

PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA Über Alles Western Michigan Region

Upcoming Events:

Tire Rack Street Survival
Fall Color Tour

Tech Spalte: Demise of the
Lowly Dipstick

In Review: Grand Prix of
Grattan Driver's Education

Tailpipe: Trivia Contest!



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IGNITION

OCTOBER, 2017



Annual Appetizer Party at Chateau Karluk on
Saturday, December 2, 2017.

Keep an eye out for more information in next month's
Über Alles.

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PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA
Über Alles
Western Michigan Region

On the cover:
The Magnificent Upper Peninsula Drive
Canyon Falls Park along the Sturgeon River
Photo by Pete Stott

FALL IS IN THE AIR

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Mike Karluk
President,
Western Michigan Region

You've undoubtedly noticed the new look of our monthly newsletter. The Western Michigan Region of Porsche Club of America is keeping pace with Autoweek and MotorSport to name two magazines that recently updated their look. Thanks to the inquiring mind of Shari Hoek who posed the obvious, if equally obviously long-overlooked question of "Über Alles what?" Long ago in a galaxy far away when a Porsche was simply a twinkle in my eye rather than a beauty in my garage, the WMR newsletter was called "Porsche Über Alles." Something called the Fair Use Agreement was signed by PCA in December 2001 that recognized the name and corporate symbols of Porsche as the intellectual property of Porsche and as such could not be used without Porsche permission. In keeping with this agreement, "Über Alles" made its first appearance in January 2002. With willing support behind a proposal to return the newsletter name to "Porsche Über Alles," Rick Riley contacted the PCA National office and the legal team at Porsche Cars North America. Grateful for our desire to do homage to the marque, both Porsche and PCNA regretfully informed us that "Porsche Über Alles" violated the Fair Use Agreement for their intellectual property, but we could happily and legally rename our newsletter "Western Michigan Region - Porsche Club of America Über Alles." There you have it.

We had perfect weather for a perfect weekend of High Performance Driver Education at the Grand Prix of Grattan weekend of September 9 and 10. There was a large turnout of drivers and cars with lots of running time that moved flawlessly thanks to Event Chairman Ted Blacklidge, Safety Officer Eric Spross, Registrar Amber Door, Chief Driving Instructor Terry Schieble, announcer Michael Betz, Colin Carpenter and Craig Paull who handled the pit lane, and all the other members who volunteered their time and expertise. We also netted approximately \$1,600 dollars for one of our charities, Feeding America - West Michigan, between straight donations and the \$20 donation to run parade laps during lunchtime. Thanks to everyone who donated!



Our season is winding down with remaining events including the Tire Rack Street Survival teen and young adult driving clinic on Sunday, October 8 at Fifth Third Ballpark; Marshall and John Walters' Fall Color Tour drive on Saturday, October 21; the Annual Planning Meeting on November 6, which will be held at Bistro Bella Vita in downtown Grand Rapids; Lin and Randy Portoluri's dinner at Peppino's Sports Grille on Saturday, November 11; and the Appetizer Party to be held at Chateau Karluk on Saturday December 2.

Take care with those high performance summer tires as temperatures dip and join us at one of the upcoming events!

-Mike

**ACCESS THE MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES ON OUR WEBSITE.
[HTTP://WMI.PCA.ORG/ABOUT-US/MINUTES](http://wmi.pca.org/about-us/minutes)**



We're looking for event hosts for 2017

Simply stop by our Monthly Board Meeting, or contact our WMRPCA Social Events Coordinator, Lynne Olenyk, with your event ideas. Lynne will help you work through the details and make your event a success. E-Mail: lynniemarie@charter.net · Phone: (616) 710-0122



NOVEMBER PLANNING MEETING

HOST: WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

Do YOU want to be part of the FUN and help other Enthusiastic WMR PCA Members have FUN in 2018???

Come join us for the Annual Planning Meeting on Monday, November 6 from 6pm - 9pm at Bistro Bella Vita in Downtown Grand Rapids. The meeting is open for anyone wishing to organize an activity or become an active member of the Board. We'll enjoy good food and ruminate over our 2018 event plans.

WHEN: Monday, November 06, 2017 @ 6:00pm

WHERE: Bistro Bella Vita
44 Grandville Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

RSVP By November 1: Mike Karluk at
mbkmd9198@charter.net



NOVEMBER DINNER DRIVE

HOSTS: RANDY AND LIN PORTOLURI

Peppino's isn't just pizza! Discover that on November 11, at 5:00 pm. We were unable to reserve the Main Street Pub due to a GVSU home football game. We believe this alternative will be to everyone's liking. It is west of the Main Street Pub on M45.

The menu will be a buffet called a "Taste of Italy". It features chicken parmesan, fettuccine alfredo, lasagna, breadsticks tossed in garlic butter and Romano cheese, plus salad. \$16.99 per person (drinks not included). The managers have us in a place they call "The Loft".

Join us for good food, good fun, and good friends. Weather permitting drive your baby's!



WHEN: Saturday, November 11, 2017 @ 5:00pm

WHERE: Peppino's Sports Grille
5065 Lake Michigan Dr.
Allendale, MI 49401

RSVP By November 6: Randy and Lin Portoluri at
rportoluri66@charter.net
or 616-842-9266



TIRE RACK STREET SURVIVAL

HOSTS: DONALD SAZAMA AND WMR PCA / BMW CCA



Nothing but home runs at 5/3 Ballpark on Sunday October 8th!

We are again hosting the Tire Rack Street Survival school this year. Last year was a success and we hope to have twenty students this year.

If you know of a teen driver that could benefit from some great driving instruction, please direct them to the street survival website (www.StreetSurvival.org) or go to http://wmi.pca.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/TSSS_singlepage_Flyer_2017.pdf for an informational flyer.

We can always use more volunteer help. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Don Sazama at dsazama@pioneersteel.us

Thank You! Don Sazama

WHEN: Sunday, October 8, 2017
from 8:00AM – 4:00PM
(Lunch provided for students)

WHERE: Fifth Third Ballpark
4500 West River Drive
Comstock Park, MI 49321



Tire Rack Street Survival Class of 2016 and Instructors



OCTOBER FALL COLOR TOUR

HOSTS: JOHN AND MARSHALL WALTERS

Please join John and Marshall Walters for a fall color tour and drive to The Dock, on Gull Lake, on Saturday, October 21st. The Dock has a varied menu, and has provided excellent food and service in our prior visits. We will meet in the parking lot of the Family Farm and Home store in Wayland – just off US 131 (Exit 64) at 3:00, for a 3:30 departure. From Wayland, we will enjoy a 60+ minute drive through the Yankee Springs area and Barry County, arriving at The Dock around 4:45.

WHEN: Saturday, October 21, 2017
3:00pm meet-up for 3:30pm departure

WHERE: Family Farm and Home in Wayland
376 Reno Drive
Wayland, MI 49348



DESTINATION: The Dock at Bayview
12504 E D Ave, Richland 49083
(Arrive approximately 4:45pm)



RSVP BY OCTOBER 18:

Marshall at marshall.walters@willistowerswatson.com or
(616) 780-1210





Get Ready, Get Set...GO!!!

Month of September Events **Snap** SHOTS

Photos by
Wolfgang Bubeck, Amber Door, Pete Stott



Porsches at Play



The Track Walk at the Beautiful Grattan Raceway



Whose GT3 is that???
The Ladies Kaczmarczyk Supporting the Lunch Time Charity Laps



Track Walk...Learning the Lines from the Master, Bob Stander



The Upper Peninsula Drive Crew Enjoying the Wonderful Weather and Scenery

2017 EVENT CALENDAR



PORSCHE

WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION · PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

	Date	Event	Location	Host(s)/Event Chair(s)
OCT	10-02	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche Grand Rapids	WMR PCA Club
	10-08	Tire Rack Street Survival (TRSS) Training	Fifth Third Ballpark, Comstock Park, MI	Don Sazama & WMR PCA/BMW CCA
	10-21	Fall Color Tour	The Dock at Bayview Richland, MI	John & Marshall Walters
NOV	11-06	Annual Planning & Board Meeting	Bistro Bella Vita Grand Rapids, MI	WMR PCA Club
	11-11	November Dinner Drive	Peppino's Sports Grille, Allendale, MI	Randy and Lin Portoluri
DEC	12-02	December Appetizer Party	West Olive, MI	Mike Karluk & Barb Doss
	12-04	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche Grand Rapids	WMR PCA Club

IN REVIEW: GRATTAN HPDE

BY: TED BLACKLIDGE, EVENT CHAIR

Your club held its annual drivers education event on September 9-10 and I would like to say that we ordered up the best weekend weather in about 10 years. Unbelievable!! Not a cloud in the sky, cool mornings and high 60's in the afternoon. The cars loved it and so did the drivers.

A big THANK YOU to everyone that worked to make the event successful. These club members have given their time over many years to make this event a well-oiled machine: Amber Door and Jerry Arens, Michael Betz, Colin Carpenter, Craig Paull, Rick Riley, Terry Schieble, Eric and Lina Spross, John and Marshall Walters, Tyan Roland, Karlene Currie, Don Sazama, and my wife, Gabi.

Also, THANK YOU to the volunteer driving instructors that spent Saturday with 12 students. Without them, this event would not take place.

What fun to see 60 plus drivers hit the track in a variety of cars - Audi, Corvette, Camero, Mustang, Volkswagen, Subaru, Maserati and Porsche, of course. Also on Saturday and Sunday, our traditional breakfast donations and charity parade laps raised money for Feeding America West Michigan. It was very successful! Dinner on Saturday evening was a fun social event to talk about, what else, cars, life and cars. Beverages were provided by Patrick Dowd from Petoskey Brewing and delivered by Tony Sitko.

After over 40 years of hosting a drivers education event at Grattan Raceway, it looks like your club does a very good job. We've got room on the track to see more WMR club members join in the fun next year.



*The Event Chair
Overseeing the Well-Oiled Machine*

PORSCHE 911 GT2 RS LAPS NÜRBURGRING IN 6:47.3, A ROAD-LEGAL PRODUCTION CAR RECORD

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PORSCHE

BY: DAMON LOWNEY

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

It seems like Nürburgring Nordschleife lap times have been falling at an exponential pace lately, and Porsche has always preferred to have the fastest car around the 12.8-mile track in Germany. Not to be outdone by the competition, the automaker's new 911 GT2 RS just set the production car lap record, a physics-defying 6 minutes and 47.3 seconds, on September 20.



Above: From left: Eugen Oberkamm (Director Motorsport – Development Complete Vehicle), Andreas Preuninger (Director GT Model Line), Lars Kern (Porsche Test Driver) and Dr. Frank-Steffen Walliser (Vice President Motorsport and GT-Cars) after the record lap at the Nuerburgring Nordschleife.

The 887-horsepower 918 Spyder hybrid supercar lapped the track in 6:57 only a few years back, which is more than 30 seconds faster than Porsche's previous supercar, the mid-2000s Carrera GT (7:28.71). Then along came the Lamborghini Huracán Performante with a mere 640 hp, which blazed across the start/finish line in 6:52.01 in October 2016 and was met with skepticism from various

parties after the time was released to the public. One can only imagine what Porsche engineers and drivers felt when the Lambo's lap time was announced. So it was off to work, and Porsche's mission was even clearer than before.

"At the start of the development process, we set ourselves a lap time target for the GT2 RS of less than 7 minutes and 5 seconds," said Frank-Steffen Walliser, Vice President of Porsche's Motorsport and GT Cars departments. "The credit for beating this target by 17.7 seconds goes to our development engineers, mechanics, and drivers, who demonstrated an exceptionally strong team performance."

Porsche Test Driver Lars Kern set the record, and Factory Driver Nick Tandy also joined in the attempt directly following a race in Austin, Texas. Porsche says both Kern and Tandy were able to beat the Huracán's record of 6:52.01 on their first attempt and then went on to clock in under 6:50 for five more laps.



To watch the full record breaking video, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fh8_2zQZ3xM

Article reprinted with permission from Porsche Club of America

TRACK FACTS: NÜRBURGRING NORDSCHLEIFE

[HTTP://WWW.NUERBURGRING.DE/EN/FANS-INFO/RACE-TRACKS/NORDSCHLEIFE.HTML](http://www.nuerburgring.de/en/fans-info/race-tracks/nordschleife.html)



Official Start of Construction: 27 September 1925

Length: 20.832 km

Turns: 73 (33 left, 40 right)

Gradients: max. 17 percent

Slopes: max. 11 percent

Highest Point: Hohe Acht, 616.80 above sea level

Lowest Point: Breidscheid, 320 m above sea level

Original Track Length: 22.8 km Nordschleife + 7.7 km Südschleife = 28 km, (89 left turns - 84 right turns)

Track Record: May 12, 2017

2016 NextEV Nio EP9

6:45.90





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- Ted and Gabriele Blackledge

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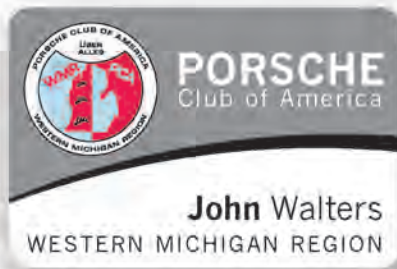


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Contributed by WMR PCA member
Tim Thatcher, ASE-Certified Master Technician
and Owner, Euro Autowerks

DEMISE OF THE LOWLY DIPSTICK AND SATURDAY MORNING CAR TIME

So why has the dipstick, used for checking engine oil and transmission fluid level, disappeared?

One can only speculate of the reasoning behind the car manufacturers actions, but one thing is obvious, the manufacturer and engineers would rather trust a computerized sensor than a vehicle owner. The Saturday morning rehearsal of spending quality time with our car has been replaced by pressure sensors and level gauges.

We once had to have interactions with our vehicles, such as:

- Using the tire gauge to check the tire pressure, which provided a perfect opportunity to check the tires for wear
- Checking our engine oil and coolant levels
- Filling the windshield washer tank and checking the wipers
- Inspecting our belts for cracks and our hoses for leaks

This was a time when we could start our car, get it warmed up and check the transmission fluid level. It also allowed us to see the color condition of the fluid, which could alert us that a fluid change and flush was needed. Alas, these times are long gone. There is no longer a need for you to interact with your vehicle in such a personal way.

Now, with sensors monitoring everything for us, we no longer have the need to even leave the driver's seat. When the windshield washer solvent light comes on, you know it's time to fill it. When the coolant level indicator comes on, you know you have a leak and it's time to take it to the shop, after topping it off and making sure you can safely drive it. The oil level indicator can be pulled up with the push of a button, or numerous pushes to reach the right screen and tire pressure can be checked in the same manner.

But wait! How is my transmission fluid level, and what were the engineers thinking? They removed the dipstick and forgot to provide a computerized display of its level. But even if you could check it, you would soon learn that there's no way to fill it, because they forgot the filler plug as well.

Your car automatically tells you when service or regular maintenance is needed. There's even an indicator to let you know that the brakes are worn and service is needed, just as with many other systems.

So, short of pushing a few buttons and going through numerous screens, letting the computers tell you when it's time to head to the service center, is there any need to spend Saturday morning with your car?

I think there is. As computerized as our most modern military aircraft is, the pilot always does a walk around before starting it up. So grab that cup of coffee Saturday morning and check under the hood, looking around for anything that may seem out of place or unusual.



Take a walk around your car checking the tires for wear and any possible fluid leaks.

Once you've completed your "walk-around", set down and enjoy your coffee while you learn your car's systems.



Check the different functions of the computerized controls and become familiar with them. Learn how to find that

oil level screen quickly and don't forget to top off the windshield washer solvent, because you're going to need it. Winter is coming.

So what's the point of this article? With winter coming, many of us are pulling out our winter rides and the Porsche is being waxed, covered and parked in the garage. This article is a reminder that now is the time to make a physical check of your Porsche, before parking it and before cold weather arrives. In addition, taking a few minutes now to perform a "walk-around" of your Porsche and winter ride, may save you time and money in the long run.

There is just no substitute for a visual inspection and preventive maintenance service.

Enjoy your car,

-Tim

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Join me in congratulating these fine folks on their WMR PCA Anniversaries and extend a warm "Willkommen" to our new members and transfers.

Glückwünsche! — Anniversaries

1 year (2016) Larry Hamilton

10 years (2007) Robert & Colleen Benjamin

25 years (1992) John & Jan Bookmeier

Willkommen! — New Members & Transfers

None from the Month of September.

THE TAILPIPE

BY L. SPROSS, ÜBER ALLES EDITOR

Trivia Contest!

September Answer: The Chicago Region was originally part of the WMR IROC series. They put their IROC event on at Grattan. Eventually they dropped out of IROC and WMR started using Grattan as an annual event. It was suggested, due to the complexity of the track, that we should have a "novice" class with instruction available. And thus began what we know today as our Lloyd LaHuis Grattan Grand Prix driver education event.

October Question: What is the Mission of Porsche Club of America?

Email your responses to uberwmr@gmail.com

WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION,
PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA
C/O Lina Spross

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