



Happy New Year!



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**Über Alles**  
Western Michigan Region

Let's Get Together:  
Graydon's Crossing  
A Look Back...  
*"No Drift"* Farm Raceway

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**PORSCHE**



# IGNITION

JANUARY 2022

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## Upcoming EVENTS

### MORNING AFTER BRUNCH

Hosted by Amber Door & Jerry Arens

February 07, 2022

Keep an eye on the [WMR PCA website](#) and the Über Alles for additional details

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ON THE COVER

Happy New Year from WMR PCA

# PORSCHES CLUB OF AMERICA Über Alles Western Michigan Region



# GREETINGS!

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Frank Conner**  
**President, Western Michigan Region**

It's a new year and the region has a new president, me. First, thanks to Jim for his leadership during a frustrating couple of pandemic laden years. I also appreciate moving into this role with stable officers as treasurer and secretary, Amber and Marshall respectively. And welcome Glenn Eisenbrandt as our new Vice President. With this team and our many chairs and hosts, everything about the club looks positive for the upcoming year.

Many of you know me, but since our region is so big, many of you do not. While I have a full personal and professional life, I'll share what really matters, my relationship with Porsche!

Unlike many of our members, I did not grow up with a singular passion for the marque from Stuttgart. I have loved cars and motorsports my entire life. I wasn't committed to one brand or genre. I've owned muscle cars, sports cars, off roaders, etc.

Like many of us, during the throes of midlife, I focused on children and career. I sold my 240z. I really did midlife backward when I sold my motorcycle and bought a Massey Ferguson tractor. I followed the sport, but owned family functional vehicles.

And then one day on the way to campus (I'm a college professor), I saw the new BMW Z3. I was hooked. I didn't buy it right away, but once the boys (I have two), didn't need to be driven around by mom and dad all the time, I bought a nice shiny red one. Raeni (my wife) and I loved it. But as you might guess, over time I decided I needed something with a little more power.

Because I wasn't dedicated to any one brand, I started looking. I drove many different cars, a BMW Z4, BMW Z3 M, Corvette, Maserati, Audi, etc...and then I drove a Porsche. That was it. None of the other cars I had tested compared. It took me about a year to find the right one - a Black 996 C4 Cabriolet.

(Continued on [page 5](#))

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However, what is owning a car without people with whom you can share the experience? So, I joined PCA. Originally from Northwestern Indiana/Southwestern Michigan, I inadvertently joined the Michiana Region. Which means I got my first email from someone named Amber Door (have you heard of her?) asking if I really wanted to join the Western Michigan Region given my zip code. I did, and like she always does, she fixed it for me.

My first event was the drive to the Gilmore Car Museum hosted by Rick Riley and Kurt Wirth. Raeni and my first event as a couple was a fall color tour where we were greeted by John and Marshall Walters and met Jim and Kim Chiavaras at dinner. I could list even more names of people with whom we interacted during that first summer, but my point is we were welcomed from the very start.

That's the thing, it isn't just a slogan. In PCA it's not just the cars, it's the people. Of course, now we have different (and more) cars, have hosted events, gone to Parade, volunteered, even won the enthusiasts award, and more. But what continues to really matter is the camaraderie, the friendships, the support of people who are very diverse, and yet share a common bond and interest. It doesn't matter which model you own, as long as it has that Porsche badge, you are welcome.

I have no grandiose plans as president. My goal is to continue the proud history that is WMR PCA. I hope this year allows for more events where we can interact. I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting more. If you haven't been to an event yet, or it's been a long time, please just show up. It's a nice place to be.

*Frank*

## DINNER WITH GRAYDON'S

HOSTS TYAN & LISA ROELANDS



Join us Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm for our January dinner drive-in to Graydon's Crossing in the heart of the Creston District. Their head Chef will be putting together a menu for us with an array of flavors from across the pond. An impressive draft list along with a fully stocked bar will be available. We will be dining in the upper level of the original Henze building, built in 1930 and now home to Grand Rapids best English Pub.

**RSVP:** Email or Text Ty Roelands  
[TyanRoelands@gmail.com](mailto:TyanRoelands@gmail.com) 616-295-5715

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022  
6:00 pm

**WHERE:** Graydon's Crossing  
1223 Plainfield Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

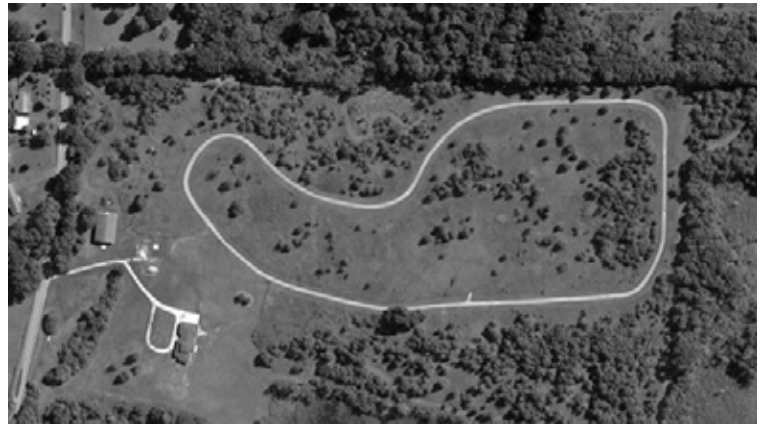
*Cheers!*



# A LOOK BACK...“NO-DRIFT” FARM RACEWAY

BY CHUCK OLENYK

Using Google Maps “Satellite” view, go to 68697 Territorial Rd., Benton Harbor, MI. You can still see what looks like a backyard walking trail loop. But once upon a time this was a venue for Solo and Autocross events used by many clubs including Porsche Club back in the 1970’s. It was called the Nothdruff Hills Sports Farm.



Michigan-Indiana region member, Dan Williams, wrote in the June 1978 issue of Über Alles; “The first time that I came into contact with Nothdruff Hills Sports Farm was at the Holiday On Wheels event hosted by Western Michigan Region in 1976. As I drove over the hill at the gate, what I saw was a winding, snaky, 10 foot wide ribbon of pavement which left me with a first impression of not looking forward to competing. The first session at Nothdurft Farms gave me the sensation of riding on a roller coaster, but on this ride, the car can leave the track!”



Thanks to Merle Durren, president of Peoples Savings Association of Benton Harbor, and his son Bob, the area sports car enthusiasts were able to compete on a beautiful 3/4 mile rolling road course near Watervliet, Michigan. Back in the “50’s”, Merle gathered track designs from many road courses that were in use throughout the country and then combined all of the various driving situations into the configuration of the course he built on his Michigan farm. Merle did not want to get involved with the tasks of managing a course for wheel-to-wheel competition, but he did feel that a one lane wide road course would more than serve his purpose. That was a practice course for his son and his Alfa Romeo. Merle felt

that in traffic situations which develop during a race, the driver must be able to judge a line and drift only within his width. This one-lane philosophy did work, for Bob proceeded to be one of the leading national competitors for approximately 6 years in his Alfa. Nothdruff became the most widely used Solo course in the area with events at least once a month from April through September.

Continued on [page 12](#)



## SPONSORED EVENT

### PCA MULTI-REGION SWAP MEET, CAR SHOW & TECH QUIZ!!

Saturday, April 23, 2022 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Presented by the  
SEM, RSR and Motorstadt Regions  
Featuring the 356 Motor Cities Group  
Western Michigan, Michiana & Maumee Valley Regions  
are also invited

Hosted by Nikolas Motorsport  
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This event is rain or shine (or even snow)...it's inside  
For tables contact Event Chair Michael Cohen  
Fastkar22@aol.com or 248-227-8604

Set-up for swap participants begins at 9:00 am. | The event opens at 10:00 am and runs through lunch  
(lunch provided by Nikolas Motorsport)



# CHANGES ABOUND FOR 2022

BY GREG CURRIE

2022 is bringing about more changes. Ted Blackledge, our illustrious Grattan High Performance Driver's Education (HPDE) Event Chair, has decided to step down. I will be assuming the position starting this year with much help from Ted. I and WMR PCA would like to thank Ted for his 14 years as the Event Chair. The Grattan Event has run smoothly under his leadership and I plan to ensure this continues! See you all in September!

*Greg*



*Karlene and Greg Currie*



*Ted keeping the Grattan Lunchtime Charity lappers safe*



## HORSEPOWER IN HORSE COUNTRY

PCA BLUEGRASS REGION



The nineteenth annual Keeneland Concours d'Elegance will be held on July 16, 2022 in the heart of horse country, Lexington, Kentucky. The venue is the historic Keeneland Race Track. The Feature Marque will be Porsche. Four of the 20 judged classes will be Porsche. In addition, the PCA Bluegrass Region (BGS) will be holding a Porsche Hospitality Park inside the dedicated Car Club Paddock area. On the day prior to the concours, the BGS will also be hosting PCA Friday at Keeneland. PCA events this day

will include a morning Concours Appreciation Training Session and an afternoon drive through horse country. Other activities available for visitors to enjoy include self-guided Walking Tours of the venue, visit to Gift Shop, observing Morning Thoroughbred Workouts, Meals at the Track Kitchen, Back Scenes of Concours site prep and the Keeneland Library. Also, nearby attractions include the KY Horse Park, the KY Aviation Museum, Distilleries, the KY Castle and Horse Farms. You may want to spend the entire weekend!

To learn more about the Keeneland Concours and possibly nominate a Porsche for competition, check out their website at <https://keenelandconcours.com/>

# 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	Graydon's Grand Rapids, MI	Tyan & Lisa Roelands
<b>FEB</b>	02-07	Monthly Board Meeting	Thornapple Brewing Co. Grand Rapids, MI	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	Thornapple Brewing Co. Grand Rapids, MI	WMR Board
	03-13	Daylight Savings Brunch	TBD	Wolfgang & Miluzka Bubeck
	03-30	Dinner Event	Timbers Inn Belding, MI	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



## 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>







PORSCHE

ADDITIONAL EVENTS WILL BE ADDED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE

	Date	Event	Location	Host(s)/Event Chair(s)
<b>SEP</b>	09-10 - 09-11	HPDE	Grattan Raceway	WMR
	09-12	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board
<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

# WINTERFEST

BY: WMR PCA

Once again, we have decided to hold Winterfest in a virtual environment. Mindful of the new impacts of the COVID Omicron variant and out of respect for our diverse membership, combined with a desire to welcome all that wish to attend, this seems like the best option.

The date remains February 26th @ 6:30. While not meeting in person is disappointing for us all, if you attended the virtual Winterfest last year, you know just how enjoyable the event turned out to be.

The details on attending the event will be provided in an email in the upcoming weeks. We hope you can attend and look forward to gathering and sharing time together, even if we are in different locations.



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PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

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

**Where: The Broadmoor Resort**

**Colorado Springs, CO**

**Registration opens February 16**





# A LOOK BACK...“NO-DRIFT” FARM RACEWAY

(Continued from [page 6](#))

In an email, former Über Alles editor Shari Hoek and husband Doug remembered that the original contact about using Nothdurft was through WMR member Phil Cull who knew the Durrens from the time he was in law enforcement in the Benton Harbor area. “We knew Merle’s son Bob who was a friend of Phil’s. Legend has it that the track was built by father, Merle, as a personal playground, some say, doing “hot laps in a Cadillac!”. Bob would come out (with WMR) from time to time in his Cosworth Vega, Black with Gold. Pretty cool for being a Vega. The timing tower was a WMR member Charlie Richardson design and was sized, cut and drilled by Charlie at his home. Owner Bob supplied the materials. Upon arrival at the track, it went together like a large Lego set and was up and running in just a few hours. Many accolades and thank-yous to Charlie during the christening BBQ which took place after construction. Those who knew the track, narrow as it was, actually had a line to drive through the turns. Just, guessing, the track was only about 10 feet wide. Fun reminiscing about No-Drift Farm!!”



Chuck “Charlie” Richardson added “As I recall an “insurance” issue that kept us from using Nothdurft Farms again was that the young Vega owner the track was built as a playground for, and who graciously let us run there for a few years, was promoted to an officer in his father’s bank, and hence the bank could be a party to any legal action that resulted from an accident, or injury at the track. I thought that the bank actually insisted on putting bollards across the track to prevent anyone from sneaking onto it even. That could be a figment of my imagination however. Sadly I don’t think the timing stand was used for more than a year at the most but it was a fun project at the time!”

One of the largest events WMR held at Nothdurft was the IROC autocross on June 24, 1978 when forty-two drivers from four PCA regions competed. Michigan-Indiana, Motorstadt, Western Michigan, and, back then, the Chicago Region was in the series. The last event WMR ever hosted at Nothdurft was just the following weekend. It was the Holiday on Wheels autocross on July 2, 1978 and we were post event guests at Bob Durren’s home on Lake Michigan for a pool party. It was also this writer’s very first road course event in my 914.

Bob Durren passed away in 1991 and the property was sold to a automobile enthusiast bar owner from Chicago named Dan Schnitta. The next part of the story continues next month beginning at his tavern near Wrigley Field named **The Gingerman**.



# THE ENGINE OF THE CLUB

## OFFICERS · SERVING YOUR CLUB



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[Scmink2@earthlink.net](mailto:Scmink2@earthlink.net)

## MEMBERS · BUILDING THE CLUB

### GLÜCKWÜNSCHE! — ANNIVERSARIES

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

**30 years (1982)** Hannes & Barbara Meyers

**25 years (1997)** David & Susie Baum

**5 years (2017)** Andrew Bowman  
Mary & Michael Mishler

**1 year (2021)** Tristan Brown  
Nicholas Cosgrove  
Roger Huff  
Brenda Partee  
Bob Seitz  
Kevin Shaffer  
Sidhy Perminder  
Greg Stratton

### WILLKOMMEN! — NEW MEMBERS & TRANSFERS

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

Peter. Marin, Suttons Bay, '10 911 Targa 4S

Kari Merz, Leland, '85 944

Mark Moulton, North Muskegon, '54 356

Kyle Walters, Kalamazoo, '14 Cayman





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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:

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

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

#### PAYMENT:

Please make checks payable to: WMR PCA





Tech Tactics is a biannual event hosted by PCA at two of Porsche Cars North America's training facilities and parts warehouses, one in Southern California and the other in Pennsylvania. At every Tech Tactics, attendees receive access to dealer technician training facilities that are normally off limits to the public, are treated to several presentations by Porsche experts and PCNA employees covering various subjects, and can get up close to Porsche's newest models, some of which are not yet available.



Each Tech Tactics event is spread over two days, and each day of programming is the same. Attendees may choose to attend either Saturday or Sunday.

Tech Tactics West always takes place the Saturday and Sunday after the Los Angeles International Auto Show opens to the public and is located at Porsche's brand-new, shared parts and training facility in Eastvale, CA.

Tech Tactics East happens in Easton, Pennsylvania on a Saturday and Sunday in late February or early March, at PCNA's Northeastern parts warehouse and training facility.



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