

WESTERN MICHIGAN  
REGION



# PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA



1963

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# 1963 events

February 16 - Dinner Meeting at Hattem's Restaurant, Grand Rapids, Michigan

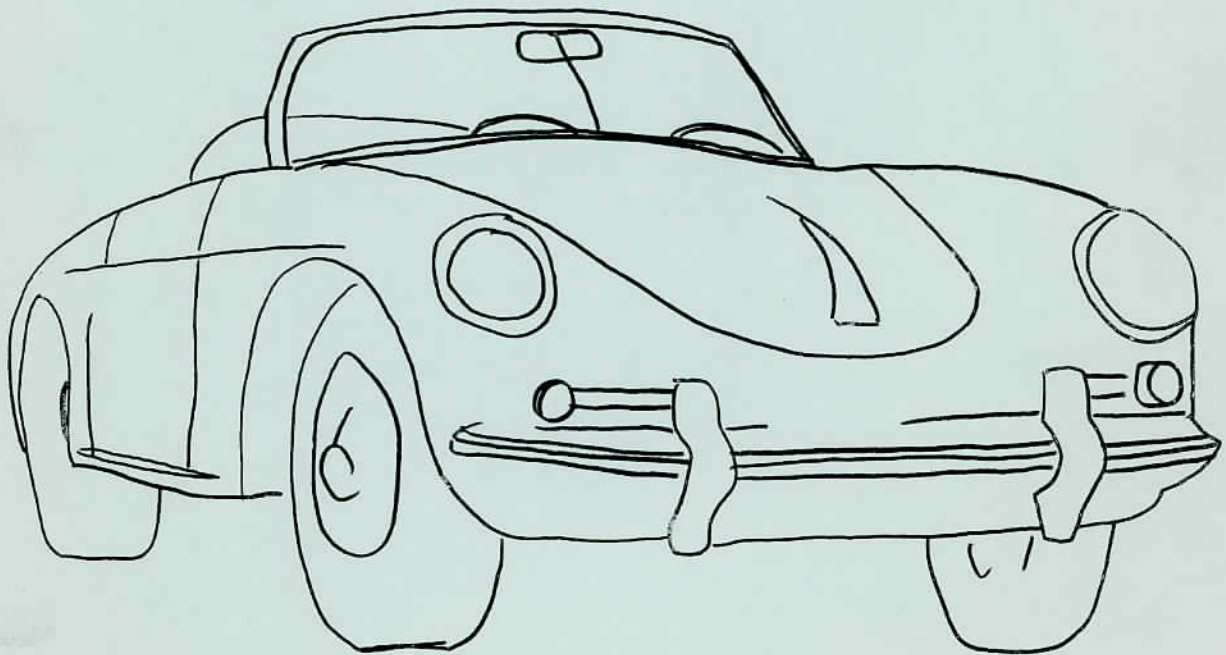
April 20 - Rally by Art Jones, Kalamazoo, Michigan

June 8 - Progressive Dinner, Grand Rapids, Michigan

June 24-28 - Porsche Parade, Split Rock, Pennsylvania

October 12-13 - Dinner and Color Tour, Traverse City, Michigan

December 7 - Christmas Dinner Meeting at Hattem's Restaurant, Grand Rapids, Michigan



DINNER MEETING - FEBRUARY 16, 1963

The first meeting of the year was held at Hattem's Restaurant in Grand Rapids. Those attending were Art and Isabel Jones, Bill and Norma Otten, Jim and Mary Thorne, Erich and Gustel Bechler, John and Ruth Alexander, Jan Markle (now Mrs. Locey), Jerry and Arlene Howe, and Paul and Martha Despres. Plans for the year were discussed - rally, progressive dinner, Porsche Parade, and Traverse City color tour. After the dinner and meeting most of the members adjourned to the Despres household to round out the evening.

KALAMAZOO RALLY - APRIL 20, 1963

A good rally but small participation - only four cars ran (Alexanders, Howes, Despres' and VanderHeides). From the start at the Southland Plaza, Kalamazoo, the route took us back and forth among many lakes (or maybe it was the same one) amid lovely scenery. By the time we had turned at a T and then on to T and back to 37th and again on T, where we were no one knew. One of the checkpoints was at the Sabo's residence. They and the Art Jones' were checking us in. The end of the rally found us at the beautiful Jones lakefront home, where we received the "red carpet" treatment. (There was a red carpet in the entrance way.)

Later the Bowers came from Battle Creek, the Bechlers and Jane VanderHeide from Grand Rapids and the Ottens from Kalamazoo to enjoy refreshments and a wonderful dinner.

Award time came next and of course our "Prexy" and wife won the rally and received an unusual plaque showing a Porsche in relief made of copper by Arlyne Sabo. John VanderHeide with his brother and the Alexanders were each to receive a mug with Porsche emblem.

Paul Despres showed us some very good and interesting movies of his trip to Sebring in March.

Thank you Isabel and Art Jones!      ...Ruth Alexander

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Notes From A New Navigator - - -

Although his navigator's calculations are most accurate, your editor's timing was a bit off, when he asked me to report on my first experience at navigating in a rally. If he asked me to write this at the third checkpoint, as I sat in our Porsche in a state of near-shock, this epic would have been more sensational. As it is, I have had some time to reflect on what was really a very enjoyable day---

With many happy admonitions - such as - "Don't get lost!" and that rallying is the first step to losing my happy home, Doc and I left Southland Plaza at 1:44 p.m. After the first two miles I felt pleasantly surprised to see that there really was a City Service station on the corner - just like the instruction sheet said! I returned to my computer with renewed confidence. Coming up with three different sets of figures - none of which seemed even logical - I was about to throw the computer out the window, when I remembered it was borrowed property and restrained myself.

After a slight oversight of prepositions (on and at specifically) on the instruction sheet, Doc 'un-lost' us. (I couldn't say 'found' because I knew where he was and he knew where I was and we knew where the car was, but the car didn't know where it was!). Isabel and Art, at the first checkpoint, looked so relieved to see us - that I was afraid to ask how late we really were.

Amid a flurry and stop-watches, maps, pads, pencils, computers, rulers, etc., I glanced over to see Doc serenely reading his own instruction sheet and doing very well, by all appearances.

Running out of specific instructions, I foolishly surmised that from this point, we should carry on to the grid reference. Unfortunately, Doc listened

Notes From A New Navigator (cont.)

to me - result - Lost: One checkpoint. My reasoning gets so complex at times that he joins me instead of trying to understand it.

I'm sure we must have passed through some very picturesque country but I was oblivious to all, except street signs. Finally, we arrived at the third checkpoint (the second to me) where Arlyne and Mary were taking readings. I felt like we had been on the road for at least a week.

In conclusion, I have found:

- 1) Read instructions carefully.
- 2) P.O.R. - until stopped by immovable objects, the law, or checkpoints.
- 3) Rallying is part of the fun of owning a Porsche.

I wish to thank Martha for her kind assistance and all the others for their encouragement. Also, my kind and patient driver, who hasn't fired me - yet.

Our first rally ended with the delightful hospitality of the Jones', making this a truly memorable day for us.

.....Arlene Howe

PROGRESSIVE DINNER - JUNE 8, 1963

Two months ago we received an invitation to the W.M.R.P.C.A. who were having a progressive dinner in and around Grand Rapids. We were delighted - this was something new and different. A brochure had been sent out to be filled - promptly -. But who can tell when a daughter decides to get married in the very near future, and who remembers what - not us. A couple weeks later Bill picks up the notice on his desk and comes home in a real flurry--- How come I forgot about filling in the info sheet. This part we will forget about but I'll tell you it was in the mail the next morning.

Comes the big day and what happens, every body that ever had had a toothache decided that was the time, the hour and here was Bill ready for a fiddle and aiming for the barber shop, - he couldn't go without a clip job. All these things taken care of - came the biggest and most harassing job of all. Taking down the top on the little red creampuff sitting out in the garage. This being top-down weather we just couldn't cruise up at Ruth and John Alexander's with all that sun shining with the top up. This was our first stop - hors d'ouvres. I'm getting ahead of myself. In our house taking down the lid on said Porsche is a big deal and cause for great precaution. Once it comes down in the summertime things have got to be pretty bad before it goes up again. Bill is convinced that this up and down is mighty hard on the back window. Well, first, it has to be clean, clean, KLEEN--then we advance to a towel which must be soft to the touch, sort of like a baby's bottom. Living near Lake Michigan which we do, this is not always easy, especially with two teen-agers who always seem to be loaded with sand. Bill shakes out the towel - no sand & hurrah for me - said towel is placed on window and the top is lowered gently into place. Now we are on our way - late for sure.

After a pleasant hours ride we are met at the door of the Alexander's by all our Porsche friends and in we go. Ruth and John had three delightful visitors who had just returned from Puerto Rico, their daughter and two delightful babies. Then on out to the sun porch loaded with goodies and very refreshing liquid refreshments. Savory little weenies sauteing in a spicy barbecue sauce that were just yummy, dips galore and on the bamboo shades were place mats received from the Porsche factory on their trip to Germany. We have some acquired on our trip and we just love them. At this point we were late enough that everyone was ready to move on to the John VanderHeides -- here was the most marvelous selection of salads you, I, or anyone else would ever see -- lime with cucumber, fruity salads, tossed salads, lovely dressings, and coffee. (Jane, how about the

## Progressive Dinner (cont.)

recipe for the lime and cucumber, my good husband really went for that in a big way.) Too bad, but it's time to go again - we all pile into our little Porsches and head for the Paul Despres' for another tantalizing addition to the feast. By this time we all think we are full until we saw the lovely setting out on the patio, a table loaded with all kinds of goodies - pickles, beets, onions, carrot sticks, rye bread with garlic butter and parsley - my that was good - french bread and big steaks - pick out your own and cook it to your own taste, can't remember when we have had such tender melt-in-your-mouth steaks like those. Another dish of green beans done in a casserole which was oh, so good, good, good. Our new members, Dr. and Mrs. Howe had made a lovely floral arrangement of the Porsche emblem which was most attractive, - we are most happy to have them as new members. The mosquitos finally took over so en mass we all took to the Despres' large living room for chit-chat and signing the guest book. We were all bulging at the seams by this time but we managed to wiggle or struggle into our cars again and wend our way to the Bechlers to be greeted with Benedictine and Brandy - now who can beat that? That's livin' and a perfect complement to all the wonderful food we had partaken of. Mrs. B. had whipped up a dream of a torte - cherry - which just seemed to melt in your mouth, then more coffee and more conversation - the men scooting out to Erich's garage to check on one thing or other - cameras were flashing here and there - this was an evening we were not going to forget. Then the thunder started and the lightning flashes lit up the sky and the rain poured down. All the sports who had had their tops down went ascurrying to get them up before they could get soaked. (Too bad Bill - you should have checked with the weatherman.) This did not dampen the evening one bit, we were all very happy with ourselves and let me say how grateful we are to all the gals who did such a fabulous job, all the effort and work into making the evening a very very pleasant occasion. Thank you one, thank you all.

.....Janet Schwalm

## THE EIGHTH PORSCHE PARADE by a Fourth Parader

The first hot days of summer hit the eastern part of the United States at the time 180 Porsches were gathering for the Eighth Porsche Parade in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania the last week of June 1963.

Having missed the Parade at Monterey, California in 1962, we were more than anxious to meet with our Porsche friends of three previous Parades -- that's half the fun of going!

Our car was not in concours condition, so we enjoyed watching others use "elbo grease" to make clean and shiny those beautiful Porsches for the judging Monday afternoon.

Tuesday found most of us going on the rally -- a fast (we hardly had time to eat our boxed lunches) 130 miles of beautiful mountain scenery. The mountain laurel was in bloom and beautiful. Few of us had ever seen it before.

Wednesday and Thursday were set aside for drag races at a brand new drag strip. This was something new for us and because our own Art and Isabel Jones (the only other couple from West Michigan Region) were participating, we drove out each day to check on their times and for more talk with other Porsche Pushers.

Friday was Technical Session day when there was always something new to learn from Herb Dramm and his "boys." Of course that evening was the Victory Banquet and awarding of the "silver."

A cocktail party preceded each dinner and some of us had "wee" ones before the big ones. Fun! Fun! The food, lodging, swimming and meeting facilities were all excellent with beautiful scenery and perfect weather.

This was just as good as any of the Parades we have attended. The Pennsylvania group did a fine job. More of you Michiganders should attend the Parades. They're a lot of fun!

.....Ruth Alexander



## WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION COLOR TOUR - OCTOBER, 1963

As new PCA members and first-time "color-tourists" we left home uncertain as to what to expect. What we found was an exciting experience! We were enchanted with every aspect of the weekend; the delightful friends we met, the glorious scenic views and with the fun of being with a group all of whom had one thing in common, the love of the Porsche.

Barry and I left Battle Creek around 3 p.m., arriving at our motel at 6:50, rushed into a change of duds after checking the Thirlby's by phone to learn that the cocktails were still flowing, so we hastily joined the group for some spirits and delicious goodies prepared by the wives of the hosting couples, the Thirlbys and the Powers. Then on to dinner at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club, which was attended by twelve couples: the Thirlbys, the Powers, the Garneaus from Ludington, the Wileys from Traverse City, the Bechlers from Grand Rapids, the Alexanders from Grand Rapids, Jack and Maddie Coleman from Traverse City, as were John and Fran Hays, the Mayers from Dearborn, Martha Despres and Paul from the Furniture City, Jim Mehrer from Grosse Pointe and his date from Traverse City, and Barry and I from Battle Creek.

Jim Mehrer showed us pictures of the new 901 Porsche. He had recently been in Stuttgart, Germany where he visited the Porsche factory. He interested us all with the information about the factory, the quality of workmanship going into our Porsches and about the 901.

Sunday we breakfasted with Paul and Martha Despres, joining later at the Thirlbys for coffee and home-baked rolls. There the Schwalm from Whitehall and Tom Anderson and his date from Muskegon joined with us for the tour.

The color tour was most exciting for Barry and me. We agreed that we were very happy that we had joined PCA.

Our caravan of cars was a color treat in itself - in order were: one red, one white, one red, one white, one red, one white and red, and one blue Porsche --- followed by Erich and Paul in Detroit Iron.

The view on our route was magnificent. Leelanau County had really "dressed up" for us. Stopping often to view the sights and to photograph them, (especially Paul) we enjoyed the aqua waters, the panoramic views and the quaint fishing dock where we saw a rustic anchor and driers for fish nets. Traveling through still more lovely countryside and woods we halted at St. Wencelaus' Church where we thoroughly enjoyed the family style dinner at a Turkey Festival.

Back again at the Thirlby's home, the men tried out the French Bowling game of Frank's. A happy ending to a wonderful day.

We have such happy memories of our tour. We fondly thank everyone who made it such a success - especially Dick and Lu Thirlby and Frank and Margo Power. We eagerly anticipate seeing all of our new friends in Grand Rapids.

.....Pixie Bowers

### CHRISTMAS BANQUET AND MEETING

Ending the year as we had begun it, at Hattem's, the Christmas Banquet took place on December 7th. At the meeting several things were discussed. No election was held, pending everyone's "thinking it over" until the February meeting. The idea of a sort of 'yearbook' was approved, instead of a monthly newsletter, with flyers going out for meetings and events. Paul Despres showed some sports car movies and slides from the Traverse City Color Tour. John Alexander kindly returned home to bring his slides of the same event to show.

The group was a little larger than at our Feb. meeting, and included: Bill and Janet Schwalm from Whitehall, Bill and Norma Otten, Al and Arlyne Sabo from Kalamazoo, Barry and Pixie Bowers from Battle Creek, Dick and Jean Henneberger from St. Louis, Michigan, Tom Anderson and his date from Muskegon, Tom Pletcher (prospective member) and his date from Montague, John and Ruth Alexander, Erich and Gustel Bechler, and Paul and Martha Despres from Grand Rapids. After capping the evening at the Despres household, the crew left for home, again amid rain showers.