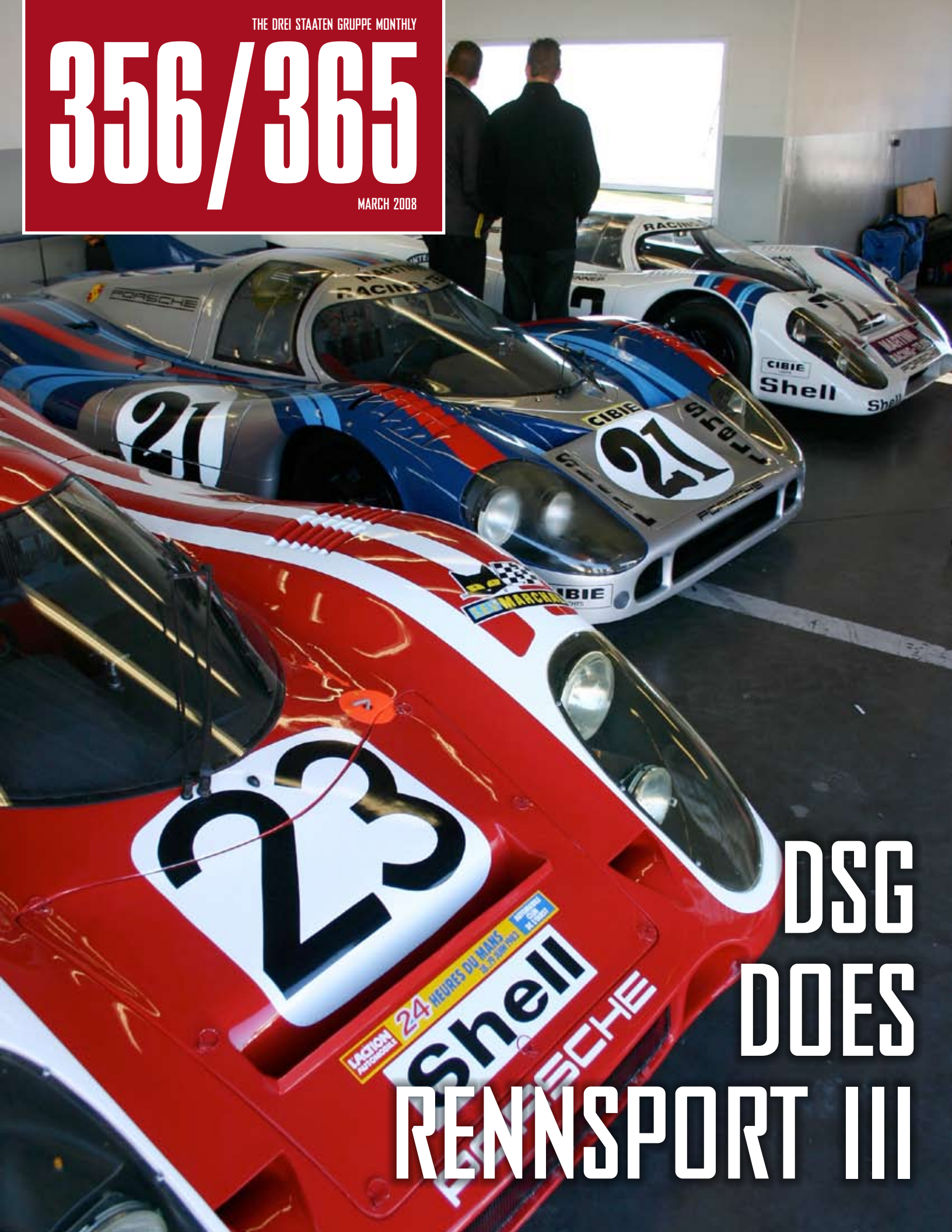
THE DREI STAATEN GRUPPE MONTHLY

356/365

MARCH 2008



DSG DOES RENNSPORT III

THE DREI STAATEN GRUPPE MONTHLY

356/365

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On the cover:
Three 917s in the fluorescent glow of a Daytona International Speedway garage during Rennsport Reunion III, Nov. 2-4, 2007. Photo by Brian Schroeder.

From the President

Welcome to the latest edition of the DSG newsletter. I wanted to start off with a big THANK YOU!! to Steve Leiding for doing such a great job over the past several years organizing DSG into a club that enhances the use of our 356s. As many of you know, Steve has just undergone major back surgery and is quickly recovering so he'll be ready in the Spring to enjoy his beautiful roadster!! We all wish Steve a speedy recovery and know Marie will be happy when he's finally out of the house and once again playing with his toys.

Knowing that Steve was going to be out of commission for several months, it was decided that a change in leadership of DSG was required, unfortunately, no one seemed to have the time to pick up the work that Steve has done so well the past several years…so I reluctantly agreed. Don't get me wrong, I'm happy to do it having been a 356 owner and Registry member for the past 30 years, but it takes more than a few dedicated people like Steve, Peter Boettcher, Dick Weiss, Tom Oerther and Fred Uhlmann….we need more volunteers to help with many of the events we've planned for the coming season…events we hope you all will enjoy and participate in.

First to step up to the plate are Brian Schroeder and Steve Smith. Steve and Brian have agreed to take over both the Web site and newsletter and with their creative and web experience, we can look forward to both a revised and updated website, and regular, informative newsletters.

With the driving season rapidly approaching, we've talked about a number of exciting events that we believe the membership will enjoy, but we'd like to hear what you'd like to do and get out of the DSG. To that end, please complete our member survey (it's an online survey, just click on the link that was in the email via which this newsletter was delivered) and send us back your ratings and suggestions ASAP.

Some of the things we've been discussing are monthly informal breakfast meetings, a "signature" event like resurrecting the 356 Bull Session, parts exchange or local swap meet, garage tours, 356 experts panel, including our significant others and other things that will enhance ownership and use of our 356s. I'm sure there are more ideas in this group, so please make suggestions.

Finally, since the Registry and DSG are all about preserving and enjoying our 356s, we thought it would be great to have a true registry on the website where all members cars (in whatever state of repair...or disrepair they might be) would be shown for all to enjoy. It's easy to get your 356 featured on the Web site, just take a digital picture and email it to Brian or Steve at stevejsmith356@yahoo.com and they'll be happy to assist you.

That's about it for now…I'll look forward to meeting you all at our next event March 1st at Mark Schlachter's Metalkraft Coachwerkes…and if the weather's nice, why not get that 356 out of hibernation and stretch it legs!!

Keepin' the faith through the cold winter months……..CARL

From the Editors

Welcome to the recently redesigned Drei Staaten Gruppe newsletter. Each month we plan to send you this newsletter via an e-mailed pdf file (and mail a printed copy to those of you without email). The newsletter will serve as a way to keep you up to date on the club, share member's stories and, in general, celebrate Zuffenhausen's finest.

Likewise, we'll be…albeit perhaps slowly…upgrading our club's Web site with news and features designed to make enjoying the Drei Staaten Gruppe easier for every member.

As with the club itself, ultimately the quality of this newsletter and the Web site will depend largely on all of our member's participation, so please send us any and all information, photos, updates etc., regarding your life as a 356 enthusiast, and we'll find a place for it in the newsletter or on the Web. Whether it's a photo of your car after a fresh wash, a great tech tip you've discovered, a recap of an event you attended...send it to us. The more material we receive, the better the newsletter and Web site will be.

Disclaimer: We're just two young dudes who happen to love old cars. So, as the saying goes about youth being no substitute for the wisdom, we really can't vouch for any of the information contained herein. Dates are subject to change, misspellings may be found, and in the words of Fred Uhlmann, "We are responsible for nothing." Also, reading this newsletter while driving your 356 may be hazardous.

STEVE SMITH

3 DAYS IN PORSCHE HEAVEN

"Is this heaven?" I overheard someone asking. "No, it's Daytona…but it's close." came the reply. For those of us fortunate enough to attend Rennsport Reunion III, Nov. 2-4, at Daytona International Speedway, Daytona, Florida, the comparison to an out-of-body experience certainly applied.

Organized every few years by Porsche Cars North America and Brian Redman's Intercontinental Events, Rennsport Reunion brings together a truly staggering array of historic Porsche racecars and racecar drivers for a four-day festival that includes plenty of racing, a concours, a toy and literature show, many exhibitors offering Porsche-related wares and enough general fanfare to boggle the mind of any Zuffenhausen zealot.

Several Drei Staaten Gruppe members, including Dick Weiss, Tom Oerther, Brian Schroeder and the author, made the trek to sunny Florida for the event.

On our way down, I anticipated that Rennsport Reunion would be thoroughly enjoyable—a chance to spend some quality car crazy time with my dad and good friends in the warm sun. But nothing could have prepared me for the number of "once-in-a-lifetime" moments we

experienced. Just a few of these unique opportunities included:

• Seeing a 550 Spyder in nearly ever color ever produced—Red, French Blue and Silver.

• Witnessing two of the three center-seat RSKs that are known to exist.

• Viewing, in once glance, 11 917s, including the 1970 Le Mans winner, the Steve McQueen 917 (used in the film Le Mans) and a prototype 16-cylinder 917.

• Seeing the legendary Mark Donohue-driven, Penske-owned 917/10 sitting next to the current ALMS-entered, DHL-sponsored Porsche RS Spyder.

• Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with sports-car driving legends like Derek Bell, Hurley Haywood, Vic Elford, Brian Redman, Jurgen Barth and many more.

I counted more than 20 race-prepped 356s participating in the racing with George Balbach, Lake Forest, IL, finishing first among the 356s in his 1961. Further, a display of significant Porsches and the car corral parking area contained at least another 20 or more 356s.

Rumors are that a Rennsport Reunion IV will take place in three years, but I have not seen that confirmed anywhere. If and when there is another Rennsport Reunion held, I would enthusiastically suggest that any Porschephile attend the event.

The "Steve McQueen 917, now owned by Jerry Seinfeld (top). 550-001, which ran in the 1954 Carrera Panamericana (bottom). A gaggle of 356s in the corral (next page). All photos by Brian Schroeder.

FLORIDA
ANTIQUE
T6-B

Spectators gather in the paddock as 914s, 917s, a 904 and more make their way onto the Speedway (right). Later that day pit lane was converted into a Concours venue (below). When's the last time you saw 3 RSKs in a row?

Can you race a Porsche tractor? I'd love to try. (top). Just another ho-hum day at the garage: 550-01, 908/3 and 908LH (bottom). This 550 is the first one Porsche ever built and features two rarities—Volkswagen power and a removable top designed for Le Mans. The long-tail 908 (#25) was built in 1968 and won at Spa in 1969 with Redman and Siffert at the wheel.

Bill Bencker's S90 GT Coupe in the corral (top). Everywhere you turn at Rennsport there's another treat for the eyes, including the Emory Motorsport's red 906 (below).

550-30 and 550-01 bask in the sun (left). Looking fast while sitting still—two of the many 1960s-era, fiberglass Porshce prototype racers to be found at Daytona.

PROFILE

MEEET DSG MEMEBER TOM GRIFFITHS

Tom's beautiful Bali Blue coupe has become a fixture at many Drei Staaten Gruppe and related 356 events. In fact in 2006 Tom won an award for being the club's most enthusiastic/dedicated member. In 2006 Tom's coupe traversed the country as part of a Drei Staaten Gruppe caravan to the 356 Registry's West Coast Holiday in Steamboat Springs/Snowmass, CO. It turned out to be a more eventful trip than planned, as on the journey back from Colorado, somewhere in Iowa (I think), Tom's engine suffered a broken crankshaft…ugh! True to the "keep the faith" motto, Tom immediately employed Dick Weiss to rebuild the engine and today the car is running strong.

The car's won multiple awards at local and regional shows, but more importantly, it's driven and enjoyed regularly and Tom, a 47-year-old computer programmer in Cincinnati, Ohio, is as active of a member as you'll ever meet. We spoke with him recently about his history with the car.

DSG: How long have you had your 356?

Tom: 3 years

How did you acquire the car?

I found it on the Internet for sale at a dealer in Cost Mesa, California. Flew out to Costa Mesa to check the car out, then had it shipped back to Cincinnati.

What drew you to the 356/Porsches in general?

I liked the styling of the 356. I live on the same street as Bill Heineman (DSG member) and I have always enjoyed seeing his 56' A Coupe running around the neighborhood. Bill wouldn't sell me his car, so I started looking for my own 356. After acquiring my car I was surprised how well it handles. I also like the reliability of the 356 (very non-British).

Do you remember the first time you saw a 356? When, where and what were your impressions?

I think the first time I saw a 356 and knew it was a Porsche was in 1983 or 84 at one of the early Concours D'Elegance shows in Indian Hill—back before they moved the show to Ault Park. I liked the low hood-line and the clean lines of the car.

Do you own any other collector/sports cars?

I currently own a 2000 Boxster S and a 1986 Toyota MR2. I guess I like having the engine behind me.

Dick Weiss (left) and Tom Griffiths (right) with Tom's coupe at the 2006 West Coast Holiday in Colorado.

What's your all-time favorite car...car you would buy if money were no object?
Maybe a Porsche RS 60.

When did you join the Drei Staaten Gruppe?
September, 2004.

What's the most fun you've had in your 356?
Fred Uhlmann's Natural Bridge, Kentucky, driving tour in May, 2005. Running our 356's up and down the twisty roads in and around Natural Bridge State Park was a blast! I remember when we finally came to a stop for lunch, everyone had a big grin on their face. After lunch, we did the same roads again before heading for home.

Favorite part of owning a 356?
It's old, but you don't have to baby it. You can really drive it!

Any interesting/funny stories about your 356 you can share?
With my 356 I have got into the habit of always reaching over under the dash and shutting the fuel supply off before parking the car. More than once, I have attempted to do this in my Boxster. I think this is an indication of which car I have been driving more over the past three years. Maybe I could install a fake fuel cutoff in the Boxster.

Any tech tips/secrets you've acquired over the years of 356 ownership?
Drive your 356 as often as possible. They like to be run.

Interests outside of old cars?
New cars.

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About the Drei Staaten Gruppe:
The Drei Staaten Gruppe was founded in 2004 for Porsche 356 enthusiasts in the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio region. The club, which currently has approximately 78 members, produces a monthly newsletter, maintains a Web site and hosts a range of 356-related events and meetings.

Membership is open to any one with an interest in the Porsche 356. For more information visit www.dreistaatengruppe.com. To join the club, contact Dick Weiss at dweiss356md@fuse.net. Annual dues are $20.

DICK WEISS

TECH GETTING WIRED: LEARN HOW TO CHECK YOUR IGNITION WIRING FOR "HOT LEAKS"

A proper ignition wiring set should be checked occasionally for any "hot leaks" which can be checked normally w/ an OHM meter, but you can see some gaps "jumping" thru the insulation while viewing the running engine in dim light (or darkness) w/the lid up. Some of the cheaper aftermarket wire sets have the metal ends (to the distibutor cap) just pierced RE: spiked) to the core wire which weren't very good when they corroded and lost contact giving some intermittent 'missing' under loads.

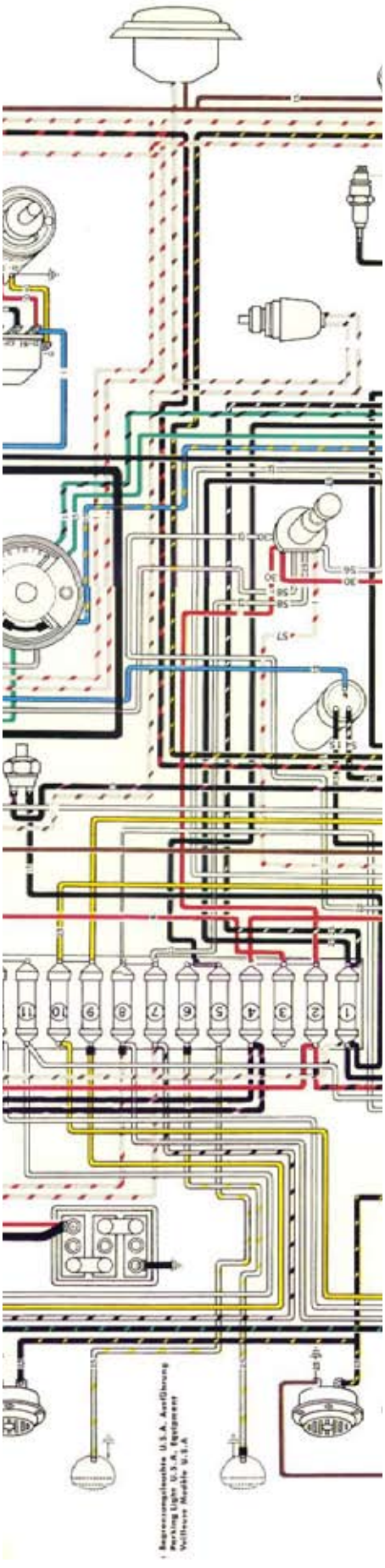
The best kit available has the wire end caps soldered just like they were originally, the wires have 3-different lengths + the coil lead, the wire holders, O-rings, and the plug terminals are the Beru BE 4 which became available again after several years of being discontinued.

However, the latest Beru's have an resister insert which is removable (under the screw) and should be checked w/the meter; I found a couple that were 'dead' and no separate part #is available. In the early days, the old ceramic resistor was replaced w/a piece of 1/8" dia. copper tubing—it didn't effect the radio that much, either.

Once you have a good set of wires on your engine, you don't need a spare set.

Spare plug terminals can be 'tagging along' in your spare parts box as they don't take up much room. Other electrical parts? Points, condensor, cap, and rotor, but again, if they're in good condition to start with on your engine, they could be used to help someone who didn't keep his system in check.

Generator? no; just brushes, but they should be checked before any trip–easier to change 'em at home vs. a cross-country trip; of course the generator itself should in good condition before starting any trip.



GRUPPE NEWS WHAT'S GOING ON

Silver Spring House, November 17th meeting

Approximately 15 or so members gathered at the Silver Spring House to talk about future plans and encourage more participation. Carl Iseman agreed to serve as the new president, Stan Yarrish volunteered to help Fred Uhlmann with events and Pete Boettcher, Tom Oerther and Dick Weiss committed to continuing in their existing roles with the club.

Holiday Party

In case you missed it, 27 Drei Staaten Gruppe members and spouses attended the club's annual holiday party on Dec. 15. The event was held at the historic Golden Lamb Inn in Lebanon, OH. At the event, the club presented the "Car of the Year" award to Bob Kovatch, Indianapolis, IN. The "Member of the Year" award went to Fred Uhlmann, Bellbrook, OH.

February 9th Club Meeting

Richard Cornelius graciously hosted 15 Drei Staaten Gruppe members at his great garage where we viewed his collection, which ranged from a 1950 Cadillac to an Acura NSX. At the meeting club members discussed the upcoming year. Peter Boettcher proposed a Drei Staaten Signature Event, see notes below:

Signature Event Review and Discussion

Definition/Goal: Regularly scheduled annual event that the DSG Region becomes well known for that draws attendance from the local region and surrounding regions and builds membership as well as participation.

Event Parameters:
- Focus is 356 based (Replicas are welcome and encouraged!)
- Sponsored solely by Drei Staaten Gruppe with support and door prizes by 356 and Porsche vendors.
- Easy access to event from major road ways.
- Convenient, open parking and updated facilities.(Restrooms, Shelter, Grills, etc.)
- Centrally located to region.
- Well communicated to potential DSG attendees, nearby regions and to the general Registry membership.
- Low key and fun event, i.e. peoples choice only if cars are to be judged.
- Encourage and create desire in local region membership to attend.
- Other? (Input from group wanted.)

Examples:
- North Meets South
- Dana Point Event
- Tub Runners Barbeque
- Cincinnati Bull Session at Parlin`s Estate.
- Bull Session-After ~ 5 to 7 years average 356 attendance was 25 to 30 cars!
- Held late May as people want to get out and enjoy the improved weather.

Ideas:
- Sharon Woods Pavilion. Sunday May 11th
- Park has other activities for family, children and non car enthusiasts such as boat and paddle boat rental, excelent golf course, large modern playground with concessions and historical village on property.

Questions, Open discussion and Opinions Needed:
- Insurance Requirements (through the Registry).
- Same venue each year.
- Region to supply facility and food expenses.
- VW/Porsche Family Reunion as a separate and joint event with the Cincy VW club.
- Name for Event. (Drei Staaten Gruppe Bull Session.)
- Advertising and event strategy thoughts and ideas solicited.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

1: Tech Session @ Metalkraft Coachwerkes, 10:30 a.m., 3421 Montgomery Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45207. Come see the array of projects going on at Metalkraft and learn from local Maestro Dick Weiss, who will lead a "common ailment" and mysterious syndrome discussion for those typical yet mind boggling problems and malfunctions that you may have encountered. Lunch WILL follow the presentation at a restaurant nearby (lunch will be at your own expense). RSVP to Peter Boettcher, 513-720-356C, pboettcher@cinci.rr.com.

8: PCA Annual Wine Tasting & Charity Auction, 3 p.m. Euro Classics, 3171 S. Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH. Annual event that was often held at Tom Stegman's car collection. This year will be held at Rick Grant's collection, which includes around 30 historic autos, including an RSK and 910. http://ohv.pca.org

15: 12 Hours of Sebring begins. Television coverage on SPEED, begins at 9:30 a.m. www.americanlemans.com

April

23-27: Spring Carlisle Collector Car Swap Meet & Corral, Carlisle, PA. www.carsatcarlisle.com

26: Hershey Porsche Swap Meet, Hersheypark, Hershey, PA. World's largest Porsche-only swap. www.cpa-pca.org/swap

25-27: North Meets South. Large annual 356 event in San Luis Obispo, CA. www.356car.org

May

17: Annual BBQ at Cal Turner's Farm. Annual gathering hosted by the Tennessee Tubs at noted enthusiast Cal Turner's farm near Nashville, TN. www.tennesseetubs.com

24-31: Taj Kreuzers Speedfest. Annual multi-event/multi-day car festival held in Dayton, OH, organized by John Dixon and his hardworking team and benefiting several area non-profit organizations. www.tajmagaraj.com

June

Early June/TBA: Stoddard Imported Cars Swap Meet, 38845 Mentor Ave. Willoughby, OH, 440-951-1040. www.stoddard.com.

8: Ault Park Concours D'Elegance, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Annual concours held at Ault Park, Cincinnati, OH. www.ohioconcours.com

14-15: 24 Heures Du Mans.

18-22: 356 Registry 2008 West Coast Holiday, Lake Tahoe, California/Nevada. One of the major 356 events the national 356 Registry holds annually. www.356registry.org/events/wch2008

28-July 3: PCA National Parade. Charlotte, NC. www.paradecharlotte.org

29: Vintage Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio. Annual vintage race held at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington, OH. Includes car show, various club corrals. Typically collector cars are allowed on the track for a few parade laps. www.midohio.com

July

12: 26th Annual Arthritis Foundation Classic Auto Show & Cruise-In. Metro Place North, Dublin, OH. Annual concours featuring wide range of cars. This year will honor Porsche. www.arthritisautoshow.com.

19: America Le Mans Series Race at Mid-Ohio, 3:30 p.m., Lexington, OH. www.midohio.com

26: Porsches 2 Oxford, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. approx. Annual, casual Porsche show on the brick-lined streets of downtown Oxford, OH. Last year more than 250 cars attended, with many Drei Staaten Gruppe members in attendance. www.porsches2oxford.com.

August

Late August, TBA: Ohio Tub Fanatics TubADubJam/Shawwhank Porsche VW Extravaganza. Usually held at the Historic Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, OH. Casual, fun two-day event featuring Volkswagen and Porsches, lots of entertainment. www.ohiotubfanatics.com

September

4-7: 356 Registry 2008 East Coast Holiday, Lancaster, PA. One of the major 356 events the national 356 Registry holds annually. www.356registry.org/ech2008

14: Glenmoor Gathering of Significant Automobiles, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Annual concours held at Glenmoor Country Club, Canton, Ohio, organized by 356er Myron Vernis. This year the show will be featuring Porsche and according to show description, "Numerous examples will be on display including rare factory pre-production prototypes and a training chassis. Internationally known Porsche authority Karl Ludvigsen will be on hand. www.glenmoorgathering.com.

28: Volkswagen/Porsche Reunion Car Show and Swap Meet. GE Park, Springdale (Cincinnati), OH. More than 200 Porsches and Volkswagen come together to celebrate Dr. Porsche's best designs. www.cincyvwclub.com

Dates/times subject to change. Please confirm on Web site prior to event. Please send notices of any events we've missed, or changes/errors, to stevejsmith356@yahoo.com.

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Please welcome our newest member, Brent Fagan, Batesville, IN, who joined in February!

Please use this list for personal contact purposes only. If you need to correct, update and/or change your information, please email: stevejsmith356@yahoo.com

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