

The Cimarron



Trail



Cimarron Region Porsche Club of America Newsletter - May 2014



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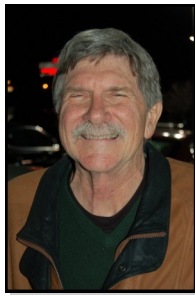
Club Calendar

Marketplace

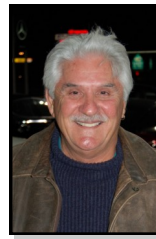
From the Editor



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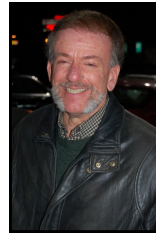
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All photos by the editor, except where noted.

President's Perspective - May 2014

By Randy Kaplin, CRPCA President


This past weekend the Cimarron Region hosted their annual Mayfast Driver Education event at the newly resurfaced Hallett Racetrack. The weather was exceptional and the event was well attended by some 50 participants. Attendance was better than expected due to numerous competing events, with a PCA Race/DE event at Austin's Circuit of the Americas racetrack to the South, and Hastings, Nebraska, DE to the North. Hats off to Greg Hart and Orlando Dumalag, along with all those who volunteered to make this a memorable and safe weekend. I personally dusted off my track car and experienced the thrill of driving the Hallett track on Saturday. I don't know if it was the new set of tires on my car or my experience level, but I drove the entire day without spinning the car or venturing off track--a first for me! Since it had been a couple of years since I had been on the track I elected to sit in on Gary Bernard's instructional lecture for the new crop of drivers visiting Hallett for the first time. I found Gary's discussion of the track and driving tips to be an excellent refresher course on how to drive at Hallett, which undoubtedly contributed to my favorable driving experience.

This month we have a couple of events planned for our Region Members. On Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 pm, we have a social dinner planned at Los Cabos Mexican Grill and Cantina in Broken Arrow. It is located near the intersection of Elm and the Broken Arrow Expressway, in the vicinity of the Bass Pro Superstore. Please RSVP to Steve Canada at Scanada@cox.net or call/text Steve at 918-671-1499. Hope to see everyone there for a great Mexican meal. (See page 9.)

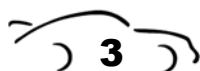
On Friday May 16 at 6:30 pm, we have scheduled the first ever Cimarron Region Poker Party. David and Karen Heston have graciously opened their home (4827 E. 112th St., Tulsa) for this event and will be providing burgers, hot dogs and brats as well as assorted drinks. Those attending are requested to bring various side dishes to supplement the meal. Please RSVP to Karen Heston at kheston@bokf.com to reserve your spot! Other PCA regions have successfully held monthly Poker Parties on a rotating basis at various members' houses. I would like to start such a tradition in the Cimarron Region if this is an event the members enjoy. (See page 9.)

Just a mention here of the upcoming Porsche Parade in Monterey, California, scheduled June 15-21. At this time there are at least a half dozen Region members planning the cross country adventure from Tulsa to Monterey, and the attendance for the event appears to be approaching a record level!

Another reminder, you can visit the Cimarron Region Website at <http://www.cimarronregionpca.org/> for details on upcoming events as well as the latest *Cimarron Trail* Monthly Newsletter. Reading the *Cimarron Trail* provides necessary information on activities in our Region as well as providing interesting and entertaining articles about Porsches. Also, I am attempting to keep the event page on our website as current as possible so everyone in the Region will remain up to date.

Also, please send any articles or photos for publication in the *Cimarron Trail* Newsletter, to Greg Petzet, at cimnews@cox.net. I know we have a lot of writers and photographers out there just waiting to be discovered! 

See you on the road,
Randy



Mayfast Heats Up Fresh Track

Sunshine and Warm Weather Provide "Slick" Event

Mayfast 2014 is in the books! Southern breezes delivered a preview of summer temperatures and warmed the newly resurfaced track at the Hallett Motor Racing Circuit for the Cimarron Region's annual event May 3-4.


Under cloudless skies nearly 50 cars participated in five groups (red, yellow, white, blue and green) according to skill and experience. After the general drivers meeting, as the first run groups assaulted the track, Gary Bernard, Cimarron Region Chief Driving Instructor, presented a class for novice drivers and anyone interested in a refresher course on safety, driving technique, finding the line on the track, warning flag descriptions, etc. All groups had the opportunity to drive during several sessions both before and after the lunch break.



Above ^
Gary Bernard
conducts drivers
meeting

Side >
Gary instructing
Novice Class



Many drove both Saturday and Sunday, while some chose one day or the other. Most agreed the event is tiring, but in a good way. The adrenaline rush is addicting, and the learning curve intensive. Not surprising, most of the drivers are already making plans to return to Hallett for OKtoberfast, Cimarron Region's Club Race and Driver Education later this year. Note: Novice instruction and participation is only available during Mayfast! 

(Turn the page for more >>>)

From the Mayfast Chairman



Greg Hart

Mayfast 2014 is behind us already! And what a weekend of fun it was. We were very pleased with the turnout (50 registrations) considering the competition from two other PCA events the same weekend – a PCA Club Race at Circuit of the Americas (COTA) in Austin, Texas, and another Driver Education event at Motorsports Park Hastings (MPH) in Hastings, Nebraska, both of which likely accounted for the absence of many of our “regulars” from our south and north.

Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, its official track name, is a tremendous track, which we are so fortunate to have close to Tulsa. We had participants from as far away as Florida register for and attend the event, which confirms both the quality of the track and the pull of Cimarron Region’s Mayfast Driver Education event.

We had a safe weekend, with no contact between cars, and no damaging off-track excursions. We were only the second group to help “break in: Hallett’s FRESH PAVEMENT. Connie and Scott Stephens, who own and operate Hallett, had all but a small section of the track repaved, along with roads in the paddock. Interestingly, our drivers reported race tires stuck very well to the new pavement, as drivers on new street tires reported some “slick” areas, especially before it got warm on Saturday.

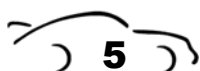
A big Thank You to our Driving Instructors and other volunteers. Included are Gary Bernard, Chief Driving Instructor, John Blocha, Earl Schott, Bill Jacobi, Randy Kaplin, and several others from neighboring regions. We are very grateful to all of the instructors who stepped up to help teach. It is exhausting to be on track all day with students and then get in some runs in your own car. These guys did a terrific job.

We had a kind of “Changing of the Guard” in other areas this year. After many years of depending on Christy Thomas for a smooth job at registration, we can thank Orlando Dumalag for excellence in that role. And how could we go wrong at registration and check in at the track when backed up by our OKtoberfast registration pro (and Region Treasurer) Joy Jones? Thank you to Orlando and Joy.

Rick Stone had been our “gridmeister” for many years, too. But Rick decided, after giving 2 years notice, it was time to have a life outside of Hallett weekends. Rick set such a high standard for managing the grid that we had big shoes to fill. Rusty, from the Hallett staff took the lead, and our volunteers backed him up for a safe and successful event. Thanks go to Karen Heston, who handled paperwork on the grid, and Jay Anderson, Jon Jones, Rod Nordstrom, Curtis Robinson, and Earl Schott who performed tech inspections.

A special “Ride and Drive Around Hallett” took place over the noon hour on Sunday to give everybody a chance to see the whole track and the new pavement. Randy Kaplin paced the event, driving the proper lines for each turn, in his 1955 Porsche Speedster, which he had driven out from Tulsa. Twelve to 15 vehicles of all types followed Randy around the track for low speed parade laps. Drivers’ families and spectators really enjoyed seeing the big picture.

And last, but not least, if you admire that very professional Mayfast 2014 T-shirt design as much as I do, please thank Gary Bernard. Gary donates his time and talent with an outstanding design for the T-shirt each year. This year’s is one of my favorites, but they are all exceptional.





Curtis, torquing



Rick

Mayfast Moments (More on next page >>>)



David



John



Rod



George



Jean



Bill, chasing Jean, as usual!



Tech inspection



Joe

Mayfast Moments



Gary



Bob



Randy



Nazir

Photo courtesy Kyle Keener

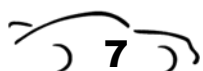


Karri



Kyle

Photo courtesy Kyle Keener



PCA Cimarron Region Member Update

Reported by Greg Hart, Membership Chair

As of May 1, 2014

Primary Members 216

Affiliate Members 147

Life Members 1

Total 364

Welcome New Members!

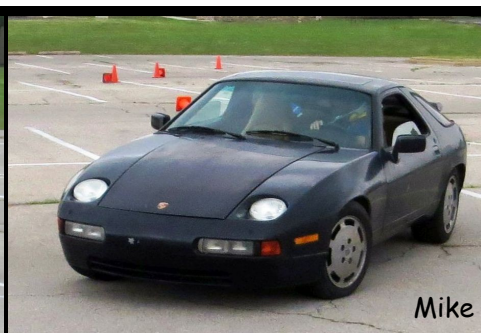
Wade Boswell, Tulsa, OK--1986 911

George Fugate, Bixby, OK--1993 968

No Transfers In

No Transfers Out

Autocross Action - April 27



Autocross Photos on pages 7-17-18 by Rick Hardmeyer & Mike Fugate. Thanks!

Cimarron Region Briefs



May Dates: Short Notice, Act NOW!

Cinco de Mayo Dinner - May 14

Cinco de Mayo NOT on May 5? Your Cimarron Region PCA will celebrate anyway at Los Cabos Mexican Grill & Cantina, 151 E. Bass Pro Dr., Broken Arrow, Wednesday, May 14, at 6:30 pm. Check your email for a "blast" with details and how to RSVP. But mark your calendars now! Come join your fellow Porschesters for a "buen momento" and maybe even a margarita or a cold cerveza!



Poker Party



Friday, May 16

Odds are in your favor there will be plenty of fun and food to go around when David and Karen Heston host a Poker Party for Cimarron Region members! Come on over to 4827 E 112th St. at 6:30 pm, Friday, May 16. Your hosts will sweeten the pot with burgers, dogs, and brats! So ante up and bring an appropriate side dish or dessert. They will have some beverages on hand to help you chill out, but feel free to raise the stakes and bring along your favorite soft drink or libation. For more information or to (PLEASE) RSVP, contact Karen at 918-230-9432, or Kheston@bokf.com.

It's a smart bet you'll enjoy the evening hanging with your fellow Cimarron Region members!





More Cimarron Region Briefs

(Or maybe you'd prefer Boxster Boxers)

Coming in June

P O R S C H E Returns to Le Mans & You're Invited!

Join us at le Circuit de la Sarthe for the 82nd running of the 24 Hours of Le Mans. This year marks the return of Porsche to the top tier of sports car racing with the remarkable 919 Hybrid. The race begins early but through the magic of DVR, you won't miss the start. Joy and Jon Jones will host the watch party at their home in Oologah, just a quick blast up 169!



When:

June 14, 2014, 10 am to 1 pm.

Where:

4990 E. 410 Rd., Oologah.
(Directions on request)

Why:

It's PORSCHE at Le Mans after all.

**Brunch provided - Please RSVP
by June 12 to 918-740-7951 or
jjone20@aol.com**



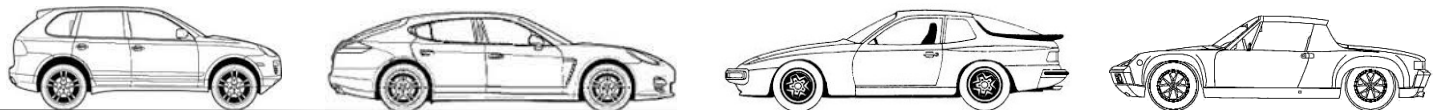
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From the Editor: Greetings Porschephiles! Old Man Winter refused to go quietly in recent weeks, but it appears Spring is finally here to stay, and Summer is certain to be hot on its heels! Thanks to Greg Hart, Mayfast Drivers Education Chairman, and all the volunteers, for another successful event. See the Mayfast recap in this issue!

The Club had a nice turnout for the April 12 Devil's Den Picnic/Drive. Look for the synopsis right here in this edition. Thanks to Rick Hardmeyer for his breathtaking panoramic photo!

Cimarron Region's Autocross points race was due to begin April 13, but previously mentioned Old Man Winter took his last gasp and blew in a cold front that collided head on with some seasonally warm, moist Gulf air, and triggered windy showers which delayed that competition until April 27. See the Autocross reports in this *Trail*.

In case you paged past the two large display ads, don't forget the 2014 Porsche Parade is accepting registration for the premier annual national PCA event to be held in Monterey, CA, and the Roadrunner Region's Fiesta is coming up fast at the end of May in Albuquerque, NM. Remember OKtoberfest in October at Hallett Motor Racing Circuit. And it won't be too long until we have advance information about the 10th Annual PCA-Palooza, scheduled for November 7-9 in and around Eureka Springs, AR. These are only a few of the chances to get together with fellow Porscheesters for fun and relaxation.

Watch for email blasts alerting you to monthly dinners and special events yet to be named. Our region president, Randy Kaplin, along with the entire board are working diligently to enhance opportunities for our members to enjoy various activities. And it's easy to get involved! See the list of Cimarron Region Contacts on Page 2.

Most people including myself enjoy looking at pictures and reading about all kinds of Porsche experiences. Maybe you took an interesting trip, or did something cool to your car, or finally got the Porsche you dreamed about for years. Send me a few descriptive paragraphs, some photos. Or even email me at cimnews@cox.net, and I'll interview you for a story in our newsletter.

That's it for this month. Participation in your Porsche club, and hanging with fellow members who share a common interest in the unparalleled sports cars we drive is a great way to "get away from it all." There is something for everyone. Join the fun!

"It's not just the cars, it's the people!"

Greg Petzet



THE MUST-DO PORSCHE EVENT OF 2014!

in beautiful Monterey, California

Registration is Open!

- Autocross
- Concours
- Rally
- Tours
- Tech Sessions
- Social Events
- More!



Legendary Monterey!

Registration opens April 1, 2014 so start planning now!

Last day to register June 10. There is NO on-site registration!

Learn more and register at parade2014.pca.org

Fiesta New Mexico 2014 Fiesta de Enchantment!

Registration *IS OPEN* for the 36th Fiesta New Mexico! May 22-25, 2014



Roadrunner Region of PCA has a weekend full of notable drive outs and tours, outstanding autocross, elegant concours as well as an exciting TSD rally planned.

You can visit the website www.fiestanewmexico.com and get details on this upcoming Memorial Day Weekend event.

This year's Fiesta is hosted in Albuquerque's Old Town. There will be a concours at the Albuquerque Museum, Autocross at Napa Speedway and a TSD Rally. All are included in Fiesta registration, along with several interesting tours and exhilarating drives in beautiful New Mexico during the 3 day weekend.

This year's host hotel is the beautiful Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town with a fabulous \$89 a night rate. The hotel has secure, well lit free parking. There will be a car washing station set up in the hotel parking area for all cars during the Fiesta weekend.

Hurry! Registration opened on March 1st on www.motorsportreg.com

Credit cards will be charged on May 16th and you can modify your registration choices on motorsportreg.com until that date.

Please visit our website and prepare for a wonderful New Mexico weekend in your Porsche.



The Cimarron Trail --- May 2014





On Saturday, April 12, a handsome looking mixture of both new and established Cimarron and War Bonnet Region PCA members, as well as our Zone 5 representative, Lynn Schermerhorn-Friedman, manned 19 Porsches for a mostly sunny excursion across eastern Oklahoma into Arkansas. Ultimately meeting up with a similar number of fellow PCA members from the White River Region for a "covered dish" cookout, the large pavilion on the banks of Lee Creek, just below the spillway in the Devil's Den State Park, made for a perfectly picturesque picnic.




Drivers sped up the Broken Arrow Expressway entrance at S. 145th East Avenue, proceeded along the Muskogee Turnpike and exited at state highway 51 toward Wagoner. After circumventing the city center, the tour continued on 51, guardedly slowing through the well-known speed trap town of Hulbert. Then after passing through Tahlequah, the route turned south near Prairie Grove, Arkansas, and provided hilly, twisty roads the rest of the way to the park.

(Turn the page for more >>>)

Devil's Den Picnic/Drive (continued)

Upon arrival at Devil's Den, meetings and greetings and charcoals were all ignited. Porsche people, coolers, chairs and salads, side dishes and desserts filled the large pavilion, as John Blocha and George Paul assumed roles as grill-meisters, flipping burgers and turning brats and dogs to the delight of all present. Cool saxophone and clarinet jazz vibes wafted through the building, courtesy of Cimarron Region's own woodwind phenom, Drew Thomas.

New friendships evolved, old acquaintances were rekindled, and most all the sumptuous dishes pulled a "Houdini." Picnickers roamed about or sat in groups catching up on old memories, and making new ones. Finally folks loaded their Porsches, bid good-bye, and began trips back home. Once again, it wasn't just the cars, it was the people, oh, and the food!

Thanks to all who participated, and if you weren't able to make it this year, there is always next year!  (One more page of photos >>>)





Devil's Den Picnic/Drive



Let's Hear it for Self-Drive Cars!

By Dick Badler



Oh yes, they're coming, as surely as you know to not engage the parking brake when you come off the track; As surely as you know your summer performance tires at the rear will last 13,000 mi, and no more, if you're lucky. Self-drive cars are circling, and they'll enter your garage in a matter of . . . what? Probably fewer years than you might think.

Although there do seem to be a few small issues. An op-ed piece ran in the *Wall Street Journal* a short while ago. It carried the headline, "Punch the Accelerator on Self-Driving Cars," and added a subhead that read, "The technology exists to save millions of lives. So why are regulators hitting the brakes?" Reading on, one finds out that the National

Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA,) the Department of Transportation's regulatory arm, calls it "a scary concept for the public." The piece generated a slew of letters. One said, "If self-driving cars can provide all the advantages claimed as being unique to public transit, wouldn't that pose a threat to the progressives' vision of a car-free future?" According to the author, it seems the Administration prefers walking, bicycles, streetcars and light rail.

Then there's that ugly liability issue. If something goes wrong, or an accident happens, who does one sue? The user? The manufacturer?

The op/ed authors are crusaders. They excoriate NHTSA with bulleted arguments like, "Millions of lives saved" and "Enriched lives for the disabled and the elderly" and "Less wasted time" and "Revitalized cities." Great stuff. A lot of love, peace and happiness here. But they're missing the point. Our point.

You see, we too have a point. A big one, which is not to be taken lightly. We should also weigh in on this urgent public debate. Express our opinion. Join the ranks and say, hell yes, bring 'em on.

(Find out **WHY?** on the next page)



Self-Drive Cars (continued)

Why? Here's why:

— Less crowding! Think about it. Visualize every car tootling along in lockstep. Front to back, front to back. Motoring effortlessly and efficiently. It's a beautiful thing to behold.

Especially so because you'll still have your Porsche! What are they going to do, confiscate your *you-drive* vehicle? It'll never happen. And that means you'll have room to move! Space on the highway. No left-lane bandits. No cell-phone-



induced lane meanderings. No texting-induced coma when the light turns green. Just nice, predictable forward progress that you'll be able to maneuver through to your heart's content.

— Less crowding! Here's a tip to file away. When the self-drive time comes, be sure to take the alternate way. All the way. All the time. Think about it; the computer will compute the shortest way to your destination, the most direct and the most fuel-efficient.

Fine! Let it! Because you can go the back way! Go the long way! Go the wrong way! Hooray! Because you'll have the road to yourself!

— Less crowding! Because these robo-vehicles will probably drop off their passengers and purr on to some storage barn somewhere, to be fueled or charged or pressurized or whatever their propulsion systems will require . . . and then wait patiently for you to summon them for use. And you'll have curbside parking all to yourself.

Such a deal!


Of course, the day will come when you'll have to give in and get one of these self-drive conveyances. If only because there will come a time when you won't be able to buy anything else. What to do?

— Youtube! Think in-car videos on your tablet. Pick the car. Pick the track. Pick the year. And, yes, pick the Porsche.

— Youtube! Just crank it up. Add one of those Jambox bluetooth speakers and let fly. Nobody's going to knock on your door and say, honey, please turn it down. Because, to the outside world, you'll look like everyone else, placidly motoring along in your own hermetically sealed cocoon.

— Youtube! And when you get bored with racing videos, you can watch racing videos with a storyline, like *Grand Prix* and *Le Mans* and *Senna* and *Rush*.

So, friends, join the campaign! Let's rock this issue! Write your local legislator! And do it today!

Self-drive. The way to go. Bring it on. 

Editor's Note: The author is a member of the Rocky Mountain Automotive Press Association. He writes regularly for outlets that include *TFLCar.com*, *Planet-9.com*, and *High Gear*, the Rocky Mountain Region-PCA newsletter. Dick has owned six Porsches, and still has number three, a '78 911SC. His article is reprinted here with permission.



Mr. Bill's (Jacobi) 4/13/2014

Autocross News

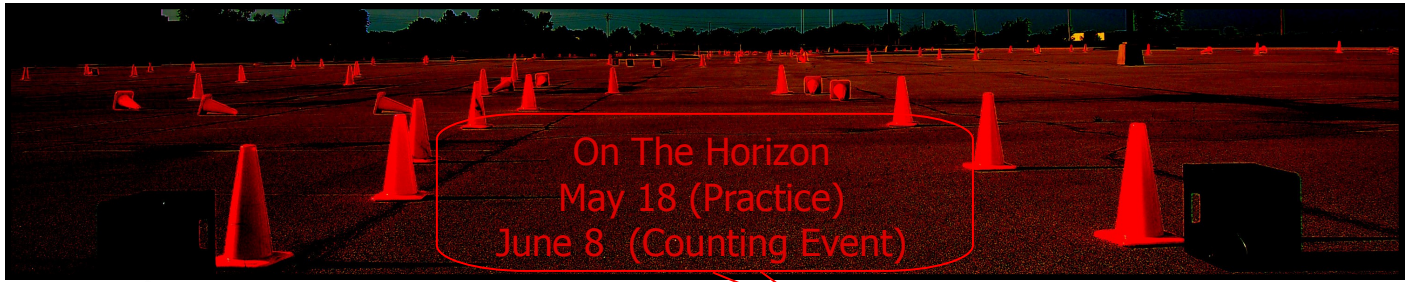
A much needed area rain shower led to the cancelation of the first April autocross session. A handful of potential participants arrived at the site anyway, disappointed to find puddles instead of cones. So the initial point earning competition had to wait until April 27. (See next page)

Autocross is held on the lot west of Corporate Woods Business Park, 4500 S 129th East Ave. Entrants meet at 8:30 am to lay out the course, and begin driving approximately 9:30. The event is always over by noon, the latest. See schedule below.

(*) marked dates count for the season long championship. Your top 8 times are used to calculate your position. So missing up to 2 of the 10 counting events does not adversely affect your score. Practices are free, official dates are \$10. A helmet is required, a few are on hand to borrow. Complete at least 5 events, and receive a shirt or hat at the Christmas party! Bill Jacobi, bjacobi@sbcglobal.net, or 918-694-1261.

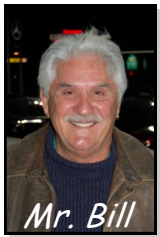
May 18	September (*7* & *21*)
June (*8* & *29*)	October 12 & (*19*) & 26
July (*13* & *27*)	November 2 & 16
August 10 & (*24*)	





Mr. Bill's (Jacobi) 4/27/2014

Autocross News



I was up very early Sunday morning checking out the weather. The weather forecasters were saying 56% heavy rain showers with possible hail!!

When I arrived at the site around 8:10 am I was by my lonesome. A few minutes later Brian arrived with the trailer, followed by Kent. When Rod arrived he took Brian back to the shop to get his car. We had ten drivers show for the autocross, two of which were first timers, George Fugate and son, Mike. A fond Cimarron welcome to you guys! The weather held for the first run group and they were able to complete all six of their runs.

1) Gary Bernard	60.559
2) Randy Kaplin	62.168
3) Brian Thomas	64.079
4) Bill Jacobi	65.459
5) Rod Nordstrom	66.310
6) Rick Hardmeyer	66.859
7) Mike Fugate	68.380
8) Mike Helweh	69.630
9) Kent Proctor	75.089
10) George Fugate	81.199

The second group was lining up for their sixth run when we were advised that hail was coming our way. We immediately pulled the plug on the event and started picking up cones and equipment. We were deluged with a heavy downpour! Everyone was thoroughly soaked. We decided it was too risky to have breakfast and everyone headed to the house.

A little while later, I decided the only fair thing to do was only count the first five runs in the first group and the five runs the second group was able to complete.

Randy did so well it was decided to impound his car and check his tires☺ -Bill Jacobi



Rod



Mike



Gary

Social Calendar and Upcoming Events



May 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Mayfast
4 Mayfast	5	6	7	8	9	10 Breakfast Wild Fork 8 am
11	12 Board Meeting @ Jackie Cooper	13	14 Cinco De Mayo Dinner See Page 9	15	16 Poker Party @ Hestons See Page 9	17 Breakfast Wild Fork 8 am
18  Autocross Practice 8:30 a.m.	19	20	21	22	23	24 Breakfast Wild Fork 8 am
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Breakfast Wild Fork 8 am

UTICA SQUARE

May Highlights

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

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

* * *

**Cinco De Mayo Dinner
May 14 @ 6:30 pm
See Page 9**

* * *

**Poker Party @ Hestons
May 16 @ 6:30 pm
See Page 9**

* * *

**Autocross practice session
Corporate Woods
May 18, 8:30 a.m. ▲ FREE!**

**JACOBI
& ASSOCIATES, INC.**



Social Calendar and Upcoming Events



June 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Breakfast Wild Fork 8 am
8  Autocross 'Counting' 8:30 a.m.	9 Board Meeting @ Jackie Cooper	10	11	12	13 Le Mans Watch Party Saturday! See Page 10	14 Breakfast Wild Fork 8 am
15  Porsche Parade-Monterey, CA-June 15-21	16	17	18	19	20	21 Breakfast Wild Fork 8 am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Breakfast Wild Fork 8 am
29  Autocross 'Counting' 8:30 a.m.	30					

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June Highlights

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



Porsche Parade - Registration began April 1

**Cimarron Region Board Meeting @ Jackie Cooper
Second Monday each month - 6:30 p.m.**

Le Mans Watch Party @ Jones' - June 14 - See Page 10

Two Autocross "Counting" Sessions - Corporate Woods

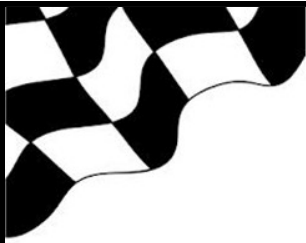


(Although these times 'count' toward 2014 season point totals,
ALL are encouraged to participate. Counting sessions are \$10)



June 8 & 29, 8:30 a.m.





Porsche Marketplace

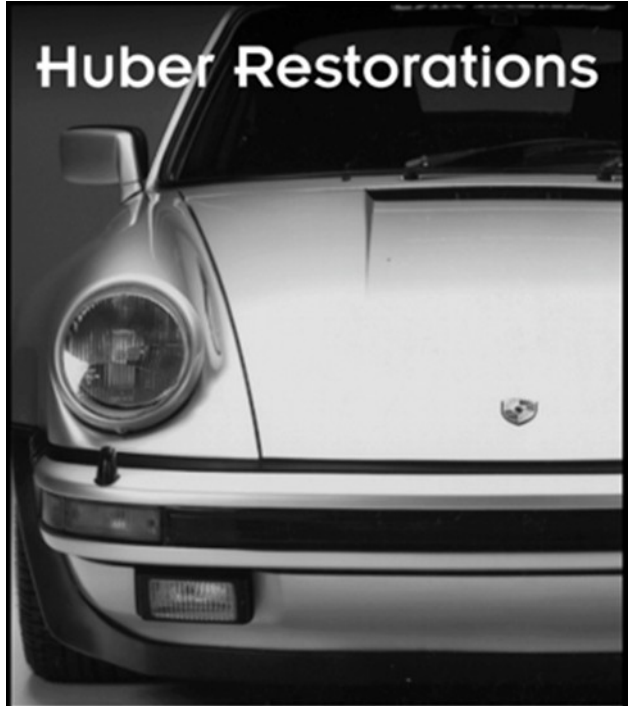
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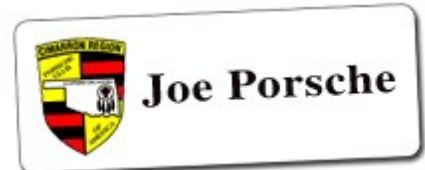


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Marketplace guidelines: Ads are FREE for members and approved guests! Merchandise must be Porsche related. Requests must be submitted by month end previous to desired issue. Ads will run for 3 months. Photos may accompany copy, and will be used at the editor's discretion. Send info to cimnews@cox.net, Attn: Advertise





Porsche Marketplace Page 2/4

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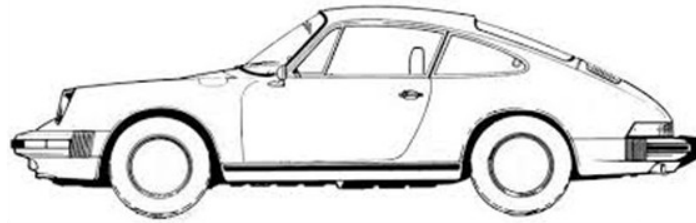
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Porsche Marketplace

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Motorsports Update


The Good Old Days by Jon Jones - CRPCA VP



Growing up in Connecticut, I lived about an hour's drive from Lime Rock Park. That iconic track, designed by the great John Fitch, was my introduction to sports car racing and ultimately, my love and appreciation for the Porsche marque. The first race I attended at Lime Rock was a Formula 5000 event featuring the likes of David Hobbs, Sam Posey, and Brett Lunger (trivia: if you have seen Ron Howard's "Rush," Lunger was one of the drivers working frantically to free Niki Lauda from his burning Ferrari). Lime Rock was the site of titanic battles between manufacturers in Trans Am, IMSA, and even SCCA National competition. The heyday of SCCA Nationals took place there, among other tracks, with factory-backed efforts by British Leyland, Datsun, Chevrolet and others. It was not yet the time of the huge semi-truck haulers but when Bob Sharp showed up with his trailer full of Datsuns or Bob Tullius arrived with his contingent of Group 44 cars, you knew you were in for a treat. Times were changing and whether we knew it or not, we were witnessing the dawn of professionalism in sports car racing. The cars were clean, well prepared, fast and reliable. The teams had matching uniforms rather than greasy jeans and the cars were always serviced after each session. Porsche, too, was represented, in the form of that outfit from Jacksonville, Florida, Brumos Racing.

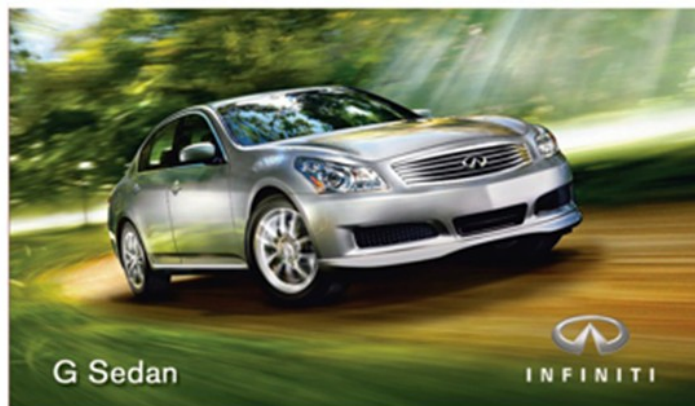


But Lime Rock was also home to lower level sports car racing as well, SCCA Regionals. While the National scene was becoming increasingly professionalized, and expensive, the Regionals were the entry level for the real shade tree mechanic. The cars were classics – typically hand-me-downs from National competitors – Triumph Spitfires, MGBs, Alfa Romeos, Fiats, they were all there. And while they weren't always reliable, it was a moveable feast of real sports car action. Represented as well were the Porsche 356 and Speedsters (we called them "bathtub" Porsches back then) – always fast and with a wonderful rasping sound that captured the imagination of a young kid from rural Connecticut. Each car had its own personality – for example the huge ductwork used by some Speedster drivers to route cooling air from the right front headlight to the air-cooled power plant out back. Somewhere, someone has a photograph of a lone figure in the pouring rain on the Lime Rock hillside watching those cars pounding around in the spray. That was me, and I've never regretted being a die-hard sports car fan.

As the grey outwits the black on the top of my head, I miss the simplicity of those days, but there is a way to share the magic, and it's called CVAR – Corinthian Vintage Auto Racing. Based in Texas, CVAR mimics most of the class structure of the old SCCA, before they began the consolidation and elimination of classes. A recent trip to Hallett for a CVAR event was like a trip down memory lane. There they all were - the Triumphs, the MGs, the Datsuns, even the Morgans and the Lotuses. And yes the Porsches too, but sadly no bathtubs. Here is a group of men and women who, like me, value the old days of sports car racing. No electronics, no data analysis, no crew chiefs or experts. Just people who love the sport - the purity of propelling yourself as quickly as you can around on four wheels of mechanical grip. I wouldn't have been happier if it was pouring down rain on a lonely hillside in Connecticut. 

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