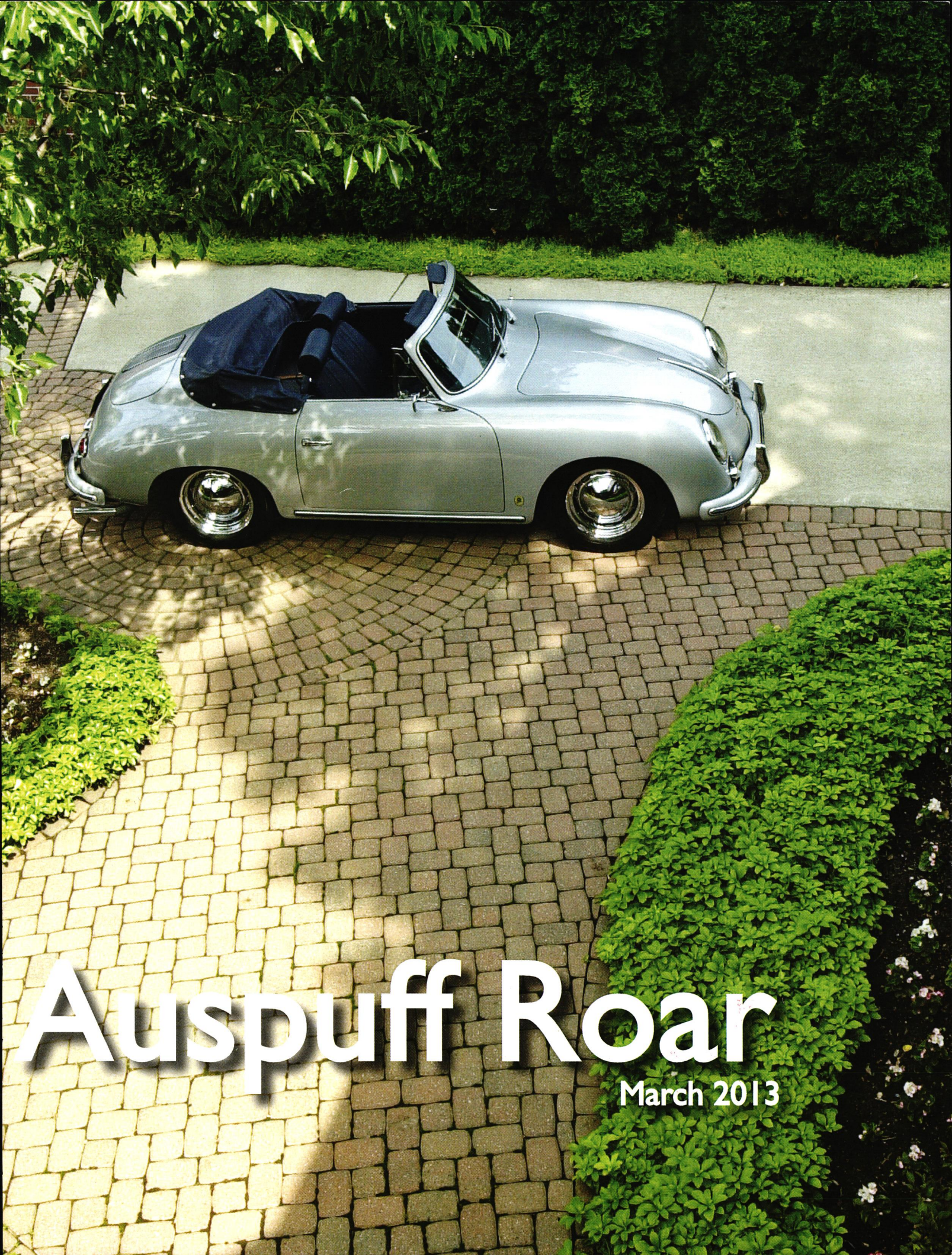




Auspuff Roar

March 2013

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David Burton

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356 Motor Cities Gruppe Hall of Fame

Ron Roland • Fred Sheill
Tom & Melody Youk
Gottfried Hogh • Neil Goldberg
Barbara Skirmants
Vic Skirmants
David Peterson • Ted Dunham

Auspuff Roar is the official publication of the Motor Cities Gruppe and is published 6 times per year. Membership dues for the Motor Cities Gruppe is \$25 per year due at the first of each year.

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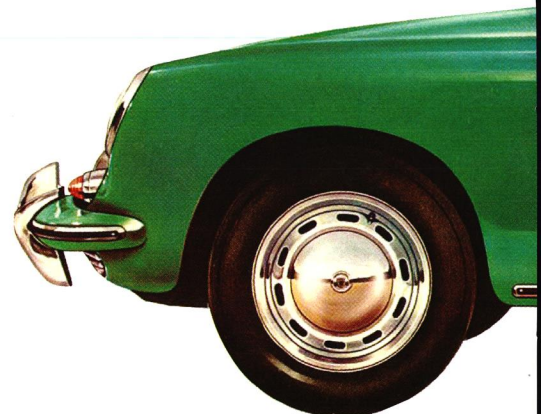
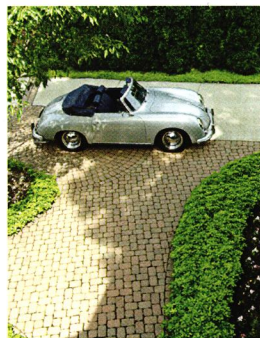
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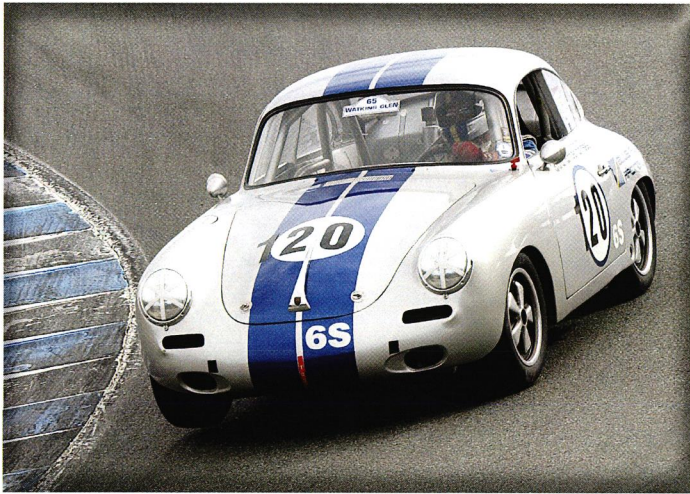
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Christopher J. Preston

On The Cover:

Dave Peterson's beautiful A cabriolet is ready to roll on a gorgeous, sunny, spring day. Photo by Gottfried Hogh





President's Letter

Dave Burton

We're deep in the throes of winter and snowfall has been more like normal this year. But by the time you read this, we should be climbing out towards spring. As I type this, I'm flying back to Detroit from Florida after joining Vic & Barbara at Vintage Racing's season-opener at Sebring--read about on page 10 in this issue.

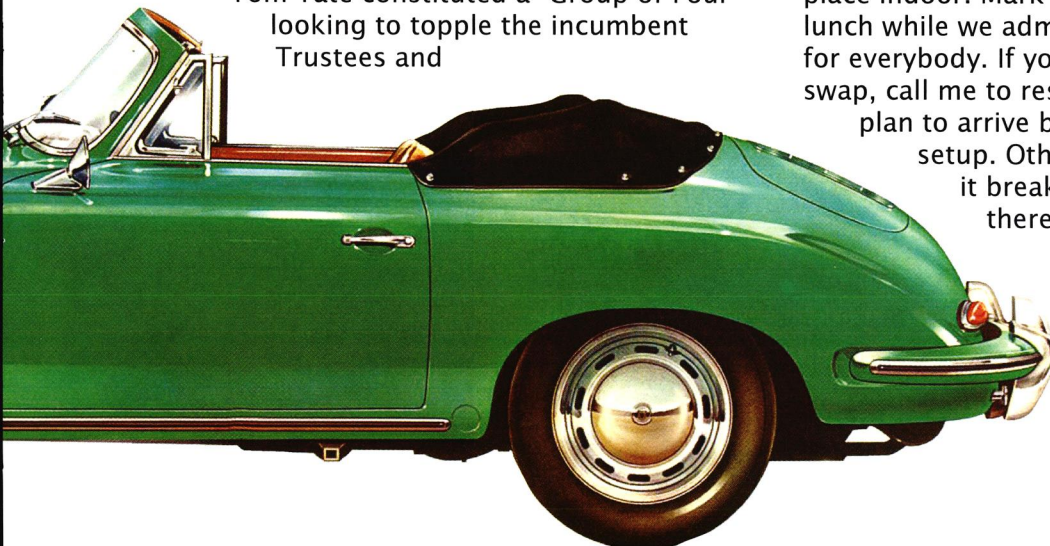
I have to give thanks to the Skirmants' for inviting me to participate--it was truly a treat! Barbara reported that they had a very nice Mid-Winter Pot Luck event at Leon & Lulu last month with a good turnout and a terrific variety of dishes (see the story by Dave Preston on page 8 in this issue). She said that there was more than enough to eat for everyone with a little bit of leftovers--sounds like perfect budgeting. I was looking forward to enjoying participation (and surprising all with my--very limited---culinary skills) but was called out-of-town on business. Oh well, wait 'till next year.

The 356 Registry Trustee Election has concluded. This election was a broader contest than before with a total of nine candidates running for the four open positions. Incumbents Bob Garretson, Joe Johnson and Vic Skirmants were running for re-election.

Trevor Gates, Tom McCoy, Mark Roth and Tom Tate constituted a "Group of Four" looking to topple the incumbent Trustees and

change the direction of the organization. Other new candidates Felix Macaluso and Cliff Murray also threw their hats in the ring. When the ballots were counted (there was a much larger member participation than usual), Skirmants, Johnson, Garretson, and Macaluso were elected with Murray next runner-up.

The annual Shades of Pink Zoo Walk to benefit Breast Cancer is coming on Saturday April 27th, call Harry or Mary Kurrie to show your support. Our Spring Tour is scheduled for Sunday May 19th so get your winter chores completed on your baby, it will be here in short order. Late June finds Porsche Parade being held in and around Traverse City, an area known for fabulous 356 roads and spectacular scenery, great restaurants and world-class attractions. We've got the Swap Meet coming up on Saturday April 13th at Porsche of Farmington Hills. This is an annual event that precedes Hershey by a week to get you sharpened-up and in the mood and is always a good opportunity to browse an eclectic collection of items. You never know what you might find. The MCG partners with SEM, RSR and Motorstadt Regions of PCA and the good folks of Suburban Motor Group sponsor and host the event inside the service area of their Porsche Dealership. There's always a Show & Shine going on outside while the swap meet takes place indoor. Mark Winkler and his gang put out lunch while we administer a tech quiz--something for everybody. If you want to bring things to sell or swap, call me to reserve a table (they're free) and plan to arrive between 9:00 and 9:30am for setup. Otherwise, doors open at 10am and it breaks up between 1 & 2pm. See you there!



Dave

The 2012 Motor Cities Gruppe Holiday Party was held, once again, at the Olde World Canterbury Village in Lake Orion. This State of Michigan historic site was once the Scripps Estate, established in 1916 by William E. Scripps, heir to the Evening News Association, Detroit News fortune.

This farm encompassed nearly 3,900 acres and was operated as a noted cattle & livestock breeding operation back in the day. Now a large housing development, many of the original "cottages", barns and managers residences still exist and house the many shops that are open to visitors. The Always Christmas store is a major attraction for the area, year-round. I know that a few of our members come early and do some shopping prior to the party.

It was GREAT to see Trustee and Hall of Fame Member, Neil Goldberg with us this year, along with Neil's wife Peggy. Neil has been making excellent progress in his recovery from a stroke suffered in October of 2011. It's hard to imagine a Motor Cities Gruppe party without Neil & Peggy, and as the 70's television theme song said, "Welcome Back".

The party was hosted by Sue & Dennis Denyer and 57 people, a great mix of new and "seasoned" members, attended. Our dinner was served buffet style and we were seated at large round tables of eight with plenty of room.

As has been the tradition, a silent auction was featured, many interesting and some unique items were offered, all donated by our members. Vic & Barb Skirmants brought unique offerings gathered from their vintage racing travels and there were a large number of items donated by Polly Van Vliet in memory of Gerald, our long-time member and Treasurer who passed away, suddenly, this past Summer. The items ranged from unique posters and photographs to parts & accessories to keep our 356's running and looking fine. A few offerings were held out and were auctioned in a live auction. This part of the party is the major Motor Cities Gruppe fund raiser and helps to offset the costs of producing this publication and many of our other events throughout the year. As has been the case in previous years, the bidding was "spirited" on many of the items.

Our 2013 MCG Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 8th, at this very same venue. Please plan to attend and we'll guarantee you an enjoyable time.

Dennis Denyer

Motor Cities Gruppe 2012 Holiday Party



"As has been the tradition, a silent auction was featured, many interesting and some unique items were offered, all donated by our members"





Shades of Pink Foundation Strides of Hope Walk - Saturday, April 27th, 2013 at The Detroit Zoo. Registration information coming soon!

Shades of Pink Foundation provides temporary financial assistance to women who are experiencing financial distress as a result of breast cancer.

Whether it's helping with a mortgage payment, the grocery bills, or an insurance premium, Shades of Pink Foundation is committed to easing the financial burden of a breast cancer diagnosis.

As women go through their breast cancer treatment and begin to pick up their life as it was before their diagnosis other issues may arise.

What if....they can't work full time and now have to pay health insurance premiums?

What if....they need help to cover childcare costs as they receive their daily treatment?

What if....the high cost of transportation impacts their ability to get to their treatment center?

Many women with breast cancer need financial help.

That's why we're here.

The Zoo walk, Strides for Hope, is scheduled for April 27th, 2013.

To register for this event, go to shadesofpinkfoundation.org

Shades of Pink Foundation helps breast cancer patients with financial assistance for the day to day challenges of life, mortgages, transportation, etc. It is local. This really strikes a chord with me, because breast cancer is a very challenging time for the patient and the family. When I took this trip with my first wife, I had a job that paid me nicely and we had health insurance – I was very lucky, but it was still a tough trip, very tough. TO have the distress of breast cancer AND the financial distress combined would be horrible and demoralizing.

This group provides an opportunity for temporary financial assistance for breast cancer patients who are not as lucky as I was, which I think is a great cause.

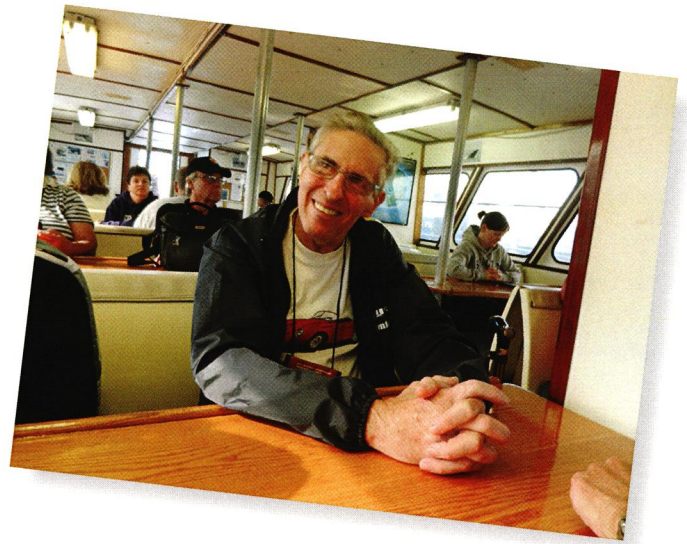
shadesofpinkfoundation.org

We did the walk in 2010, 2011 and 2012. It is fun to see the animals then because things have been quiet through the winter and the feel of spring is in the air. Barb Skirmants mentioned the event to us and it turned out to be a lot of fun!

I'd like to get a big turn of the Motor Cities Gruppe to support the cause, to support our friends who are battling or have battled breast cancer. Thanks, Harry Kurrie

Neil Goldberg

The Comeback Kid



Although you are reading this in March, I wrote it in February and February is the month for saying: I Love You . Neil and I want to tell everyone out there that we do love you! The past 16 months has been a very long and hard battle for Neil. October 18th, 2011 was one of those moments in time where your world stops. In a second our lives changed forever, and we also found how lucky we are to have all of you. I personally cannot image how lonely and desperate I would have been without all of our 356 and Porsche friends. This type of event in one's life, or any dramatic event, shows us how

lucky we are to have surrounded ourselves with such good people. I mean this.

There are so many individuals to thank, it sounds trite, but I don't think I can even remember everyone who was there for us! There are a few life savers out there I want to first thank:

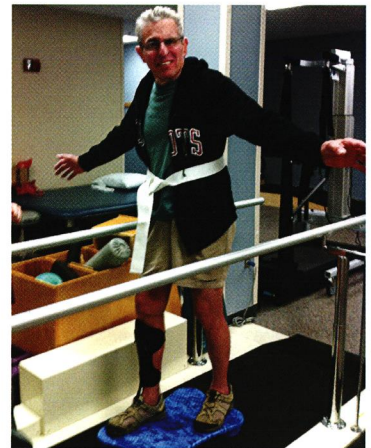
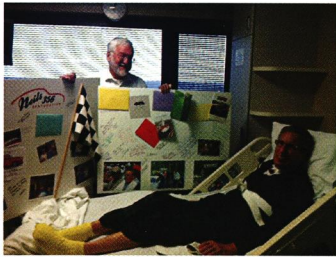
Michael and Suzanne Gilson who arrived at the ER within an hour of the event and stayed with me non stop.

Jeff Topf who never let a day go by without checking on Neil in the MICU and talking to the doctors, helping me to stay calm and understand what was going on and making sure Neil received the best care.

Dennis Denyer for all of his emails and updates, for all his visits and time spent with Neil.

Barb and Vic Skirmants for the posters, cards, photos from the





Christmas party and being there 100% for us.

All of those days in the hospital are now a blur, but I remember the visits from his good buddies (you know who you are) when Neil couldn't talk, see very well nor really do much but just lay there. Friends made posters and others send cards, emails and phone calls. We were never forgotten by any of you, even when your lives became hectic with holidays and your own lives.

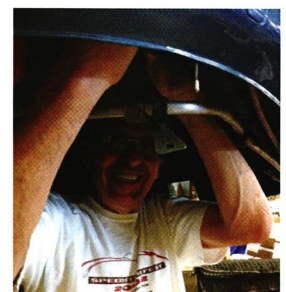
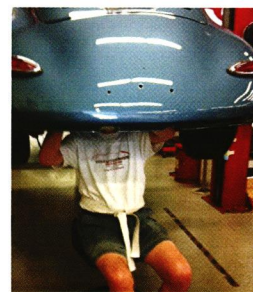
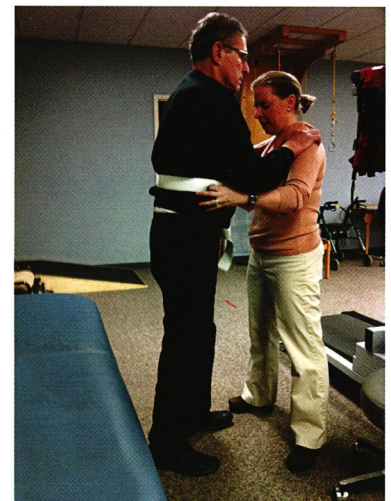
When Neil came home, so many of you came over, sat around and talked to him, let him listen. Dennis took Neil on his first outing to Cleveland to see Chuck, others just came and sat with him. Then the lunches and dinners started! No one was ever embarrassed or frustrated with Neil, everyone just

kept him in the loop, encouraging him, asking him 356 questions... which kept him inspired to get back to work.

Now it is Saturday morning breakfast club and working everyday from 1-4. I never in my wildest dreams thought Neil would recover like he has, nor did the doctors. All of his hard work bolstered by the encouragement, care and friendships has set Neil von a new course. I know he is so thankful for all that you all have done for us.

So, we now look forward to many more years ahead with all of our 356 Friends!! Thank you so much for being there for us.

Peggy and Neil



Motor Cities Gruppe 6th Annual Mid-Winter Potluck Dinner

Story and photos by Dave Preston

Barbara sure knows how to host a party! On Saturday night, February 16th, Barbara Skirmants hosted the MCG 6th annual Mid-Winter Potluck Dinner at Leon & Lulu in Clawson.

In the past, this event has been a Chili Cook-Off, which was always a lot of fun. This year Barbara changed things up by making it a Potluck buffet and what a hit! The food was outstanding and plentiful, with many great selections.

Leon & Lulu is a unique mix of upscale furniture, unforgettable gifts, memorabilia and accessories in an environment unlike any other. Located in the historic Ambassador Roller Rink, you feel like you're in a museum, eating great food and able to do some serious shopping, while the sales staff sprint around the store in roller skates. It's all very cool and a lot of fun. If you have never been there, you have to come and see this shop! Many thanks to Mary Liz Curtin, her husband Stephen Scannell and their staff for their hospitality and for inviting us back each winter.

Also, we want to thank everyone who chipped in to defray the expenses - we collected \$215.00, which offset our costs. Thank you.

Of course, the hit of the evening was seeing all of our friends, many of which we have not seen since the Holiday Party or last summers picnic. Attendance was great. Time flew by fast – too fast and we thank Barbara for hosting us again this year.

We just have to figure out a way to get our 356s to attend this fun evening!

See you at the Spring Tour in May.

Dave Preston



**“Leon & Lulu is a unique mix of
upscale furniture, unforgettable gifts,
memorabilia and accessories in an
environment unlike
any other”**



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



Once More, With Feeling!

Story and Photos by Dave Burton

Ahh Sebring. What better place to start the 2013 Vintage Racing season than with Vic and Barbara Skirmants in Florida at the first of March? Brrrrr! It's Sunday morning and thirty-seven degrees Fahrenheit. Global warming my left fanny. But let me back up a little.

Just into the New Year, Vic invited me to join them at Sebring and co-drive his #70 Roadster in the SVRA Spring Vintage Classic. What could I say? You betcha! When I arrived Wednesday afternoon, Bill and Anita Stephens of England were already helping Vic & Barbara set up camp as Tom & Jan Downey arrived. A practiced routine, unloading the racecars, setting up the camp kitchen, erecting canopies and making a hospitable yard was quickly accomplished. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres turned into a dinner of Porterhouse steaks, roasted potatoes and asparagus--topped off with strawberry shortcake for dessert. Camping with these folks is pretty civilized and very delicious.

Thursday was test day, an extra day of track time to get drivers back in the groove and sort out any mechanical glitches in the cars. Vic's customer, Dr. Rob Hieb arrived

right on time to get out in the first session. Rob hails from the Chicago area and Vic has provided logistics and mechanical support for his red #88 Coupe for a few years now. There are four periods for our cars scheduled and Vic lets me take his Roadster out for the second and fourth test sessions. Rob comes in from the last run and complains that the engine is down on power. Vic finds a bent pushrod and rocker and Bill swaps out the parts. Then Vic dives under to adjust the valves and doesn't like the large clearance he finds on the adjacent valve. He needs to crack the patient open.

What to do? Change the engine. We keep a spare race engine aboard that Vic, Phil Kubik and I chipped in for so that a guy's weekend wouldn't end with serious engine trouble. We've all used it at one time or another and track the usage so that rebuilding, when needed, can be paid for proportionally. Likewise, we added a transaxle to the inventory to provide the same insurance policy against premature ending of a race weekend. We confer and the team goes to work. The insurance engine comes out of the trailer and #88's butt goes in the air. Out comes the engine and the carburetors, generator and fan, distributor and sheet metal come off of





Rob's powerplant and are installed on the spare. Back into the car it goes and 2 1/2 hours later, # 88 is on the ground and running, ready for the next day.

Friday 8am Rob and I head out on track for formal practice.

11am finds Vic & Rob out for Qualifying Session #1-- Rob finishes 10th of 23 and Vic ends up 12th?! Vic's engine is now "off-song." Vic suspects that a valve guide is the culprit. What to do? What to do..... Change the engine, of course.

But the insurance engine is already in Rob's #88. No problem, there's one in #71, the 1958 Coupe rental racecar that Vic brought along as advertising. So, 71's butt goes in the air alongside #70 and a transplant is performed. An hour and twenty minutes is all it takes and #70 is rarin' to go. Vic overcomes his poor qualifying position, passes a crowd and finishes on the podium in second place in the Klub Sport Race. Well done!

Vic jokes that we'll change a transaxle tomorrow just for practice. We spend the time before dinner putting #70's

compromised engine back into #71. Jan Downey, Barbara and Anita put together a rollicking Jambalaya for dinner and another day winds down.

Saturday morning finds our tubs in their second qualifying

session and Vic improves his position to the front row trailing only Paul Swanson in his black '58 Speedster #8. But Vic comes in early, stating that he hears a skip in the transaxle. He predicts a ring gear failure and draining the trans oil confirms the diagnosis, spitting a tooth out. We tell Vic he can quit joking about extra work "just for practice." Now what? Pull the engine, of course, and the transaxle. Out of the trailer comes the insurance unit and we reverse the procedure. In plenty of time for the first Feature Race, Vic's back in business.

“What to do? Change the engine. We keep a spare race engine aboard that Vic, Phil Kubik and I chipped in for so that a guy's weekend wouldn't end with serious engine trouble. We've all used it at one time or another and track the usage so that rebuilding, when needed, can be paid for proportionally”

Good thing, too. The race is a barn burner with lots of position changes each lap, never a dull moment. The checker flies and the podium finds Paul Swanson, Vic and George Balbach shaking hands and giving interviews. Hmm, we've got nothing to do for the next 2 1/4 hours until the Enduro Race later this afternoon. The idle time feels strange.

We enjoy the enduros because of the vast and varied fields along with the longer run times and the differing pit strategies and competitive rivalries. Our foes sport 911 and 914, Mustang and Lotus, Alfa Romeo and BMW, even Ginetta. The lap times range from 2:26 to 2:54--quite a difference in closing speeds. We're running 2:37 so the passing opportunities are boundless. That makes for fun, busy times but keep your wits about you.

SVRA has taken this race weekend over from HSR and has some ideas to change the experience a bit. One of these is for our endurance race to start with (a modified) Le Mans Start. This means that the racecars will be led out onto the racetrack and gridded in qualifying order on the front straight, backed at an angle against the Pit Wall, facing the Starter. For safety, the drivers will be belted into their cars and the engines will be running. They watch the Starter's Stand and when the Green Flag waves, they're off!

Vic, gridded 16th, has a terrific start and crosses the line in 9th--Hooray! A couple of laps later and out comes the double-yellow. Cars start streaming into the pits to consume their mandatory pit stop under the reduced speed lapping enforced by the Pace Car leading the pack. Vic dives into the pits and climbs out of the car. I strap in and head out to chase down the pack behind the safety car. I'm one lap down on those that did not pit during the full-course yellow flag but we won't need to pit again while they will. The procession winds it way around the course and as we come around Sunset Bend, the yellow flags are pulled and we're off to the races again. The sun is setting as the checker flies and we find ourselves sixth overall and first in class by more than a lap. Well done!

That evening culminates with a very nice plated dinner in the ballroom of Chateau Elan combined with an awards program celebrating the victors of last year's season. What do you know but that Vic has won the Group 3 Endurance Championship--again. Yet another feather in his cap.

We get to sleep in Sunday morning before performing the minimum race prep. When the time comes to head to the false grid to form up behind the Pace Car, the schedule is already one full group behind (half an hour) and it's only 10am. Oh well, don't sweat the small stuff. Finally, they're off and we're in for another close-fought race with a four-way fight at the head of the pack. When the dust settles, Swanson and Skirmants are atop the podium again, separated by Andre Herke and his '61 B Coupe. Quite a weekend for 356 Enterprises with consistent top results despite stiff mechanical headwinds. Well, that's the essence of racing: persistence and high-speed problem solving.

It doesn't take long to tear down and pack up the circus with all hands pitching in to help. Then like gypsies, we were off to our next destinations. I headed home while they were bound for Amelia Island. Hopefully, Bill's 906 will appear as promised and they can enjoy showing it off to the assembled multitudes. I sure enjoyed my stay Sebring, thanks to Anita & Bill for their hospitality and assistance and big thanks to Barbara & Vic for making it possible at all. (And I hope that the weather warms up!)

Dave





“Quite a weekend for 356 Enterprises with consistent top results despite stiff mechanical headwinds”

ALAN JAY
Automotive Network

ALAN JAY
Automotive Network



SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING GRUPPE EVENTS

Shades of Pink Zoo Walk

Saturday April 27th, 2013

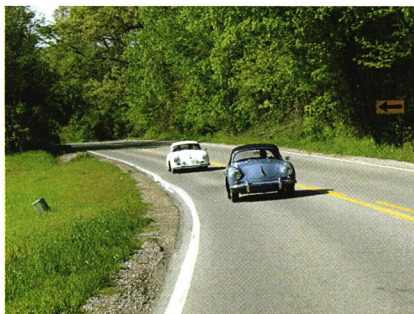
Detroit Zoo

See announcement in the next issue



22nd Annual Gruppe Spring Tour May 19th 2013

**The Gruppe will tour the Hidden Lake Gardens and the Blissfield Model Railroad Club's HQ.
Look for more info in the next issue.**



Motor Cities Gruppe Calendar of Events 2013

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 20th - 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 Vinatge 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 Burton's
MCG Board Meeting (briefly at Summer Picnic)
Alden Classic Sports Car Picnic/Show in Alden, Michigan
SEM Summer Picnic
Woodward Dream Cruise

September

September 4th - 8th
September 6th - 8th
September TBD
September 19th - 22nd
September 22nd

Watkins Glen SVRA Vintage Races
Frankenmuth Auto Fest 2012 in Frankenmuth, Michigan
Glenmoor Gathering Canton, OH
HSR Atlanta Historic Races @ Road Atlanta
Drive your Porsche Day 2012

October

October 9th - 13th
TBD

West Coast Holiday New Mexico
Gruppe Fall Tour

November

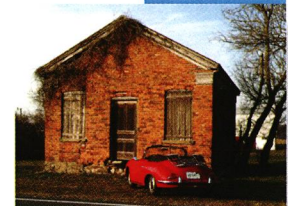
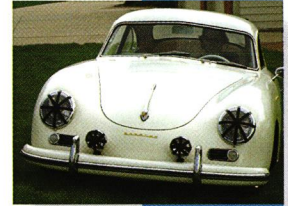
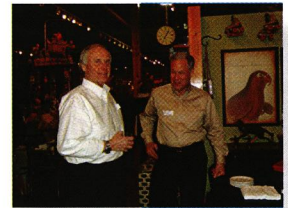
November 9th

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

December

December 8th

Holiday Christmas Party - Canterbury Village



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North Branch, MI 48461



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Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Member

2014

Visit The Gruppe Online at www.356mcg.com

