

Auspuff Roar

January 2015



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356 Motor Cities Gruppe Hall of Fame

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Barbara Skirmants
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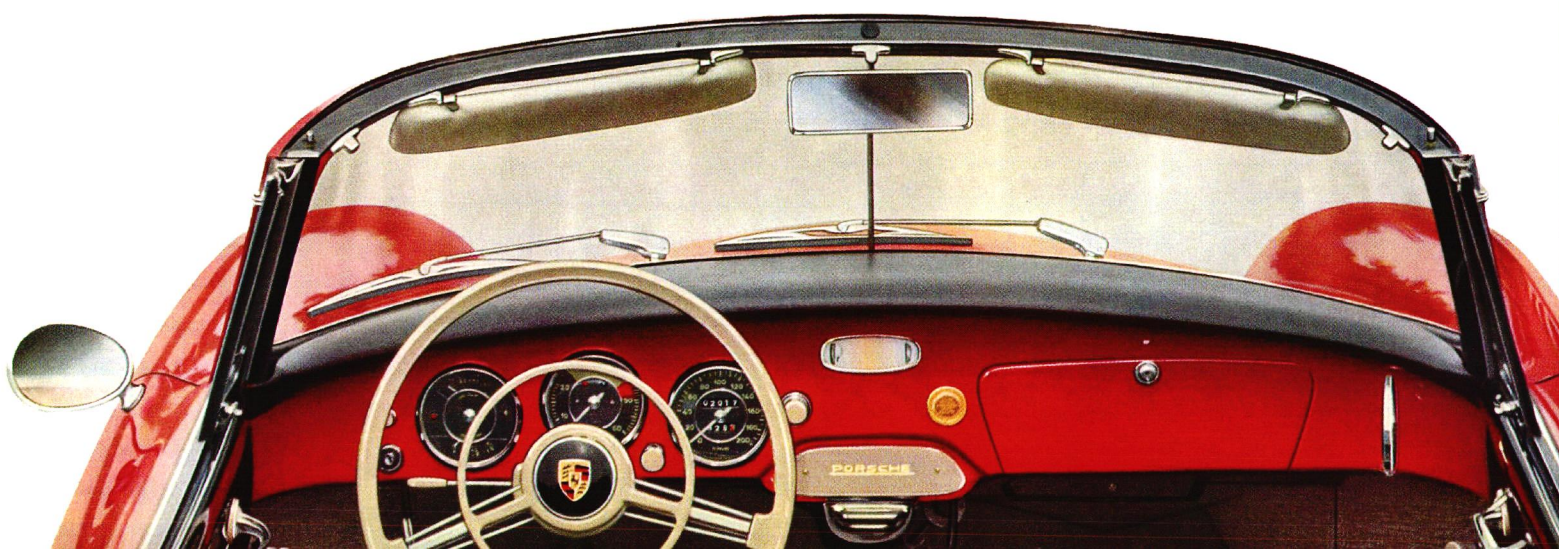
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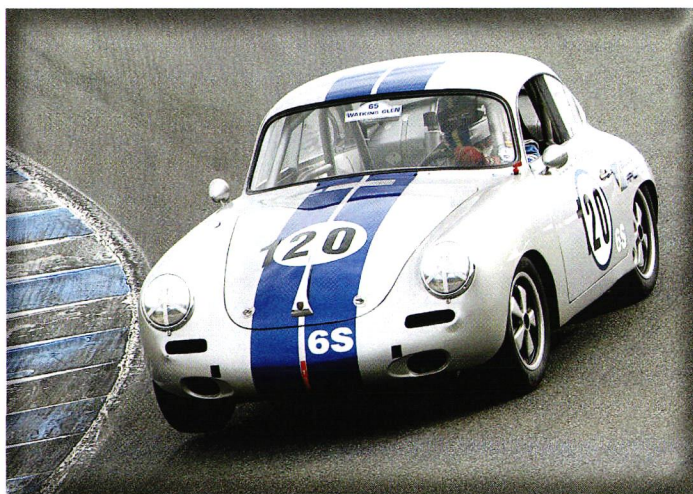
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On The Cover: Speedster in the Snow by Bjoern Schmidt





President's Letter

Dave Burton

Happy New Year! Man, 2012 sure went by quickly. I used to laugh when my elders told me that each year went by faster than the previous but you know, they were right.

It was great seeing everyone at the Holiday Party. We had a nice turnout and raised a goodly sum for the club operations. Thanks to all who donated auction items and thanks again to the successful bidders. Thanks also to Sebastian, he makes a very polished auctioneer. And thanks most of all to Sue Denyer and Barb McLaughlin, they really know how to party. We had a bittersweet item at the live-auction; Polly sent a framed picture of a 911 Turbo from Gerald's collection. She also sent along a number of other pieces from his Porsche memorabilia for the members to peruse and take as keepsakes. The last issue made a nice tribute to Gerald and this one has another of his articles that had yet to be published. He is missed.

Now that it's January, you need to make plans to attend our annual winter event, the Chili Cook-Off. Except it's not going to be a Chili Cook-Off this year, Barbara is changing it up. On Saturday February 16th, we'll be enjoying the Mid-Winter Pot Luck at Leon & Lulu's. Bring your best dish to pass and arrive at 5pm sharp. This should be a gastronomic delight. By the time the Pot Luck Dinner

happens, winter will be half over and your winter projects should be well underway or you won't be ready when the weather breaks and we can again enjoy our tubs on the open road instead of just indoors.

I know I have a list of work to get done--I just can't seem to get into serious cleaning during the driving season--what can I say? Every time I walk into the garage and ask Diane's Roadster "Do you want to get washed, or do you wanna go for a drive?" Her Roadster says: "Drive me!".

Meanwhile, the Board met in early January to plan the coming events and set the calendar. All your favorites will be back and we'll try to keep your interest piqued. If you have any ideas for a new event or a way to freshen one of the classics, let us know--we're always looking for inspiration. Another thing your Board has done is asked some of the long-term club leaders to serve as advisors to the Board. We appreciate that Dennis Denyer, Dave Peterson, Ron Roland and Vic Skirmants have agreed to fill the advisory positions and continue their long service to the Gruppe.

It won't be long before our Spring Drive is upon us and the good weather is back. Yeah, I know--I'm only helping rush another year along. See you on the road.

Dave

There Are Things We Know, Things We Don't Know, And Things We Don't Know We Don't Know by Gerald Van Vliet

My title comes from some recent days spent attempting basic repairs to my Porsche. When I first heard Don Rumsfeld make the above statement, I scratched my head and said, What?

Now after several days working on seemingly simple tasks on my Porsche, I know exactly what he was talking about. For instance, and stop me if you've heard this one, my gas gauge only half works. It shows almost full when the tank is full but when it shows empty the tank is still half full. That should be relatively easy to fix (this is the point where you stop me, because you've been to the point of "that should be easy to fix"). But first I need to take a look at it.

"Things we don't know": Upon an examination I find that a 901 bodied car has a different gas tank measuring device than a 356. The 356 has a little float device that literally floats in the tank, going up and down with the level of gas in the tank. The 901 bodied cars on the other hand have a cylinder going down into the tank which must have some mechanism in it which measures the level of fuel in the tank. I say "must have", because I was never able to get the cylinder out of the tank.

"Things we don't know we don't know": The cylinder is attached at the top to a power source, or the sending unit, which in turn runs somewhere else in the car, to an area which is inaccessible. The cylinder is longer than the power source to which it is attached, thus it not possible to get the cylinder out of the tank without cutting the power source. Alright, so just unplug the connection on top of the cylinder (the sending unit) from the cylinder. How? It doesn't come

apart. So not only don't I "not know", I don't even "not know what I don't know". How do these parts disconnect? Do these parts disconnect?

Second, for instance. The rubber molding around my vent window, passenger side, is all chewed up and doesn't seal well, not well at all. Stoddard sells a replacement. Just get the part, take the door panel off and unloosen some screws, drop the window down, take the vent window out and replace the molding.

"What we know": if it went in it must come out.

"What we don't know": how do you get the window apart to replace the molding. Simple, take off the door panel to gain access to the mechanisms inside the door and it will become apparent how it works.

"What we don't know that we don't know": With the door panel off, it is no more apparent how to get the vent window out of the door than it was before the panel was off. After looking at the shop manual and the door from every angle, it is no more obvious how you accomplish this task, then before I removed the door panel. "Things you don't know you don't know"!

Third, for instance. "Things we know": The driver side window on my car sticks going down. You have to sometimes push on it with your hand to get it to go down. The passenger door's window works fine.



A close look at this photo shows Gerald's 912 with the driver's side door panel off.

"Things we don't know": What does it take to correct this problem? Talk to some people, look at the shop manual, pull the door panel off, look at the shop manual some more. Nothing obvious. Ask people some more questions, no ready answer. Could be this, could be that. While the door panel is off I notice that there seem to be two "extra" screw holes by the window crank mechanism. However the actual crank mechanism is concealed by the inner metal panel of the door. It's an old car and you can't find a solution for everything that ails it.

"Things we don't know that we don't know": As a follow up to removing the door panel from the driver door I removed the door panel from the passenger door (see above). However it should be noted, after I replaced the inner door panel on the driver side door. After finishing my futile attempt to fix the vent window on the passenger door I was getting ready to put the inner door panel back on the passenger door, when I noticed that there were four screws securing the window crank mechanism in the passenger door. Does that change a "Things We don't know what we don't know" into merely a "Things we don't know" or even a "Things we know"?

That will have to wait until the next time I feel like taking the driver inner door panel off, when I have gotten up the ambition to solve some "Things we know", it isn't working the way it should, and "Things we don't know", what do I have to do to fix it? ♦

***"With the door panel off,
it is no more apparent
how to get the vent
window out of the door
than it was before the
panel was off"***

MOTOR CITIES GRUPPE

Mid Winter Pot Luck Dinner



Location: Leon & Lulu

96 W. 14 Mile Road Clawson, Michigan

(248) 288-3600 www.leonandlulu.com

Saturday February 16th, 2013 Time: 5:00PM sharp please, to 7:30PM

RSVP to Barbara Skirmants at (810) 688-9090 or (810) 688-2059 skirmants@hughes.net

Leon & Lulu is a destination life style store with furniture, gifts and accessories. The store is owned by our friends and 356 MCG members, Stephen and Mary Liz Scannell. It is located in the historic Ambassador Roller Rink – it's a great setting for this type of party. No skating – but great browsing in their shops, seeing your 356 friends. **Bring your favorite dish;** silverware, plates etc, as well as Soda Pop will be provided.

PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

Multi-Region Swap Meet



Presented by SEM, RSR & Motorstadt Regions
Featuring the 356 Motor Cities Gruppe
All Zone 4 Regions Have Been Invited Including
Western Michigan, Michiana, and Maumee Valley



Hosted by Porsche of Farmington Hills
37911 Grand River Avenue * Farmington Hills * MI 48335

Saturday April 13th 2013

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Rain or Shine, this event is inside!

For tables contact Dave Burton: 248-882-0231



Third Coast Oktoberfest 2012



Story and photos by Bill Waite and Sebastian Gaeta

Registry Holidays have always been special events. From the beginning they brought 356 owners together from all parts of the country. Over time they became bigger and bigger with committees spending up to two years in advance planning them. Each one got more extravagant than the next with one group trying to outdo the last. For many people, that was nirvana. Others, however, longed for events where they still see people from other parts of the country, but the get-together is more low key, less structured and casual. And less expensive

Enter the latest trend in the 356 Registry, the Regional Event. In 2011 The Gang of Three (George Bryan, Tom McCoy and Curt Dansby) hosted the "Georgia 2011 Drive Your 356 Weekend" and by all accounts this casual, "cars on the lawn and butts in the lawn chairs" event was a smash hit. Three fifty six owners are a social bunch and they are most happy when conversing with other owners. As someone who has put on a few events for the Gruppe, one thing I notice is that sometimes it takes quite a while to get everyone to stop talking and get into their cars for the driving tour.

Bill Waite of Grand Rapids, MI took notice of the Georgia event and along with Tom Kayser, Fred Harrison, Bill Hallack, Doug McDonnell and Justin Escher (the six members of the "Gang of Five") conceived the Third Coast Oktoberfest. This event was heavily advertise din the AR so I won't give you a blow by blow, but will hit the highlights.

The first day's weather was perfect (sunny and about 70

degrees) and the Fall season colors were at their peak. It gradually got colder each day and some rain dampened the outdoor tire kicking a bit, but everyone seemed to enjoy the indoor tours planned for the event.

The weekend started on Thursday with an afternoon tour of the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, one of the premier aviation museums in the country. We were allowed to park on the lawn out front and even had special access to their restoration facilities.

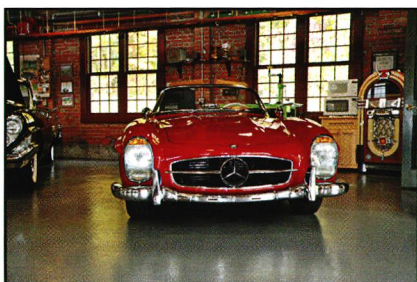
Friday was the big day for schedules events with a tour of the "Off Brothers Garage". The Off Brothers are two friend from the Kalamazoo area with the means to buy whatever type of automobile they wish, and keep them in a museum/playhouse facility. They hang out there personally with friends and also open it up four tours such as these. The staff of caretakers and restoration specialists were on hand to answer any and all questions we ad. "Very cool" is the best adjective I can give it.

After lunch we were off to the Gilmore museum, another world class facility. Most Gruppe members are familiar with the Gilmore, if not you need to be. Sitting on 90 park-like acres, it houses over 200 vehicles in several buildings, plus a restoration facility that is teaching young people the (not quite yet) lost art of automobile restoration.

Saturday consisted pretty much of hanging out together and taking self guided tours of the Third Coast area with winer-



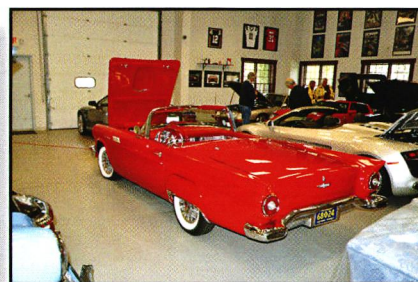
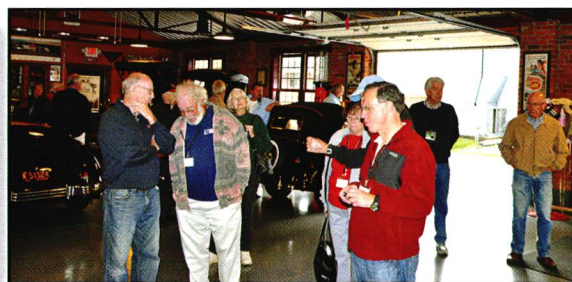
[AIR+ZOO.]



OFF Brothers



Garage



ies, breweries, casinos and fall colors. Saturday night was the Oktoberfest dinner which was a very cozy and casual affair. The gull Lake Inn (host hotel) had a great clubhouse area that was perfect for the dinner.

Sunday brought us to the final day which meant the swap meet. This is how casual and attendee driven the event was: we all kind of stood around and said, "well, should we actually have one?" That said, people slowly but surely brought out the parts they brought to sell. In the end some great parts traded hands and new friends made.

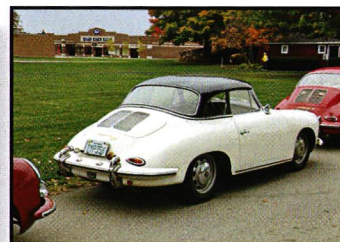
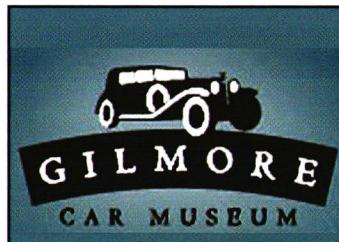
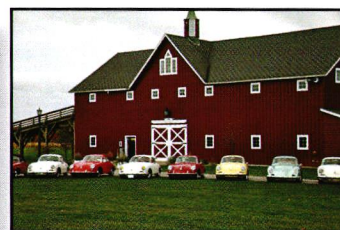
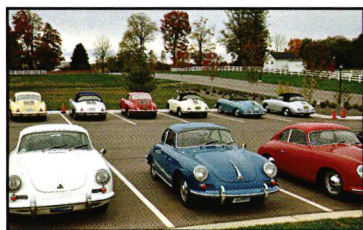
There were some interesting side stories to the weekend. Bill Hallack, one of the "Gang of Five", helped Frank Petersen from New Ulm, Texas when Frank's generator "died" after making it all the way to Marshall, MI. Bill offered his garage, and ultimately his own spare generator, plus did all of the installation to get Frank back on the road. Bill is the

local version of the "Maestro"--Bill Waite calls him the West Michigan Maestro)--but he never charges a dime for any of the work he does. He has helped many of the west coast Michigan guys with all things mechanical on our little tubs, and he always does it with a smile on his face. He is quite a guy. The photo from the Oktobersfest dinner was just after Frank presented him with the certificate making Bill an honorary citizen of Texas!

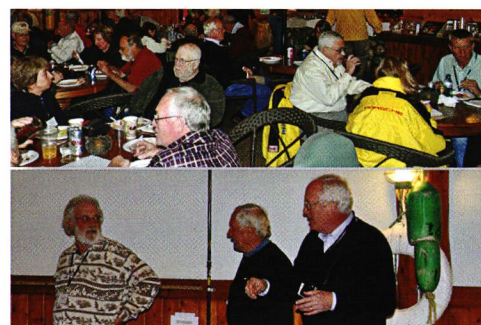
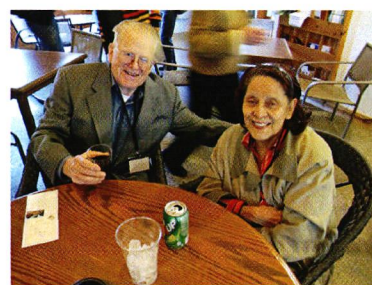
Other notable attendees were Roy and Alice Garrison who drove up from Jasper, GA. They are good friends of Bill Hallack & his wife Linda.

Originally, we thought we'd only attract members from the mid-west, but in the end we had about 70 people attend with participants from the following places:

West Bend, WI, Windham, NH, Indianapolis, IN, West



*Saturday
Night
Dinner*



Bloomfield, MI, Argyle, TX, Jasper, GA, Urbana, IL, Cincinnati, OH, Bedford, TX, Cleveland, OH, Dayton, OH, New Ulm, TX, Houston, TX, Mainville, OH, Tyler, TX, Jamestown, PA, Lincoln, MI, Superior Township, MI, Baldwinsville, NY, Columbia, MD, Langley, WA, Hilliard, OH, West Chester, PA, Billings, MT, Kalamazoo, MI, Clearwater, FL, Bannockburn, IL, Rosco, IL, N. Barrington, IL, Grand Haven, MI, Ann Arbor, MI, Tecumseh, MI, Hickory Corners, MI, Dearborn, MI, Kent, OH, Franklin, Stow, OH, Coumbus, OH, Grand Rapids, MI, Augusta, MI, Richland, MI, and Portage, MI.

So... the long distance "award" went to Tom Olson from Langly, WA (1823.6 miles). Also recognized were the four (4) Registry members who made the trip from Texas for having the most "combined mileage" from one state.

The organizers ended up with a "surplus" after expenses of almost \$400. They made a \$200 donation to the Gilmore

Museum and are going to make a request of the Registry to let them donate the balance (just under \$200) as "seed money" for the next group that puts on a "Third Coast Oktoberfest" (any state that borders the Great Lakes). There is one being planned by Bernard Lakemaker in the Chicago area, so they would be the recipient.

Says Bill Waite "The fact that we ended up with a surplus is more proof that you can pull off a fun event for under a \$50 registration fee... and serve beer, wine (albeit cheap) and a meal plus admissions to museums, etc."

Bill's enthusiasm, as well as the rest of the Gang's, really set the tone for the event and the attendees soaked it in. I predict you will see many more of these regional events in the future to get back to the basics--spending time with these cars and the people who love them. ♦

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING GRUPPE EVENTS

Mid-Winter Potluck

Saturday February 16th, 2013
Leon and Lulu

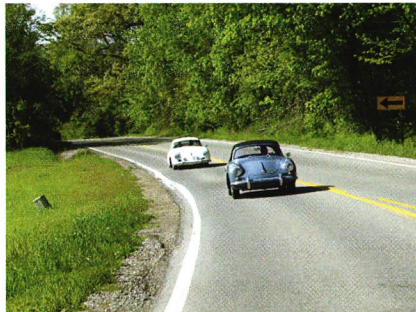


Shades of Pink Zoo Walk

Saturday April 27th, 2013
Detroit Zoo
See announcement in the next issue



22nd Annual Gruppe Spring Tour May 19th 2013



Motor Cities Gruppe Calendar of Events 2013

February

February 16th
February 27th - 3/3

5th annual Mid Winter Pot Luck Gala @ Leon & Lulu
SVRA Vintage Races at Sebring, FL

March

March 2nd - 3rd
March 7th - 10th
March 23rd

LA Toy, Literature and Swap Meet
Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance
Gilson Motor Sports Tech Session

April

April 6th
April 13th
April 20th
April 27th
April 24th - 28th

MCG Board Meeting - 10:00AM at Neil's
Swap Meet - Porsche of Farmington Hills
Hershey Swap Meet
Shades of Pink Zoo Walk Detroit Zoo
HSR Mitty @ Road Atlanta

May

May 11th
May 19th
May 31st -6/2

Devil is in the Details - Munk's (10AM - 4PM)
Spring Tour
Detroit Gran Prix - Belle Isle

June

June 1st
June 8th (tentative)
June 22nd - 23rd
June 23rd - 29th
June 26th - 30th

MCG Board Meeting - 10:00AM at Neil's
Stoddard Swap Meet
Bay Harbor Vintage Car Show (Friday & Saturday Event)
58th Annual Porsche Parade Traverse City, MI
SVRA at Mid Ohio Vintage Races

July

July 17th - 21st
July 19th - 21st
July 28th

Elkhart Lake Road America - Kohler Int'l Challenge
Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix
Concours de'Elegance of America @ St Johns

August

August 4th
August 4th
August 10th-11th
August 11th
August 17th - 18th

Summer Picnic @ the Dunhams
MCG Board Meeting (briefly at Summer Picnic)
Alden Classic Sports Car Picnic/Show in Alden, Michigan
SEM Summer Picnic
Woodward Dream Cruise

September

September 7th - 9th
September 7th - 9th
September 14th - 16th
September 16th

Watkins Glen SVRA Vintage Races
Frankenmuth Auto Fest 2012 in Frankenmuth, Michigan
Glenmoor Gathering Canton, OH -
Drive your Porsche Day 2012

October

October 9th - 13th
TBD

West Coast Holiday New Mexico
Gruppe Fall Tour

November

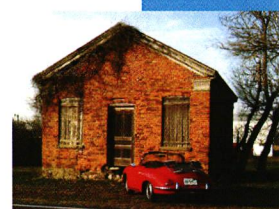
November 9th

MCG Board Meeting - 10:00AM at Neil's

December

December 8th

Holiday Christmas Party - Canterbury Village



Motor Cities Gruppe
3359 Kings Mill Road
North Branch, MI 48461



Sebastian Gaeta
4070 Brookview Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Member 2017

Visit The Gruppe Online at www.356mcg.com

