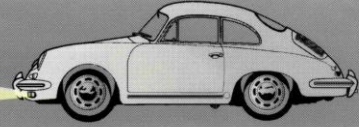


The FOGlight



The Official Newsletter of the 356 Porsche Florida Owners Group.

APRIL

2010

President's Message

Mike Davis

Enthusiast. The home page of our website says that we welcome all 356 enthusiasts. I checked my favorite thesaurus and it lists these synonyms: Fan, devotee, aficionado, lover, admirer, follower, expert, connoisseur, authority, pundit, and, more informally, buff, bum, freak, fanatic, nut, fiend, addict, maniac and geek. See also zealot.

What I like about the word **enthusiast** is that it embraces such a wide range of sentiments about the Porsche 356. The words that personally resonate with me are fan, devotee, admirer and follower. OK, I admit it; I probably fall into the **nut** category when it comes to detailing my cars.

When I think about our diverse membership, it's easy to think of one or more members who personify each of the labels. Don't we all know a 356 **fanatic**? Certainly within our ranks we have **experts** and **authorities**. One member with an outlaw told me he actually likes the **freak** moniker.

While an **enthusiast** displays an intense and eager interest in something, **fanatic** suggests extreme devotion and a willingness to go to any length to maintain or carry out one's beliefs, like taking a 356 on a tent camping trip. And a **zealot** exhibits not only extreme devotion, but also a high level of activity in support of the belief, like being a 356 Registry Trustee and driving to every Registry Holiday, regardless of the number of miles from home or the weather likely to be encountered along the way.

As I mentioned in my February FOGlight message, members will be receiving a survey in the next few months. While we certainly can't please all of the members all of the time, we want to enhance the benefits of FOG membership so that whether you are an **enthusiast**, a **fanatic**, a **freak** or a **zealot**, this is **YOUR** club. Please take the time to complete the survey and return it.

Your FOG trustees have been busy – thanks to Mark Koorland for arranging our visit to the Tampa Bay Auto Museum on March 27th followed by a group lunch at the Quaker Steak and Lube restaurant. We had over 40

folks tour the museum. Frank Hood, our Events Chair, has been working on possible locations for the 2011 Gathering and will be conducting a site visit at a leading contender within the next few weeks. Mark Pribanic, our Webmeister, has added over 250 photos to our website just since the 2010 Gathering in late January.

Speaking of trustees, Bob Schmitt decided that the role of trustee and treasurer was not for him. As set forth in the FOG bylaws, a vacancy in the trustees is filled by a vote of a majority of the remaining trustees, which was done on March 27th. I am pleased to announce that Karim Rahemtulla will take over those positions immediately. Thanks, Karim!

Drive those cars during this spring season – summer will be here before you know it!

Seamor!

"I'm tasting colors and seeing sounds."

Joe Keating



Seamor and Friend

Photo by Connie Schmitt

Seamor

Continued from Page 1

That line is from a song written by the group Sister Hazel. When I look at Seamor that's what I'm hearing him say. Okay, so maybe that's a bit over the top. I believe sometimes life calls us to be over the top. With Seamor, I went as high as I thought I could. And I learned yet again, you can never aim too high. Surprisingly, to me at least, Seamor's welcome has been very warm.

As I drive around town every person I encounter has a very strong opinion about this car. Named Seamor by my daughter Katie, the car leaves people with either a "wow that's awesome" sentiment or a "what the hell were you smoking" sensation. There is no middle ground. That's okay. I created Seamor just for me. The joy it brings so many others is a bonus in every way.

The idea for Seamor started years ago with a photo of Janis Joplin's 1965 Porsche 356C Cabriolet. Janis paid \$3,500 to a Beverly Hills auto dealer in September 1968. Big Brother roadie Dave Richards created the psychedelic design, which includes an image of Janis and Big Brother on the front left fender. I thought how cool it would be to do something like that with one of my cars someday. Because thinking and doing are two totally different things, Seamor resided totally in the basement of my mind.

Last year, I was in a session with my spiritualist (that's not a typo). I was working through some feelings and she said "your problem is you've got way too much pent up creativity." She told me I had to get that creativity out. I thought about Goethe's quote:

"Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it!"

I dug out that photo of Janis' Porsche and out the door I went. I went directly to a local sign shop. I let them know that this was an inspiration photo and that I wasn't looking for an exact copy. Ironically, I am not a huge Janis Joplin fan. Sorry, diehards. So instead, the Beatles' image is on the car. The car is "wrapped," not painted, and the graphic can be removed at any time.

Seeing the completed car for the first time I was blown away. I picked it up the day of the 40th Anniversary of the Woodstock Music Festival. As much as I loved it, I was already mentally preparing for the ribbing I would take for the psychedelic little car. Then, a strange thing happened. Just half a mile out of the parking lot I started getting honks and thumbs up from people of all ages. A young woman pulled me over to tell me that Janis stole her mom's boyfriend! She was smiling ear-to-ear recounting the story.

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I knew then that although I “did” Seamor for me. This car was for everybody who got it. It spoke to a lot of people about not letting society or circumstances dictate your actions. It was a living example of how stepping out on a limb can and does bring great joy and fulfillment. So, I started looking at ways to expand Seamor’s presence. We launched a Facebook fan page. I didn’t know anything about social media. I give Seamor all the credit for getting me into the genre. Now, thanks to Seamor, I’ve connected and reconnected with all sorts of people. As for Seamor, he has 141 fans (more than me) from across the United States. The number grows weekly. If you’d like to become a fan visit www.facebook.com/seamor.

The fact that this little car inspires people still awes me. What I thought was going to be a one time jolt of creativity has turned into an ongoing creative endeavor. On a monthly basis I find events and venues to visit with Seamor. Everywhere we go people seem to be excited and curious about the car. That’s not to say that everyone gets it.

Seamor began life as a 1965 Porsche 356 SC, a Seal Grey, numbers matching, correct car. As for me, life took yet another pleasant turn when “he” came to life.

There’s a Car Museum in Clearwater?

Karim Rahemtulla

Who knew? It’s the best kept secret in Central Florida. But, it’s well worth a trip as we all found. The Tampa Bay Auto Museum is located in an out of the way office park in Pinellas Park, Florida.

How out of the way is it? Well, just ask Mike and Terry Davis who led a convoy of three 356s and one Mercedes SL. Do four cars qualify as a convoy? As Mike, our fearless leader, found out, the museum was a little harder to find than he anticipated...that or he and Terry were looking for a new doublewide near the Bay!

It was a beautiful morning to drive out to the West Coast. We met at Mike and Terry’s beautiful home in Delaney Park at around 7:30. John and Jan Reker and Jim Bruton and I made up the little group of diehards who braved the chilly 65 degree morning. Interstate 4 was clear of traffic as we made it to Pinellas Park in about two hours,

Kirk E. Stowers
President

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after stopping at Mike’s favorite Starbucks in Lakeland for a pit stop.

Once we finally made it (John and Jan disengaged from the convoy when they saw Mark Koorland’s Cab pulling into the office park – good move) we joined up with at least 40 FOG members who proudly displayed their cars in the parking lot in front of the Museum. We were greeted by our host, Olivier Cerf, who gave us a brief history of the Museum and showed us a working replica of the world’s first self propelled vehicle (steam powered). The original one purportedly was used to pull French cannons across the battlefields of Europe.

Then we were on our own to spend a pleasant morning visiting and looking at some stunning automobiles. There were close to a hundred vehicles on display – each with a valid registration and tag. These cars are driven and in operating condition. Of special note were the collection of Czech rear-engine Tatras. I had never seen one before, and they were impressive to behold.

After visiting the museum, we had lunch at a nearby automotive-themed restaurant, Quaker Steak and Lube. There was even a photograph of James Dean and his Porsche Spyder among all the “garagabilia” covering the walls.

If you are ever on the other coast (speaking as a resident of Winter Park), the Museum is well worth your while if you have a couple of hours to spare. It’s truly one man’s homage to a group of very unique automobiles that are displayed nicely and kept in excellent condition.

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Postscript: Quaker Steak and Lube

Rich Williams

The visit to Quaker Steak and Lube (as in Quaker State Oil) had special meaning to me. It’s a franchise of a restaurant in Sharon, Pennsylvania, where I was born and raised. It was started by a guy named Alex Warren, who was a year behind me in school and located on the site of a gas station and junkyard operated by a fellow named Hyman Barr. The junkyard was the inspiration for the automotive theme. It was more or less next to the Gable Theater (owned by Clark Gable’s uncle), where I watched innumerable Saturday matinee oat-burner movies at 12

cents for a double feature, serial, and cartoon. I went to school with Mr. Barr's kids.

When my younger brother (FOG member Ron Williams) was in high school, he bought a wrecked English Ford Anglia from Mr. Barr. It sat in our back yard over the winter. I was away at college at the time, and only know the car – with about a foot of snow on it – from pictures. Ron eventually realized he wasn't ever going to be able to turn the wreck into a racer, and he sold it back to Mr. Barr for \$35.

356 HISTORIC RACING @ SEBRING

Paul Odegaard

Back in the 50's and 60's many of us old timers enjoyed watching SCCA racing with a fleet of 356 "giant killers" dicing with Healys/MGs/Triumphs, etc. in the E Production Class. Some fifty years later tub racing is still alive and well, but now held in vintage circuits like the HSR (Historic Sportscar Racing, Ltd.).

Recently, my wife Polly and I spent an exciting day watching nostalgia racing at the 3.7 mile Sebring International Raceway. The Saturday (March 6) Endurance Challenge schedule included eight, half-hour feature races in the morning and a three-hour endurance race in the afternoon. A total of ten 356s made the starting grid for the Group 2 & 3 vintage/historic production

(356/912/Corvette/Jag) race, including the legendary 356 Registry founder and former President, Vic Skirmants (356 Enterprises-North Branch MI).

Interesting, that a new Cayman-only Interseries Race was held as part of these HSR races. Are Caymans already "historic"? How time flies!! Only three 356s stayed around for the afternoon mixed class (~40 cars) enduro.

The Spring HSR race weekend is a good opportunity to walk the Sebring Raceway grounds free of crowds and the honkie tonk that pervades the scene during the famous 12 hour race. We even managed to watch the races from a window seat at the elegant Sheraton Hotel dining room overlooking the turn 7 hairpin.

How did the 356s do vs. the competition?—Very respectably, as in the old days; staying ahead of many big powered 9-somethings, Corvettes, Jags, sports racers, etc. For more info-check out www.hsracing.com.

Editor's Note: Jeffrey Fellman and I drove over on Friday for the practice and time trials. Odie is absolutely right. Vintage Racing is MUCH more spectator-friendly than the big 12 hour race. Your cheap ticket allows you to wander about the paddock area, and the racers are happy to let you check out their cars up close and tell you about them. FOG had an event at the December HSR races a couple of years ago, and a good time was had by all.



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Sometimes, it's Hard to be Humble

An email from Tom Pletcher to John Reker

Hello Sir John, Our inspirational leader !

By mere coincidence, Marilyn and I just returned from brunch at a favorite place. The time was 12:39 PM or exactly 12 hours past the time of your email and a day late for us to contemplate whether we could backtrack 24 hours and still meet up with you city slickers. Sorry. We know you picked the best day, as today is wet and windy. Bis's [Bismark's] favorite weather!

So, John, regarding driving those cars, here is Marilyn's snapshot of "Bismark"s odometer as we coasted into his private carpeted stall. Having forgotten to notice much less to have a camera on all those other 00,000.00 occasions, we will be diligent when the next thousand miles turns over. Yes, old "Bis" will reach 400,000.00 miles since new. It is not incidental to me, that Marilyn, (who is my loving, patient, enthusiastic mate, turn signal coordinator, navigator and former seaplane co pilot) has logged more than 90,000 of those miles since 1983 when we met, and the car had just been partially reconditioned. (Michigan). Additionally, we will commemorate our 20th wedding anniversary next month but very unlikely to drive another thousand miles by then!



Bismark Rolls Over – Again Photo by Marilyn Pletcher

I can't assume anyone except YOU John, and Rich Williams will know what the word "shunpiking" means? No I didn't think so. Please see Registry Vol. 33, # 3, the September/October 2009 issue at the bottom of page 23. Only Bob Dewey bothered to acknowledge our story, as I did for his. Ho-hum, original owners? How boring this must be in the twenty-first century!

In whimsical anticipation and a lesser feeling of delusional grandeur, I am copying my favorite Harvard 356er and former President Rich Williams who might favor us (Marilyn) with a mention in the social column of a *FOGLIGHT*. FOG women are far more likely to read incidental trivia than male OCFs.

Marilyn and I wish everyone a happy Springtime down here, and thanks always to you volunteers who do so much for our wonderful club!

Tom & Marilyn Pletcher

P.S. I will not be entering your contest this year as our priorities are far removed at this time. I have been celebrating such a cause for more than 53 356 years so all you others have a lot of driving to do to match our record. Remember the miles I put on my 1500 America coupe but estimate at least 55K.

Ta ta, T.P.

Drive Those Cars Contest

John Reker

It is still early in the game, but we have two people at close to 1000 miles per month. Will they keep it up? Will others who have not reported yet catch them later in the year when the Holidays happen? Stay tuned. Here are the returns so far. I am looking for more people reporting in for the next issue. Remember, the top ten all get awards.

Mark Pribanic	Neptune Beach	3106
Jack Kasmer	Sebring	2840
Frank Hood	St. Petersburg	1624
John King	Clearwater	1388
Mark Koorland	St. Petersburg	741
John Reker	Winter Park	695
Mike Davis	Orlando	542
Jerry Mitchell	North Palm Beach	490
Bob Ross	Englewood	475
Kacy Curry	Tampa	463
Mike Owen	Longwood	282



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Membership Report

John Reker

Our membership continues at a healthy 227 members. During the year we will add to that number. Please welcome:

Andrew Carduner joins from Wellington and has a 1956 A Coupe outlaw. He can be reached at (561) 862-8660.

Dave McInerney and his son Brett join from Ponte Vedre Beach. Dave has a 1968 Light Ivory 1968 912 coupe he purchased in California and drove back cross country. He can be reached at (904) 229-6590.

COMING EVENTS

April 11 **Festivals of Speed** ; St. Petersburg, FL. FOG has secured a special registration fee of only \$15 per car for this event. The normal registration fee is \$50. Register at www.festivalsofspeed.com and mention FOG

April 24 **Florida Crown Region** (PCA) 50th Anniversary Swap Meet, Concours & Road rally at Brumos Porsche, Jacksonville, FL. For details contact Bob Schmitt at rgs454@bellsouth.net

April 24 World's largest **Porsche-only Swap Meet**; Hershey, PA. For details visit <http://www.cpa-pca.org/> (At least three FOG members will be attending this event.)

April 24-26 **GK Holiday** - Crawfordville, FL An event to honor the memory of Gary Kempton. For details visit <http://www.gkrestorations.com/index.php?page=springevent>

May 8: **Doc Hollywood Days** – Micanopy, FL.

FOG Hats and Shirts Are Here

John Reker

We can finally wear our colors. We have arranged with the same supplier that produces our name badges to do logo hats and shirts. The hats are "stone" in color and have an adaptation of our logo. They are adjustable to fit everyone and are \$11.50 plus tax and shipping. The recommended shirt is a 100% combed cotton pique polo shirt in "Royal" blue with the Club logo embroidered. There is a choice of other colors if desired, and there are separate men's and ladies' styles. Cost is currently \$23.20 plus tax and shipping. Order all your items at once, including a name badge, and save shipping. You can also choose other clothing items at the same supplier and have the Club Logo embroidered.

To see the items in color and order them go to our website www.356fog.com and click on the **Goodie Store** page. Let's all show our colors.

CLASSIFIED

Personal classified ads are free to FOG members and members of other regional 356 clubs. Commercial classifieds: contact editor for ad rates.

We will run the ad as many times as you wish, but you must request each renewal. Otherwise, we will assume the item has been sold.

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Engine for sale. 1964 engine 1600 CC number *P713589* Built by Mark Barrette and has about 5,000 miles on it. It was built from a factory case with new pistons and cylinders and most other components. \$4,500.00. **4 chrome wheels** dated 10/62 for a 1962 B. Need to be rechromed. \$50.00 each. Call (407) 812-6246 or e-mail to rickbarch@aol.com.

Doc Hollywood Days Micanopy, FL

The Micanopy Area Chamber of Commerce will host **Doc Hollywood Days**, a Parkinson's Disease research benefit, in historic Micanopy on Saturday May 8th. You probably recall that the movie character, played by Michael J. Fox, drove a Speedster replica. It was in 1990, while shooting the film, that Mr. Fox first displayed symptoms of early-onset Parkinson's Disease.

There is no cost for the car show and parade. Entry is not limited to Speedsters, and all 356s are welcome. Proceeds go toward Parkinson's Disease research at the University of Florida, and the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

To reserve a space to display your car, contact Monica Fowler (Space is limited and on a first come, first served basis. Cars should be in place no later than 9 a.m.). Call (352) 466-3327 or e-mail: oldcameo@bellsouth.net.

There will also be a fundraiser on Friday night, May 7th, at the Micanopy Museum Warehouse #2, with a Silent Auction, guest speaker, "Doc Hollywood" author Dr. Neil Schulman, and Buffet, beer & wine for \$45. Buy tickets in advance.

Visit Our Web Site
www.356fog.com

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PCA Florida Crown Region 50th Anniversary Celebration

Florida Crown Region, Porsche Club of America will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a PCA region on Saturday, April 24th, 2010. Featured events will be Swap Meet, a *Concours d' Elegance*, a Rally, and a Gala Evening Anniversary Dinner. **Contact Mark Laszlo via e-mail @ Varyak@aol.com or (904) 534-9928.**



**Caravan to Tampa Bay Auto Museum
Photo by Karim Rahemtulla**

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