

Mach Schnell



Central Wisconsin Region – Porsche Club of America

Jan/Feb 2014

Porsche Alpine Tour *by Trevor Passmore*

Parade this year somehow contrived to clash with our long planned European summer vacation. You would think that PCA would have had the courtesy to check with me first before arranging their schedule. Anyway, their bad planning meant that just one day after arriving back home from Traverse City, Susan and I headed out of Chicago for Frankfurt and then to Zuffenhausen to undertake a Porsche factory organized tour through the Alps. Our flight arrived in Frankfurt at 5am and then it was on to



Ludwigsberg, a Zuffenhausen suburb, where “our” Porsche (well theirs but it would be ours for three days) awaited to be collected the following day. Rather than fall asleep, which was definitely an option as I don’t sleep well on planes, we used our “free” afternoon to visit the magnificent Porsche museum in Zuffenhausen. Words simply can’t do the museum justice, architecturally or with the layout of the exhibits. Suffice it to say I was besotted with it all, and even Sue was happy wandering the magnificent halls. We were there on a Friday afternoon and it was not at all overcrowded and we could wander at leisure. The café and restaurant were excellent too but we just had a coffee and a pastry. Well I had to save space for the trip which promised fine hotels and restaurants.

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CWI-PCA Calendar

Feb 19 (Wed) 7:00 PM Monthly Meeting,
Lee’s Automotive, Madison

Mar 19 (Wed) 7:00 PM Monthly Meeting,
Lee’s Automotive, Madison

Apr 16 (Wed) 7:00 PM Monthly Meeting,
Lee’s Automotive, Madison

May 21 (Wed) 7:00 PM Monthly Meeting,
Lee’s Automotive, Madison

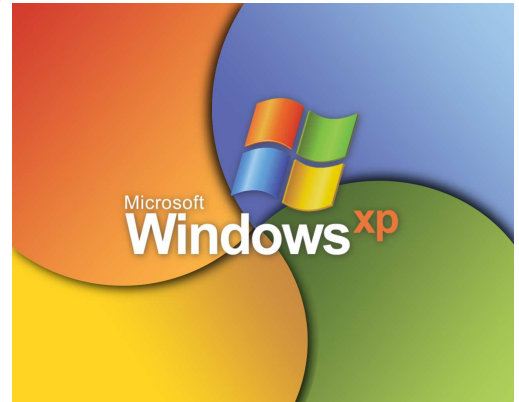
CWI Monthly meetings. Come join us for pizza and car talk!



Writers Block *Mach Schnell Editor, Chuck Schmeling*

Greetings, and I hope you're enjoying this nice arctic winter we're having. I usually like to get the 944 down off it's storage rack and drive it on a nice dry day. This winter, no such luck. It hasn't moved since the week before Thanksgiving. Jimmy the Goundhog predicted six more weeks of winter. Maybe...we'll see.

I'm going to get a bit off topic here but it's important.. I know most of us use computers on a daily basis for work and pleasure. How many of you are using a Windows based computer that operates on Windows XP? XP was the great operating system from Microsoft that finally solved many of the crashing and compatibility problems that plagued previous versions of Windows. It's been around a long time, introduced 12 years ago, and is still running on millions of computers world wide. That's a problem. Be aware, Microsoft is ending support of XP on April 8 of this year. If you are using a computer that runs on XP, it is imperative that you either stop using that computer on the internet, or upgrade it to a more recent operating system like Windows 7 or 8.



Why? Because when tech support ends, security updates end. XP will then become a prime target for hackers and thieves, and your computer will be a sitting duck on the pond. Take this warning seriously. Remember Target? Neiman Marcus? Hilton Hotels? Hackers are getting smarter and more bold. Security holes on XP will be big enough to drive a Porsche Cayenne through..

(Cont. pg. 6)



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Porsche Alpine Tour *continued*



Chasing Matt down a mountain – his brake lights on, showing him braking far too early for the hairpin!

We stayed and dined in some truly wonderful places and the trip could not have been better organized. A journalist from a nationally syndicated German newspaper was covering the tour and travelled with the group for one day, chatting to us all in turn. We were informed a couple of weeks after our return that an article had duly been published. Sue and I were the featured couple, a photo of us with “our” car and a long description about us living in the USA and more or less our whole life histories. It must have been the yellow car that drew them to us. Returning to the factory and bidding farewell to the car, and some great new friends at the end of the trip was a truly sad experience. We must do another one day, maybe the Black Forest next time. My savings jar at the side of my bed where I drop my loose change has a few dollars in it already after just five months. So maybe we can go again in around 2050? If interested in seeing the trip options just search “Porsche Travel Club” on the Porsche website. There are many different tours throughout Europe during the summer.



A break – don't the other cars look boring?

An update - three weeks after returning home I had a letter from the German authorities informing me that I had been captured on camera - speeding. The photo enclosed with the letter proved it was definitely me driving. The offense apparently had taken place in a road construction zone, and the date and time imprinted on the picture was just ten minutes before we dropped the car off at the end of the three days of driving. Bah! I was told to expect further communication. The good news is that as of today, early January 2014 I have yet to hear more. One would have thought that German efficiency would have worked by now, so perhaps they liked the car and/or took pity on me and have decided not to pursue it.

After a fascinating three hours or so in the museum we headed back to our hotel, as on the morrow we were to start the three day Alpine driving tour. As Sue unpacked our cases before dinner she discovered that she had forgotten to pack my driving shoes. Tut tut, and after she had a “whole” day at home after Parade to pack as well! Fortunately a small shoe shop next to our hotel opened at 8:30am the next morning and they had a pair of round heeled lightweight shoes in the window. I was on their doorstep at 8:15am peering worryingly through the glass door. We had to leave at 8:45am to get to the Porsche venue in Ludwigsburg where Porsches Sales and Marketing functions are based and where the cars were located. Luckily, seeing my somewhat nervous disposition, the lady shopkeeper opened up early for me, and the excellent Swiss made shoes fitted perfectly.

I was offered a choice of color for the 911 a few weeks before the trip. There was a choice of Silver, White, Blue, Grey, Brown or a really loud – nee gaudy, bright Racing Yellow. Naturally, I chose the very subtle and understated last option. A real result – as this car, unlike all the others, had the “Sports Pack” with the “rorty” sports exhaust, lowered suspension, plus sports spoilers front and rear. Clearly this brash yellow car was specified to attract “show off” types. What luck that this time staid, quiet old me got it! All the cars had the twin clutch gearbox which I was initially upset about, dinosaur that I am. I still prefer a stick BUT I must say the excellence of the twin clutch technology and the speed of the shift is absolutely amazing and driving fun is certainly there to be had. It still removes the total pleasure and satisfaction of the driver mastering the car in my opinion, but if I won the lottery I would certainly have one car with each of the transmissions.



Our trip through and over the Alps took in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy and some 1200 km in total. We were in a group of six cars including one driven by our guide from the factory. As you may imagine it was a very spectacular trip. Sweeping through and across the Alpine roads, hairpin bend after hairpin bend, driving in a very spirited manner most of the time. The cars were refueled for us twice a day. For some inexplicable reason our car, along with another in the group driven by Matt, a Canadian and a pretty accomplished driver, seemed to use 30% more fuel than our fellow German, Australian and Finnish participants in their 911s. “We probably have a fuel leak” we pleaded! Or could it “possibly” have been all the rapid changing down through the twin clutch sequential gearbox plus the hard accelerating out of every hairpin after perfectly hitting every apex? Anyway, Matt and we somehow seemed to open up pretty large gaps from our followers. If only Matt could learn to get on the brakes a little later and harder before each bend, then off the brakes just before turning in, then progressively feed in the power, hitting “full on power” immediately after the apex, or even just before, he would be a better driver yet. I wanted to offer him some friendly subtle tips but Sue suggested not as it was his turn to buy wine at dinner that evening. Apparently my subtlety and good intentions are not always apparent or appreciated. What could Sue mean?

CWI-PCA Holiday Party

It was another fantastic meal at the Blackhawk Country Club in January at the CWI PCA Holiday Party. We welcomed our new CWI President Chuck Holstein and VP Brendon Schellpfeffer. We had some great door prizes including many goodies from Zimbrick European, and everyone got wooden back scratchers donated by member Ray Statz. Those will be handy with this cold dry weather.

It was agreed that we would go back next January for the CWI party, so we booked the date on January 19. Thanks again to Mike Wenzel for making the arrangements and the wonderful staff at Blackhawk.



Of the two different options, replace or upgrade, buying a new computer will probably be the easiest but possibly the most costly. Many machines built over the last few years may be capable of being upgraded to a newer operating system and anyone with some intermediate computer skills can do this. If you can do it yourself, this may be the most economic option assuming your computer is in good condition. I just recently upgraded my 5 year old Toshiba netbook from XP to Windows 7, and although it took me an entire Saturday afternoon, it worked great and it will now serve me for a few more years. If you are uncomfortable with doing an upgrade, go to a professional. Upgrading or installing a new operating system is serious business and if done incorrectly, your computer could become a useless brick.

So, you upgrade or trade up. We're all safe now, right? Well, not exactly. It is estimated that approximately 420,000 ATM machines run on XP. I saw this number just this week. Will all of the banks have their ATM's converted or upgraded by April? Doubtful. Now, what does this mean to us? I'm sure the hackers are salivating. Access to an unsecured ATM gives them access to the bank like an unlocked door to the vault.

Not much we can do about banking and financial institutions not taking this security risk to heart. Check your bank statement frequently, keep good records and contact your bank immediately if you see irregularities. I enrolled in an identity theft protection service this year. My decision, but it's just one more layer for them to go through. Harden the target so they move on to an easier one.

Of course, you could abandon Windows computers completely and go to an Apple product, or install a Linux operating system on your computer. It still doesn't insulate you from the rest of the world and their security issues. Using a computer is getting just like driving. You have to be defensive about it. Constant vigilance like looking far down the road, checking blind spots and maintaining your vehicle in good condition. The same things apply to computers. Keep current with updates, be wary of emails from unknown sources and don't click on anything you don't understand. Stay safe out there.

Marketplace

No items for sale this issue.

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