

# DOWNSHIFT



**High Desert Region – Porsche Club of America  
February 2018**



*Member Photo Archives – Photo by Roger Mathus*



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High Desert Region

# DOWNSHIFT

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**February 2018**

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## HDR LEADERSHIP

The High Desert Region is a private not-for-profit organization organized under the laws of the state of Oregon. The Club was chartered as a region in 2000, and is governed by an elected board of directors. The board of directors is ably assisted by committee chairs who are charged with specific functional responsibilities that help deliver a wide range of activities and events to the membership. All meetings of the board are open to the membership.

### Board of Directors

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**Presidential Ramblings**  
**February 2018**  
**Jerry Kolb**

A few days ago, I was driving through Sunriver and saw a pretty little yellow 356 out for a drive with the top down. Continuing into Bend, I saw three more drop-top Porsches cruising around, enjoying the unseasonably mild weather. What a winter! Of course, after over forty plus years in Central Oregon, I understand all too well that there is nothing predictable about our weather except its unpredictability. Enjoy the beautiful days, but don't forget the old Central Oregon wisdom that it is foolhardy to plant annuals before the snow is off the top of Black Butte.

This is not about gardening but, for those of us for whom driving may take precedence over planting, it is important to remember that this little tidbit of folk wisdom translates into caution for drivers. Snow on Black Butte means that nighttime temperatures are still going below freezing, particularly in shady North slope sections of roadway. Black ice remains a hazard well into May, not to mention the abundance of cinders that one finds this time of year and that can complicate exuberant cornering. Get out and enjoy the respite from winter storms but be careful!

Got critters? One of the challenges of storing a car during the winter is that the interior or the engine compartment of your pride and joy can become a winter home for mice or other rodents. These little creatures create homes out of insulation, snack on wiring, and have terrible toilet habits. For information on how to keep these little pests under control, see my short article in this issue of *Downshift*.

We are going to do a better job this year of keeping our calendar up to date. The calendar will be a part of every newsletter, and it will also reside on the website. You can download it and print it out if you are so inclined, but the a current version will always be available on the website. Look for great changes in our media efforts as Charlie Wintch applies her knowledge and experience to our social media, as well fully utilizing the website to support our membership.

We still have a tour date in July that is open. Give Bob Stark a call if you have an idea for a tour that you would like to lead.

***Thanks to all of you who join with us in enjoying everything Porsche!***

## **Editor's Notes**

***By Patty Katz***

Wow, is it February already? Time flies doesn't it? We have had an abysmal snowpack this year, and I look forward to more ski days than the ONE that I've had so far. It's hard to spend that much money on a season ticket, and you haven't used it. However, do I turn it in for a refund? Heavens no! There is plenty of winter left, or I hope so!

I am a very beginning quilter and I visited a quilt store recently as I had purchased a used Bernina sewing machine last fall. I believe that the Bernina dealers think they are the Porsche brand of the sewing machines. I'm quite happy with it. Anyway, I went to get another presser foot and some other misc. items and started to chat with a couple of the women who work at this particular store. Come to find out, three of the women who were working at the store have Porsches! One woman was new to Bend moving here recently from Ashland. I asked her if she knew of the Porsche Club and she had not. So, I invited her to come to the next dinner. I hope she will consider it!

The whole conversation took about a half an hour with other conversations included by the other women. The reason I included this story is because it took me just a short amount of time to have a conversation with someone and invite them to visit our club. It was easy! I hope that if you run into a someone new who drives a Porsche, you will encourage them to attend our member dinner as well!

***Have a safe and happy February!***

## Calendar of Events

High Desert Region, PCA			
Calendar – 2018			
January 2018			
1/1/18	<b>New Years Day</b>		
1/9/18	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Club Carrera	Jerry Kolb, 541-318-8118
1/17/18	<b>Member Dinner</b>	Club Carrera	Gretchen Kolb, 541-788-3861
February 2018			
2/3/18	<b>Cars &amp; Coffee</b>	Kendall Porsche Service Dept 9:00-11:00am	Jerry Kolb, 541-318-8118
2/21/18	<b>Member Dinner</b>	Club Carrera	Gretchen Kolb, 541-788-3861
2/25/18	<b>Chili Cookoff</b>	<b>TBA</b>	Lisa Sarmiento, 541-312-6364
March 2018			
3/3/18	<b>Tech Session</b>	TBD	TBD
3/13/18	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Club Carrera	Jerry Kolb, 541-318-8118
3/21/18	<b>Member Dinner</b>	Club Carrera	Gretchen Kolb, 541-788-3861
April 2018			
4/7/18	<b>Arrive &amp; Drive</b>	Usual A&D Location	Bob Stark, 541-388-5075
4/18/18	<b>Member Dinner</b>	Club Carrera	Gretchen Kolb, 541-788-3861
4/21/18	<b>Diego's Car Show</b>	Downtown Redmond, OR	Bob & Suzi Townes, 541-633-7246
4/28/18	<b>Hwy Cleanup</b>	Hwy 20 & Fryrear	John & Eleanor Donohue, 541-383-2440, johndonohue@bendbroadband.com
May 2018			
5/5/18	<b>Arrive &amp; Drive</b>	Usual A&D Location	Bob Stark, 541-388-5075
5/8/18	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Club Carrera	Jerry Kolb, 541-318-8118
5/20/18	<b>Member Dinner</b>	Club Carrera	Gretchen Kolb, 541-788-3861
5/18/18 to 5/20/18	<b>Jacksonville Wine Tasting Tour</b>	TBA	Pete Olsen, 425-269-5470 & Charlie Wintch, 435-901-2012
5/28/19	<b>Memorial Day</b>		
June 2018			
6/2/18	<b>Arrive &amp; Drive</b>	Usual A&D Location	Bob Stark, 541-388-5075
????	<b>Deschutes County Historical Society Show &amp; Shine</b>	Historical Society Downtown Bend 8am-Noon	TBD
6/21/18	<b>Member Dinner</b>	Club Carrera	
6/23/18 to 6/25/18	<b>Open Tour Date</b>	<b>Call Bob Stark if Interested!</b>	<b>541-388-5075</b>
6/30/17	<b>Arrive &amp; Dine</b>	Cowboy Dinner Tree Restaurant	Rob & Karon Kutz 541-639-6301, rpklaw@bendbroadband.com
July 2018			
7/7/18	<b>Arrive &amp; Drive</b>	Usual A&D Location	Bob Stark, 541-388-5075
7/10/18	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Club Carrera	Jerry Kolb, 541-318-8118
7/17/18	<b>Member Dinner</b>	Club Carrera	Gretchen Kolb, 541-788-3861
7/21/18	<b>Track Event</b>	Oregon Raceway Park \$300 per	Porsche of Bend, Dalton Smith Parts
7/20/18 to 7/22/18	<b>Jet Boat Tour</b>	TBA	Bob Stark, 541-388-5075

<b>August 2018</b>			
8/4/18	<b>Arrive &amp; Drive – New Members</b>	Usual A&D Location	Bob Stark, 541-388-5075
8/4/18	<b>New Member BBQ (to follow arrive &amp; drive)</b>	TBA	Sam & Carolyn Davis, 541-977-3865
8/17/18 to 8/19/18	<b>Florence Beach Tour</b>	TBA	Bob Stark, 541-388-5075
8/25/18	<b>Annual Fund-Raiser Gala</b>	Tracy Stout’s Ranch Directions to follow	Jerry Kolb, 541-318-8118
<b>September 2018</b>			
9/1/18	<b>Arrive &amp; Drive</b>	Usual A&D Location	Bob Stark, 541-388-5075
9/11/18	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Club Carrera	Jerry Kolb, 541-318-8118
9/14/18 to 9/16/18	<b>Hood River Tour</b>	TBA	Joe Mansfield, 541-419-2280 Lisa McCarthy
9/19/18	<b>Member Dinner</b>	Carrera Club	Gretchen Kolb, 541-788-3861
9/27/18 to 9/30/18	<b>Rennsport Reunion, Monterey</b>	TBA	Tim Hagner, 770-510-3313
<b>October 2018</b>			
10/6/18	<b>Arrive &amp; Drive</b>	Usual A&D Location	Bob Stark, 1-388-5075
10/17/18	<b>Member Dinner</b>	Club Carrera	Gretchen Kolb, 541-788-3861
10/20/18	<b>Fall Clean-up, Adopt a road</b>	Fryrear Road site	John & Eleanor Donohue, 541-383-2440, johndonohue@bendbroadband.com
<b>November 2018</b>			
11/3/18	<b>Tech Session</b>	Winter Preparation Tips	Tech Session
11/13/18	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Club Carrera	Jerry Kolb, 541-318-8118
11/14/18	<b>Annual Member Meeting and Dinner</b>	In 2017 members showed and interest in having the annual meeting in conjunction with the dinner meeting.	Jerry Kolb, 541-318-8118, Gretchen Kolb, 541-788-3861
<b>11/22/18</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b>		
<b>December 2018</b>			
12/8/18	<b>Holiday Party</b>	Awbrey Glen	Gretchen Kolb, 541-383-3285

**NOTE:** Calendar updated periodically. If you are using a printed copy, please be sure it carries the same date as the current website version. A current calendar is available on the website.

## **Critter Control**

### **Keeping Unwanted Guests Out of Your Porsche**

*Story by: Jerry Kolb*

My Porsche 912 sat for twelve years next to a house in Central Oregon. The windows and doors were closed, as were the engine and trunk lids. When I opened the lid to the “smuggler’s box” in the trunk it was full of grass, seeds, old insulation and mouse feces. Likewise, for the areas around the defroster ducts as they entered the trunk from behind the kick panels on each side of the cockpit. For the latter problem the nesting material had provided an absorptive base for condensation in the cockpit, leading to rust damage in a next to impossible area of the body to repair.

Ok, so you have a newer Porsche and you would never dream of leaving it outside, even overnight. In the winter you store it in a heated garage under an expensive cover. Your baby is driven only in clear conditions, and your bill from Griots each year is more than you spent for your first car. Why should you need to worry about your precious Porsche becoming a hotel for the local rodent population?

Mice and other small rodents — like the cute little chipmunks that run across your deck — lead a life that is consumed by finding food, finding shelter from predators, and breeding more generations. A lot like humans, except that in cold weather they can dramatically slow their metabolism, so they can survive a winter if, and only if, they can have a shelter that helps them conserve heat and in which they can store or access food.

Critters don’t like for their homes to move around. When cars are driven regularly the animals do not have access to food stashes, and they are much more likely to alert active humans as they go about using their vehicles. In fact, you will rarely find a mouse in a car that is used regularly. A mouse running across your feet will quickly get your attention, but it also may cause a wreck.

If you cannot, for weather or other reasons, interact with your car regularly, which I define not just as driving, but also getting into and actively inspecting the trunk area, checking engine fluid levels and carefully looking the engine area over, including vacuuming under the seats as a part of your cleaning ritual, then you need to introduce some passive protection. The following are some tips to help you and your car survive winter inactivity:

The first thing you need to do is inspect the place where you store your car for evidence of mouse activity. Look for mouse feces, which appear as dark brown rods  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long that you will find along their trails or where they feed. Check also for cardboard boxes that show bite marks at one or more corner, typically near the floor. Look at the floor along the walls for rapid movement as you turn the lights on in a dark garage. Most people can identify mouse activity easily, but remember your garage has a big door opening that provides access to the space so you can assume that mice can come into the area.

Do you store food of any kind that is not in a sealed can in your garage? Bad idea! This just offers a pantry to the mouse looking for a home in your car. Storing pet food



in the garage and/or feeding pets in the garage almost insures that you will also have mice living in your garage. Mice like their food supply to be within 10-15 feet of their nests and removing sources of food for rodents is the foundation of any effort to keep your car safe. If you do keep food of any kind in the garage, make sure it is in sealed plastic containers and that they are kept off of the floor. It goes without saying that you should never, ever leave food in the car!

If mice can find a way into your garage, we need to actively keep them out of your car. Mice have very poor eyesight and navigate primarily with their whiskers. Consequently, they move into and around your garage along the walls, or along boxes, if you stack them against the walls. If you keep stored items on wire “bakery” racks you can both gain storage space, and channel the movement of mice in pathways along the walls where you can strategically place traps.

Conventional traps are the snap traps that most of us have seen — and felt — that are baited with cheese or peanut butter. These work well and are cheap but, if you have a cat or a dog, they may be attracted by the odor of the bait and set off the trap. It is unlikely that the cat or dog would be injured by the trap, but it cannot catch a mouse if it is not cocked. Position these traps along the walls with the baited end of the trap facing the wall. This arrangement forces the mouse to cross the lethal end of the trap. If you do use these or other kinds of traps, check them often and change bait to keep a fresh scent at the trap.

There are also closed box “Hotel California” traps that mice can enter, but never leave. These traps should be placed along mouse pathways between their point of entry and their objective. If you have a garage with a large door, the prime locations are on the wall at each side near the garage door. Keep the door to the trap close to the wall. I think these are preferable for obvious reasons. They are more expensive, but still far less expensive than having the dealer clean out even a small next or, heaven forbid, having to replace the wiring.

Baits that attract and poison rodents are also a possibility but cannot be used around children or small animals. Federal regulations now require that the bait be contained in a manner that will not allow it to be ingested by a child or small animal, but these systems often allow the mouse to wander away and die somewhere else. If that somewhere is in your engine compartment or trunk it is likely that your nose will find the remains. Even if it just goes to a corner of the garage, decomposing mouse is *not* a pleasant smell.

Got an air-cooled Porsche? Air-cooled engines present an additional problem in that the engine cooling system presents additional nesting possibilities for enterprising rodents. Just imagine a mouse nest in the cooling fan of a 356, or on top of a 911’s cylinders when you start the engine for the first arrive and drive of the Spring! You need to keep the little guys well away from the engine, and particularly where they could get between the engine sheet metal and the engine itself.

An old trick I learned a long time ago is to put 5-6 mothballs in each of several cloth bags, and place these bags strategically around the openings. Mice don't like the smell of moth balls any more than you or I do. You wouldn't want to put them in closed interior spaces, but the bags can be removed from around the engine in the Spring, and any residual smell will quickly dissipate with high volume airflow. If you use this method, make sure you make a note of where you have placed the bags and tape that note over your tach. You do not want to suck one or more of the bags into your cooling system on Spring startup, any more than a mouse nest.

While you may not be able to prevent all unwanted intrusions with these methods, with any luck you will be successful in your efforts and you will have a rodent free garage as well.

## **Porsche Performance of Bend Track Event**

Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup> at Oregon Raceway Park Kendall Porsche of Bend will be hosting an all-day track event. Sign-up includes a FREE pre-track inspection done in our shop \$150.00 Value as well as support at the track by Porsche Gold Technicians. BBQ lunch will be provided by Kendall Porsche at the track.

Sign-up is \$300.00 with a minimum of 30 participants to make this event happen. We will have a sign-up sheet for interested drivers to make sure we have the interest from our members and clients to proceed with this event. See Dalton Smith at the parts counter to put your name down. Thank you.



## **Traveling to Eastern Washington?**

### **Story by Jerry Kolb**

Diane Rochelle, Past President of the Inland Empire Region, has arranged corporate hotel rates for PCA members traveling to the Spokane area. The following is what she sent:

*“The hotels are the Mirabeau Park Hotel in the Spokane Valley and the Northern Quest Resort/Casino in Airway Heights.*

*The Mirabeau offers a rate of \$91/night for any PCA member. When making reservations remember to let them know you are a PCA member. The Northern Quest Resort offers a corporate rate of \$125 on Sunday thru Thursday nights (based on availability) to PCA members. You will need to request the corporate rate for the Inland NW Region PCA when making reservations.”*

The offer is not time restricted, and all of us who went to the Parade last summer can vouch for the attractions of Spokane and the Inland Empire.