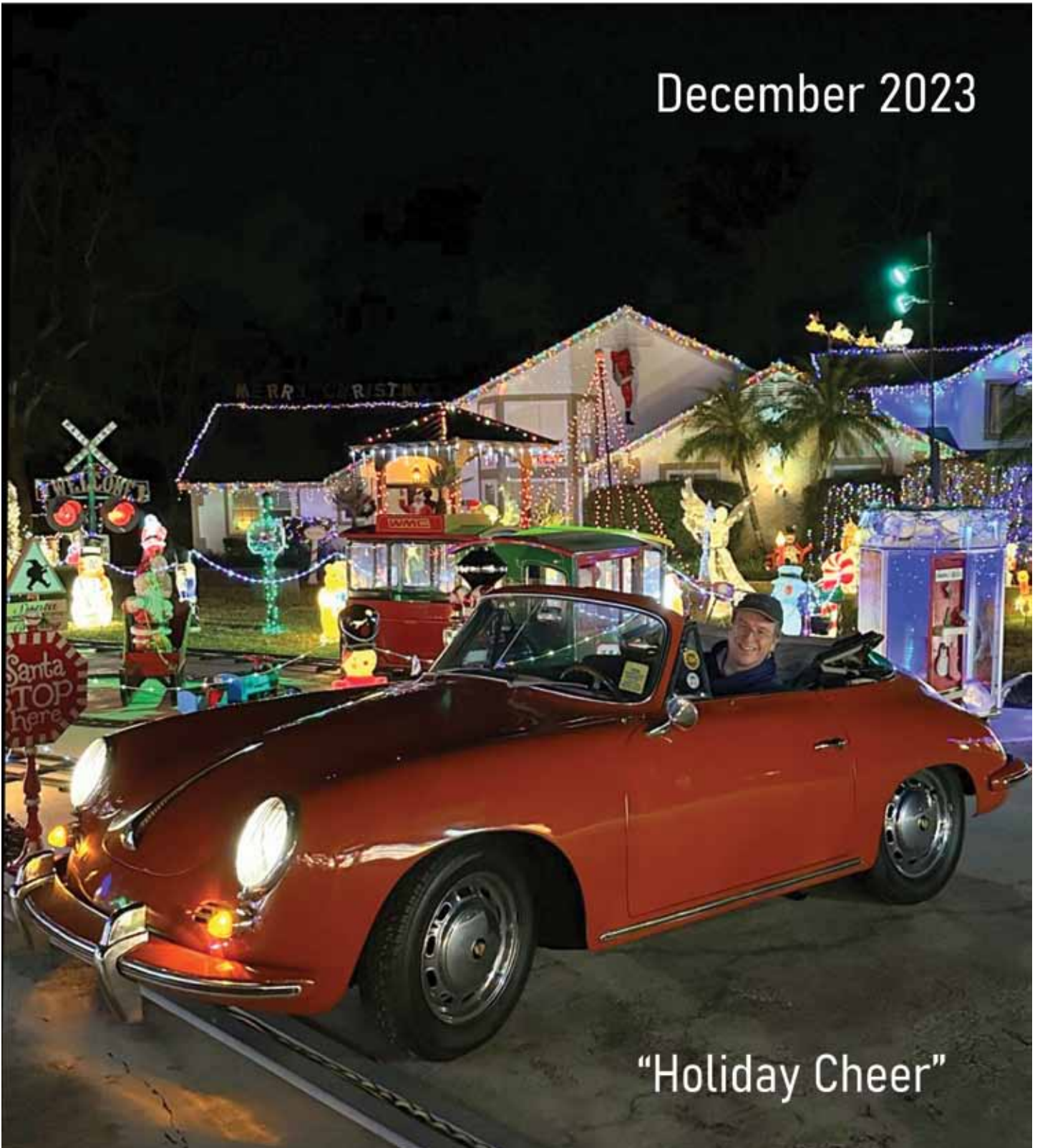


# The FOGlight



The Official Newsletter of the Porsche 356 Florida Owners Group.

December 2023



"Holiday Cheer"



## FOG Officers and Contacts

Trustees are elected to 2 year terms  
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Porsche 356 - Florida Owners Group

## Past Presidents of FOG

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Alan Winer    | 2013 - 2020 |
| Frank Hood    | 2011 - 2013 |
| Mike Davis    | 2010 - 2011 |
| John Reker    | 2007 - 2010 |
| Kirk Stowers  | 2003 - 2007 |
| Rich Williams | 1993 - 2003 |

The FOGLight is the official publication of the Porsche 356 Florida Owners Group (FOG). It is published in even-numbered months. Send articles, photos and suggestions to: Robin Hoffman, FOGLight Editor at [RobinCHoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:RobinCHoffman@hotmail.com)

On the cover: New member Steve Martin enjoys the Christmas lights in his 1965 C Cab. Photo by Julie Martin.



Southwest FOGgies at breakfast.  
Photo by Pete Bartelli.

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## Upcoming Events

March 21-24, 2024 – Gathering of the Faithful, in Daytona, FL.  
Registration open now!

## Monthly Regional Meetings

**If you are interested in suggesting or organizing a FOG statewide or regional event, contact Steve Hoffman, Events Chair, or your regional coordinator listed below.**

One of the major benefits of owning a 356 is the opportunity to meet and socialize with a marvelous group of people – our fellow 356 owners. Since the long distances in Florida make it difficult for many members to attend statewide events, we have developed a system of local breakfasts and/or driving tours to keep our members in touch with each other.

**Central Florida (Orlando area)** Breakfast first Saturday of every month. Lunch tours occasionally, but not on a fixed schedule. Chris Edebohls has kindly volunteered to take over for John Reker. His email is [chris.edebohls@gmail.com](mailto:chris.edebohls@gmail.com) and phone (407) 312-7329.

**Northeast Florida (Jacksonville area)** We generally get together on the first Saturday of the month for breakfast and occasionally for lunch in varying locations. Contact Jim Voss at [vossjax@bellsouth.net](mailto:vossjax@bellsouth.net) or at (904) 514-3038.

**Northwest Florida** Contact Dave Jerome at [dmjerome52@cox.net](mailto:dmjerome52@cox.net) or (850) 240-3610.

**Southeast Florida** We are looking for a location to hold our first Saturday of every month get togethers. Contact Steve Bamdas at [Steveb@rivamotorsports.com](mailto:Steveb@rivamotorsports.com) or Paul Raben at [praben356@gmail.com](mailto:praben356@gmail.com) for more information.

**Southwest Florida (Sarasota area)** Last Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at First Watch Restaurant at the Publix Plaza located on University Parkway, just east of I-75 (exit 213). This draws FOGgies from Naples to Tampa. Contact Fernando Lopez at (727) 417-1120 or [mk2lopez@yahoo.com](mailto:mk2lopez@yahoo.com).

## Welcome New Members

|                      |                     |                             |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mike Boyd            | Sarasota            | No Car listed               |
| James Boyter         | Port Charlotte      | 1964 SC Coupe               |
| Don Hastings         | DeLeon Springs      | 1962 B Coupe                |
| Steve Martin         | New Smyrna Beach    | 1965 C Cab                  |
| Russell Minton       | Indian River Shores | 1959 Outlaw Coupe           |
| Rudy Rodriguez-Duret | Coral Gables        | 64 C (Coupe) and 60 B (Cab) |



# President's Message

by Paul Raben

The year is almost gone as I am writing this I am thinking how much work still has to be done in so little time. First and foremost is The Gathering of the Faithful. The area we chose to hold our event has many events that have been held there for years during February and March. The dates we wanted were all booked so we have moved the GOF to March 21-24. Peggy has written a description of the event so I won't go into great detail here. The event is in Daytona and I hope everyone will sign up early so we can get a head count to help us plan the activities.



We will be holding an election in early January for two trustee positions. I had sent out an email request for anyone interested in running for a position and hopefully we will have more than one person for each trustee opening. As of this writing, only the two trustees that currently hold the position have offered to run again which I am grateful for. I want our members to understand that at some point our trustees will not want to run again and if no one offers to help, we cannot function as a club. While it might be too late by the time you read the FOGLight to offer to run, at the end of this year three more trustees time in office will expire. Including yours truly. So now is a good time for our members to think about throwing their hat in the ring for next year's elections. Being a trustee is not a hard or time consuming job at all. Our meetings are on zoom and you will need to be able to say yes or no when a decision needs to be made. Not a lot of demanding work nor much time is required. Please consider all the other people that volunteer to help with the club. There is a person to deal with insurance, a treasurer, a webmaster, hosts for the regional events, the editor of the newsletter and those that help during the Gathering of the Faithful, we have to be thankful that those people have stepped up for the club. John Reker who has been a corner stone of the club for years in every possible position, has decided to retire as the regional host for Central Florida just one of the many jobs John and Jan volunteered for. There is not enough room on this page to detail his contribution to the club. The members should be as thankful as I am that John and Jan gave so much of their time to the club. So please consider helping in any capacity when asked.



Starting in 2024, we are decreasing the number of FOGLight newsletters we send out from 6 issues per year to 4 issues. We are doing this because the cost of everything, including postage is rising. We have reduced the number of printed issues to reduce waste and costs. This will allow us to keep the current membership dues the same. Each FOGLight issue will have more pages, which will not raise the overall cost much but the reduced number of issues will be a significant savings. Any saving will be put toward future GOF's or any possible events. Right now membership dues just about cover the cost of producing the FOGLight, but any increase and we go into the red. With increase in the number of pages we hope to publish more member articles. As always we want your stories about trips with pictures. Tell us about a 356 project you are working on. If you are doing a restoration an article showing the progress from one issue to the next would be very interesting to our readers. Tech articles would be helpful if someone could submit one every so often. Even pictures with description are welcome so send them to Robin for the FOGLight.

Any contribution to the club from you as a member is greatly appreciated and makes 356FOG a better club and in that way everyone benefits. Happy New Year!

## Visit us on-line

356 Florida Owner's Group Website: <https://356fog.com>  
or Facebook: [Porsche 356 – Florida Owners Group](#)

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# FOG Million Miles Club

## Drive Those Cars 2023 Finale

by Terry Cohen

We hereby conclude the 2023 edition of Drive Those Cars. I was extremely pleased with the degree of participation by members and as the year wore on, I saw more and more people posting mileage to me. It is nice that we have a competition here and I think that those who really get out there and roll deserve some recognition. However, I am even more enthused by the increasing number of members who just want to drive our beautiful cars for the love of them. Our 356's are meant to be enjoyed and not cloistered away! I'm proud of the representation of the general membership in this effort and I find our yearly mileage tally to be most telling of the engagement of the average member.

I am delighted to report that our cumulative mileage of all submissions is an impressive 109,212 miles! This compares quite favorably with last years 69,163 miles, a 40,000 mile increase. It was my hope to see 100K miles and we surpassed that by almost 10%. Of course, I know there are a whole lot of unsubmitted miles out there, so let me reach out to everyone and encourage them to participate in the 2024 iteration of Drive Those Cars. I see this as a unified effort by all FOG members and I hope it serves as an impetus for a lot of people to spend more time enjoying their 356s. To me this is the crux of the endeavor, to encourage using and enjoying the cars AND also to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow enthusiasts. I have to admit that one benefit I have derived from taking on the stewardship of this contest is that I've gotten to know more and more of the club members. It has been a pleasure!



Mark Pribanic putting an impressive number of miles on his 1958 356B this year

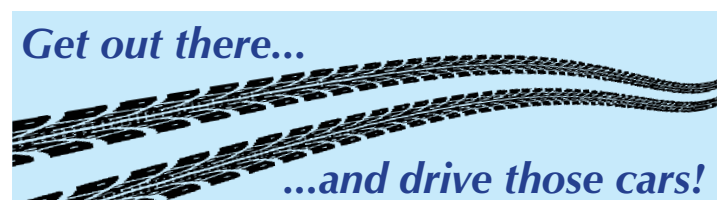
Obviously, I am being a remorseless shill trying to promote driving our cars. However, there is method in my madness. Not only do we benefit from driving these cars, the cars also reap their own benefit. The worst thing you can do is to let them sit. An insidious demon that lurks within is the perils of our "oxygenated" AKA ethanol polluted fuel. As most are aware, the ethanol will damage rubber components in our fuel systems. You can partially protect against this by using newer fuel hoses specifically resistant to alcohol. However, items such as accelerator pump and fuel pump diaphragms aren't available in these types of alcohol resistant materials. My understanding is that most damage occurs when these parts dry out. Therefore, frequent or weekly drives will keep these components moist with fuel and prolong their life. Another issue to be aware of is that over the course of time, alcohol separates from the petrol

which is another problem that leads to poor running. So unless you have access to pure non-ethanol fuel, the best thing you can do is Drive Those Cars!

And now, without further ado, here are the results from our 2023 competition. Thank you to all 38 FOGgers who participated.

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Mark Pribanic      | 18,146 |
| John Lovejoy III   | 8,100  |
| Sharon Cobb        | 8,018  |
| Fred Thatcher      | 5,925  |
| Pete Bartelli      | 5,108  |
| Bill Cooper        | 4,535  |
| Paul Raben         | 4,510  |
| Jeff Hathorn       | 4,490  |
| Jerry Holderness   | 4,216  |
| Terry Cohen        | 4,175  |
| Toby Anderson      | 3,611  |
| Jerry Remillard    | 3,395  |
| Daryl Higgenbotham | 3,248  |
| Frostie Schneeman  | 3,011  |
| John Reker         | 2,932  |
| Jim Spears         | 2,588  |
| James Rowe         | 2,575  |
| Andrew Dickson     | 2,501  |
| Diane Merz         | 2,371  |
| Chip Steward       | 2,023  |
| Chip Reichhart     | 1,867  |
| James Voss         | 1,650  |
| Dave Kenny         | 1,550  |
| Steve Bamdas       | 1,295  |
| Tom Wilhite        | 900    |
| Evan Silvi         | 883    |
| Karen Walker       | 826    |
| Steve Hoffman      | 823    |
| Ed Tobolski        | 648    |
| Scott Cielewich    | 619    |
| Jamie Cielewich    | 584    |
| Craig Stoughton    | 581    |
| Jim Shartzter      | 451    |
| Jeff Wolters       | 338    |
| Lloyd Woosley      | 265    |
| Russ Hibbard       | 255    |
| Mike Koller        | 152    |
| Katie Messer       | 47     |

So now we can tally the total reported miles since the inception of the contest by John Reker way back in 2007. Adding this year's mileage gives us the FOG cumulative mileage to 1,480,880 miles! So, 2024 will see us pass the 1.5 million mile mark. Let's all get on board and bring in a bumper crop of miles! Make note of your beginning of the year miles and let's roll. Keep Driving Those Cars!



# 2024 Gathering of the Faithful

## Registration is Open!



Come one, come all and bring your 356's. Yippee, it's that time again, the 2024 Gathering of the Faithful registration is open!

We have plans that will take us to Daytona, home to the Daytona International Speedway where you will have the opportunity to drive a lap on the famous oval track. Just think of the photo ops!!!

We will be staying at The Daytona Autograph Collection. We've blocked out discounted rooms so book by February 16th to get the savings. The price of rooms is the same as we've paid in previous years \$189.00, the difference this year is that there is an additional \$20.00 per day destination fee. That fee will be credited toward food or beverage from the hotel's restaurants and bars that are charged to your room. So, use it or lose it.

Held the same weekend as our Gathering is the Spring Turkey Run. The Speedway is rented by that event and will sell us Sunday only tickets that will allow us to attend their show and drive on the oval track for \$20.00 per car. Note that the car show's organizers have assured us that it is a much smaller event than their fall turkey run and that the smallest attendance is traditionally on Sunday (our day.)

As usual we will have our people's choice concours, this year it will be on hotel property at their Winner's Circle. We're repeating the swap meet so bring your "valuable" items to sell. And we have two drives planned, one includes a visit to Living Large Micro Car Collection of Patty Schwarze, presented by FOG member, Don Hastings, in Deland with lunch at a unique local restaurant. The second drive is along the beautiful Ormond Loop and lunch at the Halifax Plantation Golf Club. Note, the micro car collection can only accommodate a limited number of people so please sign-up early to assure you are on the admission list.

Please see the tentative event schedule posted here and note that the final schedule will be at the Gathering.

See you there!

## Porsche 356 Florida Owner's Group 17th Gathering of the Faithful

The Daytona Autograph Collection  
Daytona Beach, Florida

March 21st to 24th, 2024

### EVENT SCHEDULE (subject to change)

#### Thursday, March 21st

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 4:00 – 8:00 pm  | Registration opens   |
| 6:00 – 8:00 pm  | Welcome Reception    |
| 8:00 pm         | Dinner – on your own |
| 8:00 – 11:00 pm | Hospitality Room     |

#### Friday, March 22nd

|                 |                                                              |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 – 9:00 am  | Registration                                                 |
| 9:00 am         | Mandatory Driver's Meeting<br>– Porsche parking lot at hotel |
| 9:15 am         | Drive to Ormond Loop OR<br>Drive to Micro Car Collection     |
| 12:00 noon      | Lunch                                                        |
| 2:00 – 5:00 pm  | Concours Prep and Wash –<br>Porsche parking lot at hotel     |
| 3:00 – 4:00 pm  | Swap Shop                                                    |
| 7:00 – 9:00 pm  | Reception/Cocktails and<br>Tech Quiz                         |
| 9:30 – 11:00 pm | Hospitality Room                                             |

#### Saturday, March 23rd

|                  |                                                  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 – 9:00 am   | Saturday Morning<br>Registration                 |
| 7:00 – 8:00 am   | Concours Prep and Wash                           |
| 8:00 – 8:30 am   | People's Choice Concours<br>Staging              |
| 9:00 AM – Noon   | People's Choice Concours<br>Voting               |
| Noon – 2:00 pm   | Lunch – on your own                              |
| 2:00 – 4:30 pm   | Optional Motorsports Hall of<br>Fame at Speedway |
| 6:00 – 7:00 pm   | Cocktail Party                                   |
| 7:00 – 10:00 pm  | Banquet and Awards<br>Presentation               |
| 10:00 – 11:00 PM | Hospitality Room                                 |

#### Sunday, March 24th

|                    |                                                               |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 – 10:00 am    | Member Meeting w/Trustee<br>Meeting right after               |
| 10:00 am – 2:00 pm | Optional Turkey Run at<br>Speedway and Parade Lap<br>on Track |



# Southwest Florida Breakfast Gathering

Article by Pete Bartelli

Photos by Rick Denham

It was the last FOG breakfast of 2023. Nine beautiful 356 cars lined the First Watch Restaurant parking lot in Lakewood Ranch on Saturday, December 30, 2023. Twenty two FOGgies shared a few laughs, remembered those that we lost and spoke of new adventures in the coming year. Of course, we all enjoyed the usual great breakfast too. My lemon ricotta pancakes were "over the top" delicious.

In a few months, I will celebrate fifty years of driving a 356. I have enjoyed every minute...some maybe less than others. More than the cars though, the friendships forged have endured the test of time. Of all the local clubs I've joined, the Florida Owners Group is at the top of my favorites list. Thank You...and Best Wishes Y'all for a Happy and Healthy New Year (driving our 356).



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# 2023 Oktoberfest

Article by John Reker  
Photos by David Kelly

The Space Coast PCA put on their annual BBQ – Concoors – Swapmeet October 21st. Our own Steve and Robin Hoffman chaired the whole event for Space Coast. As usual, FOG was invited to participate in conjunction with the awarding of the Kirk Stowers Memorial Trophy for the People's Choice winners among 356's. Kirk was 356 FOG President from 2003 to 2007 and owner of Stowers 356 Restoration Shop.



*The lineup*

Unlike recent flood years the weather was just perfect and it seemed like a record turnout overall with 120+ attendees. The homemade Apple Strudel was a real hit. We had a total of ten 356's, including several first timers. Ed Springer even brought his drivable 2/3 scale Speedster to the event. Kirk's wife Rosemary was in attendance and we all enjoyed reconnecting with her.



*Ed Springer's 2/3 scale Speedster*

Winners were: 1st – Russell Minton – 59 Black Outlaw Coupe  
2nd – GF Bown – 57 White Speedster  
3rd – John Lovejoy Jr (Jax)  
– 65 Heron Gray SC Cabriolet



*1st Place winner  
Russell Minton*



*Collecting for the foodbank*



*Perfect weather, wonderful cars*



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# Olé to Life Enlightened!

by Jim Goodlett

Ever since I was a wee lad, age of 5, Dad would regale of a tale about hard pedaling a mate's race ready Porsche 550 Spyder and 356 on Watkins Glen. Soon after, I had both cars as 1:64 scale toys and my love for Porsche propelled.

Fast forward to about 8 years ago when then Brumos Porsche GM Ray Shaffer, greenlighted a photoshoot of the Caracas 030 serial number Porsche 550 Spyder in their collection for Classic Driver magazine. Don Leatherwood trailered the famed flogger out to a shoot location and at the end of the session, Don drove us back to the trailer 'at pace!' A year or three later, the Don totally ruined me when he tossed me the key and asked me to 'warm the tires up' then bring that famed 550 back onto the Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance show field.

Now, with a smattering of Porsches in the stable including a 356B (w/a Steve Hoffman 356C outlaw motor build), the circle is complete when a couple of

weeks ago Carrie and I took our heavily breathed on 928S4 in westward direct, and in a balmy 41°F temps, retrieved a Porsche 550 Spyder made by Vintage Motorcars with a Fat Performance tuned 2.4L punched up Porsche 914 motor. We can't wait for it to be part of the invite only OUTLAW 356/550 RALLYE APPALACHIA event and ensuing film that Carrie and I will be putting on in 2024!

Somewhere Dad is smiling for when I picked up 13yr old Nick from school in the 550, the first thing out of his gleefully broad smile was would I

teach him to drive stick that weekend. Later when we did a photoshoot with the 550 in the fog, Nick had a wider grin after I let him tickle the go fast pedal and hear the race exhaust burble! Olé to life enlightened!



928S4 meet 550 Spyder



Jim and Nick  
in the 550 Spyder



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# The 18th International Porsche Club Presidents Meeting

## *A Perk of Volunteering*

Article by Peggy Raben

We volunteer because we love our club and want to see it continue. The compensation we receive comes from having a forum to share information about our 356's and with the occasional perk of a pat on the back. So, you can imagine our great surprise when Paul was invited to the 18th International Porsche Club Presidents Meeting held this time in Portugal. This is a semi regular event where just a small fraction of the Porsche club presidents from around the world are invited.

As treasurer I was not invited but wasn't going to pass up a trip to Portugal. Another wife was coming from our group, I naturally assumed we would lie around the pool, shop, spa. At the last minute the other couple had to cancel so I was put in that president's place (thank you again Michael and for the recommendation thank you Debbie).

Republic, Australia, Germany, Thailand and more. We learned about plans for tools that clubs like ours can use for membership, communication, etc. In workshops we gave our suggestions and exchanged ideas for our clubs. We heard about innovations and saw plans for new cars not yet on the assembly line.



*Driving some new Porsches*

The real kicker was that Porsche brought 162 Porsches for 240 of us. Paul and I (taking turns) both drove a Taycan-GTS and a GT4-RS on the roads in the mountains around the Autodromo International (think Laguna Seca Raceway but bigger with more turns). The next day we drove a GT3 and a GT3-RS on the 2.8 mile track and I lost track of how many times we drove the circuit. They ended the day by driving us in the new 911 Dakar Rally Car – off road in the mountains. We climbed hills, threw up dust and mud, sliding around corners – what fun!!!!



*Playing in the dirt!*

We took this opportunity to see a bit of the country and stayed on longer. We had much fun exploring Lisbon, Porto, Faro, the Algarve coast, the walled castle villages (so many) and we even got to stay in a castle. I think that the very best thing about Portugal is the people, we found them to be friendly and easy going. It was a very enjoyable trip.

We believe in the spirit of rotation so remember to volunteer, you never know what perks are coming.



*So many castle villages*



*Beautiful Algarve coast*

The location was on the beautiful Algarve coast of Portugal and, as you can imagine, everything was first class. We met other presidents from Japan, Great Britain, South Africa, Czech

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# Tech Tip - Valve Adjustment

Article by Steve Hoffman, 356 Unlimited

One of the things that just about anyone can do to keep their 356 in top shape is adjust their valves. I would recommend it be done at least once a year. Proper valve adjustment is critical to the proper performance of your car. Too loose and you lose performance, too tight and the valves may not seal properly during compression cycles. Either can cause degradation of the life of your engine. You can even do it without a lift.

## Tools required:

- Large Screwdriver or pry bar to remove bail on valve cover
- Smaller screwdriver to adjust lifter screw
- 13 mm wrench to tighten/loosen valve lifter retention nut
- .004 and .006 feeler gauges
- Large adjustable wrench to turn pulley
- New valve cover gaskets (Recommend Vic Skirmants with metal in between cork)

First off, make sure the engine is cold. Let it sit over night to make sure. Remove the valve covers by pulling back the bails with the screwdriver or a pry bar. There will be a small amount of oil in the bottom of each head when the covers come off. Either a couple rags or a drip pan will catch it or clean it up. The valves will now be exposed, see figure 1.



Next make sure the engine is on cylinder number one. Remove the distributor cap, number 1 position is rear, towards the muffler and slightly to the right of the car. If you turn the pulley with the adjustable wrench, when the TDC mark is aligned per figure 2,



you are either on cylinder 1 or cylinder 3. The TDC mark is on the pulley, and there is a line on the engine case, just to the left of the serial number. When these line up perfectly, you are on TDC. If the rotor is pointing in the rear slight right position, then you are

on cylinder one and ready to go. If the rotor is pointing towards the front of the car, almost pointed at the driver's seat, that is cylinder 3 position. Rotate the pulley around 360 degrees and it will be on cylinder one.

The cylinder position on all 356s is as follows; cylinder one is towards the front of the car on the passenger side. Cylinder 2 is directly behind it on the passenger side. Cylinder 3 is driver side towards the front of the car and cylinder 4 is directly behind it. Start with cylinder one. Looking at the valves, there are four valves on each side of the car. The outside valves are the exhaust and the inner valves are the intakes. The valve clearance for most 356 engines is .004 intake and .006 exhaust. The exception is Super 90 and SC's where these are reversed .006 intake and .004 exhaust. If you happen to have a hot engine ie. Polo, Raby, Willhoit, etc. check with the builder to determine the optimal settings.

So starting with cylinder one, measure the clearances. If they are correct, you may not have to do anything. If they are way off, you might have a problem. Start by double checking everything is lined up and you are on cylinder one. To adjust the valve, loosen the retainer nut that holds the adjustment screw, then loosen/tighten the screw until the feeler gauge is snug for that valve, see figure 3. Hold the screw in place while you tighten the retainer



nut. Double check after everything is tight that the feeler gauge is still snug. They tend to move a little when tightening, but with practice you get the hang of it. Once both valves are set, you are done with cylinder one.

Now rotate the pulley clockwise by 180 degrees. The rotor will now rotate around and point 90 degrees clockwise, pointing to the rear, muffler side and slightly left. That is the cylinder 4 position. Do the same procedure as you did before for this position. Another 180 degree pulley rotation and you are on cylinder 3 and one final 180 degree rotation and you are on cylinder 2. As you may have guessed, the firing order for all 356s is 1-4-3-2.

Once all valves are checked and adjusted, you can either do it again to make sure you did it right or go ahead and button everything up. Replace the valve covers, I recommend you change the gaskets unless they are Skirmants gaskets and still look good. The main thing is they do not leak when you are done. Once the bails are back in place, I always tap the cover back and forth with a rubber mallet just to make sure the covers are seated well. That's it, you did it, looks like a frosty cold one is in order. Check back next issue for another tech tip!

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*In the Dead of Night, Nick Long, 13 years old slows down and takes it all in.  
Photographed with his family's 550 by Jim Goodlett*