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Western Michigan Region

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Werks Reunion
Daylight Savings Brunch
A Look Back...
Gingerman Raceway

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PORSCHE



Upcoming EVENTS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BRUNCH

Hosted by Wolfgang & Miluzka Bubeck

March 27, 2022

LUNCH AT TIMBERS

Ackerman's and Blacklidge's

April 2, 2022

COOK-OFF AT CONNER'S

Frank & Raeni Conner

April 23, 2022

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

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ON THE COVER

An inspiration for new and previous drive leaders. Lets get our share of the road again.
Driving snapshot by Wolfgang Bubeck
@ 2021 Parade in French Lick

GREETINGS!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Frank Conner
President, Western Michigan Region

By the time this reaches your mailbox we will have celebrated Winterfest and announced our Enthusiast of the year and New member enthusiast. These announcements and an overview of the Morning After Brunch will be in next month's newsletter.

Another Winterfest celebrations will be the honoring two important WMR leaders who have decided to step down from their roles. As you know, Jim Chiavaras no longer serves as president. We again thank him for his three years in the position. In addition, Ted Blackledge has stepped away from being the DE chair. Ted has been leading our activities at the track since 2006. No worries, Greg Currie has agreed to step into this role. If you've been to a DE event or any of the Traverse City drives, you know Greg and his dedication to the club. Ted has agreed to work with Greg during his first year and we expect a smooth transition.

Speaking of openings, we have an opportunity for someone to step forward as our new Charity Chair. As mentioned, a few months ago, Lyn Portoluri is no longer in this role. Again, thank you Lyn for leading this work in the past. We have an actual description of the duties, but basically the Charity Chair makes recommendations to the board on what charities we support, is the liaison between the club and the charity, helps in the collection of funds, and highlights our charity work in Uber. It's a great way to get involved and help make a difference in our community. If you are interested or have questions, contact any of the members of the board.

March and early April bring us the Daylight Savings Celebration Brunch hosted by Wolfgang and Miluzka Bubeck and Lunch at Timbers hosted by the Ackermans and Blacklidges. Spring means cars out of storage and even more on the WMR PCA calendar. If you are interested in hosting an event, read Social Events Coordinator Lynne Olenyk's article in this month's newsletter. It's a great way to give back to the club, meet people, and you get some serious points toward the Enthusiast of the year award. Maybe next year it will be you!

Lastly, if you didn't see the end of the Rolex 24 at Daytona, you missed a great finish to the 24 hour race. In the GTD-Pro class, the Porsches of Pfaff Motorsports and KCMG fought hard for the entire race with Pfaff coming out first in the class after some series bumping on the final lap. Sadly, that let a Ferrari sneak in between them, but both 911 GT3Rs made the podium P1 & P3. Google the last lap, it's an enjoyable few minutes. In the GTD-Am class, Wright Motorsports took their Porsche to the top of the podium P1. A good start to the IMSA season for our favorite Marque!

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Frank



Frank Conner
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Ada, MI 49301

Please make your
check payable to:
WMR PCA.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS CELEBRATION BRUNCH

HOSTED BY WOLFGANG & MILUZKA BUBECK

Hello brunch lovers. First of all thanks to all participants of previous years. Since the only constant in life is change, lets address some new facts first. Due to location availability we had to change the date from March 13 to March 27 and that's why we call it now Daylight Savings Celebration. We will be already 2 weeks in at the time of the event. Even if you are not a big fan of the time change, lets celebrate the upcoming nice weather driving season.

Most restaurants now have new requirements and stiff fees for group events. Nevertheless we found a nice place where we know the food is excellent and their ingredients are sourced from healthy growers. If you are searching for restaurants you might not find the place we have chosen for our 2022 brunch. Because.... it's a butcher.

The name of the place is Louise Earl Butcher and some of you might already know them from their private dinners they were hosting prior to Covid. They have expanded and now there is a separate room for events with a nice rustic setting.

We will be the only guests at that time and don't have to worry about other customer traffic. Of course our event needs to be planned ahead and chef Abby needs to do some planning for a certain amount of people. In order to meet the minimum requirements we need about 20 people to make it happen. Therefore we are asking you to RSVP no later than March 12 and in addition make a Paypal transaction to hold your reservation. Checks are also possible.

Here is the menu we have chosen to hopefully be of interest to you. More exotic options were available, but we already know that for some of us it would be a no go.

First Course: Buttermilk Biscuits and Spreads (Whipped Lardo, House Peach Habanero Jam, Bacon Jam)

Second Course: Pork Tomahawk Tonnato, Herbs, Green Wagon Green Salad - Roasted Beets, Gordal Olives, Citrus Vinaigrette, Crispy Shallots

Third Course: Banana Cream Milli Crepe Cake with Rum Caramel Sauce

Coffee, decaf and tea is included. Alcoholic beverages are available and food will be served family style.

It is going to be a unique experience you will not find in an à la carte restaurant.

Where: Louise Earl Butcher, 1106 Wealthly St. S.E.
Grand Rapids, Mi 49506

When: Sunday, March 27, 2022 at 11am

Cost per person: \$60

RSVP by March 12

Paypal to: wolfgang.bubeck@gmx.com

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APRIL LUNCH MEET

HOSTED BY CHRIS & CRAIG ACKERMAN AND TED & GABI BLACKLIDGE

Please join us for a casual lunch with friends on April 2nd, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Timber's Inn Restaurant & Tavern.

We promise that it's not going to be an April Fool's Event! We will really be there! Just do it and enjoy the moment.

PS Don't forget to have the Porsche ready. It might be your first ride of the year.

Where: 6555 Belding Rd NE, Rockford, MI 49341.

RSVP by March 29 to Craig at pcaackerman@aol.com or (616) 866-1905

NOTHING TO DO? LET'S GET INVOLVED!

BY LYNNE OLENYK, YOUR SOCIAL CHAIRPERSON

In last month's UberAlles, Glenn wrote about how to put on a "Dinner Drive". He was actually talking about two events, one being the "Driving Tour", and the second, the "Dinner". To expand on his article, I will discuss the requirements for hosting the "Dinner" part. These requirements also hold true for a stand alone "Dinner" only, too.

We've had some fantastic dinners in the past that are always well attended. If you've ever said to yourself, "I'd like to put on a dinner, I wonder how you do that"? It's actually pretty straight forward. First, chat with one of the board members or attend a board meeting with a date and place in mind. That way we can put your event on the calendar. Ideally the November board meeting is the best time to schedule your event, however, adding another dinner to our calendar is not difficult to do at anytime.

Next, to help you decide on a location, ask the manager at the restaurant of your choice the following questions to zero in on the perfect place. Does the restaurant have adequate and safe parking, a separate section or room (the club does not cover any additional costs), how many people can the restaurant accommodate, we prefer separate checks, we may need extra servers, and are food selections limited or can we order "off the menu"?

Once you have secured the perfect location and date, you need to prepare a promo to let people know about your event. Looking at past ÜberAlles promos will help you talk up your event. After making this the event that no one would want to miss, you then send your promo off to Über, the Webmeister and Amber Door. Basically that's about it!! You could even think about an outdoor venue as we move into warmer weather, such as a park!

Please consider hosting a dinner event. There are plenty of great folks on the board who would be very willing to help you. Also, as your social chairperson, I will share with you a checklist of what to do and personally communicate with you through the process to cover any questions that you may have.

To Sunshine, Porsches and Good Friends!!!



WINTERFEST REVIEWED

BY FRANK CONNER



WinterFest 2022

2021 was *another*
crazy year!

For the second year in a row, but hopefully for the last, Winterfest was held virtually this year. And while we would have preferred all being in the same room, it did not dampen the celebration nor the camaraderie as 33 members braved the weather to make it safely to their computer screens.

And as is always the case for our events, it is the people that matter. To that end, we must thank Joyce Lo, Michael Betz, Amber Door, and a host of others that contributed their time in making this evening a success. Joyce created the slides, Michael provided the video highlight which is now available on our Facebook page, and Amber filled in all the holes as she normally does. I was more than happy to help in the design and act as host in my first year as president.

Highlights of the evening were the three breakout sessions where we got to have small group conversations and even meet some new members. Congratulations to Wolfgang Bubeck as the 2021 Enthusiast of the Year. Equal congrats to Ted Alberta for receiving the award as the Newcomer Enthusiast of the Year. He doesn't get to have the illustrious trophy like Wolfgang does for a year, but he does get a nametag to display this honor for years to come!


We also thanked some of our outgoing leaders for their years of service. Jim Chiavaras as president, Mike Karluk as past president, Lin Portoluri as charity chair, and Ted Blackledge's 15 years as DE chair. We are a group of volunteers, and it is the effort of these folks and all the other officers and chairs highlighted at this event that keeps this machine moving forward. As we look to next year, start picking out your best outfit now, we have had enough of zoom and social distancing. I'm thankful for the club in keeping us safe during this pandemic, but we all want to celebrate in 2023, face-to-face.



Über Alles

2022 EVENT CALENDAR

WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION · PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

	Date	Event	Location	Host(s)/Event Chair(s)
MAR	03-04	WERKS Reunion	Amelia Island	PCA
	03-07	Monthly Board Meeting	Thornapple Brewing Co. Grand Rapids, MI	WMR Board
	03-27	Daylight Savings Brunch	Louise Earl Butcher	Wolfgang & Miluzka Bubeck
APR	04-02	April Lunch Meet	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
MAY	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
JUN	06-04	Tech Session	Euro Autowerks Rockford, MI	Euro Autowerks
	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
JUL	07-09	Deutsche Marques	Gilmore Car Museum	Not a PCA Event
AUG	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
SEP	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 · 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)
OCT	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
	10-15	Deutsche Marques Oktoberfest	Gilmore Car Museum	Not a PCA Event
NOV	11-07	Membership / Planning Meeting	TBD	WMR Board
DEC	12-05	Monthly Board Meeting	Porsche of Grand Rapids	WMR Board



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**PORSCHE CLUB
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A LOOK BACK

GINGERMAN RACEWAY

BY CHUCK OLENYK

I would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this article; Jonathan Davis - Southhaven.org, Break/Fix the Gran Touring Motorsports Podcast - Racingcircuits.info, and Richard Ranville - Amateur Road Racing in Michigan.



The success of the Gingerman Tavern gave owner Dan Schnitta greater options, freedom, and the next chapter of this story. Dan became involved in road racing back in Chicago in the company of business associates who introduced him to the Porsche club. He became a WMR member in 1985 when he owned both a 1963 blue 356 Cabriolet, and a 1978 red 928 “daily driver”. He first attended sports car events, then bought a race prepared BMW 320i and finally started participating, eventually racing throughout the Midwest. Dan purchased the former Nothdruff Farms property in the early 1990’s to have a place to race the way he thought amateur racing should be done. Before long Dan’s concept of what a track should be was forming, but the township where the first track was located would not cooperate with his plans for improvement and expansion. Dan looked for a new location. A prime prerequisite for the site, in a rural, sparsely populated spot, was that the township had no zoning restrictions. When he learned about a dormant apple orchard close to downtown South Haven, he recognized an opportunity to pursue his passion for racing. Schnitta bought the orchard in 1995.



Dan saw the gently rolling terrain being able to permit the subtle elevation changes, prized by road racing drivers. The land proved to have substantial deposits of sand, crucial to a properly constructed track and provided room to design a track. Grattan Raceway and Waterford Hills were both “designed” to use as much available land as there was at those sites; that is, they were drawn to fit what was available. The site for Gingerman was chosen to make available as much land as Dan Schnitta’s exacting expectations would require. The 350 acres of land includes sprawling areas of a shaded wood, plenty of paddock space and a pond fully stocked with fish. The idea, according to Schnitta, is to allow visitors to “feel the comfort of a state park”. The property also benefits from a location close to other attractions; visitors are just six miles away from the beach, boutiques, events and dining at the South Haven beach-side community.

Schnitta hired an internationally known designer, Alan Wilson, of Wilson Motorsport, a Denver track design and management company to design the track. Wilson is a former car and motorcycle racer who was Director of Operations at Brands Hatch in England before coming to the USA in 1983. He has operated events for Formula One, Indy Car, Trans-Am, IMSA GTP and International motorcycles, including the famed Trans-Atlantic race series. He has designed and built street race tracks for IMSA GTP, Indy Car and Trans-Am events in Columbus, Ohio, Denver and Dallas. He is responsible for the design of the infield road course for the Las Vegas Speedway, a 3 mile road course development near Philadelphia and for the layout and development of the Palm Springs International Raceway. The Gingerman design provided

Continued on page 12



for future expansion. Schnitta hired an engineering firm to supervise construction, but dismissed it when he decided he and Wilson could act as general contractors, using local firms to do the work. Dan has hired local firms to do the work at Gingham ever since. Construction began in 1995. The intention was to create a club racing-level course with clear runoffs and wide, smooth paving to avoid costly vehicle damage, especially for newer drivers. The design has won plaudits, including a Safe Track Award from the vintage and historic racing publication, Victory Lane Magazine. The facility was finished in October 1995 and opened for general testing, ahead of its first full season of racing in 1996, mainly SCCA car racing and club-level motorbike races.

The track bears the distinction of being one of the country's safest. Schnitta had the track designed to exclude hazards such as ditches, trees and utility poles. In order to be on the track, drivers must have either attended a driving school or already been on another track at least three times. "Recreational racers cannot afford to repair their cars after minor mistakes, so we have provided wide open run-off areas that are as smooth as a golf course fairway," explains Wilson. "We have also tried to build a track that will encourage close competition, so have included at least four major overtaking points. There is also a very technical section that will allow a well driven smaller car to match a more powerful vehicle's overall lap times, providing for exciting racing." The open layout allows for greater safety and visibility for drivers, workers and racers, yet the subtle elevation changes and careful layout provide a racing experience far beyond a flat, sharp angled airport. The shape of the property allows a spectator area on top of a modest hill where spectators can follow an exciting duel between competing cars all the way around the track. Modern bathrooms with showers, a small convenience store, meeting room and picnic and camping grounds are all presented on a well manicured, landscaped park like setting and together offer all the amenities week end racers and spectators desire.



Two important initiatives are underway. On the southwest corner of the property map is an area marked "Endless Summer". That portion of the property will be subdivided around access roads to both the track and the road to South Haven. Negotiations are underway with a company building quality prefabricated semi-custom buildings to build combination garage — apartments. Owners will keep their racecars and boats on the site for easy access to the track and Lake Michigan. The apartments will provide weekend and vacation retreats for racers and their families. A small club house is planned for social events. Everything will be built to quality, affordable specifications. Dan mentions dismissively a similar project in Illinois where "memberships" approach one million dollars. Endless summer will be high quality, realistically priced and will not break ground until a suitable number of participants have committed. Endless summer will be expected to pay its own way.

Thus we are now up to date with latest adventures dreamed by a man inspired by The Ginger Man and the will to do something with it.



THE ENGINE OF THE CLUB

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TBD

MEMBERS · BUILDING THE CLUB

GLÜCKWÜNSCHE! — ANNIVERSARIES

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

35 years (1987) Rob & Sue Deming
25 years (1997) Ross & Suzann Van Klompenberg
15 years (2007) Larry Gill
10 years (2012) Jack & David Chism
1 year (2021) Greg Brnck
Katty Godoy-Sanchez
James Novorita
Mark Pasquali
Cormick Raden
Tim Steinberg

WILLKOMMEN! — NEW MEMBERS & TRANSFERS

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

David & Pauline Ferguson, Hudsonville, '86 911
Timothy & Dawn Kleyla, Grand Haven, '06 Boxster S
Mark Olson, Traverse City, '10 911 4S
Terry Systsma, Lowell, '02 Boxster S
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PORSCHE

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Pre-sales will be considered for WMR members. I am located near Charlevoix MI. Item list will be available shortly. Please send me your email and I will provide the list.

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Note: Members must contact editor to renew after 2 month. Editor reserves right to edit ads.

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REVIEW: MORNING AFTER BRUNCH

BY AMBER DOOR



Although Winterfest remained virtual for 2022 the “Morning After” brunch, after a one-year, pandemic hiatus, was able to return to an in-person event at Linear Restaurant in Grand Rapids. Linear does an amazing brunch and provided us the perfect location to gather.

The shining sun on Sunday morning made for a pleasant drive for the 26 WMR Porsche driving and the Porsche slumbering members alike. While there was no long-distance award for the event - coming the farthest was Chris and Teresa Thorpe from Mattawan in their Cayenne. The shortest distance award (that did not exist) would have gone to Damien Sanchez and Katy Godoy-Sanchez. We also welcomed several new members to their very first in-person Region event - Roger and Marcia Huff from Holland in their Macan GTS and Carson Bretz from Grand Haven, who did not arrive in his beautiful '01 Boxster S (that is still napping for the winter), but he did have pictures to show.

The event provided us the much-needed time to connect with our new members and reconnect with those we have not seen in quite a while. We missed all of you who were not able to attend. Were your ears burning? We may have been talking about you and how sorry we were that you could not make it. We hope you can join us in 2023!

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