

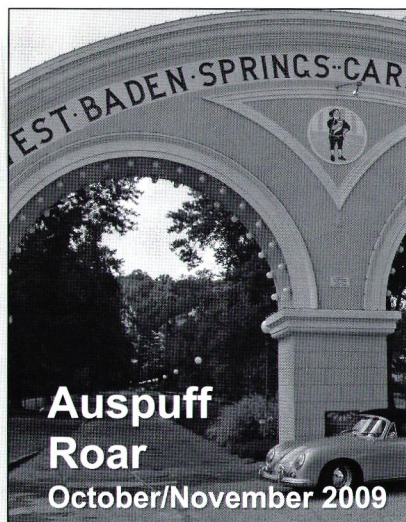


Auspuff

Roar

October/November 2009

On the Cover



Cover photo by Dave Peterson

The 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 are \$20 per year due at the first of each year.

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Quarter page: \$25
Half page: \$50
Full page: \$85

Please send membership dues or change of address to:
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3359 Kings Mill Road
North Branch, MI 48461

Please send materials to be published or advertising copy to:
Dave Preston
dmpreston2@comcast.net
or mail to:
2853 Chancery Court
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

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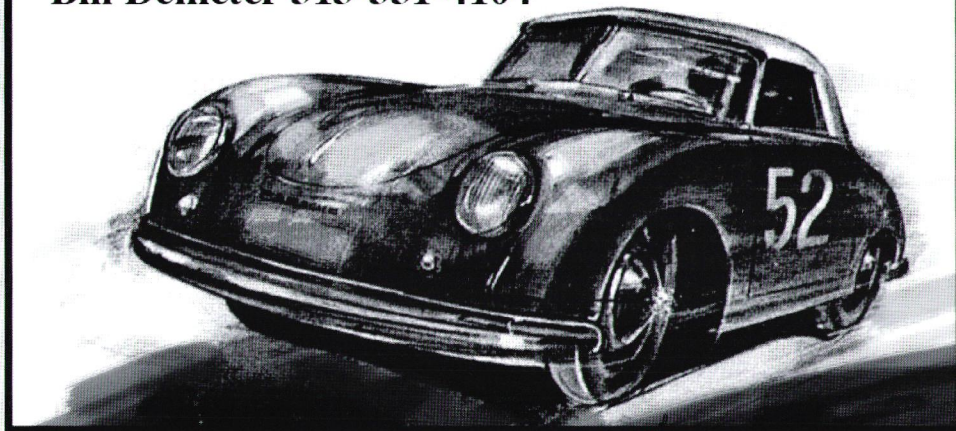
356 Mechanic

Winter storage available for your 356

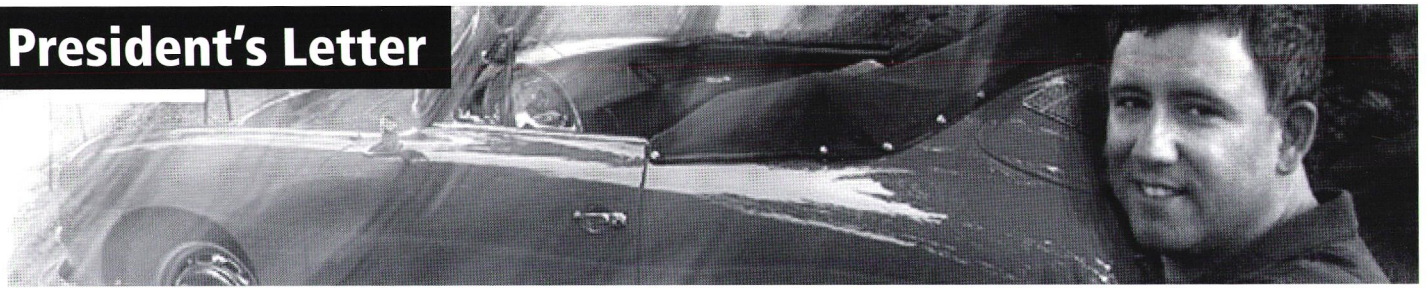
30 year Registry member

Part Time 356 Work

Bill Demeter 313-331-4104



President's Letter



The driving season is winding down and we are getting ready for our next event, our terrific Holiday party at Canterbury Village. Look for the announcement in this issue and please, RSVP as soon as you are able, this really helps the club to properly prepare for the right amount of people. This year, we are asking members to not be shy about bringing items for the auction. There will be a set amount of items used for the live auction so as not to run too long, but everything else will be put into the silent auction which has gotten great response over the years as well.

In October we traveled to the Tawas area of Michigan for our Fall Color Tour hosted by Barbara and Vic Skirmants. It was damp, but we had a great trip, one of the best in a while, actually. Look for a full report in this issue.

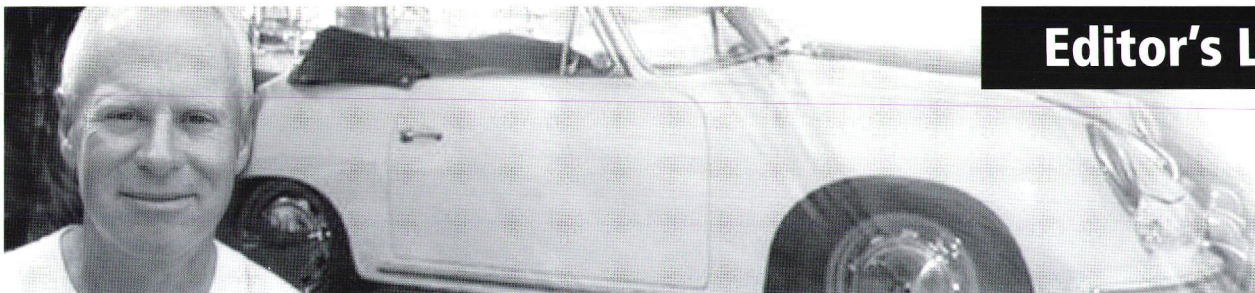
2010 marks the 30th anniversary of the formation of the 356 Motor Cities Gruppe. This is a huge milestone and deserves a proper celebration.

Although it is quite early in the planning stages, I am working on a date in July so that it can be a combination annual picnic/30 year celebration. We

have many otherwise busy members who make a point of coming to the picnic each year, and I would love for them to join in the fun. I am working on a location with two very cool museums within walking distance of each other, while one of them would host a sit down catered lunch/dinner. I would like the event to be held during the daylight hours in homage to our annual picnic, but also have a nice meal with great surroundings worthy of such a milestone celebration. Look for details as they become available.

See you at the Holiday party and be ready to have a great time.

Sebastian



Editor's Letter

We have just finished two wonderful events – the ECH down in West Baden, Indiana and the Fall Color Tour, hosted by Barbara Skirmants. I delayed publishing this newsletter so that you could read a little bit about both events.

Dave Peterson has written a nice article for us on this years ECH, so I won't go into much detail about that event except for a few comments as follows: this was only my second ECH that I have ever attended – the first being the one that our club hosted at Boyne Highlands two years ago. There was a world of difference to me between both those ECHs, which I now realize is good and indicative of ECHs. The folks that organized last months ECH at West Baden had very little time to plan this event - I was told less than 9 months. With that in mind, they did a fabulous job, it was well organized and they were very gracious hosts. Many of the events that Dave Peterson and his Team created for our 2007 ECH were not present this year – no Gymkhana, no Hill Climb and nothing like a Mackinac Island excursion. But, the West Baden ECH was held at the most impressive Hotel that you could ever find. It was like staying in a +100 year old museum. The facilities were first class, in every regard. The grounds used for the Concours, I was told, were probably the finest setting ever for an ECH Concours. The point is that I learned that each ECH has a different

theme, different setting and a different feel – which is why it makes each of them so neat to attend. It will be a different experience each time!

A few words on the MCG Driving Contest – you'll see in this issue that a couple of Teams have surged ahead in the standings. And there will be more jostling of the standings as we get the mileage reported for those that drove to Sedona for this years WCH! Our final standings will be announced at the Christmas Party and published in the year end issue.

Please take note that in this issue, we have included one form that serves as your membership renewal form and your ballot for the 2010 Board of Trustees election – we have three open seats. Please take a minute to vote, renew your membership and then just please put it in the mail to Barbara. Thank you.

See you at the Christmas Party!

Dave Preston

Driver / Entrant	356 Vehicle	Vin Number	Net Miles driven through Sept. 30th
Dave & Mary Preston	65 C Cab	161047	1864
John & Carole McConnell	63 B Coupe	213045	2806
Dick & Diane Beecher	64 C Coupe	129947	1801
Dave & Diane Burton	61 Roadster	88969	294
Sebastian & Narmeen Gaeta	64 Cab	159286	2300
Ted & Lanita Dunham	58 A Coupe	103607	TBD
Vic & Barbara Skirmants	65 C Coupe	222184	2230
Richard King	65 C Cab	161636	TBD
Dave & Barbara Peterson	59 Cab	151063	1160
Harry & Mary Kurrie	64 SC Coupe	215745	1984
Bill & Shirley Hallandal	61 Roadster	89428	430
Bill & Shirley Hallandal	61 Coupe	116432	1069
John & Carroll Thomson	61 B Coupe	200605	221
Doc & Freda Block	65 C Cab	161564	5149
Charlie & Joyce Brown III	64 C Coupe	218381	1045

*2009 Drive Your
— 356 Contest*

356 Motor Cities Gruppe

Board Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2009

By Lanita Dunham

Held at the lovely home of Dick & Diane Beecher

Attendance: Board members, Sebastian Gaeta, Barbara Skirmants, Ted Dunham, Dick Beecher, Dave Preston and Secretary Lanita Dunham

Call to order: by President, Sebastian Gaeta.

Auspuff Roar (AR): Dave Preston: Beginning with the 2009 year end issue, Sebastian will take over the Editor position replacing Dave. Sebastian has purchased a new computer at his own expense which came with software that will enable Sebastian to publish a newsletter in today's modern world. A motion was made to reimburse Sebastian for \$700.00 which is less than half of the cost of this new computer/software. This motion was approved by the board. The computer/software will eliminate the cost that we currently pay the printer for the "lay-out" for each issue and will pay the club back in a little under a year, thus providing a long term cost savings for the club of about \$700 per year.

Financial: Report from Teri Hudson: Teri's report was reviewed and will be consolidated for publication in the next AR.

Holiday Party: Dave will get info on the Holiday Party at Canterbury Village from Dennis & Sue Denyer, for publication in the next AR. The Board agreed to subsidize the cost above \$30 per person. This year we will have slightly a revised dinner menu that will maintain good quality and quantity. As with last year, desserts will be brought in. The Board will take on the responsibility of set-up, since Sue & Dennis and the McLaughlins will be busy that day with family wedding activities! This year we will emphasis and encourage members to bring more than one auction item.

2010 Election: A brief discussion of candidates for the next election was held. The Trustee positions of Sebastian, Ted and Dick expire at years end. A ballot will be included in the next AR. Those elected will be announced after the Holiday Party.

2009 Driving Contest: The top three mileage contestants will be awarded prizes at the Holiday Party.

Membership: Barbara Skirmants: 120 paid members.

2010 MCG 30th Anniversary Party: Sebastian is looking at venues and is considering a possibility in Ypsilanti (with car buffs in mind). This event will be casual and would take the place of the summer picnic for 2010 only. We would target a date when it is possible for some of our out of town MCG family to be present, hopefully in July. Plans will continue to be made for this event.

2009 Woodward Dream Cruise

Article & Photos By Peter Stuyck

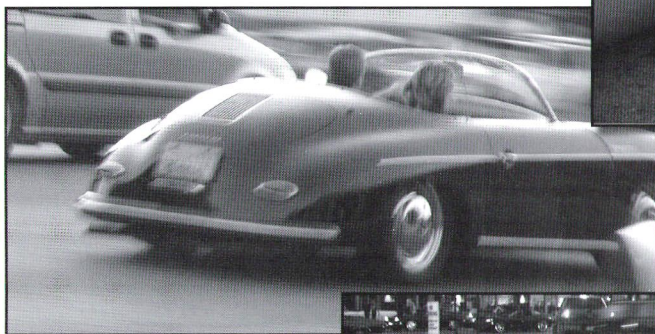
The Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise bills itself as the world's largest one-day automotive event. If it's not that exactly, it's close.

Since its inception 15 years ago, the Dream Cruise has grown to actually be about 10 days of informal activities. Local news sources reported more than a million people and 40,000 cars were in attendance this year.

I went looking for Porsches and related people. Given that the focus of the Dream Cruise is Detroit muscle, I wasn't surprised to have a little trouble finding 356s. I ended up seeing replicas and late model cars. Still, I had a great time.



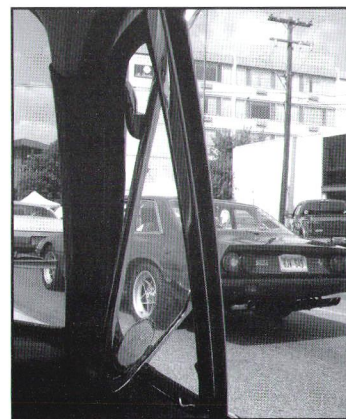
"Izzat a kit?" "No, it's a real Intimidator Edition Monte Carlo!"



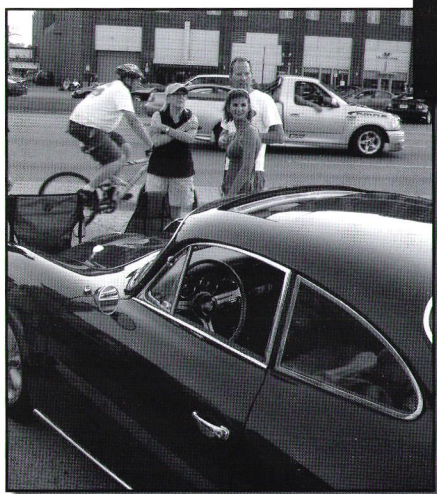
It says "SPDSTIR", so it may be one. Couldn't get close enough to tell.



Heath Hurlbert's A outlaw was downright subtle in this crowd.



Sure, it's about hot rods, but there were a few other imported cars.



Peggy Goldberg, Brad Richards and Shayna Gold.



"Izzat a kit?" "Yeah."

356 Motor Cities Gruppe

2009 Holiday Party

Start your holiday season with shopping, friends and fun!



Olde World Canterbury Village

2325 Joslyn Road Lake, Orion

Sunday
December 6th
2:00PM to 7:00PM

Fun People
Great Food
Fabulous Silent & Live
Auction Items

10:00am Shops open for
browsing & buying
2:00pm Program starts
PROMPTLY
(bar opens)

Buffet Dinner and Cash Bar
Relish tray, Various Salads
Penne with Meat Sauce
Entrees:
Prime Rib
Seafood Entree

\$30/person - includes Dinner and **Cash Bar**

Please bring several great items per family for the auction

For reservations, contact Barbara or Sue & Dennis Denyer (248/391-3268)

Mail checks to: Barbara Skirmants 3359 Kings Mill Road

North Branch, Michigan 48461

*Deadline for signing up is **December 1st***

ATTENTION: GRUPPE MEMBERS

OFFICIAL 2010 BALLOT

For 2010, there are three, two year term openings on the Board of Trustees. The candidates listed below have volunteered to be nominated fill the vacancies.

PLEASE VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN **THREE** CANDIDATES.

SEBASTIAN GAETA
LANITA DUNHAM
TOM HUDSON

WRITE IN:

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

You may also use this form to renew your membership. The annual dues are \$20.00 and checks should be made payable to "MOTOR CITIES GRUPPE". You can mail it in with your ballot.

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION:

IMPORTANT! Please update your contact information below. We need to know if anything has changed so that we can contact you regarding event announcements and publish a roster with the correct information. At a minimum, please provide your email address, as many of the email addresses we have on file are no longer valid.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Thank You!

PLEASE MAIL TO:
BARBARA SKIRMANTS
3359 KING'S MILL ROAD
NORTH BRANCH, MICHIGAN 48461

By Harry & Mary Kurrie and David & Barbara Peterson

The 2009 East Coast Holiday schedule pretty much followed the standard 356 Holiday format of arrive on Wednesday; driving tour and free time on Thursday; driving tour, tech sessions and free time on Friday; concours and banquet on Saturday; swap meet on Sunday morning and then a multitude of goodbyes until next year. What made this Holiday special



was the venue, which we'll get to momentarily, and the host team who put the entire Holiday together in less than a year. For all us who worked on previous Holidays, we well know the planning and execution required to put on a Holiday – so applaud John & Shelley Howe and Ken & Amy Daugherty, and all of the helpers in making this a fine event.

The Peterson's and the Kurrie's tacked an

extra day onto the Holiday, heading down I-75 early Tuesday morning. Before crossing the Ohio River in Cincinnati, we turned eastward about ten miles and then ran parallel to I-75,



but on a lovely two lane highway over the gently rolling hills of Kentucky horse farm country. We cut west into Lexington and then twenty-five miles southwest to Pleasant Hill, our first day destination. This was almost a perfect day, wonderful logistics, two 356's – a coupe and a cab, each with sport mufflers putting out deep-throated melodious sounds at 75 MPH, with Starbuck's coffee in the insulated cups, blasting over green and luscious hill and dales. And it would have been perfect if there had been even a slight glimmer of sunshine between the torrential downpours over the 390 mile first leg of the trip.

So what is so special about Pleasant Hill that would take us somewhat out of the way to West Baden/French Lick, Indiana? The answer is a completely restored Shaker Village, complete with lodging on the somewhat Spartan side of decoration, a restaurant serving Shaker dishes, educational tours, and craft demonstrations. I say 'completely restored', but with the Shaker Community, the restoration process was much easier than other restored communities. For example, the interior trim paint in most of the buildings is original – and almost 200 years old.





We checked in, unpacked and headed off to a quiet dinner with several of the menu items being authentic Shaker dishes. About halfway through dinner, a rather tall gentleman with a southern accent and petite wife interrupted us, inquiring if we were

'356 people'. It turns out that Alec and Harriet were staying at Pleasant Hill for a short holiday before heading on over to West Baden for the Holiday. With Harriet tugging at Alec's walking shorts, entreating him with such things as "Alec, they want to eat their dinner", Alec confessed that he had taken several pictures of the Kurrie and Peterson machines, and plied us with all variety of 356 & Porsche questions. We agreed that we would catch up with each other at the Holiday – and we did.

On the way back to our rooms in a building a quarter of a mile from the office and restaurant,



we met Gabby, the resident Pleasant Hill cat whose singular talent is following guests back to their rooms and spending the night on the end of a warm and cozy bed. Of course, an important secondary talent is being able to



detect whether said guests are cat lovers – and Gabby struck gold here, as all four of us are cat lovers – especially the Kurrie's who have two of them. Oh, what pushovers we are!!

After breakfast the following morning we went on four back-to-back tours, learning about the Shaker history and guiding Christian principles, their worship celebration, their crafts, their businesses and their amazing inventiveness. Now, when we think of the Shakers, we conjure up these images of otherwise staid people crazily dancing in worship to their Lord, and have this absurd rule about procreation abstention. Instead, think of a community of people had

a central water works and running tap water in every building of their village; or the first people packaging



seeds for plants, complete with optimum planting depth and spacing, the first pharmaceutical catalog, designer of the flat straw broom, and on and on. Living one half mile from the Kentucky River, they had ready access to Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis and New Orleans to market their products. Or how about the ability to adequately feed 10,000

Confederate soldiers in less than a week as they passed through Pleasant Hill after their defeat at Perrysville. Quite amazing people.

Shortly after departing Pleasant Hill heading towards West Baden, we accidentally found ourselves on the Bourbon Trail. Well actually, it wasn't an accident. We knew exactly where we were heading – the Maker's Mark distillery. Remember, Harry grew up in Louisville!! We



had a wonderful tour, which miraculously ended in the tasting room and gift shop. The Kurrie's

invested in a stunning Maker's Mark straw hat and the Peterson's invested in a liter of Maker's Mark so that Barbara could hand-dip the signature red wax on the top of the bottle. Then on to Indiana and West Baden. Two hundred miles of smooth two lane roads with no straight-away longer than a quarter of a mile. Now, that's 356 heaven!

After checking our nation's gold reserves, aka the gold vault at Fort Knox, we rolled into the West Baden Springs Resort at about seven o'clock, checked in and had dinner in the cocktail lounge located in the circular atrium – measuring 200 feet in diameter and 110 feet high. Absolutely



incredible. We wandered into the halls and into old friends to end the evening.

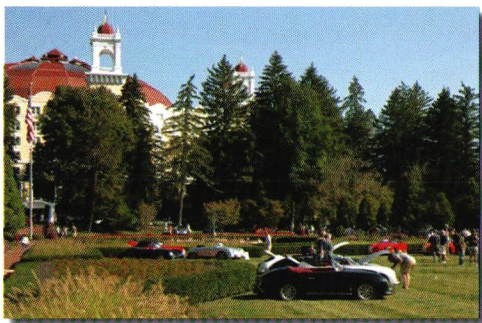
Thursday morning was registration, followed by a great guided tour of the resort and a recounting of the resort's and the area's history. The magnificent domed resort we were staying in was built in twelve months, opening for business in September 1902. The original wood frame resort, which was constructed over



mineral springs guaranteed to cure any malady known to man and woman, was destroyed by fire. Besides the mineral springs, the other attraction was the open gambling. And only a mile away was the French Lick Resort with their own mineral springs and gambling rooms. Pretty heady stuff at the turn of the century. An optional "drive-yourself" driving tour was on tap for the afternoon, capped off with a Welcoming Reception in the atrium to end the day.

Friday brought the various Tech Sessions, with the highlight being a one hour presentation by Vic Elford on driving techniques. Everyone stayed alert and no one left early for this one. Freda Block presented her polished story on 356 model differences to a most interested crowd of enthusiasts.

The evening reception was sponsored by Stoddard's Parts and all of the Motor Cities Gruppe folks were in attendance: Dick Beecher; Bill & Freda Block; John Chatley; Tom & Jan Downey; Ted & Lanita Dunham;



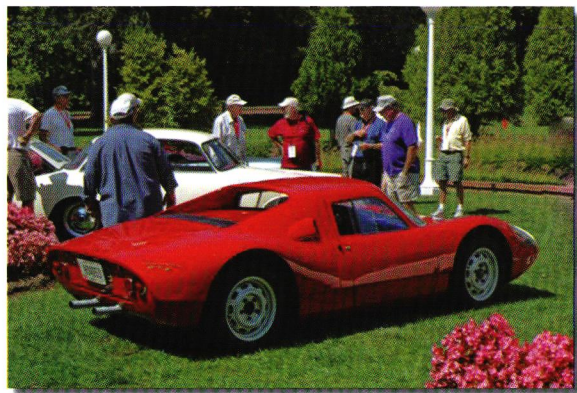
Mike & Suzanne Gilson; Howard Gilson; Dick & Shirley Gobba; Neil, Peggy & Tobey Goldberg; John & Carole McConnell; Nick Mowkatow; Dave Preston; Vic Rivera; and Vic & Barbara Skirmants. And of course, all of our 356 friends from previous Holidays.

Saturday morning came early, and everyone was out early – washing, waxing and polishing for that one extra and final touch before moving the cars to the concours site. And the site was a fabulous rainbow color spectrum of cars lined up in various sections of the manicured gardens on the resort property. This made for some most stunning and beautiful pictures with the cars and the landscaping complementing each other.



Tables were set up in the atrium for the

banquet. The featured speaker was Vic Elford, and the audience was



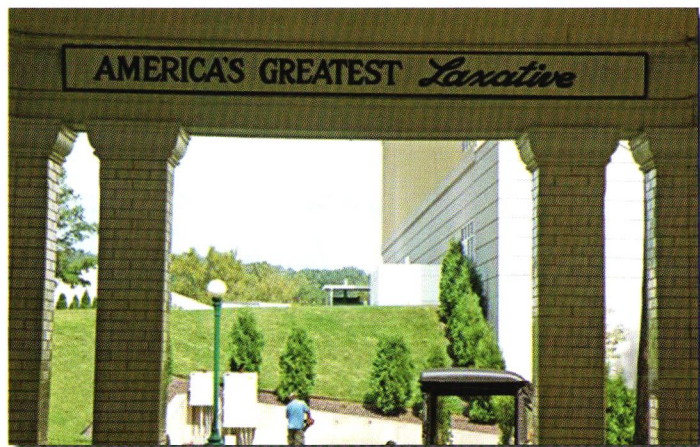
expecting to hear personal war stories of his racing days. Instead, we got a chronological accounting of his racing career that sounded like excerpts from a resume. Oh well, at least his tech session was good. Awarding prizes for the various concours classes followed, and the evening closed with a raffle drawing of sundry donated gifts.

Sunday morning saw the obligatory swap meet, which seems to get smaller and smaller each year. Neil Goldberg and Vic Skirmants packed up their tools and put away their Gojo hand cleaner, as their remedying of other participants' car problems was done for another year.

Then everyone packed up, hugged their 356 friends, said "See you next year", climbed into their cars and motored away.

As a postscript, we believe that all the Motor Cities Gruppe cars ran flawlessly and fast!

See you at the Holiday next year!!



Photos By Dave Peterson

2009 Financial Report

356 Motor Cities Gruppe

As our club grows and becomes even better established, our board has decided that club operations need to become a bit more transparent to the membership. We recently started providing minutes of the Board Meetings in the Auspuff Roar (AR) so that everyone could fully understand what we discuss and why we make the decisions that we do.

Another issue lightly touched upon in the past is the financial health of the club. Shown below is a simple income statement and balance sheet. As you can see, we have run a \$3,785 deficit so far this year. However, with the Holiday party and auction in December, plus the annual membership dues that will start coming in by then, that number will shrink and hopefully become close to zero.

The area that I would like everyone to look at is the club expenses of \$7,661 in nine months of operation and realize that we still have an AR or two left to publish this year plus the upfront costs of the Holiday party to pay. Except for the Hall of Fame awards, this is what we can expect to spend every year without giving up our terrific newsletter or events.

You can also see that we have a bank account balance of \$8,568 which is a nice cushion, indeed. But a quick glance at our expenses shows that we can burn through cash as fast as the auto companies, and if we are not extremely careful we could get into real trouble in a hurry. The item below our bank balance is a \$20,000 investment in CD's. The vast majority of the money was made through merchandise sales at our '07 Holiday. Had we not put on the Holiday, our reserves would basically be the bank account balance, which as previously stated could be used up in a year or so if we are not careful.

We decided to invest the money earned at the Holiday and use it as an endowment of sorts to ensure the financial health of the organization for years to come. We hope to never have to use the money, just put the interest earned into the general fund. Financial planning such as this is what keeps organizations together and operating successfully for years.

Your Board of Directors works diligently to ensure that the money is well spent and that we give a terrific return to our members in the form of the website, AR and well organized events. We will continue to subsidize events for the members when we feel it is necessary and is the right thing to do. We want to be as responsible as possible to the membership, and the best way to do that is to ensure the financial viability of the club so that we all may enjoy the benefits for years to come.

If you have any questions at all, please contact me or any board member; our contact information is on the website at www.356MCG.com

Regards,

Sebastian Gaeta
President, Motor Cities Gruppe

Income Statement Jan-Sept 2009		Current Period
Income		
Dues		\$1,565
Merchandise Sales		\$410
Auspuff Advertising		\$700
Events		\$1,179.13
Other Misc.		\$22
Total Income		\$3,876
Expenses		
Auspuff		\$4,430
Event Expenses		\$2,259
Hall of Fame Trophies		\$830
Bank & Credit Card Fees		\$141
Other Misc.		
Total Expense		\$7,661
Loss of		-\$3,785
Balance Sheet		
Assets Jan-Sept 2009		
Cash in Bank		\$8,568
CD Investment (@%)		\$20,000
Merchandise Inv. Value	Nil or nominal value.	
Equipment		
Other Misc.		
Total Assets		\$28,568

Tawas Up North Fall Tour

by Sebastian Gaeta and Lanita Dunham



You can plan all you want for a great event, but you cannot control the weather. You can plan a great route, a great place to stay, a great place to eat, even great places to visit, but if it rains the whole time, that pretty much ruins it all, right?

Ah.....Nope!

Barb Skirmants pulled this off beautifully and the rain actually provided a change-of-weather and a get-ready-for-Autumn atmosphere that was quite appropriate, considering it was a FALL color (some) tour!

Maybe it is because we were really looking forward to this trip that the weather reports did not dampen our enthusiasm. Yes, Sebastian was driving alone, but the sheer delight he gets

As people arrived you could feel the enthusiasm and the conversation became quite lively. Surprise, surprise - we left about 20 minute behind schedule, which is nothing new for us, as we love to hang out and visit with each other and eat, almost as much as



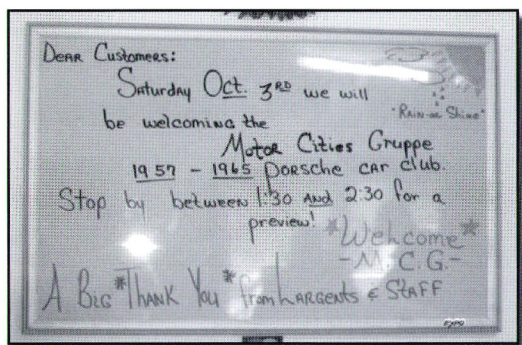
we like driving the darn frisky cars! PS: Porsches don't mind the rain, but have been known to have a leak or two!!

We took back roads the whole way north through small towns, avoiding the big cities, and some good, bad, straight, twisty roads. We really enjoyed the fact that we took no interstate highways; it was countryside the entire trip, making heads turn as we went. We made a planned stop at a great country diner called Largent's Café at Long Lake, just north of Hale on US 65. The staff was

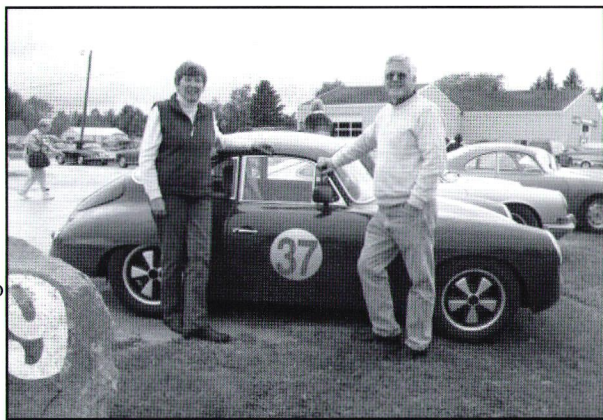
excited to have us and made a great effort to make sure we were well fed and cared for. Up north, fish is a staple food and several of the group tested it and weren't disappointed. The people there could not believe that so many of us would drive our cars in the rain, (and muddy

parking lot!) but were quite happy we did. They even welcomed our group on a signboard behind the counter - "Welcome MCG Porsche Club". While at this stop, we were also joined by two couples from Kent, Ohio, Richard and Gail King and Matt and Vicki Reed. Seems they've adopted us. This brought the count to 23, with 11- 356's and 2 other foreign cars.

Traveling further north, we made a few neat stops at places like the lookout at largo Springs, Some of the more energetic of us made the easy climb down to the Au Sable River, some 250 steps below. Here's where the "Idiot light" comes on: The climb back up!! The number of steps had now increased to about a thousand and gotten extremely steep. The temperature had also risen along with heart rates and blood pressure. However, we all made it, winded and tired, though a bad idea, it was worth the pain to see the pristine water rush out of seemingly nowhere from the hillside and trickle down to the river. Next stop at the Lumberman's Monument, we gathered some Michigan history, made by some very tough men 100 years ago. And they made this history in the dead of winter. The snow made a slide for the skids. No warming huts along the way, in freezing cold frostbite was common. With 12 hour days (daylight to dark),



from driving a Porsche makes his sun shine! When we arrived at the Beecher estate (our starting destination) we could feel the good vibes, and Diane was ready for us with some great breakfast treats. Hot cider, coffee, fresh fruit, quiche bites, apple turnovers, cream cheese blintzes, yum!!!





out in the cold, they had huge appetites to stock their energy fires with the cook tents finest and lots of hot coffee. Those who cut the trees didn't fare so well, but the Lumber Barons lived warm and lavishly, down in Bay City. (Saw a couple of their large homes on our trip back home.)

On to the Tawas Bay Beach Resort in Tawas City, we quickly checked in and promptly met at the lounge for some serious socializing. I did catch a few people outside wiping down their cars, as they were now all very wet, dirty and streaked. My favorite sight was seeing Vic Skirmants partake in the "tradition" of the cleaners and polishers. Is Vic now a concours freak? Let's just say I believe he was acting on Barb's orders! Hey, who's the boss here?

The dining room at the hotel was quite nice, having a view of Lake Huron and the peninsula protecting it from northerners. Just as the sun came out, they were able to accommodate all of us in one area. You could still feel the energy and the enthusiasm of our Group. It was obvious that we like to hang out and tell some true and stretchy, tall tales. Gruppe Members s-l-o-w-l-y left the dining room and headed to their rooms or the lounge. But, Heath Hurlbert, David Peterson, Sebastian and I stayed at our table and had a great conversation regarding early cars. As the room closed, we moved onto the lobby and continued the conversation until the wee hours. The rest of us were snug, warm and asleep.

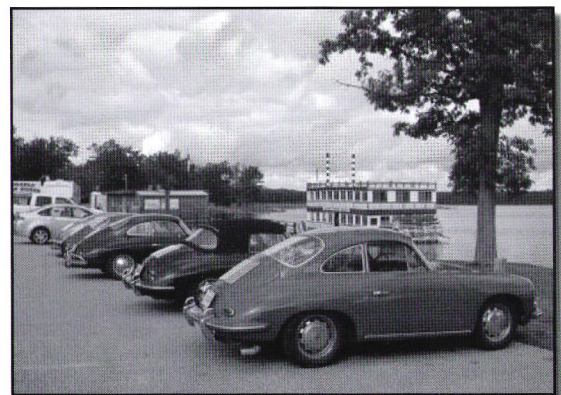
Getting up early, we all met in the dining room for breakfast then gathered in the parking lot to head up to the Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda (now closed as a base) to tour the Yankee Air Museum (yes, it is a satellite

museum of the Yankee Museum at Willow Run airport in Ypsilanti). Barbara had ordered sandwiches for lunch and Vic picked them up before leaving Tawas City. At the museum we had guided tours, seeing old service and war memorabilia, literature, arms and uniforms and 2 hangars with some vintage aircraft. The tour guides were terrific (& vets) and I recommend a visit if you are up that way. The collections all come from past military personnel, some being from those people who work there, to preserve this wonderful bit of American military history.

At that point Sebastian had to leave to coach a football game in Ann Arbor, so Lanita will finish the story. From there, we drove back toward Oscoda, then north a bit to a wonderful boutique that Barbara had found earlier this year while on one of her "birding weekends". She is not afraid to go on her own. (Can't you just see Vic with binoculars, saying "I heard a Loon"?). Several of the group made purchases at this boutique, some for home furnishing and some for anticipated grand children. We thought Vic might have to strap a special lounge chair to his roof, but he made it out with only a brochure. (Look for this chair though, on your next visit to the Skirmants home!)

We then drove back to the Au Sable River, for our 12:30 paddle boat cruise. Alas, upon arrival we were all disappointed to learn the boat was broken and Vic said "he wasn't going to fix it!" Sooooo! We sat at the picnic tables, overlooking the river and broken boat, and ate our sandwiches, beverages and more of those wonderful apple turnovers, left from Saturday's breakfast.

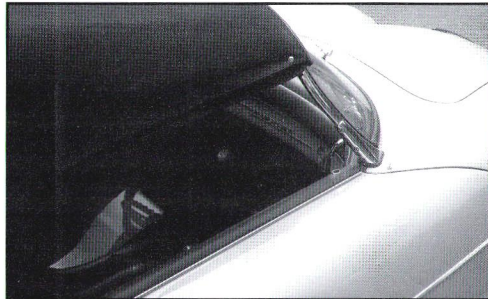
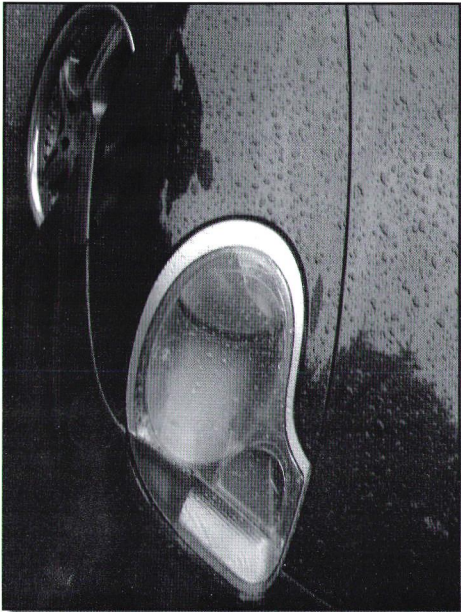
With nothing else planned, we all decided to just head home. We all had several hours of driving yet and the Ohio folks had several more than us. We had all had good running cars, only minor electrical things like lights. (How rare is that?) Altogether, it was a terrific weekend. Thanks Barbara! Hip, Hip Hooray!



Photos courtesy of John and Carole McConnell

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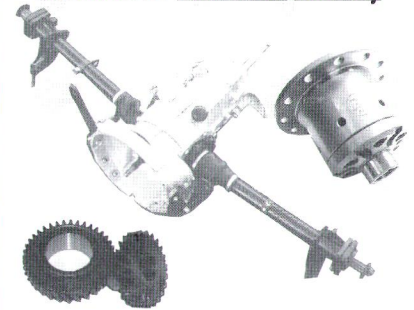


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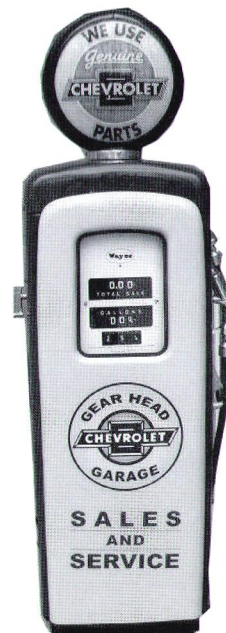
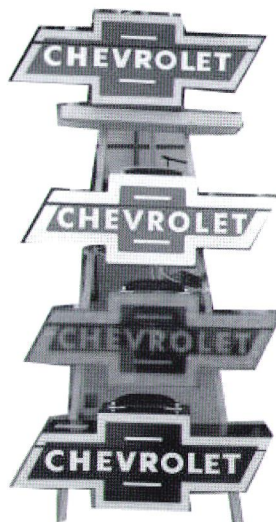


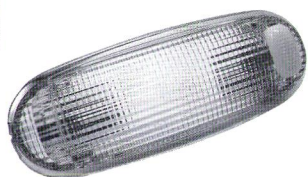
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