



March, 1995

Volume 4 Issue 1

Winter Issue

Presidents Message

Fellow Enthusiasts:

The start of a new year also brings a new chapter to the Motor Cities Gruppe. Enclosed is a ballot for election of club officials and directors for 1995. Your prompt response would be appreciated, please post by March 1st.

I originally intended to do a review of "94" activities, but we had such a variety of events- something for everyone, that you had to be there to appreciate and enjoy.

I do have a concern about the future of this club. I receive several other 356 club newsletters and a trend is emerging. As the old guard is tiring, there is no new guard to carry on and unfortunately, we found that many of our members, whether because of a lack of time or interest only want to be "arm chair" enthusiasts, satisfied with only receiving the newsletter. Bonnie and I have spent 6 years doing this newsletter and pulling activities together- time for "new guard" action, don't let us down.

Larry Heitman has taken over as Editor/Publisher of the newsletter, this is his 1st issue, don't let Larry do it all. The task is easy if supported with photos, and technical or general interest articles.

Congratulations to Vic Skirmats for his 1994 National Champion SCCA G production win, it's been a long time coming to a deserving 356 campaigner. Also to an unheralded long time SCCA competitor, John Thompson, 18th place in E production. (plagued by mechanical problems)



Vic and Barb celebrating after SCCA Victory

The events calender is in need of host for our annual events, ie, summer picnics, fall color tour, Christmas party. The Gruppe is also open to other activities- "*Lets all start thinking*"- contact me with details @ (313)-561-8186.

It's time to renew your club membership. Please send \$10.00 for 1995 to Dave Peterson. I only have approx. 20 car grill badges left, they are available for \$30.00 each including shipping.

I have enjoyed this position and newsletter editor for the last several years and now it's time to "give my support" instead of asking for it.

- Fred Sheill

Calender of Events

March 25: MCG Dinner in Ann Arbor (details pg.7)

Open Date (May): MCG Spring Tour (details pg.7)

June 14-18: West Coast Holiday in Colorado (details pg 6)

June 18: Eyes on Classics @ Ford Estate in Gross Pointe

To be Announced: Mid-Ohio Vintage Car Races
& Barbs BBQ

Open Date: MCG Summer Picnic

Sept. 1-3: East Coast Holiday in Colubus, Ohio

Open Date: Fall Color Tour

Open Date: Christmas Party

A letter to Fred:

Christopher Tanner January 15, 95
Kreuzlingen, Switzerland

Dear Fred,

For your letter of Nov. 28 I thank you and I apologize for not having answered before now. I was very busy in my business, finishing cars, Christmas time and so on. I hope you understand this.

It was good to meet you at the Toronto holiday which I enjoyed very much and I hope I can come back to attend another meeting in your country. In Switzerland we have a 356 club with about 70 members and two national meetings, one in spring and one in the fall. Usually about 20-25 cars gather together, but there is no one who makes a club magazine. Sometimes I am asked by other clubs in Europe to write a report for their magazine which I usually do with pleasure despite limited time. At the moment Gordon Maltby is planning to publish an article I have written for the 356 registry and other clubs.

The European Int. gatherings are nice to attend and lots of cars (usually about 200) show up. But the meetings over here are much more expensive than in your country. I was amazed for how little money you can have lots of fun at a US meeting. Count about \$500-600 per person incl. inscription fee, hotel and food. It is true, they do a good job and offer good things but I still feel the relation between quality and price is better in your country. You also can see the difference in quality of restoration standard of the cars which come to the meetings. So called non-restored runners you will not see over here. I think the high price of the event cuts out the cars/people. As a professional 356 restorer I actually prefer to see also nonrestored original and a bit rusty cars. Often the owners of these cars had them for a long time and this makes it interesting to talk to them, these cars are often good to

look at in order to learn about originality, also last and not least I can sell sometimes some of my work!

If you are interested I will send you the application forms for the next Int. meeting which will be held on 25-28 May in Italy close to the Swiss border.

I am looking forward to hearing from you again.

Best Regards
Chris Tanner

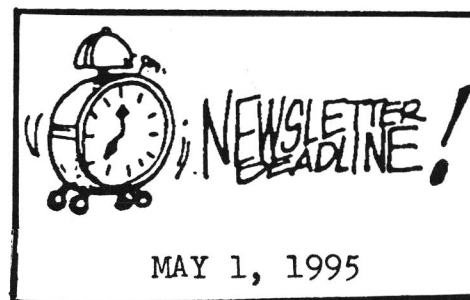
Book Review: 356 Technical and Restoration Guide

I recently received a copy of Brett Johnson's new 356 restoration book. It is a compilation of 20 years of technical articles from the 356 Registry, similar to PCA's Up Fixin series. It is helpfully organized by subject, and is easy to use. The book is 400 pages and contains 131 illustrations.

The only critical comment I have concerns the size of the book. I wish Brett had used the larger layout. The page size of his restoration books seem easier to fold out when working on your 356.

The book is available from:
TPR, Inc.

7510 Allisonville Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46250
or call 1 (800)-553-5319



October Color Tour

by: Lanita Dunham

As we gathered on Saturday, October 22nd at Ventura Properties on Newburg Rd., my hairdo and spirits fell, as a thick fog rose around us. The 20 cars on my list weren't showing up. Then, thru the soup, the distinct voices of 911's, 356's, and 944's came to us. Cheerful drivers, grumpy passengers, maps now in hand, started out on the first leg of our color tour. Would the color be G-R-A-Y? NO! A short distance west and we were in glorious sunshine for the rest of the weekend. After a 50 mile run out N. Territorial to unknown lands to the west of us, the tour took to the back roads of rural Michigan and the most splendid fall colors. Leaves swirling around our cars as we past brilliantly hued woods, tan corn fields, and laughing children rolling in leaf piles.

By noon, we had reached our lunch spot at Turkeyville USA. We had been invited to park on the lawn and became an instant car show. Don Paul's Viper was a huge hit too, along with the many Porsches. By 1p.m., turkey lunches of all descriptions had been consumed, gift shops visited and we were ready to resume our tour. Again heading west past calm lakes and gently wafting smoke from burning leaves, our next stop was the Gilmore Auto museum at Hickory Corners. We relaxed with fresh cider and donuts before self directed tours thru the 5 huge, immaculately preserved barns, viewing over 100 antique and classic autos on the lovely 90 acre farm belonging to the Gilmore family of Gilmore/Andretti fame.

By 5:30 we were all gathered at the Gull Lake Cafe for a wonderful buffet dinner. We were seated in the patio room overlooking Gull Lake and Vic Rivera's boat, and filled our plates from a bountiful table. With that gastronomic feat accomplished, several of the group bid us farewell and journeyed back to Detroit. We also had a couple from Battle Creek drive over for dinner with us, in their 356. The rest of the group headed for

our nights lodging at the Fairfield Inn in Kalamazoo. We were still not ready to end the day yet, so 5 couples ventured to the "Cork and Cleaver" for a night cap and some side splitting jokes told by Jack Hagerty, Mark Lehnert, and Ernst Kassik, none of which can be repeated here or in church. Speaking of church, Sunday morning we gathered for coffee, juice and muffins in the breakfast room, visiting and waiting for the 11a.m. opening of the "Bravo Ristorante" for brunch. BOY! was it worth the wait! They have a huge half moon bar set with delicious breakfast and lunch foods, another table with breads, another with salads and fruits, and yet another with WOW deserts. We sampled it all!!! Our tour not yet over, we went to the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum and had the most interesting guided tour, seeing dozens of American war birds, restored to their flying glory. Now the tour was almost over, only the journey home remained with the warm sun and the prevailing winds to stir the memories of a great Porsche weekend in Michigan. We wish you had been there with us, don't you?

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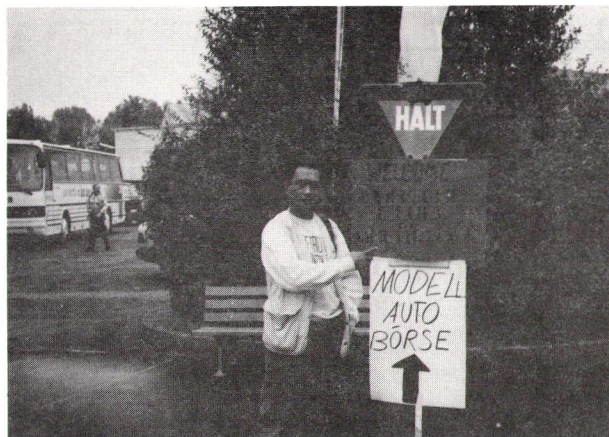
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Porsche Pilgrimage

Southeast Michigan Region Porsche Club of America took a trip. Not just any trip, but a mega trip, to Germany and most importantly, to the home of our passion in driving, to Stuttgart and the Porsche factory. Of course we did see a few dozen castles and other towns and sights while there on our weeks long stay, but for us THE FACTORY was the highlight.

As our tour bus arrived at #1 Porschestrasse, we filled with anticipation of what we would see and we were not disappointed one bit. First, we gathered in the Porsche museum, where our guided tour began. We were all given headphones so we could hear the guide from the back of the group. They don't have regular guides so they ask for someone who speaks English to give the tour. We were very fortunate, getting two very knowledgeable men, Volker Spannagel and his assistant, Mark, both of whom work in the Club Relations office with Ilse Nadele, who we've all met at many parades. We were shown thru the interior dept., seeing work in process on upcoming builds. They use the policy of "just in time" delivery for current builds just as is done in this country so the seats and door panels we saw being sewn were for cars on the assembly line. We learned that over 200 colors of interiors can be ordered for a Porsche, of course at an outrageous cost, but what else would you expect when so much of the car is truly "built by hand".

On to the assembly lines. First the engine line, where parts are added to the block as it proceeds along a long work island, at a very slow pace, allowing adequate time for the worker to do his job. Once assembled, every engine is tested in one of 12 test booths. A worker can hook up the engine to fuel, coolant, and exhaust in about 20 minutes, the engine is run for 15 minutes, measuring the true horse power, RPM, temp., starting ability, etc. It is then shut down and unhooked ready to be dropped into a car. Next we were on to the 944 928 968 body line



married to the engine and transmission. The new paint color are really vibrant. When we got to the frame building area, we saw that much of the work there is done by hand also. Many of the welds are done with over head hand welders, but as is the state of the art, some robotics are used. In all, 12 cars are assembled each day on the 911 line, not quite what you get in the states, but we know the quality is unsurpassed in every aspect of the car. Now its back to the museum to look at the private collection, we marvelled at the exciting and innovative cars Dr. Porsche first built in his barn 45 years ago (so as to keep them from being confiscated by the government).

The Porsche people were not done impressing us yet. We were then served a wonderful lunch in the executive dining room. We collected any thing that said "Porsche"; sugar packs, the chocolate candy wrapper, or the wine coaster.

Our trip organizer, Jerry McDermott, known to all who read auto magazines, had arranged for us to have dinner that evening at the Weinstube Muz along with a wine tasting experience. Volker Spannagel was invited also and would be presented with a plaque representing the Michigan club to hang in the Public Relations office at Porsche. To our great surprise, Porsche picked up the tab for the evening. We learned that too few, if any, American clubs take the opportunity to tour the factory. Porsche welcomes groups such as ours and does a great job as one would imagine, with a little advanced notice of course.

While in Germany, a most beautiful country of century old cities and castles, we toured several other auto museums. One being the Rosso-Bianco Auto Museum in Auchauschenberg. One man has put together an extensive collection of sports cars (two seaters). The collection also included several motor cycles and art work from the race world.



In Langberg we visited the Deutsches Auto Museum, also the collection of one man. These private collections give new meaning to the expression, "He who dies with the most toys, wins". The collection had a wonderful array of autos from the very early days of auto building, including some from the 1890's and early 1900's, on up to current. The owner also saved a few war vehicles for posterity.



In Munich, we visited the Deutsches Industrial Museum and toured as many exhibits as time would allow. Mainly, we saw the airplanes, ships, cars, a huge musical instrument collection, and several exhibits relating to industrial history. The auto's in the collection were also impressive including several early Fords. An all stainless steel Porsche sticks in my mind, having never known one existed.



We are already planning another tour for next year, to include several museums that we missed this trip. P.S. The food and beer wasn't bad either.



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1995 West Coast Holiday Update

The Rocky Mountain 356 club is hoping to make this one of the best and most unique holidays in providing a driving experience as well as time to share these great cars. We hope that the following information will give you a clearer picture of all the events planned and a more detailed agenda.

There is a video available if you would like to see some of the areas we have scouted and the hotel settings where events will be held. If your club would be interested in viewing the tape let us know and we can send a copy out to you at no cost.

We are looking forward to June 14-18 and hope to see you all there.

Sincerely: Paul Broyles, Event Chairman
Barb & Jim Kellogg, Registrars

Excitement continues to grow as we progress in working together on the West Coast Holiday.

On Thursday, June 15, there are two separate events planned. They are a coasting contest just outside of Aspen, as well as a road rally. Both events will be limited so sign up early. For anyone not interested in these events, other activities will be planned be the Snowmass Chamber of Commerce. Shopping in Aspen could be an easy all day adventure just in itself.

The drive to Crested Butte on Friday is designed as a leisure drive with several stops along the way. For those people who will want to drive at a little faster pace from Snowmass, an autocross is planned in Crested Butte for the early afternoon on Friday, June 16.

I am presently working on the details to stage the concours at the Skyland Golf Course in Crested Butte. The scenery should be beautiful with the highest peaks glistening with leftover snow while the golf course should be a deep shade of green. More details will follow on the details of the concours. A holiday registration form will be in the January issue of the Registry.

If you have never been to a 356 Holiday this is one you will not want to miss. I hope all of you mark your calendars for June 14-18 and make plans to attend.

Please call Barb or Jim Kellogg if you have any questions regarding the trip or registration at: (303) 841-6475

**paraphrased from the Rocky Mountain 356 Club newsletter.*

Classified Ads

1965 356C Cabriolet- #161047- Slightly less version of Champagne yellow. Interior: green leather/carpet. Engine rebuilt by Vic Skirmants, bare chassis rebuild. Many NOS parts, camber regulator, newly chromed parts including wheels. Contact John Bell @ (810) 644-0210

1961 356B Cabriolet- #153975- Engine #87266 Ruby red/tan interior- leather seats. New tan interior including beige carpeting. Engine rebuilt by Vic Skirmants, solid body with new longitudinals. Extremely tight, camber regulator, new chrome wheels, exciting to drive. Contact John Bell @ (810) 644-0210

Wanted for 1956 356A: heater cans, heater cable, front and rear bumpers and brackets, wheel for spare.

Contact Richard Beecher @ wk: (810)492-4148
hm: (810)650-9029

MOTOR CITIES GRUPPE SPRING TOUR

Date in May to be determined

Travel the back roads to
LAINGSBURG, MICHIGAN

Visit "*Sports Craft Miniatures*"

A store owned by Mark Haveman, A friend of Tim and Diana's

We will be having lunch at
THE SWEET WATER WHARF

*** More To Follow ***

Hosted by: Tim Walls and Diana Shepherd

MOTOR CITIES GRUPPE DINNER IN ANN ARBOR

Saturday, March 25

THE MONGOLIAN BBQ
200 Main Street

4:30 - 8:00 (not to exceed)

\$10.95/person

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET

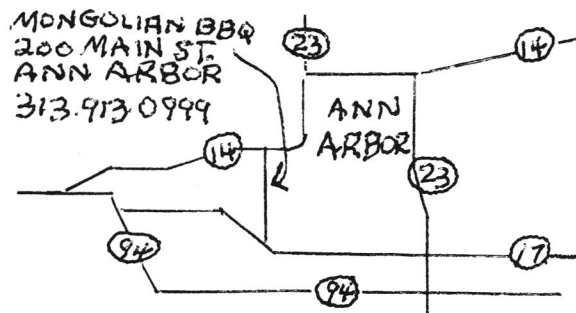
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All prepared while you watch

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