

Helen and I started planning this trip to Ontario and Quebec in February as a combination vacation/track week. (As some of you may know, I kind of got hooked on this and have almost 100 track days at 13 different tracks under my belt). We have fresh oil in the Cayenne and new tires on the 911 and we were ready to go.

We had a pleasant drive to Port Huron on August 15. We had over ½ hour wait at the Blue Water Bridge. I sure would not want to be a truck driver. The remainder of the drive to the Bowmanville area east of Toronto was uneventful and we arrived late afternoon after a 400 mile drive. Thankfully, MPH is easily calculated as 60% of KPH. Canadian Tire Motorsports Park was about a 30 minute drive from the motel and we arrived about 7:00 A.M. Then things got interesting. They could not find my registration and set me up in a novice group. I mentioned that I was a PCA instructor and they found my information in another folder. When I opened the packet, I had another surprise. I had a student for the weekend on a track I knew nothing about.

The final surprise was that we were not driving on the old Mosport track, but on a much shorter driver development track. Too bad, because I had planned to drive the longer track. I worked with my student for eight sessions on Saturday and Sunday. The track was really good in that it had all the elements of a regular track (esses, chicanes, elevation changes, etc.) but the lower speeds made it perfect for novice drivers. I think my student has a greater appreciation of what he and his car are capable of. It rained Saturday afternoon so he also got some experience with wet track conditions.

The next surprise was finding out the Engineered Automotive had rented the longer track for a Monday track day. The driver next to me gave me the contact information and I was able to sign up for Monday. Hey, it's vacation and what's another \$700? I did not drive on Sunday as I wanted to save my tires for Monday and the following weekend.

We arrived at the track Monday morning. The company owner's wife was very helpful and arranged for me to ride two laps with an employee in his jeep and for a professional driver to ride with me for the first session. It really helped as I was able to attain good speed very quickly. What a great track. Very high speed turns and a long straight. 5th gear got a good workout. My last session was cancelled because someone tried too hard and totaled a really nice M3.

Tuesday we drove to Mont Tremblant. It was another nice day for traveling. A lot of two lane roads, small towns and great scenery. We saw a sign that said ferry and followed a tour bus on a narrow steep road to the river. Twenty minutes and \$17 later we were in Quebec on the other side of the Ottawa River. (We had to learn that arret means stop).






2014 EVENT CALENDAR

WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION · PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA


	Date	Event	Location	Host(s)/Event Chair(s)
OCT	10-06	Monthly Board Meeting	Delta Imports, Grand Rapids, MI	WMR PCA Club
	10-11	The Dam Fall Color Tour	Pierson Township Hall: 21156 W Cannonsville Rd, Pierson	Duane & Brenda Weed
NOV	11-03	Annual Planning Dinner	Bistro Bella Vita, Grand Rapids, MI	WMR PCA Club
	11-06 through 11-09	PCA Escape 2014	Orlando, FL	Porsche Club of America, National Event
	TBD	November Dinner Drive	Destination TBD	W. & Miluzka Bubeck
DEC	12-01	Monthly Board Meeting	Delta Imports, Grand Rapids, MI	WMR PCA Club
	12-06	December Appetizer Party	West Olive, MI	Mike Karluk & Barbara Doss

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



Thinking about hosting an event? Nov. 3rd is our planning dinner!

Join us there, or simply stop by our Monthly Board Meetings. Contact your WMRPCA Officers. We can help you work through the details. For example: Driving Events require insurance, etc.



We arrived at Mont Tremblant that afternoon and went to the track to leave the trailer until Friday. Wednesday we played tourist and rode a tram to the top of the mountain. We had really good food and service at various restaurants during our stay. Most of them were near the Hotel which was good as we were both kind of tired of riding in the car.

Thursday we went to the track to check on the trailer. Another surprise. No trailer. What a sinking feeling that is. All I can think of is insurance claim hassles and driving 700 miles and now no car. I found a track employee and he said they moved it to the other end of the paddock. No problem, but they cut the padlock on the hitch. Now to go shopping. We also found that they have no air or fuel at the track. After overcoming the language barrier (no, I don't speak French) we acquired

a new padlock, two 20 liter fuel containers and a tire inflator. Friday morning I got another surprise. The chair of the weekend from RSR region started the drivers meeting in French. Fortunately for me and several others, he repeated everything in English. I drove 10 sessions over the course of the weekend. What a fun track. High speed, lots of elevation changes. Only one incident when a GT3 rearranged a rear quarter panel. There were 120 registrants and more than 20 GT3's. There must be a lot of money in Quebec. On my last session

Sunday I think my tires finally gave up. I had no understeer all week but could not make turn five and ended up in the grass. Fortunately it was not at high speed and no damage was done. The trip back to Byron Center was a long one. We saw a lot of beautiful scenery on the trip. Next stop? The tire shop. — *Don Sazama*

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- Ted and Gabriele Blacklidge

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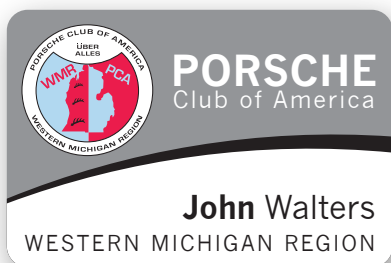


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Contributed by WMR PCA member
 Tim Thatcher, ASE-Certified Master Technician
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LIFETIME TRANSMISSION FLUIDS — HYPE OR FACT

Over the years, engine oils, transmission fluids and coolants have improved to the point where some manufacturers claim they are “lifetime” fluids and claim sealed transmissions never need fluid changes. Is this just marketing hype to reduce the cost of a vehicles annual service or do the fluids really last forever? So what does “lifetime” imply? The life of the car? The warranty period? The life of the fluid? The lifetime of the transmission?

HERE ARE SOME INTERESTING FACTS

DEALING WITH TRANSMISSIONS:

- Today’s engines, if taken care of, last longer than ever and it’s not uncommon to see them hit 300,000 miles, the question is, did the lifetime fluid in the transmission make it?
- It is estimated that over 13 million automatic transmissions fail every year while the car’s engine is running perfectly fine.

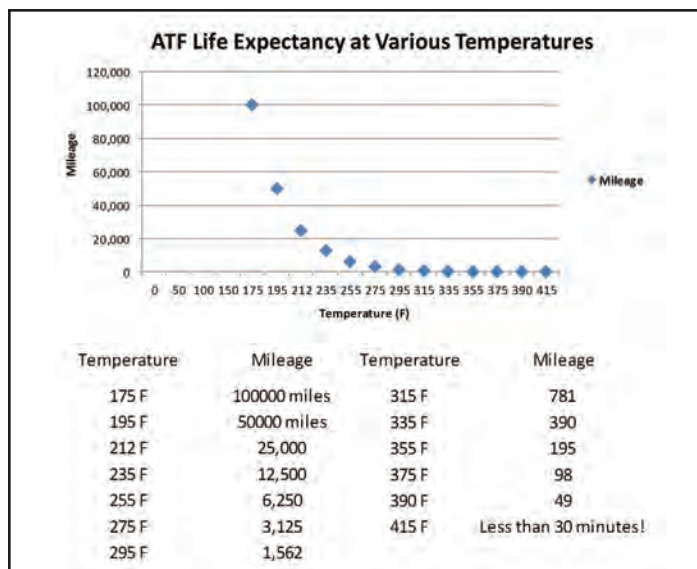
WHY SO MANY FAILURES? TODAY’S TRANSMISSIONS ARE STRESSED MORE THAN EVER BEFORE:

- They are smaller, lighter and have many more gears; 6 – 8 speed automatics are very common.
- They can be dual clutch (DCT) design or Continuously Variable (CVT) design.
- Friction and heat are still the driving factors that contribute to transmission failure, creating oxidation of fluids which breaks down their ability to perform properly. Transmissions require not only the correct fluid, but fluid that still has the ability to perform.
- Perhaps the number one culprit is failed automatic transmission fluids due to OEMs marketing and promoting “Lifetime Fluids”.

In my opinion, Lifetime fluid simply means the life of the fluid. So how do we tell how much life the fluid has?

One method is to use the SWAG theory (Scientific Wild Ass Guess) or we can use some common sense and scientific diagnostic aids. If you’re the owner of a Lifetime fluid car or SUV, you can have the fluid tested to determine its quality. By having it tested, you can then judge how many miles the fluid can go before their “lifetime” is used up. Results will vary for many reasons, for example, how is the vehicle used.

Do you tow anything with it or use it extremely hard (making it change gears constantly)? Gear changes = heat and wear on your transmission. The attached chart shows ATF life expectancy under various temperatures. As you can see, under certain conditions, today’s fluids can last up to 100,000 miles, but as the temperature of the fluid increases, its life expectancy goes down dramatically.



The normal operating temperature for a transmission is approximately 175° F, but note that for every increase of 20°, its life expectancy is cut in half. Spending \$400 – \$500 on a transmission fluid change can appear to be pretty expensive, however, with a price tag of \$4,500 or more for a transmission, being proactive and having the fluid changed can be quite a bargain. Today’s fluids do last longer and perform much better than those in the past, but they still have a life expectancy and that expectancy varies greatly depending upon the use of the vehicle. Fluid diagnostics is the key to identifying fluid change intervals to reduce consumption and waste, improve reliability, and reduce overall operating and repair costs over the life of a vehicle. — Tim

WMR MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

Delta Porsche, Grand Rapids September 8, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Mike Karluk at 7:02 pm.
Members present were: Mike Karluk, Amber Door, Brenda Hildon-Kaempf, John and Marshall Walters, Ted & Gabi Blacklidge, Colin Carpenter, and Dan Phillips.

Treasurer's Report: Approved. Amber will submit non-profit filing with the State of Michigan.

Membership Report:

Primary Members: 268
Affiliate Members: 188
Total Members: 456
New Members: 1
Transfers In: 0
Transfers Out: 0
Non renewals: 4
Renewals: 16

Minutes: Minutes from August meeting approved.

Insurance Report: Insurance needed for September dinner drive.

Über Alles Editor's Report:

Print version will be received this week. Apologies for any missed emails while Wolfgang was in Germany.

Webmaster's Report: Nothing new to report.

Social Media Report: No report.

Old Business:

- Red Barn Spectacular, Gilmore Car Museum: 27 cars and nice weather – enjoyed by all.
- August Dinner Drive: Great time by all.
- German Auto Service Open House: At least 15 attendees from our region – very well attended.
- IROC III (Michiana Region): 4 from our region. Great weather and turnout.

New Business:

- Grand Prix of Grattan – September 13 and 14: Everything is set. 59 registrants.
- Dinner Drive, hosted by Dan & Ren Phillips – Boyne City: Blast has gone out. Info is in the Uber. Will be meeting at the Grand Traverse Resort with an 11:15 departure. 1:30 arrival planned at the restaurant. 10 people confirmed to-date.
- Fall Color Tour – October 11: No information to-date. Will post once available.
- Annual Planning Meeting – Bistro Bella Vita Nov. 3: details to be posted to the web and Uber Alles.
- Charity Subsidy: Paperwork to be filed for Grattan Charity laps. Mike will work with Gabi to complete.

Meeting was adjourned 7:47 pm

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Hildon-Kaempf

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THE TAILPIPE

BY WOLFGANG HOFMANN, ÜBER ALLES EDITOR



Wolfgang Hofmann
Über Alles Editor,
Western Michigan Region

For those of us blessed, with a flat-six open-air concert, this time of year is as sweet, as the first warm days of Spring. Not that I mind the convertible experience in the Summer, far from it.

Yet, fair complected individuals, such as myself, simply can't enjoy the full on Summer assault of

Mother Nature. Not even for the 3 days, we actually have summer, here in Michigan. "Guards Red" is simply not a good look for a balding, middle-aged guy. On the car, that's a different story. So the roof stays up and the air-con is on. Until, the temps outside drop to 73 degrees.

Now — It's hard to describe to someone with a fixed-roof car what happens when you finally do take the roof off. The lack of torsional stiffness so thought-after on a race-track is replaced by miles of smiles. Blue sky, where

con-trails above, chase Porsche shadows below. The scents of Fall, leaf-burning, last BBQs of the season, the stillness and grace of star-filled sky, accented by lovely little snorts from the Porsche Sports Exhaust System. That's something a rolled-down window can't re-create.

Congratulate these fine folks on their Western Michigan Porsche Club Anniversaries and extend a warm "Willkommen" to our new members.

Glückwünsche! — Anniversaries

- 1 year Donald Bouschor, (2013)
 Rex Tsui & Joyce Lo, (2013)
- 10 years Jonelle & John Kettman, (2004)
- 15 years Jim & Ardis Schaaf, (1999)

Willkommen! — New Members

- Matthew Stares, Grand Rapids · '02 911
- Gary Castile, Traverse City · '83 911

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