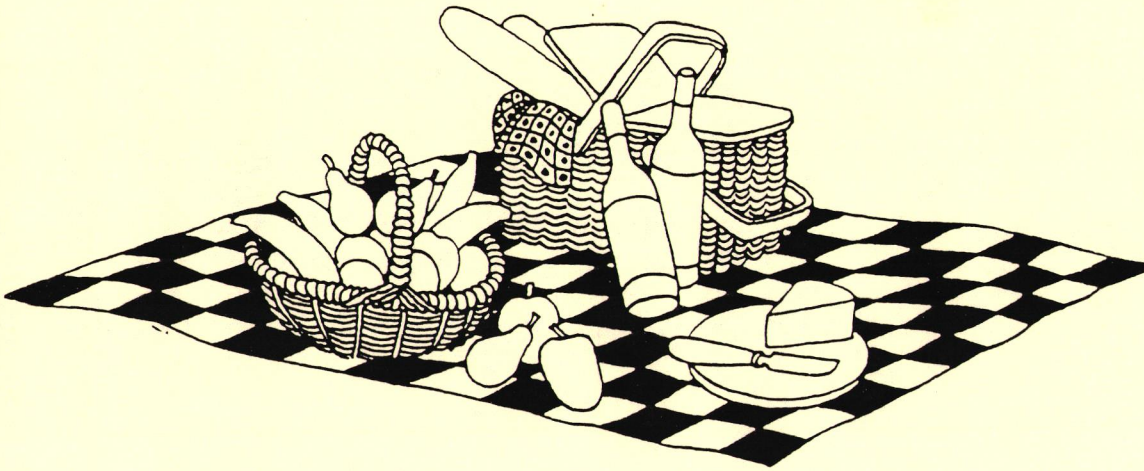
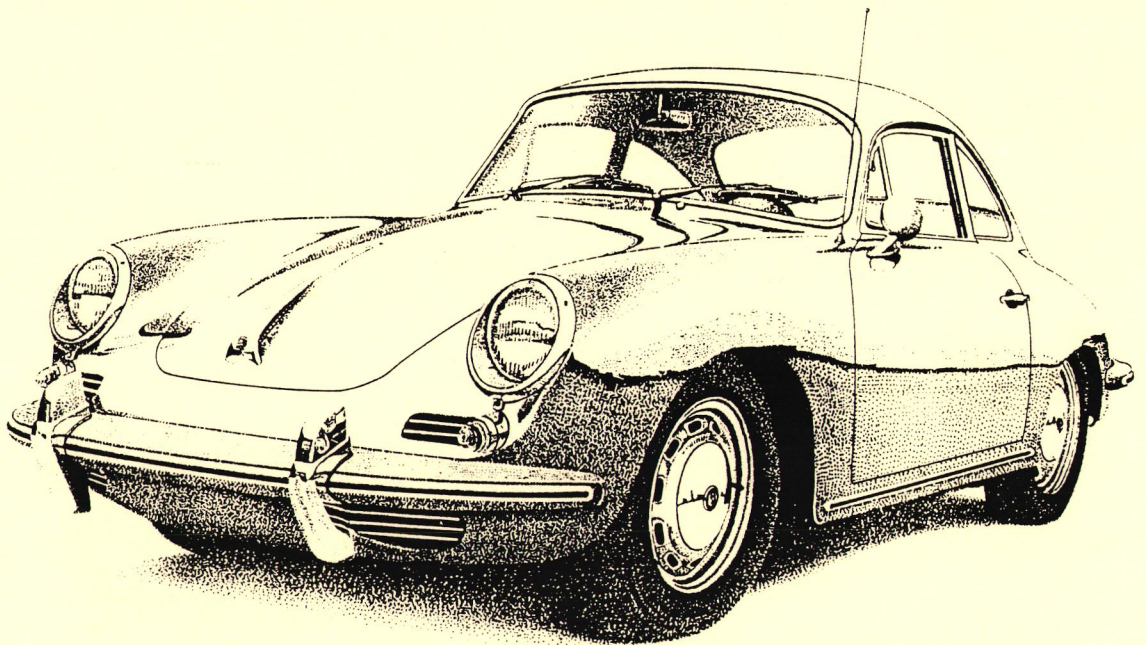


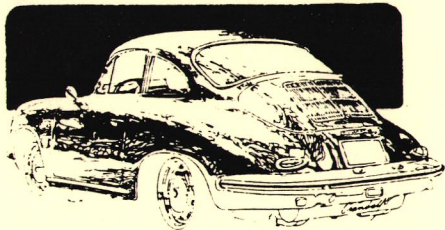
# 356 MOTOR CITIES GRUPPE NEWSLETTER



## SUMMER PLEASURES



SUMMER 1992



This year is starting out to be one of the best for the Motor Cities Gruppe, but before the new events, praise needs to be given to a couple of 356'ers.

The first goes to Vic Skirmants for his informative tech session. He single-handedly, without great leaps or bounds, diagnosed a starting problem on Burt Davis' freshly restored Cabriolet, set up Bill Hallandal's Solex carb's for demo, and solved a leaking rear axle problem on a "C" Coupe that had just been driven from California to Michigan (axle seal incorrectly installed allowing fluid into brake drum).

The second goes to Jack Chamberlin who drove his newly restored speedster on its first outing to the Kentucky region PCA "Porsche Derby". After driving many miles, through a rain storm, cracking a windshield, and discovering the speedster was not water-tight, Jack Chamberlin and Nancy Easterly arrived safely in Louisville, Kentucky. The Concours Event was well worth the trip as the Speedster won First in its Class, Ladies Choice, and People's Choice.

Now, for upcoming events: Barb and Vic Skirmants are having their 2nd Annual Trackside BBQ at Mid-Ohio Vintage Races. Vic is busy at work on a new 356 for the Races on June 27 and 28 (see centerfold). Anyone interested in driving together can call me at (313) 561-8186 on details for Friday evening departure or John Chatley at (313) 693-6030 for Friday morning departure.

Our next event is the Annual Family Picnic (details in centerfold), being hosted by Tord and Judy Smedburg at their house in Farmington. Bring the 356, as there is ample lawn parking available. Let's all help the hosts by calling early.

The Fall Color Tour, scheduled for October 24 and 25, is already taking shape. Barbara Skirmants is coordinating an overnight tour to the Sandusky, Ohio area with planned stops at country markets, antique shops, wineries, and water's edge dining. Look to the next newsletter issue for details.

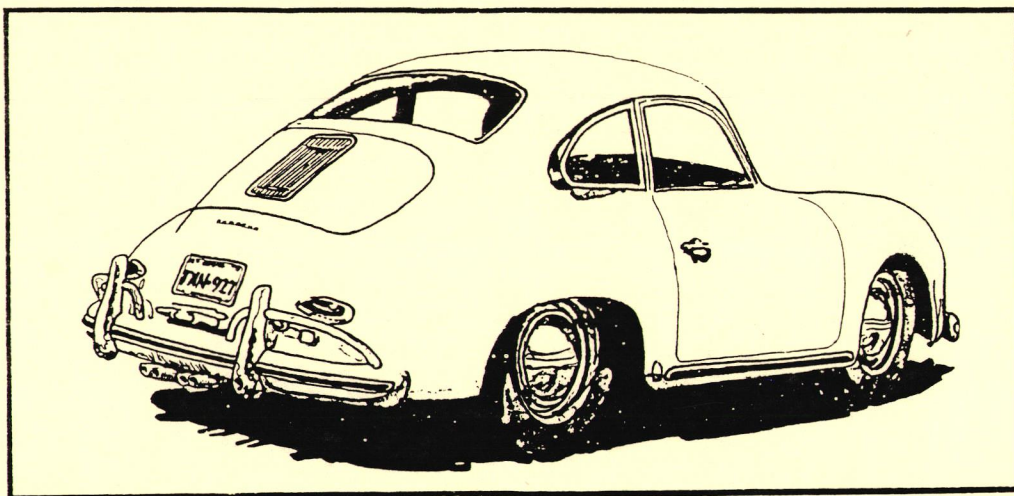
At the present time, this Newsletter is distributed and mailed to 190 people. Its continued existence requires more support than it currently receives from a small, loyal group. By support I am not only referring to \$, but also contributions in terms of Newsletter articles, photographs, 356 experiences, and suggestions for, and hosting of, events. I would like to see the Newsletter improve, but it takes your input to be a success. Hope to see all you loyal supporters, and new "faithful" ones soon.

Suggestions and comments gratefully accepted. Call me during the day at (313) 451-1070, or in the evening at (313) 561-8186.

-- Fred Sheill

#### BOOSTER FUND ADDERS IN 1992

Bill Hallandal  
William & Sharon Borden  
Ted & Lanita Dunham  
Ron Pruette  
Lou Livengood



■ Porsche 356SC.

## 1956-1965 Porsche 356 Coupes

"... one would look a long time before finding a sports or GT car that offers more pure driving enjoyment."—R&T, February 1964

Now why would anyone pay twice the price of an early Porsche 911, with all its performance, comfort and handling advantages, for an anemic-performing, quirky-handling and relatively cramped car that looks like an overturned bathtub?

Well, for the same reason folks pay bags of money for Bugeyes, FDs and Morgans. Because, for all their shortcomings, Porsche 356s are downright lovable. And because they're little pieces of history. The simple, reliable and lovable 356s provided the foundation for the mystique Porsche enjoys to this day.

Oh—and there's another reason too. Porsche 356s are highly perishable. Though these early Porsches were built with exquisite care in typical Teutonic fashion, expose them to the barest whiff of moisture—especially if it's road-salt moisture—and the cars begin to crumble like stale bread. And considering the last of the 356s is more than a quarter-century old now, they've had plenty of time for such exposure.

Regard it a minor miracle if you should find any 356 with original, uncorroded floors, doors or, rarer still, a battery box. Floors, doors, battery boxes and even the longitudinals (the structures that run along either side of the floorpan and provide the car much of its strength) can be properly

repaired with enough time, skill and cash. But when rust attacks the suspension mounts too, the car is probably terminal.

Engines also can present the 356 buyer with plenty of opportunities to lose money on an "investment"-quality car. Perhaps it shouldn't matter if, say, a 356B has a 356C engine in its tail. But it does to collectors. And because engines are so easy to swap in these early Porsches, there are plenty of 356s running around with the wrong Porsche engines—or even Volkswagen engines. So check for correct engine numbers.

Lovers of 356s tend to have different preferences for the various models in the series. The Type A personalities like the earliest of the 356s for their old-fashioned funky looks, both in the body shape and in the dash arrangement. The "C" lovers like the last of the 356 series for their slicker looks, more powerful engines and better brakes (discs instead of drums). The 356Bs, produced between late 1959 and mid-1963, are somewhat less coveted than the others, and hence are often less expensive.

While all these models came in soft-top cabriolet and/or speedster versions, it may be unnecessary to mention that these are priced far beyond our \$20,000 budget. Ditto for anything exotic like 4-cam Carreras. So this leaves us with the coupes.

No matter which model you choose, parts for 356s are in great supply, whether the parts are new, reproductions or used. While bodywork can be expensive, the simple 356 drivetrain costs little more to repair or rebuild than many of the British cars profiled here. Which, of course, is in stark contrast to a 911.

Alternatives? None that we can think of, unless... well, VW Beetle and Karmann-Ghia?

|                                | 1957 356A Normal | 1964 356C |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Curb weight, lb                | 1930             | 1970      |
| Wheelbase, in.                 | 82.7             | 82.7      |
| Length                         | 155.5            | 157.9     |
| Width                          | 65.7             | 65.7      |
| Height                         | 51.6             | 51.7      |
| Engine type                    | pushrod flat-4   |           |
| Displacement, cc               | 1582             | 1582      |
| Bhp                            | 70               | 88        |
| 0-60 mph, sec                  | 14.4             | 13.5      |
| 0-¼ mile                       | 19.3             | 18.9      |
| Average mpg                    | 30               | 26        |
| Asking prices:                 |                  |           |
| 356A coupes: \$13,000-\$20,000 |                  |           |
| 356B coupes: \$10,000-\$17,000 |                  |           |
| 356C coupes: \$10,000-\$20,000 |                  |           |

Great cars are not created by committees

PORSCHE

## SKIRMANTS CHICKEN BBQ

at

MID-OHIO VINTAGE RACES

June 25-28, 1992

Make your reservations NOW to attend this great event for enthusiasts of all makes of Vintage cars. This years event plans to be the largest ever with cars on display from every collectors group. The Triumph is the featured marque this year with over 250 clubs from all over the world bringing their cars. For the 356 folks there is plenty of action, for you to cheer about. In 1990 there were 19 356's in Group 3 race, and last year saw 15 cars take the green flag, this year there should be even more cars. Vic and I are in the process of building a new Vintage Coupe and we have entered our new car in this years race. No small feat since the car just came from Larry Smith's, Autometric Body shop with a new white paint job on May 19. Tom Youk is also here working away helping to build our new vintage racer in time for Mid-Ohio. So make your plans to attend. The quality of racing is very exciting, you won't find vintage 356 racing boring at all when you see Vic come straight out of a corner on 3 wheels and pass 2 cars. I'm just a little prejudiced, but you will have to see it to believe it!!!

This years BBQ dinner hosted at our motor home in the paddock area will start at the conclusion of racing on Saturday evening. (look in the same area that you found us last year) There is a \$5.00 per person charge. I will supply all the meats, your table service, plus my famous baked beans. Please bring a dish to pass plus your own beverages for the evening festivities. Last years activities lasted well into dark and were climaxed by a contest having something to do with bing cherries and my bbq grill. The deadline for your reservation is MONDAY, JUNE 22, 6pm. This years racing event starts on Thursday morning, so we will be leaving on Wednesday afternoon. Hope you can join us to celebrate the debut of our new race car.

Vic & Barbara Skirmants 313/ 575-9544

Following is the scheduled times for Group #3, which includes all the 356's.

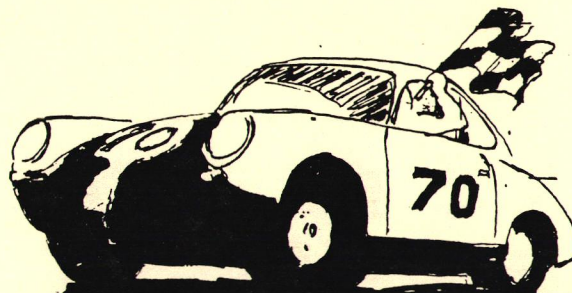
Thursday, June 25,  
9:00 am 30 min practice  
2:00 pm 30 min practice

Friday, June 26  
8:25 am 25 min practice  
1:55 pm 25 min practice

Saturday, June 27  
9:40 am 25 min practice  
2:20 pm 8 lap qualifying race

Sunday, June 28  
8:00 am 15 min warm-up  
10:45 am 10 lap feature race

PS: The Mid-Ohio concession stands do sell breakfasts similar to McDonalds. No sleeping in this weekend or you will miss all the good stuff.



**356 ENTERPRISES**

Vic & Barbara Skirmants

# MOTOR CITIES GRUPPE

## ANNUAL FAMILY

## PICNIC

SUNDAY

JULY 19<sup>th</sup>

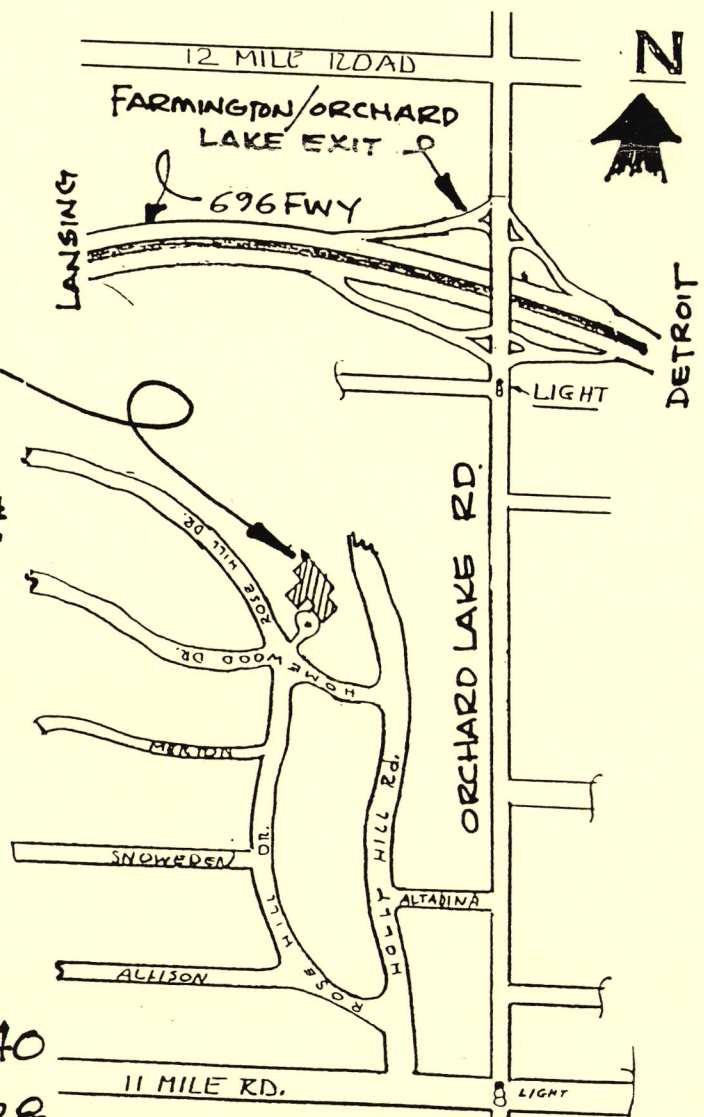
AT

THE SMEDBURG'S  
26500 ROSE HILL DR.  
FARMINGTON

- GATHERING @ NOON
- FOOD - 1<sup>00</sup>/PM  
BRING YOUR OWN MAIN DISH &  
A DISH TO PASS.
- SURPRISE EVENT
- BRING YOUR OWN LAWNCHAIRS  
TABLES & GRILLS AVAILABLE
- BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES
- INTENTIONS BY JULY 15<sup>th</sup>

JUDY SMEDBURG - 474-3340

LANITA DUNHAM - 464-1728



## DISCOVERING THE 356

As a typical college student in the mid 80's, I was well aware of the Porsche 911 and the mystique that surrounded it. One day as I pulled my Saab 99 into the local foreign car repair shop, I spotted this car that looked like a 911, yet didn't.

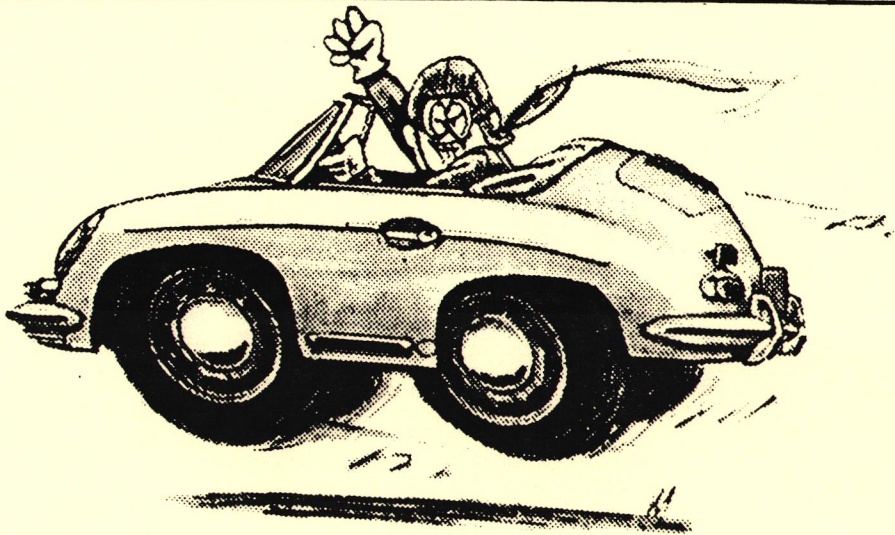
"T'Hell is that?" I asked out loud. "It's a 356" said the shop owner. "It came before the 911" he said, knowing I was uninformed.

He proceeded to tell me wonderful things about these cars and the National Registry that he belonged to. It was then that I learned the difference between the air-cooled Porsche and "those other ones."

It was many years later, however, that I learned the difference between the air-cooled owners. While attending a PCA Autocross last summer, I was denied membership because I did not own a Porsche. Tord Smedberg overheard this conversation, and knowing that I was really only interested in 356's anyway, he got me going with the National Registry and the Motor Cities Gruppe.

The people couldn't be any nicer and I don't even have to own one to belong! Which brings me to the next subject: When I finally do buy a 356, it will be driven on a regular basis. Everyone I know with a 356 believes in this and I couldn't agree more.

-- Sebastian Gaeta



This could be your car!!

Submit a photograph or short article on your favortie car/experience, etc.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 13      5th Annual Teileschwaben - All Porsche Swap  
Meet at Stoddard Imported Cars.  
1-800-342-1414
- June 14      Carnival of Cars at GM Tech Center, contact  
Ted Stanek (313) 268-9840.
- June 21      SMR - B.F.G. Charity Autocross/Tire Drawing  
at Oakland County Court House, North Lot,  
10 - 3 pm, contact Ted Dunham (313) 464-1728.
- June 27      Skirmants BBQ at Mid-Ohio Vintage Races  
(see insert).
- July 4        4th of July Parade, Northville - Vintage Cars  
Parade, contact Greg Stempian (313) 344-8285  
or (313) 464-4500.
- July 19      356 Motor Cities Gruppe Annual Picnic (see  
centerfold).
- July 31 -      Meadowbrook Historic Cars at Waterford Hills,  
August 2      Aston Martin is featured marque.
- July 31      Street "Concours in Depot Park" - Clarkston, MI
- August 2      14th Annual Concourse d'Elegance at Meadowbrook  
Hall featuring French custom coachbuilders.  
For info - Group Promotions (313) 373-2500.
- Sept 4,5,6    356 - East Coast Holiday - Snowshoe, West  
Virginia (see insert).
- Oct 24/25    Fall Color Tour to Sandusky, Ohio. More  
details in next issue - Barb Skirmants  
(313) 575-9544.
- December    Holiday Party - Open for Suggestions

Note: It is not necessary to "own" or "drive" a 356 to participate in any events; only positive thoughts of 356's!



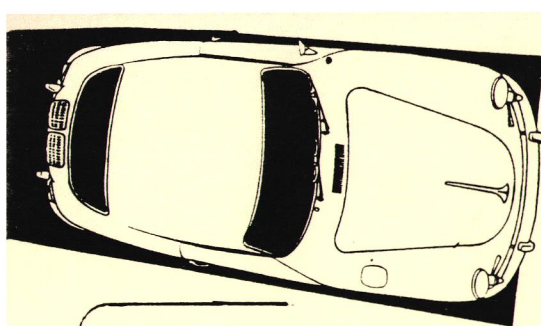
# Snowshoe '92

## 356 Registry East Coast Holiday XVIII

SNOWSHOE MOUNTAIN LODGE, WEST VIRGINIA

Contact Randy You at (919) 299-4466 or  
Joe Johnson Jr.  
P.O. Box 111  
Mt. Airy, NC 27030

There will be a caravan to the Holiday, contact Fred Sheill for information (D) (313) 451-1070, (E) (313) 561-8186.



## C L A S S I F I E D S

For Sale: 1965c Coupe, Ruby Red, Excellent Driver (Good Underside, 2-3000 Miles, Rebuilt 912 Engine with Big Bore & Mild Cam) \$9,700 OBO

Larry Duling (419) 246-4231 (Toledo Area)

For Sale: (4) Yoko Tires 008R - 195/60, Fred Sheill 561-8186

To submit articles, photographs, tidbits, classifieds, donations, or anything else, contact Fred Sheill on 561-8186.

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MOTOR CITIES



469 Ft. Dearborn, Dearborn, MI 48124



David Peterson  
35251 Northmont Dr.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331