60 YEARS OF PORSCHE CLUBS WORLDWIDE

The community of Porsche enthusiasts is celebrating 60 years of Porsche Clubs. The foundation of the Westfälischer Porsche Club Hohensyburg on 26th of May 1952 was the germ of a unique idea that today is brought to life every day by events held by around 640 Porsche Clubs around the world. Worldwide, 181,000 Club members bear witness to the enthusiasm for Porsche and the close connection they feel with the brand and the Porsche company.

Pioneers: Porsche friends from the Württemberg Club hand out Christmas presents to the Stuttgart traffic police in 1955
04 Porsche Club Special

60 YEARS OF PORSCHE CLUBS WORLDWIDE

1952 – 2012 The Porsche Clubs are celebrating their great jubilee. There are many stories to recount and history has been written as well. The development of the Clubs goes hand in hand with the success story of the Porsche brand. One would not be possible without the other.

With 60 years of Club history, it is simply impossible to portray all Clubs in a way that does justice to each. Based on the stamp of recognition that was introduced and awarded by Porsche AG in accordance with the foundation date and/or recognition date, we have embarked on a fascinating journey through the annals of Club history and the development of Porsche as a company.

In 1952, the year in which the first Porsche Club was founded, and only four years after production began, it was still a rarity to come across a Porsche out on the roads — at this time, whenever they met out on the public highway, Porsche drivers still greeted one another by flashing their headlights at each other in a friendly gesture.

The fact that Porsche sports cars were still rare quickly gave their owners an increased sense of shared identity, and regular meet-ups and joint trips out were organised. And so it was that the first Porsche gathering took place on 3rd of September 1950. As part of the celebrations to mark the 75th birthday of company founder, Professor Ferdinand Porsche, 30 Porsche owners made the journey to Stuttgart with their cars. With a joint convoy from Stuttgart city centre out to Solitude Palace, these early Porsche drivers honoured Professor Porsche's life's work.

The sense of common spirit of these first Porsche customers quickly led to the first official affiliation of Porsche drivers. On 26th of May 1952, seven Porsche enthusiasts in Dortmund founded the Westfälischer Porsche Club Hohensyburg.

1950: 75th birthday of Prof. Ferdinand Porsche – The first Porsche gathering

1952

THE FIRST CLUB
On 26th of May 1952, Günter Heidemann, Hans F. Debner, Gustav Pardun, Alfred Göddert, Rolf Vormstein, Emil Handtke and Karl Wertz found the Westfälischer Porsche Club Hohensyburg, which goes on to become the Porsche Club Westfalen e.V., in the presence of publicity manager and legendary racing driver Baron Huschke von Hanstein.

The spirit and purpose of the Club – as can be read in the Club's founding articles – is "...to bring together all Porsche drivers in a spirit of friendship and camaraderie..."

After Hohensyburg, more Porsche Clubs quickly spring up throughout West Germany. The Porsche Club Wiesbaden is founded in 1952. 25th of September 1952 sees the creation of the Porsche Stamm Berlin, followed by the associations of the Porsche Club Köln e.V., the Württembergischer Porsche Club e.V. and the Porsche Club Niedersachsen e.V.

1953

003. Porsche Club of Belgium 02/01/1953
004. Porsche Club Köln e.V. 10/02/1953
005. Württembergischer Porsche Club e.V. 20/07/1953
006. Porsche Club Niedersachsen e.V. 02/08/1953
007. Porsche Club Bern 11/12/1953

THE SWABIAN CLUB
1953 — Five years after the German currency reform, and just one year after the founding of the state of Baden-Württemberg, 19 Porsche fans gather together on 20th of July 1953 to establish the first Club at the company's headquarters in the surroundings of the Württemberg Automobile Club.

From 1958 onwards, the Württemberg Porsche Club organises, in collaboration with the Austrian Porsche Club, the International Porsche Ski Gathering in Zürs am Arlberg. In the years that follow, this ski event becomes an annual get-together for the national and international Porsche Clubs.
The international success story of the Porsche Clubs begins.

In 1953, the first Club outside of Germany is founded under the stewardship of the Porsche importer D'Ieteren. 18 Porsche vehicles take part in the 20th Mille Miglia in 1953. In Le Mans, Helm Glöckler/Hans Herrmann and Richard von Frankenberg/Paul Frère claim a brilliant victory in their class.

In Germany, on 10th of May 1953, the Porsche Club Köln is the first Porsche association to stage a Club race on the south loop of the Nürburgring. The Club’s focus on motorsport attracts talented up-and-coming racing drivers. The best-known young talent is Wolfgang Count Berghe von Trips, who joins the Rhenish Porsche Club in 1954.

In Switzerland, after the first Porsche 356 is presented in public at the Geneva Motor Show in 1949, structures begin to form in the Swiss canton. The first Porsche Parade of the Porsche Club of America is impressive: 111 participants with 85 Porsche vehicles come together for this gathering. The American Porsche Parade quickly develops to become a highlight among the global Club events. To this day, it remains an established fixture of Porsche Club life in the United States.

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"It’s not just the cars, it’s the people."
Porsche Club events in the first few years

The first events organised by the Porsche Freunde Zürich include what is referred to as the memorial drive. At this time, 32 Porsche drivers drive to the town of Zell am See to visit the burial chapel for Professor Porsche, who died on 30 January 1951, and to Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen to visit the Porsche factory.

1953:
The 10,000th Porsche is produced

1954:
The origins in Switzerland

1955:
PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA
For Porsche, the United States quickly emerges to become the most important export market thanks to the industrious importer Max Hoffman. By as early as the mid-1950s, almost half of the cars produced each year are sold overseas. The history of the Porsche Club of America is a success story in its own right. Initiated in 1955 by Porsche enthusiast Bill Sholar, a commercial graphic design artist from Washington, as a self-help group for carrying out repairs on Porsche vehicles, the Club quickly develops to become a large community outside of Washington as well. Today the Club comprises 139 regions with a total of 105,000 members and is thus the largest Porsche Club in the world.
Gentlemen! Start your engines: Founding articles of the Westfälischer Porsche Club Hohensyburg

On 26th of May 1952, seven Porsche enthusiasts found the world’s first Porsche Club in Dortmund, naming it the Westfälischer Porsche Club Hohensyburg.

The spirit and purpose of the Club – as can be read in the Club’s founding articles – is “…to bring together all Porsche drivers in a spirit of friendship and camaraderie …”
After Hohensyburg, more Porsche Clubs quickly spring up. 1952 sees the creation of the Porsche Club Wiesbaden, the Porsche Stamm Berlin, Porsche Club Köln, the Württembergischer Porsche Club and the Porsche Club Niedersachsen.

In 1955, the Porsche Club of America is founded by Porsche enthusiast Bill Sholar as a self-help group for carrying out repairs on Porsche vehicles.
1956

011. Porsche Club Wien 01/01/1956
012. Porsche Club Holland 28/04/1956

Porsche Club Holland
The Netherlands can rightly be regarded as another European market with a particular love for the products manufactured in Zuffenhausen. As early as 28th of April 1956, enthusiasts found the Porsche Club Holland.

1957

013. Porsche Club Aachen e.V. 27/03/1957

1957 — In addition to the Porsche Club Niedersachsen, Köln and Berlin, the Porsche Club Aachen is now the sixth Club in Germany. In 2007, it celebrates its 50th anniversary in a fitting way — with a visit to the factory in Leipzig.

1957 Porsche 718/1500 RSK Spyder — In the middle of the 1957 motor racing season, a revised version of the 550A-1500 RS Spyder is unveiled.

1958

014. Porsche Club Nürnberg e.V. 15/09/1958

The Porsche Club Nürnberg is founded on 15th of September 1958.

1955: American Club members picking up their vehicles

1957: Umberto Maglioli in a 718 RSK at Le Mans

1958: Porsche Club Nürnberg e.V. 15/09/1958

The Porsche Club Nürnberg is founded on 15th of September 1958.

1959

015. Porsche Club Italia 01/10/1959

On 1st of October 1959, the Porsche Club Italia is founded in Milan, Italy “to allow people to come together to experience the Porsche brand”.

MERAN — ORIGIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS
Although the first gathering of Porsche Clubs takes place in Stuttgart in 1954, the Porsche gathering in the Italian town of Meran on 14th and 15th of May 1955 is often referred to as the first international...
The Porsche Club Romand gives rise to the Porsche Racing Club Romand. Over many years, this club shapes what happens on the Swiss Club racing front. Between 1996 and 2008 alone, it places first in the team ranking.

The Porsche 804 – In 1962 Porsche sends an eight-cylinder Grand Prix racing car with the type designation 804 out to compete in races. The American Porsche driver Dan Gurney wins the French Grand Prix in Rouen and one week later he wins again at Stuttgart’s Solitude Race ahead of the Lotus driven by Jim Clark.

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