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# The Nugget

Porsche Club of America—Golden Gate Region

September 2006

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Dear John,

Welcome to the first test online issue of The Nugget. We apologize in advance for anything confusing or which plain doesn't work. We're figuring this out along the way! Any comments on what you like or don't like, would like added or omitted, and so on would be greatly appreciated. This is a test: we'll be taking a hard look at continuing in this format or going back to print. Thanks for reading.

John Celona—Nugget Editor

## Place dé Leglise

### Electronic Publishing

—by Claude Leglise

Welcome to the first electronic issue of the Nugget. By now you have read John Celona's letter explaining that the Nugget will be published electronically for the rest of 2006. I will use this column to explain what led the board to decide to proceed with this experiment, and where we go from here.



The Golden Gate Region's newsletter was first published in 1960 and has a proud history of communicating the club activities to our members. We have used it over the years as a way to publicize our events, to recognize members, to print classified ads and as a membership recruiting tool. The board started a review of the newsletter in May after we were surprised by major cost increases at our printer and were driven to quickly change supplier. In the course of this review, we uncovered three major areas of concern. The first one is the cost of printing which exceeds the sum of the dues received from PCA National and the revenues from local advertisers. The difference is funded today by increasing the prices for our various driving events. The second is the amount of effort required of the editor to create a high quality monthly paper newsletter, which is measured in tens of hours every month. The third one is the lack of timeliness of the information in the newsletter, driven by the length of the printing and mailing cycle. John, along with a group of members, created a series of options to consider for the future of the newsletter, and the board held extensive conversations in formal and informal meetings. We considered changing the size of the publication, the type of paper, the number of pages and the frequency. We came to the decision to experiment with foregoing the paper version of The Nugget in favor of a completely electronic publication for the August/September, October, November and December issues. The ecological benefits did not figure in the decision but deserve a mention.

On the positive side, we expect to achieve meaningful cost savings that will benefit other club activities, to increase the amount of content in each issue, and to make very timely information available to you. The Nugget will continue to complement our web site as it will contain different information and will be proactively e-mailed to members rather than

## Quick Links

**Event Calendar**  
**Classified Ads**  
**Join PCA Now**  
**Nugget Archive**  
**More About Us**  
**Zone 7 Web Site**  
**PCA Web Site**  
**Great Links**

## Upcoming Events

**Moonlight Monte Carlo Rally**  
**Time Trial Ground School**

## Join our list

Join our mailing list!

Join

pulled by web visitors. Some members will undoubtedly prefer this new and modern medium.

On the negative side, there is a risk that this change may not allow us to reach all our members and may represent too radical of an approach for some of our members who are fond of the print format. The National database shows that approximately 80% of our region's members have supplied an email address, and we will use these addresses to communicate with them. The board is concerned about reaching the entire membership and hope that the newsletter's content will be more timely and more engaging, thereby compensating for the need to use a computer to access the information.

After considering every aspect of the situation during the July board meeting, we came to the conclusion that in this age of electronic communications experimenting with an electronic newsletter was warranted. However, in order to proceed with proper care, we have decided to put a time limit on this experiment. We have already scheduled a detailed review of the program and the feedback for the November board meeting. At that time, we will either decide to continue with the electronic format or revert to the print medium. GGR is fortunate to have dedicated members who have volunteered to take our club publication in either direction.

This is your club and your Nugget. The board of directors has made the most thoughtful decision it could, given the circumstances. Yet, in the end, you the GGR members need to tell us what you think. Send your feedback, praise or flame, to [John](#), to [GGR Board](#), or to [me](#).

## Competition Corner

### Catching Up

—by David Leong

Kids are heading back to school, and Labor Day is about to signal the end of summer. We had a few very hot days this summer, and hopefully, the remaining events will have nice seasonal weather. We took a vacation for the August edition of the Nugget, so we are covering 2 months of news in this article.



### GGR TT # 3 at Buttonwillow

I wasn't able to attend this event, as summer is often a time for family vacations, and other conflicts. In my case, it was a family reunion of over 100 members. And you thought the Saturday night TT dinners were crazy! I did get reports of scorching heat, approximately 70 drivers, and some interesting off course excursions, including a five wheels off. Sorry I don't have more details than that.

### GGR AX #5

Autocross #5 took place at the familiar Alameda point, formerly the home to F-18 Hornets, but these days we hit the tarmac with Caymans and 997s. It is always good to see our perennial TTOD driver Andrew Blyholder get some competition, and Steve Nieslony is just the driver to do it. Personally, I'd rather see a 911 give him fits, but we'll settle for a 914 as long as the battle is entertaining. In the end, Andrew came out of top again, but it was interesting while it lasted. If you really want to learn how to be fast out of the box, pretend you are at a SCCA event, where you only get 3 runs. You have to do your best, or at least better than everyone else in just a couple of tries. You can recognize the PCA'ers who do both series, by their immediate fast runs in the morning. Personally, I usually hit my stride around the 13th run of the day. Unfortunately, that is well into the fun runs, and they don't count.

### Zone 7 Autocross School

The annual Zone 7 Autocross school was held on July 22nd and 23rd. If you recall, that was in the middle of our horrendous heat wave, and instead of the chilly, foggy candlestick mornings, we saw temps hitting triple digits. As a result, we went way over budget on water, and cooked more than a few drivers. This is traditionally one of the best events of the year, and this year's was up to the standard. People come from the far

reaches of Zone 7, and many old-timers appeared out of the woodwork. This year, we also had a welcome youth movement at the school, and had no less than 7 teenagers. I'm happy to report my daughter was part of the class of 2006. Some of our graduates went on to have success at the Portland Parade too. Congratulations to them, and I expect to see more in the future. I hear that getting up at 6am is the main impediment. Maybe it is time to bring back the night series. We had a car related teen fatality in my community recently. Tragedies such as these are preventable, and I am convinced that events like this will save our children's lives.

#### **GGR TT # 4 at Thunderhill**

The most recent event was last month's Time Trial at Thunderhill. Only 60 drivers, meant the event operated in the red, but also meant lots of track time for the loyal members who did show up. We ran the track backwards, as GGR is an innovator in doing this, and continues to be one of the few clubs to do so. It becomes a whole new track, and catches quite a few people off guard. Those who think they can simply reverse their thinking from the counter clockwise direction, are usually in for a big surprise. The weather was great, and, compared to San Francisco in July, Willows was an oasis. In keeping with the volunteer spirit of our club, and willingness to help out, we had a few different faces and voices on the team for this event. Chili returned from retirement to act as steward, and due to illnesses, and conflicts, we had some changes in personnel up in the tower too. Thanks to everyone who steps up when there is a need.

#### **Rules Proposals**

The deadline for 2007 rules change proposals was back on July 1, and a few have been made. These are in the process of being posted to the web as I write, and have been discussed in the GGR BBS. Since we've had such a good discussion online, I've made a decision not to have the usual DEC open meeting. All discussion around these proposals are on the GGR BBS. If you prefer, you can send an e-mail to [DEC](#) to reach the DEC committee privately. Whichever technique you choose, be sure and take a look and contribute, as the DEC will be voting to accept or reject these on or around Oct. 31st.

We have Autocross # 7 on Sep. 9th, and the second to last Autocross will be on Sep 30th. There is exciting news for the last TT of the season on Sept. 22nd-23rd. Porsche Racing Club will be helping us fill the day, by subleasing a session from GGR for a wheel to wheel Porsche race. Come to this special TT and in addition to our usual fun TT weekend, you can be entertained by exciting wheel to wheel Porsche action each day. You're running out of time to join in on the fun, so act now. Be sure and visit our various sponsors, let them know you appreciate their support of GGR, and we'll see you on course.

#### **GGR Time Trial #3**

##### **Buttonwillow**





Time trial #3 was held at Buttonwillow on June 24- 25— missing the cutoff for the July issue of The Nugget. Results are available [here](#). Despite the scorching heat, 29 drivers ran for time. TTOD goes to Henry Watts. Because of the new classification system, all top times in a class are lap records. Congratulations to:

GT1S : Henry Watts  
GT2R : Don Brunell  
GT2S : Ken Park  
GT3S : Jim Paugh  
GT5R : John Seidell  
GTC3 : Robert Murillo  
TT04 : Alan Straub  
TT05 : Dan Lofgren  
TT06 : Harry Demas  
TT07 : Joe Gehman  
TT08 : John Tavernetti  
TT09 : Barry Fleisher  
TT10 : Andrew Forrest  
TT11 : Glynn Dennis

The standings for 2006 are available [here](#).

#### GGR Autocross #5

##### Alameda Point



Autocross #5 was a spectacularly beautiful day at Alameda Point. Blue skies, crystal clear air, and lots of exciting racing for 119 drivers. Despite the large turnout, co-chair Glynn Dennis ran a smooth show with all getting 8 runs plus fun runs for the die hards at the end. Boris Tekslar designed a good mix of fast and slow stuff for a challenging and interesting course.

TTOD was a tight race with Steve Nieslony showing up and laying down a very fast time on only his second run of the day. Andrew Blyholder chipped away at it however, and managed to pull out ahead in the end.



TToD Ladies was a super tight race. Joy Sease took the honors by just .128 sec. over Debi Pressley, who in turn was just .035 sec. ahead of Monica Kost.

The zoomy cars were unusually dominate in PAX with Andew and Steve, both AX03, first and second, followed by Bill Pickering from AX02 in third.

The results are available [here](#). Photos were taken by: [Barbara McCrory](#), [Ron Leppke](#), [David Leong](#), and [Dave McGuigan](#).

#### Zone 7 Autocross School

##### Driving in the Heat



As David mentioned, it was remarkably hot at Candlestick for July 22 and 23. Still, the school was full, fully manned with instructors showing remarkable dedication in the heat, and it remains one of the outstanding bargains in driver education. Check out the photos by [David Leong](#) and by [Ron Leppke](#).

#### GGR Time Trial #4

##### Thunderhill





The results for the time trial July 29-30 at Thunderhill are available [here](#).

37 drivers ran for time. TTOD goes to Henry Watts. TTODL goes to Laura Thomas.

Because of the new classification system, all top times in a class are lap records. Congratulations to

GT1S : Henry Watts  
GT2R : Don Brunell  
GT2S : Mike Cullinan  
GT3S : Jim Paugh  
GT3SL : Sharon Neidel  
GT4S : John Beck  
GT5R : John Seidell  
GTC3 : Robert Murillo  
TT04 : Alan Straub  
TT05 : David Leong  
TT06 : Warren Walker  
TT07 : Joe Gehman  
TT08 : Dean Thomas  
TT10 : Andrew Forrest  
TT11 : Brook Sutton  
TT12 : Jerry Whitteridge  
EX : Richard Tjandra

The standings for 2006 are available [here](#).

I've updated the membership pages as well; individual results are available [here](#).

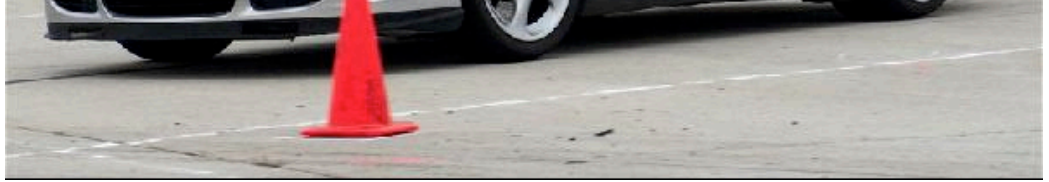
Sharon Neidel did the timing, with help from Nancy Chambers who filled in for Karen. I did the scoring. If there are corrections, email me [here](#).

Photos are available by [David Leong](#), [Hank Watts](#), and [Pete Pressley](#).

#### GGR Autocross #6

##### Marina





Autocross #6 was our GGR-hosted Zone event for the year, held at the Marina Airport last Sunday. LPR hosted their Zone event on Saturday, so it was two days of autocross fun. Randal Barrack designed a great course, which was run one direction on Saturday, and then in the opposite direction on Sunday. Overcast and cooler weather keep the temps down, giving the race tire boys trouble getting the heat into their shoes.

Bill Dally ran a smooth event with 9 timed runs for all plus almost an hour of fun runs at the end.

TToD was a fresh face, taken by Joe Weinstein in his awesome 996 Twin Turbo, with Larry Sharp just 2/10ths behind.

TToD Ladies went to Dana Ambrisko with a very fast drive (she even nipped her husband, Doug, by a tenth.)

In PAX, the street cars put the hurt on the zoomy cars this time with Terry Zaccone thrashing around the course in Marcel, his venerable '68 Targa, to just squeak by Larry Sharp's '74 RSR by 0.003 sec. LaVergne Thomas was the highest placed lady with 5th place in PAX, earning her first PAX points for the year with that stellar effort.

You can see all the results [here](#). Photos by Dave Dunwoodie are available [here](#).

### **The 2006 Porsche Parade Portland, Oregon**

—by Larry Sharp, Zone 7 Representative

Portland Parade 2006 saw Zone 7 rising to the top of the pack. We had many outstanding performances in all events, something that we, as Zone 7 members, can be proud of. The not-so-biggest surprise was that with our skill, enthusiasm, and numbers, we overwhelmed the other zones in the first-ever Parade Zone Challenge.

[Read on...](#)



Okay—I think we've just about made it through putting this together. This is still definitely a work in progress. And—with a little bit of luck—most people will get this today!

**Cheerios,**

John Celona  
Porsche Club of America-Golden Gate Region

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