

The Cimarron Trail



Cimarron Region Porsche Club of America Newsletter - September 2015



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Porscheplatz at C.O.T.A. (Pg. 9)
Ladies Luncheon at Cedar Ridge (Pg. 10)
Autocross News & Photos (Pgs. 11-14)
Jon Jones' Motorsports Update (Pg. 22)

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Cimarron Briefs
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From the Editor



From the Editor:

I don't know about you, but I've had just about enough Summer! Really, the season hasn't been too awfully bad, as far as Oklahoma Summers go. The triple digit temperatures are likely gone for 2015. Did we actually have very many days in the 100s? Anyway, I guess it is time to get back to normal. Normal? What's that? Not so fast, according to the weatherman.

El Nino is warming the Pacific, and due to that, we may be in for some abnormal weather this Fall and Winter.

Some people say, "Give me Summer, I love the heat, and it's easy to find a place to cool off!" Others maintain, "I'm tired of sweating. I can't wait for cooler weather."

Either way, we have no choice in the matter. The endless cycle of the seasons is a constant reminder of how time marches on, ready or not. The best we can do is put a positive spin on the whole thing.

So let's all get to rotating our closets. Hang those long sleeved items in a more convenient location. Bring the coats and such out of moth balls. Take inventory of all those Porsche clothes.

There's no denying it. Fall is just around the corner, and Winter is not far behind. I don't mean to jump the gun here, but one has to be prepared! Why, it's already Labor Day, the kids are back in school, and Oktoberfest is less than a month away! And we're going back to Devil's Den in October!

There are the mid-week club dinner get-togethers, remaining autocross sessions.

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and Cimarron Region Ladies Luncheons. Heck, before you know it, we'll be handing out goodies to goblins, roasting a turkey, and driving out to Five Oaks Lodge for the gala annual Cimarron Region Christmas Party!

I know, I'm getting way ahead of myself, but I simply want you to know I'm excited about the remainder of 2015, all the club functions we have to offer, and how Pam and I are looking forward to seeing you at these events!

You know, I say it all the time, "It's not just the cars, it's you, and you, and you, and . . .

See you soon!

-Greg Petzet

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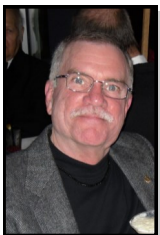
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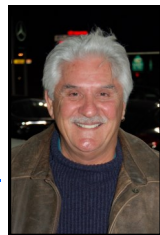
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On the cover:

Mid-week dinner at The Hamlet, August 26. At the table clockwise: Rick & Becky Hardmeyer, Jennifer & Mike Fugate, Bob & Dulcie Miller

President's Perspective - September 2015

By Jon Jones, CRPCA President



September is one of my most favorite months. It's the last gasp before the cold weather sets in; the days are cooler and there is that crisp, dry snap in the air. For Cimarron Region members, there are plenty of things to do and adventures yet to experience.

We had a great turnout for our most recent midweek dinner at the Hamlet. 51 members came out and we had to move to the patio to accommodate everyone. The food was good, and the service for most of us was fine. One table had a hiccup getting served, but the Hamlet did the right thing and "comped" the table for the delay. That's a classy thing to do.

Included in the 51 at the Hamlet were two new members, Steve and Kay Burrus. Steve has a new-to-him 2002 Boxster and has already volunteered to help the club on the Nominating Committee for next year's Board of Directors. Car clubs can be daunting for new members, especially social



Dinner At The Hamlet - Clockwise from foreground: Becky McFall & Scott Bever, Chris & Marilou Hines, Bob & Patsy Terry, Nancy & Jay Anderson.



Dinner At The Hamlet - Region President & Treasurer, Jon & Joy Jones, respectively, welcome new members, Kay and Steve Burrus to their first official club event!

events as people naturally gravitate to their own friends and acquaintances. Sometimes the new folks get kind of left out of things until they get to know everyone. We made a point of sitting with Steve and Kay and had a very nice time. We learned that before buying his Boxster, Steve was considering a Corvette (the horror!). Since he made the right decision, we hope to see both of them at some upcoming events.

> > > Turn the page

September President's Perspective - *continued*

Your Social Chair Steve Canada arranged the Hamlet dinner, and as usual we were not disappointed. Steve's next project is getting us back to Devil's Den, and he's working on a date in October for the previously postponed drive and picnic. It might be a little cool, but Steve tells us the pavilion has a fire pit, and the thought of a fall picnic and bonfire just sounds great to me. We'll announce the date when the details are firmed up.

Coming up this month is Autocross on the 13th, followed by the VW Club car show on the 19th. The car show has a Porsche category, so if you want to join the corporate cousins, bring your P-car and show it off.

The September 19th weekend is also the Lone Star Le Mans race down at Circuit of the Americas. We know of at least 10 Cimarron Region members who are going to make the drive to Austin, and that's a good showing for Cimarron. It should be a great event, and the Porscheplatz tent at the top of the hill in Turn 1 will be a great viewpoint. The Porscheplatz is paid for by Porsche Cars North America and staffed by PCA members. It will also feature personal appearances by Porsche drivers and team members – maybe even Patrick Dempsey. That will certainly cause an overflow crowd!

Our nominating process for 2016 officers has begun. We have three volunteers who will solicit and collect nominations and submit them later on this month for a vote by you, the members. It's important to remember that Cimarron Region does not



At The Hamlet - Clockwise from front left: Elinor & Randy Kaplin, George and Georgia Paul, Sonja & John Blocha.



More Hamlet - Clockwise from back row: Phil & Donna Goswick, Patty & Larry Parmeter, George & Barbara Fugate.



Dinner At The Hamlet - Clockwise from left front: Kathy & Dirk Hume, Mark & Cat Ingram, Dianna & Keith Gucwa.

> > > Turn the page

September President's Perspective - *continued*

run itself, so there is a great need for people to step-up their involvement in PCA to help keep us strong. If you are interested in serving or know someone who is, contact Cliff Fisch at cliffordbb@gmail.com, George Paul at gp11@cox.net, or Steve Burrus at stevenburrus@yahoo.com.

The next Cimarron Region Ladies Lunch is set for September 26th. The ladies will gather at 11:30 a.m. at the Cedar Ridge Country Club in Broken Arrow. They are doing good work at their lunches, deciding on some charitable donations for the club, and increasing the turnout of volunteers for Cimarron Region events. Well done! Contact Kathy Hume at loves2read12@cox.net for more information.

We covered a different topic in this month's Motorsport column, but if you haven't noticed, Porsche has been on a tear in GT racing. Three wins in a row in IMSA and a double victory in the Pirelli World Challenge at Mid-Ohio. We love to see Porsche in victory circle – keep 'em coming!

Planning for the Cimarron Region Christmas Party is underway. This very popular event will once again take place at Five Oaks Lodge in Jenks. They do such a good job, we couldn't see having it any place else. This year will feature a famous jazz combo and a special guest speaker. We don't want to hurry December's arrival, but we're looking forward to it and hope you are, too. -Jon Jones



Hamlet Hams! Left: Joy Jones visits with Social Chair, Steve Canada and his Son-in-Law and daughter, Steven and Kira, and Kneale Ewing.

Below: Jay Anderson hammin' it up!

Below left: Jean Kelley & Bill Jacobi enjoying!





. . . And Down The Road

- ♦ **September 13** - Autocross (**counting**) - Corporate Woods - 8:30 a.m.
- ♦ **September 17 - 19** - World Endurance Championship - Lone Star Le Mans - C.O.T.A.
 - ♦ **September 18 - 20** - VW Club of Tulsa Car Show & Swap Meet
- ♦ **September 23** - Mid-week Dinner - Waterfront Grill - T.B.A. (Watch for an Email blast)
- ♦ **September 26** - Cimarron Region Ladies Luncheon - Cedar Ridge Country Club - 11:30 a.m.
- ♦ **September 26** - (Warbonnet Region) European Car Show - Oklahoma City, OK - 9:00 a.m.
 - ♦ **October 1-3** - PCA Escape to Rushmore - Rapid City, SD
 - ♦ **October 2-4** - Oktoberfest Club Race - Hallett Motor Racing Circuit
 - ♦ **October 11** - Autocross (**counting**) - Corporate Woods - 8:30 a.m.
- ♦ **October 17** - Cimarron Region Ladies Luncheon - Cedar Ridge Country Club - 11:30 a.m.
 - ♦ **October 18** - Autocross (**counting**) - Corporate Woods - 8:30 a.m.
 - ♦ **November 1** - Autocross (**practice**) - Corporate Woods - 8:30 a.m.
- ♦ **November 13-15** - PCA Palooza - Best Western Inn of the Ozarks - Eureka Springs, AR
- ♦ **December 12** - Cimarron Region Christmas Party - Five Oaks Lodge - 6:00 p.m.

PCA Cimarron Region Member Update

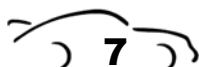
From Rick Hardmeyer, Membership Chair
Reported September 1, 2015

Welcome New Members!

Tim Blake - Tulsa, OK - '03 Boxster
 Steven Burrus - Sapulpa, OK - '02 Boxster
 Susan Collins - Tulsa, OK - '14 Cayman
 Deepanjan Ganguly - Tulsa, OK - '13 Boxster
 Keith Kelly - Tulsa, OK - '76 911
 Keven McVay - Stillwater, OK - '88 944
 Filipp Natekin - Broken Arrow, OK - 2004 Cayenne

Members > Primary: **236** Affiliate: **153** Life: **1** = Total **390***

* Increase of 25 members over year end 2014!



Coming Attractions

Oktoberfest 2015

What: Cimarron Region PCA Club Race and DE

When: October 2-4

Where: Hallett Motor Racing Circuit

Information & Registration: clubregistration.net

Join us for our 14th Annual Oktoberfest Club Race and DE.

Friday will feature Test and Tune for Club Racers. Races Sat/Sun.

DE (Driver Education) for "experienced only" Hallett drivers all three days.

To Volunteer please contact Jon Jones at 918-740-7951, or jjone20@aol.com.

Presenting
Sponsor

JACKIE COOPER



PORSCHE



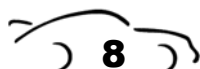
Devil's Den Is "Where It's At" Bring Your Jacket And A Hat

Sunday! Sunday! Sunday! "The Den" is Back!

Not to be deterred by Spring rains, Social Chair extraordinaire, Steve Canada, has re-scheduled the pavilion at Devil's Den State Park for a Fall picnic drive, Sunday, October 25th, departing from the Bass Pro parking lot at 8:45 a.m. For complete updated information, see our website or next month's *Cimarron Trail*. Save the date!



Dueling Spatulas-"Smokin'" John Blocha & George Paul



Cimarron Region Briefs



Porscheplatz



LONE STAR LE MANS

Circuit of the Americas • Austin, Texas • September 17-19, 2015

TUDOR United SportsCar Championship • FIA World Endurance Championship



Come join Porsche Club of America (PCA), Porsche Cars North America (PCNA) and the PCA Regions from Zone 5 when we host our PORSCHEPLATZ September 17-19 during the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship [Lone Star Le Mans](#) at the [Circuit of the Americas](#) in Austin, Texas. Night racing will return this year and include cars and drivers from the FIA World Endurance Championship competing in the "6 Hours of COTA." There will be over 180 incredible cars, famous drivers, great live music and all topped off with dazzling fireworks.

Our PCNA supported PORSCHEPLATZ is located at the top of Turn 1, one of the most exciting turns on the track. Permanent concessions and restrooms are located just a few feet away. This is a fantastic opportunity to see exciting racing at one of the most famous racing venues in the world. Hear drivers from the Porsche factory race teams talk about racing their Porsches at COTA. Sponsors will provide presentations on their products and answer your questions. And executives from Porsche Motors North America and Porsche Cars North America will talk about Porsche and the future. There will be drawings for prizes including hot pit tours and a set of Michelin tires. You will also have the opportunity to participate in "Porsche Only" Parade Laps around COTA.

Tickets are \$159 per person for the 3-day pass which includes a 3-day parking pass. Tickets for the 3-day pass without a parking pass are \$139.00. Children under 15 are admitted FREE, Your 2015 Porscheplatz / Car Corral Package includes:

- Access to exclusive Porscheplatz Hospitality Tent including closed circuit TV, beverages
- Access to seating in Turn 1, Turn 15, and Main Grand Stand
- Exclusive "PORSCHE ONLY" Car Corral Parking (located in Lot T)
- Merchandise Bag
- Paddock Access, Pit Lane Walk, Track Invasion
- Race Team Meet & Greet



To purchase tickets contact:

COTA Representative Austin Clement at austin.clement@circuitoftheamericas.com
or 512-655-6464 to personally order tickets.

For more information contact :

PCA Zone 5 Representative: Lynn Friedman at zone5rep@pca.org or
PCA Porscheplatz/Car Corral Coordinator: Tuffy von Briesen at tuffysheri@comcast.net



The Cimarron Trail --- September 2015





More Cimarron Region Briefs

(Or maybe you'd prefer Boxster Boxers)

Cimarron Region Ladies Luncheon

Never let it be said the Cimarron Region Ladies aren't car people! At their recent lunch get-together, the subject was CARS! At least for about 10 minutes, according to organizer, Kathy Hume. Otherwise, a list of possible charities for our region to support monetarily was narrowed down to two, plus a few to receive specific types of donated products. The worthy organizations will be announced soon. Great company, a nice lunch, and helping those in need; three good reasons to make plans to attend the upcoming installments of the Cimarron Region Ladies Luncheon!



Left to right: Jennifer Fugate, Susan Nordstrom, Becky McFall, Joy Jones, Kathy Hume, Patty Parmeter, Donna Goswick, and Claudia Arthrell.

**September 26 & October 17
(Saturdays) 11:30 a.m.**

Cedar Ridge Country Club

R.S.V.P. to Kathy Hume at (918) 636-4156

Or send email to loves2read12@cox.net.

No 4 Wheel Drive? No Problem!

Jay Anderson says you don't need an SUV if you have a GT3! Jay and Nancy sent these photos from Canyonlands National Park, just south of Moab, Utah.

Got some cool Porsche photos from your trip? Send 'em in!





Mr. Bill's (Jacobi) 8/9/2015

Autocross News

Hot Times at Corporate Woods

Thanks to all who turned out for this autocross under such extreme heat. We had 19 drivers, what a fine turnout! Gary won the day once again, with a great job of driving! As you can see, we had some very close times. And, hey George, those new stripes were really fast, you did great!

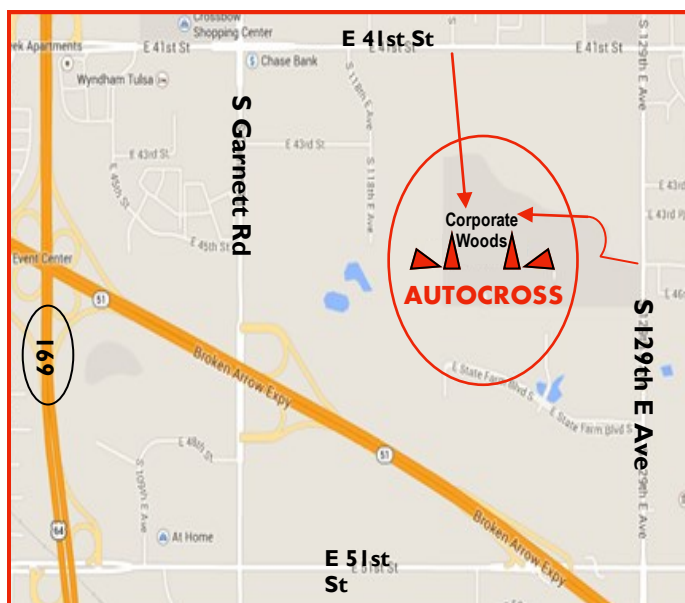
See the remaining schedule on the next page. See you there! Thanks again for participating!

Bill Jacobi, bjacobi@sbcglobal.net, or (918) 694-1261.

First time drivers=* 2 second track tire penalty=**

How They Fared

1) Gary Bernard	Cayman	58.638
2) Carl Hughes	911	58.749
3) Jason Tollison	911	59.108
4) Orlando Dumalag	911	61.192
5) Jeff Metcalf	Boxster	61.309
6) George Paul	911	61.564
7) Bill Jacobi	911	61.584
8) Brian Thomas	968	61.632
9) Greg Petzet	911	62.731
10) Joe Hill	Boxster	62.890
11) Mike Fugate	914	63.065
12) Rod Nordstrom	911	63.586
13) Chris Hines	911	64.896
14) Randy Kaplin	911	65.556
15) Bob Peck	911	66.269**
16) Bill Cammuso	944	67.748
17) Tom Ellis	911	68.421
18) Cliff Fisch	914	69.209
19) Joy Jones	Boxster	69.336



Important Autocross News!

Due to the June 7 rainout, and the September 20 conflict with C.O.T.A., the two Autocross dates originally scheduled as practice sessions are now "make-up" counting events. Be there!

October 11 & October 18



Autocross Action - August 9

Thanks to Jennifer Fugate (JF) for the Action Photos! (others by the Editor)



< **Gary Bernard** awaits go sign from starter, Jon Jones.

Gary crosses the finish line > with Fastest Time of the Day!



Tom Ellis



Randy Kaplin



Rod Nordstrom



Jason Tollison



Jeff Metcalf



George Paul



Greg Petzet



Joe Hill



Chris Hines

More Autocross Action

Editor's Note: 19 drivers participated in the August 9 Cimarron Autocross. You can see the results on page 11 of this newsletter. You might notice about a 10 second difference between the 1st and 19th times. Times are influenced by many factors,



including but not limited to, horsepower, handling dynamics, tires, driver experience and skill level. I estimate, however, if scores were based on having fun in a Porsche, it would have been a 19 way tie! Why not come out and give it a go?! See the schedule on page 14. Is it safe? As safe as can be. There is only one car on the course at a time. And anyone there will gladly volunteer to "show you the ropes." Try it, the fun is indescribable!



Carl Hughes



Brian Thomas



Bill Cammuso



Joy Jones



Bob Peck



Cliff Fisch



Mike Fugate



Orlando Dumalag



Bill Jacobi



Mr. Bill's (Jacobi) 8/23/2015 AutoCross News

Slip n' Slide ?

When I went to bed Saturday night, I was hoping it would rain like heck, and that we would have a sunny Sunday autocross. I woke up at 3 a.m. on Sunday, and it was raining hard. Around 7:45 it was still raining, but I headed to Corporate Woods to see what conditions were like at the site. It rained very hard all the way there. While I sat there trying to decide whether or not to pull the plug on the autocross, it stopped raining! I could also see skies were beginning to clear. Mike Fugate texted me to ask if we were having the autocross. I told him yes, that it had stopped raining. He said he was on his way with the trailer. I received several texts from folks inquiring if we were having autocross. I told them yes, and that the trailer was on its way. Nine drivers arrived and we set up the course. The parking lot was wet with many big puddles and wet spots. So we modified the course and had the first car out at around 10 a.m. If you had a low horsepower car, this course and conditions would be kind to you. Congratulations to Mike for a great drive under these conditions!

Bill Jacobi, bjacobi@sbcglobal.net, or (918) 694-1261.

How They Fared

1) Mike Fugate	914	40.437
2) Gary Bernard	Cayman	42.583
3) Jason Tollison	911	44.274
4) Rick Hardmeyer	911	44.498
5) Rod Nordstrom	911	46.317
6) Randy Kaplin	911	46.753
7) Bill Jacobi	911	46.878
8) Joe Hill	Boxster	49.253
9) Cliff Fisch	914	51.018

Practice Schedule *Counting*

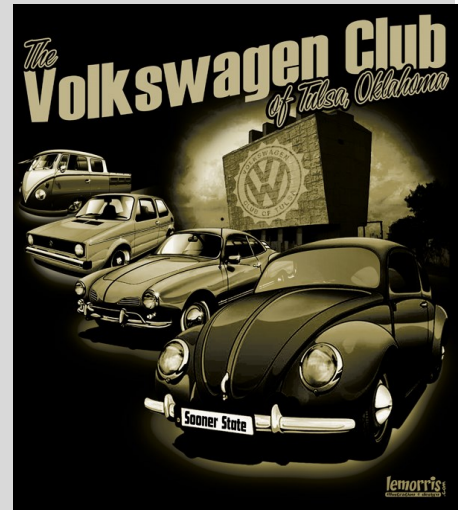
-	<u>September</u>	<u>* 13th</u>
	<u>October</u>	<u>* 11th & * 18th</u>
<u>1st</u>	<u>November</u>	-

Corporate Woods, 4500 S. 129th E. Ave
 Meet at 8:30 a.m.-Begin runs about 9:30 a.m.
 Practices are FREE-Counting sessions = \$10
 All drivers participating in at least 5 counting events will receive a shirt or cap at the Gala Christmas Party in December.

See map on previous page

Cimarron Region Members Invited To VW Show!

The Volkswagen Club of Tulsa presents their 20th Annual Car Show & Swap Meet, Fri-Sun, September 18-20, at Oklahoma Technical College, 4401 S. Sheridan, in Tulsa. For many years, our members have been invited to show their Porsches, and the past few years there have been only a handful participate. Those members say it is a fun day, and you never know what unique VW variations you'll see at the show. There is a Porsche class, complete with Trophies, and plenty of food, music, a Kid's Zone, a variety of vendors, and MORE. Find information and a link to an entry form at vwcluboftulsa.com, or on Facebook at VW Club of Tulsa. Enter today!



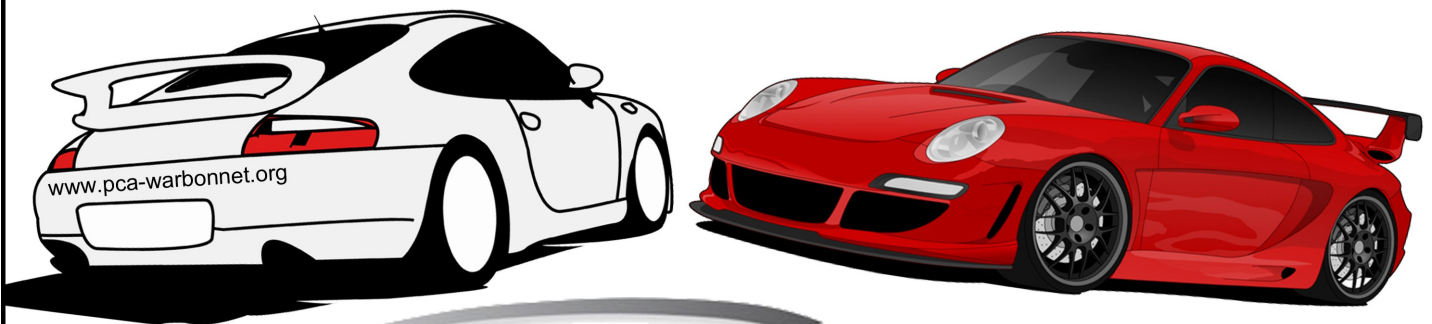
2015



Presented by the
Warbonnet Region
PORSCHE
Club of America



EUROPEAN CAR SHOW



Benefitting

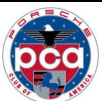


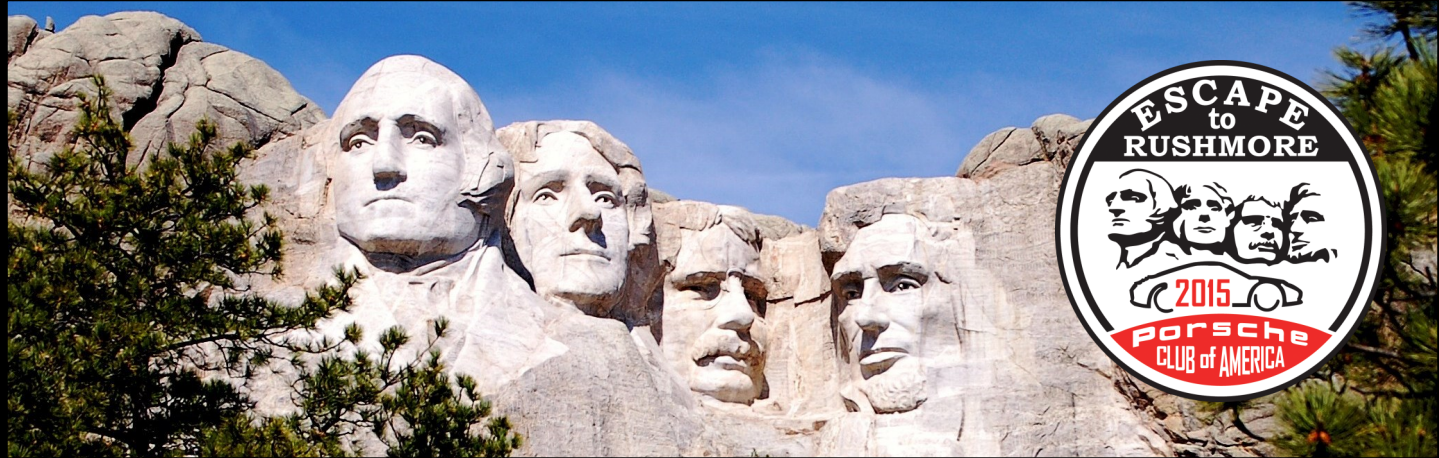
Help for all ages
at all stages of life

Saturday, 9/26 @ 9 a.m.
NW 14th & Classen
Oklahoma City, OK



The Cimarron Trail --- September 2015





Escape to the Land of Myths & Legends

Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln, along with the Dakota and Nord Stern PCA Regions (Zone 10), invite you to the 2015 Escape to Rushmore, October 1-3, in and around Rapid City, SD. October may seem like a long way away, but now is the time to start planning a trip up north! The Presidents await your arrival. You'll be in the same neighborhood as the Badlands, Black Hills, the unfinished Crazy Horse Memorial, Sturgis, and Deadwood. Less than 2 hours away is the breathtaking Devil's Tower, eerily beautiful as it rises majestically from the earth. Registration is OPEN at www.clubregistration.net. Hurry, only 300 Porsches will be registered.



PCA Palooza

11th Annual
2nd Weekend in November
Eureka Springs, AR

Registration Due to Open September 15

pca-palooza.com

Social Calendar and Upcoming Events



September 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SATURDAY BREAKFAST 8 A.M.	WILD FORK UTICA SQUARE
		1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13  Autocross 'Counting' 8:30 a.m.	14 Board Meeting @ Jackie Cooper	15	16	17 Lone Star LeMans-COTA (see page 9) VW Club of Tulsa Car Show	18	19		
20 VW Show & Swap Meet (page 15)	21	22	23 (tentative) Waterfront Grill	24	25	26 Ladies Luncheon Cedar Ridge-page 10 Charity Car Show-OKC See Page 15		
27	28	29	30					

September Highlights

Saturday Breakfast - Wild Fork @ Utica Square - 8 a.m.

**Cimarron Region Board Meeting @ Jackie Cooper
2nd Monday @ 6:30 p.m.**

Autocross Counting Session - September 13 @ Corporate Woods - 8:30 a.m.

**Porscheplatz - September 17-19 @ Lone Star LeMans-Circuit of the Americas
FIA World Endurance Championship**

VW Club of Tulsa Car Show & Swap Meet - September 18-20 - See page 13

Mid-Week Dinner (unconfirmed) - Waterfront Grill - September 23

Cimarron Region Ladies Luncheon - September 26

**European Car Show - September 26 - Oklahoma City, OK
Presented by Warbonnet Region PCA**

Social Calendar and Upcoming Events



October 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	S A T U R D A Y B R E A K F A S T 8 A M	W I L D F O R K B U T I C A S Q U A R E
	PCA Escape To Rushmore-October 1-3 Rapid City, SD - See Page 16			1	2	3		
					Oktoberfest Club Race and Driver Education			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Oktoberfest Race & DE								
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
Autocross 'Counting' 8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting @ Jackie Cooper							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
Autocross 'Counting' 8:30 a.m.						Ladies Luncheon Cedar Ridge		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
Devil's Den Picnic Drive								

October Highlights

**Cimarron Region Oktoberfest Club Race & Driver Education
@ Hallett Motor Racing Circuit - October 2 - 4**

PCA Escape To Rushmore @ Rapid City, SD - October 1-3

Saturday Breakfast - Wild Fork @ Utica Square - 8 a.m.

Cimarron Region Board Meeting @ Jackie Cooper - 2nd Monday @ 6:30 p.m.

Ladies Luncheon @ Cedar Ridge C.C. - Saturday, October 17 - 11:30 a.m.

**Autocross Counting Sessions (2) @ Corporate Woods
October 11 & 18 - 8:30 a.m.**

Devil's Den Picnic Drive - Sunday, October 25 - 8:45 a.m.

Keep Current with Email Blasts

Cimarron Region Website & Here in *The Cimarron Trail*

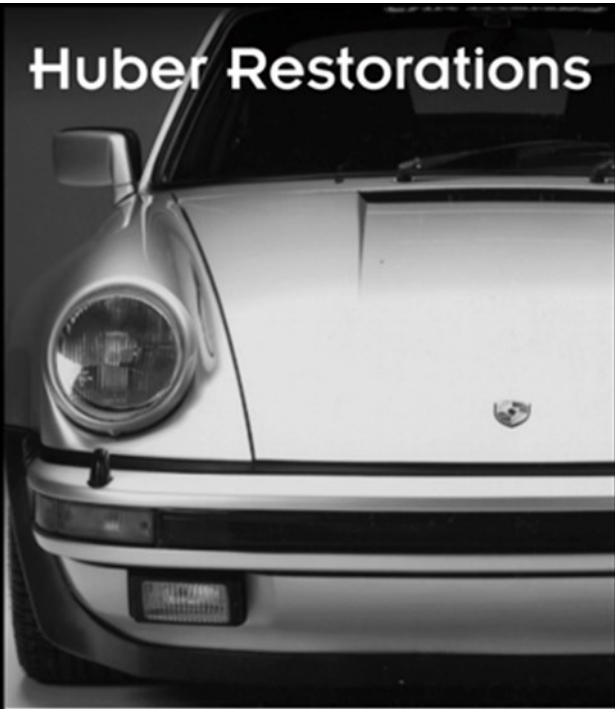


gregslist

Member Services

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Huber Restorations



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918-838-8850

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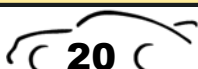
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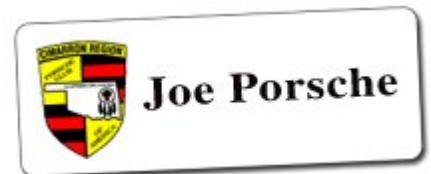
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Motorsports Update

The Danger Factor

by Jon Jones - CRPCA President



With the loss of Justin Wilson in Indycar last month, we were once again reminded of the cost of motorsport competition. Any death of a 37 year-old person is tragic, but the loss of Wilson was particularly so because he left a wife and two young children to deal with the grief. And many friends, too. Wilson was a well-liked journeyman driver, a pleasant Brit as only they can do, with great comradery and respect. Watching the Twitter feed of drivers mourning his death was a stark reminder of the fragile community in which they all live.

Dan Wheldon, Jules Bianchi, and Allan Simonsen are some examples of the more recent tragedies, but they are not the only ones. Far from it - they are merely the most well known. And yet, day after day, season after season, drivers continue to strap in to challenge themselves and the laws of physics. It is a cliché, but to most, driving is life. The ability to control the machine, to take it out to the limit and bring it back is rewarding, satisfying, and fun.



Justin Wilson

As racing fans, we share in their triumphs, marvel at their skill, and hold our breath when things go wrong. Fans applaud when a driver gets out of a beat up machine, not because it was a spectacular shunt, but because he or she survived – they lived to race another day. And we wonder “what makes them do it?” They do it because they are good at it. They know the danger and the risk every time they get in the car, and they deal with it in different ways. Some smoke, some vomit, and some get very, very quiet in the moments before a race. It is there, the danger, all the time.

Justin and Jules and Dan loved to race, and they lived to race. In this age of vast safety improvements, it is still a shock to lose a driver, but we’d wager that not one of those three would have chosen a different profession. In years past, death was with us all the time in auto racing. The names of Clark, Rindt, Donohue and too many more remind us how vulnerable they were in those spindly little cars. Today we have safer barriers, carbon fiber chassis, head and neck restraints, and helmets that are far and away better than anything we’ve ever seen. Yet we still lose drivers.

Nothing can be made 100% safe. Our culture has changed since the days of Ronnie Peterson and Stefan Bellof. The public at large has become risk-averse and the need to protect everyone from everything is the new normal. In racing, we have learned so much from the loss of each driver, but each tragedy makes us a little more squeamish for the next one. The compounding effect of each loss makes the general public look away and condemn the sport as barbaric. For the racing fan who truly understands, we grieve each loss, ask for safety improvements, and continue to watch some of the most skilled, and bravest people on the planet.

And perhaps that is the most fitting tribute to the Wilsons, the Wheldons, the Bianchis of our world. To turn away would be tragedy, too, as if their lives were never lived. The danger is always there. And so are we, to stand witness to their courage.





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