



## Connecticut Valley Region Porsche Club, the years 1959 to 1969

1959 was a year with several defining moments that made this country what it is today. For example, Alaska became the 49th state, Hawaii became the 50th state and the Connecticut Valley Region Porsche Club was founded. Considering that Porsche celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2008 and the Porsche Club of America was founded in 1955 puts the start of CVR near the beginning of the Porsche experience itself and certainly the American version of it.

CVR's first President was Olive Toombs of Cheshire, who joined PCA in February 1956. Mrs. Toombs attended the first Porsche Parade in 1956 along with founding CVR members Norm Millard of East Hartford, Lucas Ziluca of Weston, William Brewster and Ernest Kearns, both of Suffield. Olive was also the first National Membership Chair

In 1962, the first Annual Tri-region Porscherama event was held. A Porscherama was a 3 day mini-parade event sponsored by Connecticut Valley, Metro NY and Northern New Jersey Regions.

In 1963, at the second Annual Porscherama, Ashley Carroll took 3rd in the Rally and 40th in the Gymkhana. Mr. and Mrs. Sumner Stanley were the *Challenge* editors. Car badges became available for the Region. . { A Gymkhana is a single lap-driving event with "gimmicks" included on the course. This can include a section to be taken in reverse, stopping to pick up or drop off an object, stopping at a specific point, parallel parking or other similar driving skill.}

In 1964, the Gymkhana finale was held at Package Machinery in East Longmeadow, MA with 13 cars participating. Bruce Jorey was President of CVR.

In 1965, Bruce Jorey continued as President and Jack Tighe was Treasurer. The Annual Meeting was held in January at the Yankee Silversmith in Wallingford. In February, a white elephant sale was held and netted \$23. In March, CVR tours the headquarters of Porsche of America located in Teaneck, NJ. The first Gymkhana of the year was held in April, entry fee was \$2. A Cape Cod Photo Rally was conducted in May (motel package was \$10 double, \$5 single). The 10th Porsche Parade was held in Santa Barbara, California. The 4th Annual Porscherama was held in August, entry fee was \$45. Fred Locke takes 1st in the Concours and 2nd in the Rally with Joe Sangiovanni navigating. In September, seatbelts and mufflers are made mandatory for Gymkhana participants.

In 1966, Ron Snow was President and Jack Tighe was Treasurer. In April, CVR's first Autocross is held at Orange Airport in conjunction with Northeast Region (helmets are required for drivers of open cars). The first track-touring school is held in May at Thompson Raceway in conjunction with Northeast Region. In December, Treasurer Jack Tighe reports that the club is solvent with \$392 in the bank. Registration opens for

the Porsche Parade in Washington DC. (Registration fee is \$20 and room rate is \$20/day for a double).

In 1967, Paul Odegard was President and Jack Tighe was Treasurer. In January, Ashley Carroll becomes CVR's first national officer, Treasurer of the Porsche Club of America. A slot car rally is held In February at the Hartford Model Club located above Fred Locke's stereo store on Asylum Street in downtown Hartford. In March, a tech session is held at Ted Truden's VW-Porsche dealership. A movie party was held in April to view Grand Prix at the Cinerama Theater on Farmington Avenue in West Hartford. In May, a track touring limited to 30 cars was held at Lime Rock Park. Nine members go to the National Parade, including Ashley Carroll, CVR's first elected National Officer. In August, Porscherama was held again, costing \$45 complete, including \$31 for accommodations and meals. A competitor flips a 912 in Big Bend at Lime Rock. Also in August a new event, DRIVER'S SCHOOL at Lime Rock Park run by CVR. Organized drag races are conducted on the main straight.

In 1968, Bill Bliven was President, Jack Tighe was Treasurer and Jim Shelmerdine was Secretary. In January, Thompson Raceway is to be rebuilt, region Award guidelines are announced: there will be a Porsche Pusher Award and a men's and women's competition awards. Another sign of the times in March, *Challenge* postage is \$.06 per copy. In June, a new timer is needed for Gymkhanas. The Regions will sell decals, emblems, patches, car badges, and wall plaques to raise the funds. In September, a fall tech session is held in the newly expanded buildings of Pray Motors in Greenwich.

In 1969, Jack Tighe was President and Jim Shelmerdine was Secretary. In February, *Challenge* is overhauled with photos added and a new column on technical matters is included.

The credit for researching and documenting the first 10 years of CVR history in this article goes to Linda Goodman (CVR member and currently contributing editor of the "From the Regions" in Panorama) and Prescott Kelly (President of PCA and CVR Historian). They collaborated in documenting the history of CVR up to the year 1999. The availability of information from the early years of CVR has gaps since it was based on *Challenge* which at the start of the club was infrequently published.