

Typ 356 Northeast NEws

The newsletter of Typ 356 Northeast vintage Porsche® club



Volume 6 Number 2 - March 2004

Visit our site's links
www.Typ356NE.org

News

Presidents Message: Our season's really starting to roll. The calendar is **chock full** and time for driving the little cars is right around the corner. Naturally the Schedule of Events on the web site is loaded with the latest information. A quick look at the counter shows about 30 site visits every day.

In case you think there's a **behind the scenes** at Typ 356 Northeast - there is. And members are certainly welcome to pull back the curtain. Our monthly board meetings keep the pot boiling and event ideas coming. As a group we try to provide a variety of locations, event types and coordinators. We rely on some great feedback from clubbers with other marque's experience. The Contact Officers link will show you the players, but it's no substitute for meeting us.

Another important aspect is making sure we develop a **sustainable group** – not burning out the membership or event hosts. We've proved we can have fun doing the work it takes to create our activities. When that stops we'll be asking for your help to make sure our direction is clear.

We have a newsletter and a nice web site - but don't be confused - we do it "for the enjoyment of the 356 Porsche and to the fellowship of 356 enthusiasts". **That means driving**, eating, drinking, looking and laughing.

Meetings happen at a variety of locations on the first Tuesday of the month. Ping me if you'd like to join us.

Keep The Faith
Ron Swenson

www.paulrussell.com

On February 21, the club was hosted to a tech session and tour at **Paul Russell and Company** in Essex MA. This has become a much anticipated annual event: this was the fourth event held there and hosted by Typ 356 NE member **Alex Finigan**, who heads PR&Co's classic car sales department. Turnout this year was a record. PR&Co began business as a very high-end restoration shop whose original specialty was the **300SL Mercedes**, but in recent years they have expanded their operations to include other marques and models, as well as auto brokering and sales. They have worked on some of the most elegant, celebrated and historically significant cars of all time. Their web site, www.paulrussell.com, is well worth a peek: it's got a wealth of information about the cars they've worked on.

The tour started with an intro by Alex in a crowded lobby in which 47



American Roadster (recent publicity photo)



Seinfeld nee: Otto Mathe' Gmund Coupe

members and guests shared space with Ralph Lauren's 1930 "**Count Trossi**" **SSK Mercedes**, a Best of Show winner at Pebble Beach. From there we proceeded through the metal shop, paint shop, and mechanical assembly area, with enjoyable detours to stored collection areas. Along the way we were treated to several specials that were new since our last visit. First of these was a Touring-bodied **Alfa 8C 2900** racer that had just been acquired by Ralph Lauren, who swapped another Alfa and a Bugatti to get it. Paul Russell was preparing it for this year's **Pebble Beach** Concours. Ralph was not initially interested in the vehicle, but Alex arranged to have it transported to Ralph's Bedford NY estate so he could see it, and he changed his mind. The car is regarded by some as the most significant racecar of the 1930s, winning the 1938 Mille Miglia.



Otto Mathe' coupe disassembled for preservation

Another great vehicle was a remarkably original rust-free **1949 Gmund** coupe owned by Porsche fanatic Jerry Seinfeld. This car was in the assembly area in pieces. Jerry's intent is to **preserve** the vehicle as much as possible, including retaining the original upholstery and the "musty" headliner. The car's original owner, **Otto Mathe'**, was a racer (hillclimbs, ice - you name it) with a disabled right arm. The car was converted to RHD so the driver could use his left arm for shifting, and the bench seat was set very close to the steering wheel so he could steady the wheel when shifting by leaning against it. Incredibly, the Mathe' was very successful as a racer. Numerous factory updates kept this car competitive for years.



Comic's parts cache, unavailable at Tweaks

New Typ 356 NE member Jack Styles also works at Paul Russell and Company. He described a few interesting footnotes during the tour. He now has one of about 8 factory **356 chassis jigs**. This substantial platform precisely mounts a body shell at the front suspension and transmission mounts - or shows where it should mount. Jack also showed off the transaxle from James Dean's 550.



In RHD configuration - before the vanity plate. (courtesy of French PORSCHE ATTITUDE website)

This is why you're a Typ 356 Northeast member: seeing these cars in a museum would cost you \$20+, and then if you had a question you'd have to buy a book at the museum store. Finally you'd be outside the velvet ropes and your camera would be in solitary confinement. In fact, if you want to make the comparison, the **MFA** is considering putting on a display next year of 17 of Ralph Lauren's cars, including several we saw at PR&Co.

Our thanks to Alex and Jack. You both made February 21st a very memorable day.

George Huff

www.F1Boston.com

On March 7, Typ 356 Northeast held its **first-ever karting event** at the **F1 Boston** indoor kart track in Braintree, Massachusetts. The sold-out event was organized by **Dick Chaisson** and was attended by 24 members. It was a great chance to do some spirited driving while our 356s continue hibernation. For those of you who missed it, and have not experienced karting and enjoy high performance driving, you should definitely check it out.

There are several parallels between the karts at F1 Boston and our beloved 356s: both are horsepower-challenged, and both have a **nasty tendency toward oversteer**, especially under braking. The

underpowered nature of the karts (especially for the 200+ pounders among us!) requires extreme smoothness to preserve every last shred of momentum. Since the karts are rear-engine and rear-brake-only, they do have a tendency to swap ends under aggressive trail braking, as several club members discovered. All of this is good experience for 356 performance driving!

Each entrant competed in three 10-lap qualifying races, followed by a 15-lap final race for the qualifying drivers. For the final race, yours truly started on the pole and lead flag-to-flag, despite **George's Nelson's** best attempts to play Dale Earnhardt, replete with thinly-veiled threats about old age and treachery... For the record, I have **raced many times** at F1, and I must say that the frequency of **car contact** (read: AGGRESSIVE driving) was unlike any I have ever experienced! Either many of us were suffering from **356 driving withdrawal**, or we all need to **switch to decaf!** Hey, it was fun, and the only bruises that resulted were possibly to a few egos. For our efforts, George, Angus, and I each received beautiful mounted posters of a cutaway 356.

Thanks to Dick and T356NE for a great event. For more on the kart racing and the kart facility, see www.F1Boston.com.

Eric Nichols (club champion, so far Ed.)

www.356registry.org

Who's Who The **mission** of the **356 Registry, Inc.** is the perpetuation of the vintage (1948-1965) 356 series Porsche through 356 Registry magazine, internet forums and activities for the exchange of ideas, experiences and information, enabling all to share the 356 experiences of one another. 356 Registry, Inc. is a non-affiliated, non-profit, educational corporation, chartered under the statutes of the State of Ohio.

The **Charter of Typ 356 Northeast:**

Typ 356 Northeast is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the 356 Porsche and to the fellowship of 356 enthusiasts.

Our **Preamble**

To **share** our knowledge of, interest in and enthusiasm for Typ 356 Porsche automobiles;

To **stimulate** interest in and foster appreciation for Typ 356 Porsche automobiles; and

To **help** our members maintain, enjoy and preserve Typ 356 Porsche automobiles; and

To plan sponsored **events** that encourage member participation

While Typ 356 Northeast is recognized as a regional club by the now 30 year-old Registry, none of these clubs are directly associated with it. The Registry site, 356talk list and especially the Magazine are the definitive communication media in the 356 universe. They sanction but don't directly produce the annual East and West Coast **Holidays**. Porsche's own web site calls us a region of the 356 Registry, that's not quite right, but **they're busy** with other stuff.

Typ 356 Northeast is neither non-profit (just without profit) nor incorporated (too much paperwork) we're just a little "a" association. The 356 Registry leaves the **driving** to the individuals and the regional groups. Good – that's what we do.



The largest vintage-only Porsche club in the wo

Ron Swenson

Events

March 21, 2004 T356NE Tech Session @ Collins

March 28, 2004 T356NE Sunday Drive

April 4, 2004 T356NE Swap Meet

April 10, 2004 T356NE Tech Session at Bentley Books

April 23-25, 2004 Rennsport II, Daytona

April 25, 2004 PCA Hershey Swap Meet (non-club event)

May 1-2, 2004 Bonhams Auction - MoT (non-club event)

May 8, 2004 T356NE Drive - Photo Shoot

May 22, 2004 VSCCA Vintage Celebration, Loudon

Our **first Technical Session** of 2004, will cover two items that may be necessary to keep you on the road: Voltmeters and Insurance.

Dave Willard will give a demonstration showing how to use an inexpensive **voltmeter** to identify ignition trouble, which might be useful to get your vehicle going again.

Bill Collins will discuss on the jargon & pitfalls within the **antique auto insurance** business. Why not bring your policy and see if you've got what you think you've got for protection.

I-93 North or South in New Hampshire ...take **exit 3** and follow the coffee and donut smell to Bill's car barn- details on line and via e-mail soon.

Sunday, 10:00 am, March 21, 2004 - T356NE Tech Session at Bill Collins

Contact **Dave Willard** dwillard@typ356ne.org

Typ 356 Northeast 's **first Swap Meet** will be held at my house on the 4th of April. The event will start at 9:00 am and last until about 1:00 pm. I will send out full directions again via e-mail. We'll have coffee and pastries, etc, available.

If your stuff is too big to bring we'll have **For Sale and Wanted tack boards** for photos, classifieds, etc. Mail them in if you can't make it. In case all this shopping makes everyone hungry I'll will search out a restaurant for those interested

Sunday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, April 4, 2004 - T356NE Swap Meet

contact **Dick Chiasson** dchiasson@typ356ne.org 508.966.0346

mail 93 Taunton Street, Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

Details of **Technical Session two** of 2004 will follow shortly.

Saturday, April 10, 2004 - T356NE Tech Session at Bentley Books,

Cambridge, MA

contact Dave Willard dwillard@typ356ne.org

www.gorace.com

We have a handful signed up **Rennsport II**. If you're going and haven't let Peter or myself know drop me an e-mail.

April 23-25, 2004 - Rennsport II, Daytona

Ron Swenson rswenson@typ356ne.org

A Day at the **Old Time Races** - May 22nd, Saturday, 2004. Save the date and come on up to New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon, N. H., and see our kind of racecars. The VSCCA Vintage Celebration will feature **356's**, M.G.'s [TA's, TD's, TF's and even a TC or two], Ferrari's, Alfa's, Jag's, pre-war Bentley's and even a couple of Bugatti's. There will also be a couple of cars that you haven't seen since the 50's. The Vintage Sports Car Club of America will be opening up their season in New England. These guys race some really great cars. The **pits are open** and it is a lot of fun to see what has been done to these cars to make them race ready.

We will meet at the Exit 4 Route 93 Burger King in Derry NH at 7:45 A.M. in time for a quick breakfast before heading up to N.H.I.S. for a fun day. Additional details will be posted on the Club site and via e-mail as we get closer to May.

Saturday, May 22, 2004, VSCCA Vintage Celebration - New Hampshire Speedway (Loudon)

contact Jim O'Hare johare@typ356ne.org

The Sixth Annual Typ 356 **Spring Tour – Update**: The clock continues to tick, and before you know it, we will be heading "**Down East**" to the coast of Southern Maine. This year marks our sixth club spring tour, and our first trip to Maine. To date, twenty-three members along with their guests have signed up for the journey. We will be staying at The **Cliff House** Resort and Spa overlooking the Atlantic Ocean in Ogunquit. All the details as to how to book your room, at the Typ 356 group rate, are on our website. Do not delay booking, because we only have forty rooms available at the group rate, and they will go fast.

The Spring Tour committee continues to fine tune the driving routes, plan two cocktail parties, and finalize dinner plans at The Cliff House for Friday and Saturday nights. This is our **premiere club event** every year. We look forward to a large turnout.

(Once you have booked your room with the Cliff House, please email me and send a **registration check** for \$30, made payable to "Typ 356 Spring Tour", to Peter Crawford, 11 Pearl Street, Marblehead, MA 01945.)

Friday to Sunday, June 4th to 6th, 2004 - T356NE Spring Tour #6

contact Peter Crawford pcrawford@typ356ne.org

50th Anniversary of the Speedster introduction will be celebrated



George Nelson's Brahma (a period Lotus 23 replica) just restored and debuted at the 2003 NHIS event (no Porsche content) Swenson photo

Maine was the number one destination request in the recent questionnaire.

Of the three possible tour destinations listed: Nova Scotia was the top choice, then Saratoga Springs, then Watkins Glen.

That all jives with about 500 miles being the most preferred driving distance for a tour. Amazing.



Rennsport promoter Brian Redman checks in with Tour Meister Crawford for some event planning hints Swenson photo

June 25-27, 2004 in Pebble Beach, California.

Typ 356 Northeast members will be both driving and shipping cars this event. If you've registered (www.speedster50thanniversary.com) make sure you let me know.

contact Erling Falck [oef@comcast.net](mailto: oef@comcast.net)

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Registration for the **2004 East Coast Holiday** on September 29th to October 3rd in Williamsburg, Virginia is **filling up quickly**. About 2/3 of the rooms are committed – it's headed to sell out as happened at the Asheville event last year

Interested participants can register via the Porsche **356 Registry website**. There are an increasing number of us already registered from Typ 356 Northeast.

Erling Falck

September 29th to October 3rd, 356 Registry East Coast Holiday, Williamsburg **contact Erling Falck** [oef@comcast.net](mailto: oef@comcast.net)

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East Coast Holiday 2005 looks to be closer to home. As you have seen in recent e-mail - a **Jerry Keyser** produced Holiday with **Typ 356 Northeast as the "presenting" sponsor** is becoming a reality. Der Keyser's company Three Fifty Six would be the contracting "host" – TFS promoted the Asheville and Williamsburg Holidays. 356 Registry, Inc. approval of this proposal is required. We're hoping for selection for a **Fall 2005** event. Members will be hearing a lot more on the topic. The short take is this: the club is committed to maintaining an **active 2005 calendar** - our top priority, having Keyser as host/chairman means the club is removed from financial risk and liability. A steering committee report in upcoming issues and spell out more opportunities and details.

Bill Collins, ECH05 steering committee [bcollins@typ356ne.org](mailto: bcollins@typ356ne.org)

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Making the Typ 356 Northeast **NEws work for you**.

This Newsletter is best viewed with your e-mail maximized – that should reduce clipping or compressing columns.

Some members are probably limited to plain text. While legible in this format the captions (without the photos) are a bit confusing. A few users get "junque". These two groups of members can find a Newsletter in Adobe file (.pdf) format posted on the website – click "Newsletters".

Some e-mail programs allow you to **print** "image" or frames in lieu of whole page with e-mail addressing boxes. Check those options if you want a copy to hold or read on the subway. Those interested in printing a copy might consider **printing the .pdf** mentioned, it's well suited for that purpose.

Our new technology is keeping our board focused on events - the



Gmund coupes at LeMans '52 (early publicity photo)

Old cars in a row, people hanging around getting their picture taken. It doesn't get any better than this.

man-hours that used to deliver a printed NEws - are now making news.

Reviews - books, sites, &c.

www.VSCCA.org

One of the dozens of images reminds us of our **tear up this hill** in 1999, and race spectating in 2002. There will be multiple visits necessary to appreciate the **Vintage Sports Car Club of America's** web site. Their "emphasis is on rare and unusual sports & racing cars including pre-war and certain post war cars through December 31, 1959." (Apparently they feel the need to compare others to our beloved rides.)

Ed Hyman's photos form a spectacular log of the sport. You may recognize him as a Connecticut 356 owner and **356 SCR** regional club president. (That's 356 Southern Connecticut Region.)

Their Vintage Celebration - New Hampshire Speedway; Lime Rock Vintage Festival and Castle Hill event are some of Typ 356 Northeast's regular haunts. It makes you wonder why not visit the Mt. Tremblant, Canada - Track Event; Mt Washington Vintage Hillclimb and the Watkins Glen Historic Races?

They note "In the VSCCA, the cars are of paramount importance. This means that **the races and drivers are secondary**. We are institutionally indifferent to who wins our races; for this reason we give no trophies."

(I hope someone's secretly keeping score.)

Ron Swenson

56motorcitiesgruppe.com

Our counterpart regional club in the **Detroit area** has a great site. You'll recognize various noteworthy 356 Registry figures who are members, like Vic Skirmants.



356 emerging from the fog at 2003 Mt. Equinox Hillclimb (courtesy VSCCA site. AutoPhotos, Ed Hyman)

Members

Thanks for resuming your support for Typ 356 Northeast. Our renewals are at an "all time high"

New Members:

Scott Clough - Hampden, ME - 1964 356C Coupe

Jack Styles - Salisbury, MA - 1989 911 Speedster

Phil Brzezinski - Taunton, MA - 1968 911 Coupe Sportomatic

Ginny Young - Taunton, MA - 1984- 911 Carrera Targa

Dennis Molnar - Dunbarton, NH - 1955 356A Continental Coupe , 1956 356A Coupe, 1956 356A Sunroof Coupe, 1970 - 911E Coupe, 1973 911S Coupe, 1983 911SC Cabriolet

Remember your membership information is our link to you; let us know when your e-mail, cell phone or changes are appropriate -- to Bob

DiCorpo at 2078 Highland Avenue, Fall River, Massachusetts, 02720.

Bob DiCorpo bdicorpo@typ356ne.org.

For Sale / Wanted

Typ356 Northeast is not responsible for omissions, errors, misrepresentations, payment or anything else to do with these classified advertisements.

Wanted; An acquaintance in Germany is in the market for "**An original Speedster**" as he put it. If anyone knows of one for sale, please email me with any particulars. I will put the seller in contact with the person in Germany. Bob DiCorpo bodee5@hotmail.com

Caveat Emptor
If only to stay in practice.

Wanted; **Pre-A Coupe** in very good to affordable concours condition (or a Karmann while I wait). Ron Swenson rswenson@typ356ne.org

Wanted; **356's** by at least a half dozen new members including some of those listed above. If you have or know of cars pass the word on. Share them via members@typ356ne.org and/or we'll get them into the next NEws.

There will be **For Sale and Wanted tack boards** for photos, classifieds, etc. at Typ 356 Northeast 's **first Swap Meet** reported above. Bring 'em or mail 'em in.

For Sale; A friend who has some 356 **tool kit wrenches** and **Messko tire gauges** available. These are guaranteed to be authentic and original to the 356 tool kits. Tools he currently has available:

1. 8x9 Hazet 450 stamped numbers wrench
2. 11x12 Hazet 450 stamped numbers wrench
3. Spark Plug wrench for a C
4. One Phillips red handle screwdriver and one Jorg #7 screwdriver both restored by Victor Miles. Approx. \$900.00 for the pair.
5. Two dual scale chrome Messkos, no pouches Very good cond. \$375.00 ea.
6. One early chrome Messko "Balloon" w/ original pouch. Near perfect. \$475.00
- 7 One Reproduction C tool kit from PAP w/ tire gauge. \$350.00
8. One 1962 gray tool bag, very nice cond., small stain on inside.
9. One six volt yellow fog light relay NOS \$125.00

Bob DiCorpo bodee5@hotmail.com

For sale; **1964 356 C cabriolet**, red with black top and interior. The odometer registers 70,000+ miles. It is in excellent condition. The 1965 912 motor is peppier than the original. We have the California title, a few tools and a manual. Asking \$36,500. Roger Palm wpalm@worldpath.net

Sponsors

This Space for Rent *

Section sponsorship* (new - with display ad) and strip ads (as below) are available for communicating with our growing membership and our extended distribution. Links on our popular web site and club membership are included in the cost. 356 content is required and the editors will limit the number of ads.

contact Peter Crawford pcrawford@typ356ne.org

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