



Motor-Stadt



madness

August 2022

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A monthly newsletter by, and for, members of the Motor-Stadt Region, Porsche Club of America

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PORSCHE

Editor—Don Dickmann

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Monthly issues of *Madness* are available to MST and PCA members for free and are sent by email. Hard copies available on request.

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Want to stay updated on the what's going on in our region?

Check out or post on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/groups/2133402886881201/

Also visit the up-to-date Motor-Stadt web site (<https://mst.pca.org>) for club news & activities

You are encouraged to post items on our social media that would be of interest to club members—no ads or nothing political, religious, or divisive, please.



We especially want photos—your Porsches, events, drives, etc.

Send posts and photos to Don Dickmann at (motorstadt.pca@gmail.com) or post them on our Facebook page.

Looking for PCA/Motor-Stadt apparel or a name badge? Visit <https://stores.inksoft.com/motor-stadt/shop/home> to order directly.





President's Letter

It is summer for 2022! This July the weather was a humid and hot wild roller-coaster!

The sun gods have blessed us with more sunshine and warmth than last year at the same time. The month was also very dry. The rainfall total was much below the normal July amounts.

As was stated last month, our membership numbers are up from this time last year. We have six new members as of the end of July. Our total is 261 for our region, that includes 176 primary members and 85 affiliate members. We also have 11 PCA Juniors this month.

Motor-Stadt will be running our second autocross this summer at Birch Run Speedway on August 13, which is a Saturday. The weather is supposed to be cooler and partly cloudy for most of the day. So please put that date on your calendar and come out and have some fun at this new venue! More information can be found on our website and group emails for this event. Also, if you don't want to track your car, please come out to volunteer to help the event run smoothly. Our first autocross at Birch Run Speedway on July 9th was a huge success! Let's keep the success going!

50th anniversary celebration (2023) – The Bavarian Inn hotel has been reserved for the weekend of June 3rd.

Stay safe, stay healthy.

Until then, dream of that perfect drive, shifting gears, perfect engine temperature.....

Ken Jones
Motor-Stadt President

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2022 Motor-Stadt Officers & Board of Directors

Ken Jones—President

Joe Lavender—Vice-president

Steve Lee—Secretary,
Advertising & Insurance

Mark Haas—Treasurer

Don Dickmann—At Large,
Madness Editor

Terrill Whitney—At Large

James Yen—At Large,
Social Media Chair

Randy Kleiman—Legal Counsel

Historian—Charlie Hagen

NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED!

If you are interested contact the
board at this email address:

motorstadt.pca@gmail.com



All Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at Spagnuolos restaurant in Okemos beginning at 6:30 p.m. All club members are invited.

2022 Board Meeting Dates

January 11	February 8	March 8	April 12
May 10	June 14	July 12	August 9
September 13	October 11	November 8	December 13



Motor-Stadt



Membership News

Motor-Stadt membership as of June 2022:

Primary	176
Affiliate	85
Life	0
Total	261
PCA Juniors	11

PCA national membership as of mid-August 2022:

Primary	98,101
Affiliate	52,012
Total	150,113
Life	21
PCA Juniors	5,822

The largest single marque car club!

New PCA/Motor-Stadt Members & Their Cars

Marc Flamion, Midland, 2022 Macan S

Paul Garrett, Grayling, 2002 Boxster

Kyle, Greenwood, East Lansing, 2019 718 Cayman

Jason Marentette, Lansing, 2006 Cayman S

Paula Zimmer, Okemos

Welcome to the Club!

READ | POST | COMMENT



Instagram



Facebook

Hang out with PCA on social media

In addition to the huge regional social media presence, the club is active at the National level, too. Join us for our daily posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

We bring you the inside scoop at PCA and Porsche events, auto shows, road tests, Porsche Panorama video and photoshoots, and more.

Help us grow our social media community and subscribe to them all!

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PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

2022 GRAND PRIX OF GRATTAN

Lloyd LaHuis Memorial Grand Prix of Grattan Driver's Education, September 10 & 11, 2022

HOST: WESTERN MICHIGAN REGION PCA

Join us for an exciting weekend at Grattan Raceway, considered to be one of the finest road courses in America, located just 20 minutes northeast of Grand Rapids, for our annual High Performance Driver's Education (HDPE) event. Learn how to maximize your driving performance on the 2-mile course through the challenges of twists, turns, hills and valleys.

Instructors are available for a limited number of students, with track and classroom instruction included before going solo. You will acquire skills that will enhance safer vehicle operation in everyday driving situations. Be sure to register early to reserve one of these instruction spots.

Registered drivers may share a car if they have different skill levels and will run in different run groups. Each driver must be a registered participant. This event is not limited to just Porsches – we invite a wide variety of automobiles with male & female drivers! Single day registration is also available, but Sunday only registration is only available to experienced drivers.

New this year: The concession stand will be open, run by a professional operator for lunches.

Saturday, after track time, complimentary food and beverages is provided for registered participants. (Non-participants can also partake with a \$10 cover and advance notice.)

Can't commit to a whole day of track time? Join us on Saturday or Sunday (or both days) for the Noon Charity Laps. For a \$20 donation per licensed vehicle, you can experience the track at controlled speeds with family & friends for the full hour. Be at the gate promptly by noon for the "cross-over" into the track area. Cars do not need to be teched and helmets are not required. Cars must be registered and road worthy vehicles with doors. No motorcycles will be permitted.

When: September 10 & 11, 2022

Where: Grattan Raceway, 7201 Lessiter Rd. NE, Belding MI



HPDE REQUIREMENTS:

Helmets: MANDATORY Snell Rated SA2015 or newer. (Snell rated motorcycle helmets are acceptable)

Vehicles: All participants must certify that their car is safe to run on the track and has been inspected within 30 days or less prior to the event by a person or shop qualified to do such inspection. Each vehicle must have a completed pre-event inspection sheet done prior to arrival, which is available on the website WMI.PCA.ORG

Registration: Opens June 9th at ClubRegistration.net Search for Western Michigan Region as the event sponsor.

Cost: \$360 for 2 days / \$220 for 1 day. Registration or payment **after August 26th** is \$390 for 2 days / \$250 for 1.

Registration also includes a track shirt – be sure to indicate your size when registering.

Track insurance is optional, and can be obtained through hagerty.com, trackinsurance.com or locktonmotorsports.com

DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:

Event Chair:

Greg Currie (231) 632-2232 / Greg@Curriesfurniture.com

Event Registrar:

Amber Door (616)340-0971 / amdoor242@aol.com

Chief Driving Instructor:

Jeff Kolk kolkcracing@gmail.com

Event Safety & Technical:

Eric Spross ericpca911@yahoo.com

Get all the info at:

<http://wmi.pca.org/events/grand-prix-of-grattan>



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Motor-Stadt 2022 Event Calendar

Saturday October ? Serra Porsche of Okemos-Motor-Stadt **Fall Color Tour**. The last driving event of the season. Date, route, and lunch venue to be determined. Look for email blasts, this newsletter, and our FaceBook and web pages for more information.

SPECIAL HEADS UP: 2023 will be **Motor-Stadt's 50th anniversary** year as a PCA region, having been chartered on April 4, 1973. A committee has been formed to coordinate anniversary activities. Among the celebratory events during 2023 will be a banquet and other events during the weekend of June 3 at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth. Steve Lee is coordinating these activities. More information will be forthcoming.

The monthly member's meeting at Spagnuolos the second Tuesday of the month has **resumed**. The board will notify you via email blasts, in this publication, on our web page, and on our Facebook page when other events are added to the schedule or when an event has been cancelled.

August 13: Autocross II at Birch Run Speedway

Report by Don Dickmann



Will it rain or stay dry? That was the question on everyone's mind when we rolled into the Birch Run Speedway early Saturday morning. Aside from a few sprinkles, dry prevailed. Actually, it turned out to be a perfect day—cool and overcast. The club recently bought ca. 150 used cones from a Miata club in Ohio, and Jim Herron picked them up and then delivered them to Birch Run Saturday morning. Huzzah to Jim! Thus, our course was marked more clearly than ever before. Unlike Autocross I when we had about 35 cars running, this time only 16 cars ran the course, about half of them Porsches. Because of the more limited attendance and a more efficient management of the event, each driver had their designated six runs in before 3:00. After that drivers could run as often as they wished. By the time we closed the event just before 5:00 some participants recorded a dozen or more runs. What could be better than that? Special thanks to board members who attended and managed the event: Terrill Whitney, Don Dickmann, and especially Joe Lavender, Steve Lee, and Ken Jones. New member Paula Zimmer from Porsche of Okemos once again did extraordinary duty. Special thanks also to several Motor-Stadt members and others who volunteered as course monitors or timers. All in all, another successful autocross event!

August 13: Autocross II at Birch Run Speedway



Joe Lavender & Steve Lee
conduct the driver's meeting



Registration



The track walk



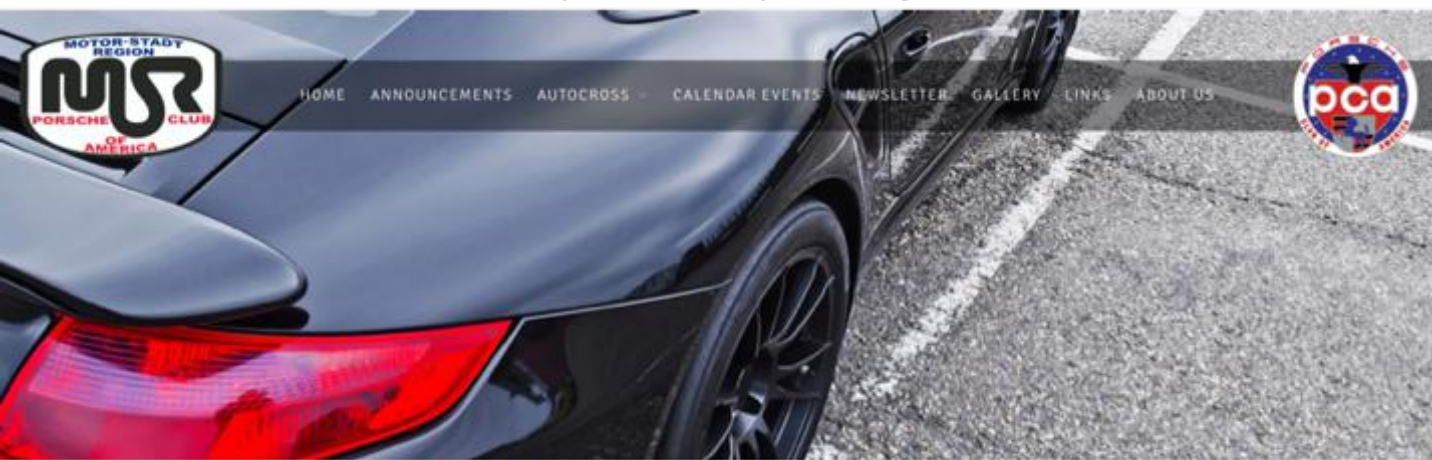
Matt McFadden
& his V8 911



A Cayman on the track

Visit the Motor-Stadt website

<https://mst.pca.org>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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APR

Macan Event and Spring Kickoff – April 23, 2022

Please join the Motor-Stadt Region and Serra Auto Campus for a Macan Test Drive and Spring Kickoff on April 23, 2022. In addition to a chance to test drives the new Macan, we will have a charity auction benefiting the Lansing Food Bank. Please bring any auction donations to Porsche Okemos. From Por...

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Need something for your car(s) or have something to sell of interest to PCA members? Used cars, body parts, interior parts, engine & drive train parts, tires, wheels, oil, posters, old copies of *Panorama*, model cars, etc. If you are a Motor-Stadt member post your ad here for free (no business ads or solicitations, please).

Or send a photo  or something else that would be of interest to Motor-Stadt members.

FOR SALE

Porsche 356 engine, 1959 vintage. Case number indicates a 1600N size. Has been stored in my garage with clean oil. Solex carbs with air cleaners, linkage. Turns by hand. I do not know the collector value of this engine. A project that I never got around to taking apart and tinkering with. Best offer over \$2,500. Charlie Hagen—cchagen@aol.com





PCA Motor-Stadt Region Board Minutes August 9th, 2022

6:30 PM - Spagnolo's Restaurant (Second Tuesday of the Month)

Present:

President: Ken Jones
Vice President: Joe Lavender
Secretary: Steve Lee
Treasurer: Mark Haas (Zoom)

Board Member: Don Dickmann
Board Member: James Yen (Zoom)
Board Member: Terrill Whitney
Board Member: ~~Matt MacFadden~~

8 additional members
in attendance

Proposed agenda – The agenda for the Aug 9th meeting approved unanimously (Moved D. Dickmann / Seconded S. Lee)

Meeting Minutes - The July 12th, 2022 board meeting minutes were approved via E-mail.

Membership – Ken reported that the current membership is 176 primaries, 85 affiliate (261 total) + 11 juniors.

Treasurer's Report – Mark reported we have \$5,0066.63 in checking, \$10,223.36 in the investment account for a total of \$15,289.99. A motion to approve the report was made (Moved S. Lee / Seconded J. Lavender) approved unanimously. A question was asked regarding the safety of the funds in the investment account. Mark explained the fund was a conservative mix of bonds and equities and pointed to the report showing growth from the 2018 balance of \$8,368.27.

Advertising and Insurance – No paid advertising activity this period. A waiver for the Aug 13 autocross will be secured.

Publications – Don will post the August newsletter pending receipt of these minutes and the president's letter. James received an e-mail regarding Western Michigan region's Grattan event on Sep 10-11th. Updates to social media will include this and our Aug 13 autocross event.

Committee Reports / Activities:

- Autocross – A preplanning meeting was held for our autocross at **Birch Run speedway on Aug 13th**. Already 5 members have stepped up and agreed to volunteer for the event! A motion was made to reimburse Jim Herron \$72 for fuel used to pick up 150 cones in Ohio (Moved J. Lavender / Seconded D. Dickmann) approved unanimously. A motion was made to reimburse Ken \$146.21 for a more robust megaphone (Moved J. Lavender / Seconded D. Dickmann) approved unanimously. A motion was made to reimburse Joe \$150 for the PayPal purchase of the cones (Moved S. Lee / Seconded D. Dickmann) approved unanimously. Gates open at 9:00 for volunteers, Registration opens at 11:00 and closes at 12:15, Drivers meeting at 12:30, Track opens at 1:00 for first time drivers (stock exhaust only) 1:30 for all. Event ends at 6:00. All autocross attendees with wrist band will receive free admission to the music event at 8:00.

Old Business:

- 50th anniversary celebration (2023) – The Bavarian Inn Lodge has been reserved for June 3rd 2023. We discussed possible speakers, displays, events, etc. A separate meeting will be scheduled after the Aug 13 autocross.

New Business:

- Serra Porsche is planning a fall drive on Oct 1st. We are recommending the 22nd may be a better date.
- Jim Herron reported he will not pursue the poker drive this fall due to timing at the businesses he contacted.
- A motion was made to donate \$500 to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (Supporting counties within our club region beyond those served by the Lansing Food Bank). (Moved S. Lee / Seconded M. Haas) approved unanimously.
- Consideration to add Instagram to our social media presence was discussed. We will review other PCA region's exposure and discuss further at our next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:37 (Moved S. Lee / Seconded D. Dickmann) approved unanimously.

Submitted by S. Lee, Secretary



From the Editor

I recently came across an opinion piece in *Atlantic* magazine by Ian Bogost: “The End of Manual Transmission.” Because many Porsche drivers regard manuals as a holy grail, this piece caught my attention. Only 2.4 percent of new vehicles sold in 2020 were equipped with manual transmissions. I suspect that many of them were Porsche sports cars. Each succeeding year that number will decline. When Porsche AG decided a few years ago to equip their high-end 911 models only with PDK automatics, a considerable howl of protest arose from the faithful. Yet a PDK car will outperform the same car with a manual every time. But the peanut gallery had spoken; the company dropped the idea.

Those of us who own manual shift cars find great reward in driving them. Shifting not only is sensual and fun (unless you are stuck in slow-moving city traffic or a freeway traffic jam), but it gives you a real connection to the car. You are in control, and you and the car become closely connected. Plus, a smooth downshift with throttle blip is very satisfying. This simple maneuver becomes a bit more complicated in later edition cars that sport six or seven gears, but that is a minor complaint. I don’t mean to imply that a car with an automatic transmission is not rewarding to drive; I love to be behind the wheel of my PDK-equipped Cayman. Yet that PDK is just another way that I have become decoupled from my car, a trend that will only accelerate in years to come. Lane-change sensors, automatic braking, self-driving technology, and ultimately fully autonomous cars are already here or soon to come. We are being relegated to simply being passengers instead of drivers. Sure, safety is improved, but for every increment of gain something is lost, and ultimately this loss will be nearly total. This trend is rife in our technological society, and can be found throughout the appliance, apparatus, and service industries, not just automobiles. We are letting our machines make the decisions that we used to make, from shifting gears to flushing toilets.

My wife Kathleen and I had a related example of this phenomenon recently in a restaurant in St. Ignace. We were perusing a large map of the UP when a young waiter approached our table. “What is that?” he asked. He apparently had never used a paper map before. We explained to him what a map is and how we use them. “You mean you would actually unfold this and read it in your car?” He was incredulous and could not believe anyone would use such an antiquated thing rather than a cell phone, tablet, or onboard navigation system. We explained that a map gives the reader a much wider sense of the surrounding geography, natural features, and infrastructure, even though it is somewhat cumbersome. It was a light-hearted moment, but he clearly went away puzzled.

So don’t sell or trade in your manual Porsche and buy an automatic. If you do you will become that much closer to becoming a passenger rather than a driver. But if that is your goal, so be it. As for me, I will continue to place my right hand on the shifter and my left foot on the clutch...at least for some of my driving.

Don Dickmann