

# FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT Daniel Morris



## A Piece of Porsche History Preserved

One of the most useful tools on our website is the “Contact Us” page at oregonpca.org. When I became VP, I began receiving automated copies of each submission - and the scope of questions that come in is a testament to the depth and dedication of our Club leadership. The vast majority relate to membership: How do I join, why can't I log in, why am I no longer receiving updates? Our Membership Director, Carlos Santayana, responds swiftly and capably, typically within 24 hours. We all owe him a sincere thank you, because that work is never truly finished. When in doubt, head to the website and type away - someone will be there.

What I want to share this month, though, is a different kind of inquiry - one that became a small detective story, and a reminder of why our archives matter.

### A SPYDER FROM ANOTHER ERA

Late in February, a message arrived through our Contact Us page from Andrew Hosking, a Porsche 550 historian based in Brisbane, Australia. Andrew manages the website *type550.com* and has spent years researching the racing and ownership provenance of these rare and remarkable cars. He was looking for a specific issue of the

Anzeiger - a January 1974 cover featuring Porsche 550 Spyder chassis number 550-0061 - and was hoping we might be able to help.

It was an intriguing request. Here is Andrew's original message:

*“Good morning, I am trying to find an early issue — January 1974 of the Anzeiger — which has a Porsche 550 Spyder on the front cover. The Spyder is 550-0061 and I am currently doing some research on this car*

*to develop its racing and ownership provenance. I assist many owners and Porsche enthusiasts with information on these cars, so researching them is a consuming passion of mine. Any help in supplying an image of the cover or any other relevant information on this car would be greatly appreciated.”*

*— Andrew Hosking, Brisbane, Australia*



I forwarded the inquiry to our Club Historian, Randy Stolz, who quietly performed what I can only describe as a feat of archival precision. As a reminder, we have scanned and catalogued over 600 issues of the Anzeiger, covering decades of club history — a project that required enormous patience and dedication. That effort, largely driven by Randy, has transformed our historical archive into a genuine time machine.

Within a few days, Randy located the relevant issues and responded with a detailed summary of everything we knew about the car. It turned out the Spyder first appeared in the March 1972 Anzeiger, with photographs on page 9 and an article on page 10 written by Kip Luthe, wife of early owner Ken Luthe. The January 1973 cover - not 1974, as Andrew had initially believed — featured the car as well.

Randy also shared what he had been able to learn about a subsequent Oregon Region owner, Winston "Win" Casey - a well-regarded local racer and driving instructor who worked at Riviera Motors and Motor Sport International, both now defunct Portland institutions. Win drove the Spyder on the street for some years but never raced it. His short biography appears in Martin Rudow's Weekends of Glory on page 178.

Piecing together the ownership history of 550-0061, extensive research by Andrew, Randy, and Peter Linsky, the car's journey came somewhat into focus. As always, these ownership dates are subject to revision:

- **1955-1957:** Possibly sold new from Kneivel VW in Butte Montana or Johnson Imports in Spokane, Washington. Inquiries continue.
- **1961:** Milt Davis, Seattle Purchased without engine, installed 140hp Corvaire engine, won his D/Modified class in a two-hour race at SIR in September 1961 and entered but may not have attended the Portland Rose Cup in June 1962.
- **1963-69?:** Bob Humphrey, Seattle Owned for about six years. Installed several different Corvaire engines.
- **1969?:** Chuck Lawrence, Portland owned for about 18 months.
- **1971:** Ken Luthe Portland
- **1971:** Don Smethers, Portland Owned briefly, and then offered it for sale in the December 71 issue of

Porsche Panorama for \$4500.

- **1972:** Win Casey, Portland
- **1972-1974:** Milo Calato, Portland (acquired in trade for an Audi 100LS and cash)
- **1974-1975:** Dr. Mike Morrill, Portland
- **1975-1984:** Tony Singer Carmel Valley, CA (restored 1975-78 with correct Porsche engine; further restoration followed)
- **1984-present:** Ralph Lauren Collection, now on display in Paris

Andrew was genuinely grateful. As he wrote back to Randy: "The past owner list in the article is amazing ... I tend to believe this list based on the date of the issue and that the information wouldn't be tainted

by technology like it is today. It has given me a new line of research to pursue."

This 1955 Porsche Spyder is now part of the Ralph Lauren Collection in Paris - and its story partly preserved in our own archives. That's not a small thing.

I share this story because it illustrates something I believe deeply: we are not simply a car club. We are a community of people, and

that community has no borders. Last month's website traffic included visitors from at least a dozen countries. An inquiry arrives from Brisbane. A historian in Portland responds. A piece of Porsche history gets preserved. That is who we are.

We are a local chapter of a global family — bound not just by the cars we drive, but by a shared passion that crosses languages, time zones, and generations. I am proud to be part of an organization defined not only by an impressive tradition of excellence, but by the generous spirit of its people.

Now — start your engines, drive the highways, and connect with your soul. You can always reach me at [vicepresident@oregonpca.org](mailto:vicepresident@oregonpca.org). ■

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