

# PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA Über Alles Western Michigan Region



**Let's Get Together:**  
Nothing planned

**In Review:**  
Garage Kept Motors

**A Look Back...Hillclimbs!**

**Tech Spalte:**  
Winter Car Care

**2022 Calendar of Events**



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**PORSCHE**





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## **Upcoming EVENTS**

### **DINNER EVENT**

Hosted by Tyan & Lisa Roelands

January 19, 2022

Keep an eye on the [WMR PCA website](http://www.wmr-pca.com) and the Über Alles for additional details

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**ON THE COVER**

Garage Kept Motors Event with Rick Riley's Speedster; his favorite manual shifter.

Photo: Wolfgang Bubeck

# **PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA** **Über Alles** Western Michigan Region

# CHANGING OF THE GUARD

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Jim Chiavaras**  
**President, Western Michigan Region**

It is hard to believe that 3 years have passed since becoming the President of the Western Michigan Region of the Porsche Club. As of January 1, there will be a changing of the guard and current Vice President Frank Conner will assume the role of President and Glenn Eisenbrandt will become the Vice President; all other board members will remain the same at this time. I will still attend events and board meetings as the past president. Frank and the other board members have been a great help over the last 3 years and I would like to thank all of them and all of the event chairpersons for their hard work and commitment to the success of our club.

It has been a pleasure representing the club as President. It has been quite a good learning experience and I have enjoyed interacting with our western region members. I have also had the pleasure of meeting other region Presidents in person at our annual meetings in Ohio with the last meeting being virtual due to restrictions.

While we have had fun times, many events during 2020 and 2021 unfortunately had to be canceled for safety reasons due to Covid. We did have a great virtual Winterfest thanks to the efforts of club members who are internet and zoom savvy and we have also had some driving events to enjoy.

Recent events include the annual planning meeting on November 8 at Linear and the open house at Garage Kept Motors on November 11.

Let's hope that the 2022 calendar is full of adventurous drives as well as dining experiences and that we all remain healthy.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and hope to see everyone soon.

Happy Holidays,

*Jim*

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# A LOOK BACK...HILLCLIMBS!

BY CHUCK OLENYK



Doug Hoek at Johnson Park 1973

In 1962 issues of our Newsletter, you can find promos for events including the Townsend Park Speed Run, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Johnson Park Hill Climb, and the Alpine Speed Climb III at the Plainfield Drive In theatre all close to Grand Rapids. Editor, Paul Despres, said “It’s a real nice Porsche course. In fact, I think they laid it out for Porsches especially.” Before the existence of Grattan and Gingerman raceways here in western Michigan, hillclimbs were the popular way to satisfy that need for speed.

Seatbelts were one of the requirements, which you may not know, were not standard equipment even in Porsches back then. In the September issue, editor Despres informs members that “they can be purchased (from the Club) for \$6.00 per belt. This is a deal that was given to us sports car enthusiasts by one of the manufacturers...one of the best...takes 7,000 pounds of thrust”. Paul’s comments came after referencing an “article given to me by a seat belt manufacturer here in Grand Rapids, by name, Alof’s. The name of the article is *Death in 7/10<sup>ths</sup> of a Second.*”

The Saugatuck hillclimb was a collaboration between WMR/PCA and the late Western Michigan Sports Car Society better known then as the “Holland Club” and was held for a few years in the 1970’s. The course used Perryman St., which is the road between the Kalamazoo River and the entrance to Oval Beach on Lake Michigan.



It's never too late for last minute instructions from Dan Conklin to Phil Cull



Pat Lanham in battle attire



Empire 1965

The Empire Hill Climb, which ran from 1964 until 1980 – once in the spring and once in the fall – and has been revived in recent years. Back in the day, nearly anyone could participate, says current race organizer Mike Kelty. “If you had an address in town, you didn’t have to pay.” The Twin Bays Sports Car Club in Traverse City sponsored the race, and the Empire Lions Club provided tractors to ferry spectators up the hill. The challenging, curvy course up Wilco Rd. “was made to wreck cars,” Kelty was told. But the race never claimed a life. In the early days of the Empire Hill Climb, remembers local chamber of commerce historian Dave Taghon, the family-run automobile garage and gas station would sell more air than beer. “The cars would keep going after they reached the top of Empire Bluff, hook a left on M-22 and come back into town,”

says Taghon. “They’d stop and check the air pressure in their tires before racing up the hill again. We sold a lot of air!” Later on, the cars would wait at the top of the hill for their competitors, before returning to Empire in a parade of sleek racecars.

Continued on page 15ge 15



# IN REVIEW - GARAGE KEPT MOTORS

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BY TYAN ROELANDS

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A wonderful time was had by all on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the one and only Garage Kept Motors. Owners A.J. Dufendach & Jeremy Brunan once again welcomed a full house to view their showroom floor with more than 100 vehicles of all makes and models. A well sorted and fully stocked bar was offered with several signature cocktails and appropriately, Garage Bar catered with their nationally acclaimed chicken tenders and macaroni and cheese.

Victims of their own success, Garage Kept Motors was nearly out of Porsche Inventory for the event. Several members, despite the threat of cold, wind and rain made the trip in their cars to be on display. During the event, Andy Siradakis, owner of Label Motorsports unveiled their newest creation, a very green, 800 horsepower, TechArt Porsche 991 Turbo.

"I would like to thank A.J. and Jeremy for having West Michigan Porsche Club of America to their showroom and once again offering a memorable spread of both vehicles and refreshments as well as Rick Riley and Andy Siradakis for loaning cars for the event."

*Tyan Roelands*

"The Garage Kept Motors team was again very grateful to all the PCA members that made it. We apologize for the low number of Porsches for sale (they've all sold!) but we hoped you enjoyed some other makes, food, drinks, and the 911 Turbo unveiling by Label Motorsports. Looking forward to hosting you again next year!"

*A.J. Dufendach*





# Garage Kept Motors

## Snap SHOTS

Photos:  
Wolfgang Bubeck

A.J. From GKM introducing the under cover car modified by LABELMotorsports

Lynne & Marci - Garage Kept secrets

Eye Candy

The under cover car by LABELMotorsports  
Performance and visual upgrades

Frank Conner and Glenn Eisenbrandt  
Car talk.... Tyan R. sneaking in from behind.



# 2022 EVENT CALENDAR

WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION · PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

	Date	Event	Location	Host(s)/Event Chair(s)
<b>JAN</b>	01-03	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche Grand Rapids	WMR Board
	01-19	Dinner Event	TBD	Tyan & Lisa Roelands
<b>FEB</b>	02-07	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche Grand Rapids	WMR Board
	02-26	Winterfest	Virtual	WMR Board
	02-07	Morning After Brunch	TBD	Amber Door/Jerry Arens
<b>MAR</b>	03-04	WERKS Reunion	Amelia Island	PCA
	03-07	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board
	03-13	Daylight Savings Brunch	TBD	Wolfgang & Miluzka Bubeck
	03-30	Dinner Event	Timbers Inn	Ted & Gabi Blacklidge
<b>APR</b>	04-04	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board
	04-23	Cookoff	The Conner's	Frank & Raeni Conner
	04-27	Treffen Colorado Springs	The Broadmoor Hotel	PCA
<b>MAY</b>	05-02	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board
	05-14	Spring Drive	TBD	Glenn/Lannie Eisenbrandt
	05-21	Sporting Clays	Blendon Pines Gun Club	Amber Door/Jerry Arens
<b>JUN</b>	06-06	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board
	06-12 - 06-19	66th Annual Porsche Parade	Kalahari Resort, Ponoco Manor PA	PCA
<b>AUG</b>	08-01	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board
	08-06	Porsche Car corral	Gilmore Car Museum	Amber Door & Jerry Arens
	08-20	Dinner Drive	TBD	Dan & Ren Phillips
	08-26	Metro Cruise	TBD	Not a PCA Event
<b>SEP</b>	09-10 - 09-11	HPDE	Grattan Raceway	WMR
	09-12	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board



## We're looking for event hosts for 2022

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](mailto:lynniemarie@charter.net) · Phone: (616) 710-0122



**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/)

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

For the full PCA Club Racing Schedule, visit:  
<https://www.pcaclubracing.org>







ADDITIONAL EVENTS WILL BE ADDED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE

	Date	Event	Location	Host(s)/Event Chair(s)
<b>OCT</b>	10-03	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board
	10-15	3rd Annual Porsche Board Walk Reunion	Ocean City, NJ	Zone 1 / 2
<b>NOV</b>	11-07	Membership / Planning Meeting	TBD	WMR Board
<b>DEC</b>	12-05	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board

## AROUND THE ZONE

BY: LORI SCHUTZ



Dear Zone 4,

Has it really been 4 years since I took over as Zone 4 Representative? YES, it has been a phenomenal time in PCA with our members and events. Each regions' membership grew thanks to the efforts of our membership chairs finding new and exciting ways to reach out to more Porsche owners. Nearly every region hosts a New Member Party each year - or at least we tried! From chili cook-offs to fundraisers for animal shelters, the outreach was fantastic.



And what an interesting time in our history. I don't want to dwell in the pandemic, as this is front and center enough already. They say that adversity brings out the best of human nature, and this was so true for our regions over the past 2 years. Thanks to all of the officers, event chairs, and members for your contributions!

The Zone 4 High Performance Driver Education program grew stronger in the past few years. We always are happy to welcome PCA National Staff, such as John Krecek (far



right) to visit our zone DE events, here with Dennis Okin (middle) and myself at Mid Ohio Sports Car Course with the Ohio Valley region in 2018. Despite the limited ability to coach new students for the better part of a year, we've added both new DE drivers and instructors to our distribution list. Thanks to the DE Committees!

Looking back, we had some great times together, especially at the Porsche Parade in July 2021 when Zone 4 welcomed the rest of PCA to our incredible part of our country, in French Lick. From concours, to rally to autocross and art show, our members were front and center of the competition and volunteer crews.

I am proud to be the most recent in a strong history of Zone 4 reps - we were all together at the Mid Ohio region celebration for Region of the year - Left to right - Jim Perrin, Steve Southard, Michael Soriano, me, and Ron Carr. Soon I will be passing the baton to your new Zone 4 Representative to carry on the leadership for our fabulous 12 regions. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Poconos Parade in June 2022. Take care and happy Porsche driving!

Sincerely,

Lori Schutz



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Every year across Porsche Club of America, members are making a difference with many amazing, heartwarming, and thoughtful acts of kindness. PCA is continually collecting stories of member's community contributions, and publishing articles for all to read in an effort to highlight what our club is doing and inspire other regions to help in their own way.

SEEK ALL OF THE GREAT-LOOKING MEMBERS BY VISITING:  
[www.pca.org/members-making-difference](http://www.pca.org/members-making-difference)

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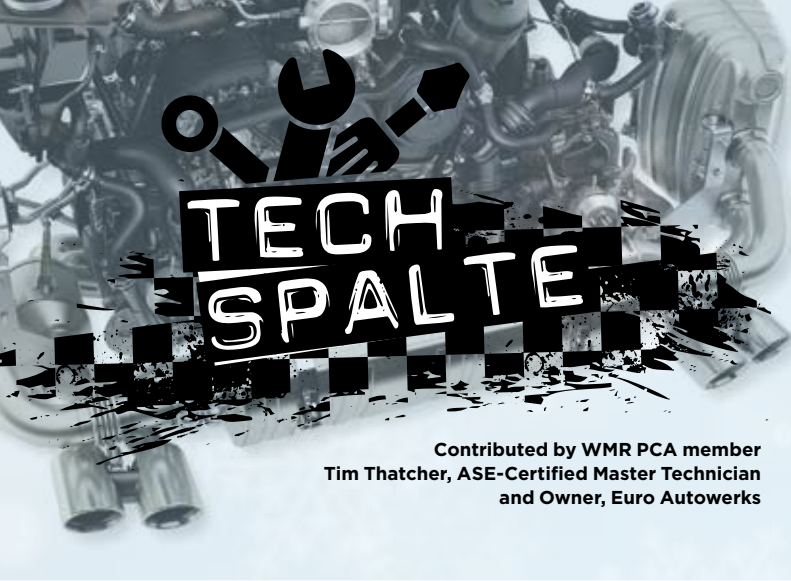
**When: April 27 - May 1, 2022**

**Where: The Broadmoor Resort**

**Colorado Springs, CO**

**Registration opens February 16**





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

## WINTER CAR CARE FOR CARS WE KEEP DRIVING

Here's a handy list of items you'll want to perform to prepare for the coming winter weather.

**Check Tire Wear.** Look all the way across the face of each tire for indications of wear or damage. You can use a penny to check the tread depth. Insert the penny with Lincoln's head first into the tread, if you see the top of Lincoln's head, you need new tires.

**Wiper Blades.** If the wiper skips or vibrates across the windshield, they need to be replaced. In addition to checking the wipers, take a moment to check the windshield washer solvent. Make sure your sprayers are working and keep the solvent level up.

**Engine Belts, Hoses & Coolant Check.** Check belts for cracks or other indications of wear. Look for any indication of radiator fluid leaking from the system. Finally make sure your coolant is ready to handle cold weather without freezing.

**Battery Care.** If your battery is more than four years old, you may want to have it checked. Old batteries tend to work fine in warm weather but a cold snap can kill a poor battery.

**Heater.** Make sure the heater blows hot air and it is functioning properly for both heat and defrost modes.

**Driving Habits.** With the changing weather, your driving habits will require a change as well. Even though you have 4-wheel drive, ABS and traction control, it takes longer to stop on icy roads. Give yourself more space between you and other drivers, add a few minutes to your driving time and use common sense to remain safe.

**Emergency Kit.** Your emergency kit should include such items as a blanket, snacks and water.

**Snow Brush.** Purchase a good snow brush and make it a habit to clean your roof and back windows in addition to the windshield. Keep your wiper blades free of snow and ice.

**Fuel Reserves.** Keep your fuel tank above ¼ tank. Maintaining a minimum of ¼ tank of fuel helps prevent moisture from building up in the tank as the temperature changes. Maintaining an adequate amount of fuel can be a great benefit if involved in a traffic jam. Remember... It's cold out there.

**Clothing.** If you're involved in a wreck or have trouble with your vehicle, you may have to get out and walk. Make sure you are prepared for winter temperatures.

**Finally, protect your stored cars from varmints!!!** Every spring we find mice in cars that have not been properly protected and the damage they do can be very expensive. Take the time and make the investment to protect your stored vehicle.

Michigan is often filled with beautiful scenery and great activities during the winter. Take some time to get out and enjoy the many benefits we have here in West Michigan.

Be safe and stay warm,

Tim





# THE ENGINE OF THE CLUB

## OFFICERS · SERVING YOUR CLUB



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## MEMBERS · BUILDING THE CLUB

### GLÜCKWÜNSCHE! — ANNIVERSARIES

Join me in congratulating these fine folks  
on their WMR PCA Anniversaries

- 40 years (1981)** Paul & Amy Bizzigotti  
**25 years (1996)** Robert & Cathy Pelc  
**15 years (2006)** Alan & Elizabeth Anderson  
James & Priscilla Frakie  
**10 years (2011)** Timothy & Sharon Tornga  
**5 years (2016)** Richard Troll  
**1 year (2020)** Brooke Bollwahn & Christopher Anderson  
Bruce Hepner  
Chris Larsen  
Kurt Neller  
Jeffrey Watts  
Brent Whitten

### WILLKOMMEN! — NEW MEMBERS & TRANSFERS

Please extend a warm "Willkommen"  
to our new members and transfers.

- David Oppenhuizen, Grand Rapids, '08 Boxster  
Brad Rose, Rockford, '4 Cayenne Turbo  
Andrew Smith, Hudsonville, '14 911 S  
Michael Westra, Richland, '13 Cayenne S

### Transfer In:

- Samuel Campillo, Rockford (From Chicago)  
Jeff Gibson, Northport (From MST)  
William Spaulding, Richland (From NER)



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Black & White: \$70/month

#### 1/2 page:

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Black & White: \$45/month

#### 1/4 page:

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Black & White: \$30/month

#### 1/8 page:

Color: \$30/month

Black & White: \$20/month

**Note:** Color ads receive premier placement. Contact editor for exact size requirements.

Deadline for ad delivery and payment is the 15th of each month.

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#### New:

Limited to buy or sell club related items only. Space for business ads needs to be purchased as listed above.

**Note:** Members must contact editor to renew. Editor reserves right to edit ads.

#### PAYMENT:

Please make checks payable to: WMR PCA





# A LOOK BACK... HILLCLIMBS!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The original running featured some of the sweetest rides of the era, including muscle cars, Corvettes, Jaguars, Austin-Healeys, Porsches, Maseratis and Ferraris. And it attracted colorful characters in the driver's seat, too. "One year a doctor from Chicago took a Jaguar into the bank and shortened the car by four inches (but walked away)," remembers Mike Taghon. "Another year our local priest ran a Pontiac up the hill. His time was slow, but it was entertaining to watch." Member Jerry "Bing" Kolk noted in 1975 "the event has been mostly dominated by Corvettes from the Detroit area...there were only three of four modified Vettes that had faster times than the Porsches...and, for nine (Porsche) drivers, seven of us took trophies."



Empire 1965



Empire 1965



Empire 1968

The Furrin Group car club organized the hill climb at Johnson Park in Kent County from the early 1950's through the mid 1980's. Using the parks scenic drive that is so narrow and twisty that motorized traffic is no longer even permitted. "The first time I raced there, I went airborne at the finish line and took out two small trees. But missed the big one." said Rick Riley. Another one of our current members said in 1974 "the hill scares me and I really don't know if I ever want to run it. Anyone who thinks he can talk me into it is certainly welcome to - I'd just as soon run it, but...!" Apparently someone took up the challenge and whoever that was gave Craig Paull an amazing pep-talk. For Craig ran and took a 1st in class the following year.



Dan Dixon and his 2 plus 4.5 Liter 914

Porsches did indeed shine at these hill climbs, in particular, at Johnson Park where fast times of the day (FTD's) were taken in 1973 by Dan Dixon in a completely stock 914 2.0 "complete with baloney skin Dunlops". Again in 1975 by Phil Cull, and twice in 1976 by Pat Lanham in the Spring event and Warren Holcomb in the Fall, all in 356 Speedsters. And to make it four years in a row, Rick Riley in 1977 in the 1975 Carrera he owns to this day.



Phil Cull at Johnson Park 1975

It must be clarified that the Furrin Group's memorable FTD trophy was the largest bottle of Jim Beam available!



Rick Riley at Johnson Park 1977

The classic line from *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* when trapped at the top of the cliff with the only escape being jumping into the raging river below, Sundance admits he can't swim. Butch replies "Are you crazy? The fall will probably kill you." Similarly, without guard rails, run off areas, or other protective barriers, about vintage hill climbs it could be said that "don't worry about going off the road and dropping into the ravine, the trees will probably stop you".



Warren Holcomb hoists his Johnson Park FTD trophy



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