

Palmetto Pipes



PCA Palmetto Region
www.pcapalmetto.org

December 2008

History of the Christmas tree

“O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum. How lovely are your branches!”

Did you know the earliest origins of the Christmas tree can be traced back to Germany? Isn't it fitting that the German word for Christmas tree is Tannenbaum? The literal translation being “fir tree”.

Legend has it that a 7th century monk from England, Saint Boniface used the triangular fir tree shape as a symbol to teach the Germans about the Holy Trinity. In the modern German states of Hesse and Thuringia those converted by Saint Boniface began revering the fir tree as a religious symbol.

A popular German fairy tells of a family living deep in the forest that was visited one snow winter night by a young boy seeking refuge. The kind family invited the boy in, dried his clothes, provided him dinner, and a warm place to sleep. The family woke the following morning to the sound of heavenly music and the young boy dressed in beautiful clothing. Informing the family that he was the Christ Child he wanted to show his appreciation for their kindness by bestowing a gift for their Christmas celebration. After breaking a twig from a *fir tree* it became a lovely, decorated Christmas tree.

The beginning of the modern Christmas tree appears in European history in the early 16th century. Riga, Latvia claims being home of the first decorated Christmas tree. Historical records record all kinds of decoration such as dates, nuts, apples, paper flowers, candles and even cheese.

The introduction of the Christmas tree tradition in both England and the US can most likely be attributed to the Germans. In the early morning of December 26, 1776 George Washington carried out a surprise attack on Hessian soldiers at Trenton. The Hessian soldiers Christmas celebration, the previous day, would have included a Christmas tree as part of the festivities. Another tradition on how the Hessian soldiers brought the Christmas tree tradition to the colonies comes from the city of Windsor Locks, Connecticut. It is here that the Noden-Reed House claims to have housed the first Christmas tree in America. Claiming it was put up in 1777 by an imprisoned Hessian soldier.

England's King George III's German wife introduced the first Christmas tree to England. It was during Queen Victoria's reign, with her German husband Prince Albert that Christmas was celebrated with a decorated Christmas tree, establishing the tradition in England.

Over the past 150 years the Christmas tree has become a central fixture of Christmas celebrations. Although decoration trends have come and gone the Christmas tree still remains a traditional symbol of both public and family Christmas celebrations.

So when you sit around your tree this Christmas morning, exchanging gifts give thanks to the Germans. Not only have they brought to American soil our beloved and one of the most prestigious sports cars around they've brought us the Christmas tree tradition. Maybe somewhere some lucky individual with pull out from beneath their Christmas tree a small box that contains the keys to a new Porsche.





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Palmetto Pipes

From the Prez

Happy Holidays to all. I am sure this note finds everyone scurrying about. We just finished Thanksgiving, celebrated with family and friends. The coming holidays provide more of the same opportunities. Judging by the comments from many, the gas prices have dropped enough to allow for busy roads. I do hope everyone who finds themselves travelling does so safely and takes time to enjoy the road. If the interstate is just too busy, find a back-road. It will make you and your car much happier...

Our club enjoyed another successful year. We maintained our enrollment with the longtime members anchoring a diverse group that would be difficult to match. While our membership is small compared to some of our neighboring regions, we truly have a group that is painted with a broad brush. We have drivers from beginners to seasoned professionals. We have mechanics that have made their mark as nationally known experts and those who aren't afraid to ask for advice when changing their oil. We have those that enjoy large groups and gatherings, the bigger the better. We have those that have an everlasting smile, while driving the open roads alone with their flat six. We have leaders and we have followers.

All of these people come together for one reason. To celebrate Dr. Porsche's dream. A dream that came true for all of us. We love our cars, but maybe more importantly, we love the people that we meet as a result of being Porsche owners. This is what PCA Palmetto is all about. Helping those that make Porsche a part of them, utilize PCA to educate, to initiate, to provide a network where all we gain is shared. If you have info to share, you are in the right place. If you have questions that need to be answered, I am certain there is someone within PCA Palmetto that can provide answers.

For the last three years, I have enjoyed serving as an officer for this club. I am stepping down with the knowledge that at a meeting three years ago, elections were held for our club by saying, "who is willing to assume the office of ----?" The group that stepped up that night took the reins of a club that had slowed considerably and brought it back to life. There are many and we all know who they are that were at every meeting, gave us a nudge when things slowed, and generally were and continue to be the heart-beat of the club.

I step down with one request. Find the part of the club that suits you and be a part of it. If what you are looking for isn't there, become the person who gets the ball rolling. I was once told that there are three kinds of people, those that organize, those that do the work, and those that attend... Find your spot...

Thanks to everyone for all that you do,

Kevin

"it's not just the cars, it's the people..."



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The German Christmas Pickle

Along with our Christmas tree tradition many other Christmas ideas originated out of Germany. One of our most famous Christmas carols, "Silent Night", came out of Austria.

Germany also gave us shiny glass Christmas ornaments and tinsel. And lets not forget the famous Nutcracker. But what about the Christmas Pickle? For those like me that are not familiar with the myth here it is.

The myth basically states that a very old Christmas tradition in Germany was to hide a pickle (an ornament) deep in the branches of the Christmas tree. It was the last to be hung and done by the parents. Come morning the child that discovered the pickle would receive an extra gift from St. Nicholas. Tradition stated that the first adult to find it got good luck for the whole year.

There are a few problems with the story. And why a pickle? Problem one. No one in Germany has heard of it. Another is according to German Christmas customs the German St. Nick arrives on December 5th or 6th not Christmas Eve. And German children open their presents on Christmas Eve not Christmas Day.

About's "Germany for Visitors" Guide Rita Mace Walston, despite her German background had never heard of it and so she did some first-hand research with no new clues as to what the German Pickle was. She did eventually hear from someone with a possible answer.

A descendent of an American Civil War soldier, John Lower (Hans Lauer?), born in Bavaria in 1842 tells about a family story having to do with the Christmas pickle. According to the family, "John Lower was captured and sent to prison in Andersonville, GA...In poor health and starving, he begged a guard for just one pickle before he died. The guard took pity on him and found a pickle for John Lower. According to family legend, John said that the pickle-by the grace of God-gave him the mental and physical strength to live on. Once he was reunited with his family he began a tradition of hiding a pickle on the Christmas tree. The first person who found the pickle on Christmas morning would be blessed with a year of good fortune."

One may doubt this story but it is kind of cute. And it is most definitely different. I would heavily advise not hanging a pickle on your Christmas tree this year. But if you really feel the need

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Porsche Trivia Fun

Name Santa's twelve Reindeer.

Answer to November trivia: (What does RS mean from Germany (Porsche)?)
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Christmas and New Year's are only a few weeks away now. Where did 2008 go? It seems it was just yesterday that I started writing our Region's newsletters. With the coming of 2009 I'm looking to continue bringing you new and exciting things.

Although we didn't have a lot of club events this past year it was still an enjoyable one. Of course the biggest event to come our way was the annual Porsche Parade in nearby Charlotte, NC. For those that made it I know you had a great time. I thoroughly enjoyed walking the streets of downtown Charlotte looking at all the different Porsches. There was every make, model, color and modification that you could think of. I wouldn't even want to try and begin to calculate the combined monetary amount of all those cars. Let's just say there were a lot of high-priced rides to gawk at.

Our annual Tail of the Dragon trip was a success, again. As I said in the past for those that haven't gone before it's a must do. Not only do you get to experience what a Porsche was truly made for,

you get to enjoy the wonderful atmosphere of the cool mountain air. You also get the opportunity to make new, and extent current friendships. This is a trip worth taking. Hope to see some more new faces in 2009.

For those that don't know with the coming of 2009 our region will see us celebrating our 40th year anniversary. While in town in October the National Board presented our club officers with a 40th Anniversary banner/flag. With it being our 40th anniversary I am searching for our founding members and would like to do a short feature on each. So if you know of any please let me know how to get in touch with them. I've located and am in contact with one member that now residences in Oregon, Mr. Alan Nies.

Hope you all have a safe and cheerful Holiday season.





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Check out the pictures and further descriptions of these and other classifieds on the web

CHRISTMAS RECIPES IDEAS

Want to add a little twist to your Holiday Eggnog try this German version called Butter Grog (*buttergrog*).

Zutaten (Ingredients) for one person

- Apple Cider
- 10-20 grams of butter
- 3 teaspoons of sugar
- 2 cloves
- a cinnamon stick
- lemon peel
- 10 cl of rum

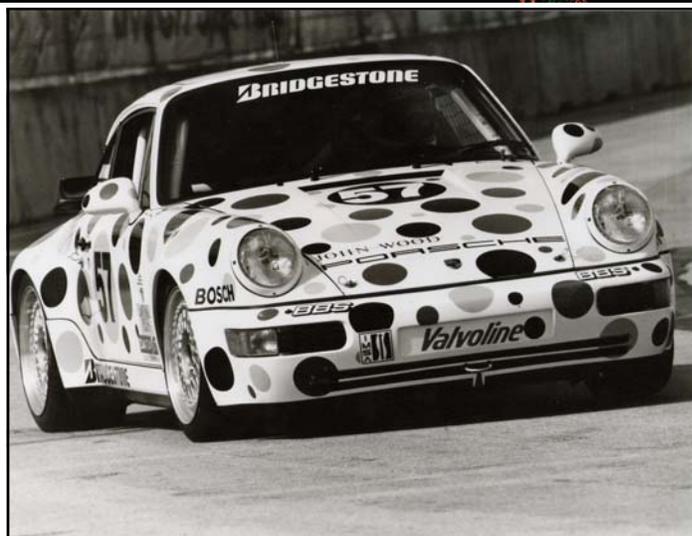
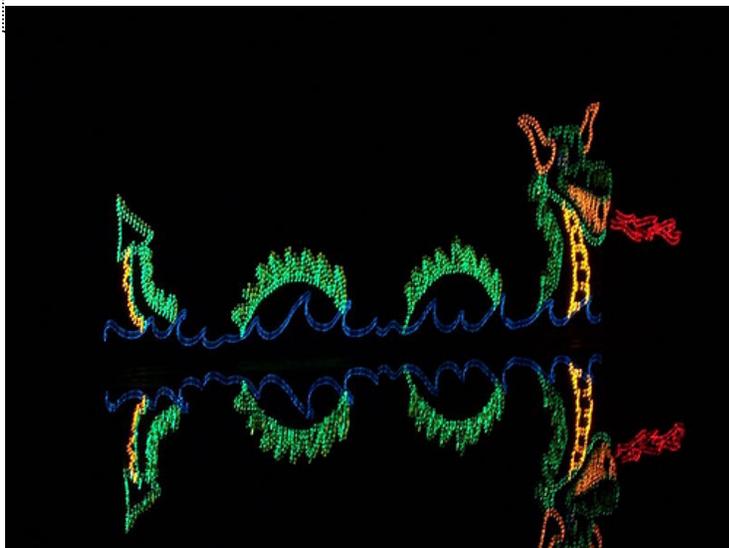
Zubereitung (Directions)

Put butter in a grog glass or mug. Add sugar, cloves and cinnamon. Add the lemon peel (unsqueezed) and rum. Pour hot apple cider over the spices and let steep for a short time. Remove the spices and drink.

Dinner and Christmas Lights

Scott Hornsby and I are getting together for dinner on **Dec 14th** with our significant other at the Crab House, (145 Wappoo Creek) on James Island and then heading over to see the Holiday Festival of Lights afterward. We invite anyone who wants to join us. Your more than welcome to come, **I just ask that you be there at 5 pm** so we can all sit together.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



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PORSCHE PRESS RELEASE EXCERPT

Spring 2009 – Porsche's 4-door Panamera will make world debut

Porsche Presents First Photos of Four-Door Panamera Gran Turismo

Stuttgart. Roughly nine months before the actual market launch, Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG, Stuttgart, has released the first official photos of the Panamera in its final look. In its design, profile and silhouette, Porsche's unique four-seater stands out clearly as a new member of the Porsche family. Conceived and designed as a four-door grand touring sports car, the Panamera combines numerous talents in typical Porsche style: sporting driving dynamics, a generous and variable interior, and the supreme driving comfort of a Gran Turismo. Joining the 911, Boxster and Cayman sports cars as well as the sporty SUV Cayenne, the Panamera is Porsche's fourth model series.

The designers of the Panamera have succeeded in positioning this unique car as a brand-new and truly different model while nevertheless retaining the looks of a typical Porsche. Through its proportions alone, the Panamera stands out clearly in its market segment: ... The unmistakable, sleek GT silhouette is created by the car's overall length... In its styling and details, the Panamera follows the design philosophy refined over decades on the 911 and successfully implemented also on the Boxster, Cayman and Cayenne.

Through its design language alone, the Panamera will establish a new segment versus the competition. The symbiosis of sports car DNA derived from the looks of a coupé, the unique interpretation of the classical saloon body and the benefits of a variable space concept give the new Porsche its truly unmistakable appearance. As an example, the Panamera comes with highly individual, strongly contoured air intakes instead of a conventional radiator grille.

The Panamera will be making its world debut in spring 2009 and the first models will be at dealers worldwide in late summer of next year. ... The striking, muscular shoulders over the rear wheels, the dynamic sweep of the coupé-like roofline, and the visible tailpipes again bear out all the DNA so typical of a thoroughbred Porsche.

If you'd like to read the entire Press Release just email me and I'll be happy to forward it to you.

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HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

With the Holiday season now upon us remember to stay safe. When shopping keep your purchases in your trunk or out of sight. Keep your vehicle locked and any valuables out of sight as well. Don't tempt temptation.

While walking to and from your vehicle keep alert to those around you. Keep your homes locked and avoid advertising the purchase of expensive items.

Although we're all in a rush this time of year drive safely and within the speed limit. Don't put being in an accident on your list of things to do. Also remember to DESIGNATE a driver if you plan on drinking. It only takes a few. We want to see everyone back in 2009.

Quick Tech Specs

Year	Model	Engine	HP/RPM
1959	356		1600 66/4400
1967	911		2.0l 130/6100
1975	911 Carrera		2.7l 210/6300
1976	914		2.0l 95
1978	911SC		3.0l 180/5500
1982	928		4.5l 220/5250
1986	930		3.3l 282/5500
1986	924		2.4l 150/5900
1988	944		2.4l 158/5900
1988	959		2.8l 450/6500
1989	944 Turbo		2.4l 247/6000
1992	968		3.0l 236/6200
1995	928 GTS		5.4l 345/5700
1997	Boxster		2.5l 201/6000
1998	996		3.4l 296/6800
2000	911		3.4l 300/6800
2005	Cayenne		3.2l 247/6000
2006	GT		5.7 605/8000
2008	Cayman		3.4l 295/6250
2009	GT3		3.6l 300/5500

Members Corner

New Member:

Baron Hanson & Emilie Dulles

1984 911

A warm Lowcountry welcome to everyone. Look forward to seeing you at our next outing.



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PORSCHE

Need a small stocking stuffer? Head over to Baker Porsche and pick up a new Porsche key chain or maybe a gift certificate for some future automotive care. You can also go online to www.porsche.com/shop and check out the wide selection of available merchandise by Porsche Design Driver's Collection. If anyone's feeling really kind hearted, I'd love a brand new Cayenne with a big red bow parked in my driveway on Christmas morning (Ken, HINT, HINT, HINT!!!).



Upcoming Events

December

- 7th Myrtle Beach Drive and Lunch
- 13th Autometrics Dyno Day

January

17-18th DE Roebing Road Raceway, Savannah

Saturday Breakfast

Join the gang for Saturday breakfast -held at the Sunflower Café on Hwy. 61 @ 8:00 (every Saturday). Come and Join us.....



Palmetto Pipes

215 Oak Circle
Walterboro, SC 29488

