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Western Michigan Region

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Wishful Thinking

In Review:
Oct. Dinner Drive #1 & #2

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IGNITION

OCTOBER, 2020

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On the cover:
The first official dinner drive for 2020 in Oct. ??
Photo taken by Amber Door
Edited by WB



PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA
Uber Alles
Western Michigan Region

GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jim Chiavaras
President, Western Michigan Region

I don't know about everyone else but I will be glad to see 2020 in the rear-view mirror and I'm thankful that it is fast approaching the end of the year. Although I am not looking forward to winter, I am optimistic that 2021 will be better, at least for the next driving season.

It has indeed been a trying time not seeing a good portion of our WMR members for several months. I do miss the camaraderie that we have had at past events. It was nice to have at least two events in October, I was not able to attend the second drive but see that there was a good turn out at both events.

As you may have seen, we have changed the November planning meeting to a zoom meeting on Monday November 2 at 7 PM rather than an in person event so that everyone can be included.

There was an article that I found interesting in Road & Track from October 2, 2020 which shows Porsche USA sales for the third quarter were led by the Taycan which outsold the 911, 718, and Panamera which makes it the third best selling Porsche behind the Macan and Cayenne for the quarter.

It is too early to tell if this will last, though. In the second quarter, the 911 outsold the Taycan, 718, and Panamera combined.

Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Jim

IN REVIEW: DINNER DRIVE 1

BY: RANDALL PORTOLURI

I want to thank everyone who attended our drive to the Dog and Suds. I had already super feedback from members that it brought back old memories. It sure does for us. The Dog and Suds in Grand Haven (long gone) was our favorite hang out while dating and first married. I counted 16 cars on the drive and almost double that amount of people. I only wish we had control of the miserable cold rainy weather. Though it pretty much stopped raining in Montague, must be a blessed town. If you noticed the sandbags by the lake that whole area was flooded this spring, including the drive in. We felt honored to be the first real drive of this tragic pandemic year. We all needed to get out and drive. That's what car clubs do.



Randy (right) on duty



ACCESS THE MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES ON OUR WEBSITE.

[HTTP://WMI.PCA.ORG/ABOUT-US/MINUTES/MINUTES-ARCHIVE/](http://wmi.pca.org/about-us/minutes/minutes-archive/)



We're looking for event hosts for 2021

Simply stop by our Monthly Board Meeting, or contact our WMR PCA 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





Wow, what a difference a week makes in a Michigan October! I swapped the dates with Randy because Red Flannel Days was on the 3rd, our original date. Unfortunately it was cold and rainy for Randy's drive.

It was top down weather for the brewery drive! How refreshing it was to have an event after so many cancellations. Eighteen vehicles left AJ's Family Fun Center on a beautiful fall color tour. We had quite a diverse collection of Porsches. Included in our group was a Macan, a rare 928, Gen1 Boxsters, 911s, Caymans and newer Boxsters. A special thanks to Randy Portoluri for performing sweep driver duties in his Ford van.

We wound our way toward picturesque Cannonsburg. The train of Porsches enjoyed the curves past Gavin and Bostwick Lakes. As we continued, everyone enjoyed the view of glistening Myers Lake. Finally we zig-zagged our way toward the Cedar Springs Brewery.

The colors in the trees were spectacular! Apologies, apparently the Google navigation and Google's turn by turn directions didn't agree with each other. The printed directions were correct but the navigation missed a turn. All was well in the end as club members arrived safely.

Something wonderful happened that I need to share with everyone. My original intent for the drive was to honor our dear beloved friend Kurt Wirth. Kurt hosted many WMR PCA Dinners at the Schnitzelbank restaurant in Grand Rapids. As many of you know the Schnitzelbank closed. Alas, we shall not be in sorrow and loss because the menu, chefs and wall art from the Schnitzelbank found their way to Cedar Springs Brewery! In November I reserved the room with the wall art from the Schnitzelbank. Due to the virus situation, I was told that we could not use that room. But lo and behold, what should happen, they opened the room! Club members enjoyed authentic German cuisine and beer!

I want to thank all of the people behind the scenes that make an event like this possible. Also, Renee and I want to personally thank everyone for attending and sharing in this wonderful group of people that is the Porsche Club of America!

Sincerely,

Paul





No, this month's column is not about micro beers, but rather how our Region was originally brewed. And we can undoubtedly refer to Philip Gidley and William Sholar as the "Founders".

During the later months of 1960, Bill Sholar held the position of the first PCA Executive Secretary. But it was years before at his Alexandria, Virginia apartment where a "gripe-group" of early Porsche owners would meet. It eventually led, in August 1954, to the formal organization of the Porsche Club of America with Bill as its first president. At one point during those early years, Bill was simultaneously president, Panorama editor, production manager, chief administrative officer, Parade chairman, and Potomac Region president. Net search "An Homage to Bill Sholar" for a wonderful story by former Pano editor Betty Jo Turner about Bill.

East Lansing's Philip Gidley was our region's counterpart. The closest organized Porsche Club region at that time was in Detroit. Phil took it upon himself to contact the interested Porsche owners and coordinate a formal application to form a new region, the Western Michigan Region. He was also going to grad school, living in an apartment, a 356 was his daily driver, and he welcomed the birth of his first daughter that same year. I've reached out to Phil's daughters and they have agreed to help with a future UberAlles article about him including an genuine disagreement with the hospital staff about the vehicle he intended to bring his new baby girl home in, a 4-cam Carrera Speedster!

In this day of Internet communication, instant messaging, zooming, and unlimited free long distance, traditional business letter writing has pretty much become a lost art. Few people take the time to write using anything close to the Queen's English. In our history files, we have fortunately saved the elegant correspondence over the course of four months in 1960 between Gidley and Sholar that gives us a look at the beginnings of our Region sixty years ago this month. What follows are a few excerpts from those letters.

August 18, 1960 - Phil Gidley wrote to fellow western Michigan Porsche owners.

"There are several PCAers of my acquaintance who are interested in some PCA activity, but who find Detroit too great a distance to handle conveniently, and/or would like to have a program more specifically fitting their needs and wants. These people, as well as myself, feel a need and desire for a PCA Region in the Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing area..... We need ten members to form a region, and although this is certainly not an impressive paper figure, ten sincerely interested individuals could well constitute a most meaningful group.....It is the purpose of this letter to ask if you feel you would stand firmly behind a newly formed region; taking an active role in its formulation, in the planning of its activities and in participation at events?Let me again point to the desires of the group, for I feel there are many Porsche owners whose interests do not coincide with the active rally clubs in this area.

With best wishes, Philip A. Gidley"

October 8, 1960 - Gidley to Bill Sholar requesting what organizational materials are needed.

"I have just finished twenty personal letters, so please be a bit forgiving to any shortcomings of this note.....I have received enthusiastic replies from as far north of Grand Rapids as Traverse City, with 70% taking time to reply personally.

Continued on page 8

2020 Fall Drives SnapSHOTS

Photos by
Amber Door & Wolfgang Bubeck



So true.....

2020 EVENT CALENDAR

WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION · PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

	Date	Event	Location	Host(s)/Event Chair(s)
NOV	11-02	2021 Planning & Board Meeting	Linear Restaurant Grand Rapids, MI	WMR PCA
	11-21	November Dinner Drive	Railtown Brewing Dutton, MI CANCELED	Jim & Kim Chiavaras
DEC	12-07	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche Grand Rapids	WMR PCA
	12-12	Annual Appetizer Party	West Olive, MI CANCELED	Mike Karluk & Barb Doss

A LOOK BACK - BY CHUCK OLENYK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

...I suppose the group is a bit unique, at least as it stands now, for 50% preface their names with Dr. ...I have heard so much about you from Earl(then PCA President, Earl Kirschbaum) that I feel we should be old acquaintances. Possibly the '61 Parade will at least give us the opportunity to shake hands, and match faces with letters.

With best wishes, Philip A. Gidley"

October 16, 1960 - Sholar to Gidley noting the "special importance" to carefully list the Regional Boundaries with "WRITTEN PERMISSION" from adjacent Regions to take over what was previously their area.

"It is good to see a group taking shape in Western Michigan...I know that it has been difficult for PCAers to take part in activities in Detroit.....Enclosed is some material which, if you will dig thru it, should provide most of the information you'll need to help organize. I am sending separately a large PCA Banner which will lend a bit of authenticity to your meeting....a little token to the new Region.

Cordially, Bill Sholar"

October 31, 1960 - Gidley to Sholar after the first organized meeting held October 22nd at the Greenridge Country Club in Grand Rapids.

"Let me first thank you for the help and cooperation you have given me in my attempt to rally a few hearty Porsche owners together to form a new PCA region. Thirty-one enthusiastic individuals attended the planning meeting, and so we are on our way!We are operating with a board of directors until December elections take over, and seemed to reach a general consensus on what we want our region to be. We have a hard core that want to take the bull by the horns, so with a little direction, I feel we are in good shape. "With best wishes, Phil"



November 12, 1960 - Petition for recognition as a "Charter Region" sent to Dr. Earl Kirschbaum, PCA President, signed by the first WMR officers Philip Gidley, Norman Dunn, John Owen plus the seven additional original members.

"The undersigned....herewith petition for the recognition as a "Chartered Region"of the Porsche Club of America....The name of the Region will be PCA, Western Michigan Region.....If Charter is granted, (WMR/PCA) will observe the requirements and Objectives set forth in the By-Laws of the Porsche Club of America and will conduct itself in such a manner as to be a credit to PCA and the Marque"

The Charter was granted on November 26, 1960

Chuck Olenyk
Historian



AROUND THE ZONE

BY: LORI SCHUTZ



Hi Zone 4 Friends and Family,

So what to do for the next few months? The PCA Sim Racing program is moving to the Zone level for competitive events. Led by Dave Palmer from our Zone 4, teaming up with a few leads from Zone 2 - there is a full schedule of eDE for practice, qualifying and racing. Visit <https://pcasimracing.com/> for the overall program information. The Zone Racing program combines zones into 3 groups - Zone 2&4 are together. Visit our Zone Racing page at <https://pcasimracing.com/zones-group-2-4/> for additional contact information, racing rules, and dates.



As the weather turns, the leaves turn, we flip over one more page of the calendar for 2020. A year in many respects we'd like to forget! Yet, we aren't forgetting what is most important to us - our friends and the giving nature of our PCA regions. So many of you are having virtual events and still maintaining your giving to your charities. Thanks so much for your continued support.

We wrapped up our High Performance Driver Education series in October. With a late start this year, we finished strong, with many regions successful holding solo only events and filling our rosters to keep the treasury in the positive. I was able to join THE Mid-Ohio region

for their finale at Indy - see the photo above from the Saturday afternoon touring laps of the oval. How much fun to get to be on both tracks in both directions on the same day! At the request of the Speedway and Mr. Penske, we kept our masks on at all times, except when wearing a helmet. Great selfie with MOR President Gerhard Hillman with our masks from the 25th annual PCA Club Race from earlier this year. Color tours happened all across the Zone, what great fun to drive down the highways and byways with our Porsche friends to enjoy the beautiful fall colors. They are gone all too soon.

Enjoy the fall weather and stay safe!

Lori

zone4rep@national.pca.org



For more PCA National and Inter-Regional events, visit:
<https://www.pca.org/events>

For the full PCA Club Racing Schedule, visit:
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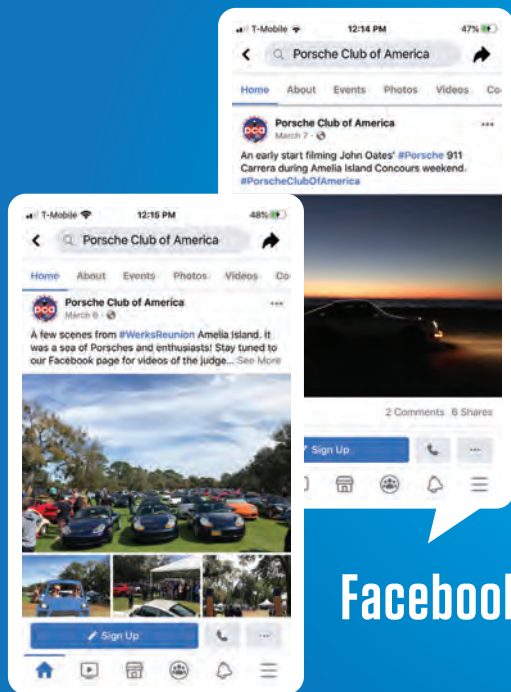
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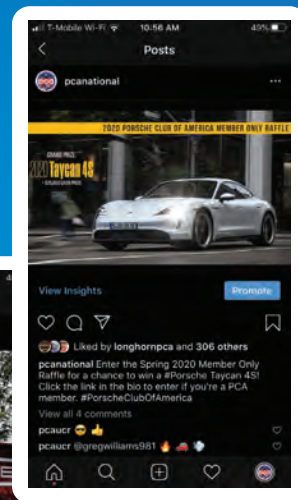
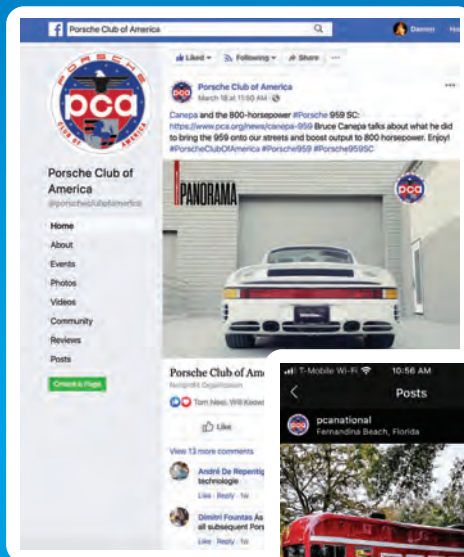


*i'm not leavin'
until you kick me out.*

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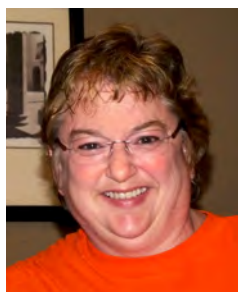
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Porsche 911

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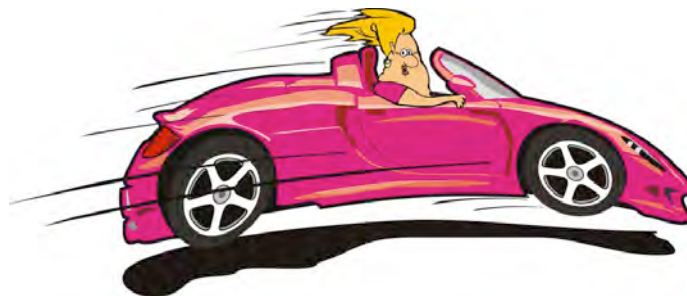


Here is the last summery picture from our member and co-editor Lina. Doesn't that make you jealous and want to skip over winter to hit the road for an extended and spirited trip?

Keep dreaming

..... instead think of a nice picture you have stashed away to get it posted here. This is the last one I have so far.

Wolfgang



THE TAILPIPE

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

Willkommen! — New Members & Transfers

John & Carryn Kaczmarczyk, Angola IN, '87 944, 08 911S
Jay Wigner, Muskegon, '17 Macan, '77 924, '84 944, 03 911

Peparing for hibernation?!?



Still plenty of reasons to join our club

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5 years (2015)

Rick Start

1 year (2019)

Philip & Denise Swy
Larry Wegener



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