



The Cimarron Trail



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On The Cover

JILL REGER is a professional photographer based in Scottsdale, AZ. She has volumes of automobile related photographs of many brands, including an extensive collection of Porsche photos. Fine art prints and related products are available for browsing and purchase at www.jillreger.com. Look for more examples of her work in future issues of *The Cimarron Trail*.



1957 356A Speedster

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From The Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR! What a perfect “re” time! A chance to reset, reappraise, and restart! And 366 days to get around to leftover projects we intended to do last year, but never quite found time, or did not make time to accomplish. And though all the Autumn leaves have fallen and been collected, (unless that is one of the things you didn’t get around to last year!) certainly you can “turn over a new leaf” one way or another, make a resolution or two, and get the ball rolling in a positive direction in 2016.

My first issue as editor of this newsletter was March, 2014. Each month I continue to learn something new, and with the encouragement of some respected club members, (you know who you are!) I entered the *Cimarron Trail* in the National PCA Newsletter Contest. There are awards for the top rated publications in each of 5 categories, separated according to region size.

As a relative newcomer to the field, and having no formal training, except for a 2 hour Journalism class at the University of Tulsa 45 years ago, I had no visions of winning. However, I did learn the team of contest judges, while they “scored” each publication, would also include comments and suggestions on how to improve the newsletter. Ideas for the *Cimarron Trail* touched on many “pieces of the puzzle,” including appearance, types of content, format, font usage, and much more. Our monthly finished middle of the pack. After I swallowed my pride and digested their guidance, I began to experi-

ment with ways to remake the *Trail* to more closely conform to the standards they set forth. This January installment is the premier issue of the “new” *Cimarron Trail*.

I won’t go into the changes, some subtle, others pretty apparent. Contests notwithstanding, (and it is always nice to be recognized,) my main objective is realized if you, the Cimarron Region member-readers, are, 1) informed, 2) educated, and 3) entertained. I hope you look forward to each monthly publication, that you read them over from “cover to cover,” and that doing so spurs your continued interest in being connected with your fellow Porsche people. And through your participation, you become more involved with this wonderful group of people who make up the Cimarron Region Porsche Club of America!

Your ideas, comments, and criticisms are requested, and always welcome. Please send them to cimnews@cox.net.

- Greg Petzet

Newsletter For The Cimarron Region Porsche Club Of America



The Cimarron Trail

GREG PETZET

Editor

cimnews@cox.net

The opinions, news, and information in the *Cimarron Trail* reflect the individual views of the writers, and are not necessarily the official opinions of the Cimarron Region PCA or this newsletter. None of these organizations assumes responsibility for accuracy. *Cimarron Trail* is an official publication for the Cimarron Region PCA and is published monthly, or as sufficient content is available. The editor reserves the right to edit articles for length and content. Material may be reprinted with the exception of ads, provided credit is given to the author.

All photos by the editor, except where noted. Submission deadline 25th day of month prior.

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The *Cimarron Trail* displays advertising for club members on a space available basis. Requests must be submitted by the 25th of the month previous to desired issue. Editor reserves the right to edit ads, reject, or discontinue publication, solely at his/her discretion. Send info to cimnews@cox.net, Attn: Advertise



President's Perspective

By Rod Nordstrom
CRPCA President

members dropped off toys to United States Marine Corps representatives, to be distributed to Tulsa area needy

GREETINGS CIMARRON PORSCHE CLUB members, and welcome to a New Year. I want you to know what a pleasure it will be to serve as your President for 2016. I look forward to an exciting year for our club, filled with traditional activities and new opportunities for member involvement.



First, I want to recognize Jon Jones for his leadership and contribution. In addition to serving as Club President in 2015, Jon also serves as Club Race Chair, and provides the monthly Motorsports Update. As the 2016 President, I will lean on Jon for advice and guidance throughout the New Year. Thank you, Jon, for a great 2015. As you know

our club is dependent on volunteers, and I also want to thank our other club officers, Joy Jones, Treasurer, and Joe Hill, Secretary, for their contributions in 2015. Joy will move up to Vice President, and Tom Ellis will take over as Treasurer. We also depend on Committee Chairs: Rick Hardmeyer, Membership; Steve Canada, Social; Greg Petzet, *Cimarron Trail*; Gary Bernard, Drivers Education and Webmeister; and Orlando Dumalag, Mayfast. Without your commitment and that of countless Cimarron Region members, we would not have a club. My sincere thanks to all of you for what you do to make our club a success.

As announced at the Christmas Party, Bill Jacobi, Autocross Chair, has decided after 12 years, to pass the baton to a new chair, Mike Fugate. Mike has been a key volunteer in 2015, and autocross reflected a significant increase in participation during the year. Several new and talented drivers have joined an event designed to improve car control skills, and we are looking forward to another year of fun. Bill, your leadership as Autocross Chair, not to mention two region Presidential terms, have been invaluable. Thank you, Bill, for your dedication and service to the Cimarron Region PCA.

Two events ended a successful 2015. Our Cimarron Region Toys for Tots drive brought dozens of members and their cars together on December 5 for a brief drive through Haskell. Afterwards we gathered at Jackie Cooper Imports for chili and fellowship, as

children. Capping off the year was our annual Christmas party on December 12 at 5 Oaks Lodge in Jenks. This year's event had an all time high attendance with 88 members and guests turning out on a rainy Saturday evening. Thanks to Joy and Jon Jones for their planning and set up. Rick Hardmeyer provided his "video year in review" during social time. Special thanks to Nizar Khaled, Brand Manager Jackie Cooper Imports, and Steve Krysil, Regional Manager Porsche Cars North America, for their contributions to the evening's entertainment. Steve's video presentation and comments on upcoming Porsche Cars North America model changes left our membership hungry for more.

Looking ahead, the leadership and volunteers will be working hard to make 2016 another great year for our region. Kathy Hume, at loves2read12@cox.net, will be hosting the first 2016 **Ladies Luncheon** at 11:30 a.m. on January 16 at Cedar Ridge Country Club. Joy Jones, Cimarron Region Vice-President, at cimarronpca.events@gmail.com, has organized a **Ladies Driving Instruction** classroom session at Rennsport, 4705 South 83rd East Ave, on January 19 at 6:00 p.m. Bob Miller will provide insight and instruction. Bob brings a wealth of PCA leadership and racing experience that will assist novice and veteran drivers alike. Joy has great ideas for expanding ladies participation in Cimarron Region driving events, so be on the look out for other car and driving instruction events planned for 2016.

Our **first club dinner** for 2016 will be at 6:30 p.m., January 20 at Keo's Asian Cuisine South, 91st and Yale. Keo's is a multi-year Oktoberfest sponsor! At 6:30 p.m., Saturday, February 13, Dan and Claudia Arthrell will be hosting their annual **Chili Cook-off and Bunco Party**. This is an opportunity for the Cimarron Region's chefs to bring out their potential award winning chili recipes for a fun competition to see who has the best chili in several categories, and desserts too! Following a great chili meal we will gear up for the feared Bunco completion. Not to worry, this game requires no skill, but promises fun and laughs for all. This event is widely attended and is an opportunity to meet new members or just catch up with members you have not seen during the holidays.

(continued)

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President's Perspective

(conclusion)

In March, Susan and I are planning a member party that will bring new members together with our officers and chairs. As we have said before, the Cimarron Region PCA is a member driven organization, and this is a great opportunity for new members to get acquainted with existing members, to connect, and find a spot that matches your interest and expectations of club membership.

There are more events and dinners on the schedule for 2016. Be sure and stay up to date by check-

ing out the Cimarron Region PCA website at cimarronregionpca.org. On the website you can view both past and current issues of the newsletter,

The Cimarron Trail, and contact Cimarron Region officers and chairs. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at rnordstr50@gmail.com. You may also call me at 918.645.4456.

Best Regards,
Rod Nordstrom

Membership Update

From Rick Hardmeyer, Cimarron Region Membership Chair
Reported January 1, 2016

Welcome New Members!

Poorya Fazel - Tulsa, OK - '14 GT3

Johnathan Knordel - Bixby, OK - N/A

Jim Sellen - Tulsa, OK - '82 924

Primary: 247 Affiliate: 158 Life: 1 Total:
406

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Your Board 2016

WE ASKED YOUR NEWLY INDUCTED BOARD MEMBERS A FEW QUESTIONS REGARDING THEIR INTEREST IN PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA, AND THE CIMARRON REGION IN PARTICULAR. HERE'S HOW THEY RESPONDED.



ROD NORDSTROM
President

Joined PCA: 2009
Current Porsche:
'90 911/964
"And many others
in my dreams!"

Why volunteer? I believe that is the best way to maximize your Porsche and Cimarron Region experience.

More social or driving oriented, or 50/50? Both.

Favorite club activity: Mayfast, Oktoberfest, Autocross, weekly dinners, everything!

Any comments? Some members may experience activities in other car clubs, but I believe that participating in a variety of PCA and Cimarron events is the best way to find your niche in the Cimarron Region. Our club has so many things to offer the Porsche enthusiast, that you need to at least sample them all to find the way to get the most out of our club. Once you become familiar with our various events, volunteering serves to strengthen that relationship, while you meet some of the best people in the world.



JOY JONES
Vice President

Joined PCA: 2004
Current Porsche:
'03 Boxster S

Why volunteer? My husband begged my help with Oktoberfest, but I have come to love the event. I also know that without participation, clubs start to suffer. I enjoy meeting and spending time with club members, which volunteering gives me the ability to do.

More social or driving oriented, or 50/50? Well, I love a great get together, but time at the track is the rush.

Favorite club activity: I enjoy them all, but Oktoberfest is my favorite due to my and our volunteers ability to help Cimarron Region shine.

Any comments? I wish you all a Happy New Year, and remind you to check our newsletter every month for all of our club events.



JOE HILL
Secretary

Joined PCA: 2009
Current Porsches:
'09 Boxster
Past: '83 911SC,
'00 Boxster

Favorite club activity: My favorite activities I look forward to every year would be Autocross and PCA Palooza.

Any comments? I have been a member of the PCA for 6 years. I feel privileged to have met many Porsche fans and made many new friends. I'm honored to volunteer as secretary and help the Cimarron region be the great group it is.



By Your Board 2016

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE



TOM ELLIS
Treasurer

Joined PCA: 2009

Current Porsche:
'11 911S

Past: '07 Boxster

Why volunteer? I have really enjoyed the Cimarron PCA club, and I want to help it continue.

More social or driving oriented, or 50/50? Mostly driving. I have had my first experience on the track, (at Hallett,) my first Autocross, and first multi-event weekend at Palooza!

Favorite club activity: I truly have enjoyed everything. I had never tried anything like Autocross before, and the friendly, helpful atmosphere is superb. Even though I got lost in the sea of cones, and placed a solid last, I had a blast due to the other participants.

Any comments? I can still remember buying the occasional *Road and Track* or *Car and Driver* magazine as a kid, and looking for hours at the articles about Porsches. I love the cars, and the local club provides the opportunity to drive, talk and ogle these German engineered vehicles on a regular basis.



JON JONES
Past President

Joined PCA: 2004

Current Porsche:
'79 911SC-'85 944

Past: 914s, 911,
912s, 924

More social or driving oriented, or 50/50? I enjoy the track events the most.

Favorite club activity: Doing Oktoberfest the last few years has been the best time ever. I love making the drivers happy and getting more people involved in Porsche Motorsport.

Any comments? Volunteer! Get involved. Dinners and drives are great fun, but your time and skills have value in helping other members enjoy the PCA experience. In 2015 I also became a National Club Racing Scrutineer. More fun than I imagined or expected.

Thank You
To Our
Members
And
Sponsors
For A
Successful
2015!

Please
Support
Them In
Return!

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Truck n' Stuff

5131 S. 103rd E. Ave.

Now That's a Sleigh Ride!

*Porsche Driving Elves Take **Toys For Tots** To Jackie Cooper Imports*



"AND IT'S ONLY THE GIVING THAT MAKES YOU WHAT YOU ARE." (From the song, *Wond'ring Aloud*, by Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull-1971.) The meaning of giving often gets lost around Christmastime. What's *In* this year? What does everybody want? What's on your list?

Cimarron Region PCA members found the true meaning of giving, all while having a reason to drive their Porsches, when they met on a windy morning, December 5, at



the Church of Battle Creek lot in Broken Arrow. They then motored their "sleds" for over an hour to ultimately arrive at one of Santa's satellite toy shops, Jackie Cooper Porsche.

Thanks to Jackie Cooper for generously provided a delicious chili buffet and beverages, while



Left: Some of the Toys For Tots. **Right side top to bottom:** "Sleigh" staging area; Patty Parmeter, with Larry, hiding behind Karen Heston; Brian & Christy Thomas; Scot Williams; Jay & Teresa Jackson behind Keith Gucwa. **Bottom:** Several Cimarron Region Ladies with a couple of sharp dressed men, and Nizar Khaled (just kidding Nizar!)

all the Porsche elves unloaded their piles of **Toys For Tots**, as two sharp dressed U.S. Marines arrived to collect the booty, and

took them to be distributed to kids who might otherwise have gone without at Christmas.

- The Editor



THE GALA ANNUAL CIMARRON REGION CHRISTMAS PARTY EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS, AS NEARLY 90 PCA MEMBERS ENJOYED THE EVENING.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, INDEED! ‘Twas mostly an unseasonably balmy December outside, but inside the 5 Oaks Lodge in Jenks, the atmosphere was warm and cozy for the 2015 Cimarron Region Christmas Party. The gala get-together had to be the most well attended social event of our year, as 88 PCAers settled in for a relaxing evening, punctuated with lively conversation, excellent cuisine, lighthearted moments, the latest Porsche information, and much more.

After allowing time for meeting and greeting, 2015 Cimarron Region President, Jon Jones, hosted the proceedings, and gracefully piloted the program along from beginning to end.



Jon Jones, 2015 President, emceed the night's festivities.

Guest speaker, Steve Krysil, Porsche Cars North America Regional Manager, delivered information on Porsche models, past, present and future. Gifts and awards of appreciation were presented to Cimarron Region Officers and Chair persons. Autocross Chair, Bill Jacob, announced the 2015 Autocross Champion, Gary Bernard, and distributed shirts to qualifying participants.

(continued > > >)



Guest speaker, Steve Krysil



After missing the R.S.V.P. for the party, Scott Bever and Becky McFall brown-bagged it. Fortunately, an exception was made, and, “da-da-da-da-da, they were lovin’ it.” Behind from left: Patsy Terry, Dan & Claudia Arthrell, and Jean Kelley.

Christmas at 5 Oaks

(Continued)

NEXT, GREG PETZET had the honor of presenting a plaque to Bill Jacobi, commemorating 12 years of service as Autocross Chair.

Kathy Hume, who “founded” our Cimarron Region Ladies Lunch in 2015, brought everyone up-to-date on the significant progress made in their initial year,

thanked those who have already participated, and invited all our ladies to attend in 2016.

Jon Jones introduced our new Board members for 2016. (See a short profile of each in this issue.)

After all was said and done, the annual party was deemed an over-

whelming success, and folks took their time rounding up their complimentary Porsche Christmas tree ornaments and door prizes before they headed home.

If you weren’t able to attend, be sure to put it on your calendar for 2016.



Thanks, Bill, for a job well done!



Carol & Lee Schoeffler, Bob & Dulcie Miller, and Gail & Jeff Huber kindly strike a pose.



Phil and Donna Goswick collect their just desserts!



Keith Jesiolowski makes his dessert choice.



Ladies Corner

CLUB NEWS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE LADIES OF THE CIMARRON REGION PCA

January 16 Ladies Luncheon Most Important Of The Year!

The first Cimarron Ladies Luncheon for 2016 will see the culmination of months of effort the group has made toward identifying worthwhile charities for our region to support. Representatives from those two selections will be on hand to accept our donations.

Domestic Violence Intervention Services and The Coffee Bunker are this year's beneficiaries. **Having a large group of Cimarron Ladies in attendance would be a wonderful show of support**, in addition to the monetary gifts.

As always, the luncheon will be held at Cedar Ridge Country Club, Saturday, January 16, at 11:30 a.m. Non-country club members are most welcome. Dress code is 'business casual;' nice jeans w/shirts/sweaters are fine. Cost is either \$13/salad bar, or \$17 full buffet, tax included. You may pay Kathy Hume at the event.

R.S.V.P. to this great event today. Call or email Kathy, 918.636.4156, or loves2read12@cox.net. She is excited to see everyone.



Kathy Hume

Kathy's Korner

Ladies,

What a great day at the Toys For Tots drive! The weather was perfect, the cruise fun, and lunch was yummy! Everyone did a great job with their toy donations. There were surely lots of happy kids this Christmas. Need to send a special thank you to the Marines who came

and picked up the toys. I heard they got to drive a new Porsche. Way cool!!!! Also, a special thank you to Jackie Cooper and Nizar Khaled, for hosting this event.

UP-FIXEN DER DRIVING

A Ladies Event to Improve
Driving Skills for Either
Highway or Autocross

Ladies Only Please!

Where & When? Rennsport Werkstatt
4705 S 83rd E. Ave
Tuesday, January 19
6:00 p.m.

Pizza & beverages will be provided

BOB MILLER, our own Certified Driver Education Instructor, will guide you through the basics of:

- Proper seating position
- Use of steering wheel
- Pedals
- Shifting
- Braking
- Vision

For those considering Autocross, he'll explore:

- Preparation
- Helmet fitting
- Tire adhesion and its effect on acceleration
- Braking
- Cornering
- What to do when the worst happens!
- Course evaluation
- Types of curves
- Types of curves, & how to master them
- Progress evaluation
- Course examples

Sign up today!
You'll be a better driver!
And you'll have a lot of fun!

Please R.S.V.P.

To Joy Jones

cimarronpca.events@gmail.com

918.200.4044

Cimarron Briefs

KEO

Asian Cuisine

KEO is a multi-year Oktoberfest Sponsor!

Cimarron Region Mid-Week Dinner

Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.

91st & S Yale location

Join your Porsche friends for delectable dishes,
light hearted conversation, and a bit of fun!

R.S.V.P. to scanada@cox.net, or 918.671.1499



The Competition is On!

Cimarron Region Porsche Club of America

2016 Valentine Bunco & Chili Contest

*Bring your best chili dish -and/or-
Vegetable concoction, dessert, special treat(?)
(Maybe something chocolate!)*

Saturday, February 13 @ 6:30 pm

Claudia & Dan Arthrell's home

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Around The Bend

j a n u a r y

Saturdays-Breakfast at The Wild Fork-Utica Square- 8 a.m.

Good food and lively conversation to start the day.

11-Monday-Board Meeting-Jackie Cooper Imports-6:30 p.m.

All members are welcome! Volunteers appreciated!

16-Saturday-Ladies Luncheon-Cedar Ridge C.C.-11:30 a.m.

Our region's charitable donations will be presented!

19-Tuesday-Up Fixen Der Driving-Rennsport-6:00 p.m.

Ladies only please! See announcement -page 12

20-Wednesday-Mid-week Dinner at Keo Asian Cuisine

91st & Yale location-6:30 p.m. See page 13

Down The Road

f e b r u a r y

and beyond

Saturdays-Breakfast at The Wild Fork-Utica Square- 8 a.m.

Good food and lively conversation to start the day.

8-Monday-Board Meeting-Jackie Cooper Imports-6:30 p.m.

All members are welcome! Volunteers appreciated!

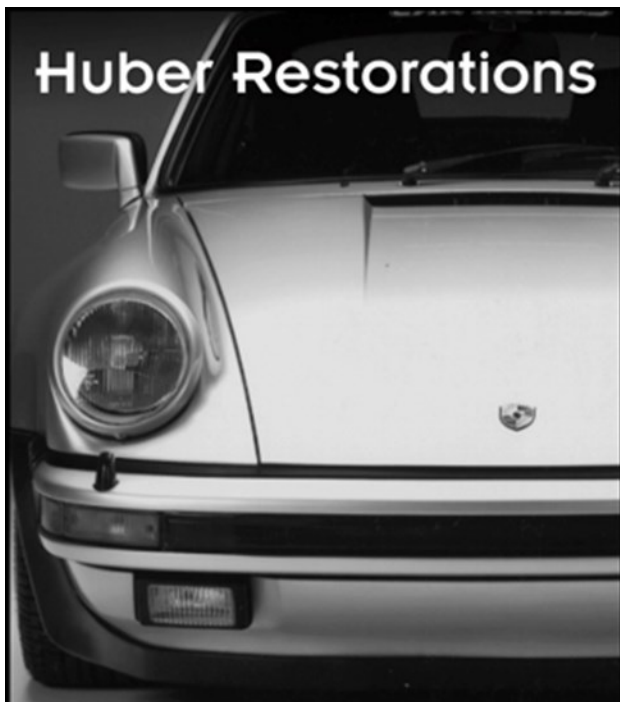
13-Saturday-Valentine Chili Cookoff/Bunco Party-6:30 p.m.

*Dan & Claudia Arthrell's-See announcement -page 13
Spicy and sweet concoctions are guaranteed!*

9 March-Wednesday-Mid-week Dinner at Kilkenny's (St.Pats)

Cherry Street-6:30 p.m. in the Library Room

Huber Restorations



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Mike & a Few Gates



Two Year Member, Mike Fugate,
Steps In To Take Over As
2016 Autocross Chair.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING! Finding just the right person for a particular task is often a daunting proposition. Then again, once in a while it simply boils down to being in the right place at the right time, or having “all the cosmic tumblers fall into place.”

Whatever it was turned out to be perfect timing, as 12 year Autocross Chair, Bill Jacobi, sought a successor to run the 2016 season.

Enter Mike Fugate. Mike joined PCA in November, 2013, signing up the moment he received the VIN of his ordered Cayenne. Since then, he has been a regular fixture at most every Cimarron Region Autocross event. He first appeared

in his 914, but finished off the 2015 season in a recently acquired Cayman S.

Mike has taken on an important club position, as Cimarron Region Autocross has become an ever more popular activity for club members.

Driving through the course of cones, besides being a technically competitive exercise, is an excellent way to gain confidence behind the wheel of your Porsche. Experience gained while driving solo on a closed course can improve split second reactions required in everyday, real world situations.

Not only will Mike be in charge of all the autocross related equipment and accessories, but he'll be the person who normally draws up various course layouts, schedules season event dates, and maintains the proper charging of related portable electronic gear, etc.

Longtime leader, Bill Jacobi, will generously lend his expertise while Mike learns the ropes. And



Bill says he's not going anywhere, that he'll continue to enjoy autocrossing, friendly competition, and all the people who participate.

Mike is President of custom truck and SUV accessories dealer, Truck n Stuff.

2016 Cimarron Region PCA New Year's ReVolutions Worksheet



TREADMILL IN THE BACK BEDROOM STILL JUST A PLACE TO HANG STUFF? A NEW DIET, ARE YOU KIDDING? FORGET JOINING THAT HEALTH CLUB, YOU WON'T STICK WITH IT. HERE ARE SOME FUN ALTERNATIVES.

"A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION is a tradition, most common in the Western Hemisphere, but also found in the Eastern Hemisphere, in which a person makes a promise to do an act of self-improvement or something slightly nice, such as opening doors for people beginning from New Year's Day." (As defined by Wikipedia, *the free encyclopedia*.)

Wikipedia continues with some examples:

Improve mental well-being: think positive, laugh more often, enjoy life.

Make new friends.

Be more involved in sports or different activities.

Following are some suggestions for you as you plan your resolutions/revolutions (RPMs) for 2016. Here at *The Cimarron Trail*, we understand a person may not be able to follow through with every promise they make, but a simple mental commitment to making the effort is a good start.

♦ **Attend a Saturday breakfast.**

Casual conversation, tire kicking, and a good meal, every Saturday, 8 a.m. at the Wild Fork, Utica Square.

♦ **Come to a Cimarron Region Board Meeting**

All members are welcome! See what happens "behind the scenes." Contribute your ideas. Get to know your board members better. You might end up taking a more active role in Cimarron Region. Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Jackie Cooper Imports.

♦ **Ladies! Come to a Cimarron Ladies Luncheon**

2016 will see the continuation of a new tradition begun in 2015, thanks to member, Kathy Hume. The Cimarron Ladies Luncheons are currently being held at Cedar Ridge Country Club. Our ladies have expanded their roles in the club, and have become a driving force for improving the scope of our activities for women, including identifying charitable organizations for us to support, as well as creating a driving event solely for the ladies, announced within this publication. Check it out, and get involved!

♦ **Join your fellow members for dinner**

The Chili Cook-off and Bunco Party is coming up! And Social Chair, Steve Canada, schedules a mid-week dinner almost every month. Some are held at restaurants who sponsor our other events. It's a great way to fraternize with your fellow PCA friends, while enjoying a fine meal.

♦ **Volunteer for Mayfast and/or Oktoberfest**

No experience necessary! Come out to the Hallett Motor Racing Circuit in May and/or October, and lend a hand during Cimarron Region's two main track events. There's always something to do, and you'll have so much fun being there, you'll wonder why you hadn't tried it already!

♦ **Power your Porsche around the track**

Drive your prized Porsche possession at Hallett. Mayfast is a Drivers Education event. First-timers get experienced instructors, who will guide you around the 1.8 mile, 10 turn circuit. Safety is the number 1 priority. It's not a race, just a way for you to motor your Porsche as aggressively as you like, all while learning better car control. Several groups ensure you'll be on the track with drivers of similar experience. It's a must do!

♦ **Attend an Autocross Activity**

An autocross is staged in a large parking lot, and involves navigating your Porsche through a course, laid out with orange traffic cones, against the clock. Come out this Spring and see what it's all about. You'll definitely want to give it a try! Loaner helmets are available!

♦ **Definitely come to our annual Christmas Party**

If you miss everything else, you MUST mark your calendar now, for our most gala event of the year.

♦ **Host an event!** "If you build it, they will come."

Regional Events of Interest

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2016

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Here's What We Know

IT'S JANUARY. IT'S COLD. There's no racing on TV or otherwise. We're cranky, and we're beginning to feel like Jack Nicholson in *The Shining*. But as a way of staving off madness, here's what we know for 2016:

After having The Best Year Ever, Porsche will return in 2016 to defend both the Manufacturer's and Driver's Championships in the World Endurance Championship LMP1 HY class. As this is written in December, we know that Porsche has been testing quite a bit, but the reporting is fairly quiet about changes to the 919. Some tweaking of the front suspension, some software changes, and certainly some reliability fixes have been addressed. Numerous drivers have had seat time, including some up-and-comers from Porsche's Junior program, and one Juan P. Montoya of F1 and Indy 500 fame. Porsche has announced only a two-car contingent for their Le Mans effort, as has Audi (diesel trouble in paradise?) and the driver lineup in the two 919s is expected to remain the same as last year. However Audi is bringing a new car with new propulsion. Already shown to the press and public, the new Audi looks mean and Green in the 6 mega-joule category. The Toyota effort cannot be underestimated as they were thoroughly embarrassed in 2015. Unfortunately, Nissan has announced the withdrawal of their radical LMP1 contender for 2016. Raced only once at Le Mans in 2015, the withdrawal follows on the heels of the executive who headed up the program, departing the company. While we loved the novel design of the Nissan within the LMP1 rulebook, it never had a functioning hybrid system. One can only imagine how much Nissan spent on this aborted program. The FIA and ACO have tightened fuel consumption limits in the new year, and it will be interesting to see who gets the interpretation right. Certainly Porsche had the mix proper in 2015, but there are no givens in motorsport.

What Porsche will not do is defend its titles in the WEC GTE Pro class with two 911s. They will run one 911 for the full WEC season, plus a second car for Le Mans. Porsche maintains that they are focused on development for 2017 and the advent of the GT3 class as the reason for their scaling back. There is a lot of pundit chatter about this move, with budget issues and the like suggested as the real reason. Porsche's financials

appear to be very good, but the fallout from VW's diesel trouble, and the related dollar, or Euro hit

they are going to take may be the reason for the cut-backs in both LMP1 and GTE Pro. There may also be a 911 replacement on the horizon (hello 718?), but we'll all have to wait and see.

In the US, Porsche will contest the IMSA GT series with two 911s, and over in the Pirelli World Challenge, EFFORT Racing will be back with the re-done 911 GT3R. The PWC effort, excuse the pun, will be bolstered by the talents of Patrick Long for the full season. Now, Pat is still the only American factory Porsche driver, so it will be fun to see him lend his aggressive style to the PWC sprint race format. Pat will also be driving in the WEC for the Abu Dhabi Proton team in GTE Am. For those of you Patrick Dempsey fans, and you know who you are, it appears that he may not drive at all in 2016. Never the fastest guy out there, regardless he seemed to get what it was all about and his ambassadorship will be missed.

On the amateur side, Porsche has given the green light to the Cayman GT4 Clubsport championship - to be run in part by your favorite car club, PCA. As was noted earlier, the introduction of a semi-pro class to PCA Club Racing is a further departure from the original intent of club racing. Yet to be answered is the ability of PCA to manage the officiating side of things in light of the increased expectations of the semi-pro competitors commensurate with their investment. Panorama has an ad this month offering a \$50k program for the full PCA Club Racing series - chump change for some but still a significant investment with significant expectations. The Clubsport cars will effectively be sealed from Porsche, but where there's a will, there's a way.

PCA has also announced a Spec Cayman class in 2016 (is there a trend here?) for 2006-2008 Cayman S cars. As with other PCA spec classes, the SPC cars will allow certain limited modifications while requiring a full safety suite of roll cage, seat and harnesses. Weight reductions will be allowed but only down to the 2950 lb. minimum. With the popularity of the Spec Boxster class, PCA views the SPC as the next step up for drivers wanting to move on.

It appears that in both amateur and professional ranks, Porsche motorsport is healthy. It ain't always cheap, but it is fun, and fun to watch. Now for what we don't know...

(*Jon Jones-National PCA Scrutineer, Cimarron Region Race Chair & Cimarron Region Past President)



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