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Find out in  
"A Look Back"

**PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA**  
**Uber Alles**  
Western Michigan Region

Let's Get Together:  
Virtual Winterfest  
Morning After Brunch  
A Look Back...  
To be the ... Find out more  
on page 11



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**PORSCHE**



### Upcoming EVENTS

#### WINTERFEST

Hosted by WMR PCA  
February 27, 2022

#### MORNING AFTER BRUNCH

Hosted by Amber Door & Jerry Arens  
February 27, 2022

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

#### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BRUNCH

Hosted by Wolfgang & Miluzka Bubeck  
March 13, 2022

#### LUNCH AT TIMBERS

Ackerman's and Blackledge's  
April 2, 2022

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ON THE COVER

A pretty pink 911 with a history.  
Find details on page 11.



# GREETINGS!

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



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

It's a cold, snowy, winter's day. But the sun is shining, the days are getting longer and there's live sports car racing on tv. All signs telling us it won't be long before we uncover our cars from their long winter's nap and head out on the road. But before that happens, and even in the dead of winter, WMR PCA doesn't sleep.

Last month Ty and Lisa Roelands hosted a gathering at Graydon's Crossing. Eighteen members attended and from what I was told, "everyone had a good time". For February we have Winterfest and the Morning After Brunch on the 26th and 27th, respectively. Winterfest will be virtual again this year. Specifics on how to join will come to you via email. I know most of us are tired of virtual events, but I can share that last year's virtual Winterfest was great fun. We make certain there are opportunities to meet new folks as well as connect with old friends. Plus, it allows for participation from near and far, regardless of the weather.

March is a little thin with the Blacklidge hosted dinner at Timbers moving to the April Fools weekend. We are always looking for new hosts for events. In this month's edition, Glenn Eisenbrandt has an article on hosting a drive. In next month's newsletter Lynne Olenyk, our Social Events Coordinator, will provide additional information on what it takes to host an event.

Be bold, take a chance, decide to be a host! We are here to support first timers or seasoned veterans. We don't have to be constrained by what has happened in the past. Have an idea? Have questions? Contact any of the officers or Lynne directly. Our contact information is in the back of this newsletter. PCA is "Fueled By Volunteers" and the more energy, number and type of events we can offer, benefits us all.

A reminder if you really want to immerse yourself in the world of PCA, Porsche Parade is again a drivable distance this year at the Kalahari Resort in the Pocono Mountains. Lots to do for every member of the family. Registration for a room is open now. If its anything like last year, rooms will fill up fast.

On a final note, I read this week that Road and Track named the Porsche GT3 the 2022 Performance Car of the Year. A sample of their thoughts on the car, "It's the sound, the instantaneous bite of those big Michelin's, its graceful rotation at apex, it's astonishing thrust exiting a curve. It's so good that it elevates the human spirit..." But then we knew that didn't we. Makes you wonder some time why they even bother inviting other marques to the competition.

Frank

## Get your WMR PCA Name Badge!

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**Please make your check payable to: WMR PCA.**



# DRIVE TOUR LEADERS NEEDED

BY GLENN EISENBRANDT

Dinner drives are an event that many of our members enjoy. They give us an opportunity to exercise our cars on some interesting Michigan roads for an hour or two and then have a social event with similar minded people. As Amber would say, "Social People with a Car problem".

This year there are several good months that do not have drives scheduled. We need your assistance to fill this gap. As a drive tour leader you will need to:

- Establish an end point - Typically this has been a restaurant for a group dinner. With COVID the last two years there have been several creative solutions. We did a picnic, went to an old-fashioned drive-in, and even skipped dinner.
- Establish a starting point - This requires a location where we can meetup without causing an impact on the general public.
- Establish the route - This is typically the most involved part but could also be the easiest. Frank Conner has a number of setup routes you can use if you do not want to establish your own. Obviously using one of his routes will affect the first two items.



On one of our 2021 Traverse City adventures

- Host the drive - Lynn has developed a very good cheat sheet for this so none of it will be a mystery.
- If you're interested in leading a drive this year please contact Frank Connor or myself. We will be happy to work with you to put the drive together and to answer any of your questions.

See detailed contact info on page 13.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION

# Winterfest

A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 26, 2022 | 6:30 PM EST  
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## MORNING AFTER BRUNCH

HOSTED BY AMBER DOOR AND JERRY ARENS

The "Morning After" Brunch returns!!

While we are planning a virtual Winterfest again for 2022, due to the size of the event, we are planning for an in person the "Morning After" brunch. Join us the "Morning After" Winterfest for brunch at Linear Restaurant. They agreed to provide us the exclusive use of the east side of their dining room.

Linear is a cool industrial-style hot spot with seasonal American cuisine & craft cocktails and their team is planning some inspired cocktails for the event.

Mark your calendars for what will prove to be another great meal with friends.

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**When:** Sunday February 27, 2022 -- 11:30

**Why:** Food, Fun & Porsche friends - what else do we need?

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text or call - but, please leave your name(s) by Thursday February 24, 2022





# IN REVIEW:

# GRAYDON'S DINNER

BY TYAN ROELANDS

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for dinner on January 19th on the upper level of Graydon's Crossing. I was very glad to see everyone and enjoy great conversations, delicious food from across the pond and even see a few Porsches in the parking lot! Looking forward to a year full of events in 2022 and seeing everyone again soon!



Photos by Wolfgang Bubeck



# 2022 EVENT CALENDAR

WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION · PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

	Date	Event	Location	Host(s)/Event Chair(s)
<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
<b>APR</b>	04-02 	Dinner Event	Timbers Inn Belding, MI	Ted & Gabi Blacklidge
	04-04	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board
	04-23	Cook-off	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>







PORSCHE

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



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MORE INFORMATION: [www.pca.org/activities](http://www.pca.org/activities)



**PORSCHE CLUB  
 OF AMERICA**





# A LOOK BACK...

# TO BE THE GINGERMAN

BY CHUCK OLENYK

*Last month's article ended at the Gingerman Tavern in Chicago owned by Dan Schnitta. With the help of articles by CAR and DRIVER writer John Phillips, Dan's friend, Don Patterson, from the Untold Stories: Billiards History blogspot, and with talking to Dan himself, the story continues.*

In college, Schnitta saw a Porsche 356C in a car magazine. "My dream was to go to Stuttgart to buy that car," he recalls. "So, in 1965, a friend and I got in a '41 Mercury, and we found a liquor store, bought a bottle of whiskey, drank it, and puked on the car. It was two degrees in Chicago. We headed toward New Orleans, and the puke didn't thaw until Kentucky." In New Orleans, the pair boarded a freighter bound for Le Havre, France, "except the captain didn't tell us we were going to Central America first," he recalls. "That took three months. I was the galley boy. But once I got to Europe, I found work doing laundry for U.S. soldiers in Dachau. It was fun. The soldiers gave me free beer. Then I drove to Nice and found a church with a sign that said, 'Free Cookies'—wow, a free meal, so in I went. The priest hired me as a handyman, then one day told me I was riding my motorcycle too fast and drinking too much. He said, 'You might want to move on.'"

Sans 356C, Schnitta returned to the U.S., arriving in Philly in 1966. "In a bookstore, there was an ad for the 'unexpurgated edition of The Ginger Man, by J.P. Donleavy.' It sounded racy. I read it all through the night on the bus headed back to Chicago. The book's main character is Sebastian Dangerfield, a redheaded American ex-pat who finds himself in a series of debaucherous misadventures in Ireland. And I thought, 'Wow, he's me. That's me.'"

Once home, Schnitta applied to the Peace Corps but was rejected as "too much of a bounder," so he went into real estate. "A guy told me bars were good investments. So I found one [in 1975], a flat-iron building that had been owned

by a woman selling everything from prostitutes to heroin. When I bought it, the cops told me to wait a year before reopening, to get rid of the 'children of the night.' They said, 'We don't even want you to smile in there.' The bar was next to the Metro Theatre, and I thought, 'Beautiful actresses will come into my place!' Some did, but mostly guys—Leonard Nimoy, John Malkovich, Gary Sinise. Mainly had an artsy and reflective clientele. When they came in all revved up and tipsy after a ballgame, I put on classical music. Calmed them right down." Still, the children of the night sometimes returned,

with dire consequences. "A guy went into the men's room and shot his head off. Business wasn't so good that evening. Later in the week, I told a drunk he couldn't come in. He jammed his hand through the front window, cut his arteries, almost bled to death. The cops arrived and said, 'Schnitta, you gotta cut this shit out.' I said, 'I didn't let him in.' The cop said, 'Yeah, well, that's two in one week.' I installed big windows so the cops could see what was going on inside. They liked that."





The year is 1986 and Dan was at work behind the bar at his GingerMan Tavern. He is staring at a stack of unpaid bills and an empty bar. He is trying to decide whether to pull the plug and call it quits or try to keep the doors open, when two gentlemen in suits walk in and order a couple drinks. Dan goes about his business as the two gentlemen walk around the bar pointing and talking. The two men then approach Dan after their drinks and tell Dan they have a proposition for him. The proposition is that they'll pay him a large sum of money and completely remodel his bar if he closes for a month or so, while they shoot scenes for a movie. Dan has little reason to ask many questions other than where do I sign. Dan watches as his bar is remodeled and transformed into a movie set. The day comes when they're ready for shooting the scenes and much to Dan's surprise, he shows up to find Paul Newman and Tom Cruise on the



set. Production comes to an end and Dan now has a newly remodeled bar that was used as a movie set. He reopens to a new clientele and business is good, the bills are paid and the bar is making money. Dan is thinking life could get no better.

Several months later, his manager calls him all excited and asks Dan what should he do, he has arrived to find hundreds of people standing in line all the way down the block and waiting for the bar to open. "The Color of Money" has just opened in theaters and the GingerMan Tavern is now one of Chicago's main attractions. Dan is quick to recognize the opportunity and applies a cover charge and takes it one step further, the table that Newman and Cruise played on is roped off and a significant addition charge is applied to playing on "The Table". The moral of the story can best be summed up as: Even in your darkest hour, one never knows when financial good fortune will walk through your door, but when it does, you had better have a good understanding of "The Color of Money".

After the movie was released in 1986, Schnitta's bar business boomed, and he began buying cars, initially a BMW 320i built by Steve Dinan for SCCA racing. "Before my first real race at Elkhart Lake, my mom said, 'Listen, take it easy, okay?' I said, 'I think I'll go as fast as I possibly can.' Among Schnitta's acquisitions his favorites include an '02 Honda S2000; a '67 Jag XKE; an '06 Lotus Elise; an '87 Lotus Esprit; a '68 Corvette GT1 racer; a '94 Mazda RX-7 and an '05 RX-8; an '06 Nissan 350Z; an '05 Porsche Boxster S; a '57 MGA; a '98 Formula Mazda; a '70 Porsche 911 RS that Schnitta painted French pink ("I love that car, they'll bury me in that car"); two BMW M3s—an '02 and an '08 ("I loaned the first one to my daughter, who never gave it back, so now I have two"); a '97 Formula Ford; a '71 Porsche 911 Targa; and, in Costa Rica, a much-loved '06 Toyota Terios ("top speed around 65 mph").

Dan decided in 2012 to sell the Gingerman to Metro Theater owner, Joe Shanahan, and move to South Haven, Michigan and devoted full time to his next project also accorded the Gingerman name. That story next month. "Both Gingerman and Metro have contributed to a Wrigleyville spark that is being drowned out by more modern establishments," said Schnitta in a press release. "Joe understands the revelry necessary to carry on that spirit." That's a kind way of saying the Gingerman is one of the only tolerable bars in that neck of the woods. You can find the GingerMan Tavern at 3740 N. Clark Street, in Chicago.





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## MEMBERS · BUILDING THE CLUB

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**25 years (1997)** Larry & David Baum  
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**1 year (2021)** Mark DeKorne  
Hyung Kim

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Joel Phillips, Kalamazoo, '17 911





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#### 1/2 page:

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#### 1/4 page:

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#### New:

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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



# A RARE FIND

FROM THE EDITOR



Awhile ago I acquired a stack of vintage LP's. To my surprise one cover contained some none music related information. You might get a chuckle out of the statements below. It was just a reprint in mediocre quality, but you can see the year on the stamp.

Dear Sir:—

We're writing this letter to you today because we want to help you get your money out of your Model T.

It's still as good a car as it was the day the new Model A Ford was announced and there's no need to sacrifice it.

The Model T Ford is still used by more people than any other automobile. Eight million are in active service right now and many of them can be driven one, two, three and five years and even longer.

Bring your car to us and let us look it over. You'll be surprised to see how little it costs to put it in tip-top shape.

New fenders, for instance, cost from \$3.50 to \$5.00 each, with a labor charge of \$1.00 to \$2.50. Tuning up the motor and replacing commutator case, brush and vibrator points costs only \$1.00, with a small charge for material. Brake shoes can be installed and emergency brakes equalized for a labor charge of only \$1.25. A labor charge of \$4.00 to \$5.00 will cover the overhauling of the front axle, rebushing springs and spring perches, and straightening, aligning and adjusting wheels.

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