

PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA
The Western Michigan Region

From Our President:

We certainly are sorry that we missed so many of our members at our recent PCA rally held on April 28. Your Vice President, Paul Despres did an excellent job of setting up an interesting rally which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The rally was attended by eight cars, two of which were from other clubs. This was our first rally and some of those who attended, including your president, approached it with mixed emotions, this being their first attempt. It proved to be a real hair-raising affair and besides the nerve-racking experience of working a time-speed-distance leg with only a wrist watch and pad & pencil, it also included a very fine tour of Kent County much of which I am sure many of the entrants had not seen. The rally ended at the Bow Tie Inn and was followed by a very fine relaxing dinner at Fingers which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

John S. Vander Heide, Jr.

Now that our first event of the year has been held and the turnout was extremely poor from all standpoints: We had eight entrants and of this eight, five were PCA members. We do have approximately 25 members. Of course, we can understand that everyone could not make it due to some reason or other, but there should have been a larger turnout.

Taking top honors in this Rally was: Chet Owen and his wife, Kay. Kay was driving and Chet was navigating. Second place went to, John and Jackie Schoepel, driving a Dodge Stationwagon, none the less. And this team, also, Jackie was driving and John was navigating. In second place, the all-girl team of Janis Markle, who did the driving, and Carolyn Mikula, who was the navigator. The following were in attendance at the Rally, and in fourth place - Art and Isabelle Jones - fifth place - Howard Gietzen and Frank Ringewold - in sixth place - John and Ruth Alexander - in seventh place - our President - John and Jane Vander Heide. And we had a "Did Not Finish" and this was Eric and Gustel Bechler. Due to some fault in laying out the time-speed-distance leg of the Rally, a street sign was changed; and as a consequence those we followed the route instructions could not keep the course. Although those who anticipated the turns did very well; and as a result we had to throw out the Time-Speed-Distance Leg.

The Crow-flies Leg was not too well understood, and as a consequence caused some consternation among the entrants; but, all in all, we think everyone had a good time. After the Rally we went to Fingers Restaurant on Plainfield Ave., and had dinner and rehashed the whole situation; and decided that at another time, and soon we hope, we will have another Rally of this type and end it up with a picnic of some sort at Lake Michigan.

For coming events, we have some real interesting ones: The Western Michigan Sports Car Society is going to have a Gymkahna on Saturday, May 19, at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds. Registration will be from 6 to 8 p.m. It seems this is going to be an evening event. On the next day, May 20th, there is going to be the Alpine Speed Climb, presented by the Imperial Sports Car Club of Grand Rapids. This will take place at the Plainfield Avenue Drive-in Theater. Registration from 9:30, to the first

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car which will be going off at 11 a.m. Seat belts and helmets are required. This is a must for all Porsche owners. I, for one, hope to attend; and if things should run right the trophies should be quite nice and readily given to the Porsche drivers. May 26 and 27, the Central Western Michigan Region of the S.C.C.A., is having races at Grayling, Michigan. If you want - you are most welcome to come and watch some of the real nice equipment go around this airport course.

A future event that is coming up is the Muskegon Seaway Festival Gymkahna. This is going to be held over the weekend of July 4th. More on this later. Another event that might be of some interest to all of us, is the Paul Bunyan National Rally, which will be headquartered out of Cadillac. This will be one of the biggest things that we, in Western Michigan, have ever endeavoured to put on. We are hoping on 75 cars to attend this event; and if everything goes right it should be a real nice run. If any of the members of the Porsche Club, would like to enter you can contact me, and I will see to it you get applications. But I would like to include one thing - that the preference will be given to S.C.C.A. members for running this event. They will have first choice, and if there are any openings up to the 75 entrants that the limit has been put on, you will be entirely welcome to run.

We have a few items up for sale; one of these is a 1957 Carrera GS 1500, Michilan X tires, 4,500 miles since overhaul, with a Blaupunkt radio for the price of \$2,500, or for \$3,500, with the following extra equipment - 1600 normal engine, 5 chrome wheels and tires, spare set of brake drums, spare transmission and rear end. This is had by Art Jones, 10747 Coral Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Art's phone number is, 327-7156. Art, also, has a roll bar for a Porsche at \$20. I have a windshield for the older models of the Porsche. If anyone is interested a real good price will be given. To steal a few things out of the S.C.C.A. Backfire magazine, there is a Bugatti Type 40, 1926, 1 1/2 litre for sale. This is in real good running condition for \$1900, and Michael Morris, of 500 Leslie Street, Lansing, has it for sale. Also, a Fiat Abarth Zagato coupe, 6,000 actual miles, is for sale from Tom D'Archangel. If anyone is interested in a new Blaupunkt FM-AM car radio, Graham Porter of Grand Rapids, has this for sale.

There is word that the International Acres Sports Car track is going to be coming along nicely fairly soon: as soon as the money situation is straightened out. There are chances that people will be able to buy into this track for a nominal fee. More on this at a later time.

A few changes are made: a picnic in Kalamazoo, for the latter part of June or early July, also plans for a visit to Traverse City for the weekend of August 25 and 26.

If anyone has anything to add - drop me a line.

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