

MEMBER MOMENT: Steve Heim

How old are you, where do you live, and what is or was your occupation?

Sixty four years old and living in Cismont, Va. I am a Clinical Psychologist with Charlottesville Psychological Associates being a founding partner and now managing partner.

What Porsches have you owned?

Well this is my first. I've owned some great cars over the years but my 2001 Boxster is my first German sports car.

What are your favorite "previously owned"?

My first car, at age 16, was a 1936 Plymouth coupe. That car had a single front leather bench seat with four on the floor and a huge trunk. The Plymouth was a real attention getter but very expensive to maintain on a newspaper boy's earnings. Next was a 1956 Chevrolet convertible, a 6 cylinder with a Powerglide 2 speed transmission. That car was my first convertible. It was slow but fun. Then came a 1960 Ford Galaxy convertible with the 351 Cleveland motor and dual exhausts. Ran well and sounded great. As you might guess, I had had enough of that slow 6 cylinder two speed automatic. The last convertible before the current Boxster was a Pontiac Tempest with a 326 motor. That car handled well (compared to the others) but was seriously damaged in a hit and run accident. .

My first sports car was the classic 280Z in racing green, a great car, fast and agile but very prone to rust. Then came a 280ZX, more luxurious but had an odd temperature control that blew very hot air or outside air. That was no fun in the winter. Next was my favorite, a car that compares well to the Boxster, a 1988 Toyota Supra with that superb three liter six cylinder motor that was bullet proof. This was a wonderful car and one that I am sorry I sold. It was quick, very comfortable, two suspension settings, handled beautifully, speed sensitive power steering, quiet and very comfortable seats. I kept it for 16 years and only remember repairing it once!

How did you end up with the Boxster?

Well, I've owned a Harley Davidson for 30 years with the latest being a 2004 Dyna Super Glide. For those uninitiated, this is the lightest and most agile of the Harley Big Twins. Most interesting, the latest in the Harley lineup is the "VRod" with the first water cooled engine ever used by Harley. Ringing any bells out there, yes, this latest Harley is the overhead cam Revolution V Twin motor completely designed by none other than Porsche. It has given Harley a true competitor to the rice beaters (Japanese sport bikes). I test rode one and that motor was so smooth and quick at all rpm levels that the name Porsche started resonating in my brain. Then yet another rider in the local HOG club was in a serious motorcycle accident and I decided that it was time to give up this rather dangerous sport. But, you might ask what might inspire me to give up such a fun and remarkably Zen ride as anyone experiences on a Harley? Yep, a Porsche. My wife, Penney, quickly agreed that it was well worth the expense if a Porsche would inspire me to give up the Harley.

Was it hard to sell the Harley after 30 years of ownership and how did you choose a Boxster?

No, it wasn't hard, the Harley.....is still in the garage. I'm thinking of getting my first vanity plate, "HD n 986"! Curious

story here. Before I bought the Toyota Supra in 1989 I looked at a 944 owned by Oliver Kuttner when he had a used car dealership on Market St. in Charlottesville.. Oliver asked me what I would use the car for and I told him that I was going to use it as a daily driver on a 80 mile daily round trip. He said, "Buy the Supra". I did but never gave up the idea of owning a Porsche. Still wanting a car capable of serving as a daily driver, the Boxster seemed ideal when I decided to start looking for Porsche.

What would be your dream Porsche?

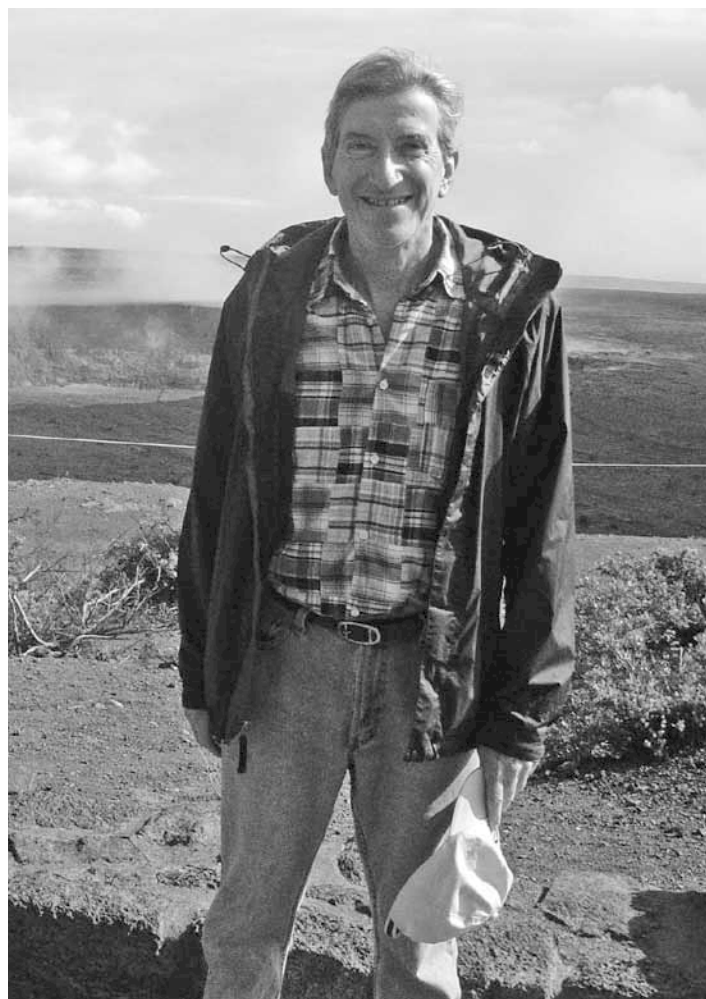
Oddly it is the 3 liter water cooled 968, the epitome of this line of automobiles. Gary, are you reading this?

What do you listen to when driving your Porsche?

The motor, seriously I like to listen to it purr. My favorite driving tune, well CD, is definitely "Riding with the King", with BB King and Eric Clapton. My favorite single is "Born To Be Wild", "Get your motor running, get out on the highway....."

What are your other hobbies and interests?

While I still have the Harley and belong to the local HOG club. I have a collection of WWII books that are always interesting and I am constantly on the prowl for new analyses and battle histories. Plus we have 17 acres in Cismont with horses and dogs so there is always plenty to do outside.



A recent trip to Hawaii