

FLATOUT

October-November 2007

www.niagarapca.com

Upcoming Events...

October 13	<u>Chili Run</u> Meet at Holtz dealership at 9:30am. Leave at 10:00 for Letchworth State Park. Back to Starsky's for chili. Bring a dish to pass, BYOB. Contact-Bryan Starsky 585-442-1903
November 10	<u>Fall Dinner at Hawthorne's, 3500 East Ave, Rochester</u> 6:00pm cocktails, 7:00pm dinner See flier on website for details

.....for more details, see www.niagarapca.com

Note from the Editors: This is the last Flatout we will publish for Niagara PCA. It's time to give someone new the opportunity to share their creative talents and showcase all our fun adventures!

Jane and Bill Schicker

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Message from your President.....

WOW what a great summer! Can you believe it, it's already over (summer). But we are headed into what appears to be a great fall. Already we have had our 1st BREAKFAST CLUB of autumn this past Sunday (09.23). Seven of us "tearin up" the back roads of northern western New York, and how! This was probably the longest Breakfast Club that I have organized, 2.5 hours, ~ 120 miles of "rowing thru the gears". It's a funny observation, but I have been driving these roads in a Porsche for about 15 years and you would think that we would run into another car club on the road. Just once! About 10 years ago we passed the Jag club, trundling along (sorry Bob B.) we waved gently then "smoked them". Of course, in the spirit of camaraderie. But since that one time it hasn't happened again. Nonetheless I/we had a blast.

Speaking of summer events, hats off to all our NRPCA organizers, who have put on some of the best PCA events ever! To list a few in reverse chrono order. Akron Concours, Vintage Weekend, 45th Anniversary Party (complete with a Carrera GT and a HOT GT3RS), 3 joint meetings and our DE. There are several other events sprinkled in between and they have all been organized to perfection. Thank you so much. Looking towards fall, we have our 1st ever autumn DE (get signed up now...we need your support!) and the fall dinner. Neither are to be missed, so watch your emails for details.

That all for now. In general, concerning the NRPCA: membership is up, the bank account is balanced and in the black, the calendar is filling up, and members have smiles on! If you don't have a smile on, drop me an email why and we'll try to fix it.

See you at the next NRPCA event,

Rob

Welcome to Our New Members!

William Blanchard	1982 911
Edward Domino	1983 928S
Paul M. Marlinski	1980 911SC
William J Miszuk	1984 911
Joe P. Molisani	1973 911
Jeffrey A. Nill	2007 997GT3
Michael R Nowicki	2003 996
Doron Feldman	2005 Boxster
Ed Field	2004 911T
James P. Laurito,	2001 911T
Carl F. Linn	2007 911T
Paul D. Pearson,	1976 911S
Charles Stuewe,	1986 928S
Jurasek, Richard	1993 911RS
Leon Todaro	1973 914 green, 1971 911

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Niagara Region August Picnic

By Mark Pelkey

We held the annual August Picnic at Akron Park on Saturday, August 25th. The day started with a Rob Dean led Breakfast Run. We met at the Batavia Holiday Inn and proceeded north along a winding route through Holley and Kendall, to the Lakeshore Parkway. Rob kept a brisk, but civilized pace. We headed west and then south through Waterport, Oak Orchard, and Medina. We arrived at the park in Akron at roughly 10:30.



Club members started to arrive at Shelter #1 at 10am. Elaine Friedhaber supplied coffee and scones to tied us over until lunch was cooked. A total of fourteen Porsches and one MG lined up on the lawn and a bunch of daily drivers along the driveway. We ended up with well over thirty participants with all of the family members included. The Porsches ranged from Chad Comeau's 59 A coupe, Al Winer's 64C coupe to Bruce Friedhaber's 05 Boxster and Ray Buchner's 04 GT3. The full line was covered, including several variations of the 911, a 944T and 928. We could have held a Concours, but that would break with the spirit of the event.

Kieth Dabb manned the grill for club supplied hot dogs and hamburgers. This is the first picnic that grillmeister and ex-President Bob Drudl was not able to attend. It was also the nicest weather that I remember. Maybe there's a connection? Everyone brought a dish to pass at lunchtime, ranging from salads to desserts. After a couple of hours of lunch, conversation and discussion as we looked over each of the cars, we wrapped up the event by 2pm. I don't think anyone went away hungry! We'll set it up and do it again next summer. Hopefully everyone will continue to enjoy the event and it will continue to grow.

Dan Deegan and Alice Radloff Win at Parade Concours in San Diego!

By Bob Politi

If you have ever gone to any of our local events, you know Dan and Alice and I am sure you are familiar with their very well kept, beautiful red Porsche 968. In fact, this car usually wins a prize at our Concours events. Well, the judges at the national PCA event called Parade must have also been impressed with their car and the time and care it takes to keep it in such wonderful condition. Yes, they won 1st place at parade in the Performance Full Group class.



Dan and Alice, congratulations! This is proud achievement as you can imagine, hundreds of cars compete in each class from all over the country.



We know how much time and effort you spent to win this award, we are proud of you and are happy that you are a part of the Niagara PCA family...

Niagara Region Celebrates 45 Years

by Bob Politi

All roads lead to Ellicottville, NY, the location of the Niagara Regions 45year celebration weekend on August 18th and 19th. Why wait for 50? With members from all over the area including our great friends from Upper Canada, the Niagara PCA felt that there was great reason to celebrate. After all, it is these wonderful people that have made this region so strong and successful over the years.

Serving the Rochester and Buffalo area can be a bit difficult because events have to be planned such that the locations can easily serve members from both cities and the surrounding areas. For this special celebration, Ellicottville, New York was selected. This beautiful small town is nestled in western New York at the base of Holiday Valley Ski Resort. The town itself is full of small shops and restaurants, and this weekend it was alive with people from all over the area enjoying an arts and crafts show, music, entertainment, and fireworks.

While the celebration did not formally begin until Saturday, many of our members decided that they would get started early and make their trek on Friday afternoon. In the Niagara Region, it is unlikely that anyone drives anywhere on their own to an event. We usually meet at someone's home and take the journey together with a chain of beautifully maintained Porsches following one another enjoying the company and view. Since Ellicottville is located in the hills, the drive and the views are just beautiful! Winding roads that stretch forever along with gorgeous countryside, hills, and quaint country towns that match the character of these cars driving through them.



Getting ready for the concours

Driving into town was quite the experience. It was bustling with people from all of the events going on this particular weekend. As the bumper to bumper Porsches drove into town, everyone turned and waved, horns were honking, and people were yelling about how nice the cars looked. I was following Bryan and Terri Starsky. Amazed at the warm welcome, I did not notice an abrupt stop from Bryan ahead of me and I quickly had to react so that I did not hit his very well kept 996! Wondering why he stopped so quickly, I then noticed him looking at a stunning yellow Carrera GT sitting on the side of the road. I, too, could not help but admire the curves of this one of a kind machine and just sat there a moment engulfed and possibly dreaming of my next Porsche. Once we both snapped out of this coma, we proceeded through town toward our final destination.



Event Registration Table

Some arrived Friday evening or Saturday morning, a welcome table in front of the Inn at Holiday Valley and the smiling faces of Bill and Jane Schicker whom coordinated this event greeted everyone. Here everyone received their packet filled with event information, including an event schedule, name tags, and voting cards for the planned concours. Upon getting their packet, everyone then checked into the hotel for the weekend where they again were greeted with huge smiles and a friendly staff.

The Inn at Holiday Valley is nested right at the base of the ski resort and the sunrise chair lift is positioned just behind. Also, the lower areas of the ski resort make up much of the wonderfully maintained golf resort. The location was absolutely breathtaking and the perfect spot for celebrating our 45 years.

This year, August in western New York has been perfect. Temperatures have been in the mid to high 80's, sometimes in the low 90's. The forecast for this particular weekend called for unusually low temperatures in the 70's. Bill and Jane, who by the way, did just an incredible job of planning and executing this event, were quite worried about the forecasted low temperatures. In the end, the weather was amazingly comfortable and we were lucky not to be baking in the hot sun.



"Which one shall we vote for...?"

The events formally began with the Concours on Saturday. We grouped by: (356, 912), (914; 924, 944, 968, 928), (911 up to 1998), (911 – 1999 to present), (Boxster, Cayman, and Cayenne). Just when we moved all of the cars into their respective areas, we received a terrific surprise. Yes, that yellow Carrera GT came pulling into our event. As it turns out, the GT is owned by Norm and Barb Oliver who live in Lewiston, New York and members of our region. Having the GT at our celebration was an honor but nothing in comparison to how very nice and humble both Norm and Barb were about it. They stayed throughout the weekend and participated in all the events. Now, back to the Concour. What category should we put the GT under? Quite the dilemma! We all agreed to group it with the 911s.



Awards in all categories!

In the end, the following people won awards: Tom & Linda Keating (356); Dan Deegan and Alice Radloff (968), whom by the way, just got back from parade and also won in San Diego; Terry Orr from Upper Canada (911 – up to 1998); Fran & Jane Cosentino (911 – 1999 – present); Bill & Jane Schicker (Boxster S), a nice surprise for our wonderful hosts. As for the Carrera GT, you guessed it Norm and Barb, honorable mention for Best in Show. As you can imagine, it got quite a lot of attention.



Let's order one for everyone!

Dinner that evening was at the base lodge of the resort on the back cabana where we were greeted by an accommodating staff and beautiful views of the ski slopes. The food was excellent and everyone mentioned that they felt like they were on a luxury vacation. Most of us walked from the lodge to the Inn, which was about ¼ mile down the hill. This was a terrific idea, as we all needed the exercise after our big dinner.



Back at the Inn, music filled the air

The zydeco band that Bruce Friedhaber arranged would entertain us for the evening had already begun playing. They were perfectly positioned by the gazebo next to the 10th hole of the golf course. There everyone spent the evening enjoying each other's company and dancing the night away.



Fred and Ginger-eat your hearts out!

I was dragged out to dance by Michele Dean, our president's wife, who tried her best to teach me the jitterbug. I conveniently left out any of those photos for the sake of our Panorama readers. And, I have to mention that Tim and Inge Pickney can dance like the wind? The dancing and socializing was combined with a fire where some roasted marshmallows and in the middle of it all we were treated to the thunder and splendor of a fireworks display over the hilltops.



Fireworks appeared, just for the occasion!

That weekend, I found out just how passionate a Porsche owner is. After a very late night dancing and enjoying the entertainment, everyone was up again by 6:30am and ready to take a breakfast run through the local hills at 7:30am.! Bill, who was unfamiliar with the back roads, asked for some help from the hotel staff where they were happy to give him a map and plot out an exciting 1 hour run through the hills of the area. To be fair to the rest of the drivers, we asked the GT to be in the back of the line as no one thought they could keep up. Norm smiled and was happy to follow our lead.

The morning drive was exhilarating! We lined up in front of the Inn just under the overhead bridge where Bill had hung our Porsche banners. About 30 cars decided to take the early tour. We left the Inn and headed south. HOWEVER, not 10 minutes into the drive, coming from the other direction was a state police car....just great!



Sunday morning line up

Bill kept us within the speed limit, so there was no issue, although I think he was just thinking about possibly opening up his brand new gorgeous black Boxster S to test the winding roads. At that moment, another police car went by, not one minute after the first one passed! Bill settled in and continued to guide us through what became a spirited yet relaxing drive through the southern hills. We never saw another police car, which was a relief.

Sunday mornings are usually quiet and serene in any town or city. This becomes exponential on the back roads of south, western New York. Except for a little fog in the valleys and the sun rising, there is not much awake and not much civilization in sight. This made it excellent for not only driving, but also enjoying the countryside, hills, and line of cars both in front and behind. We never lost anyone as we took the turns, climbed the hills, and skipped over the crests leading us down into the valleys. It was clear that these cars were designed and built for similar roads and conditions. They responded immediately as if clairvoyant to every driver's thought.

About an hour into the drive, just when most of us thought that perhaps Bill, not being familiar with the area guided us to another state in the union, we entered a sharp turn to the right around two meeting hills where rising to our left we saw the green ski slopes of Holiday Valley.

Zippo Vintage Car Races at Watkin's Glen, Sept 7th

By Bob Politi

This road ended at the main route east of Ellicottville where we proceeded left into town. Here, we began to see signs of life, especially the craft vendors beginning to set up their wares for the day.

In returning to the Inn, everyone had just enough time to go back to their rooms, wash up, change, and meet for breakfast. Breakfast was back up the hill at the lodge, this time inside one of their thoughtfully set up banquet rooms. Here we were again met with smiling faces and exceptionally helpful staff. In the front of the room, a huge buffet of everything you could ever imagine for breakfast.

Rob Dean, region President, closed the event with a brief speech welcoming our members and family. He reviewed some of the many upcoming events, thanked everyone for a wonderful weekend, and thanked everyone that participated in making this a success. Also, as we have so often mentioned about the Niagara Region, Rob again confirmed that while the cars bring us together for a common interest, it is our people that make this region what it is. Friendly, always willing to help one another, and truly having fun together. This is the reason why after 45 years, we decided to gather together to celebrate and why we will continue to be strong and get stronger through the next 45 years.



Thanks to everyone who helped make this event so successful!

The forecast for the weekend of August 7th called for cooler temperatures and rain. At first glance it looked like it might be miserable for the Zippo Vintage Car Race at Watkins Glen International Speedway. Well, optimistic people usually win! This was the case for this particular weekend and event.

As you know, each year, the Niagara Region PCA sponsors a suite at this event. For \$85 you get passes into the racetrack for both days, unlimited suite access, food, a T-shirt, and more. This was my first year and was completely impressed with what you get for your money.



One of the vintage cars entering the racetrack

The event actually begins on Friday in the town of Watkins Glen where the cars that are racing parade through the streets. There are many events, including an opportunity to drive the old course through the hills and through town. After watching the cars march through, many of our members had a nice dinner at one of the many restaurants that Watkins Glen has to offer. After dinner a leisurely walk looking at the cars parked along the street and then some rest to prepare for the next days events. Many people stay in town, others in nearby, while some drive back home and return the next day.

The race itself at the speedway runs qualifiers on Saturday and finals on Sunday. Once you arrive at the Watkins Glen track, you drive to the PCA suite where there is secure and safe parking for our members.

The suite is positioned just after turn 1 of the racetrack, with windows along the entire backside so that you can easily observe the cars driving on the track. If you want a better view, you can go upstairs on the roof, where there is a huge viewing area to enjoy both the sights and sounds of the race.



Vintage cars on the track

The suite is well managed. We were greeted with coffee and pastries while you checked in and received a specially made T-shirt for the event. Behind the bar, we had 2 very friendly tenders, willing to please. At the lower level, tables for people to sit, enjoy their food, and watch the race. And, before I forget, along the far wall, the friendly face of our own Bryan Starsky, coordinator of the event, selling Porsche goods from our renowned goodie store.

As part of the price of the ticket, you get full access to the raceway and to my surprise; we even got a chance to run 3 laps around the racetrack. What a great experience. I spent much of my time walking around with Dick and Mary Cott. Dick is familiar with the racetrack and spent a lot of time educating me on both cars and his passion for Drivers Education events. He certainly convinced me to try it this coming October.



Our members enjoying the suite

On Sunday, we had a car show event (Concours) for our attendees. While it rained a bit on Sunday, it did not spoil the planned activities or the warm atmosphere of our members. Our friends at Holtz Porsche also attended the event and presented the awards to our Concours winners.

Before I end this, I don't want to down play the vintage cars. The cars were beautiful. You are also able to go into the garages and watch the owners and crews work on them. Everyone is very friendly and more than willing to talk about their cars or the race.

All in all, it turned out to be a wonderful weekend; the rain held out on Saturday, subsided Sunday afternoon, and while it was a bit cool, it wasn't cold and walking around the racetrack was comfortable. I guess optimism does breed success! Hence, this event was a huge success and clearly one of the best values that \$85 can buy. See ya next year...



Bert Xander, DE Chairperson

So, what is a DE Anyway?

By Bert Xander and Bob Politi

If you talk to other members of our club, you may hear them mention the acronym D.E. I know when I first joined a couple of years ago, I heard it a lot! At first I was afraid to ask in case I would look foolish. After attending several meetings and events I finally found out that D.E. stands for Drivers Education. Hmm, Drivers Education, why would so many people be so interested in Drivers Education? Sounds like one of those classes you go to when you are a teenager just after you get your license. Well, let me tell you, for Porsche Club members, it is nothing like that at all.

So what is a D.E. anyway? I interviewed Bert Xander who is the chairman of our 2 Drivers Education events this year to find out what all the fuss was about. So, let's see what Bert had to say...

Bob: "Bert, can you tell me what a D.E. is?"

Bert: "D.E. stands for Drivers Education, basically, it is an educational event that allows you to learn and experience high performance driving in a safe and controlled environment"



Cars arriving for check in

Bob: "Is there a specific format that you follow when you conduct a D.E.?"

Bert: "Yes, our D.E.'s are typically 2 day events, they combine both in-classroom instruction with on-track driving with your own car. Depending on your skill you are assigned a "Run-Group". Each run group gets 4 sessions a day on the track. Each track session lasts 25 to 30 minutes for about 2 hours of track time per day. As for classroom time, you usually get 2 sessions in the morning and one in the afternoon. They each run about 45 minutes each."

Bob: "So what do people do in between?"

Bert: "Well, people will work on their cars, talk to their instructors, and network with other members. In fact, it is a great way to meet other members as they come from all over, not just our region. In May, we had people from Upper Canada, New Jersey, Metro NY, Central NY, Allegheny and other regions. It's a great way to get car tips from others, or to just make new friends."

Bob: "Bert, you mentioned something about "Run-Groups", what are run groups?"

Bert: "There are 4 "Run-Groups", a run group is basically matching you to your capability which coincides with how much track driving you have done in the past. The run groups are: *Green* for beginners, *White* for intermediate,

Black for advanced, and *Red* for instructors. The *Green* and *White* groups are required to have an instructor with them when they are on the track, this is actually terrific because they really help you understand everything that you should be doing to control your car."

Bob: "So, how long does it normally take to get from the Green group to the Black group?"

Bert: "A lot depends on the driver but on average it could take around 20 days of track time to progress to that level."

Bob: "I see, so a D.E. isn't something that you do once and then you're done?"

Bert: "Oh know, you will always learn more and get better. And, I guarantee that if you come and do it once, you will want to do it again and again. It is an exhilarating experience. If you haven't done it, you are really missing out."

Bob: "So, why would someone want to go to a D.E.?"

Bert: "For many reasons, first, so that you can experience you're car and its capabilities in such a way that you could never do so on the street. Second, it gives you a new appreciation for your car and what it can do. Third, It makes you a better driver, you learn the right lines around curves, how and when to brake, and the dynamics of your vehicle, which is so important in everyday driving or in times when you have to react quickly to avoid trouble. And, last but not least, we are so privileged to have one of the most prestigious race courses in the United States (Watkins Glen International Raceway) in our back yard, and having the opportunity to drive on it is an incredible experience."



Committee checking in members

Bob: “Is this something that anyone can do?”

Bert: “Absolutely, we completely encourage beginners, remember, this is Drivers Education, it is non-competitive, it is not meant to be racing, it is meant to make you a better driver no matter what your current level or experience. It is a great way to meet other members from Niagara and other regions and I know that if you do it, you won’t regret it.”



Between classes and track time....

Bob: “How many events do you usually have? When is the next event? And, how do I learn more or sign up?”

Bert: “This year we are having 2 events, the first already occurred in May and the second is coming up on October 15th and 16th. To learn more or to sign up, go to www.niagarapca.com and follow the links for Drivers Education. If you would rather speak to someone in person, Curt Hinchcliffe is our registrar and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Curt’s contact information is on our website.”

Bob: “Bert, thank you very much, you convinced me, so I am going to sign up for October, I will see you there.”

Bert: “That’s terrific, you won’t be sorry.”

* The Drivers Education Committee consists of the following members: Bert Xander (Chairman), Curt Hinchcliffe (Registrar), Rich DeAsis (Chief Instructor), Jim Arendt (Chief Technical Chair), Bob Veltz (Volunteer Coordinator), and Bryan Starsky (Logistics).

Technical Inspection – Saturday September 22, 2007

By Bob Politi

What a spectacular day! Yes, we are talking about September 22nd and the Technical Inspection at Ekstens Auto Shop. Mid 70’s, sunny, no wind, great people, and lots of beautiful Porsches. What more could you ask?

In preparation for the Drivers Education on October 15th and 16th, the Niagara Region PCA planned a Technical Inspection for the cars and drivers that will be attending this event. This Technical Inspection was also open to any member that wanted to get their car up onto the lift so that our experts could take a look at it and make sure items like your brakes, tires, and suspension were in good working order.



Our friends at Ekstens

Some 30 or more cars arrived through out the morning. Ekstens, our hosts, provided the garage and lifts, coffee, and donuts. Many of our members volunteered their time to help with the inspections and others watched many of the cars being inspected. In the end everyone learned something about their own cars, others cars, or even cars in general.



Curt Hinchcliffe and Jim Arendt checking a car

The event led by the D.E. committee (See article on “What is a D.E.”) worked hard to keep everything flowing. The event began at 9:00 and wrapped up a little bit after 12:00. The team did an incredible job.



The crew got a little dirty, but did a great job!

Thanks to everyone that showed up, thanks for the help and conversation, and we look forward to seeing you and your car at our next Niagara PCA event.